

our firm
FOUNDATION

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COVER STORY:

How's Your Robe Coming?

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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.

The headline in USA Today for March 17, 2011, reads—Adventists' back-to-basics faith is fastest growing U.S. church. Then we read, "In a time when Southern Baptists and other evangelicals are reporting declines, the evangelical Seventh-day Adventists are growing faster than all other major Christian denominations. Overseas, its growth rates are even higher." Then the article goes on to speak of our Biblical beliefs and our health message—and the 10 extra years Seventh-day Adventists can expect.

"Some newcomers to Adventism also appreciate the church's clarity about what's expected of Christ's followers. Diana Syth of Kent, Wash, attended many types of Protestant churches for years. But she said she 'never got the information I needed to know about what it meant to be a Christian' until she and her husband learned of Seventh-day Adventism from a sibling six years ago."

"My (adult) son has seen a change in us," Syth said, "He sees a new calmness in us. There's hope where there wasn't hope before."

In my own case, I was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church on May 21, 1977 in Colorado Springs, Colorado—I have never regretted my decision to join this wonderful worldwide Church. I fully believe in the prophetic ability of Ellen G. White, and the certainty of the three angels' messages. I have seen the attacks on our prophet from both within and without. Also there have been attacks on the doctrines and beliefs of the pioneers. Some of this attack is pointed out in my article this month concerning the two gospels within the church.

The purpose and hope of this magazine has been to help better prepare our readers for what we see as the soon coming of Jesus. The signs continue to escalate. I was especially struck with the article in this month's news watch from the April 11, 2011 Newsweek concerning the weakening of the European Union because of the financial problems among its states.

On one hand we hear of a one world government, while on the other hand we hear of the possible break up of the European Union. We have the feet of clay and iron of Nebuchadnezzar's statue that have never been able to cling together for long, if at all. But we also know that there will eventually be an international Sunday law shared by all countries. All this is coming, but we can't really know the day and the hour.

The purpose and hope of this magazine has been to help better prepare our readers for what we see as the soon coming of Jesus.

But there is something we do need to know—we need to have that unbreakable relationship with Jesus Christ. We need to allow Him to help us remove all sin from our lives so that we will be safe to save and take our position in the Heavenly Universe.

For Enoch, "the infinite unfathomable love of God through Christ became the subject of his meditation day and night; and with all the fervor of his soul he sought to reveal that love to the people among whom he dwelt." CC 28.

For John the Baptist, "by day and by night, Christ was his study, his meditation, until mind and heart and soul

were filled with the glorious vision. He looked upon the King in His beauty, and self was lost sight of." CC 272.

In the Great Controversy at page 593, we are warned—"None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict."

"God leads His people on, step by step. He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart. Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next. At every advanced point the heart is tested and tried a little closer. If the professed people of God find their hearts opposed to this straight work, it should convince them that they have a work to do to overcome. . . . Some are willing to receive one point; but when God brings them to another testing point, they shrink from it and stand

back, because they find that it strikes directly at some cherished idol. Here they have opportunity to see what is in their hearts that shuts out Jesus. They prize something higher

than the truth, and their hearts are not prepared to receive Jesus. Individuals are tested and proved a length of time to see if they will sacrifice their idols. . . . Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation." Mar 43.

One last thought—the church is undergoing the 7-7-7 plan—pray for the Holy Spirit and revival within yourself and the church 7 days a week at 7 AM and 7 PM.

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.

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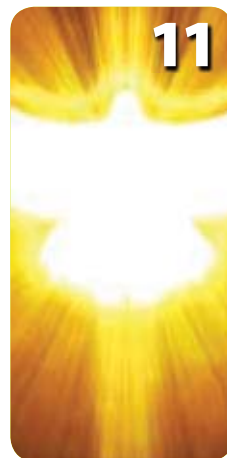
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The Bible Museum Opened

By A. L. O. E.
1883

Here is an interesting view of the twelve tribes of the seventh chapter of the Book of Revelation from someone who lived over 100 years ago and wrote without revealing his or her true name—only 4 initials.

the queen and the twelve names

We find in the seventh chapter of the book of Revelation a description of the sealed ones, the spiritual Israel, under the names of the tribes to whom was granted the promised inheritance of Canaan. If it be, as many believe, that we here behold Christ's Church under a different symbol, yet identical with her of whom we read in the forty-fifth Psalm; the twelve names in Revelation beautifully fill up the description of the King's daughter, the Queen, who is all glorious within, for all these names have meanings. The virgins, her companions, that shall be brought into the King's palace with gladness and rejoicings, may be regarded as representing the multitude which no man could number, of all nations and kindreds, and peoples and tongues, who appear to be distinct from, and yet in some degree sharers in the blessedness of the sealed ones, the hundred and forty-four thousand. Let us examine the meaning of the names mentioned in Revelation vii, and see if they are not as twelve stars in the crown of the Church of the firstborn (Hebrews 12:23), placed on her head by Him whom she worships, because He is the Lord her God.

Dan

And, first, we mark what name is omitted. Dan had a place amongst the twelve tribes of Israel under the Law, but none amongst the spiritual Israel. The signification of the word may throw light upon what is otherwise dark and mysterious. Dan signifies Judgment. There was judgment stern and terrible under the Law, but in the Gospel mercy rejoiceth against judgment. The curse has been removed, the penalty endured by another;

Dan is, as it were, absorbed and disappears. It is remarkable that when Jacob on his death-bed blessed his sons, after speaking of Dan, judgment, then, and then alone, he burst forth into the exclamation, I have waited for thy salvation, O Lord!

Following the order in which the names of the tribes are given by St. John, the first of which we read is...

Juda

"Juda, the praise of the Lord." And so praise unto Him who hath chosen and redeemed her is, as it were, the first gem, the central star in the crown of the Church, the spiritual Bride.

Reuben

"Reuben, see the Son, or who sees the Son." A name of deep meaning if we may take it as descriptive of the precious privilege of her whose eyes shall see the King in His beauty, the pure in heart who shall look upon God.

Gad

"Gad, a band, or happy, or armed and prepared." The interpretation seems to speak for itself. The Church is a chosen band of those who are happy in the love of their Lord; who have been armed to fight the good fight, and prepared for the coming of Him whom, not having seen, they have loved. Of such is the spiritual Israel.

Aser

"Aser, blessedness, or happiness." The Church, when she enters the palace of her Lord, will shine in blessedness for ever. Immortal happiness will beam from her countenance, the reflection of the light of Him in whose presence is the fullness of joy, and at whose right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Nephtalim

"Nephtalim. My wrestling, or one that struggles." Here we are reminded that they who bear the palms of victory are they that have endured the conflict. A reference may also be made to earnest wrestling in prayer. Esther, ere the hour of triumph, might be said to have earned the name of

Naphtali. The Church who will wear the garment of praise, now appears in the spirit of heaviness, wrestling, struggling, till He with whom she pleads grant her more than she dares to ask for, or to desire.

Manasseh

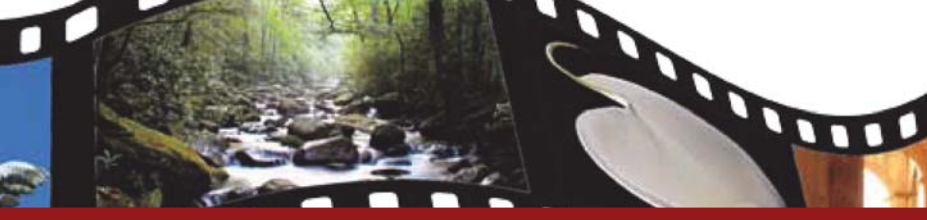
"Manasseh, forgetfulness." This name was given by Joseph to his firstborn in Egypt; for God, said he, hath made me to forget all my toil, and all my father's house. The patriarch's words sound like a response to the exhortation addressed to the bride of the psalm,—Hearken, O daughter, and consider...forget also thine own people, and thy father's house. The vanities of earth, with its sorrows and sins, put away and forgotten for ever!

Simeon

"Simeon, that hears or obeys." In this word is described a special attribute of the Church of Christ, the obedience of faith. He that hath My commandments and keepeth them, He it is that loveth Me, saith the Heavenly King. It is the Church that listens to His voice that seeks to follow wherever He leads. Of Reuben, the patriarch, it was said, unstable as water thou shalt not excel; but Reuben's name taken in its hidden meaning may remind us that even water, hearing and obeying the Lord, became as a well at His bidding, or firm as a pavement under His feet.

Levi

"Levi, joined, or held and associated." Here is a description of that union of which, alas! Amongst those who are called Christians, we now see so little. There is too much of the party spirit which cries, I am of Paul—I of Apollos, with believers who should be one in Christ. Should mere form and ceremonies, the colour of a garment, a posture, or a name, have power to separate those whom God Himself hath joined together? We need larger Christian charity. The higher we rise towards Heaven, the wider spreads the horizon around. Not but that purity of doctrine must ever be jealously guarded, we must earnestly contend for the faith once given to the saints; but as regards those non-



essentials by means of which the enemy would divide us, and bring discord to the Church, well may we say,--

Judge not thy differing brother, nor in aught
 Condemn; his prayer and thine may rise above,
 Though blending not in unison of thought,
 Yet mingling in the harmony of love.

Issachar

“Issachar, price, reward.” A touching allusion may here be contained to the truth that we are not our own, but bought with a price; that the salvation of the Church is the reward of a Saviour’s merits, the purchase of a Saviour’s blood. To the spiritual Israel comes the message, Fear not, for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name, thou art Mine.

Zabulon

“Zabulon, dwelling.” Under another figure we find the Church represented as the temple of an indwelling God. If a man love Me, said the Lord, speaking of each individual believer, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. St. Paul reminded the early Christians of this high privilege granted to them. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Joseph

“Joseph, increase.” Here we have in the name of Israel’s best-beloved son the description of one of the essential attributes both of the Church and of each of her members; growth in grace, increase in knowledge and brotherly love. The church is not only a temple but a living body, that must be nourished and exercised, till it come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. It is the Spirit of God whose effectual working maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Benjamin

“Benjamin, the son of the right hand.” The impression conveyed by such a name as this is that of power, honour, and strength. It is the name which Jacob substituted for that bestowed on his youngest son by a dying mother, Benoni, the son of my sorrow. By birth every child of Eve is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward; as Benonis, we enter into the world, and as Benonis we must have left it, had not the Father of mercies and God of all comfort changed the nature of His child, as Jacob with his changed name; so that the worm should thresh the mountains, and to the feeble be given power over the nations.

This very slight sketch of the features of the Church as drawn in the names of the tribes of Israel must be considered as little more than suggestive; an abler hand than mine may fill up the outlines, and so give us a glimpse of the spiritual beauty of the Queen when she shall be presented to the Lord without spot of wrinkle, or any such thing, robed in His righteousness, bright with His glory, and blessed in His love!

THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL

By Louis Were

(As found in *The Certainty of The Third Angel's Message*)

Rev. 7:5	Judah	“Praise” (Israelites enter God’s spiritual Jerusalem through the Gates called “Praise.” See Isa. 60:18)
	Reuben	“A son” (John 1: 12; Rom. 8:14-17, etc.)
	Gad	“A company” (Rev. 7:9, 19:1, 6, etc.)—of sons, redeemed and
Rev. 6	Aser	“Happy” (John 13:17, etc.)—after
	Nephtalim	“Wrestling” (Gen. 32:24-30, etc.)—in prayer
	Manasses	“Forgetting” (Phil. 3:13; Isa. 65:17)—self, and the past
Rev. 7	Simeon	“Hearing” (1 Sam. 3:10: “Speak, for Thy servant heareth.”) - God’s Word
	Levi	“Joined” (John 15:1-7; Acts 2:47)—to God as
	Issachar	“Servants” (Rom. 6:16-22, etc.)
Rev. 8	Zabulon	“Dwelling” (Ps. 91:1; Isa. 33:14, etc.)—with
	Joseph	“Added” (2 Pet 1:2, 5-11, etc.)—joys and special blessings as
	Benjamin	“Sons of the right hand” (not “sons of sorrow”). “In Thy Presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.” Ps. 16:11

****Read meanings down as a connected sentence****

Editor’s note: Louis Were was a Seventh-day Adventist who lived and wrote in the 1940s. This book was written in 1945. He presents another view of what the twelve names of the tribes could mean for the 144,000 in Revelation 7.

By Joe Olson

Jesus told a parable about a wedding feast and a king who inspected everyone's wedding garment or robe... "And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless." Matt. 22:11, 12.

This story of the wedding feast is an example of meeting our heavenly Father, or King, in heaven. The wedding garment represents the character that God has helped us develop over the years that we have lived on this earth. Everyone has one. No one is admitted to the party without one. And in this story, one happened to slip by, as it were, and when he was questioned about his lack of a wedding garment, the man was speechless. In other words, he had no excuse.

No one goes to heaven without this robe

God provides a clean, white garment for each one of us. But this is not some ordinary piece of clothing. It is a robe of righteousness. Everyone must have one. No one goes to heaven without this robe.

John saw a vision of heaven and all the people who were there... "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;" Rev. 7: 9. Everyone... absolutely everyone who is there, has a white robe on. Since everyone has one, and no one can go to heaven without one, we should probably know what this robe is... right?

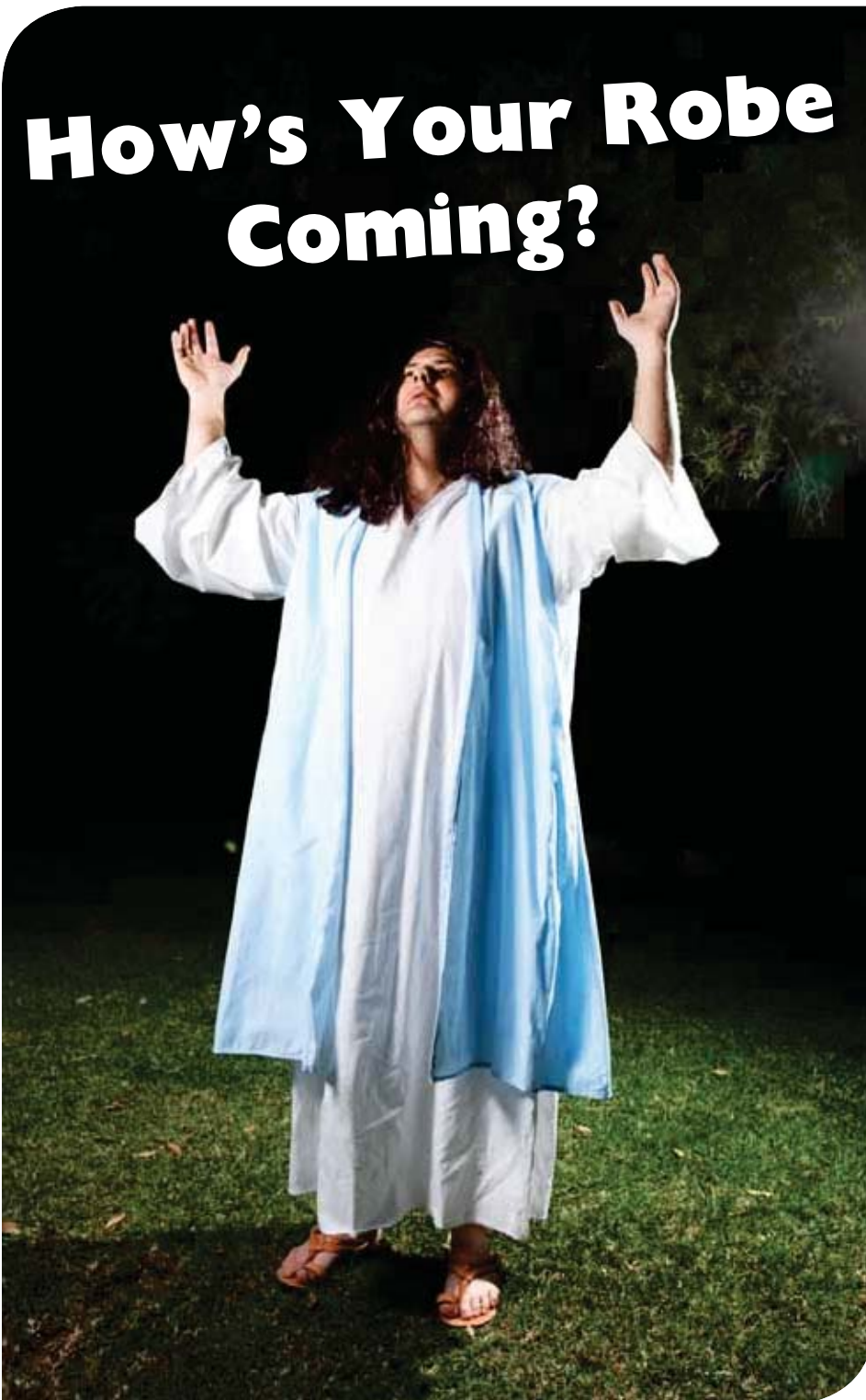
Who are they who wear the white robes?

Actually, one of the elders that John saw in heaven asked him if he knew what those people in heaven with the white robes were... "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Rev. 7:13, 14.

Why did their robes have to be washed?

The elder in heaven told John that they washed "their" robes. These people had robes, but they must not have been clean robes, for they needed to be washed. What do you suppose was the dirty substance that needed to be washed off the robes? Is there any question that this refers to sin? They didn't wash their robes with water... they washed them with the blood of the Lamb!

What does the blood of the Lamb wash away? "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me." Ps. 51:2, 3. David was asking for God to cleanse him from his iniquity. He was referring to his sin with Bathsheba and her husband Uriah. He wanted to be washed... he wanted to be cleansed.



What needed to be made white?

“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.” Ps. 51:7. He wanted to be washed “white” again. What was dirty? What needed to be cleansed “white”? He is obviously not referring to bodily cleanliness as he referred to his sins. He wanted to be clean and new again. “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” Ps. 51:10.

Now we know for sure what David wanted to have cleaned... his heart and spirit. “Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.” Ps 51:11, 12. His sin had caused him to be cast away from God’s presence.

Light and darkness cannot dwell together

The Holy Spirit cannot reside where sin dwells. Light and darkness cannot exist in the same space. David wanted to be restored. He wanted the joy of salvation again for it was most assuredly lost during this time of transgression. “For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” Ps. 51:16, 17. David realized that he could not “pay” for his sin. He could only be extremely sorry for his sin and repent, or turn away from it. He was brokenhearted that he had sinned against his God. And he wanted to be washed clean.

God wants repentance and sorrow for sin

But please notice that he understood it was not payment that God wanted, but repentance and sorrow for the sin. The elder in heaven told John that the people John saw had washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. They, like David, wanted to be clean. They wanted a “right spirit”. And so, they washed their robes.

So, what does it mean for us to “wash” our robes? “The provision has been made for us to wash. The fountain has been prepared at infinite expense, and the burden of washing rests upon us, who are imperfect before God. The Lord does not propose to remove these spots of defilement without our doing anything on our part. We must wash our robes in the

blood of the Lamb. We may lay hold of the merits of the blood of Christ by faith, and through His grace and power we may have strength to overcome our errors, our sins, our imperfections of character, and come off victorious, having washed our robes in the blood of the Lamb.” 3T 183.

We must turn away from the sins we have committed

The “washing” that we do is to remove from our characters and lives the sins that we have held on to. We may come to Jesus and obtain the strength we need to overcome our errors, sins and imperfections. First though, like David, we must repent and turn away from the sins we have committed. Can you imagine David’s prayer had he not been repentant? “Oh God, please forgive me, but I want to let You know that I fully plan on continuing in my sinful behavior. You will just have to change me later... You know, when I go to heaven.”

Can you even fathom the audacity? David recognized his sinfulness and he



didn’t want to be like that anymore. He wanted to be changed! He wanted to be pure. He wanted to be righteous again. And he knew that the only place to get purity, to get righteousness and to get forgiveness, was from God. “Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.” Ps. 51:14. He knew where salvation came from and where righteousness was to be obtained.

Our robes are symbols of our character

David did not just want forgiveness; he wanted deliverance from his sin. Do we want that? Oh sure, we all want forgiveness so we can go to heaven, but do we want **deliverance**? Do we want to be cleansed from sin? Our robes are not pieces of clothing... they are symbols of our characters. Do we want white, or clean, characters?

Remember when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit? When they sinned, they realized they were naked. And when God called for them, they hid because of their nakedness. “And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” Gen. 3:9, 10.

Did Adam’s and Eve’s clothes fall off when they sinned?

Now note what God’s question was to Adam... “And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?” Gen. 3:11. “Who told you that you were naked?” The next question revealed that God knew exactly what happened. “Did you eat of the tree that you were told not to eat of?” In other words, eating from that tree caused them to be naked.

What happened? Did their clothes fall off when they disobeyed? Were their eyes opened, like Satan promised, when they disobeyed? Why did they “realize” they were naked? Actually, there was nothing in the tree that caused nakedness. Sin caused their nakedness. When they disobeyed God, and ate from that tree, they sinned. And when they sinned, they lost their covering. Listen to this... “The sinless pair wore no artificial garments; they were clothed with a covering of light and glory, such as the angels wear. So long as they lived in obedience to God,

this robe of light continued to enshroud them.” PP 45.

When they sinned they lost the covering of light and glory

Adam and Eve did not wear clothes as we think of them. They were enshrouded in light and glory! We think of clothing in terms of things we put on and take off and so God speaks to us in terms that we understand. God speaks of our robes as clothing; when what He means is our covering. Adam and Eve did not have clothes... they had a covering. That covering was light and glory. They were not naked because they were covered in light and glory. When they sinned, they lost the covering of light and now saw themselves, or realized, they were naked. The light and glory comes from being pure and holy and righteous. In other words... sinless. But as soon as they sinned, the light and glory disappeared, and now they were naked, and without a covering.

Only the blood of Jesus can remove the stains of sin from our robes

Do you see where this is going? Our “robe” or our “covering” is going to be our sinless and pure characters again. “We are weaving our threads in the web of

humanity; not a thread of self-glory must be woven into the fabric. All heaven is imparting its help that we may surmount every obstacle. . . . We are to build characters of a goodly fabric, spiritual, heavenly, perfect.” HP 165. Our robes, or our characters, will be white because they no longer have any sin in them. Once the sin has been removed, we regain the heavenly light and glory again. WE cannot remove the sin, only the blood of Jesus can do that. But we can come to Jesus, as did David, asking Him to cleanse us from our sins.

David loved the Lord and knew his sin separated him from God

But to get that cleansing, we must repent and turn away from our sins, and be sorry for them like David was. Really, can you imagine it otherwise? Can you picture someone sinning right up to translation and then getting this glorious covering, or robe if you will, that will be given to the overcomer, when we have not been overcomers? “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” Rev. 3:21. Jesus said that we only get to sit with Him if we overcome as He did. Did Jesus sin right up to the end and then slide on in? God forbid! He withstood the temptations of the devil and prayed constantly to His Father for strength to overcome.

David’s anguished prayer to God was that He would not cast him away from His presence. David was less interested in eternity than he was with *being* with God. David loved the Lord and knew that his sin had kept him away from God and he wanted to be restored again to His presence. He lost his place with God and wanted it back. It wasn’t about heaven, or eternity or the mansions of gold... it was about his lost place with God. It was the same with Adam and Eve. They lost their place with God. Every day they visited God in the Garden of Eden, but when they sinned, they were cast out. They wanted back in. David wanted back in. True Christians want back in. They want to be

restored again to favor and the presence of their Father.

What can wash away my sin?

And God has provided a way for us to return, to be restored. Our characters have been marred and dirtied by sin, and we need to have them cleaned so we can come to the party, so-to-speak. We need to clean them, but WE have no way to do it. We need a “stain remover”. And God has provided just what we need... the blood of His only Son Jesus. Remember the song that asks the question, “What can wash away my sin?” And the answer is, “Nothing but the blood of Jesus”.

Putting our robe in the “Jesus” washing machine is coming to Jesus and asking Him to forgive us and to empower us to quit sinning. “Precious, probationary time is given to be improved in washing our robes of character, and making them white in the blood of the Lamb. To remove the stains of sin requires the work of a lifetime. Every day renewed efforts in restraining and denying self are needed. Every day there are new battles to fight, and victories to be gained. Every day the soul should be called out in earnest pleading with God for the mighty victories of the cross.” CE 237.

Sin must be separated from us

The devil has tried to ruin our connection with God. He did it with a third of the heavenly angels. He did it with Adam and Eve. He did it with David. And he’s trying to do it with us. Sin separates us from God. Do we want to be reconnected? Do we want to be IN His presence instead of being cast AWAY from it? Then sin has to be separated from us.

As usual, it is actually very, very simple and easy to understand. Either we are separated from *sin*, or we are separated from *God*, because God and sin cannot exist together. In the wedding feast parable, what happened to the man without a wedding garment? “Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Matt. 22: 13. You can’t be with the King unless you have your wedding garment, or your robe, on.

Our character is what must become righteous

So,,, how’s your robe coming?



Remember, the robe must be spotless. "It is now that we must wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. It is now that we must overcome pride, passion, and spiritual slothfulness. It is now that we must awake, and make determined effort for symmetry of character." CET 191. Our "robe" is our character. We must keep this in mind whenever we hear about our robe of righteousness... Our "robe" is our character. Our character is what must become righteous. We must have the righteousness of Christ. "The guests at the marriage feast were inspected by the king. Only those were accepted who had obeyed his requirements and put on the wedding garment. So it is with the guests at the gospel feast. All must pass the scrutiny of the great King, and only those are received who have put on the robe of Christ's righteousness." COL 312. We must have the robe of Christ's righteousness.

But I thought it was *our* robe? I thought *our* robe was washed in Jesus' blood? Does it sound confusing to you? Not if you think about being like Jesus. Aren't we supposed to be like Jesus? Remember those wristbands everyone wore for a while... WWJD? "What Would Jesus Do?" We are supposed to be like Jesus; forgive like Jesus; love like Jesus; be merciful like Jesus; etc., etc.

Our robes must match the robe of Jesus

If we wash our characters in the blood of Jesus, meaning that we repent for our sins and strive to overcome them, then Jesus will give us the victory and we will have a character like Jesus... we will have a robe like Jesus. We will be so like Jesus that it will be Jesus' robe... or character... on or within us! Does that make sense to you? When you hear it said that we need the robe of Christ's righteousness, that is not referring to a robe separate from your own, but that yours matches the robe of Jesus.

It is the devil that says not to worry about your robe, or character, and that Jesus will change it and make it new when He comes back. No, no, don't believe that! "If Christ, when He shall come, should find us with all the defects of character we have today, there will be no such thing as our getting into the courts of heaven, and there will be no chance for



us to reform then. Christ does not promise to transform our characters then, after He shall come. We must seek righteous characters now. ... He does not change the character. The change must be here. We must wash our robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb in this world, and then we shall have the white linen which is the righteousness of the saints. But if we go on in our sins, Christ can never take such to heaven. It is only those who are holy who can see a holy God." 2SAT 24, 25.

Who will "see" God?

Remember the Sermon on the Mount, when Jesus said a certain group of people would "see" God? What group was that? The forgiven? The church member? The vegetarians? What did Jesus say? "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Matt. 5:8. The Bible says that the "pure in heart" see God.

The Bible says that the overcomer gets to eat of the Tree of Life. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." Rev. 2:7. Who sees God? Who eats from the Tree of Life? Who is clothed in white raiment? The overcomer. "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." Rev. 3:5.

We must be overcomers of sin and self

What are all these people overcoming? Sin! Self! Satan! When we sin, we repent and ask Jesus to forgive us. But the devil wants us to stop right there.

He wants us to stop at the forgiveness point. But not Jesus... Jesus wants us to continue on through and take the power He offers us to overcome those sins, to overcome self and to overcome the devil.

The apostle John could not imagine anyone wanting to hold on to sin or to excuse sin or think that anyone would sin until Jesus comes. John believed that the "believer" was an overcomer. "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" 1John 5:5.

How's your robe coming?

Christ has provided an infinite fund of moral power!

Please... please do not allow the devil to fill your mind with doubts and fears about whether or not you will make it to heaven. God never asks something of us that He does not empower us to do. Come to Jesus. Tell Him your fears and concerns. Ask Him for power to be an overcomer. He has never let anyone down. "He will look upon no trembling suppliant without raising him up. He, who through His own atonement provided for man an infinite fund of moral power, will not fail to employ this power in our behalf. We may take our sins and sorrows to His feet; for He loves us. His every look and word invites our confidence. He will shape and mold our characters according to His own will." COL 157.

Write that comment down in your Bibles... Christ has provided an INFINITE fund of moral power! In other words... we cannot fail! We cannot use it up! HE will not fail in employing this power in our behalf! We cannot lose! Can you hear Paul responding to this theme? "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" Rom. 8:31. Your robe can be made white... as white as snow! As long as you wash it in the blood of Jesus.

Come to Jesus... there is POWER in the blood.



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

BRINGING GLORY TO GOD THROUGH MUSIC

~Author Unknown~

THE MUSIC SHOULD:

1. **Bring glory to God and assist us in acceptably worshiping Him.** “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Cor. 10:31.
2. **Ennoble, uplift, and purify the Christian’s thoughts.**

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things [are] honest, whatsoever things [are] just, whatsoever things [are] pure, whatsoever things [are] lovely, whatsoever things [are] of good report; if [there be] any virtue, and if [there be] any praise, think on these things.” Phil. 4:8.

“Music was made to serve a holy purpose, to lift the thoughts to that which is pure, noble, and elevating, and to awaken in the soul devotion and gratitude to God. What a contrast between the ancient custom and the uses to which music is now too often devoted! How many employ this gift to exalt self, instead of using it to glorify God! A love for music leads the unwary to unite with world lovers in pleasure gatherings where God has forbidden His children to go. Thus that which is a great blessing when rightly used, becomes one of the most successful agencies by which Satan allures the mind from duty and from the contemplation of eternal things.” PP 594.
3. **Effectively influence the Christian in the development of Christ’s character in his life and in that of others.**

“David’s early life as a shepherd, with its lessons of humility, of patient toil, and of tender care for his flocks; the communion with nature in the solitude of the hills, developing his genius for music and poetry, and directing his thoughts to the Creator; the long discipline of his wilderness life, calling into exercise courage, fortitude, patience, and faith in God, had been appointed by the Lord as a preparation for the throne of Israel.” PP 746.
4. **Have a text which is in harmony with the scriptural teachings of the Church.**

“Those who have the gift of song are needed. Song is one of the most effective means of impressing spiritual truth upon the heart. Often by the words of sacred song, the springs of penitence and faith have been unsealed. Church-members, young and old, should be educated to go forth to proclaim this last message to the world. If they go in humility, angels of God will go with them, teaching them how to lift up the voice in prayer, how to raise the voice in song, and how to proclaim the gospel message for this time.” RH, June 6, 1912.
5. **Reveal a compatibility between the message conveyed by the words and the music, avoiding a mixture of the sacred and the profane.**
6. **Shun theatrical and prideful display.**

“I have a message for those in charge of our work. Do not encourage the men who are to engage in this work to think that they must proclaim the solemn, sacred message in a theatrical style. Not one jot or tittle of anything theatrical is to be brought into our work. God’s cause is to have a sacred, heavenly mold. Let everything connected with the giving of the message for this time bear the divine impress. Let nothing of a theatrical nature be permitted, for this would spoil the sacredness of the work.” Ev. 137.

“Musical talent too often fosters pride and ambition for display, and singers have but little thought of the worship of God.” FLB 242.
7. **Give precedence to the message of the text which should not be overpowered by accompanying musical elements.**

“In their efforts to reach the people, the Lord’s messengers are not to follow the ways of the world. In the meetings that are held, they are not to depend on worldly singers and theatrical display to awaken an interest. How can those who have no interest in the word of God, who have never read His word with a sincere desire to understand its truths, be expected to sing with the spirit and the understanding? How can their hearts be in harmony with the words of sacred song? How can the heavenly choir join in music that is only a form?” GW 357.
8. **Maintain a judicious balance of the emotional, intellectual, and spiritual elements.**
9. **Never compromise high principles of dignity and excellence in efforts to reach people just where they are.**

“The ability to sing is the gift of God; let it be used to His glory.” 9T144.
10. **Be appropriate for the occasion, the setting, and the audience for which it is intended.**

“A minister should not give out hymns to be sung until it has first been ascertained that they are familiar to those who sing. A proper person should be appointed to take charge of this exercise, and it should be his duty to see that such hymns are selected as can be sung with the spirit and with the understanding also.” Ev 506.

“Singing is a part of the worship of God, but in the bungling manner in which it is often conducted, it is no credit to the truth, and no honor to God. There should be system and order in this as well as every other part of the Lord’s work.” Ev 506.

The Pentecost

By L. D. Santee



**His servants have toiled in weakness,
For the lack of power was there;
And the work has moved so slowly,
And faint was the voice of prayer.
But God gives power to his children,
As they go to a world that is lost,
And the tongues of flame shall come again,
As on the Pentecost.**

**And the "loud cry" of the angel,
As promised in latter days,
Shall fill the earth with its glory,
And the hearts of the saints with praise.**

**Lay all on the sacred altar,
Don't tarry, nor count the cost;
For the tongues of flame shall come again—
Prepare for the Pentecost.**

**To your knees and to your closets.
O shepherds of the sheep!
"Between the porch and the altar"
Let the servants of Jesus weep.
Your days of waiting are ended,
O weary and tempest tossed!
For the tongues of flame, in the "latter rain,"
Shall bring the Pentecost.**

THE LATTER RAIN NO. 3

Editor's Note: Several articles on the Latter Rain were written for the Review and Herald from June 3 to August 12, 1943, with the hope of encouraging God's people to get ready for the outpouring of the Latter Rain—We repeat these articles for the same reason.

By Meade MacGuire

It is important that we understand the significance of the expressions "early rain" and "latter rain", which are mentioned frequently in the Scriptures.

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receiveth the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5:7, 8.

THE EARLY RAIN IS NECESSARY SO THE SEED



MAY GERMINATE

"In the East the former rain falls at the sowing time. It is necessary in order that the seed may germinate. Under the influence of the fertilizing showers, the tender shoot springs up. The latter rain, falling near the close of the season, ripens the grain and prepares it for the sickle. The Lord employs these operations of nature to represent the work of the Holy Spirit....

THE EARTH'S HARVEST IS RIPENED BY THE LATTER RAIN

"The latter rain, ripening earth's harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection." Testimonies to Ministers, p. 506.

THE SPIRITUAL LATTER RAIN IS TO FIT US FOR THE TIME OF TROUBLE

From this and other statements it is evident that this illustration may be applied dispensationally, and also in our personal experience. The early

rain came at Pentecost and will continue until the gospel work is done. The latter rain falls as the work of the gospel is closing. Likewise the early rain comes to us personally as we hear and accept the message; it causes the seed to spring up and continue to grow until the time of the harvest. Then the latter rain comes to complete the work and fit us for the time of trouble and the coming of Christ.

THE LATTER RAIN WILL NOT MAKE UP FOR THE LACK OF EARLY RAIN

"Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. They are making a terrible mistake....

"At no point in our experience can we dispense with the assistance of that which enables us to make the first start. The blessings received under the former rain are needful to us to the end. Yet these alone will not suffice. While we cherish the blessing of the early rain, we must not, on the other hand, lose sight of the fact that without the latter rain, to fill out the ears and ripen the grain, the harvest will not be ready for the sickle, and the labor of the sower will have been in vain....

"If we do not progress, if we do not place ourselves in an attitude to



receive both the former and the latter rain, we shall lose our souls, and the responsibility will lie at our own door.” Id., pp. 507, 508.

FOR LACK OF EARLY RAIN, WE COULD LOSE OUR SOULS

Thus it is evident that the latter rain will not be received by nor benefit anyone who has not reached a certain standard of spiritual development under the ministration of the former rain. The illustration itself makes this plain. If the grain was sown in the field in October, but the ground was dry and the early rain which was due that month did not fall, it would not come to maturity and be perfected by the latter rain which came in March. The grain must spring up and grow and be almost ready for the harvest in order to be brought to perfection by the latter rain. In like manner, unless we seek and obtain the necessary experience under the former rain, we shall not recognize nor receive the latter rain, and thus “we shall lose our souls”, and the fault will be our own.

THERE NEED BE NO UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHEN AND WHERE THE LATTER RAIN IS FALLING

When the promise of the Spirit was fulfilled at Pentecost, it was immediately recognized by all the true disciples of Christ.

“Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: for these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but

the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel.” Acts 2:14-16.

Will it not be the same when the latter rain is given in much greater measure? Many statements are made regarding what will take place when the latter rain is poured out. If we study these statements prayerfully, we need be in no uncertainty as to when and where the latter rain is falling.

THE MANIFESTATION OF THE POWER OF GOD BROUGHT FEAR AND RESTRAINT UPON UNBELIEVERS

“The light that was shed upon the waiting ones penetrated everywhere, and those in the churches who had any light, who had not heard and rejected the three messages, obeyed the call, and



left the fallen churches.....A compelling power moved the honest, while the manifestation of the power of God brought a fear and restraint upon their unbelieving relatives and friends, so that they dared not, neither had they the power to hinder those who felt the work of the Spirit of God upon them.... Mighty miracles were wrought, the sick were healed, and signs and wonders followed the believers....Souls that were scattered all through

the religious bodies answered to the call, and the precious were hurried out of the doomed churches, as Lot was hurried out of Sodom before her destruction.” Early Writings, pp. 278, 279.

GOD'S SERVANTS WILL PROCLAIM THE MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN

“Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.” Great Controversy 612.

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER IS EVIDENCE OF THE LATTER RAIN

If a large number of people respond when the message is preached in a new field, or presented in a new way, some seem to think that is evidence of the latter rain. They seem to forget that the ministry of the Holy Spirit which causes people to accept the message, is the early rain. The latter rain comes only when a Christlike character has been developed, and the grain is almost ready for the harvest.



REDEMPTION

By Ellen G. White

After the baptism of Jesus in Jordan, he was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. When he had come up out of the water, he bowed upon Jordan's banks, and plead with the great Eternal for strength to endure the conflict with the fallen foe. The opening of the heavens, and the descent of the excellent glory, attested his divine character. The voice from the Father declared the close relation of Christ to his Infinite Majesty: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." The mission of Christ was soon to begin. But he must first withdraw from the busy scenes of life to a desolate wilderness for the express purpose of bearing the three-fold test of temptation in behalf of those he had come to redeem.

ANGELS IN HEAVEN WHO JOINED WITH SATAN WERE EXPELLED WITH HIM

Satan, who was once an honored angel in Heaven, had been ambitious for the more exalted honors which God had bestowed upon his Son. He became envious of Christ, and represented to the angels who honored him as covering cherub that he had not the honor conferred upon him which his position demanded. He asserted that he should be exalted equal in honor with God. Satan obtained sympathizers. Angels in Heaven joined him in his rebellion, and fell with their leader from their high and holy estate, and were therefore expelled with him from Heaven.

THE FIRST COUPLE WAS SURROUNDED WITH EVERYTHING LOVELY TO BEHOLD

God, in counsel with his Son, formed the plan of creating man in their own image. He was placed upon probation. Man was to be tested and proved, and if he should bear the test of God, and

remain loyal and true after the first trial, he was not to be beset with continual temptations; but was to be exalted equal with the angels, and henceforth immortal.

Adam and Eve came forth from the hand of their Creator in the perfection of every physical, mental, and spiritual endowment. God planted for them a garden, and surrounded them with everything lovely and attractive to the eye, and that which their physical necessities required. This holy pair looked out upon a world of unsurpassed loveliness and glory. A benevolent Creator had given them evidences of his goodness and love in providing them with fruits, vegetables, and grains, and had caused to grow out of the ground trees of every variety for usefulness and beauty.

GOD'S GREAT LOVE FOR ADAM AND EVE WAS EVIDENT IN ALL HE SUPPLIED FOR THEM

The holy pair looked upon nature as a picture of unsurpassed loveliness. The brown earth was clothed with a carpet of living green, diversified with an endless variety of self-propagating, self-perpetuating flowers. Shrubs, flowers, and trailing vines, regaled the senses with their beauty and fragrance. The many varieties of lofty trees were laden with fruit of every kind, and of delicious



flavor, adapted to please the taste and meet the wants of the happy Adam and Eve. This Eden home God provided for our first parents, giving them unmistakable evidences of his great love and care for them.

LIFE WAS IN EVERY LEAF OF EVERY TREE

Adam was crowned as king in Eden. To him was given dominion over every living thing that God had created. The Lord blessed Adam and Eve with intelligence such as he had not given to the animal creation. He made Adam the rightful sovereign over all the works of his hands. Man made in the divine image could contemplate and appreciate the glorious works of God in nature.

Adam and Eve could trace the skill and glory of God in every spire of grass, and in every shrub and flower. The natural loveliness which surrounded them, like a mirror reflected the wisdom, excellence, and love of their Heavenly Father. And their songs of affection and praise rose sweetly and reverentially to Heaven, harmonizing with the songs of the exalted angels, and with the happy birds who were caroling forth their music without a care. There was no disease, decay, nor death anywhere. Life, life was in everything the eye rested upon. The atmosphere was impregnated with life. Life was in every leaf, in every flower, and in every tree.

IN LABOR, MAN WAS TO FIND HAPPINESS AS WELL AS IN MEDITATION

The Lord knew that Adam could not be happy without labor, therefore he gave him the pleasant employment of dressing the garden. And, as he tended the things of beauty and usefulness around him, he could behold the goodness and glory of God in his created works. Adam had themes for contemplation in the works of God in Eden, which was Heaven in miniature.

God did not form man merely to contemplate his glorious works; therefore he gave him hands for labor, as well as a mind and heart for contemplation. If the happiness of man consisted in doing nothing, the Creator would not have given Adam his appointed work. In labor, man was to find happiness as well as in meditation. Adam could reflect that he was created in the image of God, to be like him in righteousness and holiness. His mind was capable of continual cultivation, expansion, refinement and noble elevation; for God was his teacher, and angels were his companions.

MAN'S MENTAL POWERS WERE BUT LITTLE LOWER THAN THOSE OF THE ANGELS

The Lord placed man upon probation, that he might form a character of steadfast integrity for his own happiness and for the glory of his Creator. He had endowed Adam with powers of mind superior to any living creature that he had made. His mental powers were but little lower than those of the angels. He could become familiar with the sublimity and glory of nature, and understand the character of his Heavenly Father in his created works. Everything that his eye rested upon in the immensity of the Father's works, provided with a lavish hand, testified of his love and infinite power. Amid the glories of Eden the goodness and wisdom of God were traced in everything the eye rested upon.

SELF-DENIAL WAS ADAM'S FIRST GREAT MORAL LESSON

The first great moral lesson given Adam was that of self-denial. The reins of self-government were placed in his hands. Judgment, reason, and conscience, were to bear sway. "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God

commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

THERE WAS ONLY A SINGLE PROHIBITION IN THE GARDEN

Adam and Eve were permitted to partake of every tree in the garden save one. There was only a single prohibition. The forbidden tree was as attractive and lovely as any of the trees in the garden. It was called the tree of knowledge, because in partaking of that tree, of which God had said "Thou shalt not eat of it", they would have a knowledge of sin, an experience in disobedience. Eve went from the side of her husband, viewing the beautiful things of nature in God's creation, delighting her senses with the colors and fragrance of the flowers and the beauty of the trees and shrubs. She was thinking of the restrictions God had laid upon them in regard to the tree of knowledge.

She was pleased with the beauties and bounties which the Lord had furnished for the gratification of every want. All these, said she, God has given us to enjoy. They are all ours; for God has said, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it."

EVE THOUGHT THE SERPENT HAD A KNOWLEDGE OF HER THOUGHTS

Eve had wandered near the forbidden tree, and



her curiosity was aroused to know how death could be concealed in the fruit of this fair tree. She was surprised to hear her queries taken up and

repeated by a strange voice. "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden." Eve was not aware that she had revealed her thoughts by conversing to herself aloud; therefore, she was greatly astonished to hear her queries repeated by a serpent. She really thought the serpent had a knowledge of her thoughts, and that he must be very wise. She answered him, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die; for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

SATAN ASSURED EVE THAT SHE WAS CREATED IMMORTAL

Here the father of lies made his assertion in direct contradiction to the expressed word of God. Satan assured Eve that she was created immortal, and that there was no possibility of her dying. He told her that God knew that if they



ate of the tree of knowledge their understanding would be enlightened, expanded, and ennobled, making them equal with himself. And the serpent answered Eve, that the command of God forbidding them to eat of the tree of knowledge was given them to keep them in a state of subordination, that they should not obtain knowledge, which was power. He assured her that the fruit of this tree was desirable above every other tree in the garden to make one wise and exalt them equal with God. He has, said the serpent, refused you the fruit of the tree which is of all the trees the most desirable for its delicious flavor and exhilarating influence. Eve thought the discourse of the serpent very wise. She viewed the prohibition of God unjust. She looked with longing desire upon the tree laden with fruit which appeared very delicious. The serpent was eating it with apparent delight. She longed for this fruit above all the fruit of every variety which God had given her a perfect right to use.

SATAN PLUCKED THE FRUIT AND PLACED IT IN EVE'S HAND

Eve had overstated the words of God's command. He had said to Adam and Eve, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." In Eve's controversy with the serpent, she added the clause, "Neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." Here the subtlety of the serpent was seen. This statement of Eve gave him advantage, and he plucked the fruit, and placed it in her hand, and used her own words, "He hath said, 'If ye touch it, ye shall die.' You see no harm comes to you from touching the fruit, neither will you receive any harm by eating it." Eve yielded to the lying sophistry of the devil in the form of a serpent. She ate the fruit, and realized no immediate harm. She then plucked the fruit for herself and for her husband.



"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat."

IT WAS FOR THEIR HAPPINESS TO BE IGNORANT OF SIN

Adam and Eve should have been perfectly satisfied with the knowledge of God in his created works, and by the instruction of the holy angels. But their curiosity was aroused to become acquainted with that of which God designed they should have no knowledge. It was for their happiness to be ignorant of sin. The high state of knowledge to which they thought to attain by eating of the forbidden fruit plunged them into the degradation of sin and guilt.

SIN DROVE MAN FROM PARADISE, AND PARADISE FROM THE EARTH!

The angels who had been appointed to guard Adam in his Eden home before his transgression and expulsion from paradise were now appointed to guard the gates of paradise and the way of the tree of life, lest he should return and gain access to the tree of life and sin be immortalized.

Sin drove man from paradise. And sin was the cause of paradise being removed from the earth. In consequence of transgression of God's law, Adam lost paradise. In obedience to the Father's law and through faith in the atoning blood of his Son, paradise may be regained. "Repentance toward God," because his law has been transgressed, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, as man's only Redeemer, will be acceptable with God. The merits of God's dear Son in man's behalf will avail with the Father, notwithstanding his sinfulness.



THROUGH APPETITE, SATAN SUCCEEDED IN TEMPTING ADAM AND EVE

Satan was determined to succeed in his temptation with the sinless Adam and Eve. And he could reach even the holy pair more successfully through the medium of appetite than in any other way. The fruit of the forbidden tree seemed pleasant to the eye and desirable to the taste. They ate and fell. They transgressed God's just command and became sinners. Satan's triumph was complete. He then had the vantage-ground over the race. He flattered himself that he had through his subtlety thwarted the purpose of God in the creation of man.

SATAN CLAIMED THE EDEN HOME AS HIS TO ESTABLISH HIS THRONE

Satan made his exulting boasts to Christ and to loyal angels that he had succeeded in gaining a portion of the angels in Heaven to unite with him in his daring rebellion. And now that he had succeeded in overcoming Adam and Eve, he claimed that their Eden home was his. He proudly boasted that the world which God had made was his dominion. Having conquered Adam, the monarch of the world, he had gained the race as his subjects, and he should now possess Eden, and make that his headquarters. And he would there establish his throne, and be monarch of the world.

HEAVEN IMMEDIATELY DEFEATED SATAN AND HIS PLANS

But measures were immediately taken in Heaven to defeat Satan in his plans. Strong angels, with beams of light representing flaming swords turning in every direction, were placed as sentinels

to guard the way of the tree of life from the approach of Satan and the guilty pair. Adam and Eve had forfeited all right to their beautiful Eden home, and were now expelled from it. The earth was cursed because of Adam's sin, and was ever after to bring forth briers and thorns. Adam was to be exposed to the temptations of Satan while he lived, and was to finally pass through death to dust again.

THE MAJESTY OF HEAVEN PROPOSED TO BECOME FALLEN MAN'S SUBSTITUTE AND SURETY

A council was held in Heaven, which resulted in God's dear Son undertaking to redeem man from the curse and from the disgrace of Adam's failure, and to conquer Satan. Oh, wonderful condescension! The Majesty of Heaven, through love and pity for fallen man, proposed to become his substitute and surety. He would bear man's guilt. He would take the wrath of his Father upon himself, which otherwise would have fallen upon man because of his disobedience.

The law of God was unalterable. It could not be abolished, nor yield the smallest part of its claim to meet man in his fallen state. Man was separated from God by transgression of his expressed command, notwithstanding he had made known to Adam the consequences of such transgression. The sin of Adam brought a deplorable state of things. Satan would now have unlimited control over the race, unless a mightier being than Satan was before his fall should take the field and conquer him and ransom man.

CHRIST CONSENTED TO SHOW MAN BY HUMBLE OBEDIENCE HOW EDEN MIGHT BE REGAINED

Christ's divine soul was exercised with pity that was infinite for ruined man. As his wretched, helpless condition came up before him, and as he saw that by transgression of God's law he had fallen under the power and control of the prince of darkness, he proposed the only means that could be acceptable

with God, that would give man another trial, and place him again on probation. Christ consented to leave his honor, his kingly authority, his glory with the Father, and humble himself to humanity, and engage in contest with the mighty prince of darkness in order to redeem man. Through his humiliation and



poverty Christ would identify himself with the weaknesses of the fallen race, and by firm obedience show man how to redeem Adam's disgraceful failure, that man by humble obedience might regain lost Eden.

THE REDEEMER MUST TAKE THE PLACE OF FALLEN ADAM

The great work of redemption could be carried out only by the Redeemer taking the place of fallen Adam. With the sins of the world laid upon him, he would go over the ground where Adam stumbled. He would bear the test which Adam failed to endure, and which would be almost infinitely more severe than that brought to bear upon Adam. He would overcome on man's account, and conquer the tempter, that through his obedience, his purity of character and steadfast integrity, his righteousness might be imputed to man, that through his name man might overcome the foe on his own account.

WHAT LOVE! WHAT AMAZING CONDESCENSION!

The King of glory proposed to humble himself to fallen humanity! He would place his feet in Adam's steps. He would take man's fallen nature and engage to cope with the strong foe who triumphed over Adam.



He would overcome Satan, and in thus doing he would open the way for the redemption of those who would believe on him from the disgrace of Adam's failure and fall.

IN ALL HIS FACULTIES, ADAM WAS IN PERFECT CONFORMITY TO THE WILL OF GOD

Angels on probation had been deceived by Satan, and had been led on by him in the great rebellion in Heaven against Christ. They failed to bear the test brought to bear upon them, and they fell. Adam was then created in the image of God and placed upon probation. He had a perfectly developed organism. All his faculties harmonized. In all his emotions, words, and actions there was a perfect conformity to the will of his Maker. After God had made every provision for the happiness of man, and had supplied his every want, he tested Adam's loyalty. If the holy pair should be obedient, the race would after a time be made equal to the angels. As Adam and Eve failed to bear this test, Christ proposed to become a voluntary offering for man.

SATAN FEARED THAT HIS POWER WOULD BE LIMITED WHEN CHRIST CAME AS THE REDEEMER TO THE FALLEN WORLD

Satan knew that if Christ was indeed the Son of God, the world's Redeemer, it was for no good to himself, that the Lord had left the royal courts of Heaven to come to a fallen world. He feared that his own power was henceforth to be limited, and that his deceptive wiles would be discerned and exposed, which would lessen his influence over man. He feared that his dominion and his

control of the kingdoms of the world was to be contested. He remembered the words Jehovah addressed to him when he was

summoned into his presence with Adam and Eve, whom he had ruined by his lying deceptions, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed. It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." This declaration contained the first gospel promise to man.

But these words at the time they were spoken were not fully understood by Satan. He knew that they contained a curse for him, because he had seduced the holy pair. And when Christ was manifested on the earth, Satan feared that he was indeed the One promised which should limit his power and finally destroy him.

CHRIST WAS TO TAKE THE WRATH OF GOD WHICH IN JUSTICE SHOULD FALL UPON MAN

Satan had peculiar interest to watch the development of events immediately after the fall of Adam to learn how his work had affected the kingdom of God, and what the Lord would do with Adam because of his disobedience. The Son of God, undertaking to become the Redeemer of the race, placed Adam in a new relation to his Creator. He was still fallen; but a door of hope was opened to him. The wrath of God still hung over Adam, but the execution of the sentence of death was delayed, and the indignation of God was restrained, because Christ had entered upon the work of becoming man's Redeemer. Christ was to take the wrath of God which in justice should fall upon man. He became a refuge for man, and although man was indeed a criminal, deserving the wrath of God, yet he could by faith in Christ run into the refuge provided and be safe. In the midst of death there was life if man chose to accept it. The holy and infinite God, who dwelleth in light unapproachable, could no longer talk with man. No communication could now exist directly between man and his Maker.

THROUGH CHRIST ALONE CAN MAN NOW FIND ACCESS TO GOD

God forbears for a time the full execution of the sentence of death

pronounced upon man. Satan flattered himself that he had forever broken the link between Heaven and earth. But in this he was greatly mistaken and disappointed. The Father had given over the world into the hands of his Son for him to redeem from the curse and the disgrace of Adam's failure and fall. Through Christ alone can man now find access to God. And through Christ alone will the Lord hold communication with man.

Christ volunteered to maintain and vindicate the holiness of the divine law. He was not to do away the smallest part of its claims in the work of redemption for man, but in order to save man and maintain the sacred claims and justice of his Father's law, he gave himself a sacrifice for the guilt of man. Christ's life did not in a single instance detract from the claims of his Father's law, but through firm obedience to all its precepts, and by dying for the sins of those who had transgressed it, he established its immutability.

SATAN REASONED THAT IF GOD SAVED FALLEN MAN, HE WOULD ALSO SAVE HIM AND HIS ANGELS

After the transgression of Adam, Satan saw that the ruin was complete. The human race was brought into a deplorable condition. Man was cut off from intercourse with God. It was Satan's design that the state of man should be the same with that of the fallen angels in rebellion against God, uncheered by a gleam of hope. He reasoned that if God pardoned sinful man whom he had created, he would also pardon and receive into favor him and his angels. But he was disappointed.

THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S EXCELLENCE MADE THE GUILT OF SATAN AND HIS ANGELS UNPARDONABLE

The divine Son of God saw that no arm but his own could save fallen man.



He determined to help man. He left the fallen angels to perish in their rebellion, but stretched forth his hand to rescue perishing man. The angels who were rebellious were dealt with according to the light and experience they had

abundantly enjoyed in Heaven. Satan, the chief of the fallen angels, once had an exalted position in Heaven. He was next in honor to Christ. The knowledge which he, as well as the angels who fell with him, had of the character of God, of his goodness, his mercy, wisdom, and excellent glory, made their guilt unpardonable.

SATAN AND HIS ANGELS MUST FACE PUNISHMENT IN PROPORTION TO THEIR HEAVENLY PRIVILEGES

There was no possible hope for those ever to be redeemed, who had witnessed and enjoyed the inexpressible glory of Heaven and had seen the terrible majesty of God, and, in presence of all this glory, had rebelled against him. There were no new and more wonderful exhibitions of God's exalted power that could ever impress them as deeply as those they had already experienced. If they could rebel in the very presence of the weight of glory inexpressible, they could not be placed in any more favorable condition to be proved. There was no reserve force of power, nor were there any greater heights and depths of infinite glory to overpower their jealous doubts and rebellious murmuring. Their guilt and their punishment must be in proportion to their exalted privileges in the heavenly courts.

- RH, February 24, 1874



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.

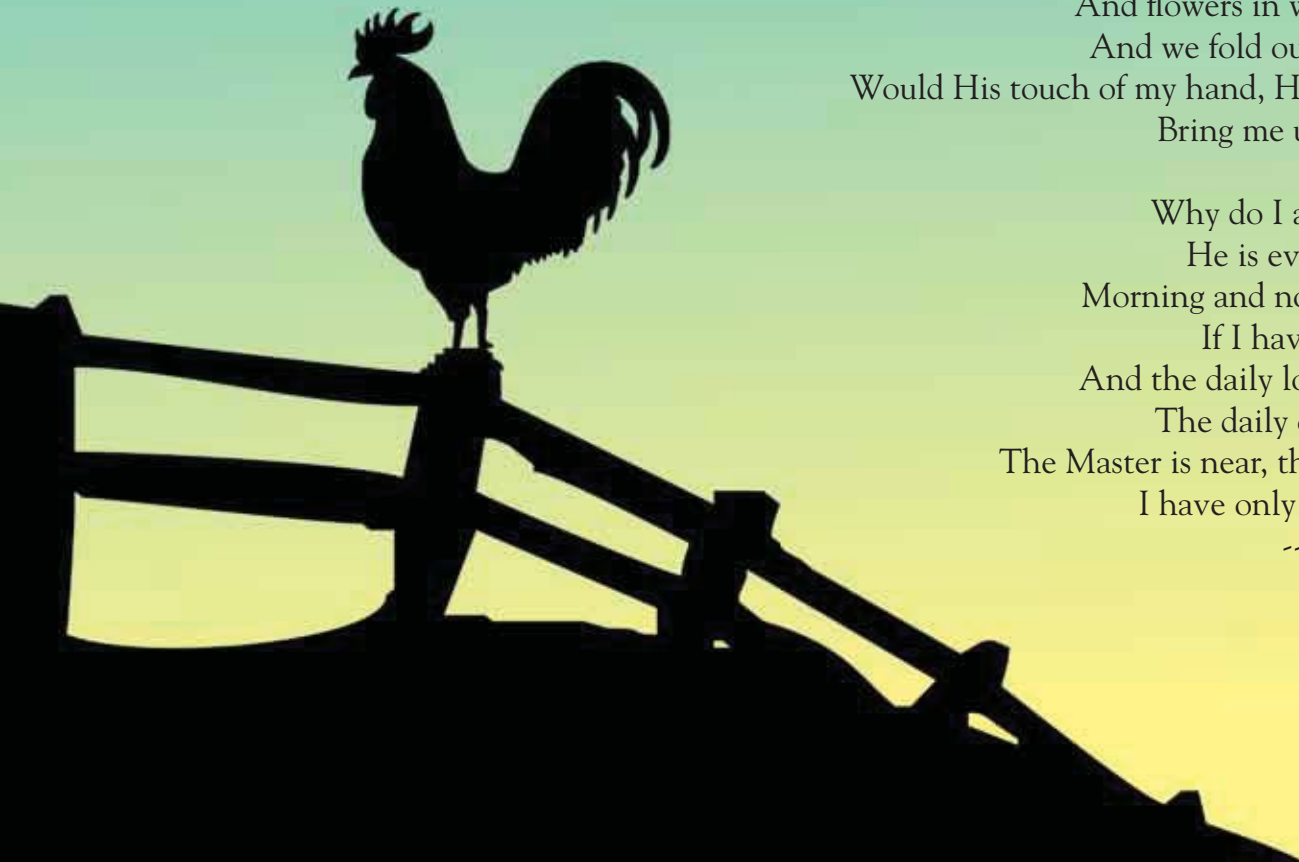
**"AT EVEN,
OR AT THE
COCK-
CROWING,
OR IN THE
MORNING"**

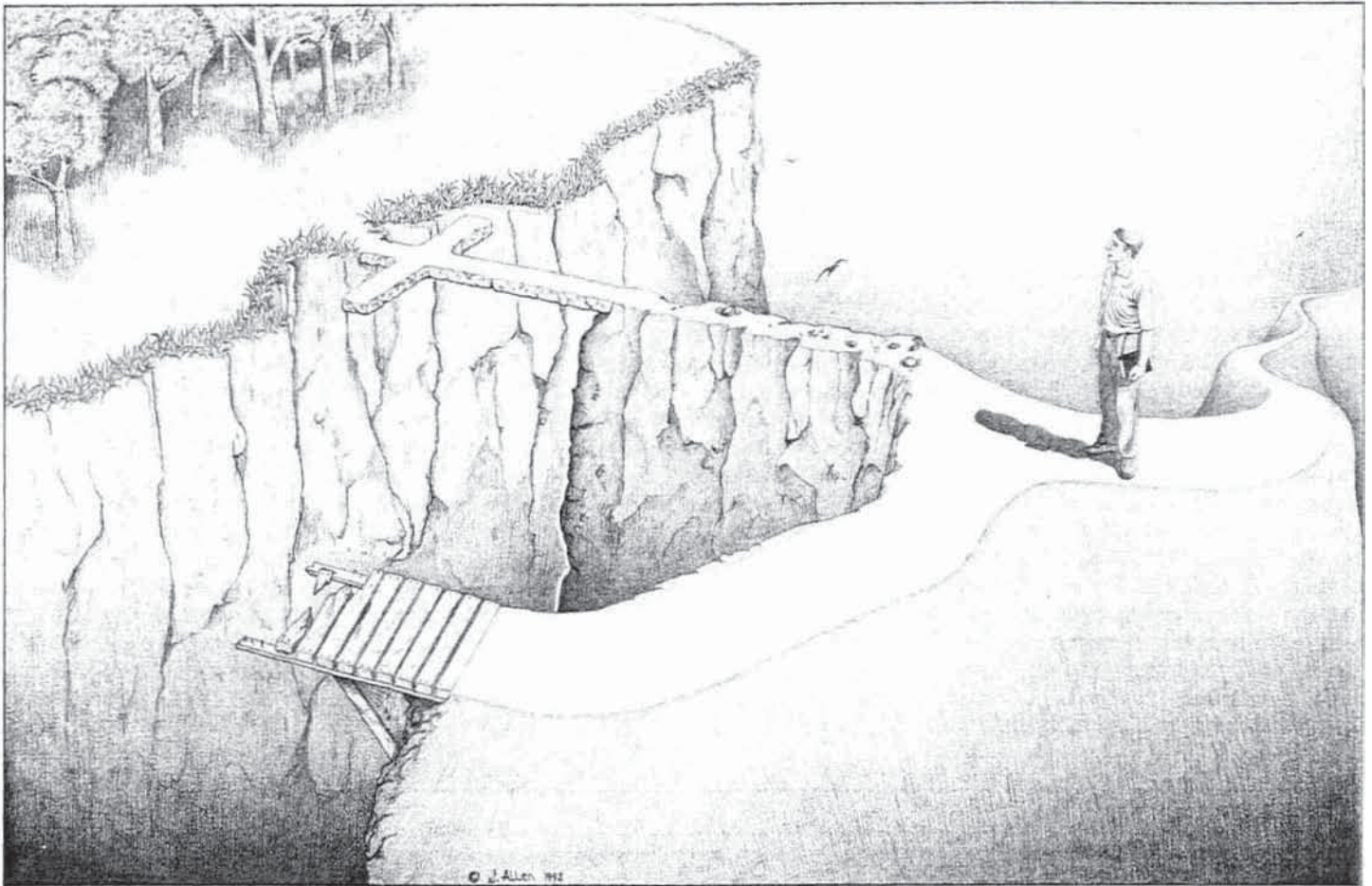
If the Lord should come in the morning
As I went about my work,
The little things and the quiet things
That a servant can not shirk,
Though nobody ever sees them,
And only the dear Lord cares
That they are always done in the light of the sun,
Would He take me unawares?

If my Lord should come at noonday,
The time of the dust and heat,
When the glare is white, and the air is still,
And the hoof-beats sound in the street;
If my dear Lord came at noonday,
And smiled in my tired eyes,
Would it not be sweet His look to meet?
Would He take me by surprise?

If the Lord came hither at evening,
In the fragrant dew and dusk,
When the world drops off its mantle
Of daylight, like a husk,
And flowers in wonderful beauty,
And we fold our hands and rest,
Would His touch of my hand, His low command,
Bring me unhoped-for zest?

Why do I ask and question?
He is ever coming to me,
Morning and noon and evening,
If I have but eyes to see.
And the daily load grows lighter,
The daily cares grow sweet,
The Master is near, the Master is here,
I have only to sit at His feet.
--British Weekly--





Two Gospels Within The Church

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” 1 Pet. 3:15.

Dear brothers and sisters, Jesus is coming very soon. Prophecy is rapidly fulfilling. Daniel 11 is almost completely fulfilled. The king of the north (the Papacy) is coming more and more into a dominant position within the world. Soviet communism (atheism) has fallen. Chinese communism will fall soon. Satan is moving about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. We are his targets. Jesus has won the war, but Satan seeks for more casualties. Where do you stand today? Can you give a reason from the Bible why you believe as you do?

Can you support your beliefs from the Bible?

There are two gospels within the Seventh-day Adventist Church today. One says that you will continue to sin until Jesus comes. The other says you can overcome all sin through His power. One says that Jesus is our Substitute but not our Example. The other says Jesus is both our Substitute and our Example. One says perfection is impossible. The other says Bible perfection (living up to all the light you have) is a must. Do you understand why there are these differences? Which way do you believe? Do you know why? Can you support your position biblically and lovingly?

We must be spending more time with our precious Saviour in prayer and Bible study (including the Spirit of Prophecy)

on a daily basis. Those with the wrong gospel will be lost. We must be praying for them persistently. We must be able to show them in a gentle and respectful way where and why they are wrong.

Jesus was not guilty by birth, and neither are we

The underlying basic differences result from two different understandings of what sin is. The evangelical world in general and some Seventh-day Adventists believe in what is termed by some as “original sin”. In other words, sin is part of our nature; we are guilty by birth rather than by choice. There is guilt in our evil desires, even when resisted by the will.

Under this view, Jesus cannot have the same nature as we have, for He would be guilty by birth. If He were like us,

By Clark Floyd

He would be born with a sinning nature, already a sinner. We cannot overcome, for sin is part of our nature, and we will retain our nature until Jesus comes. We cannot become perfect because it is impossible to follow all the light we have with a sinning nature. The sanctuary, the investigative judgment, the three angels' messages become insignificant. Everything is completed at the cross, for justification, or covering of our sinning nature, is all that counts. Sanctification becomes a growth process that never leads to total overcoming. If we follow this view, we will be lost.

According to scripture, sin is a choice

The historic Seventh-day Adventist view is that sin is a choice. We do not have to sin. Sin is not the way man is, but the way man chooses. The mind must consent to temptation before it becomes guilty. Because of our sinful human nature, there is a bent toward sin, but this bent can be successfully resisted by the reborn Christian through the power of Jesus working in and through the life.

Under this view Jesus could be, and in fact was, born with the same sinful flesh that we have. He never sinned, because He made right choices through the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through Him. He was like Adam after the Fall. Since He was born with the same sinful (not sinning) flesh that we have, He is our Example, and we, to, can overcome through His power working in us. We are not guilty by birth. This view is based on both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

Sin is the transgression of the law

Let us examine the Scriptures for a "Thus saith the Lord". 1 John 3:4 gives us a definition of sin: "Sin is the transgression of the law." Ellen White consistently says that this is the only definition of sin. Sin thus becomes an action rather than a part of our nature. Then in James 4:17 the Bible says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." Sin comes by knowledge which brings choice, and is not by nature.

In Romans 7:7-9, Paul says, "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust,

except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died."

Knowledge is the key

The law has always existed from eternity to eternity. But guilt is not accounted to those who ignorantly transgress it. Once they know about the law, they are responsible for what the law contains. Knowledge is the key. In Romans 7, quoted above, guilt did not come until knowledge of the law came. Guilt is not inherited; it is based on knowledge. But willful ignorance is no excuse.

The same understanding is found in John 15:22 & 24: "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin....If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father." Knowledge is again the key. Many other scriptures could be used to demonstrate this point. For example see also Matthew 11: 20-24; John 9:41.

The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father

In Ezekiel 18:2, the prophet says, "What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?" Apparently the people were trying to indicate by this proverb that the children would suffer the punishment of the parents' sin – that they had inherent guilt. But notice in verses 3 & 4, the Lord rebukes them for this understanding:

"As I live, saith the Lord God, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

And then in verse 20, the decisive point is given: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son."

In 1T 116, Ellen White states: "If light come, and that light is set aside or

rejected, then comes condemnation and the frown of God; but before the light comes, there is no sin, for there is no light for them to reject."

We can only heed light that we have

She points out in CH 81 that a tobacco user who uses it in ignorance is not guilty, although he will suffer the consequences of the tobacco he uses. But once he understands the light on tobacco use, he becomes guilty for using it.

"None will be condemned for not heeding light and knowledge that they never had." 5 SDABC 1145. "It is inevitable that children should suffer from the consequences of parental wrongdoing, but they are not punished for the parents' guilt, except as they participate in their sins....By inheritance and example the sons become partakers of the father's sin. Wrong tendencies, perverted appetites, and debased morals, as well as physical disease and degeneracy, are transmitted as a legacy from father to son, to the third and fourth generation." PP 306.

Sin that results in guilt is by choice and requires knowledge.

Jesus never sinned, and He is our Example

Once there is a correct understanding of the nature of sin, then we can see that it is possible for Jesus to have been born with the same nature with which each of us is born – a sinful human nature. We are not automatically guilty because of our birth. We are guilty by choice. From the dawn of reason, Jesus made right choices through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus never sinned, and He is our Example. We can gain courage by knowing that Jesus, by complete submission to the Holy Spirit, never gave in to temptation.

Scripture readily supports the fact that Jesus was born with our sinful human flesh – like Adam after the Fall. In Philippians 2:7, Paul, referring to Jesus, says that He "...was made in the likeness of men." Paul then uses the same Greek word for likeness in Romans 8:3: "God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh."

Jesus suffered being tempted as do we

In Hebrews, Paul again asserts Christ's relationship, not to Adam before the Fall, but to Abraham, a man with the same sinful flesh as yours and mine: "For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted." Heb. 2:16-18. See also Hebrews 4:15.

In 1 John 4:2, 3, John has an interesting statement: "Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." Anyone who seeks to tell us that Jesus Christ has a different nature than ours, leading us into the delusion that we cannot overcome through Christ's power, is not being led by the Spirit of God. Jesus is our Example.

"He assumed human nature, with its infirmities, its liabilities, its temptations....He exercised in His own behalf no power which man cannot exercise. As man He met temptation, and overcame in the strength given Him of God. He gives us an example of perfect obedience." 3SM 132; see also DA 664.

We can be complete overcomers through Christ

The Bible so clearly indicates that man can be a complete overcomer through the power of Jesus Christ working in the life that it often amazes me that we have sincere Seventh-day Adventists who teach and believe otherwise. The rewards as given to each of the seven churches of Revelation are to the overcomer. In Jude 24, we are told that Jesus is able to keep us from falling and then present us faultless with exceeding joy.

Then in 1 John 3:9, the Bible says "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin." Well-meaning, but misled, theologians will do all they can to say that which is not really what this verse says. Why? So that they may convince us that we will keep on sinning until Jesus

comes. And many of us will do so because we believe them, although there are many more scriptures telling us we must be overcomers. We must have victory in our lives.

Christ will come into our hearts only as an invited guest

"Abundant grace has been provided that the believing soul may be kept free from sin; for all heaven, with its limitless resources, has been placed at our command." 1SM 394. "Christ is willing to take possession of the soul temple, if we will only let Him. He is represented as knocking at the door of our hearts for admission, but Jesus never forces Himself upon us; He will come in only as an invited guest....In order to let Jesus into our hearts, we must stop sinning. The only definition for sin that we have in the Bible is that it is the transgression of the law. The law is far-reaching in its claims, and we must bring our hearts into harmony with it." 2ST 363.

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." 1 Pet. 2:21, 22. "Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us." DA 123. "Humanity combined with divinity does not commit sin." MH 180.

Be ye therefore perfect

And finally the question is asked, "Can you be perfect in Christ?" Of course; for Matt. 5.48 says, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect." Ellen White quotes this verse as it reads in the King James Bible, not as some "scholars" say it should read, and then states: "This command is a promise." DA 311; see also Heb. 13:20, 21; 1 Pet. 5:10.

"None need fail of attaining, in his sphere, to perfection of Christian character. By the sacrifice of Christ, provision has been made for the believer to receive all things that pertain to life and godliness. God calls upon us to reach the standard of perfection and places before us the example of Christ's character. In His humanity, perfected by a life of constant resistance of evil, the Saviour showed that through co-operation with Divinity, human beings may in this life attain to perfection of character. This

is God's assurance to us that we, too, may obtain complete victory." AA 531.

In Him, nothing is impossible

Brothers and sisters, do not let someone with smooth speech steal your eternal life from you. Do not be foiled by being called a legalist, or by someone saying to you, "Oh, you think you are perfect." Tell them that you will never claim perfection, but you know you can have complete victory over sin, and can live up to all the light you have, only through a daily surrender to Jesus Christ, knowing that in Him nothing is impossible. Then make that surrender to Him every day.

"The victory is not won without much earnest prayer, without the humbling of self at every step. Our will is not to be forced into co-operation with divine agencies, but it must be voluntarily submitted....The will must be placed on the side of God's will. You are not able, of yourself, to bring your purposes and desires and inclinations into submission to the will of God; but if you are 'willing to be made willing', God will accomplish the work for you, even 'casting down imaginations'." MB 142.

We must be thorough Bible students

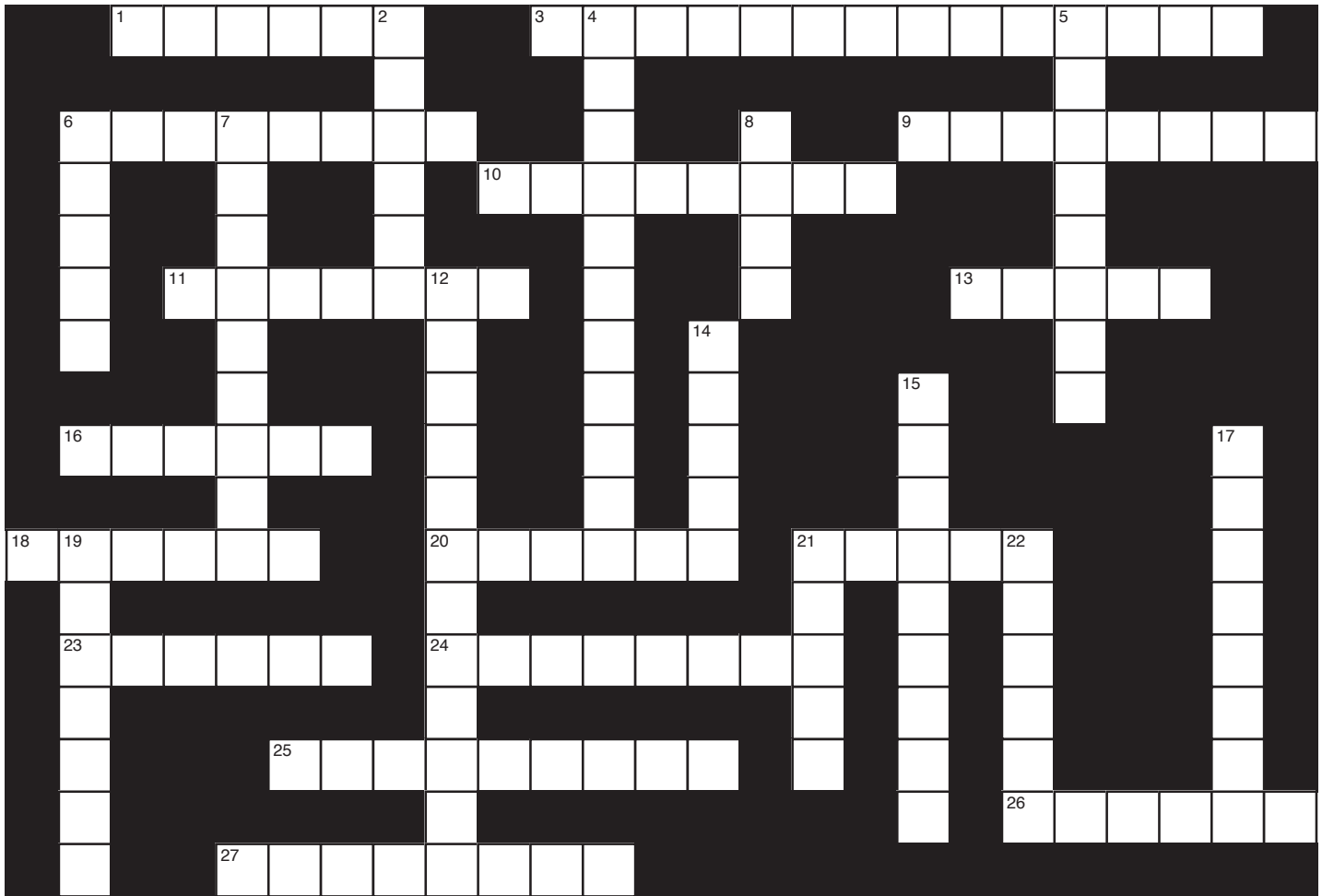
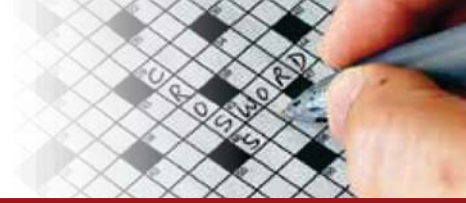
My prayer is that all of you who read this article will purpose in your heart to follow Jesus all the way, seeking through His power to allow Him to be not only Saviour but also Lord of your life. Trust in Him, knowing that there is not anything too hard for God, even taking a sinful human being like yourself and making you an overcomer. See Jer. 32:17 & 27.

And remember, "Every position of our faith will be searched into, and if we are not thorough Bible students, established, strengthened, settled, the wisdom of the world's great men will be too much for us." 2SM 386.



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.

Christian Crossword



ACROSS

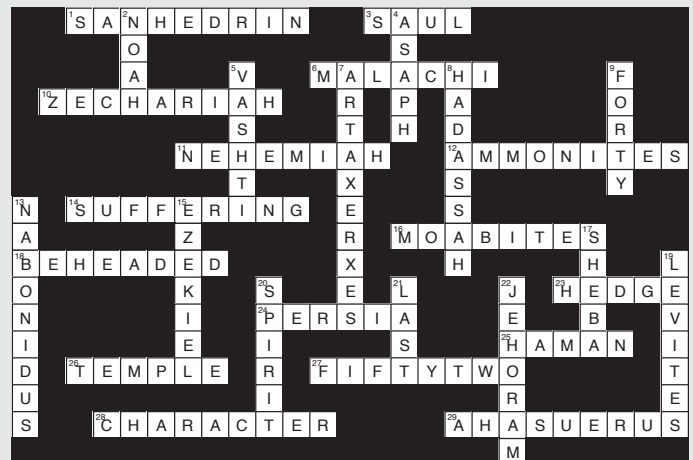
1. Who sat upon the 24 seats around the throne in Revelation 4?
3. What king had the three Hebrew youths tossed in the fiery furnace?
6. The fourth church of Revelation
9. What name was given to Azariah in Babylon?
10. What natural physical manifestation will be in the fifth last plague?
11. The first letter in the name of each of the 7 churches of Revelation
13. What color are the horses of Revelation 19?
16. Another church of the 7 churches of Revelation without a reproof
18. Who was worthy to open the Book with the seals on it?
20. What sort of beast appeared in Revelation 12 with seven heads?
21. In the second last plague the sea turns to ____
23. What does Christ bring with Him when He returns?
24. The "lukewarm" church of the 7 churches
25. The sixth last plague affected which river?
26. In what year of his reign did Nebuchadnezzar have his first dream?
27. Which church is promised a white stone with a new name if they overcome?

DOWN

2. The church of Revelation, which covered the period of the Reformation
4. What kind of Gospel does the first angel preach?
5. What king had his eyes put out at the order of the Babylonian king?
6. Which angel gives a fearful warning to those who worship the beast?
7. What king became the husband of Queen Esther?
8. What causes men's hearts to fail them in the last days?
12. A church of the 7 churches without a reproof given to it
14. How many last plagues are there?

15. Who was the king of Judah when Daniel was taken as prisoner to Babylon?
17. What name which means "Babylonian" was used in a restricted sense of a class of wise men in Babylon?
19. What are the children of the false mother of Revelation called?
21. What was the color of the horse under the 3rd seal?
22. What king had Daniel placed in the lion's den?

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



Diet and Disease Part 1: pH and You



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.

Everywhere we look, we see sickness, suffering, disease, and death. Currently, many of the hottest political issues surround the intricacies of our health care system. It seems that everyone is sick. Although the outlook seems bleak, standing at the helm are our faithful scientists and drug companies, zealously searching for and promising a cure – a cure that is... *just around the corner*. Cures that allow you to simply pop a pill (without doing anything else whatsoever) making all your troubles *melt away*.

Waiting for a wonder drug

So we (most Americans) sit, waiting patiently, to be prescribed this new cure. Yet, each time we find a new “wonder drug”, it’s only a matter of time until we find out about a deadly side effect, lawsuits, finally a drug recall, and then it’s back to the drawing board - mixing chemicals in beakers, trying desperately to find the **next** miracle pill. As nice as it sounds in theory, so far, it hasn’t happened. With all of the advances in science and medicine, people just seem to be getting sicker (and at a younger age, no less). Why is this happening? Are there truly any “cures” to disease?



In the holistic approach to healing, the “whole” person is treated

This is where natural, holistic medicine differs. In holistic medicine, we look at the “whole” person. We try to treat the problem, rather than the symptoms of the problem. While this method is extremely effective, it is much more difficult than simply popping a pill.



It takes time, dedication, education and willpower. When we counsel people on health, one of the first things we address is diet. Why is this important? Are **that** many health problems *really* related to what we eat? How can changing the diet affect the body on so many levels and be the answer to such various diseases? Why will simply taking a pill **never** be the answer?

True health comes from within – starting at the very cellular level

Each cell and is designed to work together flawlessly, like intricate cogs in an elaborately beautiful wheel. When you begin to understand this, you can see why just one cog not doing its job efficiently can affect the entire body. How does diet play a role? One of the specific ways is in your body’s pH.

All the time you hear people talking about “alkalizing your body” to prevent disease and degeneration of the body. It sounds like there might be some value to it, but is it really as important as they say? What is “pH” anyway? Can it really make **that** much of a difference? Is it *really* that big a deal?

WHAT IS PH?

pH is the measure of the **acidity** of a substance. Pure water, which has pH of 7, is neutral. Substances with a pH *less than 7* are considered **acidic** and substances with

a pH *greater than 7* are considered basic (**alkaline**). *Technically*, pH is a measurement of the number of hydrogen ions compared to the number of hydroxide ions in a solution, with a pH of 7 being neutral (meaning an equal number of hydrogen ions and hydroxide ions). “pH” is an abbreviation for “potential hydrogen”. Substances are considered acidic when they break down into more **hydrogen (H+)**

ions than hydroxide ions when placed in a solution. Substances are considered alkaline or basic, when they break up into more **hydroxide (OH-)** ions than hydrogen ions when placed in a solution. **You may need to re-read that, but we’ll be coming back to this.**

Explaining the pH scale...

The pH scale ranges from 0 to 14. It’s important to note that on the pH scale, each number represents a **tenfold** difference from adjacent numbers; in other words, a pH of 6 is ten times more acidic than a pH of 7, and a pH of 5 is one hundred times more acidic than a pH of 7. For instance, most carbonated soft drinks have a pH of about 2.5-3, making them about **ten thousand times more acidic** than pure water with a pH of 7 (remember this the next time you think about drinking a can of soda).



Acidosis vs. alkalosis

The normal pH of blood is about 7.35-7.45. In order to be healthy and disease/problem-free, and for all cells to function properly, the human **blood** must stay within this **very narrow** pH range. If the pH of your blood falls *below* 7.35, the result is a condition called acidosis, which leads to central nervous system depression, and when severe, can lead to a coma and even death. If the pH of your blood rises *above* 7.45, the result is alkalosis, which causes the nerves in your body to become hypersensitive and over-excitable, resulting in muscle spasms, nervousness, and convulsions, and when severe, can also lead to death.

So in order to understand how to maintain a healthy pH, you need to know how you're getting a buildup of acid in your body to begin with. There are basically two ways.

Where does the acid come from?

The first way is through metabolic activities. Every day when your body moves and breathes and carries out various other necessary processes, it produces a continuous supply of acids. As your cells produce energy, the end products of this energy are many different **acids** being formed and released into your body fluids. As long as your body is alive, **this is unavoidable**.

Dietary intake affects the pH

The other way is **directly related** to what you put in your body. When you ingest any substance (foods, liquids, drugs, etc.) it affects your body's pH. Keep in mind, the acid or alkaline-forming tendency in the body **has nothing to do with the pH of the food itself**. It's the **end products** of your body digesting and assimilating the nutrients. For instance, most fruits and vegetables have a low (*acidic*) pH because of their **acid** content, so you would **think** they would lower your pH. However, the acids of most, but

not all, fruits and vegetables are broken down during digestion, and once digested most fruits and vegetables actually **raise** pH due to their high potassium content (since potassium is highly alkaline-forming). Likewise, most meat and dairy foods *measure* as **alkaline** themselves, but when they are digested, they **lower** the pH because of their high protein content. Protein breaks down into amino acids and is very acid-forming. Since calcium is alkaline forming, some dairy products



raise pH due to their high calcium and potassium content, outweighing their acid-forming protein content. *Generally, the pH of non-foods, like colas and baking soda, affect the body the same way they measure for pH (so the cola that measures 10,000 times more acidic than water is actually much more acid-forming in your body than water).*

Ok to recap: there are two main forces at work on a daily basis that can cause the pH of your body fluids to become acidic – these are:

1. The acids that you generate through regular metabolic activities (which you cannot really control)
2. The acid or alkaline-forming effects of foods, liquids, drugs, etc. that you ingest

(which you **can** control).

One single food will not send your pH spiraling out of control

If we cannot control the acids that form from bodily processes, that leaves us with looking to our diets to make sure we're maintaining a healthy pH. Don't throw your hands up in the air quite yet. It's actually not as hard as it sounds!

Does every single food you eat cause your blood to become more alkaline

or acidic? Well, yes and no.

While each food has a small acid-forming or alkaline-forming effect, one food is not going to send your pH spiraling out of control killing you instantly. Why? Since the slightest variation can make a **huge** impact on your health, your body was created with complex systems that **tightly regulate** the pH of your blood. Our bodies were designed to work *continuously* to keep our pH within the healthy range. Pretty cool, huh? But if our bodies were made to naturally take care of themselves, why is everyone always talking about alkalizing the body? First we must understand **how** your body does this job of regulating the acid-alkaline balance on a moment-to-moment basis.

THE "BUFFER" SYSTEMS

A "buffer" keeps something where it should be. It *buffers* adverse swings. It guards, cushions and protects. Your body has **multiple buffer** systems at work **at all times** to help keep your pH within a safe range. Simply put, the three primary pH "buffering" systems in the body help prevent acidosis or alkalosis by regulating the **hydrogen concentration** in the body fluids (remember, hydrogen molecules come from the break down of acids).

God placed special "leveling" systems within our bodies

For the sake of time, we aren't going to cover all the ins and outs of the buffering

systems – you may already feel like you’ve been in science class all morning and I don’t want to bore anyone. It’s actually exciting to me to learn how the body works. To know that even though foods that we eat and processes in the body create potentially harmful acids, God already thought of that before He created us, and put special systems in place to help prevent these factors from pushing the pH of your blood outside of the 7.35 to 7.45 range.

The phosphate buffer system

If you’re thinking, “Great! Now I don’t have to worry about what I eat, my body takes care of it all!” think again. I’m about to explain how this system works and what happens if you overwhelm it and give it too many acids to deal with. The system we’re going to deal with today is the “phosphate buffer system”. This process watches the pH very carefully and if it starts to become too acid or too alkaline, it **immediately** counteracts the excess acid or alkali in order to prevent excessive changes in the hydrogen concentration. (Note: because of the standard American diet, the problem is typically too much acid, not too much alkaline).

Minute by minute your body is neutralizing acids

The way it does this is by using different phosphate ions in your body to **neutralize** the strong acids and bases. So if your blood is becoming too acidic, this system takes phosphate ions from your body to bring the pH back up. This is done minute by minute in your body without you even knowing it. It is a very effective system, so effective in fact, that you can continue eating bad foods for years and years without even noticing a difference. Amazing, right?

But here’s where we get to the bad part...

About 85% of the phosphate ions that are used in your phosphate buffer system come from calcium phosphate salts, which are **structural components of your**

bones and teeth. So if your body fluids are regularly exposed to large quantities of acid-forming substances, your body will draw upon its calcium phosphate reserves to **neutralize** the acid-forming effects of your diet. (Just like throwing water on a fire). But these phosphate ions weren’t just extras lying around waiting to be used. They already had a place and a purpose! They helped keep your bones and teeth strong. So while you won’t notice anything right away, when you eat a diet high in acid-forming foods, over time it can weaken your bones and teeth resulting in cavities, loose and broken teeth, fractures, osteoporosis, etc.

Your increased risk of developing kidney stones

So while you consume these acid-forming foods and drinks, your body pulls out phosphate ions to neutralize the acid, and then they have to go somewhere. They can’t all stay in the body, so they are eliminated via the urinary system. But what happens when you’re ingesting too much and you’re eliminating all this excess calcium phosphate? That’s right, with all of this calcium being pulled from your bones and teeth and being processed through the urinary tract, it **substantially** increases your risk of developing calcium-rich **kidney stones.**

So based on only one

of these buffering systems, you can see how your diet plays a key role in the pH balance, and how taking in too many acid-forming foods, drinks, etc. can result in weaker bones and teeth and possibly even painful kidney stones.

Your buffering systems can be over-taxed

While these systems were put in place to safely maintain the pH at a healthy level, they weren’t intended to be sanitation workers that would continuously pick up as much trash as you can throw at them. This is just **one** example of how your buffering systems can be over-taxed to a point where you experience negative health consequences. Keep in mind that these systems already have to work constantly to neutralize the acids that are formed from everyday metabolic activities (the unchangeable ones we mentioned before), so the acid-forming foods you’re eating are only creating *more* work for your buffering systems, requiring *more* calcium (and

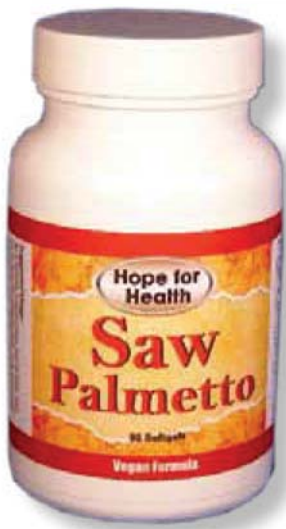
other nutrients) from your bones and body.

Unfortunately we’ve run out of time for today, but tune in next month for “Diet and Disease Part 2: Alkalize or Die” where we will give you a list of acid-forming foods versus alkalizing foods. If you want to change your diet and improve your health, give one of our health counselors a call at 309-343-5853. We can’t wait to help you on your path to better living!





Hope for Health



For many suffering with prostate problems, a major benefit of Saw Palmetto is that its effects are generally seen only shortly after beginning treatment. Some people report noticing a reduction in symptoms in as little as 30 days. This is an advantage over most of the currently available drugs which can take as long as 6 to 12 months for effects to be seen. In addition, Saw Palmetto is an herb which may stop or even reverse hair loss!

Saw Palmetto

BENEFITS:

- Reduces size of prostate. Reduces likelihood of prostate disorders/cancer.
- Helps in gaining "healthy" weight
- Improves digestion
- Promotes hair growth/regrowth (Both men AND women)
- Increases strength/stamina
- Balances hormone levels (Both men AND women)
- Improves fertility
- Reduces symptoms of sexual dysfunction

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Saw Palmetto For Prostate Disorders

Saw Palmetto appears to have efficacy [effectiveness] similar to that of medications like finasteride (Proscar), but it is better tolerated and less expensive. There are no known drug interactions with Saw Palmetto, and reported side effects are minor and rare. - *American Family Physician* 2003;67:1281-3.

Saw Palmetto is widely used in other countries; for example, it is used in 50 percent of treatments for BPH [Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia] in Italy and in 90 percent of such treatments in Germany. - *European Urology* 1992;21:309-14.

In one study, patients subjectively said that **Saw Palmetto** helped improve BPH symptoms. - 83 percent said it was effective after 45 days and 88 percent said it was effective after 90 days.

Saw Palmetto has proven similarly effective to the prescription drug Proscar (finasteride), but without side effects such as decreased libido, ejaculatory problems, and loss of erection.

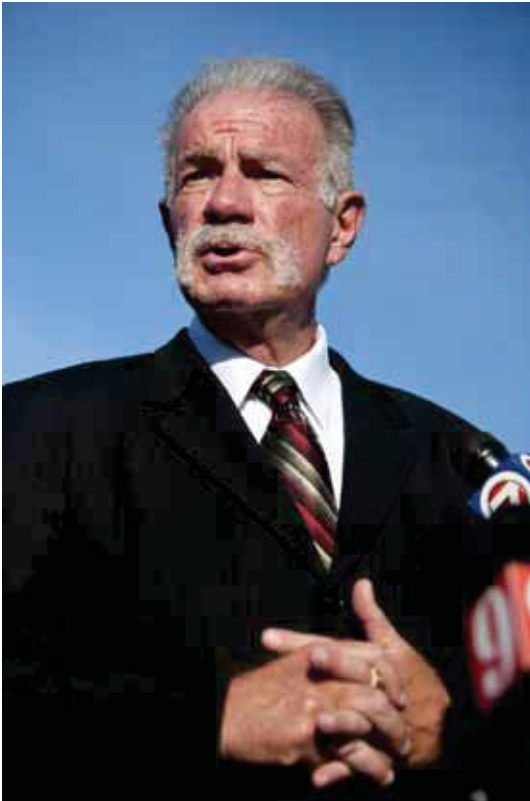
Saw Palmetto For Hair Loss

While **Saw Palmetto** is most recognized for improving prostate health, you may not know that it is also great for **preventing hair loss!** **Saw Palmetto** is beneficial for any adult (man OR woman) who suffers from this condition. Hair loss develops when the level of dihydrotestosterone (DHT) in the scalp is too high. DHT binds itself to the hair follicles, decreasing the amount of nutrients they can extract from blood. The follicles gradually shrink and the hair growing from them becomes thinner. If nothing is done to treat this condition, the hair disappears completely. To prevent and treat hair loss, the level of DHT in the body must be decreased. Prescription drugs for treating hair loss often have serious side effects, such as gynecomastia (abnormal breast enlargement in males) and even erectile dysfunction. **Saw Palmetto**, on the other hand, is a herbal DHT inhibitor. While it has a similar mechanism of action to Propecia, it does NOT cause side effects such as those associated with Propecia and other prescription drugs.

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

News Watch

worldwide
Shares Worthless
Crash!
Assets
Interest rates
liquidity
FORECAST



done in the land, and, above all, the sinless purity of his own character, aroused the bitter hatred of the 'whited sepulchers' who deceived the people by the appearance of great sanctity. Satan and evil angels united with evil men to destroy from the earth the champion of truth." ST Dec. 23, 1886.

"The Protest of Spires was a solemn witness against religious intolerance, and an assertion of the right of all men to worship according to the dictates of their own consciences." 4SP 162.

Editor's Note: Again in these last days, how easy it is for extremists who think they are right to attack another's religious views, or the person themselves—no matter what side they are on. Some of those opposed to Sabbath worship will be of the same ilk.

pointing has begun. Who really killed Europe? Page 8, by Niall Ferguson.

"You remember Agatha Christie's classic whodunit, *Murder on the Orient Express*? The problem for the great Belgian sleuth Hercule Poirot was that there were far too many suspects. The strange death of the European Union may prove to be a rather similar case. So used are we to hearing the process of European integration likened to an unstoppable train that we discount the idea it could ever stop in its tracks. Yet the reality is that Europe has been quietly disintegrating for some time.

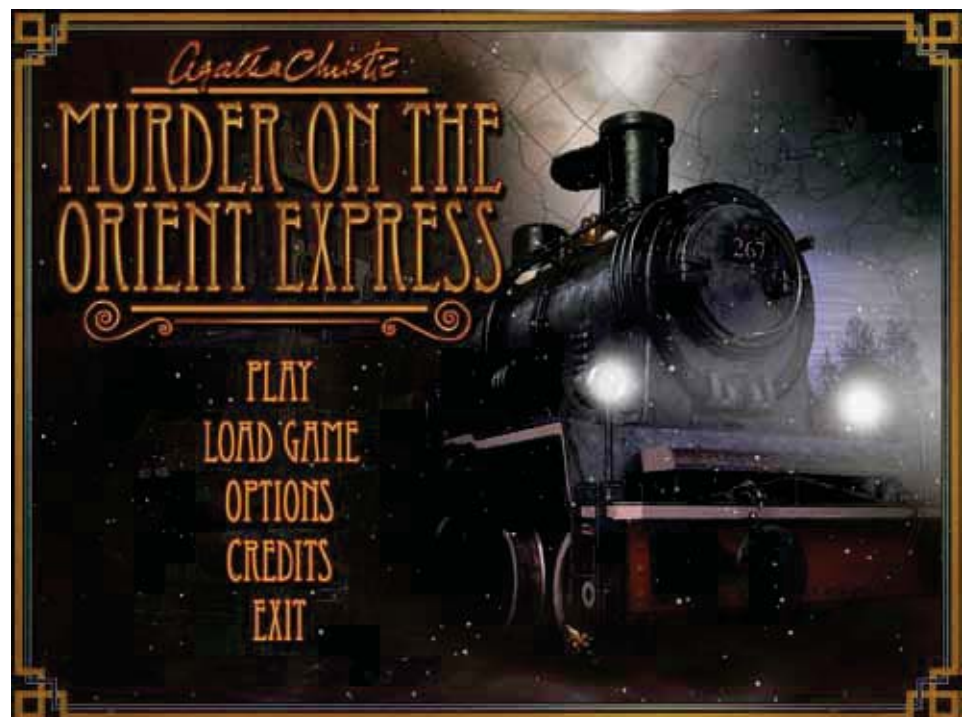
END TIME PERSPECTIVE: "And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as

1. Spiegel on Line, April 6, 2011—A CLASH OF EXTREMES—Pastor Terry Jones and the Claim to Absolute Truth, by Hasnain Kazim.

2. Newsweek, April 11, 2011—Murder on the EU Express—With the monetary union coming apart, the finger-

"Twenty people have died in the protests triggered by Pastor Terry Jones' burning of the Koran in March and more violence is likely. But both his action, and the reaction in the Muslim world share the same problematic roots: Claims to absolute truth have little place in the modern world."

END TIME PERSPECTIVE: "Our Saviour himself was a victim of religious intolerance. 'He came unto his own; but his own received him not.' Had he praised and exalted men, had he called corruption purity, and given license to human creeds by teaching for doctrines the commandments of men, they would have received him gladly. But his zeal for God, the righteous fervor with which he denounced every abomination that was



iron is not mixed with clay.' 'In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.'" PK 498.

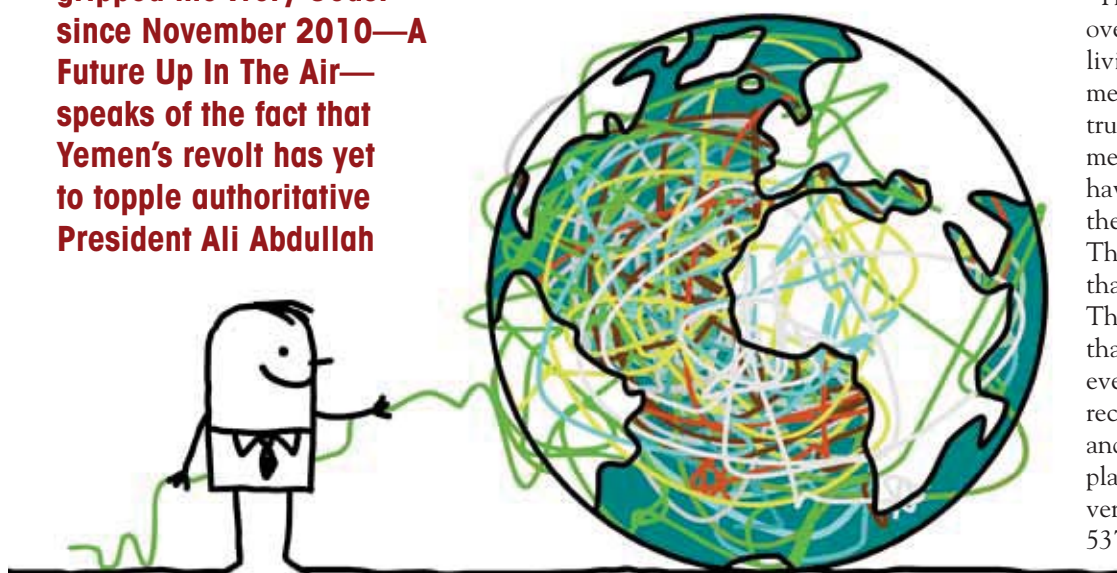
3. Newsweek, April 11, 2011—New Gallery, page 12 on—A Deadly Endgame—speaks of the violent standoff that has gripped the Ivory Coast since November 2010—A Future Up In The Air—speaks of the fact that Yemen's revolt has yet to topple authoritative President Ali Abdullah

Saleh among many deaths—The Dead Who Must Wait—speaks of Japan's massive earthquake and tsunami, and the continuing problems in Japan—The Republic of Fear speaks of protests in Syria and a vicious government crackdown—Why Sarkozy Went to

War—speaks of the French President and the hope of taking down Gaddafi of Libya—World news continues to escalate with war and rumors of war, as well as with earthquakes, floods, murders and political problems throughout the world.

END TIME PERSPECTIVE:

"The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place--that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis." PK 537.



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Hope for Health



Do you or someone you love suffer with diabetes? With the numbers constantly on the rise, chances are, the answer is yes. Unfortunately, most people suffer the normal course of the disease, taking drugs or increasing doses of insulin until it finally takes its natural course. Thankfully, we can help. Instead of maintaining and controlling the problem, why not try improving it? Our Pancreas Support actually helps improve the function of the pancreas to help reduce or eliminate symptoms of diabetes.

Pancreas Support

FACTS:

- Diabetes was the sixth leading cause of death listed on U.S. death certificates in 2003. According to death certificate reports, diabetes contributed to a total of 224,092 deaths. Since then, these numbers have only continued to rise.
- Diabetes is the leading cause of adult blindness in the United States and the single leading cause of kidney failure and non-traumatic amputation.

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Hope for Health's Pancreas Support Can Help:

- Lower blood sugar.
- Support healthy pancreatic function.
- Rejuvenate the digestive system.
- Improve circulation to hands and feet.
- Aid in treatment of all disorders of the pancreas, including pancreatic cancer.
- Promote detoxification of body from harmful pollutants.
- Provide naturally-occurring vitamins, minerals, and nutrients.
- Aid in weight loss.

Discover some of the benefits of the 17 extraordinary ingredients in Pancreas Support:

- **Bitter Melon** - An herb that helps regulate blood sugar levels and keeps body functions operating properly.
- **Nopal Cactus Leaves** - Lowers blood sugar levels by blocking absorption of sugar in the intestinal tract. Improves liver and pancreas function. Increases insulin production over time.
- **Huckleberry Fruit** - By supplying added oxygen to the blood, Huckleberry benefits all capillaries in the body and improves circulation to the hands and feet. Huckleberry is rich in fatty acids, bioflavonoids, iron, zinc, and phosphorus.
- **Glucosol** - Stabilizes blood glucose levels.
- **Lipase** - An enzyme required to break down fats and lipids.
- **Protease** - Helps break down protein so the body can use protein's building blocks (amino acids) more effectively.
- **Spirulina** - Studies show that spirulina may reduce fasting blood sugar levels. Also enhances immune function.
- **Bromelain** - By helping to regulate the digestive process, taking bromelain makes it possible for people with diabetes to more accurately estimate when to take insulin or other medications.
- **Papain** - Papain has a mild soothing effect on the stomach and is used as a digestive aid. Also has anti-inflammatory properties.
- **Vanadyl Sulfate** - Vanadyl sulfate drives glucose (glycogen) along with amino acids into muscle cells, which supports muscular growth and repair.
- **Biotin** - Breaks down carbohydrates and lowers blood sugar levels.
- **Chromium Picolinate** - Improves blood glucose metabolism.
- **GTF Chromium** - GTF Chromium is a trace mineral that plays an important role in regulating blood sugar levels. GTF works with insulin to transport glucose from the blood into the cells.
- **Amylase** - Improves postprandial* carbohydrate tolerance in people with low glucose tolerance.
- **Zinc Gluconate** - Studies show that individuals with diabetes have impaired intestinal zinc absorption and low plasma zinc levels. Zinc supplements have the potential to help individuals with hypoglycemia, impaired glucose tolerance (IGT), and diabetes.
- **Fenugreek Seed** - Has been used as an oral insulin substitute by helping control blood sugar levels. Contains a soluble fiber that helps to maintain healthy glucose metabolism and promote fullness. This type of fiber can slow the rate of postprandial* glucose absorption.
- **Blueberry Fruit** - Promotes digestion and weight loss! Removes toxic and radioactive waste from the body.

*Levels of glucose after a meal

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

Ellen White's *Vision*

WE MUST BE LOST, UNLESS GOD SHOULD DELIVER

“In 1846, while at Fairhaven, Massachusetts, my sister (who usually accompanied me at that time), Sister A., Brother G., and myself started in a sailboat to visit a family on West’s Island. It was almost night when we started. We had gone but a short distance when a storm suddenly arose. It thundered and lightened, and the rain came in torrents upon us. It seemed plain that we must be lost, unless God should deliver.

I was taken off in vision

I knelt down in the boat and began to cry to God to deliver us. And there upon the tossing billows, while the water washed over the top of the boat upon us, I was taken off in vision and saw that sooner would every drop of water in the ocean be dried up than we perish, for my work had but just begun. After I came out of the vision all my fears were gone, and we sang and praised God, and our little boat was to us a floating Bethel.

Soon the anchor held

The editor of The Advent Herald has said that my visions were known to be “the result of mesmeric operations”. But, I ask, what opportunity was there for mesmeric operations in such a time as that? Brother G. had more than he could well do to manage the boat. He tried to anchor, but the anchor dragged. Our little boat was tossed upon the waves and driven by the wind, while it was so dark that we could not see from one end of the boat to the other. Soon the anchor held, and Brother G. called for help.

Praise to God for His wonderful goodness

There were but two houses on the island, and it proved that we were near one of them, but not the one where we wished to go. All the family had retired to rest except a little child, who providentially heard the call for help upon the water. Her father soon came to our relief, and, in a small boat, took us to the shore. We spent the most of that night in thanksgiving and praise to God for His wonderful goodness unto us.” EW 23.



“The tenderness of God to His people, His unceasing care for them, the riches of the wisdom of the methods He has taken to lead them to Himself, demand our gratitude offerings expressed in most earnest devotion to serve Him with all humility of mind and contrition of soul. The Lord is gracious, and He would have His people represent His loving-kindness by acknowledgment in cheerful thanksgiving to God. All who appreciate the favors of God will be a happy people.”



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This is an excerpt from May 1st of the daily devotional:

THAT I MAY KNOW HIM

You may purchase this book and other devotionals at The Hope International Bookstore. You might consider having a devotional on your coffee or end table as a conversation starter, or keep one on the nightstand; it is a great blessing to think about the Lord just before you sleep!