

Our Firm Foundation

Volume 21, Number 9

September 2006

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary

OVERCOMING



Sin





Why the New Glossy Paper?

Joe Olson

Part 3

Last month I ended the editorial with Stewart's question about Ellen White. As I stated, I wasn't sure where this was going to go so I sent up a quick prayer to God for direction. The impression was immediate, *Tell Stewart what and who she is, hold nothing back.*

So, I said to Stewart, "She is a prophet of God who lived in the 1800's and early 1900's. She was given many dreams and visions by God to warn His people to prepare for His coming and to help them in their walk with the Lord. She was also given much information about health; education, evangelism and she gave many, many personal testimonies to different individuals, as the Lord led her."

Now, I awaited his response. What was he going to say? Will that end the conversation? Will he be gracious and just want to change the subject? What?

He responded, "I believe it!" He said, "There is no way she could have known about meat and it's terrible effect on the body back then." Then he added, "She must have been inspired!"

You could have knocked me over with a feather. I was beyond surprised. Here was someone who, before our initial phone conversation and his subsequent research, knew absolutely nothing about Ellen White, yet when confronted with what she was shown, had no question but that she was inspired, and freely admitted it!

What a contrast to what we often have to meet in our own Seventh-day Adventist Church! It was utterly exhilarating, and a re-

lief at the same time. It reminded me of a verse in the Bible, "Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" John 1:47.

Stewart truly seemed like a "true" Israelite to me. Just two men reasoning together. (Vinnie had since retired for the evening to start reading the books Ron gave her.) It was a marvelous experience. But the evening was far from over.

"What do you believe about the state of the dead?" I shared several Bible verses and he said he saw it the same way. He then asked about the second coming of Christ and if we thought it was soon. I told him we did indeed and that was one of the reasons for our ministry and why we feel such an urgency to get the message out to as many as we can while there is still time. He agreed completely and said that he can see from the signs all around that there is very little time left.


Then he asked about what we thought a true Christian was and how he would act. He said that he believes that the "cheap grace" concept that has flooded the churches is from the devil. I said that we couldn't agree more. Then he told me that he has looked at our beliefs pretty closely and that he could see very little difference between what he believes and what Seventh-day Adventists believe.

I couldn't keep the smile off my face as I watched the tremendous leading of the Lord. Inwardly I was just praising the Lord, thanking Him for this opportunity to witness to the truth, as it is in Jesus,

to my newfound friend. What a glorious realization that right there before my eyes, was the very manifestation of what Sister White said about the last days:

"By the wonderful works of God, Cornelius was led to bring his energetic, faithful life into connection with the disciples of Christ. Thus shall it be in the last days. Many will prize the wisdom of God above any earthly advantage, and will obey the Word of God as the supreme standard. These will be led to great light. These will come to the knowledge of the truth, and will seek to get this light of truth before those of their acquaintance who like themselves are anxious for the truth. Thus they become conscientious light bearers to the world. Themselves constrained by the love of God, they will constrain others, and will improve every opportunity to invite and urge others to come and see the beauty of the truth, and to give their abilities to advance the work of God.

"Some who are numbered among merchants and princes will take their position to obey the truth. God's eye has been upon such as they have acted according to the light they have had, maintaining their integrity." Bible Commentary, vol. 6, 1060.

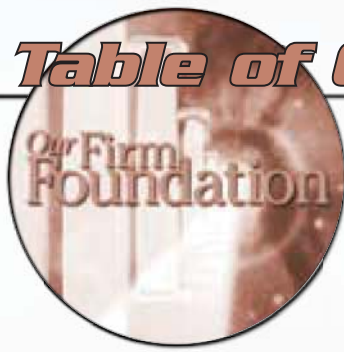
Then Stewart asked about the Sabbath.. 

To be continued.



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

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OUR MISSION—It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of *Our Firm Foundation* to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days remaining for this world are few, and we must work quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world.—*Editors*

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Our Firm Foundation is published monthly by:



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Knoxville, IL 61448 USA

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Monday–Thursday: 8:00AM–5:00PM, Central Time
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We are accepting article-length manuscripts (750 to 2250 words) for possible publication in *Our Firm Foundation*. We prefer that submissions be neatly typed, submitted either as a computer file or on paper. Please address all correspondence to Editors, *Our Firm Foundation*, PO Box 220, Knoxville, IL 61448, or by email to editorial@hopeint.org.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION: See page 30

SHIPPING & SALES TAX: See page 30

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OVERCOMI

Franklin Morris

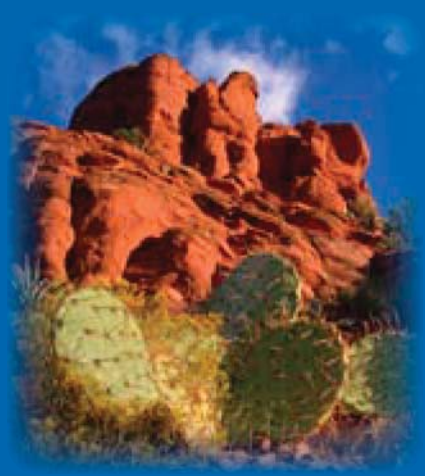
Every failure on the part of the children of God is due to their lack of faith.

Into the experience of all there come times of keen disappointment and utter discouragement—days when sorrow is the portion, and it is hard to believe that God is still the kind benefactor of His earthborn children; days when troubles harass the soul, till death seems preferable to life. It is then that many lose their hold on God and are brought into the slavery of doubt, the bondage of unbelief. Could we at such times discern with spiritual insight the meaning of God's providences we should see angels seeking to save us from ourselves, striving to plant our feet upon a foundation more firm than the everlasting hills, and new faith, new life, would spring into being." *Prophets and Kings*, 162.

My alarm clock awoke me and I decided to get up. I had not slept well, and I awoke with the thought that I will never overcome sin. I will never be able to live a perfect life in Christ, and God won't accept me. This made me feel terrible, and I didn't know what to do. I experienced this before I prayed, and these thoughts kept flashing to my mind. I have decided in my life to follow Christ. Nevertheless, thoughts passed through my mind that God will never work to will and do His good pleasure in my own life. Does this happen to other Christians, or am I the only one? Psalms 33:14, 15 says that God, "looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. He fashio-

neth their hearts alike."

I didn't know what to do, so I prayed and asked God to show me why these thoughts were in my mind. God revealed to me that those thoughts were not my thoughts. Would God tell me that I can never overcome sin? Would God want me to entertain the idea that He will never accept me? "Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of My creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away. Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at My rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, be-



cause there is no water, and dieth for thirst." Isaiah 50:1-2.

"When we seem to doubt God's love and distrust His promises we dishonor Him and grieve His Holy Spirit. How would a mother feel if her children were constantly complaining of her, just as though she did not mean them well, when her whole life's effort had been to forward their interests and to give them comfort." *Steps to Christ*, 118

Satan had put those thoughts in my mind. I did not know before that time that the devil doesn't whisper in my ear and say, "Franklin, you're a great sinner, and Christ will never give you victory." What the devil does is he speaks to me in the first person and says, "I am a great sinner, and Christ will never give me victory." When he has done that to me in the past, I have acknowledged that as my own thought, and it has discouraged me. However, the Bible plainly says, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7.

How does Satan get the wicked to think about God? "Lucifer, the covering cherub, desired to be first in heaven. He sought to gain control of heavenly beings, to draw them away from their Creator, and to win their homage to himself. Therefore he misrepresented God, attributing

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SIN



to Him the desire for self-exaltation. With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men. He led them to doubt the Word of God, and to distrust His goodness. Because God is a God of justice and terrible majesty, Satan caused them to look upon Him as severe and unforgiving." *Desire of Ages*, 21–22.

"Satan is exultant when he can lead the children of God into unbelief and despondency. He delights to see us mistrusting God, doubting His willingness and power to save us." *Steps to Christ*, 116. "Many who have been overcome by temptation are humiliated by their failures, and they feel that it is in vain for them to approach unto God; but this thought is of the enemy's suggestion." *Ministry of Healing*, 181.

I wanted Christ to give me victory over sin that morning and throughout the day. So how did I overcome these thoughts? 2 Corinthians 5:17 says "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." If I am in Christ, I have His mind. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5 In a prophecy concerning Christ it said "He shall not fail nor be discouraged." Isaiah 42:4. Why? "There was in Him nothing that responded to Satan's sophistry. He did not consent to sin. Not even

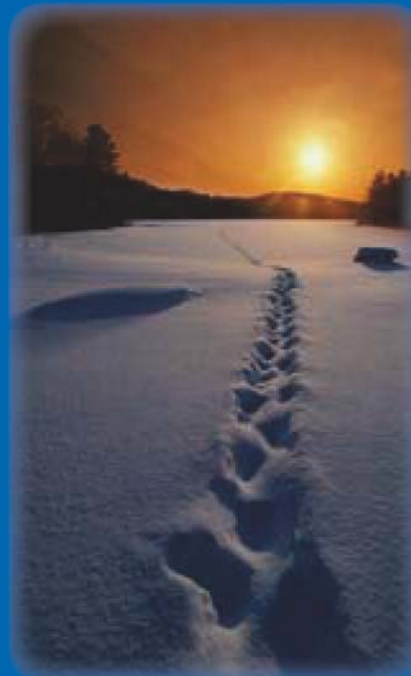
by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us." *Desire of Ages*, 123. We consent to sin with our minds for Proverbs 1:10 says, "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not."

Satan will tempt all of us to mistrust God's love and to think we'll never overcome sin. "When Satan comes to tell you that you are a great sinner, look up to your Redeemer and talk of His merits." *Steps to Christ*, 35–36. "It is Satan's work to fill men's hearts with doubt. He leads them to look upon God as a stern judge. He tempts them to sin, and then to regard themselves as too vile to approach their heavenly Father or to excite His pity." *Desire of Ages*, 356. When this happens what I have decided to do is to pray to God that he will bring "into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:5.

If I have surrendered my will to Christ, fully depending on Him to live in me, then by faith I'm a new creature. "As soon as we consent to give sin up, to acknowledge our guilt, the barrier is removed between the soul and the Saviour." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 325. "Do not for a moment acknowledge Satan's temptations as being in harmony with your own mind. Turn from them as you would from the adversary himself. Satan's work is to discourage the soul. Christ's work is to inspire the heart with faith and hope. Satan seeks to un-

settle our confidence. He tells us that our hopes are built upon false premises, rather than upon the sure, immutable Word of Him who cannot lie." *Our High Calling*, 85.

Have you ever thought you cannot be a Christian? The reason why



we fail in our Christian experience is because we don't understand and believe God loves us. "Every failure on the part of the children of God is due to their lack of faith." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 657. "The greatest sin we can cherish is the sin of unbelief. Many say, I do not know how to be a Bible Christian. It is because you do not receive Christ as a sin-pardoning Saviour. Therefore



your experience is full of inconsistency and unbelief. No one can have joy and peace who does not receive and obey Christ's words." *Signs of the Times*, October 4, 1899.

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief." 1 Timothy 1:12-13.

No matter how many times we have sinned, God has given us more grace. "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Romans 5:20. Why does God give us grace? "We have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations." Romans 1:5. No matter how vile we are God gives us more than enough grace for obedience.

"God does not control our minds without our consent; but every man is free to choose what power he will have to rule over him. None have fallen so low, none are so vile, but that they may find deliverance in Christ. The demoniac, in place of prayer, could utter only the words of Satan; yet the heart's unspoken appeal was heard. No cry from a soul in need, though it fail of utterance in words, will be unheeded. Those who consent to enter into


covenant with God are not left to the power of Satan or to the infirmity of their own nature." *Ministry of Healing*, 93.

We must believe Christ will pardon us individually. "The faith that is unto salvation is not a casual faith, it is not the mere consent of the intellect, it is belief rooted in the heart, that embraces Christ as a personal Saviour, assured that He can save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by Him. To believe that He will save others, but will not save you is not genuine faith; but when the soul lays hold upon Christ as the only hope of salvation, then genuine faith is manifested." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 391. It says in the Bible, "This is the will of God, even your sanctification." 1 Thessalonians 4:3.

We have to claim by faith in God's Word that Jesus loves us personally. "But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine." Isaiah 43:1. "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." Jeremiah 31:3. "For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee." Isaiah 54:10. "Because we are the gift of His Father, and the reward of His work, Jesus loves us. He loves us as His children. Reader, He loves you. Heaven itself can bestow nothing greater, nothing better. Therefore trust." *Desire of Ages*, 483.

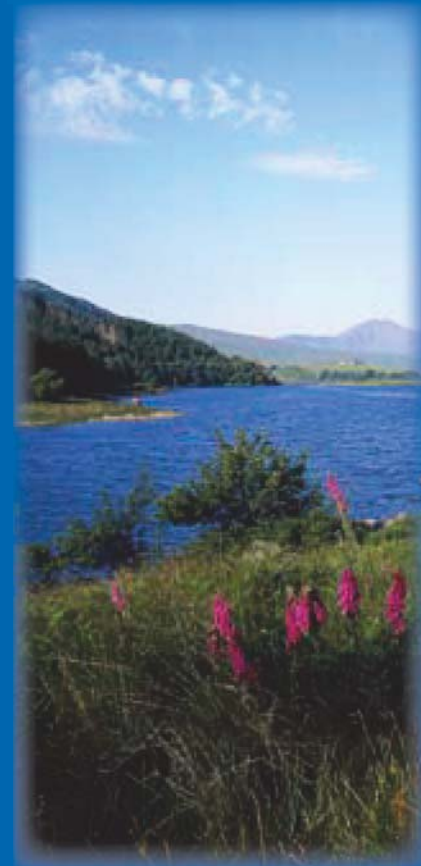
"Jesus knows the circumstances of every soul. You may say, I am sinful, very sinful. You may be; but the worse you are, the more you need Jesus. He turns no weeping, contrite one away. He does not tell to any all that He might reveal, but He bids every trembling soul take

courage. Freely will He pardon all who come to Him for forgiveness and restoration. . . .

"The souls that turn to Him for refuge, Jesus lifts above the accusing and the strife of tongues. No man or evil angel can impeach these souls. Christ unites them to His own divine-human nature. They stand beside the great Sin Bearer, in the light proceeding from the throne of God. "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." Romans 8:33-34." *Desire of Ages*, 568. 



Franklin Morris is from Florida and is currently at Hartland College pursuing a major in health education with a minor in agriculture.



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Covered by Jesus in the Secret Place

David Hebert

“The destiny of earth’s teeming multitudes is about to be decided.”

In the secret place of the Most High, we can find the assurance of Jesus’ love and protecting care. We will never be satisfied with a hurried conversation with our Lord. By special invitation, we may come into close intimacy and communion with God.

“The Lord is my light and my salvation;

Whom shall I fear?

“The Lord is the strength of my life;

Of whom shall I be afraid?”

‘In the day of trouble He shall keep me secretly in His pavilion:

In the covert of His tabernacle shall He hide me; . . .

And I will offer in His tabernacle sacrifices of joy;

I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 255.

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” Psalms 91:1.

Come with me now to a place where

sin cannot molest, a place full of faith, hope and love.

Christ’s Example

“When Christ was the most fiercely beset by temptation, He ate nothing. He committed Himself to God, and through earnest prayer, and perfect submission to the will of His Father, came off conqueror. Those who profess the truth for these last days, above every other class of professed Christians, should imitate the great Exemplar in prayer.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 52–53.

“It was not on the cross only that Christ sacrificed Himself for humanity. As He ‘went about doing good’ (Acts 10:38), every day’s experience was an outpouring of His life. In one way only could such a life be sustained. Jesus lived in dependence upon God and communion with Him. To the secret place of the Most High, under the shadow of the Almighty, men now and then repair; they abide for a sea-

son, and the result is manifest in noble deeds; then their faith fails, the communion is interrupted, and the life-work marred. But the life of Jesus was a life of constant trust, sustained by continual communion; and His service for heaven and earth was without failure or faltering.” *Education*, 80.

“Through the Spirit, Christ was to abide continually in the hearts of His children. Their union with Him was closer than when He was personally with them.” *Steps to Christ*, 75.

How easily our communion with Christ is interrupted and our faith unsettled. Yet Christ is our only hope! By earnest and persevering prayer for the Holy Spirit, we can be filled with the love of Christ. We must have a continual connection to our source of power to live in the perils of these last days.

The Lot of the Wicked

“In the time when God’s judgments are falling without mercy, oh, how envious to the wicked will be the posi-

tion of those who abide 'in the secret place of the Most High'—the pavilion in which the Lord hides all who have loved Him and have obeyed His commandments! The lot of the righteous is indeed an enviable one at such a time to those who are suffering because of their sins. (*Manuscript 151, 1901*)." *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, 1150.

"Like the dwellers in the vale of Siddim, the people are dreaming of prosperity and peace. 'Escape for thy life,' is the warning from the angels of God; but other voices are heard saying, 'Be not excited; there is no cause for alarm.' The multitudes cry, 'Peace

and safety,' while Heaven declares that swift destruction is about to come upon the transgressor. On the night prior to their destruction, the cities of the plain rioted in pleasure and derided the fears and warnings of the messenger of God; but those scoffers perished in the flames; that very night the door of mercy was forever closed to the wicked, careless inhabitants of Sodom. God will not always be mocked; He will not long be trifled with. 'Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.' Isaiah 13:9. The great mass of the world will reject

God's mercy, and will be overwhelmed in swift and irretrievable ruin.

How enviable to the wicked will be the position of those who abide 'in the secret place of the Most High

But those who heed the warning shall dwell 'in the secret place of the Most High,' and 'abide under the shadow of the Almighty.' His truth shall be their shield and buckler. For them is the promise, 'With long life will I satisfy him, and show him My salvation.' Psalm 91:1, 4, 16." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 167.

Oh, to be covered and hidden, abiding under the shadow of the Almighty.

Hidden by the Lord

"For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock." Psalms 27:5.

Through the person of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' presence will continue with us and the kingdom of God will be in us. "Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues." Psalms 31:20.

Our Responsibility

"We are living in the most solemn period of this world's history. The destiny of earth's teeming multitudes is about to be decided. Our own future well-being and also the salvation of other souls depend upon the course which we now pursue. We need to be guided by the Spirit of truth. Every follower of Christ should earnestly inquire: 'Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?' We need to humble ourselves before the Lord, with fasting and prayer, and to meditate much upon His word, especially upon the scenes of the judgment. We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose. Events of vital importance are taking place around us; we are on Satan's enchanted





ground.” *The Great Controversy*, 601.

“The very highest angels in the heavenly courts are appointed to work out the prayers which ascend to God for the advancement of the cause of God....

“...Pray, my brethren, pray as you have never prayed before. We are not prepared for the Lord’s coming. We need to make thorough work for eternity.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, 1173.

“This points out the work we have now to do. A vast responsibility is devolving upon men and women of prayer throughout the land to petition that God will sweep back the cloud of evil and give a few more years of grace in which to work for the Master. Let us cry to God that the angels may hold the four winds until missionaries shall be sent to all parts of the world and shall proclaim the warning against disobeying the law of Jehovah.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 717–718.

“A form of godliness will not save any. All must have a deep and living experience. This alone will save them in the time of trouble. Then their work will be tried of what sort it is; and if it is gold, silver, and precious stones, they will be hid as in the secret of the Lord’s pavilion. But if their work is wood, hay, and stubble, nothing can shield them from the fierceness of Jehovah’s wrath.” *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 125.

Like never before, we need a cov-

ering of truth and light. Oh, to be covered by His blood and washed as white as snow. “Much time should be spent in prayer, that our garments of character may be washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 717.

“His people would never know defeat if they would abide under the shadow of the Almighty; for One mightier than angels would fight by their side in every battle MS 134 1899.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, 999.


Deliverance

“The eye of God, looking down the



ages, was fixed upon the crisis which His people are to meet, when earthly powers shall be arrayed against them. Like the captive exile, they will be in fear of death by starvation or by violence. But the Holy One who divided the Red Sea before Israel, will manifest His mighty power and turn their captivity. ‘They shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.’ Malachi 3:17. If the blood of Christ’s faithful witnesses were shed at this time, it would not, like the blood of the martyrs, be as seed sown to yield a harvest for God. Their fidelity would not be a testimony to convince others

of the truth; for the obdurate heart has beaten back the waves of mercy until they return no more. If the righteous were now left to fall a prey to their enemies, it would be a triumph for the prince of darkness. Says the psalmist: ‘In the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me.’ Psalm 27:5. Christ has spoken: ‘Come, My people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity.’ Isaiah 26:20–21. Glorious will be the deliverance of those who have patiently waited for His coming and whose names are written in the book of life.” *The Great Controversy*, 634.

“There is a place of quiet rest, Near to the heart of God, ...A place where we our Savior meet, Near to the heart of God. ...A place where all is joy and peace, Near to the heart of God. ... Hold us, who wait before Thee, Near to the heart of God.” 



David writes from Florida where he lives with his wife, Ruth. He has a passion for the Lord’s work. His interests include farming, country living and medical missionary work.



NEW WORLD ORDER

To the truly converted and committed Christian this is a time of soul searching and contrition.



Lee Forbes

In the last few years there has been a lot of discussion and concern about the "New World Order." People from many different faiths have expressed fears that this new arrangement of world powers would limit, if not control, the religious freedoms of the people. From a biblical perspective this is true. Bible prophecy clearly indicates that the "Image of the Beast" will cause all people to receive its mark in either the forehead or the hand: "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Revelation 13:17.

Without question this "new world" power or beast power is to be respected as having great power in the lives of men and women. But is it to be feared? Another equally important question that will help answer the first is, Is this

"New World Power" really new?

In the book of Daniel we find a prophecy that was originally given to a heathen king who could not understand his dream and threatened to destroy all of the wise men of Babylon if they did not tell him both the dream and its meaning.



Daniel, a dedicated and fully committed young man of God sought

enlightenment from God, on this matter with his three worthies. He was given understanding of the future of the whole world as it pertained to the powers that would rule our earth.

As we observe the progression of these powers we see both a decline in value and an increase in strength and world dominance. Note carefully that there are only five kingdoms or world orders mentioned in this dream before the kingdom of God is restored: "This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay." Daniel 2:32-33.

Now we know that of the five world powers four have come and gone and only one is left that is strongly influenced by the fourth. Also we see that the last world power to be spoken of in Revelation is rooted and grounded in the same principles as the first, namely Babylon: "And

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upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." Revelation 17:5.

Though each of the kingdoms is represented by a different body part, they are all part of the same body. There is a commonality among them. In fact, as we study the history of the world from the beginning of Babylon to the present we see that the same principle of trying to control people's choices has always been a trademark of world dominating powers and will be to the end. So, in reality, this last world order is not new at all. It is actually a repeat of the same old mind control that has always existed among men and women under the control of satanic agencies.

What is new is both the intensity and the finality of this last great world power as well as its scope of influence. Daniel put it aptly when he said it would be a time of trouble such as never was and never will be again: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time; and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." Daniel 12:1.

What is also new is the ample warning and instruction we have been given to prepare both ourselves and the world around us of its soon coming. Without a doubt we are living in the last hours of this world's history. Soon the great time of trouble will begin and probation will ultimately close. For the redeemed it is a time of joy in that we have the assurance of the Holy Spirit's presence to carry us through. But for the lost it is a time of awful foreboding and deep

heart-wrenching fear.

What makes the difference in these two classes of people? One group will know and love and obey their Master, Friend and Redeemer: "My people shall know My name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am He that doth speak: behold, it is I." Isaiah 52:6. "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept My Word, and hast not denied My name." Revelation 3:8. "Because he hath set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver



him: I will set him on high, because he hath known My name." Psalm 91:14. "If ye love Me, keep My commandments." John 14:15.

The other group will claim to know Him, but He will tell them He never knew them. "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:23.

To the truly converted and committed Christian this is a time of soul searching and contrition. "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20. "Let your conversation be without covetous-

ness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5.

It is also a time of assurance that the time of death, sorrow, crying and pain will soon be forever ended: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4.

So my friends, do not worry yourselves with concerns of what this "new world order" will do. We already know somewhat of that. Rather concern yourselves with doing all you can to prepare a people to be ready to meet their Lord when He does come.

For the Scripture is quite clear about our responsibilities to each other: "So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the Word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul." Ezekiel 33:7-9.

Soon the "New World Order" is to come as an overwhelming surprise. What are you doing to prepare for it? 📖



Lee Forbes lives in West Virginia. He is a roofing contractor by trade, but his favorite pastime is teaching others how to study God's Word.



The Gospel of Judas

Joe Olson

The recently discovered Gospel of Judas is age-old Gnosticism.

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” 1 John 4:1

“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.” 2 John 1:7

Many “gospels” have surfaced just in the last 120 years. The Gospel of Peter was discovered in Egypt in 1886. The Gospel of Mary came to light in 1896, again in Egypt. We also have the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Truth, the Gospel of Philip, the Secret Book of John, the Second Discourse of Great Seth, and now—the Gospel of Judas.

The Gospel of Judas

The Gospel of Judas was discovered in the 1970’s in a cavern near El Minya, Egypt. The document circulated for years among antiquities dealers in Egypt, then Europe, and finally the United States. It moldered in a safe-deposit box in a bank in Hicksville, NY, for sixteen years before being bought in 2000

by a Frieda Nussberger-Tchacos. When she couldn’t sell it, she turned it over to a foundation for conservation and translation. The manuscript was given the name Codex Tchacos.

The 66-page codex contains a text titled James (also known as the First Apocalypse of James), a letter by Peter, and a text of what scholars are provisionally calling the Book of Allonges. Of the sixty-six pages of the Codex Tchacos, only thirteen of the pages, written on the front and back of papyrus sheets and found in over a thousand brittle fragments, make up the Gospel of Judas.

This particular copy of the Judas text, written in Coptic, was made around A.D. 300 from the original Gospel of Judas, which was written in Greek the century before. It is also important to note that this gospel does not claim to have been written by Judas.

A Gnostic Gospel for an Unlikely Hero

A few of the new gospels, such as the Gospel of Peter, parallel the

chosen four gospels of the Bible. Most, however, are vastly different, emphasizing “gnosis,” a “direct knowledge of God through awareness of the divine spark within.” These gospels are therefore called “gnostic” gospels. They were written by Gnostics—men who believed that the human form is a prison. In this view, Judas helped release the spirit of Christ from its physical restraints.

The Gospel of Judas portrays Judas as the hero, not the villain. It purports that Judas is the only one who learned the true gospel, that Jesus taught it only to him. The following is a quote from the Gospel of Judas:

“Knowing that Judas Iscariot was reflecting upon something that was exalted, Jesus said to him: Step away from the others [the disciples] and I shall tell you the mysteries of the Kingdom. It is possible for you to reach it, but you will grieve a great deal. For someone else will replace you, in order that the twelve (disciples) may again come to completion with their God.”

The Gospel of Judas goes even

further, showing Jesus in various instances criticizing the other disciples for their ignorance and their followers for immorality. When the eleven present a vision they had to him, he points out the vision's true meaning as follows: "Those you have seen receiving the offerings at the altar— that is who you are. That is the God you serve, and you are those twelve men you have seen. The cattle you have seen brought for sacrifice are the many people you lead astray before the altar."

It also says that Jesus told Judas, "You shall be cursed for generations." It then adds to this conversation that Jesus had told Judas, "You will come to rule over them" and "You will exceed all of them. For you will sacrifice the man that clothes me."

By those words, scholars familiar with Gnostic thinking say Jesus meant that by helping him get rid of his physical flesh, Judas would act to liberate the true spiritual self or divine being within Jesus. Unlike the accounts in the New Testament Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the anonymous author of the Gospel of Judas believed that Judas Iscariot alone among the twelve disciples understood the meaning of Jesus' teachings and acceded to His will

In fact, the Gospel of Judas does not say that Judas was crucified or hung himself. "...

Indeed it seems to indicate he died while being stoned by the twelve."

Not a Forgery

The Gospel of Judas is authentic, meaning it is not a well-conceived forgery. It is indeed an ancient manuscript. It has been carbon-dated, if that means anything, to anywhere from A.D. 220 to A.D. 340. However, being a legitimate ancient work does not mean that it is accurate. Nor does being old make it truth.

Not only is it not true, it doesn't read like the King James Bible in that it is very fragmented. Here is a small sample: "Truly I say to you, . . . angel . . . power will be able to see that . . . these to whom . . . holy generations . . ." After Jesus said this, he departed."

How can you possibly make out what was said or meant? But that is exactly as it was planned. That way everyone can believe whatever they want!

And interestingly enough, the president of the Maecenas Foundation, to whom the Gospel of Judas was given, stated that he did not think that their copy was the only copy in existence, rather the only *known* copy. And whom did he think had another copy locked away? The Vatican! Why does the Catholic Church always seem to pop up around these things? Mere coincidence?

Why This Gospel at This Time?

For what reason would this Gospel of Judas surface now? According to the *New York Times* of April 6th, 2006, "As the findings have trickled down to churches and universities, they have produced a new generation of Christians who now regard the Bible not as the literal word of God, but



as a product of historical and political forces that determined which texts should be included in the canon, and which edited out."

Contrary Creation

The Gospel of Judas, being a gnostic gospel, is part of the Gnostics' attempt to rewrite not only the Gospel story, but the creation account, as well. Gnostic cosmology attributes creation not to God but to underling gods who often are described as getting creation wrong so that matter is corrupt.

So whose fault is it for sin and all the problems we have? Certainly not ours! It was the "gods" who made us and this world we're in. See where this is all heading? It's not our fault! Can you see how inviting that would be? How many will be taken in by this Satanic delusion? Who will be deceived?

"Satan is working by every conceivable device to keep in his own ranks those who claim to be on the Lord's side. He can blind their eyes until they will call light darkness, and darkness light." *RH*, March 14, 1893.

"The Lord has given warnings, he has presented principles that it is necessary for every Christian to heed, and bring into his practical life. Those who pass on in indifference to the light and warning which God has been pleased to give, will grow more and more egotistical and self-sufficient. Those who do not place their dependence upon God will certainly be overthrown by the enemy." *RH*, March 14, 1893.

Two groups are brought to light





here: “Those who pass on in indifference to the light and warning” and “those who do not place their dependence upon God.”

Planting Doubt

We have in this Gospel of Judas not just a false gospel, but the seeds of unbelief, the seeds of doubt. You see, there were many sects in Gnosticism in the early years after the crucifixion of Jesus. Satan was hard at work, as fast as he could go, to turn the new church around. One such sect that early church disciples had to deal with was the Cainite Gnostics, who regularly rehabilitated questionable characters in the Bible—rebels such as Cain, its first murderer; Korah; Esau; the Sodomites; and, of course, Judas. The whole intention was to cast doubt upon the veracity of the Scriptures, upon what God said.

“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:”

Since Genesis, Satan has been trying to convince us that God is a liar. He did it then, in the Garden of Eden, with our first parents. He is doing it now, with the false Gospel of Judas.

Satan’s emissaries, the Gnostics, derived their name from the word “gnosis,” meaning fundamentally, “to know.” Satan has been deceiving mankind from the beginning with the promise of knowledge!

“For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” Genesis 3:5, You shall know! And when you know, then you will be as gods yourself!

Who else wanted to be like God? “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.” Isaiah 14:14 From Eden on, Satan has tried to instill the same desire he has into each one of us.

“For many deceivers are entered into the world . . . 2 John 1:17” The Gospel of Judas is just one of many deceptions. But we have been warned! “Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;” Deuteronomy 11:16

Notice what the deception causes! Worship of another god! That is what all of this is about! Worship of Satan!

We have in this Gospel of Judas not just a false gospel, but the seeds of unbelief, the seeds of doubt.

As we come down to these last moments of history, will we allow ourselves to be taken off guard? Will we allow Satan, through his many disguises, to come in and take God’s place in our hearts?

Ellen White was given this vision early on in her experience: “I saw a throne, and on it sat the Father and the Son. I gazed on Jesus’ countenance and admired his lovely person. The Father’s person I could not behold, for a cloud of glorious light covered him. I asked Jesus if his Father had a form like himself. He said he had, but I could not behold it, for said he, if you should once behold the glory of his person you would cease to exist. Before the throne I saw the Advent people, the church and the world. I saw a company bowed down before the throne, deeply interested, while the most of them stood disinterested and careless. Those who were bowed before the throne would offer up their prayers and look to Jesus; then he would look to his Father, and appeared to be pleading with him. A light would come from the Father to the Son, and from the Son to the praying company. Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from the Father to the Son, and from the Son it waved over the people before the throne. But few would receive this great light; many came out from under it and immediately resisted it; others were careless and did not cherish the light, and it moved off from them. Some cherished it, and went and bowed down with the little praying company. This company all received the light, and rejoiced in it, as their countenances shone with its glory. And I saw the Father rise from the throne, and in a flaming chariot go into the Holy of Holies, within the vail, and did sit. Then Jesus rose up from the throne, and the most of those who were

bowed down arose with him: and I did not see one ray of light pass from Jesus to the careless multitude after he arose, and they were left in perfect darkness. Those who rose up when Jesus did, kept their eyes fixed on him as he left the throne and led them out a little way. Then he raised his right arm and we heard his lovely voice saying, "Wait here—I am going to my Father to receive the kingdom; keep your garments spotless, and in a little while I will return from the wedding and receive you to myself." And I saw a cloudy chariot, with wheels like flaming fire, and angels were all around it as it came where Jesus was. He stepped into the chariot and was borne to the Holiest where the Father sat. There I beheld Jesus, standing before the Father, a great High Priest. On the hem of his garment was a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate. And I saw those who rose up with Jesus send up their faith to him in the Holiest, and pray—my Father give us thy Spirit. Then Jesus would breathe upon them the Holy Ghost. In the breath was light, power, and much love, joy and peace. Then I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne; they did not know that Jesus had left it. Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God. I saw them look up to the throne and pray, Father give us thy Spirit; then Satan would breathe upon them an unholy influence; in it there was light and much power, but no sweet love, joy and peace. Satan's object was to keep them deceived, and to draw back and deceive God's children." A Sketch of the Christian Experience and Views of Ellen G. White, p. 43-44.

In mercy and love, God has revealed to us all we need to know. He has warned us of the deceptions to come upon all the world, so powerful that if it were possible, they would deceive the very elect.

The vision explained that it was those bowed before the throne who

were "careless and did not cherish the light" who ended up worshipping Satan. And they didn't know it!

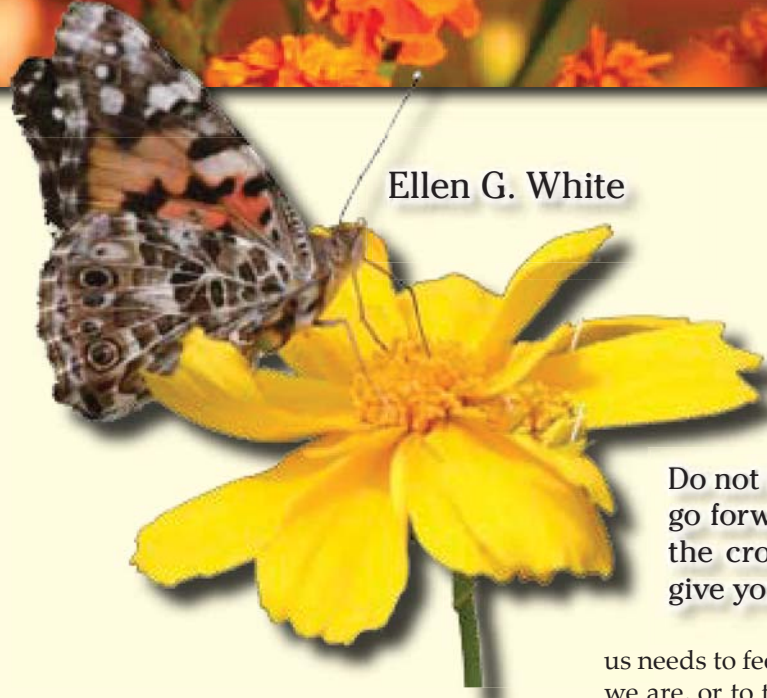
We have been given so much light. This quote came to my mind as I read the above words: ". . . All who believe that the Lord has spoken through Sister White and has given her a message will be safe from the many delusions that will come in these last days." 3SM 83, 84; LDE 44.

That we be willing to accept all the light that God has been pleased to give us is my prayer. 📖



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





Ellen G. White

Talk Faith and Move Forward

Do not let your head be cast down, or feel discouraged, but go forward, firm in Jesus Christ, keeping your eye fixed on the crown of life which Christ, the righteous judge, shall give you in that day.

The closing address presented at the Australasian Union Conference session, Cooranbong, N.S.W., July 23, 1899.

“**T**hese words spake Jesus, and lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee: As Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him. And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do.” John 17:1–4.

While we know Christ in one sense, that He is the Saviour of the world, it means more than this. We must have a personal knowledge and experience in Christ Jesus, an experimental knowledge of Christ, what He is to us, and what we are to Christ. That is the experience that everyone wants. Now, I cannot have it for any of you, nor can you have it for me. The work that is to be done for us, is to be through the manifestation of the Holy Spirit of God upon human minds and human hearts. The heart must be purified and sanctified.

I need not tell any of you that it is so, because you know it. Not one of

us needs to feel a doubt as to where we are, or to think, “I wish I knew where I stood before God,” but, by living faith, we must sink ourselves in God; and when we do that, His life will shine upon us. There is not a particle of need of our being in a state of inefficiency and coldness.

What is the matter with us? “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him.” It shall be given him. There are no “ifs” nor “ands” about it. “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.” James 1:5–6.

You pray, and ask God for wisdom, strength, and efficiency, and feel you must have them. But perhaps, right after that prayer, it will seem as though a hellish shadow of Satan was cast right athwart your pathway, and you see nothing beyond. What was that? Why, the devil wanted to obscure your faith in that cloud. But there is no necessity for you to do that. Is feeling to be our criterion, or is it to be the Word of the living God? Are we to sink our faith in the cloud? That is what Satan wants us to do. But we should not give him so much pleasure as that. What are we going to do?

I have had that cloud settle upon me at times, but I knew that God was there just the same. Since this conference began, I have hardly been able at times to sit up. When I came to the meeting first, I came by

faith, and I didn’t know as I could say anything. I had been in such terrible sickness that I could hardly tell my own name. But I said, I shall go; I am going to put myself in the channel of light, and there I am going to remain; then I shall expect the Lord to help me. (I have a great deal of talking to do with the Lord in the night, and I always know He will help me.) When I came in here I was so weak I did not know if I could speak or not. But you know how He gave strength to me, and the last time when I read that long paper to you, He gave me strength, and I thank Him that I had strength to do it. I have been astonished at the measure of strength given me.

“Ask in faith, nothing wavering.” Don’t let one single suggestion of the devil come in. It is to be “nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea.” Verse 6. The Lord will do great things for us if we will only show our trust in Him.

I remember when I was in Switzerland, the darkness of the enemy came over the pathway when I was trying to do a work for God there. I wanted them to do a special work in erecting some buildings, and I tried every way to bring them around. Finally, after standing there so long, and I could do no more, the meeting closed, and I went in my room. I said, I will take right hold of the promises of God, and those promises are “yea, and

amen," and I believe they are mine. See 2 Corinthians 1:20.

Well, I said, "Lord teach me what to do in this emergency, for I am not going to give this up, or waver in the matter at all." Now, the Lord helps them that are of one mind, and it had seemed that there were as many different minds as there were different people. We wanted a school building and a meeting place.

While I was praying, I said, "I put my trust in Thee. Thou wilt keep that which I have committed to Thee. Thou must strengthen my faith." I kept holding right on; and as I prayed it seemed that the sweet Spirit of God just went right through the room, wave after wave, and every particle of unbelief or anything like it was brushed away, and we carried every point; and so the building was put up.

What we want is that faith that will not let go, a faith that will not fail or be discouraged. I know your faith is to be tried, and I know the banner of truth has got to be lifted in places all around here. "Why," says one, "how can we do all this if the Lord is coming so soon?" Why, the Lord can do more in one hour than we can do in a whole lifetime, and when He sees that His people are fully consecrated, let me tell you a great work will be done in a short time, and the message of truth is to be carried into the dark places of the earth, where it has never been proclaimed.

When we first came to Melbourne I was very sick. Some of you know something about that. I had to be propped up with pillows, and they would carry me in their arms up into their hall, and there I would speak to the people. But all the time I had the presence and blessing of God. It was a most precious time to me.

When we come to the hardest places, we may know that all heaven is interested and will bear us up, if we will not fail or be discouraged. Cling to the mighty One. Do

not talk unbelief at all, because the more you talk unbelief the more unbelief you will have; and the more you talk darkness, the more darkness you will have; and the more you talk light, the more light you will have; and the more you talk faith, you will have faith.

I want to read a few more verses. "I have given them Thy Word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through Thy truth: thy Word is truth. As Thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." John 17:14-19. The truth of God must sanctify the whole man, body and soul. It is not the truth to you unless you practice it.

Our precious Jesus gave up all heaven to come to this world that He might sanctify us through the truth. Will we be sanctified? In His life and example, His lessons and His words, there was the sanctification of the Spirit of God. Sanctification was upon Him for us. God Himself worked through humanity, just as humanity must work through humanity. That is why He took humanity upon Himself that He might teach humanity how to work for itself. He took humanity that He might experience death in our behalf, that we might have life and immortality through His life and death.

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word." Verse 20. Now, that prayer of Christ's is for us that we may be sanctified through the truth. "That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that

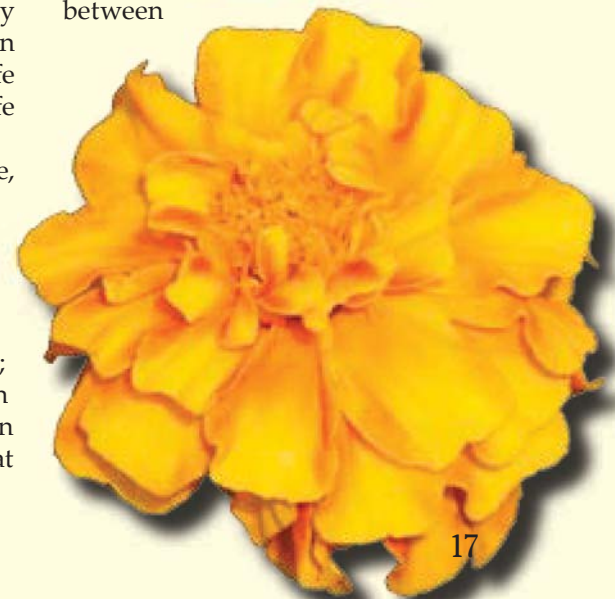
Thou hast sent Me." Verse 21. Get out the coldness from your heart; get out the evil surmisings; get out every bad thought; and let the Lord Jesus take the throne of the heart and reign there.

Get out the coldness from your heart; get out the evil surmisings; get out every bad thought; and let the Lord Jesus take the throne of the heart and reign there.

"And the glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them." Verse 22. The character that God gave Him, He has given us. "That they may be one, even as We are one: I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me." Verses 22-23.

Can we take that in? It is a wonderful thing, that God loves them that believe on Him as He loves Christ Himself. We are made one with God, and we want that oneness. We want to seek Him earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints, and we want the spirit of the Third Angel's message. We want to realize that the end of all things is at hand; that speech is a talent; and that faith is the gift of God; and we must work and pray that God may preserve that faith.

You must put your foot right on the Word, and say, I believe; I will believe; I will press to the mark of the prize, and everything that hinders me shall be swept away; I will not allow anything to interpose between



my soul and God.

No, the dark shadow of Satan will come right across our pathway if we let our faith sink into it. But we must do as the eagle does when he is in the cloud and bewildered in the fog. He does not go one way and another as though distracted, but presses upward through the cloud, until he comes into the light above. And so we should press upward beyond the hellish shadow of Satan, when he tries to eclipse the rays of light that come from God.

Now, we want the life of Christ in our hearts to make us one, and there will be united action. We must press to the mark of the prize of the high calling which is in Christ Jesus our Lord; and what we need is that living, active faith that takes God at His word. We must have it, and God will let us have it if we will.

We must not be discouraged. We want to get rid of unbelief; we do not want to talk it, or act it, or think it, but press forward to the mark of the prize of the high calling that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. I feel anxious, because I know that the time has come when God's people should put on their beautiful garments. "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee." Isaiah 60:1. It is the Word of infinite power that He wants you to eat and drink. He wants you to eat His flesh and drink His blood, and then the power of God will be in your midst. Then the voice will be touched with a peculiar power.

After the passing of the time in 1844, I remember we were a sorrowful little company. There was a little boy who had twenty-five cents, and he threw it into the mud puddle, because he said he would not need it, for the Lord was coming. And afterward he was seen hunting in the mud puddle for his twenty-five cents. I thought, How many of us would do just like that. There was one brother who had been out praying with others, and he began

to say in a loud voice, "Great, great, great is the LORD; and greatly to be praised." See Psalm 145:3. I think he repeated that over many times, and his face was shining. Before he finished, the power of God was upon us. While it is true that we were disappointed, yet we had the blessing of God.

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



shall be found written in the book." Daniel 12:1.


Let everyone inquire, "Is my name written there?" Do not think about your brethren and sisters for fear they are not ready, but think about yourself. You want to know where you are, and to know that Christ is formed within, the hope of glory. You want to be constantly singing, and when you do that you will stop your criticizing. If you are beholding Him, you will not have time for anything else. And if you see His face, it will be reflected in your face, and all this mourning and groaning is dishonoring God, for "whoso offereth praise, glorifieth God." See Psalm 50:23.

You are going to have trials in your churches because there are murmurers and complainers and faultfinders there. Go straight ahead and be cheerful. And when Brother Irwin and Brother Haskell

return to America, they are going to have trials there. Do not let your head be cast down, or feel discouraged, but go forward, firm in Jesus Christ, keeping your eye fixed on the crown of life which Christ, the righteous judge, shall give you in that day.

Just keep praising God, and when the devil tempts you, sing. When Christ was a child He was tempted in every way, and what did He do? He sang psalms, and praised God, and there was music in His voice. And there was an impression made upon the hearts and minds of those who heard Him. He wants you to have heaven in view, and heaven is a good deal nearer than you think. God's holy, anointed ones are right by you, and here is His church, the greatest object of His love that it is possible for Him to have. He is watching over every one of us.

I love Him because He first loved me. I love Him because He gave His life for me. And God forbid that I should be a coward. When the children of Israel went out to fight, God told them to sing, and as soon as they began to sing, their enemies fled, for they saw the whole army of heaven before them. They were afraid of their destruction and fled. God wants us to vanquish the enemy. Let us pray as we never prayed before. We do not pray half enough. We ought to pray and have regular praise meetings together. May God bless you, and may the Spirit of God be with us.

Sermons and Talks, vol. 1, 304–311. 



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.

Questions & Answers

Question:

How do you explain the violence in the Old Testament?

Answer:

Many have become confused over the large amount of violence in the OT. They cannot harmonize the pacifistic teachings of Jesus, such as “love your enemies,” with some of the OT accounts. But when all the facts are considered, there is harmony between the OT and the NT. The God of the OT is the same God of love as seen in the NT.

In the OT, God sentenced the wicked to death in the spirit of the final judgment. For God “hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness” (Acts 17:31). This was one of the reasons why the Canaanite cities were to be “utterly destroyed” (Numbers 21:3). Their day of judgment had arrived—their sins had reached unto heaven. This foreshadowed the destruction of the wicked at the end of the millennium. See Revelation 20. “For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and He poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.” Psalm 75:8. Such it will be at the end of time when the nations will “drink of the wine of the wrath of God” (Revelation 14:10).

Final judgment will be given to the world, because its sins can no longer be tolerated. “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” Revelation 18:4–5. The land of Canaan had become so bad that God said “the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants” (Leviticus 18:25). Under the trees, in the grass, on the mountains, crimes of such evil magnitude were practiced that the land itself was ready to reject the people that lived on it.

What determines the destiny of nations? There are a number of factors. However it must be said, it is *not* because God hates the wicked. The character of the leadership is a major factor. “Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.” Proverbs 20:28. If injustice is seen toward the poor and orphans, if sexual perversion is codified into law, a government will shorten its existence.

“These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates: And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD.” Zechariah 8:16–17.

Note to our readers:

Hope International welcomes questions that lead into a deeper understanding of scripture and Spirit of Prophecy from our readers for our question and answer column.

We would also like to let our readers know that the answers we provide are not exhaustive. They are synopses and mind prompters that are intended to whet the readers’ desire to study the Word more under the tutelage of the Holy Spirit.



Joe Green's Lunch

It was a little past noon, and a merry group of boys were seated on the grass under the trees that shaded the academy playgrounds. A little later they would be scattered in every direction at their play, but first they must attend to the contents of the well-filled pails and baskets of lunch.

"I should like to know," said Howard Colby, "why Joe Green never comes out here to eat his dinner with the rest of us. He always sneaks off somewhere until we get through."

"Guess he brings so many goodies he is afraid we will rob him," said another.

"Pooh!" said Will Brown, throwing himself back upon the grass; "more likely he doesn't bring anything at all. I heard my father say the family is badly pinched since Mr. Green was killed. Mother said she didn't pity them, for folks had no business to be poor and proud."

"Well," said Sam Merrill, "I know that Mary Green asked my mother to let her have some sewing to do; but, then folks do that sometimes who aren't poor."

"And Joe is wearing patched pants," said Howard Colby.

"I tell you what, boys," said Will Brown, "let's watch tomorrow to see what the fellow does bring. You know he is always in his seat by the time the first bell rings, and we can get a peep into his basket before roll call."

The boys agreed to this, all but Ned Collins, who had sat quietly eating his dinner. He had taken no part in the conversation. Now he simply remarked, as he brushed the crumbs from his lap: "I can't see what fun there will be in that, and it looks mean and sneaking to me.

I'm sure it's none of your business what Joe brings for dinner or where he goes to eat it."

"You're always nicey nice, Ned Collins," said Will Brown contemptuously.

Ned could not bear to be laughed at. His eyes flashed for a minute, and then he sprang up, shouting: "Hurrah, boys, for football!" In five minutes the whole playground was in an uproar of fun and frolic.

The next morning at the first stroke of the bell a half dozen roguish faces peeped into the classroom. Sure enough, there was Joe Green, busily plying his pencil over the problems of the algebra lesson. It was but the work of an instant to hurry into the cloakroom, and soon the whole group were pressing around Will Brown, as he held the mysterious basket in his hand. Among them, in spite of the remonstrance of yesterday, was Ned Collins.

"It's big enough to hold a day's rations for a regiment," said Harry Forbes, as Will pulled out a nice white napkin. Next came a whole newspaper—a large one, too; and then, in the bottom of the basket, was one cold potato. That was all. Will held it up with a comical grimace, and the boys laughed loudly.

"See here," said Howard, "let's throw it away, and fill the basket with coal. It will be such fun to see him open it!"

The boys agreed, and the basket was soon filled, and the napkin placed carefully on the top. Before the bell rang, they were on their way to class.

Ned Collins was the last one to leave the room. No sooner did the last head disappear, than, quick as a flash, he emptied the coal into

the box again, replaced the paper, and half filled the basket, large as it was, with the contents of the bright tin pail that Aunt Sally delighted to store with dainties for his dinner. Ned was in his seat almost as soon as the rest, and all through the forenoon he looked and felt as guilty as the others, as he saw the sly looks and winks they exchanged. Noon came, and there was the usual rush to the cloakroom for dinner baskets; but instead of going out to the yard, the boys lingered about the door and the hall. Straight by them marched Ned Collins, his pail under his arm.

"Hello, Ned!" said Sam Merrill. "Where are you going now?"

"Home," said Ned, laughing. "I saw Aunt Sally making some extra goodies to eat this morning, and they can't cheat me out of my share."

"Ask me to go, too," shouted Howard Colby. At that moment the boys spied Joe Green carrying his basket into the schoolroom.

"I should think he'd suspect something," whispered Will Brown; "that coal must be awful heavy."

Joe disappeared into the schoolroom, and the curious eyes that peeped through the crack of the door were soon rewarded by seeing him open his basket.

Continued on page 31



Photos: © Hemera Photo Objects CD



GINGKO

Heather Olson, RN


This tree is called a living fossil. Is the sole survivor of the Ginkgolaceae family, whose fossil records date back to when dinosaurs populated our planet. (You know, before the Flood.) Ginkgo trees have an incredible ability to resist insects and pollution. After the Hiroshima bombing near the end of World War II, four of these trees were found among the surviving vegetation. Today you can see this national monument in Hiroshima, Japan.

These deciduous trees have two "sexes." The female trees are pointed and pyramid-shaped, whereas the male trees are broader and have much sparser limbs. The male tree bears a nut, which is prized in the oriental culture as a culinary delicacy with special health benefits. Among these benefits are a clearer mind and virility.

Controlled studies have revealed that Ginkgo does improve memory functions due to improved blood flow in arteries and capillaries. Increased blood circulation also improves memory by creating a greater flow of oxygen to the brain. It is often taken by older people as a sort of energizer to improve mood, alertness, memory, and attention span. It appears to protect veins and arteries and preserve their tone and elasticity. It is therefore used for problems associated with arteriosclerosis, dementia and Alzheimer's disease. This improved blood flow appears

to have a positive effect on conditions related to macular degeneration, with documented improvement in the vision of some patients, including conditions of tinnitus¹ and vertigo².

Ginkgo has powerful antioxidant properties, thus making it a good choice for prevention and possibly reversal of stroke damage, cardiovascular problems and occlusive arterial disease. It also reduces the inflammation caused by asthma and allergies, and relieves symptoms associated with multiple sclerosis outbreaks. Antioxidants are vital in our bodies in the scavenging of free radicals, which break down existing human tissue and cells. The brain is very vulnerable to free radicals. However, antioxidants such as those contained in ginkgo extracts can minimize cumulative free radical damage.

Ginkgo is an excellent natural remedy for poor circulation. The improvement in the circulation of blood caused by ginkgo improves cell nourishment throughout the body, and thus benefits the entire body. 

Notes:

- 1 The perception of noise in the ears or head when no external sound is present.
- 2 Dizziness characterized by the sensation of spinning.

Adapted from: Alfons Balbach and Daniel S. F. Boarim, As Hortaliças na Medicina Natural, Edições Vida Plena, Itaquaquecetuba, SP (Portuguese), 1993.

If you have any questions regarding the information presented, please contact:

Heather Olson, RN

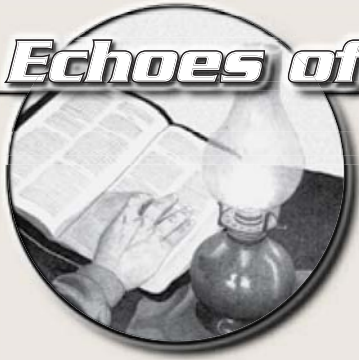
Hope for Health

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These articles from Heather Olson's desk are for educational purposes only and are not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. Hope International does not offer medical advice or prescribe the use of diet as a form of treatment for sickness without the approval of a healthcare professional.



VERY BAD INJUN

John N. Loughborough

What's happening: Elders Merritt E. Cornell and J. N. Loughborough stop at Jackson, Michigan in June, 1853 on a preaching tour. Here a very striking incident occurred.—Editors.

When I reached the home of Cyrenius Smith in Jackson, the Whites and the Cornells were there. Elder Cornell met me at the door and took me to a grove near the house before I saw Elder or Mrs. White. He told me that Sister White had had a vision, and gave me all the particulars. He said she had written it out and hoped I would get a copy of it, for part of it was about a corrupt woman they knew, and she had given an exact description of the case.

Elder and Mrs. White had an appointment where this woman lived, but they themselves did not know where she lived. Sister White kept asking him if he knew, but he would evade a definite answer, telling them that if there were such a woman in the state they would probably find her. I agreed with Elder Cornell to say nothing to them about it, but would try to obtain a copy of the vision, and we would watch to see how the thing came out.

When I went into the house, Sister White began at once to tell me of the wonderful meeting they had at Tyrone in which the Lord had given her a vision of all the Sabbath-keepers in the state, and among other things about a woman who claimed to be so holy she did not need the Ten Commandments, but who was represented to her as a corrupt woman. She continued, "I have been writing out this vision and will read it to you." She had written with

pencil upon eight pages of foolscap.

I said, "Sister White, I would like a copy of that vision."

She replied, "This is written with pencil, but if you will make a copy with ink for me, you may have the pencil copy."

The copy of the vision described the case of a woman professing great holiness, and who was trying to intrude herself among our people. Mrs. White had never met her, and had no knowledge of her except what was imparted in vision. She not only told the woman's mode of procedure but also that when she should be reprov'd, she would put on a sanctimonious look and say, "The - Lord - knows - my - heart." She said this woman was traveling about the country with a young man, while her own husband, an old man, worked at home to support them in their evil course.

After we had meetings in Battle Creek and Hastings, we drove to Vergennes, arriving about four o'clock in the afternoon. We called first on a former Christian minister who lived in a log house yet three miles from the place where the meetings were to be held the next day. Elders White, Cornell, and I stopped under a large apple tree in the yard while Sister White went into the house and talked about the day's journey. Soon she came out and said to her husband, "James, we have reached the church where that woman lives."

"How do you know?" he asked.

She replied, "I have seen the man and woman in this house in vision. He thinks the (corrupt) woman is all right, but she thinks the woman is wrong."

Elder Cornell, who knew the people, whispered to me, "She is absolutely right!!"

When someone announced, "Brother Brigham is coming," Mrs. White looked up and said, "I saw them also in connection with this case, but none in that load have any confidence in the woman." When the next load drove up she said, "That load is divided on the woman's case. Those on the front seat have no confidence, but those in the back think she is all right."

A third load came up and she said of them, "They are all under the woman's influence." Then she added, "There is one man who is opposed to this woman whom I have not yet seen. He has sandy hair and a sandy beard, and there's something peculiar about his eyes."

Just then someone remarked, "Brother Pearsall is coming." "Oh," she said, "that is the man who has spectacles on." There was indeed something peculiar about his eyes. As I was talking with him, I commented about his wearing glasses when he was so young. He explained that his eyes were not mates; one was nearsighted and the other farsighted, so he had special glasses made for him. Elder Cornell and I were where we could whisper occasionally unobserved, and he told me he was acquainted with all these people and the positions they took, and that Mrs. White had declared their positions exactly.

We had no meeting that night. The next morning we went another three miles to the place of meeting. The brethren had made ample provision by seating a large barn, but they had made no stand for the

speakers, so we took a new wagon box and turned it upside down to serve as a rostrum. A common light stand was placed on one end of the box, and chairs were used for seats. Sister White sat in a rocking chair at the left end of the rostrum, and I sat next to her with Elder Cornell on my right. Elder White stood preaching at the far end. After he had been speaking about ten minutes, a tall, slim, dark-complexioned woman entered and sat next to the door, followed by an old gentleman and a young man who sat down on the front seat within touch of the stand.

I noticed that Mrs. White looked intently at these people. She put her fan to her face and whispered to me, "Do you see the tall woman who just sat down by the door? She is the woman I saw in vision. That old man who sat down in front is her husband, and the young man in the green coat beside him is the one with whom the woman is going about the country. When James gets through, I shall relate the vision and you will see whether or not they are the ones." I confess I was anxious to see how things would develop for I had in writing in my pocket just what this woman would say when Sister White would reprove her.

After a short message, Elder White turned to his wife, "I think someone else has something to say and I will close."

Mrs. White introduced her remarks with the text, "Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord." Finally she said, "If the Lord called a woman to the ministry, she would not be traveling about the country with a man other than her husband." On uttering these words, there was much agitation in the audience, some nudging their seatmates, and whispering, "Just as I told you."

Sister White came still closer, "Friends, what I am talking about is right here before us. That tall woman who came in and sat by the door a few moments ago claims to be very holy. She also claims to have the gift of tongues. The words she rattles off are mere gibberish. If ev-

ery nation on earth heard her, not one of them could understand a thing for she does not talk any language. This woman claims a holiness so high she does not need the Ten Commandments. She professes to be sanctified. This old man on the front seat is her husband. God pity him. He toils at home to earn money for her to travel around the country with this young man who sits by his side—supporting them in their iniquity. God has shown me that with all their pretensions to holiness, this woman and this young man are guilty of violating the seventh commandment." After a few more words, Sister White sat down. The people knew that Mrs. White had just come three miles from her lodging place, and that the other woman had come two miles from the opposite direction, and they had not seen each other before.

As Mrs. White bore her testimony there was an anxious looking toward Mrs. Alcott, the woman reprov'd, to see how she took it. Had she been innocent of the charge, it would naturally be expected for her to deny the whole thing. With every eye fixed upon her, she slowly rose to her feet, and with a sanctimonious look said slowly, "The – Lord – knows – my – heart," and sat down. Then the forenoon meeting closed.

After we left the barn to take dinner at a brother's house nearby, the woman rallied the people together for a prayer meeting. It was a complete bedlam of voices calling at once, "O Lord! O Lord!" She asked the young man to pray, and what a prayer it was! "O Lord, take care of our persecutors. Send a bucket of tar and a bag of feathers, and a wooden horse, and ride them out of town on a rail," and many other expressions of similar character.

Then for a few minutes Mrs. Alcott talked, making no reference whatever to Sister White's talk, but went on to teach her doctrine of sanctification. In the midst of this she broke out with what she called tongues. I reached the barn in time to hear, "Kenne kenni, kenne kenno,

kenne kenne, kenne kennue," and the same combined in other order. Then her meeting closed.

It was a hot summer day, and we were taking dinner in a small room. The people pressed so thickly about, stifling the air, that Sister White fainted. Elder White and I offered prayer. The blessing of God came, restoring consciousness, but she was immediately off in vision. Elder White took her up in his arms and carried her out-of-doors among the people who were anxious to see her in vision. Our meeting for the remainder of the day was instruction upon the truths for our people.

The sequel I now relate was told me by residents of Vergennes who carefully watched the case. The next Sunday after our meeting, Mrs. Alcott held a meeting at the schoolhouse. A curious crowd came to hear what she would now say. She made no reference to Sister White, but went on a harangue about holiness. She claimed that she and the young man were being prepared to enter upon a mission among the Highland Indians who lived a few miles away.

While she was talking, an Indian lad from the reservation passed the house with his gun on the way to a hunt. Some of the boys who sat near the door asked him to come in for the woman could talk his language.

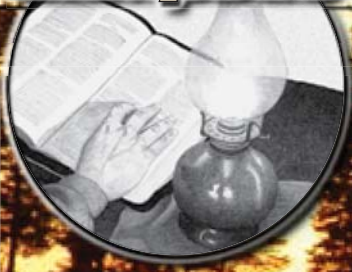
They gave him a seat near the door. As soon as Mrs. Alcott saw him, she broke out with her

"Kenne kenni." The Indian stared at her for a while, then seizing his gun he gave a whoop and started off on a run. The boys ran after him and asked what the woman had said. He replied, "Very bad injun that!" "But what did she say?" they pressed him. He replied, "Nothing. She talk no Injun!"

A son of Mr. Alcott by a previous



Continued on page 28



James White: The Golden Years - Part 2

Virgil Robinson

The time between the arrival of the Whites in Battle Creek in the fall of 1855 and the paralysis that prostrated James White in the summer of 1865 may well be called the golden decade for the family. Battle Creek was home for the boys. Henry, Edson, and Willie found work in the Review plant, particularly during the summer months. Then there were picnics, hikes, and swimming parties at Gogoac Lake.

Ellen busied herself both inside and outside the home. She sewed for her family and also for poor church members. She loved to make rag carpets out of cloth remnants. James did not approve of this activity. He felt it was beneath his wife's dignity to engage in such a task. One day he brought home a visiting minister, and to his dismay he found Ellen down on her knees putting another rag carpet together. His protests apparently were of no avail. He had discovered long before that Ellen had strong opinions of her own.

One day he hit upon a plan that proved to be effective in stopping

the manufacture of rag carpets. As he neared his home on Wood Street, he began to chant loudly so that the neighbors could hear and his wife get the message at the same time, words set to a popular tune:

*"In heaven above where all is love,
There'll be no rag carpets there—
There'll be no rag carpets there."*

Ellen immediately ceased making rag carpets and took up knitting, an activity she continued to pursue for the rest of her life.¹

Meanwhile, the work at the Review office was increasing. A spiritual and missionary revival was taking place among believers, prompting them to buy and circulate the literature coming from the press.

No matter how many hours they ran the old Washington hand press they could not keep up with the need. It soon became evident that something must be done to speed up the printing process. Three days each week were needed just to print the *Review*, and it was Elder White's hope that the number of subscribers would double during

the next decade.²

Returning from a trip to Waukon, Iowa, early in 1857, James visited the stock room at the publishing house to find almost empty shelves. He discussed the shortage with Stephen Belden. The long hours demanded of the workers to print the literature was undermining their health, and there just wasn't money to buy all the supplies needed. James realized that a bigger press would have to be bought.

A conference was called in April to deal with the problem. The members willingly agreed that a power press was the answer to their need. With money raised, Elder White went to New York, purchased the press, and had it shipped to Battle Creek. He always had the ability to find money when it was desperately needed.

This press was operated by a large flywheel, turned by two men. It produced six times more printed sheets in an hour than did the hand lever press. Still that was not enough. So another appeal went out, money came in, and a steam engine was

bought to turn the press.³ Once this was in operation, the press workers felt they were in a position to keep up with the demands.

James and Ellen continued their ministry among the churches. Sometimes long tours to companies in the West and in the East caused them to be away from six to eight weeks. To help the churches nearer to Battle Creek, they would make weekend trips, using their own horse and carriage.

How the people loved to listen to those servants of God! It was their usual custom for James to present a doctrinal subject. Then Ellen would follow with words of exhortation and sometimes of reproof that the Lord had revealed to her for that particular congregation.

In a letter to W. C. White, Dr. A. D. Olsen described the speakers at those meetings:

"It is a very pleasant memory for me to recall my first meeting with you and your brother Edson, as well as your majestic father and your godly mother, at a Wisconsin camp meeting, years and years ago. . . . I can remember so well, way back in those anxious days, listening to the very earnest and powerful sermons of your beloved father and the beautiful discourses of your mother. You will not be surprised when I tell you that I preferred to hear her, because she talked so much about Christ and salvation and getting ready for heaven. Very properly, Elder James White had a great deal to say about our sins and about the heart of the 'hot place' to which sinners would be finally condemned. That did not sound so good to a little boy whose feet hung from the crude benches without reaching the floor."⁴

These trips were not without hardships and even dangers. The following report printed in the *Review* indicates the nature of travel conditions in the 1860's:

"We left Battle Creek at 3:00 P.M., changed cars at midnight at Chicago; reaching the Mississippi River at 7:00 A.M.; crossed the ice on foot, walking behind the baggage drawn

on a sleigh by four men, the ice being too weak to bear up horses; and felt relief when we stepped upon Iowa soil. The late rain weakened the ice very much, and even injured the railroad on the Iowa side, so that the cars were detained the day before we crossed the river, detaining our letters and the *Review*, so that our appointments were in the mailbag on the same train with us. At Lisbon station we left the train, and looked in vain for some brother to take us to a pilgrim's home, so we returned to the train and passed on to Mount Vernon."⁵

Meetings usually closed on Sunday evening. The members might then escort their visitors to the train, to start on their return trip to Battle Creek. One writer described the hour of parting:

"May God bless Brother and Sister White, and all the rest of the dear brethren and sisters. It was hard to part with them; and as we stood, with sad hearts, watching the train that was bearing them from us, a brother remarked, 'Well, when we start for the kingdom we shall all take the same train—all go together.'"⁶

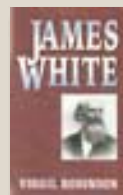
There were delays caused by railroad accidents. One train was derailed only nine miles from Battle Creek, and they had to wait by the wreck for five hours for rescue. All the passengers were extremely hungry until James remembered that he had three pounds of crackers with him. He divided them among the travelers, and no one starved!

The White family lived in their pleasant Wood Street home for six years. Then, in 1863, James sold the house and moved to another, on the corner of Champion and North Washington streets, nearer to the publishing house. The happy Wood Street years had ended. There would be grief and trouble in the future, but that, mercifully, was hidden from their eyes.

The Wood Street home still stands, the oldest Seventh-day Adventist landmark in Battle Creek, and now the property of the Battle

Creek Tabernacle church. It is open to visitors.

The author 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.



This story was taken from Virgil Robinson, James White, 131-134. This book is available from Hope International for \$11.99 plus shipping and sales tax. (See page 30 for details.)

Notes:

- 1 A. L. White letter to H. J. Thomson, May 25, 1944.
- 2 William C. White, "Sketches and Memories," *Review and Herald*, January 30, 1936.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Dr. A. D. Olsen letter to W. C. White, August 23, 1937.
- 5 James White, in *Review and Herald*, March 8, 1860.
- 6 Mary F. Maxson, "The Conference at Adam's Center, N.Y.," in *Review and Herald*, December 8, 1863.





Grace as a License for Sin

News item: “Evangelical commentators from Ron Sider to George Barna have bemoaned the apparent disconnect between Christian beliefs and practice. Robert Jeffress, minister at First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, looks at the problem from a pastoral perspective in *Grace Gone Wild: Getting a Grip on God’s Amazing Gift* (WaterBrook, 2005). Stan Guthrie, a CT senior associate editor, sat down with him, [and asked,] ‘Why did you write the book?’

“There is little to no discernable lifestyle difference between Christians and non-Christians. I believe we’re using grace as a cover, as a license for sin.” Stan Guthrie interviews Robert Jeffress, *Christianity Today*, March, 2006, 76.

End-time perspective: Why can’t our people see what this “cheap grace” is doing to our church and its people? Even Babylonians recognize the effects of this pernicious doctrine. It is literally the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which Jesus condemned so strongly in the book of Revelation.

“So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.” Revelation 2:15.

“The doctrine is now largely taught that the Gospel of Christ has

made the Law of God of no effect; that by ‘believing’ we are released from the necessity of being doers of the word. But this is the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which Christ so unsparingly condemned.” *Signs of the Times*, February 25, 1897.



Gamers’ Good News

News item: “Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition: Christians are finally getting a high-caliber shoot-em-up videogame of their own. Due out on PCs in the second half of 2006, *Left Behind: Eternal Forces* is the first game adapted from the blockbuster books by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins. Gamers familiar with the largely uninspiring and unprofitable history of Christian videogames will quickly notice two differences in *Forces*: the top-shelf design, which offers an eerily authentic reproduction of the game’s Manhattan setting, and a level of violence reminiscent of *Grand Theft Auto*. The game revolves around New Yorkers who are ‘left behind’ after the rapture. Players scour the streets for converts, training them into a work force to feed, shelter and join a paramilitary resistance against the growing forces of the Antichrist.” John Ness, *Newsweek*, March 6, 2006, 11.

End-time perspective: The children of the churches in Babylon are being trained, right now; to use physical force against those they deem to be the “forces of the Antichrist.” Who do you suppose

these children are going to assume those “forces” are? Sunday keepers, of which they are a part? Or Sabbath keepers? Don’t be led to think this is only a game. Soon, very soon, it is going to be too real.

“The same spirit that in ages past led men to persecute the true church, will in the future lead to the pursuance of a similar course toward those who maintain their loyalty to God. Even now preparations are being made for this last great conflict.” *Prophets and Kings*, 605.



Charity at Home

News item: “In 2004, U.S. charitable giving reached \$249 billion, with individuals giving \$188 billion of that total. And the numbers are expected to increase significantly for 2005 as most contributions for tsunami relief and Katrina relief occurred then.” Hugh Hewitt, *World*, March 25, 2006, 9.

End-time perspective: \$188 billion given by individuals in the United States! God has blessed us more than we can comprehend. Yet, how much is given to God’s work of saving souls? And how much of this actually helped the people most in need? (The Red Cross is under investigation for misappropriating funds donated for Katrina relief.)

Satan can and will devise means to take every dollar possible out of spreading the true gospel message. We must be exceedingly careful that we not put too much money, even though virtuous, in things that do

not pertain to life immortal. We should give first to those organizations who not only feed and clothe the needy but who also feed them the Bread of Life and clothe them with the garments of righteousness. Let us not separate the right arm from the three angels' messages in our donations.

"Satan is playing the game of life for the souls of men. He is seeking to secure means, that he may bind it up, so that it shall not be used in advancing the missionary enterprises. Shall we be ignorant of his devices? Shall we allow him to stupefy our senses?" *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 446.



The Vatican's Quiet American

News item: "While Pope Benedict XVI is busy filling the shoes of John Paul II, a quiet American is trying to do the same in Benedict's old job. So how's it going for William J. Levada, former Arch-bishop of San Francisco, whom Benedict tapped to head the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith [and the Extermination of Heretics]?"

"The most influential U.S. prelate in Roman Catholic history, Levada is tasked with maintaining doctrine and discipline among the 1.1 billion faithful at a time when several issues threaten to divide the flock. . . . Another tricky topic: should politicians be denied communion if they espouse policies that contradict church teaching? Levada would like to see that debated more but says, 'There are certain teachings that, as Catholics, we have to accept as part of Jesus' gospel,' such as opposition to abortion. 'Catholic politicians need to take this seriously,' he says. 'Maybe they need to say, 'I'm not able to practice my faith and be

a public representative.'" " *Time*, March 27, 2006, 21.

End-time perspective: O how kind the words appear. But, if we do not submit, the words grow teeth and we will be bitten!

"The Roman Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christlike garments; but she is unchanged. Every principle of the papacy that existed in past ages exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. Let none deceive themselves. The papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity. She possesses the same pride and arrogant assumption that lorded it over kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when she crushed out human liberty and slew the saints of the Most High." *Great Controversy*, 571.



Mind Over Medicine

News item: "Hypnosis as an alternative to sedation is making a comeback in the operating room. Here's how it works:

"Shelly Thomas, 53, was wheeled into an anteroom at London's Middlesex Hospital in preparation for pelvic surgery. A patient going into that operation is usually given a mix of painkilling narcotics and nerve-quelling tranquilizers. But not Thomas. Instead she rested on a gurney, alert and calm, taking deep breaths at her hypnotherapist's instruction. . . .


"Minutes later, thoroughly hyp-

notized, Thomas was rolled into the operating room. There she underwent a 30-min. procedure with no anesthetics and no discernible pain. Her hypnotherapist stayed by her side throughout, monitoring her trance state and refocusing her mind when it drifted.

"Thomas' story is not as extraordinary as you might think. Since the early 1990s, thousands of patients have opted for hypnosis—either as a substitute for or (more typically) as a complement to anesthesia—in a wide variety of surgical procedures, from repairing hernias to removing tumors." Sora Song, *Time*, March 27, 2006, 47.

End-time perspective: Satan can do amazing things with and to the mind and body, as God allows. But we have been warned off this ground, and warned that this is to be manifest toward the close of probation! (See *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 290.)

"No individual should be permitted to take control of another person's mind, thinking that in so doing he is causing him to receive great benefit. The mind cure is one of the most dangerous deceptions which can be practiced upon any individual. Temporary relief may be felt, but the mind of the one thus controlled is never again so strong and reliable." *Mind Character and Personality*, vol. 2, 706.

"To advocate the science of mind cure is opening a door through which Satan will enter to take possession of mind and heart. Satan controls both the mind that is given up to be controlled by another and the mind that controls." *Ibid.*, 709. 




Compiled by
Joe Olson.

Notes:

1 Jacqueline L. Salmon, "Red Cross, Humane Society Under Investigation," *Washington Post*, March 26, 2006, A10.

marriage went to his father's house and told this woman what he thought of her. He said, "If God has called you on a mission to the Indians, why are you not about it? I don't believe you can talk the language of the tribe. Will you go with me to the interpreter's house and talk and have it tested?" She agreed and he took her to the interpreter. "Here is a woman who talks your language. I want you to tell me what she says."

After she had talked in tongues and prayed in tongues the interpreter said, "Madam, I have been interpreter for seventeen different tribes of Indians, and you have not uttered a single Indian word." This ended her influence in Vergennes. Shortly before leaving town, the young man friend admitted, "What Mrs. White said about us is all true—too true!"¹ 



John N. Loughborough, 1832–1924, pioneer evangelist and administrator also served the Lord as a literature evangelist, conference president in several states, foreign missionary, editor of the Pacific Health Journal,

and treasurer of the General Conference. He also authored several books and many articles for denominational papers. He was closely associated with Elder and Mrs. White for 40 years.



Taken from Miracles in My Life, 28–33. This book is available from Hope International for \$5.99. Please see page 30 for shipping and sales tax information.

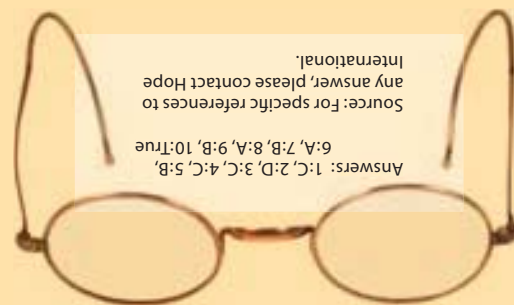
Notes:

1 Loughborough, *Rise and Progress of Seventh-day Adventists*, General Conference Assn. of SDA, 1892, 184–187.

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."

- In what country was Ellen White when the Lord gave her the vision of the Chicago buildings?
A. Spain
B. USA
C. Australia
D. Netherlands
- In what year was the first General Conference Medical Missionary Convention held in College View, Nebraska?
A. 1899
B. 1901
C. 1904
D. 1905
- The largest camp meetings in 1908 brought 321 family tents, with over how many in the audiences?
A. 650
B. 900
C. 1200
D. 1700
- The salary of Ellen White at her death was the same as a General Conference executive. Per week, what was this amount?
A. \$2.50
B. \$16.00
C. \$22.00
D. \$36.00
- For each article Ellen White submitted to *The Review & Herald*, *The Signs of the Times* and *The Youth's Instructor*, she received how much?
A. \$1.75
B. \$2.50
C. \$2.75
D. \$3.25
- Total tithe paid into the treasuries of the church in 1908 had grown to what amount?
A. \$1.1 million
B. \$1.7 million
C. \$4.2 million
D. \$6.3 million
- How many ordained ministers were there in 1908?
A. 580
B. 800
C. 920
D. 1145
- How many in 1908 held ministerial licenses?
A. 400
B. 740
C. 900
D. 988
- What was the year in which Ellen White gave her last sermon to a General Conference session?
A. 1906
B. 1909
C. 1911
D. 1913
- After Ellen White ended her last sermon at a General Conference session, she moved away from the desk and started to her seat, but turning back, she reached for the Bible from which she had been reading, opened it again, and held it out on extended hands that trembled with age. She admonished the assembly, "Brethren and Sisters, I commend unto you this book."
A. True
B. False

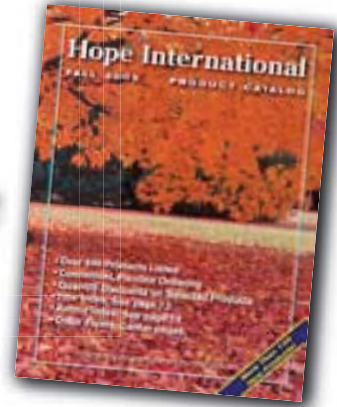


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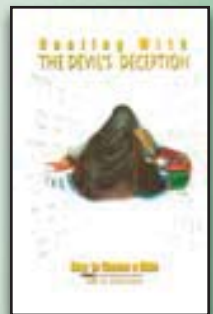
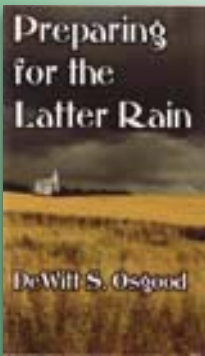
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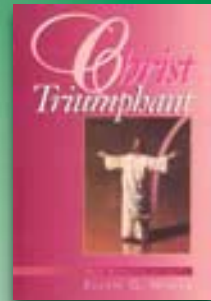
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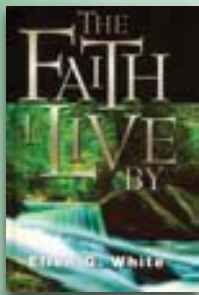
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Ohio

Continued from page 20

"Hope his dinner won't lie hard on his stomach," whispered Howard Colby. But apparently Joe only wished to get his paper to read, for he took it by the corner, and pulled; but it stuck fast. He looked in with surprise, and then took out, in a sort of bewildered way, a couple of Aunt Sally's fat sandwiches, one of the delicious round pies he had so often seen in Ned's hands, a bottle of milk, and some nuts and raisins. It was a dinner fit for a king, so Joe thought, and so did the boys as they peeped from their hiding place. But Joe did not offer to taste it; he only sat there and looked at it. Then he laid his head on his desk; and Freddy Wilson, one of



the smaller of the boys, whispered, "I guess he's praying," so they all stole away to the playground, without speaking a word.

"That's some of Ned Collins' work," said Will Brown, after a while. "It's just like him."

"I'm glad of it, anyway," said Sam Merrill. "I've felt mean all forenoon. The Greens are not to blame for having only cold potatoes to eat, and I don't wonder Joe didn't want all us fellows to know it." Will Brown began to feel uncomfortable.

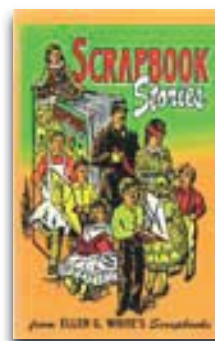
"Father says Mr. Green was a brave man," said Sam Merrill, "and that he wouldn't have been killed, if he hadn't thought of everyone else before himself."

"I tell you what," said good-natured Tom Granger, "I move that we

give three cheers to Ned Collins."

The boys sprang to their feet, and, swinging their caps in the air, gave three hearty cheers for Ned Collins. Even Will Brown joined in the chorus, with a loud "hurrah."

Later that day, Sam Merrill explained the whole matter to Ned; but he only replied: "I've often heard Aunt Sally say it's poor fun that must be earned by hurting someone's feelings." 📖



This story was taken from *Scrapbook Stories*. The book is available from *Hope International* for \$8.99 plus shipping and sales tax. (See page 30 for details).

Creator's Masterpiece, The



Author: Sparks, Vernon, M.D.

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Author: White, Ellen G.

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