



The Reformation
Messenger

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 4, JULY/AUGUST

2024

Building With the Lord
Page 4

Restoring the Rainbow
Page 8

The Ocean of Peace
Page 18

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.

In This Issue:

3 Fungus Growth

4 Building with the Lord

8 Restoring the Rainbow

12 What Wilt Thou That I Should Unto Thee?

16 The Just Shall Live By Faith

18 The Ocean of Peace

21 David—The King (Poem)

24 Heman Gurney—The Singing Blacksmith

PHOTO CREDITS

Cover photos and page 3 taken by
Helen Marttinen, Canada

The Reformation Messenger is published bi-monthly. It is an Official Publication of the International Missionary Society the Seventh-Day Adventist Church Reform Movement, Canadian Field. Subscriptions can be paid online on the website or by mail.

- E-mail: ismessenger@yahoo.com
- Internet: www.ismessenger.org
- Mail: RR #3, 7899 15 Side Road, Milton, ON L9T 2X7, Canada

COST:

Black & White x \$22.00 per year. Colour x \$25.00 per year.
(Add \$10.00 North America and \$20.00 overseas shipping & handling)

Catalogue is available upon request for all articles for 30 years.



Fungus Growth

“Those who are engaged in the sacred work of opening the Word of God to others, must be sure that they themselves are eating and digesting that Word. They must watch over themselves, weeding from the heart and character the fungus growth which causes deformity and weakness. ‘Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, . . . and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby’ (1 Peter 2:1, 2). Have you done this, or have you thought that you had no battles to fight with self, and so allowed your un-sanctified impulses to control mind and judgment? . . .

“In the hearts of all who desire to follow Christ, there is natural depravity which must be uprooted, lest the representation of Christ be marred. . . .

“Men will never be prepared to do the work of God acceptably unless they take themselves in hand and endeavor, firmly and constantly, to correct their own errors. No one is to take the position that his own way is perfect, that he has no need to reach a higher standard. ‘Seeing that ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently’ (1 Peter 1:22). This work is too often left undone. Many are working in an entirely different manner from that which is given to them as a standard of perfect service. . . .

“Jesus Christ gave His life in order to save us, soul and body. He desires to restore the moral image of God in man. In order that this may be accomplished, we must cooperate with Him. The very flesh of our bodies must be consecrated to His service. But can this be done while we place in our stomachs food which will strengthen feelings which war against holiness and happiness and purity?

“A plain, simple, but liberal diet of fruits, vegetables, and grains is the best for those who are preparing for the work of God. The lower nature, with all its inclinations, must be subdued and crucified, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. It is absolutely necessary for Christians to keep the body under, bringing it into subjection, and uprooting every affection and impulse that is contrary to the will of God. . . . ” –*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 10, p. 284–286

Ellen G. White



Build with the Lord

“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so He giveth His beloved sleep.” Psalm 127:1–2

Is there someone who has been trying to build, but alone? Is there someone who has tried hard in getting up early and sitting up late and still failed?

Millions of Christians are building a house of faith, which will fall in the end. They build it alone. They build it upon the foundation of sand. They build it from cheap material that will not stand the test. Therefore, the great question is: Am I building alone or is the Lord building with me?

In the time of the flood, eight souls were building with the Lord. Their building saved them while the rest of the world perished. There is a danger that we think that the Lord is building with us, while we have been struggling alone and failing—sadly failing. However, at the same time, with the Lord there is no possibility of failing.

That fact that there may be a chance of failing makes us afraid and causes us to worry. Often our fears are unnecessary, and it is because we do not trust God. It may be that we are not sure that He will save us or help us. The cause for this fear is lack of faith because we do not trust God completely. We are then afraid that He will not help us in our troubles.

Therefore, we are often afraid for no reason. If the Lord is with us, we have no reason to fear. When the children of Israel left Egypt, they were afraid that the Egyptian army would come to fight them and take them back into captivity.

Was there a reason for their fear? “And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.” Exodus 14:13–14, 28. God had promised that He would protect them and save them from their enemies, and He proved that there was no reason to fear.

Were they afraid of getting sick on the way and not being able to travel? “He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes.” Psalm 105:37. Throughout their journey, again God protected them against sickness. No one was to be left behind because they did not have the strength to travel.

What about the fear that their clothes would wear out during their journey? How would they be able to obtain new clothes, shoes, coats in the wilderness? “Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot

swell, these forty years." Deuteronomy 8:4. Not only did their clothes not wear out over the period of 40 years, but their feet did not get sore from all the walking they did.

They had the fear that they would not have anything to eat or drink in the wilderness. Daily the Lord provided food in the form of manna, and water from the rocks. In the dry, uninhabitable wilderness, the Lord provided for all their needs.

"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly." Psalm 84:11. The Lord is as the sun, providing light and warmth. He is a shield, a protector. Not only does He provide for our material needs, He also provides for our spiritual needs by giving us grace, forgiveness, pardon, glory, honour, and greatness.

No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. Do you believe this—that there is nothing that is good for us that He would withhold from us? Sometimes this is hard to believe. The only things that He withholds from us are things that would hurt us and spoil our chance of salvation.

David wrote about it in the Psalms. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." Psalm 23:6. "The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing." Psalm 34:10

If they would lack even one good thing, the Bible could not say, "They shall not lack any good thing." God's promises are sure. Let us read a few more verses from Psalms. "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Psalm 37:25. David spent years as a fugitive, yet he could say that God did not withhold any good thing from him. God provided him with all that he needed. "O satisfy us early with Thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days." Psalm 90:14. He also provides us with continual happiness.

Now then, where does need, lack of good things, failures, sadness, and depression, come from? It may be that we have tried to build alone. Maybe we have travelled alone and therefore have failed. We, as God's people, should be the happiest people in the world, always rejoicing, glad, overflowing with joy.

In the days of Ancient Israel, they failed. What caused

it? "Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you. Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you." Joshua 7:12–13

The children of Israel could not stand before their enemies until they removed the accursed things from among them. In the same way, in your life, if you have an idol, a sin, a wrong habit, you cannot stand before your enemy, Satan.

At another time, there were religious leaders who were fighting against the faithful children of God. "And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." Acts 5:38–39. Without realizing it, the Jews took their stand against God and His people. Who is able to fight against the God almighty? No one. Yet, many try.

"And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore." Exodus 14:24–25, 30. Men and women today are fighting against the God of heaven. They become His enemies. We know that even Christians can often become enemies of God.

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity against God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." James 4:4. How many Christians are seeking the friendship of the world? By doing so, they become enemies of God.

"But He giveth more grace. Wherefore He saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." James 4:6. God rejects the proud. If there is pride in your heart, even spiritual pride, then the Lord is against you, resisting you. No human pride can stand before God. He fights against the proud; but the humble receives

grace and pardon.

“And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.” Matthew 10:14–15. The one who does not receive you is against God Himself.

Aaron and Miriam were fighting against God. And, what happened? Miriam became a leper, white as snow. “And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. And the Lord spake



suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out. My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all Mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; And the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against My servant Moses? And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them, and He departed. And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.” Numbers 12:1, 4, 7–10

God stood for His faithful servant Moses. Even though it was his brother and sister who were against him, God fought against them.

“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. Those who turn against the faithful servants of God will fight against God Him-

self.

Often we do not know what the cause is of God not being able to build with us. “Saying, if thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.” Luke 19:42

The Jewish people in the time of Jesus had no peace—no peace in the land. There was a reason why the Romans were allowed to come to oppress them. They had no peace in their hearts; they were troubled, worried, and afraid. They had no peace, and they did not know the reason for it. Yet there is always a reason. They lacked the peace that passes understanding, the perfect peace of Jesus. We all must have it and if we do not, there is a reason for it. When we do not know the reason, then we suffer, we are restless, anxious and careworn.

The answer is that we must go to the word of God. Is there something that we have neglected? “Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about. Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.” Psalm 32:10–11

“The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.” Psalm 34:17–19. Those who believe on the Lord will not live a life of ease, but if we are righteous, He will deliver us from our afflictions. This is a promise that is not given to the wicked.

“The Lord preserveth the strangers; He relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked He turneth upside down.” Psalm 146:9. The wicked will never have peace.

We learn from the Bible that Leah was hated, therefore the Lord blessed her above her sister Rachel. When men turn against us, the Lord will stand for us. We have nothing to worry about.

“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.” Matthew 5:11–13. Have you had this experience? Have men spoken evil against you and reviled you? Instead of getting angry, Jesus says, rejoice and be exceeding

glad.

“They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.” John 16:2. Should we be sad when this happens?

We have the answer in Luke. “Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.” Luke 6:22–23

“The LORD doth build up Jerusalem: He gathereth together the outcasts of Israel. He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.” Psalm 147:2–3. Israel, in symbol is the church of God. If we build with the Lord, He will heal us from all our sorrows.

“A bruised reed shall He not break, and the smoking flax shall He not quench: He shall bring forth judgment unto truth.” Isaiah 42:3. The Lord will pass by the proud, self-important, self-righteous person but will look upon those with a contrite heart and with a broken spirit who have been wounded and bruised by others—those who have been rejected by society, those despised by others, the Lord will gather them together and save them.

What kind of people will fill the courts of heaven? “And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; For all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. . . . So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of

the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.” Luke 14:17–18, 21. Those who the world sees as unworthy are the ones that the master invited to the supper.

The Lord is good to them that love Him. He will fight for His people; He will be their defense. He will comfort and bless them and fill their hearts with joy and peace. He is good, yet many cannot see it.

There was a blind boy whose eyesight was restored by an operation. When he could see for the first time, the sunshine, the flowers, the trees, he cried out, “it is beautiful.” And he said to his mother, “Why did you not tell me how beautiful it was?” She answered: “I tried, but you did not understand.” We try to tell people of the goodness of the Lord, but they cannot understand.

My friend, make sure that the Lord is with you, that He will build your house of faith. Do not refuse the invitation of Jesus. He says, “Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28. You can have that perfect rest, the peace that no one can take away from you, and then you will be the happiest person in the world. Amen.

Adapted from a sermon by Timo Martin



“True Christian character is marked by a singleness of purpose, an indomitable determination, which refuses to yield to worldly influences, which will aim at nothing short of the Bible standard. If men will permit themselves to become discouraged in the service of God, the great adversary will present abundant reasons to turn them from the plain path of duty to one of ease and irresponsibility. Those who can be bribed or seduced, discouraged or terrified, will be of no service in the Christian warfare. Those who set their affections on worldly treasures or worldly honors, will not push the battle against principalities and powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places.

“All who would be soldiers of the cross of Christ, must gird on the armor and prepare for conflict. They should not be intimidated by threats, or terrified by dangers. They must be cautious in peril, yet firm and brave in facing the foe and doing battle for God. The consecration of Christ's follower must be complete. . . . His final reward will be to share with Christ the throne of immortal glory.” –The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 2, p. 1003



Restoring the Rainbow

Since the great flood, the rainbow has been remembered as the symbol of God's promise. Unfortunately, that is not what crosses the minds of most Canadians when they see a rainbow nowadays. In Canada, the rainbow is rather known to the public as the symbol of so-called "gender diversity," or, in other words, the LGBTQ community (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer). Because of this, the rainbow is rarely introduced in sermons, public speeches, or articles in the Canadian church. The rainbow has become "taboo" within the church.

However, God said, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common." Acts 10:15. The rainbow is sacred from its origin, and we should not stop calling it sacred because of the common image created by Satan. In this article, we are going to see what the Bible's perspective is on LGBTQ and the reasons why. Also, whether it is true that the Bible teaches Christians are to show hatred toward the LGBTQ community, and finally, what is the true meaning of the rainbow.

LGBTQ in the Bible

In the Bible, any sexual relationship besides heterosexual and monogamous marriage is declared to be a sin. For a sexual relationship before marriage, it is called fornication. On the other hand, a sexual relationship after marriage with someone you are not married to is called adultery. For LGBTQ, it is called an abomination.

"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination." "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them." Leviticus 18:22; 20:13

The Bible says this sin of abomination was one of the sins that led Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction. "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good." "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities." Ezekiel 16:49-50; Jude 7-8

The Bible's perspectives on LGBTQ practices continue as the same in the New Testament. "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet." "But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust." Romans 1:26-27; 1 Timothy 1:8-11

These verses clearly condemn LGBTQ as a sin. However, it

is important to ask, “why”? In every commandment of His law, we find God’s unmeasurable wisdom and love. The matter of LGBTQ is the same. We can see God’s love for us in the reason why He forbade us from it.

Restoring the Holiness of Sex

To understand the reason why LGBTQ practices are condemned, we first need to talk about another “taboo” topic. Another subject that “God hath cleansed,” and humans started calling it common due to Satan’s plot, is sex.

God created sex under divine purpose and reason. Firstly, God planned sex to be a tool for us to learn the deep and intimate love between man and woman. “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” “Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it.” Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:24–25

In the original language, the Bible uses two different words to describe sex within marriage and sex outside of marriage. Sex within marriage is called “*yada*,” which means knowing or understanding (Genesis 4:1, 25; 19:8; 24:16, 67). We can find the same thing in the New Testament also (Matthew 1:24–25; Luke 1:34). Meanwhile, sex outside of marriage is called “*shakab*” which means lying down with or sleeping with (Genesis 19:33; 30:15; 34:2; Leviticus 18:20; 20:11–13; Deuteronomy 22:22–25; 2 Samuel 11:4; Job 31:9–10).

What does this mean for us? Here, we can see that sex is not given merely for the pleasure of the flesh. Also, conception is not the only purpose of sex either. The first purpose of sex is to connect the couple and make them know each other from flesh to flesh and heart to heart.

Secondly, sex was to be a tool for us to participate in His work of creation. Through sex, humans were to learn that life comes from acts of love. And this correlation between life and love is the central principle of God’s kingdom. “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” “For Thou hast possessed my reins: Thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are Thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from Thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in Thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.” Genesis 1:28; Psalm 139:13–16

Therefore, sex is sacred, just as marriage is sacred. Interestingly, the word “sex” and the word “holy” are pronounced the same in the Japanese language. The same thing can be found in the Korean language also. Sex means something way beyond the mere pleasure of the flesh. It is a unification between a married couple and participation in His creation. It is created as the divine school to learn about His kingdom. In this sense, sex is a form of worship.

When we keep all these in mind, this explains why intercourse must happen only within heterosexual and monogamous marriages. Sex is sacred because it teaches deep love to couples by physically making them one. Also, it is a participation in His creation. With LGBTQ, both are impossible. Through LGBTQ, couples can neither be one nor participate in creation. In this sense, LGBTQ cannot learn the lessons about love and life.

When marriage and the Sabbath were brought from Eden as two institutions, sex was part of it, having a significant role in marriage and family building. Let us think about the Sabbath: it has to be kept from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. If anyone tries to keep the Lord’s Day outside of this timeline, it is no longer a sacred day. Rather it is an abomination against His law. It is the same for sex. Sex is holy and meant to be within the married couple. Just as we cannot receive the blessings of the Sabbath if we keep Sunday, we cannot receive the blessings God gives through sex if it is done outside of marriage.

Youth in Danger

In this way, we can understand the reason for God’s structure on sex and marriage. This is exactly why Satan has been trying so hard to make sex a “taboo” topic within the church. He has made many people slaves of their own flesh. He has used his captives to illustrate sex as something shameful, something to hide.

I believe this caused Christians to avoid proper sex education. As no one explains to youth why sex is sacred and why it has to be done within the marriage, they lack reasoning and understanding of its significance. The silence of the church on this matter gives Satan an opportunity to interfere, teaching them wrong ideas from an early age. Canadian public education teaches children and youth that there is nothing wrong with sex before marriage as long as they know how to avoid sexually transmitted infections. They teach them that not accepting LGBTQ is an old-fashioned and uneducated way of thinking. They openly tell our children that masturbation is completely normal and there is nothing wrong with it.

If the church does not teach our children, the world will. Indeed, in many churches that regard the topic of sex as a taboo, our enemy succeeds in making youth fall into sin.

Restoring the sacredness of sex does not mean talking open-

ly about an individual's intimacy. That would be another way to despise God's institution. What it truly means is to be able to perceive sex as how it was created to be, and to teach it to our new generation. If we regard this topic as a "taboo," we are pleasing Satan. Just as we reform health and the Sabbath back to God's original plan, let us reform sex also. Let us raise our youth to grow into the right perspective, strengthening with reason and understanding.

The Sin of Hatred toward LGBTQ

So far, we have understood that LGBTQ practices are sin and the reason behind it. However, we should remember that it does not justify hatred toward LGBTQ, as many so-called Christians have done for many centuries. We should remember that our sins are not any better.

Shortly after the clear statement that LGBTQ lifestyle is sin in Romans 1:26–27, Paul states as follows: "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things." Romans 2:1

Even if we are not LGBTQ ourselves, still we are sinners. And if we judge them and hate them, we are adding the sin of condemnation on top of what we already have, making ourselves even worse sinners than LGBTQ.

Let us think about the woman who was caught in adultery. People brought her to Jesus and asked, "Should we stone her?" Jesus did not answer. However, He started writing down the secret sins of those ready to stone her. They saw their secrets being revealed, they felt shame and unworthiness, and one by one they left. When there was no one there but Jesus and the woman, He told her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more" (John 8:1–11).

Calling sin a sin is one thing. But, our attitude toward sinners is another matter. LGBTQ is a sin, but are our sins any better than theirs? Jesus said only the one who has no sin could throw a stone. Can we? If we mistreat them, will not our sin be more significant than theirs? If we talk badly about them behind their back, will not God condemn us for hurting the souls that Jesus died for? Remember that we are the chief of sinners. Let us not fall into hypocrisy.

"Call sin by its right name. Declare what God has said in regard to lying, Sabbath breaking, stealing, idolatry, and every other evil. 'They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.' Galatians 5:21. If they persist in sin, the judgment you have declared from God's word is pronounced upon them in heaven. In choosing to sin, they disown Christ; the church must show that she does not sanction their deeds, or she herself dishonors her Lord. She must say about sin what God says about it. She must deal

with it as God directs, and her action is ratified in heaven. He who despises the authority of the church despises the authority of Christ Himself.

"But there is a brighter side to the picture. 'Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted.' Let this thought be kept uppermost. In labor for the erring, let every eye be directed to Christ. Let the shepherds have a tender care for the flock of the Lord's pasture. Let them speak to the erring of the forgiving mercy of the Saviour. Let them encourage the sinners to repent, and believe in Him who can pardon." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 805

Some LGBTQ argue that Christianity shows hatred toward LGBTQ, and hence, its logic should be rejected. However, hatred toward LGBTQ has never been the spirit of true Christianity. The Bible has never instructed us to do so. The actions of so-called Christians who are not fully converted should not be mistaken as the teaching of Jesus.

Hope for LGBTQ

Another argument of the LGBTQ community is that they cannot help being this way because God created them the way they are. Hence, they should be accepted and estimated without giving up on their sin. However, did God really create them in this way?

"God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 1:27–28; 2:24

God never doomed men or women to be LGBTQ. As for every other sin, each one of us was born with some tendency to fall: some lust, some tell lies, some are greedy and lovers of money. It is not that God has created them like that. God created humankind perfectly. But, due to sin, we became like this. "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." Psalm 51:5. Therefore, LGBTQ is a result of sin.

Here, we see the hope for LGBTQ. The principle of born-again and redemption applies just the same. Just as the adulteress was redeemed from her sinful nature, God can redeem LGBTQ too. Is it possible for LGBTQ to leave their sins and become heterosexual? Can they have a gender identity according to their genetics? The answer is definitely "yes". The principle of God's justification and sanctification applies to LGBTQ just as any other sin. If God can cause the miracle of renewing us into a new creation, any sinful tendency can be overcome.

Another verse that clearly states LGBTQ as a sin is 1 Corinthians 6:9–10. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither forni-

cators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." However, let us note that the verse that follows right after is the hope for salvation and being born again. "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." 1 Corinthians 6:11

The True Meaning of The Rainbow

Now that it is made clear that LGBTQ is not according to God's will, let us separate the rainbow from LGBTQ. Just as we reformed the true characteristic of sex, let us reform the meaning of the rainbow also. What does it represent?

"I do set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between Me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: And I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh." Genesis 9:13-15

The sin of humans was so great that God had to destroy the earth with a flood, according to His justice. Yet God was merciful to us, and He kept our race by saving those who believed in Him. "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Hebrews 11:7

The rainbow is a reminder of God's salvation for us. God will never forsake those who trust Him. Those who find a safe place in God will be declared to be an heir of righteousness in His just judgment.

"As I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but My kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of My peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee." Isaiah 54:9-10

As we can see, the symbol of the rainbow includes a warning against the inevitable and destructive result of sin and the promise for the salvation and protection of those who believe His promise. This rainbow has such a sacred and significant meaning that it is also a part of His throne. "And He that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald." Revelation 4:3

"The rainbow spanning the heavens with its arch of light is a token of the everlasting covenant between

God and every living creature. (Genesis 9:16). And the rainbow encircling the throne on high is also a token to God's children of His covenant of peace.

"As the bow in the cloud results from the union of sunshine and shower, so the bow above God's throne represents the union of His mercy and His justice. To the sinful but repentant soul God says, Live thou; 'I have found a ransom.' (Job 33:24)." -*Education*, p. 115

Therefore, in this sense, the rainbow is totally opposite from the symbol of LGBTQ. The rainbow declares that God's judgement is sure and that sin will be called sin. No matter how they think or try, sin is a sin. However, at the same time, the rainbow gives hope to LGBTQ that it is not too late for them to be saved. If they have the faith of Noah and accept the power that can save them from their sin, they will be heirs of righteousness.

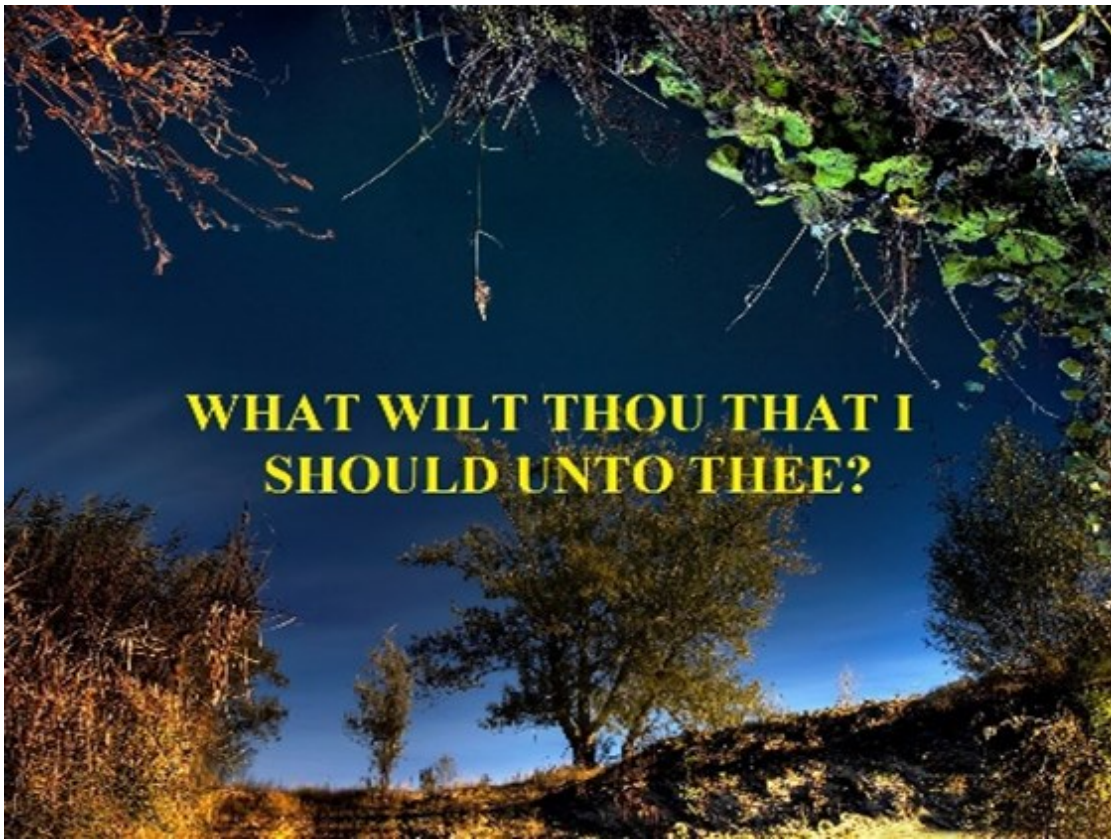
Living in the last days, we are surrounded by the flood of sins and abominations. Soon the judgment of fire will be laid upon this earth. However, those who believe in the promise shown through the rainbow will be kept pure and receive righteousness. God will never forget nor forsake them.

"By faith let us look upon the rainbow round about the throne, the cloud of sins confessed behind it. The rainbow of promise is an assurance to every humble, contrite, believing soul, that his life is one with Christ, and Christ is one with God. The wrath of God will not fall upon one soul that seeks refuge in Him. God Himself has declared, 'When I see the blood, I will pass over you.' [Exodus 12:13.] 'The bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant.' [Genesis 9:16.]" -*Manuscript 19*, 1890

My dear brothers and sisters, let us look upon the rainbow of promise. Yes, we are living in an evil day. Through the governments, Satan is surrounding us with immorality and abomination. We might be committing sins of abomination. If not, we might be committing the sin of judging others. Or, it could be any other sin. Let us look at the rainbow. God has promised salvation. The same God who delivered Noah and his family from the flood will also deliver us from our wicked ways and our sinful nature. Amen.

Makoto Matsumoto





WHAT WILT THOU THAT I SHOULD UNTO THEE?

What wilt thou that I should unto thee? I believe many would answer in different ways according to the situation they are in. I recently read that one of the multibillionaires on earth bought one of the social media platforms, costing him about billion dollars and I wondered, what if that rich man asked you this question:

“What do you want me to do for you?” or “Ask what shall I give you?” I expect many would answer, “Well, I want you to buy me a house or maybe a car or many other pleasing things found on this earth.” There are many things that our hearts might hope to be given, but what if our Lord Jesus Christ, the Creator of all things asks us the same question, what will be our answer?

As Christians we are to answer in regards to our salvation, realizing the great commission that our Lord has given us to be co-labourers with Him in His service. We read in the Bible about the experiences of men and women who responded well, and they were blessed, when they were asked by the Lord, “What wilt thou that I should unto thee?”

“And Solomon went up thither to the brasen altar before the LORD, which was at the tabernacle of the congregation, and offered a thousand burnt offerings upon it. In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee?” 2 Chronicles 1:6-7

King Solomon was given an opportunity to ask whatever

he wanted the Lord should do for him. His answer is contrary to what many people would ask for if they were asked the same question by the Lord.

“And Solomon said unto God, Thou hast showed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead. Now, O LORD God, let Thy promise unto David my father be established: for thou hast made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for

who can judge this Thy people, that is so great?” 2 Chronicles 1:8-10

Although given the opportunity to choose anything, King Solomon chose to ask that which will glorify the Lord before any pleasant thing. “And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge My people, over whom I have made thee king: Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.” 2 Chronicles 1:11-12

There is a popular saying that says, “Put God first”. It should be our motto as Christians and believers to put the work of the Lord primary and our own work secondary.

Our Saviour said to His disciples: “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthews 6:33

King Solomon received abundant blessings, more than he asked for from the Lord. “As the years went by and Solomon's fame increased, he sought to honor God by adding to his mental and spiritual strength, and by con-

tinuing to impart to others the blessings he received. None understood better than he that it was through the favor of Jehovah that he had come into possession of power and wisdom and understanding, and that these gifts were bestowed that he might give to the world a knowledge of the King of kings."—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 33

Solomon was not only given riches, but he was given so much wisdom that none understood more than him. It is because he put the work of the Lord before everything else which is what most worldly kings fail to do.

Here is another testimony from the book, *Education* which provides more emphasis on the choice that Solomon made:

"In the early life of Solomon also are seen the results of God's method of education. Solomon in his youth made David's choice his own. Above every earthly good he asked of God a wise and understanding heart. And the Lord gave him not only that which he sought, but that also for which he had not sought—both riches and honour. The power of his understanding, the extent of his knowledge, the glory of his reign, became the wonder of the world."—*Education*, p. 48

The principle we need to learn from King Solomon is that, before all other things, we are asked to put divine things first so that our words and our actions might reflect the character of the Sovereign and Supreme Ruler of the universe in obedience before Him. We read from *The Great Controversy* that as soon as the pilgrims landed at Plymouth the first thing they did was to pray to God for His providence and protection. The first thing they did was to thank the Lord immediately after being rescued from the violent persecution of the 1260-year period of Papal supremacy.

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." *Matthews* 6:10. The Lord Jesus taught His disciples to pray for the coming of the kingdom of God, and we are advised to do the same. If our mind is cultivated in this way in our daily lives, we will be active participants in missionary work.

"Christ sent forth His disciples with the message, 'The kingdom of God is at hand.' The proclamation of this message is our work. Jesus said, 'This Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations.' His kingdom will not come until the good tidings of His grace have been carried to all the earth. Let us proclaim the message, 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.' Thus we may hasten the coming of the Saviour. 'Thy kingdom

come.' For ages this prayer has been ascending to God from contrite hearts. It will surely be answered. The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ."—*The Signs of the Times*, October 28, 1903

Wisdom in the Last Days

From the experience of King Solomon, we have seen that wisdom is greatly needed in order to accomplish the work of soul-saving in the last hours of earth's history

We can read this from different texts in the Bible.

"Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding." *Proverbs* 23:13

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." *Proverbs* 4:7

"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." *Proverbs* 3:13

"O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!" *Deuteronomy* 32:29

"Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six." *Revelation* 13:18

"Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." *Daniel* 12:10

"The words of the angel to Daniel relating to the last days were to be understood in the time of the end. At that time, 'many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.' 'The wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.' *Daniel* 12:4, 10. The Saviour Himself has given signs of His coming, and He says, 'When ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.' 'And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.' 'Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.' *Luke* 21:31, 34, 36."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 234

"We are living in the closing scenes of this earth's histo-

ry. Prophecy is rapidly fulfilling. The hours of probation are fast passing. We have no time—not a moment—to lose. Let us not be found sleeping on guard. Let no one say in his heart or by his works, ‘My Lord delayeth His coming.’ Let the message of Christ’s soon return sound forth in earnest words of warning. Let us persuade men and women everywhere to repent, and flee from the wrath to come. Let us arouse them to immediate preparation; for we little know what is before us. Let ministers and lay members go forth into the ripening fields. They will find their harvest wherever they proclaim the forgotten truths of the Bible. They will find those who will accept the truth, and who will devote their lives to winning souls to Christ.” —*The Review and Herald*, July 14, 1903

“But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.” Matthew 25:4



“In the parable, all the ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom. All had lamps and vessels for oil. For a time there was seen no difference between them. So with the church that lives just before Christ’s second coming. All have a

knowledge of the Scriptures. All have heard the message of Christ’s near approach, and confidently expect His appearing. But as in the parable, so it is now. A time of waiting intervenes, faith is tried; and when the cry is heard, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him,’ many are unready. . . . They are destitute of the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit of God a knowledge of His Word is of no avail. The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart. . . . Without the enlightenment of the Spirit, men will not be able to distinguish truth from error, and they will fall under the masterful temptations of Satan.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 214

We are represented either by the wise or by the foolish virgins. This will be evident through our daily deeds and actions. Are we wise in discerning the signs of the times? It is a necessity for every Christian to pray for the Holy Spirit just as the wise virgins kept some oil in preparation for an emergency in case the bridegroom delayed His coming.

“So the followers of Christ are to shed light into the

darkness of the world. Through the Holy Spirit, God’s word is a light as it becomes a transforming power in the life of the receiver. By implanting in their hearts the principles of His word, the Holy Spirit develops in men the attributes of God. The light of His glory—His character—is to shine forth in His followers. Thus they are to glorify God, to lighten the path to the Bridegroom’s home, to the city of God, to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

“The coming of the bridegroom was at midnight—the darkest hour. So the coming of Christ will take place in the darkest period of this earth’s history. The days of Noah and Lot pictured the condition of the world just before the coming of the Son of man. The Scriptures pointing forward to this time declare that Satan will work with all power and ‘with all deceivableness of unrighteousness.’ 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10. His working is plainly revealed by the rapidly increasing darkness, the multitudinous errors, heresies, and delusions of these last days. Not only is Satan leading the world captive, but his deceptions are leavening the professed churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. The great apostasy will develop into darkness deep as midnight, impenetrable as sackcloth of hair. To God’s people it will be a night of trial, a night of weeping, a night of persecution for the truth’s sake. But out of that night of darkness God’s light will shine.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 414

Moses says, “O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!” Deuteronomy 32:29

Our Highest Wish and Desire in the End Time

“And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto Him, saying, Master, we would that Thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire.” Mark 10:35

Says the Saviour, ‘Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.’ Matthew 7:7

“And He said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you?” Mark 10:36

“They said unto Him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on Thy right hand, and the other on Thy left hand, in Thy glory.” Mark 10:37

In their understanding, John and James desired to be together with Christ in the earthly kingdom that they expected Him to establish. However, Christ taught them the lesson of true greatness. “For he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.” Luke 9:48. When they

were converted, they rejected all that the world had to offer, and were willing to join their Master in ministering to others for the gospel. They overcame the evil one. Their promise awaits them as Christ says "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne." Revelation 3:21

"And they came to Jericho: and as He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the high-way side begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me." Mark 10:46-47

"And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" Mark 10:51

As a beggar, Bartimaeus could have asked for money or wealth through a miracle, but when he was asked, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? Bartimaeus considered it wise to ask something which was of greater value from the Saviour. He said "Lord, that I might receive my sight." Mark 10:51

"Not only is physical sight restored, but the eyes of his understanding are opened. In Christ he sees his Redeemer, and the Sun of Righteousness shines into his soul. All who feel their need of Christ as did blind Bartimeus, and who will be as earnest and determined as he was, will, like him, receive the blessing which they crave." -*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 126

To the Church in Laodicea

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." Revelation 3:14, 18

The Lord stands at the heart of every believer in the Laodicean period and asks, "what would ye that I should do for you?"

It is our necessity to pray for Holy Spirit to guide us in these perilous times and that the Lord might open our eyes that we may see, to behold His near coming

"The eyesalve is that wisdom and grace which enables us to discern between the evil and the good, and to detect sin under any guise. God has given His church eyes which He requires them to anoint with wisdom, that

they may see clearly; but many would put out the eyes of the church if they could; for they would not have their deeds come to the light, lest they should be re-proved. The divine eyesalve will impart clearness to the understanding. Christ is the depository of all graces. He says: 'Buy of Me.'" -*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 88

"Let the heavenly eyesalve be applied to the eyes of your understanding, that you may distinguish between truth and error. Search the Word; and when you find a 'Thus saith the Lord,' take your stand." -*My Life Today*, p. 73

"At this time—the last days of this earth's history—we are to make the book of Revelation a special study. Why? Because it depicts the scenes that we are to meet. We need to understand what we are to meet, and how we are to meet it. We must know what efforts we are to make, so that, in this perilous time, we shall not be taken by the enemy's devices. We know that the last great conflict will be Satan's most determined effort to accomplish his purposes. He will come, not only as a roaring lion, but as a seducer, clothing sin with beautiful garments of light, that he may take human beings in his snare.

"The Lord desires us to realize that it is of great importance that we stand in these last days upon the platform of eternal truth. Those who think that the church militant is the church triumphant make a great mistake. The church militant will gain great triumphs, but it will also have fierce conflicts with evil, that it may be firmly established upon the platform of eternal truth. And every one of us should be determined to stand with the church upon this platform." -*Sermons and Talks*, vol. 1, p. 340

Our answer to the Lord's question will determine our eternal destiny. If we seek for temporal things that we wish to have on this earth, it will not save us in the time of trouble and will never give life. Therefore, let us ask for the Latter Rain that we may be prepared for the time of trouble, that proceeds the day in which He comes again.

*Hastings E Kandonga
Malawi*



The just shall live by faith



The situation that Habakkuk faced was the imminent invasion of the southern kingdom of Judah by the Chaldeans (another name for the Babylonians). This invasion eventually happened at the end of the sixth century BC, and Jerusalem fell to Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC. The Lord revealed to Habakkuk beforehand that the Chaldeans were to punish Judah for her sin.

Unlike Joel, Zephaniah, and Amos, Habakkuk does not even mention the possibility that destruction could be averted. He does not call for national repentance. It is too late. Instead, he predicts the destruction of Judah, and beyond that, the doom of the Chaldeans themselves. He promises that the only way to preserve one's life from the coming judgment is by faith. So even though destruction is decreed for the nation, there is hope for individuals who hold fast their confidence in God. The complete doctrine of justification by faith, was taught by Paul in Romans and Galatians. In Habakkuk we see the seed planted. Therefore, what I would like to do today is survey the content of this prophetic book, focus on its main point, and show how it unfolds in the New Testament as the great gospel truth of justification by faith.

When we say, "the just shall live by faith," we mean that we are guided and directed by our faith. We act in a manner that is consistent with our faith—not out of a sense of thoughtless obedience but out of a confident and sincere love for our God and for the priceless wisdom He has revealed to His children. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:17. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith, from first to last.

"Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his

desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people." Habakkuk 2:5. The proud refers to the Babylonians as well as other arrogant people, who exalt themselves and boast of their conquests and power. His soul is not upright in him. The Babylonians had no regard for God, His commandments, or His people. "The just shall live by his faith." Habakkuk 2:4. True righteousness before God is linked to genuine faith in God. "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:17

Our Pioneers

"We were few in numbers, without wealth, without worldly wisdom or worldly honors; and yet we believed in God, and were strong and successful, a terror to evil-doers. Our love for one another was firm; it was not easily shaken. The power of God was manifested in our midst, the sick were healed, and there was much calm, sweet, holy joy. But while the light has continued to increase, the advancement of the church has not been proportionate to the light. The fine gold has gradually become dim, and deadness and formality have come in to cripple the energies of the church." —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 345

One of Christ's last commands to His disciples was "Love one another; as I have loved you." John 13:34. Do we obey this command, or are we indulging sharp, unchrist-like character traits? If we have in any way grieved or wounded others, it is our duty to confess our fault and seek reconciliation. This is an essential preparation, in order that we may come before God in faith, to ask His blessing.

Thus, Paul shows that God is abundantly able to transform the hearts of Jews and Gentiles alike and to grant to

every believer in Christ the blessings promised to Israel. He repeats Isaiah's declaration concerning God's people: "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: for He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth. And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha." Romans 9:27-29

Vindicators of God's Law

"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." Romans 7:7

"The law of God, from its very nature, is unchangeable. It is a revelation of the will and the character of its Author. God is love, and His law is love. Its two great principles are love to God and love to man. . . . The character of God is righteousness and truth; such is the nature of His law. . . . Such a law, as an expression of the mind and will of God, must be as enduring as its Author." *—The Great Controversy*, p. 467. "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." Romans 7:12

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." James 1:25

Every one of us living upon the face of the earth must have our tests and trials. Circumstances will occur in the providence of God when we will be called upon to vindicate our faith. We shall give decided evidence on which side we are. We shall either be decidedly the vindicators of God's holy law, or on the side of the transgressors. We shall be tested as Noah was tested. Because corruption was nearly universal at his age, did he then argue that it would not pay for him to stand separate and alone for God's law? He took his position as God's nobleman on the side of right because it was right.

Human Nature and Salvation

"For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin." Romans 7:14. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:2 "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Romans 8:6

"Christ was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him was no sin. But were the law abolished, as some claim, we would have no need of a Savior to take away

sin, for 'where no law is, there is no transgression.' 'Therefore by the deeds of the law, no flesh shall be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.'

"But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once; but when the commandment came [home to the conscience], sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which [if obeyed] was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is [a yoke of bondage, against me, and something to be trampled underfoot because it points out my sins?—No.] holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin.' [Romans 7:8-14].

"But though we are carnal, we are to reckon ourselves 'dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. . . . But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, . . . ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.' [Romans 6:11, 17-18, 22]". *—The Signs of the Times*, October 1, 1894

For we walk by faith, not by sight

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:18

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:35, 38-39. Amen.

Daniel Kimeu



The Ocean of Peace

In the year 1520, Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese explorer, was trying to find a maritime route to the spice lands in South-East Asia. As he was travelling, he entered into an unfamiliar body of water. This water was different from that of other oceans, because it was so peaceful (pacific). For this reason, he called it the Pacific Ocean. This is how the Pacific Ocean got its name, and henceforth, it has been known as such.

We as Christians are also travelling to a better “spice land” even the heavenly land, where dwells our loving Father. We also are to pass through a spiritual ocean of peace, which is Christ the Lord. It was in answer to Thomas’ question that Jesus said: “no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.” John 14:6. Yes! Not even one had ever, can ever, nor will ever, come to the Father except through Jesus. Isaiah calls Him “the Prince of Peace.” He further assures us that when He shall sit on the throne of His father David peace shall be perpetual: “Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.” Isaiah 9:6–7. Peace! Peace! And, peace!—is associated with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our experience though must be more extensive than that of Magellan. We are not only to pass through the route of peace, but we also are to partake of its peace and exhibit it in all our associations with men. The peaceful life of Christ must become ours as well. However, the question is: How can we achieve that? The inspired writings answer us in the following manner: “It is a law both of the intellectual and the spiritual nature that by beholding we become changed. The mind grad-

ually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is allowed to dwell.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 555

We will now look at the life of Jesus beginning at His infancy, in order that by so doing, and through God’s grace, we can become changed into the same image.

A Peaceful Young Boy

Concerning Christ’s childhood and youth, the Spirit of Prophecy states that: “In every gentle and submissive way, Jesus tried to please those with whom He came in contact.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 85

“Jesus did not contend for His rights. Often His work was made unnecessarily severe because He was willing and uncomplaining. Yet He did not fail nor become discouraged. He lived above these difficulties, as if in the light of God’s countenance. He did not retaliate when roughly used, but bore insult patiently.” —*Ibid.*, p. 89

“Again and again, He was asked, why do You submit to such spiteful usage, even from Your brothers? It is written, He said, ‘My son, forget not My law; but let thine heart keep My commandments: for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: so shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.’ Proverbs 3:1–4.” —*Ibid.*, p. 89

“Even in His youth He had to learn the hard lesson of silence and patient endurance.” —*Ibid.*, p. 86

“Harmless and undefiled, He walked among the thoughtless, the rude, the uncourteous; amid the unjust publicans, the reckless prodigals, the unrighteous Samaritans, the heathen soldiers, the rough peasants, and the mixed multitude.” —*Ibid.*, p. 90

A Peaceful Adult

When Jesus had entered upon His ministry, some men tried to tempt Him to engage in a quarrel with them, but so far as possible, He avoided them.

One day, "As Christ was teaching the people, 'a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted Him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' The large congregation eagerly waited to hear His answer. The priests and rabbis had thought to entangle Christ by having the lawyer ask this question. But the Saviour *entered into no controversy*. He required the answer from the questioner himself. 'What is written in the law?' He said; 'how readest thou?' The Jews still accused Jesus of lightly regarding the law given from Sinai; but He turned the question of salvation upon the keeping of God's commandments." *—The Desire of Ages*, p. 497

"And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your Master pay tribute?" Matthew 17:24 "Now His enemies saw an opportunity of casting discredit upon Him. In the collector of the tribute, they found a ready ally." But instead of entering into much exchange of words to show that He was under no such obligation, we read that "*He entered into no controversy* with the Jews in regard to the matter; for they would have misinterpreted His words, and turned them against Him. Lest He should give offense by withholding the tribute, He did that which He could not justly be required to do. This lesson would be of great value to His disciples. Marked changes were soon to take place in their relation to the temple service, and Christ taught them not to place themselves needlessly in antagonism to established order. So far as possible, they were to avoid giving occasion for misinterpretation of their faith. While Christians are not to sacrifice one principle of truth, they should avoid controversy whenever it is possible to do so." *—The Desire of Ages*, p. 433–434

How fragrant is the smell of Jesus' youth and adulthood life. Let us move on to see His last hours.

Peaceful Suffering Saviour

"He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth." Isaiah 53:7

"Herod with his men of war set Him at nought, and mocked Him, and arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe.' The Roman soldiers joined in this abuse. All that these wicked, corrupt soldiers, helped on by Herod and the Jewish

dignitaries, could instigate was heaped upon the Saviour. Yet His divine patience failed not." *—The Desire of Ages*, p. 731

"He who could have doomed His enemies to death bore with their cruelty. His love for His Father, and His pledge, made from the foundation of the world, to become the Sin Bearer, led Him to endure uncomplainingly the coarse treatment of those He came to save. It was a part of His mission to bear, in His humanity, all the taunts and abuse that men could heap upon Him. The only hope of humanity was in this submission of Christ to all that He could endure from the hands and hearts of men." *—Ibid.*, p. 700

"For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." Hebrews 12:3

Christ's Character an Example to Us

Today also, our loving Saviour is speaking to us saying, "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:29. Meekness does not only refer to a life of quietude. Noah Webster's Dictionary defines meekness as "Softness of temper; mildness; gentleness; forbearance under injuries and provocations." This is the character that Christ is calling us to form, and when we have attained we are assured of the promise: "ye shall find rest unto your souls."

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Matthew 5:9

The Lord expects us always to live a life of peace and calmness of heart even under provocation.

"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." Proverbs 15:1

"Mild measures, soft answers, and pleasant words are much better fitted to reform and save, than severity and harshness. A little too much unkindness may place persons beyond your reach, while a conciliatory spirit would be the means of binding them to you, and you might then establish them in the right way." *—Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 65

Let me say honestly; it really takes two to create an argument. A quarrel is not one-sided. It takes at least two parties to create a controversy. If one chooses not to fight back, the quarrel, the anger, and everything else quickly disappears. "There is a wonderful power in silence. When impatient words are spoken to you, do not retaliate. Words spoken in reply to one who is angry

usually act as a whip, lashing the temper into greater fury. But anger met by silence quickly dies away. Let the Christian bridle his tongue, firmly resolving not to speak harsh, impatient words. With the tongue bridled, he may be victorious in every trial of patience through which he is called to pass." —*Messages to Young People*, p. 135

Christ Himself Our Only Hope

"In his own strength man cannot rule his spirit. But through Christ he may gain self-control. In His strength he may bring his thoughts and words into subjection to the will of God. The religion of Christ brings the emotions under the control of reason and disciplines the tongue. Under its influence the hasty temper is subdued, and the heart is filled with patience and gentleness." —*Ibid.*, p. 136

"Hold firmly to the One who has all power in heaven and in earth. Though you so often fail to reveal patience and calmness, do not give up the struggle. Resolve again, this time more firmly, to be patient under every provocation. And never take your eyes off your divine Example." —*The Review and Herald*, October 31, 1907

I would like to end with a story which I heard from a man who told of his own experience. He had an anger issue and would easily get riled up in retaliation to any

provocation done to him. This had been his behaviour for a long time. One day he went on a journey by public transport. While on the way, the conductor mistakenly accused him of not having paid the fare. He tried to convince him that he had indeed paid, but the conductor would not believe him. The conductor then grew angry and spued all kinds of insulting words at the man in the hearing of everyone on board. What do you think the man's reaction would be? The obvious answer would be that he shouted at the top of his lungs in retaliation to prove that he was no coward. But, NO! Something different happened. He had felt bad about his anger problem for awhile now, and at that moment he sent a prayer to heaven. He then just had a feeling in his heart like a sudden rupture of an inflated vehicle. He now had relief from internal high pressure. A feeling of peace came into his heart. He then simply asked the bus driver to stop, and he got off from the minibus; then off he went on his way. He told me that, from that time onwards, he has been leading a life of peace with people. What a precious change this was. May the LORD relieve us also of our internal pressure of anger—a deflation of all bitterness and self-vindication. May we be a correct representation of the true Pacific Ocean, Jesus Christ, "the Prince of Peace." Amen.

*Emmanuel Salamba
Malawi*

ONE THING THAT IS CERTAIN

*One thing is certain in this world -
The uncertainty.*

*This same food that I am eating now
May be the last in my life.*

*How shall I give an account
Of this eating that destroys both the physical
and the mental faculties?*

*Help me, O God
I am a steward of this Thy soul temple.*

*One thing is certain in this world -
The uncertainty.*

*These same clothes that I am putting on,
May be the last in my life.*

*How shall I give an account
Of this dressing that gives a false representation
of my profession as a Christian?*

*Help me, O God
I am Thy letter, opened for all to read.*

*One thing is certain in this world -
The uncertainty.*

*These same words that I am speaking,
May be the last in my life.*

*How shall I give an account
Of all these empty and unbecoming utterances?
Help me, O God*

I am Thy mouth-piece to the fallen world.

*One thing is indeed certain in this world -
The uncertainty.*

*This same day that I am spending,
May be the last in my life.*

*How shall I give an account
of all the misuse of time through idleness and im-
proprieties?*

*Help me, O God
I am a poor probationer in this pilgrim land.*

Emmanuel Azariah Salamba



David - the King

2 Samuel - 1 Kings 1:1-40



David deeply mourned the death of beloved Jonathan and Saul the king,
They were bold heroes never fearing anything...
In Israel great changes then took place,
One era ended - an altogether new one was to face.
Now David 30 years of age, inquired of the LORD where he should go -
The answer was to Hebron.
With his two wives and all his men,
They travelled on to settle in the cities there in Hebron.
And the men of Judah came, anointing David for their king.

But Abner, captain of Saul's host, put Ishbosheth, Saul's son then on his post,
Made him king of Israel, Benjamin and Ephraim.
There was war between them for long time,
David did increase, while Ishbosheth continued to decline.
Then all the tribes of Israel to David then did come
Saying, "we are all one, be thou our king alone."
And they anointed David there in Hebron.

.....
He and his host went to Jerusalem, smiting the Jebusites the blind and lame,
Took the stronghold there in Zion, called the city now of David,
He dwelt there in the fort, built and strengthened it from Milo on and inward.
David prospered, God was with him, he increased in power -
The former Shepherd boy was blessed and brought to honour.
Th LORD established David's kingship, exalted before nations the kingdom
Of His people by David's faithful rulership.

His mind was set to serve the LORD, obey Him, trusting in His word.
God was his buckler, strength and shield, his heart with gratitude was filled.
To glorify the Holy One was his desire and ambition,
Noble projects he did have in vision.
Having built a house and family enlarged, borders of the land secure,
David's mind with holy zeal was charged
In Jerusalem provide the ark of God a resting place with a new tabernacle. -
Offering of sacrifices on the way, David dancing, the people shouting,
It was one happy day, a joyful great spectacle.

.....
Yet his most dear and solemn enterprise and mission,
To the God of his salvation - was to build a House, a glorious Temple -
This fervent wish in David woke such holy awe, causing him to slightly tremble.
But God to David's wish approve did not,
He was a man of war, had shed much blood,
A son be born to him; in time of peace and rest,
Will erect God's House, and all the land of Israel be blessed.

.....

*In David's forty years of rule as king, God's favour was with him,
 Granting victories in war and battle, gaining much booty, spoil and cattle.
 Was generous to all his host and subjects,
 And the people loved him - he was blessed in all his quests.
 Throughout the years receiving gifts of gold and silver
 Precious stones, in every enterprise, David did it on this wise -
 With the blueprint for the Temple, collect, donates it all to God,
 Built for all a storehouse on a special plot.
 For many years as king the son of Jesse did to well,
 Yet in his later life, the Bible does us tell,
 Because prosperity did come with ease, David's consecration,
 devotion, begun to slowly cease, then temptation, sin lies lurking nigh,
 Causing holy angels soon to sigh and cry.*



*David leading out in battle, was always his right thing,
 But of late, let others - Joab to do the fighting.
 Ambition did grow slack and he stayed home,
 Enjoying leisure, to relax.
 Then temptation, lust and passion rolled over David in one hour,
 Satan ensnared him by his hellish power.
 One night of forbidden pleasure, led to deeds of tragic measure,
 Blinding David's reason ever further,
 Even instigating the most heinous murder.
 Love for Bathsheba marred the life of Israel's king,
 Troubles would arise, God's frown and judgment for this very thing.
 But when confronted by God's prophet face to face,
 David's conscience awakened from its foggy daze.
 At last he saw his great, enormous sin, his soul was pierced with pain,
 And sorrow by the sharpness of guilt's arrows.
 Shaking mind and soul down to the core,
 David's heart was broken, repenting deeply, weeping very sore.
 He was forgiven and restored, but his sin did have its price,
 Serious conflicts soon arise,
 The sixth commandment was transgressed,
 Bathsheba's child will die, the sword not cease,
 Three of David's sons will rob his household's peace.*

*.....
 Then God did bless Bathsheba's second son,
 And He loved him, his name was given Solomon.
 The crime of Amnon done to Tamar later on,
 His murder urged by Tamar's brother Absalom,
 It made David very wroth, estranged him from his son.
 Five years later they reconciled again,
 Then Absalom begun to make his own campaign.
 With his good looks, compelling speech,
 To be a fair judge, sneakily the people's heart to reach.
 Years later during David's reign,*



*Wicked Absalom came to the king, speaking softly as to feign
 Perform a vow he had in Hebron, and he was granted the petition.*

Absalom with two hundred men came down from Jerusalem

*Having arranged through spies in all the land,
All to come and be at hand, to do the very thing,
At the trumpet's sound in Hebron to proclaim him king...*

.....
*When David heard of the conspiracy, he commanded right away to flee,
His life and kingship are at stake, wise decisions must be made.
Passing over the brook Kidron with a great and numerous throng,
Of faithful servants to the wilderness there in plain, with all safely to remain.
He told Zadok, Abiathar the priests who came that far,
Take back the ark of God and tarry in Jerusalem,
Till through the sons of them bring David tidings,
What is decided in Jerusalem, when Absalom returned from Hebron.
Hushai, David's friend shall go to Absalom,
Feigning be his counsellor and servant,
Take note of all he hears what is valid, relevant,
Then tell it to the priests, speedily to send their sons to David,
That great calamities may be avoided.
Through great risks the news came to the king:
They must leave at once, not one moment missing,
Pass over Jordan, to be safely on the land there in the morning.*

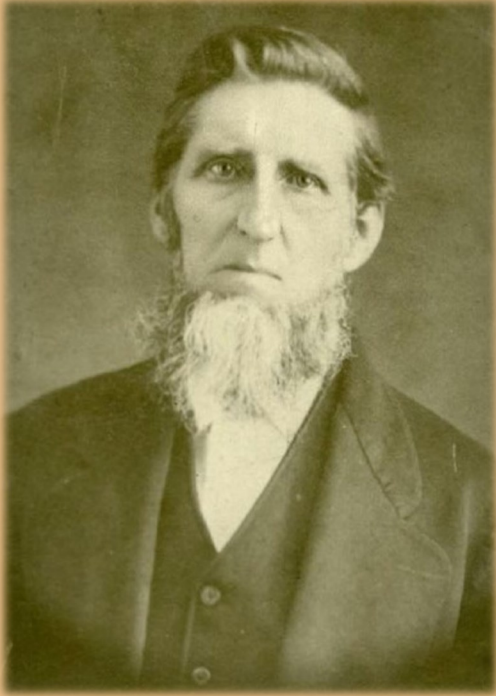
.....
*Fierce confrontation then arose, a bitter fighting with much loss
Of Israel on the side of Absalom.
And when he through the woods did roam,
His long thick hair entangled on the great oak's bough
Hanging helpless in the air in despair,
His mule run off beneath him - then fate caught up with him,
When Joab's arrows pierced his heart, the fight was over -
All could now return, depart.
Though a rebellious son, David sorely grieved for Absalom.
But secure again was now the throne, he and his host
Could safely go back home.*

.....
*Other incidences did happen, the Philistines brought on new war
But lost, by the mighty men of David's host.
Then to one more foolish thing the king fell under,
Against Joab's counsel the men of Israel to number -
Then realizing his great sin, David's heart did smite him.
But God was sore displeased, He sent the pestilence to rage,
Three days, many thousand lives were taken, it left David thoroughly shaken...*

.....
*He got old, the many wars and troubles made him weak and weary.
Then another son arose and did not tarry,
prepared himself an entourage to make him king,
But David did not know of anything.
Providence sends prophet Nathan and Bathsheba,
Making the king know what was going on,
For God did promise Solomon be on the throne.
At once the king gave orders, to priest Zadok, Nathan many others,
Set on his own mule son Solomon, to bring him down to Gihon,
Anoint him there, proclaim him king,
Over Israel and Judah to fulfill what God was promising.*



Edda Tedford, Canada



Heman Gurney

The Singing Blacksmith

Heman Gurney was born on January 28, 1818. He initially encountered William Miller's writings in 1838. Two years later, Joseph Bates shared with him a copy of the Millerite periodical, *Signs of the Times*. After careful study, Heman S. Gurney, a blacksmith by trade, accepted William Miller's teachings that Christ was coming soon. Heman was a young man when he first heard Ellen Harmon speak, and he never did anything without careful deliberation and planning.

After careful investigation, he was convinced of Ellen Harmon's divine call and readily accepted her visions as being of God. Impressed by God that He had called her as His messenger, Brother Gurney paid half the printing costs of the broadside relating her first vision. The other half was paid by a young preacher named James White.

I would like to relate two experiences that Brother Gurney made at sea, which clearly show that the angels were protecting him in dangerous situations.

Ellen Harmon and her sister Sarah, and another Sister Ashely were visiting Fairhaven, Massachusetts, when Brother Gurney suggested that they all go and visit West Island. It is a small island where only two families lived. When Heman arrived at the home where they were staying, Sarah told him they could not go as Ellen was sick. He went back to work, returning about the middle of the afternoon, but was told that she was still sick. Heman asked if there was any other reason they could not go. The answer was no, so he suggested they

pray and ask the Lord to heal Ellen. They did so, and she was immediately healed.

Soon they were sailing down the river towards West Island. They were cheerful and happy, singing their favorite hymns. A while later young Gurney looked up at the sky in concern. "It looks like a squall could come up any time," he said.

Sure enough, they had not gone much farther when a ferocious storm broke over the water. The waves went wild, and their small boat seemed surrounded by a roaring bowl of thunder. Frantically Heman tried to adjust the sails, and they all looked for something with which to bail out the water pouring over the sides of the boat. It seemed certain that they all would be lost if the Lord did not work a miracle.

Kneeling in the bottom of the sailboat, Ellen began to pray that God would save them. Enormous waves washed over them. Brilliant forks of lightning crackled all around them. When it seemed as there was no hope, Ellen was taken into vision. Relating the scene afterward, she said, "I saw that every drop of water in the ocean would be dried up before anything would happen to us, for my work has just begun."

After her vision, their fears vanished. The wind carried their songs of praise to the dark skies as their little boat was tossed about by the frothy waves. At last, the storm began to subside, and the boat drifted to the island. It was late as they called out for help. Everyone was

asleep except a little girl and when she heard the cries for help, she went to wake up her father who came to rescue the four young people. They spent the rest of the night in thanksgiving and praise to God.

On another occasion Heman Gurney was back on West Island helping the families with some work. Brother Sherman told young Gurney that he was free to borrow his boat anytime he wanted to go home to visit.

Feeling homesick one afternoon he got Brother Sherman's permission to take the little boat and go visit his parents. He planned to go the next day. Fog had settled in over the water, but he knew the way so well, he was not afraid of getting lost. After sailing for what he thought was about 5 km he suddenly heard a voice yelling, "Hard up your helm! Hard up your helm!" Which means, "get out of the way quickly."

Looking up, Gurney saw a large boat practically on top of him. He tried to get clear but was not able to move fast enough. His mast and rigging were swept away, and the boat was overturned. The sailors on the other boat fished him out of the sea. Poor Heman. How embarrassed he was as he tried to explain what he was doing out on a foggy day in a little boat. The sailors tried to tow the little sailboat, but after a short distance the rope broke, and they had to leave it to the mercy of the wind and waves. Gurney felt sick. He was convinced that if the boat was found at all, it would be at the lower end of West Island, dashed to pieces on the rocks.

The large boat had taken him to New Bedford. Heman then realized that his friends on West Island may find the boat and be worried about him. He quickly stopped by home, to greet his parents. His homesickness now turned into dread and fear as he tried to think of what he would say to Brother Sherman. How would he explain that his friend's prized sailboat was lost or dashed to pieces on the rocks?

He left his parent's home and went back to the beach. It was getting dark now, but he was able to find a local boat owner who was willing to take him over to West Island.

After safely arriving, Heman was not sure why he bothered, but he decided to check the boat dock before going into the house. There was the little sailboat, neatly tied up and secure in its usual place. He could not believe his eyes. How could it be? Slowly he examined it from stem to stern. It seemed impossible, but there was no damage at all. It was a bewildered, but grateful Heman Gurney who slept soundly that night in spite of his har-

rowing day.

The next morning, he knew he had to face Brother Sherman. After exchanging greetings, he managed to stammer. "Well, I see you found your boat all right."

"Found my boat?" the man asked puzzled. "What do you mean? It's right there."

Heman then explained the entire episode. There was no doubt in his mind that an unseen angel took care of the boat where he had left it. He was awed and humbled to think that heavenly angels should be charged to care for him. Years, later his thankful comment was, "I can only account for it from the fact that angels are all ministering spirits sent forth to minister to them who should be heirs of salvation."

Heman Gurney was a man of prayer as well as action. Several times in her writings Ellen White mentions that he was present when prayer was offered for healing of the sick. The main theme of his life was to tell others of the coming of the Lord, and to help them be ready. He also had a fine singing voice that often rang out when he worked in his blacksmith shop. In Adventist circles he was known as the singing blacksmith, and he was in great demand as a soloist for evangelistic meetings.

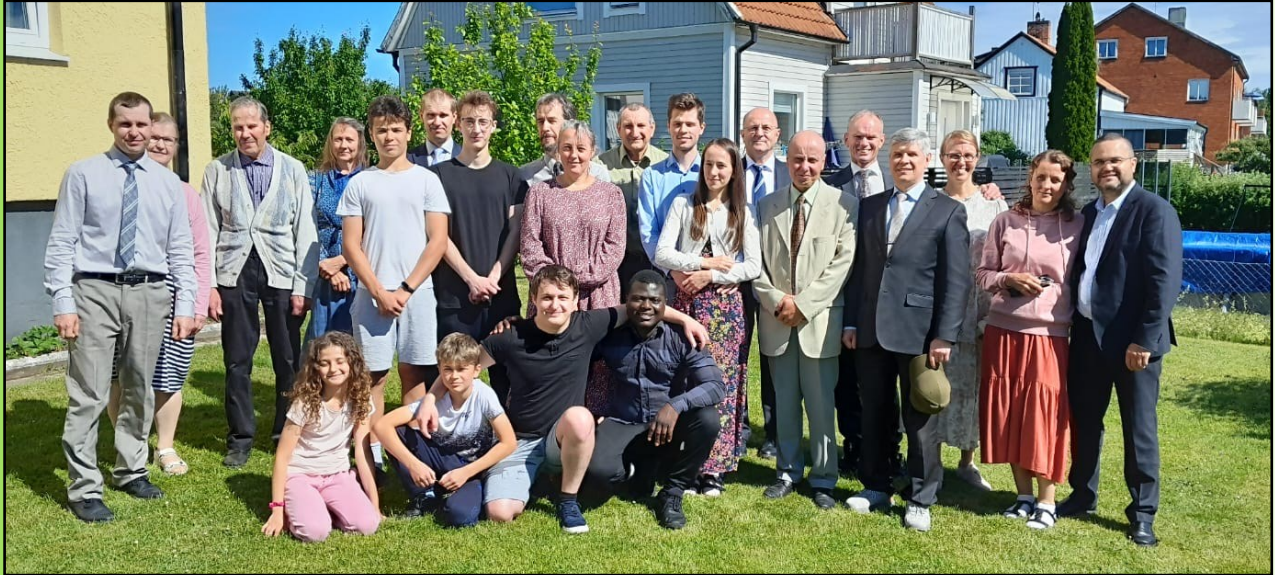
On May 15, 1853, Gurney married the widow Anne "Eliza" Elizabeth Randall.

For 30 years he was a local church elder in Memphis, Michigan and he served as president of the Michigan conference in 1869. He was loved by both the church and the community. His favorite song was "I'm a Pilgrim, and I'm a Stranger." He also had taken a missionary trip to the south with Brother Bates at a time when it was dangerous to travel there. Brother Heman was the only one Bates could find who was willing to go because southerners would suspect them as being abolitionists. Heman also financed the Sabbath Pamphlet that Brother Bates was printing, although Brother Bates never knew who donated the funds.

Eventually his health declined, and on August 4, 1896, he was laid to rest with the assurance of "the blessed hope" of meeting his Lord when He comes to claim His own.

The life story of this dedicated pioneer is a reminder that the strength of the work of the Lord lies in the work of the "little" people — those who are unknown but go quietly about their Father's business of winning souls for His kingdom. May you be one of those.

Sweden



Equatorial Guinea

**Evangelism and first baptized
souls in Equatorial Guinea**

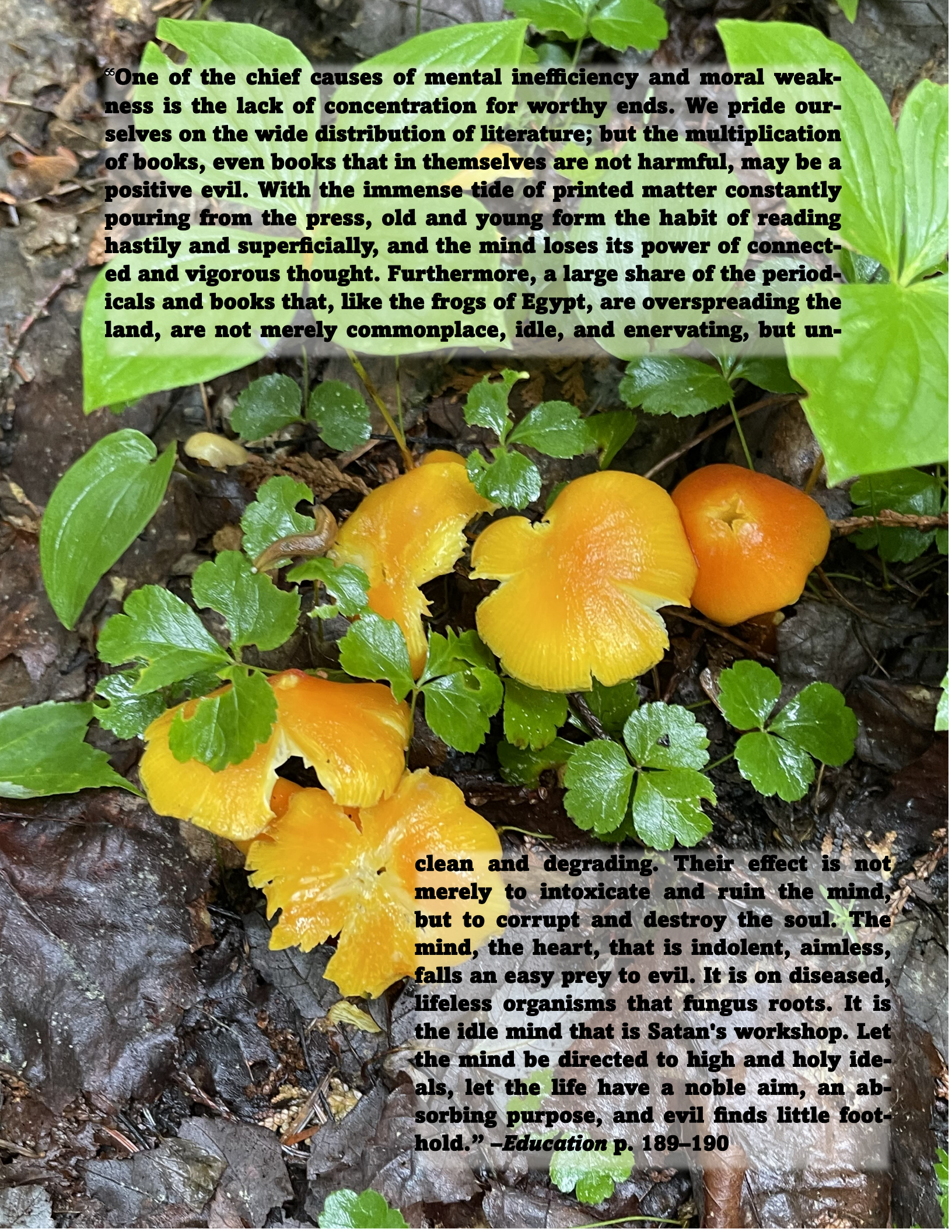


Argentina



Central African Republic





“One of the chief causes of mental inefficiency and moral weakness is the lack of concentration for worthy ends. We pride ourselves on the wide distribution of literature; but the multiplication of books, even books that in themselves are not harmful, may be a positive evil. With the immense tide of printed matter constantly pouring from the press, old and young form the habit of reading hastily and superficially, and the mind loses its power of connected and vigorous thought. Furthermore, a large share of the periodicals and books that, like the frogs of Egypt, are overspreading the land, are not merely commonplace, idle, and enervating, but un-

clean and degrading. Their effect is not merely to intoxicate and ruin the mind, but to corrupt and destroy the soul. The mind, the heart, that is indolent, aimless, falls an easy prey to evil. It is on diseased, lifeless organisms that fungus roots. It is the idle mind that is Satan's workshop. Let the mind be directed to high and holy ideals, let the life have a noble aim, an absorbing purpose, and evil finds little foothold.” -*Education* p. 189-190