

Volume 29, Number 2 • February 2014

our firm FOUNDATION

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



ANOTHER ANGEL OF REVELATION 18

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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.

We live in two antique log houses that are connected by a frame building in between. One of our houses was actually built on the land below and completed on December 11, 1888. It was moved up to its present site in 1979. Wanting to have a home in the country in accordance with the counsel we have, we purchased this first house in 1992 and moved here in 1994. Desiring more space we purchased the second log house, and it was moved to its present site from Black Water, Virginia, log by log, and reassembled. We chinked it ourselves. We added huge glass windows to the upstairs part of this second house, and have used the upstairs as our bedroom.

This morning as we awakened we were treated to a brilliant array of reds and pinks and oranges in the sky. We have a south, south-east facing and especially in the winter have many beautiful sunrises. God truly is the Master Artist.

As I observe this beauty I think about the even greater beauty we will have in heaven and the earth made new. But God is only going to allow

was not permitted to fall under the power of death. The goodly character of this prophet represents the state of holiness which must be attained by those who shall be redeemed from the earth at the time of Christ's second advent. Then, as in the world before the Flood, iniquity will prevail. Following the promptings of their corrupt hearts and the teachings of a deceptive philosophy, men will rebel against the authority of heaven. But like Enoch, God's people will seek for purity of heart and conformity to His will, until they shall reflect the likeness of Christ. Like Enoch, they will warn the world of the Lord's second coming and of the judgments to be visited upon transgression, and by their holy conversation and example they will condemn the sins of the ungodly. As Enoch was translated to heaven before the destruction of the world by water, so the living righteous will be translated from the earth before its destruction by fire." PP 88, 89.

As I read the above words, I thought, can I reach such a high expectation as the words seem to indicate? My answer was no, not in my strength, but yes, in the power and strength of Jesus. My thoughts then turned to God's promises, especially the promise found in Deuteronomy 30, verse 6: "And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live."

I know that if I love Jesus as the promise indicates, then I will surrender completely to Him and seek with all

my heart to be fully in His will.

Dear reader, how about you? Are you willing to commit your life fully into His hands? Will you seek Him daily?

There are other encouraging statements in the Spirit of Prophecy:

In the Review and Herald, September 1, 1885, we read: "His (Enoch's) life was what the life of every individual may be if he closely connects with God... Were Enoch upon the earth today, his heart would be in harmony with God's requirements... The palm tree well represents the life of a Christian. It stands upright amid the burning desert sand, and dies not; for it draws its sustenance from the springs of life beneath the surface."

In the Signs of the Times, May 12, 1898, we have these statements: "We can have what Enoch had: we can have Christ as our constant companion. Enoch walked with God, and when assailed by the tempter, he could talk with God about it. He had no 'It is written', as we have, but he had a knowledge of his heavenly Companion. He made God his Counselor, and was closely bound up with Jesus. And Enoch was honored in this course."

In 2T 122, we read of Enoch, "... he trained his mind to devotion, to love purity. His conversation was upon heavenly things. He educated his mind to run in this channel, and he bore the impress of the divine. His countenance was lighted up with the light which shineth in the face of Jesus."

Dear reader, May we each remain strong in Jesus!

Are you willing to commit your life fully into His hands?

folks there who are not going to start the sin process all over again—they must be safe to be saved.

Ellen White says it best when she refers to Enoch—"In the midst of a world by its iniquity doomed to destruction, Enoch lived a life of such close communion with God that he

Our Mission:

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

Executive Director:

Joe Olson
executivedirector@hopeint.org

Editor:

Clark Floyd
editorial@hopeint.org

Copy-editor:

Reen Swindle

Director of Hope For Health:

Kaye Olson
hopeforhealth@hopeint.org

Bookstore Manager:

Andrea Olson
shipping@hopeint.org

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 (3000 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*, 151 Ascension Lane, Marshall, NC 28753, or by email to editorial@hopeint.org.

Subscription Information: See page 31
• Shipping & Sales Tax: See page 31

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Design & Layout by

Waveline Direct, LLC. Home of
PRINTLION
www.printlion.com



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our firm
FOUNDATION

is published monthly by:

Hope International
151 Ascension Lane
Marshall, NC 28753



Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time • Friday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Eastern Time
Phone: 828-649-1984 • Fax: 828-649-1982 • Email: office@hopeint.org • Web: www.hopeint.org

A key to the abbreviations for Ellen White's material used in each magazine can be found at www.whiteestate.org



ANOTHER ANGEL OF REVELATION 18

By Joe Olson

THE FIRST ANGEL'S MESSAGE SEPARATES THE TRUE FROM THE FALSE

We have been given three distinct, end-time messages from the Lord in Revelation 14. The first message starts in verses 6 and 7: "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." This angel is commissioned to make sure the gospel is spread everywhere and that God receives the glory, and to make sure we are worshipping the Creator God. Additionally, this angel announces the beginning of the judgment. This is the judgment that has to happen before Jesus can come back with His reward. When Jesus returns, everyone will have been judged for everlasting life or everlasting death.

As a result of the first angel's message, the Christian churches of this earth either accepted the gospel of Jesus, or they didn't. They accepted the fact that the sanctuary would be cleansed starting on October 22, 1844, or they rejected the message. They were to worship the Creator of this world and no other. This message separated the false from the true. It made apparent those who really loved the Lord and were waiting for His appearing, and those who did not. It showed who loved and desired the

truth, and those who just made a pretension of it. Many God-fearing people rejoiced in this message, but every single one of the "corporate" denominations rejected it. No denomination of the Christian faith accepted the first angel's message. As a result of rejecting the truth, they believed a lie. When they preferred a





lie rather than the truth, they rejected the Father of truth and became connected with the father of lies. “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” John 8:44. When you do not have the truth, you have nothing but confusion. The denominational churches became Babylon because of rejecting the truth.

THE DENOMINATIONAL CHURCHES HAVE CHOSEN ANOTHER GOD

The second angel announced that these Christian churches were now Babylon, or confusion, and were fallen. The message of the second angel is found in verse 8... “And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” They had fallen from the truth. When you reject truth, you reject Jesus, because He IS the truth. When they no longer have Jesus, there is only one other option, and that is the devil. They have chosen

another god. They have chosen the father of lies. And not only have they chosen the liar, but they have made everyone else choose him, too, by their false doctrines. The Bible says they have committed fornication. Simply stated, that means they have chosen another lover. We are to be married to Christ, but another has taken His place. We have chosen another lover. The One to whom we were espoused, or betrothed to, has been rejected for another. That’s why the Bible calls it fornication. We are supposed to be married to Christ.

This is why Paul uses the analogy of a woman and her Husband to the Corinthians. “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” 2 Cor. 11:2. All of the nations, or people, have drunk the wine of the false doctrines of the churches. They didn’t just reject the truth, they rejected their betrothed Husband and when they did that they rejected the only way to keep themselves doctrinally correct. And their false doctrines were fed to all nations as wine to be drunk, or taken in by them. As a result, the second angel’s message declares them fallen.

WE ONLY HAVE TWO CHOICES

The third angel’s message addresses the beast, his image, his mark and worship. “And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.” Rev. 14:9-11. In this message, we are warned against worshipping the beast, or Catholicism, instead of our God. As you have heard me say so many times, we can worship God, or anything else... just two choices. To worship the beast is to reject God, plain and simple. We are also warned away from worshipping the beast’s image, which is the union of the fallen churches with governmental authority. This union will create the same conditions that the Catholic Church had with



governmental authorities back in her heyday.

TO WORSHIP ON SUNDAY IS A REJECTION OF OUR CREATOR

Then the mark of the beast is addressed, which is Sunday worship. The third angel warns us that to keep a day that the Catholic Church set up instead of God's holy Sabbath will again show our rejection of the Creator and His day. The mark received in the forehead signifies an agreement with the Sunday law. The mark received in the hand signifies a willingness to go along with it, even though you don't agree with it. These are, and were, the messages for the people of this earth before Jesus returns to take His people home with Him. The messages are about worship... about allegiance. These messages will separate the true from the false. Many people "say" they love God... these messages "prove" who loves God. There are no more messages to give.

THESE ARE THE FINAL MESSAGES

If God cannot get us to see the truth and to accept it now, it is forever too late.

And yet, as God cannot bear to have us leave Him eternally, He makes one last attempt to get our attention. He does not give an additional

message, for He has shown us everything there is to choose between. But what He does in Revelation 18 is to reiterate the second angel's message. "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Rev. 18 1-4.

THE LIGHT HAS BEGUN TO DAWN ON GOD'S REMNANT

As these three messages have been sounding, God's people have begun to realize what they need to do. Those who had no idea what the Catholic Church was, and had no idea about the day she set up, are now aware and are choosing God and His day over

the devil and his organization and day. And as God's people move away from the beast and his image, they are coming under the bloodstained banner of Prince Immanuel, or Jesus Christ. Yet there are a few who still have not seen the light. There are a few of His people still not sure.

And as God delineates all of the characteristics of this beast power throughout the rest of chapter 18 of Revelation, the light begins to dawn on the last remnant of His people. As they begin to see the truth, the rest of God's children leave this beast power. As a result, it... "...become(s) the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Rev. 18:2. As this beast power loses the last of those led by God's Spirit, it has nothing left but those led by the devil.

WHY DO OUR GOVERNMENT LEADERS BOW TO A POPE?

The Bible says that the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her. The kings of the earth, or the world leaders, have connected themselves with the Catholic Church rather than God. As the

government, especially the United States government, has done all it can to remove the Ten Commandments and any other reference to God from its buildings and lands, it has gotten ever closer to Catholicism. It is so common-place nowadays for the world's leaders to be seen bowing to the head of a Christian denomination that we rarely even notice it. Have you ever wondered why all these leaders bow to a pope? Have you ever wondered why they haven't bowed to the leader of the Baptist Church or the Methodist Church or the Lutheran Church or any other Christian denominational leader? Why the Catholic Church?

Because it was prophesied that all the world would "wonder after the beast". Rev. 13:3. What other leader of a denomination has ever claimed to be God? Who has ever presumed to be the same as God? "The pope and God are the same, so he has all power in heaven and earth." ~Pope Pious V.

What human would dare to claim to have "...all power in heaven..."? These are the most blasphemous words ever spoken by a human. The Bible says in Luke 5:21 "... Who can forgive

sins, but God alone?" The obvious answer to this is, "Only God". So, since the Catholic Church thinks that it can forgive sins... it must be God, too. In a Los Angeles Times article of December 12, 1984, Pope John Paul II said, "Don't go to God for forgiveness of sins, come to me." What do you even say to this? And "all the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her." These leaders act and talk like the leader of the Catholic Church is God on earth. They do not bow to God. They do not talk of Him as their leader and the One they turn to. No, they brazenly show all the world that their relationship is with a pope, whomever he might be. What have we done! And once God's children recognize the truth of the denomination they are a part of, they will leave and join with God's true people.

SATAN HAS SET UP HIS OWN SYSTEM TO BENEFIT HIMSELF

God goes on to say in Revelation 18:3 that, "...the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies." There

is no denomination on earth that has the business ties and connections that the Catholic Church has. Look it up for yourselves. They have more schools that put out political leaders and rulers and lawyers and judges than anyone else in the world. They have more hospitals and clinics and nursing homes and health facilities than any other denomination. They own many of the world's pharmaceutical companies. Imagine the doctor being Catholic, and the clinic being Catholic, and the hospital being Catholic, and the drug company being Catholic as well! Then you go to a Catholic daycare, then a Catholic school and a Catholic college! And they train our lawyers and politicians and judges. And then laws are written to benefit the businessmen who are then "waxed rich" with the abundance of the Catholic Church's delicacies. Satan has set up his own system to benefit himself.

And all of this is designed to get everyone to worship him through his system. But the ones involved in this system that really do love the Lord, will begin to see it for what it is and will come out of her. And that is exactly what the Bible says to do here in Revelation 18, verse 4: "And I heard another voice from heaven,



saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”

GOD IS GOING TO END THIS SYSTEM THAT SATAN HAS SET UP

God is going to make it very apparent that this system was not His and that it was a counterfeit of the devil. All the world will see what defying God and acting like God comes to. You see, the devil has caused so many to be deceived because God has been so merciful to us all, including Catholicism. They have taken the prerogatives that belong to God alone and yet they seem to prosper and wield much power on this earth. And because God has not taken immediate action for their blasphemy, the devil convinces people that what they are doing is sanctioned, or okayed, by Him. Nothing, of course, could be further from the truth. “For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” Rev. 8:5.

GOD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN WHAT THIS BEAST HAS DONE

And the Bible makes it very clear what will happen to this beast power. But before these plagues begin to fall, God is offering one last chance to abandon this false system of worship

before it is forever too late. They have sinned greatly before God and we do not want to be connected to this power in any way, shape or form. If we are connected to her and her sins, then we will receive of her plagues as well.

And as we read what God does to punish her, we will definitely not want to be a part of that. So He says to “Come out of her, My people.” You will notice that He doesn’t tell everyone to come out. He is only referring to those who love Him more than they love the Catholic Church... to those who love Him more than they love their church connections, their family connections, their business connections and their own lives. Those are the ones who come out. Those are the ones who have their eyes opened and understand the truth of what the devil is trying to do.

There will be many who come out, but not many in relation to how many stay. Most people will not listen to God. They have not done what He says in the past and they will not obey now. Only a few actually enter in by the straight gate that Jesus talked about. Only a few will come out proportionately to the vast Catholic system.

But God calls those few “My people”. “Come out of her, My people,” He says. He does not want

them anywhere near this beast when He begins to rain down His plagues upon it.

A DOUBLE MEASURE OF PUNISHMENT WILL FALL ON CATHOLICISM

And what does He do to the Catholic system, this false system of worship? He tells us exactly what will happen in His word... “Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.” Rev. 18:6. God says that what she will suffer will be what she has done to others, but a double measure. Most people are unaware of the millions upon multiplied millions of people that the Catholic Church has tortured and burnt at the stake and imprisoned and murdered. And these things were done in the most inhumane way that they could be done - the rack, the iron maiden, thumbscrews, boiling oil, the hot iron poker, etc., etc.

Some of you may have remembered the pictures I showed of the Church of Bones in Portugal. What I did not have pictures of were the glass cases of the torture devices they had on display. These were just a few of the means they used to coerce people into joining the Catholic Church. And God says that He will reward them





double for what they have done. He is so fair and just to give back just as she has given to others, and more because she proclaimed herself to be the light of God.

MANY OF GOD'S PEOPLE ARE STILL IN THIS INSTITUTION

“How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.” Rev. 18:7. Remember, we are talking about the Catholic system and the people who support it. God says there are many of His people in this institution, because He said we must call His people out of it. God's people in Catholicism are not glorifying themselves and neither do they live deliciously. But the ones that do will be given torment and sorrow commensurate to their wickedness. That's why we must call the faithful out while they can still leave. The end of this system is going to be terrible, and quick as well.

“Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.” Rev. 18:8. Using the day for a year Biblical principle in prophecy, this verse shows that God's judgments will fall an entire year, and there will be much

mourning and death. And keep in mind that this punishment will rest upon Catholicism, but also upon all those who are connected to her, or keep her day of worship! All these are part of this beast power, if they do not come out of her and her false doctrines. “And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,” Rev. 18:9.

THIS PUNISHMENT WILL NOT BE DONE IN SECRET

This will not be done in the dark or in a corner where no one is aware of what is going on. All of the leaders and mighty men will recognize what is happening to her and even then, are not sorry for what THEY have done; they are not sorry for their own part in what has happened to God's faithful, they are sorry for *her!* They lament for her... they bewail her. They are really torn up over what is happening to her. And why? Because they are connected to her! They committed fornication with her. They lived deliciously with her.

And what do you suppose will happen to them? “Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.” Rev. 18:10. Now

they want to be separated from her. Now they stand afar off for the “fear of her torment”. No, they don't want to be part of her anymore. Yet their concern is for Catholicism and all of her fornicating daughters of Protestantism because of their connection to the beast power.

ROME HAS BEEN THE SEAT OF CATHOLICISM SINCE ITS INCEPTION

And what great city, named Babylon for the confusion it spreads, is to be punished in an hour, or in 15 days prophetically? Rome has been the seat of Catholicism since its inception. Rome is the location of the Vatican. Rome is where the beast rules from. And Rome will especially suffer because they have allowed this power to rule from there. God is always just and righteous and He will punish according to the deeds done. There is an exact record kept in heaven and every lie, every false deal, and every business transaction to take advantage of others will be revealed and will have an exact punishment allotted for it. People think they are getting away with things because they are not immediately punished for them, but nothing could be further from the truth.

Babylon's judgments are coming,



sorceries here - it is the Greek word, "pharmakeia". That word, pharmakeia means just what you think it means... pharmacy. That's right... pharmacy! There is no bigger business in this entire world than the drug

and coming very soon. And the Bible continues to record how distraught those who have profited from her business dealings and graft and corruptions are, and then brings us to the end of God's pronouncements of her punishments, and why... "And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived." Rev. 18:23.

"PHARMAKEIA" IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST INDUSTRY

There is continual reference made to the merchants of the earth, or the men with business dealings with the beast power. The end of the verse says that by "thy sorceries" were all nations deceived. Certainly since there is this intimate connection with the devil, there would be all sorts of demonic sorceries used to deceive all the world. That is another sermon entirely! But I would like to address, just for a moment, the Greek word for

industry. And if you ever looked up the side effects of almost any drug on the market, it would make your head spin to see what can happen to you if you take it. What business would not delight in selling a product that makes you have to go to the pharmacist to get another drug to counteract the side effects of the drug you've already been given? And then another for the one you just got for the first one, and on and on and on. What a racket! What a profitable racket! No wonder the merchants of the earth were wailing because of the beast's downfall!

And we already know who has more clinics and doctors and hospitals and emergency rooms and nursing homes than anyone else. Remember who owns most of the pharmaceutical companies? Again, look it up for yourselves... don't take my word for it. I just think it's kind of funny that one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world is called Abbot Pharmaceuticals. Talk about right in your face! Soon, all the drug companies are going to be out of

business! There will be no need for drugs anymore... hallelujah!

THE DEVIL HATES, AND WANTS TO KILL, GOD'S CHILDREN

And finally, as if the Lord wanted to make sure we would not miss this, He adds... "And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth." Rev. 18:24. This beast power has been responsible for the blood of so many people. Prophets, saints and "all that were slain upon the earth". As you can imagine, an institution that the devil runs would be in the business of killing as many as it, or he, can. The devil hates not just Christians, but all of the children of the earth. Whether or not we admit it, we are all God's children, and the devil wants us all dead. And he's done a mighty fine job of it too. What he was able to use the Catholic Church for in the Dark Ages to kill and destroy people's lives has been far outdone today by the use of vaccines and drugs and poisonous methods of "healing". And every single act and pill and thought has been written down and will be recompensed.

This is what the message from this other angel is all about. It is a repeating of the second angel's message, but with more detail, so we could not possibly miss what the angel is saying. This is how much God loves us. This is how badly He yearns for us and wants us to make the right choice. This is how far He goes to try to bring us home. Let's not allow these messages to be in vain.



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

Hope for Health

Joint pain can be caused by many types of injuries or conditions. It can be a mild annoyance or an incapacitating obstacle that affects young and old, men and women, and people from all racial and ethnic groups. No matter what causes it, joint pain can be very bothersome. But the good news is, help is available! If you suffer from joint pain, regardless of the cause, Joint Support can help! Joint Support is a specially formulated blend of herbs and nutrients that help reduce inflammation and pain while nourishing the entire structural system (bones, muscles, and joints).

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- Vitamin B6 - A deficiency of B6 raises the risk for joint problems.
- Vitamin C - Reduces inflammation. Is essential for cartilage repair.
- Vitamin D2 - Helps rebuild cartilage and strengthen the bones. A deficiency of vitamin D can even cause bone and joint pain.
- Vitamin E - Enhances the repair of connective tissues. Helps relieve joint pain and leg cramps.
- Calcium - This mineral helps improve bone density as well as relieving joint pain and improving mobility.
- Magnesium - A deficiency of this mineral may cause leg cramps or joint pain. Magnesium also helps strengthen the bones by aiding calcium absorption.
- Pantothenic Acid - Reduces joint inflammation and stiffness.
- Niacinamide - Improves joint mobility, muscle strength, and decreases muscle fatigue. May completely eliminate joint pain.
- Copper - A deficiency of this mineral can cause joint pain and weak bones. A powerful antiinflammatory, it also helps reduce joint pain.
- Selenium - Fights inflammation, pain, and stiffness of the joints.
- Zinc - Helps reduce joint and muscle pain, fatigue, & inflammation.
- Quercetin - A powerful bioflavonoid with significant antiinflammatory properties. Helps reduce inflammation and pain.
- Niacin - Improves joint mobility and muscle strength. Also decreases muscle and joint fatigue.
- Boron - Helps the body to conserve magnesium and calcium. Helps prevent bone de-mineralization. Maintains healthy bones and joints.

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



Combining nature, faith, and love to bring healing to the world.

LORD, IS IT I?

By Patricia J. Smith

At the last Passover that Jesus ate with His disciples, He revealed unto them the shocking fact that one of the twelve would betray Him.

As close students of the Bible, we are familiar with the story of the last supper. But when we begin to more deeply contemplate the words that Jesus spoke to His disciples that night, “Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me”, we also should be shocked and saddened as were those who first heard these astounding words.

The devil sows tares among God's wheat

Those who were gathered around Jesus in the upper room were His closest friends on earth, those who knew Him best. They had been with Him daily for at least three years, some even more than that. They had traveled, eaten, slept, and ministered with Him. He had even enabled them to cast out unclean spirits, and to heal all manner of sickness and disease. It was inconceivable to eleven of His disciples that one of them – one of his closest associates – should betray Him in any way, turning against the One whom they knew to be “The Christ, the Son of the living God”.

At this time they must have forgotten the parable concerning the wheat and the tares that Jesus had taught them. He had plainly told them that the devil sows tares – his children – among “the children of the kingdom”. Matthew 13:38. He told them also that both were to grow together until the harvest, which is the end of the world, and that the reapers are the angels.

God alone will remove the tares

In the parable, the servants asked the owner of the field – the householder – if they should go and gather up the tares. He answered, “Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.” Verse 29. So even among the small group of disciples that followed Jesus, who constituted the first church to be called “Christians”, there would be at least one tare.

No disciple of Christ is to attempt to remove those he or she considers to be tares from the church. Of course, those in open sin are to be disciplined after prayerful and careful consideration, but only God can read the heart and judge who is wheat and who is a tare. We are plainly told by the prophet Jeremiah, “The heart is



deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9. The very next verse declares Who is the one who knows the heart and will judge every one accordingly. "I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doing." Verse 10.

One disciple planned to betray Jesus

The psalmist David prayed that God would perform His search upon his heart and know him. "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23, 24.

We would like to reflect even more upon this prayer of David, for it applies to every Christian living in these last evil days of earth's history. But before we do, let us consider again the twelve disciples at the last Passover supper with Jesus.

There was one disciple present to whom the thought of betraying Jesus was not a shock at all. In fact, shortly

At the beginning of His ministry when He called unto Him His twelve disciples, and gave them power against unclean spirits and the ability to heal all diseases, Judas Iscariot is mentioned last in the list of the disciples' names and is identified as the betrayer (Matthew 10:4); as the one "which also betrayed him". (Mark 3:19).

Although Jesus knew of the plan of Judas, He sought to redeem his soul

Even though his evil character as the betrayer of his Master was known to Christ, Jesus did not expose him to the other disciples as such. What patience, what forbearance, what long-suffering and love was daily demonstrated by the world's Redeemer to the one He knew would betray Him to an agonizing and cruel death! Even so, and despite the man himself, Jesus Christ sought to redeem his soul, giving him the same opportunity to be saved as the other eleven disciples. He lived out the eternal truth that the Holy Spirit revealed to the church at Rome through the apostle Paul – "Recompense to no man evil



before they had met for this last passover, he had gone to the chief priests and offered to betray Jesus into their hands for thirty pieces of silver. The scriptures declare, "And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him." Matthew 26:16.

Judas Iscariot was this hypocrite

This hypocritical disciple who played his part so well that his fellow believers did not suspect him and his real motives, was Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. The other eleven disciples were truly fooled by Judas' act of being a loyal follower of Christ, since they could not read his heart, his mind. By the way, the Greek word for "hypocrite" is "hypokrites" and means "an actor under an assumed character (stage player), i.e. (fig.) a dissembler." On the other hand, our Lord and Savior was not at all misled by Judas Iscariot, for He "knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man." John 2:24, 25.

for evil...Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:17, 21.

He knew Judas' main downfall was the love of money. In His teaching, He often proclaimed Heaven's truth regarding the danger of trusting in earthly riches, of losing out on eternal life by trying to grasp earthly wealth. And so to the rich young ruler He said, "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me." Later, when the rich ruler had turned away, He declared to the disciples, "Verily, I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." Matthew 19: 21, 23, 24.

Our treasures must be laid up in heaven

Another warning to Judas, and to all who loved wealth among His hearers, was included in the Sermon on the

Mount. Jesus showed that having earthly treasure was not to be the focus of His followers when He stated, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Matthew 6:19-21.

The parable of the rich man who proved to be a selfish fool was a stern warning to Judas against his major cherished sin – avarice. Jesus declared what thoughts of the rich man were foolish – “And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry.” In this calculation the foolish rich man lost sight of the value of his soul and the souls of those around him who needed his help. “But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee; then whose shall those things be which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” Luke 12:19-21.

Again and again Jesus sought to turn Judas’ mind from the riches of this world to the eternal riches that are available to all who yield themselves to Him.

To follow Jesus requires sacrifice

Another strong warning Christ gave against loving riches also teaches the incalculable worth of one human soul, one life for whom the Savior gave His most precious and perfect life on Calvary. In the passage, Jesus also taught what it means to be His disciple, what it takes to follow Him truly. “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” Matthew 16:24-26.

The closest Jesus came to giving an open rebuke of Judas’ love of money was at Bethany, in the home of Simon, Judas’ father. Serious Bible students know the story of how Mary, sister of Lazarus and Martha, anointed Jesus’ head and feet with very expensive spikenard perfume,

crying and wiping His feet with her long hair. This incident is recorded in John 12 and Mark 14. Comparing both John’s and Mark’s accounts, we see that Judas first complained about Mary’s deed of deep gratitude and love, saying, “Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence and given to the poor?” John 12:5. Mark brings out the fact that his complaint caused others to also murmur against what Mary had done. They went so far as to have “indignation within themselves” (Mark 14:4) about the matter. The others who complained, following Judas’ example, may have had genuine concern for the poor, but John’s account makes it clear that Judas was lying when he acted as if he cared for the needy, for he carried the bag for the disciples (he was their treasurer) and was a thief. “This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.” John 12:6.

Judas offered to betray Him to the chief priests and elders

John records a short rebuke by Jesus to Judas, whereas Mark records the fact that more than Judas complained and that Jesus gave a longer rebuke against those complaints. He told them, “Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me. For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good; by me ye have not always. She hath done what she could; she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying. Verily, I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.” Mark 14:6-9.

This rebuke from Jesus, even though He did not mention Judas by name, must have been the tipping point for the false disciple, for the very next two verses state – “And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray Him unto them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.” Mark 14:10, 11. This occurred shortly before the last supper, where Jesus made the startling announcement, “One of you shall betray me.”





Jesus' announcement of His betrayal is being repeated today

We look back at the history of Judas' betrayal of Jesus as a long-past horrific event, but as I was contemplating God's Word in the midst of writing this article, the Holy Spirit revealed to me that Jesus is repeating His shocking announcement to His professed disciples today!

Through Paul, the Holy Spirit spoke of this last-day betrayal. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." 1 Timothy 4:1.

Knowing that we are in the last days of earth's history when this prophecy of the great apostasy is being fulfilled, "it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." (Romans 13:11). As we contemplate the awful fact that it was one sin cherished and unforsaken in his life – the love of money – that quenched all the power of the gospel in the life of Judas and led him to finally and completely betray His Master to a cruel death, we should closely examine ourselves whether we are truly Christians, in the faith of Christ. Let us inquire with a sincere heart of the Lord Jesus as did His eleven disciples, "Lord, is it I?"

Every word, thought and action must be pleasing to Jesus

The very sad and awful history of Judas should be a strong and chilling deterrent to every false disciple today. Instead of pointing fingers and accusing fellow believers of sin and wrong motives, we should turn our glance inward, praying the prayer that David offered, in Psalm 139:23, 24, asking God to search his heart, as was mentioned earlier. If we are truly earnest in making this request, God will most definitely reveal our true selves to us. He will let us know what sinful habits are separating us from a closer walk with Him, and the cleansing that needs to take place in our minds, that all our words and actions, everything we say and do may be pleasing to Him. No foul language should escape our lips, no gossip; no backbiting should be a part of our vocabulary. Every transgression of God's Law will be cleansed from our hearts and we will be prepared to stand

for Christ and His Word as the shaking intensifies. "As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test (the National Sunday Law) is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and misled souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought to the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them." Mrs. Ellen G. White, *Great Controversy*, 343.

May each of us be found faithful

I appeal to you, dear reader, to unite with me in crying out to our Savior daily, "Lord, is it I?". Let Him reveal to us our true hearts, that He may take away our sins, as we yield ourselves fully to Him by His amazing powerful grace, making us brand-new people in Himself. May you and I be found among those "who earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3), and not be among those who give heed to seducing spirits and devils' doctrines, betraying their Lord and His Remnant People, is my prayer.



Patricia is a second-generation SDA writer who loves to study and share the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. She enjoys biking, rock collecting, and spending time with family. She resides in Louisiana with her husband and two children.



Not As Our Ways

The spring hath birds, however late,
And June must bring her roses
To faintest hearts that trustful wait
For what God's love discloses.

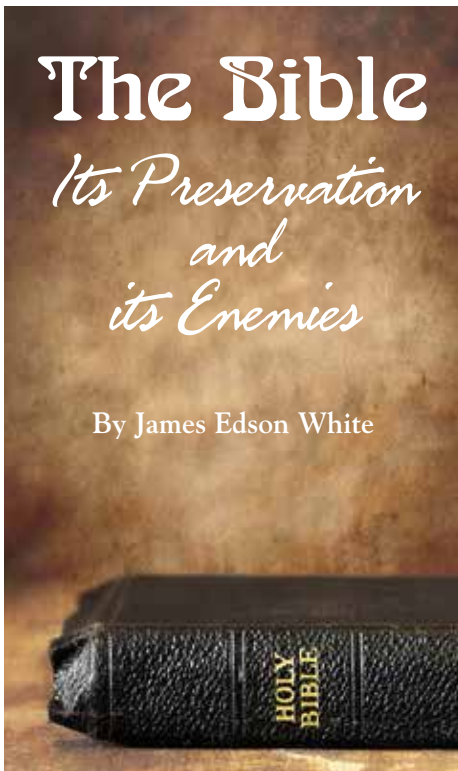
We look along the shining ways,
To see the angels' faces;
They come to us in darkest days,
And in the blackest places.

We learn our weakness of our pride,
Our strength from out our weakness;
Sweet patience brings, for gifts denied,
The greater gift of meekness.

The strongest hearts have strongest needs;
For them, the fiery trial,
Who walks a saint in word and deed
Is saint by self denial.

We ask of God the sunniest way—
He answers with a sorrow;
We faint beneath the cross to-day,
We wear the crown tomorrow.

—Selected



It pleased God, in His wisdom, to give to mankind a written history of the world, the origin of the human race, the entrance of sin, and the plan of salvation through Jesus Christ, His Son. The book which contains these things is called the Bible. It is called "The Bible" from the fact that it is a book made up from other books. This is emphatically true of the Scriptures.

The Bible, while the work of several persons, who lived at different periods of time, during many centuries, is not only one book, but complete and harmonious, because the writers were all inspired by the Spirit of God. Hence we read: "The prophecy came not in old times by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Peter 1:21.

God speaks to men through this word

The Bible is called the word of God because it is the Creator's revelation of Himself to mankind. It tells us of the creation of all things, and of God's purpose in making the earth and placing man upon it. It tells, too, of the origin of sin, of its awful

consequences, and of the wonderful salvation which God has provided by the gift to the world of His own Son, Jesus Christ.

It is called the word of God, too, because in it God speaks to men. To have God's word to read and thus to be able to learn directly from Him what are His requirements, is the greatest blessing man can possess.

It was not God's plan that there should ever be any authority to assert itself by coming between Him and the humblest, even, of His children. Designing and ambitious men, however, have, from time to time, endeavored to keep the Bible out of the hands and hearts of the people, and even to destroy it.

Enemies of the Bible

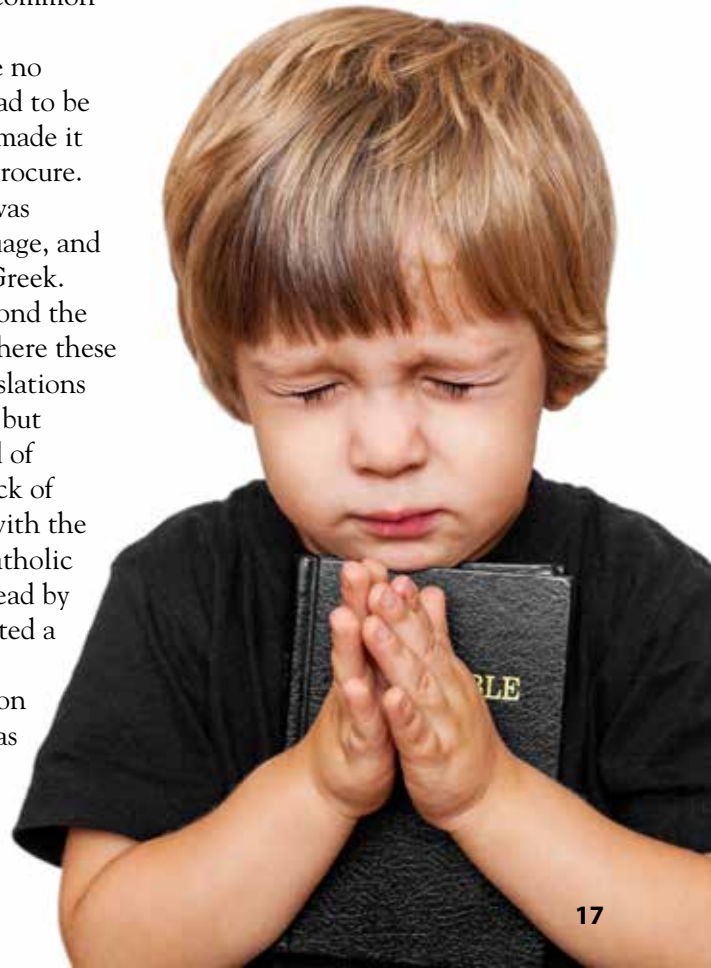
Since mention has been made of the enmity of the Roman Catholic Church towards the Bible, it seems only fitting that a few of the more important facts be given touching "the Book of Books," its enemies, and the means by which it has, not only been preserved to the world, but given to the common people.

In early ages as there were no printing presses, the Bible had to be written with the pen. This made it very costly, and difficult to procure. At first the Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language, and the New Testament in the Greek. But as the gospel passed beyond the narrow limits of the lands where these languages were spoken, translations were necessary, or else none but scholars could read the word of God for themselves. The lack of such translations, together with the opposition of the Roman Catholic Church to the Bible being read by the common people, prevented a general knowledge of the Scriptures. It is for this reason that the Catholic Church has always, as far as it could possibly do so, kept the Bible away from the people.

The Catholic priests controlled which portions of the Bible could be read

The Catholic Church was founded upon the ambition of a powerful and proud priesthood, which usurped authority in the church of Christ. They knew that their work was contrary to the example and teachings of Christ and the Bible. A knowledge of the Bible by the masses would show their claims to be false, and their teachings erroneous. Hence the success of their church depended upon their keeping the Bible from being read by the people.

Then followed the so-called "Dark Ages" (A. D. 486 to A. D. 1495), in which only such portions of the Scriptures as the priesthood pleased, were read to the people. God, however, prevented the utter destruction of His written word, and copies of the Bible were preserved in many places.





The Bible and the Reformation

At length, the time came when God commanded the light of His word to shine forth again upon the earth. The minds of godly men, zealous and educated, who had access to the Bible, were led to recognize the errors and evils of the Romish system of religion, and boldly took their stand upon the principles revealed in the word of God, and the gospel of Jesus Christ. These men translated the Bible into the language of the common people, who eagerly read and studied it. As a consequence, the ire of the church was aroused, and many of these men suffered martyrdom, yielding up their lives that the truth might be placed within the reach of the people.

To John Wycliffe belongs the honor of being the first to translate the Bible into English. Wycliffe was a monk, educated at Oxford. He accepted the truths of God's word, and boldly preached them, sowing seed that afterwards, in many nations, sprang up and bore fruit. He was called the "Gospel Doctor". Forbidden to preach longer at Oxford, Wycliffe retired to his church at Lutterworth, and so gained the needed time in which to make the English translation. This occupied his time for nearly fifteen years, being completed in A. D. 1380, over half a century before the birth of Martin Luther, the great German reformer.

Partial translations, however, had been made before the effort of Wycliffe. Bede had translated the gospel of John. The learned men of King Alfred's court, the four evangelists. Elfric had translated portions of the Old Testament, an Anglo-Norman priest had paraphrased the Gospels and the Acts, Pichard Rolle had produced a version of the Psalms, the Gospels, and the Epistles, "but these rare volumes," remarks D'Aubigne, "were hidden like theological curiosities in the libraries of a few converts."

While the priesthood held that the reading of the Bible was injurious to the laity, they were not able to prevent the reading of these translations of Wycliffe.

The monks claimed it was heresy to speak of the Holy Scriptures in English

"The reception of this work," writes the historian of the Reformation, J. Merle D'Aubigne, "surpassed Wycliffe's expectations. The Holy Scriptures exercised a reviving influence over men's hearts; minds were enlightened, and souls were converted.

The voices of the 'poor priests' had done but little in comparison with this voice. Something new had entered the world."

But while many received Wycliffe's work favorably, the lower clergy opposed the Reformation "with complaints and maledictions". "Master John Wycliffe, by translating the gospel into English," said the monks, "has rendered it more acceptable and more intelligible to laymen, and even women, than it had been to intelligent clerks....The gospel pearl is everywhere cast out and trodden under foot of swine." "It is heresy," cried the monks, "to speak of the Holy Scriptures in English."

William Tyndale made it possible for even the poor to own a copy of the Bible

Although great good was accomplished through Wycliffe's work, the world was not yet ready for a general revolt against the errors of the Roman Catholic Church. It devolved upon Martin Luther, more than a century later, to stir not only Germany, but the world, by the proclamation of the gospel, and through the translation of the Bible into the widely spoken German language.

It was not until A. D. 1440, however, sixty years after the completion of Wycliffe's translation, that the art of printing was discovered in Mentz by John Gutenberg. For want of the printing press, Wycliffe

could give his English translation of the Bible only to the more wealthy of the people. But about a century and a half later, in 1525, aided by the art of printing, William Tyndale gave to England the New Testament in their own language, and at a price within the reach of nearly all, so that even the very poor could, if they chose to do so, own a copy.

The papal Priests, however, did not permit the dissemination of the Bible without bitter opposition. Tyndale's English New Testament was printed in Germany, and was sent into England in boxes of merchandise, sacks of grain, and in various other ways.

The forced Bible burning crusade in London had the opposite effect than the priests had hoped for

The first edition of Tyndale's Testament came from the press about the close of 1525. On February 11, 1526, occurred the noted Bible burning scene at St. Paul's Cross, London.

Bishop Fisher preached a sermon at the time, in the presence of Cardinal Wolsey, at whose instance the books were burned. Following the sermon baskets were brought out filled with the Testaments bought of the merchants, and taken from the homes of the people, and "the heretics", who had dared to purchase them, were compelled to march three times

around a fire kindled for this purpose, and to cast their books into the flames as they walked around it.

The effect of this Bible burning crusade was not what the priests anticipated. The historian Burnet says: "This burning had a hateful appearance in it; and the people thence concluded that their church and those books taught different things, and so their desire was increased to read the New Testament."

Fire and sword cannot suppress the truth of God's word

It is not without significance that upon the very spot where those books were burned now stands the Depository of the Religious Tract Society, from which place the Bible is now sent to almost every country in the world, and in almost every living language.

The enemies of the Bible did not

stop, however, with the destruction of copies of the Scriptures. Ten years after the scene at St. Paul's Cross, Tyndale was strangled and his body burned. Yet the fear of death did not deter men, and even women, from reading the Bible. Fire and sword, however, cannot suppress the truth of God's word.

Persecution only gave fresh impetus to the gospel. The word of God could no longer be kept from the people, for on every hand men and women arose in whose hearts the gospel was a fire shut up in their bones, and who, regardless of consequences, boldly proclaimed the truth.

The Bible and the Waldenses

This battle was waged, not only in England and Germany, but also in France, Italy, and Switzerland. From 1476 to 1686 the Waldenses of the Piedmont Valleys were again and again besieged in their rocky fastnesses by papal troops, because they clung to the Bible and rejected the glaring errors of the Roman Church.

The Waldensian colonies in Calabria, and Appulia Provinces, and in the plains of Piedmont and the French Alps, suffered thirty three different periods of persecution, and were fully exterminated; out of 25,000 people all but 3,000 being either killed or dying in Italian dungeons.

The few who survived the terrible ordeal crossed the Alps, in winter, to Switzerland, leaving the mountain paths strewn with the corpses of those who fell by the way. The few who escaped the sword, the prison, and the Alpine snows, now found a haven on the shores of Lake Geneva.

Three years later they returned to their own beloved country, but their numbers were reduced to four hundred fighting men.

The preservation of the Waldenses was accomplished, and the enemies of the Bible, and those in whose hearts its precepts were written, were foiled.

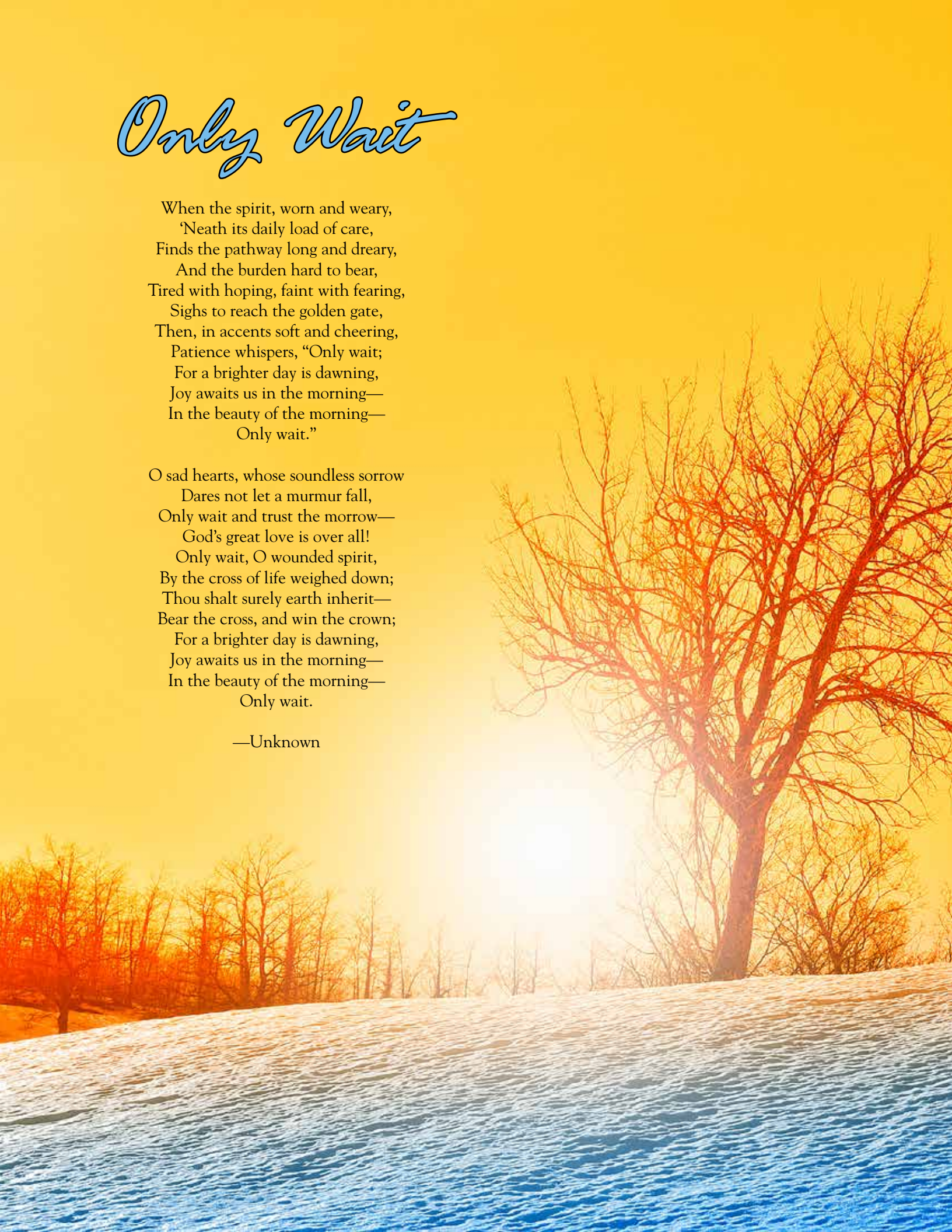


Only Wait

When the spirit, worn and weary,
 'Neath its daily load of care,
Finds the pathway long and dreary,
 And the burden hard to bear,
Tired with hoping, faint with fearing,
 Sighs to reach the golden gate,
Then, in accents soft and cheering,
 Patience whispers, "Only wait;
 For a brighter day is dawning,
 Joy awaits us in the morning—
 In the beauty of the morning—
 Only wait."

O sad hearts, whose soundless sorrow
 Dares not let a murmur fall,
Only wait and trust the morrow—
 God's great love is over all!
Only wait, O wounded spirit,
By the cross of life weighed down;
Thou shalt surely earth inherit—
Bear the cross, and win the crown;
 For a brighter day is dawning,
 Joy awaits us in the morning—
 In the beauty of the morning—
 Only wait.

—Unknown



CHRIST RECEIVED, MAN'S CHARACTER TRANSFORMED

By Mrs. E. G. White

A LESSON FROM JUDAS

“Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover. And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill him; for they feared the people. Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.” Satan would not have entered into Judas if he had not opened the door to give him admittance. He would not have entered into him if he had been a doer of the words of Christ. “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” Had he been a doer of the words of Christ, he would have taken heed, and would have barricaded the soul, so that Satan could not have entered.

Judas had no excuse for failing to form a Christlike character

Judas had had great light; he had had many opportunities to understand what were the requirements of God. Numbered

among the twelve, he had listened to the lessons of Christ; he had heard the truth, and he had no excuse for failing to form a character after the likeness of Christ. It had been his privilege to behold the character of Christ, to contemplate his goodness, his compassion, to see his works of mercy, to behold his wonderful miracles in healing the sick and giving life to the dead. He should

have been rich in faith, and bound to Christ with cords of love which nothing could sever; but though a hearer of the words of Christ, he was not a doer of his word. Had Judas improved his opportunities and appreciated his privileges while being in close relationship with Christ as a disciple, he would have watched unto prayer, and would have overcome his besetting sin, avarice and covetousness, which is idolatry, and would have become transformed in character. But, although Christ gave lessons in condemnation of this sin, Judas did not feel his danger. He did not make his request to God for the aid of the Holy Spirit to help his infirmities, nor did he earnestly



strive for the best gifts in order that he might accomplish the greatest good and receive grace for grace.

God qualifies His disciples for the work which He would have them do, and they are to wait, watch and pray

In this age, if those who come under the precious influence of the truth do not become transformed in character, they will, like Judas, go from light to darkness; and how great will be their darkness. God had intrusted to Judas talents of ability, and if he had used these gifts of God in blessing humanity with the rays of light that shone upon him from the Sun of Righteousness, he would have had increased light, and his path would have been as the path of the just, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day. But he was more eager for position, for rank and wealth, than for the glory of God and the good of humanity. He became so narrow in his ideas, so selfish in his plans, that good and holy impressions could not be made upon his heart and mind. Had he as eagerly sought for the spirit of true goodness, mercy, compassion, forbearance, and true courtesy, as he did for power and wealth, he would not have possessed the attributes of Satan, but would have manifested the attributes of the character of Him who daily lived not to please himself, but went about doing good, healing all who were possessed of the devil. Judas had talents of influence, and had he received the Spirit of Christ, he would have been transformed in character so that he could have accomplished the work to which God had called him. God qualifies his disciples for the work which he would have them do, and gives them talents according to their several ability. But in order that they may do the work for which they are

called, they are admonished to wait, to watch, to pray, lest Satan shall take advantage of them.

CHRIST ALONE OUR HELPER

Every one who truly becomes the disciple of Christ will be tested and tried. If the human agent will fully determine that he cannot and will not live without Christ, he will be an overcomer. Although, like Peter, James, and John, he may reveal defects of character, yet he will receive the lessons of reproof from the Saviour, and will be transformed in character. The angels of God will be around the tempted soul who is striving for the victory. His determination, his importunity, will bring to him the necessary strength and grace.

Can you bear the test and proving of God?

James and John thought that they could obtain the favor of God, and, for the asking, have a seat at the right hand and at the left hand of Christ when he received his kingdom. But Jesus answered and said: "Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" This inquiry meant, Can you bear the test and proving of God? Can you drink the cup of self-denial, of humiliation, reproach, suffering, ignominy, and death? They said, "We

are able." O, how little did they understand what would be the sufferings of Christ! Had they known, they would have shrunk back from such a statement, and their answer would have been one of far less assurance and self-confidence. Could they have realized that their Lord would be subjected to such utter humiliation as he was, could they have seen him staggering and falling under the cross, and known that their own path would be one of reproach, of ignominy, of imprisonment, of persecution

and shame, before they could win the crown, they would never have said in self-confidence, "We are able." But they did become partakers of the sufferings of Christ. They did drink of the cup of which he drank, and were baptized with the baptism with which he was baptized.

Every true disciple must take up his cross and follow where Christ leads

It is essential that the lessons of humility that Christ has given should be thoroughly





Why did the Jewish nation not know and understand Jesus?

But the same resistance to light is manifested now as was manifested in the days of Christ. O, why did not the Jewish nation know and understand Jesus? He could have been everything to them. "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. . . . That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."



understood. These disciples of Christ loved Jesus, and were ever close to him. James and John desired the privilege of being nearest to Jesus in the kingdom of heaven. This led them to ask for a seat upon his right hand and upon his left hand. But every disciple, from age to age, is individually required to take up his cross and follow where Christ leads the way, learning in the school of Christ his meekness and lowliness of heart.

The soul temple must become fit for the indwelling of the Spirit of God

Those who reign with Christ in his kingdom must have a fellowship in his suffering. Every defect in character condemned by the law of God, must through the grace of Christ, which is freely given to every soul who desires it, be overcome. Every hereditary and cultivated tendency to evil must be seen, subdued, and cleansed, that the soul temple may become fit for the indwelling of the Spirit of God. The divine will must be accepted, and the human will brought into harmony with God, though it cause bitter agony and tears. Traits of character that are offensive to God are often very dear to man, and are cherished as virtues. How blind is humanity unless the light of heaven is accepted and cherished! When truth is laid hold of resolutely, and a firm, determined purpose is cherished to bring the life into harmony with truth, then is cultivated the faith that works by love and purifies the soul. Then the disciples of Christ manifest that steadfastness of purpose that will not fail nor be discouraged. God will bestow his gifts to the striving soul in proportion to his willingness to receive, and his readiness to impart for the glory of God.

No one of us has the power to save himself

Jesus, the world's Redeemer, can alone give power to reform, to believe in himself as the Restorer. He alone can break every yoke. All the outward ceremonies of the Jews, all their sacrificial offerings, were of no virtue, for the One prefigured

in them stood in the midst of them, and, sad fact, they knew him not. He came unto his own, the nation he had redeemed from Egyptian slavery, but they would not receive him.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name; which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth." "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

ST, July 18, 1895



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.

Health Gem

THE MUSCULAR SYSTEM - Pt. 1

From the book Hand Book of Health ~ 1868

By J.N. Loughborough

What are the muscles?

The moving organs of the body. Their grand peculiarity is their power of contraction, which is as wonderful as anything in nature. This is the element of all voluntary motion, and most, if not all, positively involuntary motion, in the living body. All the great motions of the body are caused by the movement of some of the bones which constitute the frame-work of the system; but these, independently of themselves, have not the power of motion, and only change their position through the action of other organs that are attached to them, which by contracting, draw the bones after them. In some of the slight movements, as the winking of the eye, no bones are displaced. The organs which perform this remarkable work are called muscles. The red color of the muscles is owing to the presence of the numerous blood vessels which they contain.

Of what are the muscles composed?

They are composed of parallel fibers, of a deep red color, constituting lean flesh. Any person can examine a piece of boiled beef, or the leg of a fowl, and see the structure of the fibres and tendons of a muscle.

Of what shape is a muscular fiber?

It is long, round, and fine, like a thread. Any piece of lean meat can be easily divided in one direction into stringy fibers, which, by the use of appropriate instruments, can be subdivided till fibrils are reached, not

so large as hairs, composed of a sheath enclosing minute particles, shaped like beads, placed end to end. Some might suppose lean meat had no regular shape, but the above proves that it has. The lean portions of our bodies are arranged in perfect order.

How are the fibrils that constitute muscles held together?

By a delicate web or sheath, which is perforated with minute tissues or cavities, and these become so compact

together at the ends of the muscles as to form glistening fibers and cords, called tendons, or sinews, by which the muscles are attached to the periosteum, or surface of the bones. A few of the muscles resemble in structure a ribbon; others a cord; others are thin and expanded, so that they resemble a membrane. The muscles present various modifications in the arrangement of fibres, as relates to their tendinous structure.

How many muscles are there in the human body?

It is supposed that there are not less than four hundred and seventy distinct muscles of voluntary motion in the human body; about twice as many muscles as there are bones. They are nearly all arranged in pairs, each side of the body having the same kind. These are so arranged and adjusted,





as to position and connection, that by the contractions of the different pairs, or individual muscles, all the voluntary motions of the lower limbs are performed. The function of respiration - which to a certain extent, is both voluntary and involuntary - also employs some of these muscles.

How much of the body is muscle?

The greater portion of the bulk of the body is composed of muscular tissue. It is the muscle that gives the body its plump appearance. These muscles not only serve as a means of moving the body, but, in the limbs, they invest and protect the bones, and some of the joints. In the trunk they are spread out to enclose cavities, and form a defensive wall, capable of yielding to external pressure and again returning to its original position.

How are muscles moved?

By contracting, or shortening.

When a piece of India rubber has been stretched and you let go of it, it contracts. These cords have power to lengthen and shorten somewhat like rubber. Some muscles in contracting pull at one end, and some at both their ends.

How are all the actions and motions of the various organs of the body produced?

By the alternate contracting (shortening) and expansion (lengthening) of these muscular fibers. These muscles are so arranged as to act as antagonists to each other, some displacing a part, and some replacing it; and therefore they are termed the flexor and extensor muscles. The flexor muscles are considered to be generally more powerful than the extensor, and hence, when the WILL ceases to act, as in sound sleep and death, the body and limbs are partially fixed or bent.

Of what are the muscles composed?

Of bundles of fibers enclosed in a sheath; each fiber is composed of smaller bundles, and each bundle of single fibers called ultimate fibers.

By a microscope it is seen that these ultimate fibers are composed of finer fibers called fibrils.

What is the appearance of the end of one of these fibers through a microscope?

It presents to us an appearance similar to that of the end of a compact bundle of very fine straws.

How many kinds of muscular fiber do anatomists distinguish?

Two: those of voluntary or animal life, those under control of the will; and those of involuntary or organic life, such as are used for breathing and digestion. Muscular fibers of animal life are composed of these bundles of fibrils, while the muscular fibers of organic life are flat, and are held together by fibers which are composed of a dense form of the same tissue. The muscles of animal life are developed on the external part of the body and are mostly attached to the bones, and they comprehend all of the muscles of the limbs and trunk, while the muscles of organic life are formed from the internal or mucous layer, and are situated in the hollow

organs composing the respiratory, digestive and circulatory apparatuses.

When the muscular tissue is once destroyed, is it ever restored again?

Never; but when the muscles are wounded, with or without the loss of their substance, the breach is healed, and the parts united, by what is called areolar tissue, which is wholly insensible to the action of stimulants.

How many groups of muscles are there in the head and face?

There are eight groups of muscles, namely: 1 for moving the eyebrows; 3 for moving the eyelids; 7 for moving the eyeballs; 3 for moving the nose; 7 for moving the lips; 3 for moving the chin; 5 to assist the lower jaw in the motions necessary in masticating food. One of these muscles passes over the temple, and is called temporal, from tempus, time, because here the hair begins to turn gray; 3 muscles of the ear. The muscles used for chewing



food are attached to the lower jaw, near the joint; if their position was near the front part of the bone they would not contract sufficiently to bring the jaws together.

How many groups of muscles are there in the neck?

There are eight: The first has 2 muscles, used to bow the head forward; the second has 8 muscles, 4 depressors and 4 elevators. The depressors pull down the os hyoides, or bone of the tongue. The 4 elevators raise the os hyoides when the jaw is closed; the third has 5 muscles, and these aid the tongue in all its movements; the fourth has 5 muscles, which are used in swallowing food; the fifth has 3 muscles, used in all the

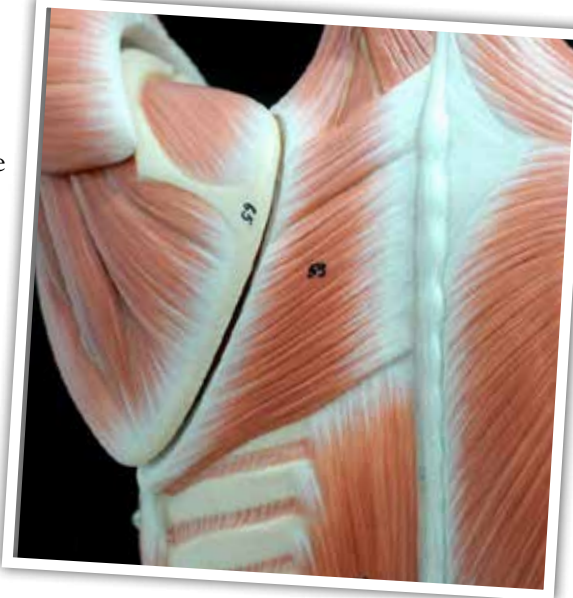
motions of the palate; the sixth has 5 muscles, passing from the sides of the head down on to the breast, used to steady the head, and to lift the ribs as we draw the head backward in inhaling a long breath; the seventh consists of each of those muscles used in varying the tones of the human voice; the eighth has 8 muscles, those of the larynx - Adam's apple; also used in producing articulate sounds. The muscles of the above eight groups, then, are those adapted to move the head and neck on the spinal column, to raise the shoulders, to control the motions of the mouth and throat, and to produce the sounds of the voice.

How many layers of external muscles are there in the back?

There are six layers, composed of at least thirty pairs of muscles. They give a firm attachment for muscles to move the extremities, and keep the trunk in an upright position. The first layer has 2 muscles and the second has 3, and these two layers give all the



different motions to the shoulders; the third layer has 3, some of which are used in raising and depressing the back portion of the ribs in breathing, and some are used to give the spinal column its slight motion from side to side; the fourth layer has 7 muscles, holding the vertebral column erect, and assisting in steadying the head. When one of the muscles of this character act on one side alone they produce the rotation of the atlas on the axis; the fifth layer has 7 muscles. A portion of these contribute to the support of the back in an erect position. The others produce the rotary and other motions of the atlas on the axis; the sixth layer has 5 muscles. A portion of these raise the back part of the ribs in the inspiration of breath, the others help in supporting the body and holding the bones in position.



It is a partition across the body just below the lungs, with an opening near the center. It separates the thorax from the abdomen. Its point of attachment to the body is just below the ribs. When the diaphragm is relaxed, it presents the appearance of an inverted and irregularly-shaped cup. When in a state of contraction its surface is nearly a plane. This muscle enlarges the chest by depressing its lower surface, as in the case of holding a full breath in the lungs. The nine muscles of the abdomen assist in drawing down the ribs, in drawing in the small of the back, or in turning the abdomen sidewise. They also diminish by their action the size of the abdomen, and thus assist in breathing.

How many classes of muscles belong to the thorax or chest?

There are three classes of muscles belonging to the chest, and these belong also to the upper extremities. The first class is 11 internal muscles; the second class is 11 external muscles. These muscular, cordy fibers fill the spaces between the ribs outside and within the front of the chest, and they cross each other; the third class is situated within the chest, and connects the breast bone with the ends of this first and second class of muscles, and also connects them with the cartilages of the second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth, ribs. The lower fibers of this muscle connect also with the internal muscles of the abdomen. These three classes of muscles raise and depress the ribs and draw down the cartilages of the ribs, and thus assist in breathing.

How many muscles regulate the movements of the abdomen?

Nine, and the ninth of these is called the diaphragm.



News Watch

Shares Worthless
Crash!
Anxiety deepens
Interest rates
Liquidity
Recession Forecast

Time Magazine, January 13, 2014, Twin Bombings in Russia Cast Cloud Over Olympics, page 8.

“Two suicide bomb attacks on consecutive days rocked the southern Russian city of Volgograd, a key railroad hub some 400 miles northeast of Sochi, where the winter Olympics start in early February. The first blast hit the central train station on Dec 29, killing at least 17. The following day, at least 14 died when a bomb ripped through a trolley bus.”

End Time Perspective:

“The nations are in unrest. Times of perplexity are upon us. Men’s hearts are failing them for fear of the things that are coming upon the earth. But those who believe in God will hear His voice amid the storm, saying, ‘It is I; be not afraid.’” ST Oct. 9, 1901.



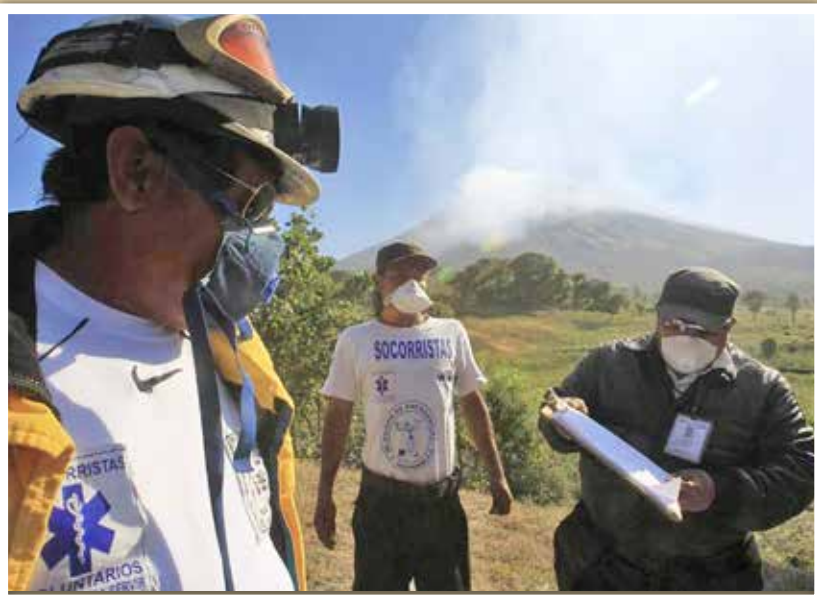
Russian emergency workers and investigators gather at the site of a trolley bus bombing in Volgograd, southern Russia. PHOTO: EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

Time Magazine, January 13, 2014, Disaster, page 9.

“Thousands of people fled their houses after a volcano erupted in eastern El Salvador, spewing hot ash and smoke.”

End Time Perspective:

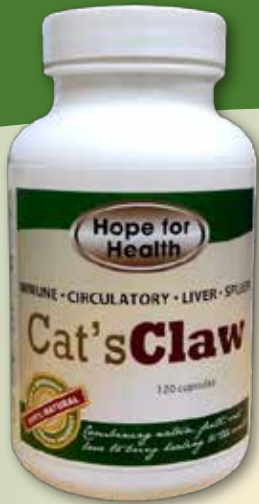
“In fires, in floods, in earthquakes, in the fury of the great deep, in calamities by sea and by land, the warning is given that God’s Spirit will not always strive with men. 3 MR 315.”



Workers monitored the Chaparrastique volcano, located about 90 miles east of San Salvador, a day after it erupted. PHOTO: ULISES RODRIGUEZ/REUTERS

Editor’s note: Monthly we hear of various calamities throughout the earth. Time is short; prepare your hearts—surrender fully to Jesus.

Hope for Health



These thorns enable the vine to attach itself around trees climbing to heights up to 100 feet! Considered a valuable medicinal resource, Cat's Claw is protected in Peru. Although scientific research has just recently begun to explore its benefits, many cultures native to the South American rain forest areas have used this herb for hundreds of years. A powerful immune system stimulant and antioxidant, Cat's Claw helps encourage healthy cell growth while also helping to reduce inflammation and ease joint pain.

Cat's Claw

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE GREAT HEALTH BENEFITS OF HOPE FOR HEALTH'S CAT'S CLAW?

- Acts as an antioxidant to rid the body of free radicals
- Inhibits unhealthy cell growth
- Helps maintain normal blood sugar levels
- Has anti-inflammatory properties, which makes it helpful for any condition involving inflammation
- Helps with intestinal complaints, gastrointestinal issues, respiratory health, menstrual problems and pain
- Enhances function of white blood cells and increases immune response in the body
- Has a positive regulating effect on brain neurotransmitters called 5-HT(2) receptors. These receptor sites are targets for drugs used in treating a variety of conditions, including depression, anxiety, eating disorders, chronic pain conditions and obesity.

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIALS:

I've had amazing results using the Cat's Claw each day. So far: no more indigestion a couple hours after I eat and I can eat and digest carbs and sugars better! Thanks!" - Karen P.

"I had been recommended Cat's Claw by my exercise instructor who suffered from joint pain. I too have had joint pain in my knees. After one week, I could feel a big improvement and now after just a month, my pain is gone. I would highly recommend this product for joint pain." - Susan K.

INFLAMMATION

Another significant area of study has focused on Cat's Claw's anti-inflammatory properties. While plant sterols and antioxidant chemicals found in Cat's Claw account for some of these properties, new and novel plant chemicals called quinovic acid glycosides were documented to be the most potent anti-inflammatory constituents of the plant. This study and subsequent ones indicated that Cat's Claw (and, especially, its glycosides) could inhibit inflammation from 46% up to 89% in various tests. The results of these studies validated its long history of indigenous use for joint pain, as well as for other types of inflammatory stomach and bowel disorders.

IMMUNE SUPPORT

Contemporary herbalists consider Cat's Claw to be a natural immunostimulant, enhancing the function of white blood cells. A group of alkaloids found in Cat's Claw have been documented with immune-boosting properties, with the strongest constituent being Isopteropodin (Isomer A), which increases the immune response in the body and acts as an antioxidant to eliminate free radicals.

In fact, Cat's Claw has been used in Peru and Europe since the early 1990s as an adjunct or supplemental treatment for health problems that target the immune system.

Some advocates of Cat's Claw suggest that the immuno-therapeutic actions of this herb are even superior to those of Pau d'Arco, Echinacea, Goldenseal and Astragalus!

HEART HEALTH

The alkaloids (rhynchophylline, hirsutine and mitraphylline) found in Cat's Claw have vasodilating properties that may have heart and cardio-protective effects by promoting healthy blood pressure and cholesterol levels, improving circulation, and contributing to a healthy heart rate.

GASTROINTESTINAL HEALTH

Many health practitioners have reported successes using the herb for chronic bowel problems. After using Cat's Claw in working with approximately 150 patients between 1988 and 1992, Dr. Brent Davis reports that "Uncaria tomentosa (Cat's Claw) has the ability to break through severe intestinal derangements that no other available products can touch." He refers to the herb as "the opener of the way" because of its remarkable ability to cleanse the entire intestinal tract and help patients suffering from many different stomach and bowel problems. In addition, by cleansing the intestinal walls, Cat's Claw enables the body to better absorb nutrients, thus helping to correct nutritional imbalances created by digestive blockages.

To Order Call Today: 1-800-468-7884
or Visit us on the web at: www.hopeforhealthusa.com

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

Price:

120 capsules \$14.99

Suggested Adult Usage:

- 1-2 capsules, 3 times a day on an empty stomach (otherwise with food if not tolerated well).

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



Combining nature, faith, and love to bring healing to the world.

Ellen White's *Vision*

The Death of Stephen

By E. G. White

Disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and many of the priests were obedient to the faith. Stephen, full of faith, was doing great wonders and miracles among the people. The Jewish leaders were stirred to greater anger as they saw priests turning from their traditions, and from the sacrifices and offerings, and accepting Jesus as the great sacrifice. With power from on high, Stephen reproved the unbelieving priests and elders, and exalted Jesus before them. They could not withstand the wisdom and power with which he spoke, and as they found that they could prevail nothing against him, they hired men to swear falsely that they had heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God. They stirred up the people and took Stephen, and, through false witnesses, accused him of speaking against the temple and the law. They testified that they had heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth would destroy the customs which Moses gave them.

The Jews observed the outward ordinances of their religion only

As Stephen stood before his judges, the light of the glory of God rested upon his countenance. "And all that sat in the council, looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel." When called upon to answer to the charges brought against him, he began at Moses and the prophets and reviewed the history of the children of Israel and the dealings of God with them and showed how Christ had been foretold in prophecy. He referred to the history of the temple and declared that God dwelleth not in temples made with hands. The Jews worshiped the temple and were filled with greater indignation at anything spoken against that building than if it had been spoken against God. As Stephen spoke of Christ and referred to the temple, he saw that the people were rejecting his words; and he fearlessly rebuked them: "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye



do always resist the Holy Ghost.” While they observed the outward ordinances of their religion, their hearts were corrupt and full of deadly evil. He referred to the cruelty of their fathers in persecuting the prophets, and declared that those whom he addressed had committed a greater sin in rejecting and crucifying Christ. “Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers.”

Stephen prayed that God would not hold their sins against them

As these plain, cutting truths were spoken, the priests and rulers were enraged, and they rushed upon Stephen, gnashing their teeth. “But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God”, and said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.” The people would not hear him. “They cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, and cast him out of the city, and stoned him.” And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, “Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.”

Satan exulted in the death of Stephen, but his triumph was short

I saw that Stephen was a mighty man of God, especially raised up to fill an important place in the church. Satan exulted in his death; for he knew that the disciples would greatly feel his loss. But Satan’s triumph was short; for in that company, witnessing the death of Stephen, there was one to whom Jesus was to reveal Himself. Saul took no part in casting the stones at Stephen, yet he consented to his death. He was zealous in persecuting the church of God, hunting them, seizing them in their houses, and delivering them to those who would slay them. Saul was a man of ability and education; his zeal and learning caused him to be highly esteemed by the Jews, while he was feared by



many of the disciples of Christ. His talents were effectively employed by Satan in carrying forward his rebellion against the Son of God, and those who believed in Him. But God can break the power of the great adversary and set free those who are led captive by him. Christ had selected Saul as a “chosen vessel” to preach His name, to strengthen His disciples in their work, and to more than fill the place of Stephen.

EW 197~199



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.

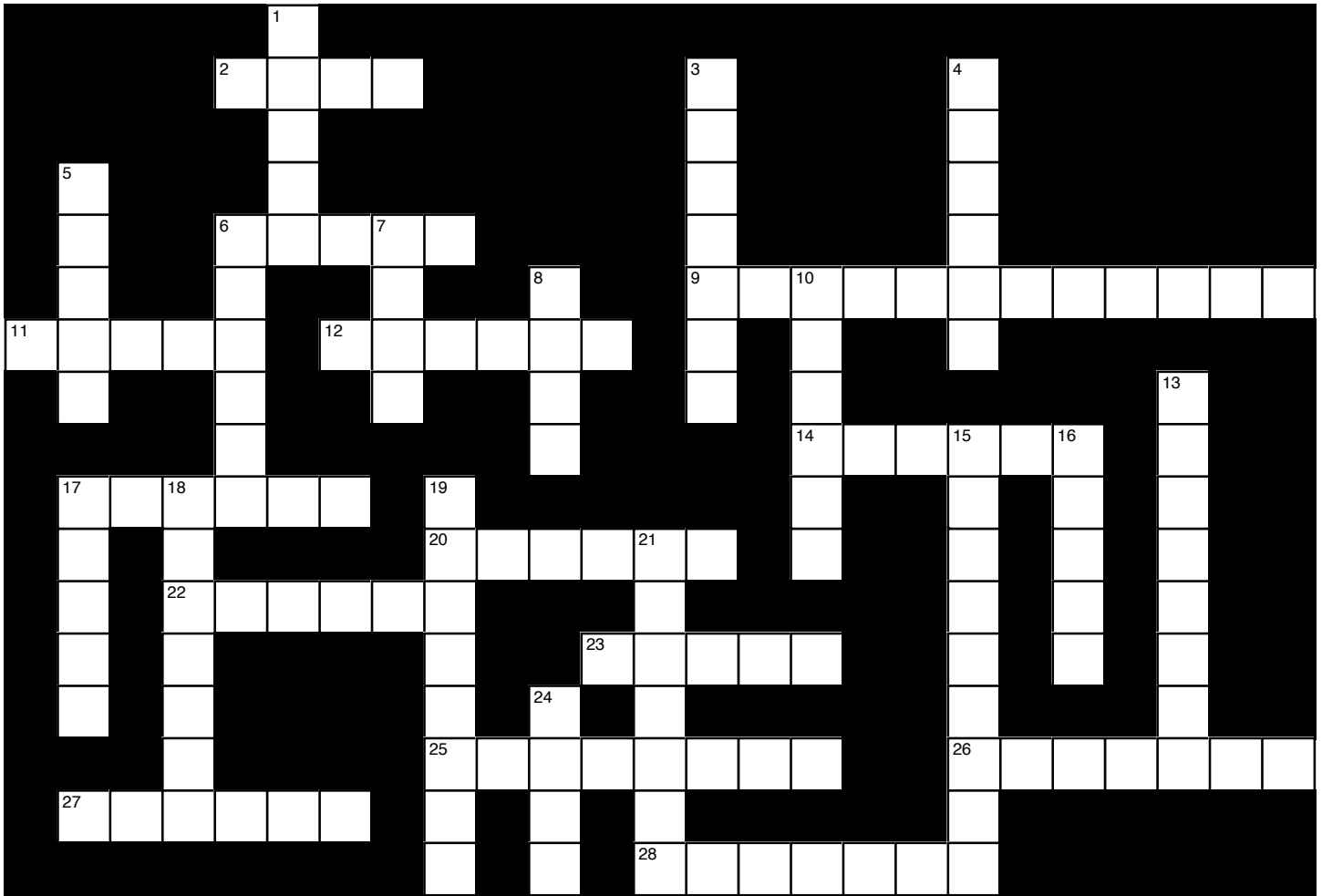
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Christian Crossword



ACROSS

2. A prophet that describes a plague of locusts
6. The wife of Elimelech
9. Capital of the Roman province of Macedonia
11. A prostitute in Jericho
12. A son of Elimelech
14. How was Achan killed
17. The leader of Israel after Moses
20. A Queen that helped avert a complete massacre of the Jews
22. A prophet during King Ahab's reign
23. He met Jesus through his brother
25. A slave of Philemon that ran away
26. The parable of the tares is in which gospel
27. A leader in building the tower of Babel
28. Raised from the dead by Jesus

DOWN

1. The prophet husband of Gomer
3. A child of a mixed marriage—Jew and Greek
4. A Syrian army commander healed of leprosy
5. Because of his sin, men died at Ai
6. His vineyard was taken by Ahab
7. Ruth was from which nation
8. Ruth's husband from Bethlehem
10. He followed Elijah as a prophet
13. He gave a 70 year prophecy of captivity
15. He played a part in the burial of Jesus

16. The ultimate source of false teaching
17. One of Judah's best kings that ruled for 40 years
18. The area conquered by Joshua after Ai
19. King of Judah after Solomon's rule
21. He as a prophet saw a vision of God
24. A name of the tax collector that followed Jesus

Answers from Christian Crossword published in the January 2014 issue of Our Firm Foundation

