



The Reformation
Messenger
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WE BELIEVE: The all-wise loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the 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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Are You Fighting the Good Fight?



precepts of Jehovah will come the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error. Upon this battle we are now entering,— a battle not between rival churches contending for the supremacy, but between the religion of the Bible and the

We are daily working out our destiny. We have a crown of eternal life to win, a hell to shun. The title of my article is a question. What is this fight about? We are living in a world where the great controversy between good and evil is going on. We are the participants of this battle and everyone is engaged in it. The question is whether we are on the side of good or evil. Are we on the side of Jesus or on the side of Lucifer? There are only two sides in this battlefield. There is no neutral ground. There are no spectators. Everyone is a participant—knowingly or unknowingly. When souls are converted, their salvation is not yet accomplished. They then have the race to run; the arduous struggle is before them to “fight the good fight of faith.” The battle is lifelong, and must be carried forward with determined energy proportionate to the value of the object you are in pursuit of, which is eternal life.

ON THE BATTLEFIELD—NO SPECTATORS

“We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:12. The fallen world is the battlefield for the greatest conflict the heavenly universe and earthly powers have ever witnessed. It was appointed as a theater on which would be fought out the grand struggle between good and evil, between heaven and hell. Every human being acts a part in this conflict. No one can stand on neutral ground. Men must either accept or reject the world’s Redeemer. All are witnesses, either for or against Christ. Christ calls upon those who stand under His banner to engage in the conflict with Him as faithful soldiers, that they may inherit the crown of life.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 36

The great controversy: “Between the laws of men and the

religion of fable and tradition. The agencies which will unite against truth and righteousness in this contest are now actively at work.” —*The Signs of the Times*, July 4, 1899

“Battles are to be fought every day. A great warfare is going on over every soul, between the prince of darkness and the Prince of life. . . . As God’s agents you are to yield yourselves to Him, that He may plan and direct and fight the battle for you, with your cooperation. The Prince of life is at the head of His work. He is to be with you in your daily battle with self, that you may be true to principle; that passion, when warring for the mastery, may be subdued by the grace of Christ; that you come off more than conqueror through Him that hath loved us. Jesus has been over the ground. He knows the power of every temptation. He knows just how to meet every emergency, and how to guide you through every path of danger.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 36

JOINING AN ARMY—CHOOSING YOUR DESTINY

The Bible speaks about the righteous in Psalm 15: “LORD, who shall abide in Thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in Thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.” (verses 1–2). Here we see the qualities required by the righteous—by those who are going to dwell with God in heaven after winning the battle over evil. Of course, the ones who live contrary to it are the wicked, who will not have any place in God’s “holy hill,” who will join hands with Satan in this warfare and finally be destroyed by the fire from heaven. In Jeremiah 13:10, God describes the wicked, as “evil people, which refuse to hear My words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them.” They “shall even be as

this girdle," God says, "which is good for nothing."

We should each take an inventory of our lives and see which group we belong to. How many of us are sure we are on God's side—and that God will finally take us to His "holy mountain"? The apostle Paul was confident about his place in the heavenly kingdom. He says with assurance, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also have loved His appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7–8

"Besetting sins must be battled with and overcome. Objectionable traits of character, whether hereditary or cultivated, should be taken up separately, and compared with the great rule of righteousness; and in the light reflected from the Word of God, they should be firmly resisted and overcome, through the strength of Christ." —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 124

PAUL'S SOURCE OF CONFIDENCE

Why was Paul able to make such a confident statement about his future? Here was a man who had persecuted the church of God in the past. Speaking of him under his Hebrew name, Saul of Tarsus, the book of Acts says: "As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison." Acts 8:3. He carried letters from the high priest to the synagogues of Damascus so that he could bring Christians bound to Jerusalem. But in Acts we read about his dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus. He was a man of good reputation; a learned man educated under the greatest teacher of his time, Gamaliel; a zealous Jew; a Pharisee. Standing firm for what he believed to be true, he persecuted the church of God, seeing its members as heretics and blasphemers.

Although deceived, his heart was honest, which only the Creator Himself could see. Jesus caught him, so to speak, and transformed him. True to the new cause to which he had been called, he stood firm, no matter what happened. He never sought worldly greatness, glory, or honour. "But what things were gain to me," he said after his encounter with Jesus on the Damascus road, "those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." Philippians 3:7–8

That was the secret of Paul's life of victory. What does God see in your heart? In my heart? Are they pure and true? Or are they filled with the filth of this world? Paul was in every sense an evangelist. Courageously he preached the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles—to kings and rulers, to priests and common people. He uplifted the weary and the downtrodden, he rebuked wickedness, and was never willing to compromise with evil. Are you fighting a good fight in his example? Paul was never a burden to anyone. He worked with his own hands (Acts 18:3) and never considered the gospel as a means for earning wealth or reputation in the world. He was a true missionary, an evangelist, enduring many difficulties while engaged in ministry. "Are they ministers of Christ?" he wrote, "(I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times I received forty stripes

save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils by the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren." 2 Corinthians 11:23–26. But through it all Paul was sure about the crown of righteousness awaiting him. Where do we stand? Do we aspire to gain the kingdom of heaven? Or are we seeking only this world—its greatness and honor?

Paul says the crown of righteousness is not only for him but for all those who love His appearing. Thus he encourages and motivates all believers—everyone who waits for Christ's appearing. By his

example he admonishes us to fight the good fight, the fight against the wickedness of this world, and to spread the gospel for which we have been called. Our heavenly Father is sufficient to get us through this wicked world in our fight against evil. Selfishness and self-centeredness had no place with Paul. His goal was to lift up everyone who came to the fold of Jesus, even the slave. How about our own attitude? Are we able to say with confidence that the crown of righteousness is waiting for us? May the example of the apostle Paul encourage us to seek to be transformed, so that we too can be the heirs of that crown. Everything in this world is perishable. They do not satisfy. But the crown of righteousness will provide perfect satisfaction. Let us strive for it, inviting the Spirit of God to renew our hearts and transform us. Then with the apostle Paul, let us wait with assurance for

As an overcomer in the period of Laodicea you have the right to six great rewards:

- 1. To be spared from the seven last plagues which will come upon the earth (Revelation 3:10).**
- 2. To receive a new name when Christ comes (Revelation 2:17).**
- 3. To eat directly from the tree of life (Revelation 2:7).**
- 4. To have power over the nations (Revelation 2:26).**
- 5. To have access to the temple in heaven (Revelation 3:12).**
- 6. To spend eternity with Christ (Revelation 3:21).**

the crown of righteousness, which the righteous Judge will give us on that day.

WEAPONS

Like any other war, those who are involved in the final conflict on the side of God will have to be provided with weapons to overpower the enemy. “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God.” Ephesians 6:12–13. Generally in the world, these weapons would include guns, canons, tanks, bombs, and other devices which destroy both mankind and the world in which we live. But being

Christians, and since “the weapons of our warfare are not carnal” (2 Corinthians 10:4), we cannot sink to the feeble means of this world to answer the higher calling we receive; nor can we measure up to the task before us without the Word of God as our guide and all-wise director.

Instead, according to the light we have received, we are to put on the whole armour of God, says Apostle Paul. “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.” Ephesians 6:14–18

Like other useful weapons, these Christian weapons must be handled with skill. The value of a skilled marksman or an effective strategist is evident. So, in our sphere of reference, we must have skills to make our weapons more effective. As in the military, there are many different shapes and forms that these skills or talents can take. Sometimes there are talents which may seem of no use in the Lord’s work, but rest assured that the Lord has a place and a task for all, regardless of how great or small the talent or how seemingly useless it may be. The Lord knows what each one of us can do with our talents, otherwise He would not have given them to us. Not only are we to use our talents; we are also to develop them.

AMMUNITION

And finally, like any weapon, our weapons need ammunition. Our “bullets,” though, are simply God’s truth and righteousness as exemplified in our lives—in our ability to live His truth and proclaim it every day in word and deed, thus conveying it to others. Without our demonstration or drive to give this wondrous truth to the world, we would be hiding

our value and capabilities under a bushel basket and depriving many honest souls of the opportunity to come to the Lord before probation closes. Can you bear the responsibility of not giving an honest soul a chance to receive God and His message?

From history we see that Winston Churchill built his entire major campaign upon the tools of food, weapons, and ammunition, as well as upon a trusted promise from a great ally. So we as Christians must plan for our great final conflict that is shortly to be upon us, using the tools that we have been given. Yet we also have a trusted promise from our Great Ally, our Father in heaven: “Ask, and ye shall receive.” Both the Old and the New Testaments proclaim His many promises. As Churchill lifted up his voice in time of need, let us lift our voices in time of need as well—not to countries or people, for they all pass away, but to God who rules forever. In the world, Churchill said, “Give us the tools, and we shall finish the fight.” In Christ, let us say, “Give us the knowledge and wisdom to use these tools to Thy honor and glory, and through Thy guidance we shall truly finish the fight.”

OVERCOME!

In this Christian era, there are seven prophetic churches (Revelation 2 and 3). Seven times Jesus said—“to he that overcometh.” Seven times, overcoming is mentioned as necessary. Overcoming implies from the fight, war or conflict.

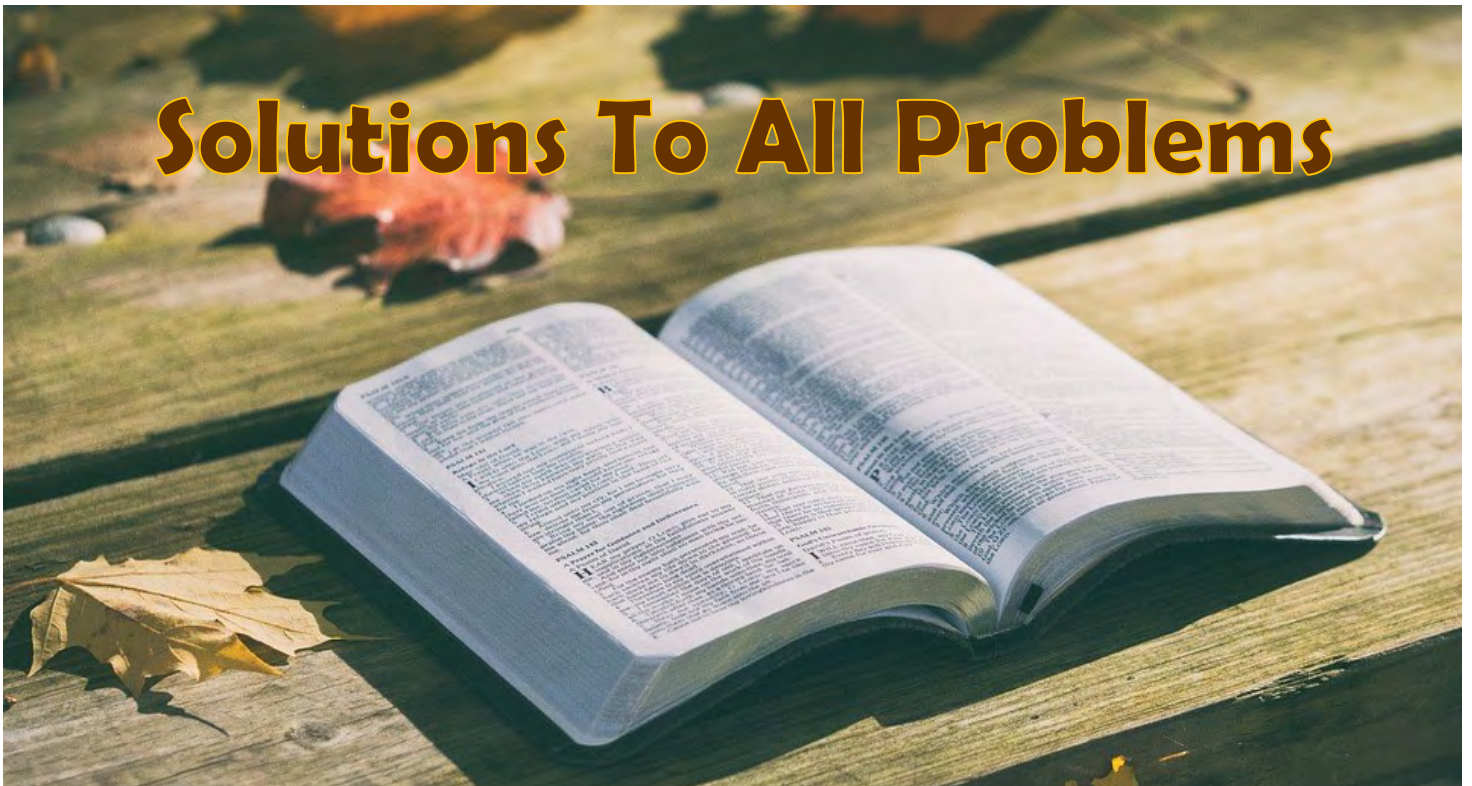
“We are called upon to overcome in this life as Christ overcame. Heaven has provided us with abundant opportunities and privileges, so that we may overcome as Christ overcame, and sit down with Him on His throne. But in order to be overcomers, there must be in our lives no petting of fleshly inclinations. All selfishness must be cut out by the roots.” —*Reflecting Christ*, p. 287

“Day by day, and hour by hour, there must be a vigorous process of self-denial and of sanctification going on within; and then the outward works will testify that Jesus is abiding in the heart by faith. . . . Believe that He is ready to help you by His grace, when you come to Him in sincerity. You must fight the good fight of faith. You must be wrestlers for the crown of life. Strive, for the grasp of Satan is upon you; and if you do not wrench yourselves from him, you will be palsied and ruined. The foe is on the right hand, and on the left, before you, and behind you; and you must trample him under your feet. Strive, for there is a crown to be won. —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 124

“The more the heart is wrapped up in Christ, the more secure is the treasure in the eternal world.” —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1112. Soon we shall witness the coronation of our King. Those whose lives have been hidden with Christ, those who on this earth have fought the good fight of faith, will shine forth with the Redeemer’s glory in the kingdom of God. Amen!

Victor Sumbusho, DR Congo

Solutions To All Problems



Do you have a problem—a difficulty? Are you enjoying life to the fullest? Most people have some problem which spoils their happiness, and makes them sad and worried. This problem may be a sickness, a loss of a friend, lack of money, lack of necessities, loneliness, weakness, a burden of sin, a guilty conscience, or many other things. It may be that you want something that you do not have, or that you want to get rid of something that you do have. It may be an unpleasant duty that you need to perform, one that you do not enjoy doing. Many people suffer with their problems all through their lives, and carry them to their graves, while it is not necessary; because, to every problem there is a remedy, a solution.

This perfect, complete remedy is found in the good, old Bible. It has all the answers. It has never let anyone down who has followed its counsel. There is a medicine for every difficulty, but many refuse to take this medicine, and therefore they remain in their miserable condition.

Many are seeking for the solution, but in the wrong place, and never find it. Such are the people in the Laodicean church, who say, “I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” Revelation 3:17

One problem from which people suffer is the burden of sin. Sin brings on guilty feelings and remorse; and if no remedy is applied, it will lead to hardening of the heart, and separation from God and from His church. But a remedy is available for it. “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet,

they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.” Isaiah 1:18–19

To the sinner forgiveness is freely offered. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

To live with unconfessed sins on your conscience is truly a miserable existence. No joy or peace can enter into your heart if there are unconfessed, hidden sins. We must make a full surrender and say like Ancient Israel, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.” And then pray to the Lord for strength and wisdom to follow through with our commitment because we cannot do it on our own.

Another problem for some people is loneliness. To this problem also a remedy is available. “A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” Proverbs 18:24. A selfish person will not make a true friend. True friendship requires sacrifice and unselfish attention. There is a friend that is closer to us than a brother. Who is this friend? Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Jesus was often left alone by the people, but He said, “I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.” John 16:32. A person who has opened his heart to Jesus is never lonely. Missionary work is one of the best medicines for loneliness. Visit the people, study with them, comfort them, and pray with them.

If there is someone with an anxious heart, surrounded by

worry and care, there is a remedy also for restless hearts. "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." Matthew 11:28–30

If your problem is that you are lacking something important, whether it be money, a job, a car, or other necessities, then God has promised to provide all that we need. "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32

The remedy to this problem is the words of Jesus, "Give, and it shall be given unto you." Luke 6:38

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

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground: neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts." Malachi 3:8–11

In clear language, the Bible shows the remedy to the problem of lacking necessities. God knows all our needs and He is rich; He is able to supply them all, but we must do our part. We must invest our money in the bank of heaven, which pays the highest interest of all banks.

Love is the solution to several problems. It can change our enemies into our friends. The Syrian army was constantly harassing the people of Israel. Time and time again they came to fight a war against them. Once again they came to fight against Israel. Elisha prayed to God to blind their eyes, and Elisha led them right to the camp of Israel. The king of Israel now saw a golden opportunity to pay back his long time enemy. But what did Elisha tell him to do?

"And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them? And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their mas-

ter. And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel." 2 Kings 6:21–23. By love and kindness, the continuous war stopped.

Sometimes our problem is that we do not get along with others. Then what do we need to do? "If it be possible, as such as lieth in you, leave peaceably with all men." Romans 12:18

By sowing seeds of kindness, seeds of love, seeds of friendliness, and seeds of forgiveness, many problems will be solved.

Satan also offers his medicine to us. He says it will make our lives happy. He offers parties, entertainment, alcohol, smoking, drugs, pleasure in sin, and self-indulgence. Instead of healing though, he poisons the mind, body, and soul until the sickness becomes incurable.

We do not need to go to Satan. There is a God in Israel; there is a balm in Gilead. "Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of My people recovered?" Jeremiah 8:22. There is the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to comfort and sooth our sorrows, and to heal the broken heart.

We must be satisfied with what God has given us. Complaining to God is a great sin. "Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer." 1 Corinthians 10:10. Sometimes our problem is great, like a mountain before us, but what has God said to us? "Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain." Zechariah 4:7

We are also called to be burden bearers to help suffering people with their problems. "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" Isaiah 58:6–7

Wherever we look we see suffering people, and we are to go to them in the name of Jesus, and bring peace and sunshine into their dark, joyless lives. We are to them fountains of living waters. And wherever we go, we need to take Christ with us, and at the same time we receive healing to our own souls. Amen.

Timo Martin



Treasures in the Snow

“Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? ” Job 38:22

Snow falls when the weather is cold, below freezing temperatures. You will find it in areas further away from the equator in winter or on top of high mountains. Snowflakes are produced in clouds that contain moisture. The conditions must be just right for snowflakes to be made. When temperatures are well below the freezing point of water, tiny snow crystals are formed, and as they get heavier they begin to fall. As they fall they get larger because they pick up more moisture in the atmosphere. It is God who controls the conditions in the atmosphere, dispensing the snow at His choosing. If God is in control of the snow, He can also dispense all the things in life that we need. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17

People who live where it snows a lot may not consider snow as a treasure, yet the Bible says that there are treasures in the snow. The word “snow” appears in the King James Bible 24 times, describing various situations. Some of God’s richest treasures can be found in the snow. The word “treasure” in Job 38:22 is the Hebrew word “o-tsaw” which means an armory, or storehouse. Although snow flakes are very small, when enough of them band together they have the power to shut down an entire city. God can use something as small as a snowflake as a source of great power. Sometimes God will send “storms” in our lives to bring us to a halt enough to acknowledge Him. “Be still, and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10

We usually admire snow for its beauty, but may not

think of snow as being a precious and essential commodity. Approximately 20% of the world’s land mass is covered permanently by snow. About 40% of the Northern Hemisphere is snow covered. Fresh snow falls on 1 out of every 6.5 square kilometres of dry land each year. One third of the world’s water used for irrigation comes from snow. Countries like Argentina, Chile and Western U.S. rely heavily on snow for irrigation purposes. In fact 75% of irrigation in Western USA relies on snow.

It is snow that also gives power to the great American rivers of the west like the Rio Grande, the Colorado, the Missouri, and the Columbia. Melted snow produces approximately 100 trillion litres of water each year in the Columbia River alone. That is enough water to raise the level of Lake Michigan by two metres.

“And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, he slew two lionlike men of Moab: he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow.” 2 Samuel 23:20. To do great deeds in a time of snow, makes things a little more heroic as this is a time when it is more treacherous to move about and get around.

DIVERSITY

Each snow flake is distinctly different from any other. All those blankets of snow with their trillions of flakes—each flake is different. We can only wonder at the greatness of God.

There are actually 10 general categories of snowflakes. If you look under a microscope



you would see the different categories. They come in shapes such as needles, stars, trees, fishbones, bullets, etc., yet no two snowflakes are exactly the same. Each have their own shape—their own identity. They each are unique. What an awesome God we serve.

Also with the billions of people on this earth today and those billions who lived in the past, not one was, or is, exactly like any other. Our fingerprints, and every other part of our body is unique. Even twins are not truly identical. Not a single flower, or animal either. Who can understand the ways of God? And the most wonderful part is that He cares for each person individually as though they were the only one on this earth. He orchestrates circumstances in their lives, for their salvation, whether it be suffering, want, or plenty. Each has their own characteristics and unique experience, unlike any other.

And God is actively and patiently working to develop all the different character traits He desires to see in each person.

As each snow flake is also perfect in its symmetry, everything that comes from the hand of God is perfect, including your experience. The snowflake is very beautiful and you also are beautiful to your Creator. He knew you before you were formed in your mother's womb and He has a distinct purpose for your life.

STRENGTH

The strength and power of the snow are seen when the snowflakes band together. One flake can easily melt, but together they can produce a blizzard. God is storing up snow as He does with the fire and the hail to dispense when He chooses. "At His own will God summons the forces of nature to overthrow the might of His enemies—'fire, and hail; snow, and vapours; stormy wind fulfilling His word.' Psalm 148:8. When the heathen Amorites had set themselves to resist His purposes, God interposed, casting down 'great stones from heaven' upon the enemies of Israel. We are told of a greater battle to take place in the closing scenes of earth's history, when Jehovah 'hath opened His armoury, and hath brought forth the weapons of His indignation.' Jeremiah 50:25." —*Maranatha*, p. 297

In God's church, we each may be a small seemingly insignificant snowflake; we may melt alone, but when we band together we can cause a great blizzard. That is why we are together in the church.

PURITY OF CHARACTER

Snow is beautiful to look at. It brings a beauty to nature

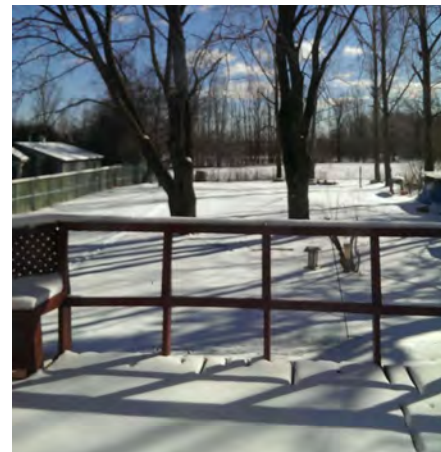
in the winter time when all the trees have lost their leaves and all the little animals have gone into hibernation; all the plants and flowers have died, some forever, others are only dormant. The countryside looks dry and dead, and the snow covers all this deadness, giving it a lovely soft appearance. It turns the most desolate landscape into beautiful scenery. Although snow is cold, it appears very clean in its pure white pristine condition.

Although snow looks very clean and white, in reality it acts as a filter to remove germs and impurities from the air. It has a powerful cleansing effect on the atmosphere. Snow is actually formed around some matter already existing in the atmosphere like a piece of dirt, thus when it falls it brings this dirt to the ground out of the atmosphere. It still looks pure and white though. The dirt is hidden by the whiteness, and the air is very clean after a snow storm. As the dirt has been hidden by the whiteness of the snow, so also our sins are filtered out by the blood of Jesus and hidden, being cast into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19).

Jesus said through the prophet Isaiah, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18. No matter what colour the object on the ground or trees, when the snow comes, they are all covered in a lovely blanket of white. The same colour. We have all been corrupted by sin. We have been as the dead trees in winter. We cannot conceal the stain, but when the snow comes, it covers all. It is like the robe of Christ's Righteousness, which covers our dirty, sinful nature with a pure white covering, giving a soft beauty to our natures—a nature that will be accepted by God the Father who has a repulsion for sin. Jesus' robe of righteousness covers all our stains of sin when we repent, no matter how dark they are. He promised that we can be made as white as snow.

After he had done a terrible sin, David prayed, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Psalm 51:7

When snow first falls, everything looks so soft and powdery. The landscape is very beautiful. Should the snowy landscape be disturbed by a man or an animal walking in



it, footprints are left. Afterwards, no matter how much you try to cover up the footprints, you can never return the landscape to the perfect scenery that was created after the snowfall. Snow can also get dirty easily when soiled with dirt from the road, as well as other sources such as from animal dirt. Once the beauty is disturbed, it cannot return to its original beauty unless another snowfall comes down to cover up what was disturbed. If Christ has put His robe of Righteousness around us, we must be careful not to let anything come and soil it. One little sin and it will be removed. Jesus will remove it before He allows us to soil it and we will appear dead once more.

LEPROSY

Although snow is beautiful and white, it is used in the Bible also to describe something deadly. "And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow." Exodus 4:6. We can only imagine how white that was.

Although leprosy is white, it is a symbol of sin, and self-righteousness. A person can appear unusually white physically, which would make us concerned that they have leprosy. This is something we all see. "Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous." Numbers 12:10. A person's own righteousness is compared to leprosy. They try to make themselves look good and to bring honour and glory to themselves. If we are symbolically leprous we will not see the white skin, but the fruits will be seen; self-righteousness, and Phariseism.

We cannot actually see the robe of Christ's righteousness. Only the unseen world can see the whiteness of it, however we can see the fruits, such as good works, a loving and honest heart, and an exalting of Christ and His Righteousness—never exalting our own good works.

JOB

Job lived in an area where there was snow since he used snow several times as an analogy.

Job compared his friends to snow. Those 'friends' stated they had come to comfort him in his sorrow. They really brought no comfort, but only accusation. They should have shown him pity in his distress but they did not. "To him that is afflicted pity should be showed from his friend; but he forsaketh the fear of the Almighty. My brethren have dealt deceitfully as a brook, and as the stream of brooks they pass away; Which are blackish by reason of the ice, and wherein the snow is hid: What time they wax warm, they vanish: when it is hot, they are consumed out of their place. The paths of their way are turned aside; they go to nothing, and perish." Job 6:14–18

Job first compared his friends to a brook. A babbling brook

brings life to the surrounding countryside, to the flora and the fauna both. Brooks are often teeming with life. When winter comes and the brooks freeze, what colour do they look? They often look black. They are frozen solid, no life can live in them. The smaller water animals have either died or have burrowed in the soil to hibernate. The brooks then benefit no one.



In Eastern countries there are streams known as wadis, which dry up and disappear in the heat of the summer when needed most. When the weather gets warm, the snow melts and disappears. It is gone, as if it did not exist. It turns into water and then it soaks into the ground. The drying up (passing away) of the waters at the approach of summer is compared to the failure of these friends to support Job in his time of affliction. This is the eventual result of those that decide not to submit to the Lord, but are deceivers. In the end they will disappear.

"If I be wicked, why then labour I in vain? If I wash myself with snow water, and make my hands never so clean; Yet shalt thou plunge me in the ditch, and mine own clothes shall abhor me." Job 9:29–31. Job is almost saying, "what's the use?" It matters not how clean and pure I try to make myself because God will plunge me again into the filthy mire. He abhors himself. If you are wicked, either openly or secretly (secret sins, or in your attitudes and thought processes), you may try to wash yourself with snow water—which is pure. You may try to put on the robe of Christ's righteousness yourself. You may try to be holy, but it is in vain. The end result? The Lord will plunge them in a ditch, and they will appear dirty to the Lord. A ditch is often associated with dirty water that is draining away. And their own clothes will abhor them—their own clothes—their own righteousness which is nothing before God.

"He is swift as the waters; their portion is cursed in the earth: he beholdeth not the way of the vineyards. Drought and heat consume the snow waters: so doth the grave those which have sinned. The womb shall forget him; the worm shall feed sweetly on him; he shall be no more remembered; and wickedness shall be broken as a tree." Job 24:18–20. As the heat of the summer causes the snow to disappear, so in like manner the graves consume the wicked.

After describing the murder and the adulterer and other sinners in the verses prior to these, Job compares the open sinners to swift waters, but waters that are cursed. Just the right amount of water is needed in the springtime as the snow begins to melt, to help the crops begin to grow,

but too much can have devastating effects as floods that damage buildings and crops. Then the Lord says to those who are as swift waters, not caring for the vineyards, that He will send them drought to consume the snow waters. The drought and heat will come and destroy the beneficial effect that was intended by the snow waters. God will dry them up. So with the sinners, but more so with the self-righteous pretentious sinners. Those described in Matthew 7:20–23. They did good works, they served humanity, but for selfish purposes. Their portion is the grave—eternal grave. Jesus does not recognize them as His.

Although we love our children dearly, Job says that the womb shall forget these people and the worms shall feed sweetly on them. They will have a feast. Throughout the countless millions of years, they will no longer be remembered. Jesus will comfort the broken hearts of mothers who do not see their children in heaven. Their wickedness shall be broken as a tree. In the winter too much snow on a tree will cause its branches to break. It can bring down a whole tree; all



from the accumulation of little snowflakes.

“God thundereth marvellously with His voice; great things doeth He, which we cannot comprehend. For He saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of His strength. He sealet up the hand of every man; that all men may know His work.” Job 37:5–7. It is God who brings the snow and decides just how much should fall. He is in control. We need to learn to trust Him. The wicked may become frightened with the various troubles on this earth, whether in the elements of nature, or whether from mankind; however it is all in God’s permissive will. Nothing will touch His children except what He allows. We are as the “apple of His eye.” Zechariah 2:8

King Solomon said, “As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool.” Proverbs 26:1. Snow in summer is most unnatural. Rain in harvesttime would be most undesirable. Honour for a fool would be equally unnatural and dangerous. To elevate to a place of honour a man lacking understanding is to give him opportunities to do great harm; such a course discourages those who are truly worthy of such a promotion. We do not give offices in the church to members who do not attend regularly as an incentive to be there weekly. We give offices to those who are faithful in their attendance at all times.

In Isaiah we read: “For as the rain cometh down, and the

snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater.” Isaiah 55:10. Rain and snow are a gift from God to man. They are given to accomplish a purpose. All things are ordained by God whether material or spiritual. Not only to beautify the earth in the cold winter season, but to supply an abundance of much needed water in the spring time, to bring nature back to life.

WHITER THAN SNOW

What is whiter than snow? in describing a pure white colour, the word snow has been added to indicate perfect purity. Jesus’ garments are compared to being white as snow. “I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire.” Daniel 7:9. On the mount of transfiguration. “And His raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them.” Mark 9:3

And, also, the angels clothing, “His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow.” Matthew 28:3

Not only the garments are unspotted—and pristine, but the character also is unspotted and pristine. Garments are being used as a symbol of character.

Also Jesus’ hair is described as being pure white. “His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow.” Revelation 1:14

There are many treasures to be seen in the snow. God wants to wash us and clean us to the point that we are whiter than snow. He wants to cover us with His robe of righteousness. All we have to do is surrender to Him. Do not delay—start today. Right now.

Let us band together as little snowflakes in God’s church so that we can work together in unity and be a great force for God in this world.

“God encourages us to contemplate His works in the natural world. He desires that we shall turn our mind from the study of the artificial to the natural. We shall understand this better as we lift up our eyes to the hills of God, and contemplate the works which His own hands have created. They are God’s work. His hand has molded the mountains and balances them in their position, that they shall not be moved except at His command. The wind, the sun, the rain, the snow, and the ice are all His ministers to do His will.” —*The Upward Look*, p. 98

Wendy Eaton





Good News From Heaven's Court! Daniel 8

On the day he was to be hanged, he was served a meal of peas, bread, olives and tea. As midnight approached he was led to the gallows. He was pronounced dead at 11:58 p.m., May 31, 1962. His body was cremated and his ashes strewn out at sea. The executioners? Jews. The criminal? Adolph Eichmann—the man who orchestrated Hitler's systematic murder of millions of Jews—men, women and children. However, was there really justice in hanging someone who killed millions of people? No, not really. Only God can provide that kind of justice. The Bible says He will do just that; "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Ecclesiastes 12:14. Justice will be done, my brothers and sisters, dear friends. Every person will face judgment and answer for the decisions made in this life. As serious as this is, there is no need to be afraid of this event. God's Word reveals that if you put your trust in Jesus, and only in Jesus' merits—you and I can look forward to the judgment with confidence. The judgment proves that God has been fair, and that He has done everything He can to save each person. And so, the Bible speaks of the day in court that none can evade or avoid. What does the Bible say about the judgment? When will it happen? Who is in charge? And will you and I be found guilty or innocent before God? Keep reading this message and the next one—Daniel 9—because God's Word offers answers that are filled with hope!

We continue our study in the book of Daniel by looking at the 8th chapter. You may recall that in chapter 7, we saw that a little-horned power would arise—a religious and political kingdom growing out of the ruins of the Roman

Empire. We learned that this power would attempt to substitute tradition for God's Word, human law for God's law, and human teachings for divine teachings. At the end of chapter 7, we saw that the news of this power "troubled" Daniel. However, he found encouragement and strength by looking away from what was going on around him and looking to what was happening above him. Sometimes it is good to look away from the trials, the difficulties, and the heartaches of earth and to look by faith to God.

It is interesting to notice that Daniel Chapter 8 does not begin with Babylon as do chapters 2 and 7. In fact, in Daniel chapter 8 the vision begins with Medo-Persia. The reason for this is because Babylon was now history. It was no longer prophecy. It was during the time of the Medo-Persian Empire that Daniel had his vision. The 2300 days, or prophetic years, mentioned in Daniel 8 began during the Medo-Persian Empire.

This vision begins when Medo-Persia was in power, which is symbolized by the ram with two horns. The Bible says that one of the horns was raised up higher than the other because the Medio-Persian kingdom was composed of

two kingdoms, one being stronger than the other. The goat, which does battle with the ram, is a symbolic representation of the kingdom of Greece. Here is an introduction of new animals or new symbols. An interpretation is also given so that we can recognize them as a parallel to Daniel 2 and 7. We do not need to guess be-



cause the interpretation is very clear. This vision reveals the ram and goat battling together and later in the vision it clearly states, "The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia." Daniel 8:20. And in verse 21 "And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king." According to history, this first king was Alexander the Great.



The book of Daniel here in this chapter is shifting its focus to certain powers and kingdoms that played a very significant role in history, and will continue to do so in the future. The large horn was broken and, "four notable ones, toward the four winds of heaven," replaced it. (Daniel 8:8)

"And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land." Daniel 8:9. This is the same little horn that was spoken about in Daniel 7. It is recorded here what this little horn will be doing in relation to the sanctuary, God's people,



and to the truth down through the ages until the end of time.

We will now examine the key characteristics and activity of this little horn. "And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them." Daniel 8:10. In Daniel 7, recall that this is a persecuting power, using its influence and power against the people of God. Daniel 8:11 proves this point. We read, "Yea, he magnified himself even to the Prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down."

We will not go into much detail regarding the meaning of these symbols at this time, as this is not presently our focus. An important point to know is that The Prince of the Host is the Messiah—Jesus Christ our Saviour, and this power (the little horn) is exalting himself above even the Lord Jesus Christ. This undoubtedly is referring to the crucifixion of Christ during the pagan period of the Roman Empire. We will now come to papal Rome. How do we know that? "And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and

the holy people." Daniel 8:24. We only need to go back to the Dark Ages as per Daniel 7:25. History has proven without a doubt that this power did all of that, including changing the Commandments of God—the truth, and wore out the saints of the most High—50 million Christians perished during the Dark Ages. "And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand." Daniel 8:25. Clearly the Prince of princes in this interpretation is Jesus Christ.

It is interesting to note that we are reading words that were written by Daniel the prophet centuries before the events took place, and also a prophecy that gives such details of events that are to occur at the end of time. As we go back now to verse 12 it says here; "And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered." This attack is being made not only against the Prince of the host, but also against the truth itself. The truth is being cast down and this power is practicing and prospering in place of the truth.

What happens next is extremely important for us to know. We read, "Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, how long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Daniel 8:13–14. This is a conversation between two angels and the subject here is the little horn power and the kinds of things he does against the people of God and Jesus Christ (Hebrews 8:10).

We need to understand the content of the question in verse 13. Regarding the length of time the little horn's power will be permitted to continue its work of persecuting God's people, defaming the character of God, casting the truth or the new covenant to the ground and defiling the sanctuary and the ministry of Jesus Christ. How long, the angel is asking, will this terrible state of affairs be allowed to continue? Then in verse 14 another angel answers this question. The answer is given with this period of time—2300 days or literal prophetic years, according to the correct interpretation in Bible prophecy. In prophetic symbolism a day represents a year (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34). "I have appointed thee each day for a year." Both in the Old Testament and confirmed in the New Testament by Jesus—a day in Bible prophecy stands for a literal year.

The starting date of this prophecy was the command allow-

ing the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their city (Daniel 9:25), which was issued in the year 457 BC. Continuing 2300 years from 457 BC brings us to the year 1844, the start of the cleansing of the Sanctuary in Heaven. According to the Bible, we are now living in heaven's judgment hour! And the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary, brothers and sisters, dear friends, is the removal of the record of our sins from the books of heaven (Daniel 7:10) While sinners are forgiven when they repent of their sins, even the very record of their sins is blotted out in God's judgment.

Daniel chapter 8 is pointing our attention to the heavenly Sanctuary, and the Sanctuary reveals not only Jesus' death in our behalf, but also His life in our behalf. The Day of Atonement, or the cleansing of the sanctuary, occurred once a year in Ancient Israel. In Leviticus chapters 16 and 23 God gave instruction regarding The Day of Atonement and how to prepare for it. God is preparing us. Notice three things here: there is a time period—2300 days; there is a place—the sanctuary; and, there is an event—the cleansing of the sanctuary. We have seen these so far in Daniel 8:14.

As in all earthly tribunals, prior to the sentencing, each case has to be thoroughly investigated and the verdict handed out. The question is, when does God announce the verdict and hand out the sentences? The verdict is announced shortly before Jesus' return; the innocent receive the reward of eternal life at His coming, during the 1000 years, the sentencing of the guilty will be determined. Prior to this coming, each individual who ever named the name of Christ will have his/her day in court, and it will be determined where he or she will spend eternity. Says John the Revelator: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11. In keeping with earthly tribunals, we have a judge, according to John 5:22. Jesus, God's son will be the judge. "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son." This means that the investigative phase of the judgement concludes before He comes.

Every fair judgment has three phases to determine the guiltor innocence of the accused, and then to determine a sentence, if found guilty. These three phases are: 1. Investigation—The court was seated and the books were opened (Daniel 7:10). 2. Verdict—"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." "And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:11-12. Once the verdict is read out, the righteous will obtain the reward of eternal life. The wicked will be condemned to punishment in the lake of fire. 3. Sentencing—The standard in the judgment is

the law of God. Witnesses are called and records are consulted as all the evidence is presented. In the heavenly courtroom, the record books contain a detailed impartial account of the exact events of our life, and after all the facts have been considered the Judge announces the verdict. The sentencing of the wicked takes place during the 1,000 years, when the saints will judge the world, and the length of time of each person's punishment will be decided.



The good news is that the judgment-hour message is another way for God to tell us that Jesus is coming back soon. We need to be ready because "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ." 2 Corinthians 5:10. Today the judgment-hour message is a calling to decide for Him. When we confess our sins two things take place, namely: "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins", and secondly, "to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. Jesus forgives us "according to the riches of His grace." Ephesians 1:7. His grace enables us to be cleansed of sin through the same power, and our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. The Bible goes on to say that at the end of time, those whose names are found written in this book will be saved (Daniel 12:1).

In closing, let us remember that the investigative judgment, presently taking place in the court of heaven, is good news! If you have accepted Jesus as your Saviour and Lord, you can rest assured that your name is written in God's Book of Life. If you have not done so yet, are you willing to commit your life to Jesus today? Are you willing to follow Jesus wherever He leads, and allow the Bible to be the basis for your faith in Him? Jesus is both our Advocate and Friend; now is the time to accept Him as your personal Saviour. Jesus pledges to live the lives of all who surrender themselves unreservedly to Him. When your life is given to Christ, you have the assurance that His power fills you, directs you, and keeps you. No one is left to fight the power of evil on his or her own. Jesus living His life in you enables you to live a life of faith and victory. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Romans 6:16. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, you can live a life of surrender today! Will you serve Jesus for the rest of your lives? May your answer be, "yes, Lord, I want to serve You." Amen!

Nicholas Anca



The Creator and His Character

God is the Creator of the universe; He is the giver of life. Without Him no life would exist. He not only gives life but He sustains it. By Him every living thing moves and has its being. The world is full of the wonders of God's creative knowledge. God knew that without light life would cease to exist, so a loving Creator created the sun which plays a very important role in the life of all living creatures. Water is also vital as it is the beverage that God made to quench the thirst of man and beast and to aid in sustaining plant life. The water on planet earth was placed at strategic points. Some above, some below. After the flood, the waters above fall as rain to water the earth. But the Creator also provided dry land; the land the Lord created had varied plants, fruit trees of all kinds. Herb trees and flowering trees that are like the decorations of the earth. These all serve their purpose in providing food for the living creatures that God made.

The earth was not to be laid bare as it was to be covered with grass. This would serve to keep the soil intact. Along with the sunlight, God also made the moon and the stars; these lesser lights would shine at night

when the sun sets after each day. So we have day and night. And they would also serve for seasons, according to God's plan. Living creatures were also placed in the waters. Great whales and fishes of all description in abundance on the earth. The Creator also made beasts of all kinds in abundance. Birds to fly in the air were also created by a loving Creator. But the crown of creation was human beings, whom a loving Creator made in His own image after His likeness. This created being was endowed with intellect, reasoning, a will and a conscience. All these attributes place man above all created beings on planet earth. All this goes to show that a loving and wise Creator is not selfish, because He shared His attributes with His created being. This unselfishness is called love. God is love and all true love is of God. It is also His character. All things were made by God and without Him there was nothing made. All that is made by God is unique in its own way. God owns all. Yet in His love, He chose to share it with us all. Let us thank Him for His love. Amen.

*Marline Campell,
Jamaica*

LOOKING FOR YOU. . .

If you are interested in submitting an item for publication in *The Reformation Messenger*, please submit by email or mail.



**Submit:
Drawings, Announcements ,
Reports, Articles, Poems, Photos,
Personal Testimonies and Experiences.**

Which Way Are You Choosing?



As we learn the way to the cross, we want to continue from where we ended in the last article last month in the January 2017 issue of *The Reformation Messenger*.

Man's obedience has always been a matter of choice. When God created man and they were put into Garden of Eden, God gave man a law. Freedom of choice was also given; but, unfortunately man chose the path of disobedience.

Today we are being given the same choice. "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." Isaiah 35:8. There are only two things in this life—either you will be saved or you will be lost forever.

Christ is the refuge for sinners. He has opened for us the way to eternal life—will you choose Him today? Will you make Him your Saviour? "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 30:21

"The way that God has provided is so complete, so perfect, that man cannot, by any works that he can do, add to its perfection. It is broad enough to receive the most hardened sinner, if he truly repents, and yet so narrow that in it sin can find no place. This is the path cast up for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in." *—Gospel Workers*, p. 160. The path of obedience and the path of disobedience—choose yours.

John the Beloved counselled, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

"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

We continue reading in the Spirit of Prophecy, "This is the remedy for sin. Christ says: 'Where Satan has set his throne, there shall stand My cross. Satan shall be cast out, and I will be lifted up to draw all men unto Me. I will become the center of the redeemed world. The Lord God shall be exalted.'" *—Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 236

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Titus 2:11–13

"We are living in an age of great light; but much that is called light is opening the way for the wisdom and arts of Satan. Many things will be presented that appear to be true, and yet they need to be carefully considered with much prayer; for they may be specious devices of the enemy. The path of error after appears to lie close to the path of truth. It is hardly distinguishable from the path that leads to holiness and heaven." *—Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 290

IGNORANCE IS NOT AN EXCUSE FOR SIN

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12

"Ignorance is no excuse for error or sin, when there is every opportunity to know the will of God. A man is traveling and comes to a place where there are several

roads and a guideboard indicating where each one leads. If he disregards the guideboard, and takes whichever road seems to him to be right, he may be ever so sincere, but will in all probability find himself on the wrong road." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 597–598

An old grandmother was invited to attend a wedding ceremony. She dressed herself and prepared for the journey. She packed everything she wanted to offer as a gift. After having traveled a long distance, she became very tired while walking with her heavy luggage and began praying in her heart, "Let a good Samaritan come to help me with my heavy luggage." Immediately a driver came by, and asked her politely, "Mama, accept my offer for you to sit in my car." She replied, "I am not ready to sit, go your way." They bargained and at last she accepted. When the man started driving, the grandmother took her luggage immediately, and started carrying it again, as if she had not been helped. The man saw her doing this so he asked her, "Why are you doing this to me?" She replied, "I am content with my condition of having to carry my luggage. Let me continue walking. I am tired of sitting in your car."

Brethren, this is what Christ has done for you and me. How many times have you wandered in the same sin, having God send you warnings and reproofs, yet you are always content with your condition? Have you ever counted the cost of your sins that made Jesus shed His blood on Calvary for you? Count the cost now and examine yourself. Christ did not die in order that you and I should continue living in sin, crucifying Jesus Christ a second time.

The cross lifts. "We are to lift the cross, and follow the steps of Christ. Those who lift the cross will find that as they do this, the cross lifts them, giving them fortitude and courage, and pointing them to the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world." —*The Review and Herald*, July 13, 1905

LOOK UP AND LIVE WITH JESUS

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole; and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put

it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived." Numbers 21:8–10

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:14–15

"If you are conscious of your sins, do not devote all your powers to mourning over them, but look and live. Jesus is our only Saviour; and although millions who need to be healed will reject His offered mercy, not one who trusts in His merits will be left to perish. While we

realize our helpless condition without Christ, we must not be discouraged; we must rely upon a crucified and risen Saviour. Poor, sin-sick, discouraged soul, look and live. Jesus has pledged His word; He will save all who come unto Him." —*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 352

Finally, my brethren, I would like to conclude with Paul's message in Romans 10:1–3. "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about

to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

WHICH WAY ARE YOU CHOOSING?

May the Lord help each and every soul who is striving for perfection of character, that we may be found faultless before the throne of God. Grace be with you all. Amen.



"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:14–15



Jenifer Akello, Uganda

Taught by the Ant!



**“Doth not even nature itself teach you?”
1 Corinthians 11:14**

“There be . . . things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise: The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer.” Proverbs 30:24–25). Many “little things, so common around us, teach the lesson that nothing is beneath the notice of the infinite God, nothing is too small for His attention.” —*Healthful Living*, p. 294

Ants live in highly organized societies called colonies; their family numbers some 11,000 species, and they are among the smallest and wisest creatures on earth (Proverbs 30:24–28).

According to scientific classification, ants belong to an order of insects called Hymenoptera, and they play a tremendous role in the ecosystem of our planet. These tiny creatures are also known for their ability to convey practical instruction. “The ants teach lessons of patient industry, of perseverance in surmounting obstacles, of providence for the future.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 58

Solomon, the wisest monarch of all time (1 Kings 4:29–34), calls our attention to the small things of the earth: he said, “Go to the ant; . . . consider her ways, and be wise.” Proverbs 6:6. Please join me on a visit to an ant colony in an attempt to learn a bit of their proverbial activities and wisdom.

UNITY AND ORDER

Our God is a God of order (1 Corinthians 14:40), and all His creatures from the tiny ants to the giant galaxies reveal how orderly He is in all His ways. “Order is heaven’s first law” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 201), and it seems to be also the first law of the ant colonies. Outstanding models of administration, ants labour in a manner which is really marvelous. Ant colonies vary from a few members to many millions of

members, called super colonies. The members of an ant colony fall into categories known as castes, each with a different role such as searching for food, nursing the young, and defending the colony against predators.

The queen distinguishes herself from the regular ants (the workers) by birth: born with wings, they have a larger body than the worker ants and are

the only females of the colony capable of mating. Although each ant plays a distinct role, all harmoniously cooperate with one another to realize a perfect teamwork for the wellbeing of their colony. How spectacular it is to see these tiny creatures so well organized as to self-manage their million-member societies! “The industrious bee gives to men of intelligence an example that they would do well to imitate. These insects observe perfect order, and no idler is allowed in the hive. They execute their appointed work with an intelligence and activity that are beyond our comprehension” — *Child Guidance*, p. 59

INDUSTRY

It is known that the members of an ant colony are workers. They were just born to work and they live performing the task for which they were created. Ants play crucial roles in their ecosystems. They recycle organic matter, they turn the soil by moving organic matter and soil nutrients, they reduce insect populations, they serve as food for other animals, they disperse seeds, and they sometimes pollinate flowers. Most species dig underground nests that have numerous openings and tunnels. Air and water pass into the soil through these passageways, making oxygen and moisture available to the roots of plants. The Word of God admonishes us thus: “Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.” Romans 12:11. “Solomon presents to the world the industry of the ant as a reproach to those who waste their hours in sinful idleness, in practices which corrupt soul and body.” —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, p. 1157

FAITHFULNESS

“The wise man calls our attention to the small things of the earth: ‘Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise; which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gather-

eth her food in the harvest.’ ‘The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer.’ [Proverbs 6:6–8; 30:25]. We may learn from these little teachers a lesson of faithfulness. Should we improve with the same diligence the faculties which an all-wise Creator has bestowed upon us, how greatly would our capacities for usefulness be increased. God’s eye is upon the smallest of His creatures; does He not, then, regard man formed in His image, and require of him corresponding returns for all the advantages He has given him?” –*Child Guidance*, p. 59. The Bible enjoins us, “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much” (Luke 16:10). When a task is entrusted to us, let us faithfully execute it just as the faithful ants carry out their activities.

PERSEVERANCE

“The habitations that the ants build for themselves show wonderful skill and perseverance. Only one little grain at a time can they handle, but by diligence and perseverance they accomplish wonders.” –*The Youth’s Instructor*, September 14, 1899. Like the ants, we have also to build, and our buildings could well last forever if we diligently add to our character building grace upon grace: “Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound,



they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.” 2 Peter 1:5–10

PROVISION

In a previous article “Are you prepared?” (see November 2016 issue of *The Reformation Messenger*), we showed how the most perilous times are just upon us. We need to be prepared surely. “The ant prepares for future seasons. This is a lesson which many gifted with reasoning powers disregard. They fail entirely to prepare for the future immortal life which God has in His

providence secured for the fallen race.” –*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, p. 1157

The Holy Writ says, “Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, that he shall make him ruler over all his goods.” Matthew 24:44–47

“DOTH NOT EVEN NATURE ITSELF TEACH YOU?”

Order, industry, perseverance, faithfulness and provision are needed more now than ever before. “The ants teach lessons of patient industry, of perseverance in surmounting obstacles, of providence for the future. And the birds are teachers of the sweet lesson of trust. Our heavenly Father provides for them; but they must gather the food, they must build their nests and rear their young. Every moment they are exposed to enemies that seek to destroy them. Yet how cheerily they go about their work! How full of joy are their little songs!” –*Child Guidance*, p. 58



If we do not wish Satan to defeat us, then it is essential to: *watch, pray, and work*. Prayer and watchfulness are necessary to be able to grow in godliness. Never in your life was that time more important than it is now. You can only feel safe if you are constantly watching, praying, and working. These three characteristics alone can protect you from the snares of Satan. “But all the work we do that is necessary to be done, be it washing dishes, setting tables, waiting upon the sick, cooking, or washing, is of moral importance; and until you can cheerfully and happily take up these duties you are not fitted for greater and higher duties. The humble tasks before us are to be taken up by someone; and those who do them should feel that they are doing a necessary and honorable work, and that in their mission, humble though it may be, they are doing the work of God just as surely as was Gabriel when sent to the prophets. All are working in their order in their respective spheres.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 79

May the Lord grant that this genuine lesson be in our hearts. Amen

Victor Shumbusho



Are Humans Carnivores, Herbivores or Omnivores?

Last month we compared the claims made by the evolutionists vs the Bible truths regarding the origin of man and his diet. This month we will delve more deeply into the reasons why a vegan diet is the one most suitable for mankind. Was the human body ever designed to eat meat, even along the evolutionary track?

All animals, including humans can be classified in relation to the diet that they consume. The three classifications include carnivores, omnivores and herbivores. Carnivores must consume a meat-based diet to supply their nutritional needs; herbivores survive on a diet strictly based on a variety of plant foods, excluding all animal products, including what we would consider “dairy”; omnivores have the capability to obtain their nutrition from a combination of meat and plants. These classifications identify the diet that is required to provide the nutritional needs of each type of animal. Even strict carnivores sometimes ingest plant-based foods, however their nutritional requirements would not be met if they were to avoid meat altogether.

The current diet of humans would suggest that we are omnivores, because most people exist on a diet which contains a combination of plants and meat. However, this diet classification does not take into consideration whether man is a true omnivore (meaning he is designed to be an omnivore) or whether humans are labelled as omnivores as a dietary choice rather than a need. The definition of omnivore does not require that an omnivorous animal be perfectly suited to that method of nourishment. This classification is the most flexible of the three, as these animals consume both plants and meats, in varying combinations.

Examples in nature of omnivores show that such animals do not develop omnivorous adaptations to more

precisely meet all their nutritional requirements, but to adapt to eating a diet based on the food that is available; in other words, omnivores are opportunistic feeders, making do with what is available. In defining an omnivore, it does not require that the omnivorous animal be perfectly suited to a specific combination of meat and plants, but it is an indication of the ability to obtain the required nutrients from both sources.

When people say that humans are omnivorous, they confuse adaptation with physiological need. Feeding patterns do not always indicate the most suitable diet. But, because we are able to obtain nutrition from animal protein, some conclude that humans need a certain amount of meat a day to provide for complete nutrition. We are only considered omnivores because we can obtain our nutrition from both plants and animal foods. However, most traditional human societies eat a diet made up mostly of plant foods. The important decisions about what to eat and when to eat it should therefore be based on the nutritional costs and benefits of obtaining that food compared to the essential nutrients that the food provides. But, does that make an omnivorous diet the most healthy one for man?

The science of nutrition and dietary requirements is based on dietary needs versus food choices throughout the history of mankind. In determining the best diet for mankind, the questions that need to be asked are, do humans have the physiological necessity for meat? Do humans require the nutrients provided by a combination of meat and plants to survive and be healthy? This can be answered simply with a strong “no”, even by people who are not in the field of nutrition, as many people live and thrive on a plant-based diet. And those who live on a strictly plant-based diet are in fact healthier than those who consume meat as part of their diet.

Therefore, humans—as opposed to, for example, cats which cannot survive on a plant-based diet—have no need for meat to provide a nutritionally balanced diet. The human’s consumption of meat classifies them as an omnivore; however, from a biological point of view, humans can derive all their needed nutrition from the consumption of strictly plants, which would classify man as a natural herbivore.

IDENTIFYING HUMAN DIET CLASSIFICATION BASED ON STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM:

Let us look how humans are built, in order to determine what diet man was designed to consume. In comparing the digestive system of carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores we find significant differences all along the gastro-intestinal (digestive) tract. Starting with dentition, all animals have the same types of teeth (incisors, canines, pre-molars, molars), however between classifications, their size, shape and number vary.

Carnivores have powerful jaws to bite and hold prey. Their front teeth (incisors) are short, pointed, and prong-like for grasping and shredding meat. Their teeth



are widely spaced to avoid trapping stringy debris. They have long, sharp, pointed canine teeth, with the ability to stab, tear into meat, and to kill their prey. Carnivores eat their food whole, so there no need for chewing. Therefore,

they have very few molars, and the ones they have are triangular with jagged edges to shear meat. The jaw moves up and down to quickly bite and swallow.

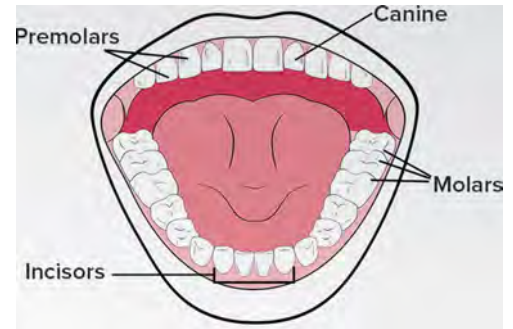
The incisors of herbivores are flat and spade-like, to provide for a cropping, biting mechanism. They have small or non-existent canine teeth. The molars are flat surfaced, and strong. This allows for biting, crushing, grinding and extensive chewing of food. The jaw moves side-to-side and back-to-front with the aid of the tongue and cheek muscles, to allow food to be moved around the mouth to be chewed and broken down into smaller pieces before being swallowed.

Omnivores have a combination of long, sharp, pointed front teeth for tearing meat, plus flat molars to chew plant food. They also have a jaw that moves up and

down, with minimal sideways motion.

In humans, the incisors are broad, flattened, and spade-shaped. Some claim that because we have a set of canine teeth, or “fangs” is an indication of a need for meat in our diet.

But, our canine teeth are not large enough to pierce or stab animal food. The canine teeth are short and blunted. If we compare our diet to that of a chimpanzee, which



has almost an identical tooth structure to humans, however with larger canine teeth, their diet is 95% plant-based. There, the fact that humans have a small set of canine teeth does not indicate the need for a meat-based diet. Molars are flattened with nodular cusps, for extensive chewing. Humans favour a similar tooth shape and pattern to herbivores.

A carnivore’s jaw moves up and down, with minimal sideways motion, as is with omnivores. This action provides for the ability rip and tear at flesh and swallow it whole. Man’s jaw, as with other herbivores cannot shear food, but have good side to side and back to front motion. These structure is useful for extensive chewing, crushing and grinding of grains and other high fiber foods. Raw meat is difficult to break down using the jaw action of humans unless it is denatured in some way, as through cooking.

The saliva content in the mouths of carnivores, omnivores and herbivores differ. The saliva of both carnivores and omnivores do not contain any digestive enzymes. When these animals eat, they gorge themselves rapidly and do not chew their food. Protein-digesting enzymes cannot be present in the mouth due to the danger of the enzymes damaging the mouth. Carnivores do not need to mix their food with saliva; they simply bite off huge chunks of meat and swallow them whole. Even though omnivores can obtain nutrition from plants, they are identical to carnivores in that digestion starts in the stomach, no digestion of food takes place in the mouth.

However, with herbivores and with humans, the saliva contains digestive enzymes that are designed to start breaking down carbohydrates (plant foods) before the food passes into the stomach. Because plant cellulose is difficult to break down, digestion needs to begin before

it gets to the stomach. This digestion is also aided by the length of time that food stays in the mouth during the chewing action. Often when people eat too quickly, and swallow their food before it has been broken down into the state the stomach requires, the saliva in the mouth does not have time to start digesting the food, and symptoms of indigestion occur.

Carnivores, omnivores, and humans have similar stomachs types, although the size differs. Carnivore's and omnivore's stomach capacity equals 60-70% of the entire digestive tract because they have shorter intestines. Herbivore's stomach capacity equals less than 30%, with human's stomach capacity equalling 21-27% of the total volume of the digestive tract. In terms of relative size, humans are aligned with herbivores much more than with carnivores and omnivores. The only difference is with ruminants of the herbivore family, who have multiple stomachs in order to digest tough grasses.

Before we move along the digestive tract to the stomach, let us review quickly the terms acid, alkaline, and pH. Almost all liquids are either acids or alkaline (base). Whether a liquid is an acid or base depends on the type of ions in it. If it contains a lot of hydrogen ions, then it is an acid. If it has a lot of hydroxide ions, then it is a base. pH (potential for hydrogen) is a unit of measure for determining if a liquid is acidic or basic (alkaline). Something that is neither acidic nor basic is referred to as neutral. Water is considered neutral, with a pH of 7. Any liquid with a pH below 7 is an acid, and anything above is a base. The lower the number, the more acidic the liquid.

In the stomach, digestion occurs through a combination of digestive enzymes (pepsin/amylase) and hydrochloric acid, making up the gastric juice. The gastric juice in the stomach requires different levels of acidity to break down different types of foods. Animal protein requires very high acidity to produce the enzyme, pepsin, needed for digestion to occur. The pH must be close to 1. Carbohydrates require a pH between 4-5 to produce the enzyme, amylase, for digestion. Amylase is destroyed in a too acidic environment, which then stops carbohydrate digestion. To create the acidic environment needed for digestion and to trigger production of digestive enzymes, the stomach produces varying amounts of hydrochloric acid to adjust the pH to the necessary value.

In carnivores and omnivores the stomach acidity (pH) reaches less than or equal to 1, with food in the stom-

ach. This low pH is reached by producing large amounts of hydrochloric acid, necessary to produce the enzyme, pepsin, to digest animal protein. The high acidity also kills any pathogens in the food that may harm the animal: bacteria, toxins, worms, salmonella. Plant-based foods require a more alkaline stomach environment in order to be digested, therefore the pH of herbivores is between 4-5 pH.

Humans typically can reach a lower stomach pH than herbivores, because they also consume animal protein. When humans consume animal proteins, the stomach acids can reach to a level of 2 pH, still higher than true carnivores. However there is a price to pay. Having to increase the hydrochloric acid content of the human stomach to digest animal protein damages the lining of the stomach and esophagus, leading to ulcers, heartburn, and indigestion. Researchers suggest that man's long-term consumption of animal foods has lowered the average pH of the human stomach to prevent being infected by pathogens that can kill. But because the pH of the human stomach is incapable of reaching the same values as carnivores, humans are much more susceptible to bacteria, parasites, salmonella poisoning, and worms from their food. In fact, eating raw meat would bring on various disease states. Therefore, what does man do with his food? He prepares it in a way that will generally kill these pathogens, usually by cooking the meat. Would a true omnivore or carnivore require meat to be cooked in order to eat it safely? Of course not. Many raw meats that humans consume, such as sushi, must be prepared very carefully, but still outbreaks of parasites occur. Also, animal proteins are not as completely digested in the less than ideal acidic environment of the human stomach, and pass through the stomach into the intestines, partially digested.

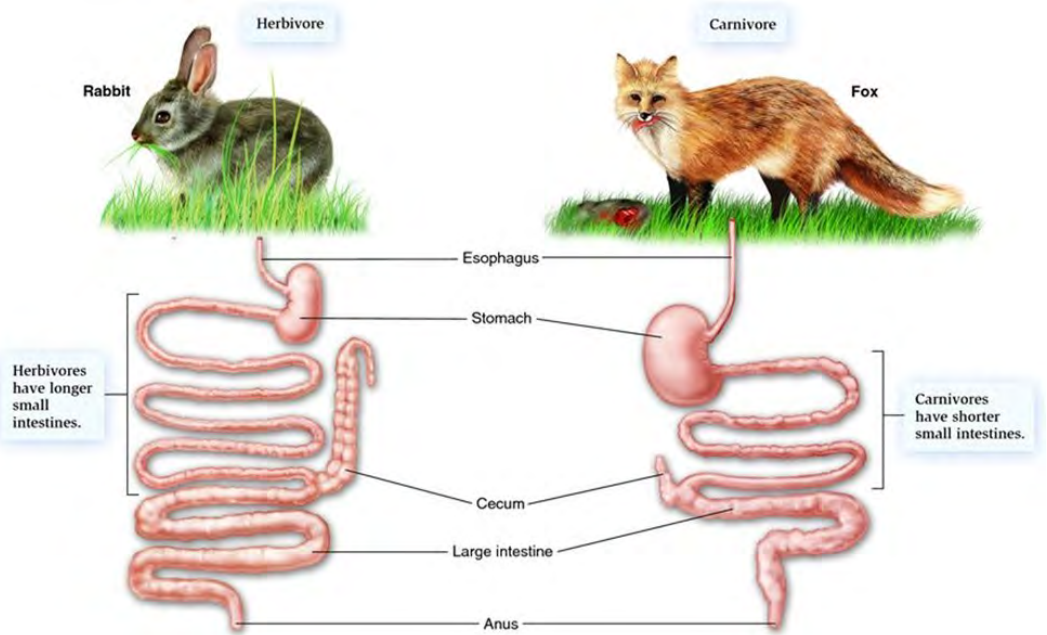
The problem also with human digestion of meat occurs when man eats his typical meal which consists of some kind of animal protein, mixed with vegetables or other carbohydrates, like bread, pasta, etc. In order for humans to digest the meat, the stomach reacts by producing large amounts of hydrochloric acid to reduce the pH to 2. However, the problem is that the enzyme to digest carbohydrates is destroyed at these levels of pH, therefore meat and carbohydrates cannot be effectively digested together. The result is indigestion. Carbohydrates remain undigested in the stomach. Fermentation, gas and bloating occur. And since this fermentation of carbohydrates will inhibit the digestion of the protein, more gas, bloating and discomfort will be produced. True omnivores do not typically consume both

meat and carbohydrates in the same meal, so their stomach acids adjust to either animal or plant food digestion. How can our stomachs, which need both pepsin and amylase to effectively break down a diet that contains a combination of carbohydrates and meats, each of which requires drastically different levels of hydrochloric acid to be produced, actually function to do both at the same time? It cannot.

Next let us examine the liver of carnivores and omnivores vs herbivores. A byproduct of animal protein digestion—a process by which the body breaks down protein into the amino acids that our body can use—is a substance called uric acid. Uric acid is also toxic to the body, and must be metabolized by the liver and then flushed out by the kidneys. The liver of carnivores and omnivores have the ability to process ten times as much uric acid as the liver of a man or herbivore. If the liver cannot process the amount of uric acid produced by the consumption of animal protein, it can cause problems such as gout and kidney stones.

As we go further down the digestion system, the small intestine of carnivores and omnivores is approximately six times the length of its trunk. This is designed for rapid absorption of food that will rot if it is not digested quickly. Humans and herbivores have small intestines 10–12 times the length of their trunk, winding back and forth. This is designed to keep the food in the small intestine for long periods of time, so that all the valuable nutrients from the food can be extracted and absorbed. However, when meat is consumed, it will also sit in the small intestine for the same length of time, which can cause the food to rot and putrefy.

Traveling to the large intestine, the length of a carnivore's and omnivore's large intestine is relatively short and simple, like a pipe. The lining of the large intestine is relatively smooth, and the length of the intestine runs fairly straight. This ensures that the fatty wastes, high in cholesterol can easily be eliminated before they start to putrefy. Human's and herbivore's large intestines are puckered and pouched, traveling in three different directions, designed to hold wastes from foods that are high in water content. Rhythmic contractions move the wastes through the colon. This setup



assists in removing the fluids, salts and some vitamins from the waste products of digestion, and returning them back to the body. Fiber, provided by a plant diet helps to move the food through the intestines, to prevent constipation, and also balances gut flora to protect from bad bacteria. Substances that are high in fat and cholesterol that have been putrefying from their long trip in the small intestine now get stuck in the pockets that line the large intestine. Studies clearly show that colon and stomach cancers are as a result of man's diet, which consists of large amounts of animal protein, saturated fats, sugars, and cholesterol.

As we move through the various parts of the digestive system, we are able to conclude that, overall man's digestive system is most closely aligned to the digestive system of herbivores, proof that man was designed to consume only plant foods. Despite man's ability to derive nutrients from animal products, unlike true omnivores which consume both animal and plant proteins, man cannot eat animal protein in its natural form without disease and death as a result, thus contradicting the evolution theory. Scientific research has proven that many of the diseases that plague mankind are due to the food choices one makes. When comparing a vegan, plant-based diet to that of a meat-eater, the benefits to man's health of a vegan diet greatly outweigh the risks of a meat-based diet.

NEXT MONTH: We will go into details about a vegan diet, and how it provides man with all the required nutrition.



To Forgive

"Grandpa!" yelled little Max happily. He dropped his school bag at the door, kicked off his shoes, and ran into the kitchen where he found his grandfather with a wooden spoon stirring the delicious soup he was preparing. Little Max jumped into his grandfather's arms.

"Maxy!" chuckled Grandpa as he lifted him off the ground.

"They truly miss you, Daddy," said Mother smiling.

"We love you Grandpa!" Max added.

"However there is someone missing, where's sweet little Annie?" Grandpa asked as he put Max down.

"I'm not sure, she didn't talk much on the way back home, she looked sad. I think it has to do with Lyla," answered Max.

"Oh no," Mother slowly shook her head.

"Lyla?" Grandpa scratched his head.

"Lyla and Annie are friends, but yesterday Lyla made a remark about Annie's nose. . . I think I'll go speak to Annie." Just as Mother was about to make her way out, Grandpa kindly stopped her.

"Let me go talk to her." He winked at Mother as he headed up to Annie's room.

"Knock, knock" said Grandpa as he lightly knocked on the door, "May I come in?"

"Grandpa? Um. . . okay," answered Annie sadly.

Grandpa slowly walked in, Annie was lying face down on her, but quickly got up as grandpa walked in. He sat in the pink chair next to Annie's bed and looked into his grand-daughter's light brown eyes.

"Grandpa, I don't know what to do. Lyla called me

button nose yesterday and she really hurt my feelings. But today she said sorry. I told her I wouldn't accept her apology, and that she could never be my friend again. Now I feel sad because I feel like I hate her and Mother says feeling hatred is a poisonous feeling and that I only hurt myself really. Grandpa, what do I do?" Tears began to run down little Annie's rosy cheeks.

"Would you like to hear a story Jesus once told?" asked Grandpa with a soft look in his eyes.

"Of course, Grandpa," answered Annie, as she wiped her tears.

"One day, a servant was called before a king because he owed this king a great deal of money. The debt was so great that there was no way the servant could pay. Therefore, the king ordered the servant to sell everything he had, including his family and himself to pay off what he owed. The servant cried out for mercy, begging on his knees that the king would forgive him of this great debt. So much was his cry and begging that the king's heart was softened and he decided to forgive this servant the great debt he owed. But as this happy servant made his way home, he found a fellow servant who owed him a little bit of money. He told the servant that he must pay him or he would make sure he was thrown into prison. No matter how much this fellow servant cried and begged him to forgive him, the servant that had been forgiven threw him into jail. When the king heard about what had happened, he was angered, and asked that the servant whom he had forgiven be brought before him once more. The king then told this servant that for not having mercy towards his fellow servant for so much less than his own debt, now he would go to prison until the last cent was paid. My sweet little Annie, in Matthew 18 Jesus has called us to



never stop forgiving. God has forgiven us, even when our debt was great towards Him. Now we must forgive those who offend us, and show others we are grateful for the mercy God has with us.”

“Grandpa, now I understand. It was wrong of me not to accept Lyla’s apology. God forgives me when I say I’m sorry. Now I must show the same mercy to Lyla. Thank you, Grandpa.” Annie gave her grandpa a big warm hug.

“Thank God, my sweet child. Now, we best get downstairs to eat that delicious soup before it gets cold.”

“Yes!” smiled Annie as she jumped off her bed and ran out the door.

Challenge Four

Find the following 10 words in the word search.



- | | | | |
|------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. SERVANT | 4. FORGIVE | 7. UNGRATEFUL | 10. COMPASSION |
| 2. KING | 5. GOD | 8. MERCY | |
| 3. DEBT | 6. FRIEND | 9. JAIL | |

Complete all 15 Challenges

Don't miss Grandpa's next visit to Annie and Max's home!!

Email your challenges here:
veronicanoeemigarcia@gmail.com



Burkina Faso



Left: Believers in Burkina Faso. We are currently working with the 250 people who came to listen to the health talk done by Christian.

Nigeria



Above right: a couple that was baptized in river Niger in Asaba on December 18, 2016.

Nigeria



Left: Believers in the Asaba Church

CONGO



Kashamata church in Lubumbashi

Bethesda Missionary Institute—Graduation December 22, 2016 Cedartown, Georgia USA



Graduates in Front Row: Left to Right. Makoto Matsumoto (Japan), Alvaro Andres Cayola Carillo (Bolivia), Kevin Barrios Paz (USA), Johnathan David Figuereo Fernandez (USA), Cadmiel Lucas Hunger (USA), Danilo Jehu Lopez Nicoli (Guatemala), Persia Alexis Suarez (USA), Alexandra Maria Cayola Carillo (Bolivia), Eliana Maria Quicuca (Canada), Edeline Policarpio Cosby (USA)



Outing to Etowah Archaeological Museum



HOPE

Though winter's shrieking winds may blow,
And storm-fiends howl in gale and blast;
Though earth seems dead 'neath shroud of snow,
Yet peace with spring will come at last.

And though the mists, like veil of night,
The warm sun's daily course conceal,
Yet will it wake with living light—
The world to joyfulness and weal.

Then rage, ye storms! fierce be your might!
Is not the heart's hope mightier still?
Beyond the winter and the night,
Spring's light feet tread the vale and hill.

Then like a child from trouble dreams,
Shall wake the silent, sleeping world,
Smile in the loving sun's bright beams,
When storm's black cloud-flags all are furled.

Then like a maid, twine in her hair
Sweet-scented blossoms of the hill,
Bedeck herself with garlands rare,
And smiling, gaze into the rill.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Soul, be at peace? Forget the woe,
Hope on! Think not of doubt and fear!
Be undismayed, trust God, and know
That He is strong and ever near.

From the German of Geibel
— *The Review and Herald*, February 9, 1892