

The Reformation **Messenger**

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International Missionary Society of S.D.A. Church Reform Movement

SR. SALIMA

"I INDEED HAVE BAPTIZED
YOU WITH WATER: BUT HE
SHALL BAPTIZE YOU WITH
THE HOLY GHOST."

MARK 1: 8



We Believe

The all-wise, loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ; He is its Owner and Sustainer.

He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh.

The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth, convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all unrighteousness.

The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine; the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform.

His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus.

Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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Influence Of Phoenicians On Hebrew Civilization

Through Trade, Navigation & Handicrafts PART 1

The Phoenicians created an original civilization in the Area of the Mediterranean and they influenced many people from around the area. The Hebrew civilization was one of these. The Bible writers testify concerning the existence of the strong relations between the Hebrews and Phoenicians.

Let's see who the Phoenicians were and where they lived?

The Semites from Syria, Palestine and Lebanon were divided from around the second millennium BC into numerous tribes with different names. They had been grouped all around city-states, had been ruled by one king, but they had been only one people with the same religion, customs, and traditions. The Phoenicians were those from among the Canaanites who were living on the coasts of the sea in city-states, but they were not different in traditions, religion or language, from the

other Semites from the region.

The name, "Phoenician" is localized in Egyptian inscriptions from the middle of the third millennium BC in the form "fenehu." The old Greeks have called the Phoenicians, who were living on the coasts of the Mediterranean Sea, *phoinikes* and this name must be tied to the adjective *phoenix* (or, red purple). On the other hand, the Phoenicians were called in Homer's *Odyssey*, *Faiakej Feiaci*¹ and in other passages from *The Iliad* and *Odyssey*, *zidonians*². In the Akkadian texts the word *kinakhkhu* means "red-purple" and the name "Canaanites" from Assyro-Babylonian language *K n' n* was created from this word red-purple *kinakhkhu*.³

The Bible calls the Phoenicians either *Zidonians*, after the name of their famous city Sidon (Judges 10:12 - "*The Zidonians* also, and the Amalekites, and the Maonites, did oppress you; and ye cried to me, and I delivered you out of their hand"; Ezekiel 32:30 first part - "There be the princes of north, all of them and all the *Zidonians*"), or *The children of the east* (Judges 6:3 - "And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up and the Amalekites and *the children of the east*").

Phoenicia was bordered on the south by Mount Carmel, on the North by the Gulf Issus, on the East, by the mountain range of Lebanon, and on the West by the Mediterranean Sea.

From the North to the South were Phoenician city- states, found by them:

1. Syria: - **inland**- Charchemish, Arslan Yash, Ebla, Aleppo, Hamath, Qadesh, Damascus; - **on the coast** - Ugarit (Ras Shamra), Aradus (Ruad), Antaradus,

Marathus (Amrit); Simyra, Sin.

2. Lebanon: Tripoli, Gebal (Byblos, now Jebail), Beryt (Beirut), Sydon (Sidon), Tsyrt (Tyre, now Sur), Sarepta.

3. Israel/Palestine: - **inland** - Hazor, Megiddo, Bethshan, Gezer, Shechem, Jericho, Jerusalem, Hebron, Beer-Sheba; - **on the coast** - Akko (Acr, near Carmel Mount), Dor, Joppa (Jaffa), Ashkelon, Gaza, Ezion-Geber (near Red Sea).⁴

The Trade

The Phoenicians were forced, because of the absence of arable land, from their country, to make a livelihood from other resources than agriculture. Their land could be cultivated only in the North, in the neighborhood of the city, Akko. In the rest of Phoenicia the Mountains are found very close to the shore of the sea, thus they had to search for a living in trade, fishing and handicrafts.



The Phoenicians, with their natural resources, could not live from agriculture or become an exporting country with agricultural products. What they possessed in great abundance was only cedar wood, from the large forests around Mount Lebanon. And this is why the Phoenicians were much more trade orientated. K. Marx mentioned about the Phoenicians that they "were a people of merchants through excellence"⁵. The aptitude of the Phoenicians to trade was proverbial in The Ancient World, thus the name "Canaanites"



1. Homer, *Odyssey*, VI, 156 and VI 267.

2. Homer, *Iliad*, XXIII, 743.

3. Constantin Daniel, *Phoenician civilization*, Bucharest, 1979, p. 14-15.

4. *Ibidem*, p. 11.

5. K. Marx, *Capitalul*, (Romanian title) vol. I, ed. II, Bucharest, 1948, p. 147.

* "Louis XIV was the king of France between 1653-1715. He was called "The King-Sun" for all he had done for France. The emblem of France was the sun and the motto was written on it *nec pluribus impar*. He had the most brilliant reign... He led France in the best period of her history till then." Note, *Universal modern History*, Craiova University, 2003.

came to mean merchant. They went from one Port to another taking part of their ship's load and exchanging it for some produce from the natives of another region, and then selling the produce in another region for a profit, and so on.

The Phoenician sites were at the crossroads of the most important trade routes, which made connection between the lands of The Orient and the Basin of the Aegean Sea, Africa and Arabia. The first commercial sites were Byblos, Tyre and Sidon. The Phoenician's trade was achieved on the land and on the sea. Caravans of merchants were starting from Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, Arabia and Egypt and were ending up in the cities of the Phoenician shore.

The principal products traded by the Phoenicians were dried fruits, wine, and expensive tissues, cedar wood, myrrh and incense brought from Arabia, purple dye, gem stones etc. They became very well known not only because of their remarkable aptitude in trade, but because of their ability to use the cedar wood, abundant in Mount Lebanon.

Tyre – An Important City

The Old Testament relates that a big quantity of these cedars were used for the raising of God's Temple in the time of Solomon (1King 5:6 first part – “Now therefore command thou that they hew me cedar trees out of Lebanon; and my servants shall be with thy servants:”). In fact, it was the most evident contribution of the Phoenicians to consolidate the economy of the Hebrew people. Solomon's time constitutes the height of the development of their economy. His brilliant reign reminds us in some ways of the epoch of Louis XIV* of France. In that time, it established close relations between the Hebrew and Phoenician peoples. We can say that this started from King David's time and it came to its height in Solomon's time.

King David subdued some Aramaic states from Syria, which were controlling the Caravan Routes, including Damascus and made an alliance with Hiram, Tyre's king. This alliance strengthened both nations in

the struggle against the Philistines, both on the land and on the sea and contributed to the extension of trade between Tyre and Israel.

King David's son, Solomon followed the same politics of his father. He strengthened the relations with Hiram. Solomon obtained from Tyre architects and craftsmen, who worked in the building of the principal city-states of Palestine - especially Jerusalem.⁶

It seems that the Phoenician City, Tyre played a distinct role in the building of the Temple in Solomon's time. Tyre was the commercial center and many times the Hebrew people kept up commercial relations with this city. This is what caused the Hebrews to assimilate not only the techniques of trade, but also the customs and pagan traditions of inhabitants of this city. With the conquest of the city by Alexander the Great and the transformation of the city into a Greek fortress, Tyre lost its prosperity. We can find some biblical prophecies concerning Tyre. But to understand them better let us see a short history of Tyre starting with the reign of Hiram.

A Short History Of Tyre

Hiram I (who lived from about 969-936 BC) (1Kings 5:1 first part – “Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants unto Solomon”) unfolded a great commercial and warlike politic. He

raised a new quarter and arranged a market for public meetings and fairs. Having a good position on the island, Tyre was strongly fortified and transformed to a great fortress for their numerous seagoing boats and ships.



During the 9th century BC, the Phoenician State continued to develop. King Itobaal (*Ethbaal*) (918-910 BC) founded the city Avzu in Lybya. Now Tyre was in possession of the whole Phoenician shore, with the most important cities: Beryt, Byblos and Sidon. This king gave his daughter, Jezebel to Ahab in marriage. Once he became king, Ahab spread the Phoenician influence to the religion of the Ten Northern Tribes. (1King 16:30-32 – “And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him... he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of Zidonians,



undertook a campaign against Cyprus and founded there a Phoenician colony. With His politic of conquest, Hiram made Tyre to flower as a city, for it became large and rich. The city's territory was widened through artificial means, in the west, where Hiram

and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria”)

The growth of the Assyrian power and their

6. I.P. Franțev, I.M. Diakonov, G.F. Iliin, S.V. Kise-
liov, V.V. Struve, Universal History, vol. I, Scientist
Publishing House, Bucharest, 1959, p. 490.

invasion of all the neighboring regions subdued Tyre also for awhile. The annals of the city of Tyre show that they had a lot of kings in this period. The Assyrian king Sennacherib (705-681 BC), also mentioned in the Bible, coped with a coalition of city-states from Syria and Phoenicia among them - Tyre with their King, Elulaeus (*Luli* in the Assyrian annals). Forced by the Assyrians, the Phoenician's cities federated against Tyre and besieged this city with a big fleet for five years. Tyre resisted the attack, although the King of Tyre ran away in Cyprus, however they ended up paying the tribute and were subdued by Assyria. Thus was fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah 23:1-17.

After the collapse of the Assyrian Empire and its annihilation by the Median army (612 BC), Babylon and their king, Nebuchadnezzar fought against the Phoenician cities and surrounded Tyre which they besieged for 13 years (586-573). The city Tyre was subdued by the Babylonians and King Ethbaal was replaced with another king. In this way Ezekiel 26:1-21 was fulfilled. The Persians of Cyrus destroyed the Babylonian Empire, but the Phoenician cities seemed to maintain their autonomy. The authority of the Persian kings on Tyre stopped with the conquest of Alexander the Great. Tyre did not want to be subdued by Alexander the Great, but after a siege of seven months Tyre was conquered in 332 BC. The city was then rebuilt as a Greek fortress, and the Greek language was spoken everywhere. Thus was fulfilled the prophecy in Ezekiel 27:1-36 concerning the collapse of Tyre.

The Riches Of Phoenicia – Tyre

Description from Ezekiel 27 gives us also sufficient information concerning the great prosperity caused by the trade from the City-State Tyre.

We said that with the reign of Hiram (about 969-936 BC) the City-State Tyre became large and rich. How did Tyre become so prosperous? We will say that because the inhabitants learned to trade so well in their large and secure fortress. I shall add that Phoenicia was rich in natural resources, which the inhabitants knew how to exploit and give them real importance.

Let us see what these resources were and, in what measure the influence of the City-State, Tyre increased over the Hebrew

people because of them. We can say firstly, the Phoenicians possess abilities how to work *the cedar*.

1) Cedar from Lebanon

The mountains and foothills of Lebanon were covered with forests of oak and pine trees, but the cedars grew in abundance, which was the main natural resource of Phoenicia. The perfume spread by cedar made Mount Lebanon to be called the mount of fragrance.

“The Cedar of Lebanon, *Cedrus Libani*, is an evergreen of the family Pinaceae. This coniferous plant was first found in Lebanon, on the Mount Lebanon range at Sannine, Barrouk, and the Eastern and Western mountain chains.

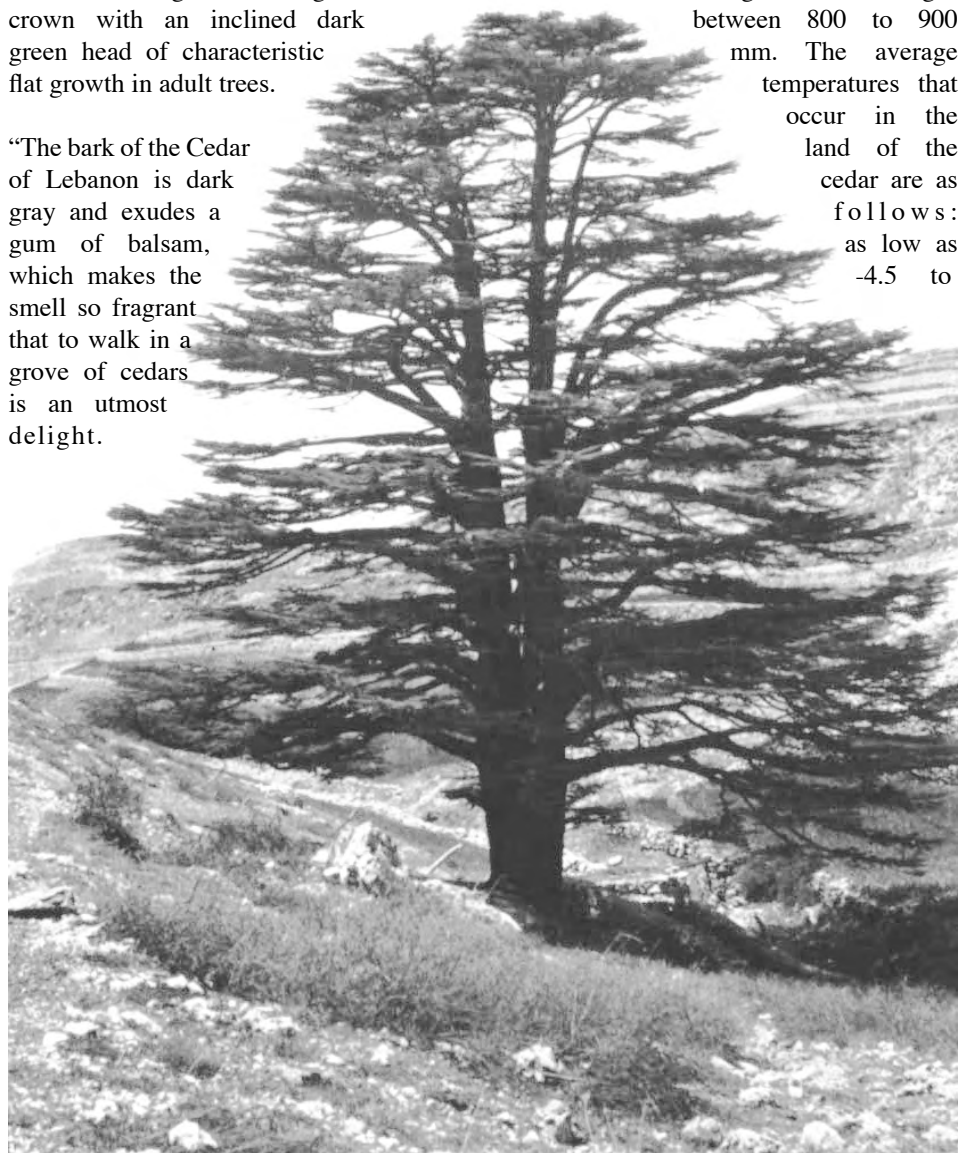
“*Cedrus Libani* possesses an imposing trunk that may attain a height of 120 feet and a diameter of 9 feet. Such a trunk is often branching and having a dense crown with an inclined dark green head of characteristic flat growth in adult trees.

“The bark of the Cedar of Lebanon is dark gray and exudes a gum of balsam, which makes the smell so fragrant that to walk in a grove of cedars is an utmost delight.

The wood is astonishingly decay resistant and it is never eaten by insect larvae. It is of a beautiful red tone, solid, and free from knots.

“The terminal shoots are erect or slightly inclined. The tree blossoms in September or October, which is peculiar to the genus *Cedrus* among the conifers. It bears cones that require three years to mature. The cone is initially tiny and pale green. The second year it reaches its full size that ranges between 3-4.5 inches in height and has a characteristic violet, purple color. In the third season it turns into a rich brown and scatters its seeds, which are minute, considering the size of the tree. The cones are born upright on the upper side of the branches.

“The cedar of Lebanon is a plant of cold, high mountainous regions. It flourishes and easily regenerates its forests where the average rainfall ranges between 800 to 900 mm. The average temperatures that occur in the land of the cedar are as follows: as low as -4.5 to



5.4 C on the coldest month i.e. January, and as high as 21.8 to 34.3 C in the warmest month i.e. August.

“Growing cedars from seeds or seedlings is an incredibly easy task provided that favorable conditions for growth are available. These conditions can be limited to two: water and soil nutrients. Cedars favor rich soils with high organic matter; so poor soils must be enriched simply by adding livestock manure and ploughing it into the soil. This procedure can be repeated every year. Water on the other hand is the second critical growth factor, if limited, growth will halt and dryness would occur leading to the death of branches or the whole tree.”

Cedar is mentioned 75 times in the Bible, and all are in the Old Testament, distributed among 18 books. Some of these statements are: “The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon” (Psalms 92:12), “The trees of the Lord are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted.” (Psalms 104:16), “As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river’s side, as the trees of lign aloes which the Lord hath planted, and as cedar trees beside the waters.” (Numbers 24:6) etc.

“Throughout history, cedar wood, and such byproducts as cedar oil, have proven to be worth far more money than living trees, however beautiful they were. The superb qualities of the cedar wood are beautiful color, hardness, exquisite fragrance, resistance to insects, humidity and temperature, caused the Phoenicians, Egyptians, Greeks and many others to use it extensively.”

The abundance of cedar wood, which was very good for building, gave the possibility of the Phoenician merchants to export to Egypt and Mesopotamia large quantities, especially the wood for buildings and for ships.

The Hebrew people used cedar also. In 2 Samuel 5:11 it is written that: “And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to King David and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons: and they built David an house.”

Solomon was aware of the importance of collaboration with Hiram for the building of the Temple in Jerusalem, which God

had commissioned. In this way, Solomon made a league with Hiram (1King 5:12 – “And the Lord gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him: and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they two made a league together”). Using the information from 1King 5:2, 5-10, Hiram gave to Solomon the wood of cedar and wood of fir how much he wanted (verse 10: “So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees according to all his desire”). When was rebuilt the Temple, at the order given by the Persian king, Cyrus, the Hebrew people asked help of the inhabitants of Tyre. “They gave money also unto the masons, and to the carpenters; and meat, and drink, and oil, unto them of Zidon, and to them of Tyre, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea of Joppa, according to the grant that they had of Cyrus king of Persia” Ezra 3:7. They received the Cedar wood from Lebanon and craftsmen skilled in the art of building.

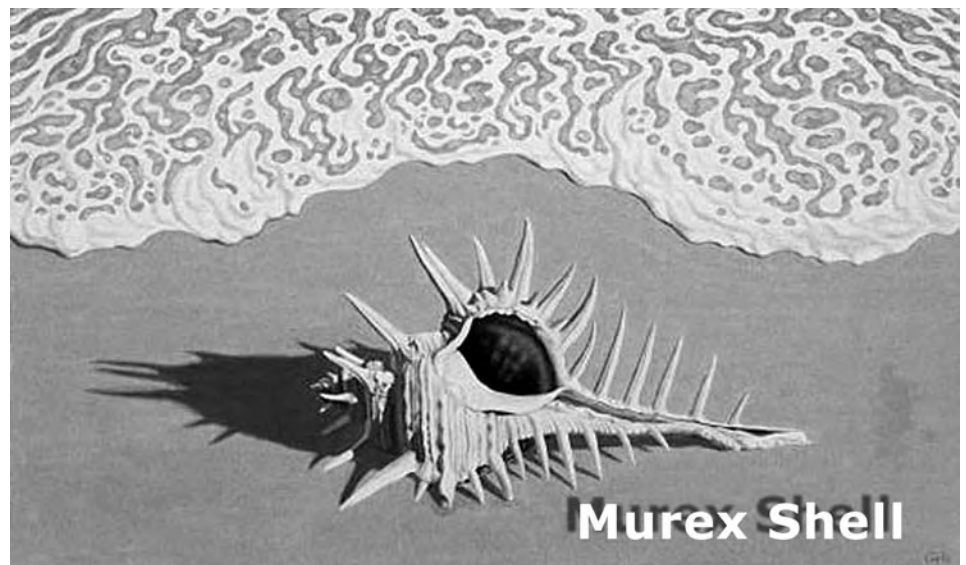
“Today, the Lebanon Mountains are almost empty, ground down by soil erosion. The groves of cedar are found only at the edge of Beka valley, at Bsharri and on the mount Barouk. I could see the trees broken and perforated... There says that extremist Moslems used it directly as a target to train themselves for battle. The Beka valley continues to be used as a training ground for armed groups who are fighting against Israel, or against other enemy states who don’t agree with their political views.”⁷

2) Purple

The Phoenicians also became famous for their discovery of purple. History says that the inhabitants of the City-State Tyre would have been these who discovered the colour of purple. The purple was extracted in almost all Phoenician cities. The Phoenicians were the first ones who began to extract purple and to dye wool and linen with it.

The purple was a natural colour which came from a small shell (murex), distributed on the coasts of Syria and Lebanon, but which the Phoenicians made to vanish in that region because of their extensive use. This small shell includes three tinctorial species, from which two are the most common: murex trunculus and murex brandaris.

When the flesh, which is inside the shell, dies and rots, it secretes a yellow liquid. This juice applied on a white cloth, when dried, produces the color, violet. When the cloth is exposed much more to the sun, the color becomes more intense. The color doesn’t fade or disappear over time. Through mixing, using an intensive or diluted color of this small shell, gives different shades: rose, light or dark violet. At Tyre and Sidon one can still see the traces of this dye-house. At Sidon, especially, in the south of city, there is a hill made up of the remnants of these shells from ancient times. Each shell was broken open because in this way its purple-giving flesh



7. Hans-Christian Huf, Sphinx, the mysteries of history, vol. 3-4, The publishing house “Saeculum”, Bucharest, 2000, p. 264. Original title Sphinx. Geheimnisse der Geschichte, 3, Von Ramses II. bis zum Ersten Kaiser von China; 4, Von Richard Löwenherz bis Casanova, Gustav Lübbe Verlag GmbH, Bergisch Gladbach., 1998-1999.

could be exposed. This flesh of the shells was deposited in recipients or in basins, a kind of place of putrefaction, where it was decomposed and liquefied. There were found at Tyre and Sidon, in the place where the murex shells were processed, the traces

of stone basins. The experiments made by people from today proved that, whenever they decompose, the pulps of murex give off a strong smell of garlic. This is why these dye-houses were placed outside the cities, on windswept hills.

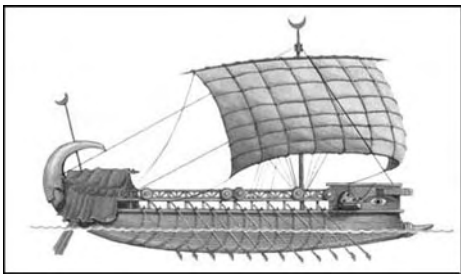
Of course, the production of purple was one of the sources of wealth for the inhabitants of Tyre and Sidon, because the purple was sold for an expensive price.⁸

The use of purple by the Hebrew people is mentioned also. Among other colors, used for the tent in Moses' time and also for the clothing of the priests, was purple (Exodus 36:35 first part – “and he made an avail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen”; Exodus 38:18 – “And the hanging for the gate of the court was needlework, and fine twined linen...”; Exodus 39: 13 etc.). The same color could be found at the Temple raised by Solomon (2Chronicles 3: 14 – “And he made the veil of the blue and purple, and crimson, and fine linen and wrought cherubims thereon”).

Navigation

The Phoenicians were considered as the best builders of ships. As early as the period of the Old Kingdom, the Egyptians were having a special form of ship, which they called “the ship of Byblos”. We shouldn't leave out that the name “Phoenicians” came from the word “fenehu” which means “the builder of ships”.⁹

The Tharshish ship, namely these for long voyages (for trade, most likely), were having one row of oarsmen and one or two masts, the second being smaller than the first. Solomon adopted this kind of ship. The references from 1 King 10:22 first part (“For the king had at sea a navy



of Tharshish with the navy of Hiram:”); 1 King 9:26 (“And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Ezion-geber, which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red sea, in the land of Edom”) certified this fact.

With the help of these ships for long voyages Hiram together with the shippers of Solomon made the voyages to bring “gold, silver, ivory, and apes and peacocks” (1King 10:22 last part). A first voyage, undertook by Hiram together with the shippers of Solomon, was to Tharshish (1King 10:22). Here Tharshish cannot be Tartessos from Spain because firstly, peacocks are birds, which are found in India in the First Millenium BC, around 973-933 when Solomon was reigning. The peacocks were not found in Spain. It is true that apes were in the south of Spain in that period and there were apes at Gibraltar, but they cannot constitute the object of export. Ivory also cannot be found in Spain, but only in Berberia, in Central Africa and in India. And most of all a return voyage to Spain would not take three years. Gold cannot be found in Tarshish from Spain for there is no evidence that they exported this precious metal.

What confirms this information from 1 King 10:22? From the beginning we must affirm that neither King Hiram of Tyre nor King Solomon would have been so naive as to write and show the exact place from where they were importing so many expensive wares. Even the historian, Strabo told us how the Phoenicians were keeping very strictly the secret of their trade expeditions and their exploratory destinations. Much more, a Phoenician ship followed by a Greek ship, which wanted to know the place where she would stop and buy or sell wares, preferred to shipwreck than for the Greeks to discover their destination.¹⁰

The other far-off voyages of the Phoenicians of Hiram, together with the shippers of King Solomon - 1Kings 9:26-28: “And King Solomon made a navy of ships in Ezion-geber, which is beside Eloth, on the shire of the Rea Sea, in the land of Edom. And Hiram sent in the navy his servants, shipmen that had knowledge of the sea, with the servants of Solomon. And they came to Ophir, and fetched from thence gold, four hundred and twenty talents, and brought it to King Solomon.”

A talent, in the Hebrew language qiqar, was having about 36 kg, so 420 talents should represent about 15120 kg gold, namely 15 tons of gold.

“And Hiram sent him by the hands of his servants ships, and servants that had

knowledge of the sea; and they went with the servants of Solomon to Ophir, and took thence four hundred and fifty talents of gold, and brought them to King Solomon.” (2 Chronicles 8:18) But 450 talents of gold represent about 16200 kg gold. About Ophir 2Chronicles 9:10 says: “And the servants also of Hiram, and the servants of Solomon, which brought gold from Ophir, brought algum trees and precious stones.” It seems that the transportation of gold from Ophir was very important and lasted from King David's time because he says that he prepared for the building of the Temple in Jerusalem “Even three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses withal.” (1 Chronicles 29:4) That means about 108000 kg gold – one hundred and eight tons of gold.

Another king from Judah tried to go with his ships to Ophir to bring gold from there: “Jehoshaphat made ships of Tharshish to go to Ophir for gold, but they went not; for the ships were broken at Ezion-geber. Then said Ahaziah the son of Ahab unto Jehoshaphat, Let my servants go with thy servants in ships. But Jehoshaphat would not.” (1 King 22:48-49)

In fact, the elephants which gave the ivory, redwood, apes and peacocks and most of all the gold could not be brought, in that period, from South Africa. The Egyptian mines of gold from Nubia, modern Sudan, were not so rich and we know from the Greek Historian, Agatarchide, that there were terrible conditions under which they extracted a little gold – not sufficient for the kind of quantities mentioned in the Phoenician chronicles.¹¹

The other people brought gold from Ophir, before Solomon and Hiram. The Egyptians brought a lot of gold, spices and ivory from a country, which they called Punt and which was set on the shores of the Indian Ocean. They were able to go there through the Red Sea. The Egyptian Queen, Hatchepsut made a great expedition to Punt for the first time at the beginning of XVI-century BC and the bas-reliefs of a large temple from Deir-el-

8. Constantin Daniel, op.cit., p. 129.

9. I.P. Franțev, I.M. Diakonov, G.F. Iliin, S.V. Kise-liov, V.V. Struve,

10. Strabo, XVII, 1, 19.

11. Constantin Daniel, Civilization of Ancient Egypt, Bucharest, 1979,



Relief showing ships which participated in the expedition to Punt. Queen Hatshepsut's temple at Deir el-Bahri, Egypt

Bahri are showing us the expedition to Punt. Hatshepsut was the first woman Pharaoh of Egypt, who reigned in 1503-1483 BC and till 1458 together with Thutmose III,



in name only. She was the daughter of Thutmose I, the king who made the decree to kill every Hebrew man-child (Exodus 1: 16). The only child that we know of who survived was Moses. He grew up with his mother until he was twelve years old and then," He was taken to the royal palace, to the daughter of Pharaoh, and he became her son".

Of course, Pharaoh's leading men trained Moses to rule Egypt. They were very well trained in techniques of war and in the leadership of Egypt. It is probable that Moses knew about the existence of this mysterious country, very rich in gold. So, the Hebrew people, through Moses, probably knew about the existence of this secret country. This knowledge was probably transmitted through generation to generation in a secret manner.

Most of the scholars believe that this country, with much contact to India, is the south-east coast of Africa, Mozambique's region today, where the monsoon falls, the wind which is blows alternatively six months from India to Africa and then six months from Africa to India. So, commercial relations with India were established quite easily— a country where peacocks are native.

If Ophir represents a country rich in gold, Africa would be the only possibility, which is now still very rich in gold mines, like in South Africa. So, the bringing of big quantities of gold from this region is very plausible.

The people of South Africa, in the 10th-Century BC didn't know bronze and iron. Gracefulness of tin, which was brought by the Phoenicians from Spain and the Islands of Great Britain, the copper was very hard, becoming bronze. In the 10th-century BC, iron was starting to spread to the whole Mediterranean, although Ancient Egypt did not use it up to the time of the Roman Empire's, because of a ban that had been made on this metal.¹² We can believe that the inhabitants from Ancient Ophir paid with much gold for the iron and copper received because they did not know gold's value.

At the border of Rhodesia and Mozambique today there is found a vast gold field. In this

region, the forms of steatite for the shaping of gold, silver and lead were discovered. And these forms of steatite had the form of a cross or a letter H, the same, which the Phoenicians were using for their ingots.¹³

It is probable that the gold extracted from these mines arrived with ships from the Indian Ocean bound for the port of Sophalat. We must observe that the name of Sophala, an important port in Mozambique, seems to be an alternative word for the term Ophir. The final consonant "l" is equivalent with the final "r" from the term Ophir, and the consonant S from the beginning of word Sophala can be added to non-certify a radical *Ophal*, which makes it equal, *Ophir*. It is known that in the Semites and Egyptians' language an S incipient is a modality to form an accusative. So, *Sophala being another form of Ophir is very plausible*.¹⁴

Concerning the manner of how the Phoenicians bought the gold and how they made the commercial exchanges with the other countries, we can read in Herodotus' book about the trade of Carthaginians:

"There is a country in Libya, and a nation, beyond the Pillars of Hercules, which they are wont to visit, where they no sooner arrive but forthwith they unlade their wares, and, having disposed them after an orderly fashion along the beach, leave them, and, returning aboard their ships, raise a great smoke. The natives, when they see the smoke, come down to the shore, and, laying out to view so much gold as they think the worth of the wares, withdraw to a distance. The Carthaginians upon this come ashore and look. If they think the gold enough, they take it and go their way; but if it does not seem to them sufficient, they go aboard ship once more, and wait patiently. Then the others approach and add to their gold, till the Carthaginians are content. Neither party deals unfairly by the other: for they themselves never touch the gold till it comes up to the worth of their goods, nor do the natives ever carry off the goods till the gold is taken away."¹⁵

"...the weight of gold that came to

12. Constantin Daniel, La prohibition du fer dans l'Egypte ancienne, in "Studia et Acta Orientalia" VII (1968), p. 3-21.

13. G. Linde and E. Brettschneider, Before the coming of white man, (Romanian title Inainte de venirea omului alb), trad. rom. Bucharest, 1967, p. 266.

14. Constantin Daniel, Phoenician civilization, Publishing house Sport-Univers, Bucharest, 1979, p. 101.

15. Herodotus, History, IV, 196.

16. Ellen G. White, Prophets, and Kings p.36

Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold” and “it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon” 1Kings 10:14-21. He “made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars made he to be as the sycamore trees that are in the vale, for abundance.” (1 King 10:27)

Handicrafts

Solomon used also Phoenician handicrafts at the raising of the Temple in Jerusalem. And these handicrafts became very famous. Among the artisans was Hiram from Tyre, a craftsman in the processing of copper and bronze. As we said, gracefulness of tin, the copper obtains a hardness, becoming bronze. (1 King 7: 13-14) All the works made by Hiram at the request of Solomon are found in 1 King 7: 15-45. Phoenician craftsmen also made the carved stones. (1 King 5:17-18 – “And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house. And Solomon’s builders and Hiram’s builders did hew them, and the stonesquarers: so they prepared timber and stones to build the house”). These stones were carved in careers from Tyre and Byblos and nothing was made in Jerusalem – 1 King 6:7 - “And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building”; 1 Chronicles 22:2 - “And David commanded to gather together the strangers that were in the land of Israel; and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God.”)

“Of surpassing beauty and unrivaled splendor was the palatial

building which Solomon and his associates erected for God and His worship. Garnished with precious stones, surrounded by spacious courts with magnificent approaches, and lined with carved cedar and burnished gold, the temple structure, with its broidered hangings and rich furnishings, was a fit emblem of the living church of God on earth, which through the ages has been building in accordance with the divine pattern, with materials that have been likened to “gold, silver, precious stones,” “polished after the similitude of a palace.” 1 Corinthians 3:12; Psalm 144: 12. Of this spiritual temple Christ is “the chief Cornerstone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord.” Ephesians 2:20.”¹⁶ We identified the relations established between the Phoenician people and the Hebrews concerning trade, navigation and handicrafts, which proved very important for the bettering of the Hebrew economy, but not the same thing can say concerning spiritual life. The second part of this article will detail this.

Lavinia Stanculeasa, Romania

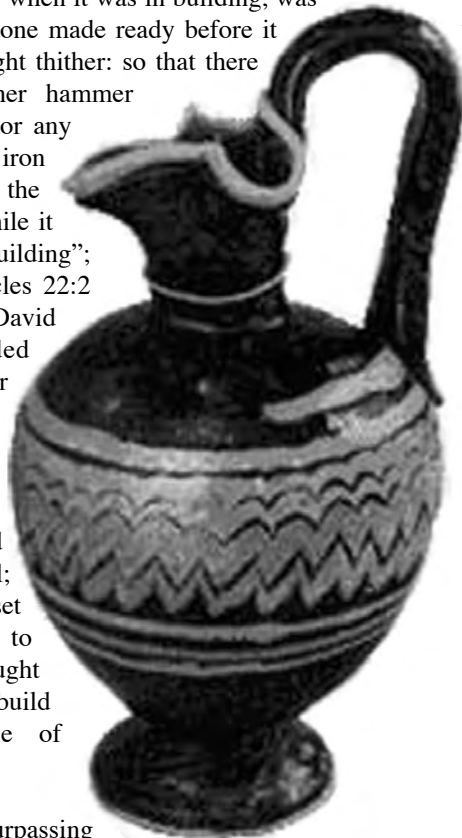
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Man As A Steward

A steward is a person who is a manager of another's goods. With such responsibility there always comes a day of reckoning. Sooner or later, the time arrives when the steward will be called upon to render a personal accounting.

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” Genesis 1:26

The World Belongs To God

God says, “The earth is the LORD’S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.” Psalm 24:1.

The Lord entrusted the management of things on earth to man. “And the Lord God took man, and put him into the garden to dress it and keep it.” Genesis 2:15, Psalm 115:16, Gen. 1:28

God Reserved The Portion Of The Garden Of Eden For Himself

“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Gen. 2:17.

This tree of knowledge of good and evil became the test of man’s acknowledgement of God’s ownership of all things.

When the day of reckoning came what questions were asked?

“Where art thou?... Who told thee that thou wast naked? Has thou eaten of the tree, where of I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?... What is this that thou hast done?” Gen. 3:9-13.

When Adam And Eve Failed (Genesis 3:6)

God, “drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden

Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.” Genesis 3:24.

Unfaithfulness on the part of man was sin. When Adam and Eve deliberately chose to turn their backs on Him, the relationship was broken. Through sin, they severed the link with their source of life and happiness. “Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.” Isaiah 59:2.

The Results Of Sin

“And sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” James 1:15. “The wages of sin is death.” Romans 6:23.

Through sin, man was lost – eternally lost – without God, and without hope in the world. Sin had made a gulf between him and God so deep and so wide that he was helpless to bridge it. Man’s own righteousness became as ‘filthy rags’. His sin was so great that all his treasures could not purchase his pardon. Said the inspired Old Testament prophet: “Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression.” Micah 6:6,7.

The Apostle Peter answers the question “ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” 1 Peter 1:18,19.

Salvation from sin is free. As man accepts it as a free gift from the hands of his Redeemer, let him not value it any less because he pays nothing for it. Let him remember that it was purchased from him at infinite cost.

The plan of Salvation

“Sorrow filled heaven, as it was realized that man was lost, and that world which

God had created was to be filled with mortals doomed to misery, sickness, and death, and there was no way of escape for the offender. The whole family of Adam must die. I saw the lovely Jesus and beheld an expression of sympathy and sorrow upon His countenance. Soon I saw Him approach the exceeding bright light which enshrouded the Father. Said my accompanying angel, He is in close converse with His Father. The anxiety of the angels seemed to be intense while Jesus was communing with His Father. Three times He was shut in by the glorious light about the Father, and the third time He came from the Father, His person could be seen. His countenance was calm, free from all perplexity and doubt, and shone with benevolence and loveliness, such as words cannot express. He then made known to the angelic host that a way of escape had been made for lost man. He told them that He had been pleading with His Father, and had offered to give His life a ransom, to take the sentence of death upon Himself, that through Him man might find pardon; that through the merits of His blood, and obedience to the law of God, they could have the favor of God, and be brought into the beautiful garden, and eat of the fruit of the tree of life.” EW 149

The love of God

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16.

The only way the relationship could be restored was by God, in the person of Christ, throwing Himself across the gap sin had made and closing the circuit sin had broken! The first picture we have of God after the intrusion of sin is of Him searching for man and calling out to find him. Not that God didn't know where Adam and Eve were hiding. Of course, He knew; He knows everything, but He wanted them – and us – to know that He still cared!

Among the first questions in the Bible is, "Where art thou?" Genesis 3:9. This is a question addressed by a searching God to His erring children. And the first question in the New Testament is, "Where is he?" Mat. 2:2. A question addressed by men seeking to be reconciled to God. The Old Testament record of man's rebellion opens with the picture of man hiding from God. The New Testament opens with the picture of man following the star to find the way back to God through Christ. Matthew 2:1-10.

Among the first recorded words of man to God in the Old Testament is the statement, "I was afraid... And I hid myself." Genesis 3:10. How sad! But the reverse side of the coin in the New Testament portrays heavenly heralds delivering to man the message from God "Fear not... for unto you is born... a Saviour Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10,11.

God is searching for you

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." 1 Timothy 1: 15. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19: 10.

My friend, Jesus has put everything aside to search for you! He laid aside His kingly robe, left heaven above,

the fellowship of the Father and association with heavenly angels to come down into this world of sin and woe to rescue you and me! He considers us His diamonds – worth searching for!

In the gospel of John 10:11, Jesus reveals Himself to the world as "the good Shepherd." What a beautiful appealing picture this should conjure in our minds! When the true Shepherd discovers even one sheep missing, He determines to search until He finds it! He does not say "Well I have ninety and nine; let the other one come back and I will open the door of the sheep fold and let him in."

No! The true Shepherd cannot sleep while even one sheep is missing – just one – the very least number. The darker the night, the more violent the storm, the more anxious the Shepherd is. Out He goes even at the peril of His life to find the missing sheep.

When finally the lamb, or sheep, is located He does not scold it for the trouble it has caused Him. He does not whip it or drive it. He does not even lead it! Tenderly He gathers the trembling little animal in His arms, pressing it close to His bosom, shields it from the storm with His cloak and tenderly bears it back safely.

So, Jesus is searching for you today! He has left everything in heaven to come and search for you. He has given everything – His life – to take you to safety. It matters not how wicked you may have been – how far down into the depths of sin you may have fallen – the good Shepherd can, and will, find you and lift you out of the evil pit. Do not doubt His desire and His ability to help you.!

"Desponding soul, take courage, even though you have done wickedly. Do not think that perhaps God will pardon your transgressions and permit you to come into His presence. God has made the first advance. While you were in rebellion against Him, He went forth to seek you.

With the tender heart of the shepherd He left the ninety and nine and went out into the wilderness to find that which was lost. The soul, bruised and wounded and ready to perish, He encircles in His arms of love and

joyfully bears it to the fold of safety." COL 188

Friend of mine, won't you surrender to Him now – yes right now just where you are? Just claim the promises of God's Word – repent, ask for forgiveness and cleansing. Believe He forgives your sins because He has promised it so. Accept Him and His help promising to follow Him the remainder of your life. Rest yourself in Him. Believe He can, and will, do for you exceeding abundantly above all that you ask or think. Then He is yours and you are His – it is so because He says it is.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28.

"Him cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

Dear reader, Jesus calls you today – won't you come? Yes, you right now this very moment? "Behold now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation." 2 Cor. 6:2.

"Boast not thyself of tomorrow for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth," the wise man reminds each one of us. Proverbs 27:1.

Today we are all well and strong with a life expectancy of many years. Tomorrow, or at some more convenient time, we will prepare for death. Today we want to live life to the fullest. We want to do as we please "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Mat. 6:34.

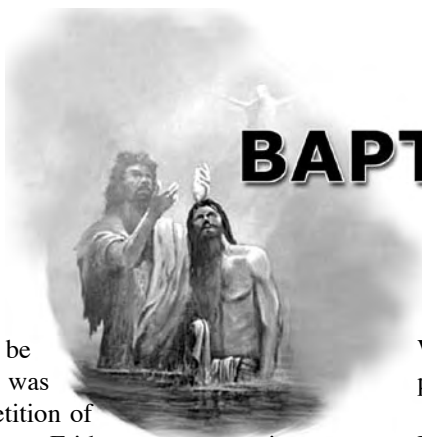
"Behold now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" 2 Cor. 6:2

My friend, if you are one who is yet lingering in the valley of decision, who has not yet made up your mind to follow the Saviour all the way and prepare for heaven, I appeal to you right now – do not put it off.

Tomorrow may be too late! "Behold, now is the day of salvation." The grim reaper, death, may come to your door sooner than you think! In life is the time to prepare for death. "Behold, now is the accepted time." Amen,

Golden Kayawa Hingabantu, Zambia





BAPTISM IN SURINAME

“I want to be baptized” – was the eager petition of Sister Salima on Friday morning January 16th, 2004, a day previous to the baptism. “I want to be baptized tomorrow” – she repeated with an unshakable will. There was, up until then only one candidate but when Sister *Bebe Roshnee Salima Ullah Amanullah* heard about the event that was going to take place on Sabbath morning, decided to join Brother *Friets Coupain* in this important step.

We were very happy to see that in the last moment another soul had decided to make this covenant with the Lord.

At 6:30 AM on Sabbath morning I realized that the 2 vans that had been hired to transport the people to the place of the baptism weren't going to be enough, and there were unexpectedly 24 people traveling to the place. So in the last moment we had to arrange a third van. Thank God we could fix that and by 7:30 we were leaving from the Mission house to another point where the three vans were going to meet and from then on depart together.

Unfortunately the distances are big here, and because one of the vans had to pick up some people in the north of the city we ended up leaving around 9:00 AM.

The Sabbath school lesson had been planned for 10:00 AM but those 42 km could not be traveled within 2 hours, so we ended up returning 10 minutes before 12 PM.

At the place everything took place very fast. We didn't have much time for singing. So as soon as the people had been baptized we returned to Paramaribo.

The whole program was moved and as soon as we arrived we decided to proceed with the lunch which had been prepared for everyone and then do the lesson and consequently the Lord's Supper.

We had a wonderful time. We had the attendance of 25 people and we felt the Lord's presence among us.

I pray the Lord may continue bringing more souls to his vineyard.

Gabriel Eduardo Porras, Paramaribo - Suriname



Br. Guldemeester With Candidates



Br. Friets Coupain's Baptism



TEARS UPON THEIR FACES

Not long ago when my fellow church member, newly baptized, fell away from the church, it was an awful experience for us. This young man had known Christ, and professed Jesus to be his personal Redeemer. He had sincerely decided to follow Jesus.

Occasionally he gave testimonies of how the Lord had rescued him from worldly pleasures. He had given up attending night-time dance parties, and promised to go forward, never turning back. I, as the youth leader, along with others, encouraged him to take hold of the truth found only in the Scriptures as the infallible instructor in his Christian life. I remember the time that he testified, saying, "This is truly the church of God. In it I have pleasure to praise Him. The remnant church of God, is the International Missionary Society of S.D.A. Reform. While remaining in this church, I will not turn off the narrow path. His testimony was similar to John the Baptist when he said, "And I have seen, and have borne witness that this is the son of God John." 1:34.

The sad part is that my friend never lived according to his commitment. He could not endure like John the Baptist. Had he remembered the words of Jesus, "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved," (Matt 24:13) he would not have given up hope.

This experience is bitter. I pray that those who have not gone back on their promises not to attempt it and those who have already slid from the pathway to remember that it is not too late for them. This is the gateway to heaven. Jesus is waiting for you to make an immediate and important decision. This could be your last decision and if you make the right one it will save you for eternity. I believe that my friend is not happy wherever he is right now. The Holy Spirit and the angels of God still are pleading in his heart to return to the gateway.

When he did come to the church, most of the opposition he faced was from his former closest friends. They succeeded in persuading him to abandon the church because they said it is unattractive and unpopular. After awhile, for two or three Sabbaths he never turned up, so we took the responsibility of visiting him. He felt good and encouraged by our visit. We prayed with him and left him hoping to see him the next Sabbath. Three days afterwards it was said that he was seen in an area considered forbidden grounds for church members. A place where any Christian, if found, his Christianity would be questioned.

But, we read from the Spirit of Prophecy that Satan makes special efforts to lead the youth to find happiness in worldly amusements and then to justify themselves by endeavoring to show them that these amusement are harmless, innocent and

even important for health.

Later I saw the boy playing football in a field, cheered on by a big crowd of spectators. Upon seeing him, my heart sank with disappointment!, Why was I disappointed? Because he had known the truth that the people of Sodom partook of the same pleasures and luxuries. Idleness made them a prey to Satan's temptations, and they became more satanic than divine. "Idleness is the greatest curse that can fall upon man, for vice and crime follow in its train. It enfeebles the mind, perverts the understanding, and debases the soul. Satan lies in ambush, ready to destroy those who are unguarded, whose leisure gives him opportunity to insinuate himself under some attractive disguise." PP 156. And so this is one way that Satan occupies the time of idle people - with sports - until one day "suddenly and unexpectedly as would

be a thunder peal from an unclosed sky," as in the destruction of Sodom" the tempest broke. The Lord rained brimstone and fire out of heaven upon the cities and fruitful plain; its palaces and temples, costly dwellings, gardens and vineyards, and the gay, pleasure-seeking throngs that only the night before had insulted the messengers of heaven--all were consumed." PP 162

Recalling the vows he had made before God, I could not believe my eyes. We had learned in the Spirit of Prophecy that the enemy of souls will employ sports, music, festivals----- in these



last days to divert the minds of men from seeking him until probation is closed. In these people there was still the love of the world and the things in the world.

How many church elders, as the shepherd of His flock, get disappointed when one of the sheep strays? Not for reasons of ignorance but because the love of the world is greater than love towards God. God tells the shepherds not to give up hope for their good work will follow after them.

Satan has ever presented the path of holiness as difficult while the paths of worldly pleasures are strewn with flowers. Sometimes my friends laugh at reformers, wondering why they do not eat and dress according to the current fashion. Why we do not attend parties of pleasures, dance to get happiness, travel on Sabbath or study in university? They wonder, and even sympathize with us, that most likely we are misguided. But we know that there will come a day that all of us who have put aside the passing pleasures of this world will rejoice from eternity to eternity. For them, their hope does not go beyond the cross of Calvary. They see no life after death and they know nothing about a resurrection. The Kingdom of God that will reign forever and ever on earth and His righteousness is an old and strange story for them. We pray that their eyes of understanding may be opened. This is our responsibility. Let us pray like Elisha who prayed for his ignorant servant and said "Lord I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw" 2 Kings 6:17

We have a responsibility before us lest we forget that the plain teachings taught us will be met by us in the judgment. Some have counted worldly pleasures as gain instead of counting "all things but loss for the Excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord." Philippians 3:8. Satan tells the youth that they may fully enjoy the pleasures of the world without losing eternity. But, my fellow youth, this is not true. The pleasures of earth will have an end. That which you sow you must also reap.

"All that God could do has been done for the salvation of man, and yet the hearts of the children of men have become hardened. Because of the multiplicity of the blessings with which God has surrounded them, they receive them as common things and forget

their gracious Benefactor." 1T 510. When the theme or our conversation is not the truth, but such topics as the latest fashions, dear brethren and friends, eternal things begin to sound unrealistic and weightless.

God's angels turn away in sorrow. If our eyes could be opened, we could see tears upon the faces of God's angels. "I see tears upon the faces of these angels.... Angels of God are in tears as they write in the roll the words and acts of professed Christians... Sadness is upon their countenances. Behold, they are weeping." T1 506



"Holiness of heart and life are necessary. All who have taken the name of Christ and have enlisted in His service should be good soldiers of the cross. They should show that they are dead to the world, and that their life is hid with Christ in God." 1T 507

Our parents also feel disappointed when we stray. Let us not disappoint our parents whose tears flow on our account and their agonizing prayers are wrung from their hearts. Let us not plant thorns in their breast for they may die because of our misconduct.

"What a promise is here made upon condition of obedience! Do you have to cut loose from friends and relatives in deciding to obey the elevated truths of God's word? Take courage, God has made provision for you, His arms are open to receive you.... He promises to be a Father unto you. Oh, what a relationship this is! It is higher and holier than any earthly tie. If you make the sacrifice, if you have to forsake father, mother, sisters, brothers, wife, and children for Christ's sake, you will not be friendless. God adopts you into His family; you

become members of the royal household, sons and daughters of the King who rules in the heaven of heavens." 1T 510.

"Yea doubtless, and I count all things [but] loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them [but] dung, that I may win Christ," Philippians 3:8.

"I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him [that is] from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one. Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." 1 John 2:14-17

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33.

Can you desire a more exalted position than Jesus has promised? Is not this enough? I urge all the youth in the church to take this wonderful message to heart.

"The youth, if right, could sway a mighty influence. Preachers, or laymen advanced in years, cannot have one half the influence upon the young that the youth, devoted to God, can have upon their associates. They ought to feel that a responsibility rests upon them to do all they can to save their fellow mortals, even at a sacrifice of their pleasure and natural desires. Time, and even means, if required, should be consecrated to God. All who profess godliness should feel the danger of those who are out of Christ. Soon their probation will close." 1T 510.

It should be our responsibility to plead with tender earnestness with our companions to forsake their ways of sin and choose the path of holiness. May our earnest, broken, humble, petitions ascend to Him for wisdom that we may have success in saving not only our own souls, but the souls of others. Then there will be rejoicing in heaven and not tears on the faces of God's angels. *Amen.*

By Charles Mogunde

See also 1T page 496

www.imsessenger.org

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

WHEN: DECEMBER 27, 2004 to JANUARY 2, 2005.

WHERE: SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

The Australian Field would like to invite young people from around the world to attend a Youth Conference in the middle of our summer at the end of this year.

Spaces are limited in Sydney as our facilities can only accommodate approximately 60 young people. Therefore it is recommended that you reserve your space early.

Brother Pablo Hunger and Brother Larry Watts will be representing the General Conference, presenting workshops, along with several local leaders living in Australia such as Brother Eaton and Brother Thiel.

EXCURSIONS: There will be two full-day excursions during the conference. One will be to the city of Sydney and the other to the Blue Mountains. The cost for these will be minimal as we will be travelling on local trains.

COST: If you choose to stay on the church property or in the home of some local believers there is no cost for accommodation. Staying on the church property will require the majority of the people to sleep in tents, which will be provided, but you must bring your own bedding (sleeping bag.). If you prefer more privacy and the comfort of a bed, there are a few local hotels, which will cost approximately \$70 Australian dollars per room for a night. 3 people can sleep in one room. If you choose to stay in a hotel, we must be notified as soon as possible in order to reserve a space for you. This is a busy time of year and spaces in hotels fill up quickly.

There will be a cost for food. The cost will be approximately \$10 Australian dollars per day. When you reserve your place we ask that you pay for your food along with your reservation. Since we have limited spaces, we may have to turn people away if we receive too many reservations. Therefore it is first paid, first served. We would hate to turn someone away and then in the last minute someone else did not come, so we are accepting only serious reservations – with payment. Reservations must be received by September 1st, 2004.

Payments can be sent to:

International Missionary Society
P.O. Box 54,
Toongabbie, NSW 2146
Australia

If you have any further questions, feel free to send your request by e-mail to:
jerryeaton@smartchat.net.au or ***markus@justinternet.com.au*** or
call by telephone: Tel. **(+61) 2-9670-2886**

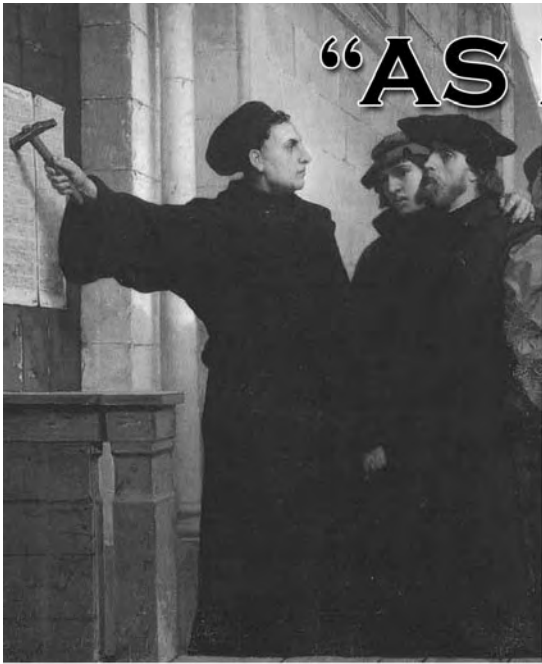
We look for this conference to provide a blessed spiritual feast for all serious young people. We encourage the youth to seek to consecrate themselves to God more fully at this youth conference and as such we would like a recommendation from your local church leader or your field leader that you are this kind of young person.

If you wish to remain in Australia longer, you are more than welcome to do so.
The accommodations are still free, you simply have to pay for your own food.



More details will be coming in the future. Start saving your money for your plane fare today.... That will be your major expense.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as we are able to do so at the end of this year.



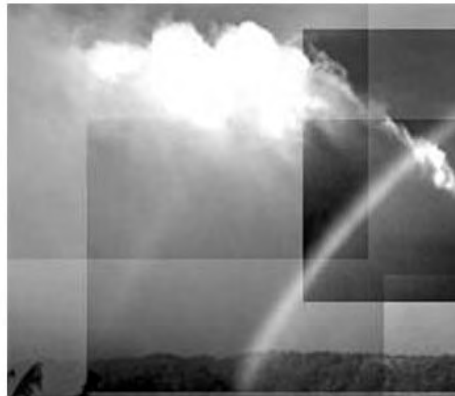
“AS MANY AS I LOVE, I REBUKE AND CHASTEN, BE ZEALOUS THEREFORE, AND REPENT”

Martin Luther sometimes fell into despondency. “Oh my sin! My sin! My sin!” he cried, one day.

“Well! Would you only be a sinner in appearance, and have also a SAVIOUR only in appearance?” “Know that JESUS CHRIST is the Saviour even of those who are real, great sinners, and deserving of UTTER CONDEMNATION.”

“O blessed fault that has merited such a REDEEMER!”

None of the disciples were perfect when JESUS chose them. He chose them in spite of their weaknesses and defects. Even John, the one who most fully reflected the SAVIOUR’S LOVE, had many faults. He was ambitious, resentful, critical. He and his brother were called “the sons of thunder.” But day by day he yielded his violent



spirit to the patient, forbearing example of his BELOVED SAVIOUR. He had faults but his Saviour’s love for him won his heart.

JESUS reproved His disciples, but they did not leave Him. They began to realize that in comparison with HIM their characters were very rough and needed much refining.

So, as we come together in church relationship, we shall often be disappointed because we do not find perfection in each other. But as the early disciples said

when Christ asked them, “Will you also go away?” They replied, “To whom would we go?”

This world is full of darkness, and cold. Error teems everywhere. Disease and death are the fruits. WE MUST PRESS TOGETHER AND PRESENT A UNITED FRONT TO THE ENEMY IN SPITE OF OUR MINOR DIFFERENCES. We have no time to quarrel when such a situation surrounds and confronts us.

If I become rashly critical, remind me, gently or otherwise, that I am only a member and not the HEAD of this body.

HALLELUJAH! We’re headed home! It might take a while. We have pitfalls, snares and devils and... all along the steep climb: but we also have a DELIVERER, a COMFORTER, sweet wine to refresh us, bread to strengthen us...

And best of all, we are AUTHORIZED to take other sinners (cleansed) into the kingdom with us. That is why time continues; GOD is not willing that any should perish, but that all of us should come to repentance, DAILY.

God takes us as we are, with all the human elements in our characters, and will train us for HIS SERVICE, if we will be disciplined, and learn of HIM. We are not chosen because we are perfect; but in spite of our faults and weaknesses. HE sees in us precious qualities which He desires to develop. He is willing to take time to mold and fashion us, and take us from one fire to another in order to burn away the dross.

I mourn because my roughest edges seem to always come in contact with my best friends.

O for the time when the LORD will say to the angel, “Take away the filthy garments from him.” **AMEN.**

Kathleen Ross, Alberta, Canada

Woe is me, because I am a person of unclean lips: and I live among a people of unclean lips.

Nobody can tame the tongue. It is very little, but it boasts great things. Like a tiny spark it can set a very large and roaring fire. The tongue can pretend to bless God while all the while cursing man who is made in God’s image. Can good and evil come out of the same mouth? Does sweet and sour water come out of the same well? Do apple trees sometimes yield thorns? NO! If a well is good it yields sweet water. If poison water sometimes comes out, it is a dangerous well, not fit for use.

“Wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes.”

If we find ourselves yielding sour words sometimes, we have proved that the well needs cleansing. A new conversion is needed. A daily conversion. Like our sweaty bodies, our mind need to be washed, daily. We are sinners. (Should I just say “I am a sinner”, and speak for myself only?). I am a sinner in need of a daily change. Moment by moment, hour by hour. I have not attained, I’m not perfected.

In Alcoholics Anonymous, they have a saying that if you have a chance to be an alcoholic, GRAB IT! What they mean is that it is such a relief to finally know and admit that you have a problem, and you need help from a POWER outside of yourself.



Saudi Arabia is the centre of the Muslim world. It is here that many make the long journey to Mecca to fulfil their lifetime religious longing. While Muslims dwell in relative peace alongside Christians in Western Christian countries, there is a different atmosphere in their own countries. In the country of Saudi Arabia it is a crime punishable by death (hanging) to spread Christianity. To live as a Christian, means you must keep your faith to yourself. It seems impossible to fulfil the commission of Christ to go and teach others around you; to let your light shine before men; to spread the good news that Jesus is coming soon; Jesus is a wonderful Saviour who died to save all mankind from whatever religious background they may have come from. Many flee these kinds of countries upon accepting the Christian religion. They flee to the West where they can worship in relative peace and safety. Who would want to willingly go and live in a country like this, especially if you are a true Christian?

Our dear sister Marlene Reid, who resides in Australia, decided to step out by faith and enter this country. Sister Marlene is much loved here in Australia and she, being a nurse, took a one-year work assignment in this country. She went, not seeking worldly gain, but seeking an opportunity to carry the message of salvation into this stronghold of Satan. She went by faith, bringing as much literature as she dared. She has been in Saudi Arabia since October of 2003 and has already made a few experiences. She has found a Seventh-day Adventist sister who is interested in the Reform Message. She is constantly receiving articles and studies to share with others, by e-mail. With e-mail nothing can be intercepted by the postal service and held against her. She needs our prayers so that the Lord will lead her to souls who are seeking the light of the truth, and sustain her own spiritual life. She has until October of 2004, and we pray that at least one soul can be found. She recently wrote an e-mail to Brother Andrade, which

he asked to have published in the Messenger so that the united prayers of believers around the world can uphold her in her work for the Lord.

“Dear Brother Andrade:

“Christian regards to all at home. Thank you so much for the Bible study I have received. I immediately passed it on to the lady who wanted to know about the topics you’ve sent over. The first diagram you’ve sent over did not come out so well, I tried to enlarge it with my glasses but did not have any luck. Would you be able to email me that first part only and enlarge it on your side? I am doing well, the Lord’s care and love is always over His people. Wonderful was it for me to go through your study about the 144,000, everything sounded so new and fresh to me and my soul was much encouraged reading it. Will we ever be able to fully understand how much heaven has put in for us to be saved? All of the treasure house of heaven was emptied for us, nothing was kept back, and the Father gave all that He could give for us. Thank you for your words of encouragement. Yesterday I had a wonderful experience in Riyadh while doing my shopping. I met the owner of a shoe shop who told me he is from Sudan, a country in Northern Africa. He asked me if I am a Christian and I said yes. He told me he is a Muslim. He said to me he would like to know more about Christianity, I said to him, “in Christianity Jesus lives in the heart, filling it with love, peace, kindness and joy, changing the heart and life of man,” and he said to me, “I want to hear more, please sit down,” but my brother I could not do that, not in Saudi Arabia. Here the death penalty is hanging over your head when you spread Christianity. Something nice happened to me yesterday morning when I prepared myself to go on the bus trip out shopping, for the first time

*I took one of our books with me with the intention to read it on the bus, not knowing this book I had to take with me was for this man. While I was talking to this man, about Jesus, mentioning His wonderful name, in his shop a beautiful sensation came over me and it filled the room, and I could experience this man was picking it up, and it touched his heart, oh! The beautiful name of Jesus, how beautiful it sounded. I remembered the book and asked him if he can read English and he said, yes, but just a little bit. I gave him the book and he accepted it and with an open heart asked me to please come back next time. When I walked away from the shop I prayed that the Spirit of God may open the words in the book of E.G. White to this man. Oh! The wonderful joy it will be when Jesus shall come and we will meet with those like us who have accepted Jesus as our personal Saviour. Happy Sabbath Brother Andrade to all of the family. God bless. Say hello to Sister Andrade. Your sister **Marlene**”*

We pray that our dear sister will be kept safe and we ask your prayers for her also. If you wish to send a message to our sister, please send it to Brother Eaton (jerryeaton@smartchat.net.au) and he will pass it along to her.

My prayer is that the Lord will inspire others to make sacrifices and go out to the far corners of this earth with the message of the gospel. Not just to the wealthy, comfortable, Christian nations, but to all nations, especially to those where Satan has a stronghold. Paul received a call “And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us” Acts 16:9, and he went. There are others also calling. When the Lord asks, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” May we answer like Isaiah, “Here am I, send me.” Isaiah 6:8. **AMEN**
Wendy Eaton, Australia



THE TWELVE TRIBES: ZEBULON

What negative influence affected Zebulon by the mother's attitude?

Genesis 30:20 "And Leah said, God hath endued me with a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons: and she called his name Zebulon. Zebulon means dwelling.

How was this embedded?

Genesis 49:13 "Zebulon shall dwell at the haven of the sea; and he shall be for an haven of ships; and his border shall be unto Zidon.

Deuteronomy 33:18,19. "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him."

What are people dwelling in? What are seashore cities most vulnerable to?

AH 135:1 Life in the cities is false and artificial. The intense passion for money getting, the whirl of excitement and pleasure seeking, the thirst for display, the luxury and extravagance--all are forces that, with the great masses of mankind, are turning the mind from life's true purpose. They are opening the door to a thousand evils. Upon the youth they have almost irresistible power. One of the most subtle and dangerous temptations that assails the children and youth in the cities is the love of pleasure. Holidays are numerous; games and horse racing draw thousands, and the whirl of excitement and pleasure attracts them away from the sober duties of life. Money that should have been saved for better uses is frittered away for amusements.

The true believer avoids cities.

Hebrews 13:14 "For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come."

Hebrews 11:8-10 "By faith Abraham, when

he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

Hebrews 11:13-16. 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Did Zebulon and Naphtali fall for the danger?

Isaiah 9:1-2. "Therefore the LORD shall set up the adversaries of Rezin against him, and join his enemies together; 2 The Syrians before, and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still. God was prepared to help them.

Matthew 4:13-16 "Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee; 13 And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zebulon and Nephthalim: 14 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, 15 The land of Zebulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; 16 The people which sat in

darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up."

DA 252-253 "At Capernaum Jesus dwelt in the intervals of His journeys to and fro, and it came to be known as 'His own city.' Everywhere was the stir of busy, active life. Capernaum itself was well adapted to be the center of the Saviour's work. Being on the highway from Damascus to Jerusalem and Egypt, and to the Mediterranean Sea, it was a great thoroughfare of travel. People from many lands passed through the city, or tarried for rest in their journeyings to and fro. Here Jesus could meet all nations and all ranks, the rich and great as well as the poor and lowly, and His lessons would be carried to other countries and into many households. Investigation of the prophecies would thus be excited, attention would be directed to the Saviour, and His mission would be brought before the world."

Ev 559:3 "Into the busy world, filled with the din of commerce and the altercation of trade, where men were trying selfishly to get all they could for self, Christ came; and above the confusion, His voice, like the trump of God, was heard: "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Good traits come into play when Christ is there. If people have good qualities and repent, they can be among the one hundred and forty four thousand. Repentance brings about good traits.

"It is the purpose of redemption, not only to blot out sin, but to give back to man those spiritual gifts lost because of sin's dwarfing power." {COL 266.2}

What good qualities can be found among such darkened dwellers?

Judges 5:14 . "out of Zebulon they that handle the pen of the writer. "

Judges 5:18-19. "Zebulon and Naphtali

were a people that jeopardized their lives unto the death in the high places of the field. 19 The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they took no gain of money.”

I Chronicles 12:23 & 33. “And these are the numbers of the bands that were ready armed to the war, and came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD. 33 Of Zebulon, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, which could keep rank: they were not of double heart.”

With such qualities under such darkness, what is revealed regarding the possible position among the one hundred and forty four thousand?

Revelation 7:8 “Of the tribe of Zebulon were sealed twelve thousand.”

Those awakened to the seriousness among them have some good traits to respond with.

II Chronicles 12:33. “Of Zebulon, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, which could keep rank: they were not of double heart.”

“The Lord will not suddenly cast off all transgressors or destroy entire nations; but He will punish cities and places where men have given themselves up to the possession of Satanic agencies. Strictly will the cities of the nations be dealt with, and yet they will not be visited in the extreme of God’s indignation, because some souls will yet break away from the delusions of the enemy, and will repent and be converted, while the mass will be treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath.” {Ev 27.4}

Note what God says about double mindedness.

James 1:8 “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

“Those who begin their Christian life by

being half and half, will at last be found enlisted on the enemy’s side, whatever may have been their first intentions. And to be an apostate, a traitor to the cause of God, is more serious than death; for it means the loss of eternal life. Double-minded men and women are Satan’s best allies. Whatever favorable opinion they may have of themselves, they are dissemblers. All who are loyal to God and the truth must stand firmly for the right because it is right. To yoke up with those who are unconsecrated, and yet be loyal to the truth, is simply impossible. We cannot unite with those who are serving themselves, who are working on worldly plans, and not lose our connection with the heavenly Counselor. We may recover ourselves from the snare



of the enemy, but we are bruised and wounded, and our experience is dwarfed” (RH April 19, 1898). {5BC 1086.5}

“If our brethren will now consecrate themselves unreservedly to God, He will accept them. He will give them a transformation of mind, that they may be savorers of life unto life. Wake up, brethren and sisters, that you may attain to your high calling through Christ Jesus our Lord.” {1SM 166.5}

5T 438. “Should you become alarmed for your own souls, should you seek God diligently, He will be found of you; but He will accept no halfhearted repentance. If you will forsake your sins, He is ever ready

to forgive. Separate from the world, be wholly on the Lord’s side, press the battle to the gates, and you will win glorious victories.”

Those in Capernaum are addressed in today’s circumstances.

Matthew 11:23-24. “And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.”

3T 200-201 “Many of those who profess to believe the truth in Battle Creek contradict their faith by their works. They are as unbelieving, and as far from fulfilling the requirements of God and from coming up to their profession of faith, as was the Jewish church at the time of Christ’s first advent. The church at Battle Creek have had superior advantages, and they will be judged by the light and privileges they have had. The church at Battle Creek are like Capernaum, which Christ represents as being exalted unto heaven by the light and privileges that had been given them.

If the light and privileges with which they had been blessed had been given to Sodom and Gomorrah, they might have stood unto this day. If the light and knowledge which the church in Battle Creek have received had been given the nations who sit in darkness, they might have been far in advance of that church. This is the case with the church at Battle Creek and with a large share of those who profess to be God’s commandment-keeping people. The Lord seeth not as man seeth. His thoughts and ways are not as our ways.” {3T 201.1}

To be of the one hundred and forty four thousand, the dwellers in the city must arouse. **AMEN**

Ariadne Kondouka, Australia

TESTIMONY TIMELINE ...THE TRUE WITNESS

“The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men.” AA, p. 9.

...The gates of hell have not been able to prevail against His people. Where is the mighty Iron Roman Empire, Golden Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece? All are gone from the world scene.

Description of the Church of God

- Likened to a grain of mustard seed. Matthew 13: 31-32
- Has an unpopular message. 2 Timothy 4: 2-4.
- Proclaims the sins of the people. Isaiah 58: 1.
- Must be prophesied. Amos 3:7.
- The Church of God is not man-made. Revelation 18:1.
- The teaching of the church must be correct although members may be faulty. Matthew 13:47-48.
- It must come from the previous church of God. Isaiah 65:15, Zephaniah 3:12, Isaiah 1: 9. The new church is the faithful remnant of the previous church.
- Angels in prophecy are the people of God. Revelation 14 & 18.

“No one hears the voice of these angels, for they are symbols to represent the people of God who are working in harmony with the universe of heaven.” Life Sketches, p. 429.

JESUS WEEPS...

During The time of the raising of Lazarus from the dead...Jesus wept; “it was not only because of the scene before Him that Christ wept. The weight of the grief of ages was upon Him. He saw the terrible effects of transgression of God’s law. He saw the history of the world beginning with the death of Abel, the conflict between good and evil had been unceasing. Looking down through the years to come He saw the suffering and sorrow, tears and death, that were to be the lot of men. His heart was pierced with the pain of the human family of all ages and in all lands. The woes of the sinful race were heavy upon His soul and the fountain of His tears was broken up as He longed to recover all of their distress. D.A. p.534.



In vision the prophet was shown that the testimony of the True Witness applies to us (God’s people) at the present time. It applies to all of us in the church of God, who profess to believe the present truth, the greater part (majority) are lukewarm believers having name but no zeal (no love of God in our hearts). The Lord does His best to shake us up from our sleep-walk of death by sending a message to us, His people during the judgment time (atonement). The message spoken will cause something to happen to us. We may find ourselves being finally given up by God when he shakes the church to get it ready for the times of refreshing so it can stand in His presence when He comes again.

WHY IS THERE THIS SHAKING?

The meaning of the shaking was shown that “it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans...Some will not bear this straight testimony (John.5:39, Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me). They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God’s people. `I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded’”. EW.270.

Why would someone rise up against it?? All who have left the church and who will

leave rise up against the testimony of the True Witness. For example: a couple in the church breaks up and leave the church because of the pride factor...they do not believe Jesus can sustain them in their loneliness and humiliation. Example # 2: some say they left the church or will leave because of such and such a brethren or such a situation. The people leave the church because they do not want to believe the True Witness about their true condition or doubt something the Witness points out to them whether in doctrine or some point of truth.

Young and old, God is now testing you. You are deciding your own eternal destiny. Your pride, your love to follow the fashions of the world, your vain and empty conversation, your selfishness, are all put in the scale, and the weight of evil is fearfully against you. You are poor, and miserable, and blind, and naked. While evil is increasing and taking deep root, it is choking the good seed which has been sown in the heart; and soon the word that was given concerning Eli's house will be spoken to the angels of God concerning you: Your sins "shall not be purged with

grow, but we must break up the ground of our hearts. Throughout the parable of the sower, Christ represents the different results of the sowing as depending upon the soil. Thus He teaches that if the word of God fails of accomplishing its work in our hearts and lives, the reason is to be found in ourselves. But the result is not beyond our control. True, we cannot change ourselves; but the power of choice is ours, and it rests with us to determine what we will become. The wayside, the stony-ground, the thorny-ground hearers need not remain such. The Spirit of God is ever seeking to break

Who is the 3rd angel? Seventh Day Adventist Church Reform Movement.

(2) When did the work of the 3rd angel begin? 1844.

(3) When did the loud cry begin? 1888. (Review & Herald, Nov. 22, 1892).

What is our condition in this fearful and solemn time? Alas, what pride is prevailing in the church, what hypocrisy, what deception, what love of dress, frivolity, and amusement, what desire for the supremacy! All these sins have clouded the mind, so that eternal things have not been discerned. RH.1887-03-22. Said the enemy of God and man; "We can separate many from Christ by worldliness, lust and pride. They may think themselves safe because they believe the truth, but indulgence of appetite or the lower passions, which will confuse judgment and destroy discrimination, will cause their fall." G.C. pg.517, 2nd edition. We need to better understand that our ability to discern is also greatly affected by the indulgence of our base passions. We deceive ourselves when we walk away from hearing or reading the truth and then forgetting about it (James 1:22).

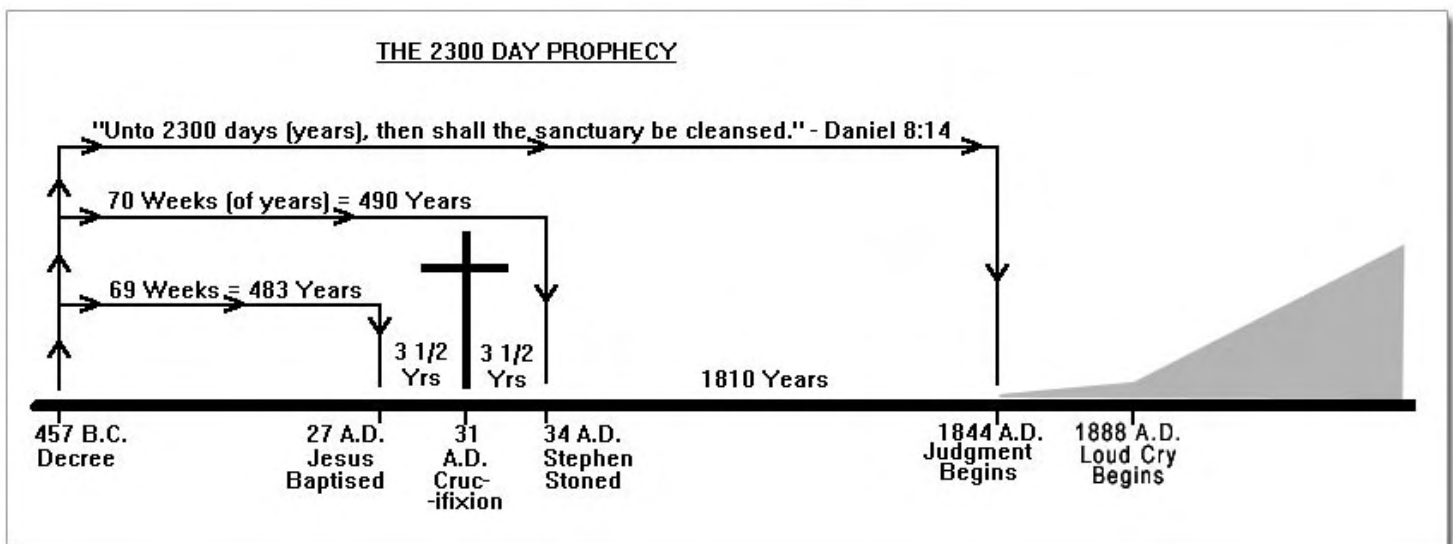
sacrifice nor offering forever." Many, I saw, were flattering themselves that they were good Christians, who have not a single ray of light from Jesus. They know not what it is to be renewed by the grace of God. They have no living experience for themselves in the things of God. And I saw that the Lord was whetting His sword in heaven to cut them down. Oh, that every lukewarm professor could realize the clean work that God is about to make among His professed people! Dear friends, do not deceive yourselves concerning your condition. You cannot deceive God. Says the True Witness: "I know thy works." The third angel is leading up a people, step by step, higher and higher. At every step they will be tested. 1T. Pg 190.

There is still some hope that the good seed of the gospel sown in our hearts can still

the spell of infatuation that holds men absorbed in worldly things, and to awaken a desire for the imperishable treasure. It is by resisting the Spirit that men become inattentive to or neglectful of God's word. They are themselves responsible for the hardness of heart that prevents the good seed from taking root, and for the evil growths that check its development. The garden of the heart must be cultivated. The soil must be broken up by deep repentance for sin. COL. Pg 56-57. If this is not accomplished, then all our sacrifices along with ourselves will be lost for forever.

LEADERS, MINISTERS, WORKERS & MEMBERS

We are greatly in need of faith and love, not filial love, not the love between husband and wife nor a mother's love but the love of God from heaven. The love which



loves its enemies, the love that will not be offended or quenched, this real love we need for each other and for the world. Eye salve is vital which will enable us to discern between the evil and the good and to detect sin in all its forms and disguises.

As mentioned earlier, the third angel has a part to do in this. Sometimes the question is asked if the church leaders/ministers do not have to listen to the third angel (God's church). The first thing we need to understand is that the church is the Truth (the Word of God). All members of the church must come up to the truth, they must live the truth in their lives, and then they will be a part of the church working in harmony with the universe of heaven. The word of God has self commending power so all members of the church must become like the word of truth.

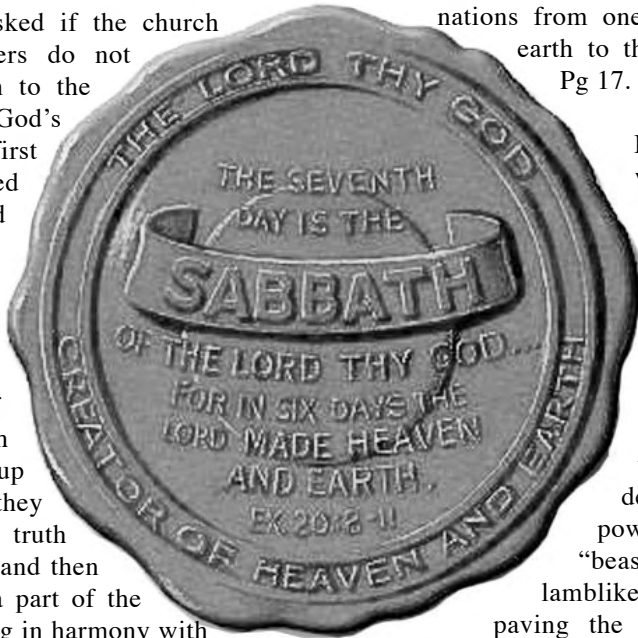
I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, "Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner." EW. pg 118. Every soul is to be tested. Every defect in the character, unless it is overcome by the help of God's Spirit, will become a sure means of destruction. 5T. Pg 573. We need God's help, but we must want it and seek it with all our hearts, then it shall be given.

God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat. 5T. Pg 707. Has this been happening?? Sometimes we hear some new idea(s) from some who may have influence. At first these idea(s) are kept personal and secret as the ones with the heresy try to gain converts within the faith; at first secretly to their strange new found idea... some are more

public and we have to pay attention and speak to them privately...the detrimental effect is worse from someone who has a greater influence subtly deceiving many with their heresies.

TIME LINE: PROPHECY & REALITY

Fearful tests and trials await the people of God. The spirit of war is stirring the nations from one end of the earth to the other. 9T. Pg 17.



In the news we see China and India old enemies uniting together behind closed doors as they try to deal with the power of the "beast with the lamblike horns", paving the way as the kings of the east. Countries are now trembling at the power of the United States (USA) after its conquest of Iraq and its present manipulation of the financial structure of the world which will lead to some gigantic financial crisis. Libya has renounced terrorism in light of this power and the US is demanding that all countries who would like to fly their passenger airlines into its territory have Air Marshals (Police so to speak) on all of their flights. The question was asked in the news; can the U.S. order such a thing from sovereign nations? The prophecy says yes, for he (U.S) will cause "the earth and them that dwell therein to worship the first beast"...as he continues to exercise his great power.

THE SEALING & THE SHAKING

The Sealing passes upon the members of the church of God and then the Sunday law announcement; the prophecy states that there will be a false reformation so close (resembling) to that of the church of God, that without the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit none can discern which one is not from God. Many who are shaken out will leave

the church of God and go to this false reformation as Satan will give them (false reformation) power to do miracles; all this before God's true church receives the latter rain with great power so that the light of the angel fills the earth with God's glory.

SUNDAY LAW & THE LATTER RAIN

The Sunday law is progressive and upon its first announcement the great majority like the leaves of autumn are blown away from the church of God and a very small number remains. These will plead with God for strength to carry forward the great work and they will be given the power from on high coming forth as a rushing wind. Enabled with the mighty power of God they go to gather the rest of the saints who are in other churches John 10:16. NOTE: Those gathered from the other churches in the latter rain are not sinners but saints (Rev.18:4); now they will have to learn very quickly what had taken years for the others. They are willing and able and accomplish all. Then the law will go forth that none can buy or sell except they have the mark of the beast, the saints leave the cities and towns, they go to the hills and mountains in secluded places, some are imprisoned and cast into the most unjust and cruel bondage.

THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

Mercy is finished; the seven last plagues are poured out unmixed without mercy upon the earth. There is a small resurrection during the sixth plague (Dan.12:2), the 144,000 is full (Rev.3: 10). Jesus leaves the temple in Heaven; the Sunday law death penalty is to be executed, the battle of Armageddon is being engaged

All this Jesus saw as He wept at the grave of Lazarus; the fountain of His tears was broken up as He longed to recover the Human race from its distress. AMEN.

Submitted by Michael Newby, Toronto, Canada.

THE BREATH OF LIFE



When people face trials like me, they often turn to prayer only as a last resort. Thomas Carlyle once wrote, "Prayer is and remains that native and deepest impulse of the soul of man." He was right. Prayer is the soul of religion, the breath of the Christian life. Prayer acknowledges a power not of ourselves, but beyond ourselves.

Abraham Lincoln did not hesitate to admit, "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go; my own wisdom and that of all around me seemed insufficient for the day." Men of state, despite their training and wisdom, will never outgrow the need thus acknowledged by the great American leader.

One man was going through an extremely difficult time in his family. It was a crisis of major problems which was directed to arguments, domestic violence, separation and divorce. Finally he said, "I have tried everything I know to get through this critical situation and nothing has worked. It's the right time to start praying."

I knew a lady who was fighting a valiant battle with cancer. As people observed the gradual effect on her body and lifestyle, one person said, "Well, they have tried everything else. I guess it's time to begin praying." In both of these instances, prayer was seen as a last ditch effort to resolve the problems. Only after all other options

were eliminated, did the person decide to pray. It was a desperate "grasping at straws."

However, prayer is not a conjurer's magic formula. On the contrary, prayer has its disciplines and its laws. Jesus' disciples recognized this fact, and entreated the Master to teach them how to pray. They observed him daily. They saw Him rise up early in the morn-



ing, a great while before the break of day, and depart into a solitary place to pray. This was a daily experience for the Master. He did not limit prayer to moments of trial or danger—nor should we.

Instead of prayer being a last resort, it should be the first thing we do. The

Lord answers our prayers, and He wants us to come to Him continually with all of our important needs. (1 Thess. 5:17). The Bible tells us to "be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer... let your requests be made known to God." Phil. 4:6.

Sometimes we make prayer an obligation. We pray from a sense of duty, and yawn sleepily as we do so. But prayer is not merely a duty; it is a privilege, an opportunity for friendship with God.

Sincere praying will be accompanied by a daily exemplification of the virtues of Christian living. Prayer and spiritual advancement go hand in hand.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray. He will teach us too—whether it be at daily work, in the din of the busy city street, or alone with our thoughts and meditations. Such prayer will become an inborn compulsion. It will rise to the throne of God as the breath of our daily life. **AMEN.**

Xavior Rajah Chelliah

THE POWER OF



“NO”

Years ago when my younger sister was new in her job, she was enthusiastic and quite an efficient employee. In fact she was so efficient that when someone needed to have something done, they always came to her because they knew that she would always say “yes” and she would perform the task promptly and without a complaint. After some time she began to realize what was happening. She was the one who was always asked to do something and it began to bother her because she was simply taking on more than she could handle at times, but she always felt that she must say “yes” to make others happy. One day when it got to be too much for her she finally learned to say, “no”. That day she wrote a small poem about the word, “no”. Here is a part of it.

“Learn to say NO!
Learn to say NO.
It’s only two letters
It only takes a second to say.

Saying it is fun.
Enjoy the power and authority in refusing.
JUST SAY NO!”

“No,” is one of the most misused words today. People are sometimes afraid to use it; other times they use it when they shouldn’t. Peer pressure often makes young people too afraid to use it for fear that their friends will laugh at them or belittle them. They end up doing things they regret later. Occasionally it does happen that bad habits develop, due to the fact that they just did not say “no” when they should have. It not only is a problem with young people, but with adults also. They get involved in many schemes and habits that they wish they hadn’t, but they could not say “no,” a very small word.

There are other times when people do say “no” when they shouldn’t. Those of us who have tried canvassing work know how many people are saying “no” to Jesus. When we

are canvassing, we are not alone – Jesus is with us and when the people reject the message, they are really rejecting Jesus.

“No” is one of the smallest words, but one with very great power. Eternal life

or eternal death can result from the use or misuse of this word. Be very careful when using it, but make sure you do use it when absolutely necessary. Don’t be afraid to use it.

If there is animosity between two countries or even two cultural groups within one county, if one tries to make peace, in some cases the other group says, “no” and the fighting continues.

There are positive times when we must use the word no. We MUST learn to say “no” to sin. Jesus said we can overcome. If we say “no” to sin and Satan, all the power in heaven will be available for us to use in order to help us fulfil our desires to say “no” to sin.

Adam did not say “no” when faced with the temptation from his wife. He committed his sin, knowing what he was doing. “And Adam was not deceived.” 1 Tim. 2:14. He just loved his wife more than he loved God. He should have said “no” to her, rather he said “yes” to her and “no” to Jesus.

RECHABITES

In Jeremiah chapter 35, we read the story of the family of the Rechabites. They lived in a time when the nation of Judah was in apostasy and Jeremiah was sent as a prophet to encourage them to repent and also to declare, from the Lord, that the end of their nation was near.

In this chapter we see Jeremiah taking “the whole house of the Rechabites” into

a chamber in the temple of the Lord and offering them wine to drink. What was their reply? It was a firm “no”.

At this time the nation was in apostasy. The king more than likely drank wine as well as the princes and other leading men. I am sure many of the corrupt priests did also, and here was a prophet of God offering them wine to drink in the temple. However, they refused to accept this offer to commit sin. Why? Jonadab, one of their forefathers told them not to drink wine or strong drink. To Jeremiah “they said, we will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab

our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever:” Verse 6.

Who was Jonadab? We see his name mentioned 240 years prior to the time that this event occurred in Jeremiah. He lived in the time of Jehu, King of Samaria. His influence was so great that Jehu was glad to have him on his side, and Jonadab was equally glad to be with Jehu because of his “zeal for the Lord,” as seen in the following Bible verse.

“And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him: and he saluted him, and said to him, Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart? And Jehonadab answered, It is. If it be, give me thine hand. And he gave him his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot. And he said, Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD. So they made him ride in his chariot.” 2 Kings 10:15, 16.

This family respected their forefather, who was a man of God, so much that they followed his instruction and adopted a strict

manner of living as he had outlined. They refused to be enticed into sin by anyone – even if it was a prophet of God.

How is it with us? If a leader in our church took us into a secret place in the church and offered us some wine, would we accept? No one would ever know. Often young people can't wait until they are old enough to so that they can leave home and live their lives as they choose. They desire to throw off the restraint and rules of their fathers. Here we see a family who is obeying their father who lived 240 years prior.

It may not be the drinking of wine, but

or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any [man] preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught [it], but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." Gal. 1:8-12. This is how positive Paul was about the truth he taught the people. He knew it was 100%

as far as religion was concerned, it appeared that the majority of the people followed in his footsteps. In the days of Elijah, there were only 7,000 who knew the way of the Lord. To Elijah this was a large number, but what are 7,000 in comparison to a population of millions as I am sure the nation of Israel was at that time. The majority were playing "follow the leader."

SAYING "NO" TO IMMORALITY

In the Bible we have many examples of people who said "no" to sin. There was Joseph who said "no" to Potiphar's wife. And he ended up in prison, but he had a clear conscience in the sight of God.



He desired to remain morally pure. This is a big problem in society today. There is so much immorality and one of the reasons is because some people are afraid to say, "no". Women sometimes feel they can't say "no" to the advances of a male or she would lose him as a friend and companion, so she gives herself over to sin, violating her own conscience.

In contrast to Joseph we can read of Samson whose downfall came due to his inability to say "no" to Delilah. He did not remain morally pure and this led to his captivity and eventually to his death. It all began with a small compromise, but it snowballed into rebellion against God's rules and laws.

Solomon also met his downfall by his inability to say "no" to his heathen wives. Women and men can have a strong influence on each other and we must make sure we remain firm to our principles before God – making His Word our rule of life, not fearing what man can do to us – rather fearing only God. "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matthew 10:28.

This problem of saying "no" at the wrong time or not saying it when you should, goes as far back as Adam and Eve. Adam loved Eve more than he loved God. He should have said "no" to Eve, rather he said "yes" to Eve and "no" to God.

IN DANIEL'S TIME:

The first mention of Daniel in the Bible is at the beginning of the book which he wrote. The first act recorded in his life is the fact that he said "no" to the food offered to him

perhaps some other area such as the strictness of Sabbath keeping or tithe paying. I remember a leader in a local church once tell me that you do not need to pay tithes if you are living on income assistance because you did not earn the money through your own labour. When I heard this, I told myself, "no" I cannot accept this teaching because I know what the Bible says about tithe paying. He is no longer in a leadership position, however I mention this just to illustrate the fact that we must all be Bible students ourselves so that we will not be led astray and when it is the correct time to say, "no".

We have to know right from wrong ourselves. We must know the truth so that we will be able to say "no" to error. Paul instructed his followers very well in the truth, and he told them that, "though we,

truth and when faced with error, he could say "no".

Are we just as sure about this being God's church today? Can we have the confidence of Paul? Have we searched for ourselves as did the noble Bereans? "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:11. I am sure that Paul preached his sermons from the Bible, however the Bereans went home and took their own Bibles and searched for themselves. Just because someone preaches from the Bible does not guarantee they are preaching truth.

The Rechabites, no doubt knew what they believed. The majority of the Israelite nation did not know. Whatever the king did

and his friends on King Nebuchadnezzar's table. I am sure that Daniel and his three friends were not the only ones taken from Jerusalem to Babylon. What about the others? It is assumed that they were not so bold and they did eat. What was the result? In the end of their training Daniel and his friends were found to be ten times wiser. And again, I am sure there were other Israelites who were also studying in Babylon, but because they did not have the moral courage to say "no" to the food; they were not ten times wiser.

Often we don't think of how serious it was to refuse the king's food.

"Here Daniel was brought to a severe test. Should he adhere to the teachings of his fathers concerning meats and drinks, and offend the king, and probably lose not only his position but also his life? Or should he disregard the commandment of the Lord, and retain the favour of the king, thus securing great intellectual advantages and the most flattering worldly prospects?"

"Daniel did not long hesitate. He decided to stand firm in his integrity, let the result be what it might. He 'purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank' (Dan. 1:8)

"There are many among professed Christians today who would decide that Daniel was too particular, and would pronounce him narrow and bigoted. They consider the matter of eating and drinking as of too little consequence to require such a decided stand – one involving the probable sacrifice of every earthly advantage. But those who reason thus will find in the day of judgment that they turned from God's express requirements and set up their own opinion as a standard of right and wrong. They will find that what seemed to them unimportant was not so regarded of God. His requirements should be sacredly obeyed. Those who accept and obey one of His precepts because it is convenient to do so, while they reject another because its observance would require a sacrifice, lower the standard of right and by their example lead others to lightly regard the holy law of God. 'Thus saith the Lord' is to be our rule in all things." *Sanctified Life*, pp 19, 20

And Daniel was rewarded for his faithfulness.

One of the hardest times for people to say "no" is when people around them are eating foods that are stimulating; foods that are enticing their taste buds, while harmful to the body. Often the taste buds win out and the body suffers ill health. But a firm "no" in such circumstances will bring lifelong blessings of health and happiness.

Years later we see Daniel's friends in front of that large golden statue – refusing to bow down. Again, there were more than likely other Jews in the plain of Dura, who did bow down, but these three friends, decided to make a firm stand for the truth and



say "no" to sin. "In vain were the king's threats. He could not turn these noble men from their allegiance to the great Ruler of nations. They had learned from the history of their fathers that disobedience to God is dishonour, disaster, and ruin; that the fear of the Lord is not only the beginning of wisdom but also the foundation of all true prosperity. They look with calmness upon the fiery furnace and the idolatrous throng. They have trusted in God, and He will not fail them now. Their answer is respectful, but decided: 'Be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.' (Dan. 3:18)." SL 37

They ended up in the fiery furnace but were miraculously delivered.

"These three Hebrews possessed genuine sanctification. True Christian principle will not stop to weigh consequences. It does not ask, What will people think of me if I did this? Or, How will it affect my worldly prospects if I do that? With the most intense longing the children of God desire to know what He would have them do, that their works may glorify Him. The Lord has made ample provision that the hearts and lives of all His followers may be controlled by divine grace, that they may be as a burning and shining lights in the world... What a lesson is here given to the fainthearted, the vacillating, the cowardly in the cause of God! What encouragement to those who will not be turned aside from duty by threats of peril!" SL 39,40

Later on in the life of Daniel we see him disobeying the king's command and this time it landed him in the lion's den. However, God again overruled and sent His angels to close the mouths of the lions.

"The decree goes forth from the king. Daniel is acquainted with the purpose of his enemies to ruin him. But he does not change his course in a single particular. With calmness he performs his accustomed duties, and at the hour of prayer he goes to his chamber, and with his windows open towards Jerusalem, he offers his petitions to the God of heaven. By his course of action he fearlessly declares that no earthly power has the right to come between him and his God and tell him to whom he should or should not pray. Noble man of principle! He stands before the world today as a praiseworthy example of Christian boldness and fidelity. He turns to God with all his heart, although he knows that death is the penalty for his devotion." SL 43, 44.

WHEN NOT TO SAY "NO"

Of course the obvious time not to say "no" is when being reproved of sin, or having new light brought to you.

In the time of Noah, the vast majority of the people said "no" to entering in the ark. Today many are also saying "no" to the Three Angel's Messages and the keeping of the Ten Commandments. What a price they will have to pay in the judgment. It seems easier for them to say "no" to righteousness, and harder to say "no" to sin.

Just try going canvassing as I mentioned

earlier, and you will experience how many say “no” to Jesus today. By the time one person says “yes” you may have had 25 who have said “no”.

The rich young ruler said “no” to Jesus. He should have said “yes,” but he counted the cost and for him it was too high.

“Christ’s words were verily to the ruler the invitation, ‘Choose you this day whom ye will serve.’ Joshua 24:15.... His words were words of wisdom, though they appeared severe and exacting. In accepting and obeying them was the ruler’s only hope of salvation.... The ruler was quick to discern all that Christ’s words involved, and he became sad.... His claim that he had kept the law of God was a deception. He showed that riches were his idol. He could not keep the commandments of God while the world was first in his affections... Thousands are passing through this ordeal, weighing Christ against the world; and many choose the world. Like the young ruler, they turn from the Saviour, saying in their hearts, I will not have this Man as my leader.” DA 520

“All should consider what it means to desire heaven, and yet to turn away because of the conditions laid down. Think of what it means to say ‘No’ to Christ. The ruler said, No, I cannot give You all. Do we say the same? The Saviour offers to share with us the work God has given us to do. He offers to use the means God has given us, to carry forward His work in the world. Only in this way can He save us.” DA 523

Anytime we sin, we are choosing our own way and saying “no” to Jesus. We must learn turn back and rather say “no” to Satan.

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” Romans 6:16. We are serving one or the other. We cannot serve both, nor can we remain on neutral ground. We are saying, “no” to one and “yes” to the other.

“When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature. The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He

intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan. But unless we do yield ourselves to the control of Christ, we shall be dominated by the wicked one. We must inevitably be under the control of the one or the other of the two great powers that are contending for the supremacy of the world. It is not necessary for us deliberately to choose the service of the kingdom of darkness in order to come under its dominion. We have only to neglect to ally ourselves with the kingdom of light. If we do not co-operate with the heavenly agencies, Satan will take possession of the heart, and will make it his abiding place. The only defence against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. Unless we become vitally connected with God, we can never resist the unhallowed effects of self-love, self-indulgence, and temptation to sin. We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome. Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a continual communion, we are at the mercy of the enemy, and shall do his bidding in the end.” DA 324

Who are you saying “no” to? Jesus or Satan. Both are fighting for your soul and you can’t say, “yes” to both of them. You are saying, “yes” to one of them and “no” to the other.

HAVE YOU COUNTED THE COST?

In our new, *International Hymnal, English Edition*, there is a song entitled, “Have you Counted the Cost?” (#385) The song reads as follows:

“There’s a line that is drawn by rejecting our Lord, Where the call of His Spirit is lost. And you hurry along with the pleasure-mad throng. Have you counted the cost?”

“You may barter your hope of eternity’s morn, For a moment of joy at the most, For the glitter of sin and the things it will win, Have you counted the cost?”

“While the door of His mercy is open to you, Ere the depth of His love you exhaust, Won’t you come and be healed, won’t you whisper, ‘I yield, I have a counted the cost.’

“Have you counted the cost if your soul should be lost, Though you gain the whole world for your own? Even not it may be that the line you have crossed... Have you counted, have you counted the cost?”

Is there a cost in following Jesus? Yes there is. If a ship is ready to sink and the people on board decide to hang on to their worldly possessions, they will go down with the ship. They must give up their worldly possessions and hang onto the lifeboat. We must give up everything in this world that is coming in between Jesus and ourselves. Whatever it is, Jesus will surely point it out to us if we ask Him to. The cost is to turn our back on the world. It is up to us whether we will say “yes” to Jesus and “no” to the world. Whatever choice we make will determine the final destination that we will reach when Jesus comes again.

Is there a cost for rejecting Jesus? Yes there is also a cost. You may gain the whole world, but you will lose your peace, your happiness, and your eternal life. There is a cost no matter which way you choose to go. Which price are you willing to pay? Both Jesus and Satan are coming to you, producing their merchandise for sale – you must pay one or the other. You must say “yes” to one and “no” to the other.

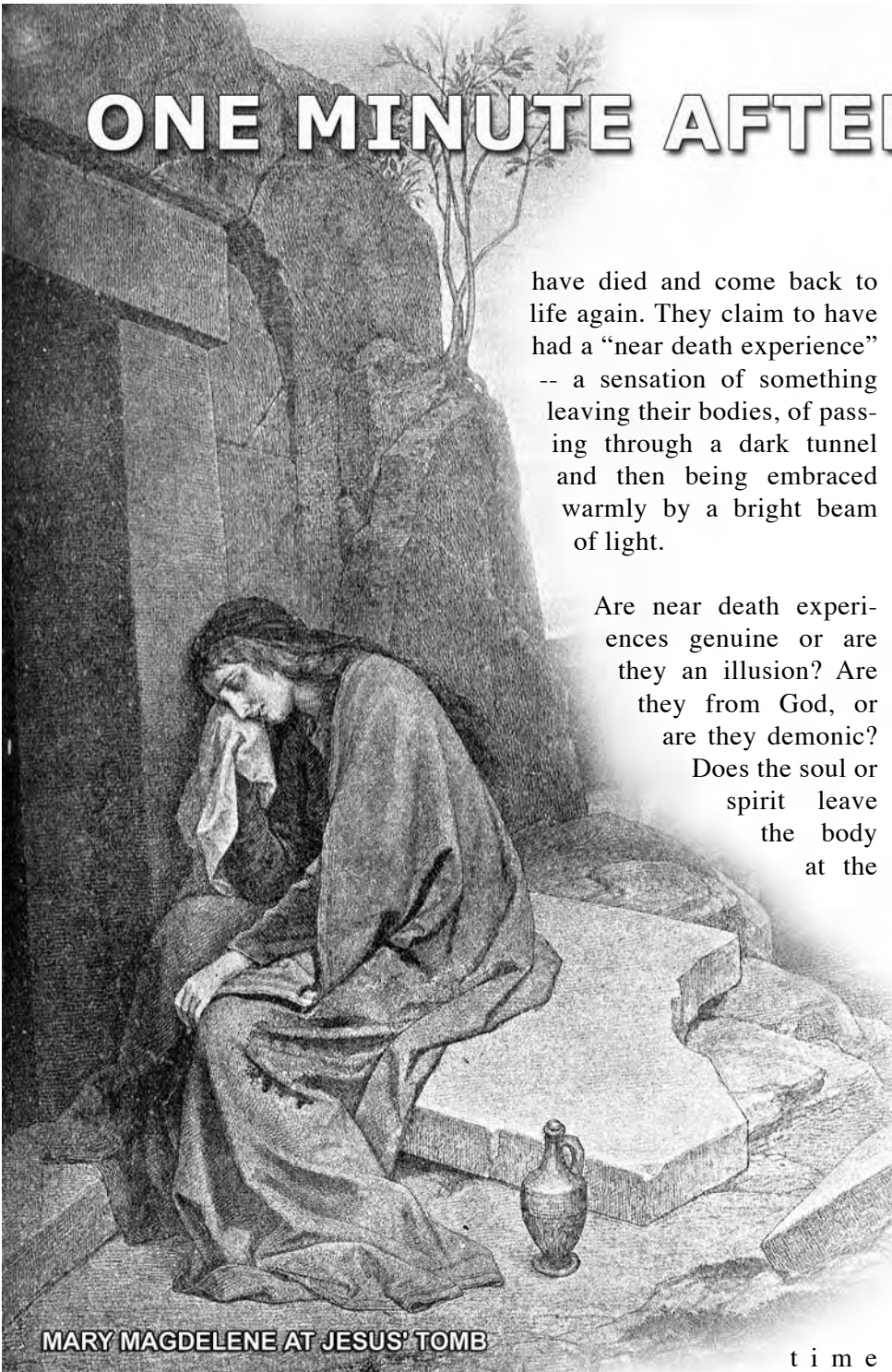
“God works mightily for a faithful people who obey His word without questioning or doubt.” 4T 164. Say “no” to the world and Jesus will be an ever-present help through all the trials of your life.

Remember, “no” is just a very small word – it only takes a second to say, but the saying of this word can have eternal consequences. It can either lead to eternal life or eternal death. It is a very powerful word. Use it wisely.

It is my wish and prayer that each one of us will have the courage to say “no” when the Sunday Law is enforced, trusting Jesus for food, water and protection. That time is not far distant in the future and if we have stood faithful in our day to day lives, saying “no” to the smaller tests and trials that come our way, only then will we have the courage to say “no” during the large trials. May God help us. **AMEN**

Wendy Eaton, Australia

ONE MINUTE AFTER DEATH



MARY MAGDELENE AT JESUS' TOMB

Today, interest in the occult and astrology is exploding. People all over the world are involved in palm reading, ESP, hypnosis, seances, witchcraft, and other mystical activities. Millions of best-selling books have been written that purport to know the future and give answers to questions about life after death. In the United States alone, over seven million people believe that they

have died and come back to life again. They claim to have had a “near death experience” -- a sensation of something leaving their bodies, of passing through a dark tunnel and then being embraced warmly by a bright beam of light.

Are near death experiences genuine or are they an illusion? Are they from God, or are they demonic?

Does the soul or spirit leave the body at the

resemble hallucinations. A drug addict could very likely experience a sensation of something leaving his body. Of course it is only a subjective feeling, not a true reality. Our night-time dreams can feel very real and very vivid-our minds can play tricks on us. Also, certain drugs can trigger a sensation of disembodiment

The so called “near death experiences” actually contradict the Bible. One must consider the following questions in the light of the Word of God:

Are the dead alive and conscious? Can they hear and speak?

Is it possible for the dead to communicate with the living?

Do humans possess an immortal soul that leaves the body at death?

The sacred Word of God, the Bible, addresses this important subject of life after death. In Genesis we read, “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” Genesis 2:7. Please note, God did **not** place an immortal soul into the body of man-he **became** a living soul or living person. Perhaps this simple equation can describe the process:

Dust (body) + Breath of life = A living soul or person.

At death, the creation process is reversed. “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit

t i m e
of death?

How do we explain these near-death experiences? Let us consider these facts:

1. None of the people with near-death experiences really died. Their hearts may have stopped temporarily, but their brains never died. This is a medically proven fact.

2. Many near-death experiences

shall return unto God who gave it.”
Ecclesiastes 12:7.

“All the while my **breath** is in me,
and the spirit of God is in my nos-
trils.” Job 27:3.

Thus, the spirit is the breath of life.
Breath and spirit are synonymous.
At death this life-giving force of
God goes back to Him. The follow-
ing equation describes the process of
dying:

*Dust (body) - Breath of life = Corpse
(a dead soul or person).*

Nowhere in the Bible do we find
that man has an immortal soul or
that the spirit is conscious. “For the
living know that they shall die: but
the dead know not any thing, neither
have they any more a reward; for the
memory of them is forgotten. Also
their love, and their hatred, and their
envy, is now perished; neither have
they any more a portion for ever in
any thing that is done under the sun.
Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do,
do it with thy might; for there is no
work, nor device, nor knowledge,
nor wisdom, in the grave, whither
thou goest.” Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10.

Who **only** has immortality? “Which
in his times he shall shew, who is the
blessed and only Potentate, the King
of kings, and Lord of lords; Who
only hath immortality, dwelling in
the light which no man can approach
unto.” I Timothy 6:15,16.

Thus clearly, only God possesses
immortality. When a person dies, the
gift of immortality is not immedi-
ately bestowed, but will be given to
the faithful at a definite, future date.

The concept of the immortality of the
soul can be traced back to the very
beginning of the history of the earth.
In Genesis 3:4 it is recorded that
the devil said to Eve, “Ye shall not
surely die.” This was the first lie ever



spoken to man. Eve’s acceptance of
this lie and subsequent disobedience
to God resulted in man’s expulsion
from the Garden of Eden. Thousands
of years later, the teaching of the
immortality of the soul continued
to be spread by the Babylonians,
Egyptians, Romans, and today it
is taught by almost all the modern
churches. Satan succeeded in deceiv-
ing most of the world with his lie.
Many religious leaders try unsuccess-
fully to prove from the Bible that
a living and conscious soul travels to
heaven when a faithful person dies.
But the Bible teaches clearly that
the righteous will receive eternal
life at the second coming of Christ.
“And, behold, I come quickly; and

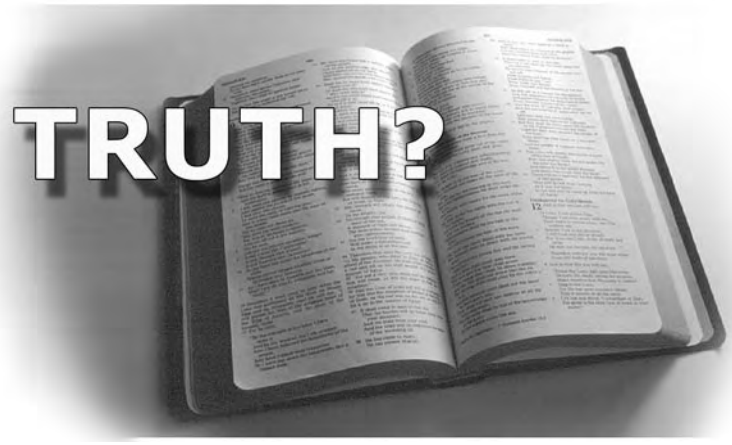
my reward is with me, to give every
man according as his work shall be.”
Revelation 22: 12.

Jesus will soon give the crown of
eternal life to all His people. Then
the graves of the righteous will be
opened wide and the saved will
receive immortality. This is the
blessed hope of the Christian.

Let us choose and accept the truth
of God and not be deceived by the
devil.

Henry Dering, USA

WHAT IS TRUTH?



Many have asked this question and when they received the answer they did not like it and therefore rejected it.

The truth is the most controversial subject that we can study. Many different explanations have been given to it, but still it remains a mystery to most of the people. The truth is the most loved by some. They have sacrificed all for it, even their lives. The truth is also most hated by others. Great persecutions have been raised against the ones who loved the truth.

Most of the religious people love lies. Therefore the ministers, pastors and priests tell lies to their congregations who then eagerly believe them.

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” 2 Tim. 4:3-4.

This kind of condition existed already in the Old Testament time. “Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel”: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.” Hosea 4:1.

They did continue their religious ceremonies; they kept the Sabbath and paid tithes, but without the truth they were meaningless exercises and did not bring peace to their souls neither the promised future life.

Paul is speaking about the religious teachers in his days. “If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmising, perverse disputings of the men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.” 1 Tim. 6:3-5.

The Truth

There is nothing so beautiful as the truth in Jesus. There is a beauty that attracted Paul to leave behind all his earlier life and gain. Christ’s righteousness is the goodly pearl for which man sold all that he had in order to purchase it, and also the hidden treasure.

Men and women have been hungering and thirsting for this righteousness and as a result they have been filled with it.

While beholding the beauty of the truth they started to hate selfishness as something ugly, evil and despicable.

When the words of the truth as sweetest music fall to the ears of a sinner, they bring him hope that the image of Satan can be erased and the perfect image of Jesus can be restored in him.

The Truth Shall Make Us Free

This was the promise of Jesus. The truth will make us free from sin, from selfishness, pride, hatred, envy, covetousness, and every other wrong characteristic.

And then the freedom from sin brings us peace, joy and happiness. Our joy comes from the truth and not from riches, honour, health, and positions. They are

not necessary for our happiness. Not even husband or wife is necessary for an enjoyable life. The truth in Jesus supplies all our needs and the longings of our soul.

People who have fallen in love with the truth have died to this world. Everything here seems to them empty, and vanity; therefore they are willing to sacrifice all for the truth.

Martin Luther wrote in his gospel hymn, “A Mighty Fortress”, “Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also. They body they may kill, God’s truth abideth still, His kingdom is forever.”

The Truth Hurts

Nothing is so painful to us as the truth.

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Heb. 4:12.

The truth will cut into the innermost soul. It made Peter to weep bitterly. It made the rich young man sorrowful. By speaking the truth, Jesus lost most of His disciples.

“These things said He in the synagogue, as He taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of His disciples, when they heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?... From that time many of His disciples went back and walked no more with him.” John 6:59-60,66.

Jesus was hated for the truth He spoke. The prophets were killed for the truth they spoke. John the Baptist lost his life for speaking the truth.

When you go to the doctor he will touch your sore spot, the healthy part he does not touch nor operate on.

Jesus touched the sore spot of the rich young man. We also may have different sore spots and it does hurt when someone touches them.

A member who is not faithful in tithes does not enjoy listening to a sermon of tithes paying. A member who is not faithful in health reform does not enjoy listening to a lecture about a proper diet. These are sore spots or weaknesses and it is the truth to us when these are pointed out.

Love of the Truth

Very few people really love the truth. Paul writes, "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish: because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie; That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

2 Tim. 2:10-12.

It is not enough for our salvation to know the truth, we must love the truth. It is not enough to keep the Sabbath; we must love the Sabbath day. It is not enough to follow health reform, we must love the health reform we have. It is not enough to pay tithes, we must love the tithes paying. The same goes to all our church teachings and practices.

Speak the Truth

It is important that the truth is spoken in our pulpits. God holds us responsible for the truth that the people need to hear.

"Today there is need of the voice of stern rebuke: for grievous sins have separated the people from God. The smooth sermons so often preached make no lasting impression; the trumpet does not give a certain sound. Men are not cut to the heart by the plain, sharp truths of God's word... 'Thou art the man.' 2 Sam. 12:7. Words as unmistakably plain as those spoken by Nathan to David are seldom heard in the

pulpits of today... These ministers who are men pleasers, who cry, Peace, Peace, when God has not spoken peace, might well humble their hearts before God, asking pardon for their insincerity and their lack of moral courage." PK 140, 141.

Truth Changes Us

Anyone who comes face to face with the truth will be affected. The truth will change people to the perfect image of Christ or to the perfect image of Satan.

Abel was changed by the truth to the image of God. By the same truth, Cain was changed into the image of Satan. Esau and Jacob learned the same truth but were changed to different images. Jesus called the Pharisees children of the devil. In the middle ages, millions were killed by the religious leaders.

The way of the truth is narrow. Sinners find it inconvenient. It leads us to Calvary.

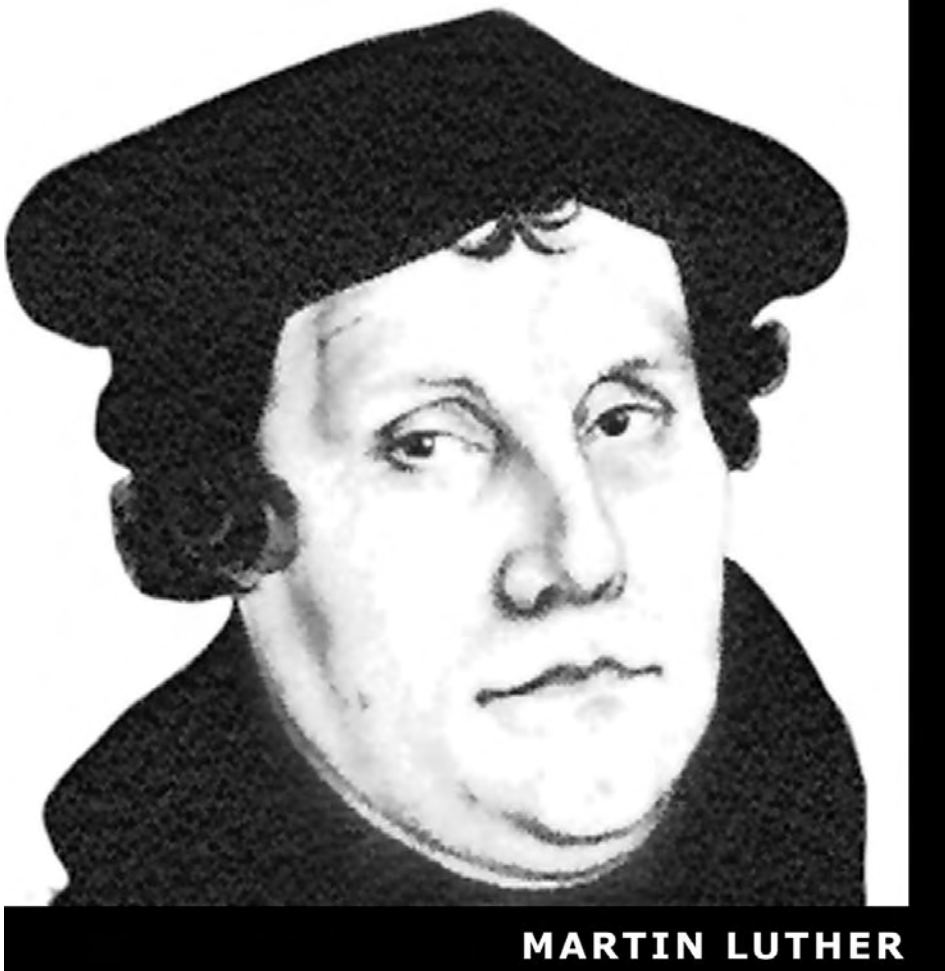
"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." Rom. 6:6.

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Tim. 3:12.

We have a beautiful gospel song in our hymnal about the truth. "Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide, in the strife of truth and falsehood for the good or evil side... Then to side with truth is noble, when we share her wretched crust. Though the cause of evil prosper, yet the truth alone is strong."

The pioneers of the Reform Movement sacrificed their lives for the truth they loved. We are the guardians of the truth today and it changes us for the better or for the worse. The promise to us is that the Holy Spirit will lead us into all the truth. And if we love this truth it will make us perfect, ready for Heaven. But let us each one study the present truth that points us our weaknesses and sins and be thankful for the knowledge. **AMEN**

Timo Martin, Canada



MARTIN LUTHER

JESUS & HIS TREASURE



“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine.” Ex. 19:5.

“Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another; and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a an spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.” Mal. 3:16-18.

Therefore, “let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Heb. 10:24,25.

“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.” Dan. 12:3.

How? “For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” 2 Cor. 4:6,7.

By—“He (God) hath remembered his covenant forever, the word which He commanded unto a thousand generations. Which covenant He made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant.” Ps. 105:8,9.

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth... Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come... And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God... Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” Rev. 14:6-12 (abbr.)

“The three angels of Revelation 14 are represented as flying in the midst of heaven, symbolizing the work of those who proclaim the first, second and third angel’s messages. All are linked together. The evidences of the abiding, every living truth of these grand messages, that mean so much to the church, that have awakened such intense opposition from the religious world, are not extinct. Satan is constantly seeking to cast a shadow about these messages, so that the people of God shall not clearly discern their import, their time and place; but they live and are to exert their power upon our religious experience while time shall last.

“The influence of these messages has been deepening and widening, setting in motion the springs of action in thousands of hearts, bringing into existence institutions of learning, publishing houses, and health institutions. All these are instrumentalities of God to cooperate in the grand work represented by the first, second and third angels, the work of warning the inhabitants of the world that Christ is coming the second time with power and great glory.” 6T 17,18.

Commencement! 1844!

“A spirit of solemn and earnest prayer was everywhere felt by the saints. A holy solemnity was resting upon them. Angels were watching with deepest interest the effect of the message, and were elevating those who received it, and drawing them from earthly things to obtain large supplies from salvation’s fountain. God’s people were then accepted of Him. Jesus looked upon them with pleasure, for His image was reflected in them. They had made a full sacrifice, an entire consecration, and expected to be changed to immortality.” EW 239.

1852, 8 years later... “As I have of late looked around to find the humble followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, my mind has been much exercised. Many who profess to be looking for the speedy coming of Christ are becoming conformed to this world and seek more earnestly the applause of those around them than the approbation of God. They are cold and formal, like the nominal churches from which they but a short time since separated. The words addressed to the Laodicean church describes their present condition perfectly.” EW 107.

“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 know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot... As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 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.” Rev. 3:14, 15, 19.

1856--“I was shown that the testimony to the Laodiceans applies to God’s people at

the present time, and the reason it has not accomplished a greater work is because of the hardness of their hearts. But God has given the message time to do its work. The heart must be purified from sins which have so long shut out Jesus. This fearful message will do its work. When it was first presented, it led to close examination of heart. Sins were confessed, and the people of God were stirred everywhere. Nearly all believed that this message would end in the loud cry of the third angel. But as they failed to see the powerful work accomplished in a short time, many lost the effect of the message. I saw that this message would not accomplish its work in a few short months... God will prove His people. Jesus bears patiently with them, and does not spew them out of His mouth in a moment... If the message had been of short duration as many of us supposed, there would have been no time for them to develop character... Lest His people should be deceived in regard to themselves, He gives them time for the excitement to wear off, and then proves them to see if they will obey the counsel of the True Witness." 1T 186.

1873. "Very many feel impatient and jealous because they are frequently disturbed with warnings and reproofs which keep their sins before them. Says the True Witness: 'I know thy works'... Those who are reproved by the Spirit of God should not rise up against the humble instrument. It is God, and not erring mortal, who has spoken to save them from ruin. Those who despise the warning will be left in blindness to become self deceived. But those who heed it, and zealously go about the work of separating their sins from them in order to have the needed graces, will be opening the door of their hearts that the dear Saviour may come in and dwell with them. This class you will ever find in perfect harmony with the testimony of the Spirit of God." 3T 256-257.

1876—"The Laodicean message applies to the people of God who profess to believe present truth. The greater part are lukewarm professors, having a name but no zeal. God signified that He wanted men at the great heart of the work to correct the state of things existing there and to stand like faithful sentinels at their post of duty. He has given them light at every point, to instruct, encourage, and confirm them, as

the case required. But notwithstanding all this, those who should be faithful and true, fervent in Christian zeal, of gracious temper, knowing and loving Jesus earnestly, are found aiding the enemy to weaken and discourage those whom God is using to build up the work. The term 'lukewarm' is applicable to this class. They profess to love the truth, yet are deficient in Christian fervor and devotion. They dare not give up wholly and run the risk of te unbeliever, yet they are unwilling to die to self and follow out closely the principles of their faith." 4T 87.

1882—"The church will be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary. If her moral character and spiritual state do not correspond with the benefits and blessings God has conferred upon her, she will be found wanting. The light has been shining clear and definite upon her pathway, and the light of 1882 calls her to an account. If her talents are unimproved, if her fruit is not perfect before God, if her light has become darkness, she is indeed found wanting." 5T 83, 84.

Where is the treasure?

"The pure and the base metal are now mingled that only the discerning eye of the infinite God can with certainty distinguish between them. But the moral magnet of holiness and truth will attract together the pure metal, while it will repel the base and counterfeit.

" 'The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly;' but where do we behold the true advent spirit? Who are preparing to stand in that time of temptation which is just before us? The people to whom God has entrusted the sacred, solemn, testing truths for this time are sleeping at their post. They say by their actions: We have the truth; we are 'rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;' while the Witness declares, 'Thou knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind and naked.'" 5T 101.

"The church has received warning after warning. The duties and dangers of God's people have been plainly revealed. But the worldly element has proved too strong for them. Customs, practices, and fashions which lead the soul away from God have been for years gaining ground in defiance

of the warnings and entreaties of the Holy Spirit, until at last their ways have become right in their own eyes, and the Spirit's voice is scarcely heard." 5T 103.
Increasing Intensity

"I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people. The Lord has not closed heaven to us, but our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God. Pride, covetousness, and love of the world have lived in the heart without fear of banishment or condemnation. Grievous and presumptuous sins have dwelt among us. And yet the general opinion is that the church is flourishing and that peace and spiritual prosperity are in all her borders.

"The church has turned back from following Christ, her leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt, and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches everywhere." 5T 217.

By 1888—"Spiritual death has come upon the people that should be manifesting life and zeal, purity and consecration by the most earnest devotion to the cause of truth. The facts concerning the real condition of the professed people of God speaks more loudly than their profession, and make it evident that same power has cut the cable that anchored them to the eternal rock, and that they are drifting away to sea without chart or compass." RH, July 24, 1888.

Effect on the Message

"The third angel's message is to be given with power... We are in danger of giving the third angel's message in so indefinite a manner that it does not impress the people. So many other interests are brought in that the very message which should be proclaimed with power becomes tame and voiceless." 6T 60.

"It is a solemn and terrible truth that many who have been zealous in proclaiming the third angel's message are now becoming listless and indifferent! The line of demarcation between worldlings and many professed Christians is almost indistinguishable. Many who once were earnest Adventists are conforming to the world—to its practices, its customs, its selfishness. Instead of leading the world to

render obedience to God's law, the church is uniting more and more closely with the world in transgression. Daily the church is becoming converted to the world. How many professing Christians are slaves of mammon! Their indulgence of appetite, their extravagant expenditure of money for selfish gratification, greatly dishonors God.

"And through lack of zeal for the promulgation of the third angel's message, many others, while not apparently living in transgression, are nevertheless as verily lending their influence on the side of Satan as are those who openly sin against God. Multitudes are perishing; but how few are burdened for these souls! There is a stupor, a paralysis, upon many of the people of God, which prevents them from understanding the duty of the hour." 8T 118-119.

Revelation 3:16 Imminent. "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."

"To those who are indifferent at this time Christ's warning is: (Rev. 3:16 quoted). The figure of spewing out of His mouth means that He cannot offer up your prayers or your expressions of love to God. He cannot endorse your teaching of His word or your spiritual work in anywise. He cannot present your religious exercises with the request that grace be given you." 6T 408.

Hence—"Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. The light which attended this angel penetrated everywhere as he cried mightily with a strong voice, 'Babylon the great, is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird'... The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel's message as it swells to a loud cry." EW 277.

"In 1888 in the General Conference held at Minneapolis, Minnesota, the angel of Rev. 18 came down to do his work." "Taking

Up a Reproach (By A.T. Jones, quote from EGW).

"The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth." (RH, Nov. 22, 1892) also, 7BC 984.

Detail of 1888

"The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God... This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel's message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure." TM 91,92.

Received? "The great object of the advent of the Holy Spirit is distinctly specified by Christ. 'When He is come,' He said, 'He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.' This light has been kept before our people for years. The power of the Holy Spirit has been largely manifested at Battle Creek, the great heart of the work, to be communicated to those in the highways and hedges, that the mass of human beings under Satan's sway of sin and death might be reformed and renovated by the Spirit's power. But when light has come to those at the centre of the work, they have not known how to treat it. The testimonies God has given His people are in harmony with His word." TM 401-402.

"Men who are entrusted with weighty responsibilities, but who have no living connection with God, have been and are doing despite to His Holy Spirit. They are indulging the very same spirit as did Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, and as did the Jews in the days of Christ. (See Matt. 12: 22-29, 31-37). Warnings have come from God again and again for these men, but they have cast them aside and ventured on in the same course.

"Read the words of Christ in Matt. 23: 33, 'Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!'... 'Wherefore, behold I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city.' This prophecy was literally fulfilled by the Jews in their treatment of Christ and of the messengers whom God sent to them. Will men in these last days follow the example of those whom Christ condemned?"

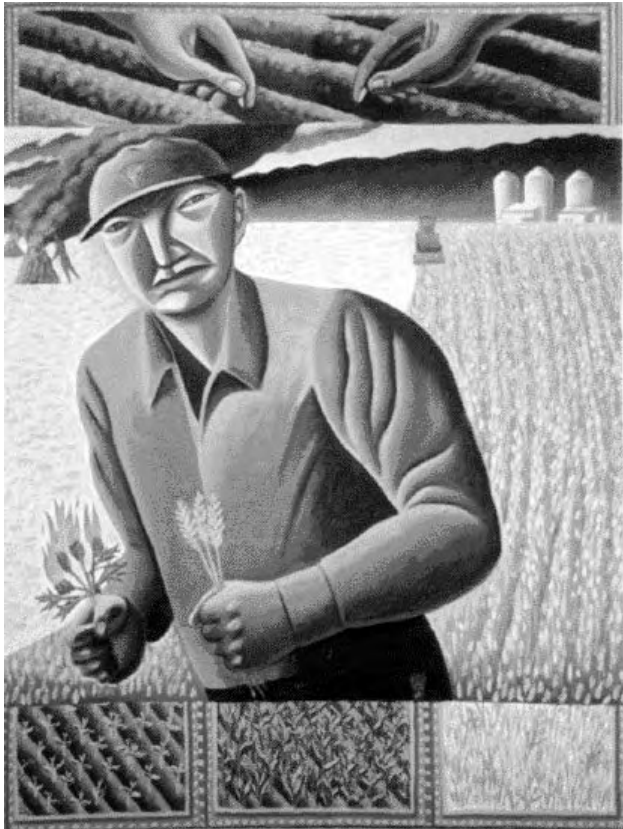
"These terrible predictions they have not as yet carried out to the full; but if God spares their lives, and they nourish the same spirit that marked their course of action both before and after the Minneapolis meeting, they will fill up to the full the deeds of those whom Christ condemned when He was upon the earth.

"The perils of the last days are upon us. Satan takes the control of every mind that is not decidedly under the control of the Spirit of God. Some have been cultivating hatred against the men whom God has commissioned to bear a special message to the world. They began this Satanic work at Minneapolis. Afterward, when they saw and felt the demonstration of the Holy Spirit testifying that the message was of God, they hated it the more, because it was a testimony against them. They would not humble their hearts to repent, to give God the glory, and vindicate the right. They went on in their own spirit, filled with envy, jealousy, and evil surmisings, as did the Jews. They opened their hearts to the enemy of God and man. Yet these men have been holding positions of trust, and have been molding the work after their own similitude, as far as they possibly could..." TM 78-80.

"An unwillingness to yield up preconceived opinions, and to accept this truth, (that the moral law is the schoolmaster of Gal. 3:24 that leads us to Christ) lay at the foundation of a large share of the opposition manifested at Minneapolis against the Lord's message from Brethren E.J. Waggoner and A.T. Jones. By exciting that opposition, Satan succeeded in shutting away from our people, in a great measure, the special power of the Holy Spirit that God longed to impart to them. The enemy prevented them from obtaining that efficiency which might have been theirs in carrying the truth to the world, as the apostles proclaimed it

after the day of Pentecost. The light that is to lighten the whole earth with its glory was resisted, and by the action of our own brethren, has been in a great degree kept away from the world.” 1 SM 234, 235.

But note, recall 7BC 984, “The loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ,



the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth.”

“The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel’s message as it swells into a loud cry.” EW 277.

“The work will grow deeper and become more earnest to the very close of time. And all who are laborers together with God will contend most earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. They will not be turned from the present message, which is already lightening the earth with its glory.” 1896—2 SM 114.

SDA Comment re: 1888 in “Story of the Church” p. 246.

“It marked the beginning of a great reform.”

Still hope for rejectors—recall TM 79, “...if God spares their lives, and they nourish the same spirit that marked their course of action both before and after the Minneapolis meeting, they will fill up to the full the deeds of those whom Christ condemned when He was upon the earth.”

Another call, 1902. “God calls for a spiritual revival and a spiritual reformation. Unless this takes place, those who are lukewarm will continue to grow more abhorrent to the Lord, until He will refuse to acknowledge them as His children.

“A revival and a reformation must take place under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of the mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change of ideas and theories, habits and practices.” Christ Our Righteousness—compiled by A.G. Daniells, p. 121. EGW quote.

Heeded? 1903. “After I received word in regard to the excellent meeting of confession and unity that

had been held in Battle Creek I was writing in my diary and was about to record the thankfulness I felt because a change had come, when my hand was arrested, and there came to me the words: ‘Write it not. No change for the better has taken place. Teachings that are turning souls from the truth are being presented as of great worth. Doctrines are being taught that lead into forbidden paths; doctrines that lead men to act in harmony with their own inclinations and to work out their unsanctified purposes; doctrines that, if received, would destroy the dignity and power of God’s people, obscuring the light that would otherwise come to them through God’s appointed agencies.” 8T 231.

The Gathering of the Jewels (The Remnant)

Will the church fall? “The church may

appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place. None but those who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths.” 2 SM 380.

Definition of Church—“The church is God’s fortress, His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world... From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth.” AA 11.

“I know that the Lord loves His church. It is not to be disorganized or broken up into independent atoms. There is not the least consistency in this; there is not the least evidence that such a thing will be.” 2 SM 68,69.

“As we near the final crisis, instead of feeling that there is less need of order and harmony of action, we should be more systematic than heretofore: All our work should be conducted according to well defined plans. I am receiving light from God that there should be wise generalship at this time more than at any former period of our history.” 3 SM 26.

Observe Separation of Chaff from Wheat since 1888

“Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh.” Matt. 24:44. This is our message, the very message that the three angels flying in the midst of heaven are proclaiming. The work to be done now is that of sounding this last message of mercy to a fallen world. A new life is coming from heaven and taking possession of all God’s people. But divisions will come in the church. Two parties will be developed...

“The work will grow deeper and become more earnest to the very close of time. And all who are laborers together with God will contend most earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. They will not be turned from the present message, which is already lightening the earth with its glory.” 2 SM 114. **AMEN**

THE BUSHMAN



CHILDRENS CORNER

In the remote sandy wastes of the Kalahari Desert, in a country that today is called Botswana – South Africa, lived some primitive Bushmen. They had never known civilization. They lived where the white man seldom went and never stayed. Sekuba, a Bushman, was fully grown but only about 150 cm tall.

When Sekuba and his family crept in out of the desert cold one night in 1953, they had no inkling that their way of life was about to change forever. Sekuba kept his bow and his quiver of poisoned arrows near him.

The Bushmen knew nature and knew her secrets. They knew where to find roots that yielded the poison for arrowheads. They knew where to find the shells of wild

ostrich eggs that they could fill with water when it rained briefly. They knew the forbidden desert. They had survived incredible hardship. But generations of their way of life seemed to have almost effaced the image of their Creator.

Sekuba's family slept. But for him the night was suddenly brighter than day, and he talked with one who spoke from the fire he saw!

The next morning he tried to tell his wife and family what happened. Over and over he tried. They attached great significance to dreams, but who had ever heard of a dream like this? What was the Book he was talking about? And who was the shining one who had spoken from the fire, so bright he could

not look at him? Why must Sekuba go to the east to find the people who had the Book and could tell him about God? Why did he feel he must leave this very day because of the angel's command? They couldn't comprehend it.

“How will you speak to the people you will meet?” they wanted to know. The Bushmen spoke a language of clicks and guttural sounds not at all like the languages spoken by Bantu natives. No one would ever go to the Bushmen with books. Their language had never been reduced to writing. It was

seldom that Bantus or whites ventured near them, for

with their poison arrows shot from ambush they were to be feared.

But Sekuba told his family, “The Book talks. The shining one taught me the words of the Book. I understood them, and I will



be able to read them.”

His family made no attempt to remind him of the dangers he would find along the way. They were impressed, too, by his night vision – impressed enough to travel with him a part of the way.

Each day they drew nearer the eastern border of the desert, hunting to sustain themselves. Finally, on the fringe of civilization, they found some scattered Bushmen who knew a little more about their Bantu neighbours. Sekuba left his family near them, and they believed his promise to return when he had found the people with the Book.

Clad in his skin loincloth, carrying his blanket made of animal hide and a scanty supply of dried meat, armed with his bow and poison-tipped arrows, he advanced eastward alone into the unknown, as the angel had directed.

Many days later, two hundred and forty kilometres from his original starting place, Sekuba hesitantly approached the huts of some African Bantu farmers. The tribesman at the first hut was startled and not a little frightened to see a Bushman standing





before him. But he saw that the bow in his hand was empty; so he did not flee. Sekuba waited respectfully for him to speak.

“I see you,” said the Bantu, according to African custom.

With dignity Sekuba returned the greeting and then asked, “Where will I find the people with the Book?” The amazed Bantu could find no words for a moment, and Sekuba continued, “I have come to find the people who worship God.”

“You speak our language!” the African burst out.

“The shining one taught me,” Sekuba said

simply, and then he told more about his night vision. “Can you take me to one who can teach me more of the Book?”

“This is marvellous,” exclaimed the Bantu. “Yes, I can take you to our pastor. He lives near.”

They started out together, their progress impeded by the excited Bantus who crowded around, wanting to see this Bushman who had been taught to speak the Tswana language by an angel. It was near dusk when the group – it was grown now, for others had joined the two along the way – reached the humble dwelling that had real windows with glass panes. They told their excited story, and then the pastor wanted to hear it direct from Sekuba.



The little Bushman was not awed by his strange surroundings. Rather, he was happy for the success of his mission and glad to tell of the vision that was responsible for his long journey. When he had finished, he asked humbly, “Have I found the people who worship God – and have the Book?”

The pastor, deeply moved, entered his house and returned with a Bible in his hands. Sekuba’s eyes lighted up. He clapped his hands softly and bowed his head as he exclaimed, “That is it! That is the Book!”

“This is the end of your journey!” the pastor exclaimed. “You shall stay with me tonight.” He led the group in prayer, and the Africans returned to their huts. Sekuba was made comfortable in the little hut that served as the pastor’s kitchen. A servant prepared food for him. Then he lay down to sleep, happy to have found the object of his search.

But that night the angel came again. “This is not the true church, you must continue your search. You must find the Sabbath-keeping church and ask for Pastor Moyo. He will not only have the Book but also four brown books that are really nine.”

So in the morning Sekuba explained to his host, “I must leave you. I cannot stay here. The shining one came in the night and told me to find a people who keep the seventh day as Sabbath.”

The pastor could not believe his ears. “This is the chief’s church,” he said, with irritation in his voice. “Would the chief be wrong? You have not understood.”

Sekuba was respectful, but he was also firm. “Sir, I have not misunderstood. These things were shown me plainly. There are people who worship God on the seventh day. Please tell me where I may find them.”

Now there was anger. A crowd gathered. Sekuba was arrested for defying the chief’s church. But he never changed his story. Finally he was set free by the white commissioner, who felt something akin to awe as he saw an unlearned Bushman speaking Tswana and holding firmly to his story of angel instruction.

Safely on his way again, Sekuba spent the



night where darkness found him. But he was troubled. How could he find Pastor Moyo? What direction should he take? Alone in the desert he talked with the unseen God and asked Him to direct him, to give him some sign. Then he fell asleep.

In the light of dawn he saw near the distant horizon a small, mist like cloud. That, in

the clear dry air bordering the desert, he accepted as his sign. Patiently he followed it. For seven days and 190 km it led him on. Carefully he avoided roads and men, for one mistake was enough.

Somewhere – it may have been before he left the shelter of the commissioner’s court – he had acquired some European clothes.

So now he did not look so conspicuous as he entered a little settlement. The cloud that had gone before him now disappeared. Would he be able to find Pastor Moyo?

The next morning a Bantu African directed him into the village, and he had no difficulty in finding Pastor Moyo’s home. The pastor was startled at the sight of his visitor. Like other Africans, he harboured some fear of Bushmen. But as he studied his face, he knew that this was no ordinary African, and he invited him in.

Once again Sekuba told his story in Tswana while the pastor listened with growing awe and wonder. And the little

Bushman said, as he finished his story, “I am commanded to find the people with the Book who kept the seventh-day Sabbath.”

Gladly Pastor Moyo brought out his worn Bible and assured him that he had found the people he was looking for.

“That is it!” Sekuba exclaimed. But he had one more request. “Where are the four books that are really nine?”

Pastor Moyo turned to his bookshelf and brought out the four brown volumes bearing the title *Testimonies for the Church*.

Every Seventh-day Adventist is familiar with these books from the pen of Ellen White, whose writing bears the marks and meets every test of inspiration – nine volumes at one time bound for convenience into four books.

Sekuba was satisfied and delighted. He said eagerly, “You are the people!”

His journey was ended. But there was so much more – so much more to learn. All that day they talked and read from the book. For two weeks they studied together, and Sekuba drank it all in.

Then Sekuba returned to his own people with the good news about Jesus, and Pastor Moyo visited them. It was discovered that the Bushmen, even with their primitive background had phenomenal memories. They were able to memorize long passages of Scripture in a short time without forgetting them.

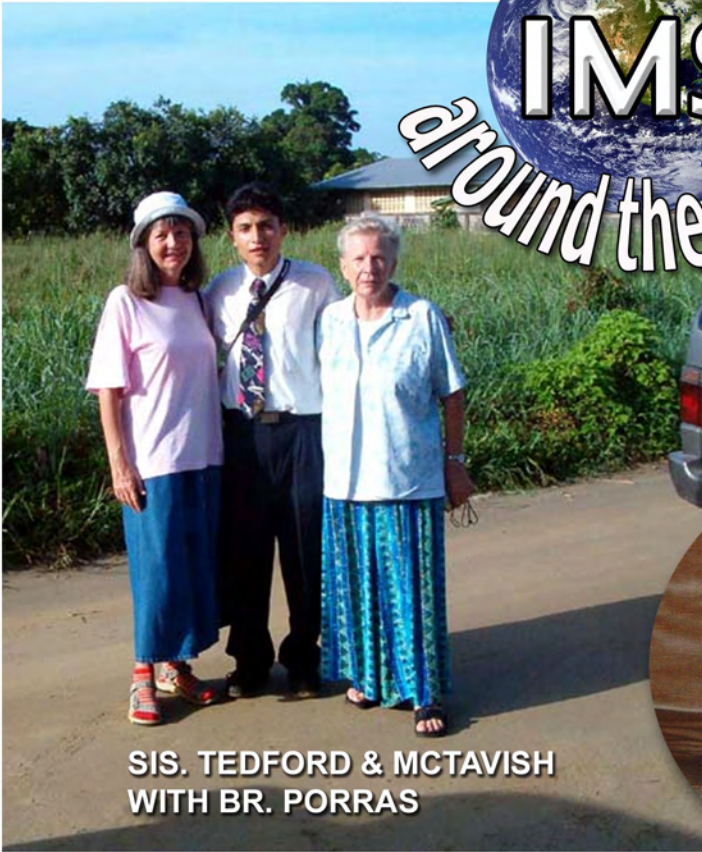
Sekuba became a church elder, evangelist, and pastor of the first Bushman church. And he retained until his death in 1957 the ability to speak, read, and write the Tswana language – the ability given him by the angel who spoke to him by the fire.

You and I need make no long, tiring, dangerous journey to find the Book. By comparison, the light that floods our path is blinding. Do we follow it as carefully, as persistently, as did the little man from the African Bush? He went through many trials and difficulties to find the treasured Book. How do we value the Book that we have in our homes today?





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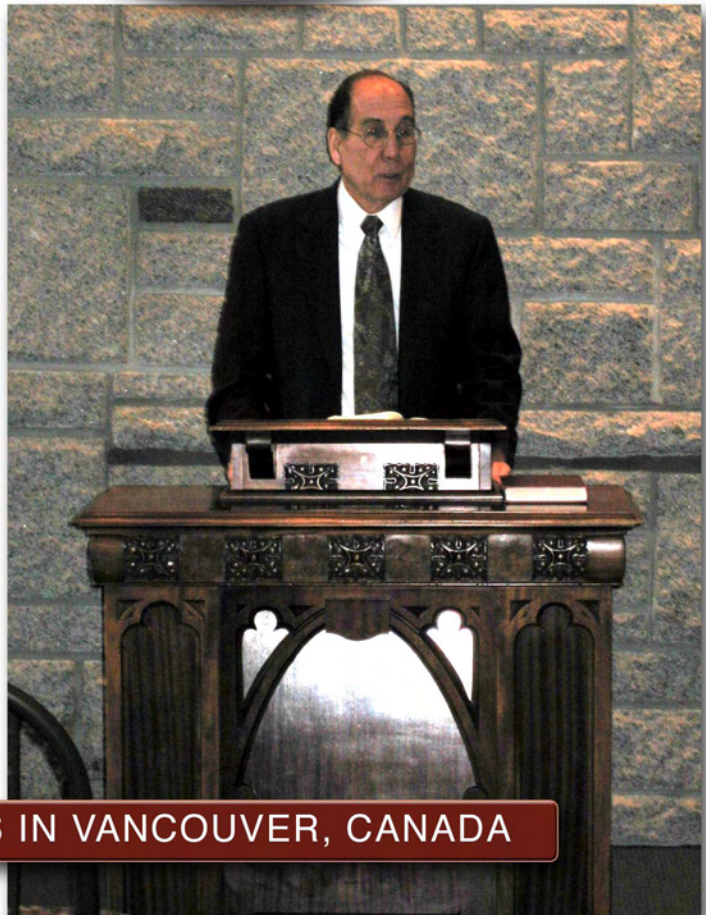
MICHAEL CYRUS NEWBY WITH HIS
NEW BROTHER MARK-ANTHONY, TORONTO



NEWBY FAMILY IN TORONTO



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