

# *The Reformation* **Messenger**

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



“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth;  
and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.  
And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him,  
and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship  
the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”  
Revelation 13:11, 12



**WE BELIEVE:** The all-wise, loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ; He is its Owner and Sustainer. He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh. The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth, convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all unrighteousness. The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine; the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform. His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus. Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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## Sanctification - Part 4

### Evidences Of Sanctification

Are there exterior signs that a person is being sanctified? Can we tell by analyzing our thoughts and feelings whether we ourselves are walking on the path of holiness?

**“True sanctification will be evidenced by a conscientious regard for all the commandments of God, by a careful improvement of every talent, by a circumspect conversation, by revealing in every act the meekness of Christ.”** (FW, p. 53).

**“... Bible sanctification... is not merely a show or outside work. It is sanctification received through the channel of truth. It is truth received in the heart, and practically carried out in the life.”** (1T, p. 339).

**“Bible sanctification does not consist in strong emotion.... Happy feelings or the absence of joy is no evidence that a person is or is not sanctified.”** (SL, p. 10).

**“Rebellious thoughts and feelings are overcome, and the voice of Jesus awakens a new life, which pervades the entire being.** Those who are truly sanctified will not set up their own opinion as a standard of right and wrong. They are not bigoted or self-righteousness; but they are jealous of self, ever fearing lest, a promise being left them, they should come short of complying with the conditions upon which the promises are based.” (SL, p. 9).

**“Those who experience the sanctification of the Bible will manifest a spirit of humility.** Like Moses, they have had a view of the awful majesty of holiness, and they see **their own unworthiness**, in contrast with the purity and exalted perfection of the Infinite One.” (GC, p. 470).

**“A healthy man, who is able to attend to the vocations of life and who goes forth day after day to his labor with buoyant spirits and with a healthy current of blood flowing through his veins, does not call the attention of every one he meets to his soundness of body. Health and vigor are the natural conditions of his life, and therefore**

he is scarcely conscious that he is in the enjoyment of so rich a boon. Thus it is with the **truly righteous man. He is unconscious of his goodness and piety. Religious principle has become the spring of his life and conduct, and it is just as natural for him to bear the fruits of the Spirit as for the fig tree to bear figs or for the rosebush to yield roses.** His nature is so thoroughly imbued with love for God and his fellow men that he works the works of Christ with a willing heart. All who come within the sphere of his influence perceive the beauty and fragrance of his Christian life, while he himself is unconscious of it, for it is in harmony with his habits and inclinations. **He prays for divine light, and loves to walk in that light.** It is his meat and drink to do the will of his heavenly Father. His life is hid with Christ in God.” (SL, pp. 12, 13).

## Examples Of Sanctified Lives

“The prophet Daniel was an example of true sanctification.” (GC, p. 470)

“The prophet Daniel was an illustrious character. He was a bright example of what men may become when united with the God of wisdom... Daniel possessed the grace of genuine meekness. He was true, firm, and noble. He sought to live in peace with all, while he was unbending as the lofty cedar wherever principle was involved.” (SL, p. 20).

“In the life of the disciple John true sanctification is exemplified. During the years of his close association with Christ, he was often warned and cautioned by the Saviour; and these reproofs he accepted. As the character of the Divine One was manifested to him, John saw his own deficiencies, and was humbled by the revelation. Day by day, in contrast with his own violent spirit, he beheld the tenderness and forbearance of Jesus, and heard His lessons of humility and patience. Day by day his heart was drawn out to Christ, until he lost sight of self in love for his Master. The power and tenderness, the majesty and meekness, the strength and patience that he saw in the daily life of the Son of God, filled his soul with admiration. He yielded his resentful, ambitious temper to the molding power of Christ, and divine love wrought in him a transformation of character.” (AA, p. 557).

“Paul’s sanctification was a constant conflict with self. Said he, ‘I die daily.’ 1 Cor. 15:31. His will and his desires every day conflicted with duty and the will of God. Instead of following inclination, he did the will of God, however unpleasant and crucifying to his nature.” (LS, p. 237).

Sanctification as preparation for Jesus’ coming

“We are preparing to meet Him who, escorted by a retinue of holy angels, is to appear in the clouds of heaven to give the faithful and the just the finishing touch of immortality. When He comes He is not to cleanse us of our sins, to remove from us the defects in our characters, or to cure us of the infirmities of our tempers and

dispositions. If wrought for us at all, this work will all be accomplished before that time. When the Lord comes, those who are holy will be holy still. Those who have preserved their bodies and spirits in holiness, in sanctification and honor, will then receive the finishing touch of immortality. But those who are unjust, unsanctified, and filthy will remain so forever. No work will then be done for them to remove their defects and give them holy characters. The Refiner does not then sit to pursue His refining process and remove their sins and their corruption. This is all to be done in these hours of probation. It is now that this work is to be accomplished for us.” (2T, p. 355).

## A Serious Appeal

“The greatest praise that men can bring to God is to become consecrated channels through whom He can work. Time is rapidly passing into eternity. Let us not keep back from God that which is His own. Let us not refuse Him that which, though it cannot be given with merit, cannot be denied without ruin. He asks for a whole heart; give it to Him; it is His, both by creation and by redemption. He asks for your intellect; give it to Him; it is His. He asks for your money; give it to Him; it is His. ‘Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price.’ 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20. God requires the homage of a sanctified soul, which has prepared itself, by the exercise of the faith that works by love, to serve Him. He holds up before us the highest ideal, even perfection. He asks us to be absolutely and completely for Him in this world as He is for us in the presence of God.” (AA, p. 566).

“‘This is the will of God’ concerning you, ‘even your sanctification.’ 1 Thessalonians 4:3. Is it your will also? Your sins may be as mountains before you; but if you humble your heart and confess your sins, trusting in the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour, He will forgive and will cleanse you from all unrighteousness. God demands of you entire conformity to His law. This law is the echo of His voice saying to you, Holier, yes, holier still. Desire the fullness of the grace of Christ. Let your heart be filled with an intense longing for His righteousness, the work of which God’s word declares is peace, and its effect quietness and assurance forever.” (AA, p. 566). **AMEN**

**Teresa Corti**





With great wonder and surprise many professed Christians look down on pagan image worshippers, wondering how it is possible that intelligent people would stoop down to worship gods of wood, stone and metal, and not realizing that they have idols in their own lives.

“So long have men worshipped human opinions and human institutions that almost the whole world is following after idols.” PK, p. 186.

Millions of professed Christians, while thinking that they serve God, in reality worship idols of this world, and give their devotion to Satan, the prince of this world.

Even the people of God, the house of Jacob did fall into idol worship. “Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made.” Isa. 2:8.

Is it any different today? Do not the people worship the things their hands have made: that is, modern science, technology, houses, cars, furniture and luxury items. Whatever takes our time and attention above the time and attention spent on spiritual things becomes an idol to us.

Count the hours of the day that you spent thinking of God and how many hours were spent thinking of your home, property, family, and secular work.

You may say, “I must care for myself and for my family. I must work to earn money for life expenses.” Then you are truly an idol worshipper, because Jesus said, “Therefore take no thought, saying, what shall we eat? or, what shall we drink? or, wherewith shall we be clothed? For all these things do the Gentiles seek: for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matt. 6: 31-33.

It takes faith to trust in God; therefore very few put out their best effort into seeking God’s kingdom and His righteousness, and less effort to provide material needs.

Very often, seeking the kingdom of God takes the second place in life. Less time is spent with God, less money is spent for God’s work, less effort is spent to save souls to God’s kingdom than is spent in worldly things.

It is not sin to have money and riches, but to love it and worship it becomes a sin. To put out greater effort to gain money than to seeking the kingdom of God is sin. Money and riches are great idols that almost the whole world is worshipping.

Sister White writes, “They worship their earthly treasure, as the ignorant heathen does his idols.” Test. Vol. 1, p. 477.

“For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.” Eph. 5:5.

A covetous man is an idolater and breaks the tenth commandment.

“For the love of money is the root of all evil.” 1 Tim. 6:10.

## **Appetite**

Other have a different idol.

“Whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.” Phil. 3:19.

To gratify perverted appetite is sin. This was the first sin committed in Paradise, and this idol has destroyed millions of Christians. Christ fasted 40 days in order to overcome this idol. “Christ knew that the appetite would be man’s idol, and would lead him to forget God, and stand directly in the way of his salvation.” 5 B.C., p. 1080.

## **Vanity**

Another idol that people worship is vanity. Almost the whole world bows to it. Billions of dollars are spent on the altar of this idol needlessly. Time, effort, and even health are sacrificed to this god.

“For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a life, and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain.” Zech. 10:2.

The entertainment that people love cost them time and money: Movies, theatres, television, Internet, books and magazines destroy a Christian’s prayer life, desire to read the Bible, and to engage in missionary work.

Sister White writes, “Worldly amusements and entertainment are to have no place in the life of the Christian.” Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 514.

The idol of vanity includes also the fashions of this world, and many are enslaved to this idol. The money wasted on fashions could relieve the suffering in the world where thousands die daily for the lack of food.

“How long will ye love vanity?” Ps. 4:2.

“Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.” Ps. 24: 1, 2.

The Old Israel were taken away from their country because they

followed after vanity. “And they followed vanity and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them.” 2 Kings 17:15.

Apostle Paul gives us counsel, “This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind.” Eph. 4:17.

This means that even our thoughts and imaginations must not dwell on vain things; especially day-dreaming corrupts our minds.

## **Selfishness**

Many make a god of themselves. They worship their own body, their mind, their talents, their abilities and knowledge, and this is called selfishness. If anyone touch their idol, quickly they become offended and angry.

“Selfishness is curse to yourself and to all around you.” Test. Vol. 2, p. 543.

“Selfishness is abomination in the sight of God and holy angels. Because of this sin many fail to attain the good which they are capable of enjoying. They look with selfish eyes on their own things, and do not love and seek the interest of others as they do their own.” Test. Vol. 2, p. 551.

A selfish Christian is a dead Christian., there is no spiritual life in him. Yet many professed Christians cherish this idol very dearly. Before Christ can live in our hearts, selfishness must be put out.

## **Music**

“Music has occupied the hours which should have been devoted to prayer. Music is the idol which many Sabbathkeeping Christians worship. Satan has no objection to music if he can make that a channel through which to gain access to the minds of youth... When turned to good account, music is a blessing; but it is often made one of Satan’s most attractive agencies to ensnare souls. When abused, it leads the unconsecrated to pride, vanity, and folly. When allowed to take place of devotion and prayer, it is a terrible curse.” Test. Vol. 1, p. 506.

## **Love of the World**

We see idols in the world, they are on the right and left of us. But to have an idol in our heart, which is the inner temple of our soul, is similar to the old Israel who set up an idol in the temple of God.

“Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the Lord will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols.” Ezek. 14:4.



Love of the world, vain thoughts and imaginations, bitterness, dissatisfaction set up idols in our very heart, and the Holy Spirit must leave it; Christ cannot enter into the divided heart.

And finally, the words will be spoken by the Lord, "Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone." Hosea 4:17.

Revelation chapter 21, verse 8 says that idolaters shall have their part in the lake of fire.

The apostle Paul makes an appeal to us, "What concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the

temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Cor. 6:15-18.

Let us set up an altar in our hearts for our God only, and cast out every idol. Let us remember the first commandment, "I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt have no other gods before Me." This is my wish and prayer for all of us. **AMEN.**

***Timo Martin, Canada***

## BAPTISM IN LONDON, ON





*"Then I saw another beast coming out from the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon."  
(Revelation 13:11)*

## EL DIABOLO

I don't understand, in great wonderment, why people cannot see the fulfillment of prophecy in the dire signs seen in the heavens and earth that show, unmistakably, the day of the Lord's return.

A Grim Scenario Unfolds: Snow has fallen in Africa, droplets of blood raining down from the heavens in Colombia, balls of hail falling in parts of the U.S.A. On a clear sunny day, floods, hurricanes, tsunamis, tornadoes, fires are raging throughout the world, mall killings, heinous massacres, pestilences, famines (39 million people in the world are starving), droughts, rising sea levels, pirating, kidnappings, water shortages, suicides, same sex marriages, pornography, locusts en masse invading Australia, Al-Qaeda nuclear and biologic terror plots, fifty active wars, nuclear bomb fears by rogue countries, rampaging gunmen, rioting, pedophile ministers, sexual abuse, kidnappings, burgeoning refugees, idolatry, turbulent global economy, sanctions, joblessness, worsening unemployment, a chilling global financial crisis, plunging profits, declining stock markets -- battered shares, gloomy global retail sector, bailouts, bribery, scandals, collapsing banks, bankruptcies - crisis after crisis, and on and on and on! Sign after sign after sign; day after day! We are entering into a new dark age! The darkest hour is just before the arrival of the Sun. The world is ready for the end. Sin is ripe. We see sinners going down into the depths of sin! "His restraining power will be removed from the agencies of evil so that a train of circumstances will arise which will punish sin with sin."(PP728.1). The flood of waters in the days of Noah and the deluge of fire in the days of Lot are not to be compared with the tempest of wrath which threatens to break in upon the world of the ungodly.

Oh! What stirring scenes and a bleak picture of the "signs of the times!" It takes courage to read the news in "these Perilous Times!" "Woe is me!" "Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short." (Rev. 12:12). "But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! For there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people." (Luke 21:23). Moreover, Revelation 8:13 (NLT) says: "Then I looked up. And I heard a single eagle crying loudly as it flew through the air, Terror, terror, terror to all who belong to this world because of what will happen" Note that the word Woe in the KJV is called terror here!

Global warming, too, is causing catastrophic weather changes. A fire-ball meteorite streaked across the sky near Alberta, Canada. An asteroid circling the globe is acting abnormally in a frightening collision course with Planet Earth. Astronomers discovered a giant hole in the universe southwest of Orion. The mysterious empty place has no galaxies, stars or even dark matter. The hole in the





heavens is a billion light years across!

A Japanese spacecraft discovered an “impossible” asteroid. It’s twice as porous as loose sand! Scientists were astonished as asteroids are dense as rock. Here is a giant hole and asteroid that challenges scientific understanding! “Cities will be visited by great destruction and God’s judgments.”(CL 7.2, 7.5; 8.1,8.3,8.4) (Ev 29). But, “Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.” (Psalm 147:5). Scientists say El Nino is the cause of many of these bizarre and mysterious phenomena; but, in fact it’s... El Diabolo!

## PERILOUS MEN

Not only are we living in Perilous Times, but in times of perilous men. “But know this, that in the last days Perilous Times will come. For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of Godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”(2Tim3:1-5).

We are living in earnest times! (serious times). Still, never was there a period of history which called for so much earnestness as now. It’s a time when young and old need to be in earnest (with serious intent), to put down their evil ways of life. The Last Days and Perilous Times, have come, and all the wicked characteristics described by Apostle Paul to Timothy, his companion, can be plainly discerned. Yes, a wicked world; yes, the professed church, “lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.”

This “form of Godliness” is the external characteristics of religion, such as church attendance, church gifts, and even personal service for the church! This characteristic applies specifically to those who merely “identify” themselves with Christianity. They profess loyalty to God’s way of life and yet reveal no tangible evidence of a development in Christlikeness! This has been a greater handicap to the progress of the gospel than any other factor! Yet, the few who are striving to repair the breach in the Law of God, and have “not defiled their garments” are still looking for His Son from Heaven.

## BABEL – 2

But, in spite of this, we live in the very best of times. Knowledge and technology make life simpler and easier; another prophetic sign, “But you, Daniel, “shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”(Dan 12:4). Ah! But yet, we live in the very worst times, for we know that technology threatens our very existence!

Now, with this knowledge scientists have cloned their first animal – Dolly the sheep. Just a few years later, another scientist, Dr. Newman, a biologist from the New York Medical College has planned to clone the first human being; one half man and one half

animal – a chimera (kentauros – GR mythology). His religious sect, the Rialians, are shaking their fist at God, saying, “we’re standing on the edge of eternal life!” He was, however, denied a patent to proceed by the U.S. Government. Sounds incredible, but so was the thought of man walking on the moon fifty years ago! DNA mapping and stem-cell research is also being hotly contested. Furthermore, HRT (hormonal replacement therapy) is at variance.

Well, the men of the city of Babel in the plain of Shinar said, “come, let us build a city and a tower whose top is in the heavens, let us make a name for ourselves.” But, God said, “nothing that they do will be withheld from them that they have imagined, but the Lord confused the language.”(Gen 11:1-9). Man continues, however, to defy God in his quest for grandeur, as the Burg Dubai, in Dubai, UAE, one hundred twenty eight floors, (2,657 feet), about 700 meters high, almost one kilometer, is reputedly the highest building in the world – Babel – 2! Again, “let us make a name for ourselves.” (v-4). You see, man still officially erects a tower of Babel against God and forfeits His rule over them, as God’s angel is dispatched to instruct protecting angels to let go of their restraint upon forces of destruction. His judgment is then executed and punishment is visited.”(21 NE 66.6). “Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.”(Jam5:1-3). I just wonder if a fiery bolt of lightning from Heaven will acknowledge this? In some earthquakes, we are now seeing tall buildings going down... sky scrapers!

## AGITATION AND CONTROVERSY

But, let’s go down and not up! I believe it is time that Jesus will soon come down again, and I want to be ready when He does. What do you say? Are you ready? Yes, no, I hope, I don’t know?! How can you say no, I hope, or I don’t know, and be excited about the coming of Jesus? So, say YES! Now, it is a wonder, that even worldlings, with the Bible in their hands, still “cannot discern the signs of the times!” And especially it’s a wonder that professed Christians can see no signs of the coming of Him, “they love and long to see!” If the coming of Jesus is at hand, now is the time for agitation and controversy, and a test upon the commandments of God, in order to restore what the first beast – the Papacy – has trodden under foot!

Such agitation and controversy is now taking place! And while the religious world in general, are trying to make it appear that the change of the Ten Commandments is by divine authority, professed believers, in the fulfillment of prophecy, who know from the signs of the times that the Advent is at hand, seeing that others fail to prove a change in the Ten Commandments, coolly tell us that the entire Moral Code has been abolished! Can’t they see that the prophecy of this controversy and test on the commandments itself shows where the truth lies?

In spite of this agitation and controversy with the commandments, morality, ethical conduct, and consumer confidence, continues to decline to rock bottom in banks, institutions, corporations, and governments. Scandals, scams, and disclosures are rampant as



the economy “melts down globally.” Panic and fear grips mankind worldwide, “men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”(Matt. 21:26). The threat of terrorism prevails with the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security in the U.S.A. after 9/11. Nations cannot agree upon a peace plan. The gap between the rich and the poor is rapidly widening. You see, in such a state, the stress of surviving, consequently, is overwhelming.

## **SICK, SICK, SICK!**

We are today, therefore, more than ever, living in Perilous Times and amongst perilous men. So, Apostle Paul, in his letter to young Timothy, reminds him of the coming days before him, filled with peril, and dripping with the blood of grief, difficulties, and agonizing trials!

There was a time when the Seventh Day Adventist pastors’ message of health reform merely referred to proper rest, vegetarian diet, exercise, fresh, air and clean water to achieve a long life. Ah! Well, it’s not true anymore! Fruits and vegetables are liberally sprayed with pesticide-carcinogenic elements. Lettuce, spinach, green onions, chilies, etc., are irrigated from cow ponds infected with E. Coli. Second-hand tobacco smoke inhaled by a bystander is as bad or worse than smoking. Global warming adversely affects the pulmonary system. Melanine, a deadly poison is found in infant formulas. New and more virulent diseases are surfacing, with no known cause, mode of communication, or a cure! Incredible!

Avian flu (bird flu), suspected from poultry, will soon be pandemic. SARS, a serious respiratory disease, is a mystery to scientists, with no cure. Dr. Yingjun, a Chinese doctor, studied residents of one province in China to determine any relationship between SARS and their exotic diet. Their diet is: monkey brains, snake and cat soup, and stir-fried rats! Well, we know the relationship without the Doctor’s findings in EGW’s Counsel on Diet and Foods, “Disease never comes without a cause. The way is prepared and the disease is invited by disregard of the health laws.”

A new disease, furthermore, mysteriously appeared in cattle after they were loaded on the trucks to be transported to the slaughterhouses (not in the pastures!). Their eyes and noses were profusely filled with running, putrid mucus!

This condition was identified as Mad Cow Disease! The FDA has been said to suppress this disease and its link to the rapid rise in Alzheimer’s disease. Ebola virus, and its link to monkeys, is killing thousands in Africa. Cholera is on the rampage in Africa. The number one killer of young Americans age 25 to 44 is HIV and AIDS, and not accidents anymore! Mathew 24:7 says, “There shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.” Pestilences are epidemics which are fatal contagious diseases! Newsweek called these times as the “Age of Epidemics.” But, in

fact, it is the “Sign Of The Times!”

## **DON’T EXPECT IT!**

In Perilous Times as these, we need an anchor of Hope! But, don’t expect any medical achievements or breakthroughs to bring us any sought-after hope and good health. Don’t expect the UN to bring world peace. Don’t expect the American IEC (Insurance and Exchange Commission), FR (Federal Reserve), WB (World Bank), or IMF (International Monetary Fund), to reverse the economy. Don’t expect the Congress, Parliament, Rulers, Kings, or Presidents to provide for greater prosperity. Why? Simply because we are in a landslide fulfillment of two great time prophecies ; the 1260 years and the 2300 years. Only the God of Heaven could give two prophecies like this, two time prophecies beginning more than a thousand years apart in ancient history and ending less than fifty years apart in our day! Jesus is coming!!

Economic and world disaster certainly looms ahead, rapidly plummeting Planet Earth into a mire of death; the great time of trouble. “Unsheltered by divine grace, they (the wicked) have no protection from the wicked one. Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old.” (GC 614:1-2)

We need an anchor and beacon of hope, and trust in the Word of God in these Perilous Times. The best anchor is Jesus Christ, our Rock and Friend; a dependable assurance. The Great Controversy between the King of Kings, and the Prince of Darkness is nearly ready to end. It is centered on a day of worship! But, the Prince wants to be like the King; wants to be the center of worship. EGW said, “The great test of loyalty is the Sabbath Day.” (Last Day Events). On this day hinges the fate of the world... a day!

## **FEROCIOUS BEAST**

In our opening text (Rev 13:11-14), we saw a “beast emerge from the sea,” and a second “beast emerge from the earth.” The second beast was strikingly different – ferocious! In Revelation 17 water signifies – people, and the earth – as a scarcity of people. EGW writes in the Great Controversy, that “one nation and only one nation meets this prophecy. It points without a doubt to the USA.”

Now, this second beast has two horns and is like a lamb; tranquil, and gentle; it also speaks like a dragon, and is frightfully ferocious, but, it looked like a lamb indeed. In the U.S Declaration of Independence, it is stated that “all men are created equal,” but this one speaks like a fearless dragon with all its mighty military power and awe to the world. Yet, it looks like a gentle lamb; an attraction for the world, seeking a land of refuge where the poor, persecuted and downtrodden masses can flee to for security, freedom of religion,



speech, and economic prosperity... a better life.

Ah! But, this “lamb” speaks like a “dragon,” prodding or goading every nation in the world to make a decision; a decision without a choice. “You are either for us or against us,” or “with the enemy – the terrorists!” You see, there is a paradoxically unique difference in the appearance and the actions of this beastly beast! Yet, this lofty beast looks kind, humble, gentle, and accommodating, but its actions are arrogant and persecuting. It even looks like a lamb, when it walks so softly, but speaks with the thunderous voice of a slithering, monstrous dragon, that carries a big stick, poised to strike a deathly blow!

Now, in Revelation 13, the word, “worship” is used many times. In the last final chapter of Planet Earth’s history, “worship” will be the deciding factor!” The second beast (USA), will cause the whole earth to worship the first beast (the Papacy). This first beast, the Papacy, makes war with the saints, causing them to be persecuted for their religious beliefs. The supreme power of the second beast will, by persecution cause the world to worship the false religion of the Papacy, the Popery... the Sunday worship as opposed to the true Biblical day of worship... the Sabbath Day of the Fourth Commandment.

## THE SUNDAY LAW AND HOMOSEXUALITY

Many people in the USA (83% Christian), however, are very prone, or believe a law ought to be passed to elevate and strengthen Christianity in a world plagued by paganism, diverse religions, and disbelief. Blue Laws (Sunday laws), in some states, municipalities, townships, and cities have existed in the USA for many years. Earlier, the Jews took the matter to court and lost. Now over eight states have more than one hundred and forty-three Blue Laws on the books, waiting for the Prince and the Beast to give the authority for enforcement.

To elaborate on this further, homosexuals have fought sodomy laws on the basis that the State has no right to intercede by law as to what two consenting adults do in the privacy of their homes. They fought and won the decision on their behalf. What is the importance of this for us today? Well, we will use the same argument when the Sunday Law is passed. What difference does it make to the State Government, whether we worship on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday? So, because these homosexuals won the decision, “gays” came out in droves who want to get married like anyone else.

Two states now approve same-sex marriages; Massachusetts, and Connecticut. California, by a referendum, has banned such marriages. Thousands protested, but to no avail. Now, homosexuality is not permitted by the Word of God (Rom 1:24-27). Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for such practices. God created two sacred institutions; marriage and the Sabbath Day; the sixth and seventh day of God’s creation.

Here is the point! So, if the government can step in and define the laws of marriage, and the first institution, they can come in and set and define the Sabbath Day, and the second institution! Get it? The late Pope John Paul II, moreover, said, “Laws need to be passed to elevate the sanctity of Sunday as a sacred day of rest.” Now do you see why Sis. White said, “The Sabbath Day is the great test of loyalty?” You see, Satan, the wily one, takes things we all agree upon, such as morality, and then moves to gain our cooperation on matters of doctrine, such as the Sabbath Day.

## IT’S THE LAW!

At a meeting of the Religious Coalition in the USA, the openings remarks were, “America is declining. We are here on a mission to save America.” A former southern State Supreme Court Judge, also present, stated, “we need to pass laws, which will adversely affect some minority religions, but we have to do it for the good of the nation.” This clearly fulfills the Great Controversy statement, “In order for the USA to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.” The wall of separation of church and state is crumbling!

Moreover, powerful organized Conservative Christians (Religious Right) (Moral Majority) etc., such as the Christian Coalition, propose to make America into a Christian nation, thereby turning this nation (USA) around! They are on a crusade to take over U.S. politics. Not only the Christian Coalition, but many other religious right organizations. They are becoming successful and growing fast. The Christian Coalition is penetrating into the government more so than any religious organization in this century. But, they have “worthy goals,” such as: re-establish prayer in public places, restrict abortions, bring the Ten Commandments back to public view, no homosexual adoptions, no legal gay marriages, the annual Ten Commandment Day, etc.

Sound like worthy goals, eh? But, their goal is to “impose” their version of a Bible-backed morality on the public at large! The ultimate objective is to bring about a law to enforce church attendance on Sunday. Ah! But, now they mask this day by naming it The National Day of Rest; based around a “working time directive!” The U.S. Supreme court and the U.S. Congress has a majority of Catholic Senators and Justices who could authorize such a law. Bad things happen when religion controls government.

In Revelation 17:3 we see, “a prostitute riding a beast.” The wicked woman is a church. Not God’s true church! No! This is the fallen churches of the last days; Ecumenical Movement, World Council of Churches, etc. There is no lack of names, but there is a lack of life! Where is the Spirit of the living God? They have a name to live but are dead! They have their piety? Where is sincere religion? Where is practical Godliness? Where is firm, decisive, piety? ”In the sleeping disciples He (Jesus), saw a representation of a sleeping church! When they should be watching, they are asleep”



(Sufferings of Christ, pp19,20). So, you know what is wrong with the whole thing? We don't solve the moral problems of a nation by looking to government. Oh! We must look to Jesus!

What we need is not more laws but more of the character of Jesus written inside our hearts; not an amendment of our constitution, but for an amendment of the heart! Only Jesus can give us a new heart!

So, let's get ready for the coming of Jesus! What are you waiting for?

## SHAKING TIME AHEAD, OR NOW?

"Many fanatical, poisoning and erroneous ideas are being disseminated, and are creeping into the Church, before the Advent of Jesus Christ." (GC 321; 7BC 909; SL 63-5).

"Many Churches are choosing Barabbas instead of Christ." (5BC1106). In fact, the Church is going to experience a shaking time like never before. Those who are anchored to their favorite television Evangelist and his private jet, those who are anchored to mom's religion, those who are anchored to their check book, those who are anchored to their education, hobbies, or work, will tremble and be shaken away!

Now, in order to survive the shaking time, you need to be anchored to Jesus Christ, the Rock. Jesus said, "during the shaking time, false Christs, and prophets will show signs, and wonders, and if possible the very elect will be deceived." Who are the very elect? Ah! Why, you and I! Paul said, "Let no one deceive you by any means for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition." (2Thess. 2:3). "And no wonder! For Satan, himself, transforms himself into an angel of light." (2Cor. 11:14). So, our only hope in these Perilous Times is to be anchored to Jesus Christ and upon the Word of God.

So, if a beautiful angel appears before you and says "the Law of God is done away with, and the fourth commandment is not binding," just think of what God said in the Old Testament. "I am the Lord, I change not." Also, Jesus said in the New Testament, "heaven and earth shall pass before one jot or tittle will be removed from His Law." (Matt. 5:18). If you are awakened in the middle of the night by an apparition of your dear departed mother and she has come to advise you of your future, you advise her that, "the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten." (Eccl. 9:4). If a message comes to you by the messenger that Christ has come and we need to go down to the Mall or the Stadium, where we can see Him, you send a message by the messenger that when my Lord comes, "behold He cometh in clouds and every eye shall see Him." (Rev. 1:7). If, therefore, you want to survive the shaking times, you need to study the Word of God!

It is in Perilous Times like these that those who are not anchored to the Rock are going to leave the Church and become some of the bitterest enemies of Truth and Light. Some leave because the employer's requirements are to work on the Sabbath Day, and they lack the faith and trust that God can provide for their needs. Others leave the Church because the Church won't change the doctrines to meet their personal standards, and consequently, join the common social circles. Others leave the Church because of what some member said and hurt his or her feelings so they leave the Church.

You see, they have spiritual myopia. They cannot see any further than their neighbour's faults! Others leave because of what the treasurer did, or deacon, or elder did, or what the pastor, or worker did. You see, the relationship with God is horizontal and not vertical! It really doesn't matter why they leave the Church, the devil is happy when he can shake you away from the people of God, and belong to him.

## THEATRE OR CHURCH?

So, it is, that in Perilous Times like these, we don't have to be shaken away or out by unbiblical doctrines, or the vain philosophy of some shallow, frivolous television evangelists in their Prada shoes, or entertaining pastors, speaking smooth things from the pulpit, drawing hordes of spectators into the mega and super mega Churches. "It's more like a theatre than a place of worship on Sunday." (4T 642-3). It is not a worship service but "Christian" rock groups performing; pews filled with, not parishioners, but with "Rock Fans!" And all with laser lights, smoke machines, and cappuccino stations! EGW calls them "goody-goody churches." Furthermore, "religion has become fashionable!" (C.H. Spurgeon).

Ah! There's also the "convenience churches." Churches to make the Christian life more "convenient." They choose to practice Christianity on Sundays or Sabbaths only. They attend a religious service at any church that makes them more "comfortable." They might give a small offering, and are nice and folksy to fellow church goers – nothing that requires much effort on their part. They might hear a verse, a humorous story, no inspiring message; entertained a little, conscience salved, but the same life style! Ah! So, that way they can have the rest of the week all to themselves, to live as they please; a freedom of choice! No commitment, no sacrifice, no sanctity, no confession, no repentance; no blessing, no change... no eternal life!

You see, being a follower of Christ means surrendering our lives totally to Him. (Matt. 16; 25). Ah! But, you see, there's no distinction between the nominal church and the world. Or, if there is any difference, you are, sadly, frequently safer in dealing with an ungodly man than with one who is professedly righteous! Ah! Now, we have an abundance of cold, calculating Christians, multitudes of professors; but where are the zealous ones? The faithful ones? Awake! Awake! Arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light!

"Whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."(Matt. 16:25)

## IT'S TOO MUCH!

William Wordsworth wrote, "The world is too much with us." He means we get caught up in the world's frenzy and glitter, and fail to appreciate God's creation. Also, too much when we see people suffer for their faith in God, and will greatly increase as the end approaches; tragedies, injustices, abuses, fears, brutalities. Ah! But despite these sad and dire situations in the world today, or your own account of treatment, we have the hope that comes from being God's "plucked out" children (Rom 8:16, 17). We can even call our Creator, "Abba Father" (v.15). Now, we have His promise, too, of future glory – a glory that far overshadows, "the sufferings of these Perilous Times."(v.18). You see, if the burdens of this world, and fast fulfilling events are too much with you, look UP to your heavenly Father. He lovingly offers help, hope, and peace to His struggling children. No one is hopeless who knows the God of hope! Just think! No more heartaches, no more dark clouds in the sky, no more tears to dim your eyes, no more pain, or suffering, no more fear, or sleepless nights, and no dust! Oh! What a glorious day that will be for "those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life." (Rev. 21:27)

Therefore, if you want to secure your eternity, read the Word of God, and read it daily! For, it is the Word of God that will fortify your mind against error and terror and a hum-drum existence. That is why we need in Perilous Times such as these, a Saviour, and an anchor that holds and grips the solid Rock!

Where is your anchor today, dear friends? Is it upon the solid Rock? Or, is it upon the time and place in which we live?

When a ship comes into the harbor and drops anchor and the anchor drags the mud of the river bottom, when the tide comes in the ship will drift away out to sea. But, if the anchor grips the bed rock of the river bottom, a one hundred ton freighter will not drift any farther than the strength of the anchor.

Where is your anchor today? What are you doing, my dear souls and friends? Are you zealous in the work of repentance and reform? Are you earnest when the hour of probation is coming to a close? Are you earnest in trying to save your own soul, and scatter some rays of light to perishing souls around you? "Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways!" (Haggai 1:7).

Let's anchor upon the Word of God, incarnate, the solid Rock!

May God bless the silent messengers, to shine their light on others.

I am thankful that you all may do this. Hallelujah! **Amen.**  
**John Theodorou, USA**



**BR. Naphtali And His Wife**  
**New York, USA**



# The History Of The Ark

Among the righteous still in Jerusalem, to whom had been made plain the divine purpose, were some who determined to place beyond the reach of ruthless hands the sacred ark containing the tables of stone on which had been traced the precepts of the Decalogue. This they did. With mourning and sadness they secreted the ark in a cave, where it was to be hidden from the people of Israel and Judah because of their sins, and was to be no more restored to them. That sacred ark is yet hidden. It has never been disturbed since it was secreted. {Prophets and Kings p. 453.2}

“When Solomon’s Temple was built, the ark was placed in the holy of holies where it remained until taken by the prophet Jeremiah and hid in a cave in the mountains before the Babylonian captivity, lest it should fall into the hands of the gentiles.” The Cross and Its Shadow, by Stephen N. Haskell p.48.

“And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show thee, [after] the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make [it].” Exodus 25:8, 9

“And thou shalt hang up the veil under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the veil the ark of the testimony: and the veil shall divide unto you between the holy [place] and the most holy. And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy [place].” Exodus 26:33,34

“And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which [are] upon the ark of the testimony, of all [things] which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.” Exodus 25:21, 22

The sanctuary was the dwelling place of God, and the ark symbolized the throne of God. God’s visible presence was manifested above the mercy seat. Exodus 25: 21, 22

“The presence of God was taken out of the sanctuary through the disobedience of the children of Israel, ‘and was to be no more restored to them.’” {Prophets and Kings p. 453.2}

For this reason, the prophet Haggai declared that the second temple built under Zerubbabel could not have the glory of God like the first temple because the ark was taken from the temple and was not there during the time of Zerubbabel. Says Haggai, “In the seventh [month], in the one and twentieth [day] of the month, came the word of the LORD by the prophet Haggai, saying, Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying, Who [is] left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? [is it] not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?” Haggai 2:1-3

“Since not quite 70 years had elapsed since the destruction of the temple, it is quite possible that some of the older people present had seen the former temple in their childhood. Some commentators think that Haggai himself was old enough to have seen it. The difference between the magnificent ‘glory’ of Solomon’s temple and the disappointing appearance of this building must have brought deep sorrow to the people such as they had felt at the laying of the foundation 15 years earlier. Ezra 3:11- 13” S.D.A. Bible Commentary, vol. 4 p. 1079

The presence of God departed from the sanctuary. But God so loved Israel that He did not leave them alone; He sent His only begotten Son to dwell among them but they did not receive Him. They excluded Him from His own sanctuary.

The Lord promised that He will fill the second temple under Zerubbabel with glory. “And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.” Haggai 2:7, 9

I will fill this house with glory: This was fulfilled when Christ came to the temple (Mal. 3:1; John 2:13, 16). The temple to which Christ came was called Herod’s temple (Luke 3:1; John 2:13- 16, Great controversy, p. 23, 34)

Because of the presence of Christ the glory of the second temple was greater than that of the former. The second temple was honored with the living presence of one in whom “dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” (Col. 2: 9 ) S.D.A. Bible Commentary, vol. 4, p. 1079.

“But Israel knew not the time of her visitation. The jealousy and distrust of the Jewish leaders had ripened into open hatred, and the hearts of the people were turned away from Jesus. The Sanhedrin had rejected Christ’s message and was bent upon His death; therefore Jesus departed from Jerusalem, from the priests, the temple, the religious leaders, the people who had been instructed in the law, and turned to another class to proclaim His message and to gather out those who should carry the gospel to all nations.” {Desire of Ages 231, 232}

“There were then among them aged men who had seen the glory of Solomon’s temple, and who wept at the foundation of the new building, that it must be so inferior to the former. The feeling that prevailed is forcibly described by the prophet: ‘Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?’ Haggai 2:3; Ezra 3:12. Then was given the promise that the glory of this latter house should be greater than that of the former.” {GC 23.3}

“But the second temple had not equaled the first in magnificence; nor was it hallowed by those visible tokens of the divine presence which pertained to the first temple. There was no manifestation

of supernatural power to mark its dedication. No cloud of glory was seen to fill the newly erected sanctuary. No fire from heaven descended to consume the sacrifice upon its altar. The Shekinah no longer abode between the cherubim in the most holy place; the ark, the mercy seat, and the tables of the testimony were not to be found therein. No voice sounded from heaven to make known to the inquiring priest the will of Jehovah.” {GC 24.1}

“For centuries the Jews had vainly endeavored to show wherein the promise of God given by Haggai had been fulfilled; yet pride and unbelief blinded their minds to the true meaning of the prophet’s words. The second temple was not honored with the cloud of Jehovah’s glory, but with the living presence of One in whom dwelt the fullness of the Godhead bodily--who was God Himself manifest in the flesh.” Great Controversy p. 23-24.

Christ’s departure from the temple, brought Jerusalem to its desolation in A.D. 70. They did not accept the glory of God.

No more any prophet:

During the exile of the children of Israel in the land of Babylon, there was no existence of any true prophet of God in the land of Israel, as we read in the following verses:

“They have cast fire into thy sanctuary, they have defiled [by casting down] the dwelling place of thy name to the ground. They said in their hearts, Let us destroy them together: they have burned up all the synagogues of God in the land. We see not our signs: [there is] no more any prophet: neither [is there] among us any that knoweth how long.” Psalm 74:7- 9

“Her gates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars: her king and her princes [are] among the Gentiles: the law [is] no [more]; her prophets also find no vision from the LORD.” Lamentations 2:9

“Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients.” Ezekiel 7:26

EMMANUEL (God with us):

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

“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

Note: Christ, who dwelt in the temple of the Israelites, came again as Emmanuel in Israel but the Bible says: “He came unto His own, and his own received Him not.” John 1:11

Therefore: “Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord.” Matt. 23:38, 39

“And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to [him] for to show him the buildings of the temple.” Matt. 24:1

“In the presence of Christ, and in this only, did the second temple exceed the first in glory. But Israel had put from her the proffered Gift of heaven. With the humble Teacher who had that day passed out from its golden gate, the glory had forever departed from the temple. Already were the Saviour’s words fulfilled: ‘Your house is left unto you desolate.’ Matthew 23:38.” {Great Controversy p. 24: 2}

“Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave [them] all into his hand. And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all [these] he brought to Babylon. And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.” 2 Chronicles 36:17- 19

“So also, Christ came to his own (Israel) and his own received him not.” John 1:11

“And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple.” Matt. 24:1

“And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, there shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” Matt 24: 2 (The destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans).

So also if Christ is excluded from the soul temple, one is left for destruction. Because the body is the temple of the living God. “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which [temple] ye are.” 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17

Spiritual Israel: “But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on His name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:12, 13

The words of the prophets were fulfilled, as it is written:

“After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.” Acts: 15:15-17

“In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this. All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, which say, The evil shall not overtake nor prevent us.” Amos 9:11, 12

There will also be a temple in the new earth, glorious because of the presence of Christ among His people. Says John: “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God.” Rev. 21:3

Tabernacle. Greek: Skene, “tent,” “booth,” “tabernacle;” The verb skenoo, “to tent,” “to dwell,” appears in John 1: 14: “The word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” The visible presence of God was made plain by the shekinah in the days of the theocracy, and later by the personal appearance of Jesus Christ as a member of the human family, dwelling among men. His great voice from heaven now stresses the wonderful fact of a new creation and of God dwelling personally with His people.

With men: Later in the verse the phrase “with them” appears twice. Three times in the verse the apostle uses the preposition “with”, thereby stressing the amazing fact of God keeping company with men throughout eternity, making home with men.

Dwell: Greek: skenoo (see above on “tabernacle”). Compare this verse with Ezekiel 37: 27. Ezekiel describes the condition as they might have been; John, conditions as they will be fulfilled. ---S.D.A Bible Commentary vol. 7 p.890.

“And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light [was] like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.” Rev. 21:10, 11

The Glory of God: This probably refers to the abiding presence of God with His people throughout eternity. The glory that denotes his presence will never leave the New Jerusalem. Compare Exodus 40:34; 1 Kings 8:11

Light: Greek is phoster, “a luminary,” “a light giving body.” The word occurs in Phil. 2: 15 in the clause, “among whom ye shine as lights



(luminaries) in the world.” The “light” of the city is the “glory” of God mentioned in the preceding comment. (See Rev. 21: 23) S.D.A Bible Commentary, Vol. 7 p. 891

“There is the New Jerusalem, ‘having the glory of God,’ her light ‘like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.’ Rev. 21:11. Saith the Lord, ‘I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people.’ Isa. 65:19. ‘The tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.’ Rev. 21:3, 4.” {Story of Redemption p. 431.2}

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of [his] government and peace [there shall be] no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.” Isaiah 9:6, 7 **AMEN.**

**Gabriel Asamoal, Beria Missionary Institute**

James & Tiffany from Toronto  
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# Don't Cut The Rope

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." Heb. 10:35, 36

Do you remember singing this beautiful hymn, "I will follow thee my Saviour where so e'er my lot may be... and though all men should forsake thee, by thy grace, I'll follow thee?" No matter what, I am going to stay with You. Can you remember when you made that decision to follow Jesus?

What were the circumstances that brought you to such a conclusion, such a decision, that you were going to go all the way with God irregardless of the consequence? What happened in your mind? Was it a powerful study of God's Word, that really captured you and, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, you decided, that's it, I'm going to go ahead with this? Or was it under a series of sermons? Whatever the circumstance was, can you recall the focus that was in your mind? Nothing else mattered. Only the pure word that really was clear in your mind. Nothing was permitted to interfere with your mind set. You felt so right to make such a lasting decision. And then? Sometime later, circumstances, conflicting thoughts and feelings took away that sharp conviction that you had back there and left you wondering, did I do the right thing? Were you tempted to question the original impression?

Maybe I was just mesmerized. Maybe I was just worked upon by my emotions. As we meditate here today, let us look at just such a circumstance in the history of Israel after they left Egypt and traveled to the Promised Land. For a year they stayed at Mt. Sinai and God came to them and gave them the Ten Commandments. As they heard the trumpet, as they saw the smoking mountain, they were overwhelmed with a deep sense of – God is real! Then after a time of silence that voice so distinctly brought out each commandment in reference to what God had done for them. He said, "I am the lord that brought you out of Egypt." Then He says, "thou shalt have no other Gods before Me."

They were convinced, yes, this is right. Why was it that there was a crystal clear appreciation of the words brought before their mind? Why was it they were clear in their mind and there was nothing to confuse their decision?

"The chariots of God [are] twenty thousand, [even] thousands of angels: the Lord [is] among them, [as in] Sinai, in the holy [place]." Psalm 68:17

When God was speaking, who was with Him? Thousands of angels. I once read a statement in the Spirit of Prophecy which I couldn't find but I'm going to repeat it as I recall ... When God was stating the 10 commandments at Sinai the holy angels provided a dome or a canopy around the mountain so they would shut out the evil angels, that the evil angels could not come there and affect the minds of the hearers by contorting the words of God, by putting a

false construction on their minds by the words they heard. So that there could be no mistake as to the impress of God's pure word upon their minds. The wicked angels were shut out by the wall of fire by the angels.

"Our God watches over the children of men. And the angels of light--thousands upon thousands of them--what are they doing? What is their work? 'Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?' [Heb. 1:14]. Constantly the battle between the army of Christ and the army of Satan is going on. The angels of God are round about us as a wall of fire. We need them, for Satan is always seeking to cast his hellish shadow between us and God. But Gods angels press back the powers of darkness; Satan cannot hurt us if we trust in the Lord." {1SAT 312.3}

It was at such an important event as God delivering to the Israelites the Ten Commandments that God made sure there was a wall of fire around the Israelites so that the hellish shadow of Satan could not come between them and God, to falsify and contort the words of God upon the minds of the people.

When we look back at when we came to the crucial moment when we made a decision based upon the conviction that struck us to follow God, that was when God and the angels shut out the power of Satan, so that our conflicting thoughts would not get in the way of our conviction being established.

As soon as God had finished giving the Ten Commandments and the people dropped back as they were overwhelmed with the grandeur of God, Satan was able to get back to them. "Satan and evil angels were on the ground. Even while God was proclaiming His law to His people, Satan was plotting to tempt them to sin. This people whom God had chosen, he would wrench away, in the very face of Heaven. By leading them into idolatry, he would destroy the efficacy of all worship; for how can man be elevated by adoring what is no higher than himself and may be symbolized by his own handiwork? If men could become so blinded to the power, the majesty, and the glory of the infinite God as to represent Him by a graven image, or even by a beast or reptile; if they could so forget their own divine relationship, formed in the image of their Maker as to bow down to these revolting and senseless objects--then the way was open for foul license; the evil passions of the heart would be unrestrained, and Satan would have full sway." {PP 334.4}

You know very well that he succeeded. They were convinced they heard the law, they were overwhelmed with God's majesty and very quickly Satan managed to affect their minds by his negative influences. What is it that happens to a human mind that can have such clear thinking and such convincing mind exercise and be so sure this is right and I'm going to pursue it with all my heart. Just as the apostle Peter said although everyone will forsake you, I won't. Just like the Israelites. Just like everyone of us. What happens to our minds?

What is it that takes place within me that the sharp convicting arrows of God that brought me to a decision, that I am going to be baptized, and then I lose my enthusiasm for it? Or those that have been baptized, you lose your enthusiasm. What happens to us that we lose our determination to be loyal and faithful to God?

We read the word with earnest diligence and faith, and as we do so, the Holy Spirit comes and surrounds us. The angels shut out the negative thoughts that could come to us by suggestions of the evil one.

"And [though] the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This [is] the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." Isaiah 30:20,21 There is a voice within you. It is right there and you feel this tremendous sense of "yes, I will, I will follow that direction."

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will show you things to come." John 16:13 What happens to you? The spirit of God comes and guides you and you can hear His voice just like they heard the voice from Sinai. Your heart thrills with the thought, "I know this is a good way to go, I want to pursue it."

"The Lord will teach us our duty just as willingly as He will teach somebody else. If we come to Him in faith, He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Our hearts will often burn within us as One draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. Those who decide to do nothing in any line that will displease God, will know, after presenting their case before Him, just what course to pursue. And they will receive not only wisdom, but strength. Power for obedience, for service, will be imparted to them, as Christ has promised." {DA 668.4}

There is this blessed convicting surge of knowledge, strength, wisdom and you imagine in your mind that there is nothing that is going to stop you anymore. You come to a firm decision, "I'm going to follow Jesus and the truth whatever it costs."

"The promised Holy Spirit, that He would send after He ascended to His Father, is constantly at work to draw the attention to the great official sacrifice upon the cross of Calvary, and to unfold to the world the love of God to man, and to open to the convicted soul the precious things in the Scriptures, and to open to darkened minds the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness, the truths that make their hearts burn within them with the awakened intelligence of the truths of eternity." {RC 132.5}

"Who but the Holy Spirit presents before the mind the moral standard of righteousness and convinces of sin, and produces godly sorrow which worketh repentance that needeth not to be repented of, and



inspires the exercise of faith in Him who alone can save from all sin?". {RC 132.6}

Reflect on these words. Is that what has happened in your experience?

"Who but the Holy Spirit can work with human minds to transform character by withdrawing the affections from those things which are temporal, perishable, and imbue the soul with earnest desire by presenting the immortal inheritance, the eternal substance which is imperishable, and recreates, refines, and sanctifies the human agents that they may become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King?" {2MR 15.2}

I want to live with God. I want no more of these horrible experiences that have been in the past. Such is the work of the Holy Spirit when Satan is not there to misconstrue the words to our minds. There is an inward certainty and assurance that yes, you are right. Why? Because it came from God. It was God that uttered it and you decided, this is for me. But as the question was posed in the beginning as it was with the children of Israel, the reality of Satan's scheming plots begin to take effect. Satan comes in a very strange manner. What happens?

Remember it was God's clear voice that wasn't confused by other voices that brought us to such a conclusion. But then something else happened. "Every Christian will be assailed by the allurements of the world, the clamours of the carnal nature, and the direct temptations of Satan. No one is safe. No matter what our experience has been, no matter how high our station, we need to watch and pray continually. We must be daily controlled by the Spirit of God or we are controlled by Satan." {5T 102.1}

What happens? When God was there, the angels were a wall of fire and I had a clear knowledge of what is right, Satan's plotting commenced. The allurements of the world, the clamours of my personal carnal nature, that which is my flesh. How does this present itself to my appreciation? How do the clamours of the carnal nature identify itself within me? How? "There are thoughts and feelings suggested and aroused by Satan that annoy even the best of men." RH, Mar 27, 1888. {2MCP 432.2} How does my carnal nature clamour within me? Satan arouses thoughts and feelings. A feeling is aroused and you know where it's felt. You think, "I can't anymore, it's too much." That feeling. That is the carnal nature. I can't love this person anymore and I used to love him. I can't do the things I decided I was going to do. There is a strong thought and sensation that presses itself upon my inmost being.

"What voice will you acknowledge as the voice of God? What power has the Lord in reserve to correct your errors and show you your course as it is? What power to work in the church? The doubt that demands perfect knowledge will never yield to faith. Faith rests upon evidence, not demonstration. The Lord requires us to obey the voice of duty, when there are other voices all around us urging

us to pursue an opposite course." 5T 684.

What happens within us? Satan arouses thoughts and feelings. There comes up a sensation. There is the voice of God that once gave you a different sensation. As it says, "what voice will you acknowledge as the voice of God?" Which one is God now? Maybe I had a thought and feeling that really wasn't from God before. When the voices and sensations urge, remember the clamours. It's a clamour; it is a terrible noise inside of me. A terrible sensation. It urges me to pursue a different direction than I had been fully convinced of in the past. We must resist and conquer inclination.

"It requires earnest attention from us to distinguish the voice which speaks from God. We must resist and conquer inclination, and obey the voice of conscience without parleying or compromise, lest its promptings cease and will and impulse control. The word of the Lord comes to us all who have not resisted His Spirit by determining not to hear and obey. This voice is heard in warnings, in counsels, in reproof. It is the Lord's message of light to His people. If we wait for louder calls or better opportunities, the light may be withdrawn, and we left in darkness." {5T 68.4}

We can lament, we can say, "why did this happen?" Whose fault is it? I can blame somebody. Blame the church. I can blame the people in the church. I can blame my wife, husband; I can blame somebody but the reality. What happens? My own flesh, my own desires and impulses are the fault if I succumb to them.

Let us identify without parleying. I see people doing it all the time, there is a fluctuation. I don't know whether I should or shouldn't. My conscience says I should. The voice of God says go. Parleying. Remember Abraham, go take thy son. I better tell my wife. No, don't tell anyone, do the voice of duty. Don't parley and Abraham didn't and he was a man of faith. Don't follow inclination.

"We must resist and conquer inclination, and obey the voice of conscience without parleying or compromise." {9MR 205.1}

Then come the carnal clamours. Maybe I'll just do it, it doesn't matter. One step strengthens us for the next and next and after a period of time we look back and say, "what's happened to me? I used to have such a strong conviction to be all the way with God and now where am I? I no longer have feelings for God, no enthusiasm. What's happened to me?" When we parley, the internal voices become confusing.

"A few hours ago I listened to the complaints of a distressed soul. Satan came to her in an unexpected way. She thought that she had blasphemed the Saviour because the tempter kept putting into her mind the thought that Christ was only a man, no more than a good man. She thought that Satan's whisperings were the sentiments of her own heart, and this horrified her." 2 MR 343

This is how it happens. Satan puts thoughts and feelings into me

and they come up as my own and I think I've lost my faith in Jesus when all it is, is Satan's provoking and I think it's my own thought. This is a reality I want to underline. I see people fumbling around me because they're fumbling over thoughts and feelings which aren't really theirs but they think they are.

"She thought that she was denying Christ, and her soul was in an agony of distress. I assured her that these suggestions of the enemy were not her own thoughts, that Christ understood and accepted her; that she must treat these suggestions as wholly from Satan; and that her courage must rise with the strength of the temptation. She must say, I am a child of God. I commit myself, body and soul, to Jesus. I hate these vain thoughts. I told her not to admit for a moment that they originated with her; not to allow Satan to wound Christ by plunging her into unbelief and discouragement." {2MR 343.5}

Do you know that a third of the angels of heaven fell on this point? Satan put a suggestion in their mind and then they thought they were their own. He pleaded with God; they were the ones that wanted this, the rebellion. He can still do it ever so well today so that these senses of thoughts and feelings you think are your own. You get confused and you begin to believe that you've got no hope because you're such a sinner and you have these terrible thoughts.

Jesus was tempted the very same way. Thoughts and feelings; clamours of the carnal nature aroused by Satan get confused within you. The voice of Satan's prompting is often very close to our own carnal sense of right. We get confused even with rectitude and we weave Satan's suggestions into one another and in the church.

Satan suggests things and we become nasty to other church members and we can't believe God forgives them their sin when they say they are sorry. How many? Seventy times seven. We think they are wrong and they need to be punished and we punish them. This is what we have experienced in the very ranks of our church, people punishing people.

"For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which [I made] before Titus, is found a truth." 2 Cor 7:14

I'm sharing with you, the struggles I'm constantly dealing with. The reason why I decide to move on is from the answers I'm giving you.

Apostle Paul thought he was so spiritual and it was really the carnal nature.

"Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, [of] the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless." Philippians 3:4-6  
That is the flesh. That is what Satan stirs. Religious pride, thinking

we are Seventh Day Adventists, we are reformers and look at these terrible sins being done in God's church and we have a right to persecute them. That's carnal.

When confusion wants to set in, when your thoughts want to penetrate and urge their way into your personal place, go where you last saw the light. Return to your early convictions. Align your decisions with those early convictions and practices.

What must you do? "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

What must I do with my flesh? Cast it down.

My flesh comes with imaginings, with feelings, with wonderful comforting thoughts of fleshly desires. Instead, throw it out, it's your enemy. It's the carnal nature which is aroused by Satan himself. They are not your personal feelings and thoughts. You are getting confused.

"Sacrifices must be made that will seem like taking the very life-blood from the heart." {GW92 470.2}

You may think this can't be right and you shouldn't be feeling like this. I can testify in my own experience, this happens so frequently and if I went by the flow of my blood, I wouldn't be standing here today, I wouldn't be here. Everyday, I have to examine the impacts upon my being – is this God's way or is it my way? Am I putting on my plate, situations God hasn't asked of me? I have to make decisions every day. By making those decisions, I make them in my clear mindedness that I gained when Satan wasn't there. It seems and feels like I can't do it, my life blood is being drawn out.

This is what makes it so hard. What makes it hard? It feels like your life blood is being drawn out. What must I quickly do when I feel like that? Reflect on Jesus. Jesus went through exactly that.

"Jesus, the world's Redeemer, did as He was told even if the task was not agreeable to His feelings. Obedience is an element of true greatness. No one can be truly good and great who has not learned to obey with alacrity." {OHC 264.3}

What did my Redeemer do? He did what He was told even if the task was not agreeable to His feelings. He was obedient unto blood, striving against sin. Look to Jesus.

"During my life I have tried to do that which was opposed to my inclination because Christ our Pattern lived not to please Himself." {TDG 61.3} Do you want your circumstances to be pleasing to yourself? Jesus came into this dark world for who? Me.

At times in our confusion, we make missteps. Satan's sophistries have taken us unawares and we have erred and made a tangle of



our life after we decided to walk a straight one. As my life becomes tangled up as I follow all the inclinations, then all of a sudden, I'm tangled up by Satan's direction.

When these circumstances of Satan's arousing of those confused sensations, when this comes upon us, we make these erring mistakes; we then come up with that very reaction. "It's all too late. The tangles are so big, I'll never get back to my original conviction." What are we tempted to do? Give up. I'm not going to take anymore of this, I'm going to cut the rope.

When we feel it's all too late and tangled, I'll never gain my original aspirations that I laid before the Lord; that I was going to follow Him all the way, and now I'm all tangled up. What is our instruction in such a circumstance?

"Do not, through impatience, cut the knot of difficulty, making matters hopeless." {LHU 218.5}

Alright, it is all tangled, it is all in a knot. Don't cut, you'll never get back to your original desires.

"Let God untangle the snarled-up threads for you. He is wise enough to manage the complications of our lives. He has skill and tact. We cannot always see His plans; we must wait patiently their unfolding and not mar and destroy them. He will reveal them to us in His own good time. Seek for unity; cultivate love and conformity to Christ in all things. He is the source of unity and strength... If you do as God would have you, His blessing will come into the church. (Test. Vol. 5, pp. 346-348)

This is God's instruction to us. There are many instructions, the Ten commandments, dress reform, health reform; all those are instructions. But when our lives are tangled up, don't cut the knot. It is as important as the Ten Commandments. No matter how hard, wait and let God help you to control your thoughts and feelings. God will not leave us to ruin.

"How careful is the Lord Jesus to give no occasion for a soul to despair. How He fences about the soul from Satan's fierce attacks. If through manifold temptations we are surprised or deceived into sin, He does not turn from us and leave us to perish. No, no, that is not our Saviour... He was tempted in all points like as we are; and having been tempted, He knows how to succor those who are tempted. Our crucified Lord is pleading for us in the presence of the Father at the throne of grace. His atoning sacrifice we may plead for our pardon, our justification, and our sanctification. The Lamb slain is our only hope. Our faith looks up to Him, grasps Him as the One who can save to the uttermost, and the fragrance of the all-sufficient offering is accepted of the Father." {OHC 49.2}

Do you see your brothers and sisters overcome by sin? If Jesus doesn't leave them to perish, then don't you and I either. "If you make failures and are betrayed into sin, do not feel then you cannot

pray ... but seek the Lord more earnestly. {OHC 49.3}

"The blood of Jesus is pleading with power and efficacy for those who are backslidden, for those who are rebellious, for those who sin against great light and love. Satan stands at our right hand to accuse us, and our Advocate stands at God's right hand to plead for us. He has never lost a case that has been committed to Him. We may trust in our Advocate; for He pleads His own merits in our behalf.... He is making intercession for the most lowly, the most oppressed and suffering, for the most tried and tempted ones. With upraised hands He pleads, 'I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands.' Isaiah. 49:16". {OHC 49.4}

"I would I might sound the glad note to earth's remotest bounds. 'If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.' Oh, precious redemption! How broad this great truth is-- that God for Christ's dear sake, forgives us the moment we ask Him in living faith, believing that He is fully able!" {OHC 49.5}

When we have been deceived into sin, when we have been surprised into sin, don't despair. What was the reason that Moses couldn't go into the Promised Land? He said, "must we bring water from this rock!" It was because the children of Israel were harassing him so much that he forgot for a moment that it was God who would bring the water out, that he was surprised into sin. It prevented him from going into the Promised Land, but did it stop him from being saved? No.

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if [any man] draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. Hebrews 10:35-39

To cut the knot means what? To go back to perdition. May the Holy Spirit fill us with a conviction at this moment that will shut out every conflicting thought and feeling. We need it. That we will not parley any longer but that we will heed God's word. If we are in situations that aren't perfect, don't cut the knot and make the matter hopeless. **AMEN.**

**John Thiel, Australia**

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

Calvary greetings to you all. God is leading his people in Nigeria . I am very happy that God is using me to call back the people to the remnant church of God . (IMS). After I observe the Sabbath day . I face a lot of intimidations from my formal church, Christ Evangelical mission. Were lam pasturing before.

Now lam glad that I have join my pastoral work again with international missionary Society seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement.

Through some fast work a lot of people has been interested to join (IMS) and I am glad to Send you our picture to the Reformation Messenger for publication and also an encouraging note to the world to seek The same life as I do.

Sincerely

Pastor Paul Darlington, Nigeria.





# MIRACLES OF HEALING



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

People during the nineteenth century had little knowledge about health and medicine. Cities and towns had poor sanitation facilities, food could not be preserved well, fresh fruits and vegetables became scarce during certain seasons, and disease ran rampant. Many people died from things that a pill or simple injection would cure today. Epidemics sometimes killed large portions of the population of some towns. During their travels the Whites often came to sections of New England and New York where sickness had stricken people. Occasionally God would intervene in cases of extreme illness and heal the suffering person after the primitive medical aid had failed.

One such example occurred in the spring of 1845, before Ellen's marriage to James White. She visited the home of Stockbridge Howland in Topsham, Maine, a hilly little town of sturdy old houses and lofty elm trees near Brunswick, Maine. A group of Adventists had planned a meeting in the Howland home. Ellen did not know then that she and her future husband, James White, would live in some of the upstairs rooms of the large old house in less than two years. James also attended the meeting.

Ellen was a close friend of Frances Howland, Stockbridge's oldest daughter. The Howland girl suffered from rheumatic fever. Her hands had swollen so badly that the joints of the fingers could not be seen. Ellen worried about her friend, fearing that she might die. The little group of Adventists met for worship and to discuss the girl's case.

When someone asked Stockbridge if he had faith enough to believe that his daughter could be healed in answer to prayer, he replied that he did have. Several proposed that the group kneel in prayer and ask God to heal Frances should it be His will. Afterward one of the men asked, "Is there a woman here who has the faith to go and take Frances by the hand and bid her to rise from her bed in the name of the Lord?"

Stockbridge Howland's daughter lay in one of the upstairs bedrooms, helpless and feverish, her body racked with pain.

The man did not have to ask for a volunteer a second time. Instantly a woman named Curtis rose to her feet and climbed the steep stairs

to Frances' bedroom. Entering it, she took the girl's hand and said, "In the name of the Lord, arise and be whole."

Obedying the woman's command, Frances pushed herself up from her bed, slipped her feet to the floor, and walked across the room. New and sudden strength and relief from pain flooded through her, and she began to praise God for the miracle He had performed for her.

Quickly dressing, she came down to the room where the group of praying men and women had assembled. A smile of gladness and gratitude burst across her face and seemed to be reflected in the faces of her friends and relatives.

The next morning James White, Ellen Harmon, Frances Howland, and the others had breakfast together. For worship James selected the fifth chapter of the Book of James and read it with deep emotion. The physician who had cared for Frances appeared in the hall for his morning check of Frances' condition. With the door to the kitchen closed, he did not see everybody gathered about the table. James, engrossed in his reading, apparently did not hear the doctor go up the stairs to Frances' room. Not finding her in bed, the physician hurried back downstairs and burst into the kitchen, an expression of alarm on his face. When he saw his patient sitting at the breakfast table, he was amazed.

"What is she doing out of bed?" he demanded.

"The Lord has healed her," her father answered.

James White returned to his interrupted reading. "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him." James 5:14.

The doctor listened, his expression a mixture of wonder and disbelief. Knowing she no longer needed him, he turned and quietly left the house.

Later in the day Frances rode three miles, much of it through rain and mist. The ride did not appear to damage her health. Instead, she seemed to improve even more. Within a few days she requested

baptism. The cold water and weather, like the ride through the rain, did not affect her. Rheumatic fever never bothered her again.

At the same time that Frances Howland suffered from a weakened heart, William H. Hyde fought off an attack of dysentery. Internal bleeding started, and his symptoms worsened alarmingly until his doctor considered the case almost hopeless. Ellen Harmon and several others visited Hyde and found him suffering from more than physical sickness. He had become involved with a group of religious fanatics. The fanatics' beliefs had created a bad name for the Adventists and helped destroy Hyde's belief in God. With the man's faith damaged, Ellen knew that it would be difficult to pray for God's healing for him. She knew that they had to take him away from the influence of his dangerous friends. But Hyde did not have enough physical strength to travel. And the religious fanatics daily came to visit and to fill him with their wrong doctrine.

Ellen and several others, gathering at his bedside, prayed that he would at least have strength enough to go somewhere else, out of reach of the fanatics' influence. His health temporarily improved until he managed to ride to the home of an Adventist named Patten. But after he arrived at Patten's house, his dysentery worsened, and his friends feared he would soon die.

The fanatics, learning where he had gone, followed him to the Patten farm. Again their teachings began to weaken his faith. Finally his friends had to bar them from his bedroom, permitting only people with strong religious faith to enter it. They realized that Hyde had some things he needed to remove from his life. His relationship with Christ was not good; he had drifted away from God. Ellen and the others pointed out the mistakes he had made and told him where he should change. Thinking over what he had done before his sickness, William Hyde realized that he had done many wrong things. Accepting the reproofs given him, he prayed for forgiveness. His complete repentance amazed his friends and encouraged them in their own religious beliefs.

As He had done for Frances Howland, God gave William Hyde new physical strength. Immediately he dressed and walked out of the bedroom, thanking God as he went. Going into the kitchen, he saw on the table a hearty dinner such as farmers, needing and using lots of energy, would eat. "If I were well," he said, "I would eat this food. Since I believe God has healed me, I shall carry out my faith." Sitting down at the dinner table with his friends, he ate a large dinner. Even though he had had a bad case of dysentery only a few minutes before, the meal did not harm him. He completely and permanently recovered from his bout with the disease.

Disease often stalked the early leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It threatened to slow the spread of the Adventist message. The members needed to know how to improve and protect their health. In a vision on June 6, 1863, at the Otsego, Michigan, home of Aaron Hilliard, God began to outline to Mrs. White principles that would improve the well-being of Adventists. From several visions

came writings that resulted in such books as *Medical Ministry*, *The Ministry of Healing*, *Counsels on Health*, and *Counsels on Diet and Foods*.

The visions on health, however, did not come until nearly twenty years after the Sabbathkeeping Adventists first began to organize little churches. Until then people had to struggle along with their limited and crude medical knowledge. In His mercy, God often miraculously healed many Adventists. Mrs. White saw such healing in her own life.

One day in 1849, when James White prepared to travel to New Hampshire and Maine, Mrs. White suddenly became worried. She was afraid that her husband would contract cholera, a dangerous disease then killing many in New England. With her own health poor, she leaned heavily upon him during times of difficulty. She would not know what to do if the one she loved died.

One night Mrs. White dreamed that she and James went walking in the countryside. As they journeyed along together, she noticed that his eyes looked bloodshot, his face had reddened, and his lips had lost their color. People around them died from the dread cholera. Turning to him, she said, "James, I think that you would make a perfect cholera victim."

He did not seem too concerned about the danger. "Let's just walk along a little further, and I will show you a sure remedy for cholera," he replied. They approached a small bridge crossing a stream. Suddenly James White darted for the stream and plunged in. Feet kicking briefly in the air, he dived for the bottom. Mrs. White felt fear well up inside her, and she wanted to scream. A few seconds later he bobbed to the surface with a splash, holding a glass of water. Rays of light shattered and exploded in the liquid. "This water cures all manner of disease," he said, drinking it. Again he swam down into the deep water, returning with another glass of the strange fluid.

When James drank the second glass without offering her any, Mrs. White became sad. She could not understand his unusual selfishness. Sensing her thoughts, he explained, "There is a secret spring at the bottom of this river which cures all kinds of diseases. Anyone wanting to obtain water from it must plunge down to it by himself. No one can get it for someone else."

She saw that all signs of the cholera had vanished from his face. His health and strength had returned.

When Mrs. White awoke from her dream, she understood its meaning. Her fears had vanished like James's cholera, and she had a new appreciation of Jesus—who had called Himself the Water of life—and of His care for her husband. She knew that God would not let Satan use disease—then so common—to stop the growth of the tiny Adventist Church. A sense of trust replaced her worries.



Besides illustrating God's protection of His believers, Ellen White's dream also had a prophetic sense. James White did come down with cholera the next year. At the time they lived in Centerport, New York, at the home of William Harris, from which the Whites published a short-lived religious magazine called the Advent Review. William Harris had gone to work several miles away when the cholera attack came. The only ones present with Mrs. White were Mrs. Harris, Sarah—Ellen's sister—and Clarissa Bonfoey, a woman who lived with the Whites and helped take care of their child Edson when they traveled.

The attack was severe. James had cramps every few minutes, and the pain became almost unbearable. As the disease progressed, his arms and legs began to grow cold. In an attempt to restore circulation, Mrs. White rubbed them until she was completely exhausted. His condition continued to worsen, and she knew that he would soon die. Never had she felt so helpless. Desperately she repeated to herself over and over God's promises to heal the sick. In a weak, barely audible voice, James White asked the four women to pray for him. Physically and emotionally exhausted, Mrs. White dropped to her knees with the other women. Each word of their prayers came from agony. Strongly feeling her unworthiness before God, Ellen laid her hand on her husband's head and asked God to reveal His power to heal.

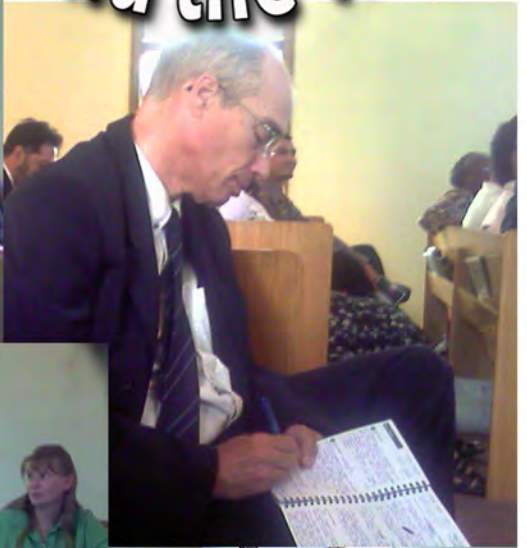
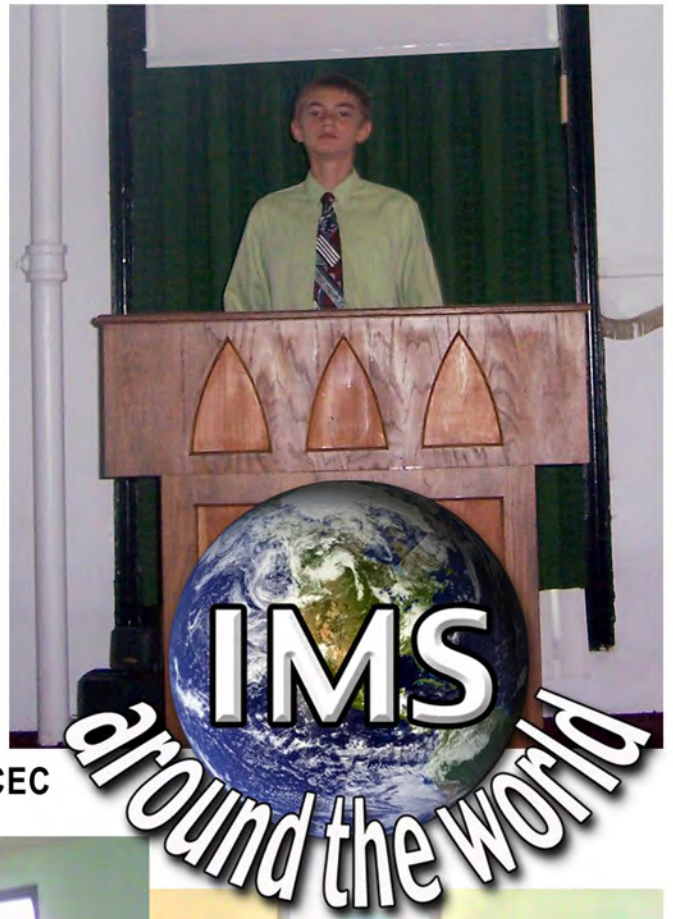
Immediately James White's pain eased. The skin of his face regained its natural color, and a peaceful smile softened his gaunt features. Never, the women thought, had they witnessed a more remarkable answer to prayer. Again God had protected the leaders of His church from disease and death.







**JAMES BESCEC, BR. AUGUSTUS, BR. JOHN BESCEC  
IN MONTREAL, CANADA**



**TORONTO  
CHURCH**



## The Time of Jacob's Trouble (1858 Great Controversy)

I saw the saints leaving the cities and villages, and associating in companies together, and living in the most solitary places. Angels provided them food and water; but the wicked were suffering with hunger and thirst. Then I saw the leading men of earth consulting together, and Satan and his angels were busy around them. I saw a writing, and copies of it scattered in different parts of the land, giving orders, that unless the saints should yield their peculiar faith, give up the Sabbath, and observe the first day, they were at liberty, after such a time, to put them to death. But in this time the saints were calm and composed, trusting in God, and leaning upon his promise, that a way of escape would be made for them. In some places, before the time for the writing to be executed, the wicked rushed upon the saints to slay them; but angels in the form of men of war fought for them. Satan wished to have the privilege of destroying the saints of the Most High; but Jesus bade his angels watch over them, for God would be honored by making a covenant with those who had kept his law in the sight of the heathen round about them; and Jesus would be honored by translating the faithful, waiting ones, who had so long expected him, without their seeing death.

Soon I saw the saints suffering great mental anguish. They seemed to be surrounded with the wicked inhabitants of earth. Every appearance was against them. Some began to fear that God had left them at last to perish by the hand of the wicked. But if their eyes could have been opened, they would have seen themselves surrounded by angels of God. Next came the multitude of the angry wicked, and next a mass of evil angels, hurrying on the wicked to slay the saints. But as they would attempt to approach them, they would first have to pass this company of mighty, holy angels, which was impossible. The angels of God were causing them to recede, and also causing the evil angels who were pressing around them, to fall back. It was an hour of terrible, fearful agony to the saints. They cried day and night unto God for deliverance. To outward appearance there was no possibility of their escape. The wicked had already commenced their triumphing, and were crying out, Why don't your God deliver you out of our hands? Why don't you go up, and save your lives? The saints heeded them not. They were wrestling with God like Jacob. The angels longed to deliver them; but they must wait a little longer, and drink of the cup, and be baptized with the baptism. The angels, faithful to their trust, kept their watch. The time had about come when God was to manifest his mighty power, and gloriously deliver them. God would not suffer his name to be reproached among the heathen. For his name's glory he would deliver every one of those who had patiently waited for him, and whose names were written in the book.

I was pointed back to faithful Noah. The rain descended, the floods came. Noah and his family had entered the ark, and God shut them in. Noah had faithfully warned the inhabitants of the old world, while they had mocked and derided him. And as the waters descended upon the earth, and as one after another were being drowned, they beheld that ark that they had made so much sport of, riding safely upon the waters, preserving the faithful Noah and his family. So I saw that the people of God, who had warned the world of his coming wrath, would be delivered. They had faithfully warned the inhabitants of the earth, and God would not suffer the wicked to destroy those who were expecting translation, and who would not bow to the decree of the beast, or receive his mark. I saw that if the wicked were permitted to slay the saints, Satan and all his evil host, and all who hate God, would be gratified. And O, what a time of triumph it would be for his Satanic majesty, to have power, in the last closing struggle, over those who had so long waited to behold Him whom they loved. Those who have mocked at the idea of the saints going up, will witness the care of God for his people, and their glorious deliverance.

As the saints left the cities and villages, they were pursued by the wicked. They raised their swords to kill the saints, but they broke, and fell as powerless as a straw. Angels of God shielded the saints. As they cried day and night for deliverance, their cry came up before God.