

# Our Firm Foundation

Volume 22, Number 11

November 2007

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary

In the  
Lap of

Jesus





# Jesus Waits for the Signal

Joe Olson

“*A*nd I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.” Revelation 14:14-16.

The One on the cloud is none other than our Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is He who is symbolized with a harvesting implement in His hand. He is the One who begins the harvesting of souls here on earth. He decides when it is right to begin the harvest. He has watched the temperature of the furnace of affliction that His people have gone through. He has seen to it that all of the dross is removed and nothing is left but the pure gold or silver.

He has been the gentle Overseer of our lives in both trials and temptations, struggles and victories. He knows who is ready and who will never be ready, even if given another 1,000 years to live. And Jesus is portrayed as sitting upon the cloud, waiting for the time to come, as if in eager anticipation. What a picture!

He is waiting, we are waiting, the angels and all the unfallen beings throughout the universe are waiting, waiting for the moment of triumph, waiting for the end of the great controversy, waiting for the end of sin and waiting to welcome us home. Can you feel

the anticipation?

The tilling of the soil, the planting of the seed, the watering, the weeding, the protecting of the delicate shoots coming out of the ground from disease, blight, storm, hail, drought, insects, heat, etc., is all over now. The “plants” are fully-grown now. The fruit has appeared and is completely ripe. The time that everyone has been waiting for has come. The harvest is to be gathered in. O what a day that will be!

And, praise the Lord, it is almost here! The enforcement of the Sunday law is around the corner. The Jews in Israel are considering a bill to make Sunday an additional day of rest, and most of them are in favor of it! The Christian Churches Together ecumenical organization, run by the Catholic Church, is coming to power. The pope is taking a more decided stance on “other” churches that are not Catholic, stating that they are not really churches, anyway. And most incredible of all is the fact that when the pope says these things today, it passes off with but the faintest of whispers from Protestantism, including, sadly, Adventism!


Yes, Jesus wants this to be finished more than we do. The Godhead has suffered more with the results of sin than anyone else. They are omnipotent, with all power available at any time. Imagine having all the power in the universe, and holding it back so your creation can see what sin does. “And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying,

Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.” Revelation 19:6.

They are omnipresent (able to be everywhere at once), seeing all that is happening. That fact we can but dimly comprehend. “Nothing can happen in any part of the universe without the knowledge of Him who is omnipresent. Not a single event of human life is unknown to our Maker.” FLB 61.

And in comparison, we see so precious little. “Not one hundredth part of the corruptions that exist is being made plain to the world. Little of the cruelty that is carried on is known.” TM 457.

In addition, the Godhead is omniscient (all-knowing) and we can only imagine what being aware of every thought, every deed, every transgression of every human being and fallen angel might be like. “The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, powers infinite and omniscient, receive those who truly enter into covenant relation with God.” 6BC 1075. “God is omniscient. No sin escapes His notice.” 21MR 271.

Jesus is pictured in Revelation, after the three angels’ messages have been proclaimed, as waiting. Yes, Jesus is indeed waiting, waiting, waiting..... for us. 



*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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# In the Lap of

# Jesus

Joe Olson

*"How many... fight against the storms of adversity alone, forgetting there is One who can help them."*

Who is Jesus to you? Is He real? Is He God? Or just a man?

How "real" is He to you? Do you sense His presence? Do you know He is there? Do you know He can help you?

How "real" is He to you? God or man?

## What Kind of "Man"?

Others had questions, too, about whether Jesus was God or "just a man." "Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and

were in jeopardy. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him." Luke 8:22-25.

## Blindness Persists

In chapter 7 of Luke, Jesus tells the multitude, most of whom are Jews, that He had not seen so great faith, the faith of the Roman centurion, no... not in Israel. Then he heals the centurion's servant, never having touched him or even seen him.

Then he raises back from

the dead the only son of the widow of Nain.

Then John the Baptist questions whether or not Jesus is really the Messiah. Jesus heals people and preaches all day, then tells the disciples of John to go and tell him what they have seen and heard.

After that, still in chapter 7 of Luke, Mary anoints the head of Jesus and washes His feet, and the disciples feel that the costly ointment of Mary's was wasted. It could have fed many poor.

## During the Storm

Then in chapter 8 we have Jesus telling some parables. Now we are at Luke 8:22, where Jesus and the disciples head out on the Sea of Galilee. A storm comes up and it is horrendous! "The strong and courageous

fishermen were skilled in managing their craft; but, experienced as they were to the changing moods of the sea, they knew not what to do in so terrible a gale, and their hearts filled with despair as they perceived that the boat was sinking." Pamphlet 3 Red—*Redemption: Or the Miracles of*

was on board. How many, in the trying scenes of life, amid perplexities and danger, fight against the storms of adversity alone, for-



***They had two problems:  
unbelief and self-confidence.***

*Christ, the Mighty One* (1877), 82.

Have you ever had problems managing all of the affairs of life? Has it ever become too much for you? So much so that you thought you were going to sink?

Sister White says that these men were strong and courageous. Elsewhere she says that these men had arms of steel and were used to bad weather out on the open sea. But this was too much! In addition to the gale-force winds and the heaving sea, their boat had sprung a leak!

"First tossed upon the crest of a mountain billow, and then as suddenly plunged into the trough of the sea, the ship was the plaything of the storm. Finally, it was discovered that it had sprung a leak and was fast filling with water. All was now hurry and confusion in the darkness and amid the roaring of the angry waves." Ibid.

Confusion and darkness! Has it ever been dark for you? You just couldn't see the "light" at the end of the tunnel? This is what the disciples were going through. It was not until they had done all that they could do that they finally remembered **Who** was in the boat with them.

***Fighting Alone;  
Depending on Self***

"They should have called upon him at the first appearance of danger, and he would have relieved their anxiety. But in their effort to save themselves they forgot that Jesus

getting that there is One who can help them. They trust in their own strength and skill, till, baffled and discouraged, they remember Jesus, and humbly call upon him to save them. Though he sorrowfully reproves their unbelief and self-confidence, he never fails to hear their earnest cry, and give them the help they need." *Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 2, 309.

***Help Near At Hand***

They had two problems – unbelief and self-confidence. And the question is asked, "How many of us do the same?"

There was no need to work so long and hard at saving themselves with their own, unaided effort! Jesus was there to help. "O, if at the beginning of the storm they had

*Signs of the Times*, July 23, 1896.

He is still here to save today. Are you working so hard to save yourself? Call upon Jesus now! Don't forget Who is in the boat with you!

"When the waves break over our sinking bark, and the lightning reveals the foam-capped breakers that threaten us with instant destruction, we may remember in our peril that Jesus is on board. He hears our agonizing cry, and he will never forsake those who put their trust in him." Pamphlet 3 Red—*Redemption: Or the Miracles of Christ, the Mighty One* (1877), 85.

What a promise! Can you praise the Lord for that promise? He will NEVER forsake those who put their

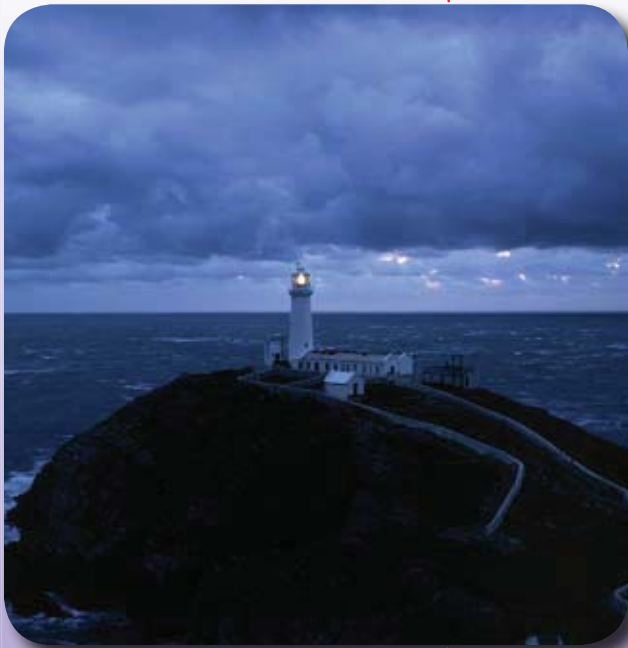
***"They should have called upon him at the first  
appearance of danger, and he would have  
relieved their anxiety."***

only awakened to the fact that Jesus was on board, they need not have worked so long with terror-stricken hearts! But when they cried to him for help, how quickly his word of power, 'Peace, be still,' quieted the storm."

trust in Him!

***How Could He Sleep?***

But I want us to think for a moment about Jesus being fast



asleep in that boat. That was a terrific storm. Winds beating it every which way. Waves of heavy water pouring into it to the point of it sinking. The boat heaving up and down, ready to be plunged into the depths at any moment. Why didn't Jesus wake up? How could He sleep?

"The storm has so increased that all their efforts to manage the ship are vain; in Jesus is their only hope. Presently a flash of lightning reveals

have never been so happy to see land. They are no doubt ecstatic to be on the safety of the land. The sea was dangerous. The sea almost killed them. The sea they had no power over. They finally had to admit that. As strong and powerful as they were, they were no match for the sea. Thank God they have made it to land! Now they are safe.

Ever felt like that? "Oh, if I could just get out of the situation I am in."

*Where do you suppose the disciples and their companions were heading?  
Right back to the boat!*

him fast asleep, undisturbed amid the noise and confusion." Ibid., 83.

Jesus is "undisturbed"! "Fast asleep," she says. That's what happens when you are safe in the lap of Jesus – undisturbed!

Jesus is resting in His Father's lap. He knows who He believes in, and who His Father is. Nothing can happen to Him that His Father doesn't allow.

Three times they cried out to Jesus. At the third call, He awoke, arose, raised His hand and calmed the winds and waves. After He has

done this, the disciples marvel and ask themselves, "What manner of man is this?"

After all they have been through with Jesus thus far, He is still just a "man" to them. Some "kind" of "man." Some "manner" of "man." But still, just a "man."

### When Will We Learn?

After this, they land in the Gadarenes. They

country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way." Matthew 8:28.

Sister White gives us a few more details: "In the early morning the Saviour and His companions came to shore, and the light of the rising sun touched sea and land as with the benediction of peace. But no sooner had they stepped upon the beach than their eyes were greeted by a sight more terrible than the fury of the tempest. From some hiding place among the tombs, two madmen rushed upon them as if to tear them in pieces. Hanging about these men were parts of chains which they had broken in escaping from confinement. Their flesh was torn and bleeding where they had cut themselves with sharp stones. Their eyes glared out from their long and matted hair, the very likeness of humanity seemed to have been blotted out by the demons that possessed them, and they looked more like wild beasts than like men." *Desire of Ages*, 337.

Earlier we read where these hardened fishermen were despairing of their lives. They were "terror-struck"! They knew they were about to perish. They were going to drown. And finally, they remember Jesus is with them and they call upon Him to save them. Jesus woke up, and did just that. He saved them from their imminent destruction.

They get to land and feel much better now. No waves to terrorize them. No fear of drowning. **Now** they are safe. Now Jesus doesn't need to be called; we are safe on the land. But here come the demons! Ever had that happen? As soon as one thing is over, another comes up? Ever heard the saying "Out of the frying pan, into the fire"?

"The disciples and their companions fled in terror; but presently they noticed that Jesus was not with them, and they turned to look for Him. He was standing where they had left Him." Ibid. Now, where do

you suppose the disciples and their companions were heading? Right back to the boat!

Now the sea doesn't look so scary, does it? They only **thought** it couldn't get worse. They only **thought** it was safe now.

### Our Only Safe Place

The only safe place there is, on the face of this earth, is with Jesus. The water isn't safe, the land isn't safe, your home isn't safe, your parents aren't safe. Your money won't make you safe, your retirement plan won't make you safe. Your health insurance won't keep you safe. Your spouse can't protect you; even the church can't keep you safe. Only with Jesus is there safety. And where were the disciples going? Away from Jesus!

That is always the devil's plan. Keep you looking to anything but Jesus. Keep you trusting in anything but Jesus.

It may look safer to not follow Jesus, but trust me, trust the disciples, they have learned that the only safety is with Jesus.

### How Soon Forgotten

Picture in your mind what is happening here. The disciples are tickled to death to be off the wa-



Photo: © iStockPhoto.com

ter and out of that boat. They are still wondering about what kind of "man" Jesus is. No sooner do they get out of the boat, but they are running right back into the boat.

How soon we forget! Does that happen to you? Do you cry to Jesus to save you, and no sooner than He does, you have already forgotten Him? The sun is shining; the birds are singing. It's a brand new day, and it's going to be a good one. Then terror comes out of nowhere. And we find ourselves

running for cover. Not running for Jesus, but running for cover. Trying to save ourselves.

You can't outrun Satan! You can't outsmart Satan! You can't beat Satan! But, praise the Lord! You don't have to! There is One who has beaten him, and all we have to do is stay with the One who has beaten the devil.

### Why Leave The Safe Place?

The last thing the disciples needed to do when the demoniacs came running at them was to leave the only One who could help them. "He who had stilled the tempest, who had before met Satan and conquered him, did not flee before these demons. When the men, gnashing their teeth, and foaming at the mouth, approached Him, Jesus raised that hand which had beckoned the waves to rest, and the men could come

no nearer. They stood raging but helpless before Him." Ibid.

He stops them with a hand! These demoniacs could not even be bound with chains, but all Jesus has to do is raise His hand. I don't know about you, but I think that is too cool. I want to stay close to Someone with THAT kind of power don't you?

"For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the LORD will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your rereward." Isaiah

*"They trust in their own strength and skill, till, baffled and discouraged, they remember Jesus...."*

52:12. The Greek word for "rereward" means to "gather you up." In other words, God's got your front, and God's got your back. As long as..... you don't leave God!

### Is God With You?

By the way, why did Jesus ask the disciples, "Where is your faith?" If you knew you had "God" in your boat, would you be afraid? See, the disciples just had a "man" in their boat. Remember.....what manner of "man"? If God was with them, there was no problem; if a man, then there was plenty to worry about, and worry is exactly what they did.

Who is with you? Is Jesus just a "man" to you? Or is He God? What do you believe? Do you really "know" Him? And how do you "know" if you know Him? Here is an easy way to tell:

"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments." 1 John 2:3. Do you do what He says?

Do you "come" unto Him? When you have problems, when you have difficulties, when you are afraid, do you try to "fix" it before you go to Jesus? Is Jesus your first thought? Or your last resort? I'm not talking

about using your own effort; I'm talking about using your own effort without asking for Jesus' help.

So many of us go through life

selfishness, and let Jesus in.

The man considered what his friend had said and pondered the course of his life. He realized what

## Is Jesus your first thought? Or your last resort?

without Jesus. Oh, we may say His name; we may sing about Him. We may even have accepted Him into our lives at some point. But day to day we go on, running away from difficulties, often without even missing Jesus. Just like the disciples. Just like so many others.

### Story of a Dying Man

The story is told of a man who had lived his life hard. He had heard of Jesus, of course, but he never gave Him much thought; just did his "own" thing. Now he lay dying, and the future looked very, very dark. The demons of his life were terrifying him. The waters were coming in like a flood.

A friend visited him and asked him if he was ready to accept Jesus now. Even now Jesus would take him, if he would relinquish control, admit his life of sinful

a waste it had been. All for nothing! All ruined! All that could have been done, but wasn't. All the mistakes. All the running.

Sister White said that there are very few "death-bed" conversions, but that doesn't mean none. Remember the thief on the cross! "But let no one neglect present opportunities and delay repentance, presuming on the eleventh-hour conversion of the thief, and trusting to a death-bed repentance. Every ray of light neglected leaves the sinner in greater darkness than before, till some fearful deception may take possession of his mind, and his case may become hopeless. Yet there are instances, like that of the poor thief, where enlightenment comes at the last moment, and is accepted with an intelligent faith. Such penitents find favor with Christ." *Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 3, 159.

As the man ran over in his mind

the choices that he had made, he longed for peace. Now he wished to be with Jesus. But it was so hard for him. He had lived his life without the comfort of a Saviour, and didn't even know how to accept that Jesus was real. Like so many, he wanted to "see" Jesus. It just seemed so much like a fairy tale.

### Jesus is "Right There"

As he was dying, knowing he had but a short time left to live, he cried out to his friend, "Where is Jesus?"

Have you ever asked that? "Where is Jesus?"

His friend, not knowing what else to say, pointed to the chair next to his dying friend's bed and said, "Jesus is right there, sitting right there in that chair."

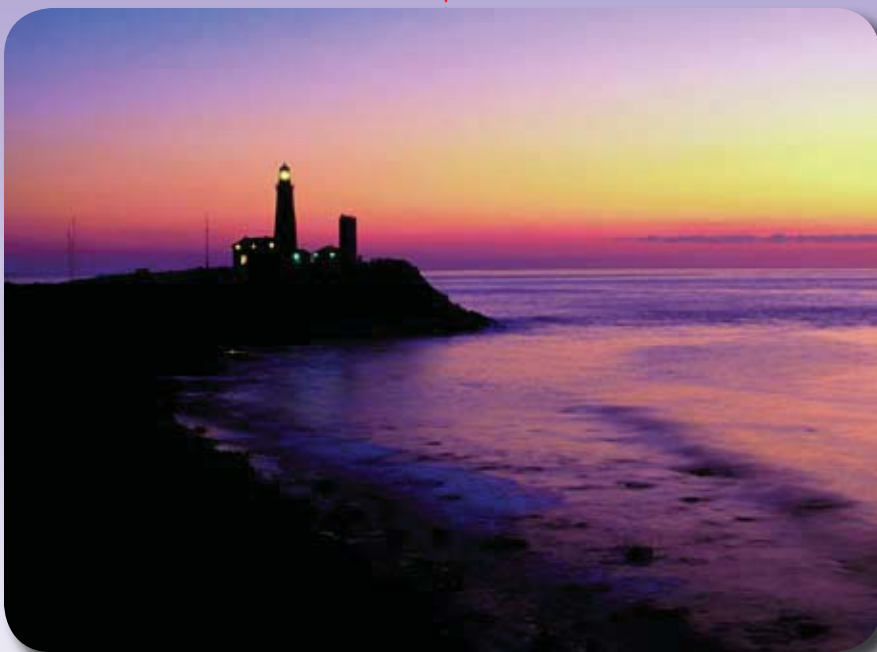
The man looked at the chair and a peace came over his face. He closed his eyes for a long moment, and it was enough. His friend went home, knowing there was nothing more he could do or say.

The next day, he checked in on his friend, but he was not in his bed. As he looked around the room, he found him. Half kneeling, half sitting, with his head resting gently on that chair. He had died, with his head..... resting in the lap of Jesus.

Friends, do you believe like that? Is Jesus that real to you? Is Jesus a "man," or a "Saviour" to you? Is He really with you? Do you have the faith to rest your head..... in the lap of Jesus?

If you don't, come to Jesus, right now. He will even give you the faith you need!

Come. Let's rest our heads in the lap of Jesus. 📖



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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# Truth

to be  
rescued from

**Error**  
Error

*Men and women of faith  
are to earnestly search for  
and resolutely present truth.*

*Ellen G. White*

*The children of God are com-  
manded, "As he which hath  
called you is holy, so be ye  
holy in all manner of conversation.  
... And if ye call on the Father, who  
without respect of persons judgeth  
according to every man's work,  
pass the time of your sojourning  
here in fear."*

**Copy the  
Perfect Character**

Never was there a time when  
we needed more special connection  
with God than at the present time;  
for there is a constant tendency in

human nature that makes men lean  
on their own understanding. Men  
trust in men, leaving God out of life  
and character. There must be more  
earnest efforts to live out the life

any man or set of men. There must  
be repentance of sins, Christ-like  
meekness, and lowliness of heart.  
Men must be found who have an  
individual experience, who cannot

*...There is a constant tendency in human  
nature that makes men lean on their  
own understanding. Men trust in men,  
leaving God out of life and character.*

of Christ, and the advocates of the  
truth must learn not to lean upon

be enticed from the path of right, of  
justice, of meekness, of patience, of

forbearance, of Christian courtesy. Men must be found who will not manifest anything but a Christ-like spirit when opposed by talkative, open-mouthed men who put light

guardianship; but realize that it is under the control of Omniscience. The Lord will choose men for these times who will be workers together with him. He will choose men of

stand in defense of the truth. But the servants of the Lord will be men of opportunity, of energy and tact, and will be ready to promote the interests of truth under every circumstance. They will not be selfish, self-important, self-sufficient persons; they will be men who have the mind of Christ. They will be kind, affectionate, loving, prompt, tender, yet resolute. They will be God-fearing men, and in the face of opposition they will move forward, firm and steadfast, to defend Bible truth.

*In all the teachings of Jesus  
spiritual applications are to be made.*

for darkness and darkness for light. Men are needed in this time who know that the evidences which God

resolute minds, who will follow his guidance, and act in harmony with the great I AM; who will be actuated by heroic principles, and will accomplish the will of God in preventing evil and promoting good in the world. Privations, trials, and hardships will not discourage them; but they will stand forth as examples of undaunted devotion. It is this class that to all intents and purposes are the defenders of the faith once delivered to the saints. In times of proving and trial, in the day of trouble such as never was, it will be revealed who have builded their characters from material that will stand the test. God's true workmen will be forced to speak the truth and unmask hypocrisy and decep-

Such men will press the triumphs of the cross of Christ to the very end of the conflict. They will boldly, and yet in the Spirit of Christ, confront the agents of Satan who will seek to suppress religious liberty, and they will not give place to them for an hour.

#### **No Sanctification: No Strength**

There will be those, who, after a feeble resistance, will yield one point of truth after another. The reason they will do this is that they have never valued truth as they should. They have never enthroned the truth in the inner sanctuary of the heart, and they have not been sanctified through the truth. They will give way to the powers that be, and render obedience to men rather

has given are to be relied upon in the face of all the assertions that will come from the enemies of the faith. Talk is very cheap; it is a common article of commerce, and is much more largely dealt in than is prayer or the words that God has spoken through his chosen apostles and prophets.

#### **Men of Resolute Minds**

We may have faith in men who profess to be followers of Christ, only as we see that they are meeting God's great standard of righteousness, not some ideal of their own, but that they are actually copying the perfection of the character of Jesus Christ.

Let not any man feel that the work of God is under his special

tion in defending every portion of the word of God.

Accusation upon accusation from men of high position will come against those who would be true to God, and they will be compelled to

than to God. But those who stand firm to the truth will answer those who demand their surrender to the traditions of men and their compliance with the custom of the majority, that they owe allegiance to a higher

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sanctified through the truth.*

authority than that of the State. They will declare that they cannot set aside the Sabbath of the great Creator for a man-made institution. They will declare that as partakers of the divine nature, they are placed in a position where the ordinances

transgressors of the law, and have served the purposes of the great deceiver on account of their connection with error. Let the gems of divine light be reset in the framework of the gospel. Let nothing be lost of the precious light that comes from

the enemy, and the truths which God imparted to them are buried by them in a mass of error, or basely perverted to serve the cause of evil. But these heaven-given rays of light are not to be lost to the world. These truths are to be as a lamp unto our feet, and as a light unto our path. It is these gems that will give attractiveness to the gospel plan, and they are to shine as stars amid the moral darkness of the world.

*As the Son of God in human form was perfect in his life, so he requires that his followers shall be perfect in their lives.*

### Gather Precious Fragments

of men, when conflicting with the commands of God, are of no force nor value. Those who are empowered with authority will say to them as they said to Paul, "Thou art beside thyself;" and when persuasion and entreaty are in vain, heavier pressure will be brought to bear, and the steadfastness of Christ's followers will be tested to the uttermost. Every conceivable device that men and demons can invent will be brought to bear against them to overcome them; but those who have learned how to cling to God will not abate one jot or tittle of truth.

### Reclaim Truths from Error

The fact that times of trouble and persecution are before the people of God must not deter them in the least from proclaiming the truth. They are to proclaim the truth because it is truth. Gems of thought are to be gathered up and redeemed from their companionship with error; for by their misplacement in the association of error, the Author of truth has been dishonored. The precious gems of the righteousness of Christ, and truths of divine origin, are to be carefully searched out and placed in their proper setting, to shine with heavenly brilliancy amid the moral darkness of the world. Let the bright jewels of truth which God gave to man, to adorn and exalt his name, be carefully rescued from the rubbish of error, where they have been claimed by those who have been

the throne of God. It has been misapplied, and cast aside as worthless; but it is heaven-sent, and each gem is to become the property of God's people and find its true position in the framework of truth. Precious jewels of light are to be collected, and by the aid of the Holy Spirit they are to be fitted into the gospel system. God has poured his Spirit upon his servants, and qualified them to use their ability and talent in revealing truth to those who sit in darkness; but the very ability God has given by which to reveal truth to others, men, perverting their talents, employ to deceive; for they use their gifts as did Satan when he deceived the angels of heaven, and exalt self, causing their God-given abilities to administer to their own

Jesus has said, "Gather up the fragments, . . . that nothing be lost." Many have seen no further meaning in this than the gathering up of the fragments after the feeding of the five thousand; but in all the



teachings of Jesus spiritual applications are to be made. When he said, "Gather up the fragments," it was as if he bade them mark all his teach-

*God has poured his Spirit upon his servants, and qualified them to use their ability and talent in revealing truth to those who sit in darkness....*

glory. These become confused by error, their minds are darkened by

ings, gather up every fragment of truth, and of the light which he has



selves in the divine channel of light. There is too much following of men, and limiting the light by men's opinions and traditions. The wonderful truth of God is to be sought out by every mind, and the results of many minds are to be brought together from many sources as God's hereditary trust, and the divine power will work in such a way that true harmony will exist. In the revelation of Christ to the world the necessity of men will be met, and the work of God will move forward with beautiful harmony, as truth is disclosed to the world. Through careful study, through prayerful meditation, men will be enabled to place the truth before men in simplicity, so that the humblest minds can comprehend it, can receive it, and become elevated through its sanctifying influence, if they will but appropriate it, and practice its principles in their daily lives.

### Truth to Serve Error No More

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given, to let nothing be lost. Open up the truth to others and let every fragment have its place. In dignity and simplicity speak that which your Master has spoken to you, and present that which he has taught you by his daily walk and conversation. Hold up his life and example to those with whom you associate. He has filled every position, from the humblest to the most exalted, with acceptance to the Father, and you are to gather up the fragments of his words and works, that nothing be lost. As you advance heavenward, make use of every common, everyday habit and custom to illustrate truth, and in every calling, however menial, live out the life of Christ. In this way you will be to men a continual revelation of what Christ would have men be in your position.

### How to Have Harmony

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The great plan of human redemption is as yet but faintly understood, because men do not place them-

Through all ages God has spoken and worked by human instrumentalities. God has given to men their faculties, and he expects them to use them and by use to improve their abilities. They are to employ these faculties in rescuing truth from the rubbish of error where it has been made to serve the cause of the great adversary. The gems of truth are imperishable, and the Lord would have them gathered up and placed in their proper relation, that they may embellish and adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour.

Truth is to be communicated from one human agent to another and to be molded into the life and character of those who receive it, in order that glory may redound to God. Truth that has found its proper setting, flashes brilliant rays of divine light into darkened minds, and meets the wants and necessities of the minds and hearts of fallen men who could not be reached by any other agency. It is by living out the truth in human life that souls are

to be reached. As the Son of God in human form was perfect in his life, so he requires that his followers shall be perfect in their lives. He was made in all things like unto his brethren. He hungered, he thirsted, he was weary, he slept, he wept, and yet he was the blameless Son of God, he was God in the flesh. He was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin, and we have not a high-priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows how to succor those that are tempted. In living out the truth of God, man is continually assured that supernatural help will be granted to him, and that while he retains his human nature, yet through an unseen agency he receives the impress of the divine nature through the truth as it is in Jesus. 📖

*Review and Herald, October 23, 1894.*



*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.*

Photos: © Photos.com (man with dog); Paul Williams



# Understanding Aright the "Daily," Scripturally & Historically

Part 10

Heidi Heiks



*The sanctuary again confirmed to be the Lord's;  
the inerrancy of Daniel and the Revelation disclaimed.*

In our May issue we showed that the sanctuary of Daniel 8:11 was the heavenly sanctuary, and we said we would further confirm that fact. It is here that we will revisit this issue of the sanctuary and illustrate its connection to the Hebrew word *vision* (*chazon*), thus showing conclusively, again from the scriptures, that the sanctuary in Daniel 8:11, 13, 14 is none other than the heavenly sanctuary.

We will begin by addressing some lingering points of controversy not previously mentioned in the context of the "daily."

### *Paganism View Inconsistency Causes Departure from Faith*

First, in the past and even today, some church members believe, and some even teach, that many leaders of the early church left the faith

because they accepted the view of the "daily" as being the ministry of Christ. A long list of names of men who left the faith is cited to support this understanding.

Once again, brothers and sisters, nothing could be further from the truth. No documentation has been produced for this claim because there is none. A mere listing of names certainly provides no evidence as to the true reason those



list-  
ed left.

Further, the list used to support the claim has an inconsistency of its own. The men named on the list simply echoed the same sentiments found in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 357, and *Great Controversy*, 418. They were not adherents of the paganism view.

Frankly, the charge of leaving the faith because of acceptance of erroneous interpretation actually can be said of someone holding the paganism view. And, indeed, there *does* exist documentation that proves specifically that acceptance of the paganism view caused a man to leave the faith because of its many gross inconsistencies. The evidence is in the following letter:

E. J. Hibbard, writing to Elder L. A. Smith (son of Uriah Smith) in Nashville, Tennessee, from San Fernando, California, on October 24, 1909, was at one time an advocate of the paganism view himself. He later changed his view because of the several incongruities he discovered, and humbly admitted his mistake. In this letter, Hibbard attempted to help Smith see the shaky foundation of paganism that Smith was trying to build upon. Just one year after Uriah Smith's book on Daniel came out, Hibbard related to Smith how he himself had begun to see and understand the truth:

"Dear Brother: Elder L. A. Smith,

"As I have a little time this morning, I will endeavor to reply more fully to the questions contained in your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> inst.

"In the spring, of 1874 while holding quarterly meeting in Bear Lake, Penn., elder L. A. Wing, who had been led to give up all three of the messages on account of the inconsistency of the old position on 'the daily,' invited me to read Dan. 8:9-14 with him."

Here we read Elder Wing's contemporary, Elder Hibbard, stating the reason Elder Wing had rejected and forsaken the three angels' messages of the Advent movement. The cause? "The inconsistency of the old position on the 'daily.'" Here is documentation that the paganism view caused someone to leave the early remnant church.

### *Whose Sanctuary? Hibbard Stymied.*

We continue with Elder Hibbard's letter to Elder Smith about Elder Wing's experience, as well as his response to Smith's reply, because we can gain fuller understanding about the sanctuary from his reasoning in the letters.

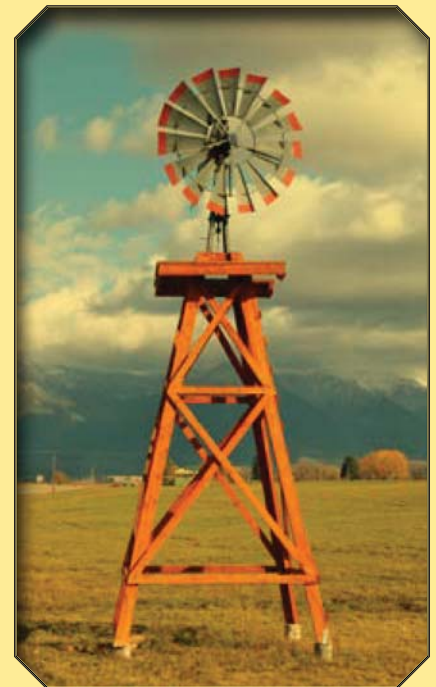
"He asked, 'what is "the daily" mentioned in these verses?' I replied, 'It is paganism.' When he asked 'What sanctuary is cast down as mention in verse 11?' I replied, 'the sanctuary of paganism.' After this we read verse 13: 'Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily and the transgression of desolation to give both the sanctuary and host to be trodden under foot?'

"Said he, 'In the vision, what

host was to be trodden under foot?' I replied, 'The host of heaven, according to verse 10.' Then he asked, 'What sanctuary, in the vision, has been mentioned as being cast down or trodden under foot?' To this I replied, 'The sanctuary of paganism, according to verse 11.'

Now after the question asked in verse 13, 'How long shall be the vision concerning the daily, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary [of paganism] and the host [of heaven] to be trodden under foot,' the other angel replies, 'Unto two thousand and three hundred days then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.' After reading this, he asked, 'If the sanctuary of the vision was the sanctuary of paganism, and the sanctuary inquired about in verse 13, was the sanctuary of the vision, then what sanctuary is to be cleansed as mentioned in verse 14, since verse 14 is a reply to the question asked in the previous verse?'

"I immediately saw my predicament, and could make no reply at all. He gave me a punch with his finger in the stomach and laughed at me, and that ended the discussion. I, however, told him that I



Photos: © Paul Williams

would give the matter thought, for I was sure that verse 14 refers to the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary, and that the beginning of this even was in 1844.

"The following autumn I began my work in the Battle Creek college as teacher of the Bible; was there three years; but during all that time I could not say a word to any class in reference to 'the daily', because it was not yet clear to me. I spent a year at Walla Walla. Light kept coming; yet I could not see to the end of the matter. I therefore kept quiet. Returning East I connected with the Sanitarium at Battle Creek, was there three and a half years, and yet said nothing about it, tho the Scripture in question had opened before me quite fully. In 1901 I came to Healdsburg as teacher of the Bible; yet even here I kept the matter to myself until it had been made public in a series of Sabbath School lessons written, I believe by Prof. Prescott. I then found out for the

have held to my convictions, because I was persuaded from the Bible alone; not from some finely drawn-out theory, but from the plain reading of the text.

"You are well acquainted with the reading of this Scripture as found in the Revised Versions; and here the reading is so plain that



you can not mistake the origin of 'the daily,' nor of 'the sanctuary' of the same;- 'It [the little horn] took away from him [Christ] the daily, and the place of His [Christ's] sanctuary was cast down.' This also agrees with the marginal reading of the King James Version. And

his paganism interpretation of the "daily" of Daniel 8. E. J. Hibbard responded on November 28, 1909, to Elder L. A. Smith with the following rebuttal:

### *Hibbard Reasoned with Smith for Heaven's Sanctuary*

"Dear Brother, ---

"I am pleased to get your letter of recent date, also the enclosed leaflet, setting forth your view on the 'daily' of Daniel 8.

"Assuming now that you have proved your point, then we conclude that the sanctuary of Daniel 8:11 is the sanctuary of paganism. This being true, the sanctuary enquired about in verse 13 is the sanctuary of paganism; and the sanctuary to be

cleansed in verse 14 is the sanctuary of paganism. And, of course, in harmony with the questions in verse 13, and the answer in verse 14, when the sanctuary of paganism is cleansed, then the sanctuary of paganism will no longer be trodden under foot by the Papacy.

"But you do not believe it was the sanctuary of paganism which was to be cleansed beginning in 1844. Neither do I. It was the heavenly sanctuary; and so also is that of verse 11; for the sanctuary of verse 11 is the only sanctuary thus far mentioned in the vision; and verse 13 asks 'How long shall be the vision concerning the "daily" and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?'

"Then the reply ('Unto two thousand three hundred days then shall the sanctuary be cleansed') shows that the sanctuary to be cleansed is the same as the one concerning which inquiry was made. Thus: if the sanctuary of verse 14 is the

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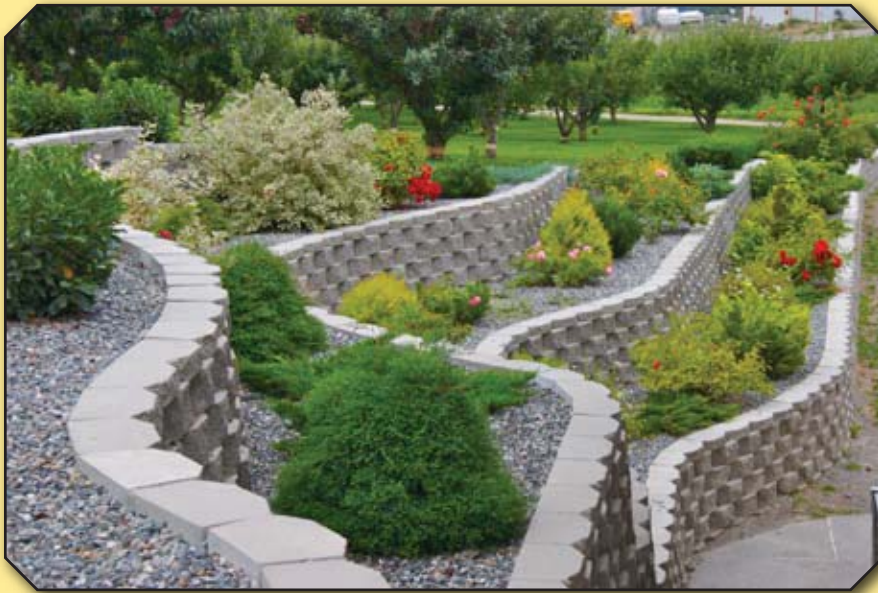
**"...The sanctuary to be cleansed is the same as the one concerning which inquiry was made."**

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first time that there was another individual among us whose mind had been led in the same as my own. Also, about this time, I found that Elders Jones and Waggoner, each studying by himself, had arrived at the same conclusion as Prof. Prescott and myself. This, to me, was encouraging to find that all four of us, without consulting each other, or any human being, had arrived at the same conclusion. But even without this, I should

even the text of the King James Version itself is not out of harmony with the exact reading which I have referred to. Now it seems to me that no question ought to be asked concerning how this can be, when the plain reading of the Word of God says it is so. . . . E. J. HIBBARD (brackets Hibbard's)."

Shortly thereafter, the unpersuaded Elder L. A. Smith replied with a letter and his thirty-two page, two-part tract delineating



heavenly, and not that of paganism, so also is that of verse 11. No honest person can escape this conclusion. . . ." E. J. HIBBARD (emphasis Hibbard's).

### *Miqdash is the Lord's*

"Honour and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary (*miqdash*<sup>4720</sup>)."

Having already witnessed in Daniel 8 that the vision (*chazon*) began in verse one and the only sanctuary brought to view prior to verse thirteen was that of the

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**"If they are not fully consecrated to God at all times, they will weave self and their peculiar traits of character into what they are doing, and will put their mold upon the work."**

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We submit this further point of information about the sanctuary. The *miqdash*<sup>4720</sup> (sanctuary) in Daniel 8:11 and the *miqdash*<sup>4720</sup> (sanctuary) in Daniel 9:17 are both designated as the Lord's by Daniel (emphasis ours):

"Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary (*miqdash*<sup>4720</sup>) that is desolate, for the Lord's sake."

The *miqdash*<sup>4720</sup> (sanctuary) in Daniel 11:31, i.e., "the sanctuary of strength," and the *miqdash*<sup>4720</sup> (sanctuary) in Psalm 96:6 are also one and the same, the Lord's:

sanctuary of verse eleven, nothing more needs to be said to show conclusively that the sanctuary of Daniel 8:11 is none other than the sanctuary of Christ.

### *Mrs. White's Commendation of Uriah Smith's Book*

Another area of misinformation that must be dealt with before the close of this series is Mrs. White's recommendation of Uriah Smith's book *Daniel and the Revelation*. Many feel that she would not have urged the reading of his book if it contained error. Some even believe that her estimation of his writing

was that it was inspired. The matter is easily set straight with a detailed statement of Arthur L. White, who at the time was secretary of the Ellen G. White Publications at the General Conference. His statement is entitled *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation* (November 1957, reissued May 1966), and here follows:

" . . . Periodically, inquiry is made as to Mrs. E. G. White's attitude toward Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation, some asking if somewhere she has stated or at least implied that it is an inspired book. . . .

"One of Mrs. White's statements that has been thus construed is this: 'The light given was that Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation [other books named, also—*ed.*] would make their way. They contain the very message the people must have, the special light God had given His people. The angels of God would prepare the way for these books in the hearts of the people.'—E. G. White Letter 43, 1899. (Published in Colporteur Ministry, pp. 123-4.)

"Granting the force of such clear endorsement of the book, it is true that nowhere in Mrs. White's writings, published or unpublished, do we find reference to an angel standing by the side of Uriah Smith while he wrote. And certainly we find no indication that Mrs. White ever considered Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation to be an inspired book, thus inerrant in all its expositions. The basis for a somewhat widely accepted belief to the contrary is a statement made long after the incident referred to, by one lone early worker, based upon his memory at the time. Here is the statement:

"Many years ago, when the late Elder Uriah Smith was writing Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation, while Elder James White and Ellen G. White were at my house in Enosburg, Vermont, they received by mail a roll of printed proof sheets on Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation that

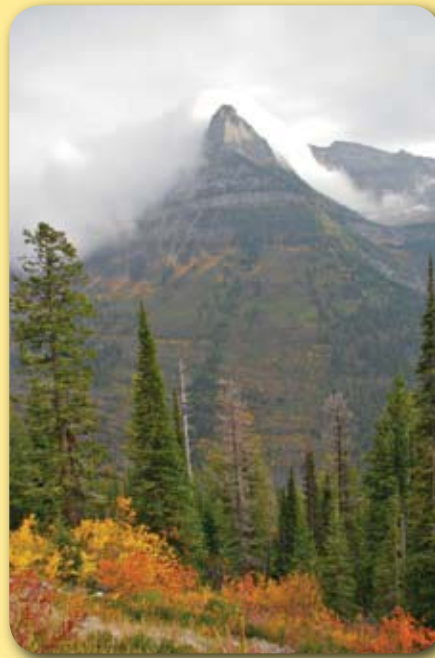


Brother Smith had sent to them. Brother White read portions of these to the company, and expressed much pleasure and satisfaction because they were so concisely and clearly written. Then Sister White stated what she had been shown, as follows:

““The Lord is inspiring Brother Smith—leading his mind by His Spirit, and an angel is guiding his hand in writing these Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation.” I was present when these words were spoken.’ (Signed) ‘A. C. Bourdeau.’

“Memory of One Witness Insufficient

“With all due regard to the sincerity and integrity of the one who made this statement, which some years ago was placed in circulation in printed form, it should be pointed out that in matters of



even announced his intention to write on Daniel. Therefore, Mrs.

Revelation.’ As such inaccuracies as these two are found in Brother Bourdeau’s statement, the question naturally arises as to whether we ought to count too heavily on the complete accuracy of other minute details of the reminiscent incident.

*Smith’s Book Not Inspired*

“Further, even though she spoke commendably of the volume, there are statements penned by Mrs. White which have a negative bearing on the inspiration of Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation. Speaking, in the nineties, of Elder Smith’s books, one of the leaders in our colporteur work asked Mrs. White, ‘You believe they are inspired, do you not?’ Indicative of her recognition of the folly of the question, she replied, ‘You may answer that question, I shall not.’—E. G. White Letter 15, 1895. At another time she was asked a similar question. Here is the question and the answer:

“Sister White, so you think we must understand the truth for ourselves? Why can we not take the truths that others have gathered together and believe them because they have investigated the subjects, and then we shall be free to go on without the taxing of the powers of the mind in the investigation of all these subjects? Do you not

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“...Nowhere in Mrs. White’s writings, published or unpublished, do we find reference to an angel standing by the side of Uriah Smith while he wrote.”

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such importance the memory of one witness alone is not sufficient evidence. Moreover, it is demonstrable that in some of the details of the incident, his memory proved faulty. For instance, Uriah Smith’s writings on these prophetic books appeared originally in two sections, Thoughts on Revelation being printed first, and Thoughts on Daniel later. At the time Thoughts on Revelation was brought out, Elder and Mrs. White were living in Greenville, Michigan, where Elder White received and commented on the new book. (Review and Herald, July 16, 1867.) As it was a few weeks later that they were in Enosburg, Vermont, it must have been the finished book, not the proof sheets, that formed the basis of the conversation referred to. Moreover, Elder Smith at this time had not

White could not have used the exact words attributed to her—‘An angel is guiding his hand in writing these Thoughts on Daniel and the



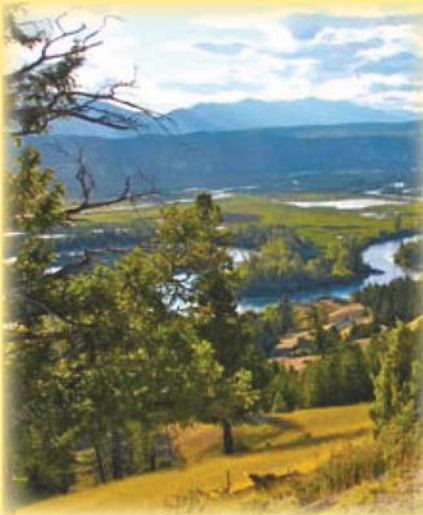
think that these men who have brought out the truth in the past were inspired of God?"

"[Answer.] 'I dare not say they were not led of God, for Christ leads into all truth, but when it comes to inspiration in the fullest sense of the word, I answer, No. I believe that God has given them a work to do, but if they are not fully consecrated to God at all times, they will weave self and their peculiar traits of character into what they are doing, and will put their mold upon the work.'—E. G. White, Review and Herald, March 25, 1890."

With due respect, it is here noted that Uriah Smith's erroneous depiction of Turkey as the king of the north is one evidence of his "mold" on the work. We now continue with Arthur White's recounting:

"Two decades later, in writing regarding an interpretation of prophecy given in Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation, over which there had arisen some controversy, Mrs. White spoke against 'magnifying the importance of the difference in the views that are held,' and further said:

"In some of our important books that have been in print for years, and which have brought many to a knowledge of the truth, there may be found matters of minor importance that call for careful study and correction. Let such



matters be considered by those regularly appointed to have the oversight of our publications. Let not these brethren, nor our canvassers, nor our ministers magnify these matters in such a way as to lessen the influence of these good soul-saving books.'—E. G. White Manuscript 11, 1910. (Published in Selected Messages, book 1, page 165.)

"And at another time she wrote:

"There is no excuse for anyone in taking the position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that all our expositions of Scripture are without an error. The fact that certain doctrines have been held as truth for many years by our people, is not a proof that our ideas are infallible. Age will not make error into truth, and truth can afford to be fair. No True doctrine will lose

anything by close investigation.'—Review and Herald, Dec. 20, 1892.

"There stood out clearly, however, in the memory of several workers, the oral expression of Mrs. White that she had seen an angel standing by the side of Elder Uriah Smith as he wrote. While there is no documentary confirmation of this, such would not be inconsistent with utterances of a similar character regarding the work of noble men of God. Thus she wrote of Luther: 'Angels of heaven were by his side, and rays of light from the throne of God revealed the treasures of truth to his understanding.'—The Great Controversy, p. 122.

"And of William Miller, she said: 'God sent His angel to move upon the heart of a farmer who had not believed the Bible, to lead him to search the prophecies. Angels of God repeatedly visited that chosen one, to guide his mind and open to his understanding prophecies which had ever been dark to God's people.'—Early Writings, p. 229.

"However, these expressions have never conveyed the thought of inerrancy in all the positions taken and the various teachings of these men who were mightily used of God. Nor would it be reasonable to assume that words which may have been spoken by Mrs. White as to the presence of an angel, as Uriah Smith wrote, would indicate that



Photos: © Paul Williams

he was inspired in his writing, and that he was therefore inerrant in all that he set forth.

### *Book Began as Article Series*

#### “Historical Development of the Book

“The present well-known volume, Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation, was developed through the decades until it reached its present form.” (Underlining and bracketing original.)

From Arthur White’s account, we will briefly summarize that development. As previously said, for many years there were two separate



books, the first on Revelation and the latter on Daniel. In 1862 James White first got the idea of a complete exposition on Revelation when he attended Uriah Smith’s “large and flourishing Bible class.” That class had studied Revelation chapter by chapter, reaching consensus on nearly every point. They were “confident that they had found a better harmony than they had before seen, and clearer light on some portions of the book.” In their delight, the class decided to repeat their study, one chapter per lesson, and James White seized the opportunity to write and publish in the *Review* the group’s weekly study results. The group agreed to study other material if, for some reason, he wasn’t able to attend a study session.

On May 17, 1862, the first

installment appeared under the title “Thoughts on Revelation.” Chapter one was its topic, the material being covered by the quotation of a few

verses followed by comments and explanations related to them. Five more chapters were covered in the same manner and published consecutively, until James White left on a speaking tour.

Two months later, the articles were resumed on September 9. But then James White suddenly ended his work on the series. In his coverage of Revelation chapters 8 and 9, he commented only on the first five verses, covering the seventh seal and introducing the seven trumpets. Then, explaining that lack of time would have to excuse him for no further exposition, necessitating his abbreviated coverage,

he recommended “as the best light at present” a pamphlet containing Josiah Litch’s explanation of the seven trumpets, published by the *Review* in 1859.

Five weeks later, James White reported that since he was away from home much of the time, Uriah Smith had agreed to conclude the series, starting with chapter 10.

### *Uriah Smith Took Over*

Using the same presentation style as James White but writing more extended comment, Uriah Smith continued the work begun by White and covered the remaining chapters month by month, with only one month missed. The series ended on February 3, 1863.

Two years later, *Review* readers

learned that its editor, Uriah Smith, was preparing a manuscript for a book to be entitled *Thoughts on the Revelation*. He stated his intention

## Of Uriah Smith’s book: “These thoughts are not the fruit of one brain.”

to build upon what he and James White had begun, and he solicited input from readers: “We have commenced to revise, and in a great measure rewrite, the ‘Thoughts on Revelation,’ published in *Review*, Volumes XX and XXI. We shall devote what time we can to this work, besides preparing matter for the *Review*, otherwise than writing. If any brethren have any suggestions to make, on any part of the book, we hope to receive them at once.” *Review and Herald*, July 18, 1865, underlining original.

Uriah Smith also being constrained by other duties from focusing on the book’s publication, the book was not ready for sale until June 1867. When reading the completed work,





James White wrote:

### *Book Not One Man's Work*

"These thoughts are not the fruit of one brain. In the time of the end the Revelation was to be unsealed and opened. And from the open book, light has been shining. William Miller saw much. Others since have seen more. . . . This . . . is a book of thoughts, clothed in the author's happy style, plain, yet critical and practical, coming down to the spiritual wants of the common people, yet elevated and dignified. This standard work should be in the library of every believer." *Review and Herald*, July 16, 1867.

The book was revised before the second edition. Five years later, in 1872, the companion book *Thoughts on Daniel* was offered for sale on December 31. It also represented the composite findings of competent students of the Bible. Both books were printed in several editions, and finally in 1881 they were published as the single volume we know today.

Arthur White wrote specifically, "Elder Smith prepared his manuscripts as a scholarly writer would, setting forth denominational views

on the great lines of clearly understood prophecy presented in Daniel and Revelation. But when he undertook the verse-by-verse exposition of these two books, he ran into many texts of Scripture which dealt with matters regarding which we as a people had not given much if any study, and in such cases he often set forth the views of the best commentators available, and used freely both the lines of argument and the words of Josiah Litch, George Storrs, and others. Elder Smith demonstrated remarkably good judgment in the selection of matter from these writers.

### *Necessary Revisions Made*

"It was but natural that as time advanced, some points became more clear and some errors which had been embodied in his earlier work were seen. This led the author from time to time to make a number of corrections and adjustments in his former statements. Of one such revision, W. C. White wrote in 1910:

"In 1886, 1887, and 1888 there was considerable controversy over some of the expositions in Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation. There was quite a group of men, including myself, who became convinced that there were some errors in this most excellent book that ought to be corrected. Elder Uriah Smith defended very ably the positions tak-

en in the book, but he was a very kind and reasonable man, and was willing to make corrections when errors were made plain.

"Some of Elder Smith's friends and advisers, however, took a very strong position against making any corrections in Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation. They argued that the book was the result of long, faithful study, that it had received the criticism and approval of the pioneers in our cause; that it had been widely sold and used as an authority by our younger preachers everywhere; that Sister White said that the angel of the Lord stood by Elder Smith as he wrote the book, and that to make changes now would be a confession of weakness and error which would detract from the influence of all our publications and all our preachers; that to make changes would make our ministers ashamed; that we could not longer look the world in the face and say that we had a truth which we could stand by through all the years without vacillation.

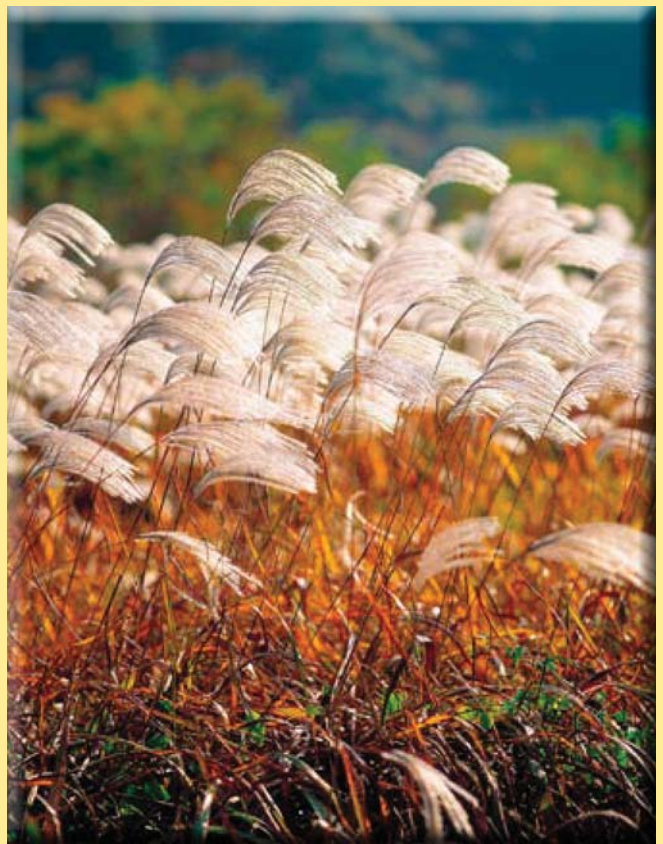


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“To this, some of our brethren answered that it was much better to be correct than to be positive; that it was not necessary that we should claim infallibility in our publications in order to secure the respect of the people, and in order that the Spirit of God should witness to the principles which they contain.

“Some of our ministers and some of our book men argued that if corrections were made, our canvassers would lose confidence in the book, that its sale would be greatly diminished.

“But finally a number of corrections were made, if I remember correctly about thirty, and the evil results which had been anticipated were never experienced.’—W. C. White Letter to A. F. Harrison, June 26, 1910,” underlining original.

The book had undergone another, more recent revision at the time Arthur White wrote his account. He concluded, “As it now comes from the presses we believe it is destined to have a very wide distribution, continuing to fill the important place in our literature which Ellen White said it should have. . . .” She had said interest in it would continue till probation closed.

Thus in this history Arthur White has clarified for us the principle that while men’s works—including pioneer writings—are not to be considered infallible, many are nevertheless valuable in their contribution to Scriptural understanding. However, outside of the Spirit of Prophecy, let us not forget our counsel and admonition

from the Lord, in matters of faith.

“Let all who accept human authority, the customs of the church, or the traditions of the fathers, take heed to the warning conveyed in the words of Christ, ‘In vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.’” *Desire of Ages*, 398.

“We are not to make a study as to what are the opinions of men, what are the traditions of the Fathers, or what is the popular faith. We cannot trust to the voice of the multitude, or follow the world in an evil course. Our inquiry should be, What hath God said?” *Medical Ministry*, May 1, 1892

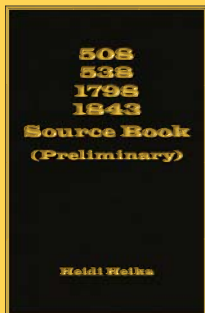
“We shall be attacked on every point; we shall be tried to the utmost. We do not want to hold our faith simply because it was handed down to us by our fathers. Such a faith will not stand the terrible test that is before us.” RH, April 29, 1884.

So what is our only safe and due course? “But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms.” *Great Controversy*, 595.

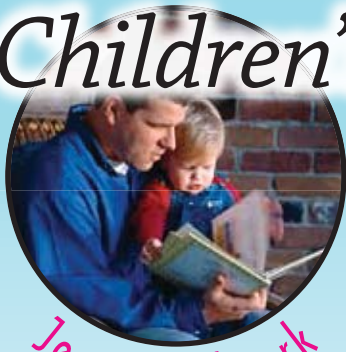
*Next month our series will conclude with an explanation of Daniel’s two Hebrew words for “vision,” an exposition of a final few misinterpretations in Adventism, and a progressive summation from Scripture, Spirit of Prophecy, pioneer documents and history as to the unique and inestimable privilege and responsibility that God has given this church in the correct understanding of the “daily.”*



Heidi Heiks, editor of *Our Firm Foundation* magazine, has been a college educator, an author, and a radio speaker for *The People of the Book* radio program. He continues to write and is currently a teacher and speaker for Hope International throughout the United States. 📖



Heidi Heiks has supplied for Adventist readership, both scholarly and lay, the historical and legislative documentation from primary sources that describes what really happened in AD 508 and 538. Finally, the dates for the commencement of the 1290- and 1260-year prophecies are fully established. Submitted beforehand for critical review before the most prestigious scholarly institutions within Adventism the world over, it is now presented with the endorsements of William H. Shea, Ph.D., associate of the Biblical Research Institute of the General Conference, professor at Andrews University; Herbert Edgar Douglass, Th.D., professor at Pacific Union College, president of Atlantic Union College; and others. To obtain your copy of this documentation in hardback, call or visit our bookstore and request the *508 538 1798 1843 Source Book (Preliminary)*. **BEHH-5085** **\$19.99**



Jean Handwerk

## A Berry Good Parable

Uncle Jim really isn't my uncle. That's what my mom said to call him, since he's like an uncle to me. My dad lives in another state, so I'm glad Uncle Jim sometimes lets me help him with projects or go places with him. And boy, does he love his Bible!

I've learned a lot about the Bible from Uncle Jim, mostly from just riding in his truck with him. Sometimes he tells me stories from the Bible when we're working together, if we don't have to concentrate too hard on what we're doing. I think his favorite part is the parables. Sometimes he made up parables for me. Here's an example:

One day last summer we were riding in his truck. He saw some blackberry bushes on the edge of the woods. Those bushes were loaded with ripe blackberries! Before I knew it, we were parked by the side of the road. He reached in the back for two pails he carries in the truck for "just in case."

"Come on," he said. "Maybe we can talk your mom into making us blackberry cobbler." He handed me a pail and headed for the closest bush.

"Oh, no! Wouldn't you just know it!" I heard him say. He had stopped before he even got to the bush.

"What's wrong, Uncle Jim?" I went to see what made him sound so irritated.

"Look at that!" He pointed to an area right in front of his boots.

I looked, half expecting a snake

or something, but all I saw were plants. "What am I supposed to be seeing?" I asked.

"You don't know poison ivy when you see it?" He was talking like everybody is born knowing what poison ivy looks like. I just shook my head.

"Leaves of three, let it be," he rhymed for me. I won't forget that poem. Poison ivy makes me itch too much, and now I knew how to watch out for it.

"We can't get to the berries because poison ivy is all around them," he said. "Just look at all those berries going to waste."

"What can we do, Uncle Jim?"

"Unless one of us wants poison ivy with our berries, we'd best just leave them for the birds, I guess," he said in a disappointed voice. He turned back to the truck, and I followed him. I didn't want the berries that bad, either, although they did look good.

"Know what those berries remind me of?" he asked, as we walked back to the truck.

"Here we go," I thought to myself. "Another parable." I always liked his parables, though, so out loud I said, "What, Uncle Jim?"

"Those tasty berries were put there by a loving God. Just like all his promises, they are within our reach. But Satan doesn't want us to have good things from God, so he gives us problems to stop us, like that poison ivy."

Suddenly Uncle Jim stopped walking and was quiet a minute,

like he was thinking. Then his voice got a little louder. "And if we let him get away with that, it's our own fault because we give up so easily. Those promises are worth having! And so are those berries."

And then he really surprised me! He turned right around and headed back toward the berry bushes. Was he going to get poison ivy all over himself?

Uncle Jim didn't go directly to the bushes, though. He went into the woods further down the road and got to the bushes from the woods side, not the road side.

"No poison ivy here!" he called. "Bring your pail and help me pick! See how the Lord has made a way for us, even when Satan makes things hard for us?" He was grinning from ear to ear.

Those berries were very, very good in the cobbler Mom made, and neither one of us got poison ivy, either! 📖





## To Eat Meat or Not to Eat Meat? THAT Is the Question Part 2

“Vegetables, fruits, and grains should compose our diet. Not an ounce of flesh meat should enter our stomachs. The eating of flesh is unnatural. We are to return to God’s original purpose in the creation of man.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 380.

“Many die of diseases wholly due to meat eating, when the real cause is scarcely suspected by themselves or others. Some do not immediately feel its effects, but this is no evidence that it does not hurt them. It may be doing its work surely upon the system, yet for the time being the victim may realize nothing of it.” *Ibid.*, 391.

As you may have guessed, today I would like to address the topic of meat-eating. Growing up in a rather conservative Adventist home, I just always assumed that all Adventists were vegetarian. However, consulting with people (many Adventists) on a regular basis about their health has shown me that not only do **some** Adventists eat meat, but **most** of them do! It might surprise you to note that according to a study recently done,<sup>1</sup> **less than 3%** of Adventists are strict vegan (which means they eat no dairy, eggs, animal products, or animal by-products at all), 27% are lacto-ovo vegetarians, and the rest (an alarming 70%) still eat meat on a regular basis! So I felt it was imperative to address this subject.

Now, why are so many Adventists eating meat when we have been given such plain counsel on the subject? There are a few reasons: 1) Some people don’t believe that the counsel given to Ellen White was inspired. (Yes, I’m still talking about Adventists.) They

say, “That was just her opinion, so I can still eat meat.” (Fortunately for those people and also for our friends and family who are not Adventist, since we can’t use the Spirit of Prophecy as a source, there is more than enough scientific evidence to prove what she said is true.) 2) Some people really don’t know at all! They actually are surprised when we tell them that meat is bad for them. Even though they may “believe” in the Spirit of Prophecy, they haven’t read the counsel, and they are completely unaware. 3) Some people know it is “bad” but they don’t understand why. Therefore they end up falling “off the wagon,” so to speak. And last but not least, the ones who we in the health work have the hardest time with: 4) Many people say they know and understand that it is bad, but it just tastes **sooo** good!

Did you find yourself in one of the groups listed above? Maybe you aren’t, but you know someone who is. If so, then I hope the information presented here will help you understand and help you be able to make better decisions regarding your health.

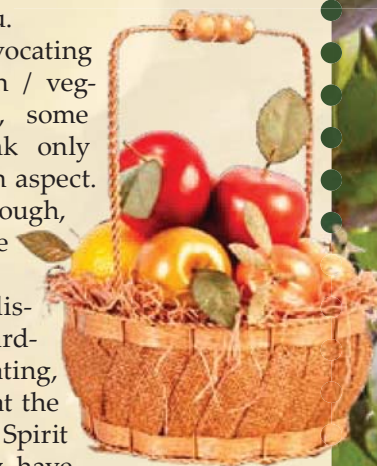
When counseling people, I hear a number of them say, “I just don’t feel right when I’m not eating meat. I’ve tried to quit, but I get tired, weak, and sick. Therefore meat **must** be good for me!” What I ask these people is, “Have you ever heard of someone who is addicted to drugs and is trying to knock the habit? The pain and sickness they endure is almost unbearable. I’ve heard stories of people who are suffering so badly, that they have begged for someone to just kill them! Now, does that mean that

the drugs are **good** for their body? Does that mean that they should continue to take drugs?”

Why, no one would say that! Anyone would say that obviously just because the body was **used** to the drugs, doesn’t mean they were **good** for them! The very same concept applies to meat-eating. Just because your body is used to it and goes through changes when it is not receiving it anymore, that definitely does **NOT** mean it was good for you.

In advocating a vegetarian / vegan lifestyle, some people think only of the health aspect. In reality, though, there are multiple topics to discuss regarding meat eating, such as what the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy have to say, environmental/ecological effects, ethical concerns (both human and animal suffering), nutritional effects (Is it possible to get all the nutrients I need without animal products?), and last but certainly not least, health and the effects on the human body and mind (sickness, disease, pain, and even intelligence, mental performance, personality, and spirituality).

Even though there is much to talk about, I would like to touch on all of these subjects, so that everyone will have a clear understanding of the serious and far-reaching effects of meat-eating. God designed humans to eat a meat-free diet, not only for the health of their



own bodies, minds, and souls, but for the benefit of the entire universe. It is out of His love for us that He has given us specific instructions on how we can live our lives to the fullest in every aspect. One of the most important aspects of this is diet.

What does the Bible have to say about meat-eating and the original diet? Let's start at the beginning. "And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat [meat here meaning "food"]. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given ev-

and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field." Genesis 3:18. You can see that still, even after sin, the diet contained no meat. The reading of Genesis 5 reveals the fact that during those years while living on fruits, grains, nuts and vegetables, men lived to be 700, 800, and even 969 years of age.

After this, no further change was authorized in man's food for 1,656 years – until after the flood - when, because of the scarcity of plant-foods, Noah was given permission to eat of the clean meats. "Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things." Genesis 9:3. Noah lived to the age of 950. If

- 8. Nahor (148)
- 9. Terah (205)
- 10. Abraham (175)

Keep in mind that Abraham died in 1822 BC, only 526 years after the flood. Some others soon after:

Isaac (180), Jacob (147), Joseph (110), Moses (120). In addition, 80 was considered "old" in Psalms 90:10.

From the above, we see that with the passing of only 526 years after flesh was added to the diet, the age of man decreased from 950 years for Noah to 175 for Abraham, and soon after was down to about 100 years. While it is true that each generation was farther from the Tree of Life in the point of time, the decrease in age in the 500 years after flesh was

added was much greater than the decrease during the 1,656 years before flesh was added. From this it seems clear that the addition of flesh to the diet of man rapidly shortened his days.

The question remains: "Because God 'allowed' man to eat meat, does that mean that he advocated it?" Exodus 16 tells the story of God providing manna, rather than a diet of flesh, to feed his people in the wilderness for forty years. Surely He would have given flesh instead, if it had been better for them. In Numbers 11:1-9, 18-25, 31-34, and Psalms 106:14-15, it is

recorded that God was displeased with Israel's desire for flesh to eat. In Psalms 78:18-20, 30, 31 we also read of His anger because of this.

What about the New Testament? What does it say regarding diet? "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand . . . and the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leath-



ery green herb for meat: and it was so." Genesis 1:29-30.

From these verses, it is seen that in the beginning, when God planned the diet for mankind and before sin had marred mind or body, the grains, fruits, and nuts were to be the food for man, and the green herbs were to be the food of the entire animal kingdom.

After the entrance of sin, the command was given: "Thorns also

you read in Genesis 11, there is a record of the ages to which Noah's posterity lived, down to Abraham, as follows:

- 1. Shem (600)
- 2. Arpachshad (438)
- 3. Shelah (433)
- 4. Eber (464)
- 5. Peleg (239)
- 6. Rue (232)
- 7. Serug (230)



ern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey." Matthew 3:1-4.

John was the herald of Jesus Christ. He was to announce Christ's kingdom. John was a vegetarian. The locusts he ate were not insects. Old Greek lexicons state that the word "locust" may mean either an insect or a pod from a tree from the locust family. We actually have many of those trees here on Hope International's property. In this connection, please recall that in many parts of the earth there is still a pod eaten for food which grows on a locust tree. And that pod is still called "St. John's Bread." Why do you suppose that name has stuck to it for almost 2,000 years? That we might know the truth of the matter.

John was to herald Jesus' first coming. We are to herald Jesus' second coming. If it was important to eat right then, how much more so now? It really is not an issue of what you "can" eat, or are "allowed" to eat, but what is "best" to eat. How can we best glorify God in this body?

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31.

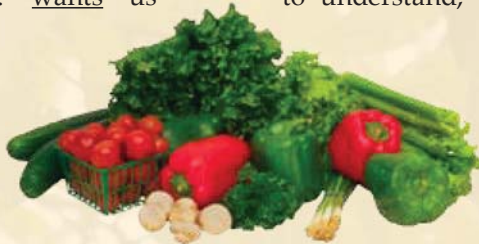
"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."



Romans 12:1.

Even though the scriptures that God has provided are definitely enough to show that a diet including meat is not in His plan for us, He

has given us even more information through His prophet, Ellen White. God doesn't **have** to tell us "why" we shouldn't eat meat, just as a parent does not **have** to explain to a child why he or she must obey. But He wants us to understand,



and loves us so much that He has given us all the light we need and more. As you read these quotes, notice the seriousness of the subject. The choices made regarding diet have an eternal weight. Our food is not something that should be taken lightly. Here is just a **taste** of what the pen of inspiration has to say:

"Among those who are waiting for the coming of the Lord, meat eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet. We should ever keep this end in view, and endeavor to work steadily toward it. I cannot think that in the practice of flesh eating we are in harmony with the light which God has been pleased to give us. All who are connected with our health institutions especially should be educating themselves to subsist on fruits, grains, and vegetables. If we move from principle in these things, if we as Christian reformers educate our own taste, and bring our diet to God's plan, then we may exert an influence upon others in this matter, which will be pleasing to God." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 380.

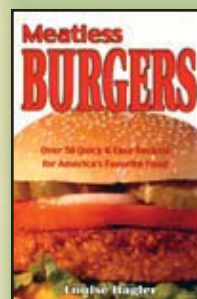
"There are those who ought to be awake to the danger of meat eating, who are still eating the flesh of animals, thus endangering the physical, mental, and spiritual health. Many who are now only half converted on the question of meat eating will go from God's people to walk no more with them." *Ibid.*, 382, emphasis added.

I hope you are beginning to have a better understanding of why the subject of diet reform is so vital for God's children, especially today. Next month I will address **why** we should not eat meat (other than the fact that God has told us not to). I will address the topics listed at the beginning of this article and what the effect will be if we do decide to continue eating in this way.

*We have a number of books that discuss vegetarian diet and lifestyle, in addition to vegetarian/vegan cookbooks. If you are interested, please call our bookstore at 1-800-468-7884. Heather Olson, R.N., C.H.*

1. Gary E. Fraser, *Diet, Life Expectancy, and Chronic Disease: Studies of Seventh-day Adventists and Other Vegetarians*, 2003, p. 5.

### Meatless Burgers Cookbook



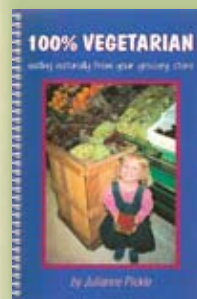
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# News Watch



## Bush Blocks Property of Suspects

President Bush's "Executive Order: Blocking Property of Certain Persons Who Threaten Stabilization Efforts in Iraq" was ordered on the basis of "the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by acts of violence threatening the peace and stability of Iraq and undermining efforts to promote economic reconstruction and political reform in Iraq and to provide humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people."

In short, "all property and interests in property of the following persons" either already in or to come into the US, or who are or will be within the control of a US person, "are blocked and may not be transferred, paid, exported, withdrawn, or otherwise dealt in..." This applies to anyone considered "to have committed, or to pose a significant risk of committing, an act or acts of violence" that may undermine the abovesaid efforts. [www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases). July 17, 2007.

### END-TIME PERSPECTIVE:

Persian King Artaxerxes wrote: "And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king,

let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment." Ezra 7:26.



## Bible "Has No Answers"

In the movie spin-off of the TV Simpson family, the town is in crisis. Mr. Simpson goes into a church, looking for solutions. He picks up a Bible and with a look of exasperation exclaims, "This book has no answers!" [www.apple.com/trailers/fox/thesimpsonsmovie/index.html](http://www.apple.com/trailers/fox/thesimpsonsmovie/index.html), July 31, 2007.

### END-TIME PERSPECTIVE:

"As we approach the last crisis, it is of vital moment that harmony and unity exist among the Lord's instrumentalities... Amidst the general discord let there be one place where harmony and unity exist because the Bible is made the guide of life..." 7T 182.

## Chip Implants; Privacy Fears



A year ago, two employees of a surveillance equipment company had "glass-encapsulated microchips with miniature antennas embedded in their forearms." Although used to restrict access to sensitive data and images, this first known use of job-related electronic identifier implants raised concerns about increasingly "precise tracking technologies and their ability to erode privacy in the digital age.

"To some, the microchip was a wondrous invention, a high-tech helper..." But "chipping," critics say, may progress from seemingly reasonable use in Alzheimer's patients to convicts and parolees to illegal aliens "until one day, a majority of Americans, falling into one category or another, would find themselves electronically tagged."

"...Civil libertarians and Christian conservatives" warned that RFID "would soon enable the government to 'frisk' citizens electronically—an invisible, undetectable search..."

A privacy advocate said, "The fear is that the government or your employer might someday say, 'Take a chip or starve.'"

Some Christian critics see the implants as the mark of the beast; the president of a Roman Catholic ministry said, "Those who refuse the Satanic chip will be saved." Todd Lewan, Asso. Press, [apnews.com](http://apnews.com). [www.excite.com/article/20070721/D8QH34P80.html](http://www.excite.com/article/20070721/D8QH34P80.html).

### END-TIME PERSPECTIVE:

"And they watched him, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor." Luke 20:20.

## Unwed Fathers

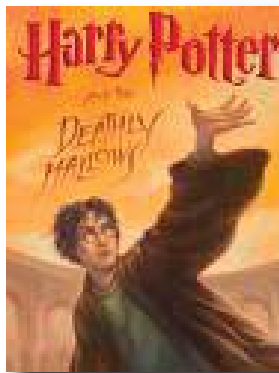
"While 57 percent of unwed fathers visit their child in the first



year, by the time the child is age 2 ½, only 23 percent of dads visit.” Wade Horn, Ph.D., *Fathers, Marriage, and the Next Phase of Welfare Reform*.

**END-TIME PERSPECTIVE:**

“Some who have not children of their own should educate themselves to love and care for the children of others.... In place of giving so much attention to pets, lavishing affection upon dumb animals, let them exercise their talent upon human beings who have a heaven to win and a hell to shun. Let them give their attention to little children whose characters they may mold and fashion after the divine similitude.... By engaging in this line of Christian endeavor, the church may be increased in members and enriched in spirit. The work of saving the homeless and the fatherless is everyone’s business.” *Adventist Home*, 168.



Harry Potter Series

*World*, a weekly Christian magazine, claims to cover the news “from

a perspective committed to the Bible as the inerrant Word of God.”

“...Early in the series *WORLD* reviewers expressed interest in but concern about an author making her hero [Harry Potter] a juvenile sorcerer and teaching children to imagine themselves practicing sorcery. We also wondered about Christian parents uncritically embracing the series without knowing how it would end: ‘The Harry Potter series forms a ship that children are climbing aboard, with the destination known only to a captain who has a very different worldview.’” The article ended with a quote from a reader who looks forward to sharing the books with her children. Susan Olansky, August 4, 2007.

**END-TIME PERSPECTIVE:**

“We have been pained as we have had brought to our notice papers, advertisers of sorcery and witchcraft, the work of magicians and all this sort of thing, going on in Battle Creek. Who of you who profess to be children of the living God were presumptuous enough to place yourself anywhere near these powers of darkness? There is in these the manifestation of a power that is above human power.” *Sermons and Talks*, Vol 2, 59. “...Can you, after such reading, open the Word of God and read the words of life with interest? Do you not find the book of God uninteresting?” 2T 236.



“Teach the Controversy”

“For 15 years Doug Cowan has taught the scientific evidence for

and against Darwinism to biology students.... He has faced no lawsuits and never worried about losing his job.... What make Cowan so different?

“...Cowan deals more thoroughly with Darwinism than most existing biology textbooks, adding reading materials from outside the standard evolutionary syllabus.... Cowan says these extra texts engage his students, challenging their ability to analyze and discern truth from competing sides of a controversial issue.”

“State school boards in [4 states] and local boards in [2 states] have adopted science standards that encourage critical analysis of Darwinian Theory. To date, not a single lawsuit has challenged such standards.”

Opponents claim any criticism of Darwinism is “thinly veiled [intelligent design], which according to the *Dover* ruling amounts to thinly veiled religion. The [Kansas] state school board agreed, effectively determining that any scientific challenge to Darwinian evolution violates the Constitution’s Establishment Clause.”

“Doug Cowan disagrees: ‘The schools want to have critically thinking kids. And you can’t be a critical thinker if you hear only one side of the story.’” Mark Bergin, *World*, July 21, 2007.

**END-TIME PERSPECTIVE:**

“The Creator and His works are beyond their comprehension; and because they cannot explain these by natural laws, Bible history is regarded as unreliable.” *Maranatha*, 135.

“...Many accept mere theories and speculations as scientific facts, and they think that God’s word is to be tested by the teachings of “science falsely so called.” 1 Timothy 60. 📖

# Historical Footnotes

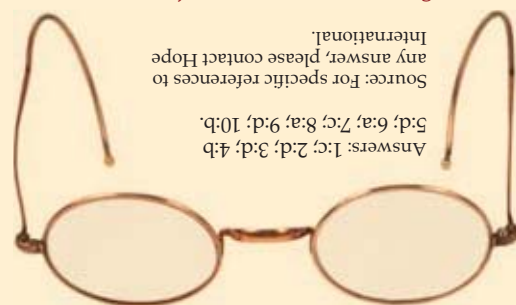


"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."—E. G. White, *Life Sketches*, 196. Many today have neglected to study the history and people that made up the early days of the Advent movement. To help encourage interest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



Source: *The Great Second Advent Movement: Its Rise and Progress*, by J. N. Loughborough. Pacific Press: 1992, for Adventist Pioneer Library. Copies are available at Hope International Bookstore.

- Up to 1847, most who accepted the 3<sup>rd</sup> angel's message were
  - Women.
  - Men.
  - Poor.
  - Young.
- One young woman working as a housekeeper to raise money for the cause was so convicted to send money right away that she
  - Took a second job.
  - Asked for double pay.
  - Sold her long hair.
  - Asked for advance pay.
- James White wrote that early pioneers suffered hunger and cold
  - To save money for the cause of God.
  - For want of proper food and clothing.
  - Due to hard work in harsh winters.
  - A and B.
- In 1848 great political turmoil occurred in the Old World within a span of 3 months. Over \_\_\_ empires and kingdoms were facing revolutions.
  - 15
  - 30
  - 50
  - 100
- Some Adventist ministers who did not yet know of the 3<sup>rd</sup> angel's message thought it was
  - The First World War.
  - The Fall of the Western Roman Empire.
  - The Second World War.
  - Armageddon.
- At that same time, SDAs were understanding the time for the "sealing message" of Revelation 10:1-4 had arrived. First-day Adventists said the message was
  - Too late; the Lord's coming was imminent.
  - Too unclear for others to see.
  - A wrong interpretation of the verses.
  - Too soon; all prophecies were yet future.
- The uproar in Europe died down; a vision came to Ellen White, and a message for \_\_\_ to start a paper on the Sabbath truth.
  - Joseph Bates
  - Uriah Smith
  - James White
  - All of the above.
- At that time, only \_\_\_ people were preaching about the Sabbath, and all were penniless.
  - 3
  - 5
  - 12
  - 22
- In 1848, fewer than 100 people, all poor, kept the Sabbath. From a human standpoint, the likelihood of a successful paper was said to be
  - "Unreasonable."
  - "Impossible."
  - "Preposterous."
  - All of the above.
- From a small start that paper would be like "streams of light"
  - In every church in America.
  - Around the world.
  - To every Adventist.
  - At every health reform meeting.



Answers: 1:c; 2:d; 3:d; 4:b; 5:d; 6:a; 7:c; 8:a; 9:d; 10:b.  
Source: For specific references to any answer, please contact Hope International.

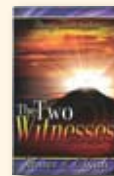
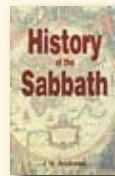
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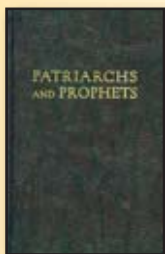
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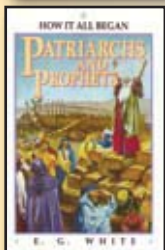
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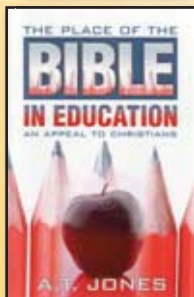
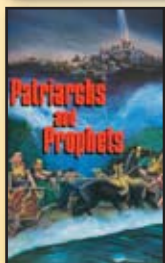
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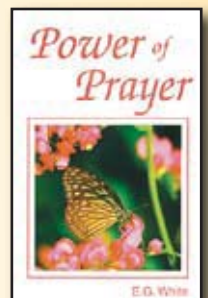
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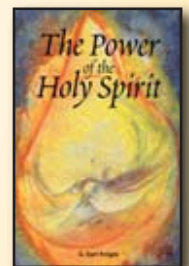
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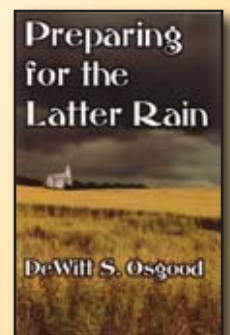
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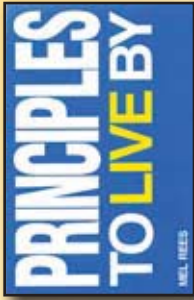
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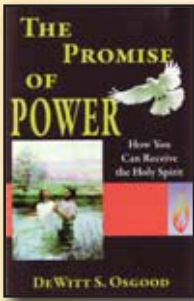
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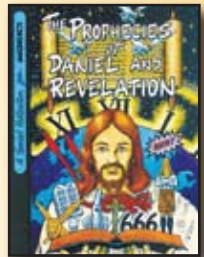
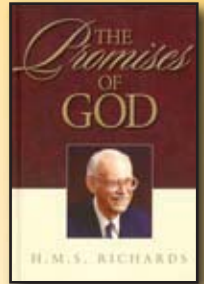
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# Letters to the Editor



✉ Thanks for the reminder about my subscription for the *Firm Foundation*. I don't want to miss getting it, as I receive a blessing each month. Keep telling the truth and giving the three angels' messages. We will be praying for you all the time.

JK, Florida

✉ Enjoyed your series on the "daily."

JT, Maine

✉ I've been reading my friend's *Firm Foundation*, and as soon as I move, I'm going to get my own subscription. I just can't say enough about how wonderful and what a blessing the articles are.

MS

✉ We are sending these tithes to help spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. We are Seventh-day Adventists who love to read God's Word and hold it dear to our hearts. We enjoy reading Mrs. White's writings and believe she is a modern-day prophet sent by God for the last days to get a people ready for the coming of His Son. Thank you for your ministry and may it continue to serve those who are searching for the truth.

E&BW

✉ We enjoyed the DVD you sent us on green clay. Please send us your regular catalog plus your health catalog.

WW, Minnesota

✉ Please send me the June issue. I never received it, and I need to read part five! I have his book, as well, but I want to read every detail I can! Thank you so very much.

V

✉ I was reading someone else's material on the "daily." It was so confusing; I couldn't make any sense of it, so I prayed for light to end my discouragement.

The very next day, your DVD on the "daily" arrived! Thank you so much! Heidi Heiks' explanation was so clear and simple. It simply made complete sense.

God specifically answered my prayer. I thank Him and you so much!

✉ I pray for God's blessing upon you and your mission.

M

✉ We are so thankful for each one of you there at Hope International. The warm letters and your publications give us great cause to rejoice in the treasure of the bond of Christ. We are so thankful to be part of the great family, and increasingly so, as we experience the impact of fractured families and Godlessness in the world. May God continue to bless your outreach, and grant you strength and wisdom in your mission.

BH

✉ This DVD on the "daily" is quite deep, so I'm going to read up on those *Firm Foundation* articles before I view it again. I watched it yesterday as part of my home Sabbath worship. Thanks for sending it.

AC

✉ We have enjoyed the editor's articles on the "daily," which we had already believed for some time.

KH

✉ I received your DVD on the "daily." Nice production, and the subject matter shows the intimacy and depth we have with the Word. I honestly believe that the effort with which we approach our understanding of God's Word, the different tools of digging for treasure, the depth, the constancy, the passion, all directly demonstrate the level of our love and worship for Him, His honor, and all He does for us.

RB

✉ I have been reading *Our Firm Foundation* magazine since 2000. To me, there's not a better SDA publication. Praise Be to Him that you all are being faithful in your portion of His vineyard. I really am enjoying the new series of articles by Heidi Heiks. We will continue to pray for all the saints at Hope International.

CW

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