

# Our Firm Foundation

Volume 20, Number 12

December 2005



## Your Television and Eternity

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary



## Hurricanes, Storms and Tempests

**W**e, at Hope International, believe we have been called to the challenge of cautioning and arousing the family of God to the reality of the times we live in. It is an unpopular task that, nevertheless, must be carried out with fervency, especially as the coming of our Savior seems closer than ever before.

The signs of the end stipulated in Matthew chapter 24 have never been more appropriate than now when earth's moral decadence has reached its lowest ebb.

Scripture admonishes us: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:36-39

Ellen White writes: "The restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land, follow each other in quick succession. Science seeks to explain all these. The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause. Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds that they

shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed; but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there shall be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture." *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 408

These words captured my attention in light of the recent devastation by hurricanes Katrina and Rita in which precious lives were lost. But only a precious few, blessed of God, saw this as one of the signs of the "near approach of the Son of God."

"Signs of a most startling character appear, in floods, in hurricanes, in tornadoes, in cloudbursts, in casualties by land and by sea, that proclaim the approach of the end of all things. The judgments of God are falling on the world, that men may be awakened to the fact that Christ will come speedily." *Review and Herald*, November 8, 1892.


This was written over 100 years ago! But its application and meaning is even more pertinent today than when it was penned.

A lot of what goes on in our communities is an affront to God's cause. Reckless reveling culminating into murders, rapes, robberies, and unimaginable sexual perversion that disparage the image of God in man have become a normal sight! But "it is God who holds in His hands the destiny of souls. He will not always be mocked; He will not always be trifled with. Already His judgments are in the land. Fierce and awful tempests leave destruction and death in their

wake. The devouring fire lays low the desolate forest and the crowded city. Storm and shipwreck await those who journey upon the deep. Accident and calamity threaten all who travel upon the land. Hurricanes, earthquakes, sword and famine, follow in quick succession. Yet the hearts of men are hardened. They recognize not the warning voice of God. They will not flee to the only refuge from the gathering storm." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 234.

It is our hope that these catastrophic events will turn our hearts to the Lord, not harden them with self justification in the spirit of rebellion. We must flee to the only true Refuge, our Shelter in the time of storm.

We need to be impressed by the solemn messages God is trying to convey to us in these last moments of earth's history. Satan does not want us to see what is happening. He wants our minds to focus on the affairs of the day, not the affairs of eternity.

My sincere prayer is, in the few moments of probationary time that are left, may each one of us take every opportunity to prepare ourselves and others to meet our Lord in the air. 



*Joe Olson serves as the executive director and chairman of the board of Hope International. He also travels as an international speaker.*



**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

Hope International is a lay ministry founded, supported, and operated by Seventh-day Adventists to assist the Seventh-day Adventist church in the proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel in every way that is consistent with the principles of God as revealed in Inspiration.

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# Your Television and Eternity

**Admiral Ncube**

**Part 1**



*"Whatever we cherish that tends to lessen our love for God or to interfere with the service due Him, of that do we make a god." Patriarchs and Prophets, 305.*

In today's world, the television has become a major source of entertainment, information and relaxation in many homes. It is common-place to find a TV set in almost every home. And every evening families gather around the "black box" until late at night watching comedies, drama, news, sports and documentaries. In all this, little thought is given to the dangers and effects of TV viewing.

Before we investigate these, it is important to remember that our goal in this life is to prepare for eternity by developing Christ-like characters. Therefore, anything that we cherish should not in any way be at variance with our efforts in this regard. In fact, there are some things that we have embraced, which are not sin in themselves but have tended to dilute our zeal for God's work, quenched our thirst for His Word and, consequently, made it difficult for us to develop Christ-like characters. As we will discover, television, is among the things that do not add value to our relationship with God but rather take away from it.

Compare the amount of time we spend glued to our television sets and the time we spend with God. Could it be that the low interest in

***How comprehensive is our understanding of the adverse effects of television viewing on our eternal destiny?***



spiritual things especially prevalent among the youth, worldly fashions and lifestyles prevailing in our churches, the quest for celebration-style worship, and the growing ignorance about our historic beliefs are attributable to the invasion of the "black box" in our homes? Could it be that our love and zeal for God's work and His Word have been diluted and, in some cases, quenched altogether by fictitious works? Could it be that we have made these forms of amusements idols by allowing them to interfere with our service to God?

The Apostle Paul in Hebrews 12:1-2 admonishes us thus:

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside

every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

In Revelation 12:12 we are told that our enemy, Satan, has come down more determined and much more serious because he knows how little time he has. He can and will pervert anything that we may consider necessary, harmless or good just to deter us from preparing for eternity.

"The signs of Christ's coming are fast fulfilling. Satan sees that he has but a short time in which to work, and he has set his agencies to work to stir up the elements of the world, that men may be deceived, deluded, and kept occupied and entranced until the day of probation shall be ended and the door of mercy be forever shut." *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 414.

As we will discover, the TV is one such medium the devil is successfully using to ensure that

many—even among God’s people—will remain deceived, deluded and entranced until probation closes. We are much safer without TV sets in our homes, especially since we are living in solemn times. We cannot afford to carry unnecessary weights as we run the race set before us.

Notwithstanding the fact that the TV is a good source of information and news, we should also consider the principles found in the Bible, Spirit of Prophecy, and science on the dangers associated with this medium. These dangers outweigh the intended benefits, making it unsafe to have a television set in our homes. God has clearly given us the principles with which to consider this subject.

### Works of Fiction

The Spirit of Prophecy cautions us against indulging in works of fiction and specific counsel has been given on our choices of reading material. Fiction is fiction whether read in a book or viewed on TV. It does not strengthen one’s spirituality but rather weakens character development.

“Cheap works of fiction do not profit. They impart no real knowledge; they inspire no great and good purpose; they kindle in the heart no earnest desires for purity; they excite no soul hunger for righteousness. On the contrary, they take time which should be given to the practical duties of life and to the service of God—time



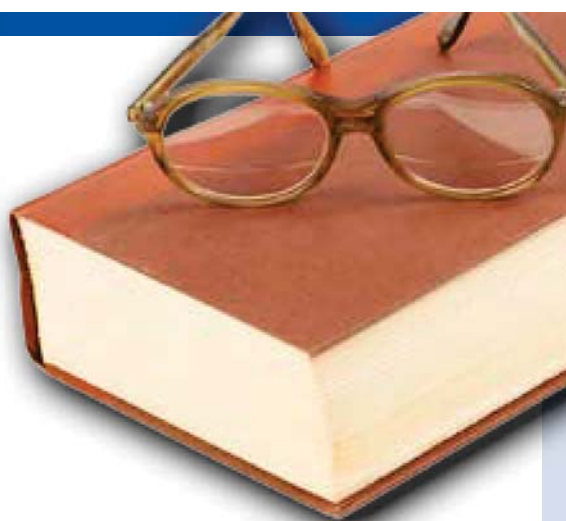
which should be devoted to prayer, to visiting the sick, caring for the needy, and educating yourself for a useful life. When you commence reading a storybook, how frequently the imagination is so excited that you are betrayed into sin. . . . And worse than this, prayer is forgotten,

and the Bible is read with indifference or entirely neglected.” *Youth’s Instructor*, September 10, 1884.

“Resolutely discard all trashy reading. It will not strengthen your spirituality, but will introduce into the mind sentiments that pervert the imagination, causing you to think less of Jesus and to dwell less upon His precious lessons. Keep the mind free from everything that would lead it in a wrong direction. Do not encumber it with trashy stories, which impart no strength to the mental powers. The thoughts are of the same character as the food provided for the mind.” *Ibid.*, October 9, 1902.

Therefore, Christians preparing for the second coming of Jesus cannot afford to waste their probationary time by watching and partaking of that which does not strengthen them spiritually. Based on the counsel from the pen of inspiration, all works of fiction should be discarded. This would include books and videos “based on a true story” but enhanced for the purpose of entertainment.

This counsel is for our benefit. God is not seeking to deprive us of happiness in our homes, but, in His wisdom and love, He counsels us



relish the profound truths found in the Bible as much as we should. It is sobering indeed to note how we have become so saturated with these cheap works to the detriment of our spirituality. May God help us break the shackles the evil one has bound us with!

### By Beholding

It is obvious that most movies are fictional in nature. Therefore, to capture audiences they tend to include scenes of violence, crime, nudity and sex. If, according to Scripture, by beholding we become changed (2 Corinthians 3:18), what can be the result of partaking of such scenes? Why would a true child of God, enjoy scenes of nudity,

*“Cheap works of fiction do not profit. They impart no real knowledge; they inspire no great and good purpose; they kindle in the heart no earnest desires for purity; they excite no soul hunger for righteousness.”*

to shun all works of fiction for our good. They are not worth risking losing eternal life for.

Sad to say that we have become accustomed to fictional works to the extent that we think TV is a necessity in our homes. Our minds are slowly becoming so accustomed to fictional works that we do not

crime, violence and falsehood? How can we entertain obscenities that take God’s name in vain and portray sin as virtue, and still profess to be children of the kingdom of God? How can we be so blind as to laugh and obtain joy in impurity and vanity? The Psalmist says: “I will set no wicked thing before



Most of the movies and drama today are neither pure, nor lovely because they are full of violence, nudity and crime. Is it of *good report* or *virtuous*? Most of the news is not of *good report*, and it isn't *virtuous* when they replay and reenact crimes for the purpose of illustration.

And finally, is it *praiseworthy*? Remember, only God is worthy of our praise, not human beings. Although the following counsel was written in a different context, the principle most assuredly applies to what we behold on TV. "Let [the men in responsible positions in God's work] see the sinfulness of exalting such men as Shakespeare, calling the attention of people to *those who did not in their lives honor God or represent Christ*. . . . Let them lift their voices against the worship of human beings, giving honor to

If it passes all the tests, then the apostle bids us to "think on these things." If not, then, obviously, heaven does not approve of it.

The counsel given about the theatre is also appropriate for TV, for it is the same old theatre that has invaded many homes even when viewed on DVDs or video cassettes. The counsel from the Spirit of Prophecy focuses more on the content than the buildings in which these things take place.

"Among the most dangerous resorts for pleasure is the theater. Instead of being a school of morality and virtue, as is so often claimed, it is the very hotbed of immorality. Vicious habits and sinful propensities are strengthened and confirmed by these entertainments. Low songs, lewd gestures, expressions, and attitudes, deprave the imagination and debase the morals. Every youth who habitually attends such exhibitions *will*

*be corrupted in principle.* There is *no* influence in our land more powerful to poison the imagination, to destroy religious impressions, and to blunt the relish for the tranquil pleasures and sober realities of life than theatrical amusements. The love for these scenes increases with every indulgence, as the desire for intoxicating drink strengthens with its use. The only safe course is to shun the theater, the circus, and every other questionable place of amusement." *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 652–653.

When we let our minds feed and dwell on that which is impure and false, it becomes impossible for us to exercise Christ-like patience and

where they are learning evil from and forget the "teacher" we have set before them.

Philippians 4:8 provides us with the criteria of virtues we should focus on. In applying this verse to watching TV, we should ask ourselves the following questions: Is it *true*? Remember, *fiction* is the opposite of *truth*. Is it *honest*? Remember, *acting* is a *lie*. Is it *pure* and *lovely*?

whom honor is due." "Call *no man* brilliant who has not the wisdom to choose the Lord Jesus Christ—the light and life of the world." *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 173–175. All emphasis supplied.



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mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me." Psalm 101:3.

TV is doing nothing but destroying our spirituality. In most cases, our lifestyles and habits are being shaped by what we view on TV. Subconsciously, we and especially our children, are adopting the same vocabulary, ideals and practices portrayed on TV. Then we wonder

*When we let our minds feed and dwell on that which is impure and false, it becomes impossible for us to exercise Christ-like patience and love.*

love. Consequently, we start finding joy in that which is sensual, cheap, fictional and unchristian. Have you ever wondered why our children are more fascinated with worldly entertainment legends than love for God and His Word? It is not uncommon to hear obscenities from their lips because the TV has indeed played a significant role in corrupting them. If only we would teach ourselves to dwell on Christ, His love, righteousness and sacrifice by meditating on His Word!

“Brethren and sisters, it is by beholding that we become changed. By dwelling upon the love of God and our Saviour, by contemplating the perfection of the divine character and claiming the righteousness of Christ as ours by faith, we are to be transformed into the same image.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 744.

### Vicarious Participation

When Jesus declared, “Who-soever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Matthew 5:27–28), He actually meant that cherishing lustful thoughts in the mind is just as sinful as committing the act. The human mind is capable of propelling us into vicarious participation of these woeful evils through imagination.

Movie and TV program producers induce people to participate, vicariously, in the scenes being enacted by arousing their emotions and passions. It is through this emotional involvement that we find ourselves absorbed and addicted to certain programs. Often, we become so emotionally engrossed that we even shed tears, curse, laugh out loud or are sexually aroused by what we clearly know to be untrue. Our emotions and passions swing from one end to another as we identify with the actors in the movie.

Vicarious participation in sensual scenes makes victory over the flesh and its passions difficult. Sadly it is through this agency that the devil has succeeded in

creating adulterers, and murderers, and thieves among professed Christians. Continual viewing of these scenes is clear evidence that they love and enjoy these impure activities.

### Non-Responsive Habit

Another danger of viewing these scenes lies in the cultivation of the non-responsive habit. This is a result of getting accustomed to watching so many scenes of violence and suffering that when they actually take place, we are not moved at all. Our consciences do not get troubled or moved by empathy or righteous indignation at the portrayal of real injustice. Constant television exposure to cruelty and inhumanity has induced indifference towards crime and suffering even among professed Christians.

Many claim that they do not want to get involved, and usually pass heedlessly by the victim just like the Levite in the parable of the good Samaritan. TV has blunted and destroyed their sensitivity to suffering. This has even led some to lightly regard adultery and crime by giving them scientific names that try to explain and excuse their wickedness.

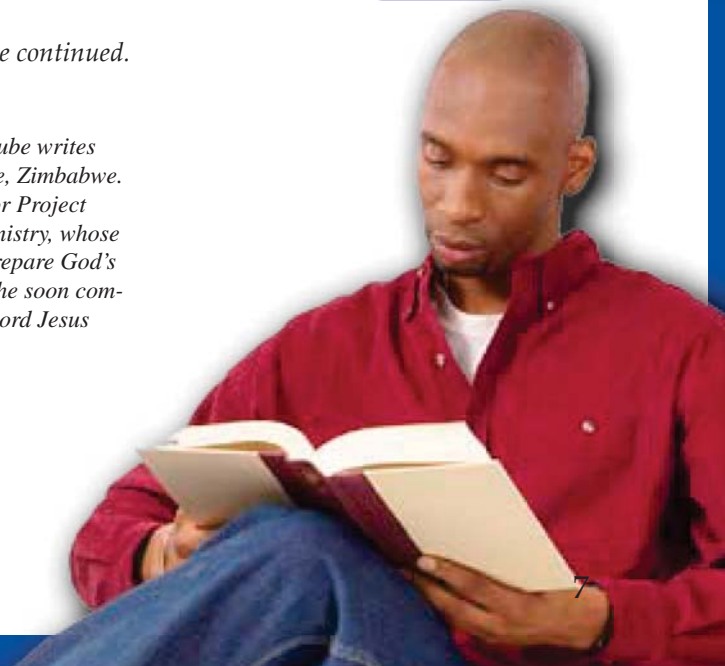
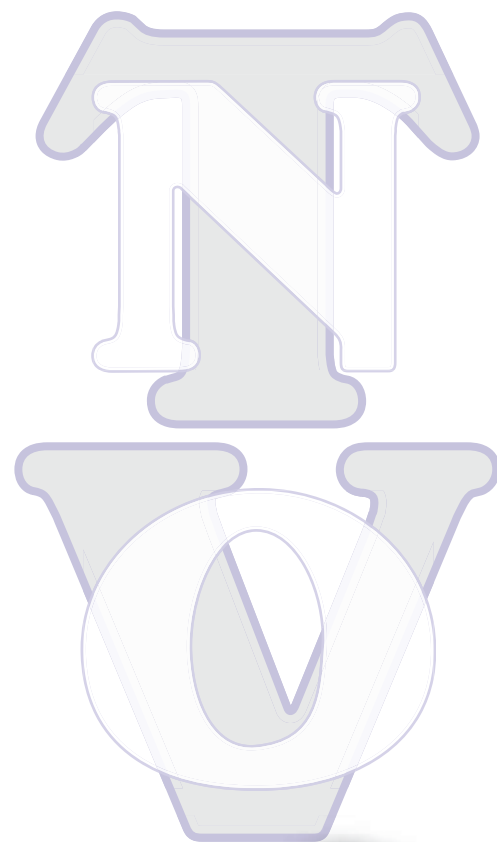
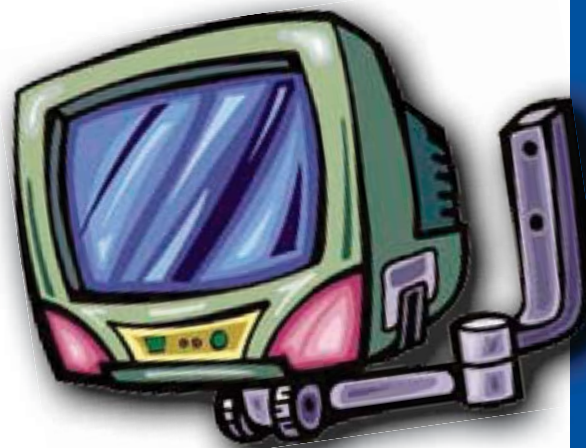
The invasion of numerous evils among professed Christians is surely a result of exposure to these avenues of sin, The devil is indeed playing a game with our souls and we cannot afford to be indifferent!



*To be continued.*



*Admiral Ncube writes from Harare, Zimbabwe. He works for Project Prepare Ministry, whose goal is to prepare God's people for the soon coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*



# The Builders Perished

*Placidus Parackal*



*Will we see our own hand-built church sailing off into the clouds leaving the workmen stranded?*

"And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die." Genesis 6:17.

During Noah's time, God's word came to pass in the form of a catastrophic flood and an awe-inspiring deliverance of Noah and his family in a gigantic wooden ark.

Jesus said in Matthew 24:38–39, "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

Peter also predicts a second, divine cataclysm "whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: but the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." 2 Peter 3:6–7

Like the survivors aboard Noah's Ark, the Bible speaks of those who will escape destruction on this earth: "Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left." Matthew 24:40–41.

In 2 Thessalonians 11:7–8, the apostle Paul speaks of the coming of the Lord Jesus from heaven to take vengeance "in flaming fire" on those on the earth who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The great deluge holds up to us a kind of a biblical model for salvation and judgment.

God, Himself, gave the details of the ark's construction to Noah. "Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and



without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt

thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it." Genesis 6:14–16.

The best navigation experts today, confirm that these dimensions were hydronomically sound enough to withstand a global flood. The ark traveled with all its cargo intact, after being lifted from the flooding-dock, withstanding monstrous waves, to finally anchor "upon the mountains of Ararat" (Genesis 8:4), in Turkey, where sightings are still being rumored even today.

The size of the ark in today's equivalent measurements would be about 515 by 86 by 52 feet.<sup>1</sup> Roughly, the same as about two hundred modern day apartments of six hundred square feet each, spread over three stories high. A township project indeed! Studies conclude that about 280,000 cubic feet of timber would be required to complete such a task. The manpower requirement for erecting such an ark would be staggering. "On account of the great size of the trees and the nature of the wood, much more labor was required than now to prepare timber, even with the greater strength which men then possessed." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 95.



## Solomon's Building Project

A near biblical comparison could be made to the temple Solomon built. "The house which king Solomon built for the LORD, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits." 1 Kings 6:2. This works out to be twelve times smaller than the ark. The labor force was one hundred fifty three thousand people. See 1 Kings 5:15-16. Additionally, thirty thousand men were sent to Lebanon. Verses 13-14.

The wages are recorded in 2 Chronicles 2:10: "And, behold, I will give to thy servants, the hewers that cut timber, twenty thousand measures of beaten wheat, and twenty thousand measures of barley, and twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil." In today's measure the oil alone works out to be about four hundred thousand liters every year.

The work proceeded for seven years. 1 Kings 6:38. Of course Noah may have used fewer workers since he had a longer time, and he didn't pay like the king. Although Sister White writes that Noah invested all he had in this project. See *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 95.

## Unconverted Laborers

Here the central question arises—what happened to all this workforce, however large or small,



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which Noah had employed? Noah and his three sons could not fashion the ark by themselves. They definitely would have hired some help.

E. G. White writes, "Some of the carpenters he employed in building the ark believed the message, but died before the Flood; others of Noah's converts backslid." *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, 1088. "Those who believed when Noah began to build the ark, lost their faith through association with unbelievers who aroused all the old passion for amusement and display." *Review and Herald*, September 15, 1904.

The Bible is clear that only Noah's family of eight survived. What was the fate of the workers? Of the suppliers? Of the onlookers? The work was complex and thousands of details and minute intricacies had to be met. Plans were chalked out. There was teamwork. There was supervision. There were time-bound schedules to complete, and storage of wood to take into account. Hundreds of hands contributed to this epic task.

What was the end of all these workers? They were swept away by the flooding waters. Tragic, but true was the fact that they labored hard

builders of today. There is no doubt that we are working on building an "ark" of salvation, and the time is rapidly closing in.

Even as Noah's voice cried out for one hundred and twenty years, haven't we had the voice of E. G. White in thousands of pages for over one and half centuries? The



messages we have today are as startling as Noah's message, yet they seem, to some, both incredible and unimportant. But now, as then, the flood of fire is around the corner. The scientific and logical minds of those days dismissed Noah's warning with jest, scorn, reason or plain

*"Those who believed when Noah began to build the ark, lost their faith through association with unbelievers who aroused all the old passion for amusement and display."*

to build this ship, drew their wages, but didn't believe the message, and drowned with their wealth and possessions. They didn't step into the ark they had built. It is incredible that humans could do such a thing.

## Wage-earners or Converts?

This biblical account carries a frightening admonition for us—the

indifference. The same rebellious spirit persists today in our ranks.

Are we building the church or ministry for wages, or for the message? Will we step into the ark? Or will we perish in the humdrum of "eating, drinking and marrying?" We tend to have more zeal for the work than the message for which the work exists.

# Reforma Ezra

## Why is there a for individual and rev

*Editor's note: In Part 6 of this series, King Hezekiah championed a determined and sustainable spiritual reformation. In this concluding chapter, other kings emulate his example.*

The fourth of the six, who followed several of the nine steps and brought the church back to full allegiance to God, was King Josiah of Judah, the third monarch after Hezekiah. Josiah ascended the throne 47 years after Hezekiah's death. You will want to read, for yourself, his story. It is found in *Prophets and Kings*, 392–406.

Josiah called for the temple to be repaired. When he did, Hilkiah, the high priest, found a major portion of the book of Deuteronomy, which had been missing ever since the reign of Hezekiah's son, wicked King Manasseh. When it was read to him, Josiah learned of the terrible warnings in Deuteronomy against the church, if the people ever forsook God and His law.

Those warnings in Deuteronomy are also for us right now! Anyone who thinks that the warnings and pleadings of Scripture have no relevance to us today—is living in a fool's paradise.

“See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; in that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments. . . . But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt

Our many messages are all gloriously harmonized around our Saviour. They are composed of an array of parts, pieces, and joints, even as the ark had many a beam, dove-tailing, strut and dowel all shaped into one whole that could save whoever was willing. Lots of work had to be done to put them all together firm, fast and leak-proof.


God's messages show us the way of salvation. But do we remember that these messages should abide in us for them to be of benefit to us? Lest, unbelieving and unpracticing, we share the fate of our antedeluvian counter parts. Lest we only work wholeheartedly for wages. The wages are not the end. Jesus, our eternal God wants us to be converted by His teachings.

The Sabbath is a powerful invitation to obedience. But cunningly and subtly, travel, pleasure, work and TV have polluted our Sabbaths. The sanctuary and diet messages are only used in the pursuit of church building, and feasting rather than in afflicting our souls. See Leviticus 23:29.

Day by day those workers watched the ark take shape. They did not realize that their destiny was tied in with it through their own choices. They didn't fathom the deep truth associated with their work. They rejoiced in seeing the work of their hands and the wages they received. When the abyss opened and the floodwaters poured out, they saw their own handiwork

sail out without them. The door was closed. The workmen were stranded outside, doomed to die in the swirling flood waters by the power of their own choice.

What a strange kind of madness sin is! How it casts its victim into a blind stupor! Even as we build our churches and ministries today, we could be under the same stupor lulling us toward eternal death, drawing us to the passion and glamour of the world. In the end, will we see our own hand-built church sailing off into the clouds leaving the workmen stranded? Will we be in that unfortunate lot?

Our reasoning stubbornly stands, un-swayed by our own self justification, and refuses to acknowledge such unfortunate possibilities. Those who perished in the flood faced the same predicament. Their natural reasoning refused to let them step into the boat of salvation and instead led them to complete annihilation. 



*Placidus Parackal is a Seventh-day Adventist Christian interested in arousing God's people to watch and pray.*

#### Notes

- 1 Francis D. Nichol, ed., comments on Genesis 6:15, *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, Review and Herald, Washington, DC, 1978, 253.



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# tion under Josiah, and Nehemiah

Vance Ferrell

## Bringing It Back Part 7



*strange aversion to appeals  
and corporate reformation  
val among our ranks?*

not hear . . . I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish. . . . I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that *I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore, choose life*, that both thou and thy seed may live: that thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey His voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto Him, for He is [the source of] thy life." Deuteronomy 30:15–20. All emphasis supplied.

Utterly shocked, Josiah set to work to bring the nation back to God and obedience to His holy law. Gathering all the people to a "great convocation," the king himself read the book of the law to them. Then everyone entered into a solemn covenant to be true to the Lord their God. See *ibid.*, 400.

So once again a major reforma-

month, in our church services and mid-week meetings. *Our people are hungry for God's Word! Let us give it to them.* In so doing, we fulfill an important part of our ministry.

Josiah, the other leaders, and the people, immediately set to work to eliminate idolatry throughout Judah. They even removed it from the land of Israel, which by that time had been desolated by the Assyrian captivity!

When Josiah died, we are told that all the people deeply mourned. Why? Because he had brought them back to God! Godly leaders are valued while they live, and deeply mourned when they die. There is little mourning when apostate leaders pass away. All that are remembered are the scandals, financial losses, and sliding standards which occurred while they were in office.

### Ezra and Nehemiah

The fifth and sixth of the church leaders who successfully brought the people back to God in a time of crisis and apostasy were Ezra and Nehemiah. On several occasions, when those godly leaders learned of an apostasy, they immediately prayed earnestly to God; and then presented the facts to the people and prayed with them. Each time this happened, a great reformation resulted. You can read about some of these varied experiences in *Prophets and Kings*, 618–652, 661–678. Here were men whom God could use!

"More than two thousand years have passed since Ezra 'prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it' (Ezra 7:10), yet the lapse of time has not lessened the influence of his pious example. . . .

"In this age of the world, when Satan is seeking, through manifold agencies, to blind the eyes of men and women to the binding claims of the law of God, there is need of men who can cause many to 'tremble at the commandment of our God.' Ezra 10:3. There is need of true reformers, who will point transgressors to the great Lawgiver and teach them that 'the law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul.' Psalm 19:7. There is need of men mighty in the Scriptures, men whose every word and act exalts the statutes of Jehovah, men who seek to strengthen faith. Teachers are needed, oh, so much, who will inspire hearts with reverence and love for the Scriptures.

"The widespread iniquity prevalent today may in a great degree be attributed to a failure to study and obey the Scriptures, for when the Word of God is set aside, its power to restrain the evil passions of the natural heart is rejected. Men sow to the flesh and of the flesh reap corruption.

"With the setting aside of the Bible has come a turning away from God's law. The doctrine that men are released from obedience to the divine precepts, has weakened the



tion occurred when the people gathered to be taught from God's Word, and made a covenant to obey Him. It is urgent that ongoing instruction in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, be given to our people, week after week and month after



force of moral obligation and opened the floodgates of iniquity upon the world. . . .

“Between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah will come the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error. Upon this battle we are now entering—a battle not between rival churches contending for the supremacy, but between the religion of the Bible and the religions of fable and tradition. . . .

“Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon

### Put Out of the Synagogue

As I conclude this series, it is with sadness that I must tell you: *Today, there are faithful believers who are leaving the church and, unfortunately, some among our number are saying, “Good riddance.”*

Brethren, this should not be. Those precious souls are needed in the church and should be in the church. Because of their integrity to our historic beliefs and standards, they are the pillars of the church which make it solid. Yet they are steadily being pushed out, not by our many good pastors and leaders, but by new theology pastors.

This is an ongoing tragedy. As new theology pastors are eventually transferred from one church to another, they set their sights on getting rid of the members in the church who are the most loyal to the beliefs of our Advent forefathers. Those who confess the true doctrines of Christ are being put out of the synagogue! See John 9:22.

The cream is leaving! “The

of their slothfulness, they provided little revenue for government operations. That is what is gradually taking place in our denomination today!

We have many good leaders on all levels who lament what is taking place. They must individually speak up and take action. In doing so, they will make contact with one another—and unitedly they can work to draw our church back from the precipice it is quickly hastening toward.

And to those who have suffered under the “church discipline” of false teachers and pastors, I remind you of the promise of Jesus: “Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man’s sake.” Luke 6:22. Until the Hezekiahs, Josiahs, Ezras, and Nehemiahs of today begin a revival of primitive godliness, cast out the stuff of Tobiah and cleanse the chambers (see Nehemiah 13:8–9), be assured that the Lord will be for you a sanctuary. See Isaiah 8:14.

May God help us to be faithful to His calling. 📖

*Series concluded.*

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

*“The doctrine that men are released from obedience to the divine precepts, has weakened the force of moral obligation and opened the floodgates of iniquity upon the world.”*

the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by diligently studying the Word of God and striving to conform their lives to its precepts. The tremendous issues of eternity demand of us something besides an imaginary religion, a religion of words and forms, where truth is kept in the outer court. God calls for a revival and a reformation.” *Ibid.*, 623–626.

righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart.” Isaiah 57:1. The situation is remarkably similar to the flight of the Huguenots from France between A.D. 1525 to 1775, as described in *The Great Controversy*, 278–279. As the best of France departed, all that eventually remained was a desolate wasteland of people who were ignorant of basic Christianity and rapidly became more and more worldly. Because

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# Faithful and Slothful Servants



Ellen G. White

It is a great step heavenward, not only to see and love the truth, but to carry it out in the daily life.

All should now endeavor to realize the shortness and solemnity of the time in which we live. There is no time now to be spent in serving self, and in acquiring property for ourselves and our children. A change is soon to take place; a new order of things is to begin. The heavens are to be rolled together as a scroll. See Revelation 6:14.

“And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with power and great glory.” Mark 13:26. “The Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him; then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory.” Matthew 25:31. Then it is that “the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman and every free man,” will receive as their works have been. Revelation 6:15. Solemn hour when the servants are reckoned with, and retribution is awarded to all! There is no second trial. Probation is forever ended.

All unbelief in regard to the claims of God’s law here ceases; for it is by this standard that all are

judged. Every eye then sees Him (Revelation 1:7); and every soul then realizes what has proved his ruin. It is then seen and acknowledged that God’s law governs all created intelligences. There is none to question His authority. Scoffers no longer say, “Where is the promise of His coming?” (2 Peter 3:3–4), neither do they wonder that a peculiar people believed in, and waited for, their Lord’s appearing.

The reason of this is apparent to all. His coming is the greatest event in the world’s history. Those who have had respect to all His commandments, are then classed among the loyal and true, and rewarded with eternal life. Will not my brethren and sisters be aroused before probation closes, to see that fidelity to Christ in this life will meet with a sure reward when He shall give to every man according as his works have been? See Revelation 22:12. Shall we not begin to trade more diligently upon our intrusted talents?

Many who think quite well of themselves, and approve of other’s laboring and feeling the burden

for souls, are doing nothing themselves. The Lord plainly states what He thinks of those who sit at ease while others do the work. They are represented by the slothful man in the parable. “I was afraid,” says the delinquent, “and went and hid Thy talent in the earth.” “I knew Thee that Thou art an hard man, reaping where Thou hast not sown, and gathering where Thou hast not strewed.” Matthew 25:24–25.

The Lord replies, “Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: wherefore then gavest not thou My money into the bank, that at My coming I might have received Mine own with usury?” Luke 19:22–23.

Then says He to them that stand by, “Take therefore the talent from him” (Matthew 25:28); take away all My gifts and endowments, and all his opportunities for usefulness. He will be of no use in My kingdom. For a time I lent him talents, and gave him opportunity to use them to My glory. He saw others at

work, and might have joined them and done much good; but he had no love for Me or My service; his life was spent in serving self. The pound that I gave him, he wrapped

angels, in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8.

*"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*

in a napkin and hid in the earth, and now he says, Here, Lord, is the talent that Thou gavest me.

This indolent servant now sees those whom he considered far inferior to him in talents and capabilities, receiving large gifts from their Lord, and hears the awful words from the King, "Those Mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither and slay them before Me." Luke 19:27. God's claims cannot be set aside with impunity.

### **Unprofitable Servants**

In this parable two classes are presented—the workers and the idlers. All have received talents, and all can use them in the service of the Master; but many choose to use them to please themselves. They put skill, tact, perseverance, and energy into their business transactions. They see opportunities to do good, but their feelings are, "Some one who has been doing this work, understands it better than I. I will let him do the work. I will go to my farm." Another says, "I will go to my merchandise. I do not like the rigid requirements of God's Word that leave a man no chance to build up his own interests."

There are many who act out these words, if they do not say them. Too little is said to stir up these non-workers; but if anything is said, many pay no attention. The Lord Jesus is soon to "be revealed from heaven with His mighty

You who have hid your Lord's talents, may think that this plain, decided warning is not the way to preach the gospel of peace; but it is just the way that Christ preached it, and it will be His way of fulfilling what He has said would take place. Men neglect all the claims of Jehovah, disregard His holy law, disappoint His expectations in everything, and yet they feel that they are not the ones who will be punished. It is the blasphemer, the murderer, the adulterer, who deserves punishment. They themselves have really loved to hear the gospel preached.

True, they have spent their lives in caring for their own interest, instead of helping to build up their Master's kingdom; yet they would be surprised to hear the words, "Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. . . . And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 25:28-30.

How terrible is the self-deception of those souls who are at ease in Zion! They believe everything in God's Word which flatters their self-love; but they heed not the warnings and denunciations that make them uncomfortable. Like the Jews, many mistake the enjoyment of their privileges for the benefit they should derive from them.

It is a great step heavenward, not only to see and love the truth, but to carry it out in the daily life. How changed will a man become under its sanctifying influence! "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17. His words and deportment are so ennobled, so elevated, that it can in



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truth be said of him, “He is a partaker of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” See 2 Peter 1:4. Laying aside every weight, and the sin—unbelief—that doth so easily beset him, he will run the Christian race with patience. See Hebrews 12:1.

### Fruitless Fig Tree

In marked contrast to the class here mentioned are those whom Christ represented by the barren fig-tree. When the cruel act of Pilate in mingling the blood of the Galileans with the sacrifices was reported to Jesus, He discovered in those who bore the news to Him, a self-sufficient, self-righteous spirit; and He reproved them, saying, “Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” Luke 13:2–3.

He then gives them the parable of the fig-tree, thus impressing upon them the fact that natural endowments, national blessings, and religious privileges greatly increase individual responsibility. They had taken it for granted that their superior advantages, and the favors they had received from God, gave them a right to claim all the blessings He had promised to the faithful on condition of obedience.

But they had not been obedient. They were apparently in a flour-

ishing condition; but they were destitute of fruit. They stood in proud, pretentious display; but they failed to exert a religious influence upon others. They were satisfied with doing no positive injury; but this did not satisfy their Saviour. He expects of every one of His followers good works. But after He has waited patiently year after year, and been disappointed, the commandment is given, as to the barren tree, “Cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?” Verse 7.


Let every one inquire, What is my condition before God? Is Jesus disappointed in me from year to year? Am I a fruitless tree in the Lord’s garden? It is not an orchard or a vineyard that is presented before us in the parable; it is a single tree. Its history is that it bore no fruit; its destiny is, to be cut down. The work of overcoming is an individual work.

During the past summer [of 1885] many of our brethren have in various ways received additional light, and enjoyed precious privileges. This increased light only makes your cases more aggravated and your doom more certain, if fruit does not appear.

Will you now go to work for the Master, or will His solemn inspection after this additional light has shone upon you, still find you satisfied with yourselves and unconcerned for sinners. Will you now overcome the world, and, keeping close to the side of Jesus,

learn to bear His yoke and lift His burdens? Will there now be found in the church burden-bearers—not those who are trying to occupy the highest position, but those who are earnest, humble workers for Jesus?

Fathers and mothers in Israel are everywhere needed—those who will honor God in their families, in the church, among unbelievers, and wherever they are. Think of different ones for whom you can manifest an interest, and in the fear of God make personal efforts to reach them. Consider, oh! consider how many years you have occupied a place in the garden of the Lord, and how little fruit you have borne.

As long as probation lasts, there will be work to do for the Master; and His rich blessing will attend the worker who keeps self out of sight, and, with his heart filled with love, labors to seek and to save that which was lost. May God’s converting power come upon the churches throughout the world, that they may feel a burden for souls, for the souls for whom Christ died. 

*Review and Herald*, January 12, 1886.



*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.*

# O Worship the LORD

Clark Floyd

*To what extent is our worship style a reflection of the relationship we have with our Lord?*

“**I**n the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory.” Isaiah 6:1–3.

Isaiah is given a vision that penetrates into the heavenly courts and helps him to better understand the reverence due to God. He is overwhelmed with what he witnesses. “Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.” Verse 5.

Before this vision, Isaiah did not think himself unworthy: “He imag-

ined himself in a righteous state before God.” *Review and Herald*, June 4, 1889. “The vision given to Isaiah represents the condition of God’s people in the last days. They are privileged to see by faith the work that is going forward in the heavenly sanctuary. . . . If they, like Isaiah, will receive the impression the Lord designs shall be made upon the heart, if they will humble their souls before God, there is hope for them. The bow of promise is above the throne, and the work done in Isaiah will be performed in them.” *Ibid*, December 22, 1896.

As God’s people, we need to better understand the reverence due to our triune God. Satan understands and seeks to gain this reverence for himself. In fact, the central issue in the great controversy is, whom shall we worship, and what form should that worship take?

Satan seeks to gain our worship,

either openly or in a clandestine way.

In Daniel, the third chapter, we have the story of a statue erected on the plain of Dura. There is a repeated order “to fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up.” See verses 5, 7, 15. Satan, through the king is seeking the worship of the people by forcing them to kneel before this pagan image.

In Matthew chapter 4, verse 9, we see Jesus in the wilderness being promised certain rewards by Satan, “if Thou wilt fall down and worship me.” Again the worship requested involves kneeling, not just closing the eyes.

In speaking of the return of Christ, Paul says, “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that the man of sin be revealed, the son



of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4.

In Revelation 13, verses 3-4 and 12, we find "all the world" worshipping the dragon, whom we know is Satan, and the beast, who is Satan's representative. The final result of that worship is the suffering of "the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation." Revelation 14:10.

But God has a people that "have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal, . . . a remnant according to the election of grace." Romans 11:4-5. But have this people yet understood the true reverence due to God?

"Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by Myself, the word is gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear." Isaiah 45:22-23.

"Both in public and in private worship, it is our privilege to bow on our knees before the Lord when we offer our petitions to Him." *Gospel Workers*, 178.

In Romans 14:11-12 we read, "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

As part of the three angels' messages, we are instructed to "worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Revelation 14:7.

Jesus is our example. In the Garden of Gethsemane He "kneeled down, and prayed." Luke 22:41.

And His disciples, "they that were in the ship came and worshipped Him, saying, of a truth Thou art the Son of God." Matthew 14:33. The Greek word for worship here and in the rest of the New Testament is "proskuneo"

which means "to prostrate oneself, to pay homage." See Strong's Concordance #4352. In the Old Testament, "shachah," which means "to prostrate in homage, to bow down, or fall down flat," is translated worship. Much is lost in the translation to English. True worship apparently means bowing down or kneeling.

Notice Matthew 28:9, in speaking of the disciples after the resurrection: "And they came and held Him by the feet, and worshipped Him." What about us?

In speaking of our Lord, Paul said, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:10-11.

And in the beautiful parallelism of Hebrew poetry, we read, "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He is our God; and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand." Psalm 95:6-7.

Throughout the Bible God's peo-



Israel" as he prayed in consecration of the new temple. 2 Chronicles 6:13.

Paul, after speaking with the people in Acts chapter 20, "kneeled down, and prayed with them all." Verse 36. And again upon his departure from the people in chapter 21, they all "kneeled down on the shore, and prayed." Verse 5. Paul says, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians. 3:14.

At the raising of Tabitha Dorcas from the dead, Peter "kneeled down, and prayed." Acts 9:40.

As John looks into heaven, he sees the twenty four elders kneeling in worship time after time before

*"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created."*

ple have knelt before Him while praying in worship. In Daniel 6:10, Daniel knelt to pray three times a day, and was thrown into the lion's den because of his faithfulness. Ezra said, "I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God," when he had troublesome problems facing him. Ezra 9:5. Solomon "kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of

the throne of God. See Revelation 4:10; 5:8, 14; 7:11; 11:16; 19:4. They recognize the need for reverence before our God. "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created." Revelation 4:11.

What about Ellen White? In *Welfare Ministry* on page

99, Sister White speaks about her early years as a young person and her desire for the conversion of her friends. "I would talk of the preciousness of Christ, and I would say, 'Won't you kneel down and pray with me?' Some would kneel and some would sit in their chairs, but before we gave up, everyone would be on her knees and we would pray together for hours, till the last one would say, 'I believe that Jesus has forgiven me my sins.' Sometimes the sun would begin to make its appearance in the heavens before I would give up the struggle."

She asks, "Where have our brethren obtained the idea that they should stand upon their feet when praying to God? Is it possible that with all the light that God has given to His people on the subject of reverence, that ministers, principals, and teachers in our schools, by precept and example, teach young men to stand erect in devotion as did the Pharisees? Shall we look upon this

as significant of their self-sufficiency and self-importance? Are these traits to become conspicuous?" *Selected Messages*, book 2, 311–313.

"We are living in perilous times. Seventh-day Adventists are professedly the commandment-keeping people of God; but they are losing their devotional spirit. This spirit of reverence to God teaches men how to approach their Maker—with sacredness and awe through faith, not in themselves, but in a Mediator. . . . Men must come on bended knee, as a subject of grace, a suppliant at the footstool of mercy." *Ibid.*, 314–315.

We may stand and pray as we "walk by the way, . . . in the crowds of the street, in the midst of a business engagement," or with arrow prayers for divine guidance as did Nehemiah when he made his request to king Artaxerxes. *Ibid.*, 316.

"Cultivate the habit of talking with the Saviour when you are alone, when you are walking, and when you are busy with your

daily labor." *The Ministry of Healing*, 510–511.

In a worship service it is appropriate to stand at the benediction; it is also appropriate to stand or kneel for a consecration service at the end of worship. See *Selected Messages*, book 3, 266–270. But we should kneel at all other parts of the service.

Kneeling shows our dependence upon God. It is an act of worship to God alone. It is an outward act to show our inward condition and submission.

Jesus did not just tell us how much He loved us, He showed us by going to the cross. Let's not just tell Him; let's show Him in our attitude of reverence and submission to Him. 📖



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



# Health Gems



## Cell Phones and Cordless Phones

Effective this month, Hope International introduces "Health Gems," a column based on the Eight Natural Laws of Health to encourage our readers to be temperate in all things and assure spiritual and physical well-being and longevity. —Editors

Cell phones and digital cordless phones emit the same radiation as microwave ovens—just in smaller doses. These tiny but non-directional high-powered transmitters literally send radiation into the head. The potential for serious physical harm on irradiated ears and brains is of increasing concern, particularly for heavy cell phone users.

Although research is conflicting, with some studies showing minimal impact, many studies reveal significant increases in brain cancers and tumors, tumors on the auditory nerve and DNA abnormalities. Studies indicate cell phone impulses increase cancer cell growth, decrease melatonin (a hormone related to sleep and cancer prevention), and negatively impact brain areas associated with learning, movement, and memory. At least one study suggests the radiation may even trigger Alzheimer's earlier in life. Other research shows that the thermal heating effects of cell and cordless phones may cause headaches, fatigue, insomnia, tissue swelling, premature aging, and reduction in testosterone and sperm levels.<sup>1</sup>

Although the wireless industry defends the safety of wireless technology, the "Big Three"—Nokia, Ericsson and Motorola—have invented new components that can shield users from radiation emissions. Their patents claim, "Continuous exposure to radio frequency irradiation could lead to development of a malignant tumor."

Use of hands-free units will not solve the problem; some researchers think they increase the risk. And children, who absorb radiation at a greater rate, are far more susceptible to tumors, cognitive interference, and compromised immune and nervous systems.

In fact, the safety of wireless phones has never been proved. Until conclusive evidence indicates otherwise, common sense says that putting a radiation-emitting device against your skull may not be the safest thing to do—and the longer it stays there or the more often it's placed there, the less safe it is. Wouldn't it be wise to take precautionary measures now, and use the protective devices available on the market? None offers 100% protection—most around 80–90%—but some is better than none, since few of us are likely to part with our cell phones. 📖

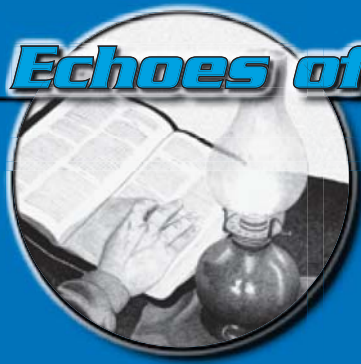
**Prophetic Insight:** *Perilous times are before us. The whole world will be involved in perplexity and distress, disease of every kind will be upon the human family; and such ignorance as now prevails concerning the laws of health would result in great suffering and the loss of many lives that might be saved.* Counsels on Health, 503.

### Notes

1 Sellman, N.D., Dr. Sherrill, "Hooked on Cell Phones: A Deadly Obsession," Total Health, St. George, Utah, February / March 2005, 60–61; [www.totalhealthmagazine.com](http://www.totalhealthmagazine.com).



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C. H. Watson

# Separation From the World

Part 5



From the time when the Saviour sent forth His church to preach His gospel, the well-being of the church and the success of its evangelical mission have depended, next to God, upon the uprightness of its teachers. Their corruption has always been the downfall of the church. It is essential, therefore, that the church be continually led by a truehearted, believing ministry. If we learn anything at all from our study of Christ's efforts to prepare those whom He ordained for their work of ministry, it is that He purposed for His church a leadership by men who themselves are in the innermost secret of the Lord.

There must, then, be continued for the work of the church an unworldly ministry. Constantine took the certain way to ruin the church, to make a papacy possible, and to bring into being a beast power that would war against the church to the very end, when he patronized the teachers of the church in his day, and thus destroyed their humility and made them worldly. And it is important for us to observe that what he did so successfully in the early years of the fourth century has been successfully repeated again and again in the experience of Protestantism. The Protestant churches are where they are now as the result of their teachers' being

corrupted.

The simple teaching of the gospel is that sinful man can enter life only through death. He must die to the world that he may live unto God. How, may I ask, is it possible for worldly ministers to lead the people into the experience that that teaching requires? If they themselves are not dead to the world, how can those who are influenced and led by their teaching be brought to sense the necessity of their dying to the world? And if neither the minister nor the church member is dead to the world, how can the life of God be experienced in the church?

It has always been important that the ministry of the church be trained right. It has always been important that God's work in all lines be done by godly workers. But it has also always been the unyielding purpose of the enemy of the church to control as far as possible the training of God's workers.

Knowing that with a Spirit-filled ministry, nothing under heaven could defeat God's church, Satan is determined that the church shall be led by an unspiritual, unbelieving, worldly-taught, and worldly-minded ministry. To bring this to pass he has gradually introduced his policies and teachings into the great institutions of learning where the ministers and teachers

of Protestantism are taught and trained. This is the basic explanation of the defeat of Protestantism, and of its powerlessness in face of the widely offered challenge of unbelief today.

### Our Own Situation

Well may we ask, then, Are we successfully keeping the love of the world out of our hearts, and the influences of the world out of our work? Well may we pause to consider whether we in our efforts to serve God are putting the will of God before the ways of the world. My serious conviction is that there is grave reason in fact for our most earnest consideration of these questions. I believe that there is a growing love within our ranks for the frivolities of the world. Our resistance of worldly influences is seriously diminishing. Our willingness to yield to worldly control of important matters is more noticeable. These things I see, and they trouble me.

I am troubled by the sanctions which we give to weak and questionable things. I am troubled by the direction that our educational and training work is definitely taking. I am concerned by the more and more obvious fact that in the education and training of our workers we are inquiring more of the world and less of God than for-

merly. I am grieved because we are allowing the erroneous belief that the highest in standards is reached by the ways of the world rather than by the way of God.

I believe that the highest and truest in all things are reachable for us only by doing the will of God, and I am fearful as I measure all the effort and expense that we are putting forth to reach our goal by other means. Brethren, I do not believe there is help for us in the way we are going in this thing. And I recognize with regret that we have been forced in that direction by a spirit of institutional competition of our own origination, about as much as we have been by the requirements of powers beyond our control.

This people cannot, anywhere within the purpose of God, receive its educational program from the world. Nowhere within the purpose of God can we delegate the training of our ministers and other workers to worldly influences. We have been spoken to from heaven itself upon those matters, and we have instruction of such volume and minuteness of detail that we are without excuse if we are found working contrary to what has been written. The one practical, foreshown way for us to escape the plagues that shall fall on Babylon is for us to come out and be separate from Babylon, and to remain out and to continue to be separate.

It is my conviction that this is all so vitally important that we would do well to take honest bearings, and if necessary, re-chart our course. By all means we must hold that fast which we have in the truth of the gospel, that we lose not our crown. With the purpose of God steadfastly in mind, and with courage and consecration we must still go on, and allow nothing to beguile us of our reward.

What the world can give us is no part of the equipment that we need to finish the work successfully. Our principal equipment is not the accumulation of worldly wisdom and worldly knowledge—not even

the best of worldly wisdom and the best of worldly knowledge—but rather a definite, saving, renewed relation to Christ and an experience of doing His divine will, which will set us apart from the world, and fill us with strength that is all of the Holy Spirit.

### **God's Will—Not the World's**

Above every other thing that we can possibly sense, the remnant people need to realize that Christ is calling them to an experience which will not only instruct and clarify their minds, but purify their hearts, and invade the innermost places of their souls, cleansing their motives, and making them willing to have the will of God done in their lives and through their service. Unless it be so, we shall not hold fast that which we have, and we shall indeed be beguiled of our reward. Our success depends, not upon that which the world has brought to us, but upon our appropriation of divine resources.

*It is my conviction that this is all so vitally important that we would do well to take honest bearings, and if necessary, rechart our course.*

What we need just now is a large reception of divine grace to enable us to do God's holy will at any cost. May the good Lord come to us and open our hearts and make us willing to receive it. We have to do the work of God in an age of doubt, and for a world that is sinking altogether in sin. Let us not trifle with that work at such a time and in face of such need. Foolish indeed shall we be if we seek from that lost world the power, the help, the equipment of mind and heart that we need, to be God's messengers of salvation to that same ruined world. If we do, may it not truthfully be said of us that we have turned again to the weak and

beggarly elements of the world? See Galatians 4:9.

Brethren, my heart tells me that our need is great, far, far too great to be met by anything that the world can supply. We must go to a Source of help higher than the world, where our need can be reached farther in and deeper down than ever the world can penetrate. Oh, shall we not now "search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD"? Shall we not "lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens"? Lamentations 3:40-41.

He will have mercy on us. He will lead us in the way of His purpose, and according to His divine will. Walking in that way, and living only to fulfill that unchanging purpose, this people will finish the work victoriously; and when the world, which now would allure and ruin us, shall go down in its own ruin, we shall be crowned with life eternal, and enter into our reward.

Let us, then, love not the world,

neither the things of the world, but let us cherish the ways of God and love to do as He has bidden. May the good Spirit of the Lord be with us and help us in such a time as this, for Christ's sake. 📖

*Series Concluded.*

*Review and Herald, November 21, 1935*

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



# James White: The Publishing Work Moves West

*Virgil Robinson*



The move to Rochester, New York, was made in April, 1852. To the publishing work, this move brought different problems than were faced previously. Because a press without a skilled man to operate it would be of little use, James White began looking for a pressman. During his months in Saratoga Springs he had become acquainted with young Luman Masten, who worked in the printing office where James had his printing done. Luman was a pleasant young man, about 22 years old, and was living with his widowed mother.

Mrs. Masten was a staunch Methodist, but Luman, while of a religious turn of mind, did not profess any religion. When James White invited Luman to go to Rochester and act as foreman of his printing establishment, he consented. He also promised to train some

apprentices in the printing trade, while overseeing the presswork.<sup>1</sup>

It was a simple matter for the Whites to pack their few personal belongings, along with back numbers of the *Review* and other printed materials, preparatory to moving to Rochester. Unfortunately they had no money to pay for the transportation of their goods, so they had to get a loan.

A Washington hand press had been purchased in New York with the money lent by Hiram Edson. Along with a quantity of type, the press was shipped to Rochester. Meanwhile, James had gone to Rochester to find a place where he might settle his continually growing publishing family that would soon be arriving.

James found a large house for rent on Mount Hope Road, out beyond the city limits. As he walked

through the house and noticed its many empty rooms, he decided to take it, particularly after he learned he could rent it for only \$175 a year. The invitation he had published on the back page of the *Review*, asking believers to send money to help meet the cost of moving the publishing work to Rochester and securing the necessary printing equipment and supplies, took time to bring results. It was obvious that he and his co-workers would have to practice the most rigid economy if the new enterprise was to remain solvent.

By ones and twos the various members of James White's "family" arrived. Since the house was vacant, their most urgent need was for some furniture. In a letter to their friends the Howlands, at Topsham, Maine, Ellen described how James went to town to pick up the cheap-

est furniture he could find. One day he came home with six chairs, no two of them alike. He had paid a dollar for the lot. Then he found two bedsteads at twenty-five cents each, plus four more chairs costing sixty-two cents. Since there was no table and no money left to buy one, they set up two barrels, laid a board between them and ate their meals in style.<sup>2</sup>

The spacious back yard where little Edson could play safely, was a feature particularly appreciated by Ellen White, and by Charlie the horse, who had been brought along.

The press from New York was slow in arriving. Having announced the hope of publishing the first paper from Rochester by the first of May, James was determined to get it started. So the first issue was printed on a commercial press in Rochester, and was dated May 6, 1852. Finally their own press arrived and was set up in the house on Mount Hope Road, and they were in business.

Money began to come in and soon James White was able to report that the press was free of debt. The total cost of the press and equipment was \$652.93. The brethren had sent in \$655.84, so there was a surplus of \$2.91.<sup>3</sup>

As more and more young people gravitated to the *Review and Herald* printing office, it was necessary after four months to move the press out of the house. James White searched the town again and finally found a building on South St. Paul's Street.<sup>4</sup> The hand press, type, paper supplies, and ink were moved into quarters on the third floor of this building.

The center established by James White in Rochester in the spring of 1852 could be called a self-supporting organization today. While he might be cast in the patriarchal mold, James was no long-bearded patriarch. When he moved his flock to Rochester, he was only 31 and his wife, Ellen, 25. One of James's great strengths was his ability to gather about him young people whom he

inspired with his own enthusiasm for the cause of God and a willingness to make any sacrifice necessary to advance it.

There was a great need for the group to practice economy, not from choice, but of necessity. Only one member of the company of workers received a regular salary, Luman Masten, the press foreman. Some of the brethren in the field kept telling Elder White to call on them when he was in particular need of money, but he hesitated to do this. What money he received came principally from subscribers to the church paper, now offered at

house. As the plowing progressed, many small, but good, potatoes were turned up that had not been harvested the previous autumn. The winter being mild, the potatoes had not frozen.

While the plowing was being done, a scene something like this took place in the White home. James White was busy writing when the door opened and Luman Masten entered. Elder White noticed that Masten was quite indignant. Jerking off his printer's apron he held it out to Elder White: "I quit!"

James, surprised, asked him the

*One of James's great strengths was his ability to gather about him young people whom he inspired with his own enthusiasm for the cause of God.*

two dollars per year but supplied free to the poor who were unable to subscribe. Sometimes substantial amounts of cash arrived; at other times, scarcely any.

It was not easy for the cook, Jennie Frazier, to adequately feed the growing family within her limited budget. She found that potatoes were too expensive, so she substituted turnips. Instead of butter, they used sauce on their bread. Even more important was her discovery that dollar for dollar, few foods would go further than beans to assuage the pangs of hunger. Therefore, beans appeared so often on the table that Uriah Smith remarked one day that he didn't mind eating beans 365 days of a year, but when it came to making them a regular article of diet, he would have to object!<sup>5</sup>

By the time the printing equipment was set up and the household settled, it was time for spring planting. A man was hired to plow the garden, which was near the

reason for such hasty action. In reply, Luman stepped to the window and pointed to the potato patch. There James saw his wife with a tin pail, following the plowman and picking up the potatoes.

"I shall not work for a firm where the wife of the proprietor has to go into the field to pick up potatoes," he said firmly.

Ellen herself explained to him that she felt it her duty to economize and gather up the fragments that nothing be lost. This satisfied him and he returned to his duties in the pressroom.<sup>6</sup> To the day of his death, which came only a few years later, he remained a worker in the *Review* office.

But the problem of hard times continued. There were endless calls for money for food, clothing, rent, paper, ink, and a hundred other necessities. In earlier days James had gone into the hayfield to earn money, but he could scarcely do that in Rochester. So to supplement what the believers sent, he



found another source of income. James White, as a money-producing side line, sold certain articles. He became an agent for charts and stationery, Bibles, Bible dictionaries, Bible concordances, atlases, and medical books, which he sold at the *Review* office.

Years later, when he saw ministers and workers tempted to enter into trade while preaching the gospel, he was to deplore the example he had set during those hard years in Rochester. By 1867, when he wrote his apology, workers were supported by the church and received regular wages. "I should have been supported in my calling," he wrote in the *Review*, "and had nothing to do with selling books."<sup>7</sup>

James White had no intention of sitting forever behind a desk, editing papers and pamphlets.<sup>8</sup> As early as March 2, 1852, while still residing in Saratoga Springs, he penned a desire to turn over to a committee the publishing work he had built up.<sup>9</sup> This would set him free to

preach the gospel. He had heard the Macedonian call, and he longed to bring men and women, young people and children, to Christ. But the publishing committee members did not assume responsibility for the struggling paper, and the final responsibility for its support remained in the hands of James White.

He felt a special burden to keep the believers encouraged and forward looking. He set before them in glowing terms his hope for a glorious future. His spirit shines forth in the following letter:

"I have no ambition to be an editor. No. God forbid. I only ask the precious privilege to feed, if possible, my poor brethren—the 'outcasts.' . . . Jesus is coming to gather the poor outcast *home*, HOME, HOME. . . . That bright new earth, that golden city, is all to me. I want to see an immortal saint, and more than all, that dear Jesus. Oh, what a happy meeting when salvation is completed, and tribulation ended. Many a time has my poor wife wept, and wept, to find herself here in this dark world after viewing the beauty, order, and holiness of heaven."<sup>10</sup>

He carried a particular burden for his fellow workers. His exhortation to them has a Pauline ring to it:

"Preaching brethren, go out leaning on the arm of your Master. Have faith! *faith!!* FAITH!!!! A little more FAITH! Without it you can do nothing. Don't go out to give light to others while you are enveloped in darkness yourselves. Enter into the solemn work of God, and never rest satisfied unless you feel the responsibility of your calling, and the worth of precious souls. Don't get in the way of the church. O may God help us as a church to be as a city set on a hill."<sup>11</sup>

It is difficult today to realize the isolation of many Adventists in those pioneer times. Communications were extremely limited. Some believers wrote to the *Review*, mentioning that they lived

thirty, forty, or fifty miles from the nearest Adventist. For these isolated members, the *Review* proved an invaluable source of news concerning the progress of "the cause of God," to use a favorite expression of the pioneers.

And workers were few. Ministers could not settle down to pastor one church. They roamed from state to state, preaching the message to all who would listen. Under the heading of APPOINTMENTS in the *Review*, these ministers would announce time and place of general meetings they planned to hold. Believers came in from many miles away, frequently sleeping in barns for lack of better accommodations. During his lifetime of service, James White ministered to hundreds of such assemblies.

The summer of 1852 brought great anxiety and sadness to the people of Rochester. Cholera raged through the city, and many persons died.

Meanwhile, James had a great longing to be preaching the gospel and strengthening the brethren. Particularly was his heart touched as he thought of the many believers scattered through New York and the New England states. Many invitations had come for the Whites to visit companies in many places. He decided to pay them a visit. He and Ellen would travel by carriage, and faithful old Charlie would provide the horsepower. Little Edson had just turned three and would go with them. Henry, now a lad of 5, was still with the Howlands in Topsham. James and Ellen hoped to see their little boy on this trip.


James published in advance a list of the various places he hoped to visit on what he came to call his "Eastern Tour." Then, just a few days before he and Ellen were to leave Rochester, Edson became ill with the dreaded cholera. Desperately anxious, Ellen and James went to the Lord in prayer for the little boy. The Great



Physician heard their intercession, rebuked the disease, and a change for the better immediately took place. As one of the sisters continued to pray, Edson spoke up: "They need not pray anymore, for the Lord has healed me." The disease was halted in its progress, but he remained very weak and could eat nothing.

Meanwhile, the day was fast approaching when the Whites should leave on their eastern tour. But how could they leave Edson in such a critical condition? It seemed equally impossible to take him with them. Unless the child should show rapid improvement, they could not go. They prayed earnestly about it.

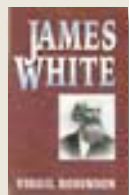
"If we are to go, Lord," they pled, "let him indicate feelings of hunger."

The next day, about noon, Edson asked his mother for some food. Their prayer had been answered. That same afternoon they set out on the first stage of a journey by carriage that may have been two-thousand miles long.<sup>12</sup> 

*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.*

#### Notes

- 1 "Sketches and Memories," *Review and Herald*, June 13, 1935.
- 2 *Life Sketches*, 1915, 142.
- 3 *Origin and History*, vol. 1, 205–206.
- 4 *Review and Herald*, Oct. 14, 1852.
- 5 *Ibid.*, June 13, 1935.
- 6 *Ibid.*
- 7 *Ibid.*, March 26, 1867.
- 8 James White letter to Bro. Bowles, Oct. 17, 1849.
- 9 *Review and Herald*, March 2, 1852.
- 10 James White letter to Bro. Bowles, Nov. 8, 1849.
- 11 *Review and Herald*, Oct. 4, 1853.
- 12 *Life Sketches*, 1915, 144.



This article was taken from Virgil Robinson, *James White*, 81–87. 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."

1. What year was Willie White born?
  - a. 1844
  - b. 1850
  - c. 1854
  - d. 1857
2. For years, the *Review and Herald* was given out free. Eventually, they established a subscription price. How much was it?
  - a. 25¢
  - b. 50¢
  - c. 75¢
  - d. \$1
3. Two things were used to see if Ellen White breathed during her visions. What were they?
  - a. Powder and Mirror
  - b. Mirror and Candle
  - c. Paper and Candle
  - d. Ice and Water
4. James White had a sister who in 1854 was dying of consumption. What was her name?
  - a. Anna
  - b. Mary
  - c. Louise
  - d. Catherine
5. The Messenger Party started a paper to condemn the *Review* and its publishers. What was its name?
  - a. *Messenger of Light*
  - b. *Messenger of Mercy*
  - c. *Messenger of Peace*
  - d. *Messenger of Truth*
6. One of the lies promoted in this paper was that James & Ellen White:
  - a. were deceiving people.
  - b. were getting rich.
  - c. were not married.
  - d. were making up the visions.
7. What was the "Age to Come" doctrine held by some in the 1850's?
  - a. Christ would appear in human form again before the resurrection.
  - b. A thousand years of peace.
  - c. A second probation after the millennium.
  - d. There would be two millenniums.
8. When James White was 34 years old, how many hours a day did he work in the *Review* office?
  - a. 14–18 hours
  - b. 12–16 hours
  - c. 8–12 hours
  - d. 16–20 hours
9. The principle support for the *Review* came from two states. Which were they?
  - a. Maine & New York
  - b. Michigan & Maine
  - c. Vermont & Wisconsin
  - d. Michigan & Vermont
10. While in vision, Ellen White asked an angel a question to which the answer was: "What is that to thee?" What was the question?
  - a. Would I live through the time of trouble?
  - b. Will I die before James?
  - c. Will James be removed before the time of trouble?
  - d. Will there be another prophet after me?

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



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## Stay-at-Home Mom

**News Item:** "Can you put a value on the economic worth of a stay-at-home mom? Salary.com's informal survey determined that the nation's 5.4 million stay-at-home moms would earn an average of \$131,471 annually if they received a paycheck for each of their job titles. Among the titles were day-care center teacher, van driver, housekeeper, cook, chief executive officer, nurse, and general maintenance worker." Dan Perkins, "Balance Sheet," *World*, May 28, 2005, 36.

**End-time Perspective:** "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. . . . She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." Proverbs 31:10, 27-28.

And this is just the economic worth! What is the value if you add how she helps to teach her children about the living God, and her children end up in the kingdom? There is not enough gold in the world to pay for that!

## Quite Contrary

**News Item:** "In the new consensus statement on the Virgin Mary by the joint Anglican-Roman Catholic International [dialogue] Commission (ARCIC), released on May 19 in Seattle, the Anglican side appeared to concede everything, the Catholic side nothing. The product of six years of discussion, 'Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ' was hardly the giant step toward Christian unity its framers envisioned. The document asked Anglicans to accept controversial Catholic teachings about Mary as 'authentic expressions of Christian belief.'" Edward E. Plowman, *World*, May 28, 2005, 37.

**End-time Perspective:** "And let it be remembered, it is the boast of Rome that she never changes." *Great Controversy*, 581.

"How the Roman church can clear herself from the charge of idolatry we cannot see. . . . And this is the religion which Protestants are beginning to look upon with so much favor, and which will eventually be united with Protestantism. This union will not, however, be effected by a change in Catholicism; for Rome never changes. She claims infallibility. It is Protestantism that will change. The adoption of liberal ideas on its part will bring it where it can clasp the hand of Catholicism." *Review and Herald*, June 1, 1886.



Photo: © Hemera Photo Objects CD

"Protestantism shall give the hand of fellowship to the Roman power. Then there will be a law against the Sabbath of God's creation, and then it is that God will do His 'strange work' in the earth." *Last Day Events*, 130.

Once again, God has proven that He has all foreknowledge and has shown "unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass," (Revelation 1:1), that we may trust Him fully and unite with Him wholeheartedly.

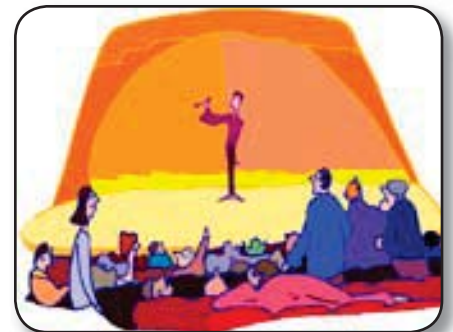


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## What Should the Church Look Like?

" 'We want the church to look like a mall. We want you to come in here and say, 'Dude, where's the cinema?' ' Lee McFarland, Pastor of Radiant Church in Surprise, Arizona, which draws 5,000 to its services weekly." Ted Olson, "Quotation Marks," *Christianity Today*, May, 2005, 19.

**End-time Perspective:** "If you lower the standard in order to secure popularity and an increase of numbers, and then make this increase a cause of rejoicing, you show great blindness. If numbers were evidence of success, Satan might claim the pre-eminence; for, in this world, his followers are largely in the majority." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 31.

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in

thereat." Matthew 7:13.

They may draw 5,000 people each week to their services, but the question should be asked, to what are they drawn? Is it to Jesus and His high and holy standard? Is it to exalt the law of Jehovah, which is the transcript of His character? Or is it to one of the broad roads to destruction?



Photo: © Hemera Big Box of Art CD

### Go Figure

"Estimate for the value of a volunteer hour: \$17.55.

"Value for total hours volunteered in the United States in 2004: \$272 billion."

Ted Olsen, *Christianity Today*, May, 2005, 20.

**End-time Perspective:** "Though precious time and talent have been spent in caring for and pleasing ourselves, the hand of the Lord is stretched out still; and if we will work today in His vineyard, scattering His invitation of mercy broadcast through the world, He will accept our service. How many will you work for, that they may reach the haven of rest and share the commendation: 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant?' Matthew 25:21. How many will you help to crown with glory and honor and eternal life? The Saviour calls for workers. Will you volunteer?" *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 304.

### Free Speech?

" 'WORD-FM needs to function in this city in support of the entire church—that means everybody—and not focus on denominational issues.' Chuck Gratner, general manager of the Salem

Communications-owned WORD-FM in Pittsburgh. Gratner fired talk-show host Marty Minto after he said Pope John Paul II would only go to heaven if he was born again." Ted Olsen, "Quotation Marks," *Christianity Today*, June, 2005, 23.

**End-time Perspective:** "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3.

Sounds to me like this man was simply stating what Jesus Himself said. And he was fired from a "Christian" radio station. Since when was "being saved" a denominational issue? How can you "support the entire church" yet not tell them that in order to see the kingdom of God, you must be born again? But this is where you end up when you keep watering down the truth.



Photo: © Hemera Photo Objects CD

"Ministers of popular churches are many of them softening down and diluting the plain Word of truth. They are obscuring the light, and changing the message, in order to accommodate it to the prejudices, and adjust it to the opinions and habits, of the people. Thus they cater to the taste of the world-loving members of the church." *Signs of the Times*, August 27, 1894

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"Brotherly Love Needed," September  
"Christian Courtesy," October  
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# Publications

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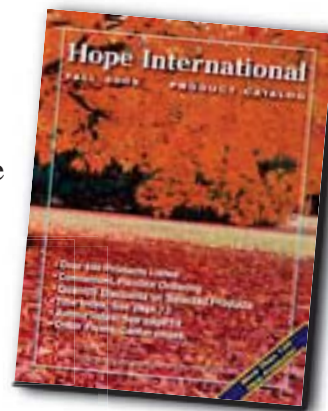
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### General Books

#### Jones, A.T.

*Rights of the People*

This book will help each reader to see the relation that should exist between civil government and religion, according to the words of Christ and the American Constitution.

Paperback, 378 Pages, 1998

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#### Loughborough, J.N.

*Miracles in My Life: The Autobiography of Adventist Pioneer J.N., Loughborough*

Loughborough's close association with Elder and Mrs. White enables him to include many faith-building incidents in connection with the gift of prophecy, and also adds interest to his personal narrative. His eyewitness account is effective and authentic.

Paperback, 107 pages, 2000

BELJ-MIML

Leaves of Autumn Books

**\$5.99**

#### Quevedo, Jane Allen

*Thousand Miracles Every Day, A*

*A Thousand Miracles Every Day* is a selection of stories that shaped the mission and history of Adventist hospitals around the world. It tells the story of the Seventh-day Adventist tradition of healing and care that leads from Battle Creek to Bangkok and rises from a trail of unlikely business arrangements, unexpected gifts and unbroken footsteps of faith.

Paperback, 276 pages, 2003

BEQJ-TMED

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**\$6.99**

#### Haynes, Carlyle, B

*From Sabbath to Sunday*

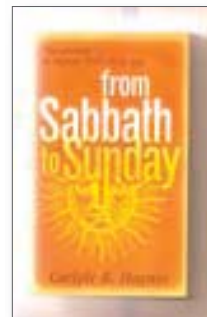
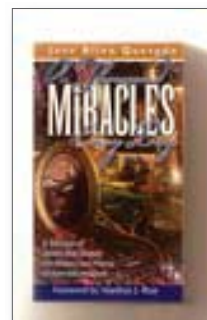
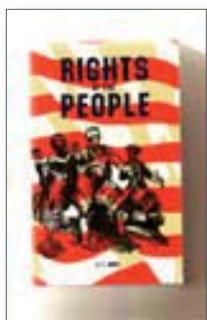
This classic survey continues to fascinate new generations of readers by explaining in clear language how most Christians shifted their day of worship from Sabbath to Sunday. Citing a wealth of original sources—ancient, medieval, and modern—the author shows early in the Christian Era something went awry, and needs to be corrected today. A great book to give to family about why you keep Sabbath!

Paperback, 128 Pages, 2005

BEHC-FSTS

Review and Herald Publishing Association

**\$6.99**



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**Daniel, John**

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*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.

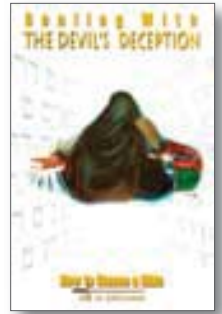
Paperback, 410 pages, 1999  
BEDJ-GDEX  
CHJ Publishing

**\$15.99**

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**Gresham, Joe W.**

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*Dealing With the Devil's Deception*

"This is by far the best book I have ever read on the different translations of the Bible. Joe has done a masterful job in making a difficult subject easy for the common 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

Paperback, 212 pages, 2001  
BEGJ-DWDD  
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**\$9.99**

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**Franklin, Jere**

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*You Can Survive!*

If there was a plan that could avoid many of the disasters, wouldn't you want to know about it? It includes the joys of country living, medical preparation for the end time, wilderness survival, log cabin building, garden to kitchen cookbook, a financial plan, inspirational stories of faith, and most importantly, the spiritual preparation that is necessary. This book will help you get ready for what is coming!

Paperback, 425 pages, 2002  
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Remnant Publications

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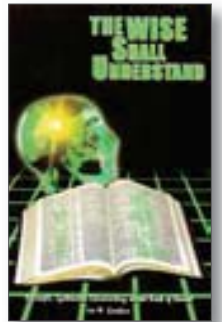
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*Wise Shall Understand, The*

A simple, systematic commentary on the Book of Daniel written in a layman's language. The prophetic book of Daniel speaks repeatedly of last day events: and claims to pertain directly to the time of the end. The prophecies of this book are, in many respects, some of the most remarkable in the Scriptures. Also get the companion volume for Revelation—"Revelation: God's Last Message to Earth."

Paperback, 181 pages, 2003  
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I have enjoyed reading *Our Firm Foundation* magazine since a friend introduced me to it. I am glad for the good job you are doing even as we witness the unfolding of prophecy right before our eyes.

God bless you.

EM; Kenya

We are a small Bible study and prayer group that really loves and appreciates what Hope International is doing. We have requested *Our Firm Foundation* magazine for our group.

MNM; Kenya

I just read my son's copy of *Our Firm Foundation* and have decided to support the work you do.

May God bless you in your ministry.

JW; Texas

Thank you for the magazine, *Our Firm Foundation*. Thank you . . . for your Editorials, NewsWatch, and Ellen White material. I read them all, especially on Sabbath mornings. I do not get to go to church since I am home bound.

Please remember me in your prayers.

IM; Texas

*Our Firm Foundation* is a wonderful magazine with a unique

message that is rarely heard elsewhere.

We sure appreciate receiving every issue. Thank you for the resolve to do what is right.

God bless,

RR; Pennsylvania

Thank you for the prayers and support you have given us. Knowing you are on our side has been a great comfort.

J

May the Lord continue to bless your wonderful ministry

VK

We just received your magazine. We are not sure how it was sent to us. Nevertheless, your articles were wonderful material. It is time for us all to awake from our slumber.

Thank you and God bless.

JL

I really appreciate your magazine, *Our Firm Foundation*. I would like to renew my subscription.

PM; Indiana

I and my fellow believers have been inspired by the work that you are doing for the Lord. We share the same faith. I have been studying your material with my friends and we have appreciated God's work. The inspiring material we received

from you has inspired us to form our own ministry to spread this truth even further. We are ordering more material from you to distribute to our communities.

KC; East Africa

We are happy for the Hope International ministry in Canada. We always enjoy your meetings. There is so much that we do not readily hear about in some of our churches.

T; Canada

Keep working for the Lord by the grace He gives us. Do not give the enemy an inch. You are in our prayers. Jesus will be with us always and use our hardship to prepare us for His kingdom.

May the Lord strengthen us in our great time of need so we may develop characters fit for His kingdom.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be upon all who love His soon appearing.

M & K; Washington

Your video tapes are wonderful and necessary material appropriate for the time we live in.

We are praying for the team at Hope International, that the Lord will continue to guide you and bless the ministry you have been called to.

D; Florida

# Cranberry Salad \*

For the Holiday Season  
By Brenda Steck

This is just one of the many vegan deserts that help to make the holiday season special. We hope you enjoy it too.

## Salad

3 Cans	Whole cranberries in sauce
2 (20oz) cans	Crushed pineapple, drained
2 cups	Chopped pecans
2 cups (1 lb)	Frozen strawberries with juice
1 cup	Strawberry nectar (or pineapple juice)
4-5 Tbsp	Emes gelatin

Drain juice from pineapple to be used in the topping. Thaw strawberries in refrigerator the night before. Mix emes gelatin with strawberry nectar in blender for a few seconds to dissolve gelatin. Then mix all ingredients and pour into a glass 10x15-inch baking dish. Let set up in refrigerator overnight.

## Topping

4 Tbsp	Emes gelatin
2/3 cup	Water
1 cup	Boiling Water
2 cups	Raw cashews
2 tsp	Salt
4 Tbsp	Pineapple juice
3 lbs	Tofu

The next day, blend gelatin in 2/3 cup water and soak for several minutes. Add 1 cup boiling water and whiz briefly to dissolve. Add remaining ingredients. Liquefy well. Spread on top of cranberry salad. Chill in refrigerator before serving.

\* Adapted from *My Personal Recipes* by Bonnie Rickabaugh



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