



*our firm*  
**FOUNDATION**

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*The Immutable Law of God • Christ Our Righteousness • The Seventh-day Sabbath  
The Three Angels' Messages • The Non-Immortality of the Soul • The Sanctuary*

*“I Counsel Thee”  
—Rev. 3:18*

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Southern France

THE 400  
AND THE 430

THE LAST  
OPEN VISION

**I Will  
Come  
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HEALTH  
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**JACOB'S PILLOW**

# Editorial

Clark Floyd



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.

Recently I heard a statement by a former Seventh-day Adventist saying that he was happy to be out from under the bondage of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

I have been a Seventh-day Adventist since May 21, 1977, when I was baptized at the church in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and I have never considered myself to be under bondage.

The issue, I believe, is, what exactly do we consider bondage to be? Is it following the commandments of Jesus rather than our old desires? Is it eating differently than we used to eat, not allowing ourselves to partake of certain foods that we know are not best for us? Is it dressing more modestly and healthfully than the rest of the world? Is it not joining in competitive sports or doing the things we used to do?

Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep my commandments”, including the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment regarding the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath. He also said through John, “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” And then He gave us a health understanding through our prophet, that if we carefully follow it, we have the opportunity of living 7 years longer than the rest of the non conforming population. He has given us ideas of dress that help us avoid causing or being a part of the lustful cravings of the sinful heart. But best of all, He has not only asked us to do these things, but He has also promised us the power to be overcomers in each of these areas that we will be fit candidates to live

with other sinless beings in a beautiful earth made new.

This all may be bondage in a sense—the sense that we are no longer free to do those things that were so pleasing to the carnal heart.

When Eve fell victim to Satan’s temptation in the Garden of Eden, was she hoping to come out from under some sort of bondage? Was the idea that she would be like a god, an idea that would give her more freedom? From almost 6000 years of results, we can see that the bondage increased. It did not dissipate.

In the Book of Judges, we again and again see the Israelite people fall away from God. And as they fall away, they

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*The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought.*

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seem to always end up in bondage to a heathen neighbor until a new judge arises to help with their delivery. The key phrase in that book is found in chapter 21, verse 25, the very last verse of the Book—“In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”

Yes, the man that was “happy to be out from under the bondage of the Seventh-day Adventist Church”, in fact, is going to now be able to do those things which are right in his own eyes. This is the sophistry of Satan—to make us think that freedom consists of getting away from the requirements of God.

In Psalm 116:16, we read, “O Lord, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds.” This seems almost contradictory—a servant but with no bonds.

Ellen White wrote the following quotes in Steps to Christ at pages 43 & 44:

“God desires to heal us, to set us free. But since this requires an entire transformation, a renewing of our whole nature, we must yield ourselves wholly to Him.”

“He (God) invites us to give ourselves to Him, that He may work His will in us. It remains for us to choose whether we will be set free from the bondage of sin, to share the glorious liberty of the sons of God.”

Dear Reader: “The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness.”

As we near the end of this earth’s time and the coming of Jesus, Satan is going to be walking about as a roaring lion seeing whom he can devour. He has been successful with some former Seventh-day Adventists, and they can be discouraging to others—in fact they are some of Satan’s best weapons through their websites or direct statements to others. The better we know and understand the Scriptures, the more quickly we can settle into the truth both spiritually and intellectually. This is the right message, but Satan would like to derail you from it—don’t let him.

**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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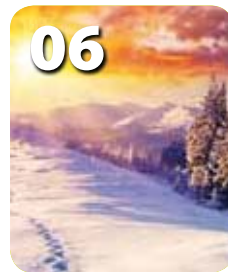
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# The Bible Museum Opened

By A. L. O. E.  
1883

There are many objects of deep interest for the student of Scripture, the accounts of which have been written for our learning, objects which we are intended to contemplate with earnest attention, and from which we may draw spiritual lessons.

## Jacob's pillow

Let us linger before this ancient stone, used first by the benighted patriarch as a resting-place for his head; then raised and anointed by his hands in the morning, as a solemn memorial of a night to be much remembered by him through all his mortal life, and beyond it. If we may judge of the previous spiritual state of Jacob by his conduct towards his father and brother, we shall be inclined to date his conversion to God, the new birth of his soul, to that midnight hour when the wanderer dreamed his glorious dream.

Some of the ideas suggested by Jacob's pillow have been embodied in a beautiful hymn.

*"If, in my wanderings,  
My sun go down,  
Darkness encompass me,  
My rest a stone—  
Still in my dreams I'll be  
Nearer, my God, to Thee—  
Nearer to Thee!"*

*"Then let my ways appear  
Steps unto Heaven;  
All that Thou sendest me,  
In mercy given;  
Angels to beckon me,  
Nearer my God, to Thee—  
Nearer to Thee!"*

*"Then, with my waking thoughts  
Bright with Thy praise,  
Out of my stony griefs  
Bethels I'll raise;  
Still by my woes to be  
Nearer, my God, to Thee—  
Nearer to Thee!"*

## What the patriarch beheld in a dream, faith views as a glorious reality

But a yet deeper meaning seems to be given to the sacred dream by the words of our Saviour, if it be indeed to Jacob's ladder that they allude as a type. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man." What the patriarch beheld in a dream, faith views as a glorious reality. Christ, by His incarnation, linked heaven with earth; by His ascension, joined earth to heaven. He formed a pathway of light, by which the angels ascend and descend. Wherever we receive first into our hearts this glorious truth—first look unto the Saviour as the Way, the Truth, and the Life—that place becomes to us as memory's holy ground, and we can say, as the patriarch said, "This is none other but the house of God—this is the gate of heaven."

## The legions of heaven guarded the servant of God

Jacob's pillow and his mysterious dream naturally suggest to us meditation on the ministry of angels, of which glimpses are given to us ever and anon in Holy Writ. The bright tenants of a world unseen may be hovering near us, when we have little thought of their presence. How wondrous was the scene that opened on the servant of Elisha, when, at a time of imminent peril, the prophet's prayer, "Lord, open his eyes, that he may see", was granted! With chariots and horses the fierce enemy was encompassing the city; but lo! Above, a defense, before invisible, was seen to girdle round the prophet: horses and chariots of fire, the legions of Heaven, guarded the servant of God, and no puny arm of flesh had power to hurt one hair of his head.

## We owe their ministry to the Lord of the angels

Were our eyes thus enabled to behold

the spirits of light, we might see bright winged visitors entering, as familiar guests, the lowly cottage, the attic, the cellar—abodes which proud, luxurious sons of dust would not stoop to enter; we might see angels still encouraging a Peter in prison, refreshing a weary Elisha, rejoicing over a repentant sinner, or bending with celestial smiles over a dying Lazarus, waiting for the signal to welcome him back to life. But on whatever missions of love these bright beings may come to our earth, we owe their ministry to the Lord of the angels: they are descending upon the Son of man.

And we have our ascending angels too—those whose upward flight we fain would follow—blest ones, whom we dare not even wish to detain, as they mount  
"Onward to the glory,  
Upward to the prize,  
Homeward to the mansions  
Far beyond the skies!"

Our eyes are dim with tears, as in vain we try to track their course, lost in a haze of glory; but this we own, with thankful hearts—they owe their exaltation to the King of saints alone: angels are "ascending, as well as descending, upon the Son of man.

## Above the stone rises the ladder of light

In the dark, bitter gloom of bereavement, we rest our aching heads on the tombstone which covers the relics of one most dear, peacefully sleeping in Jesus. Like Jacob, we feel benighted and alone. But if, in the midnight of sorrow, God reveal Himself to us as He revealed Himself to the patriarch, even that stone will become to us a Bethel. Does it bear the dear name of our dead—no, rather a name that is written, we trust, in God's Book of Life! Above the stone rises the ladder of light; its foot may rest in the grave, but its summit is hidden in the radiance of Heaven. And that loved one will be called forth to go to Heaven at the first resurrection.



*"I Counsel Thee"  
—Rev. 3:18*

By Mrs. Pauline Alderman

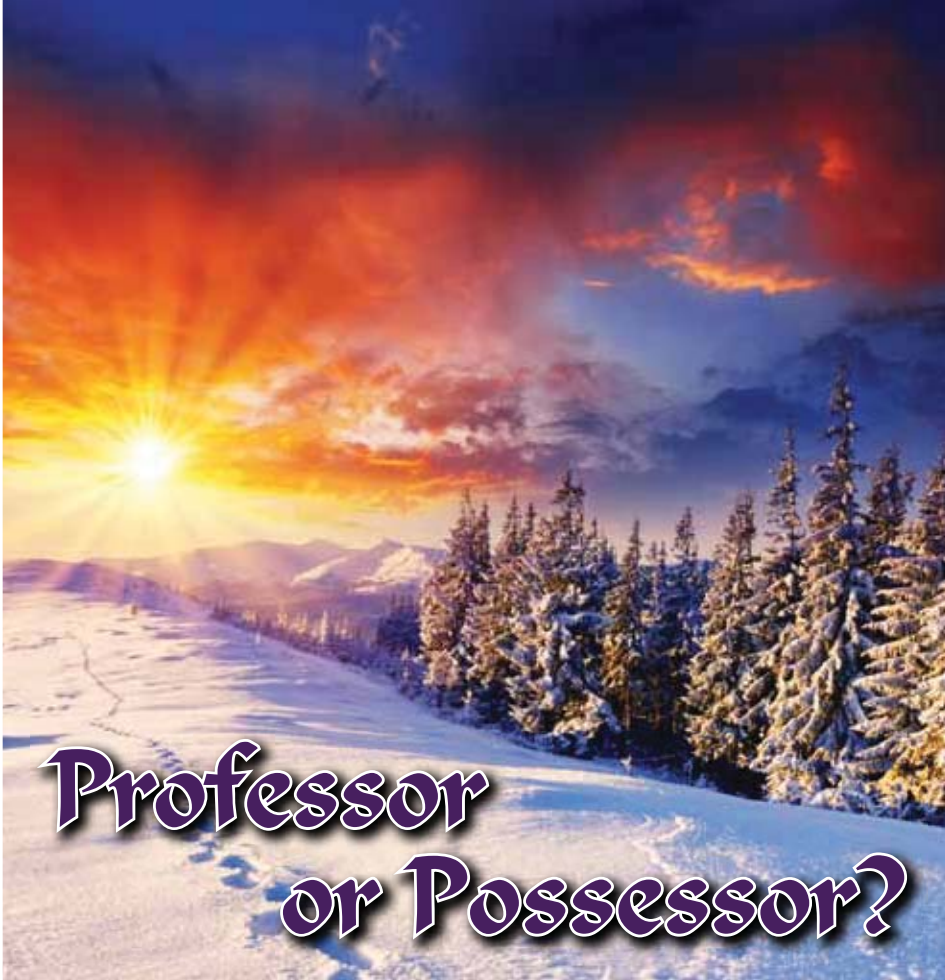
Sleep not, my soul, in such an hour:  
For perils thicken fast around.  
The tempter lurks with fiercer power  
To muffle now the trumpet sound.  
Heed thou the counsel Heaven hath sent—  
"Be zealous, therefore, and repent."

Awake! The nations are arrayed:  
The last great battle soon will be!  
Well then, for those who much have prayed—  
For those who unto Christ can flee.  
No other shield, or refuge then  
For all the stricken sons of men.

Arise! The heavenly Counselor  
Hath told thee to secure the gold,  
And eye-salve to anoint thee for  
An entrance to a higher fold,  
But thou art blind, -- thou canst not see  
What Jesus would bestow on thee.

How can we sleep! The Master waits  
To number up the little band  
Who soon with all the risen saints,  
Will rise to view the glorious land—  
That land of which we've sung and prayed,  
When earth against us was arrayed.

O who will reach the city bright,  
The mansions even now prepared?—  
No palsied soul who sees no light  
Nor lukewarm ones who truth retard:  
But those who heed the counsel given,  
Redeemed from men, will enter heaven.



# Professor or Possessor?

By Joe Olson

Are you a professor of Jesus Christ? I mean, do you profess to believe in Jesus? Or, are you a possessor of Jesus? Do you possess Jesus in your heart? This is extremely important... and they are not necessarily the same thing.

## The essence of the gospel

“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.” 1 John 5:12. This verse, so simple to understand, yet so profound to those who will mine the depths of its treasures, is the essence of the gospel. John plainly states that he who has the Son, or Jesus Christ... has life. If you don’t have the Son, you do not have life.

The basic, yet grand truth is that if Jesus is in our hearts, we have life, because Jesus is life. “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6. If Jesus, who is life, is not in us, then we have no life. It need not be any harder than that.

## Who has life?

You hear people say that there are many ways to heaven and to eternal life.

Really? Not according to the One who IS eternal life. This is another very simple yet very deep concept here. If Jesus IS the “life”, then if you do not have Him, it should go without saying that you do not have life.

The Buddhists do not have Jesus. The Muslims do not have Jesus. The Hare Krishnas do not have Jesus. All the whatever elses, outside of Christianity do not have Jesus. Then... do they have life? According to the One we call the Son of God Himself, He says no. In a world of “everybody goes to heaven” and “everybody gets to heaven in their own way” theology, this idea seems extreme and radical. Yet they are Jesus’ own words!

## The words of Jesus were very plain

We would consider talk like that today as being divisive and exclusive and even separationist. Why, I’ll bet there wouldn’t be much of an ecumenical movement if Jesus were here today. He talked very plainly and was quite specific. There was only one way to heaven. There was only one denomination. There was right and there was wrong and no gray area. There was A path to life and A path to death.

It is man who has added and blurred and hidden the truth from us. There were only two masters, and you hated one and loved the other or despised the one and held to the other.

We blame God for making it so difficult to know how to get to heaven, but God is not the one who has done this... we have. God is very plain and simple about it. According to Jesus, if He resides in us, we are heaven bound, because where Jesus is, there will we be also. “If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be...” John 12:26. Jesus said that anyone who serves Him and follows Him will be where He is. Pretty straight forward isn’t it?

## If you have Jesus within, then you have a right to heaven

But what if you do not serve Him? What if you serve... say, Mohammed? What if you serve Buddha? Or Shiva? Or Lucifer? Or... how about if you serve yourself? If you serve self, or any of these others, then do you get to go where Jesus is? According to Jesus, you only go with Him, you will only be with Him, if you serve **Him**.

No Bible believer would argue whether or not a person who had Jesus abiding within would have a right to heaven. Jesus is God. Jesus is God the Father’s Son. Jesus asks what He will, and the Father grants it. “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am...” John 17:24. Yes, Jesus gets all His prayers answered and He has prayed that those His Father has given Him, would be with Him!

## Is He truly in your heart?

Then, the only question that remains is: “Do I “have” the Son?” Or, another way: “Is He truly in my heart?” Do I “have” the Son, because if I don’t, I don’t have life. That has to be answered. We must know for sure! Am I a “possessor” of Jesus, or merely a “professor” of Jesus? Do I just profess to know Him, or do I really know Him? This is a life or death question! Literally! Just because you say you know Him, does not mean you do!

There will be many, when the Lord comes back to redeem His children, who expect they will be going with Him. Jesus talks about these people Himself: “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;



but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Matt. 7:21-23.

This is huge!

### Many will think they are going to heaven

Apparently, according to Jesus, there will be “many” who think they are going to heaven, who think they “possess” Jesus, who do not! And these are not just nominal, or “name only” Christians. These are working Christians. These are preaching Christians. These are demon-casting-out Christians. Prophesying Christians!

And why does Christ say He never knew them? Why does Jesus tell these so-called Christians to depart from Him? Because they work iniquity! “Depart from me, ye that work iniquity!” Iniquity is sin. And please note the tense here. Jesus did not say that you “have” sinned. If that were the case, it would be hopeless for all of us, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

He is not referring to those who “were” sinners, but came to Him and got the victory over sin. Jesus did not say, “Depart from Me, ye that “worked” iniquity.” This is very important here...

especially for those who have believed the lie that we can’t quit sinning! Jesus said, “Depart from Me, ye that “work” iniquity”... present tense.

### Many right things are done for the wrong reasons

For those who think that they will be sinning until Jesus comes back... you might want to rethink that position. Because according to Jesus, if you are working iniquity when He comes back, He will tell you to depart from Him. Please, if you have a problem with that concept, please... take it up with Jesus. I am only repeating His words. I am not restating or inferring or stretching God’s words... I am just repeating them.

It is interesting to note that these people Jesus referred to regale all the wonderful “works” they have done, yet Jesus said what they “worked” was iniquity. Many, many right things are done for the wrong reason. And many wrong people do right things. I mean, Hitler was a vegetarian... do you think that is going to do much for him in the Day of Judgment? Just because you may profess God, does not always mean that you possess God in your heart.

### How could good works be bad?

Paul’s letter to Titus talks of “professors”. “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.” Titus 1:16. He says that they are reprobate in every good work!

How could these “professors” of God who have every good work be reprobate? Paul didn’t say every work, because not all works are good works. But he specifically said every “good” work. How could “good” works be bad? The answer is in the meaning of the word “reprobate”. Webster’s defines “reprobate” as: “not of standard purity or fineness” and/or “abandoned in sin”.

### Our work must be pure

These workers of good works are disobedient. Their work is not pure, being mixed with sin. Self and selfishness is mixed in, making the “work” reprobate, or impure. Do you see a theme here? God is taking clean, pure people back to heaven with Him.

Remember when God met with the

Israelites in the wilderness? “And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.” Ex. 19:10-11.

### God told the Israelites to wash their clothes

God was going to come down and meet with His people, and He told them to wash their clothes. They were to be sanctified. They were to be clean. Even the very clothes they were wearing were to be clean. Why? Why would God require that? After all, couldn’t God have cleaned their clothes for them?

Couldn’t He have wrinkled His nose, or spoke in commanding words, and all of the clothes would have sparkled? Of course! But He told them to wash their own clothes. They had a part to play!

But to wash their clothes, they needed water. Where would they get what they needed to get clean? God would provide. God always provides. He provided what they needed to be clean back then, and He provides what we need to be clean now. God always provides!

### We must have Christ in our lives to do acceptable work in God’s eyes

God’s people needed to be clean and needed to be set apart for Him. They were His special people... His children. And as His children, they would do the works of their Father. But without Christ, without His power, it is impossible to do these good works. It is only by having Christ in our lives to empower us that any “works” that we do are made good. Here



we are right back to “having” Christ or not having Him.

Now, we should have a concern here... How can people believe they were “known” of Jesus, and yet they weren’t? Remember, they were pleading that Jesus must “know” them. Jesus was saying that He never “knew” them, but they were saying, “Of course You do... look at all the things we have been doing for You.” These people whom Jesus was referring to aren’t **hoping** they are going to heaven... they believe they are going to heaven... only to be disappointed. Apparently, they must not have “had” Jesus; otherwise, they would have “had” life.

### **If you love God, you will do what God says**

The answer to whether or not you “have” Jesus is made clear in John’s first letter: “And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.” 1 John 3:24. This is how we know if we “have” Jesus, how we know if He dwells in us and we in Him. If we keep His commandments!

Remember, this is the man who talked more about love than any other disciple or gospel writer! And I don’t get the impression that he was trying to drive the point home... he was simply stating what was to him, the obvious. “If you love God, you will do what God says.” Are we doing, or in other words, keeping, His sayings? “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings...” John 14:23, 24.

Once again, it could not be said more plainly... and once again, by God Himself! “If a man loves Me, he will keep My words.”

### **If you do not love God, you will not do what God says**

Then, in case we might have missed the point, Jesus says what should

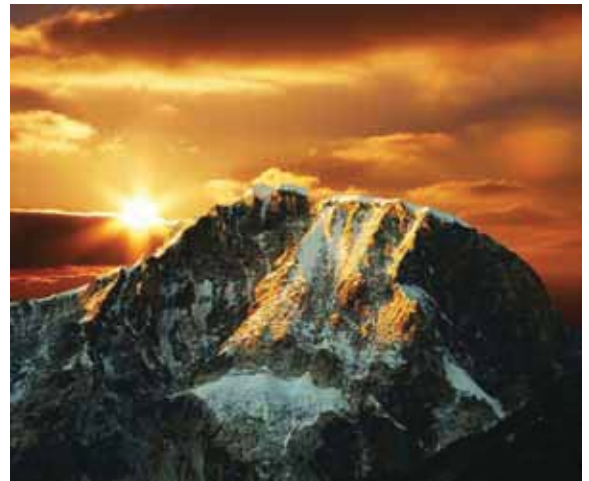
be the obvious inference, but doesn’t want anyone to miss the point... “He that doesn’t love Me, won’t keep My sayings.” And by the way... what are Jesus’ sayings? What are His words?

“And God spake all these words, saying,” Ex. 20:1. What “words” were said in Exodus? The Ten Commandments! How many of the “words” or commandments do you suppose God said to keep? Six? Eight? How about nine?

### **The issue is love**

Oh, and lest you think this is a legalistic message, Jesus Himself clears that right up. When Jesus was asked what the great commandment was, this was His answer: “Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” Matt. 22:35-40.

The keeping of the commandments is a love issue! But isn’t that exactly what Jesus said earlier? “If you love Me, keep my commandments.” It’s not an obedience or works issue... we just talked about those who did many works but



Jesus never knew them. It’s not even a willingness to die issue. In 1 Corinthians 13, we are told that even though we give our bodies to be burned, it profits us nothing if we don’t have love! “And though I bestow all my goods (money) to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.” 1 Cor. 13:3.

### **Jesus loved us to death**

If it’s not works, and it’s not money, and it’s not even death, what is it then? It’s love. To be a possessor and not just a professor, we must have love. And as we all know very well... Jesus IS love. If you have Jesus in your heart, then you have love. If love does not reign there, then Jesus cannot BE there.

Once again, Jesus has put it in the simplest terms for us to understand. If we “have” Jesus, we will love as He loved. And how did He love? He loved us to death. He loved us so much that He denied Himself, went to the cross, and died for us. In like manner then, if He is in our hearts, then we will deny ourselves, we will take up our cross, and die to self.

He has given all. If He is in us, we will give all. We will love others more than we love ourselves. We will do for others more than we will do for ourselves. We will think of others more than we think of ourselves. We will work for others more than we work for ourselves. After all, isn’t that what Jesus did... and does?

### **We must love one another as Jesus loved us**

And if Jesus is in us, or if we “have” Jesus, doesn’t it make sense that that is what we will do? “Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity





vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." 1 Cor. 13:4-7.

This is what we will be like when we have love. This is what Jesus wants from us, this is His "commandment". "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." John 15:12.

Please note that it is not just "love" for love's sake, but that He wants us to love one another like He loves us. We are to love one another enough to die for each other. That's what kind of love Jesus has for us, and if we "have" Jesus, we too will have that kind of love. Not a pity love, not an emotional love, but a love that will cause us to do all He says, not because we have to, but because we wouldn't think of doing anything else. His love for us, His sacrifice for us, will cause us to love Him back. "We love him, because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19.

### **A true story from World War II**

My son decided to give his heart to Jesus and be baptized after hearing me tell of a true story about World War II. It was during the coldest and darkest part of the war. Germany was losing and they were running very low on supplies for their concentration camps. Food was a precious commodity. The way the commander of the

concentration camp proposed to solve the dilemma was to line up all the prisoners and start with the first prisoner, have him say "1", the next one "2", and so on up to "5". Then they would start the count again, until all the prisoners had a number of 1 up to 5.

It was then announced that all prisoners with the number 5 should step forward. After they had done so, they were informed that they were selected to be shot and killed so that the others could

survive on the short rations. One of the "selected" men, a number 5, began to quietly weep. He whispered to those around him that he was married and had children and would never get to see them again.

### **"I will take your place"**

At this, a man stepped forward and said to him, "take my place in line and I will take yours." Gratefully, man # 5 exchanged places with the man who made the offer, and all of the 5's were then taken away and shot to death. True story.

I asked my son, "If that were you... if you were # 5, what would you do for that man and his family for what he had done for you, and how long would you do it?" My son said, "I would do anything. I would give my life for him, since it would have been because of him that I lived." I said, "That is what Jesus has done for you."

### **We were condemned, but Jesus, God Himself, took our place**

That is what Jesus has done for each

one of us. He took our place in line. We were condemned to die, with no chance of living. Jesus not only has given us life... Jesus took the death that was ours. Jesus hung on that cross that He might take our place. Jesus counted it a privilege to take our place. Not some man; not some angel, but God Himself took our place!

Can you take it in?

Think of being in a death camp, with no chance of escape. And then imagine the horror of being selected to die. And someone offers to take your place? What would YOU do for that person? If he asked you to do something for him, since he is doing this



for you... would you do it? Really, could he ask too much of you?

**Jesus took our place, without being asked, because He loves us**

Now, imagine that when he took your place, you did not just get to live in a prison camp, but that you were able to live forever... in heavenly mansions. You get to live, surrounded by beauty and glories we cannot now imagine, with no death, no suffering, no pain... forever and ever. All of this, without you so much as asking Him to do this. He did it freely, for you. Because He loved you.

When I explained all of that to my son, he cried, and recognizing what Jesus had done for him, he gave his heart to the Lord.

### **Do you want the life that Jesus offers? Then you must be a possessor of Him**

How about you my friend? When you realize the enormity of what Jesus has done for you... what does it cause you to do? Do you want to respond in kind? Do you want to give your heart to Him? What can you give him for all He has done for you? What is there in this life that could keep you from giving Jesus your heart? The Holy Spirit is urging you to make a decision. Don't put it off until a more convenient time!

Do you want the life that Jesus offers? There is only one way, no matter what anyone else tells you. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." 1 John 5:12. Is Jesus in your heart? He took your place and gave His life for yours. Will you give Him yours in return? Let's invite Jesus to come into our hearts forever.



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

# THE ALBIGENSES OF SOUTHERN FRANCE

By Professor P. T. Magan  
(Battle Creek College)



From the seventh to the twelfth centuries, so engrossed were the clergy of France with political intrigues and the enhancing of their landed property and wealth, that so-called spiritual heresies began to spring up in their midst; and so rapid was the progress of these false

doctrines that the very existence of the Catholic Church was threatened throughout a large portion of France.

## SOUTHERN FRANCE WAS BEAUTIFUL AND BOUNTIFUL IN ITS RESOURCES

It would be difficult to find a tract of country more richly blessed by nature than Southern France. A genial climate combined with a fertile and well-watered soil to make the conditions of life as pleasant as heart could wish.

“Narbonne-Gaul” was the name by which it was known in olden days, and it comprised the modern provinces of Dauphine, Provence, and Languedoc, or Gascogne. Like a



silver seam in a vesture of green, the stately Rhone flowed across the country, till it mingled with the waves of the Mediterranean, which laved the southern boundary of the land. In that Elysian vale were golden expanses of corn land, flanked by purple patches of vineyard, and girt with fruit and forest-trees. To the fruitage of these fields and to the meadows flowing with milk and honey, was added the wealth of a prosperous commerce borne by the white-winged ships across the billows of the sea from the little republics of Italy and the countries of the far East.

## THE RICH, CADENT LANGUAGE OF THE ALBIGENSES WAS THE PROVENCAL

The dwellers in this happy valley are known to history as the “Albigenses”, which name was derived from Albi, a place in Languedoc. They were skillful husbandmen, living mostly in rustic hamlets, and were passionately fond of art and poetry. The gray and ivied castles of a powerful nobility topped the violet hills, whose owners spent the day in elegant festivities and tournaments, and the shadowy time of evening in listening to the songs of the troubadours. The towns were formed into communes; and being possessed of municipal privileges, enjoyed the sweets of liberty. They had a language of their own—the Provençal. “In richness of vocables, softness of cadence, and picturesqueness of idiom, the Provençal excelled all the languages of Europe, and promised to become the universal tongue of Christendom.” (Wylie, “History of Protestantism”)

## THE CLERGY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WERE REGARDED WITH LOATHING AND CONTEMPT

It was here that the first great insurrection against the papal power broke out. “The Paulician theology—a theology in which it would seem many of the doctrines of the modern Calvinists were mingled with some doctrines derived from the

ancient Manicheans—spread rapidly through Provence and Languedoc. The clergy of the Catholic Church were regarded with loathing and contempt. ‘Viler than a priest’, ‘I would as soon be a priest’, became proverbial expressions. The papacy had lost all authority with all classes, from the great feudal princes down to the cultivators of the soil.” (Macaulay, Essay on Von Ranks’s History of the Popes, par. 13)

### **THE FAITH AND LIFE OF THE ALBIGENSES WERE IN GREAT CONTRAST TO THAT OF THE CATHOLICS**

Doubtless there were some striking errors in the Christianity of the Albigenses, but their faith and their life were infinitely more pure and ennobling than the faith and life of the minions of Catholicism. They translated the New Testament into their own tongue, and this was the earliest of all modern versions of the Scriptures. Their doctrines, once started, spread with a marvelous rapidity, and it verily seemed that the thirteenth, and not the sixteenth, century would be the date of the Reformation. A new light sprang up far brighter than the candle of Rome.

### **TO THEM THE CHURCH OF ROME WAS THE SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN**

These Albigenses cast aside all the machinery of the church. To them the Church of Rome was the synagogue of Satan, in which salvation was impossible. They rejected the holy wafers and the worship of the Virgin Mary and of the saints, while purgatory, relics, images, veronicas, crucifixes, holy water, and indulgences were one and all set down as inventions of wicked men and utterly unprofitable for salvation. They gave the greatest umbrage, however, to their spiritual masters, when they declared that the annats and oblations which made the procuring of salvation so profitable to the priest and so costly to the sinner, were all of the devil and unworthy of a place in the Christian system.



It was the belief of the Albigensian heretics that the baptism of the Holy Spirit was proof that their sins had been pardoned and washed white in the blood of the Lamb. Moreover, if one of their number continued to pray, and at the same time persisted in wrong doing, his prayers were justly regarded as of no avail. Ordination was conferred upon their ministers by the simple imposition of hands.



### **TRUTH AND SIMPLICITY WERE THE RULE OF THEIR RITUALS**

Severe and simple was the Albigensian ritual. “The Catholic eucharist was replaced by the benediction of bread, which was daily performed at table. He who was senior by profession or position took the bread and wine, while all stood up and recited the Lord’s Prayer. The senior then saying, ‘The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us,’ he brake the bread, and distributed to all present.” (Lea, “History of the Inquisition”) It is true that this service is not a faithful reproduction of the scene narrated in Matthew 26:17-30 and John 13:1-17; but it is radiant in its truth and simplicity when compared with the mummeries of wafer and pyx, which constituted the eucharistic service of the Roman Church.

### **MEMBERSHIP INTO THE CHURCH WAS EQUALLY STRAIGHT FORWARD**

Admission into the Albigensian Church was very simple. The minister addressed the candidate thus: “Brother, dost thou wish to give thyself to our faith?” To this the convert would reply, “Ask God for this sinner, that he may lead me to a good end, and make me a good Christian.” The minister would then rejoin, “Dost thou give thyself to God and to the gospel?” And the candidate would reply, “I do.” And again the clergyman would ask: “Dost thou promise that in future thou wilt eat no meat, nor eggs, nor cheese, nor any victual except

from water and wood; that thou wilt not lie or swear or do any lust with thy body, or go alone when thou canst have a comrade, or abandon the faith for fear of water or fire or any other form of death?" These promises being duly made, the congregation knelt while the elder placed his hand on the head of the one seeking admission to the church, and recited the opening verses of the gospel by John. "Then the kiss of peace went round, the women receiving it by the touch of the elbow."

### **THEIR PRIVATE MORALS WERE PURE AND UNSTAINED**

All forms of licentiousness and adultery, so common among the orthodox of that time, were held in the greatest abhorrence. There was nothing about the Albigensian worship to attract the sensual and carnal minded. So pure and unstained were the private morals of these people that the Catholics have admitted with regret and shame the contrast between the heretics and the faithful.

St. Bernard, a noted Catholic, has said: "If you interrogate them, nothing can be more Christian; as to



their conversation, nothing can be less reprehensible; and what they speak they prove by deeds. As for the morals of the heretic, he cheats no one, he oppresses no one, he strikes no one; his cheeks are pale with fasting, he eats not the bread of idleness, his hands labor for his livelihood."

### **THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF SCRIPTURE WAS A THREAT TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Lastly, they were most earnest students of the Scriptures. Lucas, the Roman Catholic bishop of Puy, has vouched for this in the warning which he delivered to his flock. Said he, "The Christians should dread their conversation as he would a tempest, unless he is deeply skilled in the law of God, so that he can overcome them in argument."

### **THE VENGEANCE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH FELL MERCILESSLY ON THIS FAITHFUL PEOPLE**

This was the class of Frenchmen upon whom the vengeance of the Roman Catholic powers, both from within and from without France, fell with merciless vigor. These were the ones who suffered upon the rack, who were broken upon the wheel, and burned at the stake, while blood-stained and adulterous French Roman Catholic prelates and laymen were loaded with honors and emoluments during life, and canonized after death.

*Editor's note: P. T. Magan was one of the founders of Madison College in Tennessee in which "true education" was taught. He had taught at Battle Creek College before that.*

# Sin and Its Results

By Ellen G. White

The question is asked, How is the existence of sin reconcilable with the government of a wise, merciful, and omnipotent God? Why was sin permitted to enter heaven? Why was it permitted to take up its abode on the earth to cause discord and suffering?

## Evil originated with the rebellion of Lucifer

It certainly was not God's purpose that man should be sinful. He made Adam pure and noble, with no tendency to evil. He placed him in Eden, where he had every inducement to remain loyal and obedient. The law was placed around him as a safeguard.

Evil originated with the rebellion of Lucifer. It was brought into heaven when he refused allegiance to God's law. Satan was the first lawbreaker.

## Adam and Eve yielded to Satan's lies

God created Adam, and placed him in the Garden of Eden. He told him that

if he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he must surely die. Satan came to our first parents in the disguise of a serpent, and tempted them to disobey, telling them that if they ate the forbidden fruit, they would be as gods. They yielded to him. Thus sin entered the world.

God had power to hold Adam back from touching the forbidden fruit; but had He done this, Satan would have been sustained in his charge against God's arbitrary rule. Man would not have been a free moral agent, but a mere machine.

## God's law is an expression of His goodness, making known His expectations

The law was given to man in Eden, "when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy". But sin entered the world. And during their years of bondage, the children of Israel lost sight of the commandments. God delivered His people from bondage, and from Mount Sinai proclaimed to them His law. Look at this law. It is God's holiness made known. It is an expression


of God's goodness; for it makes known what the Creator expects from His creatures.

## God's law is unchanging, and has not been abolished

The law of God is immutable. Were it otherwise, no confidence could be placed in his government. God rules the world in omnipotence, and all that His love inspires He will execute. He who rules the world in wisdom and love is a God who changes not. He does not abolish today that which He enforced yesterday.

## Satan has infatuated men and women to mistake error for truth

Through all the ages Satan's work has been the same, -- to make of none effect the law of God. He has infatuated men and women, leading them to mistake darkness for light, and error for truth. He began this work in heaven, and ever since, he has been trying to deceive. He tells men and women that God has abrogated all law, and will now open the gates of heaven to transgressors. He declares



that his expulsion from heaven was a severe and uncalled-for action, and that those he led in rebellion may now enter into heaven; for his effort to abrogate the law has been successful, and God's government has been changed. But were this so, Satan would have done on earth that which he attempted to do in heaven, and he would therefore be entitled to the throne of heaven as the chief ruler.

**Perfection is the only title which will gain admittance to heaven**

Those who accept Satan's reasoning are terribly deceived. They accept a position which has no true foundation. God is unchangeable. He is satisfied with nothing short of perfect obedience. Perfection is the only title which will gain admittance to heaven. The law is the only standard of character.

**Satan is well pleased when men and women exalt Sunday**

The law of God and the law of Caesar have come into collision, and will come into collision again. The question we have to answer is, Shall we obey God, or Caesar? A great movement is now on foot to put the first day of the week in the place of the day God has sanctified and blessed. Satan works under a guise of

religion, and guided by him, the professed Christian world will be very zealous in working against the law of God. Satan is leading men and women to complete the ruin he began in heaven. He is willing for the world to declare that the calamity by land and sea and the destruction by flood and fire, are because Sunday is desecrated. Herein lies his deception. He is well pleased when men and women exalt Sunday; for he has been working for centuries to place the first day of the week where the seventh should be. Of those who so zealously carry out the enemy's designs, God will inquire, "Who hath required this at your hand?" "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

**Let man with his human theories step aside**

Men say in regard to the Sabbath, It makes no difference what day we keep, provided we keep the seventh part of time. How dare they substitute the word of man for the word of God? How dare they lead their fellow men away from obedience to the Creator? The Sabbath is God's memorial of creation, and had it always been observed, there would never have been an infidel or an atheist in our world.

Let man with his human theories step aside. Let the divine voice be heard, saying, "Ye shall keep the Sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: . . . it is a sign between me and the children of Israel forever."

**Many make a free choice on the wrong side**

Many commit themselves to a course that insults the Spirit of God, and that in the face of the convictions of conscience. They make a free choice of the wrong side. They rebel against God. Mercy is despised, and justice defied. They become spiritually palsied, not because they cannot submit to God, but because they will not. Their feet are set in the way of the froward, and they have no desire to turn back.

**"Come out from among them and be ye separate"**

The flood which came upon the old world proclaimed the verdict, Incurable. The overthrow of Sodom declared the existence of a far-reaching corruption beyond the hope of recovery. Christ declared, "As it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be in the days of the Son of man." "Come out from among them, and be ye separate," is the call, "and touch not the

unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters.”

### **We are called by God to stand in defense of truth**

The law of God is made void, and God calls upon us to stand in defense of the truth. Satan is a powerful general. He had a long experience in the heavenly courts, and he knows how to mingle right sentiments and principles with evil. He knows how to misapply and wrest the Scriptures. Herein lies the power of his deception. Thus he deceives men, and seeks to obliterate the line of demarcation between believers and unbelievers. God calls for faithful Calebs, who will stand firmly and steadfastly at their post of duty.

### **Let us not become Satan's agents, belittling truths we profess to believe**

Our work is aggressive. We need the heavenly anointing, that our spiritual eyesight may be clear. We are living in the last remnant of time. Truth is now to be sought for as hidden treasure. The commandments of men have taken the place of the commandments of God. The Lord calls upon His workmen to watch

and work and pray. Precious truths are to be recovered from the human traditions under which men have buried them. God desires His people to show a constantly increasing interest in the things of eternity. He desires us to value more highly the favor of His friendship. Let us not become Satan's agents to belittle the solemn, important truth which we profess to believe. Let us not show an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God.

### **Christ came not to destroy the law, but to fulfill the law**

God did not give His only begotten Son to die on the cross of Calvary in order that man might have liberty to transgress His law. He did not pay such an expensive price to make His law null and void. The falsehood that Christ died to abrogate the law originated with the enemy of all good. By giving His life for the life of the world, Christ placed the immutability of the law of God beyond controversy. His death on the cross is an indisputable testimony that not one jot or tittle of the law shall ever fail. Hear the words of the Saviour, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from

the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven.” The disobedient will never find entrance there. “But whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

### **Christ has made it possible for us to keep the law**

God weighs every man in the balances of the sanctuary. In one scale there is placed the perfect, unchangeable law, demanding continuous, unswerving obedience; if in the other there are years of forgetfulness, of selfishness, or rebellion and self-pleasing, God says, “Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.” But Christ has made it possible for us to keep the law. He lived on this earth a life of perfect obedience, that His righteousness might be imputed to us. To us is given the glorious assurance that though we have fallen through disobedience, we may, through the merits of the Son of God, hear the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant; . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”  
RH June 4, 1901.



*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.*

# The 400 and the 430

(In a nutshell)  
By Clark Floyd

The number 400 years, as well as the number 430 years, both appear in the Old Testament, and both seem to refer to the time that the Israelites would be in Egypt. Some have interpreted them as the time that the Israelites were in Egyptian bondage—i.e. slaves of the Egyptians. But like any other Bible subject, in order to receive a true understanding, we must look at all the texts that would relate to the subject at hand, “here a little and there a little”.

## Abram’s instructions from God

In Genesis, chapter 15, we find Abram entering into a covenant with God. Abram prepares a sacrifice for ratifying the covenant according to the instructions given by God. Abram then falls into a deep sleep, and God speaks to him, “And he said unto Abram, know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years. And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge; and afterward they shall come out with great substance.” Genesis 15:13 & 14.

If we take this text by itself, it could easily be interpreted to mean that Israel would be in bondage to the Egyptians for four hundred years.

## Key words in understanding are “affliction” and “sojourning”

Let’s take a second text found in Exodus 12, verse 40: “Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years.” What is the difference



between these two texts in Genesis and Exodus besides the thirty additional years in the second text? And do these time periods appear anywhere else in the Bible? Is there any other way to determine the length of time of the Israelites in Egypt? Notice that the first text in Genesis refers to “affliction”, while the second text refers to the “sojourning of the children of Israel”.

## Luke connects “sojourning” and “entreated evil”

In the New Testament, in the Book of Acts, written by Luke, chapter 7, verses 6 and 7, Genesis is referred to: “And God spake on this wise. That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years. And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I Judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place.”

Luke speaks of sojourning first in this text, and then connects the four hundred years with being “entreated evil”, and then to a nation that would bring them into bondage.

## Paul supplies a key verse

In Galatians chapter 3, in verse 16, Paul refers to the covenant God made with Abraham, “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made...,” but in verse 17, Paul gives us a key verse to help us begin to solve our dilemma. “And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.”





Did you get that? From the time of the covenant with Abraham to the time of the giving of the law was four hundred and thirty years. Therefore, the people could not have been in Egyptian bondage for four hundred and thirty years, or for four hundred years. The covenant was entered into many years before the Egyptian bondage occurred. "Israel's sojourn was to include not only servitude but affliction—persecution—as well." (See 1 SDA BC 314).

### **The Egyptian kings considered Canaan to be theirs**

The 430 year sojourn must therefore also include the time in Canaan. How can this be? "The land of Canaan was so dependent upon Egypt during the patriarchal period that Egyptian Kings actually considered it theirs and referred to it as such...Moses could appropriately include Canaan in the term Egypt as used in Exodus 12:40." 1 SDA BC 314.

"The LXX renders Ex. 12:40 thus: "And the sojourning of the children of Israel, while they sojourned in the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan, was four hundred and thirty years." (Ibid).

### **What event began the affliction of God's people?**

Abraham was seventy-five years old when he entered into the covenant with God. This was also the time when he left "from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land (Canaan) that I (God) will show thee." (See Gen. 12:1-4).

The affliction would begin 30 years later since affliction was for four hundred years, while sojourning was for four hundred and thirty years. What then happened thirty years later that could be called the beginning of the affliction or persecution of God's people?

When Abraham was one hundred years old Isaac was born. (Gen. 21:5). When Isaac was weaned, probably near the age of five, Esau began to mock Isaac. (Gen. 21:9). This was the beginning of persecution—thirty years after the covenant. "Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now." (Gal. 4:28& 29).

### **Throughout four centuries this prophecy can be traced**

"The fulfillment of this prophecy (the four hundred years of affliction) may be traced in practically every generation



for four centuries. Abram's son Isaac was "persecuted" by Ishmael. Jacob fled for his life from Esau (Gen. 27:41-43) and later from Laban (Gen. 31:2, 21, 29). Joseph was sold by his own brothers as a slave and later unjustly thrown in jail (Gen. 37:28; 39:20). The children of Israel finally were sorely "afflicted" by the Egyptians after Joseph's death. (Ex. 1:8, 12) 1 SDA BC 314.

### **The time period ends with the giving of the law on Mount Sinai**

The Israelites were in Egypt for 215 years and then went out with great substance. Again,

remembering, our time period of 430 years begins with the covenant entered into by Abram with God when Abram was seventy-five years old, and ends with the giving of the law on Mount Sinai.

From the giving of the covenant to the birth of Isaac was 25 years. (Gen. 21:2-5). Jacob was born when Isaac was sixty years old. (See Gen. 25:26). Jacob (Israel) enters Egypt with his children when he is one hundred thirty years old. (See Gen. 47:9). Adding up these times: 25 years from the covenant, plus 60 years to the birth of Jacob, plus 130 years to Israel entering Egypt, equals 215 years. That would leave 215 years from the entering of Egypt to the law given on Mount Sinai. Four generations could easily fit into that time period.

"But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full." (Genesis 15:16). The Israelites came back into Canaan under Joshua, not Moses.

Moses was the grandson of Levi (one of the sons who went into Egypt with Jacob). "And the name of Amran's wife was Jochebed, the daughter of Levi, whom her mother bare to Levi in Egypt: and she bare unto Amran, Aaron, Moses and Miriam, their sister." Numbers 26:59.

Jacob was the first generation, Levi, the second, Jochebed, the third, and Moses, the fourth.

### **Always study the Bible comparing Scripture with Scripture**

God's Word is only what God could make it. I pray that this study has increased your faith in God's Word and as part of that Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. I pray also that you will be encouraged to always study the Bible comparing Scripture with Scripture. May the Lord be your constant guide.



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 Vision of the Missing Hair Net

As Told by Arthur L. White



It all happened many, many years ago in Northern California. Mrs. Ellen G. White, the Lord's messenger, was living at Healdsburg, only a few blocks from our new college. Since her husband, Elder James White, was now dead, Sister White invited several young ladies to live in her home as they attended school. Among these was one young lady of considerable ability who did some teaching at the school.

## *It was just a hair net*

How this young lady enjoyed living in Sister White's home! It was a large, white, two-story, frame house, surrounded with garden and orchard. Sister White was a big-hearted, understanding mother to the girls who lived with her. All went well for a few months. Then it happened. As this girl went through Sister White's bedroom on some errand she saw something on the dresser she wanted very much. She stopped and looked at it. The longer she lingered, the more she felt she just had to have it. She looked this way and that, and seeing no one around she reached out her hand and took it.

And what was it? A watch, or something valuable, you think? No. It was just a hair net. The women at that time often wore a net over their hair. True, it was a well-made, silk hair net. Sister White would not miss it, she thought, and it was just what she so much wanted.

## *There was no song in her heart now*

Leaving Sister White's bedroom, with the hair net in her closed hand, the young lady went to her bedroom and opening her trunk, put the net in the corner of the tray. She closed the trunk and went about duties. But there was no song in her heart now. You know why.

A few hours later in the day, Sister White was preparing to go out, and entering her bedroom to get ready, she brushed her hair, and thought to put on the net, as was the custom of that day. But she could not find the net anywhere. It was not on the top of the dresser. She looked back of it, she looked under it, but could not find the missing article anywhere. Giving up, she did without it.

### *Sister White questioned the girls*

That evening at worship time the girls gathered with Sister White around the open fire place. Often Sister White, in connection with the worship, told a story of the early days. How they did enjoy these stories! But this evening, Sister White had a question to ask the girls.

“Have any of you seen my hair net?” she asked. Continuing, she said, “It was right there on my dresser in the bedroom. When I went to get it, it was gone. It must be found. It could not go away by itself.” But no one seemed to know about the hair net, for no one responded. There was one girl there, however, who wished Mrs. White would not say anything about a hair net. The matter was dropped.

### *“Lift the lid of that trunk!”*

A day or two later, as Sister White was passing through this girl’s room, a voice spoke to her as she passed the trunk, “Lift the lid of that trunk!” But it was not Sister White’s trunk and she would not think of looking into someone else’s trunk. Again the voice spoke to her, “Lift the lid of that trunk!”

Now she recognized the voice to be that of an angel, and she obeyed and opened the trunk. In the tray was the missing hair net. She left it there, closed the trunk, and went about her tasks.

### *Again, Sister White questioned the girls*

That evening, as the family came together again for worship, the hair net question came up. “Does anyone know where the hair net is?” Sister White asked. “I am sure it can be found. It could not go away by itself.” But there was no response, and no one seemed to know anything about the hair net. Sister White did not press the matter further. One girl was worried and in her heart she determined to destroy the hair net, lest Sister White should discover that she had taken it. How ungrateful this would seem!

### *One of the shortest visions ever given to Sister White*

A few days after this Sister White was seated in the living room in front of the fire in the fireplace, busy with her writing. It may have been a personal testimony she was writing to someone, or she may have been working on some of the last chapters

of “Great Controversy”. For several hours she had been busy with her pen and her hand was tired, her mind was tired, and her eyes were tired. She laid her pen down and looked into the fireplace, and then just for a moment she was in vision. This was one of the shortest visions ever given to Sister White.

In this vision she saw the hand and arm of a girl. In the hand was a hair net. She also saw on the table a kerosene lamp which was burning. She saw the hair net held over the lamp and then lowered until the net touched the flame. In a flash of light, the silk net burned, and it was gone. The vision was over, and Sister White found herself in the living room by the open fire. Now she knew what had happened to the missing hair net.

### *Sister White revealed the vision she had been shown*

That evening when the family was together around the fireplace Sister White again asked about the hair net, “Did not someone know what had happened to it? Someone must know about it.” But nothing was said; no one seemed to know. Sister White dropped the matter.

A little later Sister White called aside the girl in whose trunk she had seen the hair net. She told her about the voice that spoke to her. She told her what she saw when she opened the trunk. Then she told her about the short vision and of how she saw the hair net burn up over the lamp.

### *Finally, the confession came*

The girl broke down in tears. “Yes, Sister White, I took it,” she confessed. “I wanted it so much, and I did not think you would miss it, but when you began to press the matter, I feared you would find out that I had taken it, so I held the net over a lamp and burned it up, just as you saw in the vision, and I said to myself, ‘Now no one will ever know about the hair net’.”

### *It was such a small thing for the Lord to bother about*

But someone was watching from up in heaven. The angels made a record of what took place, and God sent His angel down to this world with a vision for Sister

White just about the hair net. It was such a small thing for the Lord to bother about. God, who created the earth and guides the planets, sent His angel down to this world with a vision for Sister White just about a hair net a girl had taken. But it was a matter much more important than the value of the hair net. Here was the soul of a young lady at stake.

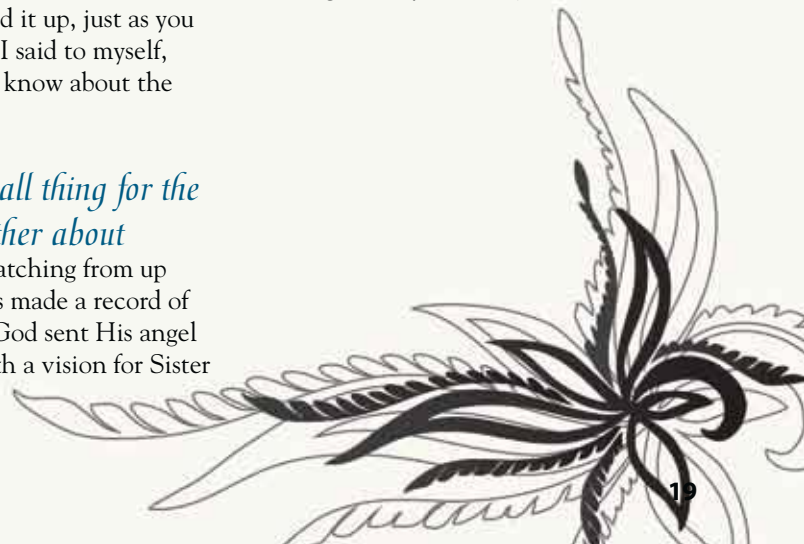
### *God loved her so much that He sent a vision to Sister White*

She was a member of the church. She went to Sabbath school and to church. She was a Seventh-day Adventist, and she felt that she was all right. She did not realize that there were little sins in her life – sins which led her to steal and to deceive. But when she saw that God loved her so much that He sent His angel down to this world with a vision for Sister White just about the hair net, then she began to see some things differently. Some of the seemingly little things now seemed much more important. How much the Lord must love her! How important the little things were!

### *The reason for the visions*

Not only did this girl confess her sin of stealing and made the matter right with Sister White and with the Lord, but this experience became the turning point in her life.

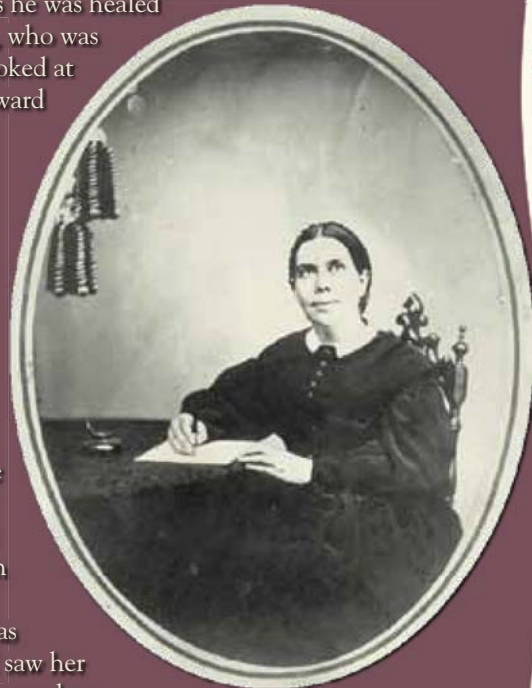
This young lady gave her heart anew to God, and she lived a sweet, consistent Christian life. And that was why the vision was given to Sister White. It was to help men and women, and boys and girls to live sweet, consistent Christian lives that so many visions were given to Sister White. And the counsels written out in the Spirit of Prophecy books were written to help every one live good lives, and to get ready to meet Jesus.



# *The Last Open Vision*

(Statement by J.N. Loughborough, Sunday, January 29, 1893, at the General Conference Session in Battle Creek, Michigan, in his presentation "The Study of the Testimonies".)

"I have seen Sister White in vision about fifty times. The first time was about forty years ago when Brother Oswald Stowell was very sick, and expected to die. It was on the Sabbath, the first Sabbath I ever kept. Brother Stowell wanted his case commended to God, and desired the brethren to pray for him. In answer to their prayers he was healed and went to work again two days later. Brother White, who was present at the time, said to me, 'Ellen is in vision.' I looked at her and saw her kneeling by the bed and looking up toward heaven, and she soon began to shout praises to God. Brother White said, 'There is no breath in her body.' Eyes open, no breath, yet her pulse beating naturally, and everything else in a normal condition! Her eyes seemed intently fixed upon something off at a great distance.



## *It is a heavenly place to be in, where there is an open vision*

"On one occasion Elders White and Andrews, and myself, were awakened at midnight, and called to come and pray for Sister White. She had fainted, and all efforts to revive her were unavailing. We had a season of prayer, and she seemed to revive and was taken off in vision. Some of our opponents say, 'Yes, that is always the way, she is always sick and faints away before she has one of her visions.' But this is not true. The first one I saw her have was at the close of a meeting, when she was well enough to take a long journey. Her last open vision was in 1884, on the camp ground at Portland, Oregon.\* She has visions at the present time, but they are not open visions in a public assembly. It is a heavenly place to be in, where there is an open vision, as some of those here who have seen her at such times, can testify.

## *The first thing she knows an angel stands by her side and touches her*

"The first indication that she is about to be taken off in vision is that she loses all strength, like a person suddenly falling down. This state continues not more than five seconds, when she suddenly rises to her feet. She herself says that the first thing she knows an angel stands by her side and touches her and she receives strength. This is just as it was with Daniel. She has been examined while in vision, by skillful physicians, and we have testimonials from them which declare that the phenomena of her visions are beyond their comprehension."—General Conference Daily Bulletin, January 29, 1893, pp. 19-20.

\*Note: Ellen White was 56 years of age, nearly 57. Elder Loughborough was at the Oregon meeting so speaks from personal knowledge.

# “I WILL COME AGAIN”

By L. D. Santee

The Lord will come on some tomorrow,  
For so the word of Jesus said,  
When saints shall bid adieu to sorrow,  
And earth shall no more mourn her dead.

This promise in our hearts we're keeping;  
We've thought its meaning o'er and o'er,  
That whether waking, or in sleeping,  
We'll go with Him, and die no more.

We'll rise with Him where dwells no sadness;  
But not alone, Oh, not alone!  
For in the songs of joy and gladness,  
We'll recognize familiar tones.

The friends best loved are reunited,  
With more than old time tenderness;  
The starry eyes of hearts delighted,  
Will look in ours to cheer and bless.

And when we muse on that glad meeting  
With those we lost, mid tears and pain,  
We pray: “O God, awake the sleeping,  
And bring them to our arms again.

“Hasten the time when, nature failing,  
Shall usher in that day sublime,  
When strong o'er all His foes prevailing,  
The Lord shall come the second time.”

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- Vitamin D2
- Vitamin E
- Vitamin C
- Vitamin H
- Vitamin M
- Vitamins B1, 2, 3, 5, 6, AND B12

#### **Minerals:**

- Calcium
- Magnesium
- Potassium
- Iodine (kelp)
- Zinc
- Manganese
- Chromium
- Selenium
- Phosphorous
- Vanadium

#### **Herbs:**

- Kola Nut
- Ginger Root
- Cayenne
- Yellow Dock
- Fo-Ti
- Aloe Vera
- Dandelion
- Shitake
- Goldenseal
- Ginkgo Biloba
- Echinacea
- Alfalfa

#### **Digestive Aids/Enzymes:**

- Bromelain
- Papain
- Citrus Pectin
- Acidophilus

#### **Whole SUPER FOODS:**

- Oat Bran
- Spirulina
- Garlic
- Bee Pollen

#### **Other Nutritional Factors:**

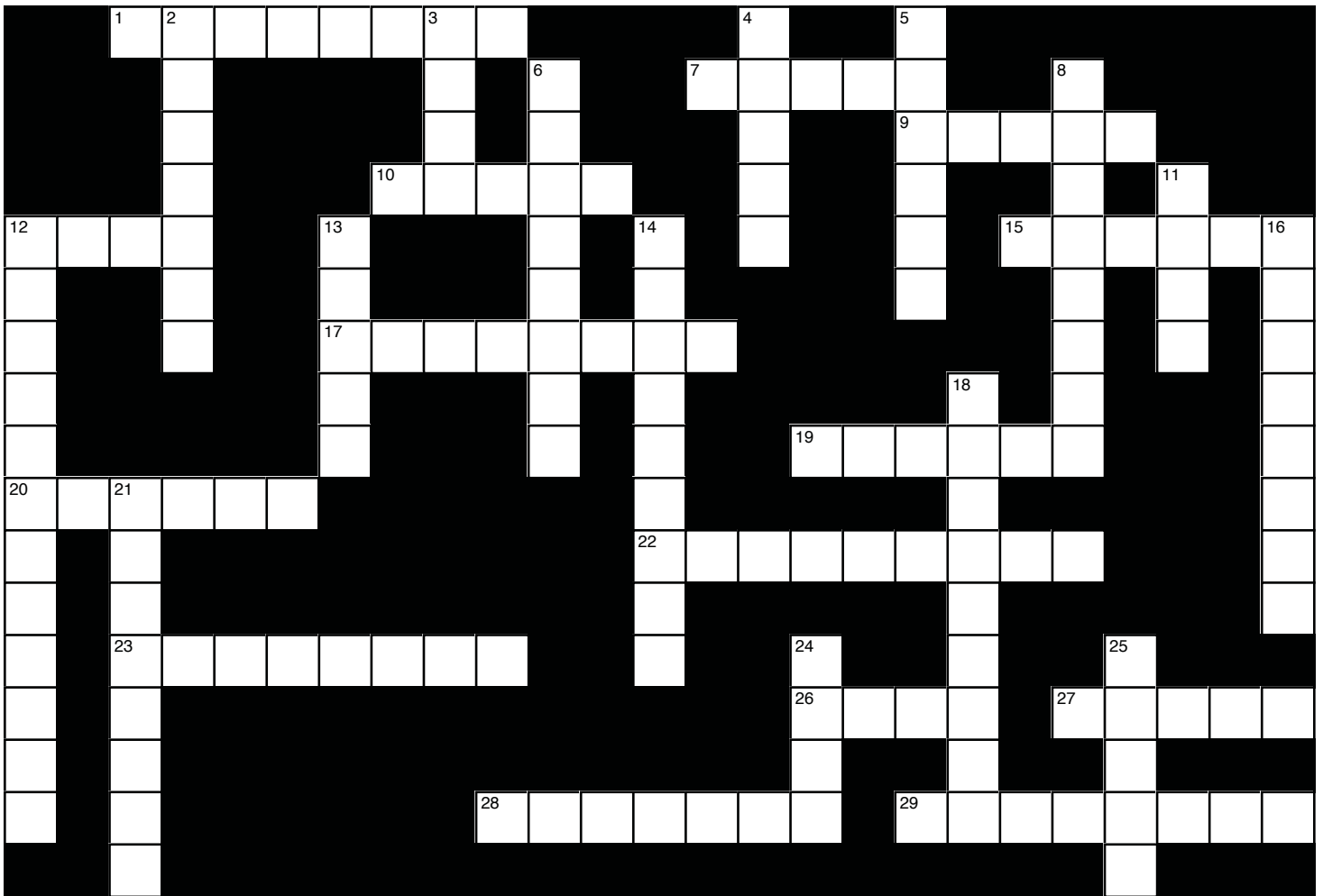
- Royal Jelly
- Cat's Claw
- L-Tyrosine
- Coenzyme Q10
- Sprouted Barley
- Chlorella
- Wheatgrass juice
- Flaxseed Oil (dry)

### **Do you even need vitamins and minerals?**

- According to Dr. Robert Fletcher and Dr. Kathleen Fairfield of Harvard University, it now appears that people who get enough vitamins may have a lower risk of some common chronic illnesses; such as cancer, heart disease and osteoporosis.
- It is bad news to learn from our leading authorities that **99 percent** of the American people are deficient in minerals. A marked deficiency in **any one** of the more important minerals results in disease. Any upset of the balance or considerable lack of one or another element, however microscopic the body requirement may be, and we sicken, suffer, and shorten our lives.

\*These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to prevent, diagnose, treat, or cure any disease.

# Christian Crossword



## ACROSS

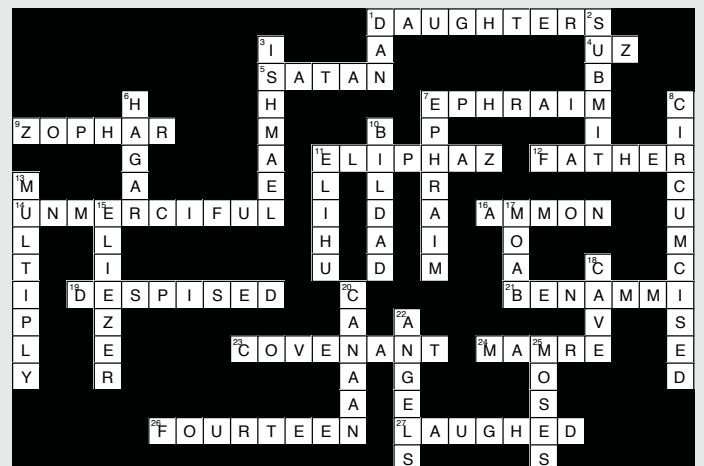
1. Joseph's firstborn son
7. Abraham dwelt by the oaks of \_\_\_\_\_
9. Paul's traveling companion in Thessalonica
10. Bread that came down from heaven
12. Ezekiel was the son of \_\_\_\_\_
15. Jeremiah's faithful friend and scribe
17. Descendants of Esau
19. Cleopas met Christ on the road to \_\_\_\_\_
20. One of the sons of Jacob by Leah
22. Wife of Uriah, taken by David
23. The 4th church of Revelation
26. First home of mankind
27. Abraham's younger brother
28. Last prophet in the Old Testament
29. He separated from Paul because of John Mark

## DOWN

2. Abed-Nego's Hebrew name
3. A scribe that returned with the exiles to Jerusalem
4. Where Paul shipwrecked
5. Governor of Judea to whom Paul made a defense
6. A false prophet who contradicted Jeremiah
8. Paul met Christ on the road to \_\_\_\_\_
11. The wife of Boaz
12. Daniel's Babylonian name
13. The New Testament was written in \_\_\_\_\_

14. Another name for Satan
16. Esther's Jewish name
18. Thessalonica was the capital of the Roman province of \_\_\_\_\_
21. The one chosen by lot to replace Judas
24. Third son of Jacob and Leah
25. The mother of Ishmael

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






## Acne



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><b>GENERAL DIET</b></p>        | <p>Eat a vegan diet, with a concentration on raw foods (80% raw, 20% cooked) to improve digestion, aide in detoxification, regulate bowel function, and boost immune system. This will help cleanse the bloodstream and hasten healing of acne. Limit and/or abstain from (complete abstinence is best for optimal healing): caffeine, refined sugar, alcohol, colas, candies, and processed foods as they decrease immune function and contribute to acne. Increase fiber intake to help cleanse the bowels for easier detoxification. Acne patients' skin has cleared rapidly by simply increasing fiber in the diet. Fasting &amp; juicing (carrot being predominant) are helpful with the cleansing process. Drinking PLENTY of water helps reduce acne by flushing toxins out of your system and keeping your kidneys, liver, and bowel functioning effectively. A sluggish digestive system is often linked to acne. Water will also help keep your skin supple and hydrated. Dehydrated skin can become dry and flaky, the skin's natural exfoliation slows down, and pores become blocked which in turn can cause spots.</p>  |
| <p><b>HELPFUL FOODS</b></p>       | <p>While a calcium-rich diet has been found to help reduce the severity of acne, you need to eliminate cow's milk and cheeses because the lactose (sugar) in these may be causing hidden food intolerance. Instead, try and get your calcium from sesame seeds, tahini, green leafy vegetables, broccoli, and tofu. Vitamin A helps maintain normal skin functioning and dietary sources include all the yellow fruits and vegetables, including of course, carrots. Zinc can also help and works with vitamin A to enhance its absorption. Good food sources include pecans, peanuts, and wheat germ. Eat bananas to help repopulate the so-called good bacteria in the gut but if your acne is severe, take a probiotic supplement too. Increase dietary fiber by sprinkling a tablespoon of psyllium husks on your cereal or salad and eating foods such as fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grain cereals, legumes, bran, whole grain bread, and crackers.</p>    |
| <p><b>NUTRIENTS THAT HELP</b></p> |  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Vitamin A (Beta Carotene)</b> - Reduces sebum production</li> <li><b>Selenium with Vitamin E</b> - Protects the cells from oxidative damage</li> <li><b>Essential fatty acids</b> - Acne sufferers may be deficient in EFAs.</li> <li><b>B6</b> - Is beneficial for premenstrual acne breakouts.</li> <li><b>Zinc</b> - Important in wound healing, inflammation control, and tissue regeneration.</li> <li><b>Additional Helpful Nutrients</b> - B1 (Thiamin), C, Brewers yeast, Chlorophyll, and B Complex</li> </ul>   |





## TREATMENT PROTOCOL FOR NUTRITIONAL THERAPIES



|                 |  |   |
|-----------------|--|---|
| JUICING THERAPY | <p><b>Juicing can give you additional nutrients from natural sources, which will help to strengthen and heal your body, inside and out.</b></p> <p>Carrot, Kale, and Parsley - <b>Sources of Beta-Carotene (Vitamin A)</b></p> <p>Kale, Spinach, and Green Pepper - <b>Sources of Vitamin B6</b></p> <p>Spinach, Kale, and Beet Greens - <b>Sources of Folic Acid</b></p> <p>Red Swiss Chard, Turnip, and Orange - <b>Sources of Selenium</b></p> <p>Spinach, Asparagus, and Carrot - <b>Sources of Vitamin E</b></p> <p>Potato, Green Pepper, and Apple - <b>Sources of Chromium</b></p> <p>Ginger Root, Parsley, and Carrot - <b>Sources of Omega-3 Fatty Acids (EFAs)</b></p> |  |
|-----------------|--|---|

## TREATMENT PROTOCOL FOR SELF-CARE THERAPIES

|                    |   |   |
|--------------------|---|---|
| HERBS              | <p>Tincture of sarsaparilla, burdock, and cleavers. Or an infusion of nettles or calendula and witch hazel topically. Cayenne, dandelion root, Echinacea, goldenseal, red clover, yarrow, yellow dock root, garlic, and milk thistle capsules are also beneficial.</p>  |   |
| PERSONAL FAVORITES | <p><b>Additional Supplements I Have Had Success With:</b> Powdered European Clay internally (1tsp in 8oz of water daily), European Clay Externally (as mask 2-3 times per week), Mega-Multi, Swedish Bitters Soap – Wash with daily. Swedish Bitters liquid internally (1tsp 4x daily), Swedish Bitters externally (used as an astringent on the areas affected), MSM capsules, Swedish Bitters Salve on affected area, Evening Primrose Oil, Flaxseed Oil, Liver Support, Odorless Garlic or Ultra Fighter (do not use for longer than 2 weeks at a time)</p>  |  |
| FASTING            | <p>With acne, it can be a problem of toxic overload. Many times it is a sign of an unhealthy, colon so a fast would be very beneficial. Supervised 5-7 day fast with water and/or water with juices. The digestive tract is the part of the body most exposed to environmental threats, including bacteria, viruses, parasites, and toxins. It requires the most immune system support. When food is broken down in the intestines, it travels through the blood to the liver, the largest organ of the body's natural detoxification system. The liver breaks down and removes the toxic by-products produced by digestion, including natural ones and the chemicals now present in the food supply. During fasting, the liver and immune system are essentially freed to detoxify and heal other parts of the body.</p> |   |
| EXERCISE           | <p>20-30 minutes of exercise daily outside in the fresh air (preferably in the sunshine) will help expel toxins, boost immune system to fight infections, and increase circulatory function. Also will help increase draining of the lymphatic system, which in turn, expels toxins. As the body is cleansed from the inside out, your skin will take on a healthy and even tone.</p>   |  |



## TREATMENT PROTOCOL FOR SELF-CARE THERAPIES

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| REST                     | <p>You cannot say sleep causes acne, per se. However, sleep deprivation or too much sleep can affect acne indirectly. Sleep affects most, if not all, the causes that lead to acne.</p> <p>A 1996 study by the University of Chicago Medical Center showed that sleep deprivation severely increases insulin resistance (the body's ability to use glucose). This can lead to acne (and diabetes). Interestingly, the sleep deprivation was not severe. The study subjects slept up to 6 hours a night. Interestingly the study also showed that sleeping too much (9 hours or more) had similar effect.</p> <p>Inflammation has been pinpointed as a major culprit in the cause of acne. A study from the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology &amp; Metabolism reports a 40 to 60% increase in inflammatory markers after a modest sleep deprivation of only 2 hours a night for one week.</p>  |
| STRESS RELIEF            | <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="padding-left: 10px;"> <p>Stress causes worsening of acne in two ways. First, by stimulating adrenal glands to produce more hormones and secondly, by slowing down the healing process. Some of the hormones that are produced stimulate the sebaceous gland to secrete more sebum, which ultimately results in the formation of acne. It has also been established that psychological stress can decrease the wound healing capacity of immune systems up to 40%. This factor doubles the impact of stress on acne. To reduce stress, find an outlet such as meditation or prayer that will give you time to relax and lower your stress levels.</p> </div> </div>  |
| POULTICES & APPLICATIONS | <p><b>European green clay:</b> (You can also use bentonite, but I prefer the green clay) Mixing one part distilled water with one part clay, form clay into a paste. This can be used as a poultice to pull out toxins and bacteria and to cleanse the pores. Its mineral properties aide in healing, while its absorbent abilities cause it to be a very effective cleanser. The clay also cools, decreases inflammation, and brightens skin. A fresh poultice can be applied every 3 hours and left on for 1 hour at a time (must be covered and remain moist) with 1-hour rest in between poultices.</p> <p><b>Lobelia and Slippery Elm:</b> A poultice that combines lobelia and slippery elm bark is soothing and fights infection.</p> <p><b>Tea tree oil:</b> Applied externally, tea tree oil is a potent natural antiseptic that kills infectious organisms without harming healthy cells. Mix 1 part tea tree oil with 4 parts water and apply the mixture with a cotton ball 3 times daily. It will destroy bacteria, hasten healing, and prevent infection from spreading.</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div> |
| ADDITIONAL THERAPIES     | <p><b>Contrast Applications:</b> A series of hot and cold water applications will bring circulation to the area and accelerate healing. A hot compress (as hot as an individual can tolerate) is applied for three minutes followed by an ice-cold compress for 30 seconds. These applications are repeated three times each and ending with the cold compress. Like the contrast applications for abscesses, it will “ripen” them. The hot and cold applications together will improve circulation to the area allowing for removal of toxins and waste faster at the site.</p>   |



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#### Internal Use:

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%.

#### External Use:

When patients with severe burns covered the burned area with a poultice of clay, each one of them noticed immediate relief, with some claiming the pain had completely subsided. In addition, when having the entire body covered in burns, they noticed dramatic results when using a clay bath. They reported a relief in pain and healing resulted faster and with less scarring.

\*These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to prevent, diagnose, treat, or cure any disease.

# News Watch



## 1. Time Magazine, November 15, 2010, The World, page 14--Iraq

Bad Days Back in Baghdad—In one of the fiercest assaults on Baghdad since the toppling of Saddam Hussein in 2003, more than a dozen bombs exploded across the city on Nov. 2. The coordinated attacks struck a crowded restaurant, public squares, a Sunni mosque and the Shi'ite neighborhood of Sadr City, killing at least 76 people and wounding more than 230. The bombings came just two days after militants affiliated with al-Qaeda seized a Baghdad church full of worshippers. Fifty-eight people died as police stormed the church to rescue the hostages. The bloody events have exacerbated fears over security in the Iraqi capital since Aug. 31, when the U.S. declared an end to combat operations. A political stalemate following March elections has fanned sectarian tensions.

**End Time Perspective #1:** “Never before has there been a time when the responsibility resting upon men was so great, never before has the position of Christ’s followers been so solemn, as at the present time. God’s messengers are now bearing a testimony that condemns those who refuse to accept it. We are rapidly approaching the close of this dispensation. ‘When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?’ As the end approaches, we look for sin and violence to increase. The present state of the world answers to the terrible word-picture

Inspiration has given through the apostles.” 18MR 88.

**End Time Perspective #2:** “The conditions prevailing in society, and especially in the great cities of the nations, proclaim in thunder tones

that the hour of God’s judgment is come and that the end of all things earthly is at hand. We are standing on the threshold of the crisis of the ages. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another--fire, and flood, and earthquake, with war and bloodshed. . . .” Mar 67.

## 2. Time Magazine November 15, 2010, Lab Report—Health, Science and Medicine, page 16—Could Food Allergies Begin in the Womb?

About 6% of U.S. Children suffer from food allergies, with 1% allergic to peanuts. Scientists still don’t know exactly what causes these sensitivities, but a new study suggests that they may develop even before birth. Researchers studying more than 500 babies found that those whose mothers had eaten peanuts at least twice a week during pregnancy tended to have higher levels of a peanut – protein antibody, which may prime their immune systems to react more aggressively to the nuts. The investigators hope to continue the study and determine if the children go on to develop peanut allergies. But until then,

they—along with the American Academy of Pediatrics—say there is not enough evidence to warn pregnant women against certain foods to avoid the risk of food allergies in their babies.

**Editor’s Note:** Again, what these men are now studying is already portrayed and answered in the Bible and the writings of Ellen White—“Pre-natal Influences-God had an important work for the promised child of Manoah [Samson] to do, and it was to secure for him the qualifications necessary for this work, that the habits of both the mother and the child were to be carefully regulated. ‘Neither let her drink wine or strong drink,’ was the angel’s instruction for the wife of Manoah, ‘nor eat any unclean thing. All that I commanded her let her observe.’ [JUDGES 13:14.] The child will be affected for good or for evil by the habits of the mother. She must herself be controlled by principle, and must practice temperance and self-denial, if she would seek the welfare of her child. Unwise advisers will urge upon the mother the





# Ellen White Quotes

*“The life spent on self is like the grain that is eaten. It disappears, but there is no increase. A man may gather all he can for self; he may live and think and plan for self; but his life passes away, and he has nothing. The law of self-serving is the law of self-destruction.” DA 624.*

*“‘If a man love Me,’ Christ said, ‘he will keep My words; and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.’ John 14:23. The spell of a stronger, a perfect mind will be over us; for we have a living connection with the source of all-enduring strength. In our divine life we shall be brought into captivity to Jesus Christ. We shall no longer live the common life of selfishness, but Christ will live in us. His character will be reproduced in our nature. Thus shall we bring forth the fruits of the Holy Spirit—‘some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.’” COL 61.*

*“Those who bring their petitions to God, claiming His promise while they do not comply with the conditions, insult Jehovah. They bring the name of Christ as their authority for the fulfillment of the promise, but they do not those things that would show faith in Christ and love for Him.” COL 143.*

*“The Lord is disappointed when His people place a low estimate upon themselves. He desires His chosen heritage to value themselves according to the price He has placed upon them. God wanted them, else He would not have sent His Son on such an expensive errand to redeem them. He has a use for them, and He is well pleased when they make the very highest demands upon Him, that they may glorify His name. They may expect large things if they have faith in His promises.” DA 668.*

*“‘Abide in Me, and I in you.’ Abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of unreserved surrender to His service. The channel of communication must be open continually between man and his God. As the vine branch constantly draws the sap from the living vine, so are we to cling to Jesus, and receive from Him by faith the strength and perfection of His own character.” DA 676.*

*“Love to man is the earthward manifestation of the love of God. It was to implant this love, to make us children of one family, that the King of glory became one with us. And when His parting words are fulfilled, ‘Love one another, as I have loved you’ (John 15:12); when we love the world as He has loved it, then for us His mission is accomplished. We are fitted for heaven; for we have heaven in our hearts.” DA 641.*

*“Many who profess His name have lost sight of the fact that Christians are to represent Christ. Unless there is practical self-sacrifice for the good of others, in the family circle, in the neighborhood, in the church, and wherever we may be, then whatever our profession, we are not Christians.” DA 504.*

*“By passing over the ground which man must travel, our Lord has prepared the way for us to overcome. It is not His will that we should be placed at a disadvantage in the conflict with Satan. He would not have us intimidated and discouraged by the assaults of the serpent.” DA 122.*

*“The experimental knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent, transforms man into the image of God. It gives to man the mastery of himself, bringing every impulse and passion of the lower nature under the control of the higher powers of the mind. It makes its possessor a son of God and an heir of heaven. It brings him into communion with the mind of the Infinite, and opens to him the rich treasures of the universe.” COL 114.*

*“The Holy Spirit is the breath of spiritual life in the soul. The impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ. It imbues the receiver with the attributes of Christ. Only those who are thus taught of God, those who possess the inward working of the Spirit, and in whose life the Christ-life is manifested, are to stand as representative men, to minister in behalf of the church.” DA 805.*

*“We can never be saved in indolence and inactivity. There is no such thing as a truly converted person living a helpless, useless life. It is not possible for us to drift into heaven. No sluggard can enter there. If we do not strive to gain an entrance into the kingdom, if we do not seek earnestly to learn what constitutes its laws, we are not fitted for a part in it. Those who refuse to co-operate with God on earth would not co-operate with Him in heaven. It would not be safe to take them to heaven.” COL 280.*

*“We shall individually be held responsible for doing one jot less than we have ability to do. The Lord measures with exactness every possibility for service. The unused capabilities are as much brought into account as are those that are improved. For all that we might become through the right use of our talents God holds us responsible. We shall be judged according to what we ought to have done, but did not accomplish because we did not use our powers to glorify God. Even if we do not lose our souls, we shall realize in eternity the result of our unused talents. For all the knowledge and ability that we might have gained and did not, there will be an eternal loss.” COL 362.*

*“Principle is always exacting. No man can succeed in the service of God unless his whole heart is in the work and he counts all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. No man who makes any reserve can be the disciple of Christ, much less can he be His co-laborer. When men appreciate the great salvation, the self-sacrifice seen in Christ’s life will be seen in theirs. Wherever He leads the way, they will rejoice to follow.” DA 273.*

*“The value of a soul, who can estimate? Would you know its worth, go to Gethsemane, and there watch with Christ through those hours of anguish, when He sweat as it were great drops of blood. Look upon the Saviour uplifted on the cross. Hear that despairing cry, ‘My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?’ Mark 15:34. Look upon the wounded head, the pierced side, the marred feet. Remember that Christ risked all. For our redemption, heaven itself was imperiled. At the foot of the cross, remembering that for one sinner Christ would have laid down His life; you may estimate the value of a soul.” COL 196.*

# *our firm* **FOUNDATION**

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**A**nd suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

- Luke 2:13-14

**T**hen was the melody of heaven heard by mortal ears, and the heavenly choir swept back to heaven as they closed their ever memorable anthem.

The light faded away and the shadows of the night once more fell on the hills and plains of Bethlehem; but there remained in the hearts of the shepherds the brightest picture mortal man had ever looked upon, and the blessed promise and assurance of the advent to our world of the Saviour of men, which filled their hearts with joy and gladness, mingled with faith and wondrous love to God.

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