

our firm
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the Man!

COVER STORY:

ALL THIS CAME

What's the Difference?



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As I approached the front door of the farm house, I noticed a sign just to the left of the door bell: "If you are a Mormon, Jehovah Witness, or a Seventh-day Adventist, do not bother to ring this bell."

What is it that puts us in the same category with these other two groups? Why do some people think of Seventh-day Adventists as a cult? And what can we do to help people see the difference?

Satan is very clever, and does read and understand different aspects of the Bible. He has been very successful throughout Bible history in encouraging people who claim to be God's people to ignore the prophets of their day. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18 Jesus said in Luke 4:24: "Verily I say unto you, no prophet is accepted in his own country."

Isaiah was put in a log and cut in two by King Manasseh. Jeremiah was put in a well full of sticky mud. John the Baptist had his head cut off. But all throughout history there have been false prophets as well as true prophets, and the people have not always been able to distinguish between them.

Satan, most likely, recognized the Bible principle that God has a prophet at the beginning of each time period that deals with His people to proclaim that time period, and another prophet at the end of that time period seeking to gather God's people together for a salvation purpose (See October 2010 OFF—The Final Deception). Under that principle, God's people could expect a prophet at the end of the 2300 day prophecy to help God's people understand the Three Angels' Messages which were given for a salvation purpose.

Satan knew that if he could confuse the issue with several false prophets, he could cloud the issue of God's true prophet.

In 1875, Mary Baker Eddy published

her book Science and Health with a key to the Scripture. She reasons that since God is good, infinite and omnipotent, evil is inconsistent with the character of God. Christian Scientists believe Genesis 1 reveals creation as spiritual and perfect while Genesis 2 is an allegorical account of the material creation and the evil results which follow accepting a misconception of man.

Jehovah's Witnesses grew out of the Millerite movement of the 1840s. The organizer of the movement, Charles Taze Russell had been influenced as a young man by William Miller. Witnesses emphasize absolute obedience to the one God, Jehovah, aggressive door to door and street corner evangelism, and the dramatic establishment of God's kingdom through

"Satan knew if he could confuse the issue with several false prophets, he could cloud the issue of God's true prophet."

the final battle of Armageddon. They believe that Christ will reign on earth during the millennium (all during which resurrection and judgment will take place). Witnesses are distinct from mainline evangelical Christians since they reject the Trinity, or Godhead, considering it a pagan doctrine. They believe that Jesus was not God, but the Son of God, the first of all God's creation. They see the Holy Spirit as the power of God or an impersonal force.

"In 2009 the world's 7.3 million Jehovah's spent 1.5 trillion hours knocking on doors and handing out The Watchtower, a doctrinal guide to Witnesses' beliefs...Every month nearly 40 million copies are printed in more

than 180 languages for distribution in 236 countries." Newsmax, October, 2010, page 46, by Jim Meyers.

The Witnesses do have some doctrinal similarities with Seventh-day Adventists. They believe in the Priesthood of all believers—all are called to witness. They do not believe that human beings have an immortal soul—death is a sleep. They believe in the complete annihilation of the wicked—no burning hell. They believe in Baptism by immersion, and they believe that world conditions indicate the end of all things is at hand.

Mormons believe that the Bible is the Word of God only as far as it is correctly translated. They believe the Book of Mormon is superior to the Bible because the words are "pure" words. They believe man pre-existed with God as an immortal soul before being created. One of the reasons for creation was to create bodies for these souls. God was pleased when Adam and Eve sinned because the earth would now be populated.

There are other beliefs of these three groups, but the beliefs mentioned show you how far away they are from Bible believing Seventh-day Adventists. It behooves each Seventh-day Adventist to seek to better understand these different groups. We are compared with them because we also have a prophet and some beliefs that differ from evangelical Christians. But we can show from the Bible every thing we believe, and that our prophet tells us that all of our doctrine should be from the Bible, and the Bible only. "To the law and to the testimony, if they speak not according to this word, there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20. Our prophet meets all the tests of a Biblical Prophet.

Brothers and Sisters, let us know our Bible well!

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. —Editor

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Invitation to Writers

We are accepting article-length manuscripts (1700 to 4000 words) for possible publication in *Our Firm Foundation*. We prefer that submissions be submitted in Word .doc format as a computer file. Include a digital picture and a short bio. Please address all correspondence to Editor, *Our Firm Foundation*, P.O. Box 220, Knoxville, IL 61448, or by email to editorial@hopeint.org.

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ALL THIS CAME

By J. N. Loughborough

The following words are those used after the prophet Daniel's interpretation of the dream given to the proud Nebuchadnezzar respecting his humiliation: "All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar." Dan. 4:28.

Let Daniel be called

The exact accomplishment upon Nebuchadnezzar of what Daniel had said in interpreting his dream seemed to establish faith in the Chaldean queen that what he would predict was from the Lord; for when the handwriting on the wall was confounding all the skill of the wise men of Babylon, she said to Belshazzar: "There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father (grandfather) light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers; forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and showing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation." Dan. 5:11, 12.

The accurately fulfilled prediction inspired faith that Daniel had divine illumination

In this instance, as in others, the simple narration of the fact that what had been predicted by the prophet was accurately fulfilled, inspired faith that he had divine illumination—that he was, indeed, taught of God. So it should be in the confirming of the Spirit of Prophecy among those "waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ".

1 Cor. 1:6, 7.

Ellen White's predictions concerning the Civil War

In the further study of this question we refer to a prediction made in a vision by Sister White, at Parkville, Mich., Jan. 12,

1861, concerning the civil war that was to come in the United States. At that time only one state, South Carolina, had passed a secession ordinance. The people in the North little thought of war growing out of that. In the New York Tribune of that week, Horace Greeley, the editor, said, "A few old women with broomsticks could go down there and beat out all the rebellion there is in South Carolina." In speaking of it the week before, he said: "If some one with the firmness of Andrew Jackson should go down and say, 'South Carolina, where are you going?' they would reply, 'Back into the Union again, sir.'"

"There are men in this house who will lose sons in that war."

After Sister White came out of the vision already referred to, she arose before the congregation and said: "There is not a person in this house that has ever dreamed of the trouble that is coming upon this land. People are making sport of the secession ordinance of South Carolina (some of the leading men of Parkville, while she thus spoke, sneered at the ideas she was advancing), but I have just been shown that a large number of States will yet join that State, and there will be a most terrible war. In this vision I have seen large armies of both sides gathered on the field of battle. I heard the booming of the cannon, and saw the dead and the dying on every hand. I saw the field after the battle all covered with the dead and dying. Then I was carried to prisons, and saw the sufferings of those in want, who were wasting away," etc. She said: "There are men in this house who will lose sons in that war."

The vision given by Ellen White was accurately fulfilled

This vision, when given, was directly contrary to all Northern sentiment, but nevertheless accurately fulfilled. Before the end of May, 1861, eleven States had seceded, and elected their Confederate president. On the 12th of April, the first gun of war was fired on Ft. Sumpter, which surrendered to them on the 13th. The

Northern idea of the war was so meager then that President Lincoln called for only seventy-five thousand men for three months, to put down the rebellion. Little did the people in responsible places think they were entering upon a war to continue until the spring of 1865—a war in which the North would have in the field 2,859,132 men, and the South probably half that number.

Not only was this vision accurately fulfilled concerning the secession of States and the war itself, but as the war continued other things were predicted. At first the war was conducted with the thought of preserving the Union, allowing slavery to remain; but while that was the case, the North had many sad reverses. As expressed by Governor St. John of Kansas, "Had we whipped the rebels, the politicians would have patched up a peace, and the Union would have continued with slavery, and we would have had it to-day."

"When our nation observes the fast which God has chosen, then will he accept their prayers as far as the war is concerned."

As the Northern army met these reverses, national fast-days were appointed, and all Christians were to plead with the Lord to manifest his power in bringing the war to a close. In a vision given to Sister White, Jan. 4, 1862, speaking of these fasts, she said, "And yet a national fast is proclaimed! Saith the Lord, 'Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?' When our nation observes the fast which God has chosen, then will he accept their prayers as far as the war is concerned."

Footnotes: 1. South Carolina passed their ordinance, December 20, 1860. 2. There were at least ten men in that house that day who lost sons in the war, and among them the very fathers who sneered when the vision was related.

The Bible Museum Opened

By A. L. O. E.
1883

There are many objects of deep interest for the student of Scripture, the accounts that have been “written for our learning,” objects which we are to contemplate with earnest interest and from which we can draw rich spiritual lessons.

the stone at the sepulchre

Let the mourner draw nigh to this stone which closed the sepulchre of the Lord, and beneath its quiet shadow meditate on the solemn and most blessed doctrine of the resurrection.

With aching hearts, with drooping heads, the disciples of the crucified Saviour turned from the sepulchre in which they had seen His sacred body laid. For Him, indeed, the awful trial was over; He was beyond reach of the cruelty of soldier, or the malice of priest. Those holy eyes were clothed in death, no cry of anguish would ever more burst from those pallid lips; the blood had ceased to flow from the pierced hands and side. For the Master indeed there was rest, but for the disciples desolation, for none in that hour of anguish appears to have believed or understood the re-iterated promise, “After three days I will rise again.” What was the world, then, to the followers of Christ, without Him who had been their Friend and their Guide, the Life and Light of their souls! That tombstone seemed to shut them out from all that remained to them of One so deeply revered, so tenderly beloved.

The stone had been rolled away by an angel's hand

And when early in the twilight which preceded the resurrection morn, women drew near to the

grave to pay the last honour to the body of the Lord, this same stone, heavy, sealed and guarded, appeared to their anxious minds as a barrier between them and Him. “Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?” was the perplexed enquiry of those whose love was stronger than their faith. But the stone had been rolled away by an angel's hand, and had become the seat of a messenger from Heaven, whose countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow; at the sight of whose glory the guards had trembled, and become even as the dead! The Lord of Life had risen indeed, the first-fruits of them that sleep; the sepulchre had yielded its heavenly guest; Christ had led captivity captive, and by dying abolished death! Thenceforth all believers could exclaim, “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”

As Christ, the Head, arose, so shall the body, the church, arise

This stone stands as a representative of all that shuts out from the eye of love, from the sunshine of Heaven, the mortal forms that once held souls that Christ had redeemed. The little grassy mound in the churchyard over some babe whose brief span of life “left no trace behind,—save in a parent's breast;” the heavy monument in the cemetery, the solid walls of the vault, the earth-covering in the deep pit on the battlefield, the unfathomable sea which rolls over the dead,—all, all

shall yield up their trust! Again shall an angel of God descend from heaven; again shall the solid earth tremble and shake; again shall rocks be rent and graves be opened; and as Christ, the Head, arose, so shall the body—the Church—arise! Hear the glorious words of Isaiah's prophecy, omitting the italics which are not in the

original text, and which seem to obscure its meaning: “Thy dead shall live, My dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.”

When from countless sepulchres the heavy stones shall be rolled back, it is to no transient glimpses of the Lord

Oh, joyful Resurrection morn, for which Faith is watching and waiting! When the first dawn of its coming light is around us, and the shadows of night are beginning to flee, well may our Lord address to mourners for departed saints the question, “Why weepest thou?” Christ, when He rose from the dead, was again restored to His loving followers, but, as regarded visible presence, for only a little space; but when the graves of His saints shall be opened, when from countless sepulchres the heavy stones shall be rolled back, it is to no transient glimpses of the Lord, to no brief moments of blissful intercourse that they will then be admitted. “I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not a stranger—(marginal reading).”

The resurrected will know the voice of the Good Shepherd

No, not a stranger! When Mary first beheld her risen Lord, her eyes were holden that she should not know Him, and as a stranger she addressed Him! But the saints, as they burst from the sod in the morn of the resurrection, shall at once recognize Him, whom not having seen, they have loved! They will know the voice of the Good Shepherd who has led them through the wilderness of life, and the valley of the shadow of death! “And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”





Judgment for the Saints

He was young – nineteen years old. His mother and father had hired my law partner and me to provide his legal defense. As we sat cross from him and observed his demeanor and appearance, it was difficult to believe that he and several other youth had been involved in the brutal slaying of another young man whom they had mistakenly believed to be

a narcotics agent. Drugs had blinded their minds, and the resultant paranoia had led them to beat and kick a human being to death.

This case carried much publicity in the Colorado Springs, Colorado, area. The District Attorney not only wanted a conviction of first degree murder, but he also wanted the death penalty invoked.

Plea bargains (allowing the other young people involved to plead to lesser charges) were made, and the District Attorney built his case upon the testimony of the others who had been members of this communal family of young people, male and female, fourteen to nineteen years of age.

The trial began and the witnesses gave their testimony. There was no doubt; a murder had been committed, and our young man was involved. Though our key witness, his mother, was not at the scene of the crime, she could testify about his character as he was growing up. She described his childhood and teenage years. She cried through all of her testimony as any mother might in such a situation. Her tears were a plea to spare her son's life.

The verdict determined

The jury heard. They returned a verdict of guilty of first degree murder, but they recommended life in prison rather than death.

Maybe death would have been the appropriate penalty for the crime that had been committed, but the jury mingled mercy with justice and spared this young man's life.

How often we see that God does the same with us – mingles mercy with justice. We each deserve death – “The wages of sin is death,” but God in His great mercy has provided a way, if we choose it, to have life instead of death.

Most of us will not face a murder trial here on earth during this life; but if at any time we have claimed to belong to Jesus, our names will appear before a heavenly tribunal which is even now convened. Then we shall be judged.

“Every individual has a soul to save or to lose. Each must meet the great Judge face to face. How important, then, that every mind contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when, with Daniel, every individual must stand in his lot, at the end of the days.” Ev 222.

When did the trial in heaven begin?

In Daniel 7, prophecy presents a

panorama of world history from the time of the Babylonian empire to the setting up of God's kingdom of glory. In verse 7, pagan Rome is spoken of, and in verse 8, papal Rome is aptly described. In verses 9-10, there opens to our view a court scene which takes place in heaven some time after the papal power has come into existence.



In verses 23-25, a more detailed description of pagan and papal Rome is given with a definite time period described in verse 25: "A time and times and the dividing of time." – 3 ½ years; 42 months; 1260 days; 1260 prophetic years: AD 538-1798.

In verse 26, the trial has started; thus sometime after 1798 we have a trial beginning in heaven. In Daniel 8:14 we have a more definite statement as to when that trial began: "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."

In the typical Day of Atonement of the Old Testament dispensation, which occurred once a year, the high priest was involved in the transfer of the record of sin (which was left in the holy place of the earthly sanctuary though the daily sin offering by the blood of a lamb) to the most holy place for examination, and finally to the scapegoat to be carried into the wilderness. Thus was the sanctuary of the earthly temple cleansed.

The sanctuary in heaven is cleansed as the records of the sins of God's people are examined. If their sins have been

confessed and truly repented of, then these sins are removed (blotted out). This is the "investigative judgment".

The beginning of the investigative judgment

While this cleansing of the sanctuary is continuing in heaven, God's people are to be preaching the three angels' messages on earth. "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His Judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. And there followed another angel, saying Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever; and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and

his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:6-12. At the same time God's people are to be afflicting their souls and seeking to remove the sin from their lives through God's grace and power. See Lev. 16:30-31.

The judgment scene, the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary, began at the end of the 2300 days, in 1844.

Who are involved as defendants?

In 1 Peter 4:17, we are advised: "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God." In the typical Day of Atonement in the Old Testament only those who were God's people were involved in the annual cleansing of the sanctuary.

In our court scene taking place in heaven only the names of those who have professed to belong to Jesus at some time in their lives come before the heavenly tribunal. Only the names of those who have claimed to be God's people appear in the pre-advent investigative judgment.

Who presides in the judgment?

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of Days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

"A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened." Daniel 7:9, 10.

"The Ancient of Days is God the Father...It is He, the Source of all being, and the fountain of all law, that is to preside in the judgment." GC 479.

Our Heavenly Father presides in this court scene taking place in heaven's Most Holy Place.

Who are the witnesses?

In Daniel 7, verse 10, "...the books were opened." Here we see that God has



records that contain the names and the deeds of those who have claimed to be His. These records, or witnesses, consist of the book of life, wherein names are recorded, and the book of remembrance, wherein deeds are recorded. There is an examination of these books.

In Psalm 69, verse 21, a reference is given that is prophetic of the vinegar offered to Jesus on the cross. Jesus is the one speaking in this Psalm. Then we read in verse 28: "Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous." There is none that are righteous in their own strength. See Romans 3:10. But we can have righteousness through faith in Christ. Christ's righteousness is imputed and imparted to us, as we let Him be both Saviour and Lord in our lives. Therefore, one characteristic of those who maintain their names in the book of life is righteousness in Christ.

We will be judged according to our works

God is looking for those who will keep His commandments with reverence and love for Him, and seek to reproduce His character in their own lives:



("They thought upon His name"). Paul acknowledges that those involved with him in the outreach for souls will have their names written in the book of life. See Phil. 4:3. And in Rev. 3:5 we are informed that the overcomers will be the ones whose names will not be blotted out of the book of life.

Our works are important in this

investigative judgment. "And I saw the dead, both small and great, stand before God: and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Rev. 20:12.

Please also review Ex. 32:32, Luke 10:20, Dan. 12:1, and Rev. 21:27.

The books in heaven are used as character witnesses for or against us in this great heavenly tribunal and by their witness they will truly reveal whether we have faithfully continued in our surrender of self to Jesus Christ our Lord.

What are some of the other issues of this trial?

"But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Matt. 12:36-37.

"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God." 1 Cor. 4:5.

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Ecc. 12:13-14.

Who will be your attorney?

I have sat in a courtroom where the parties on the other side of a case have nervously looked again and again at



their watches and then at the door of the courtroom. Their attorney had not yet arrived. Will your attorney be there to handle your case? Will Jesus be your attorney? Are you sure He will accept your case?

In 1 John 2:1, we are told that Jesus is our Attorney or Advocate. And in Dan. 7:13 we can see that Jesus appears for this most important case. "For Christ is not entered in to the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." Heb. 9:24.

"Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Heb. 7:25.

Jesus will not accept the cases of everybody

Jesus will not be late for this courtroom appointment. But He will not accept the cases of everybody that might request Him to be their attorney.

"Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I deny before My Father which is in heaven." Matt. 10:32-33.

"He who would confess Christ must have Christ abiding in him. He cannot communicate that which he has not received. The disciples might speak fluently on doctrines, they might repeat the words of Christ Himself; but unless they possessed Christlike meekness and love, they were not confessing Him...

"Men may deny Christ by evilspeaking, by foolish talking, by words that are untruthful or unkind. They may deny

Him by shunning life's burdens, by the pursuit of sinful pleasure. They may deny Him by conforming to the world, by uncourteous behaviour, by the love of their own opinions, by justifying self, by cherishing doubt, borrowing trouble and dwelling in darkness." DA 357.

"Men may speak fluently upon doctrines, and may express strong faith in theories, but do they possess Christlike meekness and love? If they reveal a harsh, critical spirit, they are denying Christ. If they are not kind, tenderhearted, long-suffering, they are not like Jesus; they are deceiving their own souls. A spirit contrary to the love, humility, meekness, and gentleness of Christ, denies Him, whatever maybe the profession." Ev 632. Will Jesus be your attorney?

Who is the prosecuting attorney?

"While Jesus is pleading for the subjects of His grace, Satan accuses them before God as transgressors. The great deceiver has sought to lead them into skepticism, to cause them to lose confidence in God, to separate themselves from His love, and to break His law. Now he points to the record of their lives, to the defects of character, the unlikeness to Christ, which has dishonored their Redeemer, to all the sins that he has tempted them to commit, and because of these he claims them as his subjects.

"Jesus does not excuse their sins, but shows their penitence and faith, and, claiming for them forgiveness, He lifts His wounded hands before the Father and the holy angels, saying: I know them by name. I have graven them on the palms of My hands. 'The sacrifices of God are

a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.' Ps. 51:17. And to the accuser of His people He declares: 'The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee; is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?' Zech. 3:2. Christ will clothe His faithful ones with His own righteousness, that He may present them to His Father 'a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing,' Eph. 5:27. Their names stand enrolled in the book of life, and concerning them it is written: 'They shall walk with Me in white: for they are worthy.'" Rev. 3:4; GC 484.

What will be the outcome?

As an attorney, one of the most suspenseful times for me was when the jury was out, and I was waiting for them to return with a verdict. But God has not left us in suspense in regard to the outcome of this case. The verdict is already in.

"And judgment was given to the saints of the Most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Dan. 7:22.

But remember, "When any have sins remaining on the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book of God's remembrance." GC 483. They will not be found to be among those for whom the verdict is rendered as being saints of the Most High.

Everyone must be tested

Brothers and sisters, "We are now living in the great day of atonement. In the typical service, while the high priest was making the atonement for Israel, all were required to afflict their souls by repentance of sin and humiliation before the Lord, lest they be cut off from among the people. In like manner, all who would have their names retained in the book of life (the Saints of the most High), should now, in the few remaining days of probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart.

The light, frivolous spirit indulged by so many professed Christians must be put away. There is earnest warfare before all who would subdue the evil tendencies that strive for the mastery...Everyone must be tested and be found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing." Ibid. 489,490.

Jesus is coming soon! "When He comes He is not to cleanse us of our sins, to remove from us the defects in our character, or to cure us of the infirmities of our tempers and dispositions. If wrought for us at all, this work will all be accomplished before that time. When the Lord comes, those who are holy will be holy still. Those who have preserved their bodies and spirits in holiness, in sanctification and honor, will then receive the finishing touch of immortality." 2T 355.

It is high time to awake out of sleep

One of the saddest verses in the Bible is found in Jeremiah 8:20: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

"Now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." Rom. 13:11-13.

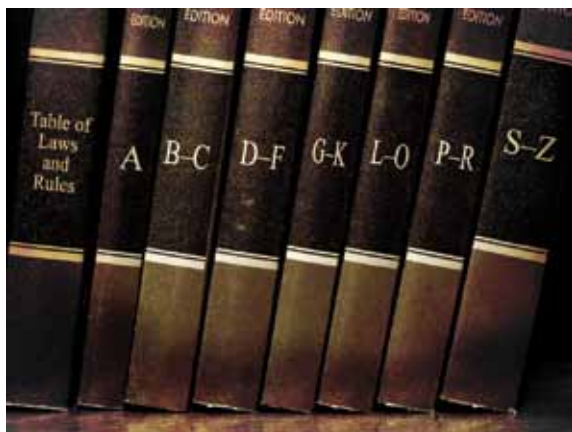
Let us all be among the saints of the Most High who have already been named as victors in the investigative judgment!

Editor's note: What is already decided is the type of character needed to pass the investigative judgment. What is still open for decision is whether we have that character when our names come up.



Clark Floyd, editor of Our Firm Foundation magazine, has been co-host of the radio program Bible Answers with Clark and Lee

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TESTS OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

By Mrs. E. G. White.

“He that saith he abideth in Him, ought himself so to walk, even as He walked.” “And if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” Conformity to Jesus will not be unobserved by the world. It is a subject of notice and comment. Yet the Christian may not be conscious of the great change; for the more closely he resembles Christ in character, the more humble will be his opinion of himself. Those who have the deepest experience in the things of God are the farthest removed from pride or self-exaltation. They have the humblest thoughts of self, and the most exalted conceptions of the glory and excellence of Christ. They feel that the lowest place in his service is too honorable for them.

PAUL SPOKE OF HIMSELF AS THE “CHIEF OF SINNERS”

Moses did not know that his face shone with a brightness painful and terrifying to those who had not, like himself, communed with God. Paul had a very humble opinion of his

own advancement in the Christian life. He says, “Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect.” He speaks of himself as the “chief of sinners.” Yet Paul had been highly honored of the Lord. He had been taken, in holy vision, to the third heaven, and had there received revelations of divine glory which he could not be permitted to make known.

JOHN THE BAPTIST DECLARES HIMSELF UNWORTHY EVEN TO UNLOOSE HIS MASTER’S SANDALS

John the Baptist was pronounced by our Saviour the greatest of prophets. Yet what a contrast between the language of this man of God and that of many who profess to be ministers of the cross. When asked if he was the Christ, John declares himself unworthy even to unloose his Master’s sandals. When his disciples came with the complaint that the attention of the people was turned to the new Teacher, John reminded them that he himself had claimed to be only the

forerunner of the Promised One. To Christ, as the bridegroom, belongs the first place in the affections of his people. “The friend of the bridegroom, that standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth because of the bridegroom’s voice. This, my joy, therefore, is

fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease. He that cometh from above is above all.” “He that hath received His testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.”

GOD CALLS FOR PURE AND HOLY WORKERS

It is such workers that are needed in the cause of God today. The self-sufficient, the envious and jealous, the critical and fault-finding, can well be spared from his sacred work. God is not straitened for men or means. He calls for workers who are true and faithful, pure and holy; for those who have felt their need of the atoning blood of Christ and the sanctifying grace of his Spirit.

SHOULD ANYONE HAVE TO INQUIRE IF WE ARE CHRISTIANS?

When we see those who profess the faith firm in principle, fearless in duty, zealous in the cause of God, yet humble and lowly, gentle and tender, patient toward all, ready to forgive, manifesting love for souls for whom Christ died, we do not need to inquire, Are they Christians? They give unmistakable evidence that they have been with Jesus and learned of him. When men reveal the opposite traits, when they are proud, vain, frivolous, worldly-minded, avaricious, unkind, censorious, we need not be told with whom they are associating, who is their most intimate friend. They may not believe in witchcraft, but notwithstanding this, they are holding communion with an evil spirit.

To this class I would say, “Glory not,



and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated; full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.”

THE PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES HAD NO SENSE OF THEIR OWN UNWORTHY MOTIVES

When the Pharisees and Sadducees flocked to the baptism of John, that fearless preacher of righteousness addressed them, “O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.” These men were actuated by unworthy motives in coming to John. They were men of poisonous principles and corrupt practices. Yet they had no sense of their true condition. Filled with pride and ambition, they would not hesitate at any means to exalt themselves and strengthen their influence with the people. They came to receive baptism at the hand of John that they might better carry out these designs.

CHARMED WITH POWER AND BOLDNESS

John read their motives, and met them with the searching inquiry, “Who

hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” Had they heard the voice of God speaking to their hearts, they would have given evidence of the fact, by bringing forth fruits meet for repentance. No such fruit was seen. They had heard the warning as merely the voice of man. They were charmed with the power and boldness with which John spoke; but the Spirit of God did not send conviction to their hearts, and as the sure result bring forth fruit unto eternal life. They gave no evidence of a change of heart. Without the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, John would have them understand that no outward ceremony could benefit them.

SELF-RIGHTEOUS FORMALISTS SERVE THE CAUSE OF SATAN

None are farther from the kingdom of Heaven than self-righteous formalists, filled with pride at their own attainments, while they are wholly destitute of the spirit of Christ; while envy, jealousy, or love of praise and popularity controls them. They belong to the same class that John addressed as a generation of vipers, children of the wicked one. They serve the cause of Satan more effectively

than the vilest profligate; for the latter does not disguise his true character; he appears what he is.

GOD WILL NEVER FAVOR ANY MAN WHO PRACTICES INIQUITY

God requires fruits meet for repentance. Without such fruit, our



profession of faith is of no value. The Lord is able to raise up true believers among those who have never heard his name. “Think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father; for I say unto you that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.”

God is not dependent upon men who are unconverted in heart and life. He will never favor any man who practices iniquity. “And now the ax is laid unto the root of the trees; therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire.”

NO OUTWARD FORMS CAN MAKE US CLEAN

Those who laud and flatter the minister, while they neglect the works of righteousness, give unmistakable evidence that they are converted to the minister and not to God. We inquire, “Who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” Was it the voice of the Holy Spirit or merely the voice of man which you heard in the message sent from God? The fruit borne will testify to the character of the tree.

No outward forms can make us clean; no ordinance, administered by the saintliest of men, can take the place of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The Spirit of God must do its work upon the heart. All who have not experienced its regenerating power are chaff among the wheat. Our Lord has his fan in his hand, and he



will thoroughly purge his floor. In the coming day, he will discern "between him that serveth God, and him that serveth him not."

THERE IS NEED OF A CONVERTED MINISTRY AND A CONVERTED PEOPLE

The spirit of Christ will be revealed in all who are born of God. Strife and contention cannot arise among those who are controlled by his Spirit. "Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord." The church will rarely take a higher stand than is taken by her ministers. There is need of a converted ministry and a converted people. Shepherds who watch for souls as they that must give account will lead the flock on in paths of peace and holiness. Their success in this work will be in proportion to their own growth in grace and knowledge of the truth. When the teachers are sanctified, soul, body, and spirit, they can impress upon the people the importance of such sanctification.

The Lord has not closed Heaven against his people, but their own course of continual backsliding has separated them from him. Pride, and love of the world, live in the heart. Few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. The general opinion is that the church is flourishing, and that peace and prosperity are in all her borders.



THE CONNECTION WITH GOD IS SEVERED WHEN WE JOIN IN WORLDLY AMUSEMENTS

The warnings of God's word, and the influence of his Spirit, have alike been neglected. The result is apparent in the deplorable condition of the church. Impurity is today wide-spread, even among those who profess to be followers of Christ. Passion is unrestrained; the animal propensities are gaining strength by indulgence, while the moral powers are constantly becoming weaker. Many are eagerly participating in worldly, demoralizing amusements which God's word forbids. Thus they sever their connection with God, and rank themselves with the pleasure-lovers of the world. The sins that destroyed the antediluvians and the cities of the plain exist today--not merely in heathen lands, or with the avowed unbeliever, but among professors of Christianity. Base passions defile the mind and corrupt the soul. Some who are in the vilest iniquity have borrowed the livery of Heaven, that they may serve Satan more effectively. If God should present these sins before us as they appear in his sight, we would be filled with shame and terror.

FEW FEEL TRUE SORROW FOR SIN

And what has caused this alarming condition? Many have accepted the theory of religious truth, who have not been converted to its principles. There are few indeed who

feel true sorrow for sin; who have deep, pungent convictions of the depravity of the unregenerate nature. The heart of stone is not exchanged for a heart of



flesh. Few are willing to fall upon the Rock, and be broken.

No matter who you are, or what your life has been, you can be saved only in God's appointed way. You must repent; you must fall helpless on the Rock, Christ Jesus. You must feel your need of a physician, and of the one only remedy for sin, the blood of Christ. This remedy can be secured only by repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Here the work is yet to be begun by many who profess to be Christians. Like the Pharisees of old, they feel no need of a Saviour. They are self-sufficient, self-exalted. Said Christ, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." The blood of Christ will avail for none but those who feel their need of its cleansing power.

CHRIST MUST HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OF OUR WILL AND ACTION

What surpassing love and condescension, that when we had no claim upon divine mercy, Christ was willing to undertake our redemption! But our great Physician requires of every soul unquestioning submission. We are never to prescribe for our own case. Christ must have the entire control of will and action, or he will

not undertake in our behalf.

Many are not sensible of their condition and their danger; and there is much in the nature and manner of Christ's work averse to every worldly principle, and opposed to the pride of the human heart. Jesus requires us to trust ourselves wholly to his hands, and confide in his love and wisdom.

SELF MUST DIE

We may flatter ourselves, as did Nicodemus, that our moral character has been correct, and we need not humble ourselves before God, like the common sinner. But we must be content to enter into life in the very same way as the chief of sinners. We must renounce our own righteousness, and plead for the righteousness of Christ to be imputed to us. We must depend wholly upon Christ for our strength. Self must die. We must acknowledge that all we have is from the exceeding riches of divine grace. Let this be the language of our hearts, "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake."

Genuine faith is followed by love, and love by obedience. All the powers and passions of the converted man are brought under the control of Christ. His Spirit is a renewing power, transforming to the divine image all who will receive it.

TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD

God spared not his own Son, but delivered him to death for our offenses, and raised him again for our justification. Through Christ we may present our petitions at the throne of grace. Through him, unworthy as we are, we may obtain all spiritual blessings. Do we come to him, that we may have life?

Experience is knowledge derived from experiment. What we need is experimental religion. How shall we know for ourselves God's goodness

and his love? The psalmist tells us-- not, hear and know, read and know, or believe and know; but--"Taste and see that the Lord is good." Instead of relying upon the word of another, taste for yourself.

THEY KNOW A REMEDY FOR SIN BUT DO NOT USE IT

Many believe in the wrath of God, but put forth no earnest efforts to escape it. They believe in Heaven, but make no sacrifice to obtain it. They believe in the value of the soul, and that ere long its redemption ceaseth forever; yet they neglect precious opportunities to make their peace with God. They read the Bible, but its threatenings do not alarm or its



promises win them. They approve things that are excellent, yet they follow the way in which God has forbidden them to go. They know a refuge, but do not avail themselves of it. They know a remedy for sin, but do not use it. They know the right, but have no relish for it. All their knowledge will but increase their condemnation. They have never tasted and learned by experience that the Lord is good.

To become a disciple of Christ is to deny self and follow Jesus through evil as well as good report. Few are doing this now. Many prophesy falsely, and the people love to have it so; but what

will be done in the end thereof? What will be the decision when their work, with all its results, shall be brought in review before God?

TO REFLECT THE IMAGE OF CHRIST PERFECTLY,,THIS IS CHRISTIANITY

The watchmen are responsible for the condition of the people. If they open the door to pride, envy, doubt, and other sins, there will be strife, hatred, and every evil work. Jesus, the meek and lowly One, asks an entrance as our guest, but many are afraid to bid him enter. He has spoken to us in both the Old and the New Testament; he is speaking to us still by his Spirit and his providence. His instructions are designed to make men true to God, and true to themselves.

Jesus took upon himself man's nature, that he might leave a pattern for humanity, complete, perfect. He proposes to make us like himself, true in every purpose, feeling, and thought-- true in heart, soul, and life. This is Christianity. Our fallen nature must be purified, ennobled, consecrated by obedience to the truth. Christian faith will never harmonize with worldly principles; Christian integrity is opposed to all deception and pretense. The man who cherished the most of Christ's

love in the soul, who reflects the Saviour's image most perfectly, is, in the sight of God, the truest, most noble, most honorable man upon the earth. ST, January 11, 1883.



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.



THOUGHTS ON SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

By Clark Floyd

Editor's Note: The following have been taken from various sources for the reader's encouragement and edification:

1. Nobody really knows when Yan Yanovich Wilson became an Adventist, but by age 26 he was already in the leadership of the Russian Adventist organization. Life wasn't easy under czarist rule, but it got definitely dangerous after 1917, when the atheistic Bolsheviks toppled the government. They began to hunt down and destroy intellectuals and thinkers of all kinds, including Christians. Yet Yan continued to elude the authorities, and in the early 1920s we find him secretly training Adventist young adults for the ministry.

YOU CANNOT BE FRUITFUL MINISTERS UNLESS YOUR FAITH IS DEEPLY GROUNDED

"You must know the Word of God," he told a group of 30 young people who had gathered in the home of a wealthy mill owner named Burmistrov. "Not just know about it—you must know it. You cannot be fruitful ministers unless your faith is deeply grounded."

He gripped his Bible in his fist and raised it high. "I challenge you not simply to learn verses to support Bible doctrines. I challenge you to know what is in every chapter of this book."

THE MORE YOU CAN LEARN BY HEART, THE BETTER

By now his students' jaws were hanging open. "You want us to memorize the whole Bible?" they gasped.

He shrugged. "The more you can learn by heart, the better," he said. "But I at least want you to be able to give a summary of any chapter I ask you about. This is not an option. I require this of you. Here," he said, handing someone his Bible. "Test me. Tell me book and chapter, and I'll tell you what that chapter contains."

The astonished students discovered that Pastor Wilson could not only summarize each chapter, but could quote much of it by heart! Their eyes huge, they got to work. Day by day their teacher quizzed them, and day by day their Bible knowledge grew. Several of these students went on to become skilled workers for Christ.

Taken from page 43 of the book, Though the Heavens Fall—The Kulakov Story, by Mikhail P. Kulakov, Sr. with Maylan Schurch.

IT ALL BEGAN WITH A SHINY POCKET KNIFE

2. Daniel Webster (1782-1852)—The silver-tongued orator and one of America's greatest statesman, was grounded in the Scriptures in his early years.

Professor James Tappan came to Salisbury, New Hampshire, for an eight week teaching session. "We're going to have a contest during this term," he announced on the first day of school to the eleven girls and five boys who were present. "For the boy who memorizes the most verses from the Holy Scriptures during the next eight weeks," he said, as he dramatically held a brand-new shiny jack-knife overhead, "This will be the prize."

Now was Daniel's chance to have a knife all his own. Money was scarce in the Webster household. So he just had to win that knife Mr. Tappan offered, even though he was one of the youngest boys in school. As soon as he got home, he began to memorize scripture.

THE WINNER OF THE KNIFE WAS DANIEL WEBSTER

On the day the contest ended, Professor Tappan had each student come to the front of the room to recite. Someone quoted 25 verses. Then another quoted 40, and another 52 Bible verses. Then it was Daniel's turn. Walking confidently to the front of the little one-room school, he turned to face Mr. Tappan and his classmates.

Daniel began quoting Scripture verses. He had recited 120 verses with never a pause and never a single mistake. "Enough!" called the school master, as Daniel drew a quick breath in preparation to cite more. "I declare Daniel Webster the winner of the jackknife."

IF TRUTH IS NOT DIFFUSED, ERROR WILL BE

In 1823 Daniel Webster, not a preacher but a statesman who was grounded in the truth of the Bible, said, "If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses in this country, I do not know what is going to happen to us as a nation. If truth is not diffused, error will be; if God and His Word are not known and received, the devil and his works will gain the ascendancy; if the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet, the pages of corrupt and licentious literature will; if the power of the Gospel is not felt throughout the length and breadth of the land, anarchy and misrule, degradation and misery, corruption and darkness, will reign without mitigation and end."

A PENNY A VERSE AND THE HONOR ROLL

3. Other examples — (A) Spurgeon - His grandmother gave 1 penny for each verse he memorized, but he had so many, she had to reduce the amount more than once. Grandfather came to the rescue by paying him for rats in the warehouse. (B) Bill Gothard was held back in the 2nd grade, but after beginning to memorize Scripture, he advanced to the honor roll.

Editor's note: There seems to be a definite relation between memorization of Scripture and increase in mental power. Let's memorize more Scripture!



Clark Floyd, editor of Our Firm Foundation magazine, has been co-host of the radio program Bible Answers with Clark and Lee and is a licensed attorney and an ordained Seventh-day Adventist pastor. He has spoken internationally and makes his home in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina.

The Books of the Bible

In Genesis the world was made by God's creative hand;
In Exodus the Hebrews marched to gain the Promised Land;
Leviticus contains the law, holy, just and good.
Numbers records the tribes enrolled—all of Abraham's blood.
Moses, in Deuteronomy records God's mighty deeds;
Brave Joshua into Canaan's land the host of Israel leads.
In Judges their rebellion oft provokes the Lord to smite,
But Ruth records the faith of one well pleasing in His sight.
In First and Second Samuel of Jesse's son we read,
Ten Tribes in First and Second Kings revolted from his seed.
The First and Second Chronicles see Judah captive made;
But Ezra leads a remnant back by princely Cyrus' aid.
The city wall of Zion Nehemiah builds again,
While Esther saves her people from wicked plots of men.
In Job we read how faith will live beneath affliction's rod,
And David's Psalms are precious songs to every child of God.
The proverbs like a goodly string of choicest pearls appear,
Ecclesiastes teaches man how vain are all things here.
The mystic song of Solomon exalts sweet Sharon's Rose;
Whilst Christ, the Saviour and King, the rapt Isaiah shows.
The warning Jeremiah apostate Israel scorns;
His plaintive Lamentations their awful downfall mourns.
Ezekiel tells in wondrous words of dazzling mysteries;
While kings and empires yet to come, Daniel in vision sees.
Of judgment and mercy, Hosea loves to tell;
Joel describes the blessed days when God with man shall dwell.
Among Tekoa's herdsman Amos received his call;
While Obadiah prophesies of Edom's final fall.
Jonah enshrines a wondrous type of Christ, our risen Lord,
Micah pronounces Judah lost—lost, but again restored
Nahum declares on Nineveh just judgment shall be poured,
A view of Chaldea's coming doom Habakkuk's visions give;

Next, Zephaniah warns the Jews to turn, repent, and live.
Haggai wrote to those who saw the Temple built again,
And Zechariah prophesied of Christ's triumphant reign.
Malachi was the last who touched the high prophetic chord;
Its final notes sublimely show the coming of the Lord.
Matthew and Mark and Luke and John the holy Gospels wrote,
Describing how the Saviour died—His life, and all He taught.
Acts proves how God the apostles owned with signs
in every place.
Saint Paul, in Romans, teaches us how man is saved by grace.
The apostle, in Corinthians, instructs, exhorts, reproves.
Galatians shows that faith in Christ alone the Father loves.
Ephesians and Philippians tell what Christians ought to be;
Colossians bids us live to God and for eternity.
In Thessalonians we are taught the Lord will come from heaven.
In Timothy and Titus a bishop's rule is given.
Philemon marks a Christian's love, which only Christians know.
Hebrews reveals the gospel prefigured by the law.
James teaches, without holiness faith is but vain and dead.
Saint Peter points the narrow way in which the saints are led.
John in his three Epistles on love delights to dwell.
Saint Jude gives awful warning of judgment, wrath and hell.
The Revelation prophesies of that tremendous day,
When Christ—and Christ alone—shall be the victor's stay.

--Author unknown



The Plumbline Measurement

By Joe Olson

“Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand. And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more.” Amos 7:7-8. The prophet Amos was given a vision and in that vision he saw the Lord standing upon a wall that was “made” by a plumbline. A plumbline is a piece of string, or rope, or wire, with a weight on the end of it. It is used to determine if something is plumb, or in other words, straight up and down.



building anything here on this earth just yet. Jesus is building mansions for us, but that is in heaven.

How do you level a level?

I used to build houses. Most of the time, when we wanted to check if something was straight or level or plumb, we would use a level. Levels have little sight glasses in them with glass tubes that are filled with liquid, with a bubble, or enclosed air. The tubes are graduated, or have lines on them and you look to see when the air bubble is in the middle of the tube to know if something is straight up and down or not. But levels can fall down and the tubes break, or get painted over, or whatever, and sometimes you have to install a new glass tube or adjust the tube in the level.

Now how do you suppose we level a level? How do we know, when we have put a new tube in the level, that it is indeed level? We use a plumbline. We take a plumbline and set it next to a wall and mark the top and bottom of the wall and draw a line. Then we put the level next to that line and adjust the glass tubes accordingly. A plumbline uses gravity to work, and gravity works real well. You can usually pretty well count on gravity.

Here in Amos, God is counting on gravity. He is seen on a wall with a plumbline in His hand. This is obviously symbolic, because I don't think God is

God is going to measure each of us by His standard

So, what is this “wall” that God is standing on? What does this wall represent? What does God “measure.?” “And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.” Rev. 11:1. The Bible says that God wanted John to measure things... the temple, the altar, and “them that worship therein.”

Christ's Object Lessons 314 says this: “He who becomes a partaker of the divine nature will be in harmony with God's great standard of righteousness, His holy law. This is the rule by which God measures the actions of men. This will be the test of character in the judgment.” God, through Amos, was telling His people that He is going to measure them like you would measure a wall, to see if they are “straight”. Will their “wall” stand the test of scrutiny?

The walls of our houses need to be plumb

When we built walls, they had to be plumb. They had to be straight. You

could not build a wall crooked and expect the house to support the weight it was designed for. When we built homes, we had to go through the house when we finished framing, to make sure every wall was straight and level and true. If any wall was out of plumb, we had to tear it out and make it right. If the wall is not plumb, then everything else is out of whack. When you go to hang sheetrock, the sheetrock won't fit right. Worse yet, when you go to wallpaper a wall, and I'm sure many of you have experienced this, the wallpaper doesn't look right because it is not plumb and square.

Have you ever seen a house where they have tiled a wall, like in a bathroom or a kitchen, and there is more tile showing at the top than at the bottom, or vice versa? My brothers are all tile setters and they told me that it was rare for them to find a truly perfectly plumbed wall. You can imagine, when they came to tile the house that I built, that I was sweating bullets to see if my walls were plumb.

Imagine when God comes to measure your wall! Picture in your mind God coming to see how you are building and checking it with a plumbline. What would He find? How comfortable would you be as He is checking your walls?

Our characters are being built, brick by brick

"It is the little things of life that develop the spirit and determine the character. Those who neglect the



little things will not be prepared to endure severe tests when they are brought to bear upon them. Remember that the character building is not finished till life ends. Every day a good or a bad brick is placed in the structure. You are either building crookedly or with the exactness and correctness that will make a beautiful temple for God. Therefore, in looking for great things to do, neglect not the little opportunities that come to you day by day. He who neglects the little things, and yet flatters himself that he is ready to do wonderful things for the Master, is in danger of failing altogether. Life is made up, not of great sacrifices and wonderful achievements, but of little things." RH, Dec. 29, 1910. Every day a good or a bad brick is placed in the structure. Bricks, generally, are used for walls. And walls are checked or measured by plumbines and levels. And according to Amos, God does the measuring.

How's your wall coming? And what is it you and I are building? Character! And as we just noted a moment ago, our characters are not made up of the big, momentous things that happen in our lives, although they certainly play a part. It is the little things; everyday things; commonplace things.

The plumbline of God is His holy law

God was measuring His people in the days of Amos... "And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more." Amos 7:8. God said that He was going to set a plumbline, or a measuring device, in the midst of His people. If God was going to measure His people back then, do you suppose He will measure His people today? What is His plumbline? What does He use to measure us? What is His standard? How can He tell if we "measure up" or not? What is His criterion? His law of course. His plumbline is His law. How are we judged? How do we get "measured?" By the law.

Well, do any of us measure up? Are any of us guiltless before the law? No. Then what is our hope? Jesus. Jesus is our only hope. When God comes to measure us,



will he see our own feeble attempts at righteousness, our own good works, or will He see Jesus in our hearts?

The Lord will judge us with His truth

Our own righteousness is as filthy rags, right? But Jesus' righteousness is pure and white and clean. But, how will we know if we have Jesus' righteousness within? How will we know, when God comes to measure us that Jesus is the one He will see? Isn't that the question everyone wants the answer to?

Do you know how a lot of people handle this issue? They simply deny that there is a God who is coming to judge us. The Bible says, "Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth." Ps. 96:13.

A crutch, or accountability?

But they say that the Bible was written by some pathetic people needing a crutch to hold on to, to deal with the hard things of this world. Really? Does being judged for what you have done sound like a crutch to you? No, it sounds more like accountability to me. And if there is one thing this world has turned into, it is a bunch of people who want no accountability. We want to excuse anything and everything we can. It's not our fault! It's the way we were made! I can't help it! Our world is filled with excuses. But, you don't need an excuse if there is no Judge, no God, and no accountability.

What would you do if you were the devil?

Let's just say for a minute that there is a

God and that He is going to judge us and that there will be accountability. And just for a moment, let's accept that the Bible is true and that everyone who truly accepts Jesus into their lives, no longer has to pay for their sins, and that their sins must be paid for by the devil. If that were true, if the Bible was really telling the truth and these things are really going to happen, if you were the devil, what would you be telling people?

Are you kidding? I would try, in every possible way I could imagine, to convince people that there is no need to give your hearts to Jesus, because He's not even real! There is no God! A God didn't make the world! The Bible is a bunch of made up stories! The people who wrote these things were crazy! Again, assuming for a moment that the Bible is correct, and you were the devil and knew that you would have to pay for all the sins of those who chose Jesus... isn't this what you would do?

What is the devil's plan "B"?

Now, let's go a little further and say that you, in our illustration here, were the devil, and you have convinced a lot of people that there was no God. So far, so good... right? But what about those who you cannot convince with that lie? What about those who simply cannot be deceived into the idea that we came from star gas and slime bogs? Would you give up? Would you resign yourself to paying for their sins? No, you just have to come up with another, or a different lie.

Well, if you can't keep them from believing in a God, then how about confusing them and offering them many different gods? Who cares... as long as you don't believe in the *right* God! Remember, in the Bible, there is a God who will measure us. But, what if you can convince people that there is a god, but not the God of the Bible? Then there is no Jesus and no sin and no need for forgiveness... and of course, then they will die in their own



sins and you don't have to pay for them.

And what about those pesky Bible-believers?

But we're not done yet. Some are just dogged enough to continue searching for the truth. Some, not many, but some, will figure out that the Bible is the truth. These people do not simply want a way out... they want the truth. They pray to God to reveal the truth to them and they see it for what it really is. What about them? Do you just give up now? No, you have deceived almost the entire world, why stop now?

Now here is where the rubber truly meets the road. To make this deception work, to make it really stick, it is going to have to appear as close to the real thing as possible. Some people are easy marks, but others take more effort. Now, you have to be really, really sharp. These people use their Bibles as their guide. They know about God; they know about Jesus; they know about sin. No, this crowd will be tough. What to do?

Remember Amos? He said that he saw God with a plumbline. God was going to check the "correctness"

so-to-speak, of the people. Remember my saying that we had to check our levels by the plumbline? What if the plumbline was off? What would we check our measuring devices by? If you can somehow mess with the plumbline, then everything else will be off, and no one will be the wiser.

Brilliant! What are we measured by or against? The law! "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." Rom. 7:7. The law is the only way to detect sin, or to know what sin is. That is what Paul was saying.

Remember, you don't have to worry about any of the rest of the people of the world who do not believe in Jesus as their Saviour. It's just those pesky Bible-believing people. But... if you can mess with the plumbline, mess with the law... you can make their whole character building process a mess, too.

Just take away the plumbline!

How about saying that the law was nailed to the cross? What if you said that Jesus took the law away? Even better, say that Jesus fulfilled the law for you, so you don't have to follow it any longer! Any derivation thereof will work. As long as the law, or the plumbline, is no longer a measuring device for your building.

Never mind those verses that say... "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." Rom.3:31. "What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid." Rom. 6:15. That will take care of almost all the Christians. Most are more than willing to hear that God has taken the law out of the way and put grace in its place.

And the really cool thing about that, is that it's true! Grace is the only way we can make it! Grace is our ticket home! Grace is what Jesus' blood is all about!

The truth about grace

Are you confused? Then the devil has done his job very well. You see, the truth about grace is what the devil is scared to death that you will learn, if you dig deep enough. But he's only worried about a few people. Most people simply will not put that much effort into it. The devil's lie about grace is that it frees you from

the law. But the truth is that grace enables you to keep the law.

Let's go to a famously misused text about this very thing. "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil." Matt. 5:17. The devil takes this text and then adds, "Jesus fulfilled the law for you... so now you don't have to keep it!" The truth is that Jesus did indeed fulfill the law, just as He said, and He did fulfill it for you, just as the devil said, but *nowhere* does the Bible or does Jesus add, "now you don't have to keep it". If Jesus was just going to do it for us, why didn't He just do that with Adam and Eve, and we could have avoided the last 6,000 years of misery? Why did God give Amos a vision about a plumbline?

The day of accountability had arrived

And speaking of Amos, let's go back to that text one more time... "And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more." Amos 7:8.

I'd like to focus now on that last part for a moment... "I will not again pass by them any more." God was telling Amos to tell the Jews of his day that their time was up. God was not going to "pass by" them any more. No more free passes. No more looking the other way. No more opportunities. Accountability had arrived. It was time to put down the pencils and turn their papers in. It was now time to be graded.

The Hebrew word for "pass" here is *aw-bar*, and specifically means to "cover." Have you ever told someone that you were not going to "cover" for then any more? Now you can just say, "I'm not going to *aw-bar* for you any more." God has been "covering" for us for a long time. But there is a day coming, as it came for the Jews in Amos' day, that God will say, I'm not covering for you any more.

The Bible refers to it in its last book... Revelation~22:11 "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is



filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still."

The devil has deceived most of us

Going back to our analogy of you being the devil and trying to avoid taking anyone's sins... Do you want them to be aware of this truth? Do you want them to think that there is a time coming when we will all be held accountable for what we have done? Do we want them to consider that God is coming, and... "Who will render to every man according to his deeds?" Rom. 2:6? No, we want everyone to believe a lie, and believe that everything will be okay, and that God will never, ever hold us accountable. And generally speaking, the devil has done a bang up job on most of us.

He did the same thing on those before the flood... "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt. 24:38-39.

Most are clueless

This was Jesus talking here. He said they were clueless! They, "knew not" and the "flood came and took them all away." Then He said, "It's going to be the same way when I come back. "Most people will be clueless.

I enjoy National Geographic, but I can tell you that they are all clueless. I see the so-called scientists and educators and supposedly smart people, and according to what the Bible says, most of them are clueless. I hate to admit it, but most of my own family is clueless. But we don't have

to be. As deceptive and evil as the devil is, God will not allow anyone who will read and study and pray to be deceived.

Jesus can make your wall of character plumb

The truth has always been right there in our faces... "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences." 2 Cor. 5:10-11.

In spite of ourselves, we know the truth. No matter how we try to deny it or refuse to admit it... there is, and always has been accountability. We are accountable for what we do. There is no way out of that undeniable truth.

But there is also an undeniable truth that Jesus will come in and change our hearts so that the things done in our bodies will be good and not bad. Jesus still changes hearts. Jesus can make your wall of character straight and true and plumb, so when we are judged, our "wall" will stand the test!



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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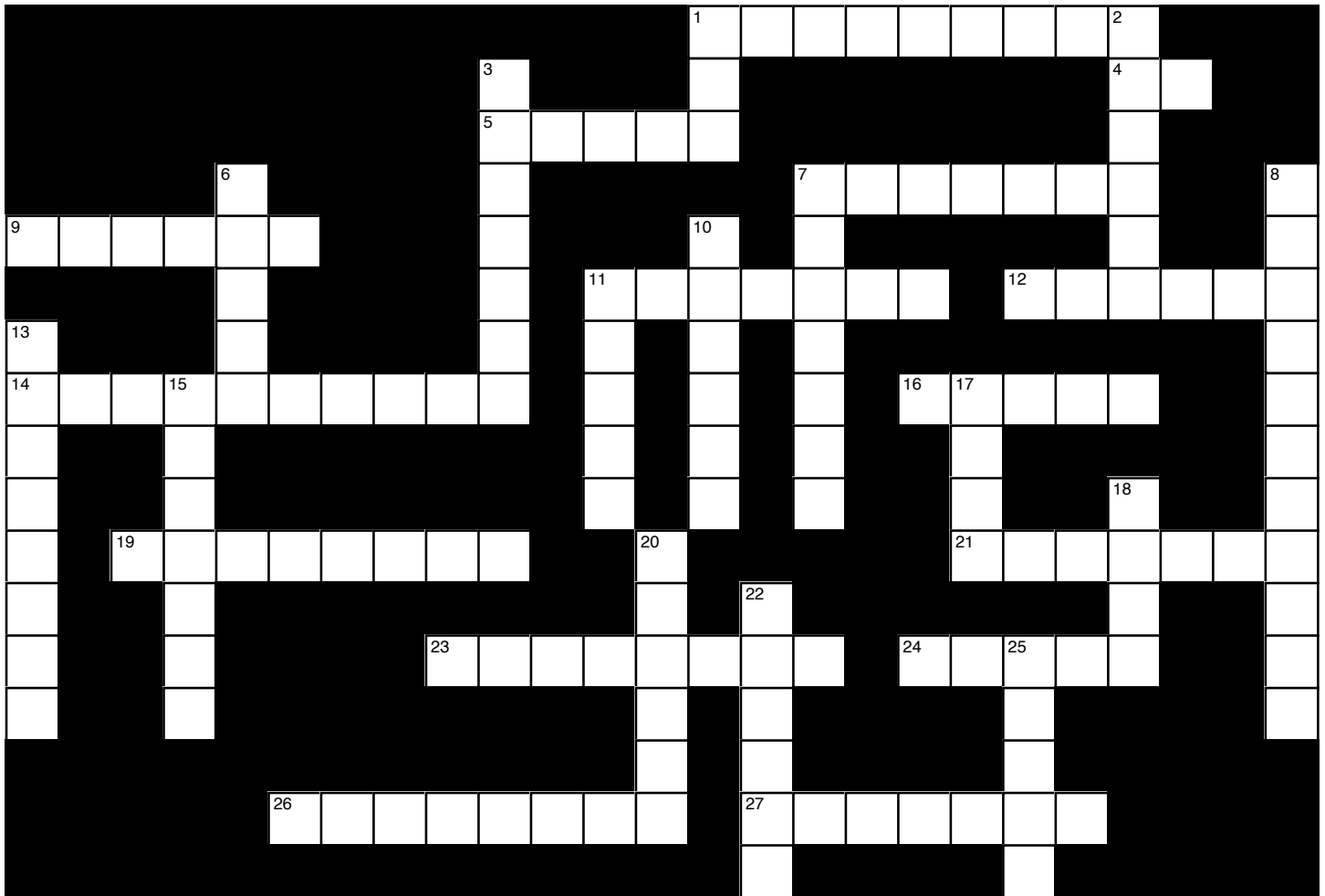
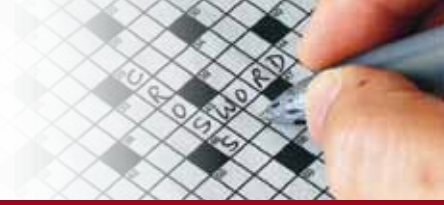
During the Balkan War the British army used clay for cholera. The mortality rate was 60% for all soldiers who contracted this disease. However, when clay was taken internally, the mortality rate went from 60% down to an amazing 3%.

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Christian Crossword



ACROSS

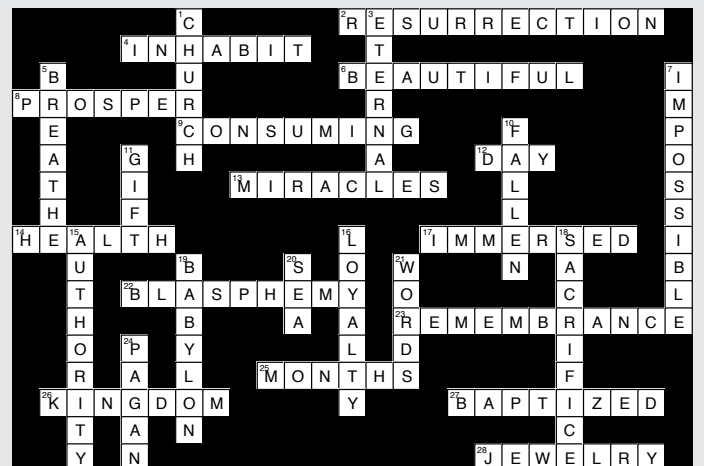
1. Lot offered his _____ to the men that compassed his house
4. Where did Job live?
5. Who was Job's enemy?
7. Name another tribe of Israel that is left out of the 144,000
9. Who was the Naamatthite that met with Job?
11. The name of the Temanite, a friend of Job's
12. Abraham was to be a _____ of many nations
14. Job accused his friends of being _____
16. The nation arising from the younger daughter's son
19. Sarah was _____ in the eyes of Hagar after Ishmael was conceived
21. Lot's younger daughter's son
23. God established a _____ with Abraham
24. The Lord appeared to Abraham in the plains of _____
26. How many tribes of Israel are mentioned in the Bible?
27. Sarah's reaction to the news that she would have a son

DOWN

1. Name a tribe of Israel that is left out of the 144,000
2. The angel of the Lord told Hagar to _____ to Sarah
3. Who was circumcised the same day as Abraham?
6. The mother of Ishmael
7. From which tribe of Israel is Joshua?
8. Abraham was ninety years old and nine, when he was _____
10. Who was the Shuhite that met with Job?
11. The son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram
13. The angel of the Lord said unto Hagar, I will _____ thy seed exceedingly

15. The steward of Abraham's house
17. A child of Lot by his daughter
18. Lot and his daughters dwelt in a _____
20. The land that Abraham was promised
22. Two of the men that visited Abraham were _____
25. Whom does Jewish tradition ascribe to writing the Book of Job?

Answers from Christian Crossword published in the October 2010 issue of Our Firm Foundation



Cancer



Dr. Olson comes from a long line of health professionals including MDs, naturopaths, and osteopaths. Having always wanted to help people, especially in the area of health, she was a missionary to Belize and Korea. A national speaker, an RN for years, a certified herbologist, and a naturopathic doctor, Dr. Olson is utilizing this experience and wealth of knowledge for the benefit of people all over the world.

TREATMENT PROTOCOL FOR NUTRITIONAL THERAPIES

<p>GENERAL DIET</p>	<p>Specifically avoid all foods that have been linked with cancer. These foods include: hydrogenated vegetable oils (including margarine), sugars of all kinds, caffeine, milk and all its by-products, animal products, food additives, alcoholic beverages, as well as fried, barbecued, and smoked foods. Excessive fat intake, especially animal fat, is one of the key factors consistently implicated in higher cancer rates. Partially hydrogenated vegetable oils (commonly found in margarine and processed food) are considered a major contributor to the carcinogenic effects of fat. Sugar and white-flour products are believed to have a direct effect on cancer growth, as well as acting to nullify the positive effects of protective foods such as fiber. Regular, heavy consumption of alcohol is associated with an elevated cancer risk. Excessive intake of caffeine is also a factor in the development of cancer. Avoid these things completely if possible. It is also important to drink only pure, filtered water, in order to avoid any carcinogenic toxins such as chlorine and lead.</p>
<p>HELPFUL FOODS</p>	<p>Eat a daily serving of vegetables from the cruciferous family. Cruciferous vegetables contain substances known as glucosinolates, which help the body neutralize and excrete certain carcinogens. These vegetables include: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, and turnips. Broccoli also contains a substance called sulforaphane, which inhibits the growth of tumors. Include oils high in omega 3 fatty acids (pure expeller or cold pressed flaxseed oil is the highest in this nutrient). Consume generous amounts of ginger root, garlic, and onions, all shown to have cancer-fighting properties. Tomatoes contain lycopene, an excellent antioxidant that protects the body against cancer. Whole grains, psyllium husks, and other fiber-rich foods are essential to any anti-cancer diet, as fiber helps facilitate the prompt removal of toxins from the digestive tract.</p> <p>Spices: Curry powder, turmeric, garlic, ginger, cayenne, sage, thyme, rosemary, and lemon peel are anti-cancer, immune stimulating, antioxidant, and cholesterol-lowering, and exhibit a multitude of health-enhancing effects. Mushrooms have an immune-boosting effect, which helps reduce the risk of cancer and enhances heart health. The shiitake mushroom is one of the most studied mushrooms and has been found to enhance the immune system, ward off infection, and neutralize cancerous cells. Soybeans and other legumes contain naturally occurring “phytoestrogens” that may slow the growth of hormonally-dependant tumors.</p>
<p>NUTRIENTS THAT HELP</p>	<p>Beta Carotene – Demonstrated potent abilities to inhibit production of new cancer cells.</p> <p>Vitamin C – An antioxidant that converts free radicals to harmless waste and is said to detoxify carcinogenic compounds.</p> <p>Vitamin E – An antioxidant and free-radical scavenger. It has been shown in studies to inhibit tumor growth and enhance the effects of cytotoxic drugs (drugs that block the growth of cells in the body), allowing a reduction of the dosage.</p> <p>Selenium – One of the antioxidants that protect cell membranes and enhance the immune system, inhibiting cancer growth.</p> <p>Calcium, Potassium, and Chromium – Deficiencies are associated with some cancers.</p> <p>Zinc – Protects against cancer and is necessary for healthy immune function.</p>



TREATMENT PROTOCOL FOR SELF-CARE THERAPIES

HERBS	<p>Astragalus – This herb helps fight cancer by stimulating the immune system. When researchers mixed astragalus with the blood of cancer patients in a test tube, the function of cancer-killing cells called T lymphocytes improved by 260 percent. Promotes adrenal cortical function, which is critically diminished in cancer patients. It also improves bone marrow depression and gastrointestinal toxicity caused by chemotherapy and radiation.</p> <p>Cat's Claw – Known by the scientific name of <i>Uncaria tomentosa</i>, this South American vine is an ancient treatment for cancer.</p> <p>Mistletoe – Extracts from this herb have been shown to kill cancer cells and to stimulate the immune system.</p> <p>Graviola – The leaves, stem, bark, and fruit of this plant produce special phyto-chemicals called annonaceous acetogenins that have been shown to have active cytotoxicity against cancer cells.</p> <p>Goldenseal – Boosts the immune system and helps fight cancer.</p> <p>Boswellia – Reduces the size of tumors.</p> <p>Burdock Root – Prevents angiogenesis (the formation of auxiliary arteries that feed tumors) and dissolves tumors.</p>
JUICING THERAPY	<p>Include generous amounts of freshly made vegetable juices to feed the body with nutrient-dense food.</p> <p>Carrot, collard greens, kale, parsley, and spinach – Sources of Beta-carotene</p> <p>Kale, parsley, green pepper, collard greens, and broccoli – Sources of Vitamin C</p> <p>Spinach, asparagus, and carrot – Sources of Vitamin E</p> <p>Turnip, garlic, red Swiss chard, and orange – Sources of Selenium</p> <p>Kale, collard greens, turnip greens, parsley, dandelion greens, watercress, beet greens, spinach, and chard – Sources of Calcium</p> <p>Spinach, Swiss chard, Brussels sprouts, and tomatoes – Sources of Potassium</p> <p>Potato, green pepper, apple, and spinach – Sources of Chromium</p>
EXERCISE	<p>For boosting the immune system and fighting cancer, we suggest getting 30 minutes of exercise in the fresh air and sunshine. In the past, people being treated for cancer were often advised by their doctor to rest and reduce their physical activity. This may still be true if movement produces severe pain, rapid heart rate, or breathlessness. Research has shown though that exercise is not only safe and possible during cancer treatment, but it can improve physical functioning and quality of life. Regular exercise is an effective way to counteract the negative effects of inactivity in chronic illness. Too much rest may result in loss of function, strength, and range of motion in the person with a chronic illness. As a result, many health care providers are now encouraging their patients to be as physically active as possible during cancer treatment. To make your exercise effort most effective, it is important that you work your heart. Pay attention to your heart rate, your breathing, and the amount of fatigue in your muscles. If you get short of breath or very tired, rest for a few seconds, and resume exercising as you are able. Start slowly and gradually increase the length of time you exercise. The goal is to help you maintain endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and level of functioning. The more you exercise, the more your ability to exercise and your ability to function can improve. In addition, exercise helps strengthen the immune system and increases the body's ability to fight the cancer cells.</p>

TREATMENT PROTOCOL FOR SELF-CARE THERAPIES

PERSONAL FAVORITES	<p>Additional Supplements I Have Had Success With: Swedish Bitters liquid aids in the detoxification process and improves digestion. It also helps boost the immune system. C-Blast helps strengthen the immune system to regulate and normalize body cells. European Green Clay helps remove toxic waste buildup and helps cleanse the body of parasites. Mega-Multi contains powerful vitamins, nutrients, and antioxidants that help to build the immune system and fight abnormal cell growth. Essi-caps and Hoxsiac improve the body's natural ability to destroy unwanted cells. Mighty Immune Plus is a robust daily immune boosting supplement.</p>
REST	<p>During deep sleep, the production of growth hormone is at its peak. Growth hormone speeds the absorption of nutrients and amino acids into your cells and aids the healing of tissues throughout your body. The hormone also stimulates your bone marrow, where your immune system cells are born. Melatonin, often called the sleep hormone, is also produced during sleep. This hormone inhibits tumors from growing, prevents viral infections, stimulates your immune system, increases antibodies in your saliva, has antioxidant properties and enhances the quality of sleep. Try to get 8 hours a night, with the most restful hours occurring between 9 pm and midnight.</p>
POULTICES & APPLICATIONS	<p>Depending on the type and location of the cancer, various applications and poultices are beneficial. (See Additional Poultices & Applications)</p>
ADDITIONAL THERAPIES	<p>LIVER DETOXIFICATION To fight cancer, the liver's detoxification system must be working optimally. When the liver is not functioning well, it is unable to process and eliminate the multiplicity of carcinogens entering the body. High levels of exposure to carcinogens coupled with sluggish detoxification enzymes significantly increases our susceptibility to cancer. There are various liver cleanses you can do. Include Liver Support for extra cleansing and strengthening.</p> <p>COLON AND PARASITE CLEANSE The colon is the sewage system of the body. If it gets clogged, the body is unable to release toxins and waste. As the waste builds up, the body reabsorbs toxins and causes disease. A thorough colon cleanse program with the use of herbs, juicing, and colonics is a very good first step in dealing with cancer. In addition, it will rid the body of parasites. The damage parasites cause can be extensive: they can destroy cells faster than they can be regenerated; they can release toxins that damage tissues; and, over time, they can depress, even exhaust, the immune system.</p> <p>HYPERTHERMIA The body uses its own internally generated heat to protect itself from viruses, bacteria, and other harmful substances. A fever is the body's attempt to destroy invading organisms and to sweat impurities out through the skin. Fever is an effective natural process of curing disease and restoring health. Heat therapy, or hyperthermia, represents a way to create fever to call out this natural healing process. A state of hyperthermia exists when body temperature rises above its normal level of 98.6 F. An increase in body temperature causes many physiological responses to occur. By increasing the production of antibodies and interferon, it stimulates the immune system. Hyperthermia is a useful technique in detoxification therapy because it releases from the body toxins stored in fat cells, such as pesticides, PCBs, and drug residues.</p>



TREATMENT PROTOCOL FOR SELF-CARE THERAPIES

STRESS RELIEF

CHRONIC STRESS

Numerous Studies have linked stress and its related psychological components to susceptibility to cancer. Adults who have recently lost a loved one, or been widowed, divorced, or separated, tend to have the highest cancer rates. Prayer, meditation, and other stress-relieving techniques are helpful to improve the immune system and help fight the cancer.

ADDITIONAL POULTICES & APPLICATIONS

CABBAGE POULTICE

Use raw or cooked cabbage. Can use whole leaves layered over area and covered with a hot towel. It has a warming, detoxifying and stimulating effect. Apply to affected area to promote circulation and dissolve small fibroids and cysts in the tissue or body cavity.

CLAY POULTICE

Apply 1-1.5 inches thick over the affected area. Leave on for 2 hours at a time. After removing, leave skin open to air for 1 hour, and then repeat if desired. Clay poultice can also be applied at night and left on overnight and washed off first thing in the morning. This poultice will help dissolve tumors and increase circulation to the area.

CARROT POULTICE

Boil carrots until soft or use raw and mash to a pulp. Mix with small amount of vegetable oil. Apply to affected area. Can be left on for 2 hours at a time. Helps shrink tumor and improve circulation to the area. Can also be used for cysts, boils, cold sores, and impetigo.

CASTOR OIL PACK

Use a piece of wool or cotton flannel and saturate it with castor oil. Apply to the affected area, and top with plastic wrap. Add a heating pad on top to drive the castor oil deeper into the tissues. Let stay on for 1 hour each day.

HYDROTHERAPY

Hot and cold water therapies are especially beneficial. The skin is the largest detoxifying organ of the body. It also stores specific antibacterial forces built up by water, air, and light stimulation. Water therapies can be used to train the skin to more efficiently regulate warmth and circulation of the body. It can stimulate the immune system, help increase the body's white blood cell count, aid the body in purging itself of accumulated toxins, and produce a state of general relaxation essential to the healing process.

Contrast applications can be applied to the affected area. Use a towel with hot water (not scalding, just as hot as the patient can stand) and apply to the affected area, leave for 3 minutes, covered by another dry towel. Then replace with a cold (preferably ice cold) towel for 1 minute. Repeat this process 3 times. You may have to heat the hot water in between applications. This will increase circulation to the area and stimulate healing.

COLON HYDROTHERAPY

Colon hydrotherapy, or colonics, can help rid the body of toxins and clean the body's elimination route. This will help maintain a healthy colon that can rid the body of waste and also more effectively absorb nutrients from the diet. Check with your health provider before performing a colonic, as there are certain precautions and contraindications.



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*These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to prevent, diagnose, treat, or cure any disease.



BEHOLD THE MAN!

By Mrs. L. D. Avery-Stuttle

He sat upon the judgment seat,
Proud Pilate, at whose royal feet
The howling, scowling rabble surged,
And their unjust petition urged.
They rent the heavens with their cry:
“Away with Jesus! Crucify!”

Before him stands, with humble mien,
A Man—the lowly Nazarene.
A crown of thorns is on his brow,
A purple robe he weareth now;
His look is godlike, while around
His sacred hands a cord has bound.

But pray, what evil hath he done?
Day after day, from sun to sun,
They say these hands have blessed mankind;
Have healed the sick, the lame, the blind;
Have fed the hungering multitude,
And satisfied the poor with food.

Behold the Man! What hath he done?
The harmless, sinless, spotless one!
No man can lift his hand, I ween,
Against the mighty Nazarene—
Mighty, for ah, the shades of death
Are driven backward by his breath.

Behold the Man! Behold him die!
High stretched between the earth and sky.
The very sun grows black with dread,
As the meek Sufferer bows his head;
The veil within the temple grand
Is rent as by a bloodless hand.

Behold the Man! Death can not hold
With cruel grasp and fingers cold
The mighty Prince of David, him
Before who angels bow the knee;
Two seraphs cleave the shining skies,
And bid the mighty One arise.

And he will come once more—the same
Who once in love and pity came.
O glorious hope! He'll come again!
Take heart, ye weary sons of men;
His blessed, longed-for advent nears—
Then joy and everlasting years.

News Watch

SHARES WORTHLES
 s tumble assets
 y deepens
 n doubt
 Interest rates
 worldwide
Crash!
 rat
 liquidity
 FORECAST



1. Time Magazine, October 4, 2010, Front Cover Story: How the first nine months shape the rest of your life—The New Science of Fetal Origins, by Annie Murphy Paul

The first nine months—“Scientists are coming to believe that what happens in utero has as profound an effect on us as our genes and our environment do.”

Editor’s Note: What scientists are now studying, learning about and writing on was already shown to Ellen White by God back in her day. Prenatal Influences: “Women have need of great patience before they are qualified to become mothers. God has ordained that they shall be fitted for this work. The work of the mother becomes infinite through her connection with Christ. It is beyond understanding....The effect of prenatal influences is by many parents looked upon as a matter of little moment; but heaven does not so regard it....The well-being of the child will be affected by the habits of the mother. Her appetites and passions are to be controlled by principle. There is something for her to shun, something for her to work against if she fulfills God’s purpose for her in giving her a child.” AH 255.

Editor’s additional note: Time’s cover picture is not used here because of the immodesty of that picture.

2. Time Magazine, September 13, 2010, The World, page 16—Mexico

Combating Violence—“As drug-related violence in Mexico rages, eight people were killed in a bar in Cancun on Aug. 31 when a group of men apparently threw gasoline bombs into the building. The attack came one day after Mexican authorities announced that 3,200 federal police officers, amounting to nearly 10% of the force had been dismissed. More



firings are likely; widespread corruption is a key obstacle in the government’s fight against violent drug cartels.”

End Time Perspective: “It is no wonder that violence and crime have spread over the earth, and moral darkness, like the pall of death, shrouds the cities and habitations of men. Satan controls many households, people, and churches. He watches the indications of moral corruption, and introduces his specious temptations, carefully leading men into worse and worse evils, till utter depravity is the result. The only safety is to watch unto prayer against his devices; for he goes about, in the last days, like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. The presence of Jesus is a safe-guard against his advances. The Sun of Righteousness discloses the hideous blackness of the enemy of souls, and he flies from the divine presence.” 2SP 317.

3. Yahoo! News, September 16, 2010—Pope in UK urges tolerance, warns against atheism, by Phillip Pullella and Avril Ormsby

“On Thursday, after the pope was greeted by Queen Elizabeth—titular head of the Church of England founded when Henry VIII broke with Rome in 1534—he got to the heart of his message in his first speech on Britain soil as Roman Catholic leader. He spoke of the ‘deep Christian roots that are present in every layer of British life...”

End Time Perspective: “The influence of Rome in the countries that once acknowledged her dominion, is still far from being destroyed. And prophecy foretells a restoration of her power. “I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed; and all the world wondered after the beast.” [REV. 13:3] The infliction of the deadly wound points to the abolition of the papacy in 1798. After this, says the prophet, “His deadly wound was healed; and



all the world wondered after the beast.” Paul states plainly that the man of sin will continue until the second advent. [II THES. 2:8] To the very close of time he will carry forward his work of deception. And the Revelator declares, also referring to the papacy, ‘All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life.’” GC88 578.

4. National ID Card Being Considered By Senators by Capitol Confidential

As Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) are working on a Senate version of comprehensive immigration reform and it includes a very controversial idea. There is a provision in the draft bill to force all Americans to possess a biometric ID card. Sources on

Capitol Hill confirm to Big Government that the idea of a national ID card is part of the comprehensive immigration reform bill being negotiated between Graham and Schumer.

End Time Perspective: Editor’s comment—To be able to track God’s people will be important under the mark of the beast, which of course will be Sunday legislation—not the national I.D.



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Ellen White Quotes



In the story of Deborah in the Book of Judges, there was a group of people who did not participate in the battle against the enemy. This quote is taken from Judges, chapter 5:23: “Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.”

Ellen White uses the example of Meroz to speak against those who remain neutral in the midst of a religious crisis—the following quotes are a few of the many quotes she has:

“There is a class that are represented by Meroz. The missionary spirit has never taken hold of their souls. The calls of foreign missions have not stirred them to action. What account will those render to God, who are doing nothing in His cause,--nothing to win souls to Christ? Such will receive the denunciation, “Thou wicked and slothful servant.”--Historical Sketches, p. 290.

“Said the Judge, ‘All will be justified by their faith, and judged by their works.’ How vividly then appeared their neglect, and how wise the arrangement of God in giving to every man a work to do to promote the cause and save his fellow men. Each was to demonstrate a living faith in his family and in his neighborhood, by showing kindness to the poor, sympathizing with the afflicted, engaging in missionary labor, and by aiding the cause of God with his means. But, like Meroz, the curse of God rested upon them for what they had not done. They had loved that work which would bring the greatest profit in this life; and opposite their names in the ledger devoted to good works there was a mournful blank”. ChS 88.

“You will never be ministers after the gospel order till you show a decided interest in medical missionary work, the gospel of healing and blessing and strengthening. Come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty powers of darkness, that it be not said of you, ‘Curse ye Meroz, . . . curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the Lord.’” Judges 5:23. . . . CH 533.

“It is important that all now come up to the work and act as though they were living men, laboring for the salvation of souls who are perishing. If all in the church would come up to the help of the Lord, we would see such a revival of His work as we have not hitherto witnessed. God requires this of you and of each member of the church. It is not left with you to decide whether it is best for you to obey the call of God. Obedience is required; and unless you obey you will stand on worse than neutral ground. Unless you are favored with the blessing of God you have His curse. He requires you to be willing and obedient, and says that you shall eat the good of the land. A bitter curse is pronounced on those who come not to the help of the Lord. ‘Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.’ Satan and his angels are in the field to oppose every advance step that God’s people take, therefore the help of everyone is required.” 2T 165.

“What had Meroz done? Nothing. This was their sin. The curse of God came upon them for what they had not done. The man with a selfish, narrow mind is responsible for his niggardliness, but those who have kindly affections, generous impulses, and a love for souls are laid under weighty responsibilities; for if they allow these talents to remain unemployed and to waste they are classed with unfaithful servants. The mere possession of these gifts is not enough. Those who have them should realize that their obligations and responsibilities are increased.” 2T 284.

“Your wife might be a blessing if she would only take upon her the responsibility that it is her duty to take. But she has shunned responsibility all her life, and now is in danger of being influenced, instead of influencing you. Instead of having a softening, elevating influence upon you, there is danger of her thinking as you think, and acting as you act, without reaching down deep to be guided by principle in all her actions. You sympathize with each other, and, unfortunately, help each other to view matters incorrectly. She can exert an influence for good, but she possesses a spirit which savors of spiritual indolence and sloth. She is reluctant to engage in any good work if it is not pleasant and agreeable. What was the sin of Meroz? Doing nothing. It was not because of great crimes that they were condemned, but because they did not come up to the help of the Lord.” 2T 427.

“Many of our people are lukewarm. They occupy the position of Meroz, neither for nor against, neither cold nor hot. They hear the words of Christ, but do them not. If they remain in this state, He will reject them with abhorrence. Many of those who have had great light, great opportunities, and every spiritual advantage praise Christ and the world with the same breath. They bow

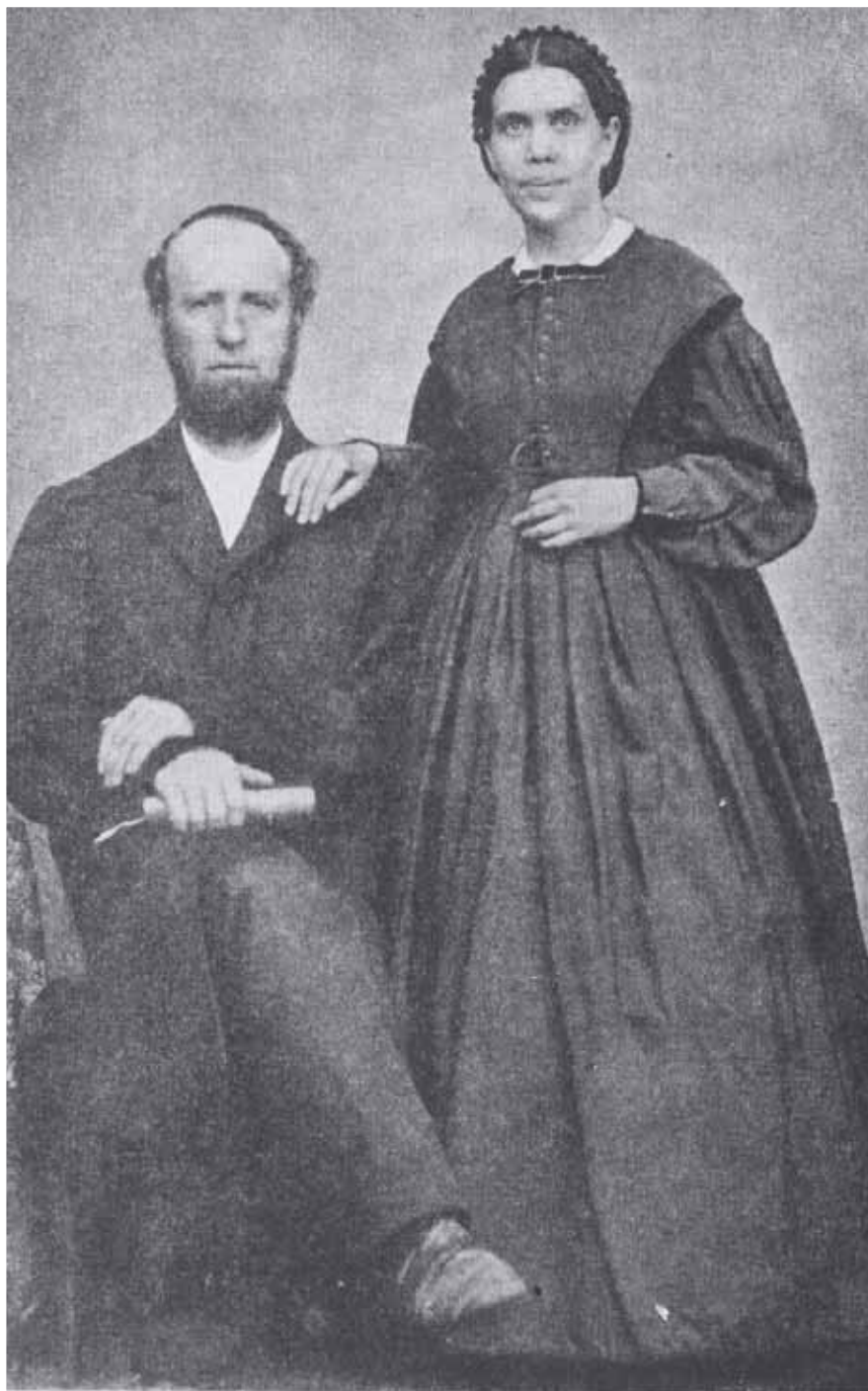
themselves before God and mammon. They make merry with the children of the world, and yet claim to be blessed with the children of God. They wish to have Christ as their Saviour, but will not bear the cross and wear His yoke. May the Lord have mercy upon you; for if you go on in this way, nothing but evil can be prophesied concerning you." 5T 76.

"I am alarmed at the indifference of our churches. Like Meroz, they have failed to come up to the help of the Lord. The laymen have been at ease. They have folded their hands, feeling that the responsibility rested upon the ministers. But to every man God has appointed his work; not work in his fields of corn and wheat, but earnest, persevering work for the salvation of souls." 5T381.

"Indifference or neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime; and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God." RH, September 30, 1873.

"Shall not this be the time when all who are in connection with God shall come to the front and show their colors? Shall it be seen that men and women step back and show no interest, no zeal, no earnest effort when help is needed? When the car drags heavily, then is the time for everyone to push, put shoulders to the wheels, and not stand back giving orders, or accusing the ones who are trying to push the load, or criticizing everything they do, because it is not done in their way and after their ideas. . . . Let everyone do his level best to move the load with might and strength..." TMK 332.

"Not to Be Weary in Well-doing.-- Many times our efforts for others may be disregarded and apparently lost. But this should be no excuse for us to become weary in well-doing. How often has Jesus come to find fruit upon the plants of His care, and found nothing but leaves! We may be disappointed as to the result of our best efforts, but this should not lead us to be indifferent to others' woes and to do nothing. 'Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.'" 3T 525.



ELDER AND MRS. JAMES WHITE

*"O come, let us
sing unto the Lord:
let us make a joyful
noise to the rock
of our salvation.
Let us come before
his presence with
thanksgiving, and
make a joyful noise
unto him with psalms. For the
Lord is a great God, and a great
King above all gods."*

- Psalms 95:1-3



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