

# *The Reformation* *Messenger*

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 10, OCTOBER 2007

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



"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." 1 Corinthians 12:13



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### About the Cover:

Welcome-in to church membership service after baptism in South Korea.

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Amount of cheque: \$

Payable to: IMS Publishing

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## The Reformation Messenger



### We Believe

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

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

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

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

Official Publication of the International Missionary Society of the Seventh Day Adventist Church Reform Movement, Canadian Field.

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**IMS**  
PUBLISHING

54 NEWCASTLE ST.  
TORONTO, ON  
CANADA  
M8Y1A3



# MAN'S NEED OF

# COMPANIONSHIP

## Part 1

“The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the **golden chain** that binds our souls to Christ, and through Christ to God. This is to be our study. Christ was a **real man**; He gave proof of His humility in becoming a man. Yet He was God in the flesh. When we approach this subject, we would do well to heed the words spoken by Christ to Moses at the burning bush, “Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place where on thou standest is holy ground.” We should come to this study with the humility of a learner, with a contrite heart. And the study of the incarnation of Christ is a fruitful field, which will repay the searcher who digs deep for hidden truth.” *The Youth’s Instructor, Oct. 13, 1898. {7ABC 443.1}*

This is to be our study:

### To Be A Real Man.

#### What is a real man?

*He must be born of a woman.*

“But when the fulness of the time was

come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.” Gal 4:4

*He must have a lineage of ancestors*

“Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called [to be] an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared [to be] the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” Rom. 1:1-4

“For verily he took not on [him the nature of] angels; but he took on [him] the seed of Abraham.” Heb. 2:16

*He must have a human body*

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.” Heb. 2:14

*He must have a human mind*

“A human body and a human mind were His.” 3SM 129.4

*If He has a human body and a human mind, then He must have needs.*

The life of the flesh needs to be sustained with water to drink, food to eat, clothing to protect and rest when weary.

“Jesus was in all things made like unto His brethren. He became flesh, even as we are. He was hungry and thirsty and weary. He was sustained by food and refreshed by sleep. He shared the lot of man; yet He was the blameless Son of God. He was God in the flesh.” DA 311.4

*And He must need companionship.*

Does man need companionship? Is companionship a genuine need of man?

The world is seeking companionship. They are eating, drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage, seeking a companion. Is it

natural for man to seek a companion, or is it a perversion of man's nature that has come about as a result of the fall? Do you yourself feel that you need a companion? Do you feel a need for love, for sympathy, for someone to brighten and sweeten your life?

Is it RIGHT to want a companion?

You can say "yes", because it's not a selfish thing to want a companion. "The desire for love and sympathy is implanted in the heart by God Himself." AA 491

After the creation Adam was instructed to name the animals. It was noticed that they were in pairs while Adam was alone. There was not a companion for him and it awakened a NEED within him. This need was implanted by God Himself, and so what did God do? "And the LORD God said, [It is] not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" Genesis 2:18, 21- 23

"After the creation of Adam every living creature was brought before him to receive its name; he saw that to each had been given a companion, but among them 'there was not found an help meet for him.' Among all the creatures that God had made on the earth, there was not one equal to man. And God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.' Man was not made to dwell in solitude; he was to be a social being. Without companionship the beautiful scenes and delightful employments of Eden would have failed to yield perfect happiness. Even communion with angels could not have satisfied his desire for sympathy and companionship. There was none of the same nature to love and to be loved." PP 46

Man was made to be a social being. Man needs companionship from those of the same nature to love and be loved.

### **Did Jesus Christ have a need for companionship?**

Where did Jesus find rest? In the company of fellow human beings. "Jesus had often found the rest that His weary human nature required at the house of Lazarus, in Bethany." DG 57.2

*Examine the transfiguration...*

"But before the crown must come the cross. Not the inauguration of Christ as king, but the decease to be accomplished at Jerusalem, is the subject of their conference with Jesus. Bearing the weakness of humanity, and burdened with its sorrow and sin, Jesus walked alone in the midst of men. As the darkness of the coming trial pressed upon Him, He was in loneliness of spirit, in a world that knew Him not. Even His loved disciples, absorbed in their own doubt and sorrow and ambitious hopes, had not comprehended the mystery of His mission. He had dwelt amid the love and fellowship of heaven; but in the world that He had created, He was in solitude. Now heaven had sent its messengers to Jesus; not angels, but men who had endured suffering and sorrow, and who could sympathize with the Saviour in the trial of His earthly life. Moses and Elijah had been colaborers with Christ. They had shared His longing for the salvation of men. Moses had pleaded for Israel: 'Yet now, if Thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray Thee, out of Thy book which Thou hast written.' Ex. 32:32. Elijah had known loneliness of spirit, as for three years and a half of famine he had borne the burden of the nation's hatred and its woe. Alone he had stood for God upon Mount Carmel. Alone he had fled to the desert in anguish and despair. These men, chosen above every angel around the throne, had come to commune with Jesus concerning the scenes of His suffering, and to comfort Him with the assurance of the sympathy of heaven. The hope of the world, the salvation of every human being, was the burden of their interview." DA 422.2

*And His experience in Gethsemane...*

"The human heart longs for sympathy in suffering. This longing Christ felt to the very depths of His being. In the supreme agony of His soul He came to His disciples with a yearning desire to hear some words of comfort from those whom He had so often blessed and comforted, and shielded in sorrow and distress. The One who had always had words of sympathy for them was now suffering superhuman agony, and He longed to know that they were praying for Him and for themselves. How dark seemed the malignity of sin! Terrible was the temptation to let the human race bear the consequences of its own guilt, while He stood innocent before God. If He could only know that His disciples understood and appreciated this, He would

be strengthened." DA 687

Jesus Christ needed sympathy in His suffering. He NEEDED to hear words of comfort...

Is that not a REAL man?

But did He receive that which He so desperately desired? It is written that He trod the winepress alone and of the people there was none with Him.

### **Are you lonely?**

Say, are you LONELY? Jesus was lonely too. Do you know how He felt?

Do you know how Adam felt in the Garden of Eden when it was found that there was not an help meet for him? Do you know that sense of need of a companion? Are you familiar with that awakening within your heart when you see those around you "pairing up"? Have you asked the question: Where's mine?

Hear the words of Jesus through the prophet: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? [why art thou so] far from helping me, [and from] the words of my roaring? O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent." Psalm 22:1,2

### **Are you lonely?**

"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto [his] brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things [pertaining] to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted." Hebrews 2:17,18

Take comfort, brethren, sisters, friends, you never need be alone again.

I have heard it once said, and these words are true: You can be alone in a crowd. You can be alone in a marriage. And you can even be alone in the church. But NEVER AGAIN if you will study with me the humanity of Jesus Christ, and make it your own. You will indeed find that it is a fruitful field, which will repay the searcher who digs deep for hidden truth.

So, the humanity of Jesus Christ, He

needed a companion. And so you need one too, just as much as you need food, water, clothing and shelter. "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" Matthew 6:25, 26.

God will provide.

"In the arrangements for the education of the chosen people it is made manifest that a life centered in God is a life of completeness. Every want He has implanted He provides to satisfy; every faculty imparted He seeks to develop." AH 455.1

Even when the earth, languishing under the curse of sin and ready to take its last breath and expire, God will still provide the necessities of His children.

"He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; He shall dwell on high: his place of defence [shall be] the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters [shall be] sure." Isaiah 33:15,16

Even in the time of trouble, those who make God their confidence will have their needs satisfied. And so it is that God will supply all our needs.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

### God will supply all our needs. How?

All man's needs will be supplied BY Jesus Christ since He is the creator of all. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." John 1:1-3,

Since all things that man needs have been provided BY Jesus Christ, so it is that our need for companionship is also supplied

BY Jesus Christ.

"Seek to make God your father, and you will never want a friend." 2T 314.1

### NEVER ALONE!

Let us consider this. Man needs companionship. That companion must be of the same nature to love and be loved. Even the communion of angels cannot supply that need. But God shall supply all our needs BY Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ was a real man. He partook of our humanity. He needed what we need. He needed companionship. He found rest in the home of Lazarus – those of the same nature that He could love and that could love Him.

Now, read very carefully, as we dig deep for hidden treasure. To begin with, the humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ, and through Christ to God. And so seek to make God your Father. Let us connect the two.

"In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken. Through the eternal ages He is linked with us. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son." John 3:16. He gave Him not only to bear our sins, and to die as our sacrifice; He gave Him to the fallen race. To assure us of His immutable counsel of peace, God gave His only-begotten Son to become one of the human family, forever to retain His human nature. This is the pledge that God will fulfill His word. 'Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder.' God has adopted human nature in the person of His Son, and has carried the same into the highest heaven. It is the 'Son of man' who shares the throne of the universe. It is the 'Son of man' whose name shall be called, 'Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.' Isa. 9:6. The I AM is the Daysman between God and humanity, laying His hand upon both. He who is 'holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners,' is not ashamed to call us brethren. Heb. 7:26; 2:11. In Christ the family of earth and the family of heaven are bound together. Christ glorified is our brother. Heaven is enshrined in humanity, and humanity is enfolded in

the bosom of Infinite Love." DA 25.3

"The church is the property of God, and God constantly remembers her as she stands in the world, subject to the temptations of Satan. Christ has never forgotten the days of His humiliation. **In passing from the scenes of His humiliation, Jesus has lost none of His humanity.** He has the same tender, pitying love, and is ever touched with human woe. **He ever bears in mind** that He was a Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief. He forgets not His representative people who are striving to uphold His downtrodden law. He knows that the world that hated Him, hates them. Although Jesus Christ has passed into the heavens, there is still a living chain binding His believing ones to His own heart of infinite love. The most lowly and weak are bound by a **chain** of sympathy closely to His heart. **He never forgets** that He is our representative, that **He bears our nature.**" HP 284.3

Are you lonely? Never again! Here is Jesus: He has lost none of His humanity.

There is Jesus Christ – in heaven, pleading for you, and He has lost none of His humanity! Jesus Christ still has the same need for companionship as He had when he walked the earth. He needs those of the same nature to love and to be loved.

"Without companionship the beautiful scenes and delightful employments of Eden would have failed to yield perfect happiness. Even communion with angels could not have satisfied his desire for





sympathy and companionship. There was none of the same nature to love and to be loved.” PP 45

Can you feel His need for companionship? Jesus needs YOUR companionship.

Do you desire a soul-mate? A companion who will give you undivided attention? We can ask, Why is the world eating and drinking and marrying and giving in marriage? Because they are seeking that one person that will “connect” with them. That one perfect match. That “soul-mate.” They are marrying and giving in marriage because they think they have it, and then find they don’t. Then they think they have it, and then find they don’t. They waste all their time and all their money and they go through such heartache as one relationship fails after another. They don’t look to see that that one need is provided BY Jesus Christ.

I pause here: Is there anything wrong with marriage? It is written in the last days, the fewer marriages contracted the better. But it is also written in 1 Corinthians 7: “But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk.”

“And in [Whoso] findeth a wife findeth a good [thing], and obtaineth favour of the LORD.” Proverbs 18:22

But if you don’t obtain a wife, or a husband, does it mean that the Lord is not favourable toward you? And so, as the Lord has called, so should you walk.

The fact is: Seek ye FIRST the kingdom of heaven. And all these things shall be added unto you. If God sees fit not to give you a husband, then it’s His priority, not yours. He knows what He’s doing. But He doesn’t want you to be alone. And so, God so loved you, that He gave His only begotten Son, to partake with you your humanity, your need for companionship, so that when you awaken to the sense “I want a companion” there is Jesus: “I want one too.” And Jesus can be closer to you than any earthly friend.

*Did the disciples sorrow after Jesus left?*

Nay. They rejoiced!

They had had Him walk with them in person



for three years, but they did not sorrow for the loss of His presence when He left.

Why not? Jesus promised, “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter.” John 14:16-18, 21

*Soul-mate?* Jesus is closer than any earthly friend, but still having the human sympathies. Still knowing how your feel. *He is Human*, but in your heart. Brothers, sisters, friends. What a friend we have in Jesus. Do you believe it? Will you make it your own?

**How real to you is Jesus?**

A brother once shared that he will be

lying there on his bed, crying, and it is His shoulder he is crying on.

How real to you is Jesus? Have you made Jesus your Personal Saviour?

“The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son.” SC 100

Then there is undivided attention! Oh how we love undivided attention. There is just Jesus and you. Make it your own. When you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, you will be “yoked” up to Him. You will be united with Him.

### **Eve was united with Adam:**

“And Adam said, This [is] now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Genesis 2:23, 24

They were one flesh. Bone of bone. Flesh of flesh.

“Divine culture brings perfection. If in connection with God the work is carried forward, the human agent, through Christ, will day by day gain victory and honor in the battle. Through the grace given he will overcome, and will be placed on vantage ground. In his relation to Christ he will be bone of His bone, flesh of His flesh, one with Christ in a peculiar relationship, because Christ took the humanity of man.” 7BC 926.5 SB Hebrews p 1325 A Divine Culture for Christians

“God Himself gave Adam a companion. He provided ‘an help meet for him’--a helper corresponding to him--one who was fitted to be his companion, and who could be one with him in love and sympathy. Eve was created from a rib taken from the side of Adam, signifying that she was not to control him as the head, nor to be trampled under his feet as an inferior, but to stand by his side as an equal, to be loved and protected by him. A part of man, bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh, she was his second self, showing the close union and the affectionate attachment that should exist in this relation.” PP 46.2

They will be bone of His bone, and flesh of His flesh. “So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church.” Ephesians 5:28-30

Jesus will not hate you, but He will nourish and cherish. “For thy Maker [is] thine husband; the LORD of hosts [is] his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.” Isaiah 54:5

Brother, sisters, friends. Never alone. When you see others around you “pairing up”, as did Adam, don’t despair. My God shall supply ALL your needs, BY Jesus Christ.

“Therefore if you have become estranged from your husband Jesus Christ, Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion.” Jeremiah 3:14

There is so much to contemplate. But please, make it your own. Dig deep as for hidden treasure.

“There are many who err, and who feel their shame and folly. They look upon their mistakes and errors until they are driven almost to desperation. These souls we are not to neglect. When one has to swim against the stream, there is all the force of the current driving him back. Let a helping hand be held out to him, as was the Elder Brother’s to the sinking Peter. Speak to him hopeful words, words that inspire him with courage. Tell him of an almighty hand that will hold him up, of an infinite humanity in Christ that pities him. It is not enough for him to believe in law and force, things that have no pity, and never hear the call for help. He needs to clasp a hand that is warm, to trust in a heart full of tenderness. Keep his mind stayed on the thought of the divine Helper ever beside him, ever looking upon him with pitying love. Bid him think of a Father’s heart that ever grieves over sin, of a Father’s hand stretched out still, of a Father’s voice saying, ‘Come unto me,... and I will give you rest.’” RH, January 19, 1911 par. 8

This is what I have tried to do, and I myself am incapable, but God has promised, that His grace shall be sufficient to the need. My God shall supply all my needs.

### **Conclusion**

God is drawing us to Him. He desires to enter into a covenant, marriage relationship with us. And just as a man seeking to marry a woman will woo her unto him, so, God is wooing us unto Him.

“When Israel [was] a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt. [As] they called them, so they went from them: they sacrificed unto Baalim, and burned incense to graven images. I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms; but they knew not that I healed them. I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them.

He shall not return into the land of Egypt, but the Assyrian shall be his king, because they refused to return.” Hosea 11:1-5

*Don’t resist the drawing.*

You know the story of the woman of Laodicea?

“I am come into my garden, my sister, [my] spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved. I sleep, but my heart waketh: [it is] the voice of my beloved that knocketh, [saying], Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, [and] my locks with the drops of the night. I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them? My beloved put in his hand by the hole [of the door], and my bowels were moved for him. I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped [with] myrrh, and my fingers [with] sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the lock. I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, [and] was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer. The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me.” Song of Solomon 5:1-7

He is knocking on your heart’s door. Won’t you let Him in? He is drawing you to Him. He needs your companionship. He needs your love, your sympathy. He is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

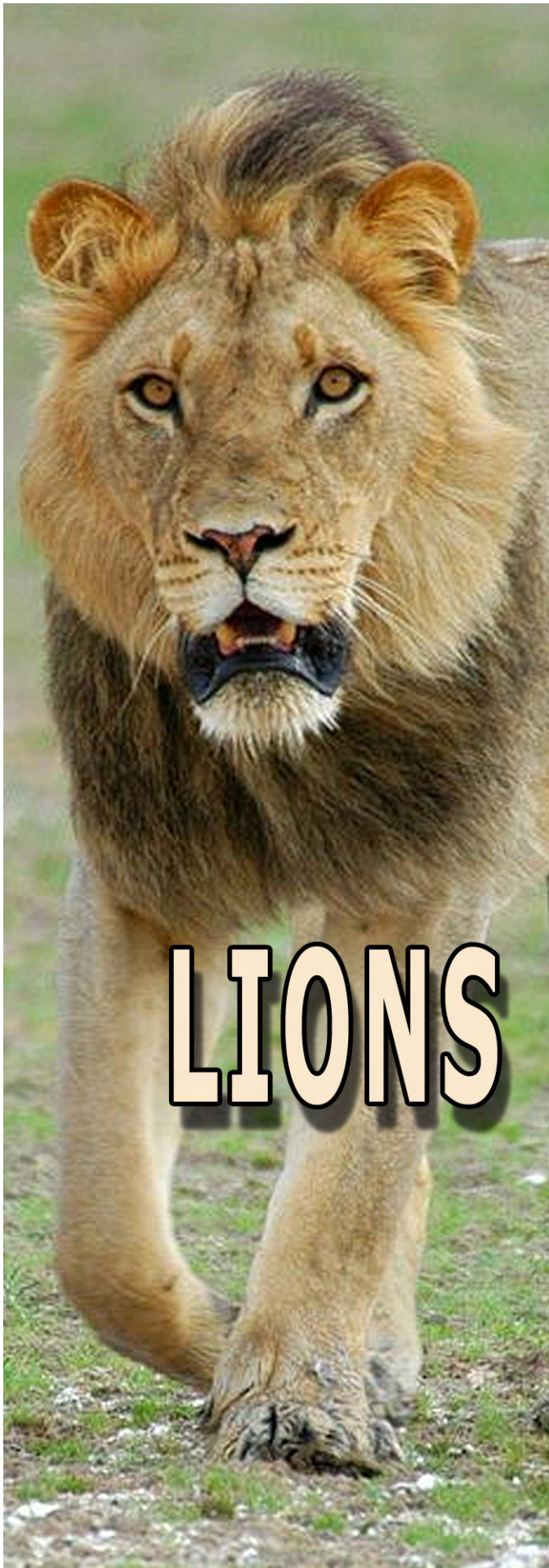
*Will your resist His drawing?*

“Though He was a Jew, Jesus mingled freely with the Samaritans... He slept with them under their roofs, ate with them at their tables--partaking of the food prepared and served by their hands-- taught in their streets and treated them with the utmost kindness and courtesy. And while He drew their hearts to Him by the tie of human sympathy, His divine grace brought to them the salvation which the Jews rejected.” ML 188.6

It is my prayer. *Amen*

*Camron Schofield, Australia*





*“Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the flood plain of the Jordan.” Jeremiah 50:43*

### **Ferocious**

For a person who has never seen a wild lion, it is difficult to appreciate how enormously powerful they are. For a creature that is capable of killing a water buffalo, a man is a small matter. Lions have been known to carry victims for up to a mile without rest. One judiciously placed bite – usually in the head or neck – kills instantly and so does a swipe of its great paw. One blow can break a man’s neck; it can break an ox’s neck. Experienced hunters claim lions are extremely dangerous. “There are more fatal accidents from lions on record than from any other animal.” The lion is second only to the crocodile as a man-eater in Africa; of which Central Africa suffers the most – Tanzania, Malawi, and Mozambique-being the most notorious. Besides the African lion, there’s the Asian lion. The lions in Daniel’s Biblical den were of this Asiatic kind, smaller than African lions with a lower slung belly.

The lion (Leo or Panthera Leo), family Felidae, can weigh up to a quarter of a ton (553 pounds), can measure nearly ten feet from nose to tail tip and towers seven feet when it rises at the end of a charge. It has the strength of ten men and has been seen to clear a twelve-foot chasm when driven by desperation, and to leap thirty-six feet. Lions can also climb trees. Among the man eaters of the world, Lions are in fourth place today, after the crocodile, shark, and tiger. Once a lion has set its sights upon a particular victim, it will attempt to tear down doors to get at him, and burning torches will not deter it!

In captivity, however, lions become either completely indifferent (passive), or unpredictable (mean and dangerous beasts).

Many circus men have died in lion acts; attacked and killed for backing into an animal, or merely stepping on a lion’s tail or paw; also many zoo attendants have died. But, wild lions, interestingly, hold man in respect as a superior animal. Still, many captive lions go berserk and attempt to eat their victims. Lions in “captivity” dull their intelligence; and are no longer predictable, intelligent, or shy! An omen for man?

### **Blood-Thirsty**

Moreover, lions played a bloody part in history, but unlike the elephants which were used in war, lions were more for dramatic appeal. In fact, lions were found in Israel up to the time of the Crusaders. The Assyrians and Babylonians used lions, both in war as bodyguards and for eating prisoners, a spectacle usually open to the public. The Greeks in Homer’s period were fond of reckless lion hunts and according to Homer, Greece was plagued with man-eating lions which had been captured in Asia and set free in Greece for future hunts. But, it was Nero who first had Christians executed by lions. Half of Rome had been destroyed by fire and Nero blamed the Christians. In an orgy of blood-lust he had Christian prisoners dressed in animal skins and put into the arena, where they were killed and often eaten by lions

### **Righteous**

Yet, Pliny the Roman writer, and like most of the intelligentsia, was never happy with “blood sports,” who wrote of the lion: “The lion alone of all wild beasts is gentle to those who humble themselves to him and will not touch any such upon their submission, but spares whatever creature lies prostrate before him. Fierce and furious as he



is at other times, he discharges his rage upon man before he sets upon woman, and never preys upon babies unless from extreme hunger.” C. Gesner, a German writer, in 1563, was quoted as saying: “So peaceful and mild is the lion, that he does not wound anybody who throws himself on his mercy. Nor does he harm anybody more than he has been harmed himself, does not hurt man at all if not driven to it by great hunger, and touches not women, less than men, and spares children altogether, such a righteous animal is he.” Moreover, “The wicked flee when no man pursueth, but the righteous are bold as a lion.” (Prov. 28:1).

### **Justly Distinguished**

In fact, lions are very distinguished animals in the Bible (mentioned 154 times!). They were known for their strength (Judges 14:18), their bravery (2 Sam 17:10), and their fierceness (Job 10:16). Many people in the Bible are compared in one way or another to lions. Judah is “a lion’s whelp” (Genesis 49:9). Israel shall “rise up as a great lion” (Num 23:24). Jonathan and David are said to be “stronger than lions” (2Sam 1:23). “A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any.” (Prov. 30:30). The list could be much longer.

Benaiah, one of David’s mighty men, killed “two lion-like men of Moab” (2 Sam 23:20). This certainly refers to their strength and fierceness. The Gadites are compared to lions in another passage in the blessing of Moses on the different tribes; he blesses Gad with these words. “Blessed be he that enlargeth Gad: he dwelleth as a lion, and teareth the arm with the crown of the head” (Deut 33:20). The tribe of Gad was compared to a lion. The people of 1 Chron12:8 with faces of lions, which describes the Gadites as having faces that were as fierce and bold as that of lions.

### **Two Lions**

Ah! But, here in the opening text is reference to a lion (King of the Beasts), but a “chosen one!” This is the lion of the tribe of Judah – Jesus Christ! The Bible, however, refers to two different lions! Well, who is the other lion? Satan, who is intent on devouring us, destroying us; “Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”(1Peter 5:8). “Satan can work with the ferocity of a lion.” (5T 384). What’s our defense, then? Submit to God – “resist the devil and he

will flee from you.”(Jam 4:7).

Jesus Christ, furthermore, is not only like a lamb, or lamb-like, but also, like a lion! Jesus Christ did not appear on earth as a lamb, but died as a sacrificial lamb, and lived as a lion, saying, “I’m also a lion.”

Jesus Christ came out of the Jordan river as a lion, saying, in essence; “who can challenge me – who can stand against me?”

Also, it’s written that He will completely destroy Babylon. “I will punish Bel in Babylon” (Psalm 50:44); (Bel is a Babylonian god). Babylon denotes confusion – Satan. All nations will rejoice among nations, with the fall of Babylon the Great; “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and a cage of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” (Rev 18:2).

### **Man Is The Prey**

“Like as the lion and the young lion roaring on his prey, when a multitude of shepherds is called forth against him, he will not be afraid of their voice, nor abase himself for the noise of them: so shall the Lord of hosts come down to fight for the mount Zion, and for the hill thereof.” (Isa 31:4).

“When Christ was on earth Satan raged like a chained lion.” (GC 514). Jesus, also, when He was on earth; took His “prey” into His hand, saying: “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: And I give unto them eternal life: and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. And they shall hear My voice: and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.” (John 10:16, 27-30). “Therefore, will I save my flock and they shall no more be a prey.”(Ezek 34:22). The Apostle Paul said, “no power shall separate us from the love of Jesus Christ.” (Rom. 8:35). After Jesus Christ died on the cross none can oppose us. Jesus said, “Father, Son and God are One.” (John 10:30). “Such magnificent power cannot take us from Him.”(1 Pet 5: 8, 9).

All the brethren will have the same tribulation, as all around the world is the presence of the lion, intent on destroying everyone. But, in the world, too, is another lion – Jesus Christ, who will protect us from the ravenous lion – Satan.

### **Treacherously Lurking**

When Jesus Christ was baptized in the Jordan, He went directly to the wilderness, where He knew the devil would come and tempt Him. But, He was not afraid. When the devil approached Jesus with many alluring temptations, Jesus was unafraid and steadfast. The first time the devil was unsuccessful.

Clearly, however, when the devil attacked Adam and Eve, he was successful, and during 4000 years has always been successful. The devil, however, told his fallen angels, if Jesus Christ comes to earth, He will overcome them! Woe unto thee! Therefore,” the devil came personally to attack Jesus; not being a battle between Lucifer and the angels, but between Jesus and Satan – The Great Controversy between good and evil.” (GC 162). Concerning good, “He crouched, he lay down like a lion, and like a great lion. Who shall stir him up? Blessed is he who blesseth thee, and cursed is he who curseth thee.”(Num 24:9)

Jesus, however, resisted all the ruthless attacks of the devil. When the prophets and apostles spoke of lions they knew what they were saying. Two ferocious lions fighting is a terrible sight. One has to lose; they fight to the end, wanting to kill each other. Before approaching, they closely observe each other from afar, then suddenly attack, directed at the most vulnerable sites. That same lion, the devil, is waiting for the best opportunities; weaknesses, idiosyncrasies, temptations, etc.

### **Surprise Attack!**

So did Satan, slyly circling Jesus for forty long days, “like a lion that is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places.”(Ps 17:12). “He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den.” (Ps 10:9). Jesus was fasting for forty days; not eating or drinking. A pride or tribe of lions will stalk a water buffalo, and then attack from behind, avoiding its sharp horns (its only defense). It is then that Satan attacks, also, when the victim is at its weakest or unsuspecting state. If someone is, however, strong, steadfast, prayerful, pledging the blood of Jesus, Satan will not attack. He waits patiently, for the right moment, when we are weak, discouraged, sick, anxious, indifferent, or passive - he attacks! Where prayer is absent--he attacks! Be wary, too, for “Satan does not always have the



ferocious look of a lion.” (2T 287)

### **Cruelly Waiting**

The devil is waiting now, to devour and destroy us. But, when we are praying, we are in communion with God – in his protective fold. Satan, however, patiently waits, circling us as well, looking for that one weak moment when we are deprived of the protection of Jesus; when our eyes are not fixed upon Him. Still, “Satan can exchange the roar of a lion for the softest whisper.” (2T 287)

But, when the hand of Jesus is stretched around us, He will not permit Satan to destroy us. God does not stand idly by when innocent people are persecuted or hunted. “O Lord my God, in thee do I put my trust; save me from all those who persecute me, and deliver me, lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver.” (Ps 7:2)

### **Fighting Lion**

The prophet Isaiah mentions, “as the lion roaring on his prey, when a multitude of shepherds is called forth against him, will not be afraid of their voice, so shall the Lord come down to fight for Mount Zion, and for the hill thereof.” (v 31:4). All the priests, Pharisees, and rabbis came in force against Jesus. He was all alone. When the high priest condemned Him, Jesus asked the Sanhedrin council, “what do you think?” They answered, “we need no more proof – guilty!” Jesus Christ, the Lion, was approached by all the erratic “shepherds,”

but, Jesus remained fixed in His faith; courageously facing the enemy.

Jesus, however, had many possibilities to escape. What were these? Well, to kill them outright; to use His divine power. He could ask His Father to send twelve legions of angels.

But, as a great Lion, He was undisturbed by all of this; unafraid, and steadfast. You see, Satan attempted to kill Jesus in the most simple way, but Jesus was unmoved; “yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” (Mi 5:2).

### **How To Be A Lion**

The Saviour, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master, precedes us, leads us, directs our paths. We are, in fact, like “lion cubs,” whelps, whimpering and trailing meekly behind. If we, too, are unafraid, and all of the corruptible “shepherds” of this alien wicked world are against us – fear not! For Jesus said, “and ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake.” (Math 10:22). Trust in God amid troubles, for David, too, when he fled from Saul and in the cave, said, “My soul is among lions.” (Ps 57:4). But he who endures to the end will be saved.” (Math 10:22). In the presence of God there is safety!

You are like lions in the nations; dauntless, tenacious, invincible! Do not fear! In Asia, Europe, Africa, South and North

America, all may oppose you, but we are not afraid, for “if the Lord is with us, who can be against us?” (Matt. 12:30). “The lion hath roared; who will not fear? The Lord God hath spoken; who can but prophesy?” (Amos 3:8). “Save me from the lion’s mouth, and from the horns of the wild oxen (Ps. 22:21)

You are a lion; Spartan, Herculean, lion-hearted! Jesus Christ has angels in this ferocious battle for life; for you are not alone! Jesus sends His angels to protect us; caressingly hovering over us - continually! Jesus says, “Therefore, I will be unto them as a lion: as a leopard by the way will I observe them: I will meet them as a bear that is bereaved of her whelps, and will rend the caul of their heart, and there will I devour them like a lion: the wild beast shall tear them.” (Hos. 13:7, 8).

When Jesus walked on this earth, He was on one hand – Jesus Christ. He zealously kept the “Throne of Grace.” On the other hand, He gathered the sinner and reconciled him with God. God is on the Throne, and gives His hand to Jesus. The hand of God is strong, certain, from both sides. If we give our bare hand to Jesus Christ, He will affectionately take us to God.

In the world today, the last raging battle is soon coming and it will ruthlessly destroy itself. They speak “peace” but prepare for “war.” If one refuses God, He cannot help us. The Temple of God, however, is still open; the doors of grace and mercy are still beckoning. The Lord still extends His hand. It’s not too late! Be a LION!  
*Amen.*

*John Theodorou U.S.A.*





# LAODICEA IS SEALED

## Part 10

*“I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”*

Revelation 7: 1-3

Today we will shift our attention away from Christ’s specific message to Laodicea in Revelation chapter 3 to other passages in Revelation that have implications for Laodicea. Keep in mind that although Christ appeals to each of the other six churches to overcome, He appeals to Laodicea to overcome as He overcame.

Since Laodicea represents the last generation of Christians, it must include those who will face the final showdown in the great controversy between Christ and Satan. Revelation identifies this final crisis as Armageddon.

*“I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.”*  
(Revelation 16: 13-16)

These three unclean spirits might be said to be the counterparts to the three angel messengers of Revelation chapter 14. The three angels bring God’s messages and prepare a people for the end of time. In contrast, the three unclean spirits are agents of Satan to prepare the world for the time of trouble and for the final conflict between good and evil.

Please note that Armageddon is described as “the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (verse 14). Verse 15 indicates that this battle will take place just before Jesus returns.

This verse is also a clear link with Christ’s message to Laodicea. Jesus offers Laodicea “white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear” (Revelation 3:18).

Revelation 16:15 says, “Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments (Christ’s righteousness), lest he walk naked, and they see his shame”. We are to hold on to the righteousness of Christ by faith right up to the very end.

From the Christian’s viewpoint, Armageddon is the “great tribulation” in which God’s people will be tested in a way that no previous generation has experienced. Two Old Testament passages describe this great tribulation – one in Daniel and one in Jeremiah. Daniel says that when the ministry of Christ is finished in the heavenly sanctuary, “At that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.” (Daniel 12:1)

Jeremiah's description is similar:

"Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it." (Jeremiah 30:7)

What will the real issue be in this time of trouble? What is it that we Laodiceans need to overcome in order to successfully meet this great final conflict?

I believe that in this great tribulation God's people will have to reproduce Jesus' victory on the cross. Three times, Satan tempted Jesus to come down from the cross and save Himself – once through the Roman soldiers, once through the Jewish priests, and once through the thief at His left side (see Luke 23: 35-39). Using His divine power, independently of the Father, Christ could have left the cross and saved Himself. But He didn't; He hung on the cross and faced this last terrible temptation. Here is how Ellen White describes it:

"Amid the awful darkness, apparently forsaken of God, Christ had drained the last dregs in the cup of human woe, In those dreadful hours He had relied upon the evidence of His Father's acceptance heretofore given Him. He was acquainted with the character of His Father, He understood His justice, His mercy, and His great love. By faith He rested in Him whom it had ever been His joy to obey. And as in submission He committed Himself to God, the sense of the loss of His Father's favour was withdrawn. By faith, Christ was victor." (The Desire of Ages, 756).

Notice that it was by faith, not feeling, that Christ overcame. His feelings told Him that the Father had forsaken Him, but by faith He believed God would never do so. By faith, Jesus was victorious. In the same way, during the time of trouble our faith will be tested to the limit. We will feel abandoned by God Himself. We will feel that we are without hope. But by faith we will cling to God's promises and overcome. Those whose faith endures are known in Revelation as the 144,000. These are those in Laodicea who overcome even as Christ overcame.

Isaiah gives us insight into the issues in this time of trouble. God says through Isaiah, "For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee, In a little wrath I hid my face from thee

for a moment, but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer" (Isaiah 54:7,8). We will feel apparently forsaken by God during the great tribulation.

In this final showdown, God will say, "Here are My people, who have the faith of Jesus Christ."

Will there be a people whose faith, like that of Jesus on the cross, will endure to the very end? (see Luke 18:8). That is the question. And the good news is that the answer is, Yes. They are called the 144,000 and are pictured in only two passages in the entire New Testament – Revelation, chapters 7 and 14.

Revelation 7 is answering the question asked in the last verse of chapter 6:

"The great day of his (the Lamb's) wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Verse 17). In context, this question is especially pertinent. Chapter 6 has pictured the great second coming of Jesus with cataclysmic upheavals in nature and wholesale panic seemingly by everyone on earth – the rich, the poor, the free, the slaves, kings, and mighty men. They are all crying for the rocks and mountains to fall on them and hide them from the Lamb on His throne (see verses 12-16). No one, it seems, is able to stand the second coming of Christ. So verse 17 asks the question, "Who is able to stand? Is anyone able?"

Will God be able to produce a people who have reproduced in their lives Christ's victory on the cross?

The answer is found in Revelation, chapter 7, and the answer is, Yes!

God will have such a people. Verse 1 pictures four angels holding back the four winds that are about to blow on the earth and the sea and the trees. Winds, of course, symbolize strife and war.

God says, "I will protect My people and hold back the strife, the great tribulation. I will hold it until we have sealed them."

What does the sealing mean?

In Romans, chapter 4, Paul gives us an example of its meaning. He argues with the Jewish Christians in Rome that circumcision does not contribute in the least to salvation. But he anticipates a question that the Jews

in Rome will ask him, "If circumcision has no significance for our salvation, why did God give it to Abraham and to his descendants?"

And Paul's reply is that Abraham "received the sign of circumcision, a seal of righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised"(verse 11).

Abraham had righteousness by faith long before he was circumcised. Circumcision didn't contribute anything to his righteousness; it did something else, Paul says. It sealed what Abraham already had. It confirmed, or authenticated the righteousness he already possessed.

So the sealing of God's people in the last days simply means that their faith in the Lord of the Sabbath has become unshakable. They have settled into the truth of Jesus Christ our righteousness. They have purchased the white raiment from Christ and have made that their only hope. There is no turning back to self. They have come to understand God's character, His love and His mercy, and His finished work of redemption so clearly that their faith is unchangeably resting in Him.

God's people are sealed in their foreheads, indicating that they have the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ is an attitude that is totally emptied of self. When God's people are sealed, there will be no wavering. It is in this context that Christ will say, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still" (revelation 22:11). Those in both camps – God's people and Satan's followers – have made up their minds irrevocably and therefore have been sealed.

Jesus was in Gethsemane. It was there that He made up his mind beyond any changing. He struggled there in the garden until He could say, "Not my will, but thine, be done." Like Him, we will be in the great time of trouble. That tribulation will test whether our faith is unshakable, and we will overcome even as He overcame.

The Bible pictures those who are sealed as the 144,000. Is this a literal number? Will God's people who are sealed actually number 144,000?



Revelation, chapter 7 says “I heard the number of them which were sealed and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel” (verse 4).

In his letter to the Roman Christians, Paul argues that “Israel” does not mean only those who are physically descended from Abraham, but all those who have accepted Christ – whether or not they are Abraham’s physical descendants. “For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel. Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, in Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted for the seed” (Romans 9:6-8).

Paul is saying that just as Isaac was Abraham’s son as the result of a divine promise and a divine miracle, so all those who have accepted the divine promise and miracle of the new birth are Abraham’s children – not just those who are physically Israel.

The Jews, or Israelites, looked to three great ancestors – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Abraham’s outstanding characteristic was his faith; he stands for faith. Isaac, because of the miracle of his birth, represents the new-birth experience. Jacob was the one who endured to the end. That is why the time of trouble is also called the time of Jacob’s trouble – because Jacob persevered to the end and prevailed. All those who, like Abraham, have an unshakable faith; all those who, like Isaac, experience the new birth; all those who, like Jacob, endure to the end – these belong to Christ and therefore “Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:29).

Before God allows Satan to initiate the great war of Armageddon, God’s people must be sealed.

“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palms in their hands (Revelation 7:9).

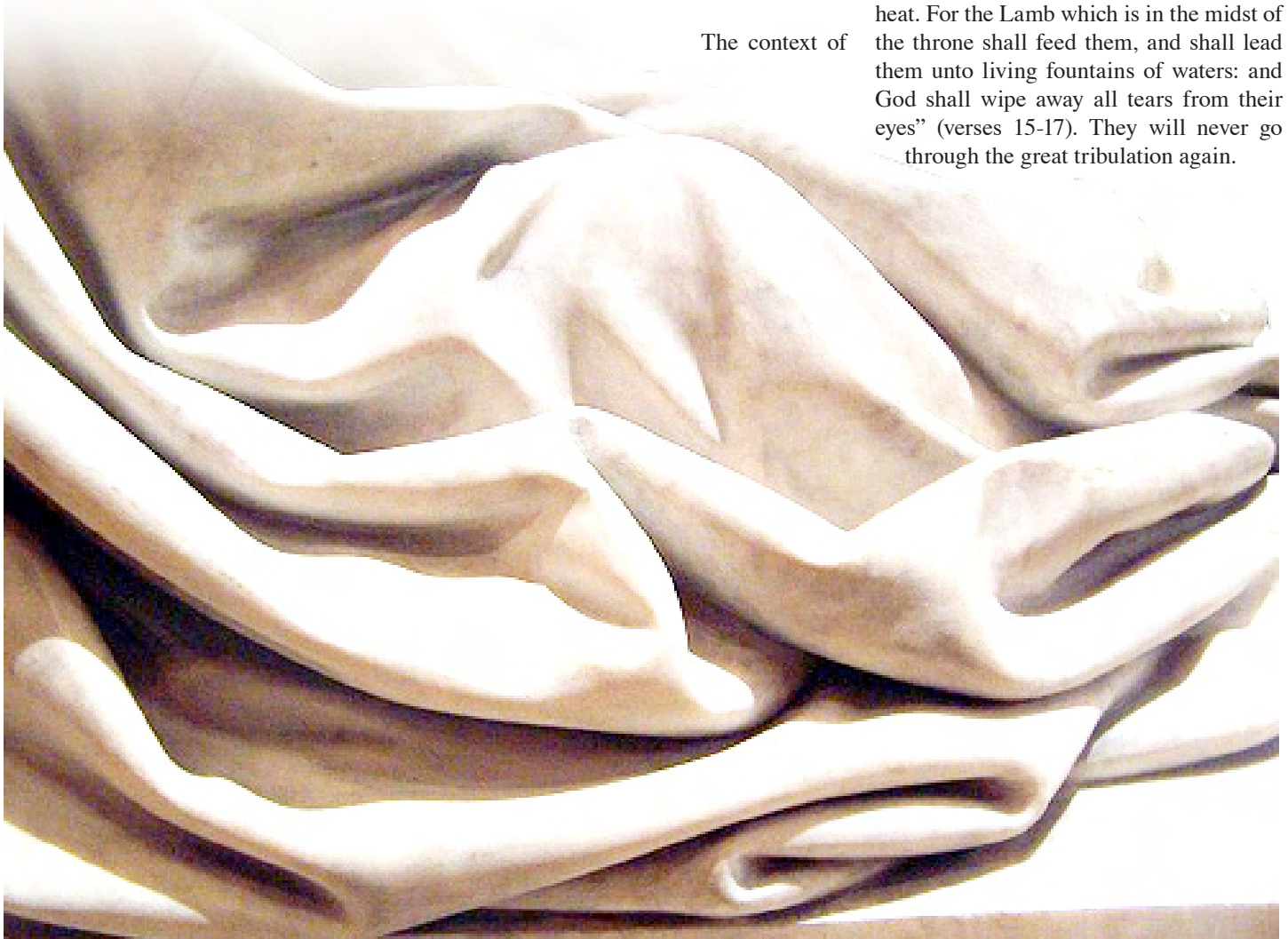
The context of

Revelation, chapter 7:4-8 is dealing only with the 144,000 – those who are able to stand during the great time of trouble and when Jesus comes.

According to Revelation 19:7,8, the white robes represent the imparted righteousness of Christ – something this last generation of Christians will experience to the full.

Revelation 7:14 indicates that the 144,000 are those who have come “out of great tribulation and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”. They have experienced total victory; they have overcome as Christ overcame. This can refer only to the 144,000.

Reflecting Christ’s promise to Laodicea that those who overcome as He has overcome will sit with Him in His throne, John goes on to say, “Therefore are they before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes” (verses 15-17). They will never go through the great tribulation again.





we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads (Revelation 7: 1-5).

The 144,000 have the Father's name written in their foreheads, and are the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb (Revelation 7:15, Revelation 14:3-4). Both place the 144,000 before the throne of God in the former, they serve Him day and night in His temple, and in the latter they "Follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth."

The 144,000 have remained loyal to God through an experience referred to as the great tribulation (Revelation 7:14-15).

They sing a new song before the throne, one that only those who have experienced "great tribulation" can learn (Revelation 14:3).

Passing through this experience with "characters unblemished" they stand without fault before the throne of God (Revelation 14:4-5).

This sealing process (Revelation 7:1-2) takes place not long before Jesus' second coming.

The Bible speaks of the 144,000 in Revelation 14:13-17 in which the death decree is proclaimed against those who refuse to worship the image of the beast (Sunday worship), who receive His mark in their foreheads implies the great tribulation (Revelation 7:14) and the crisis of Revelation 13:13-17. These all refer to the same experience through which the 144,000 remain loyal to God, in the face of death: The "seal" is affixed to them before the crisis as a certificate of God's approval, God trusts them, and they, the 144,000, trust Him.

References:  
EW 38, 43-44, 48, 50,67,71,89,279  
Ex: 31: 13-18; Ez 20: 12 & 20

***Amen, Anonymous***

The time of trouble will be terrible. Our imaginations cannot begin to conjure up how terrible it will be. Normally, our imagination magnifies potential problems, and reality is much less severe. But in this case, that will not be so. The only indication we have of the severity of the trials that we will face then is the tribulation Christ experienced on the cross. Like Christ, we will feel forsaken of God. The devil will take advantage of these feelings to whisper, "Do you know why God has forsaken you? Because you are lost. He has abandoned you because there is no hope of salvation for you."

And your feelings will confirm what Satan is saying. Your feelings will tell you that there is no hope for you. Yet your faith will say, "I believe Jesus. He has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' My righteousness is not in me but in Jesus Christ. I will trust Him though the heavens fall."

The real issue during the time of Jacob's trouble will be righteousness by faith.

Because you are sealed, you will survive this great tribulation. The devil will do his best to unsettle your faith, and when he fails, then he will pass a death decree against God's people. As He did with Job, God has told Satan that he cannot kill His faithful people. Then the end will come; a great earthquake will take place, and God's people will come out of their hiding places

as they see their Saviour descending from heaven with thousands and thousands of His holy angels. "Look!" we will shout, "It is Jesus, whom we have been waiting for!"

Those who have been threatening us and trying to kill us will run into the vacated caves and cry out to the rocks and mountains to fall on them and hide them from the consuming glory of Jesus. They can't bear the sight; they would prefer their lives be crushed out in the great earthquake!

Yes, God will have a faithful people who will overcome just as the Saviour has overcome – by faith. We need to overcome unbelief. That is Laodicea's greatest need. We need to buy the white clothing, the pure gold, the eye salve. We need to stop looking at self for assurance. We need to rest in Christ and His righteousness. Our part, from beginning to end, is faith. Maintaining faith is our greatest struggle because by nature we are self-dependent.

A time of trouble is coming, but God will give us victory. May Christ make our faith so strong that we will have not only faith in Jesus Christ, but the faith of Jesus Christ.

In vision, John saw the seal of the living God (Revelation 7:2) affixed in their foreheads (Revelation 7:3). An angel ascending from the east with the seal calls upon the four angels, standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the winds should not blow on the earth saying... Hurt not the earth till



# RIDING THE DEATH TRAIN



“A train of cars was shown me, going with the speed of lightning. The angel bade me look carefully. I fixed my eyes upon the train. It seemed that the whole world was on board. Then he showed me the conductor, a fair, stately person, whom all the passengers looked up to and revered. I was perplexed and asked my attending angel who it was. He said, ‘It is Satan. He is the conductor, in the form of an angel of light. He has taken the world captive. They are given over to strong delusions, to believe a lie that they may be damned. His agent the highest in order to him, is the engineer, and others of his agents are employed in different offices, as he may need them, and they are all going with lightning speed to perdition.’” EW 283.

“For all (in the train) have sinned, and come short of the glory (standard) of God.” Rom. 3:23.

“For the wages of sin is death.” Rom. 6:23.

These verdicts from the supreme court of heaven imply that everyone is guilty of sin, and that all must be sentenced to hell; separated from God forever. Everyone without exception is under God’s judgment.

Imagine yourself on a train with a destination of a death camp. Everyone inside this train, including yourself, have been condemned and are being taken to the death camp for execution.

## **With His Stripes We Are Healed**

Then, while the train is just a few yards from its destination, a young man is sighted on the railroad. This young man is waving a red flag to make the train stop. The train reluctantly pulls to a screeching halt.

The officers from the train rush to the man and after loudly interrogating him find that he is requesting to die on behalf of everyone inside the train. “I am here to stop the execution order,” the young man bravely declares. The officers being very much amazed at such an unusual offer, report this encounter to the judge who has issued the execution order.

The Judge, examining and questioning this young man, agrees to let him be the substitution for all the people on the train. According to this man’s record, which the Judge provides to the public, this man had never done anything wrong, unlike those inside the train. And now, he has volunteered to take their judgment upon himself.

With the people in the train, including yourself, watching, he is tortured, abused and led out to be executed at the death camp on behalf of all who have come so close to death. I want you to take a moment and really think about such a gesture. How unfathomable that someone should offer himself so voluntarily for the condemned.

Nonetheless, while this innocent young man is hanging on the tree in the death camp, he screams in agony and calls out loud for help. “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” but it never comes. He eventually takes his last breath. Why? That those inside the train could be spared and live. The judge issues a ruling about what the people on the train must do to be acquitted by the man’s sacrificial death. That is what Christ did for every sinner. He tasted death for every man. He was sinless, though He bore the burden of sin for others.

## The Reality

Imagine yourself inside the train no longer. This is no longer just a story, it is an analogy. The Bible clearly states: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace." Eph. 1:7.

When a sinner accepts Christ as his Saviour, God counts the death of Christ as punishment for his sins. The sinner is forgiven and goes free. He is "redeemed" from death through the sacrifice of Christ. Sing unto the Lord, bless His name; show forth His salvation from day to day.

*"Behold, behold the Lamb of God,  
O the cross, on the cross,  
For you He shed His precious blood.  
On the cross, on the cross.  
O hear His agonized cry,  
'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani;'  
Draw near, and see, your Saviour die,  
On the cross, on the cross.*

*"And now the mighty deed is done;  
On the cross, on the cross;  
The battle fought, the vict'ry won.  
On the cross, on the cross.*

*"'Tis finished; now the Saviour cries;  
To heav'n He turns His languid eyes;  
Then bows His sacred head, and dies,  
On the cross, on the cross.*

*"Where'er I go, I'll tell the story  
Of the cross, of the cross.  
In nothing else my soul shall glory  
Save the cross, save the cross.*

*And this my constant theme shall be,  
Through time and in eternity,  
That Jesus shed His blood for me,  
On the cross, on the cross."*

### What Must I Do to be Saved

The greatest question with which all human beings are confronted is: "What must I do to be saved?" This question comes to every individual for "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Man by nature is lost. No man has the slightest claim upon immortality.

Immortality has been the quest of the ages. Men of every generation and of every nation have sought for it. Who is there who has not said with the young ruler who came one day to Jesus: "What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" Hundreds of religions have risen, prescribing this or that method of reaching the goal; yet in the minds of millions this question has not found a satisfactory answer.

When the jailor, who with his family, was converted under the preaching of the great apostle, pressed for an answer to this great question, Paul replied without the slightest hesitation. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Acts 16:31.

### Man Cannot Save Himself

Let us set it down here as a fundamental fact that man cannot save himself. No number of good deeds, self-abnegation, or philanthropy, can remove the guilt of sin from the human soul. Man, if saved at all must have a Saviour; and the only Saviour of man is Jesus Christ.

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else." Isa. 45:22. To Jesus, the vilest sinner may come and find deliverance from his sins; but no man, regardless of how righteous he may appear in his own eyes, can save himself from sin's guilt and power. Neither can he find a legitimate excuse for his sin. If the deliverance offered by Christ is not accepted by the sinner, he is utterly lost and absolutely without hope.

O sing unto the Lord a new song; for He has done marvelous things; His right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten Him the victory.  
**AMEN.**

**Golden Kayawa Hingabantu, Zambia**



# A CASTLE ON THE SAND



# OR A HOUSE ON A ROCK?

In His short life upon this earth, Jesus showed us how we need to live if we want to inherit eternal life. Surely, His short life was too long for Him who had left the heavenly city, the presence of His Father, the adoration of the angels, the kingdom of light and joy to come to this dark and miserable world. But He knew He did not belong here and He wants us to understand that through His sacrifice on Calvary, through His suffering for our sins, we may one day be there where He is today. Paul believed it, that is why he writes, *“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”* Philippians 3:20.

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He made His disciples a promise, *“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also.”* John 14:3. All through the ages, all Christians have been waiting for the fulfilment of this promise.

During His life upon this earth, Jesus taught, preached and healed. He usually taught through parables, simple examples from nature that were understandable to his listeners.

In Matthew 7:24-27 we read, *“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”* Two kinds of people are mentioned here, wise and foolish, obedient and disobedient. Whoever is wise thinks about the future, gets ready to face difficult situations, looks for a firm foundation to build his house upon it. In a spiritual sense, he lives according to the heavenly principles and builds up his character on the Rock.

Paul explains to the Corinthians that the Rock out of which the people of God drank while in the wilderness was Jesus. He is the living water and in Him we live and grow. Isaiah tells us, *“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for [that which is] not bread? and your labour for [that which] satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye [that which is] good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.”* (Isaiah 55:1, 2)

It is only when we build upon Jesus that we are not afraid of the storm; we can be satisfied in every situation and overcome every problem because He gives us the power, He consoles us, He keeps us in His hand.

Let us build upon Jesus; let us learn from Him; let us follow Him with all our heart. The Lord speaks to us with the sweetest words, *“Fear thou not; for I [am] with thee: be not dismayed; for I [am] thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”* Isaiah 41:10. *“But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called [thee] by thy name; thou [art] mine. When thou passest through the waters, I [will be] with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee:*



*when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I [am] the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour... Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee...*" Isaiah 43:1-4.

Do we sometimes doubt God's love for us? Are the trials in life sometimes so hard that we think the Lord has abandoned us? Do we sometimes feel lonely and forgotten? Jesus' disciples felt like that when their Master left them. When they were gathered together, feeling very sad and full of doubts, Jesus appeared in the midst and said, "*Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet...*" Luke 24:38, 39. Let us look at Jesus' hands and feet. There is hidden all the power of His love. Then all our trials will seem light and we shall follow Him in full trust that He knows the way and will bring us to the goal.

*"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."* The "sayings" He is speaking about is the Sermon on the Mount that Matthew wrote down in three long chapters. Anyone can find his way to heaven by studying these chapters and building his life upon them.

In Matthew, we read another parable in which it is spoken about wise and foolish young women, instead. This parable illustrates a very sublime and joyful event—a wedding celebration. In chapter 25 we read about the wise and the foolish virgins who are waiting for the bridegroom to come. All of them have lamps; all of them know the

Word of God. They are all virgins, meaning that they have kept themselves clean, they have not accepted any false teaching, they know well the doctrine of the church of God, but there is still a difference, half of them are wise and half are foolish. "*They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*" Wisdom is not knowledge, but "*the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*" Psalm 111:10. Somehow, these virgins, with all their knowledge of the truth, lost the fear of the Lord, went their own way and rejected the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is impossible to build upon the Rock, to follow and grow in Jesus without the leading power of the Holy Spirit. Nobody can give us the Holy Spirit, but Jesus Himself. He, who invites us to follow Him and learn from Him, gives us the means to be able to do it—the Holy Spirit. When the disciples were gathered together because they feared the Jews, after Jesus was crucified, the Lord appeared among them and said, "*Peace be unto you... he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit.*" John 20:21, 22. So simple it is for Jesus to give His disciples, each one of us His Spirit. We are all in great need of the Holy Spirit, not only to finish His work upon this earth, but so that we ourselves may be saved. "*But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*" Romans 8:11-14.

All the virgins were asleep when the voice was heard that the bridegroom was coming. They were tired of waiting. There is an obvious delay in Jesus' coming. Peter speaks about it in his letter, "*Where is the promise of his coming?*" ask some, and the apostle answers, "*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count for slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*" 2 Peter 3:4, 10. So, why has Jesus not come back yet? Is it maybe because some of us have not yet repented? But when the time comes, and only the Father knows the precise time, our Lord will come. In what condition will He find each one of us? Sleeping? Yes. The parable says it, but there is something very interesting in Song of Solomon 5:2, "*I sleep, but my heart waketh.*" He who goes to sleep because his guest has delayed, but who has prepared everything with great love and care, has a light sleep and at the slightest sound gets up to see if maybe his beloved guest is at the door. His heart is awake and always willing to meet his Master. "*As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?*" Psalm 42:1, 2. "*When I remember thee upon my bed, [and] meditate on thee in the [night] watches.*" Psalm 63:6.

In what condition is our heart? Are we expecting our Lord to come at any moment? Do we rejoice at the thought of His coming? Do we long for His kingdom? Do we consider everything as rubbish that we may win Christ?

We should not wait for the last moment to prepare for such a solemn event. In Matthew 25:10, we read, "*And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage, and the door was shut.*"

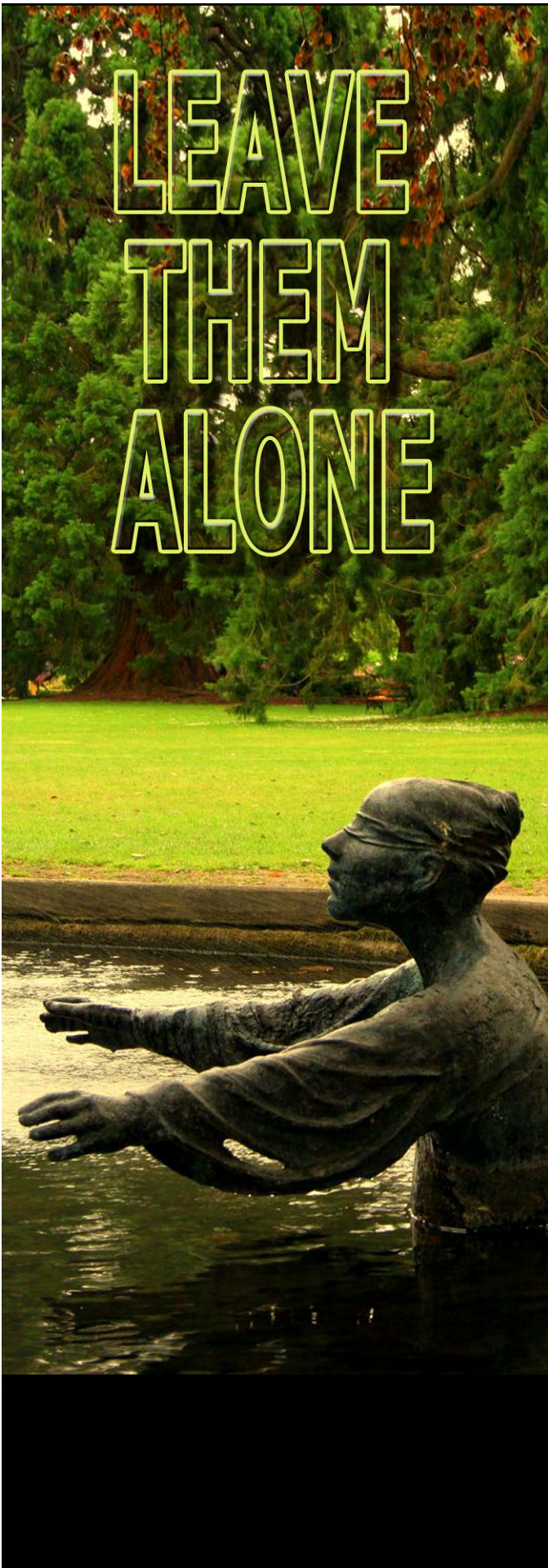
The door of grace is still open, but the time is short. The world is ripe for destruction. Are we ready to receive the latter rain to finish His work and be translated to heaven?

May the Lord help us all to sober up, considering the time in which we are living and not to play with His grace, either as a church or as individuals. **Amen.**

**Teresa Corti**







Some of the saddest words that Jesus spoke to His disciples were, “Leave them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. But if one blind person leads another, they will both fall into a pit.” Modern Language Bible, Matt. 15:14.

You may show beautiful pictures to the blind person and he cannot see them. You may show the strongest evidences for the truth from the Bible to the spiritually blind person, and he cannot see them. Therefore, Jesus told to His disciples to leave them alone. Why spend precious time in a work that is useless, while there were many others who could see the truth when it was presented to them.

There were many blind people whom Jesus could heal, even spiritually blind received their eyesight, but then there were blind that Jesus could not heal; their blindness was incurable because they had sinned against the Holy Spirit and eternal blindness had fallen upon them.

Therefore John writes about them, “There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.” 1 John 5:16.

There are millions of people in the world today who have committed the unpardonable sin. We may not always recognize them because many of them continue their religious profession like the Jewish leaders.

“Every additional evidence of the power of God that the Egyptian monarch resisted, carried him on to a stronger and more persistent defiance of God. Thus the work went on, finite man warring against the expressed will of an infinite God. This case is a clear illustration of the sin against the Holy Ghost. ‘Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.’ Gradually the Lord withdrew His Spirit. Removing His restraining power, He gave the king into the hands of the worst of all tyrants,—self.” R.H. July 27, 1897.

“The most common manifestation of the sin against the Holy Spirit is in persistently slighting Heaven’s invitation to repent. Every step in the rejection of Christ is a step toward the rejection of salvation, and toward the sin against the Holy Spirit. In rejecting Christ the Jewish people committed the unpardonable sin; and by refusing the invitation of mercy, we may commit the same error. We offer insult to the Prince of Life, and put Him to shame before the synagogue of Satan and before the heavenly universe when we refuse to listen to His delegated messengers, and instead listen to the agents of Satan, who would draw the soul away from Christ. So long as one does this, he can find no hope or pardon, and he will finally lose all desire to be reconciled to God.” DA 324, 325.

Felix trembled as he listened to the words of Paul. The first time he heard the truth presented to him clearly. The Holy Spirit appealed to his conscience but he resisted it and finally said to Paul, “Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.” Sister White comments on him, “He had slighted his last offer of mercy. Never was he to receive another call from God.” AA 427.

Often we spend much time trying to convince a spiritually blind person to see the truth, but Paul writes to us, “A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject.” Titus 3:10.

When Jesus saw that Judas had committed an unpardonable sin against the Holy Spirit He did not try to convince him of his sin but said to him.

“That thou doest, do quickly.” John 13:27.  
Immediately Judas left the company.

This was a shaking among the disciples.  
This is a work of God. Members in the church of God who have lost the Holy Spirit would only be a hindrance to the advancement of the work and therefore God will separate them from the faithful members.

“For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.” Amos 9:9.

God is doing the shaking, not Satan, and not people.

When the ten tribes separated from the two tribes, it was not really Rehoboam who did it. We read in 2 Chronicles chapter 11 that this separation was from God. When the Jews were taken to Babylon, it was not by people but God did it. God said, My servant Nebuchadnezzar will take the people from Jerusalem and Judea to captivity.

In 1951, again, it was not Nicolici who separated the church, God did it. In the future we will see more shakings taking place. Again God will do it by using men as His servants. Sister White asks us to pray to God to purify the church by shaking.

“The mighty shaking has commenced and will go on, and all will be shaken out who are not willing to take a bold and unyielding stand for the truth and sacrifice for God and His cause.” EW 50.

May the Lord give us wisdom to know whom to leave alone and with whom we continue to work and make appeals for their salvation. **AMEN.**

**Timo Martin, Canada**

## THE CHILD SPIRIT

*Does the way seem a stony one?  
Not one stone can impede your progress!*

*Courage.*

*face the future, but face it with a brave and happy heart.*

*Do not seek to see it. You are robbing faith of her sublime sweetness if you do this.*

*Just know that all is well, and, that faith, not seeing, but believing, is the barque that will bear you to safety, over the stormy waters.*

*“According to your faith, be it unto you” (Mat. 9:29) was my injunction to those who sought healing of me.*

*If for wonder-working, if for healing, if for salvation, faith was so necessary, then the reason is clear why I urged that all who sought entrance to My kingdom must become as little children.*

*faith is the child-attitude.*

*Seek in every way to become child-like.*

*Seek, seek, seek until you find, until the years have added to your nature that of a trusting child.*

*Not only for its simple trust must you copy the child-spirit, but for its joy in life, its ready laughter, its lack of criticism, its desire to share all with men.*

*Ask much that you may become as little children, friendly and loving towards all - not critical, not fearful.*

*“Except ye... become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”  
Matthew 18:3.*

*Submitted by Kathleen Ross, from the book Two Listeners, Edited by A.J. Russell.*





“God does not regard all sins as of equal magnitude; there are degrees of guilt in His estimation, as well as in that of man.” SC 30

Although we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, there are great sinners and those that don't sin as much. Nero was a great sinner. He caused the death of many innocent Christians. Many of the Popes during the Dark Ages also committed atrocities against God's people, and are considered great sinners. King Saul proved to be a great sinner when he sentenced all the priests to death. Judas Iscariot is also regarded as a great sinner because he betrayed Jesus with a kiss. In the Bible we can find many other stories of people who were great sinners. Then there are sinners who sin less. Are they better people? What makes a sin great or small? That is for God to judge because our judgment is not perfect. “And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.” Luke 12:47,48

In Steps to Christ page 30, (continuing from the initial quote) it states, “but however trifling this or that wrong act may seem in the eyes of men, no sin is small in the sight of God. Man's judgment is partial, imperfect; but God estimates all things as they really are. The drunkard is despised and is told that his sin will exclude him from heaven; while pride, selfishness, and covetousness too often go unrebuked. But these are sins that are especially offensive to God; for they are contrary to the benevolence of His character, to that unselfish love which is the very atmosphere of the unfallen universe. He who falls into some of the grosser sins may feel a sense of his shame and poverty and his need of the grace of Christ; but pride feels no need, and so it closes the heart against Christ and the infinite blessings He came to give.” SC 30 We look at outward appearances, while God reads the heart.

What we may think is a small sin may have major consequences. It was only a small sin that Adam and Eve committed. All they did was eat a piece of forbidden fruit. What was the result? Just an upset stomach for awhile?

Firstly, it was not a hard test. “The mildest test was given them that could be given; for there was no need of their eating of the forbidden tree; everything that their wants required had been provided.” BE July 24, 1899. But there were grave consequences however: “The tide of woe that flowed from the transgression of our first parents is regarded by many as too awful a consequence for so small a sin.” PP 61. Was God being fair? Could He not simply forgive them that one small sin since they repented, and let them continue living in Eden?

“God created man after His own likeness, free from sin. The earth was to be peopled with beings only a little lower than the angels; but their obedience must be tested; for God would not permit the world to be filled with those who would disregard His law. Yet, in His great mercy, He appointed Adam no severe test. And the very lightness of the prohibition made the sin exceedingly great. If Adam could not bear the smallest of tests, he could not have endured a greater trial had he been entrusted with higher responsibilities. PP 60

“Had some great test been appointed Adam, then those whose hearts incline to evil would have excused themselves by saying, ‘This is a

trivial matter, and God is not so particular about little things.' And there would be continual transgression in things looked upon as small, and which pass unrebuked among men. But the Lord has made it evident that sin in any degree is offensive to Him." PP 61

Although their sin was forgiven, there were consequences. Even the smallest sins bear consequences. "Small" sins have been known to lead to larger sins. "To Eve it seemed a small thing to disobey God by tasting the fruit of the forbidden tree, and to tempt her husband also to transgress." PP 61. The result was... "their sin opened the floodgates of woe upon the world." PP 61. Just look at the world now. What a comparison to what we read of the Eden home where Adam and Eve had lived. There is really no comparison – it is a night and day difference. "The fall of our first parents broke the golden chain of implicit obedience of the human will to the divine." MS 1, 1892. "All nature is confused; for God forbade the earth to carry out the purpose He had originally designed for it. Let there be no peace to the wicked, saith the Lord. The curse of God is upon all creation." 4SG 121. And all this from one small sin. One small indulgence of appetite. "Who can know, in the moment of temptation, the terrible consequences that will result from one wrong step?" PP 61

Ever since the time of Adam and Eve, Satan has been tempting people with the idea that small sins are of no consequence. It doesn't really matter. Just confess and all will be well. All will be restored once more. However this is not true. All sins bear consequences, even if they are repented of and forgiven. The results remain.

## ESAU

Esau didn't think much of the selling of his birthright for a good meal, however it was not a one-off sin or momentary slip-up. He had a problem with appetite. "Esau had a special, strong desire for a particular article of food, and he had gratified self so long that he did not feel the necessity of turning from the tempting, coveted dish. He thought upon it, and made no special effort to restrain his appetite, until its power bore down every other consideration, and controlled him, and he imagined he would suffer great inconvenience, and even death, if he could not have that particular dish." Rather than

stopping to consider the consequences of his sin, he cherished his sin and longed for it. "The more he thought upon it, the more his desire strengthened, until his birthright, which was sacred, lost its value and its sacredness." When we dwell on sin, it ceases to appear as sinful as we first thought, and keeping the body sacred is of less importance. The conscience becomes seared and the person is unguarded for greater attacks. "He thought, Well, if I now sell it, I can easily buy it back again." Is this not what many Christians say? Things will be the same as before? I can indulge now, and later I will confess. It doesn't matter as it is only a small sin? But this is a fallacy. "When he [Esau] sought to purchase it back, even at a great sacrifice on his part, he was not able to do so... He sought for repentance carefully and with tears. It was all in vain. He had despised the blessing, and the Lord removed it from him forever." RH April 27, 1886. One small sin....

It was too late. And from this one "small" indulgence of appetite, the results were serious. "Esau passed the crisis of his life without knowing it. What he regarded as a matter worthy of scarcely a thought was the act which revealed the prevailing traits of his character. It showed his choice, showed his true estimate of that which was sacred and which should have been sacredly cherished. He sold his birthright for a small indulgence to meet his present wants, and this determined the after-course of his life. To Esau the morsel of meat was more than the service of his Master." Letter 5, 1877. Esau represents many people who have not overcome on the point of appetite. They feel it is not important to be too strict and exacting on their dietary habits. Sister White has given many counsels in the book *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, which, if followed, would promote the best health a person could have, but many don't take these seriously. They feel it is not so important to be so strict. These small indulgences don't really matter. Well do they? To God they do or He would not have inspired Sister White to write them in a book for our guidance. If it is important to God, should it not be important to us also? If we don't take God's word seriously, our conscience will be seared.

## DANIEL

Daniel was the opposite of Esau, he saw the importance of strictly adhering to God's

dietary requirements. He was willing to die rather than violate his body with foods that were unhealthy.

"Among the viands placed before the king were swine's flesh and other meats which were declared unclean by the law of Moses, and which the Hebrews had been expressly forbidden to eat. Here Daniel was brought to a severe test. Should he adhere to the teachings of his fathers concerning meats and drinks, and offend the king, probably losing not only his position but his life, or should he disregard the commandment of the Lord, and retain the favor of the king, thus securing great intellectual advantages and the most flattering worldly long prospects?"

"Daniel did not hesitate. He decided to stand firmly for his integrity, let the result be what it might. He 'purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank.'

"There are many among professed Christians today who would decide that Daniel was too particular, and would pronounce him narrow and bigoted. They consider the matter of eating and drinking of too little consequence to require such a decided stand, --one involving the probable sacrifice of every earthly advantage. But those who reason thus will find in the day of judgment that they turned from God's express requirements, and set up their own opinion as a standard of right and wrong. They will find that what seemed to them unimportant was not so regarded of God. His requirements should be sacredly obeyed. Those who accept and obey one of His precepts because it is convenient to do so, while they reject another because its observance would require a sacrifice, lower the standard of right, and by their example lead others to lightly regard the holy law of God. 'Thus saith the Lord' is to be our rule in all things." CD 30

Remember, Health Reform is the right hand of our message.

## LIES

There are many other sins that Satan tempts people into believing are small. For instance--lying. Often people feel that there are times when it is necessary to tell a lie in order to avoid hurting someone's feelings



or to avoid an unpleasant experience. We have what we call, “white” lies. They are deemed acceptable. What happened when David told a lie? He was visiting the priests in the town of Nob and told a lie. He thought he would continue his journey and that would be the end of it. But this was not the end of it. King Saul heard that David was there. “And the King said, Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou and all thy father’s house.” 1 Samuel 22:16. There is no such thing as a small lie, or a “white” lie. All lies bring evil consequences. Many people lost their lives from that one “small” lie.

### LOOKING AT EVIL

Looking at something is not sin, is it? There are so many TV shows, and no one knows what you are watching in the privacy of your own home. Just because you are not committing the act does not make you innocent. Looking at evil is just as sinful. “But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” Matthew 5:28 Is this a small sin? Just to look at someone (male or female) in lust? This can be easily repented of, can it not? Is it wrong to admire beauty? King David did not think it was so serious when he looked at Bathsheba bathing, but this one small look did have major consequences. It led to greater sins. “Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? Thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.” 2 Sam. 12:9. His “one small sin” of looking, led to adultery and murder. And when it was brought to his attention, he repented with bitter tears. God did forgive him, but what was the result? “Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. Thus saith the LORD, Behold I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbor, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.” 2 Sam. 22:10-12. David offered no excuse for his sin – he was guilty. He was forgiven, but the current of his life changed. From that time onwards he had more wars and fightings. He also had family troubles. Four of his children were slain over the

course of time and the nation was nearly divided under the leadership of his son Absalom, who carried out the prophecy of the violation of David’s wives. All this from one small sin of looking at a woman bathing. Looking at TV, not only lust, but crimes, violence, murder – these have made a major contribution to the appalling condition of society today.

There are other sins that may not seem so major, such as hatred and anger, however, if these are not controlled, they will lead to greater sins such as murder, as in the case of Cain – who was jealous of his brother. “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.” I John 3:15

Then there is idleness, sins of omission. They seem to not be hurting anyone. However, if you neglect to share your faith with your fellow men as the Lord opens up the way, you may be condemning them to death in hell fire. It has been said that “Idle



hands are the tools of the devil.” Satan will find great use for those who have nothing to do. Are these all small sins? Not in the eyes of God.

### CONCLUSION

Although there may be degrees of sin, one sin often leads to another even greater one. And even in what we may feel are the smallest of sins, there can be life changing results as in the case of Esau. The whole current of his life changed. For this reason it is very important to “pray without ceasing,” 1 Thess 5:17 and to keep our connection to Jesus strong. “Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.” I John 3:5 Even one small sin will keep us out of heaven and result in unpleasant circumstances here on earth.

“Even one wrong trait of character, one sinful desire cherished, will eventually neutralize all the power of the gospel. The prevalence of a sinful desire shows the delusion of the soul. Every indulgence of that desire strengthens the soul’s aversion to God. The pains of duty and the pleasures of sin are the cords with which Satan binds men in his snares. Those who would rather die than perform a wrong act are the only ones who will be found faithful.” 5T 53.2 We need to be connected with Jesus every day, every hour. We need to be at one with Jesus and have Him abide in our hearts. The atonement is our only hope of salvation. It would do well for us to study to understand this more clearly.

“God does not consult our opinions or preferences. He knows what human beings do not know, --the future results of every movement, and therefore our eyes should be directed to Him, and not to the worldly advantages presented by Satan. Satan tells us that if we give heed to him, we shall reach great heights of knowledge. Ye shall be as gods, he said to Eve, if you eat of the tree forbidden by God. The test given to Adam and Eve was very light, but they could not bear it. They disobeyed God, and this transgression opened the floodgates of woe on our world.” MS 50, 1893.

May God grant us the strength to resist any and all sin and to maintain our connection with heaven. **AMEN**

*Wendy Eaton, Canada*



# Korea



Korean Church  
Headquarters



Korean Field  
Members



Baptism



Membership  
Welcome Service





# AN ANGEL WALKED



## CHILDRENS CORNER

“Have you seen her feet?” The hushed voice of the nurse dropped even lower. “I’ll show you.”

Nurses see many tragic things. This must be most unusual, I thought, to affect the girl in white in such a way. I followed.

A tiny wizened face turned to us from the white pillow. I did not notice the age lines or emaciation at first. Dominant as always were her eyes, alert and interested.

She had never been conspicuous in church. Only by accident had I noticed her earnestness in following the services, the radiance in the little aged face bowing in prayer or nodding an unspoken Amen. Her lips had formed the words of the hymns, and one felt that she joined an angel chorus in her mind, though she made no sound.

Now she could attend church no longer. Her laboured steps could not carry her to the services she loved, so when she lay in the hospital, with few visitors, I felt that I must go to see her.

“Sophie, here is a visitor,” the nurse cheerfully announced. “She is a nurse too. Do you mind if I show her your feet?”

Brightness bloomed in her face as she stretched a hand to me.

“Oh, my friend! It is so good of you to come. Yes, of course, nurse, show her the old stubs. They are good for nothing now, but to remind me that angels walk with men.”

The feet. They were purple and swollen beyond much semblance of humanity. The darkened colour served to make more distinct the white scars that marred toes, insteps, ankles. The scars were very old, I could see, and I wondered what ordeal had brought them. It was a relief to have them covered again.

Sophie smiled.

“Put them away. No one would want to look at them long. They’re no good now, but many and many the mile they have walked. Thirteen children I raised, and worked in the fields besides, so you see they have done their work. Let them rest.”

As I held her shrunken hand, the question must have shown on my face.

“You would like to hear a story, yea?”

The forests of Russia, long ago, were thick and dark. Even in the little village, safely shut in by walls and lighted by candles, one could sometimes hear the wolves. No one risked the narrow forest roads at night, and even in daylight the men never went out less than two at a time. But the villagers were comfortable and safe—if they had shelter, wood, and food.

The people of this village belonged to the land, and each family was required to serve their lord for a certain time, to pay for the privilege of living.

At the castle, a long day’s drive from the village home, Sophie looked anxiously out over the snowy fields. After so much time there was still no dark speck coming out of the forest, to grow into her father’s team and sled.

She was no longer needed, or even wanted, in the castle. Her term of three months’ service had been broken by a trip home to care for a dreadfully ill mother, so she had stayed on at the castle two weeks later than the other village young folks.

It would have been such a merry ride home with them, she thought. Those now at the castle were strangers, and uninterested in her, sometimes even mocking her village ways. She was eager to get home, and her father had promised to come for her.

With sudden decision she whipped her babushka over her head and tied it firmly.

Long since she had put on her felt boots and overboots. Now, as a “town” girl giggled and pointed at her rustic clothing, Sophie gathered her small bundle of belongings and started out, her determined little chin set.

At first the road was broken. Wood sleds had been out since the new snow. Her feet were as light as her heart as she thought of home and her family.

Long before the tracks ended, the castle fell out of sight. The fields were fewer and the forests were closing in. Before Sophie lay an unbroken trail, a winding white ribbon between dark walls of green. She hesitated, a little doubtful, then reassured herself aloud.

“Father promised he would come for me this morning. Surely, just around a bend or two, I will hear the bells of his sled.”

She stepped briskly into the deep snow. It was light and fluffy, quite fresh, and it was not hard walking, even though it came well above the tops of the felt boots. The sun shone, and once in a while the harsh note of a winter bird assured her that the snow had not covered all life.

She was very strong in spite of her small size, and she delighted in the rhythmic swing of walking. It was an hour or more before the stillness of the woods began to oppress, and she slowed, a doubt stirring about the wisdom of going farther.

Snow had begun to work between the tops of the felt boots and her legs. The boots were old and not as snug as they should have been. There was a wet band around the thick woolen stockings where the snow had melted. She dug out some snow, but could feel the wetness going down inside.

“Perhaps I should go back, but they don’t need me, and there is hardly space for an extra in the girls’ room.”

As she stood thinking, a faint sound vibrated through the forest. Not sure at first what it was, she turned to listen. Again the distant sound came, and she knew.

She could not go back. There were wolves behind her—far away, but between her and the castle.

She gasped a little but without wasting a moment went on, every step an emphasis to the prayer she whispered, “Lord of heaven, be with me, help me!”

Walking was no longer fun. Her ears were straining, both for the jingle of bells and for the wolves. Sometimes she found herself running and breathless. Then, fighting panic, she walked again.

For long minutes there was silence except for her own breath and footsteps. Silence—perhaps even a half-hour, until the moaning cry came again, always a little closer.

“They aren’t hunting in earnest or they would come faster,” she thought desperately.

Her feet were all wet now inside the boots, and she was tiring. The sun commenced to slip down the western slope, toward early nightfall. A pain pierced her side. When she slowed, attempting to ease it, the eerie call would again spur her on.

Her feet were so cold. If only she could rest—she was getting so tired. It was an effort to push her feet through the snow, and she could no longer lift them very high. The trail behind her was erratic, for she could not walk steadily.

A low branch draped itself over the road. She would go that far at least, before she stopped. Upon reaching the branch she set another goal, farther on.

Like a refrain, her prayer went on and on. She had no more strength to say it aloud. “Father, help me. I need thee. Help me. Send an angel to help me. Lord of all, be with me”—over and over, with a little change of words, but always the cry, “Help, Lord!”

Her strength failed until she could barely reach a fallen stub. As she leaned against it, with sobbing breath, faintness almost overwhelmed her.

She felt a hand on her shoulder, and a soft, kind voice spoke in her ear. “You cannot rest now, Sophie. Go on.”

Stupid with weariness, she turned, but no one was there. Save hers, there were no tracks in the snow. In bewilderment she pushed away from the stub, and from somewhere came renewed strength.

One step after another, one after another, while her mind forgot to listen for the wolves. Her prayer now was partly a plea and partly, faintly, questioning.

“Lord, help me. Oh, Father, was it—who was it? No one was there! Oh, be with me, Lord. I know it must have been.”

And a throbbing of her heart would send a surge of warmth to her cold hands and almost to her numbed feet. They were no longer cold, which was a relief, though somewhere in the fog of her brain, a warning note tried to get through.

She was tiring again, forgetting the wolves, forgetting everything but shoving first one foot then another through the snow.



The sun was down. In the growing darkness the upward rise looked familiar. It was familiar. She had climbed it many times and rested for a while on the log bench at the top, above the village. If only she could get that far.

It seemed an age before she stumbled into the snow-covered seat and fell upon it. Below, the village lights gleamed out on the whiteness.

It was too far. Sophie’s head sank and she felt blackness creeping about her. A hand seized her shoulder and shook her into wakefulness.

“Sophie!” Again the clear, gentle voice was insistent. “You cannot rest yet! Go home!”

Against her will, she was raised to her feet and started down the road. Her rebellious legs could not tell when her feet touched the ground, and she stumbled again and again before finally falling against a door.

All at once, her father’s face was above her, filled with consternation, lights about her, voices exclaiming, and arms bearing her into warmth that was almost unendurable.

Sophie put her hand out to me again.

“My father never forgave himself. He had good reason not to come, for my uncle had died and was buried that day. I should not have left the castle at all until he came, so it is not his fault.”

She smiled a little, remembering.

“It was a year before I could stand on my feet. They were frozen solid, and it is a miracle that I did not lose them both. My father would hold me and rock me, night after night, when I could not sleep for the pain.”

“They were pretty good feet after a while. Oh, always they were sore, and hurt when it was cold, but I could use them. Now it is time for them to rest. And someday soon”

The light in her face was pure glory.

“There were no tracks alongside mine on the snow. Someday soon I will see the angel who walked with me!”





Montreal Church, Canada



Sis. Irene Mendoza is welcomed into church membership in Toronto, Canada

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