



The Reformation Messenger

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

*"But I say unto you,
Love your enemies,
bless them that curse you,
do good to them that hate you,
and pray for them which despitefully
use you, and persecute you" Matthew 6: 44*



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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THE MASTER POTTER

Recently I was in a Christian book store and I saw this poem on a card that caught my eye. I purchased the card since I liked its message and I want to share it with you.

Just Think

You're here not by chance, but by God's choosing.

His hand formed you and made you the person you are.

He compares you to no one else – you are one of a kind.

You lack nothing that His grace can't give you.

He has allowed you to be here at this time in history

To fulfil His special purpose for this Generation.

God makes no mistakes. He has a purpose for each person. We all go through times when we feel down and out; when we question the purpose of our lives. Does anyone really care? It is at these times that God is reaching out to us in a very special way.

What estimate has man put upon himself today with his 'high intellectual capacity'? As great as mankind seems to think he is, he values himself only as having his origin from apes, and many millions of years further back - from bacteria. This is a very low estimate. He seems to think he is becoming more intelligent as time goes on. He takes pride in his accomplishments. We have come out of the darkness of past years and into an enlightened era of high intelligence. If only man could see as God sees, he would see how foolish he really is in comparison to the high intelligence before the flood and the high intelligence of the heavenly beings, and God Himself. What are we in comparison?

In the Bible we read of the origin of man. He was created from the dust of the ground and God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. We essentially come from dust, dirt... clay. If you could place a dollar value on the elements that make up man's physical body, the price is very low. There is little value. Without God's breath, man is nothing. "Behold, I am... formed out of the clay." Job 33:6. Although man was formed from clay, he was formed in

the image of God. This is where we see his real value.

Once God gave life to mankind, he became a living being. He is capable of doing much good and, unfortunately, much evil. Society is in a despicable state today. So now what is the real value of man? Only what he decides to do with his life. Physically he is not more than a lump of clay, but his true value is seen in which potter he decides to allow to mould him.

In the Bible God is compared to a potter, who has come to try to mould these lumps of clay. Clay in itself, has little value. It is often grey in colour. It is useless when it comes to the growing of plants. Try to plant seeds in clay and see how well they grow, if they grow at all. Yet it can be moulded into a beautiful vessel. Jesus could have decided to wash all the clay away as worthless, and destroy it as soon as man sinned, but He saw some value in the clay. And through these lumps of clay, God can do amazing things. "I am the Lord and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:" Isaiah 45:5. He

is a great and mighty God and can do the impossible. "And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." Luke 18:27.

Even though the Lord can do amazing things, He chooses to use these lumps of clay. He can use anyone or anything He wants to. In the book of Luke (19:40) He says, "And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out." He can make stones cry, he can make animals talk. He is a great and mighty God; why not allow him to be your potter?

"But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand." Isaiah 64:8

"In His Word God compares Himself to a potter and His people to the clay. His work is to mould and fashion them after His own similitude. The lesson they are to learn is the lesson of submission. Self is not to be made prominent. If due attention is given to the divine instruction, if self is surrendered to the divine will, the hand of the Potter will produce a shapely vessel." HP 28 This prayer of Isaiah - on behalf of his people - indicates penitence and surrender. The spirit of stubborn resistance is gone, and there is a willingness to be moulded into the image of God.

This is quite the opposite of what unconverted mankind desires to do. He assumes power within himself without the help of the potter. He chooses not to have God as his potter. He is therefore classed as miry clay. Although created by God, they allow Satan to re-shape them into his image. They question God as Isaiah writes. "Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?" Isaiah 45: 9 God has a purpose for everyone and who are we to question or second-guess God? Do we tell God what we want to do? Do we decide we don't like the difficult task He has given us to perform and, like Jonah, try to run away from our responsibility? Let the potter do what He will and a beautiful vessel will be formed.

MIRY CLAY

In the book of Daniel, we can read the story of the forgotten dream of King

Nebuchadnezzar in chapter two. It is a very well known story and if you do not know the story, go to your Bible and read it. In this story, we see clay mentioned as a part of the material that composed the feet of the statue. The other material in the feet was iron. The common interpretation that we have heard is that this iron and clay represents the mixture of strong and weak nations in Western Europe after the break-up of the Western Roman Empire. This is correct according to the Spirit of Prophecy, however we read also that there is a dual interpretation in this iron and clay.

First of all, here are the Bible verses that mention the feet of the iron and clay. "And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay." Daniel 2:41 - 43.

"A Dual Representation.--The image revealed to Nebuchadnezzar, while representing the deterioration of the kingdoms of the earth in power and glory, also fitly represents the deterioration of religion and morality among the people of these kingdoms. As nations forget God, in like proportion they become weak morally.

"Babylon passed away because in her prosperity she forgot God, and ascribed the glory of her prosperity to human achievement.

"The Medo-Persian kingdom was visited by the wrath of heaven because in this kingdom God's law was trampled under foot. The fear of the Lord found no place in the hearts of the people. The prevailing influences in Medo-Persia were wickedness, blasphemy, and corruption.

"The kingdoms that followed were even more base and corrupt. They deteriorated because they cast off their allegiance to God. As they forgot Him, they sank lower and still lower in the scale of moral value (YI Sept. 22, 1903)." 4BC 1168.

"We have come to a time when God's sacred work is represented by the feet of the image in which the iron was mixed with the miry clay. God has a people, a chosen people, whose discernment must be sanctified, who must not become unholy by laying upon the foundation wood, hay, and stubble. Every soul who is loyal to the commandments of God will see that the distinguishing feature of our faith is the seventh-day Sabbath. If the government would honour the Sabbath as God has commanded, it would stand in the strength of God and in defence of the faith once delivered to the saints. But statesmen will uphold the spurious sabbath, and will mingle their religious faith with the observance of this child of the papacy, placing it above the Sabbath which the Lord has sanctified and blessed, setting it apart for man to keep holy, as a sign between Him and His people to a thousand generations. The mingling of churchcraft and statecraft is represented by the iron and the clay. This union is weakening all the power of the churches. This investing the church with the power of the state will bring evil results. Men have almost passed the point of God's forbearance. They have invested their strength in politics, and have united with the papacy. But the time will come when God will punish those who have made void His law, and their evil work will recoil upon themselves (MS 63, 1899)." 4BC 1168

We are living in the time of the feet and toes in history, not just from a political standpoint, but also from a spiritual standpoint. It is a time when we see the joining of church and state to promote Sunday worship. Christianity is corrupted as miry clay.

Potters clay is mentioned here and so is miry clay. Potters clay is still able to be formed. Miry clay has no value. It is wet and swampy. Miry clay represents a seemingly hopeless situation. Clay that cannot be formed into anything - it only threatens to hold fast its victims. David saw himself stuck in the miry clay and Jesus brought him out.

"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD." Psalm 40:1-3

POTTER'S HELPERS

Some don't appreciate what the potter is trying to do. This is often the case with young people. They get to a point in their lives when they feel they no longer want to be moulded, but desire to choose their own destiny. Just like God is the Master Potter, He is training parents to be His helpers - potters of their children when they are young. Parents can only make simple vessels and there comes a time when they have to turn the work over to the Master Potter, however the clay must be worked when the children are young so that it does not harden into an unsightly vessel. It will be much more difficult for the Master Potter to mould such a vessel.

Parents as Artists to Shape Living Clay.—“How earnestly and perseveringly the artist labours to transfer to canvas a perfect likeness of his model; and how diligently the sculptor hews and chisels out the stone into a counterpart of the copy he is following. So the parents should labor to shape, polish, and refine their children after the pattern given them in Christ Jesus. As the patient artist studies, and works, and forms plans to make the results of his labours more perfect, so should the parent consider time well spent that is occupied in training the children for useful lives and fitting them for the immortal kingdom. The artist's work is small and unimportant compared with that of the parent. The one deals with lifeless material, from which he fashions forms of beauty; but the other deals with a human being whose life can be shaped for good or ill, to bless humanity or to curse it; to go out in darkness, or to live forever in a future sinless world.” CG 476 “Let them mould the plastic clay before it becomes hardened and insensible to impressions; let them train the sapling ere it becomes a gnarled and tangled oak; let them direct the course of the rivulet ere it becomes a swollen river.” 5T 416

Yet sometimes the work goes unappreciated. “Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?” Romans 9:19,20

THE LORD SPEAKS THROUGH CLAY, & HEARTS ARE TOUCHED

“But the touch of faith opens to us the divine treasure house of power and wisdom; and thus, through instruments of clay, God accomplishes the wonders of His grace.” 5T 228

However God will not force a vessel to be moulded that chooses not to be moulded. In the time of Martin Luther, this is what he had to say about the issue of mass. “The mass is a bad thing; God is opposed to it; it ought to be abolished; and I would that throughout the whole world it were replaced by the supper of the gospel. But let no one be torn from it by force. We must leave the matter in God's hands. His word



must act, and not we. And why so? you will ask. Because I do not hold men's hearts in my hand, as the potter holds the clay. We have a right to speak: we have not the right to act. Let us preach; the rest belongs unto God. Were I to employ force, what should I gain? Grimace, formality, apings, human ordinances, and hypocrisy. . . . But there would be no sincerity of heart, nor faith, nor charity. Where these three are wanting, all is wanting, and I would not give a pear stalk for such a result. . . . God does more by His word alone than you and I and all the world by our united strength. God lays hold upon the heart; and when the heart is taken, all is won.” GC 189

THE MASTER POTTER AT WORK

In the book of Jeremiah we have a view of how the Master potter works.

“The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Arise, and go down to

the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.” Jeremiah 18:1-6

In the days of Jeremiah the clay was marred in the hand of the potter. And as Master Potter, God would have been justified in discarding them as a nation. But in mercy He was willing to reclaim the worthless

clay vessel and to make ‘it again another vessel.’ All that had been promised might yet come to pass if they would only learn to love and serve God.

God makes no mistakes. He chose to have your lump of clay to exist in this time of history. Even if you have chosen to have another potter work on you for a time, and then decide you don't like the outcome, if you come back to the Master Potter, He will re-form you into a vessel that reflects His image. The harder the clay becomes, the more difficult it is to re-form it, so don't let your clay harden in a shape you don't like. However, if you have been formed into an unsightly vessel there is still hope for you today. There is a point where you are too hard and that point is when you have sinned against the Holy Spirit.

“Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.” Micah 7:8. If you have fallen, don't

give up in despair, go back to the Master Potter for a reformation in your life. Many give up when they see their fallen condition and can't seem to get up, however the Master Potter is just waiting there to form something beautiful out of your life.

“Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger forever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.” Micah 7:18, 19

Although man seems to think he is so highly intelligent, compared to God his knowledge is foolishness. When Jesus comes again, He will destroy the clay pots that have been formed by another potter, “as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers:” Rev. 2:27

“Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.” Ps 2:9 What is clay compared to instruments of iron? Nothing. This shows how easily God can, and will, destroy mankind who have chosen their own potter. Their vessel will not stand against the wrath of God.

“Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us? Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?” Isaiah 29:16

“And he shall break it as the breaking of the potters' vessel that is broken in pieces; he shall not spare: so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water withal out of the pit.” Isaiah 30:14

They sought to hide their hypocritical attitude, motives and actions, in the hope that neither men nor God would detect their true character. They were attempting, as it were, to have the potter take orders from the clay. They regarded themselves as having wisdom greater than that of the Creator. These spiritual leaders were virtual atheists, who masqueraded under the guise of religion. This was the condition of Ancient Israel in the time of Isaiah and I hope it is not true of us.

Each vessel that is formed by the potter is slightly different. No two are exactly alike, except for those made commercially today from a mould. Those that are made carefully by a potter's hand are all different. And the Master Potter makes each vessel with special care. “The potter takes the clay in his hands and moulds and fashions it according to his own will. He kneads it and works it. He tears it apart and then presses it together. He wets it and then dries it. He lets it lie for a while without touching it. When it is perfectly pliable, he continues the work of making of it a vessel. He forms it into shape and on the wheel trims and polishes it. He dries it in the sun and bakes it in the oven.” He not only forms it, but then afterwards He heats it to harden it. Then He will take the pot and paint it beautifully. Unfortunately many people don't like the way the Master Potter has painted them and they try to improve on the work or alter the work with the use of cosmetics and surgery. God makes no mistakes. After the paint, He then puts a shiny glaze on it and heats it up again to harden the glaze so that it will permanently shine. That is what God does for us. Not only does He form us - He paints us beautifully. Then He puts us in the kiln to heat us up in the furnace of affliction. Although the affliction may seem unpleasant at the time, we will come out of the furnace stronger. We will be resistant to change. And then He wants us to shine for Him permanently. Thus it becomes a vessel fit for use. “So the great Master Worker desires to mould and fashion us. And as the clay is in the hands of the potter, so are we to be in His hands. We are not to try to do the work of the potter. Our part is to yield ourselves to the moulding of the Master Worker.” 8T 186

This is all the work of the Master Potter. All we need to do is to surrender and allow Him to do His work and to remove any blemishes and unwanted parts in the clay.

Although we may become beautiful vessels, we still are only made of clay. We cannot put our faith in another vessel of clay. “Stand in God. Work under the sweet influence of His grace. The truth of God sanctifying the heart of the believer guides his life. We may stand firmly and assuredly. If you make the face of clay your dependence you lean on a reed that has oft broken in your hand and will break. Trust fully, unwaveringly, in God. He is the wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. We may keep the conscience unsullied and in

peace and quiet rest in God.” TMK 268

And finally, how can one vessel formed by the Master Potter feel that He is of more value than another one because of its different shape or colour? All that are formed by the Master Potter are beautiful. It is unfortunate that many nations and even those in Christian circles, compare themselves to other clay vessels. Sister White saw it in Adventism in her day. “I was almost afraid to come to this country because I heard so many say that the different nationalities of Europe were peculiar and had to be reached in a certain way. But the wisdom of God is promised to those who feel their need and who ask for it. God can bring the people where they will receive the truth. Let the Lord take possession of the mind and mould it as the clay is moulded in the hands of the potter, and these differences will not exist. Look to Jesus, brethren; copy His manners and spirit, and you will have no trouble in reaching these different classes. We have not six patterns to follow, nor five; we have only one, and that is Christ Jesus. If the Italian brethren, the French brethren, and the German brethren try to be like Him, they will plant their feet upon the same foundation of truth; the same spirit that dwells in one will dwell in the other--Christ in them, the hope of glory. I warn you, brethren and sisters, not to build up a wall of partition between different nationalities. On the contrary, seek to break it down wherever it exists. We should endeavour to bring all into the harmony that there is in Jesus, labouring for the one object, the salvation of our fellow men.” 9T 181

“Let Christ mould you, as clay is moulded in the hands of the potter.-- Every child of God is to do his very best to uplift the standard of truth. He is to work in God's order. If self is exalted, Christ is not magnified.... The lesson they are to learn is the lesson of submission. Self is not to be made prominent. If due attention is given to the divine instruction, if self is surrendered to the divine will, the hand of the Potter will produce a shapely vessel (Letter 78, 1901).” 4BC 1154

Referring back to the poem in the beginning. You are not here by accident. You are here today, living where you are in this time by design of the Master Potter. **AMEN Wendy Eaton, Australia**



THE TWELVE TRIBES: BENJAMIN

He will bring them through the fire. He will savour them. He will bring through a people.

Revelation 7:14 "And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have

washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

They have been purged. God is able to present them faultless.

Revelation 14:1 & 5 "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God."

They are there after tribulation and trial.

MYP page 73,74. "There are those who listen to the truth, and are convinced that they have been living in opposition to Christ. They are condemned, and they repent of their transgressions. Relying upon the merits of Christ, exercising true faith in Him, they receive pardon for sin. As they cease to do evil and learn to do well, they grow in grace and in the knowledge of God. They see that they must sacrifice in order to separate from the world; and, after counting the cost, they look upon all as loss if they may but win Christ. They have enlisted in Christ's army. The warfare is before them, and they enter it bravely and cheerfully, fighting against their natural inclinations and selfish desires, bringing the will into subjection to the will of Christ. Daily they seek the Lord for grace to obey Him, and they are strengthened and helped.

This is true conversion. In humble, grateful dependence he who has been given a new heart relies upon the help of Christ. He reveals in his life the fruit of righteousness. He once loved himself. Worldly pleasure was his delight. Now his idol is dethroned, and God reigns supreme. The sins he once loved he now hates. Firmly and resolutely he follows in the path of holiness."

There is a battle of fighting against natural inclinations. To vividly display this, we will observe Benjamin. This purifying experience is demonstrated.

When Benjamin was born, what character deprivation took place?

Genesis 35:16-19 "And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour. 17 And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also. 18 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin. 19 And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem."

Benoni means 'Son of my sorrow.' Benjamin means 'Son of my right hand.'

Looking at the name, there was a beginning in his life. Something was done to comfort him.

Here was Jacob an old man and the youngest son. Rachel was Jacob's favourite wife. Jacob would cling to this son very dearly. This gives us an idea of how Jacob regarded Benjamin.

P&P page 230:2 "In words of touching eloquence he described his father's grief at the loss of Joseph and his reluctance to let Benjamin come with them to Egypt,

What have we learned from previous studies about the Twelve Tribes? They were not good to start with. But we saw the end result of reaching perfection of character.

James 1:2-4 "2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

We go through trials and difficulty. It works patience in us. We want nothing more.

Jude 20-24 "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. 24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,"

Build up yourselves, keep yourselves. As we do our part, God will bring us through this process.

Zechariah 13:9 "9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God."

as he was the only son left of his mother, Rachel, whom Jacob so dearly loved. "Now therefore," he said, "when I come to thy servant my father, and the lad be not with us; seeing that his life is bound up in the lad's life; it shall come to pass, when he seeth that the lad is not with us, that he will die: and thy servants shall bring down the gray hairs of thy servant our father with sorrow to the grave."

The life of Jacob was bound up with Benjamin. The beginnings of this child was under a fond aged father.

so strongly in their breasts. Yet this course is cowardly. It is a wicked thing thus to shirk responsibility; for the time will come when these children, whose unchecked inclinations have strengthened into absolute vices, will bring reproach and disgrace upon themselves and their families. They go out into busy life unprepared for its temptations, not strong enough to endure perplexities and troubles; passionate, overbearing, undisciplined, they seek to bend others to their will, and, failing in this, consider themselves ill-used by the world and turn against it. {4T 201.2}

it does not flatter and caress them, and they take revenge by holding a grudge against the world and bidding it defiance. Circumstances sometimes oblige them to affect a humility they do not feel; but it does not fit them with a natural grace, and their true characters are sure to be exposed sooner or later. {4T 202.1}

If such persons have families of their own, they become arbitrary rulers at home and display there the selfish and unreasonable disposition they are forced to partially conceal from the outside world. Their dependents feel to the utmost all the faults of their early training. Why will parents educate their children in such a manner that they will be at war with those who are brought in contact with them? {4T 202.2}

In many families the seeds of vanity and selfishness are sown in the hearts of the children almost during babyhood. Their cunning little sayings and doings are commented upon and praised in their presence, and repeated with exaggerations to others. The little ones take note of this and swell with self-importance; they presume to interrupt conversations, and become forward and impudent. Flattery and indulgence foster their vanity and willfulness, until the youngest not unfrequently rules the whole family, father and mother included. {4T 200.3}

Children who are allowed to have their own way are not happy. The unsubdued heart has not within itself the elements of rest and contentment. The mind and heart must be disciplined and brought under proper restraint in order for the character to harmonize with the wise laws that govern our being. Restlessness and discontent are the fruits of indulgence and selfishness. The soil of the heart, like that of a garden, will produce weeds and brambles unless the seeds of precious flowers are planted there and receive care and cultivation. As in visible nature, so is it with the human soul. {4T 202.4}

With that detail, we would imagine Benjamin had a bad start. Did this happen



Parents frequently pet and indulge their young children because it appears easier to manage them in that way. It is smoother work to let them have their own way than to check the unruly inclinations that rise

The majority of these ill-disciplined ones go through life at cross-purposes with the world, making a failure where they should have succeeded. They grow to feel that the world owes them a grudge because

to him? Did he become a person who bore that grudge?

Genesis 49:27 “Benjamin shall ravin as a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil.”

He will be antagonistic to people around him because of his upbringing. Was there something wrong with his beginning? What else characterised his posterity?

Judges 20:15 & 16 “15 And the children of Benjamin were numbered at that time out of the cities twenty and six thousand men that drew sword, beside the inhabitants of Gibeah, which were numbered seven hundred chosen men. 16 Among all this people there were seven hundred chosen men lefthanded; every one could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not miss.”

They were very skilful.

I Chronicles 8:40 “And the sons of Ulam were mighty men of valour, archers, and had many sons, and sons’ sons, an hundred and fifty. All these are of the sons of Benjamin.”

They were capable fighters.

I Chronicles 12: 1& 2 “Now these are they that came to David to Ziklag, while he yet kept himself close because of Saul the son of Kish: and they were among the mighty men, helpers of the war. They were armed with bows, and could use both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows out of a bow, even of Saul’s brethren of Benjamin.”

What is the danger of people who are very talented and skilful?

I Corinthians 8:1-3 “Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. 2 And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. 3 But if any man love God, the same is known of him.”

There is a danger of becoming proud.

1 Samuel 2:3 & 4 “Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. 4 The bows of the mighty men

are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.”

Just because you are skilful, do not be too arrogant or proud. We are in danger if we are skilful.

It is a dangerous age for any man who has talents which can be of value in the work of God; for Satan is constantly plying his temptations upon such a person, ever trying to fill him with pride and ambition; and when God would use him, in nine cases out of ten he becomes independent, self-sufficient, and feels capable of standing alone. {4T 538.2}

Dangers beset every path, and he who comes off conqueror will indeed have a triumphant song to sing in the city of God. Some have strong traits of character that will need to be constantly repressed. If kept under the control of the Spirit of God, these traits will be a blessing; but if not, they will prove a curse. If those who are now riding upon the wave of popularity do not become giddy, it will be a miracle of mercy. If they lean to their own wisdom, as so many thus situated have done, their wisdom will prove to be foolishness. But while they shall give themselves unselfishly to the work of God, never swerving in the least from principle, the Lord will throw about them the everlasting arm and will prove to them a mighty helper. “Them that honor Me, I will honor.” {4T 538.1}

You can become so capable and lifted.

Let us look at the Benjamites in the time of the judges. He ended up a very small tribe.

Judges 20:4 & 5 “And the Levite, the husband of the woman that was slain, answered and said, I came into Gibeah that belongeth to Benjamin, I and my concubine, to lodge. 5 And the men of Gibeah rose against me, and beset the house round about upon me by night, and thought to have slain me: and my concubine have they forced, that she is dead.”

Look at what they did next.

Judges 20:12-14 “And the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, What wickedness is this that is done among you? 13 Now therefore deliver us the men, the children of Belial, which are in Gibeah, that we may put them to death, and put away evil from Israel. But the children of Benjamin would not hearken to the voice of their brethren the children of Israel: 14 But the children of Benjamin gathered themselves together out of the cities unto Gibeah, to go out to battle against the children of Israel.”

They sided with evil men to protect them and fight against justice. Here we can see a spoilt child as a full grown man.

Ultimately the Israelites fought against Benjamin.

Judges 20:23 (And the children of Israel went up and wept before the LORD until



even, and asked counsel of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up again to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother? And the LORD said, Go up against him.)

Judges 20:46 “So that all which fell that day of Benjamin were twenty and five thousand men that drew the sword; all these were men of valour.”

Benjamin was really showing his colours. These cruel characteristics were shown in this tribe. The Israelites after the killing

of this people, would not give their daughters to the Benjamites. We have some experiences here to teach us how these characteristics can be changed.

1 Samuel 9:17 “And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people.”

God was pointing out Samuel to Saul.

1 Samuel 9:21 “1 And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?”

Samuel asked why me? Look at my history? He was small in his own sight.

1 Samuel 10:1 “Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?”

1 Samuel 10:9 “And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.”

God changed his heart. Here was Saul launching out into a beautiful career or king of Israel.

1 Samuel 15:16-17 “Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on. 17 And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?”

When Saul was little in his own sight, God made him king and he received a new heart.

He was then commanded to destroy the Amalekites. What happened?

1 Samuel 15:22-23 “And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath

also rejected thee from being king.”

Here is the case of someone changed by new birth but who regresses. He ended up with a rebellious nature. There was an occasion where this came to its fullness.

1 Samuel 18:11 “And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.”

We know by this behaviour he deteriorated. Our natural characteristics can be controlled and governed.

BC Vol 2 1017 “Here are many whom He has called to positions in His work for the same reason that He called Saul,—because they are little in their own sight, because they have a humble and teachable spirit. In His providence He places them where they may learn of Him. To all who will receive instruction. He will impart grace and wisdom. It is His purpose to bring them into so close connection with Himself that Satan shall have no opportunity to pervert their judgment or overpower their conscience. He will reveal to them their defects of character, and bestow upon all who seek His aid, strength to correct their errors. Whatever may be man’s besetting sin, whatever bitter or baleful passions struggle for the mastery, he may conquer, if he will watch and war against them in the name and strength of Israel’s Helper.”

We read through the mercy of God we can be changed, but we can also deteriorate.

The Lord can do marvellous things for us if we do look out for where we can go astray. Saul diverged from the path but there was another Saul that didn’t.

Acts 8:3 “As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.”

Here is Saul of Tarsus with a characteristic of cruelty. Is he a Benjamite? He has the characteristics.

Philippians 3:4-7 “Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.”

Here was a Benjamite according to the flesh. As he appreciated the story of Jesus, he understood the progressive path to perfection.

Philippians 13:12-14 “Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

He was pressing toward perfection. This cruel Benjamite had a cruel heart and he goes on from strength. He knows he has to control it.

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 “26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

He sounds like he knew what he suffered under, a strong Benjamite character.

This is a very beautiful story of how the one hundred and forty four thousand overcome. Can a Benjamite with such powerful fleshy passions be among the one hundred and forty four thousand?

Deuteronomy 33:12 “12 And of Benjamin he said, The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by him; and the LORD shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders.”

Where is that? In his heart. Benjamin could conquer. In the heart of Benjamin, Jesus could dwell.

Even out of the worst can come a remnant.

This now completes our studies on the Twelve tribes. **AMEN**

Ariadne Kondoukas



“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Matthew 24:14

“The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world... Wonderful is the work which the Lord designs to accomplish through His church, that His name may be glorified.” AA 9,13 (See also Mark 16:15).

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” Rev. 22:17

A picture of this work is given in Ezekiel; vision of a river of healing. Ezekiel 47:8-12. “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Mat. 24:14. Before any major event takes place on the earth, God always sends a message to tell the inhabitants what is to happen and how they can best prepare for the event. Noah’s message was that a flood is coming. That was present truth in his generation. John’s message was, “Behold the Lamb of God.” That was present truth for that day. Our message today is that Christ is coming. This is the most important message ever entrusted to man. “GO AND TELL IT.”

CHRIST’S COMING

Christ is coming. What a thrilling thought. His coming has been the hope of men in all ages; the song of poets; the vision of prophets. This message brings hope to the discouraged, joy to the sorrowing, health to the sick and life everlasting to the faithful.

Jesus told His disciples plainly, “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:2,3. We do not know the day or the hour when our Lord shall return, but we do know that the time is near.

“But of the times and seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.” 1 Thess. 5:1. Everyone will know when Christ comes. “Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him.” Rev. 1:7. No one will need to tell it in the daily papers. There will be no need to announce it over the radio or televise it to the world. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall the coming of the son of man be.” Mat. 24:27.

It will be a spectacular event. “Our God shall come and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him. And it shall be very tempestuous round about him.” Psalm 50:3. “The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.” Joel 3:16.

Everyone will receive his just rewards when Christ comes. “And, behold I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Rev. 22:12. There will be only two classes of people at that time, those who love God and those who do not. To one group Jesus will say, “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:” to the other group He will say, “Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:” Mat. 25:

34,41. Dear reader, which side will you be on?

THE SEAL OF GOD

In the heart of the Ten Commandments is the seal of God, the Law of the Sabbath.

Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you." Exodus 31:13.

Today many people have forgotten God the Creator and are trusting in false gods; some are worshipping the god of science and the various inventions of the day to bring them comfort and satisfaction. There are others who are worshipping the god of knowledge hoping that through research and discovery all disease can be eliminated. Others are placing their confidence in themselves, thinking that by their own efforts all their wants will be supplied.

But the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. Man cannot save himself with his own wisdom or power. God alone can save us from destruction. We must walk with God if we are to be saved, and one of the best ways to become intimately acquainted with Him is to keep His holy Sabbath.

The Church has been commissioned to call the attention of the world to the true God who created the heaven and earth. John the beloved apostle says, "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Rev. 14:6,7

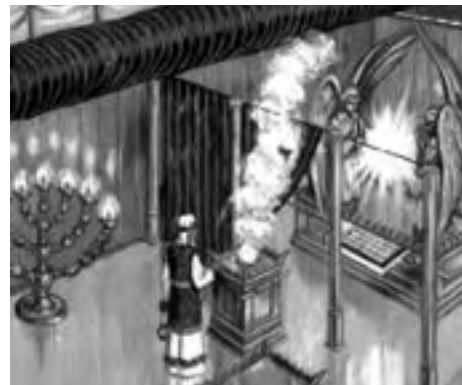
We worship God by acknowledging Him as the Creator and we acknowledge Him to be the Creator by keeping the Sabbath day holy, because in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them. Therefore, teaching people to keep the seventh day Sabbath is calling them to worship the true God. The fourth commandment is the only one of the ten that identifies God the Creator as the one to be worshipped by keeping His day as the Sabbath.

"Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them." Exodus 20:12

THE JUDGMENT HOUR

When Jesus will come to receive His people He must know who they are. This means that an investigative judgment must precede His coming. Read Matthew 22:1-14. "The parable of the wedding garment opens before us a lesson of the highest consequence. By the marriage is represented the union of humanity with divinity; the wedding garment represents the character which all must possess who shall be accounted fit guests for the wedding." COL 307.

In this parable, as in that of the great supper are illustrated the gospel invitation. "In both parables the feast is provided with guests, but the second shows that there is a preparation to be made by all who attend the



feast. Those who neglect this preparation are cast out." COL 308. Matthew 22:1-13.

"By the king's examination of the guests at the feast is represented a work of judgment. The guests at the gospel feast are those who profess to serve God, those whose names are written in the book of life. But not all who profess to be Christians are true disciples. Before the final reward is given, it must be decided who are fitted to share the inheritance of the righteous. This decision must be made prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven; for when He comes, His reward is with Him, "to give every man according as his work shall be." Rev. 22:12. Before His coming, then, the character of every man's work will have been determined, and to every one of Christ's followers the reward will have been apportioned according to his deeds.

"It is while men are still dwelling upon the earth that the work of investigative judgment takes place in the courts of heaven. The lives of all His professed followers pass in review before God. All are examined according to the record of the books of heaven, and according to his deeds the destiny of each is forever fixed." COL 310

"In 1844 our great High Priest entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, to begin the work of the investigative judgment. The cases of the righteous dead have been passing in review before God. When that work shall be completed, judgment is to be pronounced upon the living. How precious, how important are these solemn moments! Each of us has a case pending in the court of heaven. We are individually to be judged according to the deeds done in the body." 1 SM 125. 2 Cor. 5:10.

"At the time appointed for the judgment--the close of the 2300 days, in 1844--began the work of investigation and blotting out of sins. All who have ever taken upon themselves the name of Christ must pass its searching scrutiny. Both the living and the dead are to be judged 'out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.'" GC 486. Rev. 20:11,12, Eccl. 12:14, Matt. 12:36.

"Sins that have not been repented of and forsaken will not be pardoned and blotted out of the books of record, but will stand to witness against the sinner in the day of God. He may have committed his evil deeds in the light of day or in the darkness of night; but they were open and manifest before Him with whom we have to do. Angels of God witnessed each sin and registered it in the unerring records. Sin may be concealed, denied, covered up from father, mother, wife, children, and associates; no one but the guilty actors may cherish the least suspicion of the wrong; but it is laid bare before the intelligences of heaven. The darkness of the darkest night, the secrecy of all deceptive arts, is not sufficient to veil one thought from the knowledge of the Eternal. God has an exact record of every unjust account and every unfair dealing. He is not deceived by appearances of piety. He makes no mistakes in His estimation of character. Men may be deceived by those who are corrupt in heart, but God pierces all disguises and reads the inner life... Words once spoken, deeds once done, can never

be recalled. Angels have registered both the good and the evil.” GC 486

“In the book of God’s providence, the volume of life, we are each given a page. That page contains every particular of our history; even the hairs of the head are numbered. God’s children are never absent from His mind.” DA 313

“Once a week each is brought face to face with the doings of the past week.” 3T 412. In the judgement “Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected. When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book of God’s remembrance. The Lord declared to Moses: ‘Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book.’ Exodus 32:33. And says the prophet Ezekiel: ‘When the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, . . . all his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned.’ Ezekiel 18:24.” GC 483

From this supreme court of the universe there can be no appeal. We will never know when our name is being considered or when the books of heaven are closed. Silently unnoticed as the midnight thief will come the decisive hour. “While the man of business is absorbed in the pursuit of gain, while the pleasure lover is seeking indulgence, while the daughter of fashion is arranging her adornments--it may be in that hour the Judge of all the earth will pronounce the sentence: ‘Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.’ ” GC 491

CONSIDER THIS

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” 2 Cor. 5:10.

Someday every one of us will have to appear before the judgment bar of God. The books of heaven will be opened, and by our records therein we will be justified or condemned. Every word, thought, and action will witness for or against us. This judgment session will determine where we shall spend eternity.

That we will be summoned to God’s judgment bar is one of the most solemn truths in sacred scripture. If we are to stand guiltless before heaven’s tribunal we must be overcomers through Christ. Only His righteousness can save us. Rom. 5:8, 1 John 2:1, 1 Tim.2:5.

How Can This Truth Help Me Personally?

If my name were called up for judgment today, how would I stand?

GOD’S MESSAGE IN THE BIBLE

Without the Bible we would have no message to carry to the world. God alone has the answer to the world’s needs. He alone knows the future and He has revealed it in His word. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” 2 Tim. 3: 16,17.

“Every part of the Bible is given by inspiration of God and is profitable. The Old Testament, no less than the New, should receive attention....The Old Testament sheds light upon the New, and the New upon the Old.” CT 462

The Bible is the basis of our own way of life as well as of our worldwide evangelism. “It is proper and right to read the Bible; but your duty does not end there; for you are to search its pages for yourselves...We should diligently seek for the hidden treasure, and seek wisdom from heaven in order to separate human inventions from the divine commands.” FE 307

We should study the Bible diligently. “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.” PS 119:9. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” Psalms 119:11.

It is our business, as Christians, to give God’s message to the world. Every one who has received the light of truth is under some solemn and fearful responsibility as was the prophet of Israel, to whom the word of the Lord came saying. “ ‘Son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at My

mouth, and warn them from Me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.’ Ezekiel 33:7-9.”GC 459/460

“To every child of God whose voice the enemy of souls had succeeded in silencing, the question is addressed, ‘What doest thou here?’ I commissioned you to go into all the world and preach the gospel, to prepare a people for the day of God. Why are you here? Who sent you?” PK 171

“Of families, as of individuals, the question is asked, ‘What doest thou here?’ In many churches there are families well instructed in the truths of God’s word, who might widen the sphere of their influence by moving to places in need of the ministry they are capable of giving. God calls for Christian families to go into the dark places of the earth and work wisely and perseveringly for those who are enshrouded in spiritual gloom. To answer this call requires self-sacrifice. While many are waiting to have every obstacle removed, souls are dying, without hope and without God.” PK 172/173.

“Fellow Christian, Satan knows your weakness; therefore cling to Jesus. Abiding in God’s love, you may stand every test. The righteousness of Christ alone can give you power to stem the tide of evil that is sweeping over the world. Bring faith into your experience. Faith lightens every burden, relieves every weariness. Providences that are now mysterious you may solve by continued trust in God. Walk by faith in the path He marks out. Trials will come, but go forward. This will strengthen your faith and fit you for service.” PK 175.

The time is short, the night soon cometh when no man can work. Haste to impart the truth to others. The Lord is inquiring, “Whom shall I send?” Those who wish to sacrifice for the truth’s sake are now to respond. “Here am I send me.” Isaiah 6:8. Are you one of those responding positively? If YES, GO AND PREACH THE MESSAGE. *Amen*

Yours in the Master’s service
Golden Kayawa, Zambia



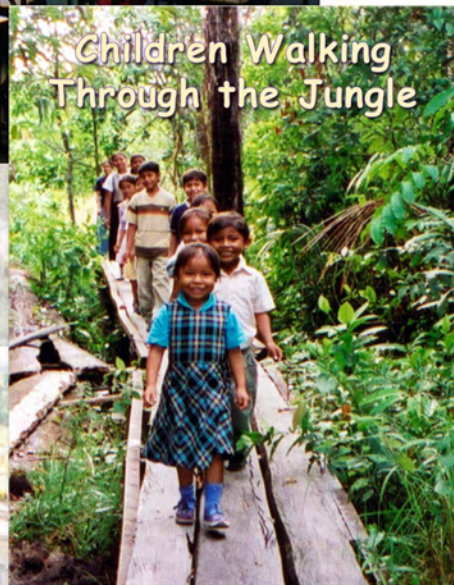
Children Singing in the Church



Sisters Nidia & Raquel Singing in Church



Inside the School



Children Walking Through the Jungle



Cooking in the Village

SEARCHING FOR A BETTER VILLAGE

canaimo

VENEZUELA



Young singers sharing a smile

Nestled in God's beautiful, unspoiled nature in the country of Venezuela is an entire village of reformers.



Teachers & Students in Front of the School

The village of Canaimo, what a wonderful place this must be! No need to lock your doors here. What a contrast to the rest of the world. See the wonderful smile on each face!



Sisters Nidia & Raquel teachers in the school



Church Choir

JESUS & HIS TREASURE

PART 2

Two Parties Exposed—1893

“It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner. They are professedly serving God, but they are more earnestly serving mammon... Living as sinners, claiming to be Christians! Those who claim to be Christians, and will confess Christ should come out from among them and touch not the unclean thing, and be separate...” Christian Service, p. 41

Visions Regarding Separation

“Thank God all will not be rocked to sleep in the cradle of carnal security. There will be faithful ones who will discern the signs of the times. While a large number professing present truth will deny their faith by their works, there will be some who will endure unto the end.” 5T, p. 10.

“I was shown the people of God, and saw them mightily shaken. Some, with agonizing cries, were pleading with God. Their countenances were pale, and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle...”

Some, I saw, did not participate in this agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these, and I saw them hastening to the assistance of those who were struggling with all their energies to resist the evil angels, and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But the angels left those who made no effort to help themselves and I lost sight of them.” 1T, p. 180-1.

Observe the Detail: Faithful

“I saw a company who stood well guarded and firm, giving no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body. God looked upon them with approbation. I was shown three steps—the first, second and third angels’ messages. Said my accompanying angel, ‘Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received.’” EW 258.

Unfaithful

“I have been shown that many who profess to have a knowledge of present truth know not what they believe. They do not understand the evidences of their faith. They have no just appreciation of the work for the present time. When the time of trial shall come, there are men now preaching to others who will find, upon examining the positions they hold, that there are many things for which they can give no satisfactory reason. Until thus tested they knew not their great ignorance... Certain it is that there has been among us a departure from the living God and a turning to men, putting human in place of divine wisdom.” 5T 707.

Consequently:

“The shaking of God blows away multitudes like dry leaves. Prosperity multiplies a mass of professors. Adversity purges them out of the church. As a class, their spirits are not steadfast with God. They go out from among us because they are not of us; for when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, many are offended.” 4T 89.

The Test and the Timing

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been



sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren.” GC 608.

“Soon God’s people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear to be genuine and true will prove to be base metal. Instead of being strengthened and confirmed by opposition, threats, and abuse, they will cowardly take the side of the opposers... To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test.” 5T 136.

“As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. Those who have had great light and precious privileges, but have not improved them, will, under one pretext or another, go out from us. Not having received the

love of the truth, they will be taken in the delusions of the enemy; they will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and will depart from the faith.” 6T 400.

“Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan. If doubts and unbelief are cherished, the faithful ministers will be removed from the people who think they know so much.” TM 410.

“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 707.

Recall 1903 in 8T 31. “Doctrines are being taught that lead into bypaths and 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.”

Hence in 1908—1T 179-181:

“Sister White told us as we three stood on the railroad depot platform, that a terrible storm of persecution was coming just like a windstorm that blew down every standing object. There was not a Seventh Day Adventist to be seen, they like the disciples forsook Christ and fled; all who sought positions were never seen any more.

entire denominational world. It so stunned me that I did not ask any more questions.” Signed by Will Ross, Elman Johnson, and McEntefer.

Consequently in 1913 to the General Conference in Session:

“Men of clear understanding are needed now. God calls upon those who are willing to be controlled by the Holy Spirit to lead out in a work of thorough reformation. I see a crisis before us, and the Lord calls for His labourers to come into line. Every soul should now stand in a position of deeper, truer consecration to God than during the years that have passed...

“I have been deeply impressed by scenes that have recently passed before me in the night season. There seemed to be a great movement—a work of revival—going forward in many places. Our people were moving into line, responding to God’s call.” TM 514 & 515.

What Does History Show Since 1809-1913-1991?

Compare 1865 Declaration of SDA G.C.: “Resolved, that we recognize civil government as ordained of God, that order, justice, and quiet may be maintained in the land; and that the people of God may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty. In accordance with this fact, we acknowledge the justice of rendering tribute, custom, honor and reverence to

principles. They can appreciate no other.”

Compare these with the following:

Circular by G. Dail, European Div. Secretary—Hamburg, Aug. 2, 1914. “To our Dear Brothers and Sisters: Greetings with Psalm 23. In this earnest and terrible time into which Europe has fallen, we desire to request the following of you: 1. As followers of Christ, through the power of God, we should, in these days, be true, obedient, and subject to the services of our Lord. (1 Pet. 2:13,14,17). 2. We should do our military duties joyfully whilst we are in service or being called to serve, so that the officers in charge will find us valiant and true soldiers, who are ready to die for their homes, for our army and our ‘Fatherland’. Our destiny is in God’s hand, should we lose our life whilst in conflict, let us remember that our ‘life is hid with Christ in God.’ Col. 3:8.” (Two further points and then signed).

German Newspaper, Dresden Neveste Nachrichtent—April 12, 1918, p.3. “At the beginning of the war our organization divided into two parts. Whilst 98 percent of our members stepped out, after searching the Bible, on the ground that it was our conscientious duty to defend the Fatherland with weapons, and that also on the Sabbath; and this decided position from the united leaders was at once forwarded to the war department; 2 percent, however, did not submit themselves to this decision of the leaders, and therefore had to be



After the storm there was a calm, then the Adventists rose like a flock of sheep, but were without shepherds. They all united in earnest prayer for help and wisdom, and the Lord answered by helping them to choose leaders among them who had never sought positions before. They prayed earnestly for the aid of the Holy Spirit which was poured out upon them, making them fully ready for service. They then went forth, fair as the moon, clear as the sun and terrible as an army with banners, to give the message to all the world. I was astonished and asked if that applied to Loma Linda as we were looking that way. Sister White replied to my question by stating that it applied to the

the civil power, as enjoined in the New Testament. While we thus cheerfully render to Caesar the things which the Scriptures show to be his, we are compelled to decline all participation in acts of war and bloodshed as being inconsistent with the duties enjoined upon us by our divine Master toward our enemies and toward all mankind.” SDA’s in Time of War, p. 24.

And EGW, 1T 361. “I was shown that God’s people... In the army... cannot obey the truth and at the same time obey the requirements of their officers. There would be a continual violation of conscience. Worldly men are governed by worldly

disfellowshipped because of their anti-Christian conduct...”

Public Observation—German Paper—Koelnische Zeitung, Sept. 21, 1915. “Since the beginning of the war there has been a division among the Adventist people. During the duration of the war the majority wanted to see the fundamental teachings set aside, by force if necessary. The others asked that the sanctification of Saturday (Sabbath) be allowed them, even in these times of stress. The opposing faction finally brought about the disfellowshippment from the organization of the followers of the original principles of their faith.”

General Conference Response to the Disfellowshipped Faction

From Protokkol, p. 44. "We believe that you are completely in error concerning your position on this question. We believe in the Fourth Commandment just the same as we always believed it, but we are not able to accept the interpretation you put upon it. What would you have said concerning Moses a few days after he received the Law of God upon Sinai, if he would have told you to go and kill the King of Bashan, all the men, women and children? Would you have accused him as a murderer? But God commanded him to transgress the Sixth Commandment. You see that many things are found in the interpretation of the Commandments, and we must have freedom to read and to understand them, and not be bound to the interpretation of any small organization."

From thence:

"As the light and life of men was rejected by the ecclesiastical authorities in the days of Christ, so it has been rejected in every succeeding generation. Again and again the history of Christ's withdrawal from Judea has been repeated. When the Reformers preached the word of God, they had no thought of separating themselves from the established church; but the religious leaders would not tolerate the light, and those that bore it were forced to seek another class, who were longing for the truth. In our day few of the professed followers of the Reformers are actuated by their spirit. Few are listening for the voice of God and ready to accept truth in whatever guise it may be presented. Often those who follow in the steps of the Reformers are forced to turn away from the churches they love, in order to declare the plain teaching of the word of God. And many times those who are seeking for light are by the same teaching obliged to leave the church of their fathers, that they may render obedience." DA 232.

"I saw a company who stood well guarded and firm, giving no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body. God looked upon them with approbation." EW 258.

"Isa. 8:12-16", quoted by EGW. Then, "here are plainly represented two distinct

parties, formed from a company that was once united. The members of one of these parties are in resistance to the will of God. They have taken themselves from the side of the loyal and true, and are now resisting the warning of the Spirit of God." Rev. & Her., July 18, 1907.

"The end of all things is at hand. God is moving upon every mind that is open to receive the impressions of His Holy Spirit. He is sending out messengers that they may give the warning in every locality. God is testing the devotion of his churches and their willingness to render obedience to the Spirit's guidance. Knowledge is to be increased. The messengers of Heaven



are to be seen running to and fro, seeking in every way possible to warn the people of the coming judgments and presenting the glad tidings of the salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. The standard of righteousness is to be exalted. The Spirit of God is moving upon men's hearts, and those who respond to its influence will become lights in the world. Everywhere they are seen going forth to communicate to others the light they have received as they did after the descent of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. And as they let their light shine, they receive more and more of the Spirit's power. The earth is lighted with the glory of God.

"But O sad picture! Those who do not submit to the influence of the Holy Spirit soon lose the blessings received when they acknowledged the truth as from Heaven. They fall into a cold, spiritless formality; they lose their interest in perishing souls. 'They left their first love.' And Christ says unto them, 'Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen and repent and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and remove thy candlestick out of its place except thou repent.' He will take His Holy Spirit from the church and give it to others who will appreciate it.

"There is no greater evidence that those who have received great light do not appreciate that light, than is given by their refusal to let their light shine upon those who are in darkness, and devoting their time and energies in celebrating forms and ceremonies. Thoughts of the inner work, the necessary purity of heart, are not entertained. The absence of harmony with God becomes apparent. The light grows dim, goes out; the candlestick has been removed. There is much exercising of man-made authority by those to whom God has not given His wisdom because they did not feel the need of the wisdom from above." Rev. & Her., July 16, 1895.

"My attention was then turned to the company I had seen, who were mightily shaken. I was shown those whom I had before seen weeping and praying with agony of spirit. The company of guardian angels around them had been doubled, and they were clothed with an armour from their head to their feet. They moved in exact order, firmly, like a company of soldiers..."

"The numbers of this company had lessened... I heard those clothed with the armour speak forth the truth in great power. It had effect. I saw those who had been bound; some wives had been bound by their husbands, and some children had been bound by their parents... I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered: 'It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel.'" 1T 182-183.

"Those who have been members of the same family are separated. A mark is placed upon the righteous. '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 man spareth his own son that serveth him.' Those who have been obedient to God's commandments will unite with the company of the saints in light; they shall enter in through the gates into the city, and have right to the tree of life." TM 234. **AMEN**

FIND GOD IN NATURE

A question we can ask of ourselves is, does the environment have anything to do with our Christian experience? Does a walk in a garden bring us closer to God or not? We tend to rely a lot on the environment of our church surroundings. Rightly so, but let us analyze the question. Didn't Jesus have the habit of visiting the Garden of Gethsemane? And didn't He ask of his disciples to come and watch and pray, and to come aside and rest awhile by the mountainside? Many instances can be found in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy where God's people of old found their God in a garden.

In the book, *Life Sketches*, p. 256, Brother and Sister White had a favourite spot in a forest among the pines, with the air being perfumed with their spicy odour, where they received direct and remarkable answers to prayer.

Many of us do not have the privilege to be living in or near a country setting, as those living in the concrete jungles of New York or London, etc. Although they have beautiful parks, as in New York's famous Central Park and Kensington Gardens in London, we may have to take a car journey to reach an area of solitude. We need to be early, of course, because many today are wanting a quiet hour by themselves. I have the privilege to be living in a beautiful garden city and in a neighbourhood with many gardens and park areas. And it is good to go for walks locally, and sometimes to pause and smell the roses. I guess some people watching from their windows think I'm a little peculiar, maybe they are right.

Yes, Jesus was known to frequent the Garden of Gethsemane, and that is where God our Father would have His people to meet Him often, as Adam and Eve did at creation.

Yes, friends, let us be found walking in our leisure times, as we are told in many places in the Spirit of Prophecy, and to commune with the Lord. And as we sing sometimes, "I come to the garden alone," with the refrain, "And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He tells me I am His own, and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known."

We are also told that to walk among the trees is healthful, as they give off an aroma which is beneficial. Walking is better than jogging, why miss all the beautiful flowers of God by running past them and not smelling their beautiful perfumes. Didn't the Lord say Himself, "Consider the lilies of the field."

Excuse me while I go and put my walking shoes on and do just this.

AMEN.

Brother Ernie Gale, New Zealand

ANTAGONISTIC PRINCIPLES



The controversy between the Christians and the Romans was not a dispute between individuals, nor a contention between sects or parties. It was a contest between antagonistic principles. It was, therefore, a contest between Christianity and Rome, rather than between Christians and Romans. On the part of Christianity it was the proclamation of the principle of genuine liberty; on the part of Rome it was the assertion of the principle of genuine despotism. On the part of Christianity it was the assertion of the principle of the rights of conscience and of the individual; on the part of Rome it was the assertion of the

principle of absolute absorption of the individual, and his total enslavement to the state in all things, divine as well as human, religious as well as civil.

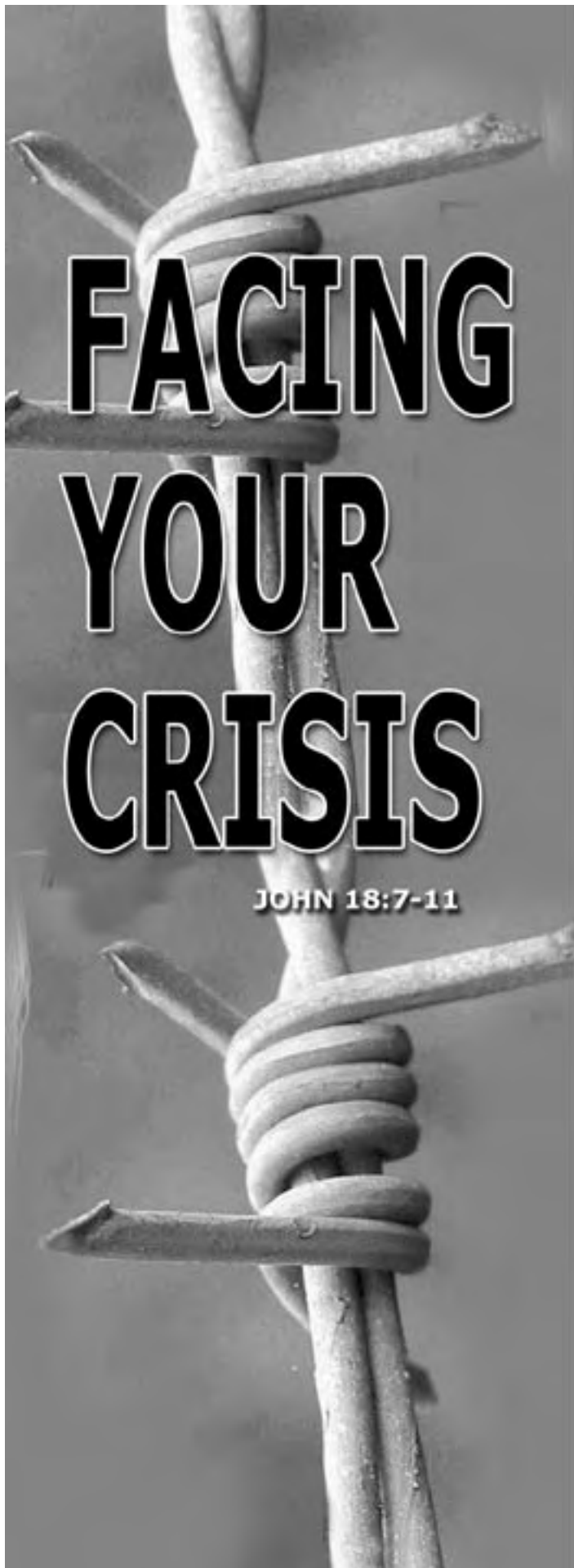
Jesus Christ came into this world to set men free, and to plant in their souls the genuine principle of liberty,--liberty actuated by love, liberty too honourable to allow itself to be used as an occasion to the flesh or for a cloak of maliciousness, liberty led by a conscience free from all men, yet made so gentle by love that he would willingly become the servant of all, in order to bring to them the enjoyment of this same liberty. This is freedom indeed. This is the freedom which Christ gave to man; for "whom the Son makes free, is free indeed."

In giving to men this freedom, such an infinite gift could have no other result than that which Christ intended; namely, to bind them in everlasting, unquestioning, unswerving allegiance to Him as the Royal Benefactor of the race. He thus reveals Himself to men as the Highest Good, and brings them to Himself as the manifestation of that Highest Good, and to obedience to His will as the perfection of conduct...

AMEN. By A.T. Jones,

Submitted by

**Kathleen Ross
Alberta, Canada**



Did you ever have a crisis in your life? Look back if you will for a while or a moment and think about it. What did you do? How did you face it? Maybe you are having a crisis right now in your life. Well, what are you doing about it? How are you facing it?

But, first, what do we mean by a “crisis”? What is, exactly, a crisis? Well, there is many meanings. It simply means a turning point. In the medical field or world it means a point in the course of a disease in which a decisive change takes place; either the patient recovers or dies. In our own lives we, too, have such a change at times; a definite change, or turning point in anything. In Greek, interestingly, crisis means a “decision”.

But, a decisive decision...a climax. So, we can then safely say that it is a critical time in our lives where a decisive decision needs to be made.

It also means a sequence of events at which the trend of all future events is determined.

So, we have here a turning point, a change, a decision, a climax in which our whole future may be determined.

Not only may there be a crisis in your life, but there is a constant cascade of crises in a world that is “cracking”. Not only politically, but economically. Also, in the religious aspect, we can see disunity, hostility, apostasy...a marked shaking and sifting... It’s everywhere!

Decisions are being made; some good, and some bad. Who, or what is making the decisions in your life? Someone, perhaps, in your family, a friend, someone in the church, or at work or school? Or, do you patiently wait? Or, pray? Or, fret? Or, do you first clear all decisions through Jesus Christ, while waiting and praying for His hand and will to work in your life? Or, again, do you just do nothing?

For the answer to these questions, let us return to the Garden of Gethsemane at the betrayal and arrest of Jesus Christ, and to Christ’s agony. Why the Garden of Gethsemane? We are often told to go there in the scriptures and the spirit of prophecy.

We are told in Christ’s Object Lessons (196), to go to Gethsemane. Why? We are, too, often told to go to the foot of the cross, or at the feet of Jesus. Again, why? “To see the value of a soul.” Behold Pilate mocking! To watch with Jesus Christ those hours of anguish, and agony; His betrayal, and arrest. Terrible, emotional, events.

But, there is a message for us today in the Garden of Gethsemane in the opening verses of Mathew 18:7-11... “Whom are you seeking?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

There is a message in everything we read in the Bible, hidden messages, hidden treasures.

When Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Apostle Peter tried to defend Him with a sword. Peter overreacted. He was, we can say impulsive. Jesus disapproved of this sternly and rebuked him and said, “don’t you know that I could ask my Father and He would give me more than twelve legions of angels”? A legion can

be up to 10,000 men. Furthermore, Jesus said, “but how then should the scriptures be fulfilled”?

What is Jesus telling us here? What is the message for us today? Well, Jesus is telling us very clearly that there are two ways to face the crises of life. What can that be? It’s either “escape” or “fulfillment”! Instead of facing His crisis with the philosophy of escape, Jesus faced it with an attitude of fulfillment.

All of us face times of crises in our lives. We just cannot prevent the crisis hours of life. “A great crisis is soon coming on God’s people” (PK 187) “It’s to be a final crisis”(5T81).

“Starting in the USA, regarding the Sabbath. Wicked men and church men will harmonize in hatred for God’s law”(SD 217). “It’s approaching fast” (5T209). “God’s people must soon pass through this crisis” (Col412). It’s coming, whether you are prepared or not, whether you believe it or not. It’s coming.

What happens to us, now, in a time of crisis? “Character is revealed! Many will apostatize, and the apostates will betray

their own brethren in the final crisis.” (Col. 4:12).

Hezekiah passed through a crisis, Elijah on Mt. Carmel, Moses, Jeremiah, David, Jacob, and many others.

The big question for us today is, “how do you face a crisis”? How do you meet it? What attitude do we take when the foundations are shaking and the walls are falling down around us? Sad to say, many people take the same attitude Peter took in the Garden. What attitude is that? The attitude of “escape”! Peter took out his sword and tried to defend Jesus. It was a very noble gesture indeed, but Peter was dead wrong in his thinking. What was the big mistake Peter made? And, the same mistake we often make?

It was this. He was preventing Jesus from fulfilling the very purpose for which He came to earth! Peter’s action was zeal without knowledge. He was defending when he should have been submitting.

But, before we criticize Peter too much, let’s look at our own lives. How many times have we tried to escape, when we should have surrendered our will to God?

Trying to escape the crisis is the natural thing to do, but this does not make it right. As Christians we live on a much higher plane; we live by faith, and not by sight.

Jesus sets the example for us. He faced the crisis with an attitude of fulfillment, and not escape; and that’s the attitude you and I need to cultivate.

“We also need clear minds in time of crisis.” (GW100)...”harmony and unity among brethren.” (7T182). But, “above all, strength from God.” (ST479) Trust in Him and not our own wisdom and understanding. We need to be “clinging” to the Bible, only.” (GC625) We need earnest prayer. We need men and women of firmness, decision, and unflinching courage. We need to hear His voice, as little Samuel listened intently. But, how? The Lord speaks to us through the Bible. This is His voice.

Why not run into the arms of your loving, Heavenly Father and let Him fulfill His wonderful purposes in your life...today?

That’s how to “Face Your Crisis”. **AMEN.**
John Theodorou, USA



PAST REDEMPTION POINT

Millions of people have made a fatal mistake in their lives by drifting past the redemption point. This can happen to the professed Christians as well as to the unbelievers and even to the children. There are several examples in the Bible of the people who could not be saved anymore. In this case we should not even pray for them anymore. "There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it." 1 John 5:16.

Satan

"Understanding the character of God, knowing His goodness, Satan chose to follow his own selfish, independent will. This choice was final. There was no more that God could do to save him." DA, p. 762

The most blinded being that has ever existed is Satan. The high position, so close to God; his great wisdom and knowledge did not save him. Little children understand the truth often better than people with high intelligence, and education. While still in heaven Satan sinned against the Holy Spirit. Many while still in the church do the same. And normally in the time of shaking, only people who have sinned against the Holy Spirit will be shaken out.

Felix

"A ray of light from heaven had been permitted to shine upon Felix, when Paul reasoned with him concerning righteousness, temperance, and a judgment to come. That was his heaven-sent opportunity to see and to forsake his sins. But he said to the messenger of God, 'Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.' He had slighted his last offer of mercy. Never was he to receive another call from God."

AA, p. 427.

Many make a similar mistake as Felix. They delay their obedience to a later time and without realizing, they pass the redemption point. The Bible message is, "Today if you hear My voice, harden not your hearts."

"The most common manifestation of the sin against the Holy Spirit is in persistently slighting heaven's invitation to repent." DA, p. 324. Delay in obedience may close heaven to us forever.

Uzzah

"And when they came to the Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by



the ark of God." 2 Sam. 6:6-7.

"The fate of Uzzah was a divine judgment upon the violation of a most explicit command... The Philistines, who had not a knowledge of God's law, had placed the ark upon a cart when they returned it to Israel, and the Lord accepted the effort which was

made. But the Israelites had in their hands a plain statement of the will of God in all these matters, and their neglect of these instructions was dishonouring to God. Upon Uzzah rested the greater guilt of presumption." PP, p. 705-706.

No time was given him for repentance nor confession of his sin. It was too late, he had passed the point of redemption.

The knowledge of the will of God makes us responsible to follow it explicitly.

Ananias and Sapphira

"Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God." Acts 5:3-4.

"In pretending that they had given all, Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Ghost, and as a result, they lost this life and the life that is to

come. The same God who punished them, today condemns all falsehood. Lying lips are an abomination to Him. He declares that into the holy city, there shall in no wise enter... anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie... He who utters untruths, sells his soul in a cheap market." AA, p. 75, 76.

Many times this happens that in order to accomplish their purpose a lie is spoken. Jewish leaders, even the high priest had to bring false witnesses against Christ in order to condemn Him. Because of their one lie they sinned against the Holy Spirit and lost their salvation forever.

The Bible is clear that liars will not inherit eternal life. Yet people take this warning lightly and continue to speak lies in the committees, in the churches, and among their brethren; not realizing that a heavenly watcher is recording all these lies and in the day of judgment these lies will condemn them. If we hear a lie spoken and do not immediately correct it, we become liars by our silence. And the same condemnation will be against us as came upon Ananias and Sapphira.

Judas

The weakness of Judas was the love of money. Because of his covetousness he committed an unpardonable sin. When Jesus was washing his feet he still had a chance of repenting but after he left the company of Jesus and the other disciples his chance of salvation was too late. He had drifted past the redemption point. Instead of enjoying the newly gained money he was in a terrible torture of his guilty conscience.

“As the trial drew to a close, Judas could endure the torture of his guilty conscience no longer. Suddenly a hoarse voice rang through the hall, sending a thrill of terror to all hearts: He is innocent; spare Him, O Caiphus! The tall form of Judas was now seen pressing through the startled throng. His face was pale and haggard, and great drops of sweat stood on his forehead. Rushing to the throne of judgment, he threw down before the high priest the pieces of silver that had been the price of his Lord’s betrayal... ‘I have sinned,’ again cried Judas, ‘in that I have betrayed the innocent blood’... Judas saw that his entreaties were in vain, and he rushed from the hall exclaiming, It is too late! It is too late! He felt that he could not live to see Jesus crucified, and in despair went out and hanged himself.” DA, p. 721-722.

When Judas lost the Holy Spirit by his sin he also lost his happiness and joy. For this reason also the lukewarm Laodicean angel is wretched, miserable, poor, blind and

naked; even that they claim to be rich and increased with goods. There cannot be a happy life without the Holy Spirit.

Nadab and Abihu

“Next to Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu had stood highest in Israel. They had been especially honoured by the Lord, having been permitted with the seventy elders to behold His glory in the mount. But their transgression was not therefore to be excused or lightly regarded. All this rendered their sin more grievous.” DA, p. 359.

Sins committed by leaders are much more grievous than the sins of the laymembers. Many in the congregation may have committed greater sins than the sons of Aaron, but were not punished so severely. Many continue to do sins because the punishment does not always fall upon them immediately.

1888

The Seventh-Day Adventist leaders had come to the conference in Minneapolis. To this conference God sent two young men to proclaim to them the Christ Righteousness message. That could have saved the church from apostasy and rejection, but the majority of the leaders rejected this message and sinned against the Holy Spirit.

“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...” Test. to Min., p. 80.

Here we learn that often the leaders of the church of God have committed sins against the Holy Spirit. Here the leaders had no chance of salvation any more but yet they remained in the leading positions for the following 26 years. When the Reformation

finally came into existence, not one of them joined in it but became bitter enemies of God’s people.

The same happened in the Old Israel. Often the king introduced the idol worship into the nation and remained in this position for many years. Jewish people were the church of God and yet they killed the prophets and persecuted the messengers that God had sent to them.

This is Satan’s plan to destroy the church of God by bringing in false brethren to the church in order to cause disturbance and divisions among the people.

“Satan has his specious devices through which he purposes to crowd false brethren into the church, through whom he can work more successfully to weaken the cause of God.” *Evang.*, p. 313.

It is scary to think even that some of the leaders in the very church of God may have passed the redemption point, yet controlling the work according to their own ideas.

Antediluvians

“Had the antediluvians believed the warning, and repented of their evil deeds, the Lord would have turned aside His wrath, as he afterward did from Ninevah. But by their obstinate resistance to the reproofs of conscience and the warnings of God’s prophet, that generation filled up the measure of their iniquity, and became ripe for destruction.” PP, p. 97.

If Noah had preached to the people another 100 years, no one else would have been saved. They all had passed their redemption point. The whole world had passed the line of no return. One by one they had committed the unpardonable sin. This is happening in our days also. When mercy does not linger any more then the whole world have committed sin that cannot be forgiven.

May the Lord help us to see the danger of crossing the line of salvation when all will be too late. People with greater knowledge of the truth have greater danger of committing sin with knowledge than the people who are ignorant of the truth. **AMEN**

Timo Martin, Canada

MISSIONARY STORIES



We are all called to be missionaries for Jesus. Not everyone is called to be a full-time missionary, but Jesus has missionary work for each believer to do. Here are two missionary stories for us to learn something from.

MISSIONARIES' PROTECTION

A missionary named Von Asselt related the following story. He was a missionary to Sumatra from 1856 to 1876.

“When I first went to Sumatra, in the year 1856, I was the first European missionary to go among the wild Battas, although twenty years before that, two American missionaries had come to them with the gospel; but they had been killed and eaten. Since then no effort had been made to bring the gospel to these people, and naturally they had remained the same cruel savages.

“What it means for one to stand alone among a savage people, unable to make himself understood, not understanding a single word of their language, but whose suspicious, hostile looks and gestures speak only a too-well-understood language, - yes,



it is hard for one to realize that. The first two years that I spent among the Battas, at first all alone and afterward with my wife, were so hard that it makes me shudder even now when I think of them. Often it seemed as if we were not only encompassed by hostile men, but also by hostile powers of darkness; for often an inexplicable, unutterable fear would come over us, so that we had to get up at night, and go on our knees to pray or read the Word of God, in order to find relief.

“After we had lived in this place for two years, we moved several hours' journey inland among a tribe somewhat civilized, who received us more kindly. There we built a small house with three rooms, - a living room, a bedroom, and a small reception room - and life for us became a little more easy and cheerful.

“When we had been in this new place for some months, a man came from the district where we had been, and whom I had known there. I was sitting on the bench in front of our house, and he sat down beside me, and for a while talked of this, that, and the other. Finally he began, ‘now Teacher, I have one request.’

“ ‘And what is that?’

“ ‘I would like to have a look at your watchmen close at hand.’

“ ‘What watchmen do you mean? I do not have any.’

“ ‘I mean the watchmen whom you station around your house at night, to protect you.’

“ ‘But I have no watchmen,’ I said again; ‘I have only a little herds boy and a little cook, and they would make poor watchmen.’

“Then the man looked at me incredulously, as if he wished to say, ‘O, do not try to make me believe otherwise, for I know better!’

“Then he asked, ‘May I look through your house, to see if they are hidden in there?’

“ ‘Yes, certainly,’ I said laughing; ‘look through it; you will not find anybody.’ So he went in and searched in every corner, even through the beds, but came to me very disappointed.

“Then I began a little probing myself, and requested him to tell me the circumstances about those watchmen of whom he spoke. And this is what he related to me: ‘When



you first came to us, Teacher, we were very angry with you. We did not want you to live among us; we did not trust you, and believed you had some design against us. Therefore we came together, and resolved to kill you and your wife. Accordingly, we went to your house night after night; but when we came near, there stood always, close around the house, a double row of watchmen with glittering weapons, and we did not venture to attack them to get into your house. But we were not willing to abandon our plan, so we went to a professional assassin and asked him if he would undertake to kill you and your wife. He laughed at us because of our cowardice, and said: ‘I fear no God, and no devil. I will get through those watchmen easily.’ So we came all together in the evening, and the assassin, swinging his weapon about his head, went courageously on before us. As we neared your house, we remained behind, and let him go on alone. But in a short time he came running back hastily, and said, ‘No, I dare not risk it to go through alone; two rows of big, strong men stand there, very close together, shoulder to



shoulder, and their weapons shine like fire.’
 ‘Then we gave it up to kill you. But now, tell me, teacher, who are these watchmen? Have you never seen them?’

“ ‘No, I have never seen them.’

“ ‘And your wife did not see them also?’

“ ‘No, my wife did not see them’.

“ ‘But yet we have all seen them; how is that?’

“Then I went in, and brought a Bible from our house, and holding it open before him, said: ‘See here; this book is the Word of our great God, in which He promises to guard and defend us, and we firmly believe that Word; therefore we need not see the watchmen; but you do not believe, therefore the great God has to show you the watchmen, in order that you may learn to believe.’”

We never need to fear when we work for Jesus, because He has promised to send His angels to protect us.

LIGHT AT LAST

Dr. Kirkpatrick, with the Baptist Mission in the Shan States of Burma, tells in the *Missionary Review* of an aged woman whom he met on a tour in the mountain district, where no missionary had ever before set foot:

“This old woman listened attentively, and apparently believed. She had never seen a white man, although according to her

birth certificate, she was one hundred and twenty-three years old. As she sat huddled together by the fire, she said: ‘Teacher is it true that the Lord can and will save me, a woman? Do not deceive me; I am very old, and must soon fall into hell, unless this new religion is true. I have made many offerings, and made many long pilgrimages to the most sacred shrines, and still find no relief from the burden of sin. Please teach me to pray to this Jesus that can save.’

“I explained the plan of salvation, and God’s love for her, and taught her a simple prayer of a few words. She seemed very grateful. As I was about to leave her, she said: -

“ ‘Teacher, you come from the great American country, do you not?’

“ ‘Yes,’ I answered.

“ ‘Is your country greater than the Shan country?’

“I assured her that it was.

“ ‘Are the people there all Christians?’

“I had to confess that they were not, but that there were many Christians.

“ ‘Were your parents Christians?’

“ ‘Yes, and my grandparents, and ancestors for several generations.’

“ ‘My parents,’ she said, ‘died when I was young. My brothers and sisters are all dead. I have been married three times, and my husbands are all dead. I had nine children, and they are all dead. I had many grandchildren, and they are all dead except this one with whom I am living. I have seen three generations who will end up in hell. Now I believe in Jesus, and hope to go to the heavenly country when Jesus comes, after I die. If there are so many Christians in your country, and you have known about this Lord that can save for so long, why did you not come and tell us before, so that many of my people could have been saved?’ With the tears running down her cheeks, she said: ‘I am so glad to hear this good news before it is too late; but all of my loved ones will end up in hell. Why did you not come before?’

“That question still haunts me. I wish every Christian in America could hear it as I did.





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