

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a stream. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding environment. The stream is covered with a thick layer of fallen, brown leaves. Several bright green plants with large, heart-shaped leaves are growing along the banks of the stream. In the upper right corner, there is a small, faint illustration of a white dove with its wings spread, flying over the water.

# *The Reformation* **Messenger**

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 7, JULY 2004

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

"thou shalt make  
them drink of the  
river of thy  
pleasures. For with  
thee is the fountain  
of life: in thy light  
shall we see light."

Psalm 36:8, 9

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# AGAINST GOD'S WILL

Be careful  
what you ask from

God. Will He ever answer prayers against His will? He has in the past. But why? Sometimes we are so obstinate, insisting that we know what is best for us and we pray and cry to God to answer our prayers how we want. Or then we say something in a fit of anger that we really don't mean, but it has grave consequences. God will, on occasion answer prayers against His will to show us that we were wrong. He was right. He does this in the hopes that we will recognize our sin and repent, turning to Him, trusting Him for guidance in the future.

## ANCIENT ISRAEL

The Israelites rebelled quite a bit in the wilderness. When they arrived at the borders of Canaan the first time, they hoped soon to enter. It was not God's will originally that they send out spies. It was the people's idea and they came to Moses with their idea and he took it to God. "Here it was proposed by the people that spies be sent up to survey the country. The matter was presented before the Lord by Moses, and permission was granted," PP 387.

Had they trusted in God initially, they would not have worried about what kind of people were occupying Canaan. They would simply have trusted God for their conquest. God said He'd help them possess the land and they should have believed Him. How often our faith wavers because we want to see tangible answers to our prayers before we believe.

The search made by the spies had disastrous results. The people were influenced by the negative report given by the ten spies who did not believe God could deliver them. The whole nation turned against Moses as they did not have faith to believe that God could

accomplish what He has promised them when they left Egypt.

"In their rebellion the people had exclaimed, 'Would God we had died in this wilderness!' Now this prayer was to be granted. The Lord declared: 'As ye have spoken in Mine ears, so will I do to you: your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness, and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward.

"But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.'" PP 391

They complained that was it not better for them to have died in the wilderness? God said, ok, you asked for it, so be it, you can die in the wilderness. It was not His original will for them to wander 40 years in the wilderness and then die there.

Shortly after this they decided to go ahead and try to take the nation by their own strength. They did not want to wander forty years in the wilderness after all. They realized it was a rash demand they had made of God, therefore they changed their minds. It was too late then, God had made His decision. Their battle ended in terrible defeat.

How were they to conquer Canaan when the time finally came for the conquest? We have a little more of the story of Ancient Israel in the following paragraph.

"God had made it their privilege and their duty to enter the land at the time of His

appointment, but through their wilful neglect that permission had been withdrawn. Satan had gained his object in preventing them from entering Canaan; and now he urged them on to do the very thing, in the face of the divine prohibition, which they had refused to do when God required it. Thus the great deceiver gained the victory by leading them to rebellion the second time. They had distrusted the power of God to work with their efforts in gaining possession of Canaan; yet now they presumed upon their own strength to accomplish the work independent of divine aid. 'We have sinned against the Lord,' they cried; 'we will go up and fight, according to all that the Lord our God commanded us.' Deuteronomy 1: 41. So terribly blinded had they become by transgression. The Lord had never commanded them to 'go up and fight.' It was not His purpose that they should gain the land by warfare, but by strict obedience to His commands." PP 392. But they had said, "we will fight." It was not according to God's original will, but they asked for it and God granted their request and they had to fight to obtain Canaan.

## THE JEWISH NATION

In the time when Jesus walked on this earth, many of the Pharisees were against Him and plotted to kill Him. It really was unfortunate to see people in God's church treating Jesus as such. Jesus only meant them well, and here they hated Him with such a passion. They wanted to make sure that there was no connection between Jesus and their nation, so when Jesus was in Pilate's judgment hall, they made a terrible statement that has been a curse to their entire nation since that time. They certainly were not thinking very well when they made this request.

"Looking upon the smitten Lamb of God, the Jews had cried, 'His blood be on us, and on our children.' That awful cry ascended

to the throne of God. That sentence, pronounced upon themselves, was written in heaven. That prayer was heard. The blood of the Son of God was upon their children and their children's children, a perpetual curse.

“Terribly was it realized in the destruction of Jerusalem. Terribly has it been manifested in the condition of the Jewish nation for eighteen hundred years,—a branch severed from the vine, a dead, fruitless branch, to be gathered up and burned. From land to land throughout the world, from century to century, dead, dead in trespasses and sins!

“Terribly will that prayer be fulfilled in the great judgment day. When Christ shall come to the earth again, not as a prisoner surrounded by a rabble will men see Him. They will see Him then as heaven's King. Christ will come in His own glory, in the glory of His Father, and the glory of the holy angels. Ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands of angels, the beautiful and triumphant sons of God, possessing surpassing loveliness and glory, will escort Him on His way. Then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory, and before Him shall be gathered all nations. Then every eye shall see Him, and they also that pierced Him. In the place of a crown of thorns, He will wear a crown of glory,—a crown within a crown. In place of that old purple kingly robe, He will be clothed in raiment of whitest white, 'so as no fuller on earth can white them.' Mark 9:3. 'And on His vesture and on His thigh a name will be written, King of kings, and Lord of lords.' Rev. 19:16. Those who mocked and smote Him will be there. The priests and rulers will behold again the scene in the judgment hall. Every circumstance will appear before them, as if written in letters of fire. Then those who prayed, 'His blood be on us, and on our children,' will receive the answer to their prayer. Then the whole world will know and understand. They will realize who and what they, poor, feeble, finite beings, have been warring against. In awful agony and horror they will cry to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?' Rev. 6:16, 17.” DA 739.

### **SISTER M.**

The final example I want to share is the experience of Sister M. That is not her real name, but that is how the letter is addressed

in the testimonies. I encourage anyone who has this book available, please read this letter. It is a fascinating letter about the story of the life of Sister M as revealed to Sister White in vision. She not only revealed the life history of Sister M, but also she was given a view into the invisible world. She was shown how God and Satan were working in the life of Sister M. She was a poor sister, but very faithful. She had a difficult life because her husband was violent and an alcoholic. She had a difficult time trying to feed her children. I will now quote some paragraphs from this chapter. It is taken from Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2, p. 268 to 288.

“I saw you struggling with poverty, seeking to support yourself and your children. Many times you knew not what to do; the future looked dark and uncertain. In your distress you cried unto the Lord, and He comforted and helped you, and hopeful rays of light shone around you. How precious was God to you at such times! How sweet His comforting love! You felt that you had a precious treasure laid up in heaven. As you viewed the reward of the afflicted children of God, what a consolation to feel that you could claim Him as your Father!

Your case was, in reality, worse than if you had been widowed. Your heart was agonized by the wicked course pursued by your husband. But his persecutions, his threats and violence, did not lead you to trust in your own wisdom, and forget God. Far from this; you sensibly felt your weakness and that you were incapable of carrying your burdens,

“You suffered opposition and abuse, yet God was your source of strength. While you trusted in Him, He sustained you. In all your trials you were not permitted to be overwhelmed. How often have the heavenly angels strengthened you when desponding, by presenting vividly to your mind passages of Scripture expressing the never-failing love of God, and giving evidence that His loving-kindness changeth not!

“The Lord did not leave you to perish. He frequently raised up friends to aid you when you least expected it. Angels of God ministered unto you, as step by step they led you up the rugged pathway. He did not leave you alone; but His strength was imparted, and you could say: 'The Lord is my helper.'

“Through all your trials, which have never

been fully revealed to others, you have had a never-failing Friend, who has said: 'I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.'

“O my dear sister, if you could only see, as I have seen, the ways and works of God manifested all through your perplexities and trials in the former part of your experience, when pressed by the hand of poverty, you could never forget Him, but your love would increase, and your zeal to promote His glory be untiring.

“In consequence of your afflictions and peculiar trials, your health failed. The friends of the cause of God were but few, and many of them were poor; and you could see but little to hope for on the right hand or on the left. You looked upon your children and your destitute, helpless condition, and your heart well-nigh fainted.

“Your diseased arm was a great affliction. You had turned to the right and to the left for help. You had consented to have a woman try her boasted skill upon you. This woman was a special agent of Satan. Through her experiments, you nearly lost your life. The poison introduced into your system was sufficient to kill a person of the most robust constitution. Here again God interposed, or your life would have been sacrificed.

“Every means you had resorted to for the recovery of health had failed. Not only your arm, but your entire system, was diseased. Your lungs were affected, and you were fast going down to death. At this time you felt that God alone could deliver. You could do one thing more; you could follow the direction of the apostle in the fifth chapter of James. You there made a covenant with God, that if He would spare your life to minister still to the wants of your children, you would be for the Lord, and Him only would you serve; you would dedicate your life to His glory; you would use your strength to advance His cause and to do good in the earth. Angels recorded the promise there made to God.

“We came to you in your great affliction and claimed the promise of God in your behalf. I was especially shown that God wrought in a wonderful manner, and you were preserved by a miracle of mercy, to be a living monument of His healing power, to testify of His wondrous works to the children of men.

“At the time you felt such a decided

change, your captivity was turned, and joy and gladness in the place of doubt and distress filled your heart. The praise of God was in your heart and upon your lips.

“As dark clouds at times enshrouded you, you could not forbear inquiring: ‘O God, hast Thou forsaken me?’ But you were not forsaken, although you could see no way open before you. The Lord would have you trust in His love and mercy amid clouds and darkness, as well as in the sunshine. At times the clouds would part, and beams of light would shine through to strengthen your desponding heart and increase your wavering confidence, and you would again fix your trembling faith upon the sure promises of your heavenly Father.

“As victory was gained by you, and light again shone upon you, you could not find language to express your sincere gratitude to your gracious heavenly Father; and you thought you never again would doubt His love nor distrust His care. You did not seek for ease. You did not consider hard labor a burden if the way would only open that you might care for your children and shield them from the iniquity prevailing in this age of the world. It was the burden of your heart that you might see them turning to the Lord. You pleaded before God for your children with strong cries and tears. Their conversion you so much desired. Sometimes your heart would despond and faint, and you would fear that your prayers would not be answered; then again you would consecrate your children to God afresh, and your yearning heart would lay them anew upon the altar.

“When they went into the army, your prayers followed them. They were wonderfully preserved from harm. They



called it good luck; but a mother’s prayers from an anxious, burdened soul, as she felt the peril of her children and the danger of their being cut off in their youth without hope in God, had much to do with their preservation. How many prayers were lodged in heaven that these sons might be preserved to obey God, to devote their lives to His glory! In your anxiety for your children you pleaded with God to return them to you again, and you would seek more earnestly to lead them in the path of holiness. You thought you would labor more faithfully than you had ever done.

“The Lord suffered you to be schooled in adversity and affliction, that you might obtain an experience which would be valuable to yourself and others. In the days of your poverty and trial you loved the Lord, and you loved religious privileges. The nearness of Christ’s coming was your consolation. It was a living hope to you that you would soon find rest from labor, and the end of all your trials.

“To meet with the people of God seemed to you almost like visiting heaven. Obstacles did not deter you. You could suffer weariness and hunger for temporal food, but you could not be deprived of spiritual food. You earnestly sought for the grace of God, and you did not seek in vain. Communion with the people of God was the richest blessing you could enjoy.

“In your Christian experience your soul abhorred vanity, pride, and extravagant show. When you have witnessed the expenditure of means among professed Christians to make a display and to foster pride, your heart and lips have said: ‘Oh, if I only had the means handled by those who are unfaithful in their stewardship, I would feel it one of the greatest privileges to help the needy and to aid in the advancement of the cause of God!’

“You often realized the presence of God while you sought in your humble way to enlighten others in regard to the truth for these last days. You had experienced the truth for yourself. That which you had seen, and heard, and experienced, and testified unto, you knew was no fiction. You delighted to present before others, in private conversation, the wonderful way in which God had led His people

“My attention was called to your desire to possess means. The sentiment of your heart was: ‘Oh, if I only had means, I would not squander it! I would set an example to

those who are close and penurious. I would show them the great blessing there is to be received in doing good.’ Your soul abhorred covetousness. As you have seen those who possessed abundance of this world’s goods shut their hearts to the cry of the needy you have said: ‘God will visit them; He will reward them according to their works.’ As you have seen the wealthy walking in their pride, their hearts girt about with selfishness, as with iron bands, you have felt that they were poorer than yourself, although you were in want and suffering. When you have seen these purse-proud men bearing themselves loftily because money has power, you have felt pity for them, and in no case would you have been induced to change places with them. Yet you desired means that you might so use it as to be a rebuke to the covetous. [Was this according to God’s original will?]

“The Lord said to His angel who had hitherto ministered unto you: ‘I have proved her in poverty and affliction, and she has not separated herself from Me, nor rebelled against Me. I will now prove her with prosperity. I will reveal to her a page of the human heart with which she is unacquainted. I will show her that money is the most dangerous foe she has ever met. I will reveal to her the deceitfulness of riches; that they are a snare, even to those who feel that they are secure from selfishness, and proof against exaltation, extravagance, pride, and love of the praise of men.’

“I was then shown that a way was opened for you to improve your condition in life and at length to obtain the means which you had thought you would use with wisdom and to the glory of God. How anxiously did your ministering angel watch the new trial to see how you would stand the test. As means came into your hands, I saw you gradually and almost imperceptibly separating from God. The means entrusted to you were expended for your own convenience, to surround yourself with the good things of this life. I saw the angels looking upon you with yearning sadness, their faces half averted, loath to leave you. Yet their presence was not perceived by you, and your course was pursued without reference to your angel guard.

“The business and cares of your new position claimed your time and attention, and your duty to God was not considered. “In your prosperity you did not carry out the resolves you had made in adversity. The deceitfulness of riches turned you

from your purposes. Cares increased upon you. Your influence became extended. As the afflicted realized relief from suffering, they glorified you, and you learned to love praise from the lips of poor mortals. You were in a popular city, and thought it necessary for the success of your business, as well as to retain your influence, for your surroundings to be somewhat in accordance with your business. But you carried things too far. You were swayed too much by the opinions and judgment of others. You expended means needlessly, only to gratify the lust of the eye and the pride of life. You forgot that you were handling your Lord's money. When means were expended by you which would only encourage vanity, you did not consider that the recording angel was making a record which you would blush to meet again. Said the angel, pointing to you: 'You glorified yourself, but did not magnify God.' You even gloried in the fact that it was in your power to purchase these things.

"A large sum has been expended in needless things which could only answer for show and encourage vanity and pride that will cause you remorse and shame. If you had borne in mind the claims Heaven has upon you and had made a right disposition of the means entrusted to your care, by helping the needy and advancing the cause of present truth, you would have been laying up treasure in heaven and would have been rich toward God. Consider how much means you have invested where no one has been really benefited, no one fed or clothed, and no one helped to see the error of his ways that he might turn to Christ and live.

"Your children were not disciples of Christ. They were in friendship with the world, and their natural hearts desired to be like worldlings. The lust of the eye and the pride of life controlled them and have influenced you to a certain extent. You have sought more earnestly to please and gratify your children than to please and glorify God. You have forgotten the claims of God upon you, and the wants of His cause. Selfishness has led you to expend money in ornaments for the gratification of yourself and your children. You did not think that this money was not yours; that it was only lent you to test and prove you, to see if you would shun the evils you had marked in others. God made you His steward, and when He cometh and reckoneth with His servants, what account can you give of your stewardship?

"Your faith and simple trust in God began to wane as soon as means flowed in upon you. You did not depart from God all at once. Your backsliding was gradual. You ceased the morning and evening devotions because it was not always convenient.

"Means were expended needlessly for show. Over this sin in others you had felt deeply grieved. And while thus using means, you were robbing God. Then the Lord said: 'I will scatter. I will permit her for a time to walk in the way of her own choosing. I will blind judgment, and remove wisdom. I will show her that her strength is weakness, and her wisdom foolishness. I will humble her, and open her eyes to see how far she has departed from Me. If she will not then turn unto Me with her whole heart, and in all her ways acknowledge Me, My hand shall scatter, and the pride of the mother and of the children shall be brought down, and poverty shall again be their lot. My name shall be exalted. The loftiness of man shall be brought down, and the pride of man shall be laid low.'

"The above view was given December 25, 1865, in the city of Rochester, New York. Last June I was shown that the Lord was dealing with you in love, that He now invited you to turn to Him that you might live. I was shown that for years you have felt that you were in a backslidden state. If you had been consecrated to God you might have done a good and great work in letting your light shine to others.

"In your earlier experience the Lord imparted to you talents of influence, but did not give you talents of means, and therefore did not expect you in your poverty to bestow that which you had not to give.

"In the providence of God your influence has been extended; in addition to this, God has seen fit to prove you by giving you talents of means. You are thereby laid under double responsibility. When your condition in life began to improve, you said: 'As soon as I can get me a home, I will then donate to the cause of God.' But when you had a home you saw so many improvements to make to have everything about you convenient and pleasant that you forgot the Lord and His claims upon you, and were less inclined to help the cause of God than in the days of your poverty and affliction.

"I saw that there was yet opportunity to return to the fold. Jesus has redeemed you by His own blood, and He requires you to employ your talents in His service. You

have not become hardened to the influence of the Holy Spirit. When the truth of God is presented, it meets a response in your heart.

"I saw that you should study every move. You should do nothing rashly. Let God be your counsellor. He loves your children, and it is right that you should love them; but it is not right to give them the place in your affections that the Lord claims. They have kind impulses and generous purposes. They possess noble traits of character. If they would only see their need of a Saviour, and bow at the foot of the cross, they might exert an influence for good. They are now lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. They now stand in the enemy's ranks, under the black banner of Satan. Jesus invites them to come to Him, to leave the ranks of the enemy, and to stand under the bloodstained banner of the cross of Christ.

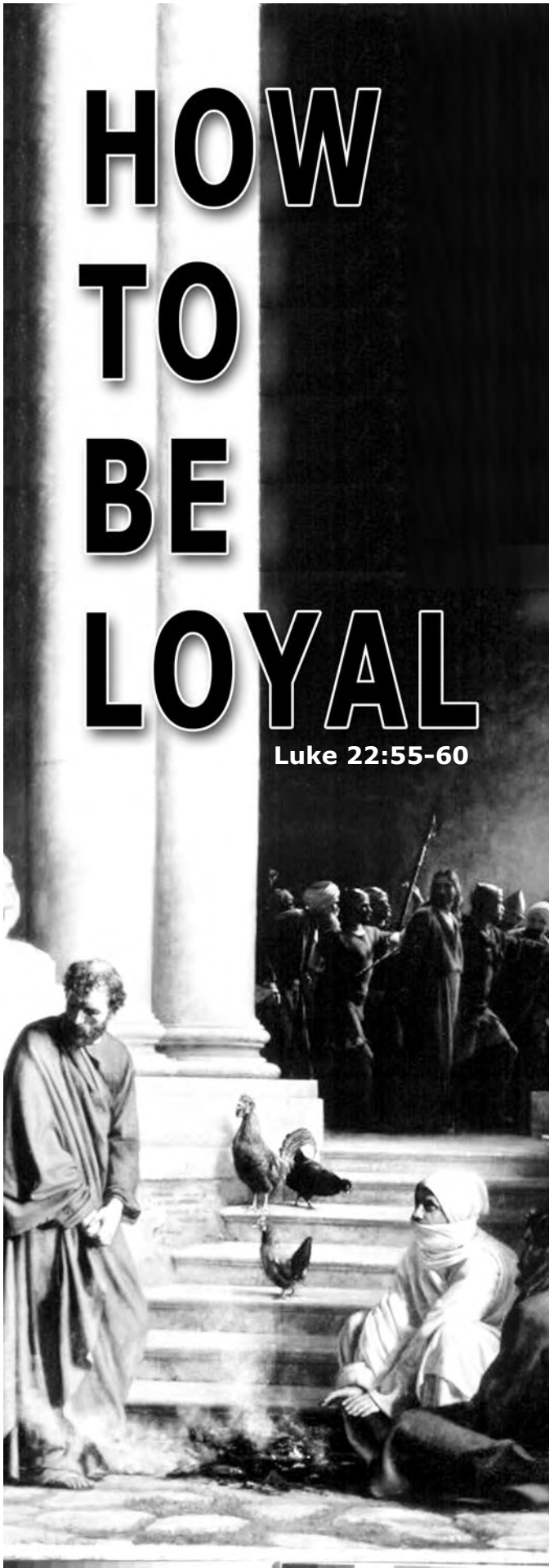
"My dear sister, the Lord has been very merciful to you and your family. You are laid under obligation to your heavenly Father to praise and glorify His holy name upon the earth. In order to continue in His love, you should labor constantly for humbleness of mind and that meek and quiet spirit which is in the sight of God of great price. Your strength in God will increase while you consecrate all to Him; so that you can say with confidence: 'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?' 'For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is Christ Jesus our Lord.'

God blesses some people with means, and some not. 'Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.' Heb. 13:5.

There is a battle going on for your soul and from this example of Sister M, we see how real the battle is. God is putting forth a great effort for your salvation. It is your duty to cooperate with God and turn away from the evil influences and be very careful what request you make of God and never speak rashly in anger. It just may be that God will answer you, but it may not be according to His will. **AMEN**  
**Wendy Eaton, Australia**

# HOW TO BE LOYAL

Luke 22:55-60



Here we have the story of Peter's denial of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Peter sat down among his enemies. He denied the Lord, the faith, and the brotherhood! Yet, Peter and John were to become heroic examples of loyalty to Jesus Christ. When the mighty God of Heaven took the imprisonment of Peter and John into His own hands, sending an angel of the Lord to open the prison doors, He said to the disciples, "Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life." This command was contrary to the orders given by the Jewish rulers; but, did the apostles say, "we cannot do this until we consulted the magistrates, Sanhedrin, or the authorities and received permission from them?" No! God had said, "Go", and they obeyed. Moreover, they did not go into hiding somewhere securely. They entered into the Temple early in the morning and taught. The believers were amazed and full of joy when they heard their story.

The high priest, council, and rulers, however, conspired to charge them with insurrection when they heard the astonishing report of their escape from prison, and that, "Behold, the men that you put in prison are standing in the Temple, and teaching the people." The Captain with his officers came and took them again, without violence for fear of being stoned.

Jesus Christ warned the disciples beforehand, "take heed to yourselves, for they shall deliver you up to the councils." (Mk. 12:9). They were delivered from prison as a token of God's love, but now they were to suffer for the sake of the One whose gospels they were preaching. When the High Priest said, "didn't we tell you not to preach in His name," they answered, "we obey God rather than man." They obeyed at whatever cost to themselves.

In the history of the prophets and apostles are many noble examples of loyalty to God. (AA 81) But, in our opening verse, the Apostle Peter denied the Lord. From a faithful believer, loyal to God, he suddenly became an outcast, an unbeliever, a stranger... disloyal! Circumstances, somehow, changed... suddenly for Peter! Something mysterious happened in his life. His devoted loyalty left him. Why?

But, first what do we mean by loyalty? Well, it means faithfulness, to someone supreme in power, rank, or authority; a government, ruler, leader, or cause. It also means devotion, allegiance, fidelity. All mean a sense of duty or devoted attachment to something or someone. It's really a sentiment and the feeling of devotion that one holds for one's country, creed, family, friends, principles, doctrines. Going on further, in our interests, it means faithful to one's oath, commitments, or obligations, something deserving fidelity, devotion to our vows, or covenant.

Adam's loyalty was tested. (CS 65). Abel had the spirit of loyalty. (PP71). The unfallen angels kept and maintained their loyalty. (PP 38-9). There are many steps by which men can prove their loyalty. "If you love me keep my commandments." (Col 28:3); (John 14:15)

"The Sabbath has been the test of loyalty in all ages". (GW 148) "It's an evidence of your loyalty." (GC 435). "Your tithes and offerings, too, are a token test of your loyalty" (9T 245). "There will be a sharp conflict between those loyal to God, and those who mock the Law." The test of loyalty comes to everyone. The test of love for Jesus is a practical one, all the rest is sentimental confusion." There are only two sides. On which side are you?" (8T 120). "You'll be called on to prove your loyalty." (MYP 29).

Let's return to the Apostle Peter's disarming denial, and see how this may apply to our own lives. Perhaps, we are concealing our loyalty to the Lord with denial, without understanding why, but may be manifested

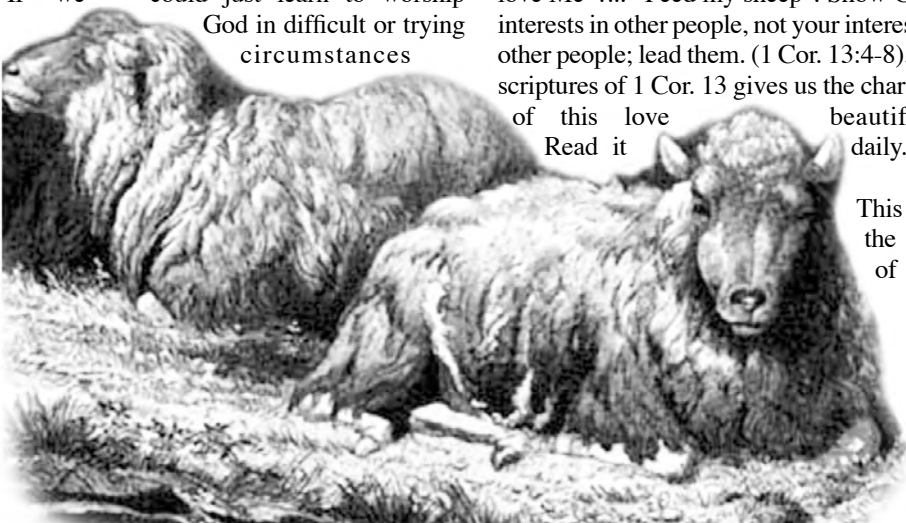
in our conduct, failures, or uneasiness and anxiety in life.

We must first believe that it is the loyal soul who believes that God manages or engineers or changes circumstances in our lives. It's common, and natural, for many, however, to take our circumstances too freely or lightly, that they... just happened. We don't all believe that God engineers or manages them... arranges or designs circumstances, but we treat or look at things as if they were engineered or designed by mortal man and leave it at that. We want to be loyal and faithful but often struggle with this question... how?! To be faithful in every circumstance means that we have only one loyalty... and that is to our Lord. Remember this.

But, what happens in our lives? Suddenly God comes into our lives and changes things. He breaks up a particular set of circumstances or conditions. Things change! Often very suddenly. We didn't "plan on it". We use the word circumstances, as it means conditions surrounding and affecting a person, and is usually, but not always, health, position, locality, financial conditions. That's just a fact of life, isn't it?

So, what happens next when this happens? After some heart-searching and panic prayers, we finally realize that we have not been loyal to Him. How have we been disloyal to Him? By not recognizing that it was His hand, and His will, and His design to order things and change things. We never really understood or saw what He was after or why, because we lost communion with Him. We lost that personal communication with Him. We drifted away. We could not hear His voice. We could not see His hand working. We became impatient!

If we could just learn to worship God in difficult or trying circumstances



with deep, earnest, soul-searching prayer, He will change them in two seconds... when He chooses.

It seems that loyalty to Jesus Christ, today is the thing which many are confused or hesitate about. We will be loyal to our work, to serve, to our family, our children, teachers,... to anything and anyone, but, do not ask us to be loyal to Jesus Christ. Many Christians even become impatient of talking about loyalty to Jesus!

Our Lord is dethroned and recrucified perhaps more by Christians than by the world of unbelievers. For many God is made merely a "blessing-machine" for blessing mortal men... He's considered an ordinary worker among workers. (Heb 6: 1-6) The word, however, ringing over and over again in our mental life is... obey, obey. Remember, we go through nothing that God does not know about.

We all have to find our "niche", or suitable place in this life, and spiritually we find it when we are called by the Lord. In order to do this we must have walked with Jesus. We must know Him more than a personal Saviour. "I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." (Mat 5: 10). There's no choice but absolute loyalty to the Lord. No compromises! You will know it when you are in the closest contact with Him. It's not just a calling, but it's an opportunity! You'll know it again when you're in real touch with Him. You'll feel it. You'll see it. The world will see it in you. God will see it in you from above.

The Apostle Peter had no choice of service, only absolute loyalty to our Lord's commission. Our Lord has told us over and over how love to Him is to manifest itself. He asked Peter and is asking us. "Do you love Me"?... "Feed my sheep". Show God's interests in other people, not your interests in other people; lead them. (1 Cor. 13:4-8). The scriptures of 1 Cor. 13 gives us the character of this love beautifully. Read it daily.

This is the love of God

expressing itself. This is a practical test for our love for Jesus.

Loyalty is a supernatural work of redemption, by the Holy Spirit. When the love of God is in our heart this love works through us in our contacts with everyone we meet. We remain loyal to Him in spite of all the worldly opposition.

The key to loyalty is being attached to "nothing and no one", except our Lord Himself. To do this we need to keep our souls open and concentrated to the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Have we been feeding Jesus Christ's sheep? Think a moment. Have we been nourishing the lives of people in the understanding of Jesus? Or, are we just sitting on our obese doctrines only? According to Jesus, living loyalty means that we feed His sheep in the knowledge of Him, and not feed them with our doctrines only. Driving loyalty is not that I am true to doctrine but true to Jesus. Peter had boasted earlier of his love for Jesus. "Though all men shall be offended of thee, yet will I never be offended." (Math 26:33). In essence he said, "I will never stumble." But, what did he say later? "Lord, You know all things. You know I love you."

"Feed my sheep"!

Get rid of the idea that you must only do good things, and remember what Jesus said, "He who believes in me out of his heart will flow living waters." In the Christian life it is never "do, do", but "be, be", and I, Jesus will do through you. But, we are to "do" the will of God. The type of man produced by the Spirit of Jesus is the one who has a family likeness to Jesus. Strive for this.

Finally, salvation is easy (Hab. 2:4; Mk. 11: 22) because it cost God so much, but the manifestation of it in our lives is difficult. God does expect "man to be a man". What does He mean by this?

Well, it's simply this. God saves a man and embues or leads him with the person of the Holy Spirit, and says it in a way we can understand, "Now it is up to you to prove it, now you work it out; be loyal to Me while the nature and circumstances of things all around you would make you disloyal. (Lk. 12:4). (John 15:14); (3 John 14).

"I have called you friends," He says, "now stand loyal to your Friend, Jesus." **AMEN.**  
*John Theodorou, USA*





Some of the greatest mistakes that people make are not to recognize their enemies and their friends. The Jewish people thought that Jesus was their enemy and therefore planned to put Him to death. Cain thought that Abel was his enemy and therefore he decided to kill him. The people of Israel thought that the prophets were their enemies and therefore they decided to kill them. Lucifer in Heaven thought that God was his enemy and therefore he began a rebellion and war against Him. All these people were fighting against their friends, while thinking that they were enemies.

On the other hand, Eve thought that the serpent was her friend, giving her something that God had denied to them. The people of Israel thought that the Moabites and Midianites were their friends and therefore joined with them in their feasts and because of this friendship with the enemy, 24,000 Israelites perished.

Many professed Christians do not realize that “the friendship with the world is enmity with God.” James 4:4. While thinking that they are serving God, in reality they are His enemies.

Was Abel really an enemy of Cain? Certainly not. The real enemy was his own envy. Because Abel’s sacrifice was accepted and his was not, this filled Cain’s heart with envy; he could not overcome it and thus his real enemy made him kill his brother.

The same with Lucifer. God was not his enemy but Lucifer’s envy and pride made him start his rebellion. These were Lucifer’s real enemies, but he did not realize it.

Jesus did not fight against the Pharisees and Jewish leaders but rather tried to save them. But again the envy in the Pharisees’ hearts made them hate Him. This was their real enemy that conquered them.

Joseph did not hate his brothers, but they hated him because of envy.

Envy is a terrible enemy and millions fall victim to it.

Solomon writes that envy is the “rotteness of the bones.” (Prov. 14: 30). Comparable to bone cancer, which is a terrible disease. But envy is actually more terrible. It makes people even commit murder.

“Jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame.” Song Of Solomon 8:6.

Envy is a satanic characteristic. It leads to evil speaking, to fault finding, and to persecution. Envy always makes a person unhappy and miserable.

King Saul had envy towards David, and therefore he tried to kill him. David was not his enemy, but Saul’s own heart, filled with envy deceived him.

Pride is a formidable enemy. Millions lose the battle to this enemy. It was pride that changed Lucifer and his angels to demons. Pride has destroyed kingdoms and mighty men.

“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.” Prov. 16:18.

“Only by pride cometh contention.” Prov. 13:10.



Without this characteristic there would be unity and harmony in the family, church and the world. Pride makes us feel offended when we are abused, hurt or spoken evil of.. Pride separates families, it divides nations. It separates friends and even separates us from God.

“There is nothing so offensive to God or so dangerous to the human soul as pride and self-sufficiency. Of all sin it is the most hopeless, the most incurable.” COL, p. 154.

This enemy goes hand in hand with vanity. Billions of dollars are spent to satisfy human pride. This waste of money causes millions to die from hunger in poor countries, which could be provided with necessities with the money spent on vanity.

This leads us to another terrible enemy called covetousness.

It was covetousness that destroyed Judas, Balaam and Achan. Millions and millions of professed Christians will be out of heaven for covetousness.

“The greatest sin which now exists in the

church is covetousness.” 2 Spiritual Gifts, p. 236.

We are to overcome “covetousness which is idolatry.” Col. 3:5.

Ananias and Sapphira fell victim to this enemy.

God has given us help to combat this enemy. It is tithe paying and systematic benevolence. We are to remember that we are not owners but stewards handling the Lord’s goods placed in our trust.

Another monster that is out to destroy us is appetite. This enemy overcame Adam and Eve. This enemy grows out of proportion if indulged and fed. Many Christians worship this idol not realizing that they pay dearly for this indulgence in sickness and premature death, even losing their eternal life.

“All this weight of woe and accumulated suffering can be traced to the indulgence of appetite and passion... Sins of the greatest magnitude are committed through the indulgence of perverted appetite.” Test. Vol. 4, p. 30.

To fight this enemy God has given us health reform. If practiced faithfully the enemy of appetite can be defeated.

Perhaps the greatest of all the enemies that war against us is selfishness. Under this heading comes sins including love of the world, love of pleasure, self-indulgence, love of position and hundreds of other sins that people practice.

These enemies are giants like Goliath fighting against us, trying to defeat our salvation. And these giants live within us, in our hearts and minds. In other words, we ourselves can be our greatest enemy.

Alone we cannot overcome these terrible enemies that are out to destroy us. We need God’s help. The Bible gives us counsel on how to overcome and weapons with which these enemies can be defeated. One is prayer, we are asked to pray without ceasing. Another is Bible study. Daily we are encouraged to read and study this holy book. Fasting is a great weapon to fight perverted appetites. Jesus used this weapon and He did overcome this enemy. Missionary work is a mighty weapon to resist selfishness. Also we are to look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, constantly.

We do have enemies outside of us also which are out to destroy us. Constantly they are tempting us to fall into sin. A bitter person will make us bitter. This disease is very contagious.

A miserable person and a world-loving person may have a strong adverse effect on us. We must guard against their influence.

Also we have friends who love us and try to save us. Their company to us is healthy and encouraging.

We need to distinguish between friends and enemies and yet consider that the greatest enemies live in our hearts. Then we must overcome, or the battle will be lost and we will be lost in the end.

May the Lord help us in this warfare. **AMEN.**

*Timo Martin, Toronto, Canada.*

# Current Scene

The seminar covered several topics, including the Islamic concept of Jihad, or holy war against non-Muslims, but it was meant for Christians only.

**cbn.com** (CBN News) - In Victoria, Australia, the state government has passed a highly controversial law designed to protect religious and racial minorities. But it seems to be having an unintended effect.

Two Christian pastors are currently on trial under the law. And they say it feels like the law is persecuting them.



Pastors Daniel Scot and Danny Nalliah have been on trial since October 2003. In the Land Down Under, these Christian pastors are feeling like their world has been literally turned upside down.

If they are found guilty, they might have to pay thousands of dollars in fines. Why are they on trial? Because they held a seminar on Islam. Specifically, the seminar explored the teachings of the Koran and its implications for Christians.

Pastor Nalliah says he sponsored the seminar at the request of Christian leaders in his community. Nalliah said, "Many called and said, 'Pastor Danny, could you please teach us, what does the Koran really say about the Christians and the Jews and about the non-believers? One

side of Islam says Islam is peaceful, the other side of Islam carries out the suicide bombings and quotes from the Koran. Whom do we believe?'"

The seminar covered several topics, including the Islamic concept of Jihad, or holy war against non-Muslims, but it was meant for Christians only.

The seminar was advertised through the churches at one Christian bookstore, meant for Christians. No one expected that there were three Muslims who would come in. But three Muslims did slip in.

And they filed a complaint, charging that the seminar, particularly its teachings that the Koran supports Jihad, vilified Muslims. That's a crime under the state of Victoria's Racial and Religious Tolerance Act.

The Islamic Council of Victoria is backing the suit. Spokesman Bilal Cleland says the seminar painted a false picture of Islam.

Cleland said, "Never has Islam tried to force itself upon people. There seems to be a great fear among some of these marginal groups that Islam is a big bulldozer that will run them down. We're only 1.5 percent of the Australian community. And our teachings, the Koran itself prevents us from using compulsion in religion."

But Nalliah says Scot's teachings came directly from Islam's holy book, the Koran. "Surah chapter 9, verse 29 from the noble Koran."

Nalliah said, "Fight against those who believe not in Allah." The Islamic Council also took issue with statements in Nalliah's newsletter that Christians in Muslim countries are persecuted.

That statement is met with some skepticism by Scot. Back in the late 1980's, Scot had to

flee the Islamic republic of Pakistan when Muslims accused him of blaspheming the prophet Mohammed, because just being charged with that offence can lead to death by offended Muslims.

Scot said, "A friend of mine, he informed me, he sent a message to my home. He said, 'Daniel, you are in grave danger, nobody can help you. You will be killed.'"

Still, Victoria's Equal Opportunity Commission said the Islamic Council had a legitimate complaint, and sent the case to court when Scot and Nalliah refused its judgment in arbitration.

Nalliah said, "All I can say is, we were asked to apologize, and we said we will not apologize for reading from their holy book, the Koran. Why should we apologize?" The case has now dragged on for six months, costing the pastors more than \$200,000 dollars in legal fees.

But it has also shed light on Victoria State's controversial Racial and Religious Tolerance Act. Basically, the law allows a person to sue if he feels he's been humiliated or belittled by another because of race or religion, even if the offending statement is not directed specifically at him. Diane Sisely of the Victoria Equal Opportunity Commission, said, "If it's behaviour that's vilifying that can be overheard by a third person, if it is designed to cause serious hurt, harm or ridicule, then it's religious vilification and it's prohibited."

And that applies even if the statements causing the 'harm' can be shown to be true. "How can you vilify someone," Nalliah said, "by reading from their holy book? This is crazy. This is political correctness to its utmost stupidity."

In at least two cases in Victoria, Christians have agreed to pay fines and apologize for

so-called “religious vilification,” rather than go to court. But Nalliah says someone has to take a stand, and he is willing to pay the price for religious freedom. Nalliah said, “So we as Christians have the right to examine their scriptures and tell the Christian community, “Man, come on, be watchful.” We’ve got to pray, we’ve got to love them, but also if you don’t share the Gospel with them and bring them to the truth, we could be the victims.”

Religious liberty is close to the heart of every one that loves God and loves truth and it is the truth alone that has nothing to fear. With more and more false or fallen churches appealing to the strong arm of civil government to enforce their dogmas and decrees we can see there is tremendous pressure being brought to bear on elected officials to yield any religious freedom into the hands of the courts. Of course, the justice of this world is no justice at all for the people of God and we will yet be brought into strait places.

“I was shown that we have men placed over us for rulers, and laws to govern the people. Were it not for these laws, the world would be in a worse condition than it is now. Some of these laws are good, and some bad. The bad have been increasing, and we are yet to be brought into straight places. But God will sustain his people in being firm, and living up to the principles of his word. Where the laws of men conflict with God’s word and law, we are to obey the word and law of God, whatever the consequences may be. The laws of our land requiring us to deliver a slave to his master, we are not to obey, and we must abide the consequences of the violation of this law. This slave is not the property of any man. God is his rightful Master, and man has no right to take God’s workmanship into his hands, and claim his as his own. {4bSG 42.2}

“Those who eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God will bring from the books of Daniel and Revelation truth that is inspired by the Holy Spirit. They will start into action forces that cannot be repressed. The lips of children will be opened to proclaim the mysteries that have been hidden from the minds of men. . .

“Many of the prophecies are about to be fulfilled in quick succession. Every element of power is about to be set to work. Past history will be repeated; old controversies will arouse to new life, and peril will beset

God’s people on every side. Intensity is taking hold of the human family. It is permeating everything upon the earth. . . Study Revelation in connection with Daniel, for history will be repeated. . . We, with all our religious advantages, ought to know far more today than we do know.

“Angels desire to look into the truths that are revealed to the people who with contrite hearts are searching the word of God and praying for greater lengths and breadths and depths and heights of the knowledge which He alone can give.

“As we near the close of this world’s history, the prophecies relating to the last days especially demand our study. The last book of the New Testament Scriptures is full of truth that we need to understand. Satan has blinded the minds of many so that they have been glad of any excuse for not making the Revelation their study. But Christ through His servant John has here declared what shall be in the last days; and He says, “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.”

“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” 2 Tim. 3: 12.” Maranatha, p. 30.

“As the time comes for it [the third angel’s message] to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The labourers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power—all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. . .” {FLB 330.2}

“The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it. . . The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and in this work, papists and Protestants unite. As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided, the law will be invoked against commandment keepers. . .” {FLB 330.3}

“The words of Paul will be literally fulfilled, ‘All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.’ As the defenders of truth refuse to honour the Sunday-sabbath, some of them will be thrust into prison, some will be exiled, some will be treated as slaves. To human wisdom, all this now seems impossible; but as the restraining Spirit of God shall be withdrawn from men, and they shall be under the control of Satan, . . . there will be strange developments. . . .” {FLB 330.4}

“No man can serve God without enlisting against himself the opposition of the hosts of darkness.” {FLB 330.5}

“What was the strength of those who in the past have suffered persecution for Christ’s sake? It was union with God, union with the Holy Spirit, union with Christ. It is this fellowship with the Saviour that will enable God’s people to endure to the end.

“Certainly, when any movement religious or otherwise does not want the evidence to support its existence investigated, then you can be sure that it is not of God. Acts 17: 11 “ These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” The noble Bereans were noble for they had open minds and were willing to look at the evidence. This spirit God will bless. Force, compulsion or manipulation is only of Satan and should be seen by every sincere person for what it is.

### **Truth Will Prevail**

From “The Tennessee Star Journal”, Nov. 7-13, 2003

“Last month I attended my annual training session that’s required for maintaining my state prison security clearance. During the training session there was a presentation by three speakers representing the Roman Catholic, Protestant and Muslim faiths who explained their belief systems.

“I was particularly interested in what the Islamic Imam had to say. “The Imam gave a presentation of the basics of Islam, complete with a video.” “After the presentations, time was provided for questions and answers.”

“When it was my turn, I directed my question to the Imam and asked: ‘Please correct me if I’m wrong, but I understand that most Imams and clerics of Islam have declared a holy jihad (‘Holy War’) against the infidels of the world and that by killing an infidel,

which is a command to all Muslims, they are assured of a place in heaven.

“If that’s the case, can you give the definition of an infidel?”

“There was no disagreement with my statements and without hesitation he replied, ‘Non-believers!’

“I responded, ‘So, let me make sure I have this straight. All followers of Allah have been commanded to kill everyone who is not of your faith so they can go to Heaven. Is that correct?’

The expression on His face changed from one of authority and command to that of a little boy caught with his hand in the cookie jar.

“He sheepishly replied, ‘Yes.’”

“I then stated, ‘Well, sir, I have a real problem trying to imagine Pope John Paul



commanding all Catholics to kill those of your faith or Pat Robertson or Dr. Stanley ordering Protestants to do the same in order to go to Heaven!’”

“The Imam was speechless.

“I continued, ‘I also have a problem with being your friend when you and your brother clerics are telling your followers to kill me. Let me ask you a question...would you rather have your Allah who tells you to kill me in order to go to Heaven or my Jesus who tells me to love you because I am going to Heaven and want you to be with me?’

You could have heard a pin drop as the Imam hung his head in shame.

Chuck Colson once told me something that has sustained me these 20 years of prison ministry. He said to me, “Rick, remember that the truth will prevail.” And it will!

“A postscript to the above message: In a phone interview, Rick Mathes told the Star Journal, ‘When the Imam was walking away, I said ‘salaam’ (Arabic for peace) to him. He just smiled and said the same

in return. So we ended our encounter on a good note.”

“Rick said his ‘gut feeling’ is that the situation with Muslim extremists is about to explode within the prison system and then it will hit the streets.

I believe this article is important because I think the facts about Islam have been sometimes clouded with what we wish to be true rather than what is really true.”

From “Armageddon”, The Messenger, Jan. 2004

“The nations of the world are eager for conflict; but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed, there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instruments of warfare will be invented. Vessels, with their living cargo, will be entombed in the great deep. All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of satanic agencies.

But they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the great battle of Armageddon.” {7BC 967.8}

“Angels are belting the world, refusing Satan his claims to supremacy, made because of the vast multitude of his adherents. We hear not the voices, we see not with the natural sight the work of these angels, but their hands are linked about the world, and with sleepless vigilance they are keeping the armies of Satan at bay till the sealing of God’s people shall be accomplished.” {7BC 967.9}

“The ministers of Jehovah, angels have skill and power and great strength, being commissioned to go forth from heaven to earth to minister to His people. They are given the work of keeping back the raging power of him who has come down like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. The Lord is a refuge for all who put their trust in Him. He bids them hide in Him for a little moment, until the indignation shall be overpast. He is soon to come out of His place to punish the world for its iniquity. Then the earth shall disclose her blood and shall no more cover her slain (Letter 79,

1900).” {7BC 967.10}

“The angels that were holding back strife in the river Euphrates loosened their hold and we see the fall of the east – Turkey.

“Who is the river Euphrates? What do rivers and waters in the Bible represent? Peoples and nations. But here the Bible is talking about one specific river. What does this mean? It is talking about those nations surrounding it.

Is. 8:7 Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, [even] the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks.

“When the Bible speaks about a specific river, it means the nations surrounding it. In this case, the Arab world. They will be dried up in the sixth plague.

“And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.” Dan. 11:45.

“Another example of the Arab world coming to his end.

Is. 21:16 “For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Within a year, according to the years of an hireling, and all the glory of Kedar shall fail.” Kedar shall fail. Who is Kedar?

25:13 And these [are] the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their generations: the firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth; and Kedar, and Adbeel, and Mibsam.

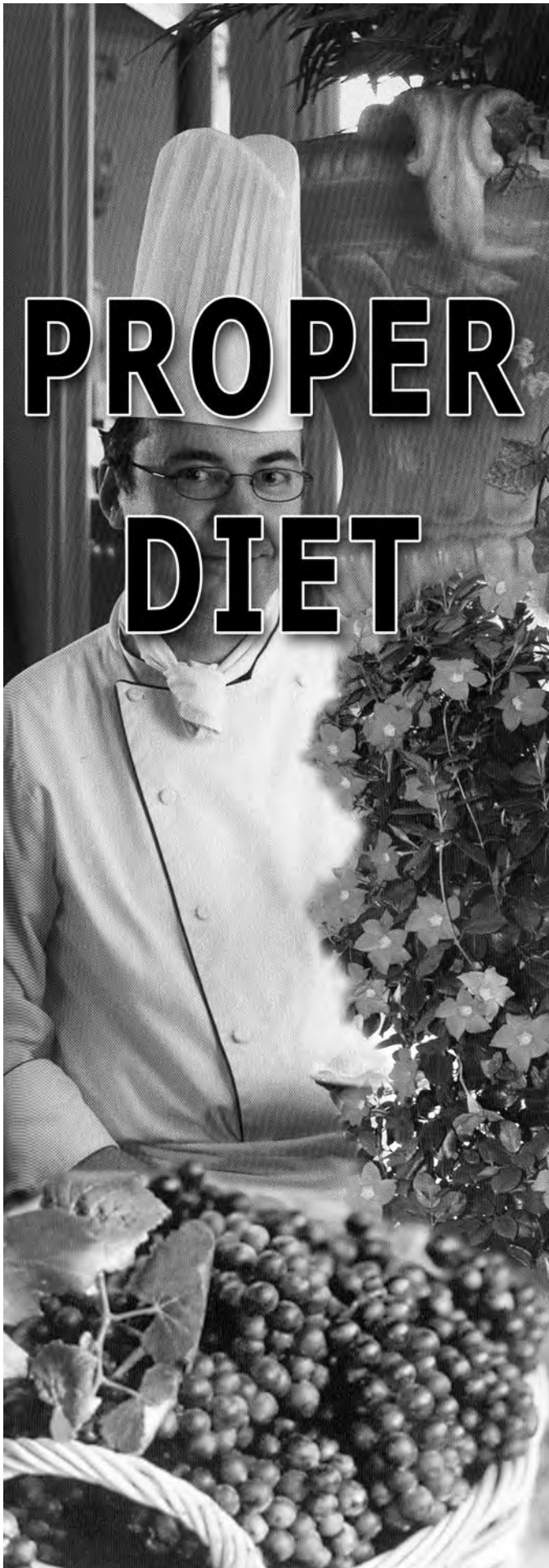
“Kedar is a son of Ishmael – the father of the Arabs. David always had trouble with the Arabs [Kedar] and it pained him.

Psalm 120:5 -7 Woe is me, that I sojourn in Mesech, [that] I dwell in the tents of Kedar!

My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace. I [am for] peace: but when I speak, they [are] for war.

Rev. 16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

*Compiled and edited by Jerry Eaton*



An important part of our reform message is a proper diet. God has provided daily food, which promotes health and gives strengthens us. Much of the suffering and sickness in our world is caused by eating unhealthy foods, which poison our system.

In the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy books, God has given us clear instructions in regard to the foods that we should eat. General guidelines have been given which apply to everyone.

Counsel that applies to everyone is not to use sugar, much salt, meat foods, tea, coffee, rich pastries, and so forth.

Sister Ellen White also recommends a different diet to those who do heavy manual work versus those who do light, sedentary work. Also, some have weak, sensitive digestive systems which cannot tolerate some foods that may be well digested by another person.

Additionally, there are foods that digest easily, and others that do not such as raw vegetables, beans, nuts, coarse graham flour and so on.

All these instructions we find in the books, Counsels on Health, The Ministry of Healing and Counsels on Diet and Foods.

Sometimes we hear of new kinds of diet recommendations which are not supported by the Bible nor the Spirit of Prophecy. We must be very careful with them. Today the popular New Age movement brings out healing methods and diets which are not supported by the word of God or the Testimonies. One such erroneous New Age idea teaches a different diet to people with different blood groups or different personalities. God gave one diet only to man in the beginning and today after 6,000 years we still follow it; and this diet is proper and maintains our optimum health. Increasingly, even modern research supports the original diet that God gave to man as the ideal.

In the wilderness one kind of Manna came down to feed the people and there was no sick among them.

Special combinations of foods may be required at times when people suffer from an illness or are deficient in minerals or vitamins. People who are anemic or lack calcium need to eat foods that supply their deficiency. Children and adults have different food requirements as well. This information may be found in the health books written by Ellen White.

Before we recommend or present to people something new we must carefully study it thoroughly. This includes obtaining positive proof for it from medical experts in our church. It must also be in complete harmony with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

“The abuses of the stomach by the gratification of appetite, are the fruitful source of most church trials. Those who eat and work intemperately and irrationally, talk and act irrationally. An intemperate man cannot be a patient man. It is not necessary to drink alcoholic liquors in order to be intemperate. The sin of intemperate eating, eating too frequently, too much, and of rich, unwholesome food, destroys the healthy action of the digestive

organs, affects the brain, and perverts the judgment, preventing rational, calm, healthy thinking and acting. And this is a fruitful source of church trials. Therefore, in order for the people of God to be in an acceptable state with Him, where they can glorify Him in their bodies and spirits, which are His, they must with interest and zeal deny the gratification of their appetites, and exercise temperance in all things. Then may they comprehend the truth in its beauty and clearness, and carry it out in their lives, and by a judicious, wise, straightforward course, give the enemies of our faith no occasion to reproach the cause of truth." Test. Vol. 1, p. 618-619.

Proper diet is an important topic that all need to study carefully. Our salvation depends on our eating habits. Our first parents ate forbidden food and today it continues to be as much a sin for us to indulge in unhealthy foods that God prohibits.

May the Lord give us all wisdom in regard to the healthy diet, and proper ways to heal the sick, which Heaven will approve of. *AMEN.*  
*Timo Martin, Canada*

## **INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE**

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

**WHERE: SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

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

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

Reservations must be received by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004.

### **Payments can be sent to:**

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

For detailed information:

***jerryeaton@smartchat.net.au*** or ***markus@justinternet.com.au***  
or call by telephone: Tel. (+61) 2-9670-2886

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

## **CANADIAN CONFERENCE**

*You Are Invited To Attend*

**In Toronto**

**July 30, 31 & Aug 1, 2004**

*For More Information Please Contact:*

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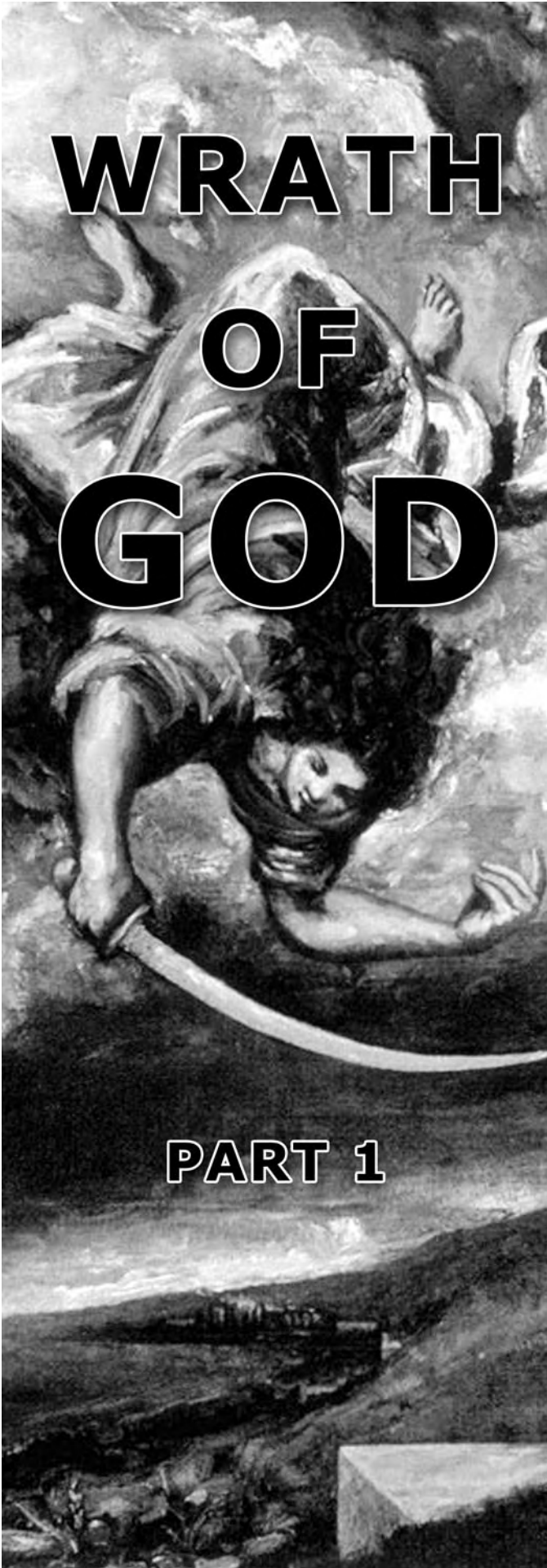
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# WRATH

# OF

# GOD

## PART 1

“And the third Angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, if any man worship the Beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation: and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the Lamb, and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever, and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the Beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints, here are they that keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus.” (Revelation 14: 9-12)

The third angel’s message has been sent forth to the world, warning men against receiving the mark of the Beast or of his image in their foreheads or in their hands. To receive this mark means to come to the same decision as the Beast has done, and to advocate the same ideas, in direct opposition to the word of God. Of all who receive this mark God says, “The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured without mixture into the cup of his indignation, and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the Holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb...”

If the light of truth has been presented to you, revealing the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and showing that there is no foundation in the Word of God for Sunday observance, and yet you still cling to the false Sabbath, refusing to keep holy the Sabbath which God calls “My holy day”, you receive the mark of the Beast. When does this take place? When you obey the decree that commands you to cease from labour on Sunday and worship God, while you know that there is not a word in the Bible showing Sunday to be other than a common working day, you consent to receive the mark of the Beast, and refuse the seal of God.

If we receive this mark in our foreheads or in our hands, the judgments pronounced against this disobedient must fall upon us. But the seal of the living God is placed upon those who conscientiously keep the Sabbath of the Lord. (R & H, July 13, 1897).

### **Introduction**

IT 344: God’s word, rightly understood and applied, is a safe-guard against spiritualism. As eternally burning hell preached from the pulpit, and kept before the people does injustice to the benevolent character of God. It presents Him as the variest tyrant in the universe. This wide spread dogma has turned thousands to universalism, infidelity and atheism.

GCx: Satan’s efforts to misrepresent the character of God, to cause men to cherish a false conception of the Creator, and thus to regard Him with fear and hate rather than love, his endeavours to set aside the divine law, leading the people to think themselves free from its requirements, and his persecution of those who dare to resist his deceptions, have been steadfastly pursued in all ages.

GC 525: The errors of popular theology have driven many a soul to skepticism who might otherwise have been a believer in the scriptures. It is impossible for him to accept doctrines which outrage his sense of justice, mercy, and benevolence, and since they are represented as the teaching of the Bible, he refuses to receive it as the Word of God.

And this is the object which Satan seeks to accomplish. There is nothing that he desires more than to destroy confidence in God and His word.

Adventist Evangelists clearly explain the text. “If any man worship the beast, and his image and receive his mark in his forehead or in his



hand..." as:

Beast—Catholicism—papal power

Image—the use of the state by the protestant churches to enforce religious observance

Mark—the observance of Sunday as the Sabbath of the Lord after light has come. (Letter 31, 1898).

Forehead or hand—compliance by consent or practice (understanding or doing).

### Drink Cup

Rev. 14:8 Babylon is fallen is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Rev. 18:2,3,5,6; Rev. 17:2,4,6; Rev. 16:19; Jer. 51:7.

The great sin charged against Babylon is that she "made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." This cup of intoxication which she presents to the world represents the false doctrines that she has accepted as the result of her unlawful connection with the great ones of the earth. Friendship with the world corrupts her faith, and in her turn she exerts a corrupting influence upon the world by teaching doctrines which are opposed to the plainest statements of Holy writ. GC 388 (see 380-390).

Isa. 51:21-23: "...Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again: But I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee;..." (of verse 17). Ps. 60:1-3; 75:8; Ezek. 23:31-34.

Jer. 25:14-33: ...I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands. For thus saith the Lord God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it. And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad.... (Job 21:19-20).

PK 431: He bade Jeremiah liken the fate of the nation to the draining of a cup filled with the wine of divine wrath. Among the first to drink of this cup of woe was to be "Jerusalem, and the cities of Judah and the Kings thereof." Others were to partake of the same cup—Pharaoh, King of Egypt, and his servants and his princes, and all his people. And many other nations of earth—until God's purpose should have been fulfilled. See Jer. 25.

GC 627: The nation with which he bears long and which he will not smite until it has filled up the measure of its iniquity in God's account, will finally drink the cup of wrath unmixed with mercy.

GC 35: The Jews had forged their own fetters, they filled for themselves the cup of vengeance. In the utter destruction that befell them as a nation and in all the woes that followed them in their dispersion, they were but reaping the harvest which their own hands had sown. Says the prophet, "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself, for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity." Hosea 13:9; 14:1.

GC 21: In the temporal retribution about to fall upon her (Jerusalem's) children, he saw but the first draft from that cup of wrath which at the final judgment she must drain to its dregs.

PK 421: When called to drink of the cup of tribulation and sorrow and when tempted in his misery to say, "My strength and my hope is perished from the Lord." He (Jeremiah) recalled the providences of God in his behalf and triumphantly exclaimed, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning, great is thy faithfulness."

EW 47: God has shown me that He gave His people a bitter cup to drink, to purify and cleanse them. It is a bitter draught, and they can make it still more bitter by murmuring, complaining, and repining. But those who receive it thus must have another draught, for the first does not have its designed effect upon the heart. And if the second does not affect the work, then they must have another and another, until it does have its designed effect, or they will be left filthy, impure in heart. I saw that this bitter cup can be sweetened by patience, endurance, and prayer, and that it will have its designed effect upon the hearts of those who thus receive it, and God will be honoured and glorified. See GC 389:2; 390:0; MH 248.

John 18:11. The cup which My Father hath given Me, shall I not drink it? See. Matt. 20:22, 23.

DA 548-9: "Ye shall drink indeed of my cup and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with," he said; before Him a cross instead of a throne...

In the Kingdom of God, position is not gained through favouritism. It is not earned, nor is it received through an arbitrary bestowal. It is a result of character. The crown and the throne are tokens of a condition attained, they are the tokens of self-conquest through our Lord Jesus Christ...

The one who stands nearest to Christ will

be he who on earth had drunk most deeply of the spirit of His self-sacrificing love... Love that vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up... seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil. (1 Cor. 13:4, 5). Love that moves the disciple, as it moved our Lord to give all, to live and labour and sacrifice, even unto death, for the saving of humanity. The spirit was made manifest in the life of Paul. He said, "For me to live is Christ," for his life revealed Christ to men; "and to die is gain"... gain to Christ; death itself would make manifest the power of His grace, and gather souls to Him. "Christ shall be magnified in my body," he said, "whether it be by life or by death." Phil. 1: 2, 21. See 2 Cor. 1:7; Romans 1:16, 17.

### Wrath of God

Romans 1:18-32 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against... Wherefore God also gave them up to... The hour of hope and pardon was fast passing, the cup of God's long-deferred wrath was almost full. The cloud that had been gathering through ages of apostasy and rebellion, now black with woe, was about to burst upon a guilty people. And He who alone could save them from their impending fate had been slighted, abused, rejected, and was soon to be crucified. When Christ should hang upon the cross of Calvary, Israel's day as a nation favoured and blessed of God would be ended. GC 20.

GC 21: In the temporal retribution about to fall upon her children. He saw but the first draft from that cup of wrath which at the final judgment she must drain to its dregs. Divine pity, yearning love, found utterance in the mournful words: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and ye would not." O that thou, a nation favoured about every other, hadst known the time of thy visitation, and the things that belong unto thy peace: I have stayed the angel of justice, I have called thee to repentance, but in vain. It is not merely servants, delegates, and prophets, whom thou hast refused and rejected, but the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer. If thou art destroyed, thou alone art responsible. "Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." Matt. 23: 37; John 5:40.

"The waves of mercy, beaten back by those stubborn hearts, returned in a stronger tide of pitying, inexpressible love. But Israel had turned from her best friend and only Helper. The pleadings of His love had been despised. His counsels spurned, His



warnings ridiculed.” GC 20.

Christ saw in Jerusalem a symbol of the world hardened in unbelief and rebellion, and hastening on to meet the retributive judgments of God. The woes of a fallen race, pressing upon His soul, forced from His lips that exceeding bitter cry. He saw the record of sin traced in human misery, tears, and blood; His heart was moved with infinite pity for the afflicted and suffering ones of earth. He yearned to relieve them all. But even His hand might not turn back the tide of human woe. Few would seek their only source of help. He was willing to pour out His soul unto death, to bring salvation within their reach, but few would come to him that they might have life.

The Majesty of Heaven in tears! The Son of the infinite God troubled in spirit, bowed down with anguish! The scene filled all heaven with wonder. That scene reveals to us the exceeding sinfulness of sin. It shows how hard a task it is, even for infinite power, to save the guilty from the consequences of transgressing the law of God. Jesus, looking down to the last generation, saw the world involved in a deception similar to that which caused the destruction of Jerusalem. The great sin of the Jews was their rejection of Christ, the great sin of the Christian world would be their rejection of the law of God, the foundation of His government in heaven and earth. GC 22: 1,2.

Because of her sins, wrath had been denounced against Jerusalem, and her stubborn unbelief rendered her down certain. GC 26:1.

The parable of the unfruitful tree represented God’s dealings with the Jewish nation. The command had gone forth, “Cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?” Luke 13:7, but divine mercy had spared it yet a little longer. GC 27:3.

The long-suffering of God toward Jerusalem only confirmed the Jews in their stubborn impenitence. In their hatred and cruelty towards the disciples of Jesus they rejected the last offer of mercy. Then God withdrew His protection from them and

removed His restraining power from Satan and his angels, and the nation was left to the control of the leader she had chosen. Her children had spurned the grace of Christ, which would have enabled them to subdue their evil impulses, and now these became the conquerors. Satan aroused the fiercest and most debased passions of the soul. Men did not reason, they were beyond reason—controlled by impulse and blind rage. They became satanic in their cruelty. In the family and in the nation, among the highest and lowest classes alike, there was suspicion, envy, hatred, strife, rebellion, murder. There was no safety anywhere. Friends and kindred betrayed one another, parents slew their children, and children their parents. The rulers of the people had no power to rule themselves. Uncontrolled passion made them tyrants. The Jews had accepted false testimony to condemn the innocent Son of God. Now false accusations made their own lives uncertain. By their action they had long been saying, “Cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.” Isa. 30:11. now their desire was granted. The fear of God no longer disturbed them. Satan was at the head of the nation, and the highest civil and religious authorities were under his sway. GC 28:1.

GC 29: But Israel had spurned the divine protection and now she had no defense.

GC 35-37: The Jews had forged their own fetters, they had filled for themselves the cup of vengeance. In the utter destruction that befell them as a nation, and in all the woes that followed them in their dispersion, they were but reaping the harvest which their own hands had sown. Says the prophet, “O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself:” “For thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.” Hosea 13:9; 14:1.

Their sufferings are often represented as a punishment visited upon them by the direct decree of God. It is thus, that the great deceiver seeks to conceal his own work. By stubborn rejection of divine love and mercy, the Jews had caused the protection of God to be withdrawn from them, and Satan was permitted to rule them according to his will. The horrible cruelties enacted in the destruction of Jerusalem are a demonstration of Satan’s vindictive power over those who yield to his control.

We cannot know how much we owe to Christ for the peace and protection which we enjoy. It is the restraining power of God that prevents mankind from passing fully under the control of Satan. The disobedient and unthankful have great

reason for gratitude for God’s mercy and long-suffering in holding in check the cruel, malignant power of the evil one. But when men pass the limits of divine forbearance, that restraint is removed. God does not stand toward the sinner as an executioner of the sentence against transgression, but He leaves the rejecter of His mercy to themselves, to reap that which they have sown. Every ray of light rejected, every warning despised or unheeded, every passion indulged, every transgression of the law of God, is a seed sown which yields its unfailing harvest. The spirit of God, persistently rejected, is at last withdrawn from the sinner, and then there is no protection from the malice and enmity of Satan. The destruction of Jerusalem is a fearful and solemn warning to all who are trifling with the offers of divine grace and resisting the pleadings of divine mercy. Never was there given a more decisive testimony to God’s hatred of sin and to the certain punishment that will fall upon the guilty.

The Saviour’s prophecy concerning the visitation of judgments upon Jerusalem is to have another fulfillment, of which that terrible desolation was but a faint shadow. In the fate of the chosen city we may behold the doom of a world that has rejected God’s mercy and trampled upon His law... Terrible have been the results of rejecting the authority of Heaven. But a scene yet darker is presented in the revelation of the future. The records of the past,—the long procession of tumults, conflicts, and revolutions, the “Battle of the warrior...with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood.” (Isa. 9:5)...What are these, in contrast with the terrors of that day when the restraining spirit of God shall be wholly withdrawn from the wicked, no longer to hold in check the outburst of human passion and satanic wrath. The world will then behold, as never before, the results of Satan’s rule.

Like Israel of old the wicked destroy themselves; they fall by their iniquity. By a life of sin, they have placed themselves so out of harmony with God, their natures have become so debased with evil, that the manifestation of His glory is to them a consuming fire.

GC 614-15: When He leaves the sanctuary, a darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent. God’s long-suffering has ended. The

world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law. The wicked have passed the boundary of their probation, the spirit of God persistently resisted, has been at last withdrawn. Unsheltered by divine grace, they have no protection from the wicked one. Satan then will plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old.

GC 615: When God's presence was finally withdrawn from the Jewish nation, priests and people knew it not. Though under the control of Satan, and swayed by the most horrible and malignant passions, they still regarded themselves as the chosen of God... The forms of religion will be continued by a people from whom the spirit of God has been finally withdrawn, and the satanic zeal with which the prince of evil inspire them for the accomplishment of his malignant designs, will bear the semblance of zeal for God.

PK 535: Every nation that has come upon the stage of action has been permitted to occupy its place on the earth, that the fact might be determined whether it would fulfill the purposes of the watcher and the Holy One. Prophecy has traced the rise and progress of the world's great empires—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. With each of these, as with nations of less power, history has repeated itself. Each has had its period of test, each has failed, its glory faded, its power departed.

While nations have rejected God's principles, and in this rejection have wrought their own ruin, yet a divine, overruling purpose has manifestly been at work throughout the ages.

PK 536: The history of nations speaks to us today. To every nation and to every individual God has assigned a place in his great plan. Today men and nations are being tested by the plummet in the hand of Him who makes no mistake. All are by their own choice deciding their destiny, and God is overruling all for the accomplishment of His purposes.

GC 632: In the form of men, angels are often in the assemblies of the righteous, and they visit the assemblies of the wicked, as they went to Sodom, to make a record of their deeds, to determine whether they have passed the boundary of God's forbearance. The Lord delights in mercy; and for the

sake of a few who really serve Him, He restrains calamities and prolongs the tranquility of multitudes. Little do sinners against God realize that they are indebted for their own lives to the faithful few whom they delight to ridicule and oppress.

GC xi: In the great final conflict, Satan will employ the same policy, manifest the same spirit, and work for the same end as in all preceding ages. That which has been, will be, except that the coming struggle will be marked with a terrible intensity such as the world has never witnessed. Satan's deceptions will be more subtle, his assaults more determined. If it were possible, he would lead astray the elect.

ST 135-6: The world is fast approaching that point in iniquity and human depravity when God's interference will become necessary... Already the judgments of God are in the land, as seen in storm, in floods, in tempests, in earthquakes, in peril by land and sea. The great I AM is speaking to those who make void His law. When God's wrath is poured out upon the earth, who will be able to stand? (see next paragraph for God's coming on the field and turning the tide)

GC 627: God's judgments will be visited upon those who are seeking to oppress and destroy His people. His long with the wicked emboldens men in transgression, but their punishment is nonetheless certain and terrible because it is long delayed. "The Lord shall rise up as in Mount Perasin. He shall be wrath as in the valley of Gibeon, that He may do His work, His strange work, and bring to pass His act, His strange act." Isa. 28:21. To our merciful God the act of punishment is a strange act. "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked." Eze. 33:11. The Lord is "merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,... forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin." Yet He will "by no means clear the guilty." "The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked." Ex. 34:6-7; Nahum 1:3. By terrible things in righteousness He will vindicate the authority of His downtrodden law. The severity of the retribution awaiting the transgressors may be judged by the Lord's reluctance to execute justice. The nation with which He bears long, and which He will not smite until it has filled up the measure of its iniquity in God's account, will finally drink the cup of wrath unmixed with mercy.

When Christ ceases His intercession in the sanctuary, the unmingled wrath threatened



against those who worship the Beast and his image and receives his mark (Rev. 14:9,10) will be poured out. The plagues upon Egypt when God was about to deliver Israel were similar in character to those more terrible and extensive judgments, which are to fall upon the world just before the final deliverance of God's people.

GC 614: A single angel destroyed all the first-born of the Egyptians and filled the land with mourning. When David offended against God by numbering the people, one angel caused that terrible destruction by which his sin was punished. The same destructive power exercised by holy angels when God commands, will be exercised by evil angels when He permits. There are forces now ready, and only waiting the divine permission to spread desolation everywhere.

GC 628-9: The plagues are not universal or the inhabitants of the earth would be wholly cut off. Yet they will be most awful scourges that have ever been known to mortals. All the judgments upon men, prior to the close of probation, have been mingled with mercy. The pleading blood of Christ has shielded the sinner from receiving the full measure of his guilt, but in the final judgment, wrath is poured out unmixed with mercy.

In that day, multitudes will desire the shelter of God's mercy which they have so long despised.

4T 191: The Lord will not be trifled with, those who neglect His mercies and blessings in this day of opportunities will bring impenetrable darkness upon themselves and will be candidates for the wrath of God. Sodom and Gomorrah were visited with the curse of the Almighty for their sins and iniquities. There are those in our day who have equally abused the mercies of God and slighted His warnings. It will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for those who bear the name of Christ, yet dishonour Him by their unconsecrated lives. This class are laying up for themselves a fearful retribution when God in His wrath shall visit them with His judgments.

Sinners who have not had the light and privileges that Seventh-Day Adventists have enjoyed will, in their ignorance, be in a more favourable position before God than those who have been unfaithful while in close connection with His work and professing to love and serve Him. The tears of Christ upon the mount came from an anguished, breaking heart because of His unrequited love and the ingratitude of His chosen people. He had laboured untiringly to save them from the fate that they seemed determined to bring upon themselves, but they refused the mercy and knew they were so blinded by sin that they knew it not. Jesus looked down through the centuries even to the close of time, and taking in all the cases of all who had repaid His love and admonitions, with selfishness and neglect, and all who would thus repay Him, He addressed to them those solemn words, declaring that they knew not the time of their visitation.

The Jews were gathering about themselves the dark clouds of retribution; and many today, in like manner, are drawing upon themselves the wrath of God, because of opportunities unimproved, the counsels and love of Jesus scorned, and his servants despised and hated for speaking the truth.

GC 659: For six thousand years, Satan's work of rebellion has "made the earth to tremble". He has "made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities

thereof". And he "opened not the house of his prisoners". For six thousand years his prison house has received God's people, and he would have held them captive for ever; but Christ has broken his bonds and set the prisoner free.

DA 763-4: Then the end will come. God will vindicate His law and deliver His people. Satan and all who have joined him in rebellion will be cut off. Sin and sinners will perish, root and branch (Mal. 4:1)... Satan the root and his followers the



branches. The word will be fulfilled to the prince of evil. "Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God,... I will destroy thee, O covered cherub from the midst of the stones of fire..." "Thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more." "They shall be as though they had not been." Ezek. 26:6-9; Ps. 37:10; Obad. 1:16.

This is not an act of arbitrary power on the part of God. The rejecters of His mercy reap that which they have sown. God is the fountain of life, and when one chooses the service of sin, he separates from God, and thus cuts himself off from life. He is alienated from the life of God.

Christ says, "All they that hate me love death." Eph. 4:1; Prov. 8:36. God gives

them existence for a time that they may develop their character and reveal their principles. This accomplished, they receive the results of their own choice. By a life of rebellion, Satan and all who unite with him, place themselves so out of harmony with God that His very presence is to them a consuming fire. The glory of Him who is love will destroy them.

At the beginning of the great controversy, the angels did not understand this. Had Satan and his host then been left to reap the full result of their sin, they would have perished; but it would not have been apparent to heavenly beings that this was the inevitable result of sin. A doubt of God's goodness would have remained in their minds as seed to produce its deadly fruit of sin and woe.

But not so when the great controversy shall be ended. Then, the plan of redemption having been completed, the character of God is revealed to all created intelligences. The precepts of His law are seen to be perfect and immutable. Then sin has made manifest its nature, Satan his character. Then the extermination of sin will vindicate God's love and establish His honour before a universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law.

Dear reader, may these lines prove a blessing to you, and all the dear children who may read them. I hope you will take the wise and safe course pointed out to us by the following passages of Scriptures. "Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things: hold fast that which is good." "To the law and the testimony, if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isa. 8:20. **AMEN.**

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# PERFECT LOVE

In

reading the Bible have you ever suddenly happened upon this passage and then pulled back in disbelief? The idea that God should “rebuke and chasten” may seem incomprehensible; but remember, it is the glorified, risen Christ who spoke these words. And when you look straight at the heart of their meaning, you will find that there is great joy there.

For one thing, it does not mean that God’s love for a person is in proportion to the amount of suffering and sorrow the person has experienced. There are those who think it is. They seem to believe that Christianity is almost synonymous with scourge and punishment. But God never takes revenge or penalizes. He only loves. However, if we separate ourselves from this marvelous love, we bring punishment and rebuke upon ourselves. God’s love and goodness stand out in relief against our rebellion, and in that moment of discord we shall feel rebuked.

If only we could speak to Simon Peter about this. Or to Paul, to David, or to the Samaritan woman at the well. At some time in their life they each felt rebuked by God because they were not following in the path of obedience.

A wise man once wrote, “When love comes, fear goes.” I know so many Christians who are tormented by feelings of self-doubt, worthlessness, and sinfulness. They think they must do something to make God love them more. Yet the Apostle John said that, “as He (Jesus) is, so are we in this world.” (1 John 4:17). In other words, we share the same confidence that Jesus has in knowing that the Father loves us with perfect love.

Because Jesus accomplished our redemption on the cross, all judgement for sin is behind Him and us, and the sin question is forever

settled. We now face no condemnation.

This removes fear. For as John wrote, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear.” The fear of which John spoke is fear of judgement. But we have nothing to fear, for “there is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Rom. 8:1). Fear is driven out by God’s perfect love.

We are forgiven for all our sins, held fast by God’s love and destined to enjoy eternal fellowship with Him, not because of anything we have done but because He has done everything for us. “In this love, not that we love God, but that He loved us.” (1 John 4:10). That is perfect love.

To Peter, Jesus said, “Simon, Simon... I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not.” (Luke 22:31-32). But before the next morning Peter had denied his Lord. The record says of this event, “And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.” (v. 62). What was it that rebuked and punished Peter? Why did he weep? If Jesus had spoken harshly to him the day before, he might have denied Him without much regret; but the Lord had only looked upon him in deep, lasting love. That was Peter’s greatest punishment and his harshest rebuke. God never punishes by any means other than love.

God loves the world. He loves everyone. Oh, there are many things in the world that are evil. Sorrow, tears, suffering and pain form an endless parade. Certainly everything in the universe is not good. Saint and sinner dwell

together and God deals

with both. He loves both. Men love sin and hate the sinner; but God hates sin and loves the sinner. He loves all under all circumstances and at all times. Years ago, Bernard de Clairvaux expressed the thought in this manner:

“Do you wake?” Well, He too is awake. If you arise in the nighttime, if you anticipate to the utmost your earliest awakening, you will already find Him walking; you can never anticipate His awakens. In such an intercourse you will always be rash if you attribute any priority and predominate share to yourself; for God loves more than you and before you loved at all.”

We cannot see everything at one time, nor can we understand the relationship of the disconnected events that seem to make up our existence. Some things we shall not understand until we find greater wisdom in a higher world. But Jesus declared that God is wise, that He is love, that He is righteous and that He is interested in every creature.

Adolphe Monod, the famous French evangelical preacher who died in 1856, said just a short time before dying, “I have strength for nothing more than to think about the love of God; He has loved us—that is the whole of dogmatics; let us love him—that is the sum total of the ethics of the Gospel.”

Indeed, God is love and it is a perfect love. **AMEN.**

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The picture which Inspiration has given of the antediluvian world, represents too truly the condition to which modern society is fast hastening.<sup>1</sup> The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth.<sup>2</sup> Who can doubt that satanic agencies are at work among men with increasing activity to distract and corrupt the mind, and defile and destroy the body?<sup>3</sup>

Every day brings fresh revelations of political strife, bribery, and fraud. Every day brings its heart-sickening record of violence and lawlessness, of indifference to human suffering, of brutal, fiendish destruction of human life. Every day testifies to the increase of insanity, murder, and suicide.<sup>4</sup> Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. Men have become infatuated with vice, and every species of evil prevails.<sup>5</sup>

Those in high positions of trust, whom we may call, as God called some in the days of Noah, mighty men, men of renown, know little of the causes that underlie the present state of society. Many do not care to know; others do not study from cause to effect. Those who hold the reins of government are not able to solve the problems of moral corruption, poverty, pauperism, and increasing crime of every type, manifest in all classes, from the highest to the lowest.<sup>6</sup>

In our large cities there exists an appalling condition of poverty. Multitudes are destitute of food, clothing, or shelter fit for a human being. In the same cities are men of wealth, who have more than heart could wish; who live luxuriously, spending their money upon richly furnished houses and personal adornment; or worse, upon the gratification of sensual appetites,--upon tobacco, liquors, and other things that destroy the power of the brain, unbalance the mind, and debase the soul.<sup>7</sup> If men today were simple in their habits, living in harmony with nature's laws, as did Adam and Eve in the beginning, there would be an abundant supply for the needs of the human family. But selfishness and the indulgence of appetite have brought sin and misery, from excess on the one hand, and from want on the other.<sup>8</sup>

Courts of justice are corrupt. Rulers are actuated by desire of gain, and love of sensual pleasure. Intemperance has beclouded the faculties of many, so that Satan has almost complete control of them. Jurists are perverted, bribed, deluded. Drunkenness and revelry, passion, envy, dishonesty of every sort, are represented among those who administer the laws.<sup>9</sup> Property, reputation, and even life itself, are insecure when left to the judgment of men who are intemperate and immoral. How many innocent persons have been condemned to death, how many more have been robbed of all their earthly possessions, by the injustice of drinking jurors, lawyers, witnesses, and even judges!<sup>10</sup>

Immorality abounds everywhere. Licentiousness is the special sin of this age. Never did vice lift its deformed head with such boldness as now.<sup>11</sup> How numerous are immoral books, which lead to unholy desires, and fire the passions of the heart, and lead away from all that is pure and holy!<sup>12</sup> How numerous are the books of infidel tendencies, which are calculated to unsettle the mind through specious doubts! Satan has breathed his poisonous breath upon them, and a deadly, spiritual malaria affects the soul that reads them.<sup>13</sup>

Lovesick sentimentalism prevails. Married men receive attention from married and unmarried women; women also appear to be charmed

and lose reason and spiritual discernment and good common sense; they do the very things that the word of God condemns, the very things that the testimonies of the Spirit of God condemns. Warnings and reproofs are before them in clear lines, yet they go over the path that others have traveled before them. It is like an infatuating game at which they are playing.<sup>14</sup> But few feel it to be a religious duty to govern their passions. They have united themselves in marriage to the object of their choice, and therefore reason that marriage sanctifies the indulgence of the baser passions. Even men and women professing godliness give loose rein to their lustful passions, and have no thought that God holds them accountable for the expenditure of vital energy, which weakens their hold on life and enervates the entire system.<sup>15</sup>

There is cause for alarm in the condition of the religious world today.<sup>16</sup> The line of distinction between professing Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church-members love what the world loves, and are ready to join with them; and Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of Spiritualism.<sup>17</sup> And like their great leader, the rebel chief, they are in rebellion against the law of God, and they despise the blood of Christ.<sup>18</sup>

The professed Christian churches are not converting the world; for they are themselves corrupted with selfishness and pride, and need to feel the converting power of God in their midst before they can lead others to a purer or higher standard.<sup>19</sup> So many have brought into the church their own unsubdued spirit, unrefined; their spiritual taste is perverted by their own immoral, debasing corruption, symbolizing the world in spirit, in heart, in purpose, confirming themselves in lustful practices, and are full of deception through and through in their professed Christian life. Living as sinners, claiming to be Christians!<sup>20</sup> Their so-called righteousness could never enter the kingdom of heaven.<sup>21</sup>

A large proportion of the Christian world divorce religion from their business. Thousands of little tricks and petty dishonesties are practiced in dealing with their fellow men, which reveal the true

state of the heart, showing its corruption.<sup>22</sup> Some accept the Sabbath and reject the third angel's message; yet because they have received the Sabbath they claim the fellowship of those who believe all the present truth.<sup>23</sup> Some of you are contending one against another. Yet all claim to be abiding in Jesus. Is there anything in Christ that wars against Christ?<sup>24</sup> He in whose heart Christ abides recognizes Christ abiding in the heart of his brother. Christ never wars against Christ. Christ never exerts an influence against Christ.<sup>25</sup>

With the great masses of mankind, there is no unity, except as men confederate to accomplish their selfish purposes.<sup>26</sup> Rulers, politicians, lawyers, doctors, merchants, join the church as a means of securing the respect and confidence of society, and advancing their own worldly interests. Thus they seek to cover all their unrighteous transactions under a profession of Christianity.<sup>27</sup> The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis.<sup>28</sup>

In the family, Satan is at work. His banner waves, even in professedly Christian households.<sup>29</sup> Many are sunken in sin. Many are distressed with suffering, want, unbelief, despondency. Disease of every type afflicts them, both body and soul.<sup>30</sup> They are affected by the prevailing iniquity, and backslide from God; but it is not necessary that they should be thus affected. The cause of this declension is that they do not stand clear from this iniquity. The fact that their love to God is waxing cold because iniquity abounds, shows that they are, in some sense, partakers in this iniquity, or it would not affect their love for God and their zeal and fervor in His cause.<sup>31</sup>

Wickedness, idolatry, drunkenness, self-indulgence, and corruption abound more and more, and God's Spirit will not always strive with men.<sup>32</sup> More and more the world is setting at naught the claims of God. Men have become bold in transgression. The wickedness of the inhabitants of the world has almost filled the measure of their iniquity. This earth has almost reached the place where God will permit the destroyer to work his will upon it.<sup>33</sup> Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in

tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in thousands of forms, is Satan exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence.<sup>34</sup> If the Lord were not soon to come and put an end to his cruel work, the earth would ere long be depopulated.<sup>35</sup>

Apparently these calamities are capricious outbreaks of disorganized, unregulated forces of nature, wholly beyond the control of man; but in them all, God's purpose may be read.<sup>36</sup> Science seeks to explain all these. The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause.<sup>37</sup>

Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the strained, restless relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place--that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis.<sup>38</sup> The centralizing of wealth and power; the vast combinations for the enriching of the few at the expense of the many; the combinations of the poorer classes for the defense of their interests and claims; the spirit of unrest, of riot and bloodshed; the world-wide dissemination of the same teachings that led to the French Revolution--all are tending to involve the whole world in a struggle similar to that which convulsed France.<sup>39</sup> Yet this apostasy, widespread as it has come to be, is not universal. Not all in the world are lawless and sinful; not all have taken sides with the enemy. God has many thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal, many who long to understand more fully in regard to Christ and the law, many who are hoping against hope that Jesus will soon come to end the reign of sin and death. And there are many who have been worshipping Baal ignorantly, but with whom the Spirit of God is still striving.<sup>40</sup>

Everything in our world is in agitation.<sup>41</sup> The world is stirred with the spirit of war.<sup>42</sup> There are wars, and rumors of wars.<sup>43</sup> Satan

delights in war; for it excites the worst passions of the soul, and then sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. It is his object to incite the nations to war against one another; for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God. <sup>44</sup> But while already nation is rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, there is not now a general engagement. As yet the four winds are held until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads. <sup>45</sup> the third message must do its work. Prophecy relative to the message and the action of the two-horned beast must be fulfilled. <sup>46</sup> The substitution of the laws of men for the laws of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself. He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. <sup>47</sup>

“He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”  
Matthew 11:15 Poverty is coming upon this world, and there will be

a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.<sup>48</sup> The spirit of anarchy is permeating all nations, and the outbreaks that from time to time excite the horror of the world are but indications of the pent-up fires of passion and lawlessness that, having once escaped control, will fill the earth with woe and desolation. <sup>49</sup> It is time now for those who believe that Jesus is soon coming to take their stand fully on the Lord’s side. <sup>50</sup>

**Chester Cosby, USA**

1. PP, p. 102
2. 9T, p. 11
3. MH, p. 143
4. MH, pp. 142, 143
5. 9T, p. 11
6. HR 8/11/1896
7. RH 2/17/1903
8. MH, p. 47
9. RH 3/14/1912
10. ST 2/11/1886
11. AH, p. 328
12. YI 11/16/1893
13. MYP, pp. 276,277
14. TSB, p. 243
15. 2T, p. 472
16. PP, p. 166

17. 4SP, p. 406
18. RH 4/15/1875
19. 9T, p. 65
20. GCDB 2/4/1893
21. DA, p. 309
22. 4T, p. 337
23. 1T, p. 326
24. 2SAT, p. 14
25. ST 2/7/1900
26. 8T, p. 27
27. 4SP, p. 234
28. 9T, p. 11
29. GC, p. 586
30. Mar, p. 26
31. 2T, p. 346
32. RH 9/5/1907
33. 7T, p. 141
34. 4SP, pp. 407,408
35. CTBH 150
36. PK, p. 277
37. RH 1/11/1887
38. RH 11/23/1905
39. Ed., p. 228
40. PK, p. 171
41. PK, p. 536
42. 9T, p.14
43. 6T, p. 14
44. 4SP, pp. 406,407
45. 6T, p. 14
46. 2BIO, p. 440.3
47. 7T, p. 141
48. Becho 10/8/1894
49. PP, p. 102
50. Pc, p. 292

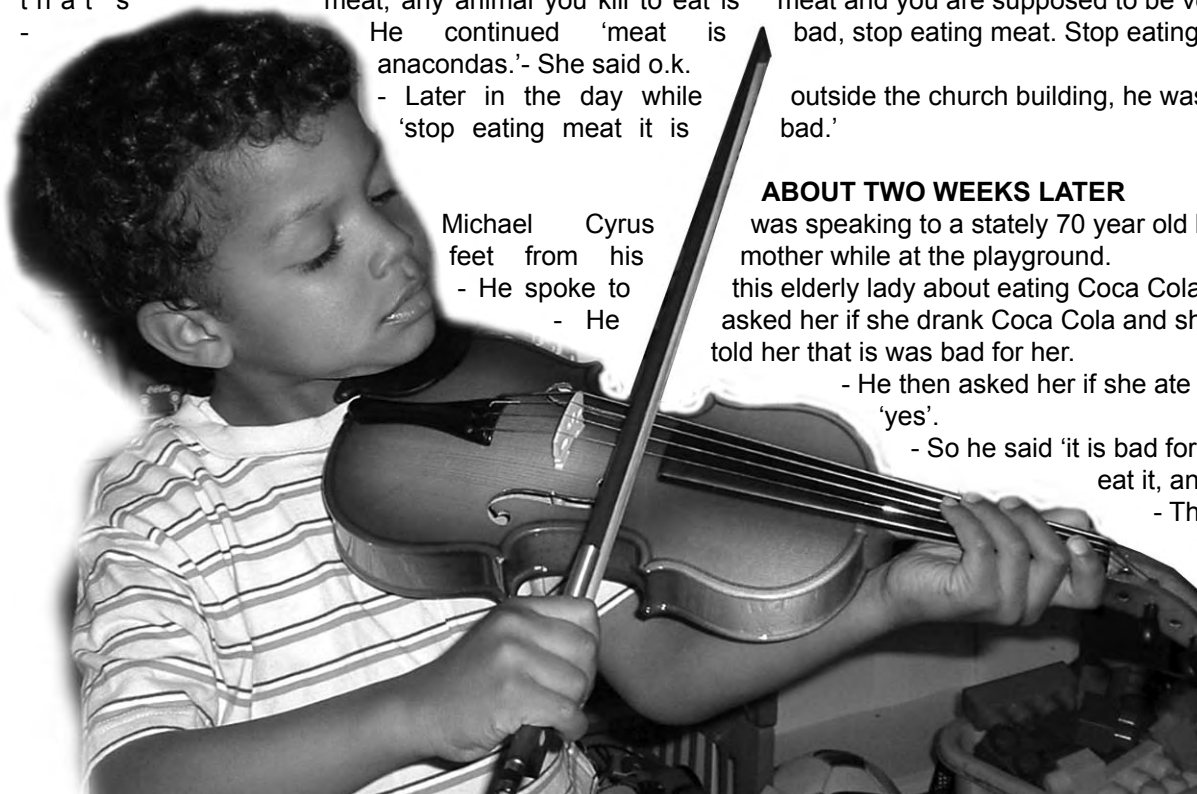
**Missionary Experience of 3 year old (Michael Cyrus) Toronto. Canada.**

Michael Cyrus was speaking with a grand daughter (8 yrs old) of one of our members in the Mississauga church one Sabbath:

- She asked him if he ate lamb, he asked his mother ‘what is lamb’? His mother replied that it was a sheep.
- So he answered ‘no’ to the girl.
- She then asked him do you eat bacon? He asked her ‘what is that (bacon)? She answered piggy.- Then he said: ‘no, t h a t ’ s meat, any animal you kill to eat is meat and you are supposed to be vegetarian’.
- He continued ‘meat is bad, stop eating meat. Stop eating lions, tigers and anacondas.’- She said o.k.
- Later in the day while outside the church building, he was still telling her to ‘stop eating meat it is bad.’

**ABOUT TWO WEEKS LATER**

was speaking to a stately 70 year old lady. He was a few mother while at the playground. this elderly lady about eating Coca Cola and meat. asked her if she drank Coca Cola and she said ‘yes’. Then he told her that is was bad for her. - He then asked her if she ate meat and she said ‘yes’. - So he said ‘it is bad for you, you should not eat it, and it will make you die’. - The lady came over and told his mom that; Michael Cyrus was trying to change her diet, telling her what to eat. - He told her not to eat meat anymore.





# TAUGHT BY GOD



## CHILDRENS CORNER

Most Seventh-day Adventists think of Sister White primarily as a writer. Many families have copies of her books on their shelves. But many who lived during her lifetime knew her better as a public speaker. At first she presented most of what she saw and learned in her visions through sermons and talks. When an angel instructed her to “make known to others what I have revealed to you,” teenage Ellen naturally took the command as a divine order for her to speak. With books and newspapers scarce back in her days, public speaking was the most common form of public communication.

To a timid seventeen-year-old girl with only three grades of formal education, public speaking seemed terrifying. In addition, three months of throat and lung disease had left her voice little more than a whisper. She did not know how she could possibly talk before large groups of people.

Her whole nature shrank in horror from the thought of being God’s spokesman to the church. If she had someone to go with her, she thought, then she might be able to present the instruction God had given her. But her brother – two years older than she – had even worse health than she did and was even more shy about meeting people. Because of his family and business, her father could not travel with her. He did tell her, however, that if God wanted her to journey to other towns and cities to speak for Him, He would arrange things so that she could travel safely.

But her father’s assurance failed to cheer Ellen. She slipped into greater depression and melancholy. Her problem seemed to daily become more complicated and unsolvable.

Although she wanted to obey God, she did not know how she could. Afraid of meeting people, her health poor, her voice nearly gone, she shrank from speaking to others about her visions. Death seemed to be the only way she could escape from disobeying God.

Ellen’s friends added to her misery. Noticing her growing depression without knowing what caused it, they thought it was sinful that she should let herself

mental depression that had plagued her for several days leave, and a brilliant light suddenly appeared in the room. Pearson, who had not kneeled during the prayers because of his rheumatism –



crippled legs, saw a glowing sphere of light flash toward Ellen’s heart. “I saw it!” he exclaimed after she came out of the vision and regained her sight and hearing. “I saw it! I will never forget it. It has changed my whole being. Ellen, have courage in the Lord.”

The young woman nodded, the vision still vivid in her mind. She had seen several angels, and one of them had repeated the command, “Make known to others what I have revealed to you.” Her chance to fulfil it came quickly when she went with her brother-in-law to visit her sisters living in Portland, Maine, thirty miles away.

become so sad, especially since God had honoured her by giving her a vision. The local Seventh-day Adventists met in her father’s home at that time, but Ellen could not force herself to attend the meetings. The turmoil in her mind made her want to remain in her room or go somewhere else. One day someone did persuade her to come.

While there she had an opportunity to speak at a small religious meeting. For the first five minutes her voice remained little more than a hoarse whisper. Then her speaking difficulty dramatically vanished, and she spoke clearly and strongly for nearly two hours. But when she finished, the soreness and difficulty

The little group of Adventists gathered and prayed for Ellen, prayed that she would be able to accept God’s purpose for her life. John Pearson, an elderly family friend who had looked up on Ellen’s earlier vision as possibly from Satan, now tried to encourage and comfort the distressed young woman. Too exhausted and depressed to do anything, she just sat there, unable to pray. Her thoughts, however, joined her friends’ prayers, and she realized that she would do anything possible to please God. She no longer had any fear about going out to speak to people.

*interest and that of the reformation. She  
 electer saw what was foretold the first  
 she had a great a still darker light  
 heart peace of gathering over the reformation in  
 that nothing seemed to do for her  
 word of truth he saw that his full name  
 and a most decided and yet secret effort to  
 he made to rescue him from the grasp of  
 from as seen as further left from  
 conflict was proceed against him to do  
 in breathing returned and remained until  
 the next time she spoke at a meeting.*

More and more speaking appointments came. First she travelled throughout Maine, then to other parts of New England and to New York, and finally across the

In the middle of the prayers Ellen felt the

United States. Years later she journeyed and spoke in Europe and Australia. Her voice strengthened until people claimed they could hear her distinctly outdoors at distances up to 1.5 km away without any kind of electronic

White will speak here today. Is that true?"

The minister assured him that she would.

"I have come all the way from Chicago to hear her," the man said.



The arrival of Sister White and several ministers to the platform ended their conversation. After the opening song and prayer, Sister White stepped to the pulpit. During the sermon Breed noticed the stranger out of the corner of his eye. The man seemed extremely interested, sometimes leaning forward in his seat in concentration as he studied her movements

and expressions. amplification or loudspeaker system. Audiences ranged from five to twenty thousand people, and she often kept their attention for hours. Grace White Jacques, a granddaughter of Ellen White, who often listened to her talks and sermons, said Sister White spoke simply, wasting no words in a soothing but expressive tone.

and expressions.

When the meeting closed and the audience prepared to leave, the man from Chicago touched Breed on the shoulder and asked, "Could you tell me what school of elocution Sister White attended and where she learned public speaking?"

public speaking?"

"She has never attended any," the young minister told him.

"But she must have. I can see the training in the way she speaks. It's obvious."

Shaking his head, Breed insisted, "No, I am sure she has not had any formal training in public speaking. In fact she has had little formal education." He briefly described the accident and sickness that had plagued her childhood and prevented her from going to school.

formal education." He briefly described the accident and sickness that had plagued her childhood and prevented her from going to school.

The stranger's face mirrored disbelief. "I am the head of an elocution school in Chicago," he said after a pause, "and I am positive someone has taught her public speaking. She did everything tonight perfectly. For example, we teach our students the best movements to make with their hands. When they step forward with their right foot, they use their right hand to make things balance.

And that's what she did every time. Her breathing, her articulation – everything she did followed what we teach. I had hoped tonight to learn the name of the school she'd gone to."

Again Breed repeated that she had never had any formal training in public speaking. The man stared at the floor a moment, then commented, "There's only one thing I can say: If no human being taught her how to speak, then the angels must have, because she's an expert at it."

Sister White's voice is now silent. But the knowledge God revealed to her is preserved in her books and periodical articles. In her lifetime she spoke to audiences of thousands. Today her writings speak to millions.

She was truly taught by God.

Not only Sister White, both Moses and Jeremiah, when called by the Lord, told the Lord they cannot speak.

"Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child."

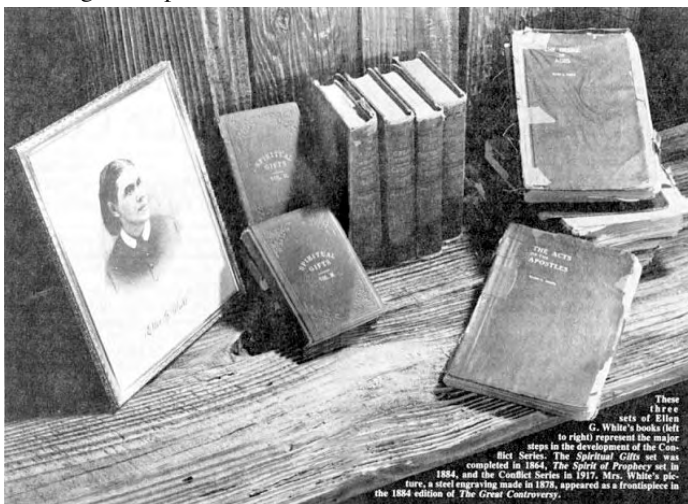
"But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak." Jer. 1:6,7

"And Moses said unto the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue." Ex. 4:10.

But the Lord had an answer... "And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth?... Have not I the Lord?... Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say." Ex. 4:11,12.

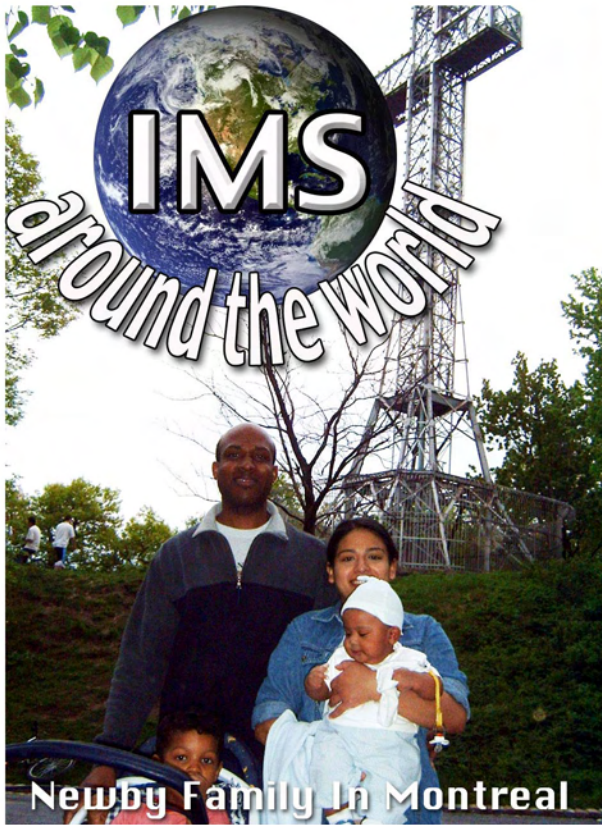
When the Lord asks you to speak, He will give the ability. Never make any excuses because God will not ask you to do anything that He cannot help you to accomplish. You just need the faith to believe that God will be with you. He never let Moses, Jeremiah or Sister White down and He won't let you down either.

Maybe you don't have a talent for speaking, but whatever God asks you to do, it is best to do it and not make any excuses and in the end you will be tremendously blessed.



Sister White obtained a reputation as an excellent speaker not only among Seventh-day Adventists, but among others as well. One day a young minister named A.J. Breed attended a large gathering held in Battle Creek, Michigan. Wanting to get a good seat in order to hear Sister White well, he went early and sat in the front row. As he waited for the meeting to start, a stranger came in and took the seat beside him.

Glancing around a moment, he turned to Breed and asked, "I understand that Sister



Newby Family In Montreal



Children Singing, Toronto



Michael Cyrus In Toronto



Baptism In Ecuador



Church Clean-up & Picnic, Toronto



[www.imsdarm-bg.org/Messenger](http://www.imsdarm-bg.org/Messenger)

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