

*our firm*  
**FOUNDATION**

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



***Darkening  
of the Sun***

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Satan has his masterpieces of deception that we as God's people should be well aware of and know how to handle them Biblically. Recently my wife came upstairs in our house bringing her small portable radio with her. Sean Hannity, one of the well-known talk show hosts, was interviewing a couple of guests—one of which was Colton Burpo, who claimed to have had an out of body experience while he was going through a serious surgery when he was four years old—he is now fourteen. He had been taken to heaven where he saw and spoke with people who had previously died, including an infant sister, who had grown some in heaven. The book, Heaven Is For Real, was published in 2010 depicting Colton's experiences. The book became #1 on the New York Times bestseller list with over five million copies going into print. Now in 2014 the book is being made into a movie,

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*“We, as Seventh-day Adventists, need to go back and review what we understand about death and the state of the dead.”*

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and Colton and one of the movie producers were being interviewed on Sean Hannity's program.

The way is thus being opened for communication to be brought to us with people who have died and are now supposedly in Heaven. We could have communication that would strengthen Satan in his deceptions—“Jesus changed the day of worship—we should be keeping Sunday”, “the Catholic Church is the true church”, “Seventh-day Adventists are not correct in their theology”, and so on.

Many people who believe we go to Heaven when we die will have their beliefs strengthened, and others

who have not believed will begin to believe. I have read the book, and if you don't understand the truths of the Bible in regard to death, the book is very believable.

We, as Seventh-day Adventists, need to go back and review what we understand about death and the state of the dead. Hopefully you, the reader, will memorize some of the Scriptures that I am going to share with you. We know that Jesus resurrected some people who died, including Lazarus, but none came back with any story about being in Heaven. The Bible compares death to sleep over 50 times. One of the clearest is in regard to Lazarus.

In the Gospel of John, chapter 11, verses 11 through 14, Jesus is speaking: “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 rest in sleep. Then Jesus said unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.”

Jesus is very clearly describing death as a sleep. And we can note that when Lazarus was brought back to life, he did not have any heavenly tales to bring with him. If he were already in Heaven, wouldn't it be pretty cruel of Jesus to bring him out of the bliss of Heaven back to this earth?

In 1 Thessalonians 4:14-16, we read, “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall

rise first.” This is abundantly clear that those who have died remain here on the earth in their graves until Jesus calls them forth at His second coming.

John 5:28, 29 read as follows: “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” Again, it is quite clear, that we remain in the grave until Jesus calls us forth at His second coming.

Even Jesus did not ascend to the Father until after His resurrection—John 20, verse one speaks of Mary Magdalene coming to the grave on the first day of the week, and in verse 17, Jesus says to her “Touch me not; for I have not yet ascended to my Father...”

Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6 are some of the easier verses to remember, and yet some of the strongest: “For the living know that they shall die; but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. And their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.” This is, of course, until the resurrections.



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**Our Mission:**

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

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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.

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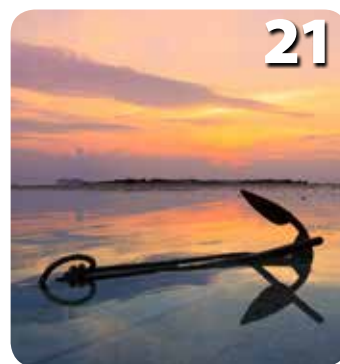
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# Darkening of the Sun

By James Edson White

*"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light." Matthew 24:20*

In fulfillment of this prophecy, history records a wonderful and mysterious dark day, May 19, 1780. It extended throughout all New England, and on the Atlantic Coast, from the South to unknown regions of the North. It brought great alarm and distress to many people, who thought that the day of judgment had come. It also brought "dismay to the brute creation, the fowls fleeing bewildered to their roosts, and the birds to their nests, and the cattle to their stalls."

### ***Darkness was so dense that candles were necessary***

"Indeed, thousands of the good people of that day became fully convinced that the end of all things terrestrial had come; many gave up, for the time, their secular pursuits, and betook themselves to religious devotions; while many others regarded the darkness as not only a token of God's indignation against the various iniquities and abominations of the age, but also as an omen of

some future destruction that might overwhelm the land unless speedy repentance and reformation took place." Great Events of the Greatest Century, p. 40.

This darkness began between the hours of ten and eleven in the forenoon of Friday, of the date already named, and continued until the middle of the following night. In some places the darkness was so dense that people, without the light of a candle, were unable to read common

print, or tell the time of day by their watches. Lamps were lighted in many dwellings.

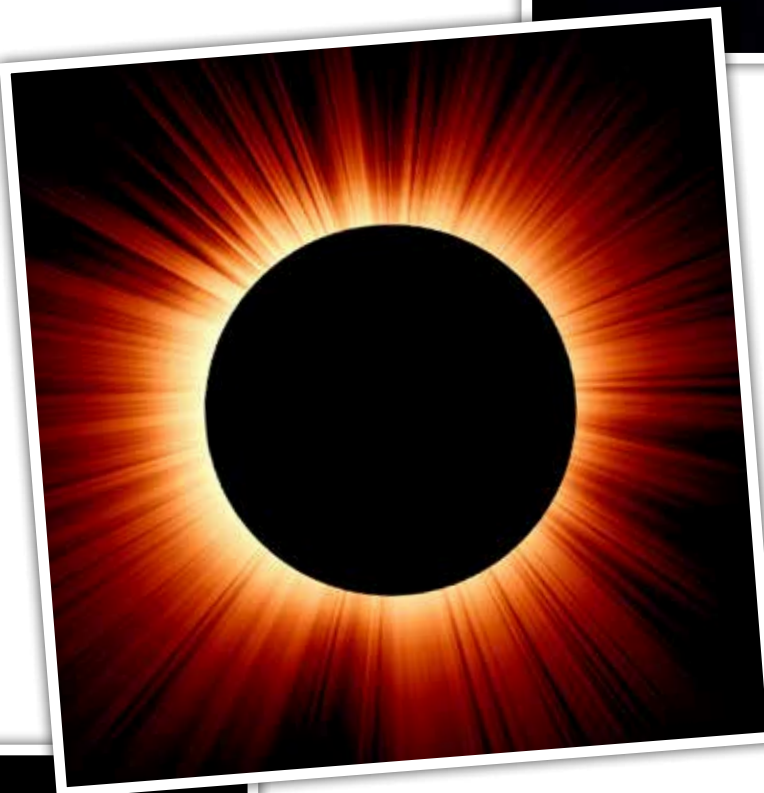
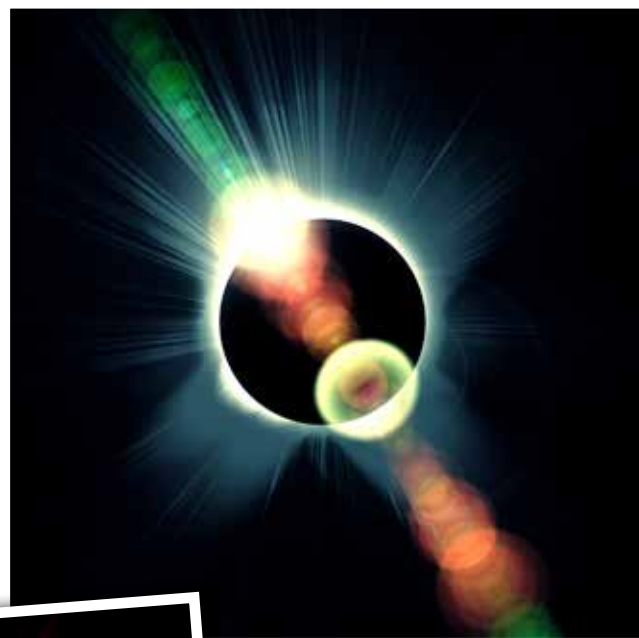
**People left their work in the house and in the field**

In a sermon preached by Rev. Elam Potter, May 28, 1780, and preserved among his writings, appears the following statement:-

“But especially I mention the wonderful darkness on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May inst. (1780). Then, as in our text, the sun was darkened; such a darkness as was probably never known before since the crucifixion of our Lord. People left their work in the house and in the field. Travelers stopped; schools broke up at eleven o’clock; people lighted candles at noonday; and the fire shone as at night.”

The legislature of Connecticut was in session that day, and as the darkness deepened the members became terrified, thinking the last day had come. A motion to adjourn was made, at which Mr. Davenport arose and said: “Mr. Speaker,

it is either the day of judgment, or it is not. If it is not, there is no need of adjourning. If it is, I desire to be found doing my duty. I move that candles be brought, and that we proceed to business.” From the Journal of the Connecticut House of Representatives, Friday, May 19, 1780, we learn that that body did adjourn from eleven o’clock until two in the afternoon.



o’clock, yet it did not give light enough to enable a person to distinguish between the heavens and the earth.” Great Events of the Greatest Century, p. 44.

**“And the moon became as blood”**

“A great part of the following night also was singularly dark. The moon, though in the full, gave no light, as in our text.” Sermon by Rev. Elam Potter, May 28, 1780.

“The darkness of the following evening or

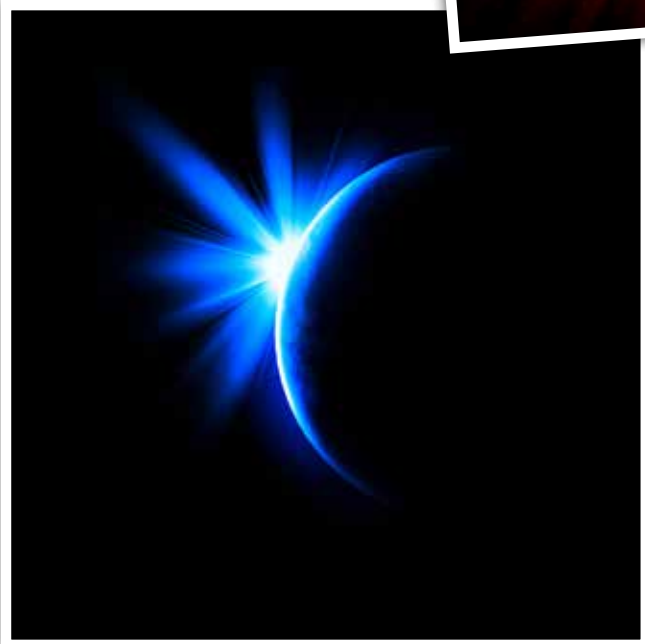
night was probably as gross as has ever been observed since the Almighty fiat gave birth to light....A sheet of white paper held within a few inches of the eyes was equally invisible with the blackest velvet.” Mr. Tenney, in Stone’s History of Beverly (Mass.), quoted by Mr. Gage to the Historical Society.

“And the moon became as blood.” Revelation 6:12. This verse, together with the 13<sup>th</sup>, records the same prophecy as given by the Saviour in Matthew 24:29, with the foregoing statement added in regard to the appearance of the moon.

**“And the moon shall not give her light”**

The first half of the night following this dark day was remarkable for the density of its darkness. Following are quotations with reference to it:-

“At eight in the evening, the darkness was so impenetrably thick as to render traveling positively impracticable; and although the moon rose nearly full about nine





***Prophecies from Revelation were accurately fulfilled***

Mr. Stone, in his History of Beverly, speaking of the latter part of the night following the dark day, says: "About midnight the clouds were dispersed, and moon and stars appeared with unimpaired brilliancy."

Of the appearance of the moon, when it became visible, Milo Bostwick writes: "My father and mother, who were pious, thought the day of judgment was near. They sat up all night, during the latter part of which they said the darkness disappeared, and then the sky seemed as usual; but the moon, which was at the full, had like the appearance of blood"; thus fulfilling accurately the prophecy as quoted from the Revelation.

***This dark day has never been explained***

Various theories have been offered, but none of them can bear the test of science. Some might think it was a total eclipse of the sun. But supposing this theory possible, such an eclipse could last for a short period only, while this darkness continued

through half a day and half a night. The two following statements should settle this point forever:-

"An eclipse of the sun can occur only at new moon. The reason is obvious. To produce it the sun, the moon, and the earth must be in a straight line, the moon being in the center." American Encyclopedic Dictionary, art. Eclipse.

"That the darkness was not caused by an eclipse is manifest;...for the moon was more than one hundred and fifty degrees

from the sun all that day," and was "more than forty hours' motion past her opposition." Great Events of the Greatest Century," p. 46.

The great astronomer Herschel, speaking of the unaccountable nature of this day, says: "The dark day in North America was one of those wonderful phenomena of nature which will always be read with interest, but which philosophy is at a loss to explain."

Noah Webster said of it: "The true cause of this remarkable phenomenon is not known."

***Do not allow anyone to belittle warnings from God***

The questions which remain to be settled with each of us are, Does this dark day of May 19, 1780, fulfill the requirements of the Lord's prophecy? Is it one of the way-marks placed upon the face of nature to warn us that we are living in the "time of the end"? So far as we have gone, it certainly fulfills every requirement of the prophecy. Then how shall we place ourselves with relation to it?

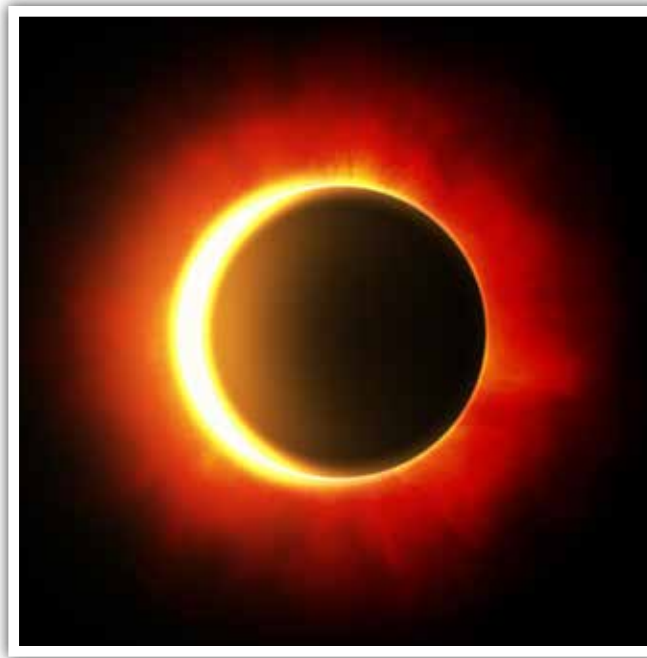
If it was of such importance



that Christ incorporated it into the wonderful prophecy which we are studying, it is certainly of enough importance to us to cause us to ponder well. Remember our Saviour's words, "Take heed that no man deceive you." Do not allow any theory or any individual to belittle an event which was important enough for the Lord to foretell it so explicitly.

***"Immediately after the tribulation of those days..."***

There is yet one important item to be considered, and that is the time in which this event occurred. Matthew, in speaking of it said: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light." Matthew 24: 29. Mark, speaking of the same event, said: "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light." Mark 13:24.



This tribulation referred to the 1260 years of papal persecution, the days of which would end in 1798. But Christ said, "Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Matthew 24:32. So we find that the persecution practically ended in 1773, thus shortening by twenty-five years the "days" as foretold in the prophecy. It is historically stated there were no martyrdoms after that time.

***The fulfillment was right on time***

So Mark, in telling when this dark day should occur, makes the application still more pointed and specific. He says, "In those days, after that tribulation." This fixes with certainty the actual date when this phenomenon should appear as being somewhere between 1773 and 1798. History puts the occurrence in 1780, thus completing a most remarkable chain of evidence which can not be broken.



# 40-Day PRAYER GUIDE

## PREPARED BY THE ADVENTIST YOUTH FORUM

*“You need to realize the importance of becoming acquainted with God in prayer. When you have the assurance that He hears you, you will be cheerful in tribulation; you will rise above despondency, because you experience the quickening influence of the power of God in your hearts.” GCB, 1909, P. 57.*

**Day 1: READ LUKE 18:26, 27.** Thank God for His grace to you and to your loved ones. Pray for the salvation of any lost members of your family, friends and co-workers.

**Day 2: READ REVELATION 2:4 & 5:15, 16.** Ask forgiveness for sin and mediocrity in us and for turning away from our first love. Confess of any personal sin including pride, doubt, fear, worry, self-centeredness.

**Day 3: READ MATTHEW 6:13.** Pray for deliverance from evil and temptation. Seek forgiveness from all whom you have offended, and forgive all who have hurt you. Make restitution where God leads.

**Day 4: READ JOHN 16:13, 14.** Pray for sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.

**Day 5: READ PSALM 111:10.** Pray for wisdom and knowledge.

**Day 6: READ JOHN 15:5.** Pray for fruitfulness in spiritual endeavours.

**Day 7: READ 1 KINGS 3:7-13.** Pray for guidance and direction.

**Day 8: READ ISAIAH 46:11.** Pray for God’s purposes to be accomplished.

**Day 9: READ MATTHEW 9:35, 36.** Pray for ability to get past what meets the eye and see all people as God sees them.

**Day 10: READ PSALM 84:11.** Pray for the single people and those who are engaged to be married.

**Day 11: READ PSALM 127.** Pray for the couples who are expecting babies and for those who are still waiting on the Lord.

**Day 12: READ PSALM 91.** Pray for the broken families at Seventh-day Adventist churches and any you know.

**Day 13: READ PHILIPPIANS 4:19.** Pray for the children of broken families, especially for those who are continuing their education under difficult circumstances.

**Day 14: READ 1 PETER 15:16.** Pray for holiness and that there will be men/women God can use to reach others. Ask forgiveness for moral corruption and for having other gods before Him.

**Day 15: READ ZECHARIAH 4:6.** Pray that there will be a great spiritual awakening among the believers in the Seventh-day Adventist congregations.


**Day 16: READ JOHN 17:20, 21.** Pray for unity in the church.

**Day 17: READ PSALM 119:9-12.** Pray that all members would embrace the word of God as the supreme law of their lives.

**Day 18: READ DEUTERONOMY 6:4-6.** Pray that the SDA Church leadership will yield completely to God and submit to His direction.

**Day 19: READ PSALM 139:23, 24.** Pray that those in authority within the SDA Church will have moral courage and integrity and be committed to live and teach the truth.





**Day 20: READ 2 TIMOTHY 4:7, 8.** Pray that leadership of the church will remain faithful to Jesus and not waver but finish strong. Pray for the Pastors, Elders, Teachers and Youth leaders of the church, Women's, Men's and Youth fellowships, Sabbath schools and evangelistic efforts.

**Day 21: READ JOHN 8:34-36.** Pray for deliverance from racial, class and other barriers within the SDA Church.

**Day 22: READ ESTHER 4:13, 14.** Pray that members of the church make use of the opportunities that God gives to share the gospel with the lost world.

**Day 23: READ MATTHEW 9:37, 38.** Pray that God will send out more workers into the harvest field and that they will be bold, dedicated and fully committed to the cause of Christ.

**Day 24: READ JAMES 1:27.** Thank God for the freedom and the material blessings we enjoy. Pray for the widows, orphans and those who have no families of their own.

**Day 25: READ 2 CHRONICLES 7:14, 15.** Pray that God will make us a Holy nation so that the world can see Jesus in us.

**Day 26: READ MATTHEW 22:36-40.** Pray that our churches and cities will be places of true Brotherly Love.

**Day 27: READ JAMES 1:5-8.** Pray that government leaders will speak the truth and seek Godly wisdom in decision-making. Pray for the President, Ministers, and all the Leaders of Government.

**Day 28: READ ROMANS 13:1.** Pray that more dedicated Christians will be in leadership roles in all areas of society.

**Day 29: READ PSALM 33:12-19.** Pray that God would protect our cities and nations from crime and other dangers.

**Day 30: READ PSALM 47.** Thank God for making you a part of His family.

**Day 31: READ ROMANS 12:3, 9-18.** Ask forgiveness for indifference, pride, disobedience, lack of faith, etc.

**Day 32: READ EPHESIANS 6:18, 19.** Pray for boldness in witnessing.

**Day 33: READ COLOSSIANS 4:4-6.** Pray for the clarity in communicating the gospel.

**Day 34: READ 1 CHRONICLES 4:10.** Pray for the extension of the ministry and service to the lost.

**Day 35: READ MATTHEW 9:6.** Thank Jesus for His authority over the entire world.

**Day 36: READ JOHN 4:11.** Ask forgiveness for not seeing the lost world through God's eyes.

**Day 37: READ MATTHEW 28:18-20.** Pray that the gospel will be carried to the uttermost parts of the earth.

**Day 38: READ LUKE 15:7.** Pray for the safety of new believers and for God's providence for their Spiritual growth.

**Day 39: READ PSALM 143.** Thank God for hearing and answering our prayers.

**Day 40: READ LUKE 18:28-30.** Pray that we will remain faithful till Jesus comes.



# Gratitude for Blessings

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To his feet thy tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore his praises sing:  
Halleluiah! Halleluiah!  
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favor  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise him still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Halleluiah! Halleluiah!  
Glorious in his faithfulness!

Father-like, he tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame he knows;  
In his hands he gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes:  
Halleluiah! Halleluiah!  
Praise with us—the God of grace.

—H. F. Lyte

## **Counsels on Speech and Song** by Ellen G. White

Hardcover | 496 pages | Price: \$15.99

### *The Voice is a Great Power!*

Ellen White was one of America's outstanding women preachers. Were it not for her abundant writings, she would no doubt be remembered today for her pulpit ministry. She spoke words in due season to widely diverse audiences. She counseled individuals and before microphones and public address systems were available, she spoke to large audiences of up to 20,000 people.

This volume shares Mrs. White's counsels on the use of the voice in conversing, teaching, speaking, preaching, and singing. The volume is divided into eight sections:

Section 1: A Gift From God

Section 2: Christ the Ideal Speaker

Section 3: Christian Attitudes in Speaking

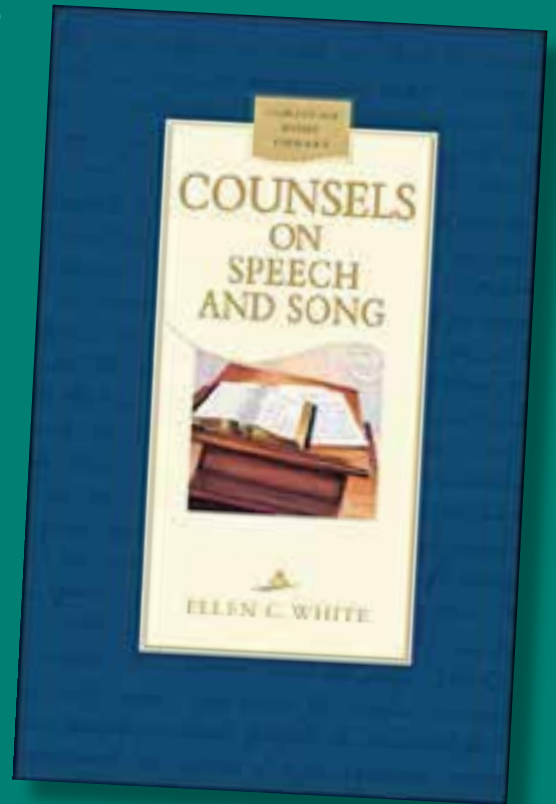
Section 4: Voice Culture

Section 5: Effective Methods of Public Speaking

Section 6: Content of Our Discourses

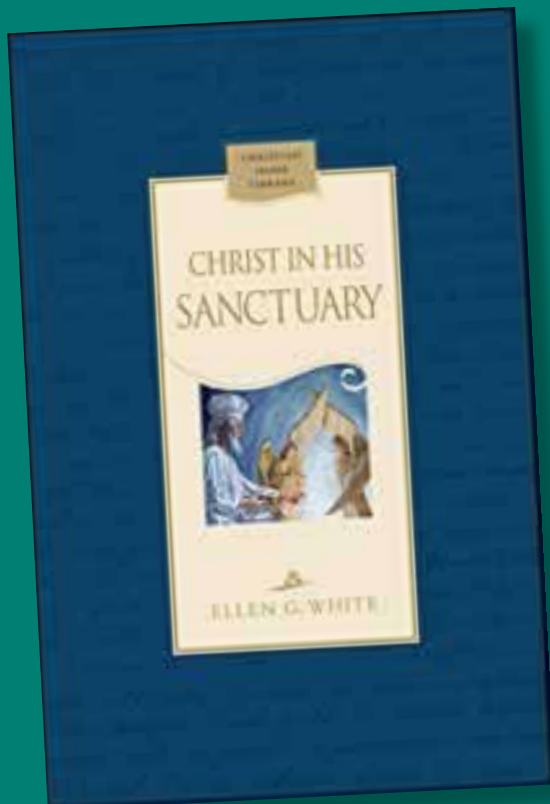
Section 7: Examples of Effective Speakers

Section 8: Use of the Voice in Singing



## **Christ in His Sanctuary** by Ellen G. White

Hardcover | 191 pages | Price: \$13.99



*"The intercession of Christ in man's behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross."*

All who have ever lived on earth, except Christ, have broken their ties with God through their sins. But we need not despair. Jesus, the Lamb of God, who died on the cross, took upon Himself our sins and now as our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary is able to cleanse us from all unrighteousness through His blood.

Every ransomed person from Adam and Eve to the last born at the time of the resurrection of the righteous dead at the Second Coming will be indebted to Christ, not only as our Savior, but also as our High Priest. All angels and inhabitants of the cosmos marvel at the love Christ has for sinners. What joy there will be when we enter into the City of God and begin our lives anew – lives even better than if Adam and Eve had never sinned. Evil will be no more.

The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God. It is of the utmost importance that all should thoroughly investigate these subjects and be able to "give an answer to everyone that asketh them a reason for the hope that is in them." The books are opened. Jesus' ministry in the inner compartment of the sanctuary is nearer to completion than when we first believed.



# THE TRUTH ABOUT WOMEN'S ORDINATION

By Joe Olson

I have planned on presenting this issue for some time now. This seems to be such a divisive issue and it pains me that we, of all people, should have this argument. This should not even be a problem for Seventh-day Adventists. And the issue is much deeper and more important than ordination. This issue goes all the way back to creation week. And most importantly, this is a salvation issue. The devil, once again, is trying to steal a march on us. All he is interested in and all he has ever wanted is for us to lose eternity like he has. And he thinks up the most ingenious ways to get us to lose our focus. He has done this for 6,000 years and this is one of his most deceitful ways yet. What better way to destroy us all than to divide all of the men from all of the women? And he can do it in the church and at home, too! It is a win/win for him and an eternal loss for us.

## THE DEVIL USES PERSONALIZED TEMPTATIONS FOR EACH OF US

Let's go back to when sin first entered this world. "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." Gen. 3:6. Both of our parents sinned in eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Both ate, both sinned, both are responsible. But as we look more closely

into exactly how it happened, we begin to see some major differences. Not, by the way, in guilt or responsibility, but in what the devil used to tempt them. "The angels had cautioned Eve to beware of separating herself from her husband while occupied in their daily labor in the garden; with him she would be in less danger from temptation than if she were alone. But absorbed in her pleasing task, she unconsciously wandered from his side." CTr 21.

There were warnings from God as to how to keep from danger... how to keep from temptation. She was told exactly how to minimize the dangers of their Satanic foe. Stay together! And remember, the devil was only allowed access to the holy pair at the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil; he was not allowed to chase them through the garden; he was only permitted to engage them at the one place God said not to go. If they stay away from the tree in the midst of the garden, they were safe from the tempter's snare.

## EVE BELIEVED THAT SHE DID NOT NEED ANY HELP FROM ANYONE

So far, even though Eve had separated from her husband, no harm had yet been done. She wandered from Adam... unconsciously. She was not aware of what had taken place yet. But here is where she heads down the wrong path... "On perceiving that she was alone, she felt an apprehension of danger, but dismissed her fears, deciding that she had sufficient wisdom and strength to discern evil

and to withstand it.” CTr 21. Once Eve did realize she was alone, exactly as the angels warned her not to be, here was her first opportunity to get back with Adam. But what does Inspiration say? Even though she felt an apprehension of danger... what does she decide? She had sufficient wisdom and strength. She didn’t need Adam. She was wise enough on her own. She was in control and was able to both discern and withstand evil. She felt she had sufficient wisdom and strength. She didn’t need to listen to God. She didn’t need to be by her husband’s side. She didn’t need to have any help. She could do it on her own.

Do you see where this is going? What was Eve’s problem? Self-sufficiency. She started out disobeying God because she felt she didn’t need any help... from anybody. She felt more than capable of handling things on her own. She didn’t need a man. For that matter, she didn’t need God and His angels’ advice. She had more than enough strength and wisdom for the task, no matter what anyone else said. She was woman! She was strong. She could do it all on her own.

Does that sound familiar today? Do we hear that kind of attitude and refrain today? Where do you think that comes from... God? Where did this feeling of “I can do it myself” come from? It began in Eden. Let’s read on... “Unmindful of the angels’ caution, she soon found herself gazing with mingled curiosity and admiration upon the forbidden tree. The fruit was very beautiful, and she questioned with herself why God had withheld it from them.” CTr 21. Unmindful of the angels’ caution... Admiration of the forbidden tree... Questioning God... Still think she had “wisdom and strength?” Still believe she could “do it alone”? No... she should have listened. She should have obeyed God and His angels and should have done what she was told. But she felt powerful enough to not need anyone else to help her. “Now was the tempter’s opportunity.” CTr 21.

**THE DEVIL CANNOT READ OUR MINDS, BUT CAN READ OUR COUNTENANCE**

Please note that Eve had not been tempted yet. Sister White said, “NOW was the tempter’s opportunity.”



Satan had not yet entered the scene. This was all Eve so far. These were her own imaginings and thoughts and ideas. Satan has not yet had access to her. And here she is... right in front of the tree... right in front of him. She is looking at the tree with “mingled curiosity and admiration”. The devil is reading her expressions and thinks he knows what she is thinking. So he speaks... “As if he were able to discern the workings of her mind, he addressed her: “Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden.”” CTr 21.

The devil cannot read our minds... but he sure is able to look at our expressions and body language and discern what he thinks are the workings of our minds. “Eve was surprised and startled as she thus seemed to hear the echo of her thoughts...” CTr 21. Eve was surprised and startled... She was not expecting this. Too bad she did not have someone by her side to keep her from getting “surprised and startled”. She thought she was wise enough... strong enough... but here is someone or something that “surprises and startles her”. It should have been enough to send her packing. If only she could have discerned that she needed the help and strength from her husband. If only she might have realized that God and His angels were right and that she needed to listen to what they said.

If only... And the sad story goes on from here and she finds herself tempted to disobey God and delves in.

**THERE IS MORE TO THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE**

Now... let’s recap here for a moment. Eve leaves Adam’s side. Eve realizes it, but feels she is strong enough and wise enough to handle whatever comes her way. As a result, she disregards God’s plain command and disobeys. “... she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” Gen. 3:6. All the scripture says about Adam is that Eve gave him the fruit and he did eat. But, just like with Eve, there is way more to the story.

When Eve came to Adam to give him the fruit, Adam realized what had been done. “An expression of sadness came over the face of Adam. He appeared astonished and alarmed. To the words of Eve he replied that this must be the foe against whom they had been warned; and by the divine sentence she must die.” CC 16. He got it. He





understood. He was not deceived. He knew that Satan had convinced Eve to disobey and that Eve would surely die. And what did she say to his response? “In answer she urged him to eat, repeating the words of the serpent, that they should not surely die.” CC 16.

So, what does Adam do?

**WHO WAS ADAM MOST CONCERNED ABOUT?**

Well, before we answer that question, let’s see what Adam was thinking... “Adam understood that his companion had transgressed the command of God, disregarded the only prohibition laid upon them as a test of their fidelity and love. There was a terrible struggle in his mind. He mourned that he had permitted Eve to wander from his side. But now the deed was done; he must be separated from her whose society had been his joy. How could he have it thus?” CC 16. Adam was very sorry that he let Eve leave his side. But his thoughts were that HE must be separated from Eve. Eve has been HIS joy. “How could HE have it thus?”

Now, I have a question. From these thoughts in his mind... who is Adam most concerned about? Oh... he loved Eve, there is no doubt, but who was he MOST concerned with? “She was a part of himself, and he could not endure the thought of separation. . . . He resolved to share her fate; if she must die, he would die with her.” CC 16. Who could not endure the thought of separation? HE couldn’t. Adam loved Eve... but whom did Adam love more? Who was he most concerned with? Here’s another way of questioning this... According to God, was Adam more concerned with Eve being without him, or him being without Eve? Now we are getting to the crux of the matter with Adam. Eve’s problem was self-confidence. She knew what she was doing and decided she was strong enough and smart enough to handle the devil all by herself. This is very important and must not be missed. They both disobeyed... but why?

**ADAM AND EVE DISOBEYED FROM DIFFERENT POINTS OF WEAKNESS**

Eve disobeyed because she felt she could handle it all alone. She needed no one else. She didn’t call upon Adam. She didn’t call upon God. She didn’t ask for an angel’s help. She was woman and she was strong... she needed

no one to help her or strengthen her or to be a helpmeet. What then, was the root of her problem? Pride. Pride says, “I can do it by myself.” Pride says, “I need no one.” Pride says, “I have all the capabilities I need to accomplish what I want.” Pride says, “I know God said that I should not separate from my husband, but I have decided it is alright.” Pride says, “I know better than God.” God needed to deal with Eve’s pride issue.

Adam was a different story. Adam is not filled with ideas that he needs no help or support. He has his own problem. He can’t stand the idea of not having Eve at his side. He can’t live without her. His thoughts are, “I would rather die than be without her.” What is his problem? Not self-confidence, but self-love. Selfishness. Self being number one. Eve is self-confident and prideful... Adam is selfish and self-absorbed. God desires to correct these problems in the once-holy pair. Let’s keep this in mind then as we look at what God gives for punishment.

**PUNISHMENT WAS ADMINISTERED WITH CORRECTION IN MIND**

And speaking of punishment... do we as parents punish our children to satisfy our own anger at their disobedience, or to help correct them? This also is very, very important and relates directly to women’s ordination. When we have to correct our children, what kind of correction do we give? Don’t we try to give them something that will help them learn to correct whatever the aberrant behavior was? Oh, there are consequences for their disobedience, but don’t we try to use something that will teach them to go the right way? Most parents would prefer their children to not only DO the right thing, but realize why they should. They want the punishment to be instructive... not just punitive.

God does the same thing. God did the same thing with Adam and Eve. “And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;” Gen 3:17. I’d like to point out something here that I had not really noticed before... God said to Adam, “cursed is the ground”, but then He added something I never really focused on



before - He said, "for thy sake". The ground was cursed for Adam's disobedience, but it was done for his "sake". This was given as a remedial and corrective action. "The fall of Adam changed the order of things; the earth was cursed: but the decree that man should earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, was not given as a curse." FE 314.

### **EVEN THE CURSE OF THE GROUND WAS CORRECTIVE IN NATURE**

The ground was cursed... but why? Why did God, of all the things He could have done to Adam, choose to curse the ground? This is extremely important! Have you ever asked yourself why the punishment was that the ground be cursed? Since the ground was cursed and Adam would now live by the sweat of his brow, we usually think that this hard work was a curse, too, but it was not. Hard work was not the curse!

Hard work was what Adam needed to help his problem! Adam NEEDED what was given to him. "And the life of toil and care which was henceforth to be man's lot was appointed in love. It was a discipline rendered needful by his sin, to place a check upon the indulgence of appetite and passion, to develop habits of self-control. It was a part of God's great plan for man's recovery from the ruin and degradation of sin." CC 18.

Did you notice that? The punishment... the corrective action if you will... was appointed in love. It was rendered needful because of his sin. Let me repeat that. It was rendered needful because of HIS sin. This "appointment" of punishment was given not because of sin itself... but because of HIS sin... his specific sin. It was lovingly put in place to help him develop SELF control. He did not have self-control. He was all about self and he needed a check on that. He needed to be corrected from going any further down that path. As with all parents, God gave remedial punishment so that His children might learn and grow and be better people.

### **ADAM AND EVE NEEDED TO BE DISCIPLINED DIFFERENTLY**

And this is the foundation of the women's ordination problem. You see, Satan was right there when he heard



what way God was going to correct the defects in His children. Adam needed to learn self control and get away from his love of self. Eve needed to learn humility and obedience. These were the two main issues that needed to be corrected. So, as you would imagine, it has been Satan's principle effort to thwart God's plan for the corrections He set in place. If God wanted man to learn to be loving toward his wife instead of loving himself, Satan would do all he could to get man to stay more concerned with himself than his wife. If God wanted woman to learn obedience and humility, not thinking she was wise and strong enough to do it herself, then Satan would see to it that she would feel she needed no help and could do it alone.

Don't we see how effective the devil has been? Paul understood this when he gave his instructions to the Ephesians... "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." Eph. 5: 22. He knew the battle that women were having with Satan and he was encouraging them to allow God's remedial plan to work in their lives. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" Eph. 5: 25. Exactly the same thing for men... Men have a problem with self-love, selfishness, putting self first. It started in Eden and the devil has been striving to keep it that way ever since.

Haven't you ever wondered why Paul told the women to obey and for the men to love? That wasn't accidental. That wasn't arbitrary. That was God's plan. It was God's plan to fix the problem. And Satan, as soon as he realized how God was going to correct things, went about to make it opposite of what God wanted.

### **SATAN'S SUGGESTIONS ARE ALWAYS IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO THOSE OF GOD**

God told man he had to be in charge now. Be responsible... be selfless... think of others instead of yourself. How has that worked out? How effective has Satan been in reversing what God said to do? Have you ever heard a man being questioned about what he and his family will do or where they will go, or anything like that? And in most cases, what does the man say? I'll have to check with the... boss! In most homes nowadays, who runs the finances of the house? On most TV shows today, who is the biggest idiot in the family? Satan knew what it would take for man to get his character back in line and he



is doing everything to make sure it doesn't happen. Satan is inspiring women to make it on their own. They don't need a man telling them what to do. They can do it all by themselves. They are strong enough and smart enough to be in charge and to need no one to be obedient to.

Do you see what Satan is doing? It is exactly the opposite of what God said woman needed to help her character flaws. Women should not be ordained, but not for most of the reasons I hear today. It is because they have a specific problem, and God has a specific remedy. Just like man! Women don't run things and lead at home because they took it away from the man. Men don't want to be the man! Man wants to be lazy and selfish and inconsiderate and... self-loving! He wants his food on the table. He wants his house clean. He wants her to take care of the kids. He doesn't want to have to deal with any of this. He just wants what he wants... "Give me the stinking remote!!!" Does that sound vaguely familiar? Men have to step up and do what God commanded. Women have to step down and do what God commanded.

Everything, absolutely everything God has done has been to get us back on the right path. Satan, obviously, has done everything he has done to keep us on the wrong path. The issue is so much deeper than we realize. Let's not give Satan the upper hand by falling into the lies he started at the beginning. He said God is lying and trying to keep you down... He said, God is trying to keep you from your true potential... "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods..." Gen. 3:5.

How did that work out for us? Did we become as gods? No, of course not. And the same lies and deception that he worked on our parents, he works on us today. "Such has been Satan's work from the days of Adam to the present, and he has pursued it with great success. He tempts people to distrust God's love and to doubt His wisdom." PP 53.

### **GOD SUPPLIES EACH OF US WITH ALL WE NEED TO HEAL OUR SIN-SICKNESS**

God knew what both Adam and Eve and their posterity needed to come back to Him. So, He set a plan in motion. In love, He gave them what they needed to take the corrective action. Satan, as he always does, tries to get us to do the opposite. And he does this by lying and deceiving, making us think we will be better off listening to him than to God.

One last quote...

"Eve had been perfectly happy by her husband's side in her Eden



home; but, like restless modern Eves, she was flattered with the hope of entering a higher sphere than that which God had assigned her. In attempting to rise above her original position, she fell far below it..." Satan never offers us the truth - only his lies. Just like our first parents, we never gain what the devil promises us. When we don't follow God's plan, we don't rise above - we fall far below. "A similar result[falling far below] will be reached by all who are unwilling to take up cheerfully their life duties in accordance with God's plan. In their efforts to reach positions for which He has not fitted them, many are leaving vacant the place where they might be a blessing. In their desire for a higher sphere, many have sacrificed true womanly dignity and nobility of character, and have left undone the very work that Heaven appointed them." PP 59.

### **COMPLETE SUBMISSION TO GOD'S WILL IS OUR REMEDY**

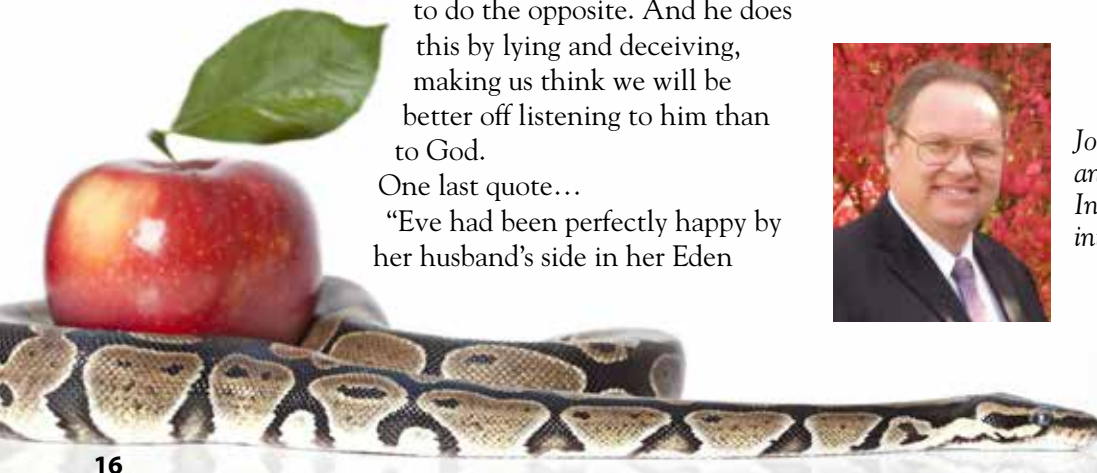
We have to let God change our characters so we can be fit for heaven. Look all around you at how Satan has upset God's plan. Isn't it obvious what the devil is tempting us to do and to be? Man has to quit shirking his responsibilities and be the selfless, loving, focused-on-other person he is supposed to be. Woman is supposed to be humble and meek and not thinking of herself more than she should. These are our remedies for our sickness... our sin-sickness. Let's let God heal us in the way He thinks is best.

Or... do we still think we know better? Or is it more likely that "professing ourselves to be wise, we become fools"? Because God loves us so much, He has yet granted us a little more probationary time to decide that He knows best.

What will we choose to do?



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







# Tuo Prayers

One cried in earnest, pleading prayer:  
“Lord, take the burdens from my heart;  
Lift from my brow its crown of care,  
Take from the rose its stinging smart.  
Choose not the lonely, rugged way  
By dark Gethsemane for me;  
But lead me gently, day by day,  
In pleasant pathways up to thee!”

Another voiced his soul in prayer:  
“Lord, take no burdens that are best;  
For while my brow is worn with care,  
My spirit finds in thee sweet rest.  
Some souls but dimly see the light,  
Let me their loving helper be;  
And give me the strength to climb the height  
That leads at last to love and thee!”

One lost his burdens, and repined  
In idleness, unloved, unsought,  
And learned the rose with thorn entwined  
Is sweeter than to cherish nought,  
One found in duty highest need,  
While unseen angels near him trod;  
An almoner for souls in need,  
He passed through human love to God.

—Mary Goodwin Plantz

# LUTHER'S SOURCE OF STRENGTH

By Mrs. E. G. White



Luther trembled as he looked upon himself, one man opposed to the mightiest powers of earth. He sometimes doubted whether he had indeed been led of God to array against himself the whole authority of the church. "Who was I," he writes, "to oppose the pope's majesty, before which the kings of the earth and the whole world tremble? No one can know what I suffered in those first two years, and in what dejection and despair I was often plunged."

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**"...your first duty must be to begin with prayer."**

But he was not left to become utterly disheartened. When human support failed him, he looked to God alone, and learned that he could lean in perfect safety upon that all-powerful arm. Steadfastly the Reformer labored to clear away the rubbish beneath which true faith had been buried for ages. The dust of ancient errors sometimes obscured his own vision, so that he could not see the truth with perfect clearness; but as he pressed resolutely on, rays of light flashed forth from God's word, banishing the darkness of superstition, and filling his soul with the brightness of a purer, holier faith. He rose above despondency; his courage and hope revived. Erelong friends began to rally around him. But he did not forget the Source of his strength. To Spalatin, the elector's chaplain, and a true friend of the Reformation, Luther wrote:

"We cannot attain to the understanding of Scripture either by study or strength of intellect. Therefore your first duty must be to begin with prayer. Entreat the Lord to deign to grant you, in his rich mercy, rightly to understand his word. There is no other interpreter of the word but the Author of that word himself. Even as he has said, 'They shall be all taught of God.' Hope nothing from your study and strength of intellect; but simply put your trust in God, and in the guidance of his Spirit. Believe one who has made trial of this matter."

## **Men of humility and prayer become mighty men of Scripture**

Here we see how Luther came in possession of the truth that waked up the Reformation. It is men of humility and prayer that become mighty men in the Scriptures. They search the word of truth as for hidden treasures. And as they read and pray, and pray and read, they become living channels of light and truth. Here is a lesson of vital importance to those who feel that God has called them to present to others the solemn truths for this time. These truths will stir the enmity of Satan and of men who love the fables that he has devised. In the conflict with the powers of hell, there is need of something more than intellect and human wisdom.

## **Luther heard the revilings of his enemies with joy**

Tetzel, in his rage against Luther, met his theses with antitheses, in which he attempted to defend the doctrine of indulgences, and sustain the power of the pope. Luther advanced with joy to the contest, hoping that the truth, to him so precious, might be revealed to many minds. "Do not wonder," he wrote to a friend, "that they revile me so unsparingly. I hear their revilings with joy. If they did not curse me, I could not be so firmly assured that the cause I have undertaken is the cause of God." Yet Luther loved peace. He possessed a tender, sympathetic heart, and while urged by the Spirit of God to defend the truth, he shrunk from causing strife in the church or in the State. "I tremble, I shudder," said he, "to think that I may be an occasion of discord to such mighty princes."

As Luther, with noble firmness, stood in defense of the gospel, his doctrines spread, and priests and people rallied about him as their standard-bearer. Hard as it was for them to change their opinions, the light of truth was dispelling the darkness of error. Some who secretly rejoiced in the work, took at first no active part in it; but the determined

opposition against Luther and the truths he preached, brought these persons to the front, and changed their doubts to the certainty of faith. In the hearts of those who would obey his word, the Lord placed a firmness and decision that nothing could move.

### **Haughty Prierias attacked Luther with the spirit of a buffoon**

Satan was perseveringly at work to tear down all that God was moving his servants to build up. One of the adversary's ablest instruments was Prierias, the master of the pontifical palace, who also filled the office of censor. The leading men in the Catholic Church were divided as to the true authority for interpreting the Scriptures. A part believed that the authority rested in general councils, as representatives of the church; while another part steadfastly maintained that to the pope alone was granted the power of interpretation, and that no one had a right to explain the Scriptures contrary to his decree. Prierias was among the most zealous supporters of the pope. "Whosoever does not accept and rely upon the teachings of the Roman Church and the Roman pontiff as the infallible rule of faith, and as that from which Holy Scripture itself derives its obligation and authority, is a heretic." Thus spoke the haughty Prierias, and then he proceeded to attack Luther with the spirit of a buffoon and inquisitor, rather than with the spirit of a calm and dignified defender of the church of Christ.

### **The spirit of truth gave Luther wisdom, strength, and understanding**

Luther met this opponent with the same fearless firmness which he displayed toward other adversaries. He had given himself to the service of truth, and the Spirit of truth gave him wisdom, strength, and understanding. Prierias had begun his work by laying down certain principles. "Following your example," said Luther, "I also will lay down certain principles. The first

is the passage of St. Paul: 'If any one preach unto you another gospel than that is preached, though he be an angel from Heaven, let him be accursed .' The second is from St. Augustine: 'I have learned to render to the inspired Scriptures alone the homage of a firm belief that they have never erred: as to others, I do not believe in the things they teach, simply because it is they who teach them.'"

Luther adds: "If you rightly understand these principles, you will also understand that your whole dialogue is overturned." To the insinuations and threats of Prierias he responds in these brave words: "Do you thirst for blood? I



protest that these menaces of yours give me not the slightest alarm. For what if I were to lose my life? Christ still lives; Christ my Lord, and the Lord of all, blessed forever."

### **Angels of heaven were sent to protect Luther as he did God's work**

It should be remembered that Luther was attacking with determined blows the institutions of ages. This could not be done without exciting hatred and opposition. No arguments against him could be drawn from the word of God; for his feet were firmly planted upon the foundation of the prophets and apostles, Christ himself being the chief corner-stone. When his enemies appealed to custom and tradition, or to the assertions and authority of the Roman pontiff, Luther met them with the Bible and the Bible alone. Here were arguments which they could

not answer. Therefore the slaves of formalism and superstition clamored for his blood, as the Jews had clamored for the blood of Christ.

"He is a heretic," cried these Roman zealots; "it is a sin to allow him to live an hour longer! Away with him at once to the scaffold!" But Luther did not fall a prey to their fury. God had a work for him to do, and angels of Heaven were sent to protect him. Many, however, who had received from Luther the precious light, were made the objects of Satan's wrath, and for the truth's sake fearlessly suffered torture and death.

Opposition is the portion of all whom God employs to make an advance move in his work by presenting truth specially applicable to their time. The controversy between Christ and Satan is to increase in intensity to the close of this earth's

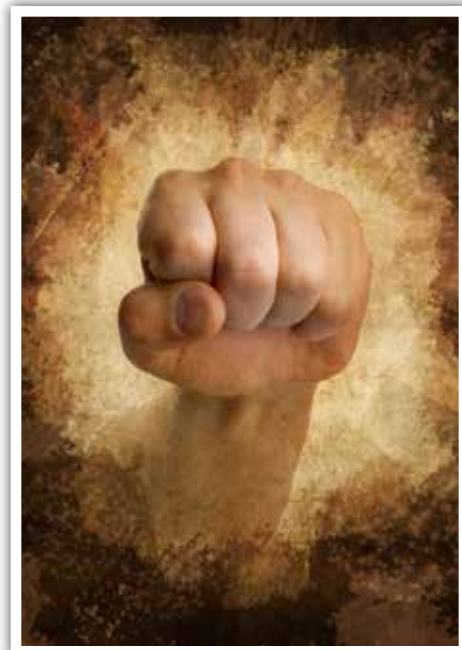


history. Those who dare to present truths that are not in harmony with the popular churches and with the world, will thereby become the objects of slander, reproach, and falsehood. Many who at first but partially unite with scoffers, finally lend themselves fully to Satan, to oppose and overthrow what God would build up.

**Worldlings and superficial Christians will accept nothing which interferes with their selfish love of pleasure**

There is today the same disposition to substitute the theories and traditions of men for the word of God as in the days of Christ, of Paul, or of Luther. Ministers advance doctrines which have no foundation in the Scriptures of truth, and in place of Bible proof, they present their own assertions as authority. The people accept the minister's interpretation of the word, without earnest prayer that they may know what is truth. There is no safety in depending upon human wisdom and judgment. Said our Savior, "Search the Scriptures: for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me."

All who possess reasoning powers can know for themselves what is truth. Those who pray and search for light, will receive light. The reason why so many are groping their way in the fog of error is, that they take the assertions of men, instead of searching the word of God for themselves. "To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Worldlings and superficial Christians will accept nothing which interferes with their selfish love of pleasure; hence they are willingly ignorant of the truth which would save their



souls. Satan works with all his deceptive art to present pleasing fables before the people, and he takes thousands in his snare.

**We should expect greater difficulties and more determined opposition to truth in our day**

The advocates of truth in our day should not expect their message to be received with greater favor than was that of the early Reformers. Nay, rather, they should expect greater difficulties and more determined opposition than were experienced by Luther and his fellow-laborers. Satan's hatred for the truth is the same in all ages; but as he sees that his time is short, he makes one last mighty effort, by signs and lying wonders, to deceive and destroy, not merely the unbelieving world, but the great mass of professed Christians who have not received the love of the truth that they might be saved. In the Second Epistle to the Thessalonians, Paul declares that the second coming of Christ will be preceded by "the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause, God shall send them strong



delusion, that they should believe a lie, that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

**We must be willing to tread the thorny path of Christ**

There was a present truth--a truth at that time of special importance--in the days of Christ, of Paul, of Luther; there is a present truth for the church today. But truth is no more desired by the men of today than it was by the Jews in the time of Christ, or by papists in the days of Luther. Therefore Satan, working now with tenfold greater power, succeeds as of old in blinding the eyes of men and darkening their understanding.

As those who now labor in the cause of reform, experience conflicts and trials, as they find their path hedged in by difficulties, and obstructed by the rubbish of error, let them remember that they are traveling the same road that prophets, apostles, and reformers of every age have traveled before them. Christ himself trod a more thorny path than any of his followers. They may comfort themselves with the thought that they are in good company. One mightier than Satan is their leader, and he will give them strength to be steadfast in the faith, and will bring them off victorious.

ST, June 21, 1883



*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.*

ANCHORED

IN  
CHRIST

THE POWER OF  
ENDURANCE

By Emmanuel Machakaire

“For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot;  
yea, thou shalt be steadfast, and shalt not fear.”

Job 11:15

*An anchor is a device to hold a ship in place; it is usually a heavy, traditionally double-hooked, device for keeping a ship or floating object in place. Anchors are connected to the vessel by ropes, cables, or chains. Primitive anchors held a vessel only by their enormous weight and friction along the sea bottom. Modern anchors usually are made of forged steel and may weigh thousands of pounds. Large ships usually carry several heavy anchors.*

What is your anchor?

When sailors sail across the seas they often encounter raging storms and as they try to navigate their sailboats waves crash around them, and they usually quickly drop anchor to hold the sailboat in place until the storm is over or until they could be rescued. Without the anchor, the relentless waves would smash their vessels onto the shore.

When we're in the middle of suffering or when doubts start threatening our faith, what are our anchors? Although our faith may feel weak, if it's anchored in God's promises and presence, He will safely hold us. We have an anchor that keeps the soul, steadfast and sure while the billows roll, fastened to the Rock which cannot move, Jesus Christ, grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love. When we feel the stress of the storm we learn the strength of the anchor. "Christ's Steadfastness. No threat could intimidate Him, no peril awaken His fears, no hardship exhaust His endurance, no temptation allure Him from duty." 18MR 90. The Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9.

God's promises are our anchors

We need anchors that hold us secure in our spiritual lives as well. When God called Joshua to lead His people



after Moses' death, He gave him anchors of promise he could rely on in troubled times. The Lord said to him, "I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. . . .

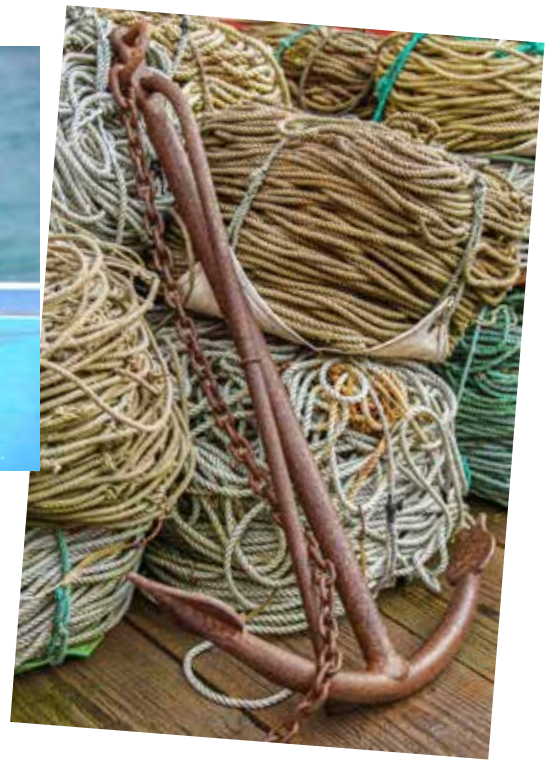
The Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Josh. 1:5,9). God's promises were anchors the Israelites could rely on as they faced many challenges.

Life is a journey for all of us, and that journey is not always easy. There are hard days and difficult nights and sometimes there are weeks and months and years where the road seems to lead from one hardship to another. If we live long enough, we'll have plenty of chances to get the battle scars. No one gets a free ride and no one is exempt from the troubles of the world.

Sometimes when we are discouraged, we can feel like giving up and walking away from the Lord. We're not the first generation to feel like that. God does not lead his children around hardship, but leads them straight through hardship. But he leads! And amidst the hardship, he is nearer to them than ever before.

*If we want to be like Jesus, we must endure like Jesus*

We need to persevere under pressure as Jesus did. If it hasn't happened already, a time will come when you must endure like Jesus. No one in history deserved to be more honored and respected than Jesus of Nazareth. Yet he was



treated with contempt and put to death. If we endure like Jesus, our own battle scars will be the righteous and beautiful wounds of those who have taken a courageous stand against evil. Our wounds will be like his.

"The obstacles, provocations, and hardships that we meet, may prove to us, not a curse, but the greatest blessings of our lives; for the grandest characters are built amid hardships and trials. But they must be received as practical lessons in the school of Christ. Every temptation resisted, every trial bravely borne, gives us a new experience and advances us in the work of character building. We have a better knowledge of the working of Satan, and of our own power to defeat him through divine grace." HP 46.

*Without Christ as our anchor we face a turbulent future*

Life is hard for all of us and we all have so many questions, fears and worries. Even the best among us struggle with questions we cannot answer. So many people struggle with hurts and pains they can hardly express. It is right at this point that the gospel speaks to our deepest needs.

If we suffer with him, we will reign with him. Better days are coming because Jesus rose from the dead. The grave will not have the last word. One day the children of God will exit the cemeteries once and for all. Let us be perfectly clear about it. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, therefore we have no doubts that one day the dead in Christ will rise, and we will rise with them to meet the Lord in the air. Between now and then, we are living on the edge, waiting for what God has promised.

If you believe that God has a plan for your life, then you can find the strength to keep on going. The sovereignty of God puts iron in a man. It makes him stand up straight





praise to God at midnight in jail, then what you've got is real.

Not only will you discover what you believe in times of trouble, that's also when the world discovers what you believe

But the truth comes out, always. And in those moments, when you rest your weary soul on the God of the universe, when you cry out to Jesus and discover that he really is there after all, then you discover

he was there all along, everything he said turns out to be true, and the people who watch you know that you really believe what you say you believe. And having seen the difference that Jesus makes in the worst moments of life, that's when they want what you have.

"Your days may not all be clear and joyful, but let not this afflict you. In meekness, faith, and endurance, wait, hope, and trust. Your life is hidden with Christ in God. Your life, even now, may be a lesson to all, showing that one can be happy in the failing of strength under affliction. When the deep waters go over the soul, God's presence makes holy the chamber of His dying saints. Their patient endurance and joyful constancy, their support by an unseen power, is a powerful testimony in favor of the Christian's religion and the Christian's Saviour. These light afflictions will be a transforming power, refining, purifying, ennobling, and fitting for the courts above." DG 218.

for God. Truly, these are perilous times when both the economy and the world situation are constantly on the edge. No

wonder so many people feel uncertain about the future. In times like these, we need to stand fast on the truth of God's sovereignty and we need to hold on to the truth written down in the Word of God. When the ground seems unsteady under your feet, remember what you have learned. Go back to the first principles.

### The stable heart is fixed on the Lord

When we are encouraged, we will face the trials of life with hope. Cheerfulness ought to be the atmosphere you breathe, and if you believe that God loves you, you cannot but be happy. When your heart is stabilized, you won't be swayed back and forth by circumstances and emotional mood swings. The latest headlines won't throw you for a loop one way or the other. The stable heart is fixed on the Lord and is not swaying to and fro. The mark of the stable heart is consistency. You are the same because Christ is the same no matter what happens around you.

The universe exists so that we may live in a way that demonstrates that Jesus is more precious than life. That truth does not answer all our questions, but it does provide the framework for an answer that will prove true and strong in the worst moments of life. When tragedy strikes, when life caves in, when your plans are dashed on the jagged rocks of reality, when you find yourself in a place you never wanted to be, that's when you discover what you really believe. As long as things are going good, you don't really know what you believe. It's all theoretical. You discover your theology at midnight. Anyone can sing "Shout to the Lord" when life is good, you've got money in the bank, your marriage is strong, your kids are doing well, you're happy in your job, you love your church, and all is right with the world. If with Paul and Silas you can sing





*In every circumstance, praise the Lord with cheerfulness*

“He who in his work meets with trials and temptations should profit by these experiences, learning to lean more decidedly upon God. He should feel his dependence every moment. No complaint should be cherished in his heart or be uttered by his lips. When successful, he should take no glory to himself, for his success is due to the working of God’s angels upon the heart. And let him remember that both in the time of encouragement and the time of discouragement the heavenly messengers are always beside him. He should acknowledge the goodness of the Lord, praising Him with cheerfulness. Christ laid aside His glory and came to this earth to suffer for sinners. If we meet with hardships in our work, let us look to Him who is the Author and Finisher of our faith. Then we shall not fail nor be discouraged. We shall endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. Remember what He says of all true believers: “We are laborers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.” CEv 84.

“As your burden grows heavier look up and by faith cling more firmly to the hand of Jesus, your mighty helper. As difficulties thicken about His people amid the perils of the last days, He sends His angels to walk all the way by our side, drawing us closer and still closer to the bleeding side of Jesus. And as the greater trials come, lesser trials are forgotten. You must remain pure and true and firm, remembering your character is being imprinted upon the books of heaven. . . . There is no circumstance or place or difficulty or hardship, where we cannot live beautiful lives of Christian fidelity and approved conduct. . . . Victory is not found in shunning trials—getting rid of them—but in meeting them heroically, enduring them patiently. Everyone will meet with trials. . . . If you look to Jesus, if you believe in Him as your personal Saviour, you will be brought through every trial, and enduring these trials with patience, you will become stronger to endure the next test, the next trial. It is only the narrowness of our vision that prevents us from discerning God’s loving-kindness in the discipline to which He subjects His church, as well as in the great blessings which He provides. In all times of

distress and confusion, God is a sure refuge to His people. In the shadow of His protection they may safely keep His way. In the affliction designed to purify them, the power of the gospel is to be their consolation. In His sure word they have a fortress.” OHC 317.

*Rest your weary soul the rock of our salvation*

Lord, you are so good. Your mercies endure forever. To you, O Lord, be all the honor, glory and praise in our good times and in our bad times. When we see clearly and when the way forward is confusing, in our doubts and through our tears, in our happy moments and when life tumbles, be glorified in us.

We thank you that you know what you are doing, and you are doing it. We are glad about that because many times we are clueless. We rest our weary souls on you, the Rock of Our Salvation. Give us confidence to believe that the God who started a good work in us will bring it to completion, and even today is bringing it to completion. So help us to stand fast, never moved, trusting in you, now and forevermore, until the day comes when we see Jesus face to face. Amen.



*Emmanuel Machakaire is a(n) SDA writer who is based in So. Africa. He enjoys studying, writing, and sharing Bible truths.*



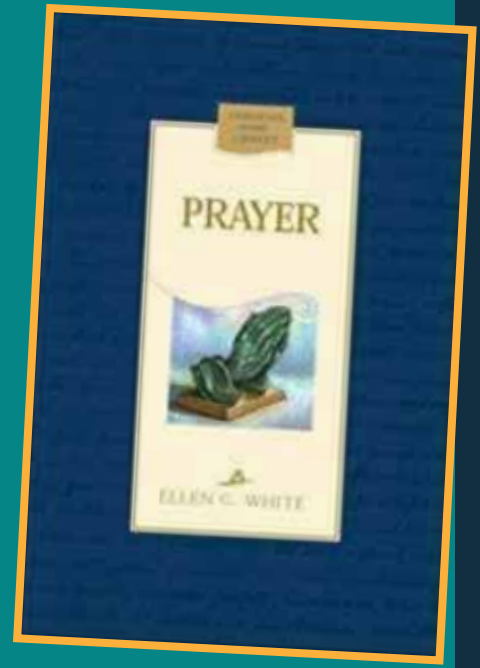
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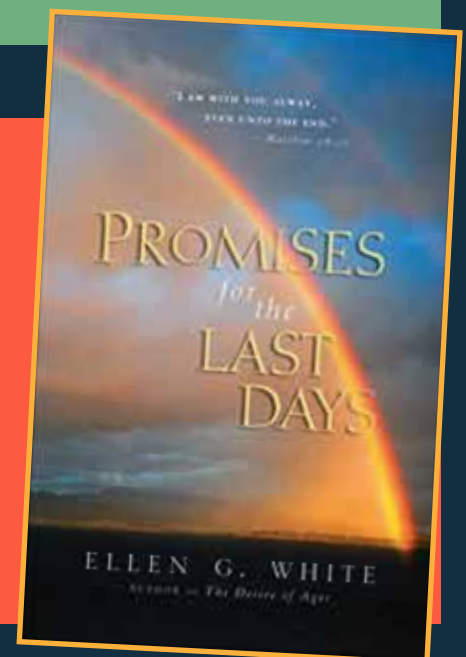
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# Health Gem

## A LESSON IN TEMPERANCE FROM A MAN OF GOD

Today I am presenting a lot of questions; questions that have been in my own mind lately so I am sharing them in the hope that they will become your questions as well, and will encourage all to spend more time in deep study.

“The duke of Wellington was once present where a party of Christian men were discussing the possibility of success in missionary effort among the heathen. They appealed to the duke to say whether in his judgment such efforts were likely to prove a success commensurate to the cost. The old soldier replied: “Gentlemen, what are your marching orders? Success is not the question for you to discuss. If I read your orders aright, they run thus, ‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.’ Gentlemen, obey your marching orders.” Gospel Workers, p. 115.

Are we obeying our marching orders? Completely? Do we have a good understanding of what those marching orders are? Do we have a complete understanding of present truth; that our health message is a part of present truth? Are we “established” in present truth? According to 2 Pet. 1:12, we should be: “Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know [them], and be established in the present truth.”

### Have you trembled lately?

Has a lack of knowledge or application of temperance ever made you tremble? I must admit, I had never thought about any



part of the health message making anyone tremble, but after doing a bit of scriptural digging, I now believe we should reconsider that: “And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.” Acts 24:25. If way back in Paul’s day it made Felix tremble, should it not have an even stronger effect on us today as we deliver our health message, which is part of the third angel’s message - the *final* message? I don’t think the temperance mentioned in the life of Felix was directly related to the appetite, or eating, nevertheless, it was about self-control which is mastery of the appetite and passions. He, like most of us, didn’t want to deal with the matter; he wanted to be left alone till it was more “convenient” for him to deal with his sins. Doesn’t that sound just like us when we are confronted with things in our lives, maybe on our plates, that we need to address? We really do not have any time to waste in addressing our sins: ““The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly.” Zephaniah 1:14. Let us be shod with the gospel shoes, ready to march at a moment’s notice.”” 9T 48.

So why *aren’t* we trembling? Why are we not concerned about following the directives of the last warning message to the world? Could it be that we are guilty of listening to false prophets who have been put in our paths to test us? There is a fascinating story in 1 Kings, chapter

13 that is worth studying to show the possible results of not following our marching orders just as God has commanded us to do, and the results of listening to false prophets. As you read that short chapter you will notice something important - the term "man of God" is used 15 times. When something is repeated so many times in scripture, you have to realize God is trying to get our attention. This man wasn't just any man - he was a man of God, sent by God, (you might say he was a Seventh-day Adventist) with a message of warning for King Jeroboam.

### The "man of God"

My focus is on this "man of God", so I am not covering many details concerning Jeroboam, though you do need to read and study the entire chapter. This "man of God" had been instructed by God to deliver the message, which was so badly-received by Jeroboam that he wanted the man killed: "And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him. The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD. And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Entreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as [it was] before." 1 Kings 13:4-6.



Jeroboam was pretty impressed and asked the man to stay and eat and even offered him a reward.

### We must exercise temperance and obedience

After presenting this message, the "man of God" had been instructed by God to exercise temperance - "Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest" v 9, and the man relayed this to Jeroboam in a rather flowery way, and he departed in another direction, as per his instructions. Then he stopped to rest under an oak tree (which God had not told him to do) where he was approached by an old man claiming to be a prophet, too, from Bethel who made the same appeal to him as had Jeroboam - "...Come home with me, and eat bread. And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place: For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest. He said unto him, I [am] a prophet also as thou [art]; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. [But] he lied unto him. So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water." vv 15-19.

### "It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the Lord"

"Again and again the lie was repeated and the invitation urged until the man of God was persuaded to return. Because the true prophet allowed himself to take a course contrary to the line of duty, God permitted him to suffer the penalty

of transgression. While he and the one who had invited him to return to Bethel were sitting together at the table, the inspiration of the Almighty came upon the false prophet, “and he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the Lord, and hast not kept the commandment which the Lord thy God commanded thee, . . . thy carcass shall not come unto the sepulcher of thy fathers. This prophecy of doom was soon literally fulfilled. “It came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass. . . . And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcass was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcass. And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcass cast in the way, . . . and they came and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt. And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the Lord.” vv 23-26. PK 106.

The “man of God” went where God told him not to go, and did as God had explicitly told him not to do. This is a message of temperance in reverse, an example of the results of not exercising self-control, eating and drinking where God forbade. We are the people of God who are to be delivering our health



message, exactly as God has told us to do - by personal example, as well as public presentations. It is also a warning about our disobedience, even in matters that we might consider to be “no big deal”. The world is noticing and they will tell of it “in the city”.

### “Playing into the hands of wickedness”

From the SDABC 796 concerning verse 30 (And he laid his carcass in his own grave; and they mourned over him, [saying], Alas, my brother!) - “My brother! The true prophet was identified with the false, as the true religion of Jehovah was being identified with the new idolatrous religion of Jeroboam. It was probably only another effort to confuse the minds of the people so that they might not perceive the seriousness of the issues at stake. The disobedience of the prophet was playing into the hands of wickedness.”

“Playing into the hands of wickedness” - that phrase makes me shudder. Or maybe I should say ‘tremble’? May we learn from this story of the “man of God” to obey our marching orders and take this commission of spreading and living our health message seriously - it could prove to be one of life or death. One minute we could be faithfully doing the will of God, and the next losing eternity because we turned our back on obedience and temperance and ate and drank at the table of a false prophet.

# News Watch

worldwide  
Shares WORTHLES  
Crash!  
Stocks tumble assets  
anxiety deepens  
Interest rates  
liquidity  
DEPRESSION FORECAST

## **Heaven is for Real, “A Little Boy’s Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back” Book out in 2010, Movie is coming.**

“Colton, not yet four years old, told his parents he left his body during surgery—and authenticated that claim by describing exactly what his parents were doing in another part of the hospital while he was being operated on. He talked of visiting heaven and relayed stories told to him by people he met there whom he had never met in his life, sharing events that happened even before he was born. He also astonished his parents with descriptions and obscure details about heaven that matched the Bible exactly, though he had not yet learned to read.”



**End Time Perspective:** “I saw that the saints must get a thorough understanding of present truth, which they will be obliged to maintain from the Scriptures. They must understand the state of the dead; for the spirits of devils will yet appear to them, professing to be beloved friends and relatives, who will declare to them that the Sabbath has been changed, also other unscriptural doctrines. They will do all in their power to excite sympathy and will work miracles before them to confirm what they declare. The people of God must be prepared to withstand these spirits with the Bible truth that the dead know not anything, and that they who appear to them are the spirits of devils.” EW 87.

**End Time Perspective:** “Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome.” LDE 157.



Elliot Rodger's black BMW can be seen along with a mangled bike in Isla Vista where seven people are dead following a shooting spree. Photo source: [www.dailymail](http://www.dailymail)

## **Time Magazine, June 9, 2014— Nation briefing, page 14, A Murderous Spree—death, sorrow and regret in Santa Barbara.**

“It appeared that all involved had done what they were supposed to do. Elliot Rodger, a lonely 22-year old who had dropped out of Santa Barbara City College, was in touch with a therapist. His parents, concerned about recent behavior, went so far as to have the police check on him. And like most states, California has laws designed to make it easier to require treatment for mentally ill adults. Yet on May 23, Rodger killed six people and wounded 13 more. If this rampage couldn't be stopped, can any?”

**End Time Perspective:** “The terrible reports we hear of murders and robberies, of railway accidents and deeds of violence, tell the story that the end of all things is at hand. Now, just now, we need to be preparing for the Lord's second coming.--Letter 308, 1907, LDE 23.

# Ellen White's *Vision*

## *Preparation for the End*

By E. G. White

At Oswego, New York, September 7, 1850, the Lord showed me that a great work must be done for His people before they could stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. I was pointed to those who claim to be Adventists, but who reject the present truth, and saw that they were crumbling and that the hand of the Lord was in their midst to divide and scatter them now in the gathering time, so that the precious jewels among them, who have formerly been deceived, may have their eyes opened to see their true state. And now when the truth is presented to them by the Lord's messengers, they are prepared to listen, and see its beauty and harmony, and to leave their former associates and errors, embrace the precious truth and stand where they can define their position.

*We should know that every step we take is in accordance with the Bible*

I saw that those who oppose the Sabbath of the Lord could not take the Bible and show that our position is incorrect; therefore they would slander those who believe and teach the truth and would attack their characters. Many who were once conscientious and loved God and His Word have become so hardened by rejecting the light of truth that they do not hesitate to wickedly misrepresent and falsely accuse those who love the holy Sabbath, if by so doing they can injure the influence of those who fearlessly declare the truth. But these things will not hinder the work of God. In fact,



this course pursued by those who hate the truth will be the very means of opening the eyes of some. Every jewel will be brought out and gathered, for the hand of the Lord is set to recover the remnant of His people, and He will accomplish the work gloriously.

We who believe the truth should be very careful to give no occasion for our good to be evil spoken of. We should know that every step we take is in accordance with the Bible; for those who hate the commandments of God will triumph over our missteps and faults, as the wicked did in 1843.

*Many do not realize what they must be to be protected in the time of trouble*

May 14, 1851, I saw the beauty and loveliness of Jesus. As I beheld His glory, the thought did not occur to me that I should ever be separated from His presence. I saw a light coming from the glory that encircled the Father, and as it approached near to me, my body trembled and shook like a leaf. I thought that if it should come near me I would be struck out of existence, but the light passed me. Then could I have some sense of the great and terrible God with whom we have to do. I saw then what faint views some have of the holiness of God, and how much they take His holy and reverend name in vain, without realizing that it is God, the great and terrible God, of whom they are speaking. While praying, many use careless and irreverent expressions, which grieve the tender Spirit of the



time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God. Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then

and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. Let all remember that God is holy and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence.

EW 69

Lord and cause their petitions to be shut out of heaven.

I also saw that many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble. Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully.

*Only holy beings can dwell in the presence of God*

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

see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father. Before this time the awfully solemn declaration has gone forth, “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” I saw that none could share the “refreshing” unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world,



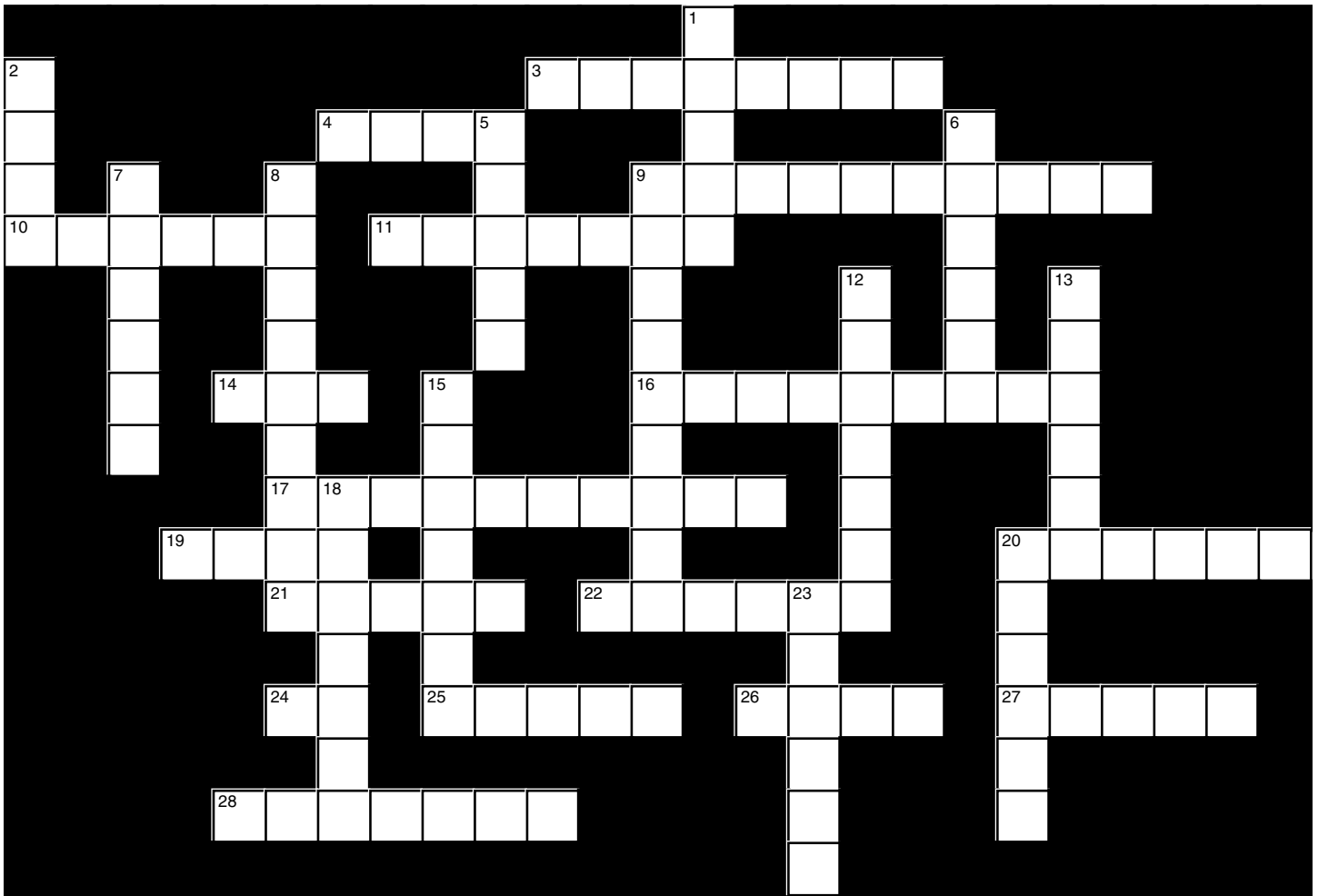
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# Christian Crossword



## ACROSS

3. He gave a 70 year prophecy for Israel's captivity in Babylon
4. Another word for Hebrews
9. He made a great feast for a thousand of his lords
10. Who wrote "He is despised and rejected of men"?
11. The first Christian martyr
14. Joshua was the son of \_\_\_\_
16. What is a Bible word for tomb?
17. In which Book of the Bible are the seven angels with vials of wrath?
19. Who said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners: of whom I am chief"?
20. Moses' father-in-law, the priest of Midian
21. The sacred mountain on which God made the covenant with Israel
22. A leper who had a strong cure in a dirty river
24. Job lived in what land?
25. Who composed the 23rd Psalm?
26. In what chapter does Daniel say, "we have sinned"?

## DOWN

1. The number of times the 1260 years in different forms appears in the Bible
2. Ezekiel's father
5. A queen that came to test Solomon's wisdom
6. The year that this king died, Isaiah had a vision of God's holiness
7. Jacob had a dream of a \_\_\_\_\_
8. The husband of Queen Esther
9. Where did Jesus encounter a man blind from birth?
12. The author of Ecclesiastes

13. Manasseh was \_\_\_\_ years old when he began to reign
15. A manager of a household or of property
18. The other son of Moses by Zipporah
20. A son of Jacob and Rachel
23. Korah, Dathan and \_\_\_\_\_

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

