

Volume 29, Number 4 • April 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*

# Highway to Heaven

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

**He Chose This Path for Thee | Joshua's Farewell Address**  
**How To Overcome Our Faults | Destruction of Jerusalem | He Leads Us On**  
**Health Gem: The Lymphatics | Ellen White's Vision: The Sealing**



As I thought about my editorial for this month, I thought about how close we must be to the time of the end, and the fact that Satan will be working harder than ever to tempt each of us into sin—he does not want to see anybody saved into God’s kingdom. We are warned, “Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8.

But in the verses before this one Peter says: “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” 1 Peter 5:6 & 7. And in verse 9 (NKJ), we are told, “Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”

In Christ’s Object Lessons, page 61, Ellen White comments on verses 6 and 7: “Through conflict the spiritual life is strengthened. Trials well borne will develop steadfastness of character and precious spiritual graces. The

---

*“We must strive daily against outward evil and inward sin, if we would reach the perfection of Christian character.”*

---

perfect fruit of faith, meekness and love often matures best amid storm clouds and darkness.”

In Desire of Ages at page 329, we read: “Whatever your anxieties and trials, spread out your case before the Lord. Your spirit will be braced for endurance. The way will be opened for you to disentangle yourself from embarrassment and difficulty.”

Temptations come to us in many forms. Satan is a master of

deciphering where our weaknesses lie. He will be tempting us in those areas, and we must constantly be on our guard.

None of us knows the degree of temptation being experienced by others. We have no way of measuring the heat of the battle being waged in another heart. Because of this we should be sympathetic, rather than critical when someone becomes a victim of temptation.

Satan cannot read our minds, but he can observe our actions—what we watch, what we listen to—especially the kind of music that we favor, video games that we play, books we read, the types of materials we bring into our homes.

Satan and his demons can get to us only through our senses of sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell. We must control what passes through these areas into our brains. These channels are the pathways to our souls. By exercising our wills we can keep a guard over the above senses, especially if we continue to seek the guidance of God through prayer and Bible study.

A Biblical passage that I have memorized and repeat often, especially at night when I am in bed is found in Philippians 4:8, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

In the Review and Herald of May 5, 1882, we are encouraged, “We must strive daily against outward evil and inward sin, if we would reach the perfection of Christian character.”

And again in Fundamentals of

Christian Education at page 87, Sister White counsels us that “Character cannot be bought; it must be formed by stern efforts to resist temptation. The formation of a righteous character is the work of a lifetime, and is the outgrowth of prayerful meditation united with a grand purpose.”

Of course, we can see that the underlying victory is based in a large amount on our submission to God in all that we do. James 4:7 tells us, “Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” But, of course, submission to God does not come easily. It is contrary to our carnal natures.

Without Jesus as our personal Saviour, we are all under the death penalty. Our cry should be: “I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20.

Brothers and Sisters, today is the day of salvation. Today is the day that we need to make a full surrender to Jesus—we need to repeat the surrender day by day, week by week, month by month, year by year. Daily Bible study, prayer and sharing where we can with others is the secret of success in the Christian life. Won’t you make that commitment today?



*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.*

**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

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

Design & Layout by



**cover story**

**04** Highway to Heaven

*Patricia J. Smith*

**features**

**09** He Chose This Path for Thee

**10** Joshua's Farewell Address

*Mrs. E. G. White*

**16** How To Overcome Our Faults

*Joe Olson*

**21** Destruction of Jerusalem

*James Edson White*

**27** He Leads Us On

**departments**

**02** Editorial

**24** Health Gem: The Lymphatics

**28** News Watch

**30** Ellen White's Vision: The Sealing

**32** Christian Crossword

**ad features**

**15** Ginko Biloba

**29** Swedish Bitters



# Highway to Heaven

By Patricia J. Smith

**Going to heaven has long been an intense focus and a deep heart-felt longing for Christians in all ages of the world. So intense and deep in the longing to escape the troubles of this wicked world and go to the peaceful home promised us in heaven, that false hope has been generated and the Biblical teachings regarding heaven and how to get there have been forgotten and ignored.**

Going to heaven has long been an intense focus and a deep heart-felt longing for Christians in all ages of the world. So intense and deep in the longing to escape the troubles of this wicked world and go to the peaceful home promised us in heaven, that false hope has been generated and the Biblical teachings regarding heaven and how to get there have been forgotten and ignored.

## **One day the people of God will be at home in heaven**

It is popularly believed by most Christians that people go to heaven after they die. Funerals are termed “Home-Going Celebrations” and the dead are declared to be singing in the heavenly choir, joining the heavenly host or resting in the arms of Jesus. Thus the grieving relatives and friends grasp onto the hope of their loved one being in a better place, at rest, and not suffering or in trials and troubles any longer.

It is true that one day the people of God will be at home in heaven, but death is not the entry way to this wonderful place. Nowhere in Holy Scripture is it declared that the dead go straight to glory at the time of death.

## **Every person is a soul**

In the Word, death is spoken of as a sleep, a sleep from which only God can awaken a person. “Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.” John 11:11-14. The dead go to the grave, not to heaven. Job 14:12, 13; Isaiah 38:18; 1 Kings 2:10; 13:29, 30.

Nowhere in scripture is the spirit, or breath, of a person said to be able to exist, act, think, etc. without the body. Every person IS a soul, a living soul. Genesis 2:7. Upon death, the breath God gave a person goes back to Him, and the person ceases to exist.

## **Adam ceased to exist when he died**

God plainly told Adam where he would go upon death, and all of his descendants who have died have gone to the same place. Notice that God did not say that only his body would go back to dust, with his spirit living on elsewhere, no, God said that ADAM would go back to dust. Adam ceased to exist when he died. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground: for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Genesis 3:19.

After the person is dead, all knowledge ceases. A dead person cannot think, communicate with the living or other dead people in any way, for the dead know nothing. They are in a deep, dreamless sleep from which only the Life-giver can awaken them in the resurrection. There is no work, or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave. Eccl. 9:5, 6, 10; Psalm 146:4.

The scriptures declare unto us that the dead DO NOT praise the Lord. Surely, if they did go to heaven immediately after death, they would praise the Lord, and thank Him for their glorious new home! But, no, God declares that it is the living that praise the Lord, not the dead who know nothing. Isaiah 38:18, 19; Psalm 6:5; 30:9; 115:17.

## **The dead go DOWN, not up!**

They arise from the grave at the resurrection. In John 11:43, Jesus did not say, "Lazarus, come down", when He called him back to life, but "Lazarus, come forth", out of the tomb where he had been laid. If Lazarus had truly gone to heaven at death, would not Jesus have had to call him back *down* to earth again?? Martha, the sister of Lazarus, knew right where he was, for she told Jesus before He resurrected him, "Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days." He was decaying in the grave, not in heavenly glory!!

It is Satan, the father of lies (John 8:44), who teaches that the dead are not really dead, as he deceived our first mother, Eve, in the garden of Eden, saying directly against the true word of God, "Ye shall not surely die." Genesis 3:4. This deceptive lie of Satan has been believed and preached by many ministers who profess to believe in Jesus. God winks at, and has mercy upon the ignorant (Acts 17:30), but when the light of His word illumines the mind, and one realizes that the dead are in the grave and know nothing, and will only live again after Jesus calls them back to life, God's truth about death should be preached and accepted, and Satan's lie - that the dead are yet alive - rejected.

The reality of the first resurrection to come is to comfort the sorrowing loved ones who are left behind, not the deceptive lie that the dead are in heaven. After describing the first resurrection in which all the righteous dead will be called from their graves, their resting place, to be with the Lord Jesus forever (1 Thes. 4:13-15), Paul says in verse 16,





“...the dead in Christ shall rise first:”- they RISE, for they went DOWN into the grave, not UP to Heaven! Paul declares to the believers, “Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” (vs. 18). Only the truth can bring true comfort.

### **How do we prepare for heaven?**

We have clearly seen that death is not our entrance to heaven. Now we must turn our attention to a part of God's Highway to Heaven that is very much neglected by many who seek to enter therein - preparation for Heaven. Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born again in order to see the kingdom of God (John 3:3). Later, in verses 5-6, He declared, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh: and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” Paul, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit agrees - “...that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.” 1 Cor. 15:50. Both Jesus and Paul are speaking in the spiritual world, of spiritual realities.

As travelers to Heaven, we must consider what kind of place it is, what is allowed entrance there, and what is

kept out. God has revealed in His Word all that we need to know that we may make Heaven our home.

Holiness of life is required in order to see God, and live in Heaven. (Heb. 12:14), for Heaven and all that live therein are holy. God is holy and lives in Heaven, the high and holy place (Isaiah 57:15; 66:1; 1 Kings 8:30). The angels, His ministering spirits, are also holy. (Heb. 1:13, 14; Rev. 14:10, Acts 10:22). His city, New Jerusalem, is holy. (Rev. 21:2, 10). Those who believed in Him in ages past were made holy by His power. (Eph. 3:5; Rev. 22:6; 2 Peter 3:2; 1 Thes. 5:27). His church is to be a holy temple unto the Lord founded on Jesus Christ, along with the holy apostles and prophets. (Eph. 2:21). Each individual Christian in the body of Christ (His church) is to be the temple of the Holy Ghost. (1 Cor. 3:16, 17; 6:19, 20). The Christian faith is a most holy faith. (Jude 20).

### **We must turn from the darkness of sin to God's marvelous light of truth**

How does God prepare sinful people to enter Heaven and live in such a holy atmosphere, such a righteous society, with the devouring fire and everlasting burnings of God's Most Holy presence? Ever since the fall of our first parents in Eden, the human race is naturally carnal, sold under sin. To the carnal, natural man, the things of God are foolishness; he cannot obey the law of God, please God, or enter into the kingdom of God. (1 Cor. 2:14; Rom. 8:6-8; John 3:3).

The change by which we are prepared to enter Heaven, turning from disobedience to obedience, from the darkness of sin to the marvelous light of God's truth, is described in the Bible as a new birth and the mystery of God.

Jesus declared to Nicodemus, “Ye must be born again.” (John 3:7), and truly birth is an apt symbol for the spiritual change that takes place when a person is truly, genuinely converted unto the Lord. After physical birth, a baby cannot continue living as he/she did in the womb; it is impossible. So with spiritual rebirth. The old carnal life is impossible to live, for the newborn Christian has gone from death to life (John 5:24), and as long as he or she chooses to continue to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, steadily grows “in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” 2 Peter 3:18, such a person is a new creature in Christ. (2 Cor. 5:17) who lives the live of faith.



**Note the contrast the Scriptures portray between the old life of sin and the new life in Christ in the following table:**

<b>The Old Life- Ephesians 4:22-32</b>	<b>The New Life- Ephesians 4:22-32</b>
The old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts	Put on the new man, created in righteousness and true holiness
Lying	Put away lying and speak the truth
Giving place to the devil	Give no place to the devil
Speaking corrupt communication	No corrupt communication
Bitterness	Put away all bitterness
Wrath	Put away all wrath
Anger	Put away all anger
Clamor	Put away all clamor
Evil Speaking	Put away all evil speaking
Malice	Put away all malice
Unkind	Be kind
Hardhearted	Tenderhearted
Unforgiving	Forgiving as God is
Stealing	Steal no more
<b>1 Corinthians 6:9</b>	<b>1 Peter 3:8-13</b>
Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers	Having compassion, loving as brethren
Effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, thieves, covetous	Courteous, not rendering evil for evil, Seeking peace, following good
Drunkards, revilers, extortioners	Suffering for righteousness' sake, having a good conscience

For more insight on the old life, read also Galatians 5:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:2-5; Romans 1:29-31 and Revelation 22:15. For more insight on the new life in Christ, read Galatians 5:22-24; 2 Peter 2:9; 1:4-8, Matthew 5:3-11; Revelation 14:12; 22:14.

**We are all born with a carnal nature**

Have you been born again, dear reader? Are you now a new creation in Christ Jesus, living a



new life centered in Him? Or do you identify with the left-hand column, in the table, the carnally minded life of the old man, which scripture warns us is “death” and “enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” (Romans 8:6, 7)?

After the fall of Adam and Eve, our first parents in Eden, all of their descendants have been born with the carnal nature - the old man, the carnal mind - and given enough time, will sin (transgress God’s Law of Ten Commandments) and become sinners. We are not born sinners, for as newborn babes, we have done neither “any good nor evil” (Romans 9:11), but we become sinners when we transgress God’s Holy Law. Only the mercy and love of God, revealed in the mystery of God through the life of Christ, can bring such fallen, depraved, and evil sinners as we are back to the holy perfection in which the human race was created, and from which we have fallen.

Thank God for Jesus Christ, who is exactly the Saviour we need, One who came to our fallen world, to “save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). Praise God that He came to “call....sinners to repentance” (Mark 2:17)!

What is the mystery of God that brings about the new birth in the life of a repentant sinner, bringing him or her out of the darkness of sin and error, into the marvelous light of God’s truth? It is even as the apostle Paul described under inspiration of the Holy Ghost - “Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Colossians 1:26, 27).

**Who is this Christ who is to dwell in our minds and hearts by faith? Let us see how scripture describes Him:**

1. He stays the same forever. Hebrews 13:8
2. He keeps the Law of God, the Ten Commandments. John 15:10
3. He loves the Law of God, and has that Law in His heart (mind). Psalm 40:8
4. He does not sin against the Law of God. 1 Peter 2:21, 22

5. He knows that commandment-keeping springs naturally from a heart filled with the love of God. John 14:15; 15:10; 1 John 5:2, 3
6. He teaches us that in order to enter into life eternal, we must keep the commandments, as He does, by His power. Matthew 19:17-19
7. He attends church services on the seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday), the only day that is blessed and made holy by God. Luke 4:16; 13:10-16; Matthew 12:9-13
8. He is Lord of the Sabbath. Mark 2:27, 28

In us, He will live the same obedient life that He lived on earth, He will enable us to obey the Law of God. We will no longer hate the law of God, but like David, we will say, "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day." (Psalm 119:97). See also verses 29, 35, 47, 60, 98, 115, 127, 143, and 174 of this same Psalm. The soul who truly loves God also loves His commandments, all 10 of them.

### **Without holiness, no one shall see the Lord**

When we allow Christ to dwell in our hearts, our minds, by faith simply believing in God and taking Him at His word revealed in the Holy Scriptures, we receive by faith everything necessary for our salvation from Christ's ministry for us – repentance, and forgiveness of sins (Acts 5:31), wisdom, and righteousness (the law of God – see Psalm 119:172), sanctification, and redemption ( 1 Corinthians 1:30), and salvation from sin and power to stop sinning (Matthew 1:21; Jude 24; 1 Peter 2:21, 22), for He is the Author and Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). The Holy Spirit brings the fruits of His presence in our lives - love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.

This work of God in our lives makes us holy as He is, for He is our sanctification, and without holiness, no one shall see the Lord.

This glorious, obedient and love-filled way of redemption and preparation for Heaven is truly a narrow way and a high way lifted above the world and all its evil customs, self-destroying habits, ungodly traditions, and false doctrines.



### **The straight and narrow path**

The highway cast up for the ransomed of the Lord He showed to His last-day prophet, Mrs. Ellen G. White, when she was yet an unmarried teenager, shortly after the Great Disappointment of 1844. This, her first vision, was given to encourage His people who longed for Christ's second advent.

She wrote, "While I was praying at the family altar, the Holy Ghost fell upon me, and I seemed to be rising higher and higher, far above the dark world. I turned to look for the Advent people in the world, but could not find them, when a voice said to me, "Look again, and look a little higher." At this I raised my eyes, and saw a straight and narrow path, cast up high above the world. On this path the Advent people were traveling to the city, which was at the farther end of the path. They had a bright light set up behind them at the beginning of the path, which an angel told me was the midnight cry. This light shone all along the path and gave light for their feet so that they might not stumble. If they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus, who was just before them, leading them to the city, they were safe."

EW 14

**“Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”**

**2 Timothy 2:19**



*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.*



# HE CHOSE THIS PATH FOR THEE

He chose this path for thee.  
No feeble chance nor hard, relentless fate,  
But love, His love, hath placed thy footsteps here.  
He knew the way was rough and desolate,  
Knew how the heart would often sink with fear;  
Yet tenderly He whispers, "Child, I see  
This path is best for thee!"

He chose this path for thee,  
Though well He knew sharp thorns would tear thy feet,  
Knew how the branches would obstruct thy way,  
Knew all the hidden dangers thou wouldst meet,  
Knew how thy faith would falter day by day;  
And still the whisper echoed, "Yes, I see  
This path is best for thee!"

He chose this path for thee;  
And well He knew that thou must tread alone!  
O'er rocky steps and where dark river flows,  
His loving arms will bear thee all the days;  
A few steps more, and thou thyself shalt see  
This path is best for thee!

—Unknown

# JOSHUA'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

Mrs. E. G. White



Under the leadership of Joshua, the Israelites as a nation maintained their allegiance to God, and his blessing attended them. Among the wooded hills and fertile valleys of the promised land, doubly attractive after the long desert wanderings, the chosen tribes dwelt safely; and the years passed on, peaceful and prosperous.

## God alone should have all the glory

As Joshua felt the infirmities of age stealing upon him, and realized that his labors must soon cease, he assembled the elders, the judges, and the officers of Israel, that he might communicate to them his last warnings and admonitions. The people looked upon the form of their veteran general, who had led them on from victory to victory, and they were ready to ascribe to him the honor of placing them in possession of that good land. But, like his great predecessor, Joshua showed them that

their enemies had been conquered because the Lord had fought for Israel, and that God alone should have all the glory.

## Joshua sought to inspire the hearts of the people with faith and courage

Although the Canaanites had been subdued, they still possessed a considerable portion of the land promised to Israel; and Joshua exhorted his people not to settle down at ease, and forget the Lord's command to utterly dispossess these idolatrous nations. Lest the Israelites should be disheartened, he assured them that if they would be true to God, his presence and power would attend them in their future conflicts as in the past. He earnestly sought to inspire their hearts with faith and courage. "Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside there from to the right hand or to the left."

## Ungodliness triumphs when we form allegiances with idolaters

He repeated the instructions given by Moses, that they were to form no allegiance with the idolatrous nations that God had appointed to utter destruction. They were forbidden to manifest the least respect for the gods of the heathen, to take oath by their names, or to join in their worship in any manner. They were warned that familiarity with idolatry would remove their abhorrence of it, and would expose them to God's displeasure.

We are in as great danger from contact with infidelity as were the Israelites from intercourse with idolaters. The productions of genius and talent too often conceal the deadly poison. Under an attractive guise, themes are presented and thoughts expressed that attract, interest, and corrupt the mind and heart. Thus, in our Christian land, piety wanes, and skepticism and ungodliness are triumphant.

## God has promised to fight for His faithful followers

The Israelites were exhorted to make the Lord first in their thoughts and affections, and to cleave unto him as their source of strength. "For the Lord hath driven out from before you great nations and strong; but as for you, no man hath been able to stand before you unto this day." Joshua reiterated the words of Moses: "One man of you shall chase a thousand; for the Lord your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you."

He warned the people that if they should in any manner unite with the remnant of the heathen nations still among them, and contract marriages with them, the protecting care of God would surely be removed from Israel, and those very nations would be the instruments of their punishment. "They shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the Lord your God hath given you."

## Joshua assured the people that as the Lord had fulfilled His promises, so would He fulfill His threatenings

Joshua declared to the people that his work among them was done; for he was soon to die. He appealed to

themselves as witnesses that God had faithfully fulfilled his promises to them. "And ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof." He assured them that as the Lord had fulfilled his promises, so would he fulfill his threatenings. If they were disobedient to his requirements, he would destroy them, as he had destroyed their enemies.

The Lord has not changed. His character is the same today as in the days of Joshua. He is true, merciful, compassionate, faithful in the performance of his word, both in promises and threatenings. One of the greatest dangers that besets the people of God today, is that of association with the ungodly; especially in uniting themselves in marriage with unbelievers. With many, the love for the human eclipses the love for the divine. They take the first step in backsliding by venturing to

disregard the Lord's express command; and complete apostasy is too often the result. It has ever proved a dangerous thing for men to carry out their own will in opposition to the requirements of God. Yet it is a hard lesson for men to learn that God means what he says.



## Friendship of the world is enmity with God

As a rule, those who choose for their friends and companions, persons who reject Christ and trample upon God's law, eventually become of the same mind and spirit. We should ever feel a deep interest in the salvation of the impenitent, and should manifest toward them a spirit of kindness and courtesy; but we can safely choose for our friends only those who are the friends of God.

Those who make the word of God their rule of life are hated by the world. The ungodly are not willing to have their consciences aroused; and the silent example of Christ's true



followers is a constant reproof. There are many professed Christians who partake of the spirit of the world, and love its friendship. But none need be deceived by their example; for the word of truth declares that the friendship of the world is enmity with God. Those who take human feeling and human reasoning for their guide, will as surely separate from the wisdom of God, as did ancient Israel when they forsook the Lord to serve Baal and Ashtaroth.

### **The Lord had done marvelous things for His people**

Once more, before his final removal from the people of his care, Joshua assembled the chosen tribes to speak to them the words of God. He rehearsed before them their own history and the history of their fathers from the days of Abraham. He did not conceal their errors and mistakes; and with earnestness and gratitude he dwelt upon the dealings of God with them. He reminded them that it was not their own strength or valor which had given them the land of Canaan. God himself had said, "I have given you a land for which ye did not labor, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell

in them. Of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not, do you eat."

In view of all that God had done for them, Joshua exhorted the people, "Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord." The human mind is naturally inclined to dwell upon the things which are seen and heard, and to neglect the things which are unseen. The Lord had done marvelous things for his people in the manifesting of

his power as the only true and living God; yet many had been led astray by the Satanic delusion that God might be represented by material objects, the works of men's hands. By the contemplation of these things, their minds were diverted from God.

### **The practice of worshipping idols was continued in secret by some even after settling in Canaan**

Among the multitudes that came up out of Egypt were many who had been worshipers of idols; and such is the power of habit that the practice was secretly continued, to some extent, even after the settlement in Canaan. Joshua was sensible of this evil among the Israelites, and he clearly perceived the dangers that would result. He earnestly desired to see a thorough reformation among the Hebrew host. He knew that unless the people took a decided stand to serve the Lord with all their hearts, they would continue to separate themselves farther and farther from him. Then would the Lord remove his protecting care, and suffer them to be driven out and scattered, by the very people whom he had commanded them to destroy.

### **Joshua urged the people to decide who they were going to serve**

Said Joshua, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose





you this day whom ye will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land ye dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua endeavored to show the people that God’s requirements were just and merciful. He would lead them to serve him, not by compulsion, but willingly. Love to God is the very foundation of pure and undefiled religion. To engage in his service as an unpleasant task, merely from hope of reward or fear of punishment, would bring no sweet peace, no assurance of God’s favor.

While a portion of the Hebrew host were spiritual worshipers, many were mere formalists; no zeal or earnestness characterized their service. Some were idolaters at heart, who would be ashamed to acknowledge themselves as such. Joshua urged them to consider in all its bearings the important matter which he had set before them, and to decide if they really desired to live as did the idolatrous nations around them. If it seemed evil to them to serve the Lord, if his requirements seemed a grievous exaction, he

bade them that day choose whom they would serve,—the idols worshiped by their fathers from whom Abraham was called out, or the gods of the Amorites, “in whose land ye dwell.”

In these last words was a keen rebuke to the idolatry of Israel. The gods of the heathen had no power to bestow peace or prosperity. Their worshipers had ascribed to them praise and honor for all the bounties bestowed by the mercy and love of God. Hence the Lord had removed from them his blessing, and had

left them to the mercies of the gods in whom they trusted. That wicked people had been destroyed; and the good land which they once possessed, had been given to God’s people. Then what suicidal folly for Israel to choose the gods for worshiping whom the Amorites had been destroyed!

### **When a man comes to his right mind, he begins to reflect upon his relation to his Maker**

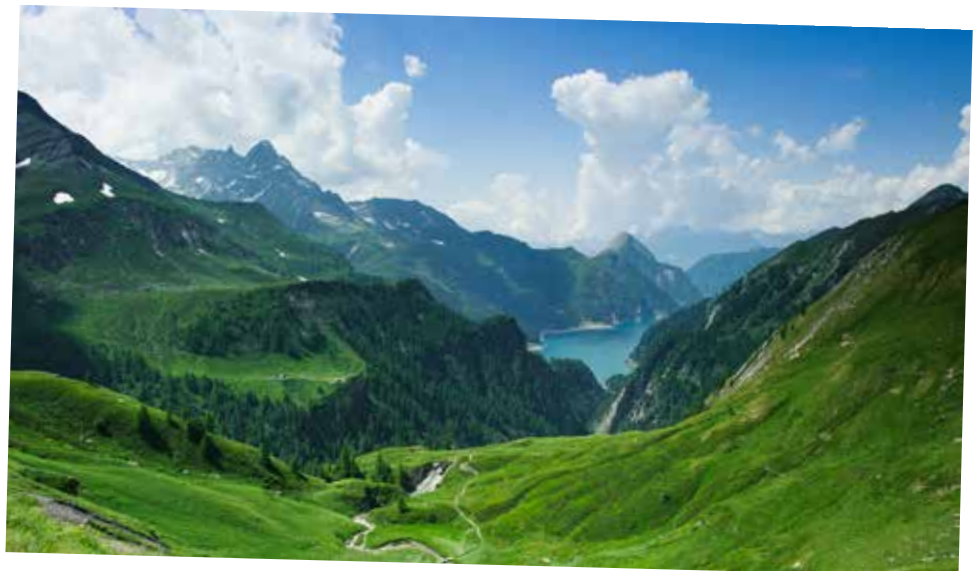
It is moral madness to prefer the praise of men to the favor of

God, the rewards of iniquity to the treasures of Heaven, the husks of sin to the spiritual food God gives his children. Yet how many who display intelligence and shrewdness in worldly things, manifest an utter disregard to those things that pertain to their eternal interest.

Joshua assured the Israelites that of themselves they could not serve the Lord. The natural heart is a battle-field, upon which there is a constant warfare; conscience seeking to hold sway, and passion also struggling for the victory. God would not grant them his favor and support while they persisted in transgression. If they honored him, he would honor them. If they should forsake him, and serve strange gods, he would forsake them. As God is a being of perfect truth and holiness, it was impossible for them to serve him and yet continue in sin; for he could not unite with iniquity. Only by thorough repentance and reformation of life, could they hope to secure the divine favor.

### **Rebellion against God is inexcusable**

God’s plan for the salvation of men, is perfect in every particular. If we will faithfully perform our allotted part, all will be well with us. It is man’s apostasy that causes discord, and brings wretchedness and ruin. God never uses his power to oppress the creatures of





his hand. He never requires more than man is able to perform; never punishes his disobedient children more than is necessary to bring them to repentance; or to deter others from following their example. Rebellion against God is inexcusable.

The judgments of God quickly following upon transgression, his counsels and reproofs, the manifestations of his love and mercy, and the oft-repeated exhibitions of his power,—all were a part of God’s plan to preserve his people from sin, to make them pure and holy, that he might be their strength and shield and their exceeding great reward. But the persistent transgressions of the Israelites, their readiness to depart from God, and their forgetfulness of his mercies, showed that many had chosen to be servants of sin, rather than children of the Most High.

### God had made them His peculiar people

God had created them, Christ had redeemed them. From the house of bondage their cry of anguish went up to the throne of God, and he put forth his arm to rescue them; for their sake, bringing desolation upon the whole land of Egypt. He had granted them high honors. He had made them his

peculiar people, and had showered upon them unnumbered blessings. If they would obey him, he would make them a mighty nation,—a praise and excellence in all the earth. God designed to magnify his name through his chosen people, by showing the vast difference existing between the righteous and the wicked, the servants of God and the worshipers of idols.

Joshua sought to show his people the inconsistency of their course of backsliding. He wished them to feel that the time had come to make a decided change, to put away every vestige of idolatry, and to turn to the Lord with full purpose of heart. He endeavored to impress upon their minds the fact that open apostasy would not be more offensive to God than hypocrisy, and a lifeless form of worship.

### The faithfulness of Joshua and Abraham was approved by God

If the favor of God was worth anything, it was worth everything. Thus Joshua had decided; and after weighing the whole matter, he had determined to serve him with full purpose of heart. And more than this, he would endeavor to induce his family to pursue the same course.

God said of Abraham, “I know him, that he will command his children

and his household after him, and they shall keep the ways of the Lord to do justice and judgment, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.” The promises of God to Abraham and his posterity, and through Christ to the nations of the earth, may appear to have been unconditional. But such was not the case. Whether Abraham would share in their fulfillment, was determined by the course which he pursued. The Lord approved his faithfulness in the government of his household. Abraham firmly restrained evil, and endeavored by precept and example to promote justice and godliness among them. Thus he worked in harmony with God, faithfully performing his part in the great plan.

### We cannot serve God and mammon

Our dangers are similar to those which threatened the prosperity of ancient Israel. The oft-repeated warnings against idolatry addressed to the Hebrew host, are no less applicable to us. Everything which leads the affections away from God is an idol, and betrays us into sin. If we serve God willingly and joyfully, preferring his service to the service of sin and Satan; if we choose him, openly and boldly turning from all the attractions and vanities of the world, we shall enjoy his blessing in this life, and shall dwell forever in his presence in the future life.

The Lord our God is a jealous God. He is just and holy He will not be trifled with. He reads a deceptive heart. He abhors a double mind. He hates lukewarmness. We cannot serve God and mammon, for they are antagonistic.

ST, May 19, 1881



*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.*



# Hope for Health

Ginkgo Biloba contains a wide range of properties that make it a powerful addition to your herbal arsenal. For memory enhancement and circulatory improvement it stands nearly unrivaled. As one of the most well-researched herbs in the world, it is commonly prescribed in both France and Germany.

# Ginkgo Biloba

## GINKGO BILOBA AND MEMORY PROBLEMS

**Clinical studies suggest that Ginkgo may provide the following benefits for people with severe memory problems:**

- Improvement in thinking, learning, and memory (general improvement in cognitive function)
- Improvement in both: activities of daily living and social behavior (with fewer feelings of depression)

Ginkgo Biloba increases the blood flow to the brain and improves blood flow through both major blood vessels and capillaries. It increases metabolism efficiency, regulates neurotransmitters, and boosts oxygen levels in the brain (which uses 20% of the body's oxygen). It has been shown to increase brain functionality, which is beneficial to those suffering from poor concentration and memory loss. For this reason, Ginkgo has been said to improve mental function (particularly in elderly people).

## FACTS

- Ginkgo is widely touted as a "brain herb." Researchers recently reviewed all of the high-quality published studies on ginkgo and mild memory impairment, and concluded that ginkgo was significantly more effective than placebo in enhancing memory and cognitive function.
- As more than 300 studies demonstrate, Ginkgo facilitates better blood flow through out the body, most notably the brain, where it both protects and promotes memory and mental function, particularly for the elderly. It also offers a wealth of possibilities in the treatment of many other common ailments.

## GINKGO FOR SEXUAL PROBLEMS

Recent evidence indicates Ginkgo extract appears to be effective for increasing male arousal and virility due to its ability to increase blood circulation to the genitals. For this reason, it is used in many herbal alternative supplements. Since Ginkgo increases blood flow, its been found to help up to 50% of people with virility problems after six months of use.

## GINKGO AND "THE CHANGE OF LIFE"

Many women are becoming reluctant to use pharmaceutical hormone replacement therapy (HRT) due to its undesirable side effects, such as increased risk of endometrial cancer, breast cancer, ovarian cancer, heart attack, or stroke. Studies show that Ginkgo has estrogenic activity and may be a safe and suitable hormone balancer without negative side effects. Many women report a hormone balancing effect when taking Ginkgo.

## GINKGO AND BRAIN HEALTH

Ginkgo Biloba has been shown to increase blood flow to the brain, which supports normal cognition, increases oxygen (carried by the blood), improves memory, promotes detoxification of waste, and increases brain energy. An increase in blood flow also allows for more vital nutrients to reach the brain.

## GINKGO AND THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Ginkgo extract has been reported to significantly improve functional measures in individuals suffering from nervous system issues (such as problems with coordination, energy level, strength, mental performance, mood, and sensation). Some of these symptoms including progressive stiffness, shaking, and loss of muscle coordination may be attributed to a lack of nutrients in the brain. By improving blood flow to the brain, Ginkgo may help to replace depleted nutrients and thereby reduce the effects of deficiency.

### Price:

90 capsules .....\$12.99

### Suggested Adult Dosage:

- 1-2 capsules, three times per day on an empty stomach (otherwise with food if not tolerated well). Best results are seen with continued use, as beneficial effects may take 4-6 weeks to appear.

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

**To Order Call Today: 1-800-468-7884  
or Visit us on the web at: [www.hopeforhealthusa.com](http://www.hopeforhealthusa.com)**

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



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

# How To **OVERCOME** Our Faults

By Joe Olson

My message this month is for those who still have faults. Now I know that many of you might not even need this message, but for those who still might have a lingering defect or two, this message is for you.

## **Do you still have a few faults that you need to overcome?**

Thanks to our parents and grandparents and even further back, many of us have hereditary defects to overcome. Some of us might even have cultivated, or faults of our own that we have created. And when we became Christians, we began to see some of these problems in our lives and we have asked Jesus to help us with them.

But how many of us still have a few left? How many of us have battled with them for a long time? How many of us are losing the battle? Or maybe it could be better said that we are not having the progress we would like to see. Would you like to have help today? Jesus has promised to give us whatever we need. We want to be victorious over sin, and Jesus is more than happy to give us the victory.

So, if we still do not *have* the victory... what is the problem? It's obvious that the problem lies with

us... right? We are our own worst enemy. The devil is right up there too, but we mess up our own lives quite well all by ourselves. Then what can we do to improve our victories over besetting sins? As usual, the Bible gives us clear and definitive direction.

## **Christians are to separate themselves from all strangers**

This is something we often overlook, but is a critical part of the “overcoming” process. “And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers.” Neh. 9:2. Please notice the first thing about addressing sins and iniquities - Christians are supposed to separate themselves from all strangers. The Hebrew word here for stranger means a foreigner, or better, a heathen. In other words, the people of God are to separate themselves from everyone who is not a lover of God. In the process of separating ourselves from sin, the first thing we need to do is to separate ourselves from those who do not serve God. Why do you suppose that is? Why would we need to separate ourselves from those not of the faith? What's





the point of that? What is it about those not of our faith that would impede our progress towards sanctification? Remember, we are talking about overcoming hereditary and cultivated defects of character. The first thing we are told to do in this process is to separate from those who do not believe what we do. And when we discuss why, we will see how smart our God is.

### **The devil does not want us to see our true condition**

How often, when we are talking about ourselves and our sinful condition, do we have someone telling us we are really not that bad? Have you ever had that happen to you? Have you ever said to someone that you are really vile and sinful and evil, only to have them say to you that you are not that way? How does that actually help you? As we all know very well, the first step in getting help is recognizing we need help. When the Holy Spirit finally gets through to us and impresses upon us our sinful condition, who do you suppose impresses someone to tell us we are not that bad? The devil, of course. The devil does not want us to see our true condition. The devil is the one who wants us to think that we are really not that bad. And so he impresses others to tell us we are okay, or that we are really not as bad as we think we are.

So, when it comes to overcoming sin, the first thing we need to do is get away from those who will try to soft pedal our condition. Now they think they are being helpful, but when we need to face the truth, these people are not helping. And unfortunately, even some of our own faith don't get it either.

### **Peter was the devil's mouthpiece**

Remember the situation with Jesus and Peter? Jesus was telling the disciples the terrible truth of what He must experience. "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem,



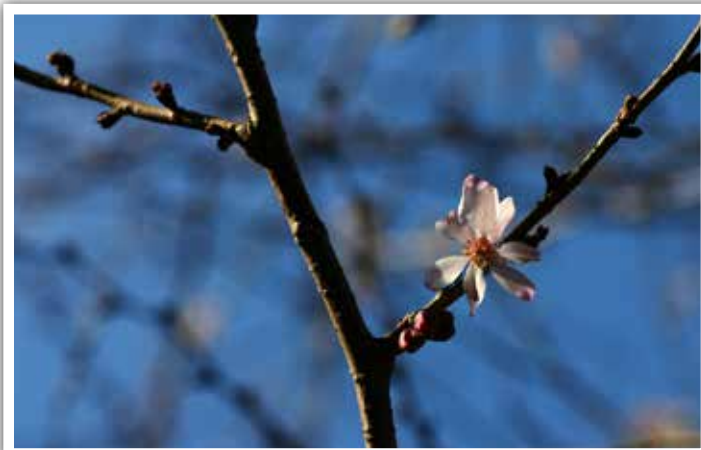
and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day." Matt. 16:21. Peter didn't want to hear that. Peter didn't like hearing the awful truth. Peter did not want to believe that Jesus must go through all that. So, what does Peter do? "Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee." Matt. 12:22.

The Bible says that Peter "took Him". In other words, he grabbed the Lord by His arm or something and rebuked Him. Peter rebuked the God of heaven. Think about that a minute. To rebuke someone is to censure or to admonish or to forbid them. Peter takes hold of the Creator of the universe and told Him He was wrong. He presumed to forbid the King of all life. *Can you imagine it?* And Peter thought he was doing a good thing. He had no idea he was actually doing wrong. He had no idea who was leading him to say what he said. But Jesus knew. "But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." Matt. 16:23.

### **Jesus rebuked Peter publicly**

Wow! Seems pretty intense, doesn't it? I mean, to tell Peter to get behind him and to call him Satan was a pretty harsh rebuke... wasn't it? Jesus was talking to Peter, but whom was He really going after? The devil - because Jesus knew it was the devil that tempted Peter to say what he did. But why so publicly and so out in the open like that? Mark gives us another clue about why Jesus did it like He did. "But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men." Mark 8:33. You see, Peter did that right in front of the rest of the disciples. They saw what he did. They heard what he said. And Jesus looked at the other disciples first before addressing Peter. He had to make sure that everyone understood how important this was.

When the truth is being brought home to the soul, we need to get out of the way and let the Holy Spirit work. When we are convicted of whatever the Spirit is saying



to us, we do not need anyone else coming in and trying to take it away... no matter how well meaning they are. This is absolutely huge! When it comes to the conviction of sin, we have to let the Spirit work. The truth has to do its cutting or we will lose the impact of what it is trying to do for us. And anyone who is around us to try and take the sting of cutting truth away, is not helping us. They are actually doing the work of Satan.

### **It is actually devilish to attempt to soften guilt**

Parents will often work against each other when reprimanding their children. One will punish the child for their misdeed and the other will assuage their hurt feelings by telling them that it is okay. They think they are helping, but they are making it worse. Peter wasn't helping Jesus... he was making it worse. So, for our goal in overcoming sin, we have to get away, to separate from those who will try to lessen our guilt and shame for our sins. We have to separate from the stranger, but even if those who do believe what we do try to do the same thing, as in trying to lessen our guilt, we need to get away from them, too.

Now, once we are separated, what is the next thing we are to do? "And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers." Neh. 9:2. The next thing is to stand and to confess our sins. The idea of standing is to take full responsibility. It is like raising our hands when the sin is brought to our minds. We are to take ownership of it. We need to be accountable for our actions. In this case... our sins. Admit what we are. Admit what we do. Let there be no glossing over our condition. Don't try to soften it. It is very human, or maybe better, very devilish, to try to lessen the painful truth.

### **Here's an experiment:**

Try this: next time someone says to you that they are such a sinner or are really a bad person... agree with them. Agree with them! Tell them, "You are right... you *are* a lowlife." See how they respond. Most of the time, they will give you this hurt look of, "What do you mean?" Then look back at them and ask what *they* meant.

Very often when people admit that they are evil or

wrong or bad, what they are really looking for is someone to tell them that they are not what they just admitted to being. Isn't that odd? They are shocked when you simply agree with what *they* just said. Most of us do not expect that. That's because people expect others to be like Peter - "No Bob, you are not that selfish." "No Sue, you aren't a gossip." Sue says, "I'm such a gossip" and her friend says, "No you're not." Sue's friend is not helping her. Bob's friend is not helping him. When Sue says to her friend that she is such a gossip, what would happen if her friend didn't say anything? Think back in your own experience. What happens next? Usually, if Sue got no response from her friend, she then asks her friend, "Do you think I am a gossip?" Now we are on the spot. What do we say? What about, "Well, Sue, if you feel convicted about being a gossip, it's not my place to get in the way of your conviction. I don't want to be a Peter."

Let the truth do the cutting. Let the Holy Spirit reveal what He wants to reveal. And once we admit to our failings, *then* God can help us with them. But nothing will change unless we first admit to our sins. Have you ever said you were sorry to someone, when you didn't even know what you did? "Whatever I did, I am sorry." Did it fix the problem? Of course not. If we didn't know what we did, how can we avoid doing it again? But if you *realize* what you did, and you confessed that you did it, then there can be change.

### **Make things right with our brother before making an offering to the Lord**

A lot of people go through life never admitting to what they do. They hurt people with their looks or snide remarks or even silence, yet never come to terms with how they act. They just ignore what they did, and after a few days, it is forgotten about. But nothing ever changes does it? Without admission and confession, how will anyone ever change? The power of God is there to help us change, but if we refuse to admit what we did, or do, how can that power be any help? When we are snotty, we need to admit to it and confess it and then ask Jesus to help us change. What if we are snotty ten times in one day? How often should



we admit to it and confess it, and ask forgiveness for it? Do we even need to answer? And if we were nasty to someone and hurt them, is going to God sufficient? Do we really need to go to the one we hurt to ask for their forgiveness? Again what does the Bible say? “Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.” Matt. 5:23, 24. God says that *before* you come to Me with your gift, get things right with your brother. No, if we have “ought” or anything we have done to someone, we need to make it right with *them*.

Going to God to get cleansing and forgiveness does not work until you have made it right with the one you offended. Think about this for a minute...Let's say we said something hateful or hurtful ten times in one day and we came to the person and admitted it ten times that day and asked forgiveness ten times that day, how many days would it take before we tried to change? How long would it be before we *ourselves* didn't want to have to keep doing that?

### **We do not confess our sins often enough**

You see, one of our main problems with sin is that we don't confess it very often. We don't admit to it. I'm not talking about admitting we are sinners in the general sense. I'm talking about admitting to the sin when we committed it and to whom we committed it against. We usually use the last part of this verse a lot, but not the first part very often... “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16. How does James say we will be healed? Confessing our faults and praying for one another. We need to be healed, don't we? *We want* to be healed... right? Then we have to confess to each other.

Now, let me address this quickly before someone gets carried away...We are to confess faults that the other *knows* you have. Do NOT go to someone who has no idea what you did, and confess to them. No, no, no. If you have had an evil thought about someone, and that someone has



no idea about it, take it to God who knows about it... not to the one who doesn't. You will make more of a mess than you had to begin with. We are talking about what you have done, and one or more others know about it. *That's* what you confess to others.

But can you imagine how wonderful life might become for us all if we admitted to being mean or hateful or crabby or selfish to each other and made it right? And for a moment, let's forget about what a blessing that would be for the offended party. What about the offender? What about the one who needs to see his or her condition? If they see their true condition, now they can get help for it. So this whole exercise is as much for the one who is doing the sinning as the one who is being sinned against. Actually... even more!

### **Have you ever confessed your fathers' sins?**

Now let's address the last aspect of how to overcome our faults. This is something I have recently learned. And this was very, very eye-opening to me. Let's read our opening text again... “And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers.” Neh. 9:2. Did you notice the last part of the verse? We are to stand and confess *our* sins... but we are *also* supposed to confess the sins of our fathers. And that word means forefathers as well. In other words, it is referring to admitting to the foibles and failings of our ancestors; their sins and iniquities.

Well, why would we need to do that? “The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.” Num. 14:18. You see, we inherit a lot of our sinful conditions and qualities. I don't suppose anyone will argue with that. We see the same pride and egotism and lust and selfishness and laziness and whatever else in our children as we see in us. But, as with most of us... we don't see the problems in ourselves as easily as we see them in others. Have you ever noticed that? We can see others' defects and sins and transgressions so much easier than our own. We are often blind to our own sins. So, what does God do to help us with this blindness? He





has us confess the sins of our forebears. He knows that we can see *their* failings much easier than our own. And since He has already said that these sins get passed down to us, we can then have a little clearer look at ourselves.

### **Looking at the sins of our forbears will help us recognize our own**

Have you ever heard someone say, “You are your father’s or your mother’s child.”? You might not realize it, but it isn’t always complimentary. What they are saying is that they can see the same things in us that they see in our parents or grandparents. They have passed down these lovely character flaws to us. But often we don’t... or can’t see it. At least... not in ourselves. But, if we follow what God says to do, and confess our fathers’ and mothers’ sins, we can catch a glimpse of what might be in our own characters. What a wonderful way for the Lord to reveal our defects to us. We are told that we are mirror images of our parents. Then what are the odds we sin, and transgress like them, too? I’m not saying that we will all do what our parents did, but by looking at their lives, we can see more clearly into our own.

Some of us don’t think we are selfish. We might not see that we are very negative. The devil might have blinded us to our cutting tongue. But when we see it so clearly in our parents, then we can do a little introspection and see if it manifests itself in us. When was the last time you heard a message on confession that included your parents’ and grandparents’ sins? This is what I am talking about here. I had no idea until I studied this verse out. And I can tell you it has already helped me to see myself more clearly and to watch for certain aspects of character that my parents and their parents had. It is a wonderful tool to better understand yourself.

As we noted earlier in the message, you cannot have repaired what you don’t see as a problem. That’s why confession is so very important. That’s why admission to one another and asking forgiveness every time you do something ugly to someone is so important. That’s why we need to look at our own families’ sins and confess them. It is so important. We are to do it so we can overcome our own faults. And if we are really honest with ourselves, forgetting for a moment whether we have to be “holy” to be saved... don’t we want to be right? Don’t we want to

be kind and good and thoughtful and selfless and pure? Doesn’t that burn within us to yearn for righteousness?

### **When we recognize our need and confess it, God will give us power to overcome**

Well, here is the recipe. The power of God has always been there. We have rarely asked for it. James says we have not because we ask not. “Ask and it shall be given...” Jesus said. There is no, “Ask and we shall see...” Or, “Ask and I’ll think about it...” Jesus said, “Ask and it SHALL be given...” So, once we recognize our need, and ask Him specifically for the help we have to have, He will give it to us. He promised it! He will not fail us. He will not leave us to our own strength. He will come through as perfectly as we would expect of Him. But, we have to follow His plan. We have to get away from those who would “soften the blow” so-to-speak. We have to surround ourselves with those who believe what we believe, especially related to sin and overcoming. We have to stand up and take ownership of our defects of character... our sins and transgressions. We have to confess and admit to what and who we are and what we do. And we need the eye opening experience of confessing our forebears’ sins and transgressions that we might more clearly see our own.



And when we see ourselves as God sees us, we will come running to the only One who can make us pure and holy and right again. And when there is a people, a tribe, a denomination, a Church of people like that, Jesus will come and take us home. I want to go home. I want to be pure and right and good. I want to be with my Lord and Saviour. And I know you do, too. Let’s resolve to follow God’s recipe for overcoming, and be the victors God wants to help us be.



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

# DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM

By James Edson White

“There shall not be left here one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down.”

Matthew 24:2

In the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew the apostle gives our Saviour's account of a series of events to transpire from the days of the apostles on through to the end of time. To the student of God's word these scenes are to be way-marks to show where we stand in this world's history, and we should give them careful consideration.

## ***The destruction of Jerusalem and the temple was the first event***

The first event predicted is the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. That His followers may be prepared to meet this dire calamity, the Saviour gave them the following warning:

“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet (see Daniel 9:26, 27), stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand) then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains: let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house: neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.”  
Matthew 24:15-18.

## ***The abomination of desolation was the Roman army besieging Jerusalem***

Dr. Adam Clarke says: “This ‘abomination of desolation’ St. Luke refers to is the Roman army; and this abomination standing ‘in the holy place’ is the Roman army besieging Jerusalem. This, our Lord says, is what was spoken of by Daniel the prophet in the ninth and eleventh chapters of his prophecy; and so let every one who reads these prophecies understand them.”

Luke, in his account of this same prophecy, says: “When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that



are in the countries enter thereinto.” Luke 21:20, 21.

This latter text shows conclusively that the “abomination of desolation” was the armies of an enemy that would surround the city, besiege it, and finally destroy it.

***The act of the Romans worshiping their ensigns which they had placed over the eastern gate was an abomination***

Josephus says: “The Romans brought their ensigns into the temple, and placed them over against the eastern gate, and sacrificed to them there.” (“Wars,” b. vi. chap 6) No greater “abomination” than this could come to the Jewish temple; and this, together with the laying waste of Jerusalem, stamps the Roman army as the “abomination of desolation” foretold by the prophet Daniel, and referred to by Christ.

The Saviour says, “Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains.” But how can the Christians escape after the city is encompassed with armies? At the first glance this would seem impossible, but the Lord made no mistake.

***Not a single Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem***

Dr. Adam Clarke says: “In the twelfth year of Nero, Cestius Gallus,

the president of Syria, came against Jerusalem with a powerful army.” Josephus says of him: He might have assaulted and taken the city, and thereby put an end to the war; but without any just reason, and contrary to the expectation of all, he raised the siege and departed.” “Wars,” b. v. chap. 12.

The historians Eusebius and Epiphanius tell us that immediately after the departure of the armies of Cestius Gallus, and while Vespasian was approaching with his army, all who believed in Christ left Jerusalem, and fled to Pella and other places beyond the river Jordan.

Dr. Adam Clarke says: “It is very remarkable that not a single Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem, though there were many there when Cestius Gallus invested the city.”



***Their flight must be swift, or it would be too late***

The Saviour further says: “Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of the house: neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.” Matthew 24:17, 18. Like Lot in leaving Sodom, their flight must be hurried, or it would be too late, and they would be overwhelmed in the destruction coming upon the doomed city.

Dr. Adam Clarke says: “In the Eastern walled cities, their flat-roofed houses usually formed continuous terraces from one end of the city to the other; which terraces terminated at the gates.” It was customary to walk and sleep on these housetops. When the time for escape came, the need of haste was so great that if any were on the housetop or in the field, they must not take time to secure anything from their houses, but must flee immediately to a place of safety. “But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day.” Matthew 24:20. This instruction was given forty years before the Romans overran Judea.

***In view of the coming desolation, the followers were to pray earnestly for two great mercies:***

1. That they not be compelled to flee in the winter, for the cold of that season would bring great suffering to the refugees from Judea.

2. That God would so overrule events that they would not be compelled to flee on the Sabbath, or to be overtaken in the destruction which was to follow.

For forty years this prayer was to go up to God. It shows the regard Christ had for the Sabbath. In this we find a fitting rebuke for the little regard that is paid to this institution—an institution which had its birth at creation, and which was given to commemorate that event.

***The siege by the army of Vespasian was foretold by Moses***

Soon after the flight of the Christians, the army of Vespasian, under Titus, entered Judea, and besieged Jerusalem, until the city was destroyed and the temple burned with fire.

Terrible distress and calamity came to the Jews as a result of this siege. Moses foretold this one thousand five hundred years before. He said—“The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a

nation whose tongue you shalt not understand.” “And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land; and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee. And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the Lord thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straightness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee.” Deuteronomy 28:49, 52, 53.

***To the other horrors of war was added that of famine***

The Roman ensign was an eagle, and the Romans spoke the Latin language, which the Jews did not understand, thus fulfilling the first part of the above prophecy to the letter. To the other horrors of war was added that of famine. Josephus says that mothers would snatch the food from their children in their distress, and that many houses were found full of women and children who had died of starvation. Human flesh was sometimes eaten; and the same author tells of a lady of rank who killed, roasted, and ate her own son,

thus fulfilling the latter part of the prophecy of Moses.

Christ had said: “The days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side.” “And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations.” Luke 19:43; 21:24.

***The siege of Jerusalem was protracted for months***

The inhabitants were butchered without regard to age or sex. Josephus states that eleven hundred thousand perished at this time, and that ninety-seven thousand were carried away captive. How accurately this fulfills the Saviour’s prophecy quoted from Luke 21:24.

We also read that “Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” Luke 21:24. This will be when the work of the gospel is finished.



# Health Gem

## THE LYMPHATICS

*From the book Hand Book of Health ~ 1868*

By J.N. Loughborough



### What are the lymphatics?

They are minute, transparent vessels, uniform in size, having various valves. They constitute what is called the absorbent system. They are named from the substance they convey, lymph, a watery fluid, which they gather and pour into the blood.

### What is the office of the lymphatics?

Their office is to collect the nutritive products of digestion from the alimentary canal, and the effete, disorganized matter from all parts of the body, and convey them into the venous blood. They also have the power of absorbing substances applied to the skin. Green leaves of tobacco applied to the abdomen will often produce distressing sickness. Poisons thus taken up by the blood from the surface of the body, being undiluted by the juices of the gastric cavities, pass directly into the circulation, and are therefore more powerful than when modified by passing through the internal absorbent vessels. In some cases where the passage from the mouth to the stomach has been closed

by disease, nutriment has been infused into the system by means of a bath of warm milk. Shipwrecked sailors in an open boat have slaked their thirst by wetting their clothing in salt water, or what is better still, by being wet in a rain storm.

### What is the origin of the lymphatics?

They originate in a delicate net work, and are distributed throughout

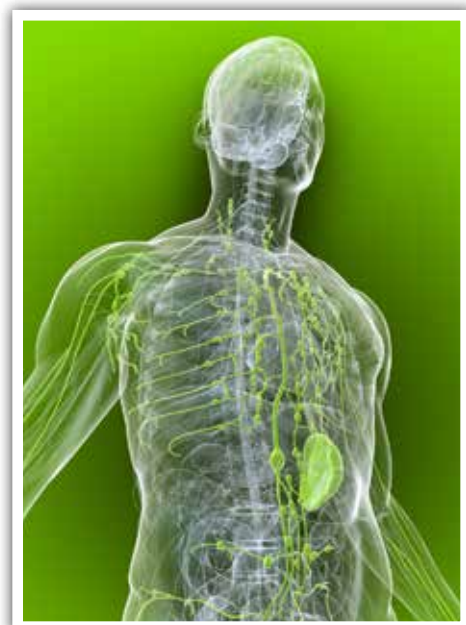


the skin and the various surfaces and internal structure of organs. There is scarcely a part in the whole body where these lymphatic vessels are not found, but, in some parts they are so extremely small that they cannot be discovered without the aid of a microscope. In the brain, where they are supposed to exist, they have not as yet been discovered even by the microscope. They are remarkable for their uniformity in size. They are of a knotted appearance, and very

frequently divided into two nearly equal branches. They proceed in nearly straight lines toward the root of the neck.

### What is connected with these lymphatic vessels?

They are intercepted in their course by numerous oblong bodies, called lymphatic glands. These are small, oval bodies, of a reddish ash color, and vary in size from one twentieth of an inch to an inch in diameter. They are somewhat flattened, and are larger in young persons than in the adult, and are smallest in old age. These glands are situated in different parts of the body, but abound mostly in the thorax and abdomen. Leaving these, the lymphatics converge from all parts of the body so as to pour their contents into tubes, which open into large veins leading to the heart, near the bottom of the neck.





### What is the construction of the lymphatics?

Like arteries and veins, they are composed of three coats, frequently connected together, and having valves. It is these valves that give to the lymphatic vessels their knotted appearance. These valves are most numerous near the lymphatic glands. The lymphatics are smallest in the neck, larger in the upper extremities, and still larger in the lower extremities.

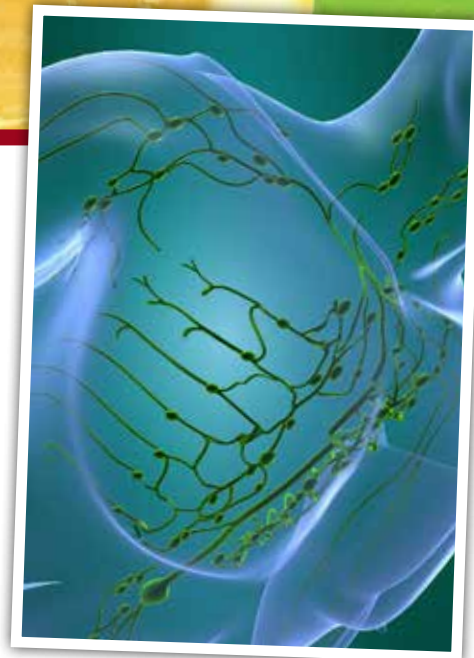
### What are the lacteals?

They are the lymphatic vessels of the small intestines, which convey the milk-like fluid called chyle to the thoracic duct. These are the nutritive absorbents, and they are connected with the numerous glands of the mesentery. It is in the small intestines that most of the alimentary absorption of the body is effected.

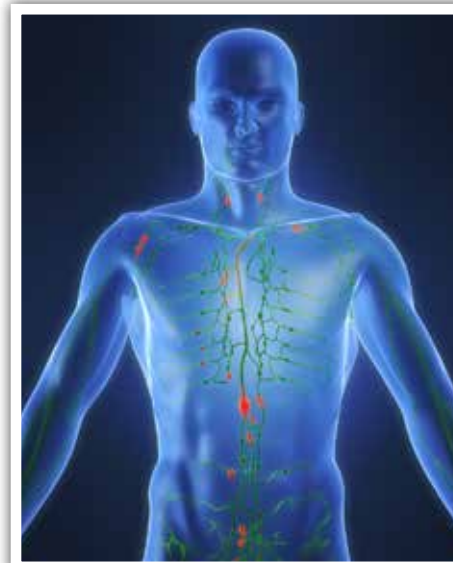
### What is the difference in the functions of the lacteals and the lymphatics proper?

The lacteals convey nutritive or new matter into the mass of blood, to

replenish the tissues; the lymphatics take up and return to the blood the surplus nutrient materials, and also old or waste particles, in order that they may be used in the secretions of the body or got rid of at the excretory outlets. The function of the lacteals is called the absorption of composition, that of the lymphatics the absorption of decomposition. The lymphatics proper, pervade, as before shown, the whole body, arising in great numbers from the external skin, from all the internal membranes, vessels, and



superficial vessels are placed in the most protected positions, as in the hollow of the ham and groin, and on the inner side of the arm. The deep lymphatics accompany the deep veins.



### What is the principal center of the lymphatic system?

The thoracic duct, or recepticulum chyli. It commences in the abdomen, and ascends through the diaphragm to the root of the neck, and then turns forward and downward, pouring its contents into the venous blood just before it enters the right auricle of the heart. The thoracic duct is some eighteen inches in length, and in size about equal in diameter to a goose-quill. Its termination is provided with valves to prevent the admission of venous blood. Before emptying its contents into the blood, it receives several large branches, or trunks, from the lacteals, and the lymphatic branches, from nearly all parts of the body. It is the common trunk of all the lymphatic vessels of the body, except those of the right side of the head, neck, and chest, and right upper extremity, the right lung, right side of the heart and the outer surface of the liver. These empty into the right lymphatic duct, and this empties into the venous blood-vessels of the right side of the chest near the heart.



cavities, and from the substance of all the organs. But the lacteals arise only from the mucous membrane of the alimentary canal, and principally from the mucous membrane of the small intestine. There is, however, no difference in the structure of a lymphatic and that of a lacteal; but one elaborates chyle, and the other lymph.

### How many kinds of lymphatics are there?

Two: the superficial and deep. The superficial follow the course of the superficial veins, and they join the deep lymphatics. The glands of these

### Are the lymphatics the only absorbent vessels?

No; the radicles, or small veins, perform a very important function in the stomach, by the rapid absorption of the watery portion of all liquids placed there. It thus conveys them to the general circulation without their passing through the circuitous route taken by the food.

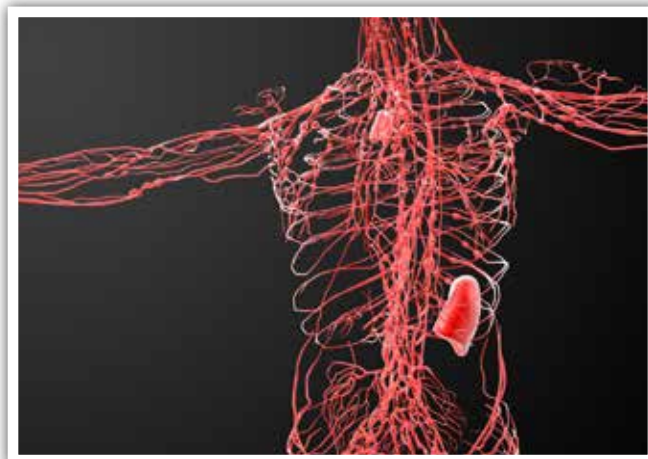
### What can you say in general terms of the lymphatic system?

It is an appendage to the venous system, furnishing it with all the assimilating materials by which the body is nourished, as well as conveying to it the effete substances which are to be eliminated from the vital domain. These two systems are connected at several points, and the structure of the lymphatic vessels much resembles that of the veins. The

venous capillaries and the lymphatics appear, to some extent, to reciprocate in function, and the lymphatics always empty their contents into the veins. In the lymphatics, as in the arterial and venous systems, the nerves of organic life are distributed, and they preside over all their functions. In the lymphatic vessels some of the most important changes take place.

### What is chyle?

It is a liquid substance, composed of digested food, and is prepared for nutrition in the mesenteric glands.



lymph thus formed, is mostly, if not entirely waste matter, and thrown off through the excretory ducts.

### Are the lymphatics and lacteals the only organs that absorb nutrition?

No; in the mucous membrane of the lungs and stomach, the thin fluids are taken up by the veins.

### What is the general view of the absorption in the system?

The extremities of veins act as absorbent vessels, taking up the greater portion of useless, injurious, or worn-out matters; the lymphatic vessels return the unused or surplus nutritive matter; they also serve as helpers to the veins when they are obstructed, or their task imperfectly performed. The elements of the blood in the capillary system pass through the coats of these vessels and undergo chemical, vital changes. Such elements as are needed, repair the waste and build up the structures of the body. Other elements are separated and carried back into the circulation, to be changed or thrown off.

It is of a milky-white color, and is of the same chemical composition, whatever may be the food from which it is formed. It is not, however, of the same vital quality. That formed from animal food, when taken from the body undergoes putrefaction in three or four days, while that selected from vegetable food will resist decomposition for several weeks.

### What is lymph?

It is a watery fluid, differing from chyle in its color, being almost colorless, and differing also in the fact that the lymph is made mostly of decomposed matter, while the chyle is always formed from new matter. This



# *He Leads Us On*

He leads us on,  
By paths we did not know,  
Upwards he leads us, though our steps be slow,  
Though oft we faint and falter on the way,  
Though storms and darkness oft obscure the day,  
Yet when the clouds are gone  
We know he leads us on.

He leads us on  
Through all the unquiet years;  
Past all our dreamland hopes, and doubts, and fears  
He guides our steps. Through all the tangled maze  
Of sin, of sorrow, and o'erclouded days  
We know his will is done;  
and still he leads us on.

And he, at last,  
After the weary strife—  
After the restless fever we call life—  
After the dreariness, the aching pain,  
The wayward struggles which have proved in vain,  
After our toils are past—  
Will give us rest at last.

—Unknown

# News Watch



***National Catholic Register, March 9-22, 2014, front page—“Where Is Marriage’s Definition Headed?”, by Joan Frawley Desmond, Senior Editor.***

“Washington—When the U.S. Supreme Court struck down part of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) last June, legal scholars expected no further ruling from the justices on this issue for some years. Yet now, in the wake of several lower court decisions overturning state laws banning same-sex marriages, as well as a growing federal push for ‘marriage equality’, experts predict the high court may decide another landmark case by 2015.”

## **End Time Perspective:**

“Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built: but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.” Luke 17:28-30.

*Ellen White comments:* “The cities of today are fast becoming like Sodom and Gomorrah.” COL 54.

*Editor’s Comment:* People think it is the appropriate thing to do to have sympathy for those entrenched in the gay life-style. It is true that many gays are nice people. But by encouraging their conduct, they are removed from seeking victory over their sins through commitment to Jesus Christ and His power in their lives.

# Hope for Health



Used throughout the centuries worldwide for almost every ailment imaginable, Swedish Bitters can improve a variety of functions throughout the entire body, making it an irreplaceable health gem! Discover how to enjoy optimal health, improved vitality, and so much more! Discover an end to frustration with high medical bills, and discover the extraordinary benefits of Swedish Bitters.

# SWEDISH BITTERS

### What is Swedish Bitters used for?

Poor complexion	Tooth or gum pain	Weakness or fainting
Skin problems	Sore throat	Painful joints
Pimples	Heartburn or gas	Swelling or inflammation
Scars	Indigestion	Tremors or shakes
Burns	Stomach cramps	Fever or infection
Earaches	Appetite loss	Snoring
Ringings in the ears	Constipation	Difficulty sleeping
Hearing loss	Dizziness	

### Swedish Bitters contains 12 powerful cleansing herbs:

**Aloe** - Aloe is a laxative and vermifuge (expels worms and parasites) that soothes the lining of the entire digestive tract. It also calms and cools burns, sunburns, wounds, and insect bites.

**Myrrh** - Enhances the immune system and helps fight off bugs. A powerful astringent, Myrrh is very helpful for problems of the mouth, throat, ears, sinuses, and respiratory system. Myrrh helps support and accelerate repair of the digestive system, is a vermifuge, decreases gas, boosts energy, and aids in menstrual problems. When applied topically to wounds, it accelerates wound repair and decreases pain.

**Saffron** - A naturally soothing sedative, saffron also relieves gas, stimulates the appetite, and helps regulate menstrual flow.

**Senna Leaf** - Promotes healthy bowel movements, provides a natural yet gentle laxative effect.

**Camphor** - Calms the nerves, reduces nerve pain, stimulates the respiratory system, strengthens the heart, and soothes painful joints.

**Rhubarb Root** - Its astringent and antiseptic effect cleanses the digestive tract, removes debris, and relieves constipation.

**Zedoary** - Great digestive aid! It is used for gas, indigestion, and strengthens of all digestive organs.

**Manna** - A gentle laxative, it also invigorates and energizes the body.

**Theriac Venezian** - Powerful anti-inflammatory and antioxidant, it helps with breathing problems, excess mucous, indigestion, diarrhea, edema, urinary gravel, and can be used topically for wounds.

**Carline Thistle Root** - An energizer, diuretic, and natural germ fighter, it is helpful for lung problems, prostate issues, and joint pain. **Angelica Root** - An energizing herb, it is used as an expectorant to relieve the lungs and throat. As a diaphoretic, it helps the body sweat out fevers. Angelica root also eases intestinal issues, gas, indigestion, and joint pain.

### Suggested Adult Usage:

#### EXTRACT USAGE:

- **For general health and well-being:** 1 teaspoon 15 minutes before each meal and 30 minutes before bedtime (4 times a day).
- **For serious concerns:** May increase up to 1 tablespoon 15 minutes before each meal and 30 minutes before bedtime (4 times a day).
- **For help sleeping/to stop snoring/for night-time relief of sickness or pain:** 1 tablespoon 1 hour before bedtime.
- **Externally - may be applied topically to:** Cuts, burns, bites, stings, skin blemishes & conditions or applied as a poultice to sprains and strains.

#### CAPSULE USAGE:

- **For general health and well-being:** 1-2 capsules 30 minutes before each meal.
- **For serious conditions:** May increase up to 3 capsules 30 minutes before each meal and 30 minutes before bedtime (4 times a day).
- **For help sleeping/to stop snoring/for night-time relief of sickness or pain:** 2-3 capsules 1 hour before bedtime.

#### CONCENTRATE USAGE:

- **For general health and well-being:** Take 2-6 drops (in water or juice), 15 minutes before each meal and 30 minutes before bedtime. **For serious concerns:** May increase up to 6-10 drops (in water or juice), 15 minutes before each meal and 30 minutes before bedtime. **For help sleeping/to stop snoring/for night-time relief of sickness or pain:** 6-10 drops (in water or juice) 1 hour before bedtime.
- **Externally - May be diluted or used full strength and applied topically to:** Cuts, burns, bites, stings, skin blemishes and conditions, scars, or applied as a poultice to sprains, strains, or painful joints.

### To Order Call Today:

1-800-468-7884 or Visit us on the web at:

[www.hopeforhealthusa.com](http://www.hopeforhealthusa.com)

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

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

### Prices:

90 capsules .....	\$15.99
180 capsules .....	\$27.99
250 mL (8.45 oz.) alcohol extract .....	\$17.99
500 mL (16.9 oz.) alcohol extract .....	\$32.99
30 mL non-alcohol concentrate* .....	\$39.99

\*30 mL of concentrate makes 700 mL of extract!



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

# Ellen White's *Vision*

## *The Sealing*

By E. G. White

At the commencement of the holy Sabbath, January 5, 1849, we engaged in prayer with Brother Belden's family at Rocky Hill, Connecticut, and the Holy Ghost fell upon us. I was taken off in vision to the most holy place, where I saw Jesus still interceding for Israel. On the bottom of His garment was a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate. Then I saw that Jesus would not leave the most holy place until every case was decided either for salvation or destruction, and that the wrath of God could not come until Jesus had finished His work in the most holy place, laid off His priestly attire, and clothed Himself with the garments of vengeance.

*The time of trouble, such as never was, has not yet commenced*

Then Jesus will step out from between the Father and men, and God will keep silence no longer, but pour out

His wrath on those who have rejected His truth. I saw that the anger of the nations, the wrath of God, and the time to judge the dead, were separate and distinct, one following the other; also that Michael had not stood up, and that the time of trouble, such as never was, had not yet commenced. The nations are now getting angry, but when our High Priest has finished His work in the sanctuary, He will stand up, put on the garments of vengeance, and then the seven last plagues will be poured out.

*The seven last plagues will enrage the wicked against the righteous*

I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus' work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues. These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them, and that if they could rid the earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed. A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob's trouble. [See Genesis 32.] Then all the saints cried out with anguish of spirit, and were delivered by the voice of God. The one hundred and forty-four thousand triumphed. Their faces were lighted up with the glory of God.

*Those who once kept the Sabbath but gave it up will be howling in agony*

Then I was shown a company who were howling in agony. On their garments was written in large characters, "Thou art weighed in the balance, and found wanting." I asked who this company were. The angel said, "These are they who once kept the Sabbath, and have given it up." I heard them cry with a loud voice, "We have believed in Thy coming, and taught it with energy." And while they were speaking, their eyes would fall upon their garments and see the writing, and then they would wail aloud. I saw that they had drunk of the deep waters, and



fouled the residue with their feet,--trodden the Sabbath underfoot,--and that was why they were weighed in the balance and found wanting.

Then my attending angel directed me to the city again, where I saw four angels winging their way to the gate of the city. They were just presenting the golden card to the angel at the gate, when I saw another angel flying swiftly from the direction of the most excellent glory, and crying with a loud voice to the other angels, and waving something up and down in his hand. I asked my attending angel for an explanation of what I saw. He told me that I could see no more then, but he would shortly show me what those things that I then saw meant.

### *An angel with a commission from Jesus swiftly flew to the four angels*

Sabbath afternoon one of our number was sick, and requested prayers that he might be healed. We all united in applying to the Physician who never lost a case, and while healing power came down, and the sick was healed, the Spirit fell upon me, and I was taken off in vision.

I saw four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and were on their way to accomplish it. Jesus was clothed with priestly garments. He gazed in pity on the remnant, then raised His hands, and with a voice of deep pity cried, "My blood, Father, My blood! My blood! My blood!" Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from God, who sat upon the great white throne, and was shed all about Jesus. Then I saw an angel fly with a commission from Jesus, swiftly flying to the four angels who had a work to do in the earth, and waving something up and down in his hand, and crying with a loud voice, "Hold! hold! hold! hold! until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads."

### *The four angels were bidden to hold the winds until the servants of God were sealed*

I asked my accompanying angel the meaning of what I heard, and what the four angels were about to do. He said to me that it was God that restrained the powers, and that He gave His angels charge over things on the earth; that the four angels had power from God to hold the four winds, and that they were about to let them go; but while their hands were loosening, and the four winds were about to blow, the merciful eye of Jesus gazed on the remnant that were not sealed, and He raised His hands to the Father, and pleaded with Him that He had spilled His blood for them. Then another angel was commissioned to fly swiftly to the four angels, and bid them hold, until the servants of God were sealed with the seal of the living God in their foreheads.

CET 100-102



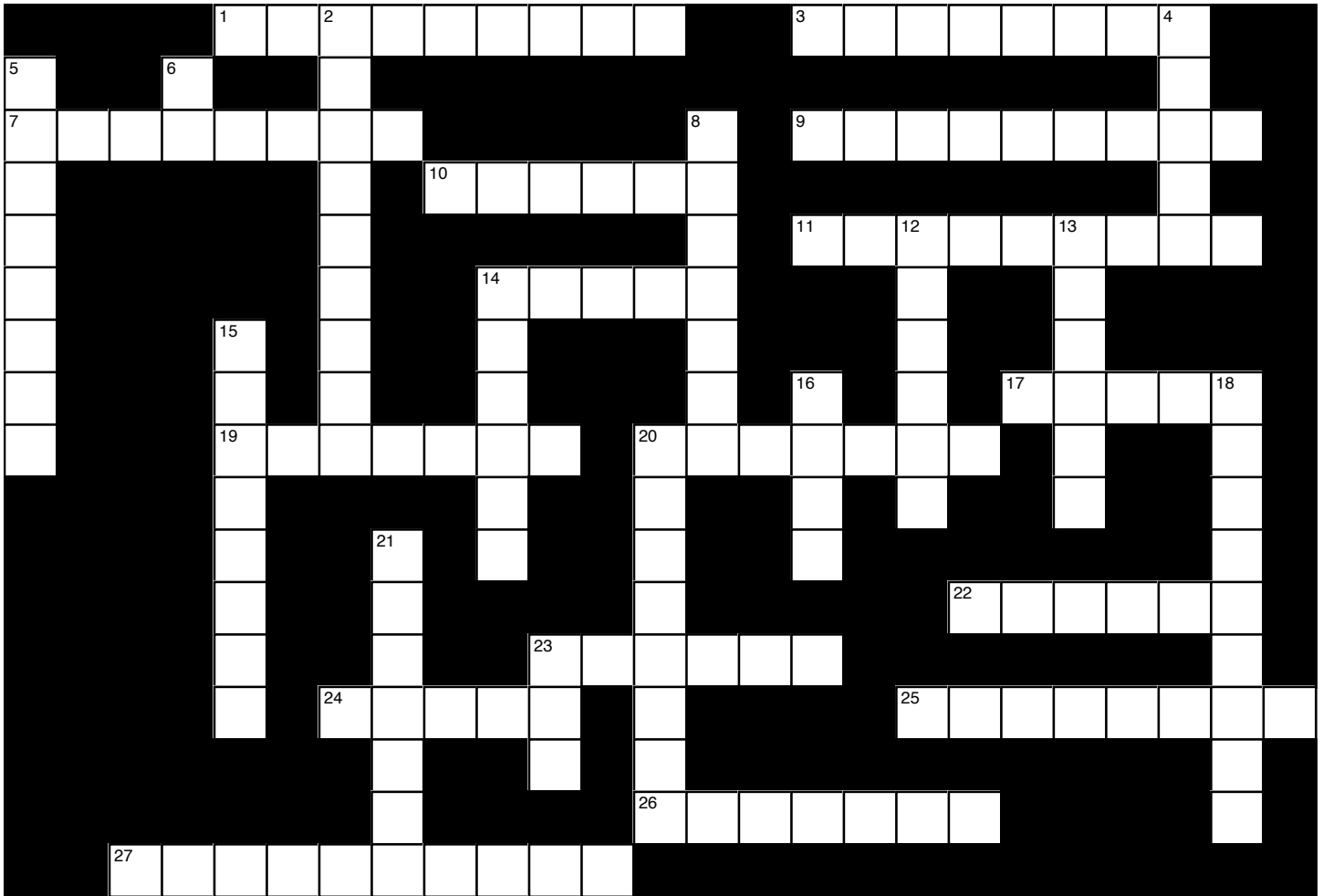
Hope International does not solicit tithes; however, we are a tithe-worthy organization and accept tithes. We use the tithe only for the gospel ministry. Donations designated "Gospel Ministry" will be considered tithe.

#### **SHIPPING, SALES TAX & CURRENCY**

For all products advertised in this publication (unless otherwise noted): • **USA destinations:** \$0.01- \$25.00= \$6.25, \$25.01- \$50.00 = \$9.25, \$50.01- \$100.00 = \$13.50, \$100.01-\$200.00 = \$16.75, \$200.00 or more = FREE!

- **To destinations outside the USA:** Actual shipping rate will be charged. **Sales tax:** North Carolina residents, please add 6.75%. **All money sent must be in US funds, drawn on US banks.**

# Christian Crossword



## ACROSS

1. A method of the Egyptians for preserving a dead body.
3. The wife of Aaron
7. A Syrian tribe descended from Canaan which opposed the Israelites
9. Joseph was overseer in \_\_\_\_\_ house
10. The husband of Priscilla
11. For man to claim to forgive sin is \_\_\_\_\_
14. The town in which the woman lived who Saul consulted as having a familiar spirit
17. In the 33rd year of \_\_\_\_\_ the Great, Christ was born
19. The mother of Jacob
20. The third son of Aaron
22. The mother of Timothy
23. One who is skilled in the use of the bow and arrow
24. A venomous serpent from 2 to 5 feet in length
25. A judge of Israel, the illegitimate son of Gilead
26. A name for the chief overseer of a household
27. A great power to arise in the end times in opposition to the work of Jesus

## DOWN

2. The chief of devils
4. The father of Aaron
5. Queen Esther's real name
6. The birthplace of Abraham
8. One of the ministering spirits of God to Zecharias respecting the birth of John
12. Patmos is located in which sea?
13. To speak against the law of God
14. A village 7 or 8 miles north-west of Jerusalem

15. John the Baptist spoke against her marriage
16. The name by which several nations of the east worshipped the sun
18. A type of camel mentioned in the Bible
20. He fell from the third story of a house
21. A renowned city of Greece about 25 miles west of Athens
23. The vessel constructed by Noah at God's command

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

