



our firm
FOUNDATION

Volume 26, Number 9 • September 2011

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

COVER STORY:

THE TWO ROADS

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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.

In my last editorial I spoke of a lady who had left the Seventh-day Adventist Church years ago. She sent me a copy of a letter that she had sent to her faithful Seventh-day Adventist father back in 1975. As she sought to explain to him why she had left, she had the following paragraph in her letter:

“Dr. Ralph Kraft of the First Baptist Church of Los Altos (Conservative) was one of the ministers I sought out. I asked him, ‘Why don’t you keep the ten commandment Sabbath?’ He answered, ‘I don’t live by the ten

covenant. But he said he didn’t live by the 10 commandments. As a pastor, I would think he loved Jesus, but not enough to “live by the ten commandments”; for hasn’t Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commandments”?”

Another argument put forth by this lady is “it is a misnomer not found in Scripture to call the ten commandments ‘the law of God’. I began to see that throughout the Old Testament the ten commandments are always defined as the covenant of the testimony which is a token of

something greater.” She is now looking for any

If we go the devil's way, we can soon be hit by the devil's clever thinking, believing it is coming from God.

commandments.’ I looked at him as a sort of reprobate. I could never follow him! It was a long time before I could be thankful for that conference he had granted me.”

Apparently, she eventually came around to seeing why he thought the way he did. If we go the devil’s way, we can soon be hit by the devil’s clever thinking, believing it is coming from God.

Was this pastor saying that there were other gods before the Creator God, or that it was all right to have idols and worship them, or that he could take the name of the Lord in vain? I don’t think so, but it was a good way to avoid being responsible for the fourth commandment concerning the Sabbath.

I don’t imagine he would mistreat his father or his mother, or kill, or commit adultery, or lie, or steal or

way to avoid the law of God. She accuses Mrs. White of not using a Scripture definition of the Ten Commandments when she calls them the law.

Notice Psalm 19:7, “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.” Law and testimony are used in Hebrew parallelism, equating the two different terms.

In 1 John 3:4, what is John speaking of when he says, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” Is he, as a prophet, not referring to the violation of the 10 commandments? Notice also Proverbs 3:1 which again is Hebrew parallelism: “My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments.”

My point is, that if we are looking for a way out, Satan is always there to suggest something, and our mind will be easily taken in the wrong direction.

Notice also the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:17-19: “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” In Romans 13:10 we are told, “Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” This is speaking of the last 5 commandments.

Brothers and Sisters, I appeal to you, not only to pray for this lady and others who have left the beautiful truths of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but to not be deceived into thinking that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is not God’s last day church with Ellen White as the prophet of the last days. The very last deception of Satan is to make of none effect the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy.

“Men may get up scheme after scheme, and the enemy will seek to seduce souls from the truth, but all who believe that the Lord has spoken through Sister White, and has given her a message will be safe from the many delusions that will come in these last days.” 3 SM 83, 84.

Our Mission:

It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of *Our Firm Foundation* to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days remaining for this world are few, and we must work quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world. —Editor

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About Hope International:

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

Invitation to Writers

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

Subscription Information: See page 17 • Shipping & Sales Tax: See page 17

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The Bible Museum Opened

Repeatedly do we read in the Bible of the javelin or spear of King Saul: it is, of course, impossible for us to know whether it is the same identical weapon that is mentioned on each occasion; we may, however, take this for granted, as the mental eye rests upon this ancient weapon, once grasped in the hand of Israel's first monarch, the unhappy Saul.

saul's spear

On three occasions that iron barb would have been stained with innocent blood, had not the king in his blind fury missed his aim. As David, the hero-minstrel, sat playing before the king, the evil spirit came upon Saul, and, in a sudden paroxysm of jealous hatred, he attempted to smite David to the wall. But the

intended victim evaded the blow, and escaped the fury of the king.

David narrowly escaped with his life

After this proof of the malice and hatred of Saul, it is a sign of the trustfulness of David's character that we find him again attempting to soothe with music the deep melancholy of the king. Once more David narrowly escaped with his life from the javelin, which, aimed at his body, struck the wall by which he had been placed.

Many events had occurred between Saul's two attempts upon the life of David. The son of Jesse had distinguished himself in fight against the Philistines; he had won the hand, as he had gained the affections of Michal, daughter of the king; Jonathan had by his influence induced Saul to swear that David's life should be safe in his hands; yet that javelin was again raised by the furious tyrant against his faithful subject, the beloved husband of his child.

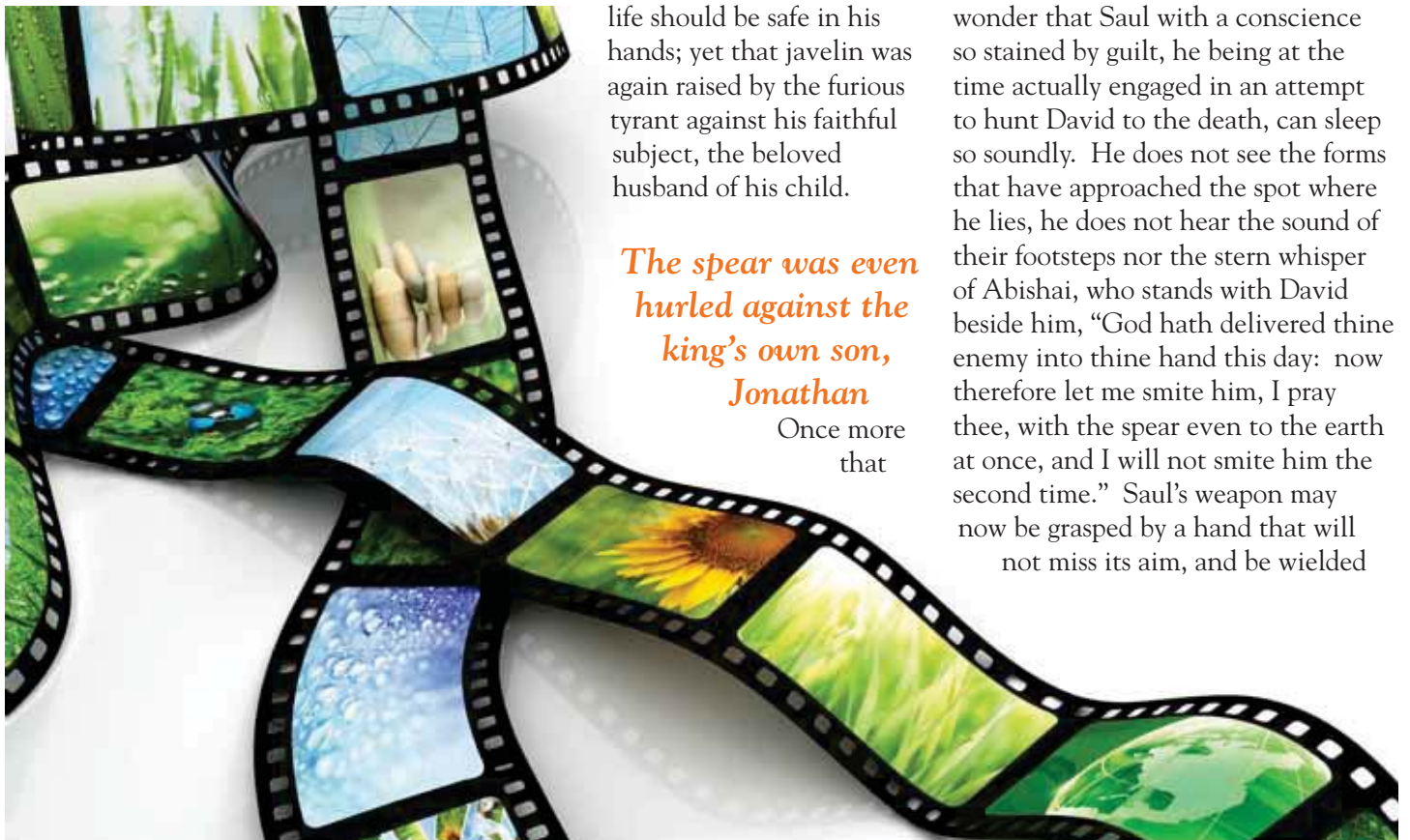
The spear was even hurled against the king's own son, Jonathan

Once more that

weapon was hurled by the king, and with yet more unnatural cruelty, this time against his own son, the noble Jonathan, whose crime in the eyes of his father was fidelity to his friend. Never had Saul more cause to thank God for undeserved mercy than when he received back that javelin unstained, not wrenched from the corpse of a murdered son. It was as though the weapon refused to be the instrument of unnatural crime.

Surely the hour of vengeance is come!

The last occasion on which we hear of the spear of Saul is one of singular interest. Before us rises the hill of Hachilah, with the dark shroud of night around it, where Saul the king and his chosen thousands lie stretched in deepest sleep. The spear of the slumbering monarch is stuck into the ground close to his pillow. We almost wonder that Saul with a conscience so stained by guilt, he being at the time actually engaged in an attempt to hunt David to the death, can sleep so soundly. He does not see the forms that have approached the spot where he lies, he does not hear the sound of their footsteps nor the stern whisper of Abishai, who stands with David beside him, "God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time." Saul's weapon may now be grasped by a hand that will not miss its aim, and be wielded





with a deadly force that shall make no second blow needful. Surely the hour of vengeance is come! It is but just retribution that he who has thrice attempted murder with a javelin should by a javelin be smitten to the earth.

David spares his enemy and reverences his king

So human nature might reason, so human resentment would urge; yet David spares his enemy and reverences his king. "The Lord forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the Lord's anointed!" David only takes the spear and cruse of water from the bolster of the king, and bears them away as tokens that his foe has been in his power, but that he has abstained from injuring one who has inflicted the most deadly wrongs upon him.

A residue of malice left in the heart embitters the spirit

As forgiveness is one of the most difficult of all graces to exercise, and yet is indispensable to the Christian, it is well for us all, as in the sight of God, to search and try our hearts as regards our feeling towards those who have offered us injury or insult. We may take it for granted that no real Christian will deliberately seek revenge, and that there are few who habitually use the petition, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us", who will actually refuse pardon if entreated. But I fear that we shall find that when the first ebullition of anger has boiled over, and all appears quiet again there is a residue of malice left behind in many a heart that is no stranger to the fear of the Lord. "I forgive, but I cannot forget", is a very common expression,

and we may generally infer from it that dregs of ill-will remain, readily stirred up to embitter the spirit, and often to colour the language and conduct.

Have you, dear reader, suffered wrong?

There are few who have not something to forgive, few whose comfort has not been assailed by the selfishness or envy of another. Have you, dear reader, suffered wrong? Perhaps you may reply, "grievous wrong"; but calmly weigh what you have borne from the malice of men with what David had to endure; with that spear before you as a reminder, think on what he could suffer, and yet so forgive that not only did he twice spare his enemy when in his power, but he poured forth a touching elegy to his honour, in which not one of the errors of Saul was mentioned, not one of his own wrongs recalled.

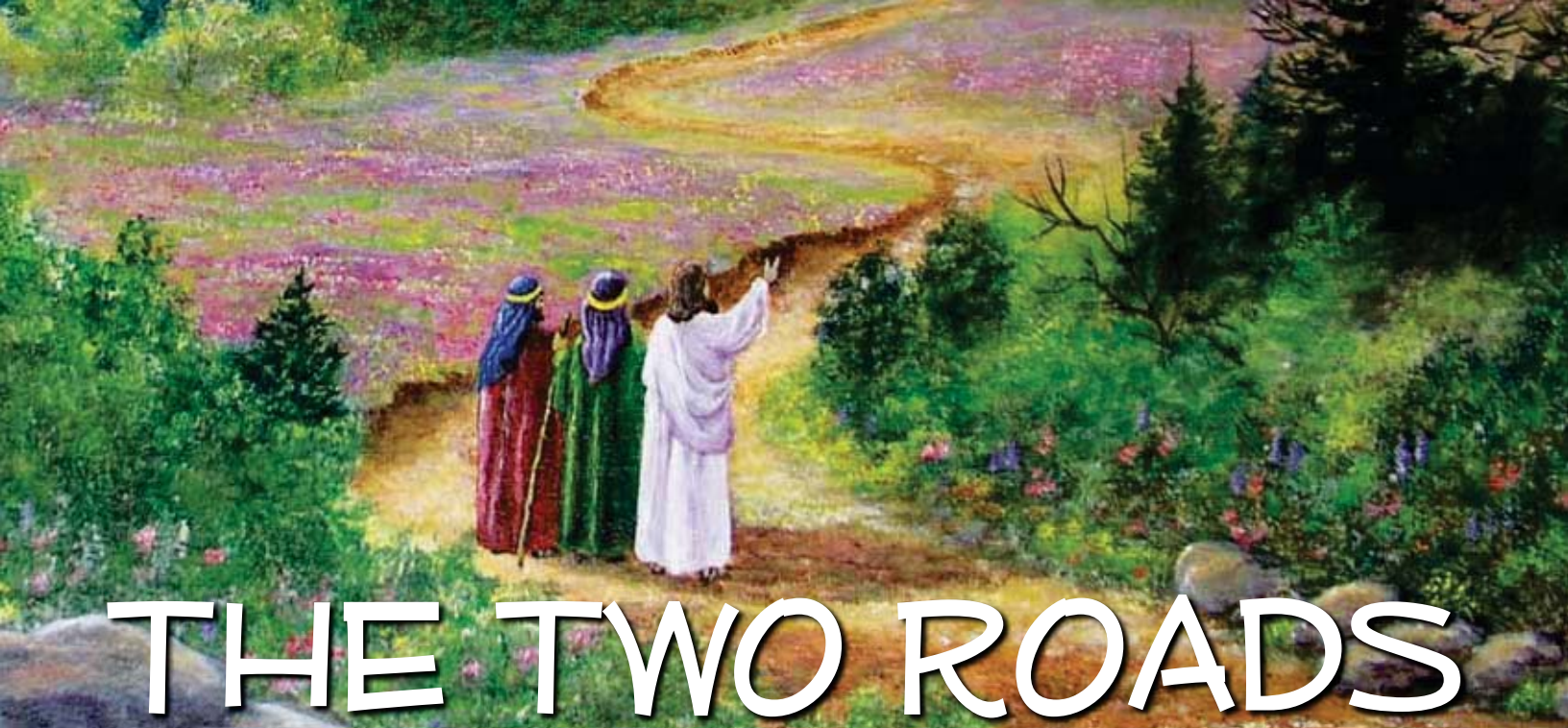
If David could forgive even Saul, can we not forgive?

When we receive injury it is usually in our prospects, our peace, or our character; how was it with David? The man to whom he had rendered most essential services sought to ruin him, to blacken his fame; again and again Saul attempted his life; the king drove David from his home, hunted him like a partridge on the mountains, slew those who had shown him kindness, and wounded him most cruelly in his affections by giving his wife to another! Beside such a mountain of accumulated wrongs, how small and trivial appear the injuries which we may have had to sustain! If David, who had never heard the command breathed from the lips of Him who Himself

prayed for His murderers, "Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you", if David could forgive even Saul, how can any Christian make excuse for harbouring resentment against any whom he thinks have done him a wrong!

No wrong but will prove a blessing, save a wrong we will not forgive

If we look beyond second causes to the one first cause, the ordering of Him who maketh all things work together for good to them that love Him, we shall see that no enemy can injure us, unless by drawing us into sin; that no wrong but will prove a blessing, save a wrong which we will not forgive. If our enemy seem to mar our worldly prospects, he is as the thorny hedge planted by God to keep us from wandering out of the strait path which leads through the valley of humiliation. If by a thousand petty acts of unkindness he try our temper and mar our peace, he is the file in the hand of Him who maketh the wrath of man to praise Him; a file whose roughness is to shape, polish, and prepare the living stones for God's temple. If our enemy assail our character, then is his malice the cross which God bids us carry after the Saviour, who, though without spot or taint of sin, was accused of many things, condemned, and led forth as a malefactor. Those who, through God's grace, can forgive freely as they themselves ask to be forgiven, will find at length that the thorny hedge will blossom into fragrance and beauty, the file prove but an instrument of good, the cross bring them more close unto Him in whose favour is life, peace and joy!



THE TWO ROADS

By Clark Floyd

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS JESUS SHARED HIS PLAN WITH TWO DISCIPLES

“Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.” John 13:19. Jesus has used prophecy to help us to know that He is God, and that He was the Messiah long expected of the Jews. “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7.

As He neared the end of His ministry here on earth, Jesus hoped to make His coming crucifixion more palatable for His disciples. When He was again come to the coasts of Caesarea Philippi “began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and the chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.” Matt. 16:4. But the disciples and “Peter did not desire to see the cross in the work of Christ.” DA 415.

As the women came to anoint the body of Jesus “as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week” (Matt 28:1), they were told “He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.” Matt. 28:6.

It is clear from Scripture that Jesus arose with a plan in His mind to help prepare the young church, not only in their own understanding, but also in their future evangelism. He first opened that plan to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, a village about seven miles from Jerusalem. Can you picture what took place on that road as Jesus, “beginning at Moses and all the prophets, expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself?” Luke 24:27. Then later that evening He met with several other disciples, and “opened he their understanding that they might understand the Scriptures.” Luke 24:45.

IN SPITE OF JESUS' WARNINGS, THE DISCIPLES WERE UNPREPARED WHEN THE TIME OF TRIAL CAME

And again, after the transfiguration “while they abode in Galilee Jesus said unto them, the Son of Man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: and they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.” Matt. 17:22.

The disciples “could not tolerate the thought that He in whom all their hopes centered should suffer an ignominious death. The words which they needed to remember were banished from their minds; and when the time of trial came, it found them unprepared. The death of Jesus as fully destroyed their hopes as if He had not forewarned them.” GC 594.

PROPHECY WAS THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE SCRIPTURES

Jesus had tried to tell them before His death, but they couldn't understand. But after His death and resurrection, the Scriptures began to make sense. The disciples could now see them as a powerful tool for winning converts. And remember, they only had the Old Testament Scriptures. But now, even their sanctuary service took on a whole new meaning to them. No wonder their hearts began to burn within them. Now they could



see the purpose in His life, death and resurrection, as well as His heavenly ministry. Prophecy was the key.

ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS SAUL ENCOUNTERED THE LORD

Many years after the encounter on the road to Emmaus, came a different encounter on another road. Both encounters are described by the same disciple, Dr. Luke—the first in his gospel, the second in the Book of Acts. On this second road, the road to Damascus, we find “Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord.” Acts 9:1.

“And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.” Acts 9:3-5.

And Saul was soon after “filled with the Holy Ghost”. Acts 9:17. Can you imagine the Scripture that was shared with the new “Paul”, as he was prepared to become one of the greatest apostles of all time? Again, prophecy most likely became the key.

AFTER HIS CONVERSION, PAUL EVANGELIZED BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES

We do not know for sure when Paul was converted on the road to Damascus, but it was some time after the stoning of Stephen, which occurred in 34 AD, 3 ½ years after the crucifixion. The Gospel of Luke was written between 58 and 63 AD, while the book of Acts was written about 63 AD. (See The Bible Almanac, It Is Written, Heritage Edition, page 599.)

The first letters that Paul wrote were to the Thessalonians around 51 to 52 AD. He had been to Thessalonica and had been involved in evangelism there winning both Jews and Gentiles. Thessalonica was not only the capital of the Roman province of Macedonia, but was a prominent seaport. It was within sight of Mount Olympus. It was named after the half sister of Alexander the Great. It supported, at the time of Paul, a



population of 200,000 people. Both Jews and Gentiles lived there.

PAUL WROTE FIRST AND SECOND THESSALONIANS AFTER HIS EVANGELISTIC EFFORTS IN THE CITY OF THESSALONICA

His letters—First and Second Thessalonians—were written after his evangelistic endeavors to encourage the people of that city. The letters are revealing as to what he spoke to the people about. Of course his main topic was Jesus, but from the first letter you can tell that there were questions that came up in regard to the relatives and friends that had died. What would happen to the converted ones whom were passed on? The answer that Paul gave in his first letter may not only have caused some confusion, but may have also opened the way to bring in false doctrine.

PAUL ENDEAVORED TO INSTRUCT THE NEW BELIEVERS ON THE STATE OF THE DEAD

In the fourth chapter of First Thessalonians, beginning

with verse 13, we read, “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have not hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself

shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” 1Thes. 4:13-18.



SOME WERE MISLED BY PAUL'S WRITINGS

Without having the context of Paul's evangelistic sermon available, some could use these words of the first letter to make it sound like Jesus would come again while they were

still alive—and some were saying that He would. Paul had to write his second letter soon after the first to remove this misleading or misunderstanding. Some had even quit work saying that Jesus was coming soon.

And notice Second Thessalonians, chapter 3, verses 10-12, “For even we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.”

MORE CLARIFICATION WAS DELIVERED IN SECOND THESSALONIANS

And Paul in chapter 2, verse 2 of Second Thessalonians sought to clarify things even more, “Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit or by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.”

In other words, do not believe that Jesus is coming soon. And Paul explains: “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.” (Verses 3 & 4).

And then Paul reminds them: “Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things.” (Verse 5). And he repeats more of what he has before told them. “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.” (Verse 7).



identified as the son of perdition can come into authority there is another power that must first be removed. And all this has to happen before Jesus comes again. (The only other time the term “son of perdition” is used in the Bible is in reference to Judas, one who walked among Jesus’ own disciples. So this new son of perdition would apparently arise among the Christian Church.)

Paul may, very likely, have used the Book of Daniel in his evangelistic meetings with these Thessalonians. Daniel 2 could have been used to show how prophecy had been fulfilled in the nations of Babylon, Meda Persia, Greece and finally Rome. And Daniel 7, verses 7 & 8, could have been used to show the little horn power that Paul now referred to as the man of sin. And at the end of each of these prophecies, Daniel 2 and 7, Paul had most likely shown the coming of the Son of Man—Jesus.

THE TWO ROADS PROVED TO BE A TRAINING GROUND FOR THE DISCIPLES

Paul was careful to mention some things only orally. He would not put it in writing that the Roman power needed



to first be removed before the man of sin could come into control. To predict the end of the Roman Empire would bring more persecution upon Paul and the other Christians of his day.

But again the point is that Paul, and most likely the other disciples, used prophecy as they preached the gospel in each of the areas to which they went. Paul and the other first disciples had their evangelistic training in the prophecies first on the two roads—the Road to Emmaus and the Road to Damascus, and soon others learned from them.

“Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.” John 13:19. For a second witness, see John 14:29.

PAUL COULD HAVE USED THE BOOK OF DANIEL IN HIS EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS

What is Paul saying? He is indicating that before the power



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LINES ON A SKELETON

Some 160 years ago the following poem was found in the London Morning Chronicle. Every effort was vainly made to discover the author, even to the offering of a reward of fifty guineas. All that ever transpired was that the poem, in a fairly clerkly hand, was found near a skeleton of remarkable symmetry of form in the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn, London, and that the curator of the museum had sent it to the Morning Chronicle.

Behold this ruin! 'Twas a skull
Once of ethereal spirit full.
This narrow cell was life's retreat;
This space was thought's mysterious seat.
What beauteous visions filled this spot,
What dreams of pleasure long forgot!
Not hope, nor joy, nor love, nor fear,
Have left one trace of record here.

Beneath this moldering canopy
Once showed the bright and busy eye;
But start not at the dismal void—
If social love that eye employed,
If with no lawless fire it gleamed,
But through the dews of kindness beamed,
That eye may be forever bright
When stars and sun are sunk in night.

Within this hollow cavern hung
The ready, swift, and toneful tongue.
If falsehood's honey it disdained,
And when it could not praise was chained,
If bold in virtue's cause it spoke,
Yet gentle concord never broke,
This silent tongue shall plead for thee
What time unveils eternity.

Say, did these fingers delve the mine,
Or with the envied rubies shine?
To hew the rock or wear the gem
Can little now avail to them.
But if the page of truth they sought
Or comfort in the morning brought,
These hands a richer meed shall claim
Than all that wait on wealth or fame.

Avails it, whether bare or shod,
These feet the paths of duty trod?
If from the bowers of ease they fled,
To seek affliction's humble shed,
If grandeur's guilty bribe they spurned,
And home to virtue's cot returned,
These feet with angel's wings shall vie,
And tread the palace of the sky.



HOW TO GAIN SUCCESS IN CHRIST'S SERVICE

By Mrs. E. G. White

It is not learned, eloquent workers that are needed now, but humble, Christlike men and women, who have learned from Jesus of Nazareth to be meek and lowly, and who, trusting in His strength, will go forth into the highways and hedges to give the invitation, "Come; for all things are now ready."

The burden that we bear for Christ's sake, the willingness of our service, the completeness of our surrender,—this is the measure of our love for Him, and of our success in service.

MANY NEGLECT THE DAILY DUTIES OF LIFE

Many Christians are working at cross purposes with God. They tell us that they are waiting for some great work to come to them. They neglect the daily duties of life. These seem to

them to be uninteresting and unimportant. They long restlessly for a large place. Day by day they lose opportunities to show their faithfulness to God. While waiting for some great work, their life passes away.

THERE ARE NO NON- ESSENTIALS IN GOD'S PLAN FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN

Do not fail to discharge your daily duties with the strictest fidelity. In the plan that God has for every Christian, there are no non-essentials. There are lessons for each one to learn in the daily experience. Be patient, and perform faithfully the work given you, however humble it be. Go about your work calmly, relying upon God for strength. Look not anxiously into the morrow. Today employ your time to the very best account.

Today let your light shine for Christ, even in the performance of little duties. Tomorrow again present yourself to Jesus as one ready to do any work, be it ever so humble. The faithful performance of today's duties will prepare you to take hold of tomorrow's work with fresh courage, saying, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped me." Ever stand as minute men

before God. Let the prayer of your heart be, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? Imbue me with Thy Spirit; strengthen me for Thy Work." Thus you will grow up to the full stature of men and women in Christ.

THE SAME LAW OF SERVICE IS WRITTEN UPON ALL THINGS IN NATURE

In order to do successful work for the Lord, we must be willing to do and to suffer cheerfully for His sake. Selfishness is death. No organ of the body could live, should it confine its service to itself. The heart, failing to send its life-blood to the hand and the head, would quickly lose its power. We are members one of another, and the soul that refuses to impart will perish.

Christ came to this earth "as He that serveth". The angels are "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation". The same law of service is written upon all things in nature. The birds of the air, the beasts of the field, the trees of the forest, the leaves, the grass, and the flowers, the sun in the heavens, and the stars of light,—all have their ministry. Lake and ocean, river and water-spring,—each takes to give.

PRAYER BRINGS POWER AND IS THE BREATH OF THE SOUL

Much prayer is necessary to successful effort. Prayer brings





power. Prayer has “subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, . . . turned to flight the armies of the aliens”.

Prayer is the breath of the soul. Jesus lived in dependence upon God and communion with Him. To the secret place of the Most High, under the shadow of the Almighty, men now and then repair; they abide for a season, and the result is manifest in noble deeds; then their faith fails, the communion is interrupted, and the life-work marred. But the life of Jesus was a life of constant trust, sustained by continual communion; and His service for heaven and earth was without failure or faltering.

THE WEARY WILL BE REFRESHED IF THEY WAIT UPON GOD

Many, even in their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the blessing of real communion with God. They are in too great haste.

With hurried steps they press through the circle of Christ’s loving presence, pausing perhaps a moment within the sacred precincts, but not

waiting for counsel. They have no time to remain with the divine Teacher. With their burdens they return to their work.

These workers can never attain the highest success until they learn the secret of strength. They must give themselves time to think, to pray, to wait upon God for a renewal of physical, mental, and spiritual

power. They need the uplifting of His Spirit. Receiving this, they will be quickened by fresh life. The wearied frame and tired brain will be refreshed; the burdened heart will be rested.

SATAN FINDS US EASY PREY WHEN WE FAIL TO STUDY SCRIPTURE

The Christian worker must study the Word of God. How many are surprised into the commission of sin because of a failure to study the Scriptures. They were off their guard, and Satan found them an easy prey. The psalmist declares, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.”

And in Paul’s letter to Timothy we read, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of



God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

THE BIBLE IS OUR ONLY SOURCE OF POWER

The life of God, that gives life to the world, is in His word. It was by His word that Jesus healed disease and cast out demons. And by His word He stilled the sea and raised the dead; and the people bore witness that His word was with power. He spoke the word of God, as He had spoken it to all the [prophets and teachers of the] Old Testament. The whole Bible is a manifestation of Christ. It is our only source of power.

THE WORD OF GOD IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

As our physical life is sustained by food, so our spiritual life is sustained by the Word of God. And every soul is to receive life from God’s Word for himself. As we must eat for ourselves in order to receive nourishment, so we must receive the Word for ourselves. Yes, the Word of God is the bread of life. Those who receive and assimilate this Word, making it a part of every action, of every attribute of character, will grow strong in the strength of God. It gives immortal vigor to the soul, perfecting the experience, and bringing joys that will abide forever.

ST, February 3, 1904



Ellen G. White, 1827–1915, received the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the fruits of her life and work accord with the biblical

tests of a true messenger of God. To this day, her counsels are an incalculable blessing to God’s people around the world.

The Woman in the Ephah

By Joe Olson

“Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth. And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth. And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah. And he said, This is wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof. Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven. Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.”
Zech. 5:5.

What is this "ephah"?

Now, at first glance, this vision might appear hard to understand. But as we begin to

look at each aspect of this vision, I think it will become as apparent as Jesus' parable about the sower and the seed that at first did not make sense to the disciples. First of all, an ephah is a basket about the size of a bushel. Zechariah sees an ephah, or a bushel basket that is “going forth” or traveling all over the place. Where this basket goes forth is evident in verse six: “...through all the earth.” So Zechariah sees this ephah, or bushel basket, flying around in the sky and is told that it goes everywhere.

The ephah was a very common symbol

Now this symbol, this bushel basket is a very common container that everyone had and was used by everyone everywhere in an agrarian, or farming society. It's so common a measuring device that we still use it today. Farmers right now use the bushel measurement as a means of

selling and buying. This was not some scary beast or some weird symbolism that one had never seen or heard of before. No, this was as common a figure as the Lord could have used. And this is the point. When Zechariah sees this bushel basket, it would not have raised any particular alarm or concern, other than the fact that it was flying about. Everyone had them; everyone was familiar with them; everyone used them.

As a matter of fact, it was so common that when Zechariah saw it, he assumed it was something else, because he asked what it was. And so the angel told him what it was... it was a bushel basket... an ephah. And the angel said, “This is their resemblance though all the earth.” In other words, this is what they look like everywhere. Common, innocuous baskets appear all around us and seem to be nothing but things we are completely familiar with and used to.

The lid of the ephah weighed a talent

But now we are introduced to something that was not common... There is a lid, or a cover on the basket that weighs a talent. A Biblical talent weighs between 75 and 100 pounds, depending upon whom you ask. This was the heaviest weight there was in Jewish measurements. And the lid is made of lead, or the heaviest metal



there was. So, the cover over this basket is the heaviest material of the largest weight measurement that could be used. The inference would be that whatever is in this basket is not to be let out. You don't use a cover like that unless you are very concerned that whatever you are trying to keep in your basket might get out. You might as well put a sign on the basket that says, "Don't open this." The basket was very normal and expected, but this ridiculously heavy cover is out of the ordinary. A normal person would immediately be curious about what one might store in a basket with a cover like that.

A woman is inside this bushel basket

Zechariah is a normal person. This has Zechariah's rapt attention... and it is supposed to have ours as well. Collectively, let's peer into what Zechariah is going to look at. As the basket is lowered to where Zechariah can see inside, the lead basket cover is raised and Zechariah peeks inside. To his, and our, astonishment he sees a woman. Now remember, this is a vision of symbols. Generally, a woman does not fit inside a bushel basket. Imagine the questions that would come to mind. Imagine the concern for this captive woman who

is being held inside. Normally, one would expect to find grain or some kind of produce or something similar inside the basket. A woman would be the last thing you'd think you might see.



In prophetic symbolism a woman is a good or bad church

What does this mean?! In the Bible, a woman in prophetic symbolism usually represents good or evil. A good church or an evil church; a good wife or an evil wife; a pure woman or an impure woman. In other words... good or bad. Here are a couple of references from the most prophetic book in the Bible: "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:" This would be a pure woman, or a symbol of good. Rev. 12:1.

"So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:" Rev. 17:3, 4. This would be an impure woman, or a symbol of evil.

The basket held within it wickedness that needed to be contained

So, as Zechariah is gazing at this woman, he wonders what she is, or represents. The angel leaves no room for doubt... "And he said, This is wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the



weight of lead upon the mouth thereof." Zech. 5:8. Whoa! This was rather abrupt and unexpected! This benign, seemingly harmless bushel basket that everyone knew and had, held something terrible inside. Wickedness! And apparently, according to the vision, there are

these baskets that seem harmless and normal, but with deadly wickedness... everywhere!

As soon as the lid is opened and Zechariah can see inside, the angel explains to him what the symbol of the woman meant, and then the Bible says that he, the angel, cast "it" into the midst of the ephah. Many Bible translations say, the angel cast "her" into the midst of the ephah or bushel basket. Whether the angel cast "her", the woman, or "it", wickedness, the meaning is the same... the evil represented here needed to be contained.

We have to keep wickedness down

And it is interesting too that the angel needed to "cast" the woman back inside, as if she were trying to get out. That symbolism is also not to be lost on us. Whenever we open the way for sin to get out or for wickedness to appear, we have to shut it as quickly as possible before some damage is done. We have to keep wickedness down. Like Paul said about his body... "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." 1 Cor. 9:27. He kept his body, or his bodily wants, under

subjection because he did not want to be a castaway, or left outside of heaven. He knew that wickedness could show its ugly head at any time and try to come out of him if he was not careful.

Sin is always lurking around

Now, we must keep in context what God was revealing to Zechariah and the people in Zechariah's visions. In Zechariah's vision about the flying roll, or scroll, God was reminding the people that the law was in no way removed from their lives, just because they had been away from its rule for the last 70 years of Babylonian captivity. They are free now and they need a reminder that wickedness, or sin, will still try to get out and dominate them, and they have to keep it contained. The Israelites had finally come to the point, at least a remnant of them, where they recognized that sin had caused all of their problems. They repented and wanted to come back to God. This was the goal of the 70-year captivity. It took a really long time for the people to get it. Now they have, and they are free... but not free to go back to their own ways. Well, in reality they were, and always are, free to go back to their old ways, but God is trying to convey that the same thing will result again if that is the choice they make.

We need to HURL sin away from us

God was revealing in this vision that sin is always around. Sin was lurking in, under and behind the most common things of life. One did not have to go many miles to find sin. It was in our very midst, and we had to keep a watchful eye to keep it contained. Sin is always trying to get out and we need to be ever vigilant, so we do not get overcome by the "Babylonian" enemy and get taken away from our home. God was saying, "Keep the wickedness contained!"



I find it interesting, in this symbolic picture, that the angel "cast" the woman back into the ephah and "cast" the lid back on the basket. The Hebrew word for "cast" is "shaw-lak" and means literally to cast or throw down or hurl. The emphasis here is *not* to gently set sin down and make sure it is not harmed in any way. We need to CAST sin away from us. We need to THROW sin as far away as possible. We need to HURL it out of us and away from us that it might not have an effect upon us. And then we need to contain it tightly and resolutely.

Sin does not always appear sinful

Have you ever heard someone say, "Put a lid on it!?" They got that from the angel here in Zechariah. What do they mean when they say that? They



want you to discontinue whatever you are doing. They want you to stop immediately. Whatever you are doing is bad and they want it ended. "Put a 75 to 100 pound weight on it!" "Put a really, really heavy lid on it!" Why something heavy? So it... whatever it is... cannot come out again.

This is what this vision is saying. "You see this basket?" "It has sin in it." "Be careful because sin does not always appear sinful." Let me say that again... Sin does not always appear sinful! This is how the devil deceives us. He does not usually come at us directly, saying, "I am the devil and I am here to tempt you to sin." Remember Adam and Eve? The devil used something ordinary to tempt the holy pair. Adam and Eve had seen serpents before. There was nothing unusual about a serpent in a tree. This was their "sin in a basket".

Watch out For the ephah!

Remember when Peter tried to get Jesus to forget about going to Jerusalem? "But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." Matt. 16:23. This is extremely important! Sometimes the "sin in the basket" is a person! Let me repeat that, too... sometimes... the "sin in the basket" is a person! And notice how Jesus put a lid on it.

We need to ever keep in mind that the devil will come at us in a thousand disguises and through a thousand different ways and through a thousand different people. Satan won't be so obvious as to come at us directly. We are to recognize sin and immediately put a lid on it... or him. But it is the basket... the ephah we need to be watchful for.

Satan always has to use new methods to ensnare us

This vision was also for anyone who has come to Christ, as the Jews were attempting to do. Whether you are coming for the first time, or you are returning after a life of living in Babylon, the message is the same. The devil will not give up on you. The devil will not walk away. The devil will never, ever quit trying to tempt you. He just has to change his methods a little bit. Before, when we lived in Babylon, he could just come up in the form of whatever sin captivated us, and we would gladly partake. After all, we lived in Babylon. Now we have seen what sin does to us. Now we say “no” to sin... at least the obvious ones. Now he has to try a new method to ensnare us. So, he uses the disguise... of the ephah. And the basket will be whatever item or thing or person that seems “normal” to us, so hopefully, we will be taken off guard.

The devil is furious when we come out of Babylon

Do you see how beautiful this analogy is that God gave to Zechariah? “Be careful,” God is saying “because now the devil is really mad

and is going to come at you in a different form.” “... Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath...” Rev. 12:12. Whenever anyone comes out of Babylon, or back from Babylon, the devil is furious. While you

are in Babylon, he owns you and has nothing to fear, but when you decide to leave Babylon, he loses his mind and in furious anger he will come at you with everything he’s got. But remember... not head on, at least not usually. No, he will be more subtle,

because he knows you will recognize him too easily otherwise. But if we are vigilant, if we keep on the lookout, we will see through his deceptive arts and as soon as we do... we can cast or throw or hurl him back into his basket and throw the heavy, lead lid on him.

The Samaritans were "sin in the basket" for the Jews

This vision was given to Zechariah to give to the people because the devil was coming at the Jews through the Samaritans. The Samaritans were their “sin in the basket”. You see, while the Jews were rebuilding, they were offered help. “Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel; Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither.” Ezra 4:1, 2.



What better way to tempt the people than by offering to help?

Remember me saying in a previous message how hard and difficult the task of rebuilding was? Well, what



better way to tempt the people than by offering them a little assistance? The “adversaries” here were Samaritans and they used to be Jews. The Samaritans came from the ten northern tribes of Israel years ago. The Samaritans still believed in God... at least kind of. Remember the conversation Jesus had with the Samaritan woman at the well? She said to Him that her forbears worshipped God... “Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.” John 4:20. The Samaritans even believed in the coming of Christ! “The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.” John 4:25. But Jesus told her point blank that the Samaritans were wrong! “Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.” John 4:22.

What could be the harm in this fine-looking ephah?

The Samaritans had become corrupted in their understanding of God and Christ. They had apostatized, yet had not completely given up their religious ideas and practices. And they wanted to help in the building process of the temple. Who could refuse some much-needed help? What could be the harm in this fine-looking ephah? After all, they want to help you in your religious endeavors!

And if they work with you and help you, they might even be converted and follow the true God the true

way again. What beautiful ephahs they were. Just regular, everyday, common bushel baskets.

But... with dangerous, deceptive, spiritual life-threatening wickedness inside! This is one of the most fearful and spiritually fatal devices of the devil. And thank God the Jews saw through it.

As much as they needed help and as much as they needed friends, they recognized and realized that to admit into their confidence and trust people who were not truly converted, would be a snare to them. They had just come out of the world! The last thing they needed was a bunch of worldlings to associate with. It is almost guaranteed that the faithless will bring the faithful down. It is a rarity indeed that the worldling and the Christian who fellowship together will result in the worldling becoming a Christian. It is almost always the other way around. If you accept Christ, you HAVE to get away from the influences that tend to take you away from Christ and not closer to Him. Those who do not love Jesus Christ and do not live to serve Him are ephahs!

Who among us would keep a basket of snakes in the house?

They are lovely, well-made, and even useful baskets... but they have wickedness inside! We must keep the lid on them! Who among us would keep a basket of snakes in the house, even with a good, tight fitting, heavy lid on it? Why take the chance that the snakes might get out? No, better to remove the basket of wickedness than keep it around and take the



chance that something might happen.

It might have seemed like a good idea to accept help from whomever wanted to lend a hand, but not if it means that you might be led back into the sins that caused your problems in the first place. We must recognize sin and call it by its right name!

Otherwise, it just begins to seem like harmless, everyday baskets again, and we will be taken off in transgression... again.

Yet there is more to the vision...

“Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven. Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.” Zech. 5:9-11.

Zechariah sees two women, with large wings, lift up the ephah and take it away. Interestingly, Zechariah does not ask the angel who the women are. What he does want to know is where they are taking the basket with the evil woman

inside. And the angel answers his question. They are taking the basket of wickedness to the “land of Shinar.”

Where, or what is the land of Shinar?

“And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.” Gen. 10:10. In the land of Shinar was the kingdom of Babel, or Babylon! “In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar...” Dan. 1:1, 2.

There is no question but that the land of Shinar is Babylon. Babylon is where they had just come from. Babylon is what they had just left behind. And these women were carrying this other woman in the basket back to Babylon, where they were going to “...build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.” This basket with the woman inside is going to be carried off to Babylon, where it will then find a home base of operations. It will have a house built for it and have its own spot from which to do what it will do.

Babylon has no desire to listen to God's instructions or laws

The people, God's people, who left Babylon, did not want to be there, which is why they left. This woman and basket are returning to Babylon. Babylon



was worldly and opposed to God. Babylon means confusion and this woman is going back into confusion. Babylon has no trust in God and no desire to listen to God's instructions or laws. Babylon is where anyone goes who does not want to serve God.

The women taking her to Babylon and away from Israel is an indication that God does not want her to be here in Israel. Leave whatever she represents back in Babylon and away from God's people. Just as Zechariah's last vision represented the law and its still-binding effects, this woman, who is wickedness, is to be far away from God's people and will set up its base there in the land of wickedness. This aspect of the vision is to direct the Jews to leave off any of the Babylonian impact that living and dwelling in the Babylonian society has had on them. There is no doubt that one would begin to assimilate into whatever culture one dwells in, but the Jews are away from that influence now and need to get back to what *their* culture and lifestyles should be.

Get away from that old life you have lived

In other words, get away from that old life that you have lived for the last 70 years. Get rid of the clothes, the food, the mannerisms, the thought

patterns, the gods, the attitudes, the education system, the medical system, the political system... everything that is different from

the way that God has set up for His people. Put it away, put a lid on it, and get it out of your lives.

The wings on things have always indicated swiftness in Bible visions. The Jews need to get rid of their "Babylonian-ness" as quickly as possible. "Let the dead bury their dead," as Jesus said when speaking to someone who said he wanted to follow Him. Take off everything that reminds you of your Babylonian stay and become a Jew... or a Christian again.

Get rid of everything associated with Babylon, and do it quickly

We are no longer Babylonian, and we need to get that removed from



our hearts and minds and lives. Otherwise... you are just a Babylonian who has moved to Israel. This is so important. If we want to be in God's city, we need to send Babylonia packing! This is what God was telling the Jews. "I'm so happy you want to come home... but you have to get rid of anything that resembles Babylon." Sin, wickedness, evil... all belongs to, or in, Babylon. Get rid of it, and get rid of it fast.

Once again, God has given us a wonderful word picture, a beautiful symbolism, to show us what we need to do in our own lives, by God's power. The Bible is full of these analogies to help us in our Christian walk, and the more we go over these things in our minds, the closer we will walk with the Lord.

May the Holy Spirit continue to lead and guide us in our journey back home is my prayer.



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

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THE LATTER RAIN NO. 7

By Meade MacGuire

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—Are we any more ready now than they were in 1943?

THE DISCIPLES WERE OF ONE ACCORD AND ONE MIND

Again and again the messenger of the Lord calls attention to the experience of the early disciples at Pentecost. There are some points that are especially emphasized and need to be carefully considered. One is the fact that in preparing for the fulfillment of the Master's promise, they confessed and put away every

sin, making sure that everything was right between them and God. They also pressed together, making every wrong right with one another, so that they were of one accord and one mind. They put away all differences so that love and unity prevailed among them.

THE LORD SENT AN OUTPOURING OF HIS SPIRIT

“In obedience to the word of their Master, the disciples assembled in Jerusalem to wait for the fulfillment of God's promise. Here they spent ten days—days of deep heart searching. They put away all differences, and drew close together in Christian fellowship. At the end of ten days the Lord fulfilled His promise by a wonderful outpouring of His Spirit.” 8 T 15.



THE ENEMY IS SOWING SEEDS OF DISCORD

This is the very course that God's people are to pursue today if they would meet His requirements. And how greatly it is needed wherever we go. Probably the enemy has no more successful method of delaying the coming of our Saviour than by sowing the seeds of discord among God's people. Even where there is no dissension or contention there is often a lack of tender, unselfish, brotherly love and unity.

THIS TESTIMONY IS A LESSON FOR OUR DAY

“This testimony in regard to the establishment of the Christian church is given us, not only as an important portion of sacred history, but also as a lesson. All who profess the name of Christ should be





waiting, watching, and praying with one heart. All differences should be put away, and unity and tender love one for another pervade the whole. Then our prayers may go up together to our heavenly Father with strong, earnest faith. Then we may wait with patience and hope the fulfillment of the promise.

GOD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS PART OF THE WORK

“The answer may come with sudden velocity and overpowering might; or it may be delayed for days and weeks, and our faith receive a trial. But God knows how and when to answer our prayer. It is part of the work to put ourselves in connection with the divine channel. God is responsible for His part of the work. He is faithful who hath promised. The great and important matter with us is to be of one heart and mind, putting aside all envy and malice, and, as humble supplicants, to watch and wait. Jesus, our Representative and Head, is ready to do for us what He did for the praying, watching ones on the day of Pentecost.” Ministry of Peter, pp. 9, 10.

OH, HOW WE NEED THE DIVINE PRESENCE!

O that God’s people today might follow the example of the early disciples. O that we might realize that the Saviour is longing to take His people from this troubled world

to the heavenly mansions, but our own attitude of lukewarmness and spiritual indifference is delaying His coming.

“If we know God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, unspeakable gladness will come to the soul. Oh, how we need the divine

presence! For the baptism of the Holy Spirit every worker should be breathing out his prayer to God. Companies should be gathered together to call upon God for special help, for heavenly wisdom, that the people of God may know how to plan and devise and execute the work.” TM 170.

Is not this the very experience we need, and the very course we should pursue today?

SATANIC DECEPTIONS ARE MISLEADING THE MINDS OF MEN

“We should pray as earnestly for the descent of the Holy Spirit as the disciples prayed on the day of Pentecost. If they needed it at that time, we need it more today. Moral darkness, like a funeral pall, covers the earth. All manner of false doctrines, heresies, and satanic deceptions are misleading the minds of men. Without the Spirit and power of God, it will be in vain that



we labor to present the truth.” 5 T 158.

JESUS INSTRUCTED HIS DISCIPLES TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

We would again call attention to the positive instruction Jesus gave His disciples regarding the necessity of being filled with the Spirit before entering upon their great work.

“Behold I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” Luke 24:49.

“Being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father.” Acts 1:4.

THE WORK CAN NEVER BE FINISHED EXCEPT BY GOD’S POWER

It is evident that the disciples understood not only that they must not depart from Jerusalem until the promise was fulfilled, but also that there was a special work of preparation necessary on their part. They engaged in this with all earnestness, and God waited ten days for them until they were ready. Then they were filled with the Spirit and power of God.

O that we might understand that the work of God can never be finished except by the power of God. All human plans and inventions and efforts will never succeed without

the mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit. May God help us to seek it as earnestly, and meet the conditions as perseveringly, as did the early disciples. Then the latter rain will come, and God will finish His work and cut it short in righteousness.



The Prescription For Victory

A compilation for your growth

Morning Manna

By Adlai Esteb

*Oh child of God, awake and see the radiant dawn of day,
The rising sun bids thee to meditate and pray.
Arise and breathe the redolence of fragrant dew-kissed flowers,
And gather morning manna in the early morning hours.*

*All nature is responsive to God's summons to arise;
Ten thousand happy voices raise a chorus to the skies.
The busy bee is searching for its honey from the flowers,
Search thus for "hidden manna" in the early morning hours.*

*There's sweetness in the lily, in the Rose of Sharon too.
The Bible's leaves are petals; you may search them through and through.
If you "hunger" for this nectar you will search in every flower,
And you'll find the manna sweeter in the early morning hour.*

1. Before going to bed, claim Isa. 50:4: "The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned."

Ask God to wake you up early for worship. See Proverbs 8:17: "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me." Jesus is our example— "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." Mark 1:35.

"Whenever it was His privilege, He turned aside from the scene of His labor, to go into the fields, to meditate in the green valleys, to hold communion with God on the mountainside or amid the trees of the forest. The early morning often found Him in some secluded place, meditating, searching the

Scriptures, or in prayer. From these quiet hours He would return to His home to take up His duties again, and to give an example of patient toil." DA 90.

"When you open your eyes in the morning, thank God that He has kept you through the night. Thank Him for His peace in your heart. Morning, noon, and night, let gratitude as a sweet perfume ascend to heaven." MH253.

"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up." Ps. 5:3.

"Cause me to hear thy loving-kindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee." Ps. 143:8.

"With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I



seek thee early; for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.” Isa. 26:9.

“It would be well to spend a thoughtful hour each day reviewing the life of Christ from the manger to Calvary.” 4T374.

2. Give your permission for God to take

your heart: “Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, ‘Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee.’ This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day.” SC 70.

“You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.” SC 47.

“No outward observances can take the place of simple faith and entire renunciation of self. But no man can empty himself of self. We can only consent for Christ to accomplish the work. Then the language of the soul will be, Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, unchristlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul.” COL 159.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:” Phil. 2:5.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” Ps. 51:10.

“I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.” 1 Cor. 15:31.

“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will

serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Josh. 24:15.

3. Ask for the Holy Spirit,

Grace, and the Bread: “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14:26.

We must have the guidance of the Holy Spirit or we will perish. We need grace, the transforming power to obey God’s requirements. And in order to witness to others, His words must be given to us fresh from the courts of heaven. We can have these gifts from our Father, but we have to ask for them. “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” Matt. 7:7 & 8.

“Daily they prayed for fresh supplies of grace, that they might reach higher and still higher toward perfection. Under the Holy Spirit’s working even the weakest, by exercising faith in God, learned to improve their entrusted powers and to become sanctified, refined, and ennobled. As in humility they submitted to the molding influence of the Holy Spirit, they received of the fullness of the Godhead and were fashioned in the likeness of the divine.” AA 49 & 50.

“For the daily baptism of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God.” AA50

“But near the close of earth’s harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man.” AA55.

“Christ has given us no promise of help in bearing today the burdens of tomorrow. He has said, ‘My grace is sufficient for thee.’ 2 Cor. 12:9; but, like the manna given in the



wilderness, His grace is bestowed daily, for the day's need. Like the hosts of Israel in their pilgrim life, we may find morning by morning the bread of heaven for the day's supply." MB 101.

"If you will seek the Lord and be converted every day; if you will of your own spiritual choice be free and joyous in God; if with gladsome consent of heart to His gracious call you come wearing the yoke of Christ,--the yoke of obedience and service,--all your murmurings will be stilled, all your difficulties will be removed, all the perplexing problems that now confront you will be solved." MB 101.

"Men need to learn that the blessings of obedience, in their fullness, can be theirs only as they receive the grace of Christ. It is His grace that gives man power to obey the laws of God. It is this that enables him to break the bondage



of evil habit. This is the only power that can make him and keep him steadfast in the right path." MH 115.

4. Ask for Help: "When you rise in the morning, do you feel your helplessness and your need of strength from God? and do you humbly, heartily make known your wants to your heavenly Father? If so, angels mark your prayers, and if these prayers have not gone forth out of feigned lips, when you are in danger of unconsciously doing wrong and exerting an influence which will lead others to do wrong, your guardian angel will be by your side, prompting you to a better course, choosing your words for you, and influencing your actions." 3T 363.

"The soul that turns to God for its help, its support, its power, by daily, earnest prayer, will have noble aspirations, clear perceptions of truth and duty, lofty purposes of action, and a continual hungering and thirsting after righteousness." MB85.

5. Ask for the armor of God: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities,



against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places]. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;" Eph. 6:10-18.



"Let us put on every piece of the Christian armor, and steadfastly resist the enemy." MM 93.

"Nothing less than the whole armor of righteousness can enable man to overcome the powers of darkness and retain the victory over them." EW 273.

6. Claim the Promises: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Pet. 1:4.

For all the promises of God in him [are] yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." 2 Cor. 1:20.

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Cor. 7:1.

7. Praise: O LORD our Lord, how excellent [is] thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens." Ps. 8:1.

"But thanks [be] to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 15:57.

"THE SOUL THAT TURNS TO GOD FOR ITS HELP, ITS SUPPORT, ITS POWER, BY DAILY, EARNEST PRAYER, WILL HAVE NOBLE ASPIRATIONS, CLEAR PERCEPTIONS OF TRUTH AND DUTY." MB 127.



I KNOW NOT THE HOUR OF HIS COMING

I know not the hour of His coming;
I know not the day or the year;
But I know that he bids me be ready
For the step that I sometime shall hear.

I know not what lieth before me,
It may be all pleasure, all care;
But I know at the end of the journey
Stands the mansion He went to prepare.

And whether in joy or in sorrow,
Through valley, o'er mountain or hill,
I will walk in the light of His presence,
And His love all repining shall still.

I know not what duties are waiting
For hands that are willing and true,
And I ask but the strength to be faithful,
And do well what He gives me to do.

And if He should bid me stand idle—
Just waiting—in weakness and pain,
I have only to trust and be faithful,
And sometime He will make it all plain.

And when His voice calls, in the morning,
At noontime, perhaps, or at night,
With no plea but the one, Thou hast called me,
I shall enter the portals of light.



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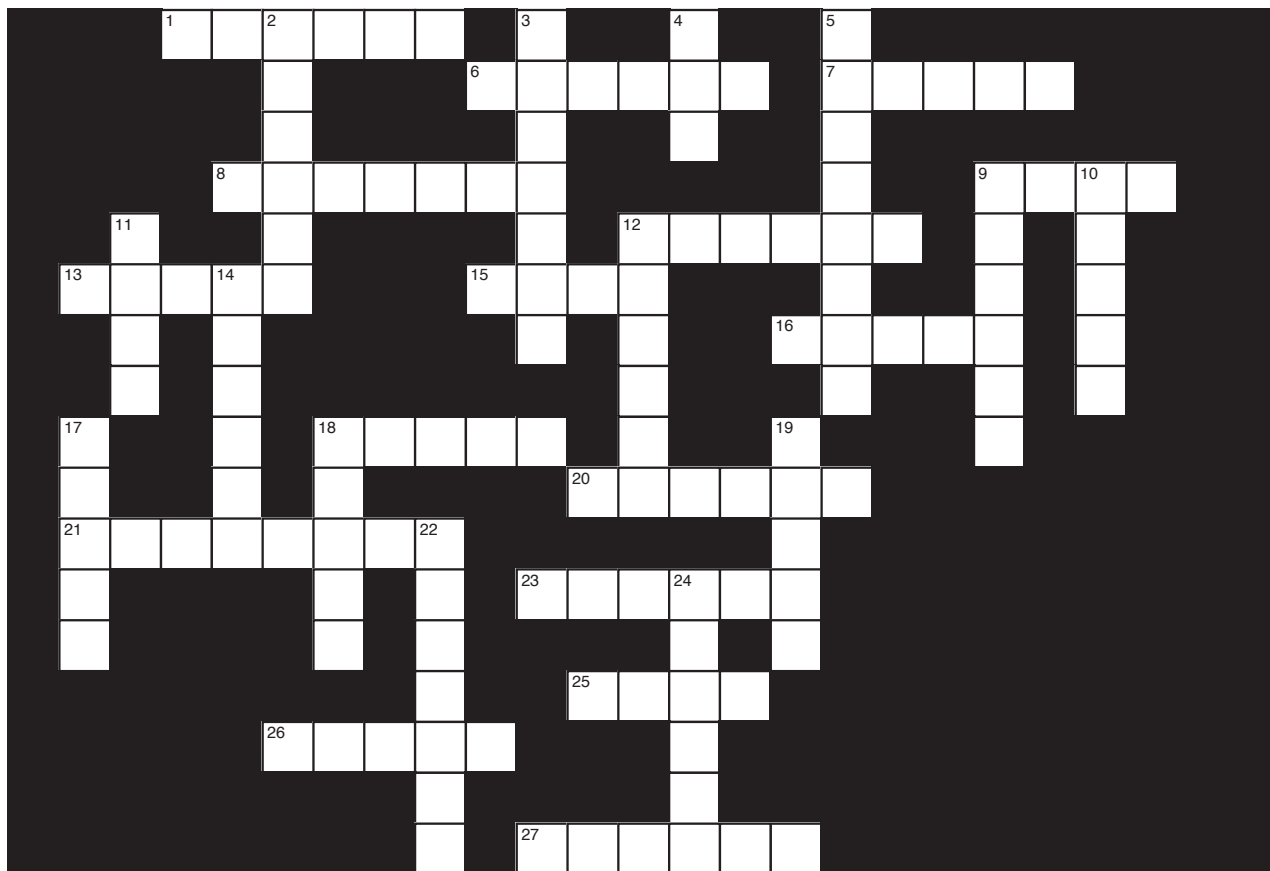
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- **Whole Grapefruit** - High in vitamin C and bioflavonoids that boost the immune system and help fight or prevent cancer.
- **Whole Lemon Fruit** - Restores acid-alkali balance. Helps maintain the body's internal "climate" at a pH which supports healthy bacteria instead of the viruses and harmful bacteria which thrive in more acidic environments. Fights infections & purifies the blood.
- **Whole Lime Fruit** - Very high in Vitamin C, lime fruit also cools fevers associated with colds, sore throats and flu; and aids the immune system. It eases coughs, bronchitis and sinusitis, as well as asthma.
- **Whole Orange Fruit** - Rich in vitamin C, orange fruit helps to boost the immune system. It is also chock full of other vitamins & minerals that help keep the body healthy & strong.
- **Alfalfa Grass Juice** - Improves vitality and stimulates the immune system. It contains ALL the known vitamins, and a plethora of other key minerals and nutrients.
- **Wheat Grass Juice** - Provides a unique source of nutrition that helps to regulate the immune system. It will strengthen deficiencies and reduce overactive systems (as in autoimmune disorders).
- **Oat Grass Juice** - Strengthens a weak constitution. Packed with nutrients; It contains many vitamins and minerals, is very high in protein, and contains all the essential amino acids along with chlorophyll, flavonoids, lecithin, and enzymes.
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Christian Crossword



ACROSS

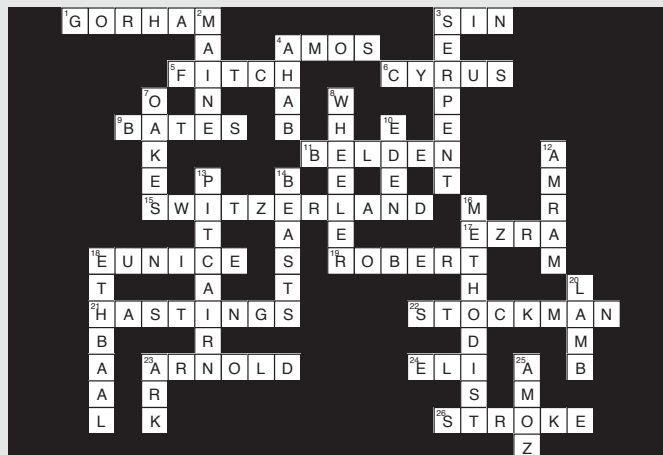
1. What was Paul's hometown?
6. What judge had 70 sons?
7. In what country did the Hebrews feed on cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic?
8. What beautiful bird did Solomon's army bring to Israel?
9. Who was the great grandmother of David mentioned in Scripture?
12. God sent fire from heaven to kill the soldiers who came to capture what prophet?
13. What did Mary and Joseph sacrifice in the temple when they took Jesus there?
15. Who amazed his comrades by surviving the bite of a viper?
16. On what day did God create the birds?
18. Who hid two Israelite spies up on her rooftop among stalks of flax?
20. What prophet was trapped against a wall by an angel with a drawn sword?
21. What kind of tree did Zacchaeus climb in order to see Jesus?
23. What Persian queen refused to obey her drunken husband's order to appear before besotted guests?
25. What city had a wedding feast where Jesus' first miracle was done?
26. What was the name of the feast that is celebrated by the Jews after the death decree of Haman was defeated?
27. What was the wife's name whose second husband, Phaltiel, wept as he watched her return to her first husband, David?

DOWN

2. What birds fed Elijah when he lived by Cherith Brook?
3. Who discovered the lost book of the law when the temple was being repaired by order of King Josiah?
4. Who made sacrifices in case any of his children sinned?
5. Who was Jacob's youngest son?
9. What beloved wife of Jacob gave birth after many years to Joseph and Benjamin?
10. Who was widowed when Judah's oldest son died?
11. What sort of material did Moses drop into the waters of Marah to make the water drinkable?

12. What prophet made poison stew edible by pouring meal into it?
14. Who prophesied to the Shunammite woman that though her husband was too old, she would bear a child?
17. Who had a rod that God turned into a snake?
18. Who failed to open the door for Peter after his escape from prison?
19. Who had 19 sons and 1 daughter by his legitimate wives?
22. What prophet foretold the defeat for Gog of the land of Magog who came to make war against the Israelites?
24. Who was taunted by her husband's other wife for being childless, though she later bore children?

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



EXCITOTOXINS PART 1: Is Our Food Poisoned?



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.

If you knew that the consumption of many store products could cause brain damage and other related disorders, would it have an influence on your buying habits?

From the book: *Excitotoxins: The Taste That Kills*, Dr. Russell Blaylock (the foremost expert on the subject) writes: “What if someone were to tell you that a chemical added to food could cause brain damage in your children, and that this chemical could affect how your children’s nervous systems formed during development so in later years they may have learning or emotional difficulties? What if there was scientific evidence that these chemicals could damage a critical part of the brain known to control hormones so that later in life your child might have endocrine problems? How would you feel? ... Would that affect your buying decisions? **He goes on to say...**

I would think that all of us would be more than just concerned to learn that well-known powerful brain toxins were being added to our food and drink to boost sales. We would be especially upset to learn that these additives have no other purpose than to enhance the taste of food and the sweetness of various diet products. You would also be upset to learn that many of these brain lesions in your children are irreversible and can follow a **single exposure of a sufficient concentration**. And I would bet that you would be incredulous to learn that the food industry disguises many of these “excitotoxin additives” so that they will not be recognized.” (1)

Now, Dr. Blaylock is a board-

certified neurosurgeon and associate professor of neurosurgery at the Medical University of Mississippi. He knows his stuff. He’s not some wacko nutjob who got his degree out of a crackerjack box. He’s a highly respected member of the medical and scientific community. So what are these taste enhancers he’s talking about?

The history of taste enhancers

“For thousands of years Japanese cooks have added a special ingredient to their recipes to magnify the desired taste of foods. This ingredient was made from a seaweed known as “sea tangle” or Kombu. Yet, it was only in this century that the active **chemical** of this “taste-enhancing” ingredient was isolated. In Japan in 1908 a chemist trained in Germany was looking for the substance in Kombu seaweed that enhances the taste of food and discovered it! Shortly after its isolation, the chemists who discovered this “secret ingredient” turned it into a worldwide multi-million dollar industry.

By 1933 Japanese cooks were using over 10 million pounds of it to make bland recipes taste better. After World War II, in 1948, quartermasters



in the American army met with the foremost food manufacturers in the United States to discuss the Japanese technique for improving the taste of almost any food, and the use of this “secret ingredient” in America increased rapidly. Soon all of the giants of the food industry, such as Pillsbury, Oscar Mayer, Libby’s, and Campbell’s, were adding **millions** of pounds of this taste-enhancing substance to processed foods each year.

The amounts of this ingredient and similar additives included in foods increased throughout the post-war period. In fact, the amount of one of these ingredients alone added to foods has doubled in every decade since the 1940s. By 1972, 262,000 metric tons of this “taste-enhancing” substance were produced. Many cookbooks recommended adding it to their recipes, especially for soups and sauce recipes. In fact, today it is added to **most** soups, chips, fast and frozen foods, prepared packaged dinners, and



canned foods – many, many processed foods. Most of you would immediately recognize the chemical, which has this almost “magical” property.

Throughout this period, few suspected that these taste-enhancing additives could be doing serious harm to individuals eating the foods that contained them. At the time of its discovery, it was thought to be perfectly safe, since it was a natural substance (an amino acid). But, by the end of the 1960s, research data began to appear demonstrating the dangers of this ingredient as a food additive. This scientific data should have alerted those responsible for public safety to the danger.” (2, 3)

How do “taste enhancers” work?

The Japanese have a word for that *particular* taste enhancer. It’s called “umami”(oo-mommy). It’s considered a “fifth taste”, in addition to salt, sweet, sour, and bitter. It’s roughly translated as “savoriness” and has been proposed as one of the basic tastes sensed by specialized receptor cells present on the human and animal tongue. The way this and other flavor enhancers work is by improving or

enhancing the taste of foods and beverages to which they are added by **exciting the taste cells on the tongue.**

This makes food taste better. For instance, when making chicken noodle soup, say the recipe calls for a whole chicken. Well, with this “flavor enhancer” you can use ½ a chicken and just add an ounce of this ingredient, and the person eating it won’t know the difference! And the best thing is, this flavor enhancer is **cheap!** At less than a dollar a pound (16 ounces – with one ounce to replace roughly one pound of meat), that means instead of an additional \$4-10 for another 2 pounds of meat, you can spend about 12.5 cents and have the same taste. With manufacturers that can



buy it wholesale at less than 40 cents a pound, you can bet they are hard pressed to give up this magical little ingredient!

It sounds so good! An ingredient extracted from a natural source that simply “excites the tongue” so foods taste better! What could be bad about that? You know the saying, “If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is”? This seems to be the case with this “flavor enhancer”.

Increasing scientific evidence indicates that taste cells on the tongue are not the *only* things that these taste enhancers stimulate...

NEXT MONTH! Find out what happens when you consume these “taste enhancers”. See why Dr. Blaylock and countless others are spreading the word that these ingredients are harmful.



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2. *Shambaugh Medical Research Institute Newsletter #45*, Dr. Shambaugh republished in NOHA NEWS.
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News Watch

worldwide
Crash!
rat
job
liquidity
Interest rates
FORECAST
review
assets
tumble
deepens
in doubt
SHARES WORTHLES

1. BCNN1.com, August 4, 2011, Thousands of American Churches Prepare for National Back to Church Sunday.

“With six weeks left before the nationwide event, already more than 6,000 churches have extended a half million invitations to National Back to Church Sunday, set for Sept. 18. American churches are utilizing tools, such as the ‘reDiscover Church’ booklet and the assistance of more than a hundred communitywide coordinators to draw their friends and neighbors to attend.”

End Time Perspective: “Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul, and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of Spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of Spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.” GC88 588.



2. A.P. News, June 29, 2011, Wallow Fire continues to burn in Big Lake, Arizona on June 12.

“Epic floods, massive wildfires, drought and the deadliest tornado season in 60 years are ravaging the United States, with scientist warning that climate change will bring even more extreme weather.

End Time Perspective: “The judgments of God are in the land. The wars and rumors of wars, the destruction by fire and flood, say clearly that the time of trouble, which is to increase until the end, is very near at hand.” CCh 336.

3. MedPage Today.com, July 8, 2011, Americans are still getting fatter.

“According to a new report issued by two public health groups, Americans are still getting fatter. In the past year, obesity

rates rose in 16 states and fell in none, according to the eighth annual report, prepared jointly by the Trust for America’s Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.”

End Time Perspective: “It is sin to be intemperate in the quantity of food eaten, even if the quality is unobjectionable. Many feel that if they do not eat meat and the grosser articles of food, they may eat of simple food until they cannot well eat more. This is a mistake. Many professed health reformers are nothing less than gluttons. They lay upon the digestive organs so great a burden that the vitality of the system is exhausted in the effort to dispose of it. It also has a depressing influence upon the intellect, for the brain nerve power

Kevork Djansezian / Getty Images





is called upon to assist the stomach in its work. Overeating, even of the simplest food, benumbs the sensitive nerves of the brain and weakens its vitality. Overeating has a worse effect upon the system than overworking; the energies of the soul are more effectually prostrated by intemperate eating than by intemperate working.” CH 160.

4. North Dakota Catholic Conference says 'Sunday law' benefits all people

The North Dakota Catholic Conference has responded to criticism of a law restricting Sunday hours for businesses, saying the regulation benefits the whole of society.

“The purpose of North Dakota’s Sunday closing law is not to impose times of worship. Nor is it to demand adherence to religious doctrine. The purpose of the law is to preserve the common good by ensuring that society is not overtaken by work and profit,” wrote Christopher Dodson, executive director of the North Dakota Catholic Conference, in a July 12 article.

A July 5 editorial in the Fargo-Moorhead Forum criticized “all those North Dakotans who cling to the myth that partial Sunday opening somehow honors a Sabbath day.”

“Let’s get honest: Merchants should be able to open their doors whenever they choose. North Dakotans who don’t want to shop on Sunday – morning or any other time on that day – can stay home or in church,” the editorial said. “Others will want to shop. It should be their choice, not the state’s.”

In his response, Dodson said that

the newspaper’s argument showed a “misunderstanding of the law’s purpose,” and of the relationship between government, business, and local community.

“Courts upholding Sunday closing laws have recognized what the Forum does not,” Dodson explained, noting that the laws “serve a secular, not religious purpose.” He said that all people need periods of rest and free time for the sake of their families, social lives and religious activities.

“Only when communities set aside time devoted to these functions can human persons prosper and develop,” he observed.

Economic forces, Dodson noted, can become enslaving for society in the absence of any regulation. He pointed out that individuals, families and communities can experience negative consequences if they do not have common periods of rest.



“Rather than restricting individual freedom,” the conference director said, “closing laws liberate and free people from the antisocial degeneration of human work.” He noted that economic freedom can only grow in healthy societies, not those which put profits above the values of family and community.

Dodson quoted the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, which describes public authorities' duty “to ensure that, for reasons of economic productivity, citizens are not denied time for rest and divine worship.”

“Sunday closing laws are not about honoring the Sabbath day,” Dodson said. “They are about honoring people and families.”

End Time Perspective 1: "It is one of Satan's devices to combine with falsehood just enough truth to give it plausibility. The leaders of the Sunday movement may advocate reforms which the people need, principles which are in harmony with the Bible; yet while there is with these a requirement which is God's law, His servants cannot unite with them. Nothing can justify them in setting aside the commandments of God for the precepts of men." GC 587.

End Time Perspective 2: "In these countries where the Catholic element prevails, the people are the lowest in morals and steeped in ignorance. Sunday is to them a festival, a day for sports, for all kinds of amusements. The people attend the service in church one hour in the day, then their religious observance of the

day is at an end. Stores are open all through Nimes as on any of the other days that have no sacredness in their minds attached to them." 17MR 76.

Note: Even though Sister White wrote this on October 18, 1886, from Nimes, France, the same lack of respect for Sabbath has filtered down to our times, in our country.

Ellen White's *Vision*

Covetousness



I saw that Satan bade his angels lay their snares especially for those who were looking for Christ's second appearing and keeping all the commandments of God. Satan told his angels that the churches were asleep. He would increase his power and lying wonders, and he could hold them. "But," he said, "the sect of Sabbathkeepers we hate; they are continually working against us, and taking from us our subjects, to keep the hated law of God. Go, make the possessors of lands and money drunk with cares. If you can make them place their affections upon these things, we shall have them yet. They may profess what they please, only make them care more for money than for the success of Christ's kingdom or the spread of the truths we hate. Present the world before them in the most attractive light, that they may love and idolize it. We must keep in our ranks all the means of which we can gain control. The more means the followers of Christ devote to His service, the more will they injure our kingdom by getting our subjects. As they appoint meetings in different places, we are in danger. Be very vigilant then. Cause disturbance and confusion if possible.

"Make covetousness and love of earthly treasures the ruling traits of their character"

"Destroy love for one another. Discourage and dishearten

their ministers; for we hate them. Present every plausible excuse to those who have means, lest they hand it out. Control the money matters if you can, and drive their ministers to want and distress. This will weaken their courage and zeal. Battle every inch of ground. Make covetousness and love of earthly treasures the ruling traits of their character. As long as these traits rule, salvation and grace stand back. Crowd every attraction around them, and they will be surely ours. And not only are we sure of them, but their hateful influence will not be exercised to lead others to heaven. When any shall attempt to give, put within them a grudging disposition, that it may be sparingly."

*If God's people are disposed to be selfish and covetous,
Satan takes his stand by their side*

I saw that Satan carries out his plans well. As the servants of God appoint meetings, Satan with his angels is on the ground to hinder the work. He is constantly putting suggestions into the minds of God's people. He leads some in one way and some in another, always taking advantage of evil traits in the brethren and sisters, exciting and stirring up their natural besetments. If they are disposed to be selfish and covetous, Satan takes his stand by their side, and with all his power seeks to lead them to indulge their besetting sins. The grace of God and the light of truth may melt away their covetous, selfish feelings for a little, but if they do not obtain entire victory, Satan comes in when they are not under a saving influence and withers every noble, generous principle, and they think that too much is required of them. They become weary of well-doing and forget the great sacrifice which Jesus made to redeem them from the power of Satan and from hopeless misery.

There are some like Judas who profess to be waiting for their Lord.

Satan controls them, but they know it not

Satan took advantage of the covetous, selfish disposition of Judas and led him to murmur when Mary poured the costly ointment upon Jesus. Judas looked upon this as a great waste, and declared that the ointment might have been sold and given to the poor. He cared not for the poor, but considered the liberal offering to Jesus extravagant. Judas prized his Lord just enough to sell Him for a few pieces of silver. And I saw that there were some like Judas among those who profess to be waiting for their Lord. Satan controls them, but they know it not. God cannot approve of the least degree of covetousness or selfishness, and He abhors the prayers and exhortations of those who indulge these evil traits. As Satan sees that his time is short, he leads men on to be more and more selfish and covetous, and then exults as he sees them wrapped up in themselves, close, penurious, and selfish. If the eyes of such could be opened, they would see Satan in hellish triumph, exulting over them and laughing at the folly of those who accept his suggestions and enter his snares.

When God's people become weary of well-doing, He becomes weary of them

Satan and his angels mark all the mean and covetous acts of these persons and present them to Jesus and His holy angels, saying reproachfully, "These are Christ's followers! They are preparing to be translated!" Satan compares their course with passages of Scripture in which it is plainly rebuked and then taunts the heavenly angels, saying, "These are following Christ and His Word! These are the fruit of Christ's sacrifice and redemption!" Angels turn in disgust from the scene. God requires a constant doing on the part of His people; and when they become weary of well-doing, He becomes weary of them. I saw that He is greatly displeased with the least manifestation of selfishness on the part of His professed people, for whom Jesus spared not His own precious life.

Every opportunity should be improved in doing good to one another

Every selfish, covetous person will fall out by the way. Like Judas, who sold his Lord, they will sell good principles and a noble, generous disposition for a little of earth's gain. All such will be sifted out from God's people. Those who want heaven must, with all the energy which they possess, be encouraging the principles of heaven. Instead of withering up with selfishness, their souls should be expanding with benevolence. Every opportunity should be improved in doing good to one another and thus cherishing the principles of heaven. Jesus was presented to me as the perfect pattern. His life was without selfish interest, but ever marked with disinterested benevolence.



**"Wait on the Lord: be of
good courage, and he shall
strengthen thine heart."
- Psalms 27:14**

**"Instead of thinking of your
discouragements, think of the power
you can claim in Christ's name."
- MH 488**



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