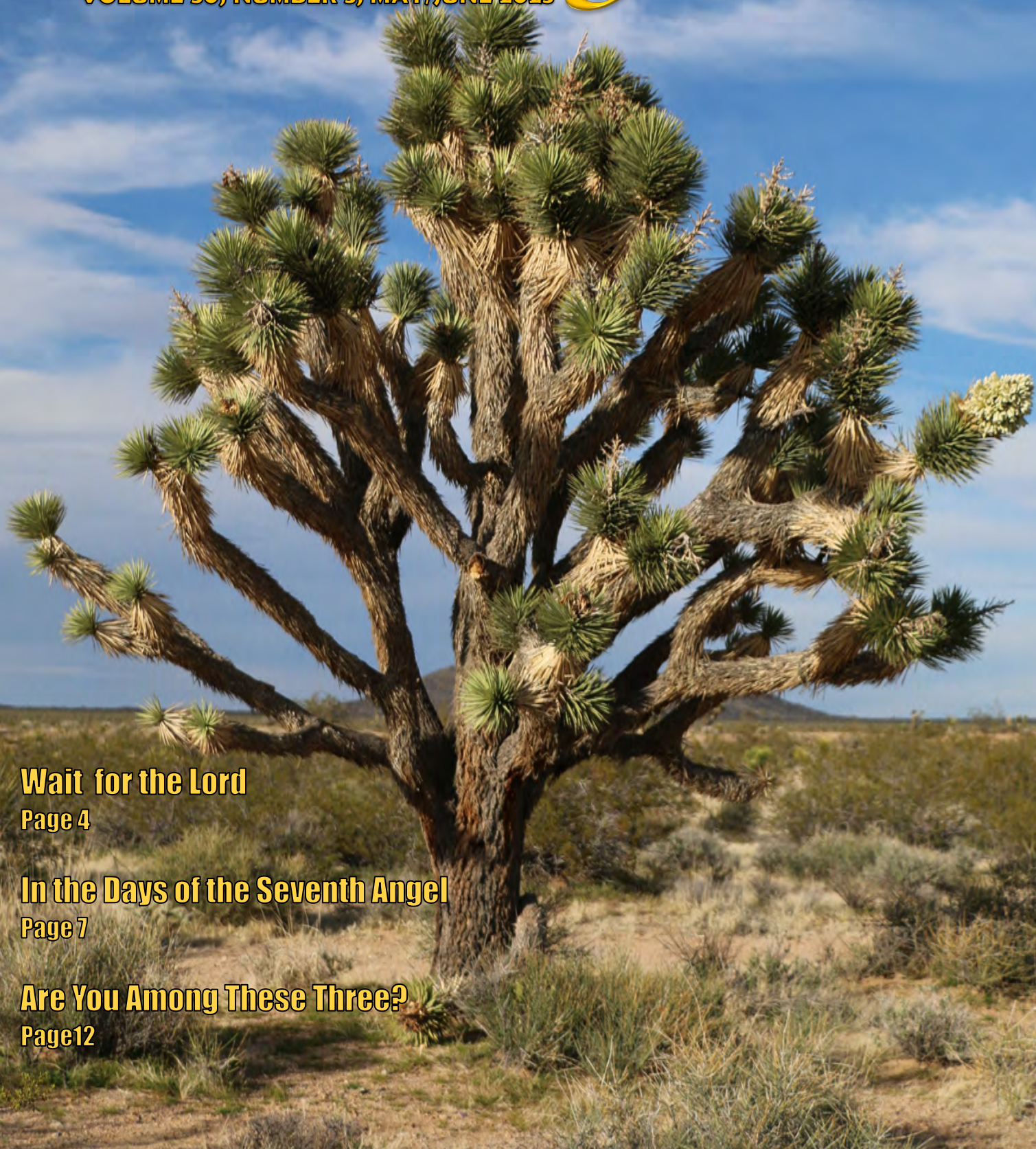


The Reformation
Messenger
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WE BELIEVE: The all-wise loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ. He is

the Owner and Sustainer. He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh. The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all

unrighteousness. The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine, the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform. His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus. Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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Front Cover, Inside front Cover, Back Cover, Page 3: Helen Marttinen, California (Joshua Trees)

The Joshua Tree got its name from some Mormon settlers who crossed the Mojave Desert in the mid-19th century. The tree's unique shape reminded them of Joshua in the Bible when he reaches his hands up to the sky to pray. The tree provides habitat to birds, mammals, insects and lizards and tells a story of survival in the desert as well as resilience and beauty borne through perseverance.

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•E-mail: ismessenger@yahoo.com

•Internet: www.ismessenger.org

•Mail: RR #3, 7899 15 Side Road, Milton, ON L9T 2X7, Canada



Be Strong

“The great Ruler of nations had declared that Moses was not to lead the congregation of Israel into the goodly land, and the earnest pleading of God's servant could not secure a reversing of His sentence. He knew that he must die. Yet he had not for a moment faltered in his care for Israel. He had faithfully sought to prepare the congregation to enter upon the promised inheritance. At the divine command Moses and Joshua repaired to the tabernacle, while the pillar of cloud came and stood over the door. Here the people were solemnly committed to the charge of Joshua. The work of Moses as leader of Israel was ended. Still he forgot himself in his interest for his people. In the presence of the assembled multitude Moses, in the name of God, addressed to his successor these words of holy cheer: ‘Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I swear unto them: and I will be with thee.’ He then turned to the elders and officers of the people, giving them a solemn charge to obey faithfully the instructions he had communicated to them from God.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 469–470

“Joshua, the commander of Israel, searched the books diligently in which Moses had faithfully chronicled the directions given by God,—His requirements, reproofs, and restrictions,—lest he should move unadvisedly. Joshua was afraid to trust his own impulses, or his own wisdom. He regarded everything that came from Christ, who was enshrouded by the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, as of sufficient importance to be sacredly cherished.” —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 993–994

“If men will walk in the path that God has marked out for them, they will have a counselor whose wisdom is

far above any human wisdom. Joshua was a wise general because God was his guide. The first sword that Joshua used was the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. Will the men who are handling large responsibilities read the first chapter of Joshua?

“Do you think that all these charges would have been given to Joshua if there had been no danger of his being brought under misleading influences? It was because the strongest influences were to be brought to bear against his principles of righteousness that the Lord in mercy charged him not to turn to the right hand or to the left. He was to follow a course of strictest integrity. . . . If there had

been no peril before Joshua, God would not over and over again have charged him to be of good courage. But amid all his cares, Joshua had his God to guide him.

“There is no greater deception than for man to suppose that in any difficulty he can find a better guide than God, a wiser counselor in any emergency, a stronger defense under any circumstance.

“The Lord has a great work to be done in our world. To every man He has given His work for man to do. But man is not to make man his guide, lest he be led astray; this is always unsafe. While Bible religion embodies the principles of activity in service, at the same time there is the necessity of asking for wisdom daily from the Source of all wisdom. What was Joshua's victory? Thou shalt meditate upon the Word of God day and night. The word of the Lord came to Joshua just before he passed over Jordan. . . . This was the secret of Joshua's victory. He made God his Guide.” —*Ibid.*, p. 993

“Whatever burdens lay heavily, cast them on the Lord. He that keepeth Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. Repose in God. He is kept in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on God.

“At times it will seem that you cannot take another step. Well, wait and know that ‘I am God.’ ‘Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.’ . . . We need to cherish faith.

“You must learn the simple art of taking God at His word; then you have solid ground beneath your feet.” —*My Life Today*, p. 10

Ellen G. White



In our world, everything is moving quickly. People seem to be in a continual hurry. "Speed" is a key word today. Cars, airplanes, and trains are made to go faster to save time. Every minute seems so precious. Even Christians seem to be caught in this mad rush. So many things to do, and so little time to do them all.

In the business world, everything is in a great hurry. It is a common saying, "I need this yesterday." New machinery and equipment are constantly being invented to save time, to do the work faster. One of the goals of each new computer upgrade is so that it can function at a faster speed. This feverish pace seems so catching that even when there is no rush, people do not seem to be able to slow down. The golden attribute of patience is not seen anymore. Yet, what does the Bible say? "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12. Another translation states, "Here patience is required of the saints."

How important is patience? "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." Hebrews 10:36

"But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience." Luke 8:15. The only way to produce fruit is with patience; there is no other way. Without divine patience we cannot bear fruit for the Lord.

Often, we think that the Lord is slow in answering our prayers, in providing justice for us. We then get impatient and do something about the matter ourselves, or we seek human help. This is because our faith is not strong enough to wait for the Lord for so long.

The Israelites, while traveling to Canaan, constantly murmured against the Lord. They complained and became impatient, often to the point of wishing to return to Egypt. And, why? Because 40 years in the wilderness was too long for their liking. They murmured about the lack of water and food, and their need for protection. Yet, all this was

provided. They did not go thirsty or hungry, but they were afraid of the future, the next day, of the next month. Jesus taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." He did not teach us to pray for tomorrow, but just for one day at a time. God led His people into Canaan, but most had decided it was too long to wait, and they were not allowed to enter into the Promised Land.

At the Red Sea, the Lord purposely allowed the Israelites to see the Egyptian army right behind them, and the sea in front of them, to test their faith. In the last

moment He opened the way. He could have done it sooner, but they would not have learned the lesson of patience and trust.

Noah was in the ark for seven days, and yet no rain had fallen. God could have caused the rain to fall on the first day after He closed the door to the ark. But, no, He had to test the patience of Noah and his family.

Abraham could have had the promised son when he was younger. But, the Lord purposely waited until Abraham was 100 years old, and his wife, Sarah, was 90 years old. The promise had been given to Abraham. "Thy descendants shall be as the sand of the sea." And yet, at the time of the promise, he had no son. Abraham thought, "Things are going wrong, I must help God." And he took to himself another wife. Much grief and sorrow resulted from this mistake, to him as well as to his wife. Abraham lost patience, he did not wait for the Lord, and chose to take matters into his own hands.

Jacob thought, "things are going wrong, my brother Esau will receive the firstborn blessing, and I will be left out. Should Esau inherit the spiritual blessing, who is so careless and indifferent?" In order to help God, he lied to his father and deceived him to obtain the blessing. Was this necessary? Did Jacob have to do this in order to inherit the blessing? Who gave the blessing? Was it not God by the Holy Spirit who inspired Isaac to pronounce the blessings to both of his sons? God did not need Jacob's deception to give the firstborn blessing to him. But, much sorrow came to Jacob from this mistake. For 20 years he had to suffer in a strange country, because he chose not to wait for the Lord.

David writes, "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD." Psalm 27:14

David had learned the lesson of patient waiting. He had been anointed as the future king by Samuel yet for 20 years he had to suffer, in danger of his life, as a fugitive seeking

protection in the mountains. Until finally, he was called to the throne of Israel.

Often God's people become impatient as we find in 2 Kings 6:24-25. "And it came to pass after this, that Ben-hadad king of Syria gathered all his host, and went up, and besieged Samaria. And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they besieged it, until an ass's head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a cab of dove's dung for five pieces of silver."

The enemy had besieged the city of Samaria, and no food could be brought in from the country. The donkey was an unclean animal to the Samaritans. Yet, in an emergency they ate anything. The head of a donkey sold for three pounds of silver. The people lost their patience. King Jehoram wanted to kill Elisha because he felt that Elisha was to blame for the calamity that had befallen on them. He sent a messenger to Elisha with a specific message. "And while he Elisha talked with them, behold, the messenger came down unto him: and he said, Behold, this evil is of the LORD; what should I wait for the LORD any longer?" 2 Kings 6:33

"Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the LORD, To morrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for shekel, in the gate of Samaria. Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof." 2 Kings 7:1-2

The king's messenger did not believe it. If the Lord would make windows in heaven, could this thing be a slight improvement? Perhaps, but that drastic of a change?

"And they rose in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, there was no man there. For the LORD had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us. And the people went out, and spoiled the tents of the Syrians. So a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD." 2 Kings 7:5-6, 16. The Lord could have done it earlier, but He tested their patience—would they wait for Him?

"Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. Wait on the LORD, and keep

His way, and He shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it." Psalm 37:7, 9, 34

For many years the unfaithful King Saul reigned and prospered, while also persecuting David. Then at the right time, David was exalted to the throne, and Saul and his house were cut off. Therefore, David knew what he wrote about in Psalms. All that he had, he received from the Lord by patiently waiting.

David learned several lessons from his experience.

The first lesson is found in Psalm 59:9, "Because of His strength will I wait upon Thee: for God is my defence."

Also, Solomon adds: "Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and He shall save thee." Proverbs 20:22.

"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, saith the LORD. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head." Romans 12:19-20

To us is not given to judge and to recompense evil. We are to do good to our enemies, to love them. Many times we suffer because those who do not like us make plans against us because of jealousy, hatred, and covetousness. And those who hurt us seem to get away with it. Yet, in due time, God will judge and repay to every man according to their deeds.

Daniel was cast into the lion's den, but the Lord turned it into a victory for Daniel and a defeat for his enemies. Daniel continued to pray three times daily as was his custom, trusting the Lord to protect him. Those who plotted to kill him were subsequently fed to the hungry lions and were devoured instantly. The Lord exacted vengeance on Daniel's enemies.

Mordecai, who sat at the king's gate, was hated by Haman because he refused to bow down to Haman according to the king's decree. He made plans to destroy Mordecai. "Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai. Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman, and he caused the gallows to be made." Esther 5:9, 14

"So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?

And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour, Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head: And let this apparel and horse be delivered into the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour. Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken." Esther 6:6-10. The plot that Haman devised in order to destroy Mordecai instead resulted in Haman having to honour Mordecai.

As part of his plot to destroy Mordecai, Haman convinced the king to make a decree to kill all the Jews in the land. Did his plan work? What was the end of Haman? "So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified." Esther 7:10. God had not forgotten His faithful servant, and the plans of the wicked Haman fell upon himself.

"And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." Genesis 12:3. "Nevertheless the LORD thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the LORD thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the LORD thy God loved thee." Deuteronomy 23:5. God protected His people from the curse to be pronounced upon them by Balaam, and instead turned it into a blessing. Balaam was eventually killed in battle when the Israelites went to fight against the Midianites.

Many hundreds of years later, the enemies of the Israelites took them into captivity to Babylon. The city of Jerusalem was destroyed, the temple burned up, and the walls pulled down. Filled with sorrow and sadness, the people of God mourned; they wept beside the rivers of Babylon. They were homesick, longing to be in the city of their God. "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, and wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land? If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the rood of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy." Psalm 137:1-6. Afterwards, the time came when their mouth was filled with laughter and singing, as they returned to their beloved city.

God's people could not understand why God permitted

this misfortune to fall upon them. Abraham could not understand why he had to sacrifice his son. The disciples did not see why Christ had to suffer and die. Moses saw no purpose in spending 40 years caring for sheep in the land of Midian.

The second lesson that David learned was about God's expectations. "Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from Him cometh my salvation. My soul, wait thou upon God; for my expectation is from Him." Psalm 62:1, 5

What is our expectation from this world? We can expect very little. We are in the enemy's land. The little that the world is offering to us is often a deception to turn us away from God. From Him only can we expect salvation, hope, protection, and eternal life. David had been let down by his own brother, his own family, his friends. His only help was from the Lord.

The third lesson that David learned was that he waited for mercy. "Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress, so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God, until that He have mercy upon us." Psalm 123:2

David had sinned against God and against his fellow man. He had pronounced his own death penalty. Yet, he waited for mercy. He continues in verse 3, "Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us: for we are exceedingly filled with contempt."

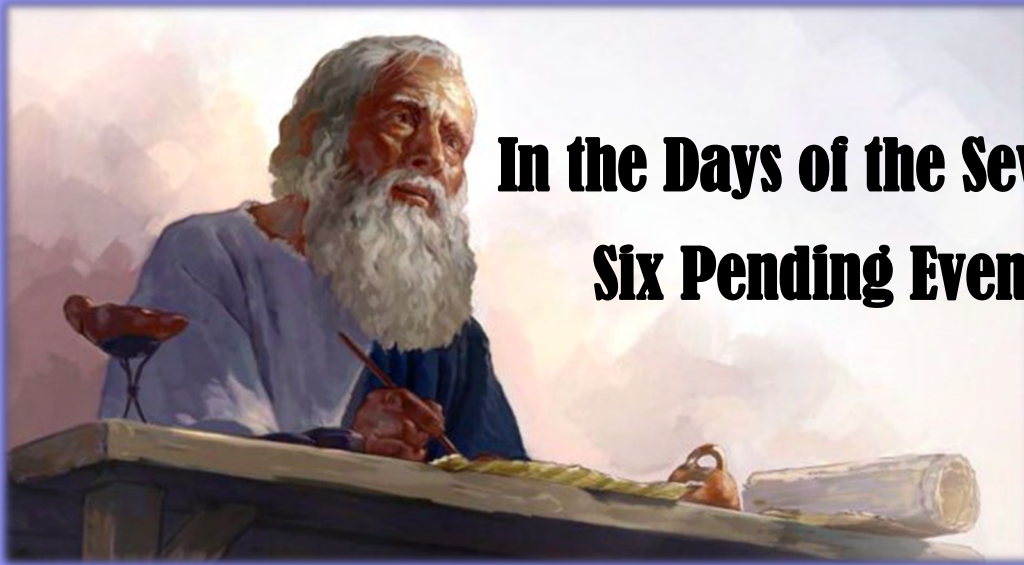
The fourth lesson that David learned was that God provides our daily food. "The eyes of all wait upon Thee; and Thou givest them their meat in due season." Psalm 145:15

The Israelites in the wilderness did not starve, they had plenty to eat. For 40 years God knew well their need and He provided. Will He not also provide for us if we wait upon Him?

There is wonderful power in patience, in waiting for the Lord. "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:29-31

The same God who tested the patience of Noah, Abraham, the people of Israel, and of David is today testing our patience. Are we patient to the end, to the right time? He will save. He will execute justice. He will deliver His people who patiently wait for Him, yet hasten to obey His calling. May the Lord help us all to wait for Him. Amen.

An adaptation of a sermon by the late Timo Martin



In the Days of the Seventh Angel— Six Pending Events for America

If you search the Scriptures, the phrase “in the days of” appears 76 times in the King James Version. This phrase appears from Genesis through Revelation. The book of Revelation says,

“But **in the days of the voice of the seventh angel**, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as He hath declared to his servants the prophets.” Revelation 10:7

We are living in the days of the voice of the seventh angel since 1844. And God wants to restore His image in His people. The mystery of godliness is to have God manifested not just in the flesh of Jesus but in our flesh today and now.

In this study, we will quickly review six different events which must take place in the days of the seventh trumpet. These are six different events and signs which will take place during the Sunday Law and the Latter Rain.

All these events will be reviewed based on the Bible and the Testimonies with some references to recent reports in the news. These six events will be presented showing that the books of Revelation and Genesis are like two sister books. Both books refer to similar events. The book of Genesis can be used as a platform or as an allegory for the signs that must take place before the Sunday Law and the Latter Rain become a reality.

Let us cite these signs of the last days from 6 to 1, going backwards in the book of Genesis and referencing the Spirit of Prophecy. Why Genesis? Because as we come closer to the end, we are actually coming close to the beginning. History repeats itself. It has a cyclical pattern.

Solomon wrote about the repetition of history. So that, if you want to know the future, you can study the past to

predict the future. The descriptions of the past in parable or allegoric form serve as a prophetic statement for the saints of the last days.

“The thing that hath been, it [is that] which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 1:9

“And I turned myself to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly: for what can the man do that cometh after the king? even that which hath been already done.” Ecclesiastes 2:12

The past is a foreshadow of the future. The last events will be rapid ones. God promises to finish His work in righteousness. Jesus promised to shorten the days of the end.

What are we waiting for? What will be the signs to announce the onset of the Sunday Law as a prelude to the Latter Rain? We will turn to Scripture and to the Spirit of Prophecy. Our eyes need to be on Jesus, but end-time prophecy is focused on the United States of America. Like a serpent sheds its skin, so America will shed its lamb-like features to give birth to a dragon.

Jesus spoke, as in the days of Noah, as in the days of Lot, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. “And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.” Luke 17:26

Hence, if the book which first told us of Noah is studied, it will help us to understand the coming events of the last days—the days of the seventh angel.

As a matter of fact, by looking at the book of Genesis, we can predict the future of America and of the world. History will repeat itself. History is cyclical this side of heaven.

The Currency Change

6. The currency will change in America. It will cause a financial crisis.

Like Laban who changed Jacob's salary ten times, so the US government will change their currency in the last days.

"Thus have I been twenty years in thy house; I served thee fourteen years for thy two daughters, and six years for thy cattle: and thou hast changed my wages ten times." Genesis 31:41

Poor Jacob had to struggle with seeing his salary and earnings changed 10 times in 20 years. So many poor in America, and even those in the lower middle class, each time a national financial crisis emerges, find themselves struggling to put food on the table and make payments on their debts and bills.

The American Dream became the American Nightmare during the recent Great Recession, and again during the recent Global Covid-19 Pandemic. People lost their jobs, their cars, their homes, and their dignity.

"The present financial controversy has been presented to me as one of Satan's masterpieces for these last days. There is a power moving from beneath, which is after the working of the great enemy.... This

is not of the devising of God--
the changing of the circulating currency. What will it effect? It will cause a state of things that **will bring oppression to the poor, and create great distress.** It is one of the devil's schemes, and I thought those who believed the

truth would not be deceived in the least degree upon this matter.... The light given me was, This is the policy Satan has arranged to bring distress." *-Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 331

What will be the new currency? Will it be a cashless currency? Will it be a digital dollar?

CNBC reported on March 16, 2023, that a new digital payment system will debut in July of this year. It will be called "FEDNOW". This new digital dollar system is said to allow consumers to pay bills, transfer money at a lower cost and more rapidly.

From other experiences of currency changes, most people will lose money, but some will make more money. The testimonies say that the poor will be oppressed.

Narcotic Addiction in America

5. There will be a massive drug and narcotic addiction problem in America.

"And Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest, and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them unto his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, Give me, I pray thee, of thy son's mandrakes." Genesis 30:14

As in the days of Reuben, who found mandrakes, which contain aphrodisiac drugs, so today millions in America search for a new narcotic to achieve a high. They experiment with new illicit drugs and it has become a national problem.

There is a huge opioid crisis in America today. The National Institutes of Health reported:

"Opioid-involved overdose deaths rose from 21,089 in 2010 to 47,600 in 2017 and remained steady through 2019. This was followed by a significant increase in 2020 with 68,630 reported deaths and again in 2021 with 80,411 reported overdose deaths."

Famine and Pestilence in America

4. Famine and Pestilence will be rampant in America. There will be hunger, food scarcity, drought and even starvation.

"And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar." Genesis 26:1

America has been blessed as a bread basket. There has not been a famine here since the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl of the 1930's, when soup kitchens were set up across the nation. Yet, food scarcity, food shortage, and food insecurity are becoming more prevalent again.

"And at this time God's chosen all saw clearly that we had the truth, and they came out and endured the persecution with us. **I saw the sword, famine, pestilence, and great confusion in the land.** The wicked thought that we had brought the judgments upon them, and they rose up and took counsel to rid the earth of us, thinking that then the evil would be stayed." *-Early Writings*, p. 33

"War, and rumors of war, sword, famine, and pestilence are first to shake the powers of earth, then the voice of God will shake the sun, moon, and stars, and this earth also. I saw that the shaking of the powers in Europe is not, as some teach, the shaking of the powers



of heaven, but it is the shaking of the angry nations.” – *Ibid.*, p. 41

“The Lord has shown me repeatedly that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints had food laid up by them or in the field **in the time of trouble, when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land**, it would be taken from them by violent hands and strangers would reap their fields. Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God, and He will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water will be sure at that time, and that we shall not lack or suffer hunger; for God is able to spread a table for us in the wilderness. If necessary He would send ravens to feed us, as He did to feed Elijah, or rain manna from heaven, as He did for the Israelites.” – *Early Writings*, p. 56

Today we have a food crisis. We have islands of food scarcity. But the testimony speaks of thousands dying in India, China, Russia, and America because of starvation and famine.

Time Magazine interviewed David Beasley, the head of the world food program. He stated:

“When I took this job, six years ago, there were 80 million people marching to starvation. That number went to 135 million right before COVID, [because of] man-made conflict and climate shocks. COVID comes along and the number goes to 276 million. That’s before Ethiopia. That’s before Afghanistan. That’s before Ukraine. Ukraine grows enough food to feed 400 million people. It went from the biggest breadbasket of the world to the longest breadlines. Compounded by fertilizer pricing, droughts, supply-chain disruption, fuel costs, food costs, shipping costs, we now have 349 million people marching to starvation.”

Nevertheless, the Psalmist encourages us not to be afraid during the coming famine, because the Lord will provide for His elect.

“They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine, they shall be satisfied.” **Psalms 37:19**

A Second American Civil War

3. There will be civil war in the United States of America.

“And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer



king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations; [That these] made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, which is Zoar.” Genesis 14:1–2

“In India, China, Russia, and the cities of America, thousands of men and women are dying of **starvation**. The monied men, because they have the power, **control the market**. They purchase at low rates all they can obtain, and then sell at greatly increased prices. This means starvation to the **poorer classes**, and will **result in a civil war**. There will be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.” --Ms 114, 1899. (General manuscript, untitled, typed August 13, 1899.)” – *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 5, p. 305–306

This statement cannot refer to the civil war of 1861-1865, because it was written in 1899. This civil war is brought on because of famine and starvation. It is caused by the billionaires which control the market. It foretells of a time when thousands will be dying in the cities because of food shortages.

The news has, for several years, been reporting that many Americans believe a second civil war will erupt in America. There is such a political divide in the United States. There are so many guns in civil hands. There are even militias in America.

The New Yorker, the Guardian, and even National Public Radio have all reported on the possible second civil war in America.

“The Institute of Politics at Harvard’s Kennedy School published a poll that found half of voting age Americans under 30 thought our democracy was ‘in trouble’ or ‘failing.’ A third also said they expected there to be ‘a civil war’ within their lifetimes.”

However, the testimony implies that the civil war will not be brought about because of class differences. It will be caused by a food shortage. It will prompt the poor to rebel and initiate a civil war. This civil war will spill over like the French Revolution in France into a world war.

A Religious Amendment to the Constitution

2. The constitution of the United States of America will be amended with a National Sunday Law – a religious amendment.

“And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of

Shinar." Genesis 10:8, 10

"And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people [is] one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do." Genesis 11:4-6

Concern for global warming, climatic change, and natural catastrophes were present in the age of Nimrod. He convinced the known world to build a huge tower as a safe haven to withstand a possible second flood. He issued a law that all should help construct the tower of Babel as protection from a catastrophic event.

Like Nimrod, the antichrist or Papacy is today convincing the world that a Sunday Law will be the safe haven, the new tower of Babel, which will reduce the risk of global climate change. This law will create a modern Babel to avoid the effects of natural disasters. Just read *Laudato Si* as proof that Sunday observance is the solution proposed by the papacy for climate change—for floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, etc.

"We see that efforts are being made to restrict our religious liberties. The Sunday question is now assuming large proportions. **An amendment to our Constitution** is being urged in Congress, and **when it is obtained**, oppression must follow. I want to ask, Are you awake to this matter? and do you realize that the night cometh, when no man can work?" *—The Review and Herald*, December 18, 1888, par. 12

"Plans of serious import to the people of God are advancing in an underhand manner among the clergymen of various denominations, and the object of this secret maneuvering is to win popular favor for the enforcement of Sunday sacredness. If the people can be led to favor a Sunday law, then the clergy intend to exert their united influence to obtain **a religious amendment to the**

Constitution, and compel the nation to keep Sunday." *—Ibid.*, December 24, 1889, par. 1

The testimonies are clear that a religious amendment will eventually appear in the Constitution of the United States of America. With this new amendment to the American Constitution, every nation in the world will follow America, just like they did with the recent Covid-19 Pandemic, establishing new laws regulating churches, synagogues, mosques, businesses, and schools. The Sunday Law, after being a national law will evolve into an International Sunday Law.

Beheadings as a Capital Punishment in America

1. The guillotine will be set up in America. Capital punishment by beheading will be legalized.

"And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him." Genesis 4:8

Like Cain who slew Abel in the beginning, so the wicked will slay the Sabbath-keepers in the end of time during the Sunday Law. The elect will be beheaded for believing in the Testimony of Jesus and the Bible. They will suffer for not yielding to the Antichrist, and his image.

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were **beheaded for the witness of Jesus**, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." Revelation 20:4

"At the **same time anarchy** is seeking to sweep away all law, not only divine, but human. The **centralizing of wealth and power**; the vast combinations for the enriching of the few at the expense of the many; the combinations of the poorer classes for the defense of their interests and claims; the spirit of unrest, of riot and bloodshed; the world-wide dissemination of the same teachings **that led to the French Revolution**--all are tending to **involve the whole world in a struggle similar to that which convulsed France.**" *—Education*, p. 228

One Last Parallelism between Genesis and Revelation

The allegory of Genesis with Revelation is very extensive and runs deep. Revelation ends with a mark of the beast placed on the forehead or right



hand. Similarly, Genesis starts with Cain who receives a mark on his forehead. The similarity is striking and with deep spiritual meaning to those who understand.



and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.” Genesis 47:9

One step back, and the scene is the garden of Eden with God coming and looking for Adam and Eve. But they hide themselves from His presence. Similarly, the book of Revelation tells how the inhabitants of the earth will hide themselves in the rocks, caves, and mountains fearful of meeting the Lamb as He comes seated on His throne during His second coming.

But there is one group who will break with tradition and with the pattern of sinfulness. It is the 144,000. They will be able to stand at the appearing of Jesus in glory. They will not hide. They will not have the mark of the beast. They will declare “This is our God. We have waited for Him. And He will save us.”

Jacob also in the Book of Genesis used the phrase “in the days of” three times in addressing the Pharaoh of the Hyksos. Jacob’s message to Pharaoh needs to serve like a needle to the compass. It should inspire us to prioritize our life. We need to remember that we are alive only for a few and evil days. We must remember that we are but pilgrims here on earth.

“And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, **the days of the years of my pilgrimage** [are] an hundred and thirty years: few

We are but pilgrims as Jacob stated to Pharaoh. This is not our home. This is not our culture. These are not our customs and laws. Our home is in heaven with God. We need to live knowing that our days on earth are short. We must live as pilgrims and strangers here, but as citizens of heaven. Let us prepare for the return of Jesus.

The book of Revelation ends with the same phrase, *in the days of*. It places it within the context of the seventh trumpet—the last trump to sound before the return of Jesus.

“But **in the days of the voice of the seventh angel**, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.” Revelation 10:7

Take new hope and allow God’s Spirit and grace to work in you a new person in Jesus Christ. May the mystery of God be finished and complete in you as a believer. Amen.



Pastor Idel Suarez Jr., Ph.D., Pg.D

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⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Franciscus, *Carta Eciclica Laudato Si*, (Bogota, Colombia: San Pablo, 2020).



Are You Among These Three?

Who are these three that I am talking about? What have they done? Are you one of them? I know these questions may not make much sense yet but as you read, you will understand who they are.

No one wants to die, to perish, to cease living. And also no one wants to be barred from the Kingdom of Heaven. If I ask you the question, "Do you want to inherit eternal life?" I hope you all will answer, "YES". Muslims, Christians, and others, believe in a new life after this wicked world is destroyed. But unfortunately, there are three types of people who will perish and lose eternal life even if they struggled to escape punishment. But why? Who are they? What must we do so that we are not among them? These are important questions to consider.

The prophet Ezekiel wrote clearly about this. He wrote about three categories of people that would perish despite having many privileges. Read the following verses and try to determine who they are.

"Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house

of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at My mouth, and warn them from Me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul." Ezekiel 33:1-9

God entrusted His people with a solemn work. "In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn importance—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 19

"So far as his opportunities extend, everyone who has received the light of truth is under the same responsibility as was the prophet of Israel to whom came the word. . . . Let us read and understand before it is too late." —*Ibid.*, vol. 9, p. 19-20

It is important to know yourself. When you consider the verses we read in Ezekiel, ask yourself if you are an inhabitant or a watchman.

We are called to be watchmen for the people. "So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at My mouth, and warn them from Me."

Since we are watchmen we have a duty to warn the people about the sword that is coming. Do you sound the

trumpet loud and clear? On the other hand, the people are to heed the warning, so they know how to escape the sword.

I will now address the three people that Ezekiel wrote about. The three types of people are people who will perish.

1) What if one hears the sound of the trumpet, and does not heed the warning? If the sword comes, and takes him away, who will be accountable? The watchman? No! The person's blood shall be upon his own head since he heard the sound of the trumpet, and ignored it.

2) What if the watchman sees the sword come, and does not blow the trumpet? Clearly, the people will not be warned; and if the sword comes, and takes any person away in his iniquity; his blood will be required at the watchman's hand. The inhabitants are surprised by the sword because the watchmen did not warn them. They will not escape.

3) The second scenario above brings us to the third category of people who will perish. The watchmen who do not give warning. The blood of the people will be upon his head. This watchman will be judged for his neglect.

Are you one of these three? We have been given the task of warning the people in behalf of the Lord. This warning is called a "trumpet" and it must be a clear and certain sound. If you do not care to bring light to others, you are in danger. When the Lord comes very soon, you will not escape if you did not sound the warning because all those people who will perish, their blood will be upon your head and be required at your hand.

On the other hand, the people need to heed the warnings to find safety. Do you heed all the warnings you are given? Do you practice all good works and walk in the light that is pointed out to you on your way? Or do you neglect spiritual counsel? Inevitable eternal ruin is waiting for the three: The one who ignored the warning, or the one who never heard any warning, or the one who did not warn while it was his sacred duty to give the trumpet a certain sound.

The Watchman's duty and the two types of people who will die

"When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand."

"These words of the prophet declare the solemn responsibility resting upon those who are appointed as guardi-

ans of the church, stewards of the mysteries of God. They are to stand as watchmen on the walls of Zion, to sound the note of alarm at the approach of the enemy. If for any reason their spiritual senses become so benumbed that they are unable to discern danger, and through their failure to give warning the people perish, God will require at their hands the blood of those who are lost." *-Gospel Workers*, p. 15

"If the leading men in our conferences do not now accept the message sent them by God, and fall into line for action, the churches will suffer great loss. When the watchman, seeing the sword coming, gives the trumpet a certain sound, the people along the line will echo the warning, and all will have opportunity to make ready for the conflict. But too often the leader has stood hesitating, seeming to say: 'Let us not be in too great haste'... The trumpet of the watchman gives no certain sound, and the people do not prepare for the battle. Let the watchman beware lest, through his hesitancy and delay, souls shall be left to perish, and their blood shall be required at his hand." *-Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 715

"From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth. In every age the Lord has had His watchmen, who have borne a faithful testimony to the generation in which they lived. These sentinels gave the message of warning.... His angels to minister to His church, and the gates of hell have not been able to prevail against His people." *-The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 11

Before the first Christians were scattered throughout the world in the first century as a result of persecution, it is estimated there were between 25,000–60,000 Christians living in Jerusalem. This dispersion resulted in the spread of the gospel message, which would not have been the case had they all stayed in Jerusalem. Do you bring light to others? And do you make an effort to discover more light to walk in?

Jesus said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:19–20

This is a holy commission that we will be held accountable for. This is a direct command from Jesus to His followers. He bade them "go" and take the good news of salvation. He was not only speaking to His people back then, but to all His followers to the end of time, and today, that includes you and me. Have you already been baptized? If not, what is hindering you? Is it your age? Is it the doctrine of the church? Are you waiting for what



you think are better opportunities? Is it doubt or family members? Whatever you have received as light you are accountable for. Therefore walk in the light that you have received. Do not make an excuse or do not delay.

Are you one of these three? “Many who have been placed upon the walls of Zion, to watch with eagle eye for the approach of

danger and lift the voice of warning, are themselves asleep. The very ones who should be most active and vigilant in this hour of peril are neglecting their duty and bringing upon themselves the blood of souls.” – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 23

Simply to be a member of God’s church, is not enough. Let your mind be always vigilant, and alert as a watchman. You need to witness and give a warning to your neighbours, friends, workmates, and relatives so that the gospel may be given to every nation and “ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:8. To attempt to witness for Jesus without the power of the Holy Spirit will lead to failure. A converted Christian can call upon this power and God is more than willing to supply it. The obedient Christian is given the gift and power of the Holy Spirit.

Who will preach the gospel? And to whom? Will all accept and join the truth? “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Matthew 24:14

Dear reader, do you realize that the end is near, and at hand? The gospel message will be preached to the whole world. When all mankind has been reached and given the opportunity to accept Jesus as their Saviour, and made their decision for, or against Him, Jesus will come and put an end to all things on this earth. All will have work to do in telling others about our loving Savior whether it be a large or small duty.

Jesus said that “Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed

of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also the Son of man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His father with the holy angels.” Mark 8:38. When He returns the second time, there will be no reward for those who have been ashamed to uphold their Redeemer.

Let us say as Paul, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” Romans 1:16

Are you ashamed of your faith? Do you fear to tell others about your conviction that Jesus is your personal Saviour? Do you hide the fact that alcohol is not among your drinks? Or, that you adhere to a vegetarian diet? Are you ashamed of your little church that you attend (few in number, but strong in the faith)? Do you feel ashamed of Sabbath-keeping? Dress reform?

Jesus said to one demoniac whom He healed, “Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.” Mark 5:19. Jesus asked him to be a witness for Him. He knew little of Jesus, but he shared what he knew. He was able to tell of his miserable life before knowing Jesus and that he had needed help that he could not provide for himself. He was able to tell how he became a Christian, and the joy of this experience. He rejoiced in an understanding of the word of God and the way of salvation. He could also tell of his life since becoming a Christian. He found peace of mind and satisfaction undreamed of before.

Because of the witness of the demoniac, the people were ready to listen to Christ when He visited this area at a later time. The seed was sown and Christ reaped the harvest. God wants us to sow the *Truth For These Times*.

Every Christian today can testify through his own experience of the power of Christ that he has seen, felt or heard. He can testify how he needed help and found it in Jesus. He can testify how Jesus is his personal Saviour, and the Bible is indeed the word of God.

“As witnesses for Christ, we are to tell what we know, what we ourselves have seen and heard and felt. If we have been following Jesus, step by step, we shall have something right to the point to tell concerning the way in which He has led us.” – *The Desire of Ages*, p. 318

Are you willing to be a witness for Christ? Jesus wants you to be a well of living water. He wants you to share these waters of salvation with others. The greatest joy and fulfillment in life will come when you share with

others what you have found in Jesus. In fact, not only will others benefit from your witness, but also you yourself will find your Christian experience growing stronger. By helping others, you help yourself. Will you ask Jesus to help you be a willing witness?

Great consequences for the unfaithful sentinels

When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand."

"As faithful watchmen you should see the sword coming and give the warning, that men and women may not pursue a course through ignorance that they would avoid if they knew the truth." *—The Review and Herald Extra, December 24, 1889*

"Jesus is soon coming in power and great glory, and we are not to sit down in idle expectation of this event. We are to show our faith by our works. He has committed to every man his work. A great truth has been given to us, and the world must be warned of the fast approaching judgments. Now we have the precious privileges of probation. We have the opportunity of laboring in the greatest cause that ever engaged the attention of the servants of God. Let us not spend these valuable moments in discontent at our lot. Let us praise God, and speak often one to another and to all that we meet, of His marvelous truth. The Lord will count such among His jewels, and will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." *—The Signs of the Times, February 3, 1888*

Are you among this last category?

"He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him."

"'Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.' Ambassadors of Christ should take heed that they do not, through their unfaithfulness, lose their own souls and the souls of those who hear them." *—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 403*

Are you a hearer of the word, or only a doer of the word? Do you wait for good opportunities to abandon your wicked and evil ways? "The judgments will be according to the wickedness of the people and the light of truth that they have had." *—Manuscript Releases, vol. 1, p. 248*

"Those who make no decided effort, but simply wait for

the Holy Spirit to compel them to action, will perish in darkness. You are not to sit still and do nothing in the work of God." *—Christian Service, p. 228*

"If every soldier of Christ had done his duty, if every watchman on the walls of Zion had given the trumpet a certain sound, the world might ere this have heard the message of warning. But the work is years behind. While men have slept, Satan has stolen a march upon us." *—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p. 29*

"Had the purpose of God been carried out by His people in giving to the world the message of mercy, Christ would, ere this, have come to the earth, and the saints would have received their welcome into the city of God." *—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 449*

It is very important to understand the urgent need for personal effort, of making direct appeals to our relatives, friends, and neighbors. "There are those who for a lifetime have professed to be acquainted with Christ, yet who have never made a personal effort to bring even one soul to the Saviour. They leave all the work for the minister. He may be well qualified for his calling, but he cannot do that which God has left for the members of the church." *—The Desire of Ages, p. 141*

All who are consecrated to God will be channels of light. Philip said to Nathanael, "Come and see." Many have gone down to ruin who might have been saved if their neighbours, common men and women, had put forth personal effort for them. Many are waiting to be personally addressed. In the very family, the neighborhood, the town, where you live; there is work for you. If it is not done you will be among the three groups Ezekiel wrote about. Let us always, pray and work accordingly, giving the trumpet a certain sound. Amen

Victor Shumbusho, DR Congo





At Jacob's Well

Based on John 4:4-30, 39-42

He was Thirsty

*It was a sunny, very dry hot day, when they were on the way
To a distant city of Samaria, with the name of Sychar.*

*There they stopped at Jacob's well,
Anyone to see them then could tell,*

That band of men was weary, hungry, very thirsty.

*One sat down while all the others
Went to Sychar to buy victuals.*

*Who was this longing for a drink of water,
Looking down the well to see the cool, refreshing treasure,
But had no means for drawing up its precious water.*

*Sent to earth in human likeness,
Bearing in His body like all men all weakness.*

*Being tired from the journey then,
He was a hungry, very thirsty man.*

*This was the Christ, Messiah, Saviour, Holy One,
God in fallen, human flesh, the Creator -
Who now helpless, longed for some refreshing water.*

*Angels would have loved to serve the needy drink,
But no, He must endure it to the brink,*

*Like all men on earth - infirmity, and tiredness,
For this He came to know and feel all human weariness.*

.....

The Woman of Samaria

That morning did not go so well, why? This she could not tell.

*Her usual lively spirit was depressed,
Her troubled mind could not find rest,*

*A shadow crept upon her, a gloom she never felt before.
A dark foreboding troubled her,*

That the life she lives is in a crisis, a change must come to what now is.

*Suddenly her past was clear before her eyes,
That pursuit for happiness - it was all a lie -*

*What she perceived as love - was nothing more than a mirage -
Five times over - and the new one also just a fleeting rush -
Into something that must also end with a dramatic crash.*

*She dreamed that marrying men will be the spark
For joy, contentment, always hoping it is the one*

*To still her thirst for happiness,
But turned out to be mere emptiness.*

None of her husbands understood her soul,
 The longing of true love, genuine and pure,
 The desire of a higher sphere, enriching life so precious, fair.
 This all lies shattered now before her mind,
 Where can she help and healing find? . . .
 Despised by all as a base woman, always looking for a man,
 But no one knew, perceived, what silent cry,
 In her inner heart and soul did lie. . . .



“I must have a drink of cool, fresh water,
 Must hurry to the well,” the heat out there, it did not matter.
 She took the pot and out she went, the woman with a conscience rent,
 Who knew she lived a wretched life,
 But all she really wanted - have a faithful husband, to be a good wife. . .

.....

The noonday sun beat down on land, and man and beast,
 But she does not care the least,
 Her doleful mind needs the relief,
 To clear her thoughts a refreshing drink will give.
 Nearing Jacob's well she sees someone sitting there,
 As she did draw she did not care, but the man did ask a drink of her.
 She looked - it was a Jew - what is HE doing HERE?
 She was amazed that from her, a woman of Samaria,
 She be asked a favour!

Jews do have no dealings with her nation, to Samaria they heed no notion.
 Then she heard him say: “If you know the gift of God,
 And who it is that says to you, Give Me a drink;
 You would have asked of Him, and He would have given you living water.”
 She answered: “Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep;
 From where then have You that living water here indeed?
 Are You greater than our father Jacob, which gave us this well,
 And drank from it himself, . . .”

Jesus answered: “Whosoever drinks from this water shall thirst
 Again; But whosoever drinks the water that I shall give him
 Shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give,
 Shall be in him a well of water, springing up into everlasting life.”
 Her heart pounding, she cried: “Sir, give me this water, that I
 Thirst not, neither come here to draw.” She was in awe.

“Go, call your husband, and come here.”
 “I have no husband,” “You have spoken well. . .
 For you had five husbands and he you have now, is not
 Your husband: that you said truly.”
 Oh, it was embarrassing to hear this, hitting a sore spot!
 To continue with this topic she would not,



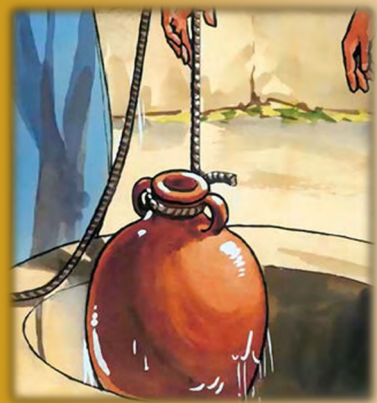
For this matter was not to flatter!
 With anticipation turned now the conversation,
 Perceiving Him to be a prophet –
 About worship she began to chatter,
 Talking then with Him of worship.
 But Jesus did explain and made it plain
 That the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and Truth,
 For such God is seeking, for God is a Spirit and the Truth...
 The woman was astonished hearing this
 Then said, she knew that the Messiah, called the Christ
 Will come and speak all these things to be,
 Then Jesus said: "I that speak to you am He."



.....
 Just then the disciples did return - they were bewildered men
 Seeing Jesus talking with the woman!
 Then she in utter wonder left the pot, running to the city,
 To tell the people to come out quickly,
 To see Him who told her of her life, is this not the Christ? . . .
 The people were excited, they wanted to know
 Who this is and the throng hurried to the well,
 To hear for themselves what this Christ to them would tell. . .
 And the Samaritans urged Jesus to come with them that day,
 Teaching them the truth, without delay.
 Then Jesus stayed with them two days.
 And many did believe on Him because of His own words,
 Not because of the saying of the woman they have heard.
 But saw themselves that this is indeed the Christ,
 The Saviour of the world.



.....
 This day for the woman was the turning point to a life anew.
 The craving of her soul, the want she felt was gone,
 She was made whole, new inside and all.
 She knew then what to live for, ended thus her last affair,
 This way of life she wants no more.
 Her soul had found the peace, the joy she never knew,
 She gave herself to God, lived a life forever true,
 To testify to others that Christ does know your heart and soul.
 Gives you the living water, a fountain ever full,
 Springing up in you into eternal life,
 In truth and righteousness, and godliness,
 The searching, thirsting heart to cool. Amen.



Edda Tedford, Canada



The Essence of Health Reform



The message of health reform has been a significant part of the present truth ever since it was introduced to those who are waiting for Jesus' coming. Wherever the third angel's message reached, the health reform message followed as its right hand. Many reformers study and practice different principles of health reform in following the words of God that say, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God," "for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Corinthians 10:31; 3:17

Now, I would like to ask you a question. Among all kinds of different principles of health, what is the most important one? There are many principles, such as "Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water... nature's remedial agencies." *-The Ministry of Healing*, p. 127. Is vegetarianism the center of health reform? Or is dress reform the most characteristic? Is air the most important principle? Or is it rest? It might be water. Maybe it is exercise. What is the essence of the principles of health reform?

The Shift of the Medical Paradigm

To begin with, I would like to discuss the main focus of medical professionals. For centuries, healthcare providers have focused heavily on illness rather than the patient. For example, if someone had lung cancer, they studied how to treat it using chemotherapy and radiation therapy. But they did not care too much about what caused the disease or how the patient felt. This point of view was called a "Medical Approach" and continued until only a few decades ago.

In 1977, Marc Lalonde, the Canadian Minister of National Health and Welfare, proposed a new perspective on medicine called the "Behavioral Approach." In his paper, which is now called the "Lalonde Report," he suggested that the behaviours and lifestyle of individuals determine their health. For example, if someone has lung cancer, doctors will check if he or she smokes, if any of their family smokes, if they work in an environment that has many chemicals in the air, etc. However, they soon realized that this perspective was not perfect. They noticed that they kept blaming the patients for being sick. When someone

has lung issues, doctors and nurses would point their fingers at the patient and say, "You are sick because you smoke. It is your fault." In this way, they neglected compassion and empathy for patients.

To overcome this problem, experts worldwide gathered and held a meeting in Ottawa in 1986. Soon they published an international agreement called, "Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion." They introduced a new perspective called the "Holistic Approach," in which they focused more on patients' lives, emotions, feelings, and experiences. For example, let us say that someone has lung cancer. Then they would say, "Why?" It is because he smokes. Here, the question continues: "Why?" It is because he is stressed. "Why?" It is because he has a family to support but does not have a good income. "Why?" He did not receive an education. "Why?" His parents could not afford his education. "Why?" and the questions continue.

At the end of these questions, they often concluded that it is the failure of society and its systems that cause stress to their lives, resulting in health damage to individuals. In this way, healthcare providers try to understand the situation and the patient's feelings. The understanding of a patient's emotions and experiences has developed, and indeed, it was around this time when studies on individual experiences in fields such as psychology and nursing, developed.

As they developed these new perspectives, they took pride in their achievements and knowledge. They advertised the great medical advancements that humans achieved. However, there was someone who already presented and practiced this perspective about 2000 years ago.

The Paralytic of Capernaum

"And again He entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that He was in the house. And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and He preached the word unto them. And they

come unto Him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto Him for the press, they uncovered the roof where He was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. When Jesus saw their faith, He said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." Mark 2:1-5

Here we can see someone with palsy who was very desperate to see Jesus. He was so desperate that he even asked his friends to break the roof and lower him into the house so that he could reach Jesus. Why was he so desperate? Of course, he wanted to be healed, but he had more of a background.

"Like the leper, this paralytic had lost all hope of recovery. His disease was the result of a life of sin, and his sufferings were embittered by remorse. He had long before appealed to the Pharisees and doctors, hoping for relief from mental suffering and physical pain. But they coldly pronounced him incurable, and abandoned him to the wrath of God. The Pharisees regarded affliction as an evidence of divine displeasure, and they held themselves aloof from the sick and the needy. Yet often these very ones who exalted themselves as holy were more guilty than the sufferers they condemned." -*The Desire of Ages*, p. 267

The Jews used to believe that disease was the result of a life of sin. As we will talk about later, the Bible shows us that not all diseases are due to our sins. However, in his case, they were right. He did develop palsy due to his sin.

He went to the Pharisees and the doctors with a desire to be healed and to receive a message of hope from the spiritual and anointed leaders. However, they only coldly reminded him that he was a sinner. It was then that he heard the news about Jesus. He heard about how the Man sent by God was able to heal people. New hope sprung up in his heart.

"Yet it was not physical restoration he desired so much as relief from the burden of sin. If he could see Jesus, and receive the assurance of forgiveness and peace with Heaven, he would be content to live or die, according to God's will. The cry of the dying man was, Oh that I might come into His presence! There was no time to lose; already his wasted flesh was showing signs of decay. He besought his friends to carry him on his bed to Jesus, and this they gladly undertook to do. But so dense was the crowd that had assembled in and about the house where the Saviour was, that it was impossible for the sick man and his friends to reach Him, or even to come within hearing of His voice.

"Again and again the bearers of the paralytic tried to push their way through the crowd, but in vain. The sick man looked about him in unutterable anguish. When the longed-for help was so near, how could he relinquish hope? At his

suggestion his friends bore him to the top of the house and, breaking up the roof, let him down at the feet of Jesus. The discourse was interrupted. The Saviour looked upon the mournful



countenance, and saw the pleading eyes fixed upon Him. He understood the case; He had drawn to Himself that perplexed and doubting spirit. While the paralytic was yet at home, the Saviour had brought conviction to his conscience. When he repented of his sins, and believed in the power of Jesus to make him whole, the life-giving mercies of the Saviour had first blessed his longing heart. Jesus had watched the first glimmer of faith grow into a belief that He was the sinner's only helper, and had seen it grow stronger with every effort to come into His presence." - *Ibid.*, p. 267-268

As the paralytic saw the face of Jesus, he saw a kind, forgiving spirit. It was not the physical healing that he was looking for. It was a cure for his heart. He wanted to be healed from his sin. His heart was broken by thoughts of hopelessness and the cold words by the Pharisees. As he saw Jesus, he immediately knew Jesus was able, and willing to, heal him.

Jesus knew his spiritual and mental struggle. Jesus knew what was going on in his heart. As the man with palsy saw forgiveness and hope in Jesus' eyes, Jesus saw faith in his eyes. Therefore, Jesus spoke to him the following. "And when He saw their faith, He said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee." Luke 5:20

It is such a strange thing for any doctor to say to his patient. What would you do if you went to your doctor's office for stomach pain and the doctor did not give you any treatment but said "your sins are forgiven"? I would probably never go back to that doctor again. I would think that his advice is odd.

However, we could see that these were the very words that the man with palsy needed in order to be healed. His heart had suffered from the thought that God might not accept him. His disease was a consistent reminder of his past and mistakes. Knowing he was desperate to receive the assurance and forgiveness of God, Jesus told him that his sins were forgiven.

This is the centre of health reform. Health reform is known to be the right arm of the third angel's message. What is the third angel's message? To put it into very simple words, it is the gospel and the promise that we would be "perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Mat-

thew 5:48. In other words, it is a promise that we would be free from the disease of sin in our heart.

Health reform is meant to show this message to people. When someone is sick, many thoughts go through their minds. They reflect on their life and their past. They think back to the sinful life they lived. Then, health reform is meant to show them the doctor who can heal their sins by showing them the doctor who can heal their body. Health reform is meant to go beyond just the aspect of physical healing and instead show the center of the third angel's message as well, the gospel.

Unfortunately, many so-called health reformers follow the example of the Pharisees up to this day. When someone is sick, those who claim to be health reformers would go and tell them that it is their fault that they are sick. Let us say that someone got sick and was hospitalized. Some members would visit them and say, "What did I tell you, my brother? Didn't I tell you that you should stop eating that? Didn't I tell you that you need to do this regularly? You didn't listen to me. You didn't live the health reform. And this is why you are sick." Then they would add: "Get well soon. God bless you." We tell them, "God bless you." But what kind of God are we showing to them when we say these words? We take hope away from their hearts. We remind them of their sins but do not show them Jesus, who is ready to forgive.

Jesus condemns the sins of those who discourage their brethren, rather than condemning the sick. When we condemn other people's sins, we are committing sins that Jesus would condemn us for.

The True Doctor

The Jews had a "behavioural approach" in which they blamed the patient for being sick. Many health reformers follow this perspective. Let us remember that even worldly doctors abandoned this idea several decades ago. Now, healthcare workers focus on the experiences and feelings of patients, following the example of Jesus, 2000 years later, without realizing it. How shameful is it for those who claim to learn from our God to practice the ideas that Jesus forbade and even non-believers have forsaken?

It is amazing to see how Jesus showed us this medical paradigm 2000 years before doctors would discover it. Many people think the Bible is old knowledge that needs the help of new scientific knowledge. However, the Bible has gone ahead of the vanity of human education and shown us eternal wisdom since the beginning. Doctors and researchers tried so hard to advance and discover human knowledge, just to find out that they wasted their time and efforts as their discoveries were already taught in the Bible in simple words. That is why Solomon claimed, "I com-

muned with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge. And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit. For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow." Ecclesiastes 1:16-18

In many churches, they promote and emphasize how many educated men, doctors, and PhD's they have in their churches, trying to attract people to the church. However, they often forget that spirituality is the only thing that matters in the work of God. They recruit educated people over spiritual and humble people to lead the church. In this way, the church forgets the lesson that God's business does not rely on human wisdom, knowledge, reputation, and title. Jesus recruited and called non-educated fishermen to be pillars of His church. Throughout history, God always called people who did not lose their humility.

Of course, there are certain works that God can carry out through the education and talents that people may have, such as the apostle Paul. However, is God unable to carry out the work without their education? No. He can even make "the stones . . . immediately cry out." Luke 19:40. If Paul did not come to Jesus that day, would we have lost the majority of the New Testament? No, God would still have given us the same messages through different instruments. This points out how vain it is for many churches to emphasize human wisdom. The Bible never denies the importance of an academic education. Rather, it emphasizes our duties of developing our intelligence, knowledge, and talents. However, the Bible claims that what is more important than these is the beauty of character, which is humility. The promotion to a title leads to the promotion of pride, which is poison to God's work.

Jesus is not the only example we can find as to how the medical knowledge of our Creator is vastly beyond the knowledge of educated creation. Through Sister White, many health messages were brought to us decades before being discovered by doctors. For example, through the testimonies, God has forbidden the use of tobacco which was advertised and promoted by doctors back in the time. They discovered its harm a century after Sister White's writings.

The Bible also shows us the future of medicine. Already thousands of years ago, the Bible had emphasized the importance of natural remedies. The academic doctrine of natural healing is in the process of growing, and it is growing in popularity among people only in recent years. Many people are coming to



accept the idea of natural remedies, claiming that naturopathy is the future of medicine and a key to solving the limitations of current medicine. At the same time, it has been introduced to us by the Bible a long time ago.

The Bible also shows us the ultimate goal of medicine. The dream of true doctors who care about patients is to lose their own jobs. In other words, the true spirit of healthcare workers is to see the world without disease and death. Jesus, as our Saviour and as our Doctor, promised that "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4

Truth, Not Fact

The Pharisees were right when they thought that the paralytic got sick due to his own sins. It was a fact. However, we should remember that fact and truth are different. When we tell other brethren about different principles of health, it might be factual. What we say might be right. However, truth has something that fact does not have—it is love. Facts spoken without love are not the truth, no matter how correct they might be or how evidence-based they might be. The patient might indeed commit sins that made them sick. However, if we speak to them without love, the message of health reform does not have the spirit of health reform in it.

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:1-2

And, after all, many times people are sick, but not because of their own sins. Let us think about Job. Why was he sick? "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not Thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth Thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse Thee to Thy face. And the LORD said to Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD." Job 1:6-12

As we can see, a great controversy between God and Satan was going on. Job's sickness was due to a spiritual battle that no one could see. But, what did his friends believe about the cause of Job's disease?

"It is very natural for human beings to think that great calamities are a sure index of great crimes and enormous sins; but men often make a mistake in thus measuring character. We are not living in the time of retributive judgment. Good and evil are mingled, and calamities come upon all. Sometimes men do pass the boundary line beyond God's protecting care, and then Satan exercises his power upon them, and God does not interpose. Job was sorely afflicted, and his friends sought to make him acknowledge that his suffering was the result of sin, and cause him to feel under condemnation. They represented his case as that of a great sinner; but the Lord rebuked them for their judgment of His faithful servant." –*Manuscript 56*, 1894

"There is wickedness in our world, but all the suffering is not the result of a perverted course of life. Job is brought distinctly before us as a man whom the Lord allowed Satan to afflict. The enemy stripped him of all he possessed; his family ties were broken; his children were taken from him. For a time his body was covered with loathsome sores, and he suffered greatly. His friends came to comfort him, but they tried to make him see that he was responsible, by his sinful course, for his afflictions. But he defended himself, and denied the charge, declaring, Miserable comforters are ye all. By seeking to make him guilty before God, and deserving of His punishment, they brought a grievous test upon him, and represented God in a false light; but Job did not swerve from his loyalty, and God rewarded His faithful servant." – *Manuscript 22*, 1898

Jesus taught us that it is a sin to blame sick people for their disease, even if it happened due to their own sins. It is a sin in His eyes to act like those Pharisees who coldly reminded the paralytic of his sins, even if it is a fact. If so, how much worse would our sins be if someone might be suffering due to the great controversy between God and Satan?

Indeed, many diseases are not due to the fault of a person. It might be genetic. It might be environmental. It might be an accident. And most of all, it might be due to God's great plan.

We cannot see the great controversy happening behind the scenes, as in the case of Job. How much more should we be afraid to condemn others' sicknesses? Though we might think we are keeping health reform, we are committing sins against the essence and centre of its principles and spirit.

First Things First

Many people emphasize health reform using the passage, "Health Reform is the right arm of the third angel's mes-

sage." However, they put so much emphasis on health reform that they forget the third angel's message, which is the message of hope. Even though health reform is meant to lead people to the third angel's message as the right arm, they use the name "the third angel's message" to give emphasis to health reform. Without noticing, the position of health reform and the third angel is replaced by each other.

"The health reform is as closely related to the third angel's message as the arm to the body; but the arm cannot take the place of the body. The proclamation of the third angel's message, the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus, is the burden of our work. The message is to be proclaimed with a loud cry, and is to go to the whole world. The presentation of health principles must be united with this message, but must not in any case be independent of it, or in any way take the place of it." *—Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 75*

The third angel's message—showing Jesus, who can heal our sins—is the body of the present truth and the essence of health reform. However, many people emphasize health information so much that they get lost in it. This often leads them to repeat the same mistakes as the Pharisees.

I am not stating that health reform is not important. It is indeed essential. It helps us have a clear mind to understand spiritual matters, and is also one of the most important ways to reach souls. Even Jesus spent more time healing than preaching.

Let us remember. Jesus once said, "And He said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." Mark 2:27. However, His words never lowered the standards of Sabbath, which we need to keep, even risking our lives for our faithfulness. Rather, He was making the standards higher. Through these words, Jesus showed the center, essence, and spirit of the Sabbath. He taught that God's love toward mankind, and mankind's love toward God is the center of the Sabbath.

It is the same regarding health reform. Only putting first things first and setting the right priority can make health reform a blessing. Let us remember that health reform exists for man, not man for health reform. The purpose of health reform is to save souls by introducing Jesus to those who are sick. Many people make mistakes in manifesting the idea that man exists for health reform by hurting others' souls by misusing their knowledge about health. Let us put first things first. Health reform exists for man, not vice versa.

That Ye May Know

"But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up

and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (He said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house. And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day." Luke 5:22–26



It is easy for Jesus to heal us from our diseases. It is not difficult for Jesus to heal us through the different principles of the health message. It is not hard for us to deliver health information about pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, and nature's remedial agencies. What is more important is that these health messages exist so that we "may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins."

This is the centre of the health message—Jesus, who can forgive our sins. This is the message that patients need. They are longing for the assurance of salvation. They are waiting to listen to the words of forgiveness. Yes, they might be sick due to their own fault, or it might be due to a greater reason, such as the great controversy between God and Satan, as in the case of Job. We never know. But one thing is sure, disease gives them a chance to reflect on their lives. They are thinking about their sins. They are thinking about their past. And now, they need to see the face of Jesus, full of compassion and of a forgiving spirit, full of assurance and hope.

The face that the paralytic had seen and gained faith through should be reflected on our faces through the same spirit that Jesus had. When we bring someone this message, the state of disease will be an opportunity for the person to know our forgiving Saviour and the third angel's message. Their suffering will turn out to be a blessing. Their sickness will turn into a testimony of the power of prayer.

My dear brothers and sisters, this is the most important principle of health reform. "Ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins." This is the essence of health reform. May we learn from our true Physician so that He can make us true health reformers who carry the hope of healing souls. Amen.

Makoto Matsumoto



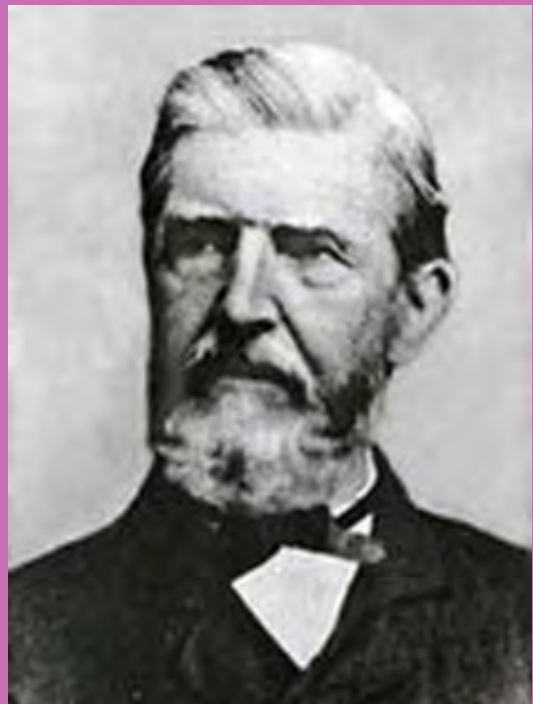
George Storrs

George Storrs was born in Lebanon, New Hampshire, on December 13, 1796. His father was an industrious mechanic working as a wheelwright in the Revolutionary army. After the war, he married Lucinda Howe and moved to New Hampshire where he became a wealthy farmer. The two had eight children. George was the youngest. As a child George was afraid of God and felt alienated from Christianity because of the sermons he had heard about the eternal torment of the wicked in hell. At the age of 17 he began earnestly to seek to know the goodness of God. Through his studies and his mother's prayers and constant religious instruction he gave his heart to Christ and joined the Congregational Church at the age of 19.

When George was 22 he married, and at 28 he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. After his first wife died, he married her sister, Martha.

As George continued to grow spiritually, conviction deepened that he was called of God to preach. Under the influence of a godly Methodist minister, who showed kindness to him during his wife's illness, he joined the Methodist ministry in 1825. Slavery was the main burden of Storrs' preaching. This was not a doctrine approved by the local bishop who did everything in his power to suppress all discussion of the subject. During an antislavery society meeting in 1835 at the Sanbornton Bridge Methodist meetinghouse George prayed for the slaves. While praying, the deputy sheriff arrested Storrs and took him to jail. After the trial he was set free.

While traveling on a train in 1837, Storrs read a small tract written by Deacon Henry Grew of Philadelphia which led him to study the subject of the state of the dead for himself. After several years of study, conversation and correspondence with some of America's most eminent ministers, Storrs reached the conclusion that man does not possess inherent immortality but receives it only as a gift through Christ, and that God will utterly



exterminate the wicked through fire at the second death. The dead are asleep now and there is no ever-burning hell. The idea of the wicked in an eternal burning hell was considered by Storrs as a blot on the character of God. This Bible understanding is a foundational truth for the end time.

The natural response of the human heart is to reject the pastor who holds a doctrine that differs from what is currently believed to be truth. This rejection George Storrs experienced. He was even persecuted for his faith. After several years of study and heart-searching George Storrs left the Methodist church where he had been a minister for 11 years and it was because of the doctrine of the state of the dead.

After leaving the Methodist church George visited Albany N.Y. where a small congregation invited him to be their pastor. He accepted this call, taking for his guiding principle: "The Bible as the only creed and Christian character the only test."

Not long after this, George heard the Millerite Message from Calvin French. He was so impressed that he arranged for Charles Fitch to hold a series of tent meetings that thousands attended. After that series, Storrs was convinced of the soon coming of Christ and left Albany that year, (1842), to preach the Advent message to thousands. He became one of the leaders of the Advent Movement. He did not preach any other message now except the Advent message. He worked closely

with William Miller and Joshua Himes.

During this time, Storrs shared with some Adventist leaders the study he had done regarding the subject of the state of the dead, which he had been studying for years. He preached some sermons on the subject and six of them were put into a book.

Charles Fitch wrote to Storrs a letter dated January 25, 1844: "As you have long been fighting the Lord's battles alone, on the subject of the state of the dead, and of the final doom of the wicked, I write this to say that I am at last, after much thought and prayer, and a full conviction of duty to God, prepared to take my stand by your side." This was the first ministerial convert to the truth about the state of the dead. It was not the last.

Many Adventist pioneers recognized the influence of Storrs on the theology regarding the state of the dead. James White wrote: "Storrs's Six Sermons on the immor-

tality question were being widely circulated among Adventists, and the doctrine of man's unconsciousness in death and the destruction of the wicked was being adopted by some and regarded with favor by many."

Sadly though, Storrs was disappointed when Jesus did not return October 22, 1844. He had been one of the most vigorous preachers who taught that Jesus would return in 1844, but, immediately after the great disappointment of 1844 he was one of the first to disclaim the movement, attributing it to "mesmeric influence." He did not accept the sanctuary message or the seventh-day Sabbath message but he did continue to believe the Bible truth about the state of the dead.

George Storrs died at home in Brooklyn, N. Y., on December 28, 1879 at the age of 83. His widow, Martha Waterman Storrs, died at the same place March 15, 1882, at the age of 82.

"And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before." Job 42:10

"Pray for Those Who Hurt Us.--Let us strive to walk in the light as Christ is in the light. The Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed, not only for himself, but for those who were opposing him. When he felt earnestly desirous that the souls that had trespassed against him might be helped, he himself received help. Let us pray, not only for ourselves, but for those who have hurt us, and are continuing to hurt us. Pray, pray, especially in your mind. Give not the Lord rest; for His ears are open to hear sincere, importunate prayers, when the soul is humbled before Him." -The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 3, p. 1141

"Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you." Matthew 6:27

"We must have our lives so hid with Christ in God that when bitter speeches and scornful words and unkind looks meet us, we shall not permit our feelings to be stirred up against this class, but shall feel the deepest sympathy for them, because they know nothing about the precious Saviour whom we claim to know. We must remember that they are in the service of one who is the bitterest enemy of Jesus Christ, and that while all heaven is opened to the sons and daughters of God, they have no such privilege. You ought to feel that you are the happiest people upon the face of the whole earth. Notwithstanding, as Christ's representatives, you are as sheep in the midst of wolves, you have One with you who can help you under all circumstances, and you will not be devoured by these wolves if you keep close to Jesus. How careful you should be to represent Jesus in every word and action! You should feel when you arise in the morning, and when you go out upon the street, and when you come in, that Jesus loves you, that He is by your side, and that you must not cherish a thought that will grieve your Saviour. . . .

"The evil angels may be all around you to press their darkness upon you, but the will of God is greater than their power. And if you do not in word or action, or in any way, make Christ ashamed of you, the sweet blessing and peace of God will be in your heart every day you live. " - That I May Know Him, p. 183

Colombia



Finland



Church Service in Islamabad, Pakistan



Tanzania



“Some look always at the objectionable and discouraging features, and therefore discouragement overtakes them. They forget that the heavenly universe is waiting to make them agencies of blessing to the world; and that the Lord Jesus is a never-failing storehouse from which human beings may draw strength and courage. There is no need for despondency and apprehension. The time will never come when the shadow of Satan will not be cast athwart our pathway. Thus the enemy seeks to hide the light shining from the Sun of Righteousness. But our faith should pierce this shadow.

“Hope and courage are essential to perfect service for God. These are the fruit of faith. Despondency is sinful and unreasonable. God is able and willing more abundantly to bestow upon His servants the strength they need for test and trial.

“For the disheartened there is a sure remedy—faith, prayer, work. Faith and activity will impart assurance and satisfaction that will increase day by day.... In the darkest days, when appearances seem most forbidding, fear not. Have faith in God.

“Christ did not fail, neither was He discouraged, and His followers are to manifest a faith of the same enduring nature. . . . They are to despair of nothing, and to hope for everything. With the golden chain of His matchless love Christ has bound them to the throne of God.” — *The Faith I Live By*, p. 156

