

Our Firm Foundation

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Ellen G. White

Prophet of God

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary



Changed into His Likeness

“Remember that you will never reach a higher standard than you yourself set.”

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is now entering into the final phase of the great controversy.

We have 14 million people in the church. The question must now be asked, “How many of the 14 million know and understand that God’s great standard is righteousness and victory over all sin, hereditary or cultivated? Only a very few even understand that our character will be the deciding factor in the judgment.

We cannot attain such a great requirement without the working of the Holy Spirit. Where does the regeneration begin?—By the surrendering of our will. Yes, our whole minds and bodies. Surrender is the first step, which is magnified by Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy:

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

“Remember that you will never reach a higher standard than you yourself set. Then set your mark high, and step by step, even though it be by painful effort, by

self-denial and sacrifice, ascend the whole length of the ladder of progress. Let nothing hinder you.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 331–332.

“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.

So, we must believe that perfection and holiness are possible by the Holy Spirit’s power. Holiness and perfection of character—without which, no one will see God or heaven. “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” Hebrews 12:14.

“But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” Titus 3:4–7.

Then it is not what we do, but what we allow God to do in us, which develops a Christlike character.

“A character formed according


to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next. . . . As the will of man cooperates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 332–333.

In the judgment soon to come, our character will decide whether we are saved or lost.

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

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” Acts 17:11.

God’s faithful and loyal Seventh-day Adventist Christian people will be sealed in obedience to all truth without compromise. This sealing is about to begin with the judgment of the living.

“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” 1 Peter 4:17. See *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 208–211; *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 130, 401. 



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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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About Hope International

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Hope International does not solicit tithes; however, we are a tithe-worthy organization and accept tithes. We use the tithe only for the gospel ministry. Donations designated "Gospel Ministry" will be considered tithe.

Ellen G. White

Prophet of God

I believe that Ellen G. White was a messenger sent by God to warn, instruct and comfort God's last church on earth. After you have read this article, I hope you will also believe she was God's messenger.

First of all, let us start with female prophets in the Bible. Our Father in heaven did not only use men, but also women to communicate with His people. In Exodus 15:20–21 we read:

“And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for He hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea.” This was when the Lord overthrew the Egyptian army in the Red Sea.

Next we read of one Anna, a prophetess who served God with fastings and prayers, night and day who, coming into the temple at the birth of Christ, “spake of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.” Luke 2:36–38. She was 84 years old.

Finally, in Acts of the Apostles, we read of Philip the evangelist, who had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. Acts 21:8–9.

Let us now turn to the story of Ellen G. White. She was born November 26, 1827 in Gorham, Maine and died in St. Helena, California in 1915, one year after World War I started. She was

God has imbued His prophets with irrefutable qualities that give their messages an unequivocal authenticity for the edification of His church

Ralph Moss

87. Psychic mediums claim to be guided by an invisible power, but so did Ellen White. Two of the most famous psychics were the Frenchman, Nostradamus (1555) and the late Jeane Dixon.

There are thousands of professional astrologers who control the daily activities of millions of people in the United States. They do so through astrology columns and thousands of horoscopes, supporting multi-million-dollar-a-year business. Ellen White never made any money working for God. The Seventh-day Adventist Church paid her a Bible worker's salary.

There is a foolproof method to separate the psychics from the true prophets. It is the Bible. The test can be summarized as follows:

- 1 A true prophet does not lie. His (her) predictions will be fulfilled. Jeremiah 28:9.
- 2 A true prophet prophesies in the name of the Lord, not in his own name. 2 Peter 1:21.
- 3 A true prophet does not give his own private interpretation. 2 Peter 1:20.
- 4 A true prophet points out the sins and transgressions of people against God. Isaiah 58:1.

5 A true prophet warns of God's coming judgments. Isaiah 24:20–21; Revelation 14:8.

These first five alone are sufficient to damage the reputation of most of the so-called prophets.

6 A true prophet edifies the church, counsels and advises it in religious matters. 1 Corinthians 14:3–4.

7 A true prophet does not contradict previous prophets. 1 Corinthians 14:32; Isaiah 8:20.

8 He recognizes the incarnation of Jesus as the Son of God. 1 John 4:1–3.

9 He can be recognized by the results of his work. Matthew 7:16–20.

10 He does not breathe while in vision and may lose his physical strength and receive supernatural strength instead. Daniel 10:16–19.

To be precise, the actions of a true prophet are not in contradiction to basic biblical doctrines, but rather support and strengthen precepts already recorded in Holy Scripture.

Supernatural Phenomenon

We also have eye-witness testimonies of supernatural phenomenon that accompanied Sister White's visions:

1 Martha Amadon, one who saw Ellen White in vision says, “In vision her eyes were open. There was no breath, but there were graceful movements of the shoulders, arms, and hands, expressive of what she saw. It was impossible for anyone else to move her hands or arms. She often uttered words singly, and sometimes sentences which expressed to those about her the nature of the view she was having, either of heaven or earth. . . .

“There was never any excitement among those present during a vision; nothing caused fear. It was a solemn, quiet scene, sometimes lasting an hour. . . . When the vision was ended, and she lost sight of the heavenly light, as it were, coming back to the earth once more, she would exclaim with a long-drawn sigh, as she took her first natural breath, ‘D-a-r-k.’ She was then limp and strengthless.”¹

The husband of Ellen White

would invite any physician present in the room while his wife was in vision to examine her. Two doctors who examined her on the occasion of visions are given.

2 On May 29, 1853, Doctor Drummond, a first-day Adventist, who had declared that he “could give her a vision stepped forward, and after a thorough examination, turned very pale, and remarked, ‘She doesn’t breathe.’ ”²

The first indication that the vi-

sion was ended was in her beginning to breathe. She drew her first breath deep, long and full, in a manner showing that her lungs had been entirely empty of air. It is impossible to maintain mental and physical capacities while deprived of oxygen.

3 On January 12, 1861, Dr. Brown, a spiritualist physician of Parkville, Michigan, stated she was experiencing a form of spiritualistic mediumship, and he could

Years Ahead of Her Time

“I was shown”	Science Catches Up
<p>Electricity in the Brain [1869] “Whatever disturbs the circulation of the electric currents in the nervous system lessens the strength of the vital powers, and the result is a deadening of the sensibilities of the brain.” <i>Testimonies</i>, vol. 2, 347.</p>	<p>[1934] “Minute electrical charges are vital to the functioning of the brain.” Dr. Charles Mayo of the Mayo Clinic; Mayo Clinic Annual Report 2003</p>
<p>Cancer [1905] “People are continually eating flesh that is filled with tuberculosis and cancerous germs. Tuberculosis, cancer, and other fatal diseases are thus communicated.” <i>Ministry of Healing</i>, 313.</p>	<p>[1956] “Many, if not all, malignant tumors may be caused by viruses (midget germs) in different species of animals.” Ludwick Gross, M.D., <i>Journal of the American Medical Association</i>.</p>
<p>Coffee & Tea [1905] “Tea and coffee do not nourish the system. Their effect is produced before there has been time for digestion and assimilation and what seems to be strength is only nervous excitement. . . . The continued use of these nerve irritants is followed by headache, wakefulness, palpitation of the heart, indigestion, trembling, and many other evils; for they wear away the life forces.” <i>Ministry of Healing</i>, 326.</p>	<p>[1967] “Caffeinism is said to be current among intellectual workers, waitresses, nocturnal employees, and long distance truck drivers. Illness otherwise unexplained may be caused by excessive ingestion of xanthine alkaloids, including those in coffee, tea, cocoa, and those in some popular beverages.” H. A. Riemann, <i>Journal of the American Medical Association</i>.</p>
<p>Tobacco [1864] “Tobacco is a poison of the most deceitful and malignant kind, having an exciting, then a paralyzing influence upon the nerves of the body. It is all the more dangerous because its effects upon the system are so slow, and at first scarcely perceivable. Multitudes . . . have surely murdered themselves by this slow poison.” <i>Spiritual Gifts</i>, vol. 4a, 128.</p>	<p>[1964] “Warning: Smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema and may complicate pregnancy.” <i>Surgeon General’s Report</i>.</p>
<p>Heart Disease [1869] “The eating of flesh meats has made a poor quality of blood and flesh. Your systems are in a state of inflammation, prepared to take on disease. You are liable to acute attacks of disease and to sudden death because you do not possess the strength of constitution to rally and resist disease. There will come a time when the strength and health you have flattered yourself you possessed will prove to be weakness.” <i>Testimonies</i>, vol. 2, 61.</p>	<p>[1961] “A vegetarian diet can prevent 90% of our thrombo-embolic diseases [clots in veins and arteries] and our coronary occlusions. These two conditions are responsible for more deaths than all other causes in North America.” Dr. W. A. Thomas, M.D., <i>Journal of the American Medical Association</i>.</p>


control her visions. Once she was given a vision while he was present in a meeting. Dr. Brown was given permission to examine Ellen White.

many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the under-current is tending. Its professions are mild, and appar-

hands of non-Christian people and atheistic people they can use it to destroy the very foundation of our society."⁵ "We have enough votes to run the country, . . . and when the people say, 'we've had enough,' we are going to take over."⁶ *Pat Robertson*.

"The only way to have a genuine spiritual revival is to have legislative reform."⁷ *Tim LaHaye*.

"I told the president last week in the Oval Office, I said, 'Sir, there are 80 million of us evangelicals in this country and we've come to look upon you not only as our president [Bush], but as a man of God.' He said, 'Jerry, I'll do my best. You put great pressure on me. I'll do my best not to disappoint you.'"⁸ *Jerry Falwell*.

"Sunday observance shall be enforced by law." "The dignitaries of church and state will unite to bribe, persuade, or compel all classes to honor the Sunday." *The Great Controversy*, 449, 592. 



Those who are making an effort to change the Constitution and secure a law enforcing Sunday observance little realize what will be the result.

Before he had half completed his examination, he turned very pale and shook like an aspen leaf. He cried out, "She does not breathe," and rapidly made his way to the door.

Some in the room who knew of his remarks said, "Go back, and do as you said you would; bring that woman out of her vision." In great agitation he grasped the doorknob, but was not permitted to open it. The people near him said, "Doctor what is it?" He replied, "God only knows; let me out of this house."³

Often during her lifetime, vicious attacks were directed toward her, questioning the authenticity of the visions and the ways in which they were received.

Religious Tyranny

Ellen White has been proved to have been correct on the causes of cancer, heart disease, tobacco, coffee and the electrical currents that pervade the human body which we call today electroencephalography. WHY THEN IS SHE SO HATED TODAY?

It's because of something else she was shown: religious tyranny in America. She wrote: "Our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government. . . . The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and

ently Christian; but when it shall speak, it will reveal the spirit of the dragon." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 451–452

"Those who are making an effort to change the Constitution and secure a law enforcing Sunday observance little realize what will be the result." *Ibid.*, 753.

Ellen White also predicted: "The leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the State to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions." *The Great Controversy*, 445.

So far, in this little article, the author has tried to show the reader how God has guided and revealed to Ellen G. White what was in the future. At this time in earth's history, she predicted a time when religious liberty will be taken away from America. Let us compare what some of the religious leaders have said and what we just read that she predicted they would say.

"The wall of separation between church and state is a metaphor based on bad history, a metaphor which has proved useless as a guide to judging. It should be frankly and explicitly abandoned."⁴ *Chief Justice William Rehnquist*.

"The Constitution of the United States . . . is a marvelous document for self-government by the Christian people. But the minute you turn the document into the



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¹ *Review and Herald*, May 18, 1944.

² Cited by Arthur L. White, *Ellen G. White: The Early Years*, vol. 1, 275.

³ J. N. Loughborough, *The Great Second Advent Movement*, Adventist Pioneer Library, Loma Linda, CA, 1992, 210–211.

⁴ U.S. Supreme Court, *Wallace v. Jaffree*, 472 U.S. 38, 108, <http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?navby=case&court=us&vol=472&page=38>.

⁵ From a broadcast of "The 700 Club," December 30, 1981.

⁶ From a broadcast of "The 700 Club," cited in Jeffrey K. Hadden and Charles E. Swann, *Prime Time Preachers: The Rising Power of Televangelism*, Addison-Wesley, Reading, MA, 1981, 161.

⁷ See Norman Cavender, "Freedom for the Church in a Free State," in *Being Baptist Means Freedom*, Alan Neely, ed., Baptist Alliance, Charlotte, NC, 1988, 88–89.

⁸ Cited by Laura T. Rich, "Falwell Uses Conference to Endorse candidate," *Biblical Recorder*, Raleigh, NC, November 14, 2003, http://www.biblicalrecorder.org/content/news/2005/6_22_2005/ne220605cpastors.shtml.

Daniel's Prayer Life



Clark Floyd

The divine power that accompanies Scripture memorization and a diligent prayer life is enough to reshape the course of human history.

Daniel was a man of many talents, greatly beloved of God. However, his people, the kingdom of Judah, failed to be obedient to God's requirements through the power that was offered them by God. Daniel was only a teenager in 605 B.C. when the first invasion of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar occurred, and the royal families and leadership, including Daniel, were taken as captives to Babylon.

God had warned the people through Moses of the consequences that would follow continual disobedience—"It shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee. . . . The LORD shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known." Deuteronomy 28:15, 36. And now those consequences were being fulfilled.

Jeremiah indicated in his prophecies that the people would be held in captivity for 70 years and then be allowed to return to Jerusalem. See Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10. "Then shall ye call upon Me, and ye shall

go and pray unto Me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:12-13.

God had chosen this people to be placed at the center of the world to be His witnesses to bring others into the knowledge of the love and requirements of the true God. The people had utterly failed God's commission, and now would have to do in captivity what they had

rior as well as a prophet for God. But have we understood that Daniel was also deeply involved in the study of Scripture? You might say, Pastor, how do you know this? It will become readily apparent as we look at the prayer life of Daniel.

Daniel well understood the health message when he was taken into captivity for he refused to violate God's principles of health, which apparently had been instilled in him by his parents. Daniel said

Daniel well understood the health message when he was taken into captivity for he refused to violate God's principles of health.

failed to do in their freedom.

We, as a people, have loved the stories and prophecies found in the book of Daniel, and we should. They have been great faith builders, as well as keys to the future. We know and can have confidence in the outcome of the great controversy between Christ and Satan because of the books of Daniel and Revelation.

We see Daniel, through his years in Babylon as a great prayer war-

to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over him, "Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse [vegetables] to eat, and water to drink. Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenances of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants. . . . [Because] Daniel [had] purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the

portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank." Daniel 1:11-12, 8.

Had principles of Bible study and prayer also been instilled in Daniel by his parents? In studying Daniel's prayer life in Babylon, we can see that Daniel not only knew the proper attitude to assume in prayer, but he also knew the Scriptures and how to use them in his prayers. He had the existing Scriptures with him, likely having acquired copies after attaining to his high position in Nebuchadnezzar's court, besides having memorized them before he came. We will see that the Scriptures were a very important part of his life.

Solomon's Prayer

Solomon, the son of David, in his initial years on the throne, was a man of God. David had collected the materials to build the temple for the Lord, but it was left to Solomon to actually do the building. After completing the building, the people of Judah were called together for its dedication. The dedicatory prayer of Solomon can be found in the first book of Kings, chapter 8. Many significant things concerning Daniel's prayer life can be discovered by studying Solomon's prayer and God's response.

Solomon prayed in part, "LORD God of Israel, there is no God like Thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with Thy servants that walk before Thee with all their heart. . . . Harken Thou to the supplication of Thy servant, and of Thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear Thou in heaven Thy dwelling place: and when Thou hearest, forgive. . . .

"When Thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against Thee, and shall turn again to Thee, and confess Thy name, and pray, and make supplication unto Thee in this house: Then hear Thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of Thy people Israel, and bring them again

unto the land which Thou gavest unto their fathers.

"When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against Thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess Thy name, and turn from their sin, when Thou afflictest them: Then hear Thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of Thy servants, and of Thy people Israel, that Thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon Thy land, which Thou hast given to Thy people for an inheritance.

"If they sin against Thee, (for there is no man that sinneth not,) and Thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near, yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto Thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness; and so return unto Thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto Thee toward their land, which Thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which Thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for Thy name: then hear Thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven Thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause, and forgive Thy people that have sinned against Thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against Thee, and give

them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them." Verses 23, 30, 33-36, 46-50.

Solomon ended his prayer and "arose from before the altar of the LORD, kneeling on his knees with



his hands spread up to heaven." Verse 54. "Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house." 2 Chronicles 7:1.

"And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer. . . .

If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:12, 14.

Solomon, on his knees facing Jerusalem, but he also used words of Scripture, contained in Solomon's prayer, as well as in other parts of the Bible.

Notice Daniel's beautiful prayer in chapter 9, that in the very beginning he acknowledges reading Scripture: "I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem." Verse 2. See also Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10-14.

Daniel continues, "I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love Him, and to them that keep His commandments." Verse 4.

Notice Exodus 20:6, "And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments."

"We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from Thy precepts and from Thy judgments." Daniel 9:5.

Compare this verse with Solomon's prayer in 1 Kings 8:47, and with the following: "We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly." Psalm 106:6.

"Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land." Daniel 9: 6.

Jeremiah says in chapter 25, verse 4, "the LORD hath sent unto you all His servants the prophets; . . . but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear."

In verses 11 and 13 of Daniel 9, Daniel refers to the "law of

Moses the servant of God." It thus becomes clear that Daniel is well acquainted with the Scriptures that existed in his day, by memory and/or by having the scrolls, and as part of his prayer, he prays God's Word back to God.

Ellen White tells us that "Daniel's example of prayer and confession is given for our instruction and encouragement." *Review and Herald*, February 9, 1897.

Our Prayers

Dear Brothers and Sisters, what about your prayer life? Do you pray each day on your knees? Do you use God's promises to pray back to Him from the Bible? Do you know God's promises to you?

There are many promises that God makes. One that I pray to God every day is from Deuteronomy 30:6, "And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live."

I have noticed that my love for God has increased as I have continually prayed this prayer.

Jeremiah said, "Ah Lord God! Behold, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for Thee." Jeremiah 32:17.

And God replied, "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for Me?" Verse 7.

Brothers and Sisters, Daniel has given us the example; Jeremiah has shown us that nothing is too hard for God. The Scriptures contain many promises. Jesus is coming soon. Shouldn't we be spending more time than we ever have before on our knees before our Lord? Then may our lives be filled with God's blessings! 📖



Clark Floyd resides in Leicester, North Carolina. He is a board member and a speaker for Hope International.

Daniel's Prayer

Daniel, "went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." Daniel 6:10.

Daniel, not only assumed the attitude of prayer, suggested by



Benedict XVI: His Legacy and His Mission Part 3

Colin Standish

Ecumenism Rapidly Marches On

Just days after the inauguration of Pope Benedict XVI, as Bishop of Rome, the World Council of Churches hosted a major assembly north of Athens, Greece, beginning May 10, 2005. The Vatican sent a forty-two member delegation. This delegation's influence, no doubt, was great, even though up until this point in time the Roman Catholic Church is not an official member of the World Council of Churches. However, it serves on many of its committees, and in that capacity has unquestionable influence on the decisions of the Council.

Here is the actual wording of a news report from the official website of this Conference on World Mission and Evangelism: "In addition, a significant number of Pentecostal and evangelical churches not belonging to the WCC were in attendance and, for the first time at such a conference, a substantial delegation of 42 representatives from the Roman Catholic Church came not as observers but full members. For many, the conference was characterized primarily by its "expanding participation," the WCC reported." www.mission2005.org

The opening speech by Archbishop Christodoulos, leader of Greece's Orthodox Church, was a stunning call to put aside all differences between Christians. In

Will the principles of the sixteenth century Protestant Reformation survive the relentless surge of ecumenism?

1054 the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Churches separated. More than 950 years have elapsed. So this speech was significant. It would seem that Orthodox, Anglicans and evangelicals are about to accept the embrace of Rome, believing that it will contribute to unity. It will! But that unity will not be God-ordained.

Yet another Orthodox leader showed strong interest in accepting the embrace of Rome. "Patriarch Filaret, who heads the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyivan Patriarchate during an interview with The Associated Press, . . . June 15, 2005, . . . said that the Orthodox Church should not fear the Vatican, and that he saw no obstacles to greater cooperation between the two Christian churches."¹

However the greatest shock came when Patriarch Alexis II, leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, meeting with representatives of the World Council of Churches in Moscow, "affirmed the commitment of his church to full participation in the World Council of Churches."² Of all the national Orthodox Churches, the Russians have been the most wary of the Roman Catholic Church. Either the Patriarch does not understand the profound impact of the Roman Catholic Church upon the World

Council of Churches or this statement signals a paradigm shift in the thinking of the Russian Orthodox Church.

For their part, the Anglicans released a joint statement with Roman Catholics on May 16 about Mary in a document entitled "Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ." This dialogue goes back to 1966 when the then Pope Paul VI and then Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, called for the establishment of such a dialogue.³

The ties between the World Council of Churches and the papacy were strongly confirmed to be irreversible by Benedict XVI in an address to Pastor Kobia, the secretary general. "It is my hope that your visit to the Holy See has been fruitful, strengthening the bonds of understanding and friendship between us. The commitment of the Catholic Church to the search for Christian unity is irreversible. I therefore wish to assure you that she is eager to continue cooperation with the World Council of Churches."⁴

The executive editor of the conservative Protestant periodical, *Christianity Today* Timothy George



Photo: © Photos.com

says, "Pope John Paul II authored theological masterpieces that will be studied for centuries, and fostered a climate that led to historic Catholic-evangelical dialogue." *Christianity Today*, April 6, 2005.⁵ It is of no little significance that George placed "Catholic" first indicating their leadership in the dialogue.

It appears that little else is left to take place to completely reverse the sixteenth century reformation. This reversal has not been forged by truth and righteousness, but by sacrificing every biblical principle.

The "unity" which is so fervently sought is, to say the least, curious. With the exception of many evangelical churches, the other three traditions, Anglicans, Orthodox and Roman Catholics, are experiencing woeful indifference among their members. Notwithstanding the lift given by the death of one pope and the election of another, the vast number of members hardly rise to the level of being even nominal Christians. They have no spiritual power because they have rejected or neglected the Word of God.

Such is the climate created by the death of John Paul II and the election of Benedict XVI that the dialogues have proceeded even beyond Christian churches.

A conference, arranged by the World Council of Churches, was held in Geneva from June 7 to 9, 2005 in which Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, and other religious leaders met to seek to provide a new impetus to inter-religious dialogue. WCC central committee moderator, Catholicos Aram I of the Armenian Apostolic Church was quoted as saying,

"The question is no longer why do we need dialogue but rather how do we transform dialogue into peaceful co-existence; how do we

translate dialogue into common action?"⁶

In the history of the ecumenical movement, the dialogue commenced slowly and met with considerable suspicion and resistance. Since April 2, 2005⁷ it has gathered a momentum of bewildering rapidity which could not have been foreseen even by the most determined ecumenists. Surely the end of all things concerning this sin-blighted planet is upon us. No wonder Sister White says,

"The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones." *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 11.

Prophecies Fulfilled

One of the most striking texts in the entire Bible is Revelation 13:3. Let us note that three decisive events in the history of the papacy

historians, even the Jesuit historian Joseph Rickerby, and also Baron Macauley,⁹ wrote likewise. It was believed by many that the papacy had come to its final end. However those who had offered this conclusion were oblivious to the rest of Revelation 13:3.

2 The deadly wound to the papacy would be healed. This occurred February 11, 1929, with the signing of the Lateran Treaty restoring sovereign rulership of the Vatican to the papacy. The following morning the *San Francisco Chronicle* headlined: "Heal Wound of Many Years" — again a perfect fulfillment attested to by the secular press.

3 But what about "all the world wondered after the beast?" More than 207 years after the deadly wound, the third and final fulfillment of this verse has been dramatically confirmed by the secular press. Writing of John Paul's funeral these amazing words were

"The question is no longer why do we need dialogue but rather how do we transform dialogue into peaceful co-existence; how do we translate dialogue into common action?"

are recorded in this verse. All three have been demonstratively confirmed in the secular press.

"And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast." Revelation 13:3.

1 The Papacy would suffer a deadly wound. When Pope Pius VI was taken prisoner by Napoleon's army, February, 1798, the obituary of the papacy was written. Historian, Professor George Trevor carefully wrote, "The Papacy was extinct: not a vestige of its existence remained; and among all the Roman Catholic powers not a finger was stirred in its defense."⁸ Other

reported: "There was majesty, humility and spiritual wonderment." *Sydney Morning Herald*, April 9, 2005.¹⁰

"And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carried her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns." Revelation 17:6-7.

Neither can we forget the amazing words of President Bush, "I knew the [funeral] ceremony would be majestic, but I didn't realize how



moved I would be by the service, itself; by the beautiful music. . . . I felt when I was kneeling there [at the wake], I felt . . . much more in touch with a spirit. . . . I was very much . . . at peace there, and was prayerful.”¹¹

What an amazing contrast from the perceptive insights from another Republican president of yesteryear, Abraham Lincoln:

“If the American people could learn what I know of the fierce hatred of the generality of the priests of Rome against our institutions, our schools, our most sacred rights, and our so dearly bought liberties, they would drive them away,

“In the light shining from the cross, true Christianity appears so pure and lovely that no external decorations can enhance its true worth.”

tomorrow, from among us.”

“The very moment that popery assumed the right of life and death on a citizen of France, Spain, Germany, England or the United States, it assumed to be the power, or the government. . . . Those states then committed a suicidal act by allowing popery to put a foot on their territory with the privilege of citizenship.

“The power of life and death is the *supreme* power, and two *supreme* powers cannot exist in the same territory without *anarchy*, riots, bloodshed, and civil wars without end. When popery will give up the power of life and death which it proclaims on its own divine power, in all its theological books and canon laws, then, and then alone, it

can be tolerated and can receive the privileges of citizenship in a free country.”

“I see a very dark cloud on our horizon. And that dark cloud is coming from Rome. It is filled with tears of blood. It will rise and increase till its flanks will be torn by a flash of lightning, followed by a fearful peal of thunder. Then a cyclone such as the world has never seen, will pass over this country, spreading ruin and desolation from north to south.”¹²

Under inspiration Sister White wrote:

“This outward splendor, pomp, and ceremony, that only mocks the longings of the sin-sick soul, is an evidence of inward corruption. The religion of Christ needs not such attractions to recommend it. In the light shining from the cross, true Christianity appears so pure and lovely that no external decorations can enhance its true worth. It is the beauty of holiness, a meek and

quiet spirit, which is of value with God.” *Great Controversy*, 566–567.


“While Romanism is based upon deception, it is not a coarse and clumsy imposture. The religious service of the Roman Church is a most impressive ceremonial. Its gorgeous display and solemn rites fascinate the senses of the people and silence the voice of reason and of conscience.” *Ibid.*, 566.

Brethren and Sisters, the end of this old earth’s history is nigh at hand. With breath-taking rapidity these events are taking place.

“The final movements will be rapid ones.”

This is the time to make our calling and election sure. This is the “time to seek the LORD, till He come and rain righteousness upon

[us].” Hosea 10:12. This is the time to share the everlasting gospel with the inhabitants of this planet. May God keep us each faithful to our commission.

“We are living, we are dwelling in a grand and awful time.”¹³ 



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- ¹ Mara Bellaby, “Kiev Patriarch Urges Church Cooperation,” Associated Press, <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=852359>
- ² Juan Michel, “Russian Orthodox Church Hopes for ‘New Page’ in WCC Relations,” <http://www2.wcc-coe.org/pressreleasesen.nsf/index/ru-05-22.html>
- ³ Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC), “Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ,” http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/angl-comm-docs/rc_pc_chrstuni_doc_20050516_mary-grace-hope-christ_en.html
- ⁴ “Address of His Holiness Benedict XVI to Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia and the Members of the Delegation from the World Council of Churches,” June 16, 2005, http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2005/june/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20050616_world-council-churches_en.html
- ⁵ Collin Hansen interview with Timothy George, “Pope Gave Evangelicals the Moral Impetus We Didn’t Have,” <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2005/114/32.0.html>
- ⁶ “WCC Anticipates ‘New Phase’ in Interreligious Dialogue,” June 2, 2005, www.oikoumene.org.
- ⁷ The day Pope John Paul II died.
- ⁸ *Rome: From the Fall of the Western Empire*, Religious Tract Society, London, 1868, 440.
- ⁹ Baron Thomas Babington Macaulay, 1800–1859.
- ¹⁰ James Button and Desmond O’Grady, “The Greatest Farewell in History,” *Sydney Morning Herald*, Sydney, Australia, 1, www.smh.com.au.
- ¹¹ “President Speaks to Press Pool,” Aboard Air Force One, En route Waco, Texas, April 8, 2005, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/04/20050408.html>.
- ¹² Private interviews with Charles Chiniqy, cited in *Fifty Years in the Church of Rome*, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1958, 497, 503, 510. Emphasis in original.
- ¹³ Arthur C. Cox, “We Are Living, We Are Dwelling.”

Bible Examples of True Courtesy

Ellen G. White

In Jesus Christ, our Lord, we have a genuine illustration of courtesy and kindness toward one another.

In order to perfect Christian character, the whole man must be molded after the standard of heaven. Kindness and amiability are essential qualities in the child of God; but hollow-hearted, hypocritical courtesy, which is so common among worldlings, is not the genuine grace of Christian politeness. Courtesy cannot take the place of a holy life; neither can the life be perfect in the absence of this fine filling up, which is like the delicate penciling in a picture.

Those who open their hearts and homes to invite Jesus to abide with them, should keep the moral atmosphere unclouded by strife, bitterness, wrath, malice, or even an unkind word. Jesus will not abide in a home where are contention, envy, and bitterness.

The Holy Scriptures give us marked examples of the exercise of true courtesy. Abraham was a man of God. When he pitched his tent, he at once erected his altar for sacrifice, and invited God to abide with him. Abraham was a courteous man. His life is not marred with selfishness, so hateful in any character, and so offensive in the sight of God.

Witness his conduct when about to separate from Lot. Though Lot was his nephew, and much younger than himself, and the first choice of the land belonged to Abraham, courtesy led him to forego his right, and permit Lot to select for himself that part of the country which seemed to him most desirable. Behold him as he welcomes

the three travelers in the heat of the day, and hastens to provide for their necessities.

Again observe him as he engages in a business transaction with the sons of Heth, to purchase a burying-place for Sarah. In his grief he does not forget to be courteous. He bows before them, although he is God's nobleman. Abraham knew what genuine politeness was, and what was due from man to his fellow-man.



Paul's Courtesy

The great apostle Paul was firm where duty and principle were at stake; he preached Christ with great boldness; but he was never harsh and impolite. He had a tender heart, and was ever kind and thoughtful of others. Courtesy was a marked trait of his character, and this gave him access to the better class of society.

Paul never doubted the ability of God or His willingness to give him the grace he needed to live

the life of a Christian. He exclaims: "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32. His language is that of faith and hope, not of doubt and despair: "He loved me, and gave Himself for me." "I know whom I have believed." Galatians 2:20; 2 Timothy 1:12.

He does not live under a cloud of doubt, groping his way in the mist and darkness of uncertainty, complaining of hardship and trials. A voice of gladness, strong with hope and courage, sounds all along the line down to our time. Paul had a healthful religious experience.

The love of Christ was his grand theme, and the constraining power that governed him.

When in most discouraging circumstances, which would have had a depressing influence upon halfway Christians, he is firm of heart, full of courage and hope and cheer, exclaiming, "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." Philippians 4:4. The same hope and cheerfulness is seen when he is upon the deck of the ship, the tempest beating about him, the ship going to pieces. He gives orders to the commander of the ship and preserves the lives of all on board. Although a prisoner, he is really the master of the ship, the freest and happiest man on board.

When wrecked and driven to a barbarous island, he is the most self-possessed, the most helpful in saving his fellow-men from a watery grave. His hands brought the

wood to kindle the fire for the benefit of the chilled, ship-wrecked passengers. When they saw the deadly viper fasten upon his hand, they were filled with terror; but Paul calmly shook it into the fire, knowing it could not harm him; for he implicitly trusted in God.

When before kings and dignitaries of the earth, who held his life in their hands, he quailed not; for he had given his life to God, and it was hid in Christ. He softened, by his courtesy, the hearts of these men in power, men of fierce temper, wicked and corrupt though they were in heart and life. He did not forget his position, or the importance of the occasion. He was zealous for the truth, bold in advocating



aroused the malice of the Jews. He exalted Jesus Christ as the world's Redeemer. Grace, like an angel of mercy, makes his voice heard sweet and clear, repeating the story of the cross, the matchless love of Jesus.

Paul attracted warm hearts wherever he went; his soul was linked to the soul of his brethren. When he parted with them, knowing and assuring them that they

in Christ and yet dishonored their profession. His heart was aglow with love, and yet when duty demanded he could be stern with holy indignation. Let the example of Paul, whose life was in accordance with the life of Christ, be a lesson to us.

Christ's Courtesy

But in Christ a greater example has been given us than that of either patriarch or apostle. Here we have genuine courtesy illustrated. This virtue ran parallel with His life, clothing it with a softened and refined beauty, and shedding its luster over every action. He bids the weary and oppressed come to Him, and find rest and peace in bearing His yoke and lifting His burden. He invites them, "Learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:29.

His heart of sympathizing love longs to quiet restless, oppressed, and suffering minds that can find peace only in learning the lessons of His meekness and lowliness. Their fluctuating, changeable, mournful experience is anything but rest. It is labor, pain, and sorrow. To bear insult, reproach, and abuse without retaliating and without arraying themselves in opposition to those who would injure them, is the lesson He would teach them. He would have them lay off the yoke of pride, so galling to the neck, and take His yoke, which is easy, for it is the meekness and gentleness of Christ.

What great condescension is here manifested by our Lord. No matter how poor and wretched the applicant, the relief he asked was always given. The Saviour uttered no word of reproach or censure,

His heart of sympathizing love longs to quiet restless, oppressed, and suffering minds that can find peace only in learning the lessons of His meekness and lowliness.

Christ; but propriety of deportment, the grace of true politeness, marked all his conduct. When he stretched out his hand, as was his custom in speaking, the clanking chains caused him no shame nor embarrassment. He looked upon them as tokens of honor, and rejoiced that he could suffer for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Surrounded by philosophers, kings, and critics, he was God's ambassador. His reasoning was so clear and convincing that it made the profligate king tremble as Paul dwelt upon his experience, showing what had wrought the change in his religious views which

would never see his face again, they were filled with sorrow, and so earnestly besought him to still remain with them that he exclaimed, "What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart?" Acts 21:13. His sympathetic heart was breaking as he witnessed and felt their grief at this final separation. They loved him, and felt that they could not give him up.

What Christian does not admire the character of Paul? Firm as a rock when standing in defense of the truth, he was affectionate and gentle as a child when surrounded by his friends. But his rebuke of sin was terribly severe, especially to those who professed to believe

though He was constantly besieged and His hours for repose and retirement broken in upon. In the streets of the crowded city, in the groves, or by the lake-side, He was ever greeted by the complaints and requests of suffering humanity.

The leper was required to dwell apart from the habitations of men, and at the approach of any person he must utter the mournful cry, "Unclean, unclean!" lest the traveler approach near enough to be endangered by contagion. But as the leper discerns in the stranger Jesus, the mighty Healer, that cry is hushed, and a most imploring prayer bursts from his lips, "If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." Never was such an appeal made in vain. The answer comes back to him, "I will: be thou clean." Luke 5:12-13.

Publicans and sinners throng about the blessed Saviour for one word of hope, for one touch of His finger to heal their various maladies. He had a kind word and look for every one. Though He was the majesty of heaven, He did not proclaim His exalted character, and claim the reverence which rightfully belonged to Him. But He traversed the earth, weary, hungry, and often sad, because men did not feel their need of the blessings He came to give them.

Christian vs. Un-Christian Courtesy

This is the example of true courtesy which we must all copy if we would be indeed followers of Jesus. The Christian's character will surely correspond with the name. Those who have no care in regard to their words or actions, and thus bring unhappiness to all around them, must learn of Jesus to be meek and lowly of heart. Rough ways and coarse manners dishonor the

Christian name and misrepresent Christ. Many will not be fitted to enter heaven, because they do not see the importance of imitating the perfect Pattern. Some term roughness, careless ways, and untidy dress humility and freedom from pride; but humility is disgusted with such companions and will not be seen in their society.

Those who make a profession of sanctification are frequently the most proud, selfish, and over bearing. What an account will such have to render to God for their influence! They profess that their conduct is in harmony with heaven, while they manifest the evil promptings of their natural hearts. They in no way resemble Enoch, Joseph, Daniel, Paul, or Christ, the perfect Pattern. They bring Bible sanctification into contempt. Their course of conduct is uncourteous, and many times really unkind and uncouth. Such are like sign-boards at cross-roads which mislead the traveler by pointing in the wrong direction.

Though these persons claim perfection, they know not experimentally what it means. No one is attracted to them,

and made better by their example. Those who profess sanctification, and yet do not the requirements of God, have not put on Christ; they do not wear the grace of humility, and exhibit Christ in words and actions till men shall be charmed by His perfections and be led to glorify God by seeing their good works. Christ is pleased with His fol-

Nothing is so offensive to God as the atmosphere of those who profess holiness of heart, but whose lives have a bad flavor.

lowers when they show that, though human, they are partakers of the divine nature. They are not statues, but living men and women, whose warm hearts, invigorated by the dews of divine grace, open and expand as the beams of the Sun of righteousness shine upon them. The light which falls upon them they reflect upon others in works which are luminous with the love of Christ.

Cold, professedly sinless Christians are like icebergs; they seem to freeze up the cheerfulness of all who are connected with them. Their influence upon the cause of Christ is always deleterious. Nothing is so offensive to God as the atmosphere of those who profess holiness of heart, but whose lives have a bad flavor. Unsavory actions make the



Christian repulsive.

Instead of isolating themselves, Christians should associate together. Their influence upon one another may be salutary. We should learn lessons of Paul, who was often found relating his experience. There is too little conversation upon the facts of religious experience, and the mercy and goodness of God. Love and gratitude are not cherished in the heart as they should be. Little, delicate acts of courtesy are sadly neglected. Words of cheer and encouragement to one another might be spoken with the best of results. There is great need of individual sanctification to God, but we have no sympathy for the spurious article.


True sanctification is carried into all the business of life. Pure thoughts, noble aspirations, clear perceptions of truth, elevated purposes of action, yearnings to attain to perfection, will be the experience of every real Christian. These have fellowship with the Father and with the Son. See 1 John 1:3–7. They are constantly increasing in the knowledge of God. They grow in reverence and trust and love; but while they are coming nearer and nearer to perfection of character, they will feel more and more deeply their unlikeness to Christ, and have greater distrust of themselves and greater dependence upon God.

As these are growing up to the full stature of men and women in Christ Jesus, they will be sought by others, and will be a help and blessing to all with whom they associate. The most Christlike professors are those who are the most kind, pitiful, and courteous; their convictions are firm and their characters strong; nothing can swerve them from their faith or allure them from their duty.

A Christian will cultivate a meek and quiet spirit; he will be calm, considerate of others, and will have

a happy temper that sickness will not make irritable nor the weather or circumstances disturb. We want to cherish that charity which is not easily provoked, which suffereth long and is kind, which hopeth all things, endureth all things. See 1 Corinthians 3:4–7.

If this grace be in you, if you are ruled by the spirit of Christ, all who see you will take knowledge of you that you have been with Jesus; and your words and actions will testify that your religion is full of good fruits. The children of God never forget to do good and to communicate. See Hebrews 13:16. They have the spirit of Christ; good works are

spontaneous with them; for God has transformed their natures by His grace. "Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit." John 15:8. 

Review and Herald, September 8, 1885.



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: © Paul Williams

Reformation Under Hezekiah

When church doors are closed against the faithful,
the Lord Himself becomes their sanctuary.

Bringing It Back - Part 6

The third of the six, who followed several of the nine steps and brought the church back to God, was King Hezekiah of Judah.

One hundred and thirty-three years had elapsed between the death of King Jehoshaphat and the beginning of Hezekiah's reign. The spirituality of the nation had greatly eroded and many erroneous theories and false gods had captured the attention of the people. During those years, six out of seven rulers (the exception occurring during part of Uzziah's reign) had led the people into deepening apostasy.

The situation had become so bad by the time of Ahaz, that the faithful were shut out from going to church! That was the darkest hour of Judah's apostasy, as the faithful were pushed out of church! *But*

the promise was given that, when the church doors were closed to them, the Lord Himself would be their sanctuary! A sweet promise indeed!

"But in Judah there dwelt some who maintained their allegiance to Jehovah, steadfastly refusing to be led into idolatry. It was to these that Isaiah and Micah and their associates looked in hope as they surveyed the ruin wrought during the last years of Ahaz. Their sanctuary was closed, but the faithful ones were assured: 'God is with us.' 'Sanctify the LORD of hosts Himself; and let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread. And He shall be for a sanctuary.' Isaiah 8:10, 13-14." *Prophets and Kings*, 330.

Woe be to any man today who pushes the faithful and their families out of the church, when they plead for a return to historic beliefs and standards.

Fortunately, after the death of Ahaz, a godly church leader,

Hezekiah, rose to power! As soon as he took charge, he hit the ground running, determined to do whatever it took to bring the people back to God!

My brethren—leaders of our denomination today—I urge you to consider closely the details of the pattern for church reformation as demonstrated in the life of good King Hezekiah! They are found in *Prophets and Kings*, pages 331-339. Space is lacking here to consider it all.

Summarizing, here are several key points. Mark them well. As soon as he came to the throne, Hezekiah immediately set to work. Gathering the faithful priests, he discussed the deepening apostasy; then he united with them in making a covenant with the Lord to bring the entire church back to God! The temple services were cleaned up and conducted properly. The priests were instructed to sanctify them-

selves and the temple. We are told that "it was a time for quick action." Ibid., 332. And Hezekiah obeyed. He acted quickly.

As a result, this deep apostasy

the covenant of thy fathers which He swore unto them.' Deuteronomy 4:30-31." Ibid., 333-334.

Those are powerful promises for our leaders today! If you will,

If you will, kindly but resolutely, take hold of the work to be done, a large number of the people will follow your lead!

was totally reversed by the prompt and decided action of Hezekiah and associate leaders in the church who cooperated with his efforts!

My brethren, it can be done! It can be done! And you are the ones in a position to do it!

"God had indeed prepared the hearts of the chief men of Judah to lead out in a decided reformatory movement, that the tide of apostasy might be stayed. . . .

"These [messages of Isaiah and Micah] and other like messages revealing the willingness of God to forgive and accept those who turned to Him with full purpose of heart, had brought hope to many a fainting soul in the dark years when the temple doors remained closed; and now, as the leaders began to institute a reform, a multitude of the people, weary of the thralldom of sin, were ready to respond. . . .

" 'If thou turn to the LORD thy God,' Moses had said, 'and shalt be obedient unto His voice; (for the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) He will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget

kindly but resolutely, take hold of the work to be done, a large number of the people will follow your lead! They are weary of the worldly living into which they have drifted.

I call, this day, upon the leaders of our people: Consider these promises and cry unto the Lord to help you fulfill them! I assure you that

God will give you success as you undertake this task. What if some of the tares become angry and leave the church? They are the ones who have steadily hindered the work and caused many of the problems.

Yet Hezekiah did not stop there.

He determined to gather the people together and instruct them in the law of God! You can read about it on pages 335-337. I am sure the false teachers in our church today would gnash their teeth if our leaders began calling our people together and started teaching them God's law! But it is God to whom our allegiance is owed, not false teachers.

Our godly leaders today are deeply concerned over the deepening immorality caused by the false teachers within our church.

What an increase in morality would result if our families and young people were taught biblical principles instead of the false teachers giving them celebration drums and bands, theatrical performances, rock concerts, clown performances, magic shows and (in our colleges) movies, video games, free condoms, lectures by Catholic priests, pool tables, and inter-collegiate sports.

We must not let false teachers take over and continue flooding our church with all this worldliness and immorality.

Unfortunately, the messengers whom Hezekiah sent to the northern kingdom, to call the people to return to God were met with scoffing and rejection. Yes, it is true. In every age of history when church leaders seek to bring the people back to God, there will be some who will reject the opportunity. Yet their departure only makes those who remain the stronger.

We are told that the last vestige of idolatrous shrines were thrown out of Jerusalem and the gathered thousands spent day after day learning





more about God, and entering into a covenant to obey Him.

And what was the result? "A great gladness took possession of the worshipping multitude." Ibid., 337. So it shall ever be when, in repentance and humility of heart, God's people return to Him and study His Word in groups together. There is no happiness in sin. Let us get rid of the hateful thing.

"As the great meeting drew to a close it was evident that God had wrought marvelously in the conversion of backsliding Judah and in stemming the tide of idolatry which threatened to sweep all before it. The solemn warnings of the prophets had not been uttered in vain! 'There was great joy in Jerusalem: for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there was not the like in Jerusalem.' 2 Chronicles 30:26.

"The time had come for the return of the worshipers to their homes. 'The priests the Levites arose and blessed the people: and

their voice was heard, and their prayer came up to His holy dwelling place, even unto heaven.' Verse 27. God had accepted those who with broken hearts had confessed their sins and with resolute purpose had turned to Him for forgiveness and help." Ibid., 337-338. Additional reforms were made by the people under Hezekiah, which you can read about on pages 338-339.

Oh, we all have such little faith! There is a way to reform the church! It can be done! There is a way to bring our church back to God! The blueprint for doing this is given in God's holy Word! It is told to us repeatedly in the Old Testament.

Do not think it impossible, in this day and age, to obey God in this matter. Let not Satan tempt you with the doubt that God will abandon you when you seek to encourage others to return to obedience to His Word. We must do what is right, regardless of the consequences.

Loyalty to God and His Word must be first in our lives. 📖

The next article, which will conclude our 7-part series, will draw our attention to how Josiah, Ezra, and Nehemiah brought and sustained spiritual reformation to Judah through cooperation with God.

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



This article was adapted from *Bringing It Back*, 45-50. You may order this book from Hope International for \$1.95 each. Quantities of 10 or more: 99¢ each;

cases of 24: 80¢ per book. Please see page 30 for shipping and sales tax information.



Virgil Robinson

James White: Saratoga Springs Chapter 10



Our Pioneers have exemplified a religious benchmark worthy of emulation for all who labor in the Lord's vineyard.

The first volume of the *Review and Herald*, which contained only thirteen numbers, was printed in Paris, Maine, over a period of seven months. During that time many invitations came to James White to attend meetings and conferences, but while he was away publication of the paper was suspended. At the time, there was no assistant editor to remain near the printing office and substitute for him. True, there was a publishing committee, but most of the time its members were out in the fields far away preaching.

Through the columns of the *Review*, Elder White called for a general meeting to convene at the home of Jesse Thompson near Ballston Spa, in eastern New York. Mr. Thompson was a lawyer and farmer of some means, who cheerfully made substantial donations

to the work. A number of workers attended. The meetings were held in Thompson's barn from June 25 to July 1, 1851, and a wide range of subjects was discussed, with the publishing work receiving its share of attention. No doubt James asked whether the paper should be printed in a more central location; converts were coming in more rapidly in New York State than in New England. He may also have asked whether the paper should be published weekly. The believers were widely scattered, and the *Review* helped tie them together. Workers found it convenient to announce in the columns of the *Review* dates and places for general meetings.

James also may have pointed out his need for help in the office. Calls were continually coming in requesting Ellen and James to visit churches. It was difficult for them to

answer these calls and at the same time keep the paper going regularly.

Deciding that Saratoga Springs, a few miles from Thompson's home, would be a good place to live and print the *Review*, James and Ellen moved from Paris Hill. For several weeks they lived in the Thompson home while James moved his supplies. Then they found a house to rent in Saratoga Springs.¹

Having a home of their own, even a rented one, was most gratifying to James and Ellen White. At




Photo: © Hemera PhotoObjects CD

last they could get part of their long-scattered family together. They sent to Rocky Hill, directing Clarissa Bonfoey, who had returned there from New York, to join them with little Edson.² (Henry remained with the Howlands at Topsham, Maine.) At the same time, Ellen's sister, Sarah Harmon, came up with her fiancé, Stephen Belden. On August 5, 1851, James White married them.³

Records are brief concerning the Whites' nine-month stay in Saratoga Springs. It is not certain whether they had a large enough house to take in the newly married couple, as well as Miss Bonfoey, but considering their "open door" policy, they probably did.

Sarah and Stephen were to remain with the Whites for a number of years. Sarah especially was a great blessing to Ellen. She took over the housework, and this enabled Ellen to spend more time writing out testimonies for individuals. Stephen was an all-round mechanic. He also took charge of the business of the *Review and Herald*.

On Sarah and Stephen's wedding day Volume II, Number 1, of the *Review and Herald* came from the press in Saratoga Springs. The little group of workers were soon busy folding and addressing these papers.



More help was to come. One morning shortly after the paper had resumed publication James received a letter from a Miss A. R. Smith, with a nine-stanza poem enclosed. At the time she wrote, Miss Smith was living near Boston. James liked the poem and filed it with

other material for the September 16 issue of the paper.⁴ But first he took the letter and poem to Ellen, asking her to listen as he read it. The letter

began very modestly: "It is with much reluctance that I send you these verses on a subject which a few weeks since were so foreign to my thoughts."

"It is evident," remarked James, "that she has not long been a Sabbathkeeper. Now listen to the first verse of her poem:

'Fear not little flock,
For Christ is our Rock;
The promise stands sure,
The kingdom He'll give, to the same that endure.' "

Ellen liked the poem also. "You know," James said. "I could use someone with a talent like that for

ourselves?"

There is no indication that Annie had ever met James White prior to this time. But she had heard of him, had read some issues of the *Review and Herald*, and knew that he was a man of God. Her faith responded to his appeal. She packed her things and traveled from Boston to Saratoga Springs. In answer to the prayers of faith her eye trouble disappeared, and for the next three years she played an important role in getting the *Review and Herald* published regularly. Other poems from her pen were printed. Several of them have become hymns.⁵

In answer to the prayers of faith her eye trouble disappeared, and for the next three years she played an important role in getting the Review and Herald published regularly.

writing. Why shouldn't this Miss Smith join our company of workers?"

Later, when James was talking with Joseph Bates he asked what he knew of Miss Smith. Bates gave a favorable report, so James sent a letter to Miss Smith inviting her to come to Saratoga and work as an editorial assistant on the *Review and Herald*.

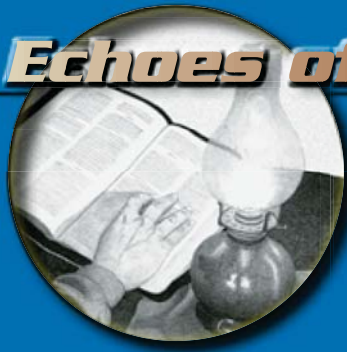
The answer came promptly, but it brought disappointment to Elder White. Annie said she would like to accept his offer, but her physical condition made it impossible for her to be of service. For months her eyes had given constant pain, and there were times when she could read nothing.

James White pondered the problem. Then he wrote her a letter suggesting that she come anyway. They would pray together. Was it not true, he asked, that God can do for us what we cannot do for

With Sarah Belden looking after the house, Ellen had time to compile the visions she had written out, going back to her first vision in Portland, seven years before. James helped her arrange these and had them printed in a 64-page pamphlet under the title *A Sketch of the Christian Experience and Views of Ellen G. White*.⁶ A notice appeared in the *Review and Herald* announcing that this booklet would be ready in a few days. Of the \$100 it cost to print it, \$38 had already been received. James hoped that those interested would supply the balance. This was the first Ellen G. White book ever published. There would be many more to follow.

The *Review and Herald* continued to operate on a free-gift basis. On page 1 of each issue the terms were outlined on which it could be obtained: "It is expected that all the friends of the cause will aid in its publication, as the Lord hath

Continued on page 24



Separation

From the World

Part 4

C. H. Watson

In part one of this series the author proposes that the Bible tells the story of God's eternal purpose for mankind and how man has persistently rebelled against God's plan. The author has divided the Bible story into nine sections. He picks up the story again in section eight in this part.—Editors.

It is the common practice of all properly managed concerns to stop sometimes and check up on their position, their progress, their direction, their adherence to the purpose for their being, and on all matters that affect their status and influence their future. Such stocktaking is a good, a necessary, and a revealing thing. I believe that this is such an occasion with us. We, doubtless, will check up on finances, on membership, and on all statistical matters. We do that continually. But I am appealing this morning for a review of very

measuring line for God's people. That measuring line is the will of God. Life and service are successful or unsuccessful, in God's sight, according to their relationship to His will. Life and service that do the will of God are strong in every worthwhile way, while life and service that do not the will of the Father are accounted unworthy in heaven.

With this important truth in mind let us, then, consider the question, Are we successfully keeping the love of the world out of our hearts, and the influence of

Are we living and laboring only to fulfill His eternal purpose?

Brethren, these things are very much on my mind and heart, and have been for some time past. I see in this movement many, many things that are there by the hand of God—strong things, true things, divine things. These must continue with us and have yet a larger place and stronger service in our experience and work. This must indeed be so, if we are to reach final success.

But I see also some things that are not good, taking hold in the church, and being given an enlarging place in the control of the church; and those things resemble very much the evil things that came into and ruined the experience of the church in all those former periods of the story. There is setting in on this people a tide of worldliness to which we are surrendering. I do not mean to imply that we are not resisting these influences at all; but I believe that the measure of resistance that we are putting forth is not holding us. We are gradually being swept backward, and should be alarmed about it.

As we look back over the story, we discover that nowhere in it is the world found accomplishing

Everywhere upon the record is impressed the lesson that whenever the church and the world have united, the union has destroyed the church.

important things that appear in none of our statistical and financial statements. They cannot appear there, for they are not measured by statistics and statements, neither are they checked by our auditors.

There has ever been but one

the world out of our work? or are we foolishly surrendering to the same spirit of worldliness that is responsible for all the failures of the church in those other sections of the story? Are we putting God's will before all else in our work for Him?

God's purpose. Everywhere upon the record is impressed the lesson that whenever the church and the world have united, the union has destroyed the church. The story in brief is this: When the church has kept itself separate from the world, the world has sought to kill it by persecution; but when the church has received the patronage of the world and joined hands with it, the church itself has used the world to destroy God's people by persecuting them. Nowhere in all the story do we find real Christianity united with the world, or pleased with worldly patronage, or robed with worldly grandeur.

We as a people know all this. There is no people on earth more zealous or more vigilant in its determination to keep the church and the state in their own fields and spheres. But notwithstanding all this, we are in danger of walking the way of failure because of our growing attachments to the world.

There is a union prescribed for us in the Word of God that is far different from this. Here is the prescription as Goodspeed gives it in his translation of Colossians 2:6-9:

"So just as you once accepted the Christ, Jesus, as your Lord, you must live in vital union with Him. You must be rooted and built up in Him and made strong in faith, just as you were taught to be, overflowing with it in your gratitude.

"Take care that nobody exploits you through the pretensions of philosophy, guided by human tradition, following material ways of looking at things, instead of following Christ. For it is in Him that all the fullness of God's nature lives embodied, and in union with Him you too are filled with it."

Going back to the third century of Christianity, we remind ourselves that after the Diocletian persecution, from which the church suffered no *spiritual* hurt, the church fell upon an evil day when the throne of state began to patronize it. First the state tolerated Christians, then it patronized the church, then

it espoused the church, and finally it compassed the church's spiritual ruin.

Thomas Cooper, author of the book, "The Bridge of History Over the Gulf of Time," has stated this: "Constantine's wily patronage of the Christian teachers . . . did much to strengthen his power, while it tended to ruin the Christian church spiritually." 📖

Concluded next month.

Review and Herald, November 21, 1935

Charles H. Watson served as General Conference president from 1930 to 1936.



Photo: ©Photos.com



Photo: © Paul Williams

Continued from page 21

prospered them.”

With additional help in the office, James and Ellen were released from some of the cares that had oppressed them. In the November 25 issue, White reported about an “Eastern Tour” of churches in various parts of New England. He had been away from the office from October 23 to November 18.⁷

Hearing of the blessings that the Whites had brought to the churches in the East, those in New York State asked for a similar visit. So, leaving Saratoga Springs in January, the Whites braved the winter storms and traveled from one church to another.

They had hoped to spend some time with the company at Camden, New York. But a violent storm blanketed the country with heavy snow on that particular Sabbath, and very few members living at a distance were able to attend. However, they came back to Saratoga Springs with light hearts, rejoicing in the progress of the work, but worn in body. James began to wonder how much longer he could stand up under the strain. He wrote to his friend Stockbridge Howland:

“We are unusually well, all but myself. I cannot long endure the labors of traveling and the care of publishing. Wednesday night we worked until two o’clock in the morning, folding and wrapping Number 12 of the *Review and Herald*, then I retired and coughed till daylight. Pray for me. The cause is prospering gloriously. Perhaps the Lord will not have need of me longer, and will let me rest in the grave. I hope to be free from the paper. I have stood by it in extreme adversity; and now when its friends are many, I feel free to leave it, if someone can be found who will take it.”⁸

During this summer Samuel Rhodes made a suggestion that James thought extremely practical and proceeded to implement. Each church or company was invited to appoint one of its members to be the local “agent” to handle church publications. It would be his duty to see that papers were received, old addresses corrected when people moved, and so on. He would also collect funds so the publishing work might continue to grow.⁹

For months James White had been thinking of how the publishing work might be placed on a more satisfactory foundation, as well as of other problems and needs connected with the spreading of the Advent message. He got in touch with Jesse Thompson and broached the idea of a conference of all the workers who could come to Ballston Spa. Thompson was cordial to the idea, and offered the use of his twenty-one-room house to those coming to the conference.

So, under the heading “Conference,” there appeared in the *Review and Herald* of March 2, 1852, notice of a conference to be held at the house of Jesse Thompson, two miles from Ballston Spa. It would begin at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, March 12, and continue for several days.

On that chilly March morning there gathered in the large parlor of Jesse Thompson’s spacious house the leaders of the work. Among others there were James and Ellen White, Joseph Bates, J. N. Andrews, Hiram Edson, Frederick Wheeler, Samuel W. Rhodes, Washington Morse, Joseph Baker, as well as their kindly host, Jesse Thompson.

For James White the publishing work was probably the subject that loomed largest. What could be done

to strengthen it? He had seen the papers going out to all parts of the field. Reports were coming back, telling of many converts brought into the church through reading the straight truths found in the publications. He was convinced that this was one of God’s chosen methods for calling out His remnant ones.

“Brethren,” we can imagine him asking earnestly during the afternoon devoted to that subject, “why should we not own and operate our own press? Think of the hundreds of dollars profit that we pour into the hands of the commercial presses. Do you feel it is right to have those presses turning out our literature on the Sabbath day?”

The brethren listened carefully. Where, they asked, would he find a staff qualified to operate printing presses, set type, and bind books? James pointed out that the work of operating a hand press was very simple. That was the only kind of press they could afford at present. As for pressmen, he was in touch with one who might be persuaded to help them and also train some apprentices.

Other questions followed. “What would it cost to move the office from here, secure printing equipment, and set up in some other city?”

“I think about \$600 would be needed,”¹⁰ James replied. He went on to say that it would require faith, without which nothing could be done. He pointed out that three years earlier the believers in New York State had numbered only about twenty. Now there were almost a thousand believers.

So it was voted to move the publishing work to Rochester, a thriving city some three hundred miles west of Saratoga Springs, and buy printing equipment they could operate. To meet the cost, James said he would place an appeal in the next issue of the *Review and Herald*, inviting the believers to give as God had prospered them. The same paper would carry a notice that there would be no further issues of the



paper until the new office and plant had been set up in Rochester.¹¹

In the meantime money had to be found to purchase a hand press so the work could be started soon. He knew the money would come in, although it might be several weeks before they had enough. James White, the “man who could not wait,” canvassed the workers present and took their pledges. Then Hiram Edson made them a proposition. He had recently sold one of his farms, and would be willing to advance \$600 to get things moving immediately. His offer was gladly accepted.

The Peripatetic Press, as Spalding so aptly described it, was on the move again. 📖

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.

¹ *Life Sketches*, 1888, 282.

² *Ibid.*, 1915, 141.

³ *Review and Herald*, May 23, 1935.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Sept. 16, 1851.

⁵ *SDA Encyclopedia*, “Smith, Annie,” 1200.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 1407.

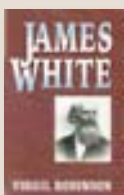
⁷ *Review and Herald*, Nov. 25, 1851.

⁸ *Life Sketches*, 1915, 141.

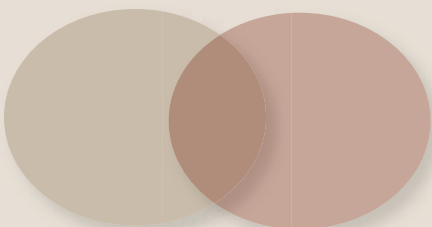
⁹ *Review and Herald*, Aug. 19, 1851.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, May 6, 1852.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, March 23, 1852.



This article was adapted from Virgil Robinson, *James White, 74–80*. This book is available from Hope International for \$11.99 plus shipping and sales tax (see page 30).



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.”

- Which of the White children had cholera?
 - Harry
 - Willie
 - Edson
 - George
- How old was he when he contracted cholera?
 - 6 months
 - 2 years
 - 3 years
 - 6 years
- What would James White do on the top of his hat?
 - Eat his picnic meals
 - Tap while they sang
 - Write hymns
 - Write articles
- Who was Sarah Belden?
 - Ellen White's first secretary
 - Wife of first missionary to Japan
 - Nanny to Willie White
 - Sister of Ellen White
- The church hymn, “He Sleeps in Jesus,” written by Annie Smith, was prompted by what event?
 - The death of Ellen White's brother
 - The death of Uriah Smith
 - The death of James White
 - The death of William Miller
- Where did James White first meet Ellen White, where they eventually married, and where Ellen White had her first vision?
 - Portland, Maine
 - Gorham, Maine
 - Rochester, New York
 - Hiram Edson's house
- Who received the understanding about the sanctuary while he walked through his cornfield?
 - John Harvey Kellogg
 - Uriah Smith
 - George Butler
 - Hiram Edson
- Who was the first person Ellen White wrote to that we have a copy of?
 - William Miller
 - Joseph Bates
 - James White
 - Ellen White's father
- Where was the first Seventh-day Adventist church?
 - Topsham, Maine
 - Dorchester, Massachusetts
 - Gorham, Maine
 - Washington, New Hampshire
- Where did Ellen White receive her first vision?
 - Portland, Maine
 - Rochester, New York
 - Gorham, Maine
 - Wolcott, Vermont

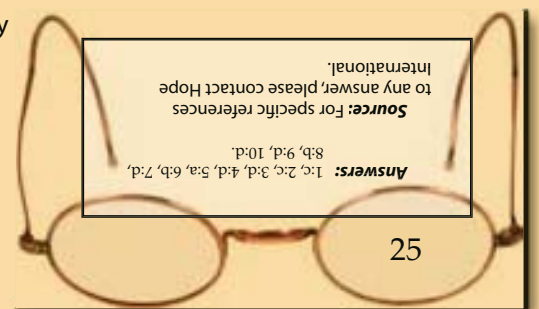




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Eating as Entertainment

News Item: “A USDA food pyramid on this box of crackers in front of me has not a smidgen of whole grain anything in it. They talk fruits and vegetables in junior-high health class and serve French fries, frozen pizza, and soda pop in the cafeteria. . . . The balance has just tipped in my fair city of Philadelphia, which officially has more overweight children than not—51 percent, up from 45 percent in 2002. . . .

“Heart disease and stroke deaths (45 percent of American lives) were almost nonexistent 100 years ago. Cardiovascular illness took off after World War II, when we started eating more meat, and the food industry cranked out sugared, refined, processed, salted, and laboratory-engineered stuff to tickle our taste buds. . . .

“Eating is entertainment. If you doubt it, who wakes up in the morning and says, ‘Let’s see,

what can I eat today to maintain optimum present and future body health for the kingdom of God?’” Andree Seu, *World*, February 19, 2005, 43.

End-time Perspective: “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Corinthians 6:19–20.

“If the habits of eating and drinking are kept intelligently under the control of the human agent, and he eats and drinks to the glory of God, his life will be lengthened. Eat to live; do not live to eat.” *This Day With God*, 123.

An Act of God

News Item: “47%: Malaysians who believe the tsunami was ‘an act of God with religious significance.’

“26%: Americans who said this.” Ted Olson, “Go Figure,” *Christianity Today*, March, 2005, 22.

End-time Perspective: I wonder what Americans are saying now that these things have begun to take place in this country with the kind of devastation and loss of life that was experienced in the tsunami. And why is it that we always want to blame God for this?

“Satan is watching his chances to secure souls to himself and unless we have God’s protection, he will break forth in violence and his angels will be set at work to do some marked mischief. The terrible tornadoes, the railroad disasters, the calamities at sea, are because of Satan’s wrath. The Lord does not work a miracle to protect those who are constantly working against Himself and strengthening the power of darkness. And this is only the beginning. Their hearts will not repent because they are fully set in them to do evil and that continually. These disasters, which should make



Photo: © Art Explosion CD

men afraid, are now regarded only by those who fear for their own personal safety, themselves and those connected with them.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 3, 318–319.

LDS ‘Insider’ Suspended

“Grant H. Palmer had expected to be punished by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for writing the 2002 book *An Insider’s View of Mormon Origins*. . . . Last December, Keith Adams, the leader at Grant’s church in Sandy, Utah, disfellowshipped him. . . .

“They felt [the book] had done some damage to people’s faith causing them to doubt Mormon foundational claims,” Palmer said. He is retired after 34 years as a college-level LDS educator.

“*An Insider’s View* argues that



Photo: © Paul Williams

LDS founder Joseph Smith didn’t miraculously translate the *Book of Mormon* from golden plates. It also examines ‘Smith’s largely rewritten, materialistic, idealized, and con-

roversial accounts of the church's founding.' . . .

"Palmer, a fourth-generation Mormon, still wants to be a part of the church. But he isn't ready to toe the line. 'I don't know how I can repent if the book is true.'" John W. Kennedy, *Christianity Today*, March, 2005, 23–24.

End-time Perspective: God is trying to reach the minds of all who are honest at heart to come into line with His revealed truth. Will these persons who discover the faulty foundations of the apostate churches keep searching until they find the fountain of the water of life? Will they be willing to take a stand and walk away from the only church they may have known since childhood? Are we going to be in the right place at the right time to call them out of Babylon into the light of the glorious gospel of Christ? As many join the remnant people of God, are we ready? What will they see?

"Standard after standard was left to trail in the dust as company after company from the Lord's army joined the foe and tribe after tribe from the ranks of the enemy united with the commandment-keeping people of God." *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 41.

The French Reconnection

News Item: "Cyril Gordon, a Paris-born American evangelist, told me he was astounded at how well the gospel was being received in France. 'I've done evangelism in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Paris,' he says, 'and of all these, I've been by far best received in Paris. I'm used to getting some broadsides [tracts] ripped up and thrown in my face or people cussing at me. I haven't had one instance of this in the two weeks I've been here. We are constantly talking to French people who walk up to us wanting to know about Christ.'" Agnieszka Tennant, *Christianity Today*, March, 2005, 29.



Photo: © Art Explosion CD

End-time Perspective: "There are many places where the Lord's work has not a proper showing. Help is needed in Italy, in France, in Scotland, and in many other countries. A larger work should be done in these places. Laborers are needed. There is talent among God's people in Europe, and the Lord desires this talent to be employed in establishing all through Great Britain and the continent centers from which the light of His truth may shine forth." *Evangelism*, 409.

Scandalous

News Item: "The work of Evangelicals and Catholics Together has sometimes sparked controversy—especially the 1997 document, "The Gift of Salvation." The newest document ["The Call to Holiness"] from the informal group created by Chuck Colson and Richard John Neuhaus will be more widely received, however, because it speaks to a strongly felt common need: to renew the pursuit of holiness. . . .

" 'It is a great scandal that so many Christians of our day, while continuing to be identified as members of the church, fail to respond to the call to holiness.' Section 2." *Christianity Today*, March, 2005, 65.

End-time Perspective: Even ecumenical Babylon is concerned about the lack of practical godliness now. But they are not willing to consider the real reasons.

"Popular revivals are too often carried by appeals to the imagina-

tion, by exciting the emotions, by gratifying the love for what is new and startling. Converts thus gained have little desire to listen to Bible truth, little interest in the testimony of prophets and apostles. Unless a religious service has something of a sensational character, it has no attractions for them. A message which appeals to unimpassioned reason awakens no response. The plain warnings of God's Word, relating directly to their eternal interests, are unheeded.

"With every truly converted soul the relation to God and to eternal things will be the great topic of life. But where, in the popular churches of today, is the spirit of consecration to God? The converts do not renounce their pride and love of the world. They are no more willing to deny self, to take up the cross,



Photo: © Art Explosion CD

and follow the meek and lowly Jesus, than before their conversion. Religion has become the sport of infidels and skeptics because so many who bear its name are ignorant of its principles. The power of godliness has well-nigh departed from many of the churches." *The Great Controversy*, 463. 📖

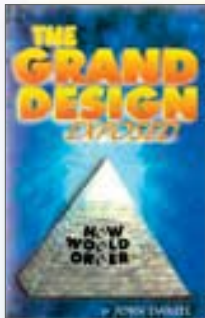
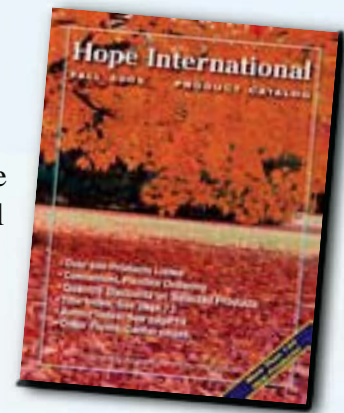


Contributor:
Joe Olson

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General Books

Daniel, John

Grand Design Exposed, The

Most people living in our world today have not the vaguest idea that shattering changes are about to take place that will disrupt every individual on planet earth. This is a very rare book but its message is explicitly clear. It lays bare a bold design for world domination. It's about an alliance of extraordinary men. Brilliant men working secretly behind unsuspected covers. This book ferrets out history that begs to be left unknown.

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Gresham, Joe W.

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person to understand. He even deals with why Ellen White sometimes used another translation. If you have any questions about which Bible is the best translation, you must get this book." -- Joe Olson

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Wise Shall Understand, The

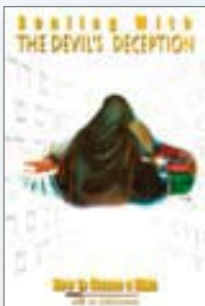
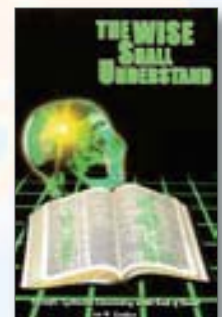
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Outreach

Koranteng-Pipim, Samuel



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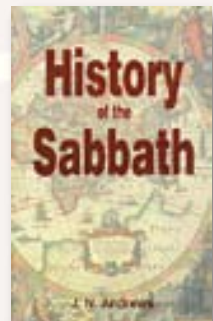
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Letters to the Editor



Thank you for the precious magazine, *Our Firm Foundation*. God bless you all.

M; Oklahoma

Please renew my subscription as far back as January. I missed some of the issues due to illness. I thank the Lord for having recovered and look forward to reading *Our Firm Foundation* magazine again.

RE; California

I appreciate the issues of your magazine that I have been receiving. I have been a supporter of Hope International for several years.

I am grateful for your stand for true Christian living as we have been advised through the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. My prayers are with you that somehow we may all be motivated to study and obey all the instructions and counsel this church has been given.

REL; Colorado

Thank you for your work of reaching more and more people for our Lord Jesus Christ. I have been blessed by the magazine, *Our Firm Foundation*.

DK; New England

Praise God and Jesus Christ our Lord for the wonderful work God's Spirit is performing through Hope International

TM; New York

You are doing such good work. I enjoy your magazine. Your articles are just what we all need as we see the end getting closer and closer.

MH; Michigan

I really enjoy *Our Firm Foundation* magazine. I was particularly blessed Paulson's articles on the sanctuary, volume 14, 1999. I am preparing a series of meetings and would like to use the material from *Our Firm Foundation* magazine.

GJ; California

We really love *Our Firm Foundation* magazine and eagerly await each new edition.

HNA; California

I am happy to support your work and efforts.

HC; Michigan

I am so thankful for the magazine *Our Firm Foundation* and enjoy watching the various tapes and video cassettes. Although our church is friendly, loving and caring, we never hear the "Present Truth."

AD; Michigan

I have enjoyed the magazine, *Our Firm Foundation*. It is an amazing source of information and ideas. It is obvious that it is thoughtfully and prayerfully prepared. There are a variety of articles for all types of reading styles: a light or a heavy meal.

KF; Arizona

Hope International is using the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy to "cry aloud, spare

not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet." I think ALL subscribers to *Our Firm Foundation* feel blessed with each and every issue.

RB; Massachusetts

I love *Our Firm Foundation* magazine. It is meat and drink to my dry and thirsty soul. My husband and I eagerly wait for each issue. It is such a blessing to us and we share it with as many as will receive it. Please keep publishing these truths. They are so needed for these last days! Our prayers are with you all.

MT; Oregon

I have been a subscriber of *Our Firm Foundation* magazine for many years. It is truly a blessing to my family and myself, and all who receive it.

HM; Pennsylvania

Recently, you sent your magazine to my son who no longer lives at this address. I read it from cover to cover and it was a blessing to me to read articles concerning how we need to live our lives. I have been troubled about the sermons I have been hearing in some of our churches. It seems as if some of our pastors are preaching only what people want to hear.

I am very pleased with your magazine. I am sending for my subscription today and forwarding the sample to my son.

HW; Minnesota

I appreciate your work. May the Lord continue to bless you all.

GW; Alabama

**No Jesus
No Peace**



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