

our firm **FOUNDATION**

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **The Bible Museum Opened: The Apostles' Net**
- **Anticipation**
- **The Record the Angels Keep**
- **What Was Secured by the Death of Christ**
- **Servanthood - Is It Really All That Bad?**
- **The Latter Rain - No. 2**
- **Mercy's Call**
- **Daily Time With Jesus**
- **Health Gem: Quercetin Part 2 Immunometabolism: Linking Immunity and Obesity**

COVER STORY:

**IF NOAH, DANIEL AND JOB
WERE IN THE LAND**

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.

Ellen White has commented on the seal of God—"It is not any seal of mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they (God's people) cannot be moved." 4 BC 1161 & 1162.

I pray that each of our readers has already become convinced of the seventh day Sabbath—so much so, that they will not in any way be fooled by the arguments that will be brought their way by sharp worldly minds to direct them to Sunday worship.

We have been warned that Satan will come impersonating Christ. Satan and other impersonators "will perform wonderful miracles of healing and will profess to have revelations from heaven contradicting the testimony of the Scriptures...."

"Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in Revelation...."

"This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion...."

"The teachings of this false Christ are not in accordance with the Scripture. His blessing is pronounced upon the worshipers of the beast and his image, the very class upon whom the Bible declares that God's unmingled wrath shall be poured out." GC 624 & 625.

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8: 20.

The intellectual side of knowing the truth should be a side that each one of our

readers should be settled in to. We should especially know the Scriptures that point out the seventh day, Saturday, as the true Sabbath.

We should also know the Scriptures that speak of the manner of the Lord's return at His second coming—He never touches the earth, but we go up to meet Him in the air. (See 1 Thessalonians 4:16 & 17)

In addition we need to be watchful of the deceptive statements from people who may be in a leadership position. Very recently a pastor in the Collegedale, Tennessee area gave a sermon in which he not only spoke of the nature of Christ as being that of Adam before the fall, but he indicated that we would be sinning until Jesus comes again. This also indicates that he has not read the very clear statements of Ellen White on these

*We should especially know the scriptures that point out the seventh day,
Saturday, as the true Sabbath.*

matters, or that he does not accept her as a prophet of the Lord. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18. Those who feel comfortable in this sort of belief and continue in it may very well be lost. This is a belief that gives more power to Satan than it does to Christ.

Both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy indicate that Jesus came in the nature of Adam after the fall, and that He will give us power to overcome the known sins in our lives—to live up to all the light that we have, by His working in and through us as we invite Him fully in to our lives. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:48.

In the May 2011 OFF, I will be sharing an article, "The Two Gospels Within the Church", which will give you both Bible and Spirit of Prophecy proof of what I say here. We all need to be Bible Students and know the Scriptures for ourselves. If we put the information of the Scriptures in our minds, God will recall it when we need it—"Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what you should answer: for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist." Luke 21:14 & 15.

As we observe more and more of the happenings in the world, the earthquakes, the after shocks, the unrest among nations, the increasing power of labor unions, the signs of Christ's soon return seem to be multiplying. Satan will become more active. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5:8.

In the prophecy of Matthew 24, in which Jesus spoke, He mentioned false christs and deceptions several times. Again, we need to be strong Bible students. Be Ready, Be Ready, Be Ready!

Editor's additional note: Even though we seek to avoid errors in the magazine by rereading and checking it several times before it goes out, we sometimes miss mistakes. In the March 2011 magazine, there was a title put into my article "O Worship The Lord" that indicated that Daniel might have been tossed into the fiery furnace with his three friends—Daniel was away in another part of the kingdom at that time and was not challenged by the command to kneel down.

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

Executive Director:

Joe Olson
executivedirector@hopeint.org

Editor:

Clark Floyd
editorial@hopeint.org

Director of Hope For Health:

Heather Olson, N.D., R.N., C.H.
hopeforhealth@hopeint.org

Bookstore Manager:

Kaye Olson
shipping@hopeint.org

Layout & Design:

Jessica Sipe
www.wavelinedirect.com

About Hope International:

We are a lay ministry founded, supported, and operated by Seventh-day Adventists to assist God's Church in the proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel in every way that is consistent with the principles of God as revealed in Inspiration.

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.

Subscription Information: See page 29 • Shipping & Sales Tax: See page 29

Content credited in this publication is the property of its respective owner(s) and is licensed or used with permission. Other items are the property of Hope International.

cover story

06 If Noah, Daniel And Job Were In The Land
Clark Floyd

features

04 The Bible Museum Opened *A.L.O.E*

05 Anticipation
Julia E. Loyd

09 The Record the Angels Keep

10 What Was Secured by the Death of Christ
Mrs. E. G. White

12 Servanthood - Is It Really All That Bad?
Joe Olson

17 The Latter Rain - No. 2
Meade MacGuire

19 Mercy's Call
W. S. Adams

20 Daily Time With Jesus

departments

02 Editorial

22 Christian Crossword

23 Health Gem
Quercetin Part 2
Immunometabolism: Linking Immunity and Obesity

28 News Watch

29 Ellen White's Vision

ad features

21 Bitter Melon Plus

27 Flora Balance



The Bible Museum Opened

By A. L. O. E.
1883

There are many objects of deep interest for the students 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 rich spiritual lessons.

the apostles' net

There is a danger, especially to imaginative minds, when meditating on Scripture, to allegorize what ought to be taken literally, to lose the clear outlines of fact in a haze of fancy. May we be watchful against this! But the Bible is full of types and emblems, and many objects of which we read in Scripture naturally form themselves into such. The miraculous draught of fishes is at once a fact and an allegory; the fishes were types of souls; something far beyond a mere present supply of food was betokened by the abundance in which these fishes were caught by the apostles. That such was the case is evident from the Saviour's promise, “I will make you fishers of men.” The net therefore appears to us as a type of what St. Paul calls “the foolishness of preaching”, by which it pleased God “to save them that believe”; and it may not be unprofitable to us to pause for awhile by that net, and to consider some of the characteristics in which it resembles the teaching of the gospel by the ministers of God.

Two especially suggest themselves to the mind; its imperfection in itself, and its power when blessed by the Lord.

We do not turn from the net because it is not attractive to the eye

This net before us is twined of the same homely material as that of other fishermen, the hemp has undergone the same rough process of manufacture, toil-hardened hands have with patient labour formed every knot in its meshes, there is nothing in its appearance to charm

the senses or attract the eye. Yet we do not turn from it because the web is not silken; we look not—care not for brilliancy of dye in the net which enclosed the miraculous draught. But how strangely critical are many amongst us in regard to the preaching of the Word! A blemish in style, a defect in pronunciation will sometimes mar the effect of an entire discourse. The net must be silken to attract us; truth, when homely, too often offends. The ear and taste must be satisfied, though heart and conscience be left untouched!

The net must be washed and mended

Then, again, the net is not only of common material, but it requires both cleansing and repairing; we read of the apostles both as washing and mending their nets. Here the application of the lessons seems to be rather for the minister than his flock. The popular preacher, to whose words hundreds—thousands listen with rapt attention, who feels his net heavy with the richest of prizes, needs constantly to remind himself of the weakness and imperfection of the instrument which the Lord is deigning to bless. It was when the apostles were drawing in a multitude of fishes that their net brake. When in the midst of their successes servants of God suddenly feel their net breaking, when their physical or mental powers are crippled, so that they need to beckon to their partners that they should come and help them, is not this the sign of the imperfection of their noblest talents sent to them lest they should fall into the sin of pride, and, albeit unconsciously, sacrifice unto their net, and burn incense unto their drag, rest complacently in those powers which at any moment might fail?

What marvelous power has the net when blessed by the Lord

But if the net be but a poor instrument in itself, how marvelous its power when blessed by the Lord! How mysterious the faculty of stirring souls to their very depths, of sending forth words like arrows,

which God Himself guides to the hearers' hearts! St. Peter, the illiterate fisherman, must have marveled at the effect of his first recorded sermon. Three thousand souls gathered in at once, a number far larger than appears to have been drawn in during all the years of Christ's sojourn upon earth by the ministry of Him who spake as never man spake!

What an honour and privilege to bring souls into the Church

What were the emotions of the apostle when his preaching, by the might of the Spirit, brought into the Church such a harvest of souls? We know that the miraculous draught made him fall on his knees, humbled and overpowered under a sense of his own unworthiness and exclaiming to the Divine Being who had wrought the miracle, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” May we not believe that St. Peter was far more humbled by the miraculous draught of souls, the mighty success granted to one who had, but a few weeks before, so sinned against light and love! “What is this honour vouchsafed to me!” such may have been the apostle's thought ere he laid down his head to rest that night, with his soul overflowing with thankful joy: “Have these lips, so lately polluted with cursing and swearing, these lips that have thrice denied my Lord, been permitted so to preach the gospel, that thousands are gathered into the Church! What am I that I should be chosen to enjoy a privilege so glorious!”

The greater the guilt, the greater the need of the Saviour

But though on that occasion the confession, “I am a sinful man, O Lord!” may have been uttered with far deeper consciousness of guilt than it was in the boat on Gennesareth, the “depart from me!” would never more be heard from the contrite Peter. His sense of sin would but make him cling the more closely to Him who taketh away sin; the greater his guilt, the greater his need that the Saviour should not depart, but abide with Him for ever!

ANTICIPATION

I know the Christian's final home
Will be divinely fair;
The highest type of glorious life
Will be the dwellers there.

The reign of Christ so perfect there!
Love's service there so free!
The atmosphere of rest and song,
And peace and purity!

To see the blessed faces there
Of those who died of old,
And those who died in later years,
All gathered in one fold!

My thoughts are full of wondering joy
At what I know is kept
For those who here in agony,
Have toiled, and prayed, and wept.

Be sure, my soul, to gain that home
So pure, so wondrous fair!
Know well, thy garments must be white,
To find acceptance there.

O Lamb divine! O pleading One!
O King so soon to come!
We praise the grace that takes our hand,
To lead us safely home.

--Julia E. Loyd

IF NOAH, DANIEL AND JOB WERE IN THE LAND

By Clark Floyd

“The Word of the Lord came again to me, saying,Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it (the land), they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord God.” Ezekiel 14:12 & 14.

Each of us is responsible for our own salvation

God is telling us clearly that each person is responsible for his or her own salvation. It does not matter if we know, or even have, a best friend or family member who has a wonderful walk with the Lord, their relationship with the Lord cannot bring salvation to us. Each of us is fully responsible for our own characters and must develop them through our own surrender and submission to Jesus as our personal Saviour.

This is apparently such an important point for us to understand that these three men are mentioned again in verses 16, 18 & 20 with the same thought by their names—we cannot use their righteousness to bring salvation to us.

What was so special about Noah?

But in thus speaking of these men in the way that Ezekiel does, we are shown that God saw something special about Noah, Daniel and Job that could be worth examining to enhance our understanding of what God is looking for in each of us.

Looking briefly at the life of Noah, we can find some of the important character traits that could also edify our lives.

Even though “the wickedness of man was great in the earth and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually, and it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth,



and it grieved him (God) at his heart, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” Genesis 6:5, 6 & 8.

But what was it that God could see in Noah? In Genesis, chapter 6, verse 9, we are told that “Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.”

Noah lived up to all the light he had

In defining the term “just” in Noah Webster’s American Dictionary of the English language of 1828, it states that in a moral sense “just” means upright, honest, having principles of rectitude (right doing). In an evangelical sense, “just” means righteous, religious,

influenced by a regard to the laws of God; or living in exact conformity to the divine will.

The Hebrew for “just” as used in Genesis 6 for Noah is “tsaddiyq” (6662 Strong’s) meaning lawful or righteous.

“Perfect”, the verb, is defined in the same Webster’s American Dictionary, as to finish or complete so as to leave nothing wanting. The Hebrew of perfect, the noun, as found in Strong’s (8549) is “tamiym” meaning without blemish, complete, full, undefiled or upright. It can mean to live up to all the light we have.

In Matthew 5:48, Jesus says, “Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” We are to live up to all the light we have as God lives up to all light. Ellen White shares, “At every stage of development our life may be perfect; yet if God’s purpose for us is fulfilled, there will be constant advancement.” Ed. 105.

Noah walked with God, as did Enoch

She further says in Child Guidance, “The Lord requires perfection from His redeemed family. He expects from us the perfection which Christ revealed in His humanity.” CG 477.

In Genesis 5:24, we read, “And Enoch walked with God: and he was not, for God took him.” And Ellen White says, “The godly character of this prophet represents the state of holiness which must be attained by those who shall be ‘redeemed from the earth’ (Revelation 14:3) at the time of Christ’s second advent.” PP 88.



And now, a chapter later, we learn that Noah also “walked with God”. God used Noah and his family to carry forth the repopulation of the earth.

Genesis 6, verse 22, goes on to say, “Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.” It becomes apparent why God used Noah as one of the three righteous in Ezekiel, chapter 14.

Daniel, the second in this righteous trio

But what about Daniel, the second person mentioned in this righteous trio? It is interesting that Ezekiel should mention Daniel since they were contemporaries and probably close to the same age—for Daniel to have obtained such a reputation in his own generation is quite remarkable.

Nebuchadnezzar came against Judah three different times—each of the first two times he allowed Judah to remain as a vassal kingdom. Jeremiah, the prophet in the land of Judah sought through God’s warnings to keep the complete destruction of Jerusalem from happening by Judah not turning against the Babylonians. But, as with many of God’s prophets, Jeremiah was not listened to by his contemporaries in leadership. Jeremiah was 20 years the senior of Ezekiel, and Daniel and was never taken to Babylon.

How can a knowledge of Daniel’s life help us?

In the first attack in 605 B.C., Daniel was taken to the king’s court in Babylon along with other youth from Judah. In the second attack in 597 B.C. Ezekiel was taken, and 5 years later became a prophet outside the palace among the people. And finally, as the leadership still in Jerusalem failed to listen to Jeremiah’s prophetic counsel, the 3rd attack of Nebuchadnezzar came in 586 B.C.; the city and the temple were completely destroyed.

Why was Daniel so highly spoken of by Ezekiel? What do we know about Daniel’s life that would help with our lives?

God kept before Daniel the fear of the Lord

“God gave Daniel and his companions “knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.” Daniel 1:17.Babylon was at that time the greatest kingdom in the world. God permitted Daniel



and his companions to be taken captive that they might take to the king and nobles of Babylon the knowledge of Him, the only true God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. God brought Daniel into favor with the prince of the eunuchs because he behaved himself. He (God) kept before him (Daniel) the fear of the Lord. His companions never saw in his life anything that would lead them astray. Those who had charge over him loved him, because he carried with him the fragrance of a

Christian disposition...

God may use you as He used Daniel

“So when you are determined that you will obey the divine command, God will cooperate with you, making you witnesses of which Heaven approves....

“You know not in what position you may be placed. God may use you as He used Daniel to take the knowledge of the truth to the mighty of the earth. It rests with you to say whether you will have knowledge and skill....

“God is connected with the threads of our existence. He knows every thought of the heart, every action of the life. Then, strive to live in harmony with Him. Seek to reach a high standard.... Heavenly angels will help you, and more than that, Christ will help you.... You can glorify Him and make the angels glad by revealing in your life that He has not died in vain.” UL 47.



Daniel prayed three times a day facing toward Jerusalem

In Daniel 6:10, we find that Daniel “kneeled upon his knees three times a day and prayed” facing toward Jerusalem. Now, why do you suppose Daniel faced toward Jerusalem when he prayed? It was because Daniel was very familiar with Scripture. When King Solomon dedicated the temple in Jerusalem, he used the following words in his prayer: “And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.” 1Kings 8:30. Notice also verses 33, 38, 44 and 48 carry the same thought of looking toward where the temple was in Jerusalem during prayer.

And notice God’s answer to Solomon’s prayer in 1Kings 9:3: “And the Lord said unto him (Solomon), I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.”

In Daniel 9:2, Daniel understood by books the seventy-year prophecy of Jeremiah, and in verse 3, Daniel sets his face unto the Lord God (he turns toward Jerusalem) to pray. In his prayer, Daniel prays scripture back to the Lord. (See my article on Daniel’s prayer in an earlier OFF.)

Daniel had stored scripture in his mind

In 3SDABC 1136, we are instructed to study Daniel’s prayer, and in Review and Herald, February 9, 1897, it reads, “Daniel’s example of prayer and confession is given for our instruction and encouragement.”

Apparently Daniel’s noble character was enhanced by his knowledge and faithfulness in reading scripture. Was he able to carry scrolls of scripture with him to Babylon or did he have it stored within his mind? God can recall to our minds Scripture that has been stored there. Will we dare to be a Daniel?



The faith of Job is to be emulated

Job was the third man noted by Ezekiel for his righteousness. What can we learn from the life of Job that would be of value to our Christian walk?

In spite of the trials that came into Job’s life, Job was able to

say, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.” Job 13:15. His faith is further expressed in Job 19:25 & 26, “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth, and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.”

God never forsakes us during trials

“God leads His children by a way that they know not, but He does not forget or cast off those who put their trust in Him. He permitted affliction to come upon Job, but He did not forsake him.... God permits trials to assail His people, that by their constancy and obedience they themselves may be spiritually enriched, and that their example may be a source of strength to others.... The very trials that task our faith most severely and make it seem that God has forsaken us, are to lead us closer to Christ, that we may lay all burdens at His feet and experience the peace which He will give us in exchange.... It is in the heat of the furnace that the dross is separated from the true gold of the Christian character.” PP 129.

Three righteous examples cannot save us

We have three men whose righteous lives could not save us even if they were upon the land in our day, but whose righteous examples, if followed by the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us could turn us so fully to Jesus Christ that we could have the righteousness that God requires for our salvation.



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 Record the Angels Keep

O the wonderful record the angels keep,
And the wakeful eyelids that never sleep,
And the tireless penmen that watch and weep,
Over the words they write.
And how oft are the hearts of the angels pained,
How oft are the pages soiled and stained,
How much is lost and how little gained,
In the struggle for right.

It was thus I mused in the twilight grey
In the deepening hours at the close of day
Ere I reverently knelt by my couch to pray
And laid me down to rest.
And I dreamed that a glorious angel fair
Had borne me away through the boundless air,
To the pearly gates of the city where
Dwell the good and the blest.

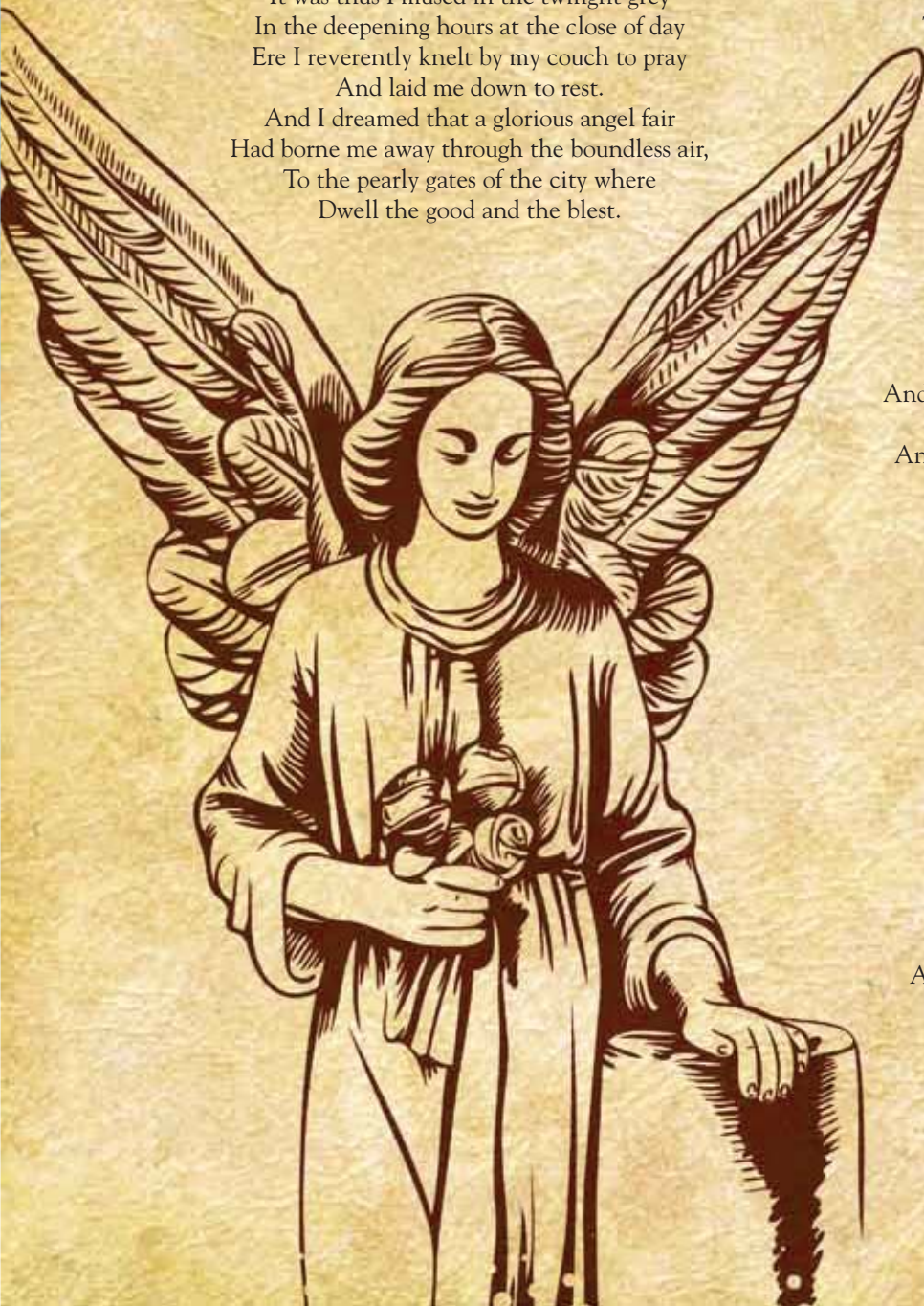
O the peace I felt as my mortal tongue,
Joined in the song that the angels sung,
As back were the massive portals swung,
By the touch of the angel's hand.
And we stood on the banks of the river wide
As it flowed from the throne in a crystal tide
And I safely followed my shining guide
Over that blissful land.

Still on through the ambient air we sped,
Till he laid his hand on my trembling head,
"Behold the Ledger of Heaven," he said,
Then swift on my wandering view,
There seemed to flash in a ray of light,
The mystic pen of an angel bright,
As he wrote in a ledger, pure and white,
The record of life, so true.

And every deed of my life was there,
The careless word and the honest prayer,
And some of the pages were white and fair,
But some were soiled with sin.
And the thoughts of my heart that I had concealed
Were there, written out and all revealed!
And oh! How I wished that that book was sealed
And the record hid within.

And my cheek was crimson as one by one
I read the record of the deeds I had done,
Of victories lost, that I might have won,
In the hour of mortal strife.
Of gentle words that I might have said,
But ah! There were hasty words instead,
And now, the golden moments were fled,
And mine was a misspent life.

"Oh, had I but known," in my grief I cried
As weeping I turned to the angel's side,
"I bring thee hope," said my angel guide.
"Thy Saviour hath prayed for thee,
And thou shalt return to the earth again
And dwell once more mongst the sons of men
But oh! Remember the angel's pen!
What shall thy Record be?"



What Was Secured by the Death of Christ

By Mrs. E. G. White

It became Him for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in the redemption of the world to save sinners by the blood of the Lamb. The great sacrifice of the Son of God was neither too great nor too small to accomplish the work. In the wisdom of God it was complete; and the atonement made testifies to every son and daughter of Adam the immutability of God's law. The value of the law of Jehovah is to be estimated by the immense price that was paid in the death of the Son of God to maintain its sacredness.



The Father himself suffered with the Son

The law of God is a transcript of his character; it portrays the nature of God. As in Christ we behold the brightness of his glory, the express image of his person, so also in the law the attributes of the Father are unfolded. Although the law is unchangeable, his having provided a means of salvation for the law-breaker does not in the least detract from the dignity of the character of God, since the penalty of man's transgression was borne by a divine Substitute. The Father himself suffered with the Son; for "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself." Man, with his human, finite judgment, cannot safely question the wisdom of God. Hence it is unbecoming for him to criticise the plan of salvation. Before the theme of redemption, let man lay his wisdom in the dust, and accept the plans of Him whose wisdom is infinite.

The blood of Christ is the eternal antidote for sin

God grants men a probation in this world, that their principles may

become firmly established in the right, thus precluding the possibility of sin in the future life, and so assuring the happiness and security of all. Through the atonement of the Son of God alone could power be given to man to establish

him in righteousness, and make him a fit subject for heaven. The blood of Christ is the eternal antidote for sin. The offensive character of sin is seen in what it cost the Son of God in humiliation, in suffering and death. All the worlds behold in him a living testimony to the malignity of sin, for in

his divine form he bears the marks of the curse. He is in the midst of the throne as a Lamb that hath been slain. The redeemed will ever be vividly impressed with the hateful character of sin, as they behold Him who died for their transgressions. The preciousness of the Offering will be more fully realized as the blood-washed through more fully comprehend how God has made a new and living way for the salvation of men, through the union of the human and the divine in Christ.

The plan of salvation provides an eternal safeguard against defection

The death of Christ upon the cross made sure the destruction of him who has the power of death, who was the originator of sin. When Satan is destroyed, there will be none to tempt to evil; the atonement will never need to be repeated; and there

will be no danger of another rebellion in the universe of God. That which alone can effectually restrain from sin in this world of darkness, will prevent sin in heaven. The significance of the death of Christ will be seen by saints and angels. Fallen men could not have a home in the paradise of God without the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Shall we not then exalt the cross of Christ? The angels ascribe honor and glory to Christ, for even they are not secure except by looking to the sufferings of the Son of God. It is through the efficacy of the cross that the angels of heaven are guarded from apostasy. Without the cross they would be no more secure against evil than were the angels before the fall of Satan. Angelic perfection failed in heaven. Human perfection failed in Eden, the paradise of bliss. All who wish for security in earth or heaven must look to the Lamb of God. The plan of salvation, making manifest the justice and love of God, provides an eternal safeguard against defection in unfallen worlds, as well as among those who shall be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.



We do not comprehend the value of atonement

Our only hope is perfect trust in the blood of Him who can save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him. The death of Christ on the cross of Calvary is our only hope in this world, and it will be our theme in the world to come. Oh, we do not comprehend the value

of the atonement! If we did, we would talk more about it. The gift of God in his beloved Son was the expression of an incomprehensible love. It was the utmost that God could do to preserve the honor

of his law, and still save the transgressor. Why should man not study the theme of redemption? It is the greatest subject that can engage the human mind. If men would contemplate the love of Christ, displayed in the cross, their faith would be strengthened to appropriate the merits of his shed blood, and they would be cleansed and saved from sin. There are many who will be lost, because they depend on legal religion, or mere repentance for sin. But repentance for sin alone cannot work the salvation of any soul. Man cannot be saved by his own works. Without Christ it is impossible for him to render perfect obedience to the law of God; and heaven can never be gained by an imperfect obedience; for this would place all heaven in jeopardy, and make possible a second rebellion.

Let every breath of praise flow to Jesus

God saves man through the blood of Christ alone, and man's belief in, and allegiance to, Christ is salvation. It is no marvel to angels that the infinite sacrifice made by the Son of God was ample enough to bring salvation to a fallen race, but that this atoning sacrifice should have been made is a wonder to the universe. It is a mystery which angels desire to look into. The angels are amazed at the indifference and coldness manifested by those for whom so great a salvation has been provided. They look with grief and holy indignation upon those who do not seek to appreciate the unspeakable gift of God. Instead of offering adoration to God, finite men think themselves capable, without divine unction, of determining what is worthy of praise or blame in their fellow-men. But to be glorified by man is no glory. We should learn to value the praise of man at what it is worth. The Lord says, "Them that honor me I will honor." Let every breath of praise, every word of exaltation, flow to him who is worthy, flow to Jesus, the Prince of life, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Elevate the cross of Christ. Elevate the Mediator. Lift up Jesus. In him is everything noble. Contemplate God in Christ. He is surrounded with angels;



cherubim and seraphim continually behold him. Angelic voices day and night cry before him: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.... Thou

art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing." "Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy; for all nations shall come and worship before thee." But although God only is holy and worthy to be praised, human tongues are perverted to praise and glorify man rather than God.

No second probation will ever be provided

The greatest gift that God could bestow upon men was bestowed in the gift of his beloved Son. The apostle says, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" There was nothing held in reserve. No second probation will ever be provided. If the unspeakable gift of God does not lead man to repentance, there is nothing that ever will move his heart. There is no power held in reserve to act upon his mind, and arouse his sensibilities. The whole character of God was revealed in his Son, the whole range of the possibilities of heaven is displayed for the acceptance of man in the Son of the Infinite One. The way for man's return to God and heaven has no barriers. The matchless depths of the Saviour's love have been



demonstrated; and if this manifestation of God's love for the children of men does not prevail to draw men to himself, there is nothing that ever will.

The angels of heaven will love those whom Christ has loved

Those who will be saved in the kingdom of God will be those who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. The image of Christ will be perfected in every soul who accepts the gift of his grace, and those who are perfected through his grace, will stand before God equal in elevation, in power and purity, to the angels, and will be honored with them before the eternal throne. The angels of heaven will love those whom Christ has loved, and has bought with his own precious blood.

The plan of salvation is too grand to be fully comprehended by finite minds

The attention of all the inhabitants of all worlds will be directed to the cross of Christ, around which will cluster the exceeding and eternal weight of glory. The imagination becomes exhausted in

its stretch to comprehend the wonderful work of redemption. The plan of salvation is too high to be fully reached by human thought. It is too grand to be fully embraced by finite comprehension. The apostle says, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." Can we wonder that Heaven is amazed

because men act as though the gift of God were valueless? What will be the eternal loss of those who reject so great a salvation, offered freely through the merits of God's only-begotten and well-beloved Son!

ST, December 30, 1889



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.

SERVANTHOOD - IS IT REALLY ALL THAT BAD?

By Joe Olson

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
Matt. 6:24.

I would like to start this message with the principle that we ARE

going to serve a master. Would you agree with me on that? Many people would not. Many people do not like the idea of having to serve someone, or that they are a servant or a slave to someone. Frankly, that's one of the reasons so many people are atheists or agnostics. The idea that we are beholden to someone, whomever it might be, seems to gall a lot of us. We grow up with this idea that we are our own men and women and no one is going to tell us what to do. No one has control of us; no one leads us; no one can dictate to us.

TO WHOM WILL YOU GIVE SERVICE?

But is that really the case? Please notice in this verse in Matthew that it is Jesus who is talking here. He says you cannot serve two, not that you don't have to have one. “Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, *even* Christ.” Matt. 23:10. This verse says we are not to be called masters, but we

do have one... It is Christ, or at least, we hope so...Or do we? Do we “hope so”? We have a choice! We can choose whom we will serve. “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye

dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Josh. 24:15.

YOU CAN CHOOSE TO SERVE GOD OR GOD

Again you see the same theme here... we get to choose, but notice the choice! You get to pick the Lord God, capital G... or you can pick other gods... small g! The Bible indicates that there is someone else in charge besides ourselves. I believe this is one of the major reasons people deny the truth of the Bible. They don't want to think that there is Someone out there that they are accountable to. I think a lot of

people want to believe that no matter what they do or how they act, there will be no reckoning or accountability for their actions. A lot of children long to be out from under the rule of their parents. Many employees long to be out from under the rule of their employers. Some spouses long to be out from under the rule of their mates. We want to be free to do as we will and as we want. But the Bible indicates that we will never be on our own, we will never be our “own man” so-to-speak. Why? Why aren't we on our own? Why can't we be “free”, if you will? Why does there have to be an accountability to someone? Because we didn't make ourselves.

WHO ARE YOU TO QUESTION YOUR maker?

You see, we were “built”, we were “created”. And we were made for a specific purpose by a specific Person. And the Bible actually deals with our questions about being made... “Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?” Rom. 9:20.

Just for a moment, for the sake of

argument, let's say that we were made, and made by this Creator God. Then the question from Paul would be pretty



reasonable, wouldn't it? "Who are you to question your Maker?" "Who do you think you are?" "You didn't even exist, and now you do... and it was by your Maker's power and will and love or whatever... and you now want to question why He did it?"

IF YOU WERE MADE, THEN SOMEONE OWNS YOU

There was an alternative... for God anyway. He didn't actually have to make me or you. He could have made someone else... or nothing at all. But Paul is in essence saying that the thing made, meaning us, does not get to question the Maker, or God. "You don't get to question." "You don't have a say as to whether or not you will serve someone." That's like a child stating that he no longer wants to have parents. You have no choice! You were MADE by your parents. There is no option. I guess if there would have been an option, it would have been to not be created in the first place. There would be no argument then would there? Does that make sense to you? But if you are here, then you were made. And if you were made, then someone "owns" you, so-to-speak. You are His who made you, and you are accountable to Him.

So, for those that don't like that idea, they try to deny they were made. Interestingly, the Bible even addresses that... "... shall the work say of him that

made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?" Isa. 29:16. Do we even recognize how inane that is? Yet a lot of people go out of their way to deny that they were created by a Creator. This is so important for us. We have to determine if we were "made" or not. Many people, if not all people, question where we came from. The Bible gives us a very complete and concise answer. God made us and made us for His pleasure, or so we could be with Him. He loved us before we were even made and wants to fellowship with us.

GOD CREATED US FOR HIS GLORY

God, speaking of Jeremiah, one of His prophets, said this... "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." Jer. 1:5. God said He knew Jeremiah before he was even formed in his mother's womb. God "saw", if you will, what Jeremiah would be and who he would be and what He wanted for him... all before he was ever created or made in the womb! And He wanted him.

God wants each one of us... so He made us all. "Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him." Isa. 43:7. There is no equivocation in the Bible. God said He made everyone and He made the earth and He made everything else and there is no other god or other answer... "For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else." Isa. 45:18. He isn't one choice among many gods. He is THE God, the ONLY God.

WHICH DOOR WILL YOU CHOOSE?

So, what actually is my choice today? Since there is no other God, how can



there be any other choices? If there is only "Door number 1", how can I choose any other door? The choice is whether we will pick, "Door number 1," or NOT pick, "Door number 1". THAT is what our choice is.

Even though the Bible talks about different gods, (small g) the Bible makes it clear that there are actually no other gods... it is just Him. Oh, we call other things "god", and we can put our trust in wood or stone or metal and believe they are gods... but they really aren't. But the Lord deals with our limited understanding and says we can choose Him, or other gods. But really, our choice is to pick God, the true God, or not to pick Him. He, as God, has given us that choice.

And many people, not liking those choices, decide that they will add a few more choices... like other gods, or even no god at all. That's like telling Monty Hall (for those of you old enough to remember the game show host), when he offers you a choice between doors number 1,2 or 3, that you want door number 8. There IS no door number 8. But you insist on having door number 8. What is Monty to do? There aren't 8 doors! There aren't even 4 doors. There are 3 doors and those are your only choices. You can want as many choices as you can think of, you can wish there were more choices, but there ARE only THREE.

HOW DO WE CHOOSE TO SERVE GOD?

The Bible says there are two choices. Him, or not Him. Or, if we can grasp it better the other way, the true God, or the false gods. God represents the true – the devil represents the false. The devil tries to convince us that there are many other choices out there, and all we have to



do is choose any one of them... except God. Because he knows full well that the only choice he cares about, is you NOT choosing God.

Well then, how do we know what



choice we are making? Because, according to God, we have all chosen whom we will follow... who will be our master. Then how do we "choose" our God, or in other words, how do we choose to serve God? Is it simply mouthing the words, "I choose You Lord"? Is that how we know?

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THE LORD IS COMING SOON?

Well, do we ever say things we don't mean? To you married people out there... has your spouse ever said they love you and you questioned their sincerity? Why? Maybe because their actions didn't show it? Why is this a well-known statement: "Talk is cheap!"? Here is another one: "You can talk the talk, but can you walk the walk?" It is obvious that we don't always mean what we say!

So, can we deceive ourselves? "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Gal. 6:7.

Apparently, according to the Bible, we can be deceived. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be



not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind," 1 Cor. 6:9. Did you notice that in both

of these quotes, the deception is that you will be doing bad things and think it is all right and you will go to heaven?!

Do you believe the Lord is coming soon? Do you really believe it? Do you ACT like you believe it? How many of us are willing to quit our jobs, lose our insurance, sell all we have, and become missionaries tomorrow?

How about taking

your money and putting it into the gospel work? What if you KNEW the Lord was coming in 10 days? Would you do it then? How about two months? What if it was a year? Would you talk, act, eat, watch, read, or listen differently if you knew the Lord was coming in a week?

HOW BAD IS IT IF WE DON'T CHOOSE GOD?

I'm talking to myself here as much as anyone else! We are all in this boat together, brothers and sisters! As Jesus said, we have a choice and we do have to pick. By the way... NOT choosing... IS choosing! Remember, the choice is serving God, or not. If you don't choose, then you did not choose God. We are

not our own masters, no matter what the TV ads tell us. We don't get to have it our OWN

way. It's going to be God's way, or not His way.

You may have noticed, the title of my article is, "Servanthood, is it Really all That Bad?" Depends on whom you serve. And actually, is NOT choosing God really all that bad? Apparently, not to a lot of people.

There are many people who know about God, and many even know His requirements, and His offer of grace and another opportunity, but they still don't actually choose Him. They choose to... you know... leave their options open. But many do profess to love God and His cause! Many have said, "I choose You Lord." So, does that mean they have? Does that mean they are heaven bound?



"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." Matt. 7:21.

THE CHOICE IS EVER BEFORE US

Many of us have actually said we loved the Lord, and have meant it. But then one day, the devil offers us a different door. Remember, the door the devil offers is not really another door, but just a rejection of the door we have chosen... Jesus Christ. And also remember, the Lord always offers us a choice. We can choose to serve Him, or not to serve Him. Every moment of every day that choice is there. It is ever before us. God will never, ever take that choice away from us. Not ever. The devil knows it, so he tries to get us to choose to turn away from what we know to be right.

How many of us can attest to making

a wrong choice and taking that first turn down the wrong path? How many have “tried” a cigarette, only to be chained to a habit for many, many years? How many drank “one” drink and turned into a lifelong drinker? How many swore once, used profanity just one time, only to find it much more difficult to stop than it was to start? How much misery has occurred from having physical relations only one time, and then endured years of work and toil and suffering as a result?

IF YOU CHOOSE GOD, YOU GET ALL THE BENEFITS

No, this is not news here for many of us. And how badly do we want to help others not make the mistakes we have made? And yes, we did not immediately, upon our single acts that turned us in the wrong direction, feel we left off choosing God. Most

all of us, if we were Christians at the time, still professed to love the Lord. But if we continue down that track of choosing sin over God, then we will be lost. “But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth

according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.” Eze.18:24.

God is fair. If you choose Him, you get all of these benefits He mentions in His word. But if you choose anything else, which as we have been saying, is in reality just not choosing Him, you don’t get the good things, and you have to pay for your bad choices.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE YOUR CHOICE?

But, what if you recognize you are making bad choices and want to turn around and choose God again? What

then? “But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath

done he shall live.” Eze.18:21-22. You’ve got to love this! All of your sins will never, ever even be mentioned! Don’t you WANT to serve a God like this?

WHERE IS YOUR HEART?

Make sure we do not deceive ourselves... we need to be brutally honest with ourselves. WHY? Because it’s not what we SAY, it’s what we DO! We need to know our own hearts. “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Matt. 6:21. Who said that? Jesus!!! Think He knows what He is talking about? He didn’t say “Put your money where your mouth is”, He said where your money is, that is where you will find your heart.

You want to know where your heart is? Look where your money is. You want to know who you’re

serving? Look at who you are obeying. “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” Rom. 6:16. Remember, we have to serve, or choose, one... God... or the other... NOT God!

SIN = DEATH, OBEDIENCE = RIGHTEOUSNESS

“Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?” Eze. 18:23. God has no pleasure in our eternal death. He wants us to live forever. But to live forever, we have to choose the right, or in reality, the *only* Master. So, with a choice that offers eternal life, and a choice that offers eternal death... why would we ever choose death? Because many of us don’t actually believe it! We don’t really believe that if we do not serve God, that we automatically serve the devil and his choices. But NOT serving/choosing God IS serving, or choosing, the devil and all that comes with him!

I’ve heard many people actually say, “Well, I may not *really* serve God... but I *certainly* do not serve the devil.” Have you ever thought that? Is there a third option according to the Bible... according to Jesus? But many people just don’t want to choose. They want heaven and they want eternal life and they want an Advocate in Jesus... but they do not want the responsibility of making a choice.

WITHOUT JESUS WE CANNOT HELP OURSELVES

I know you’ve all met people who want

the good things in life, but don't want to have to work for them. I know people who want a house, but don't want to have to pay for it. They want a beautiful lawn, but don't want to have to put the work in to have it. They want to be the man in charge, but they don't want to do what it takes to get to the top. Not making a choice, but wanting the benefits of choosing Jesus is no different. And all of us understand it when it comes to earthly things. Why would we think it would be any different for heavenly things?

Jesus offers everything we could ever possibly want... and more! The devil offers what seems to be cool and neat and shiny, but all of his gifts end up leading us into the pit. And the incredible thing is, we often see his gifts that others have accepted leading them right into the pit! And yet, we seem to line right up to get our gifts from him. Why? Why would we do that? Because, without a commitment and a connection to Jesus, we cannot help ourselves. Jesus told us flat out what our problem is... "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5.

DO YOU WANT VICTORY OVER SIN?

We will never make right decisions; we will never do the right thing, we will never end up where we want to be, without Jesus. We were made to be with Jesus. Outside of that relationship with



Him... we will never be what we were made for. We NEED the connection that comes from being grafted into the Vine, Jesus Christ. And if we are connected... if we do have a commitment to our Saviour, then we can say what Paul said in Philippians... "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13. The things you never thought possible, the strength you never thought you would possess; the stand you never thought you could make, are all possible. "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Rom. 8:37.

Do you see things in your life that you would like to be a conqueror of? Do you want to have the victory over sins in your life? Do you see character flaws that you would like to change? Then choose Jesus! He wants to give you everything! The

Father wants to give you everything! "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Rom. 8:32. Doesn't that make sense to you? If our heavenly Father would give us His own Son, can you imagine Him not giving you anything else you needed or wanted?



WHAT SHOULD BE OUR COURSE OF ACTION?

Jesus Himself addressed God's love for us... "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" Matt. 7:11. Jesus asks us to consider the logic of it all. If humans, who are selfish and proud and inconsiderate and egotistical, can give good things to our children, how can we imagine a God of love and goodness and mercy doing less?

Then what should we do, especially as we have seen our own resolutions about as effective as ropes of sand? What should be our course of action? "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and



eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David." Isa. 55:1-3.



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

THE LATTER RAIN NO. 2

By Meade MacGuire

Editor's note: A series of articles on the "Latter Rain" by the above author appeared in the Review and Herald from June 3 to August 12, 1943. This subject is even more important today as we draw closer to the second coming. This series of articles is being repeated in Our Firm Foundation—one each month, beginning with March, 2011.

THE CLOSING WORK COULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, AND CHRIST COULD HAVE COME YEARS AGO

We are all familiar with the fact that in many ways the experience of ancient Israel in the exodus movement typified, or illustrated, the experiences of God's people in this second advent movement. This is brought out forcibly in the following statement:

"The history of ancient Israel is a striking illustration of the past experience of the Adventist body. God led His people in the advent movement, even as He led the children of



Israel from Egypt. In the great disappointment their faith was tested as was that of the Hebrews at the Red Sea. Had they still trusted to the guiding hand that had been with them in their past experience, they would have seen of the salvation of God. If all who had labored unitedly in the work in 1844, had received the third angel's message and proclaimed it in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord would have wrought mightily with their efforts. A flood of light would have been shed upon the world. Years ago the inhabitants of the earth would have been warned, the closing work completed, and Christ would have come for the redemption of His People.

IT WAS NOT THE WILL OF GOD THAT THE COMING OF CHRIST SHOULD BE SO LONG DELAYED

"It was not the will of God that Israel should wander forty years in the wilderness; He desired to



lead them directly to the land of Canaan, and establish them there, a holy, happy people. But 'they could not enter in because of unbelief'. Because of their backsliding and apostasy, they perished in the desert, and others were raised up to enter the Promised Land. In like manner, it was not the will of God that the coming

of Christ should be so long delayed, and His people should remain so many years in the world of sin and sorrow. But unbelief separated them from God. As they refused to do the work which He had appointed them, others were raised up to proclaim the message. In mercy to the world, Jesus delays His coming, that sinners may have an opportunity to hear the warning, and find in Him a shelter before the wrath of God shall be poured out."

--"The Great Controversy", pp. 457, 458.

IF WE COULD SEE AS GOD SEES, WE WOULD FEAR AND TREMBLE FOR OUR SOULS

If the full significance of these statements should penetrate the minds

and hearts of God's people, it would surely bring a mighty awakening and revival. The very fact that Jesus wanted to come,



and would have come fifty or more years ago (from the time of the writing of this article) had we been ready, should startle and arouse us. We might be thrilled with the glory of our Saviour's presence, rejoicing with the redeemed in the peace, and joy, and victory of heaven, but for our own neglect.

"Could the curtain be rolled back, could you discern the purposes of God and the judgments that are about to fall upon a doomed world, could you see your own attitude, you would fear and tremble for your own souls and for the souls of your fellow men. Earnest prayers of heart-rending anguish would go up to heaven. You would weep between the porch and the altar, confessing your spiritual blindness and back-sliding."

--"Testimonies", Vol. VI, p. 408.

WE EACH HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL WORK TO DO FOR OURSELVES

The Saviour gave a parable portraying the condition of the church when His coming is at hand. It represents two classes in the church as five wise and five foolish virgins. "While the Bridegroom



with the preceding statements that the coming of the Lord had been delayed, and His people are unprepared for that event. The reason for this delay is also made very plain.

"God's people are not prepared for the loud cry of the third angel. They have a work to do for themselves which they should not leave for God to do for them. He has left this work for them to do. It is an individual work; one cannot do it for another."

--"Testimonies", Vol. I, p. 486.

MANY ARE NEGLECTING THE NEEDFUL PREPARATION

"I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful, and were looking to the time of 'refreshing' and the 'latter rain' to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord, and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time

of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God. Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets, and fail to purifying their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are

tattered, they all slumbered and slept." Thus He revealed that He would "tarry" and His people would sleep, which is in harmony

willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it, and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father."

--Early Writings", p. 71.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE OCCUPIED WITH OTHER THINGS

Another striking statement should cause both workers and people to consider seriously our present condition.

"Every truly converted soul will be



intensely desirous to bring others from the darkness of error into the marvelous light of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be laborers together with God."

--Mrs. E. G. White, Review and Herald, July 21, 1896.

How startling is the thought that the coming of Christ is delayed because His people are too occupied with other things to study and become enlightened regarding His plans which are clearly revealed in His word. We cannot afford to neglect the study of this solemn question, or to form wrong conclusions because of superficial study.

Mercy's Call

By W. S. Adams
1890

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17. Thus we read in almost the last verse of God's revelation to man of his wondrous mercy and undying love. Not only here, but from beginning to end of this great book resounds this gracious call to come and take of the water of life and live. There are no sweeter words than these. They show the great depth of Christ's mercy. He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should have everlasting life.

None will be rejected that come in the spirit of meekness and humility

This is the same call, the same salvation that has been preached from Adam's time down to the present day. Adam, Enoch, Noah, Moses, David, Daniel, the apostles, and Christ's true church since their day have all told of it. And from whence comes their knowledge of an invitation so harmonious and complete? God and Christ are their authorities. This call is as old as sin in the earth itself. It is coeval with man's first transgression. Come, and partake freely. Come, and Jesus will save you; God will forgive you; though your sins be as scarlet, he will wash you white as snow. Come, there is no other way of salvation; by no other course can this invitation apply to you. There is no cross road to glory, that leaves out the Lamb of Calvary. He alone can give you the entrance to heaven. None will be rejected that come in the spirit of meekness and humility, depending on Jesus. This is the only condition. Sink all of self at the foot of the cross, and cry, "God be merciful to me, a sinner."

None will be forced into the kingdom of God. The invitation is, "Come." Come of your own accord, even as a little child. Choose now. There are two sides,

one where will be gathered all who heed this call, and the other on which will be those who reject it—the sheep on the right, and the goats on the left. "Many will be called, but few chosen."

Listen to the call of mercy

Pause, O careless one! And listen to the call of mercy. What are the few days you inhabit this earth—the days of your probation—when compared with the eternity of endless joy promised to all who obey? Think of the reward here and hereafter. You will have here bounteous blessings that come in no other way—peace, happiness, and ease of conscience which tells alone of heaven. These will be yours here, and in such a measure that the children of this world know not of, and in the world to come eternal life. Then it shall be yours to drink of those living waters that flow from the throne of God, to partake of the tree of life, and to dwell forever in the paradise of God. It shall be yours to participate in those inconceivable joys that are prepared for all who thirst here, and remember the ways of God to do them. Therefore heed those love-laden words of Him who died that you might live. Let not his precious blood be shed for you in vain. Jesus is not willing that any should be lost. The provision he has made for the deliverance of all is simple and sufficient. O that we had but a tithe of the love of souls in our hearts that was his! How bravely to the front we would carry the words, Come, come to the living Fountain!

The triumphing of the wicked is short

"And let him that heareth say, Come." It is not only our duty to heed this call, but having heeded it, we should extend it to the indifferent ones around us. If we knew our duty and did it, mercy's invitation would be contagious; the

honest in heart—those who are athirst—would leap for joy, and also would share in shedding abroad present truth. God would be honored. Jesus would be glorified. His mission and sufferings while upon earth would bear quickly their full measure of fruit. The number of God's chosen ones would soon be made up. Satan rejoices that these precious words of mercy affect so few. But we are told "that the triumphing of the wicked is short," and their joy "but for a moment". Satan's opposition now will eventually but add a luster to the crown of those who heed the words, "Whosoever will." He that overcometh shall have a joy that is full and complete.

You cannot afford to neglect so many calls

"The Spirit and the bride say, Come." Jesus, our Saviour says, Come. The examples of holy men say, Come. The martyrs at the stake cry, Come. The honest of heart who labor in the Master's vineyard of present truth today, say, Come. You cannot afford to neglect so many calls. You cannot afford to render of none effect this Heaven-sent message. Come to the waters and drink. Neglect not so great salvation. Mercy will not always plead. The Spirit will soon cease its promptings. In a little while it will be too late. Hear the summons, and listen to it, for we know not what the morrow may bring forth. To-day is the time of acceptance and the hour of salvation. Put not off until tomorrow a decision so momentous. Take up the cross your Saviour and mine has borne. Follow in the Saviour's footsteps and learn of him, so that when he comes to gather together his elect, you can exclaim, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us; this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

DAILY TIME WITH JESUS

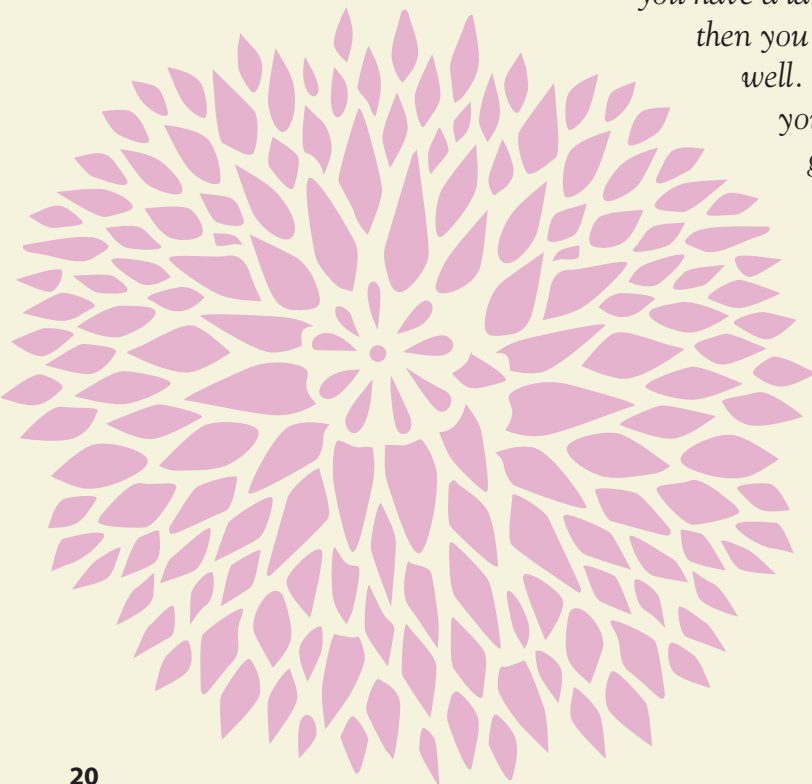


❁ “It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit. If we would be saved at last, we must learn the lesson of penitence and humiliation at the foot of the cross.” DA 83.

❁ “Look constantly to Jesus. Take all your troubles to him. He will never misunderstand you. He is the refuge of his people. Under the shadow of his protection, they can pass unharmed. Believe in him and trust in him. He will not give you up to the spoiler. Flee to the stronghold, and learn that the power of Christ to strengthen and to help passes all comprehension. Open the door of the heart, and let Jesus enter, to fill your life with his peace, his grace, his joy. Then you can say: ‘Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls; yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.’” RH Jan. 5, 1911.

❁ “When you arise in the morning, rise with the praise of God on your lips, and when you go out to work, go with a prayer to God for help. If you have a large amount of work to do, then you have need of much prayer as well. If you have heavy burdens, then you are to seek the throne of God with greater earnestness; and as you seek after God, he takes your hand and lays it in his own. Wait for a leaf from the tree of life. This will soothe and refresh you, filling your heart with peace and joy. Fix your thoughts upon the Saviour.” RH Jan. 5, 1911.

❁ “The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the





whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God. Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel's message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure.”
TM 91& 92.



❁ “The efficacy of the blood of Christ was to be presented to the people with freshness and power, that their faith might lay hold upon its merits. As the high priest sprinkled the warm blood upon the mercy seat, while the fragrant cloud of incense ascended before God, so while we confess our sins and plead the efficacy of Christ’s atoning blood, our prayers are to ascend to heaven, fragrant with the merits of our Saviour’s character. Notwithstanding our unworthiness, we are ever to bear in mind that there is One that can take away sin and save the sinner. Every sin acknowledged before God with a contrite heart, He will remove. This faith is the life of the church. As the serpent was lifted up in the wilderness by Moses, and all that had been bitten by the fiery serpents were bidden to look and live, so also the Son of man must be lifted up, that ‘whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’” TM 92.



❁ “The heart of the human father yearns over his son. He looks into the face of his little child, and trembles at the thought of life’s peril. He longs to shield his dear one from Satan’s power, to hold him back from temptation and conflict. To meet a bitterer conflict and a more fearful risk, God gave His only-begotten Son, that the path of life might be made sure for our little ones. ‘Herein is love.’ Wonder, O heavens! and be astonished, O earth!” DA 49.



Feature Product



Trying to control your diabetes? Tired of the ups and downs? Don't want to start taking medicine or giving yourself shots? If so, we've got just the thing for you. Our Bitter Melon Plus contains a special, all-natural, extremely potent form of the amazing herb, bitter melon. This herb has been shown to regulate blood sugar levels, strengthen the pancreas, and more! And what's better? There are NO harmful side effects!!

Bitter Melon Plus

STUDIES:

- Bitter melon has shown to be good for the liver and has been scientifically proven to contain insulin, act as an anti-tumor agent, and inhibit HIV-1 infection.
- In test tube studies, a protein in bitter melon called AP-30 kills viruses and slows the growth of some cancer cells.
- In some studies, bitter melon has even been shown to reduce total cholesterol.

100 Capsules\$8.99 HXHH-DCON

Suggested Adult Dosage:
• 2 capsules daily

To Order Call Today:
1.800.468.7884

or Visit us on the web at:
www.hopeforhealthusa.com

*Prices listed above do not include shipping and handling or sales tax

Why is Bitter Melon Plus so effective?

- To date, nearly 100 scientific studies have demonstrated the blood sugar-lowering effect of bitter melon, the primary ingredient in Bitter Melon Plus. This fruit has shown the ability to enhance cells' uptake of glucose, to promote insulin release, and to enhance the effects of insulin.
- In numerous studies, at least three different groups of components found in bitter melon have clinically demonstrated hypoglycemic (blood sugar-lowering) properties.
- A study published in 1999 examined bitter melon's effect on 100 people with type 2 diabetes. On two days, researchers tested the participants' blood sugar levels in a fasting state and after drinking glucose. The first day, nothing unusual was done. The second day, participants took 500-1000 mg. of bitter melon extract. That day, researchers found that 86 percent of the participants experienced an average of a 14 percent drop in blood sugar BOTH after fasting and after drinking glucose than on the day prior when none was taken.

Our Bitter Melon Plus with bitter melon can also help:

- Fight and slow the growth of certain cancers
- Prevent or improve symptoms of viral infections such as: influenza, measles, Epstein Barr, herpes, hepatitis, and even HIV
- Prevent or improve symptoms of bacterial infections such as: Staphylococcus, Streptococcus, and Salmonella
- Improve digestion

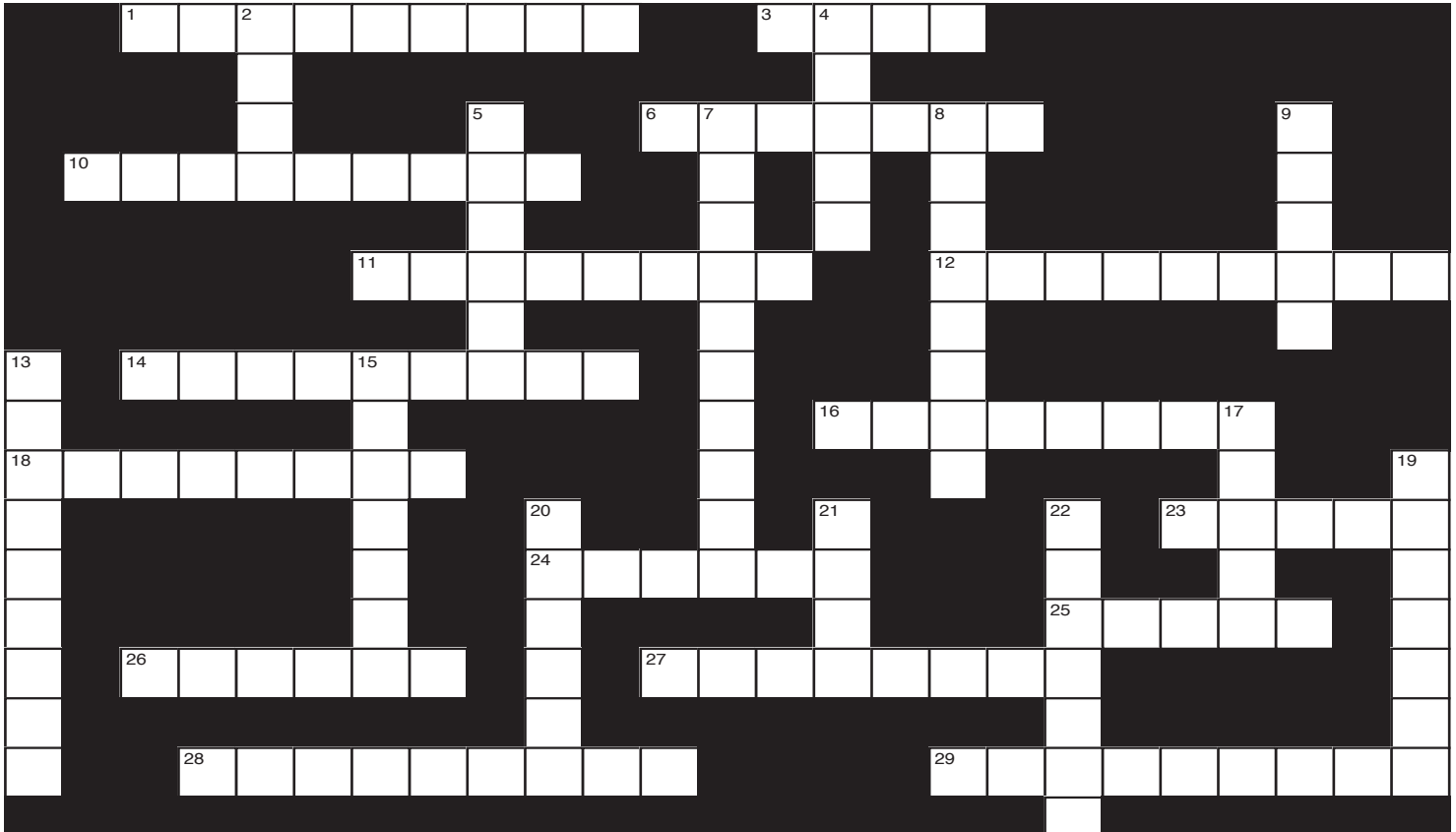
FACT: Rich in iron, bitter melon has twice the beta carotene of broccoli, twice the calcium of spinach, twice the potassium of bananas, and contains: vitamins B1, B2, B3, and C, phosphorus, and dietary fiber.

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

Christian Crossword



1. We apologize for the last four questions without a space for the answers--these were questions in the previous month's crossword puzzle and were kept in the layout by mistake. (21, 23, 25 & 26 down)
2. In the answers shown in the March 2011 magazine, #5 across says "Harmon" and it should read "Hermon". In the Illustrated Bible Dictionary under the heading of Hermon--"There is every probability that one of its three summits was the scene of the transfiguration."



ACROSS

1. The name of the Jewish high counsel in Bible days
3. Which early king of Israel ended his life by falling on a sword?
6. A prophet that lived and ministered during Nehemiah's time
10. Who was the prophet that encouraged the people of Israel to finish rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem?
11. Who was the governor of Jerusalem from 444 to 432 BC?
12. A group of people mentioned in the Book of Moses that should never come into the assembly of God
14. The Messiah is seen as a ____ servant in chapters 40-66 in Isaiah
16. A second group of people that should not ever come into the assembly of God
18. How did John the Baptist die?
23. What did Satan say God had put around Job and his family?
24. Nehemiah was cupbearer to the king of ____
25. The Agagite, the son of Hammedatha that was a leader in the kingdom during Esther's time
26. Daniel, when he prayed, faced toward the ____ in Jerusalem
27. The wall of Jerusalem was rebuilt in ____ days
28. Christ will return when His ____ is reproduced in His people
29. The king that queen Esther was married to

DOWN

2. Three prophets are mentioned in Ezekiel; name the first mentioned in the Bible
4. One of the heads of the musical families appointed by David
5. The queen that Esther replaced
7. The king that gave Nehemiah permission to return to Jerusalem
8. Mordecai's uncle's daughter's original name
9. Isaiah's prophetic ministry covers at least ____ years

13. The co-regent with Belshazzar in Babylon
15. A prophet who was very close to the same age as Daniel
17. Where did the Queen come from that visited Solomon?
19. The priests of Israel came from what family?
20. "Blessed" are the poor in ____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
21. Nehemiah led the ____ return to Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile
22. Ahaziah was the youngest son of King ____

Answers from Christian Crossword published in the March 2011 issue of Our Firm Foundation



QUERCETIN PART 2 Immunometabolism: Linking Immunity and Obesity Quercetin's Role In Metabolism and Weight Loss



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.

FROM THE DESK OF DR. OLSON:

Dear Reader,

If you didn't read last month's article on the healing powers of quercetin, you need to make sure you get hold of a copy! We republished a fantastic article by Byron Richards, a world-renowned Clinical nutritionist, who extolled the numerous benefits of quercetin, including: stopping virus growth or replication, fighting the flu, improving spinal cord injury recovery (dramatically), healing the nervous system, reducing inflammation, preventing/fighting Alzheimer's disease, aiding weight loss, reducing pain, regulating blood pressure, killing cancer cells, and even more. The previous article explained how quercetin benefits immunity, and this month's article will go into more detail about how that may affect even more body systems than you may think. Read and enjoy!

Sincerely,
Dr. Heather Olson

By: Byron Richards, Board Certified Clinical Nutritionist Friday, June 19, 2009

* Byron J. Richards is a Board-Certified Clinical Nutritionist and author of "Fight for Your Health" and "The Leptin Diet". He is the Founder and Director of Wellness Resources Inc: www.wellnessresources.com.

This past summer the journal Nature Medicine published three groundbreaking articles linking the function of immune cells to **obesity** and **diabetes** – data which opens the door to solving all kinds of health problems including the obesity issue itself.

It has been known for a number of years that the extra pounds of fat in an overweight person are generating

significant amounts of immune-related inflammatory signals such as TNF α and IL6. Such inflammation not only damages the stored fat so that it is less metabolically responsive, it has been shown to **induce inflammatory damage around the body**.

What hasn't been understood are the changes within stored fat that result in this inflammatory state. The new research

goes a long way towards explaining exactly how this happens and the mechanism is **startling**. It involves the function of various T regulator cells of the immune system, cells that until this point were never thought to have anything to do with metabolism and body weight. (1) (2) (3)

Antihistamines Prevent Obesity and Diabetes

A study showing one way to help address this issue is with the use of antihistamines (one of the drugs tested is a synthetic version of quercetin, nature's most potent natural anti-histamine). These new studies show that in animals that are not overweight there is a high level of T Helper cells (CD4*) and regulatory T cells in their white adipose tissue [fat]. However, in the fat of overweight animals and obese diabetic humans, this population of immune cells is **virtually gone** and has been **replaced** with a population of CD8+ T cells (also called cytotoxic T cells or T killer Cells), Cytotoxic T cells kill cancerous cells and virally infected cells. Here they are in excess amounts within stored fat – apparently responding to initial stress within white adipose tissue from too much extra fat.

It was shown that these cytotoxic T cells were behind the **recruitment of excessive macrophages** into the extra



pounds of fat. The macrophages, in turn, generate the massive inflammation associated with being overweight or obese. This problem, in turn, results in **even more** cytotoxic T cells and we end up with one large inflammatory party that is self-perpetuating as well as damaging the metabolism of calories in white adipose tissue (**locking in excess pounds of stagnant fat that won't budge**).

A nasty catch-22

This means that the proper T helper cells and regulatory T cells are needed to keep white adipose tissue in a **non-inflammatory condition**. The researchers also showed that when this slides out of balance then *glucose uptake by fat cells* is dysregulated leading to perpetuation of obesity, a nasty catch 22 that most certainly applies to any person who is having trouble losing weight by eating and exercising.

The researchers showed that as part of this immune cell problem, there were excessive numbers of T Helper 1 cells and a lack of T Helper 2 cells within the fat. Excess T Helper 1 cells are associated with **autoimmune problems, allergy, skin problems, etc.** It is quite likely that just as excess inflammation coming from fat cells can wreak havoc around the body, so it is that fat may be tilting overall immunity into T Helper 1 excess, **leading to multiple health problems**. Or, a T Helper 1 health problem may in reverse help set the stage for obesity. Either way it is not a good situation.

Furthermore, a lack of T Helper 2 cells, especially if the body is tilted to T Helper 1 excess by obesity, would **impair the formation of antibodies needed to fight an infection** such as the Swine Flu.

Quercetin is the best the best natural antihistamine available

The researchers also identified that mast cells were far more abundant in fat tissue from obese and diabetic humans and



mice compared to those of normal weight. Giving **antihistamine** drugs (Zaditor and cromolyn) to mice **significantly improved their metabolism**. Cromolyn is a drug patterned after the quercetin molecule, which is the **best natural antihistamine available**.

In their experiments the mice were divided into four groups. The first was the control group; the second group was simply switched to a healthy diet; the third was given cromolyn or ketotifen fumarate; and the fourth was both given the drug and switched to a healthy diet.

While symptoms of the second group improved moderately, the third group demonstrated **dramatic improvements** in both body weight and diabetes. The fourth group exhibited **nearly 100 percent recovery in all areas**.

To bolster these findings, researchers then took a group of mice whose ability to produce mast cells was genetically impaired. Despite three months of a diet rich in sugar and fat, these mice neither became obese nor developed diabetes.

These studies are indeed groundbreaking and open the door for new strategies to help individuals manage their weight, especially those who cannot get weight under control simply by eating better and exercising more.

Quercetin's Role In Metabolism and Weight Loss

In addition to the new discovery of excessive mast cell activity and poor metabolism, quercetin is demonstrating a variety of other

ways in which it helps metabolism and weight management.

One of the great problems in becoming overweight is that your fat cells expand in size and multiply in number. There appears to be no shortage of baby fat cells willing to mature into fat-storing goliaths. Quercetin has been found to **block** baby fat cells from maturing as well as **inducing cell death** (appropriately) in the baby fat cell population. (4) Tests showed that quercetin had a **71% inhibitory rate on new fat cell formation**, far higher than any other flavonoid. Another study using quercetin and resveratrol showed similar findings, suppression of fat cell formation and enhanced fat cell death. (5)

Quercetin induces significant antioxidant activity

Furthermore, quercetin has been shown to be absorbed into fat cells where it **induces significant antioxidant activity**. (6) This will **lower inflammation coming from fat cells**, such as the problematic excess of TNF α typically experienced by overweight individuals. A metabolic study with quercetin showed it lowered **all inflammatory markers tested**, offsetting the stress of a high fat diet. (7)

One new study calculates obesity risk by the percentage of healthy plant compounds from fruits and vegetables as a percentage of the diet. (8) There is **no question** that quercetin is the most abundant flavonoid in such a fresh food diet – and is definitely one of the most potent...

Reduction of the number of fat cells

Another problem in overweight individuals is that glucose is too easily taken up by fat cells after a meal, in turn stimulating excessive leptin production by fat cells and locking in leptin and insulin resistance. It has been demonstrated that quercetin **directly blunts** this inappropriate





uptake of glucose by fat cells. (9) Indeed, flavonoids in grapes such as quercetin are associated with less risk for developing type II diabetes. (10)

Quercetin helps **reduce inflammation and free radical problems occurring within fat**. It helps **reduce the number of fat cells and prevent the development of new fat cells**, key issues in the battle of the bulge. It also boosts adiponectin

levels that support **healthy blood sugar metabolism**. It activates the AMPK enzyme system that **facilitates healthy fat burning**. And its supreme ability to stabilize mast cells indicates that it is likely to change the function of immune cells operating within fat in a way that is conducive to having an easier time with weight management efforts.

The collective body of quercetin

research shows that it is a useful tool for immune stability, immune function, cardiovascular health, bone health, joint issues, nerve health, and metabolism. It helps reduce inflammation while enhancing antioxidant function – facilitating numerous metabolic signals associated with health.

GO BACK AND READ IT AGAIN!

If you didn't catch all that, you may need to go back and read it again. I know I had to! Research now shows that, not only does quercetin offer the many benefits you read about last month, but it is also an incredibly powerful tool for weight loss and management. If you are suffering from excess weight and it seems that the scale isn't moving back as fast as you'd like, your body may need a little help. Try eating more fresh foods full of natural quercetin (see list from last month's article) or find a high quality natural supplement. As always, if you have any health questions about this article, or any other health topic, please give our health department a call at 309-343-5853. God bless!

- Linking T cells and Glucose Uptake by Fat Cells *Nature Medicine* Markus Feuerer, Laura Herrero, Daniela Cipolletta, Afa Naaz, Jamie Wong, Ali Nayer, Jongsoon Lee, Allison B Goldfine, Christophe Benoist, Steven Shoelson & Diane Mathis.
- How Fat Inflammation Gets Going *Nature Medicine* Satoshi Nishimura, Ichiro Manabe, Mika Nagasaki, Koji Eto, Hiroshi Yamashita, Mitsuru Ohsugi, Makoto Otsu, Kazuo Hara, Kohjiro Ueki, Seiryu Sugiura, Kotaro Yoshimura, Takashi Kadowaki & Ryozo Nagai.
- Antihistamines Prevent Obesity and Diabetes *Nature Medicine* Shawn Winer, Yin Chan, Geoffrey Paltser, Dorothy Truong, Hubert Tsui, Jasmine Bahrami, Ruslan Dorfman, Yongqian Wang, Julian Zielenski, Fabrizio Mastronardi, Yuko Maezawa, Daniel J Drucker, Edgar Engleman, Daniel Winer & H.-Michael Dosch.
- Quercetin Inhibits Fat Cell Formation *Mol Nutr Food Res.* Hsu CL, Yen GC.
- Quercetin, Genistein, and Resveratrol Inhibit Fat Cells. *J Med Food.* Park HJ, Yang JY, Ambati S, Della-Fera MA, Hausman DB, Rayalam S, Baile CA.
- Quercetin Provides Antioxidant Function for Fat Cells *Cell Biol Toxicol.* Roche M, Tarnus E, Rondeau P, Bourdon E.
- Quercetin Reduces Inflammation on High Fat Diet *Metabolism.* Stewart LK, Soileau JL, Ribnicky D, Wang ZQ, Raskin I, Poulev A, Majewski M, Cefalu WT, Gettys TW.
- Phytochemicals In Fruits and Vegetables Battle Obesity *Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics.* Heather K. Vincent, et al.
- Quercetin Reduces Glucose Uptake by Fat Cells *Biochem. J.* Strobel P, Allard C, Perez-Acle T, Calderon R, Aldunate R, Leighton F.
- Quercetin In Grapes Helps Pancreatic Health *J Nutr.* Zunino S.



Feature Product



Candida is a fungal infection that can cause nutritional deficiencies, upset the normal intestinal flora balance, and suppress your immune system.

Under normal conditions, our immune system will stop Candida from spreading uncontrollably. However, if the immune system is deficient, the yeast may multiply and change from a benign form to a pathogenic form, causing some serious health problems.

Flora Balance

HELP!

- Prevent and treat Candida (yeast) infections
- Improve digestion (especially of starches)
- Prevent and fight viral, bacterial, and fungal infections
- Reduce or eliminate symptoms of a Candida infection

90 Capsules \$14.99 HXHH-CPLU

Suggested Adult Dosage:

- 2-3 capsules daily

To Order Call Today:

1.800.468.7884

or Visit us on the web at:

www.hopeforhealthusa.com

*Prices listed above do not include shipping and handling or sales tax

Do you suffer from:

- Weight gain or loss
- Frequent headaches
- Stomach aches/cramps
- Weakness/dizziness
- Depression//anxiety
- Chronic heartburn
- Constipation or diarrhea
- Gastritis/colitis
- Frequent or recurrent viral infections
- Abdominal distention/bloating/excessive gas
- Increased chemical sensitivities/allergic reactions
- Vaginal yeast infections/pain during urination
- Memory loss/decreased concentration

If so, you may be suffering from a Candida infection. Flora Balance is specially formulated to help prevent and even reverse Candida infections.

Discover the 10 extraordinary ingredients in Flora Balance:

- **Hemicellulase** - An enzyme that breaks down and destroys Candida without stimulating it to release toxins into the body during the process.
- **Amylase** - A digestive enzyme that aids digestion and helps the body break down starches.
- **Glucoamylase** - Prevents Candida (yeast) infections.
- **Malt Diastase** - An enzyme that is useful for digestive support and general nutritional support.
- **Invertase** - Prevents and fights yeast infections.
- **Pau D'Arco** - A natural anti-fungal, anti-bacterial, and anti-viral.
- **Cellulase** - An enzyme that breaks down and destroys Candida.
- **Goldenseal Extract** - Prevents and fights fungal and parasitic infections.
- **Biotin** - Limits the spread of Candida.
- **Grapefruit Seed Extract** - Fights viral, bacterial, and fungal infections.

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

News Watch

SHARES WORTHLES
Crash!
assets
Interest rates
liquidity
FORECAST



1. USA TODAY, Tuesday, March 15, 2011—Disaster in Japan—Still Rattled by fear.

“Blasts rock Nuclear sites as bodies wash up on shore” by William M. Welch—A third explosion rocked Japan’s damaged nuclear power reactors today, raising radiation fears as the hunt for survivors of a massive earthquake and tsunami yielded a grim harvest. The official death count rose to 2,414, but thousands were still missing. Mighty aftershocks rattled the island nation and hundreds of bodies washed up along the northeastern coast.”

“In a technologically advanced country where bullet trains reliably arrive with timed precision, and rail commuters watch TV on their cellphones, the double-punch disasters stripped away conveniences.”

END TIME PERSPECTIVE: “I am bidden to declare the message that cities full of transgression, and sinful in the extreme, will be destroyed by earthquakes, by fire, by flood. All the world will be warned that there is a God who will display His authority as God. His unseen agencies will cause destruction,

devastation, and death. All the accumulated riches will be as nothingness.... Calamities will come—calamities most awful, most unexpected; and these destructions will follow one after another. If there will be a heeding of the warnings that God has given, and if churches will repent, returning to their allegiance, then other cities may be spared for a time. But

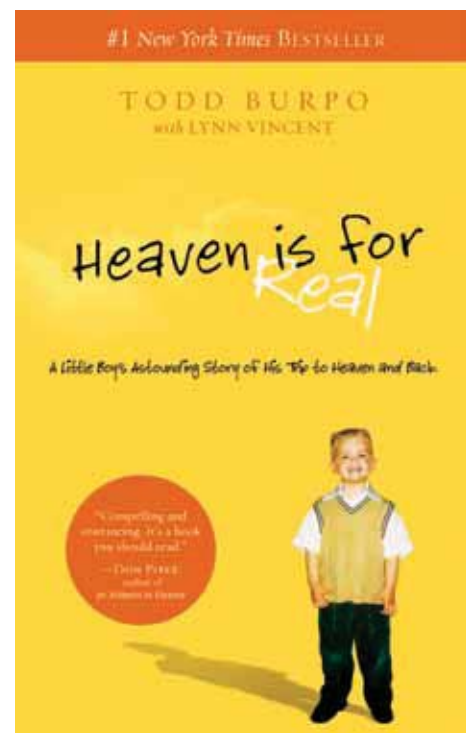
if men who have been deceived continue in the same way in which they have been walking, disregarding the law of God and presenting falsehoods before the people, God allows them to suffer calamity, that their senses may be awakened....” Ev 27.

2. World Net Daily, March 10, 2011—Testing The Faith, by Bob Unruh

“John the Baptist described as ‘really nice’—Child’s comment convinced parents of extraordinary experience. The Book, *Heaven Is Real*, is the account of the 4-year old son of a small town Nebraska pastor who during emergency surgery slips from consciousness and enters heaven and returns. The boy later described being able to look down and see the doctor operating and his dad praying in the waiting room. He also spoke of his miscarried sister, whom no one had told him about, and his great grandfather who died 30 years before Colton (the son) was born.”

END TIME PERSPECTIVE: “Modern spiritualism and the forms of ancient

witchcraft and idol worship—all having communion with the dead as their vital principal—are founded upon that first lie by which Satan deceived Eve in Eden: ‘ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, ... ye shall be as gods.’ Gen. 3:4 & 5. “Familiar spirits are not the spirits of the dead, but evil angels, the messengers of Satan.... In the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” 1Timothy 4:1, PP 686.



3. Various headlines in Time, March 14, 2011—“Power Struggle Pushes Country Toward Civil War—Ivory Coast—An interminable political deadlock teetered toward outright civil war as gun battles raged between troops loyal to incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo and supporters of his opponent, Alassane Ouattara.// –Thousands



Struggle to Flee War Torn Libya—Along the border with Libya, aid groups describe desperate scenes of masses of people trying to escape the violence and chaos that grip Muammar Gaddafi's Libya.— Foreign Journalist Beaten During Communist Party Crackdown.—

END TIME PERSPECTIVE: “The judgments of God are in the land. The wars and rumors of wars, the destruction

of Daniel have almost reached their final fulfillment.” Maranatha 25.

by fire and flood, say clearly that the time of trouble, which is to increase until the end, is very near at hand. We have no time to lose. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecies of the eleventh

governance plans, Belgian workers have said they want to blockade all access to Brussels and paralyse the European capital in an attempt to shut down the European summit of 24 March. France's powerful CGT union is considering joining them. The General Workers Federation of Belgium (FGTB) has said it intends to mount barricades on the motorways coming into the city, close the train stations, bring the metro and trams to a halt and even shut down Brussels airport.

END TIME PERSPECTIVE: “These unions are one of the signs of the last days. Men are binding up in bundles ready to be burned. They may be church members, but while they belong to these unions, they cannot possibly keep the commandments of God; for to belong to these unions means to disregard the entire Decalogue. CL 11

4. Unions could block all routes into Brussels to shut down EU summit, LEIGH PHILLIPS 4.03.2011

EUOBSERVER / BRUSSELS - As anger mounts on the left and amongst unions at European economic



Hope International does not solicit tithes; however, we are a tithe-worthy organization and accept tithes. We use the tithe only for the gospel ministry. Donations designated “Gospel Ministry” will be considered tithe.

Subscription Order Line: 1-800-468-7884

Subscription Information

United States	US \$23.99 per year
Canada & Mexico	US \$34.99 per year
Foreign (Air Mail)	US \$59.99 per year
Large Print Edition	Black & White US \$29.99 per year
Large Print Edition	Color US \$39.99 per year
Audio CD or Cassette Edition	US \$36.00 per year
Foreign Audio & Large Print Edition.....	Please Inquire

Subscription Assistance

We strive to keep our subscription prices as low as possible. We want this material to be available to all. If your finances cannot meet the requested amount, please send whatever you can. Those desiring to assist in providing subscriptions for individuals with limited funds should send a gift marked “Subscription Assistance” to Hope International. Your donations are tax deductible

Shipping, Sales Tax & Currency

For all products advertised in this publication (unless otherwise noted):
 • **USA destinations:** \$0.00-\$25.00=\$6.25, \$25.01-\$50.00=\$9.25, \$50.01-\$100.00=\$13.50, \$100.01-\$200.00=\$16.75, \$200.01 or more \$2.99
 • **To destinations outside the USA:** Actual shipping rate will be charged.
Sales tax: Illinois residents, please add 6.5%.
All money sent must be in US funds, drawn on US banks.

Ellen White's Vision

The Lord gave me the following view in 1847, while the brethren were assembled on the Sabbath, at Topsham, Maine.

We felt an unusual spirit of prayer. And as we prayed the Holy Ghost fell upon us. We were very happy. Soon I was lost to earthly things and was wrapped in a vision of God's glory. I saw an angel flying swiftly to me. He quickly carried me from the earth to the Holy City. In the city I saw a temple, which I entered. I passed through a door before I came to the first veil. This veil was raised, and I passed into the holy place. Here I saw the altar of incense, the candlestick with seven lamps, and the table on which was the shewbread. After viewing the glory of the holy, Jesus raised the second veil and I passed into the holy of holies.

I saw that the Sabbath commandment was not nailed to the cross

In the holiest I saw an ark; on the top and sides of it was purest gold. On each end of the ark was a lovely cherub, with its wings spread out over it. Their faces were turned toward each other, and they looked downward. Between the angels was a golden censer. Above the ark, where the angels stood, was an exceeding bright glory, that appeared like a throne where God dwelt. Jesus stood by the ark, and as the saints' prayers came up to Him, the incense in the censer would smoke, and He would offer up their prayers with the smoke of the incense to His Father. In the ark was the golden pot of manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of stone which folded together like a book. Jesus opened them, and I saw the Ten Commandments written on them with the finger of God. On one table were four, and on the other six. The four on the first table shone brighter than the other six. But the fourth, the Sabbath commandment, shone above them all; for the Sabbath was set apart to be kept in honor of God's holy name. The holy Sabbath looked glorious--a halo of glory was all around it. I saw that the Sabbath commandment was not nailed to the cross. If it was, the other nine commandments were; and we are at liberty to break them all, as well as to break the fourth. I saw that God had not changed the Sabbath, for He never changes. But the pope had changed it from the seventh to the first day of the week; for he was to change times and laws.

The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God

And I saw that if God had changed the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day, He would have changed the writing of the Sabbath commandment, written on the tables of stone, which are now in the ark in the most holy place of the temple in heaven; and it would read thus: The first day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. But I saw that it read the same as when written on the tables of stone by the finger of God, and delivered to Moses on Sinai. "But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." I saw that the holy Sabbath is, and will be, the separating wall between the true Israel of God and unbelievers; and that the Sabbath is the great question to unite the hearts of God's dear, waiting saints.

We were filled with the Holy Ghost

I saw that God had children who do not see and keep the Sabbath. They have not rejected the light upon it. And at the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully. This enraged the churches and nominal Adventists, as they could not refute the Sabbath truth. And at this time God's chosen all saw clearly that we had the truth, and they came out and endured the persecution with us. I saw the sword, famine, pestilence, and great confusion in the land. The wicked thought that we had brought the judgments upon them, and they rose up and took counsel to rid the earth of us, thinking that then the evil would be stayed.

The voice of God shook the heavens and the earth

In the time of trouble we all fled from the cities and villages, but were pursued by the wicked, who entered the houses of the saints with a sword. They raised the sword to kill us, but it broke, and fell as powerless as a straw. Then we all cried day and night for deliverance, and the cry came up before God. The sun came up, and the moon stood still. The streams ceased to flow. Dark, heavy clouds came up and clashed against each other. But there was one clear place of settled glory, whence came the voice of God like many waters, which shook the heavens and the earth. The sky opened and shut and was in commotion. The mountains shook like a reed in the wind, and cast out ragged rocks all around. The sea boiled like a pot and cast out stones upon the land.

The words of God rolled through the earth like peals of loudest thunder

And as God spoke the day and the hour of Jesus' coming and delivered the everlasting covenant to His people, He spoke one sentence, and then paused, while the words were rolling through the earth. The Israel of God stood with their eyes fixed upward, listening to the words as they came from the mouth of Jehovah, and rolled through the earth like peals of loudest thunder. It was awfully solemn. And at the end of every sentence the saints shouted, "Glory! Alleluia!" Their countenances were lighted up with the



glory of God; and they shone with the glory, as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked could not look on them for the glory. And when the never-ending blessing was pronounced on those who had honored God in keeping His Sabbath holy, there was a mighty shout of victory over the beast and over his image.

The Son of man appeared on the great white cloud

Then commenced the jubilee, when the land should rest. I saw the pious slave rise in triumph and victory and shake off the chains that bound him, while his wicked master was in confusion and knew not what to do; for the wicked could not understand the words of the voice of God. Soon appeared the great white cloud. It looked more lovely than ever before. On it sat the Son of man. At first we did not see Jesus on the cloud, but as it drew near the earth we could behold His lovely person. This cloud, when it first appeared, was the sign of the Son of man in heaven.

“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!”

The voice of the Son of God called forth the sleeping saints, clothed with glorious immortality. The living saints were changed in a moment and were caught up with them into the cloudy chariot. It looked all over glorious as it rolled upward. On either side of the chariot were wings, and beneath it wheels. And as the chariot rolled upward, the wheels cried, “Holy,” and the wings, as they moved, cried, “Holy,” and the retinue of holy angels around the cloud cried, “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!” And the saints in the cloud cried, “Glory! Alleluia!” And the chariot rolled upward to the Holy City. Jesus threw open the gates of the golden city and led us in. Here we were made welcome, for we had kept the “commandments of God,” and had a “right to the tree of life.” EW 32.

Editor’s comment: This month of April we present another of Ellen White’s visions rather than just plain quotes—prayerfully this will help to bring each reader closer to the preparation necessary for the soon coming of Jesus in the clouds of Heaven.



“There must be no belittling of the gospel ministry. No enterprise should be so conducted as to cause the ministry of the word to be looked upon as an inferior matter. It is not so. Those who belittle the ministry are belittling Christ.

The highest of all work is ministry in its various lines, and it should be kept before the youth that there is no work more blessed of God than that of the gospel minister.”

Hope International
P.O. Box 220
Knoxville, Illinois 61448



**Passage from: Gifts for God's People, page 111,
available at The Hope International Bookstore for \$12.99 plus S/H**