THE SYMBOLIC CODE

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"Shall not God avenge His own elect."

(Lk.: 18:7)

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GOD'S TEMPLE IS TO RECEIVE CONSTANT CARE

We are to obey the laws of His kingdom, making ourselves all that it is possible for us to be. Earnestly we are to cultivate the highest powers of our being, remembering that we are God's property, God's building. We are required to improve every day. Even in this world of sin and sorrow, we may, by earnest, persevering effort, rise to the highest spiritual efficiency....We are to please God. This we may do; for Enoch pleased God, though living in a degenerate age. And there are Enochs in this our day.

The human house, God's building, His temple, requires close, vigilant, watchful guardianship. With David we can exclaim, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." God's workmanship is to be preserved, that it may be revealed to the heavenly universe and to the apostate race that men and women are temples of the living God.

The perfection of character which God requires is the fitting up of the whole being as a temple for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Lord requires the service of the entire human machinery. He desires men and women to be all that He made it possible for them to be. It is not enough for certain parts of the machinery to be used. All parts must be brought into action, or the service is deficient....-SDG:314

JACOB'S TIME OF TROUBLE

In our last three issues of the Code (Winter 1992, Spring and Summer 1993), we discussed the major present and future events to take place just prior to the purification of the church and the establishment of the Kingdom. We have seen how the world is with great energy seeking to form a "strong and workable union of nations" (13 SC.3:6), how the United Nations' role is rapidly expanding to fulfill the promise envisioned by the U.N.'s founders--to police, govern and unite the world under one political/economic system, now commonly known as the "New World Order". The so-called "New World Order" touted by leaders such as former President George Bush, and former Soviet leader Mikail Gorbachev, will amount to a world government patterned after a sort of socialism. The rapid erosion of nationalism; each nation losing its identity to become a part of a united world under one economy, political system and eventually religion is one of the prominent sign posts that this so called new world order is not far into the future, in fact, it is just about at the door.

As present truth believers we know that this attempt will first be manifested in what Inspiration terms the Assyrian Confederacy, which will in time come to naught as the world is plunged into the "greatest of all battles" (Zech. 14:1,2; 2TG.41:19) and the U.S. and her allies--the Western world, crumbles and falls. This unprecedented confederacy and war, centered in the Holy Land, will signal the last steps in the separation of the just and the unjust in the house of God, the establishment of God's Kingdom of glory. Hence, with the fall of modern Assyria (U.S. and allies or English-speaking Christian world, 1TG.23:6) comes the separation of the "wheat" and the "tares" in the Seventh-day Adventist church. Indeed, "here in prophetic utterance is not only a promise to purify the church when modern Assyria is being crushed, but also a suggestive statement as to what constitutes 'meat in due season' for men today; and as to what movement they are to enlist in if they would make sure of salvation." (14 TR:22; see also 14 TR:18,25.)

It is during the forming of the Assyrian Confederacy, when the nations are uniting that God's people are to oppose this union. (Isa. 8:7-12; 13 SC.3:6-10). The world will be plunged into great economic straits, perhaps as we have never seen before in modern times. (1TG. 5:15,17). The want of food and drink, clothing and other necessities of life, "ruin and adversities of all kinds" will grip the unfaithful even in the church. Yes, "the time is at hand when the sinners in Jerusalem and in Judah--the General Conference men and the church as a whole, will not have a drop to drink or a bite to eat." (1 TG.5:16.)

We cannot fully imagine what this period just ahead of us will be like. Not only will the church be against God's true people but the world will also be against them. Our only hope will be in God and His Word, our Saviour and King, friend and Redeemer. This will especially be true as we approach the purification of the church and the fall of Assyria. The climatic time is hastening on--the last day and night just prior to the separation (Ezekiel 9), the time of our deliverance. Joel calls this the "Solemn Assembly", Jeremiah calls it "Jacob's trouble", It is the climax of a long and trying journey for God's pilgrims, the last bitter cup before they taste the sweet joys of the Kingdom.

CRYING FOR DELIVERANCE

"And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, there was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while but afterward

he said within himself, though I fear not God, nor regard man; yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? Luke 18:1-8.

When will God's people cry day and night for deliverance? The answer is just before His coming with vengeance to free His elect. What coming? Is it His coming in the clouds of glory (1 Thess. 4:14-17) or some other coming?

"The oppressed people of God are yet to raise to Heaven one united day and night cry for deliverance." 3 Spiritual Gifts, p. 23.

"Furthermore, the query, 'Shall He find faith on the earth?' is not questioning the number of saints at this particular coming, but rather faith itself regardless of number. And if at His appearing in the clouds to take home the faithful, He finds no faith in the earth, then what about His waiting church, which is to be without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, be it small or great?

"Obviously, His coming recorded in Luke 18:8 cannot be the one of 1 Thessalonians 4:17, His coming 'in the clouds.' But it could be the one of Malachi 3:2,3, and Matthew 13:30, 47-48, leading to Matthew 25:31-33. His coming to His temple is to separate the sinners from the saints, at the commencement of which time Inspiration asks, 'Who may abide the day of His coming?'" 1 SRp:19,20.

Here inspiration plainly forecasts a time of great trial and distress for God's elect, yet God will not forsake them in their darkest hour, He will hear their cries and avenge them. This coming, in other words, is the purification of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Malachi calls it, his "suddenly" coming to His "temple;" it is the separation of the "wheat" from the "tares," the good "fish" from the "bad," the "sheep" from the "goats." (Matt. 13:30, 47-48; 25:31-33). Yes, this is His coming in judgment to cleanse the earthly temple--the church; the fulfillment of Ezekiel nine. Ellen White verifies this:

"The earnest prayers of this faithful few will not be in vain. When the Lord comes forth as an avenger, He will also come as a protector of all those who have preserved the faith in its purity and kept themselves unspotted from the world. It is at this time that God has promised to avenge His own elect which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them.

"The command is: 'Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.' These sighing, crying ones had been holding forth the words of life; they had reproved, counseled, and entreated. Some who had been dishonoring God repented and humbled their hearts before Him. But the glory of the Lord had departed from Israel; although many still continued the forms of religion, His power and presence were lacking." 5T:210.

Here we see that just prior to the separation in the house of God, His people will be plunged into a time of deep anguish, but our deliverance will involve the Lord's coming as an avenger, then begins the great slaughter of Ezekiel nine.

<u>WHAT WILL CAUSE GOD'S PEOPLE THIS GREAT DISTRESS?</u>

"Different periods in the history of the church have each been marked by the development of some special truth, adapted to the necessities of God's people at that time. Every new truth has made its way against hatred and opposition; those who were blessed with its light were tempted and tried. The Lord gives a special truth for the people in an emergency. Who dare refuse to pub-

lish it? He commands His servants to present the last invitation of mercy to the world. They cannot remain silent, except at the peril of their souls. Christ's ambassadors have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty and leave results with God." GC:609-610.

It will be no different when the nations unite under a confederacy of the Western world and find themselves plunged into a "gigantic war," when churches including God's professed people will support this endeavor thinking that it is a good thing, when to most of the world this alliance solves the world's ills and maladies. This will be the time when all who love the truth above all else, who love the Redeemer so that no sacrifice is counted too dear for Him who died to save their wretched souls from sin and degradation, will boldly proclaim:

"Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces; and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces. Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word and it shall not stand: for God is with us. For the Lord spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying, say ye not, a confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, a confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. Sanctify the Lord of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread." Isaiah 8:9-13.

"God's people take a strong and independent attitude because they believe that God is with them. Most human beings are somewhat like Peter. We have great faith until we meet face to face with trial. When the trial here prophesied comes, though, God's people must know that God is with them, and they must firmly stand on His side.

"If God's people are approaching the time when they must either confederate or sacrifice their lives, they must be developing that faith which will cause them to believe that 'in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.' Rev. 9:6." -13.SC 3:7,8,9.

It is during this period that "God's people will see themselves absolutely helpless and they will appear helpless to all others." (13.SC.3:8), but will receive deliverance, comfort and strength to endure from God.

The saints' bold stand will enrage the men of the church and the world and will cause them to issue a decree against the people of God to kill them at a particular time. (See EW:282,283).

"Throughout the Dark Ages all who dared accept the Gospel were seeking death, and they found it, too. So we see that history in the period of the fifth trumpet discloses that up to this time Revelation 9:6 has not met its fulfillment. But there will yet be a decree before the fifth trumpet ends, that if men dare to disobey, they must face the threatened penalty of death. Those however, who have been sealed when the decree comes will seek death and death will flee from them. God will not let them die. By faith it is not difficult to understand how this could be, for you know that if God wills that you live you simply cannot die." 12.SC.2:14.

This death decree will cause the saints to "cry day and night for deliverance." (EW:36,37; EW:282,283). The saints will be brought into great trial and distress. They will see no human way out, but will have to rely on their faith in Christ their Saviour and Friend. They know that God has not forsaken them but, to all earthly appearances they are without help. But this time of peril becomes their time of deliverance. But the unconverted in the church will have to face the slaughtering angels of Ezekiel 9.

JACOB'S TIME OF TROUBLE

This same hour of distress and anguish is called by Jeremiah, "Jacob's Time of

Trouble." The fact that it is the same period of time, that is just before the purification of the church and the establishment of the Kingdom is brought to light by the following:

"For, lo, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the Lord: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it....For thus saith the Lord; we have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? Wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it." Jer. 30:3, 5-8.

"In this prophecy God is revealing that before God's people return to their father's land there shall be a time of trouble that will turn all faces pale. It will be a time of trembling, of fear, and of trouble such as never was.

"Trouble is coming. It is not going to be a small trouble. Why is it called Jacob's time of trouble? Jacob met his trouble while he was returning to the promised land. Now Jacob is to return again to the Promised Land with his household, and again he is to meet with great trouble. That is why it is called the time of Jacob's trouble. The trouble is to be exceedingly great.

"Some of us may think we have hardship now, but the fact is that we do not know what hardship is. We cannot now comprehend or even imagine how great the trouble will be. 'Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.' The trouble actually is what saves him. Then the time of trouble is coming for the good of the latter-day Jacobites. It is coming to deliver them. Through this most difficult time, it is the man who has the greatest faith in God that will fear the least. THE MORE FAITH ONE HAS THEN THE GREATER WILL BE HIS DELIVERANCE." 13.SC.1:9,10.

"Right now we may not appreciate this study as we ought to, but the time is soon coming in which we will dig as fast and as hard for it as we would to get out from under an avalanche. Those who have but little faith in the Word of God though, the study will not do them much good. Now is the time to start cultivating the faith we need to have then." 1.TG.47:14.

Note the connection of Jacob's trouble with the crying day and night for deliverance. The servant of the Lord states:

"A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob's trouble. Then all the saints cried out with anguish of spirit, and were delivered by the voice of God. The 144,000 triumphed." EW:36,37.

"Satan had accused Jacob before the angels of God, claiming the right to destroy him because of his sin; he had moved upon Esau to march against him; and during the patriarch's long night of wrestling, Satan endeavored to force upon him a sense of his guilt, in order to discourage him, and break his hold upon God. When in his distress Jacob laid hold of the Angel, and made supplication with tears, the heavenly Messenger, in order to try his faith, also reminded him of his sin, and endeavored to escape from him. But Jacob would not be turned away. He had learned that God is merciful, and he cast himself upon His mercy. He pointed back to his repentance for his sin, and pleaded for deliverance. As he reviewed his life, he was driven almost to despair; but he held fast the Angel, and with earnest, agonizing cries urged his petition until he prevailed.

"Such will be the experience of God's people in their final struggle with the powers of evil. God will test their faith, their perseverance, their confi-

dence in His power to deliver them." PP: 201,202.

"It was by self surrender and confiding faith that Jacob gained what he had failed to gain by conflict in his own strength. God thus taught His servant that divine power and grace alone could give him the blessing he craved. Thus it will be with those who live in the last days. As dangers surround them, and despair seizes upon the soul, they must depend solely upon the merits of the atonement....

"THOSE WHO ARE UNWILLING TO FORSAKE EVERY SIN AND TO SEEK EARNESTLY FOR GOD'S BLESSING, WILL NOT OBTAIN IT. But all who will lay hold of God's promises as did Jacob, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. 'Shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.' Luke 18:7,8." PP:202,203.

Now is the time to commit all to Christ without reservation. "Now is your opportunity to promote His cause, to make it your chief business, your chief interest, your highest joy. Now is the time to say, 'If I forget thee, o Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.' Psalms 137:5,6. To this end pray and work." 1.TG.42:6. Are you ready, dear reader to meet the "Time of Jacob's Trouble?" Are you making the needed preparation?

(Note: The next issue of the Code will cover the "Solemn Assembly.")

CEASE FROM MEN

VICTOR T. HOUTEFF

As you will find yourself under severe trial if you obey your inner convictions and take hold of the truth, you must therefore let the Lord alone be your guide, and inspiration your only teacher. Do not value your salvation so little as to trust to the wisdom of another. Be wise: obey the word of the Lord, investigate for yourself, and do not delay, for you know not the narrow margin of time between you and heaven! "Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom." Mic. 7:5.

The rulers of ancient Israel--priests, scribes, and pharisees--who deprived the people of their God-given right to investigate for themselves the teaching of Christ, perished along with their victims under the condemnation of the laws which were to save them.

"Woe unto you, lawyers!" therefore said Christ, "for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered." Luke 11:52.

This fatal mistake was repeated during the Reformation, also in the preaching of the First, Second, and Third Angels' messages. Thus each one who accepted the advancing truth and became a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist denomination, did so only by making his own investigation and decision independently of priest or scribe or pharisee. And if that method of investigation was the only sane and safe one then, it is just as certainly so now when we understand God's Word better than when we first believed! And though for your following obediently in the way God commands, the unfaithful watchmen of today "cast you out," and remove your name from the church books, you should rejoice (Isa. 66:5; Luke 6:22,23), and gladly endure the trial of your faith, knowing that it "worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Cor. 4:17); that, indeed, your accepting the truth and obeying it is the only thing that will forever insure your membership with the redeemed, in the church eternal, and that the only book that is worth-while having your name in is "The Lamb's Book of Life."

1 TRACT:44,45.

WHAT BRINGS SUCCESS?

VICTOR T. HOUTEFF

James 4:2,3--"Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

There is a class of people who do everything they can in order to enrich themselves in material wealth perhaps even for a good cause, yet they are poor because they attempt to acquire it in their own wisdom and strength and do not ask God either for the riches or His help to obtain them. Because this class did not ask they received not.

There is also another class who ask, but they ask amiss, wanting only to consume it upon themselves, and therefore they, too, receive nothing.

These are but two reasons why even some of God's Own people are poor. James here deals only with these two reasons, but other Bible writers give additional specific reasons such as poor management, indolence, providential reverses, and so on.

By inspired testimony we have learned that Abraham and Lot both became so rich that they had to dissolve partnership and occupy separate portions of land. Abraham suggested that Lot should choose first the land he wanted, and Abraham would take what was left. Lot chose all the plains and left the hills for Abraham. Perhaps from a business standpoint Lot's choice was good, but from God's viewpoint it was poor. In making his selection Lot failed to see or take into account the fact that he had been greatly blessed by his having been in partnership with his uncle Abraham. He thought only of his personal, selfish future security. Abraham, nevertheless, raised no objections to Lot's choice. He gladly took the hills.

In the process of time Lot moved into the city where he became poorer and poorer. At last the angel of the Lord had to rescue him, and he came out with nothing. In striking contrast to Lot's devastating experience, Abraham steadily became richer and richer, and God finally gave him all the land. What was the secret of Abraham's success?--God Himself made Abraham prosperous when He saw Abraham faithful in everything. When we are faithful in everything He will more abundantly bless us also.

When Joseph started out he, too, was very poor. He was sold by his own brothers and later sold again as a slave. All he possessed at that time were his soul and the clothes on his body. But eventually he became the world's richest man. He held the key to all the riches in Egypt, because whatever he did he put real religion into it. Even Pharoah recognized his outstanding worth and availed himself of it by appointing Joseph to run his government.

The troubles which came to Joseph in his life were actually for his good and prepared him to become an interpreter of dreams, a king, and doubtless the greatest economist the world has ever seen. God had observed that Joseph did everything as if it were his very own, and, moreover, he was constantly sensible to the fact that God was his Master and that nothing could be hidden from Him. It was this conviction that caused Joseph to understand that regardless what men did to him or said about him, God alone had charge of his life. Therefore, in prosperity and fame Joseph maintained his loyalty and integrity; and in adversity Joseph did not waste his time ascribing to others the cause of his troubles. Instead, he set about to behave in a way that would commend himself even to royalty, for it is not likely that the Ishmaelites would have been able to sell him to Potiphar had he not been a superior person.

"And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that

he did to prosper in his hand. And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.... And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured." Gen. 39:2-4,6. But again it was his lot to suffer reversals over which he had no control, and he landed in prison where his excellent personality and faithfulness once again won him his freedom, and, moreover, he was promoted to the highest position of the land.

In the meantime Joseph's brothers kept coming down until finally they were reduced to such poverty that they had to leave their country and come to Joseph for their food and living. We should be able to see in this that although God's people may be disgracefully dealth with by jealous associates, still they will not suffer the wrong forever if God is with them. Joseph followed righteousness and no man could prevent God from blessing him with riches and honor. It matters not what men may say or do against you to put you down, if you have God with you you will in the end be on top and they at the bottom. Jealousy may be as cruel as the grave, but sooner or later righteousness is rewarded. How important it is that God's people have their minds constantly employed in serving Him perfectly in everything!

We can indeed make ourselves the poorest of the poor by concerning ourselves wholly with our own needs and wants instead of working toward the goal of producing all we can for the benefit of others. Doing for others is what brings success and alone makes one in demand.

Job, you remember, was a very rich man because he was perhaps God's best friend on earth at that time. At least the Devil grew jealous of him and told the Lord that Job was not as good a man as the Lord thought, and he could prove it if he were allowed to bring enough trouble and hardship to him. And you remember that the Lord allowed the Devil to do anything he wanted to Job, except to take his life. In the midst of the fires of his many and grievous afflictions Job declared, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him." Job 13:15. Because Job did not fail, he in the end was many times richer than he was in the beginning. God's people do not become rich in any respect by playing the fool. Nor does it help for them to give themselves over to self pity in the day of adversity. When a person feels sorry for himself he has at least brought himself to a state of stalemate if not outright defeat. None of the men of God, regardless how severe were the hardships they were called upon to bear, felt that these sacrifices were too great. Generally speaking, all these men possessed a stabilizing power that is hard to explain other than to say that it is a gift of God which He bestows upon those who are intimately and firmly acquainted and united to Him.

Solomon, too, saw his great personal need, not for his own personal benefit, however, but for the ultimate benefit of his people. And he longed for the fulfilment of his need for their sake. That is why he asked God for the right thing --wisdom. And God gave him everything, including wisdom.

David was anointed king over Israel because God had daily seen him while he was a shepherd boy faithfully doing all he could to take the very best care of his father's sheep. God knew that if David would give even his life for sheep, he would be the right one to rule the kingdom.

The only lasting fortune man can obtain is gotten through righteousness, through God's way and in His time. The successful life is not that one which gained riches and acquired fame for this life and nothing for the future life. The successful man, on the contrary, insures his eternal riches by daily making straight paths for his feet to walk in, thus insuring also his present life's success. God controls the distribution of riches and He does not give them to His people as a blessing if they are selfish. If such people obtain wealth it is invariably a curse to them.

Now let us study Jacob's life for a few minutes this afternoon. You remember

that he was the son of Isaac whom God had greatly blessed. And when he grew old Jacob coveted the birthright which according to custom was to be Esau's. In desiring it Jacob was not seeking to become rich; he was after the spiritual blessing that it would bring and which Esau did not esteem highly, until in one way or another Jacob had successfully gotten it for himself. If a man wants spiritual blessings bad enough for the right purpose God will give them to him. After Jacob obtained the birthright he had to leave home and build his life with practically nothing at his uncle Laban's. There Jacob agreed to work for Laban seven years for his daughter Rachel, whom he wanted to marry. During these seven years Jacob had practically taken the business under his control, and God had greatly blessed his efforts, and through it Laban also was blessed. But Laban deceived him at the end of the seven years and gave him the wrong girl! Jacob again agreed to work another seven years for Rachel. During this time Jacob's work was of the same high quality as it had been before, even though he had been treated wrongly by his uncle.

Since God's people in this age are to endure "the time of Jacob's trouble" and receive the blessing which was promised to his posterity in the latter days, it would be time well spent for us to give further attention to the details as they are recorded in the Bible which describe the faithfulness with which Jacob, our type, discharged his daily responsibilities, and compare ourselves with him to see if we are as diligent and careful and trustworthy as he was. Let us read first

Gen. 30:25-43--"And it came to pass, when Rachel had born Joseph, that Jacob said unto Laban, Send me away, that I may go unto mine own place, and to my country. Give me my wives and my children, for whom I have served thee, and let me go: for thou knowest my service which I have done thee. And Laban said unto him, I pray thee, if I have found favour in thine eyes, tarry: for I have learned by experience that the Lord hath blessed me for thy sake. And he said, Appoint me thy wages, and I will give it. And he said unto him, Thou knowest how I have served thee, and how thy cattle was with me, For it was little which thou hadst before I came, and it is now increased unto a multitude: and the Lord hath blessed thee since my coming: and now when shall I provide for mine own house also? And he said, What shall I give thee? And Jacob said, Thou shalt not give me any thing: if thou wilt do this thing for me, I will again feed and keep thy flock. I will pass through all thy flock to day, removing from thence all the speckled and spotted cattle, and all the brown cattle among the sheep, and the spotted and speckled among the goats: and of such shall be my hire. So shall my righteousness answer for me in time to come, when it shall come for my hire before thy face: every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the sheep, that shall be counted stolen with me. And Laban said, Behold, I would it might be according to thy word. And he removed that day the he goats that were ringstraked and spotted, and all the she goats that were speckled and spotted, and every one that had some white in it, and all the brown among the sheep, and gave them into the hand of his sons. And he set three days' journey betwixt himself and Jacob: and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks.

"And Jacob took him rods of green poplar, and of the hazel and chestnut tree; and pilled white strakes in them, and made the white appear which was in the rods. And he set the rods which he had pilled before the flocks in the gutters in the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink, that they should conceive when they came to drink. And the flocks conceived before the rods, and brought forth cattle ringstraked, speckled, and spotted. And Jacob did separate the lambs, and set the faces of the flocks toward the ringstraked, and all the brown in the flock of Laban; and he put his own flocks by themselves, and put them not unto Laban's cattle. And it came to pass, whensoever the stronger cattle did conceive, that Jacob laid the rods before the eyes of the cattle in

the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods. But when the cattle were feeble, he put them not in: so the feebler were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's. And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses."

When Jacob's fourteen years service to obtain his two wives were over he wanted to move his family and possessions back to his own country whence he came. But Laban knew that he had prospered by having Jacob with him, and for this reason he did not want him to leave. Had Jacob not been enterprising and faithfully producing more than he consumed you know that Laban would not have wanted Jacob to stay even as long as he did. The thing that makes anyone valuable in the world is his ability to see and fill a need that exists in the world. The valuable man does not gain this reputation by measuring the good he will do by what he expects to receive in return. He is the valuable man, I repeat, because he saw and filled a need that existed in the world.

Verse 27--"And Laban said unto him, I pray thee, if I have found favour in thine eyes, tarry: for I have learned by experience that the Lord hath blessed me for thy sake."

This is the kind of recommendation the Christian should cause to be said of his religion by those for whom he works. Such a recommendation comes only by putting practical religion and thought into your everyday living and working habits, and by producing more than you consume. The real Christian will never say what I heard a man say one time. He told me that where he was working he was getting only a certain amount per hour which he stipulated in a tone of dissatisfaction, and then he quickly added that that is all the value in work he would give them, too. That is not the way to commend your religion to anyone for whom you intend to continue working. But it is the way to get yourself out the door sooner or later.

Let us read again

Verses 31-34--"And he [Laban] said, What shall I give thee [Jacob]? And Jacob said, Thou shalt not give me any thing: if thou wilt do this thing for me, I will again feed and keep thy flock. I will pass through all thy flock to day, removing from thence all the speckled and spotted cattle, and all the brown cattle among the sheep, and the spotted and speckled among the goats: and of such shall be my hire. So shall my righteousness answer for me in time to come, when it shall come for my hire before thy face: every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the sheep, that shall be counted stolen with me. And Laban said, Behold, I would it might be according to thy word."

In drawing up the new labor contract, Jacob said he did not want Laban to give him anything. He wanted to work for Laban on a purely production basis and what God would give him. Laban listened to Jacob's proposal and agreed to it because he expected the spotted lambs to be fewer than the others. Jacob, on the other hand, proposed this kind of contract because he knew that God was with him and would bless him. He seemed to know also that there is a natural law that we are blessed only when we put forth exertion and thought, for it took both on Jacob's part to prepare the rods and to separate the feeble from the strong cattle when they came to drink. And God did greatly bless him.

Gen. 31:1--"And he heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, Jacob hath taken away all that was our father's; and of that which was our father's hath he gotten all this glory."

Laban's sons said Jacob became rich because of Laban; but it was God who made him rich because of his faithfulness and effort.

Verses 2-4--"And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it was not toward him as before. And the Lord said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee. And Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field unto his

flock."

Though Jacob was rich he was still on the job.

Verses 5, 6--"And said unto them, I see your father's countenance, that it is not toward me as before; but the God of my father hath been with me. And ye know that with all my power I have served your father."

He served Laban with all his power, and he acknowledged that God had blessed him.

Verses 7-9--"And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me. If he said thus, The speckled shall be thy wages; then all the cattle bare speckled; and if he said thus, The ringstraked shall be thy hire; then bare all the cattle ringstraked. Thus God hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given them to me."

Both of the men charged each other with deceit. In his account to his wives, Jacob recalled that Laban had changed his wages repeatedly, and, furthermore, he pointed out that he could not help it that the cattle came ringstraked and speckled. He had simply put forth his best efforts and God had blessed him.

Verses 10-12--"And it came to pass at the time that the cattle conceived, that I lifted up mine eyes, and saw in a dream, and, behold, the rams which leaped upon the cattle were ringstraked, speckled, and grisled. And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I. And he said, Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ringstraked, speckled, and grisled: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee."

God revealed to Jacob that He Himself was responsible for Jacob's good fortune. Had Jacob not been faithful, however, do you think God would have blessed him? God blesses us only when we keep busy at our given work, whatever it may be. Moreover, just as God saw all the evil that Laban did toward Jacob, and did not suffer him to hurt Jacob, so also whatever anyone attempts to do against His faithful people today, it will in the end fail to accomplish the intended purpose to injure them, for God will turn it around at last to glorify Himself and to bless His people. And when God wants to bless someone, no one--not even the Devil--can keep Him from doing it.

Verses 14-16--"And Rachel and Leah answered and said unto him, Is there yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house? Are we not counted of him strangers? for he hath sold us, and hath quite devoured also our money. For all the riches which God hath taken from our father, that is ours, and our children's: now then, whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do."

Laban's daughters, too, recognized the fact that their father was selfish and a grafter. They were therefore willing to cooperate with Jacob in whatever God had told him to do.

Verses 17-22--"Then Jacob rose up, and set his sons and his wives upon camels; and he carried away all his cattle, and all his goods which he had gotten, the cattle of his getting, which he had gotton in Padanaram, for to go to Isaac his father in the land of Canaan. And Laban went to shear his sheep; and Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's. And Jacob stole away unawares to Laban the Syrian, in that he told him not that he fled. So he fled with all that he had; and he rose up, and passed over the river, and set his face toward the Mount Gilead. And it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob was fled."

The fact that Laban was unaware of Jacob's absence until someone informed him of it three days after he left, shows that Jacob had taken care of Laban's work so well that Laban did not have to go every day to check up on Jacob's work.

Verses 23-27--"And he took his brethren with him, and pursued after him seven days' journey; and they overtook him in the Mount Gilead. And God came to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said

unto him, Take heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad. Then Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the mount: and Laban with his brethren pitched in the Mount of Gilead. And Laban said to Jacob, What hast thou done, that thou hast stolen away unawares to me, and carried away my daughters, as captives taken with the sword? Wherefore didst thou flee away secretly, and steal away from me; and didst not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret, and with harp?"

Laban pretended in this, for were he not lying God would not have had to appear to Laban in the dream to warn him to leave Jacob alone.

Verses 28,29--"And hast not suffered me to kiss my sons and my daughters? thou hast now done foolishly in so doing. It is in the power of my hand to do you hurt: but the God of your father spake unto me yesternight, saying, Take thou heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad."

So what could Laban do?

Verses 30-36--"And now, though thou wouldest needs be gone, because thou sore longedst after thy father's house, yet wherefore hast thou stolen my gods? And Jacob answered and said to Laban, Because I was afraid: for I said, Peradventure thou wouldest take by force thy daughters from me. With whomsoever thou findest thy gods, let him not live: before our brethren discern thou what is thine with me, and take it to thee. For Jacob knew not that Rachel had stolen them. And Laban went into Jacob's tent, and into Leah's tent, and into the two maidservants' tents; but he found them not. Then went he out of Leah's tent, and entered into Rachel's tent. Now Rachel had taken the images, and put them in the camel's furniture, and sat upon them....And he searched, but found not the images. And Jacob was wroth, and chode with Laban: and Jacob answered and said to Laban, What is my trespass? What is my sin, that thou hast so hotly pursued after me?"

Jacob knew that Laban was not saying and doing all these things for nothing, and he demanded that Laban explain his reason for his behaviour. Jacob continues speaking in

Verses 37-42--"Whereas thou hast searched all my stuff, what hast thou found of all thy household stuff? set it here before my brethren and thy brethren, that they may judge betwixt us both. This twenty years have I been with thee; thy ewes and thy she goats have not cast their young, and the rams of thy flock have I not eaten. That which was torn of beasts I brought not unto thee; I bare the loss of it; of my hand didst thou require it, whether stolen by day, or stolen by night. Thus I was; in the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night; and my sleep departed from mine eyes. Thus have I been twenty years in thy house; I served thee fourteen years for thy two daughters, and six years for thy cattle: and thou hast changed my wages ten times. Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely thou hadst sent me away now empty. God hath seen mine affliction and the labour of my hands, and rebuked thee yesternight."

Jacob had kept the cattle in the best possible way so that there was no loss to Laban. Jacob, himself, had suffered the loss of those which happened to be stolen. He had watched and worked diligently both day and night, tending well to his business. And that is the real reason that Laban was after Jacob now. He knew that Jacob was a valuable worker and that he needed him.

We, too, must be diligent and faithful as was Jacob if we are to enter the Kingdom, for the men that are wanted in God's cause are men who are dependable in whatever the Lord gives them to do.

Verse 43--"And Laban answered and said unto Jacob, These daughters are my daughters, and these children are my children, and these cattle are my cattle, and all that thou seest is mine: and what can I do this day unto these my

daughters, or unto their children which they have born?"

Poor Laban! Everything was his, yet there was nothing he could do to possess them!

Verses 44-52--"Now therefore come thou, let us make a covenant, I and thou; and let it be for a witness between me and thee. And Jacob took a stone, and set it up for a pillar. And Jacob said unto his brethren, Gather stones; and they took stones, and made an heap: and they did eat there upon the heap. And Laban called it Jegarsahadutha: but Jacob called it Galeed. And Laban said, This heap is a witness between me and thee this day. Therefore was the name of it called Galeed; and Mispah; for he said, The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another. If thou shalt afflict my daughters, or if thou shalt take other wives besides my daughters, no man is with us, see, God is witness betwixt me and thee. And Laban said to Jacob, Behold this heap, and behold this pillar, which I have cast betwixt me and thee; this heap be witness, and this pillar be witness, that I will not pass over this heap to thee, and that thou shalt not pass over this heap and this pillar unto me, for harm."

Laban finally became convinced that he could do nothing, and being fearful of Jacob, he proposed that they enter into a covenant together for peace.

Verses 53-55--"The God of Abraham, and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge betwixt us. And Jacob sware by the fear of his father Isaac. Then Jacob offered sacrifice upon the mount, and called his brethren to eat bread: and they did eat bread, and tarried all night in the mount. And early in the morning Laban rose up, and kissed his sons and his daughters, and blessed them: and Laban departed, and returned unto his place."

Laban had gone after Jacob with the intention of cursing him, but he was obliged to bless him instead.

Now we as Christians must be joined to the Lord even as Jacob was and be diligent in the pursuit of that which God has given each of us to do, if we would be blessed as he was. Diligence and faithfulness characterized all the great men of the world, and it is the only way to gain lasting blessings and be in favor with both God and man. For, says the wise man, "A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent. He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him." Prov. 28:20, 22.

May each of us as children of God be aware that He sees all that we do and reads all our thoughts; may our constant motive be that of serving Him and not ourselves; may we live to bless others and not just to seek the means by which we only may exist; may we realize that no man can put us down if God wants us up; and finally, may we realize that it is God from Whom all blessings flow. Thus may we prepare ourselves for the day when God shall separate the saints and the hypocrites and give each his rightful reward. --12 SC.4:3-24.

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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.
He that backbiteth not
with his tongue,
Nor doeth evil to his neighbor,
Nor taketh up a
reproach against his neighbor.
In whose eyes a vile person is
contemned;
But he honoureth them that
fear the Lord.
He that sweareth to his own
hurt, and changeth not.
He that putteth not out his
money to usury,
Nor taketh reward
against the innocent.
He that doeth these things
shall never be moved.
-Psalm 15

THE BIBLICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE'S RESPONSE TO "THE KING OF THE INFANT KINGDOM OF GLORY"

THE SUMMARY

On July 7, 1993 a long standing member officially requested that the Biblical Research Committee (BRC) research a book entitled "THE KING OF THE INFANT KINGDOM OF GLORY". The book fundamentally espouses the idea that the king David referred to in scriptural texts such as: Jer. 30:9; Hosea 3:4,5, and Eze. 34:34-37 is Christ Himself, in person. It is further purported that Christ will be visible to the saints in the pre-millennial Kingdom. This position is contrary to the more common view held by most present truth believers, that "David" in these passages refers to a human agent or under-shepherd completely under the direction of Christ. This view, of course, is drawn from scripture and several statements in the Rod. The author of the book, however, insists that these statements from the Rod are misunderstood and misapplied, hence asserting his conceptions in opposition to the common understanding. The issue having been somewhat agitated warranted research.

The committee is composed of nine members from various parts of the country, elected by the World field in the 1992 Session. After some delay we are happy to present the findings of the BRC.

To review the process let us refer to the 1992 Session Code, page 30, Article XIII, Biblical Research, sections (a) to (e):

"(a) Any doctrinal dispute or new interpretation contrary to the teachings of Mt. Carmel, in the field, is to first be brought through the office to the Biblical Research Committee for investigation before being disseminated to any group or field. 1 SC.4:1.

"(b) The issue involved is first to be presented to the chairperson of the committee in writing.

"(c) The chairperson is to filter the information to the other committee members who in turn are to make a thorough investigation of the matter and send their findings to the chairperson.

"(d) The chairperson is to then send a compiled report of the findings to the Executive Council.

"(e) The Council in turn is to send the report to those members (those who first brought the issue, see step 'b' above). However, the final decision rests with the Session."

In keeping with the guidelines, the process has reached step (e). The conclusions of the BRC will be subject to ratification at the 1994 Session. At this point, the BRC and the Executive Council will have exhausted the authority vested by the Session to assist any further in resolving the issue.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Copies of "The King of the Infant Kingdom of Glory" were distributed to each of the nine (9) elected Biblical Research Committee members. To date, eight (8) have responded with written reports and one (1) with a verbal report. We thank each member for his/her diligent, objective efforts and many hours spent in research.

Eight committee members clearly revealed that the antitypical David in the pre-millennial Kingdom could NOT be Christ. Eze. 34:23,24; 37:24; Jer. 30:9. In the book "The King of the Infant Kingdom of Glory," is seen violations of the rules of inspired interpretation and misapplication of dictionary definitions which

lead to incorrect conclusions. Unwittingly, the author thus takes on the role of an inspired agent.

Although the BRC members approached the subject from different angles, their conclusions can be summarized as follows:

1. Christ is not the "David" in Jer. 30:9; Hosea 3:4,5; Eze. 34:23,24; 37:24.

2. David will be a human agent, an under shepherd, but Christ will be the supreme ruler, authority, power and chief--all in all.

3. There was a misuse of the concept and application of parallelism.

4. Christ is never called "David" but the Son of David.

5. Dictionary misapplication of the terms "serve"--Jer. 30:9; and "seek"--Hosea 3:5; leads the author to wrong conclusions.

6. That death does not disqualify one from holding the office of "David".

7. Christ can be and will be the supreme ruler even with a human under-shepherd.

8. That the author ventured outside the bounds of inspiration, thus unwittingly took on the role of an inspired agent or messenger.

9. That the issue of identifying the "David" in the Kingdom is not a matter that would bar one from the Kingdom, nor should it become a determinant for salvation.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

1. CHRIST NOT THE DAVID

The David of Ezekiel 34:23,24 and 37:24 is one and the same as in Hosea 3:5; 1:11; and Jer. 30:9. Inspiration never referred to Christ as "David" but on the contrary He is called the "son of David" Matt. 15:22; 9:27; 22:42 and 2TG. 43:17. The genealogy of Christ further bears out the fact that Jesse (the father of David), is the root, the rod is David and the Branch is Christ--Isa. 11:1; Matt. 21:9, 15; Jer. 33:15. Thus the rod and the Branch cannot be the same.

Ezekiel 34:23,24: "And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them, I the Lord have spoken it." It is seen that "among them" indicates that David is one who, himself, will be a constituent of the Kingdom--"one of them".

It follows that the antitypical David must be a human under-shepherd appointed by the Lord under Him and visible to all. In this manner the Lord will take the reins in His hands, TM:300; 5T:80 and Jer. 3:17 and bring about a true theocracy during the Loud Cry period. 8TR:43; Rev. 18:1-4.

2. DAVID A VISIBLE HUMAN AGENT--UNDER SHEPHERD

The antitypical David, "... a prince among them..." Eze. 34:24. Rules under Christ. See 8 TR.47-62; 2 TG. 2:14,15. David's role is like unto that of Moses, equivocally an under-shepherd.

3. MISUSE OF PARALLELISM

Parallelism is not used with the conjunction "and" and personal pronouns.

Incorrect usage of parallelism

During the Gulf war the U.S. President and George Bush visited the soldiers on the battlefield. (2 separate individuals indicated).

Correct application

"During the Gulf war the U.S. President, George Bush visited the soldiers on the battlefield." (1 person indicated).

In Jer. 30:9 - "...the Lord their God

and David..." is not an example of parallelism. The usage of "and" with a personal pronoun clearly indicates two separate individuals (the Lord their God in addition to "and" David their King).

4. CHRIST NEVER CALLED"DAVID" BUT THE "SON OF DAVID"

Though both Divine and human, Christ is never called David. 2 TG.2:14,15; 43:17; Matt. 22:42; 9:27. The genealogy of Christ proves He could not be the "rod" and the Branch. 8 TR:45,46,47; Matt. 21: 15; Isa. 11:2-5.

5. MISAPPLICATION OF WORD DEFINITIONS

Jer. 30:9 "Serve":

Strong's Hebrew Dictionary, entry #5647 lists other meanings for the word "serve" other than to worship. The primitive or root meaning is "work" (in any sense), to do service. A choice of to worship "abab" is disingenuous and misleading because it does not harmonize with the context or usage. That is we are to worship the Lord only but serve the king.

Hosea 3:5 - "Seek":

The usage of "seek" to mean exclusively worship is disingenuous and misleading since the root meaning is to search out by any means. See Strong's Hebrew Dictionary entry #2645.

The author's misinterpretation of the word "seek" in Hosea 3:5 led him to erroneously conclude that David would be sought out exclusively via worship and since Christ only is worthy of worship, thus David must be Christ.

6. DEATH DOES NOT DISQUALIFY THE DAVID

"But as David, the king of ancient Israel, had been dead for many years WHEN THIS PROPHECY WAS MADE, and as it has never been fulfilled, he was the type of the David to come." 8TR:13. See also 2 TG.43:17.

7. CHRIST TO BE SUPREME RULER EVEN WITH A HUMAN UNDER-SHEPHERD

In taking the reins into His own hands, (TM:300; 5T:80) the Lord sets up the Kingdom and puts a visible human agent in charge, 8TR:71; Eze. 34:23,24; 37:24, see also 8.TR:69-71. "God does not forsake his flock. He tenderly calls them 'My flock', and reassures them that He is their God. He will, without fail set one shepherd to accomplish what a multitude of shepherds failed to do." 2TG.2: 23.

8. THE AUTHOR VENTURED OUTSIDE THE BOUNDS OF INSPIRATION

Perhaps unwittingly, the author in his attempt to clarify the Elijah message at several points fell prey to the very warning he should have heeded.

"Nevertheless, one's only safety will be in the teaching of Elijah, for there will be no other voice of timely truth and authority to whom one may turn. Any others will lead their victims blindfolded into perdition." GCS:8.

9. KNOWLEDGE OF WHO DAVID WILL BE IS NOT VITAL TO SALVATION

No evidence was found in the Rod message that ignorance of the identity of antitypical David would bar one from entering the Kingdom or be a determinant to salvation. BRC members did, however, find many warnings, many cautions and admonitions from Inspiration for us not to fall in the snares of the Devil no matter how cunningly prepared and presented.

"Who is wise to understand?...Moreover, as sure as the Devil lives, he will employ every possible agency to either add to God's truth, or to subtract from it, aggravating and disheartening, especially capitalizing on the misfortunes and affliction of the saints, to thus secure their down-fall if possible.

"The only ones that will endure to the end will be those who carefully watch their steps from being carried away either by his additions to, or by his subtractions from, the works of Inspiration." 2 TG 46:43,44.

D.M. McCoy, Chairman, BRC

WILL THERE BE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

On September 13, 1993 the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) leader, Yasser Arafat signed a peace agreement with Israel's Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin. Although not all agreed with the peace accord, the Western world at large hailed the concordant as an unprecedented political achievement. The world was astounded to see centuries old enemies clasp hands in apparent good faith and trust.

Peace, peace, seemed to be within reach at last. Tears of joy spread throughout the entranced spectators. Perhaps now the senseless killings will cease. Maybe now there is hope for Jews and Arabs to live together in harmony. Just perhaps, now this volatile region will see comradery, genuine rapport and brotherhood after centuries of bitter rivalry.

Some like Professor Zemzemi, a prominent mathematician and foremost scholar in Arab and Islamic culture and history, are, to say the least, skeptical if not entirely opposed to the so-called peace alliance. In an interview with the "Spotlight," he was recorded as saying:

"The Arafat-Zionist affair celebrated in Washington is strictly for the entertainment of the bloated and corrupt elites of this world. Some Westerners may be gullible enough to take this grotesque farce seriously, but it does not fool anyone in the Islamic world.

"It is very dangerous for the elites to believe in their own propaganda, to believe their wishes to be realities. Arafat has been propped up as 'the Palestinian leader,' but he really has no constituency....

"The Washington 'event' was, in fact, a measure of the panic felt by the Zionists, the international elites and their flunkies at the sight of Islam's rebirth and mass appeal throughout the world. It is a desperate attempt to stem the legitimate place and role of Islam with a gathering of knaves, fools and traitors.

"We are witnessing the final flailings of arrogant and corrupt elites who believe they can impose by force their will on the world. They are devoid of knowledge, historical sense and wisdom, they only believe in bombs and money. But they will fail utterly. Islam will not be conquered by them and instead will emerge as not only the savior of the Moslem people but also the rest of the world." -Spotlight, September 27, 1993, p. 13.

To some (especially the Moslem world) this pact is nothing more than a prelude to war--an attempt by the new world order advocates and elitists to establish a one world government where Arabs and opposers of a one world regime will be suppressed, repressed and persecuted. This policy can only lead to war. In short, this is nothing more than a sham, a political and cunning tact to crush another staunch opposer of the new world order while professing "peace."

On the other hand the pro-Israeli governments (much of the Western world) and many fundamental Christians view this as another way-mark toward the fulfillment of prophecy, where the now state of Israel will once again be the center of the world and will be victorious over all her enemies, which would include the Arabs.

Where did the struggle all begin? No doubt you are aware that much of the Arabic world are descendants of Ishmael, son of Abraham, born to Hagar (a handmaid) after Abraham and Sarah's lack of faith and endeavor to help God fulfill His promise of giving them a son. You also remember how owing to the struggle between Hagar and Sarah, Hagar was forced to depart with her son, Ishmael. Nonetheless God promised that Ishmael as well as Isaac (the son of the promise) would be the progenitors of great nations. (See Gen. 21:1-20). Of course, through Isaac came Jacob and from him came the 12 patriarchs, the fathers of

the twelve tribes.

"Ishmael was the eponymous progenitor of 12 princes (Gen. 25:12-16), every one of whom gave his name to a tribe mentioned elsewhere in the Bible, like Nebaioth (Isa. 60:7); Kedar, a group of wealthy pastoral and trading tribes (Eze. 27:21), famous for its archers (Jer. 49:28-32; Isa. 21:17, 60:7), Tema (Isa. 21:14; Jer. 25:23; Job 6:19); Jetur and Nephish (1 Chron. 5:19). The region held by Ishmael and his sons 'in the presence of all his brethren' (Gen. 16:12) includes E. Palestine (Kingdom of Jordan) and territory around the Gulf of Aqabah. The Assyrians called the land 'Arabia.' Throughout the Bible the descendants of Ishmael, because of their origin, are considered of lower rank than the sons of Isaac. But by the Moslems, Ishmael is hailed an ancestor, buried with his mother in Kaaba of Mecca.

"Though the Twelve Tribes of Ishmael were traced to Abraham, yet, because they were descendants of the Egyptian-born handmaid Hagar, Ishmaelites were inferior to Hebrews, from the standpoint of racial purity, as well as in standards of living. Ishmaelites were a numerous and a great people (Gen. 17:20), yet Hebrew historians considered them beneath them. This is one of the racial attitudes that has persisted in the Middle East." Harper's Bible Dictionary.

Many of the Arabs of the Trans-Jordan (east of Palestine and the Dead Sea, i.e. the nation of Jordan) are descendants of Lot. (See Gen. 19:30-38). His two daughters fearing that since their mother (who turned into a pillar of salt) was now dead, the remainder of the family lost in the destruction of Sodom, there would be no way of carrying on the family line, so after intoxicating Lot with wine, and incestuous relations bore two sons, Moab and Ammon.

Will the children of Abraham and Lot finally have lasting peace? Will the Middle East now experience general rest from strife and bloodshed? The answer to these questions from the only One who knows the future is, NO! The greatest of all battles will soon take place right in this region. (2TG.41:18). The prophet Zechariah puts it this way:

"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather ALL NATIONS against JERUSALEM to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city" Zech. 14:1,2.

"Just how this is to come about, I do not know; but I do know that THE GREATEST OF ALL WARS IS TO BE FOUGHT ABOUT THE HOLY LAND." 2 TG.41:18.

No, dear friends, there will be no peace in the Middle East. The scriptures declare that the mightiest of all battles is still to be fought. Zephaniah shows that both unbelieving Jews and Arabs will be thoroughly punished and disseminated. Zephaniah puts it this way:

Zeph. 2:1,2,4,5--"Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you. For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Askelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up. Woe unto the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethities! the word of the Lord is against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant."

"The fourth verse definitely implies that the 'nation' is to gather together in the cities of Gaza, Askelon, Ashdod, and Ekron, in the land of the Philistines, in the land of Canaan in Palestine.

"In view of the fact that this scripture is now being unfolded, and also the fact that there is but one people, one nation (the descendants of the ancient scribes, priests, and Pharisees who rejected the Lord and who have not even to

this day accepted Him, that are hardly desired anywhere in the world) that is now doing all she can to gather together in Palestine--in view of all this, the present-day Jews are that undesired nation. Upon her, therefore, the Lord's anger is to fall if she continues to deny Christ. Yes, the universally hated Jew is the only nation that has been scattered throughout the Gentile world, and is the only one that is now gather-together in Palestine.

"Moreover, in these verses, two truths stand out clearly: (1) that in vain the Jews seek to establish themselves in the Promised Land; (2) that we who are bearing the message of the great and dreadful day of the Lord are counselled to seek meekness and righteousness, for thus only shall we 'be hid in the day of the Lord's anger,' that is merely bearing knowledge of the message will not save us, there should be corresponding deeds with it." (1 TG.22:25,26).

But what of the Arabic world?

Zeph. 2:8--"I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the revilings of the children of Ammon, [Arabs] whereby they have reproached My people, and magnified themselves against their borders.

"Not only the unbelieving Jews, but also the unbelieving Arabs who resist the meek, are to be swept away from the land."

"Zeph. 2:9--"Therefore, as I live, saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, surely **Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah**, even the breeding of nettles, and salt pits, and a perpetual desolation: the residue of My people shall spoil them and the remnant of My people shall possess them.

"While Moab and Ammon become as Sodom and Gomorrah, go out of existence, the captivity of God's people is turned away. They become an independent nation and possess all the wealth of the people round about." (1 TG.22:26,27).

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." 1 Thess. 5:3.

Do not let peace treaties fool us, there will be no lasting peace now in the Promised Land. Never! until Christ purifies His church and establishes His holy Kingdom, then and only then will there be real peace in the Middle East,--"When the saints go marching in to the Kingdom without sin." ARE YOU READY?

--o--

I will extol thee, my God, O
King;
And I will bless thy name
for ever and ever.
Every day will I bless thee;
And I will praise thy name
for ever and ever.
Great is the Lord,
and greatly to be praised;
And his greatness is
unsearchable.
One generation shall praise
thy works to another,
And shall declare thy mighty
acts.
I will speak of the glorious
honour of thy majesty,
And of thy wondrous works.
And men shall speak of the might
of thy terrible acts;
And I will declare thy
greatness.
They shall abundantly utter the memory
of thy great goodness,
And shall sing of thy
righteousness.
The Lord is gracious and full
of compassion;
Slow to anger and of great
mercy.
The Lord is good to all,
And his tender mercies are
over all his works.
All thy works shall praise
thee, O Lord;
And thy saints shall bless
thee.
They shall speak of the glory of
thy Kingdom,
And talk of thy power;
To make known to the sons of
men His mighty acts,
And the glorious majesty of
His Kingdom. --Psalm 145:1-12.

THE GOSPEL OF HEALTH

THE SABBATH: A HEALTH MEASURE

Besides all the other benefits we derive from keeping the Sabbath, researchers are also finding that there's something about a rest day and a religious lifestyle that contributes directly to well-being. Of course, we as Adventists, since our inception, have emphasized health specifics that are directly involved in preventing disease and maintaining health. Indeed, our dietary guidelines have rewarded us over the years with a health record that continues to intrigue researchers. Investigators have found for example, that the vegetarian diet of diligent Seventh-day Adventists lowers our risk of heart disease, cancer, diabetes and all the major killer diseases.

Aside from diet, various social and psychological (mental) aspects of Christianity have been found to contribute to health and longevity. Many social scientists agree that membership in a religious group has a beneficial effect on the nerves. Sharing a religion fosters networks of social support, which are increasingly linked to good health.

On the other hand, godlessness--like cigarette smoking may be harmful to the health. According to a study from Purdue University, published in the "Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion" people who worship regularly get sick much less often than those who do not.

After asking 1,473 Americans similar in age, income and education about their general health, frequency of hospitalization and religious affiliation and involvement, Kenneth Ferraro, an associate professor of sociology, found that "nonpracticers," or those who don't regularly participate in religious activities, were more than twice as likely to report health problems as "practicers." Somewhat to his surprise, says Farraro, "We found that religion was almost as great an influence on health as age and social class." (1)

A religious lifestyle, then, satisfies many needs. Jacob Mermelstein, Ed.D., a clinical psychologist who is also an orthodox rabbi, points out that adherence to a religious code can reward us with a great deal of strength, comfort and meaning and can help protect the family unit.

"The Ten Commandments, besides being the dictum of the Creator," Dr. Mermelstein points out, "were also meant to be beneficial to man. They are mechanisms to keep man alive. The idea of the Sabbath for example, prevents him from pursuing his day-to-day chores. It forces him to rest and to undergo a change of attitude, a kind of mental change. There are two kinds of stress, mental and physical, and the Sabbath was meant to combat both." (2)

More perhaps than we suspect, our bodies, minds and spirits need the day of rest, the respite from buying, selling, and the pursuit of secular activites, the opportunity to ponder and celebrate God's existence that the Sabbath provides. Indeed, with stress reduction becoming a major growth industry and the gross sales of Valium and other tranquilizers, in the United States, equal to the GNP of some developing nations, the total day of rest is an imparative--a buffer of the week's stress, a practical, healthful and wise command.

The Sabbath, a sacred day, a foretaste of heaven, pure and set apart, free from the concerns, worries and problems of everyday life, affords the opportunity to ponder our origin and destiny, and to reach out and help others.

"The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath," Jesus said. The institutions that God has established are for the benefit of mankind. 'All things are for your sakes.' 'Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things pre-

sent, or things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.' 2 Cor. 4:15; 1 Cor. 3:22,23. The law of Ten Commandments, of which The Sabbath forms a part, God gave to His people as a blessing. 'The Lord commanded us,' said Moses, 'to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive.' Deut. 6:24. And through the psalmist the message was given to Israel, 'Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.' Ps. 100:2-4. And of all who keep the 'Sabbath from polluting it,' the Lord declares, 'Even them will I bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer.'" Isa. 56:6,7. --DA:288. --Editor

References:
1) American Health, March 1993
2) Prevention, September 1981

Note: While we are not dependent upon psychologists, and sociologists to validate our position and understanding of Bible truths, these interesting findings should be noted when they appear in the secular press.

CITRUS FRUIT AND CANCER PREVENTION

As science brings the link between diet and disease prevention closer, the old adage "you are what you eat" is taking on a whole new meaning. For example, orange juice is rich in vitamin C, a powerful antioxidant. Vitamin C can help prevent oxidation of cells (a decaying process) and counter the damage done to cells by environmental stress.

More than a dozen classes of phytochemicals (the protective chemicals made by plants) are found in orange juice. As our bodies do not make or store these materials, we must consume these natural substances continually throughout our lives. By making them part of our daily diet, we can derive long-term benefits from their antioxidant and disease-preventive properties.

Dr. Herbert Pierson, founder and former director of the National Cancer Institute's "designer food" program, notes that chemical components of various fruits and vegetables have been shown to help prevent certain forms of cancer, including breast, colon and oral cancers.

Dr. Pearson also notes that the best source of antioxidants and phytochemicals is citrus fruits. "Fresh citrus has practically every species of phytochemicals studied thus far." However, Dr. Pearson adds that citrus fruit is only the agent or "vehicle" that will help prevent disease. Overall diet and the environment play a crucial role in keeping healthy. --Old Farmer's Almanac -Western Edition, 1993.

DOCTORS FAIL NUTRITION

Despite increasing knowledge of the relationship between diet and disease, most doctors fail to counsel their patients about nutrition, a new study by the Nutrition Information Center at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center reveals. Questionnaires were sent to all of the 30,000 physicians listed with the American Medical Association as practitioners of family, general or internal medicine. Approximately 3,400 doctors responded to the survey.

Although the majority of the doctors who responded agreed with statements such as "diet has an important role in disease prevention"; "doctors should spend more time exploring dietary habits during patient evaluation"; and "in many cases, medications could be reduced or eliminated if patients followed a recommended diet," few put their beliefs into practice.

Less than one-quarter of the doctors reported asking their patients about their dietary habits. Only 1 out of 3 acknowl-

edged incorporating recent nutritional findings into his/her practice. Even well-publicized dietary changes for lowering blood pressure, cholesterol, or weight were prescribed by only slightly more than half of the physicians.

"Physicians willing to change their own diets tended to advise and teach desirable health habits to their patients," Levine says. In addition, doctors younger than 45 and those who are graduates of foreign medical schools or who are affiliated with universities are among those most likely to include nutrition in their care of patients.

(Only 29 of the nation's 129 medical schools have required courses in nutrition.) --Natural Health, September/October 1993

EUROPEANS USE MORE HERBS

European consumers have access to important healing modalities that Americans naively assume are mere folk remedies, said Dr. Varro Tyler, Lilly Distinguished Professor of Pharmacognosy at Purdue University. Speaking at the American Chemical Society's national meeting in San Francisco, Tyler said that Europeans are far ahead of Americans in their recognition of herbs as effective medicines. For example, one of the most popular herbs in Germany is an extract made from the leaves of the gingko tree, which is used to treat memory loss, headaches, and other problems associated with aging. Valerian root extract, classified by the German government's pharmacological advisory panel as an effective treatment for anxiety and insomnia, is another herb with a long history of usage in Europe--it's currently included in more than 100 different phytomedications. Phytomedicines include herbs in their whole form, such as leaves and roots, and extracts that concentrate the active constituents of of the herb.

Tyler blames government regulations for stunting the development and use of phytomedicines in the United States. To comply with U.S. Food and Drug Administration laws, herbs cannot be labeled as medicines unless they are proven safe and effective. The cost of such testing averages $231 million per herb, an investment that no company is willing to make since herbs cannot be patented. Without the assurance of exclusive sales rights, drug companies are reluctant to invest in developing and marketing phytomedicines, Tyler said. As a result, herbs are relagated to the status of teas or food supplements in the U.S., with no clear guidelines for appropriate medical use or dosage.

In Western Europe, phytomedicines are subject to much less stringent regulations. In general, the European regulatory authorities regard the long use of herbal medicines as proof of their safety and effectiveness. --Natural Health, March/April 1993.

ORGANIC FOODS—MORE NUTRITIOUS

For years, dietary experts and health professionals have debated the value of organically grown foods. But thanks to a study published recently in the Journal of Applied Nutrition, organic foods appear to have more nutritional value than foods grown conventially with pesticides.

Researcher Bob Smith, president of Doctor's Data, a trace mineral analysis lab in West Chicago, reports that the average levels of trace elements (required for a healthy diet) in organically grown foods is about twice that of commercial foods. This is an important finding for health conscious consumers and the growing organic foods industry.

In the study, which looked at hundreds of samples of both kinds of foods, organically grown produce had about two to four times more boron, calcium, chromium, copper, iodine, magnesium, manganese, molybdenum, phosphorous, selenium, silicon, strontium, and zinc. Each of these natural elements plays an

important role in the health of the body. Some nutrients, such as selenium, are important antioxidants, while others such as boron, calcium, magnesium, and silicon play an important role in building strong bones. And chromium plays a key role in helping the body regulate its levels of blood sugar. Meanwhile organically grown produce had lesser amounts of toxic trace elements such as aluminum, lead and mercury, reports Smith.

Among the study's highlights:

* Organic pears had approximately two to three times more chromium, iodine, manganese, molybdenum silicon, and zinc.

* Organic corn had almost 20 times more calcium and manganese, as well as about two to five times more copper, magnesium, molybdenum, selenium and zinc.

* Organic wheat had 13 times more selenium and five times more manganese.

To be sure, a number of criticisms can be leveled at Smith's study. For example, no effort was made to account for different soils, handling, transportation and storage procedures--all of which can affect the nutritional content of produce. Still, the study is provocative and done well enough to have raised interest among the nation's leading dietary professionals. Jeffrey B. Blumberg, Ph.D., associate director of the Antioxidants Research Laboratory at the United States Department of Agriculture's Human Nutritional Research Center on Aging at Tufts University, in Boston, says that mainstream food processors can no longer dismiss claims that organically grown foods are more nutritious. —Veggie Life, November 1993.

BEANS: AN UNDERATED HEALTH FOOD

Some of the best foods to keep in the kitchen and eat plenty of are beans--all kinds of beans, including black beans, black-eyed peas, chick-peas (garbanzos), fava beans, Great Northern beans, kidney beans, lentils, lima beans, navy beans, pinto beans, split peas and soybeans. Experts note that a cup of cooked, dried beans every day can do many wondrous things for your body, like help to control cholesterol, lowering LDLs (low density lipoproteins, the "bad" cholesterol), as well as aid in the control of insulin and blood sugar.

But there is a lot more to the beans story. Many beans--especially soybeans--contain protease inhibitors--believed to be important anticancer allies that many nutrition experts say should be in every diet. Proteases are enzymes that split proteins, but some types of proteases are believed to help cancer cells to survive and flourish by helping them to invade other parts of the body. Beans, on the other hand, contain inhibitors of destructive proteases, notes Dr. Walter Troll, a professor of environmental medicine at New York University.--Veggie Life, November 1993.

CRANBERRY JUICE FOR URINARY COMPLAINTS

It's no secret that cranberry juice has enjoyed near legend status as a remedy for the prevention of bladder infections. Medical references to the cranberry's ability to prevent infection date all the way back to 1860, and some experts believe that cranberries work by raising the acid level of the urine which, in turn, acts much like an antibiotic. But cranberries may have other powers, notes Dr. Anthony Sobota, a professor of microbiology at Youngstown State University in Ohio, who says cranberries may actually prevent harmful bacteria from adhering to cells. Dr. Sobota explains that the residue of cranberry juice's active factors can be found in the urine, which means they also come in contact with the bladder and kidneys, moving throughout the entire urinary tract, bacteria-proofing cells as they stream along. In fact, even supermarket style cranberry juice cocktail--which is only about one-third pure juice--works quite well, says Dr. Sobota. Veggie Life, November 1993.

PLANT SOURCES OF CALCIUM

You can get all the calcium you need from leafy green vegetables, beans and other plant foods. Robert Heaney, M.D., chief investigator at the biggest, longest-running study of osteoporosis and calcium absorbability, at Creighton University in Omaha, says that the calcium in these foods rivals that of milk for availability.

"We've found that the calcium in broccoli, kale and bok choy is actually slightly more absorbable than that in milk," he says. "Most of the greens we have tested yield their calcium pretty readily. Bok choy is an especially good calcium source."

Dr. Heaney also notes that calcium from soybeans is nearly as absorbable as that from milk. And while the calcium in other beans is only about half as absorbable, it is still there, along with other good things, such as soluble fiber. People who eat a lot of bread get good amounts of calcium there, too: "It's not that wheat has a lot of calcium, but the yeast in bread boosts its availability." Dr. Heaney says the benefit of eating a varied diet is that we get a good balance of all the nutrients we need. --Prevention, July 1993, p. 30.

CANCER, MILK, MEAT AND CHEESE

Overweight men have an increased risk of developing prostate cancer according to an Italian study. Men who developed prostate cancer also reported more use of milk, dairy products and meats than did healthy controls. Other studies have shown a relationship between total fat intake and prostatic cancer.

Another Italian study has found a relationship between milk, cheese, meat and sugar intake and breast cancer deaths. Pasta intake appeared protective. —The Journal of Health and Healing, Vol. 11, No. 3.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FIGHT CANCER

Another cancer fighting substance called ellagic acid has been found in fruits, nuts and vegetables. Ellagic acid helps by modifying at least four enzyme systems involved in the cancer process. It also helps keep cancer chemicals from binding to DNA and hence sabotaging the growth machinery of the cells. This plant compound is powerful enough to help prevent benzo(a)pyrene from binding to DNA in laboratory samples of human lung tissue. This new research confirms the discovery that ellagic acid is not only antimutagenic but also anticarcinogenic and helps explain why vegetarians get less cancer. --The Journal of Health & Healing.

In another study researchers found that fruits and vegetables--not grains--provide the most beneficial fiber for preventing colon cancer.

To study the relationship between diet and colon cancer, researchers at the University of Utah asked study participants (231 colon cancer patients and 391 randomly selected individuals) to recall their diets. Somewhat surprisingly, participants with diets high in fruits and vegetables had the lowest risk of developing colon cancer. Diets high in grains showed no similar protective effect.

Martha L. Slattery, who headed the research, says the study indicates that grain products might not be the top colon cancer risk-reducers, as some bread and cereal manufacturers have been promoting. But then again, she adds, fiber from grains has been shown to help reduce the risk of heart disease, so it's prudent to include grains in the diet.

The study is one of the first to look at how different types of fiber actually work in the intestines. According to the National Cancer Institute, the study is a clue that a diet containing a

variety of whole foods--fruits, vegetables and grains--is more prudent for all-around good health than a diet containing just one source of fiber.--Vegetarian Times, March 1989.

SECONDHAND SMOKE

In 1990, passive smoking accounted for 53,000 deaths in the United States from heart disease, lung cancer and other types of cancer. That makes secondhand smoke the third largest cause of preventable death in this country (smoking and alcohol abuse are first and second).

After reviewing more than 30 studies, the Environmental Protection Agency has released a report concluding that secondhand cigarette smoke is a human carcinogen in the same class as arsenic, asbestos, and benzene (found in lacquers, varnishes and dyes), and causes many lung-cancer deaths a year in nonsmokers. The report also found that secondhand smoke increases the childhood risk of asthma, bronchitis, middle-ear infections and pneumonia.

"Having the EPA's imprimatur on this is extremely important," said Dr. Alfred Munzer, president-elect of the American Lung Association. "We believe this will motivate state and local governments to enact further regulations limiting smoking in public places." --Reader's Digest

Note: The Tobacco institute may not be convinced that smoking kills, but the three life insurers owned by tobacco companies certainly are. CNA is owned by Lorillard parent Loews, the Franklin Life and American Tobacco are owned by American Brands, and Farmers Group and British-American Tobacco are owned by B.A.T. Industries. All three charge smokers nearly double for term insurance. Why? Because at any age, a smoker is about twice as likely to die as a nonsmoker. --Time, October 12, 1992

"Every exhalation of the lungs of the tobacco slave, poisons the air about him." 2 SM:467

EXERCISE DELAYS AGING

As long as older folks are physically active, they keep their overall mobility. Physical activity whether it be gardening, walking or more strenuous exercise, is the single biggest predictor in who stays healthy and mobile and who doesn't. Indeed, researchers believe that half the decline generally associated with aging is due to inactivity. By exercising a person may retain as much as 80 percent of his/her physical abilities between ages 30 and 70.

William J. Evans, Ph.D., chief of the physiology laboratory at the Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University, has studied the aging process in both active and non-active people. He has spent years documenting the health benefits of participating in well-rounded exercise programs. And he has repeatedly seen such programs postpone--and often reverse--many of the declines that were once thought to be an inevitable part of growing older.

A healthy diet, of course, is part of the equation. Indeed, a correct vegetarian diet featuring lots of fresh fruits and vegetables, with whole grains, nuts and seeds, along with an exercise program allows middle-aged and older people to age much more slowly. This combination may be your ounce of prevention and pound of cure.

Walter Bortz, M.D., says, "Much of the decline that passes as age change is really not due to age at all, but to disuse." Bortz coined the term "disuse syndrome" to describe the many ways that lack of activity contributes to premature aging. His book "We Live Too Short and Die Too Long" details many of the unhappy consequences of sedentary living and urges a much more active approach to successful aging. Bortz is among those experts who believe we haven't come close to realizing our potential for a long, vigorous life of the highest quality.

According to Evans, and other leading

experts on aging, it's never too late to start rebuilding the body. Shriveled muscles, frail bones, clogged arteries, diabetes, kidney failure, and memory loss--all once thought to be commonplace markers of "aging" can be staved off by doing the right kinds of regular physical activity.

Aerobic exercise for a strong heart and healthy blood vessels is still the core of an effective exercise program. Among its many well-documented benefits are burning fat, raising levels of HDL (the "good" cholesterol that helps prevent heart disease), and lowering blood pressure.

There is no drug in current or prospective use that holds as much promise for sustained health as a lifetime program of physical exercise. It's a medicine so potent, it has been called "the closest thing to an antiaging pill."

References:

Reader's Digest, January 1991
Cooking Light, September/October 1992
American Journal of Epidemiology

HEALTH HINTS

* Herbs are being rediscovered by those looking for natural ways to care for themselves and their families. Today, in the United States, over two dozen magazines and newsletters are devoted solely to herbs; a decade ago, there were but 3 or 4. The World Health Organzation estimates that as much as 80 percent of the world's population still relies on traditional forms of health care, such as herbalism.

* Chewing ginger helps prevent seasickness better than various patent medicines on the market for this purpose, according to a 3-year study at the Univsity of Vermont. Other studies show this herb works as effectively for motion sickness, the morning sickness of pregnancy, and any form of nausea.

* A 1985 report by the London Migraine Headache Clinic showed that 70 percent of chronic migraine sufferers who took 50 milligrams of feverfew every morning experienced fewer and/or less severe migraine headaches.

* A Swedish study found that people who eat fast food more than twice a week had more than triple the normal risk of developing certain forms of inflammatory bowel disease. The high amount of fats appears to be the culprit.-Epidemiology, Vol.3, No. 1.

* A good night's sleep is as healing and restorative as any medicine. Those who have difficulty sleeping should become familiar with the sedative herbs. These include valerian, hops, catnip, skullcap, passion flower, mint and chamomile--which induce sleep without drug-like side effects.

* Almonds and sesame seeds are exceptionally nourishing. Sprouts are among the most nutrient dense foods. They contain protein and are high in vitamins, minerals and enzymes.

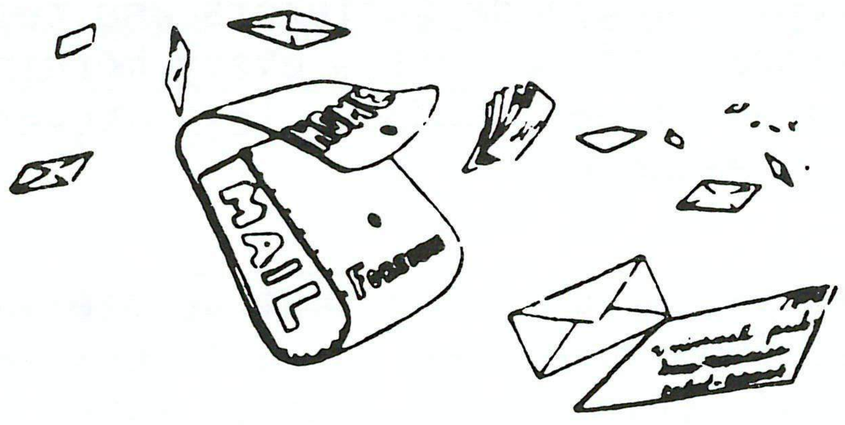
* Ideally, your cholesterol level should be 100 plus your age. Our bodies make all the cholesterol we need.--Arnold Fox, M.D., a Beverly Hills cardiologist.

* Herbs (plants) are in harmony with the body's chemistry. Drugs are not.

* Make an effort to eat fresh, raw foods as much as possible. Practically all fruits and nuts and many vegetables can and should be eaten raw. If cooking is absolutely necessary, food should be cooked as little as possible, preferably steamed with little or no water. Many seeds and grains can be eaten raw, especially when they are sprouted.

* Cooking destroys enzymes 100 percent. Enzymes are vital catalysts, absolutely essential for the proper digestion and assimilation. Something raw should be eaten at every meal.

THE MAIL BAG



Dear Brothers in Christ:

After being inspired by one of your booklets I would like to say this: We are really at the end of time. One needs to separate the truth from all the mixed teaching around us.

I really need your help. Send me your inspired booklets. I am also willing to take your Bible correspondence courses. I will do my best to reach the unreached.

Yours in the Master's service.

ZIMBABWE, SOUTH CENTRAL AFRICA

Dear Editor and Friend in Christ:

I plan to send you a packet of Chinese food. I hope you will enjoy it. When you receive it, please send me a letter.

Please pray to God for the church members in Hong Kong and in China. Let God bless you and all the organization.

HONG KONG

Dear Friends:

I received Vol. 1, no. 1 of the Trumpeter. Please send subsequent issues and bill me for one year subscription. Thanks.

FLORIDA, USA

Gentlemen:

I am a Seventh-day Adventist since 1951, and was recently introduced by a friend to some literature about the Shepherd's Rod message and writings by V.T. Houteff. I had heard vaguely of the Shepherd's Rod, but knew nothing about it until now. I have read some of the publications and heard two or three tapes, and find them very interesting and thought-provoking.

I would like to have more information concerning Mr. Houteff, who apparently passed away about the time I became a Seventh-day Adventist.

I would also like very much to have the entire "Present Truth" series, so that I might study the complete message and get a clearer understanding of it. From the random publications I have read, it seems to get quite complicated. I want to know the Truth, all the Truth, and I do not want to be misled. I want to study your entire message, prayerfully, carefully. I have the little pocket edition of the Shepherd's Rod, Vol. 1 and the tapes, Thy Kingdom Come, parts 1 and 2, by A. Anthony Hibbard.

I would greatly appreciate these publications, and will send money to cover the cost, if you will tell me how much. May I please hear from you soon?

P.S. I have a friend in my church with whom I have discussed the subject of the 144,000. She would like to receive some of your literature, whatever you deem best for a "beginner."

ARKANSAS, USA

Dear Sirs:

I am interested in being connected with your group at this time and I would like for you to send me the papers of which I may need to fill out.

I have read quite a few of your papers and books and look forward to hearing from you. Thanks for the Code.

WISCONSIN, USA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus:

A few months ago I received from you four tracts: The White-House Recruiter, The Latest News For Mother, The 1950 General Conference Special and The Great Paradox of the Ages. I was very glad and surprised after reading them.

I like them very much because many quotations are from the books of Ellen G. White. Nowadays even in our church some Christians reject the Spirit of Prophecy. We must pray and study the Bible and the Spirit of Propheccy to know how to be firmly founded in our faith.

One of the points that is important for the children of God is a healthy lifestyle and in this domain nutrition is the most (I think!) neglected. My wife and I are interested in vegetarian cooking but we do not have a special book on how to cook. Can you help with more information?

We have in the Romanian language "Counsels on Diet and Foods" and in English the "Ministry of Healing" but we need information on vegetarian meal planning. Here in Romania in each family or restaurant the principle meals are with meat.

In March of this year, I received a letter from Oklahoma Academy, (USA) about the three-volume Spirit of Prophecy set.

I have an uncle in Madison, Tenn. who is very ill. Can you help me find him? I will send you his address. He is a Romanian in a city without other Romanian people. It is difficult to live far from your country. He has only a son, but he isn't an Adventist.

My uncle promised to help me. I don't know any person in the USA who can help me to find those books that in Romania are impossible to find. We are poor people. We are unable to buy things that in your country are very common.

My uncle was my help but now I don't know where he is. Maybe you can help or you can find somebody to help me.

Much time I hesitated to appeal to you. I feel ashamed about my boldness. I thank you very much for reading my letter and I apologize to you for everything. God bless you all!

ROMANIA

Dear Sirs:

It was with interest that I read your newsletter. I have long felt troubled by some of the decisions of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

For instance, why "kick out" of church some one who has made mistakes? No one is perfect--the church is EXACTLY where that individual belongs! After all you don't "kick" sick people out of a hospital!

Another troubling item is where tithes and offerings were used to sue another church for stating Sabbath beliefs in their church's name. When the disciples came to Jesus complaining about a group of believers whom they didn't agree with, Christ said to leave them alone,etc. So why did a so-called Christian group hire lawyers (not even of our faith) to sue another group of Christians?

At that time I stopped suporting the Conference. I give to some independent groups and for the support of my local church. I read where Ellen White did a similar thing. I help support the Gospel!

And we are seeing the decline of members, especially in the North American Division. Reporting great numbers of converts is no good if more are leaving when the door swings outward.

It is time that we all WAKE-UP!

CALIFORNIA, USA

Dear Sir:

I am very happy that the book entitled "The Symbolic Code" was sent to me.

By virtue of your encouragement I am moved to request the following to futher my thirst for divine knowledge.

1. Cassette tapes on Bible studies.
2. Cassette tapes on Melodian songs.
3. If possible music reading books.

I shall not fail to thank you for the cassette tape you had earlier made available, i.e., The Gospel of Health.

Thank you and God bless!

NIGERIA, WEST AFRICA

Dear Brethren in Christ:

Some time last year a brother sent my name for your mailing list and soon thereafter I received these lessons. I never bothered to inquire about much of their content other than the common misunderstanding of these truths within literature prevalent among many Seventh-day Adventist, especially in my area where the same brother who introduced me to them has been excommunicated.

This later action troubled me and so I sought to inquire of him the purpose of his interest in the Davidian literature. This discussion and a series of follow-ups we had together implanted in me a desire to read your publications. I than prayerfully and diligently read the lessons beginning the last 2 weeks and am now convinced that they are truth beyond a reasonable doubt!

I am convinced that your publications have meat in due season and so would like to have more and more. If possible please send me all your tracts and the next two lessons at once because it seems to me that I have been missing out and am having a raw deal with the SDA ministry.

God bless you in this noble task that you have been allowed to do. Remember me in prayer and all the believers in Kenya and the whole world!

KENYA, EAST AFRICA

YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL

E.G. WHITE

A guardian angel is appointed to every follower of Christ. These heavenly watchers shield the righteous from the power of the wicked one. This Satan himself recognized when he said, "Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not Thou made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?" The agency by which God protects His people is presented in the words of of the psalmist, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them."

I have seen the tender love that God has for His people, and it is very great. I saw angels over the saints with their wings spread about them. Each saint had an attending angel. If the saints wept through discouragement, or were in danger the angels that ever attended them would fly quickly upward to carry the tidings, and the angels in the city would cease to sing....They would bear the tidings upward, and all the angels in the city would weep, and then with a loud voice say, "Amen." But if the saints fixed their eyes upon the prize before them, and glorified God by praising Him, then the angels would bear the glad tidings to the city, and the angels in the city would touch their golden harps and sing with a loud voice, "Alleluia!" and the heavenly arches would ring with their lovely songs.

His angels are appointed to watch over us, and if we put ourselves under their guardianship, then in every time of danger they will be at our right hand. When unconsciously we are in danger of exerting a wrong influence, the angels will be by our side, prompting us to a better course, choosing words for us, and influencing our actions. Thus our influence may be a silent, unconscious, but mighty power in drawing others to Christ and the heavenly world. -MLT:302

"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." Psalm 91:11

THE STORY OF REDEMPTION

ELLEN G. WHITE

SETH AND ENOCH

Seth was a worthy character, and was to take the place of Abel in right doing. Yet he was a son of Adam, like sinful Cain, and inherited from the nature of Adam no more natural goodness than did Cain. He was born in sin, but by the grace of God, in receiving the faithful instructions of his father Adam, he honored God in doing His will. He separated himself from the corrupt descendants of Cain and labored, as Abel would have done had he lived, to turn the minds of sinful men to revere and obey God.

Enoch was a holy man. He served God with singleness of heart. He realized the corruptions of the human family and separated himself from the descendants of Cain and reproved them for their great wickedness. There were those upon the earth who acknowledged God, who feared and worshiped Him. Yet righteous Enoch was so distressed with the increasing wickedness of the ungodly, that he would not daily associate with them, fearing that he should be affected by their infidelity and that his thoughts might not ever regard God with that holy reverence which was due His exalted character. His soul was vexed as he daily witnessed their trampling upon the authority of God. He chose to be separate from them, and spent much of his time in solitude, which he devoted to reflection and prayer. He waited before God and prayed to know His will more perfectly, that he might perform it. God communed with Enoch through His angels and gave him divine instruction. He made known to him that He would not always bear with man in his rebellion--that His purpose was to destroy the sinful race by bringing a flood of waters upon the earth.

The pure and lovely Garden of Eden, from which our first parents were driven, remained until God purposed to destroy the earth by a flood. God had planted that garden and specially blessed it, and in His wonderful providence He withdrew it from the earth, and will return it to the earth again more gloriously adorned than before it was removed from the earth. God purposed to preserve a specimen of His perfect work of creation free from the curse wherewith He had cursed the earth.

The Lord opened more fully to Enoch the plan of salvation, and by the Spirit of prophecy carried him down though the generations which should live after the Flood, and showed him the great events connected with the second coming of Christ and the end of the world. Jude 14.

Enoch was troubled in regard to the dead. It seemed to him that the righteous and the wicked would go to the dust together, and that would be their end. He could not clearly see the life of the just beyond the grave. In prophetic vision he was instructed in regard to the Son of God, who was to die man's sacrifice, and was shown the coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, attended by the angelic host, to give life to the righteous dead and ransom them from their graves. He also saw the corrupt state of the world at the time when Christ should appear the second time--that there would be a boastful, presumptuous, self-willed generation arrayed in rebellion against the law of God and denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ, and trampling upon His blood and despising His atonement. He saw the righteous crowned with glory and honor while the wicked were separated from the presence of the Lord and consumed with fire.

Enoch faithfully rehearsed to the people all that God had revealed to him by the Spirit of prophecy. Some believed his words and turned from their wickedness to fear and worship God.

ENOCH TRANSLATED

Enoch continued to grow more heavenly while communing with God. His face was radiant with a holy light which would

remain upon his countenance while instructing those who would hear his words of wisdom. His heavenly and dignified appearance struck the people with awe. The Lord loved Enoch because he steadfastly followed Him and abhorred iniquity and earnestly sought heavenly knowledge, that he might do His will perfectly. He yearned to unite himself still more closely to God, whom he feared, reverenced, and adored. God would not permit Enoch to die as other men, but sent His angels to take him to heaven without seeing death. In the presence of the righteous and the wicked, Enoch was removed from them. Those who loved him thought that God might have left him in some of his places of retirement, but after seeking him diligently, and being unable to find him, reported that he was not, for God took him.

The Lord here teaches a lesson of the greatest importance by the translation of Enoch, a descendant of fallen Adam, that all would be rewarded, who by faith would rely upon the promised Sacrifice and faithfully obey His commandments. Two classes are here again represented which were to exist until the second coming of Christ--the righteous and the wicked, the rebellious and the loyal. God will remember the righteous, who fear Him. On account of His dear Son He will respect and honor them and give them everlasting life. But the wicked, who trample upon His authority, He will cut off and destroy from the earth, and they will be as though they had not been.

After Adam's fall from a state of perfect happiness to a state of misery and sin, there was danger of man's becoming discouraged and inquiring, "What profit is it that we have kept His ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord" (Mal. 3:14), since a heavy curse is resting upon the human race, and death is the portion of us all? But the instructions which God gave to Adam, and which were repeated to Seth and fully exemplified by Enoch, cleared away the darkness and gloom, and gave hope to man, that as through Adam came death, through Jesus, the promised Redeemer, would come life and immortality.

In the case of Enoch the desponding faithful were taught that, although living among a corrupt and sinful people, who were in open and daring rebellion against God, their Creator, yet if they would obey Him and have faith in the promised Redeemer, they could work righteousness like the faithful Enoch, be accepted of God, and finally exalted to His heavenly throne.

Enoch, separating himself from the world, and spending much of his time in prayer and in communion with God, represents God's loyal people in the last days, who will be separate from the world. Unrighteousness will prevail to a dreadful extent upon the earth. Men will give themselves up to follow every imagination of their corrupt hearts and carry out their deceptive philosophy and rebel against the authority of high heaven.

God's people will separate themselves from the unrighteous practices of those around them and will seek for purity of thought and holy conformity to His will until His divine image will be reflected in them. Like Enoch, they will be fitting for translation to heaven. While they endeavor to instruct and warn the world, they will not conform to the spirit and customs of unbelievers but will condemn them by their holy conversation and godly example.

THE FLOOD

The descendants of Seth were called the sons of God; the descendants of Cain the sons of men. As the sons of God mingled with the sons of men, they became corrupt and, by intermarriage with them, lost, through the influence of their wives, their peculiar, holy character, and united with the sons of Cain in their idolatry. Many cast aside the fear of God and trampled upon His commandments. But there were a few that did righteousness, who feared and honored their Creator. Noah and his family were among the righteous few.

The wickedness of man was so great, and increased to such a fearful extent, that God repented that He had made man upon the earth, for He saw that the wickedness of man was great, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

More than one hundred years before the Flood the Lord sent an angel to faithful Noah to make known to him that He would no longer have mercy upon the corrupt race. But He would not have them ignorant of His design. He would instruct Noah and make him a faithful preacher to warn the world of its coming destruction, that the inhabitants of the earth might be left without excuse. Noah was to preach to the people, and also to prepare an ark as God should direct him for the saving of himself and family. He was not only to preach, but his example in building the ark was to convince all that he believed what he preached.

Noah and his family were not alone in fearing and obeying God. But Noah was the most pious and holy of any upon the earth, and was the one whose life God preserved to carry out His will in building the ark and warning the world of its coming doom. Methuselah, the grandfather of Noah, lived until the very year of the Flood; and there were others who believed the preaching of Noah, and aided him in building the ark, who died before the flood of waters came upon the earth. Noah, by his preaching and example in building the ark, condemned the world.

God gave all who chose an opportunity to repent and turn to Him. But they believed not the preaching of Noah. They mocked at his warnings and ridiculed the building of that immense vessel on dry land. Noah's efforts to reform his fellow men did not succeed. But for more than one hundred years he persevered in his efforts to turn men to repentance and to God. Every blow struck upon the ark was preaching to the people. Noah directed, he preached, he worked, while the people looked on in amazement and regarded him as a fanatic.

BUILDING THE ARK

God gave Noah the exact dimensions of the ark and explicit directions in regard to the construction of it in every particular. In many respects it was not made like a vessel but prepared like a house, the foundation like a boat which would float upon water. There were no windows in the sides of the ark. It was three stories high, and the light they received was from a window in the top. The door was in the side. The different apartments prepared for the reception of different animals were so made that the window in the top gave light to all. The ark was made of the cypress or gopher wood, which would know nothing of decay for hundreds of years. It was a building of great durability, which no wisdom of man could invent. God was the designer, and Noah His master builder.

After Noah had done all in his power to make every part of the work correct, it was impossible that it could of itself withstand the violence of the storm which God in His fierce anger was to bring upon the earth. The work of completing the building was a slow process. Every piece of timber was closely fitted, and every seam covered with pitch. All that men could do was done to make the work perfect; yet, after all, God alone could preserve the building upon the angry, heaving billows, by His miraculous power.

A multitude at first apparently received the warning of Noah, yet did not fully turn to God with true repentance. There was some time given them before the Flood was to come, in which they were to be placed upon probation--to be proved and tried. They failed to endure the trial. The prevailing degeneracy overcame them, and they finally joined others who were corrupt in deriding and scoffing at faithful Noah. They would not leave off their sins but continued in polygamy and in the indulgence of their corrupt passions.

The period of their probation was drawing near its close. The unbelieving,

scoffing inhabitants of the world were to have a special sign of God's divine power. Noah had faithfully followed the instructions God had given to him. The ark was finished exactly as God had directed. He had laid in store immense quantities of food for man and beast. And after this was accomplished, God commanded the faithful Noah, "Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before Me."

THE ANIMALS ENTER THE ARK

Angels were sent to collect from the forest and field the beasts which God had created. Angels went before these animals, and they followed, two and two, male and female, and clean beasts by sevens. These beasts, from the most ferocious, down to the most gentle and harmless, peacefully and solemnly marched into the ark. The sky seemed clouded with birds of every description. They came flying to the ark, two and two, male and female, and the clean birds by sevens. The world looked on with wonder --some with fear, but they had become so hardened by rebellion that this most signal manifestation of God's power had but a momentary influence upon them. For seven days these animals were coming into the ark, and Noah was arranging them in the places prepared for them.

And as the doomed race beheld the sun shining in its glory and the earth clad in almost its Eden beauty, they drove away their rising fears by boisterous merriment, and by their deeds of violence seemed to be encouraging upon themselves the visitation of the already awakened wrath of God.

Everything was now ready for the closing of the ark, which could not have been done by Noah from within. An angel is seen by the scoffing multitude descending from heaven, clothed with brightness like the lightning. He closes that massive outer door, and then takes his course upward to heaven again.

Seven days were the family of Noah in in the ark before the rain began to descend upon the earth. In this time they were arranging for their long stay while the waters should be upon the earth. And these were days of blasphemous merriment by the unbelieving multitude. They thought, because the prophecy of Noah was not fulfilled immediately after he entered the ark, that he was deceived and that it was impossible that the world could be destroyed by a flood. Previous to this there had been no rain upon the earth. A mist had risen from the waters, which God caused to descend at night like dew, reviving vegatation and causing it to flourish.

Nothwithstanding the solemn exhibition they had witnessed of God's power--of the unnatural occurrence of the beasts' leaving the forests and fields, and going into the ark, and the angel of God clothed with brightness and terrible in majesty descending from heaven and closing the door; yet they hardened their hearts and continued to revel and sport over the signal manifestations of divine power.

THE STORM BREAKS

But upon the eighth day the heavens gathered blackness. The muttering thunders and vivid lightning flashes began to terrify man and beast. The rain descended from the clouds above them. This was something they had never witnessed, and their hearts began to faint with fear. The beasts were roving about in the wildest terror, and their discordant voices seemed to moan out their own destiny and the fate of man. The storm increased in violence until water seemed to come from heaven like mighty cataracts. The boundaries of rivers broke away, and the waters rushed to the valleys. The foundations of the great deep also were broken up. Jets of water would burst up from the earth with indescribable force, throwing massive rocks hundreds of feet into the air, and then they would bury themselves deep in the earth.

The people first beheld the destruction of the works of their hands. Their splendid buildings; their beautifully arranged gardens and groves, where they

had placed their idols, were destroyed by lightning from heaven. Their ruins were scattered everywhere. They had erected altars in groves, and consecrated them to their idols, whereon they offered human sacrifices. These which God detested were torn down in His wrath before them, and they were made to tremble before the power of the living God, the Maker of the heavens and the earth, and they were made to know that it was their abominations and horrible, idolatrous sacrifices which had called for their destruction.

The violence of the storm increased, and there were mingled with the warring of the elements, the wailings of the people who had despised the authority of God. Trees, buildings, rocks, and earth were hurled in every direction. The terror of man and beast was beyond description. And even Satan himself, who was compelled to be amid the warring elements, feared for his own existence. He had delighted to control so powerful a race, and wished them to live to practice their abominations, and increase their rebellion against the God of heaven. He uttered imprecations against God, charging Him with injustice and cruelty. Many of the people, like Satan, blasphemed God, and if they could have carried out their rebellion, would have torn Him from His throne of justice.

While many were blaspheming and cursing their Creator, others were frantic with fear, stretching their hands toward the ark, pleading for admittance. But this was impossible. God had closed the door, the only entrance, and shut Noah in and the ungodly out. He alone could open the door. Their fear and repentance came too late. They were compelled to know that there was a living God who was mightier than man, whom they had defied and blasphemed. They called upon Him earnestly, but His ear was not open to their cry. Some in their desperation sought to break into the ark, but that firm-made structure resisted all their efforts. Some clung to the ark until borne away with the furious surging of the waters, or their hold was broken off by rocks and trees that were hurled in every direction.

Those who had slighted the warning of Noah and ridiculed that faithful preacher of righteousness repented too late of their unbelief. The ark was severely rocked and tossed about. The beasts within expressed, by their varied noises, the wildest terror; yet amid all the warring of the elements, the surging of the waters, and the hurling about of trees and rocks, the ark rode safely. Angels that excel in strength guided the ark and preserved it from harm. Every moment during that frightful storm of forty days and forty nights the preservation of the ark was a miracle of almighty power.

The animals exposed to the tempest rushed toward man, choosing the society of human beings, as though expecting help of them. Some of the people bound their children and themselves upon powerful beasts, knowing that they would be tenacious for life, and would climb to the highest points to escape the rising water. The storm did not abate its fury--the waters increased faster than at first. Some fastened themselves to lofty trees upon the highest points of land, but these trees were torn up by the roots and carried with violence through the air and appeared as though angrily hurled, with stones and earth, into the swelling, boiling billows. Upon the loftiest heights human beings and beasts strove to hold their position until all were hurled together into the foaming waters, which nearly reached the highest points of land. The loftiest heights were at length reached, and man and beast alike perished by the waters of the Flood.

Anxiously did Noah and his family watch the decrease of the waters. He desired to go forth upon the earth again. He sent out a raven which flew back and forth to and from the ark. He did not receive the information he desired, and he sent forth a dove, which, finding no rest, returned to the ark again. After seven days the dove was sent forth again, and when the olive leaf was seen in its mouth, there was great rejoicing by this

family of eight, which had so long been shut up in the ark.

Again an angel descended and opened the door of the ark. Noah could remove the top, but he could not open the door which God had shut. God spoke to Noah through the angel who opened the door, and bade the family of Noah go forth out of the ark and bring forth with them every living thing.

NOAH'S SACRIFICE AND GOD'S PROMISE

Noah did not forget God, who had so graciously preserved them, but immediately erected an altar and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar, showing his faith in Christ the great sacrifice, and manifesting his gratitude to God for their wonderful preservation. The offering of Noah came up before God like a sweet savor. He accepted the offering and blessed Noah and his family. Here a lesson is taught all who should live upon the earth, that for every manifestation of God's mercy and love toward them the first act of all should be to render to Him grateful thanks and humble worship.

And lest man should be terrified with gathering clouds and falling rains, and should be in continual dread, fearing another flood, God graciously encourages the family of Noah by a promise. "And I will establish My covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between Me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud....And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth."

What a condescension on the part of God! What compassion for erring man, to place the beautiful, variegated rainbow in the clouds, a token of the covenant of the great God with man! This rainbow was to evidence the fact to all generations that God destroyed the inhabitants of the earth by a flood, because of their great wickedness. It was His design that as the children of after-generations should see the bow in the cloud and should inquire the reason of this glorious arch that spanned the heavens, their parents could explain to them the destruction of the old world by a flood, because the people gave themselves up to all manner of wickedness, and that the hands of the Most High had bent the bow and placed it in the clouds as a token that He would never again bring a flood of waters on the earth.

This symbol in the clouds is to confirm the belief of all, and establish their confidence in God, for it is a token of divine mercy and goodness to man; that although God had been provoked to destroy the earth by the Flood, yet His mercy still encompasseth the earth. God says when He looketh upon the bow in the cloud He will remember. He would not have us understand that He would ever forget, but He speaks to man in his own language, that man may better understand Him. --The Story of Redemption, pp. 57-71.

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God be merciful unto us, and bless
us,
And cause his face to shine
upon us;
That thy way may be known
upon earth,
Thy saving health among all
nations.
Let the people praise thee, O
God;
Let all the people praise thee.
O let the nations be glad and
sing for joy;
For thou shall judge the people
righteously,
And govern the nations upon
earth. --Psalm 67:1-4.

ENCUENTRAN CONTAMINANTES EN AGUA DE GRIFO

Investigaciones científicas muestran que de entre más de 2000 contaminantes identificados en el agua potable de la ciudad desde 1974 - aproximadamente 200 de ellos se sospecha o se conoce que causan enfermedades a diferentes niveles. Residuos de varios pesticidas, plomo, cadmio, bencina, contaminantes radioactivos, solventes, detergentes y muchos otros venenos son hallados en nuestra reserva de agua. Peligros adicionales incluye desgrasadores de tanques septicos, fertizantes, tetracloruro de carbon y otros solventes industriales, aun la sal usada para remover el hielo de las calles y carreteras. Aun el cloro, se ha mostrado que causa cáncer en el sistema gastro-intestinal o los órganos del tracto urinario (como la vejiga, etc.). El agua de grifo ha estado consistentemente identificada con males de origen fisico, incluyendo anomalias cardíacas, cáncer, defectos al nacer y muchos otros.

Se nos ha dicho que en el jardín, divinamente diseñado para el hombre, sólo había una clase de agua. No procedía ni del techo ni de un pozo, sino de un manantial; si, este formaba el rio que regaba el jardin. Plenamente, entonces, el agua de manantial es la más adecuada y natural para beber. Pero hay que cuidarse de los mantiales que elegimos; que no provenga de un lugar contaminado porque este cerca al séptico de alguna industria o residencia. El agua de un manantial no contaminado es aun mejor si a cierta distancia del origen del manantial, porque al deslizarse por el monte, el agua oxidada, y por lo tanto más liviana, y además que recibe un mayor grado de purificación y vida adicional al ser bañada por los rayos del sol. El agua destilada, asi como el agua lluvia es despojada de todos sus minerales, está muerta. En ese estado no fue provista en el hogar edénico.

But in the last days
it shall come to pass,
That the mountain of the
house of the Lord
Shall be established in the top
of the mountains,
And it shall be exalted above the
hills;
And people shall flow unto it.
And many nations shall come and
say,
Come, and let us go up to the
mountain of the Lord,
And to the house of the God of
Jacob;
And he will teach us His ways,
And we will walk in his
paths;
For the law shall go forth
out of Zion,
And the word of the Lord from
Jerusalem.
And he shall judge among many
peoples.
And rebuke strong nations afar
off;
And they shall beat their swords
into plowshares,
And their spears into pruninghooks;
Nation shall not lift up a sword
against nation,
Neither shall they learn war
any more.

Micah 4:1-5

AT LAST!!

For some time now we have been speaking of a 100,000 name mailing list. The Association providentially was presented with the opportunity of acquiring this list in the summer of 1992 at a reasonable cost. Yes, you can believe it, 100,000 names! 100,000 names!

It became very clear, however, that to undertake such a project would be a giant step of faith. To purchase and mail out the list required funds beyond our means. But the Lord answered our prayers and through the gifts of faithful brethren the list was finally purchased and in September, 1993, 20,000 newsletters were mailed to California, Florida, and New York.

The newsletter is entitled the "Trumpeter." The idea is that subjects deemed appropriate are drawn directly from the Rod's message, using primarily the words of the prophet himself, and organized into a newsletter/magazine format along with a brief health gem. This simple format is designed to avert much of the prejudice against the message, while still teaching Present Truth. A reply card is also sent along with the newsletter. This allows interested persons to respond without cost or obligation. The card offers a list of study cassettes, literature and a section by which one can request to be enrolled in the Bible Correspondence Course or a personal visit. Those who desire visits wll be visited by a Bible Worker.

What has been the response so far? The response has just begun to come into the office, the majority of which has been favorable. To date we have received over 65 replies, and more are coming. PRAISE GOD!! This should make us jump and shout for joy that so many souls are getting the message, and the opportunity is there to reach 80,000 more! Now, if you are not sure how large a number that is, just start counting and you will get a very good idea, then imagine that every one of them is a Seventh-day Adventist.

Another mailing is planned in the near future of 10,000 more newsletters, which will bring the total mailed out to 30,000 with a remaining 70,000 more names. Why haven't we sent more out? The answer is that monies are not immediately available for postage to cover the remaining thousands. The Association can only mail them out a portion at a time. It costs between $950.00 - $1,000 to mail 10,000 newsletters. This is over and above the Association's normal operating responsibilities.

You can easily see then, that this undertaking is indeed a leap of faith. But we do not fear neither are we dismayed for God has provided a way thus far; he has blessed our feeble efforts, and we know that He will provide a way to reach the remaining souls on the list. It is His work!!

Nonetheless, He would have us play our part. Here is an opportunity for all of us to pray, work and sacrifice so that these precious souls can have an opportunity to learn the message of the hour, and be prepared for the Judgment for the Living. Your faithful, earnest prayers are needed brother, sister, along with whatever you can do to get the message to the remainder of names on this list. Remember too, that we are speaking of 100,000 Seventh-day Adventists names that God has given us! They can pass the information on to thousands more--cousins, friends, parents, children, siblings, etc. This would bring us a giant step closer to ushering in God's Kingdom! How much work, effort and means would be spared that could be used in other areas of the field!

PLEASE, IN ALL YOUR PRAYERS AND EFFORTS REMEMBER THE TRUMPETER MAILING LIST. Let us everyday entreat the Lord earnestly to help us to very quickly reach every name on this list. This could be one of the very ways in which God will finish the work, and we all can play a vital role. We will keep you informed as to the progress of this most important project. God bless you all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BURNING MOUNT CARMEL'S MORTGAGE

Praise God!! Doubly praise Him!! Why? As of July 1, 1993 the Association made its last payment on the orginal mortgage which also included monies for renovating the main building and other projects on the campus. The sale of Yucaipa's property allowed the Association to pay off the majority of the balance owed; the remainder was remitted through balloon payments arranged with the bank. Hence, Mount Carmel is now nearly debt free!

The Association still owes about $40,000 on a loan acquired in 1991 for the print shop and the other projects. With the Lord's continued help, we should be able to liquidate this amount in the not too distant future, then the Association will be completely free of all debts. Please continue to pray that this will take place very soon. Time is short and God's work must not be encumbered by debt.

CARMEL STORE FINALLY HERE!!

Now you can acquire all your health food needs and contribute funds for God's cause in spreading Present Truth. Yes, it is true. Mount Carmel has just opened its mercantile store on Main Street, Mountaindale. It will serve the general public as well as all Davidians. The store offers mail orders. Members will receive discounted prices.

All profits will be remitted to the Association. We encourage and invite you to patronize the store and encourage others to do the same. Your help will be of great value in making this project successful. In return you will benefit by receiving the best prices for superb health foods and other items.

For further information and order forms, please contact Mount Carmel, Mountaindale, New York. Order Today!

VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE

Videos are now available. Please contact the office to order yours today. Subjects include the basic studies. The price of $12.99 includes shipping and and handling.

CASSETTE TAPES

Mount Carmel Center continues to offer Bible studies on cassette tapes. The studies have been recorded on quality equipment in a professional manner. The cassettes are especially appropriate to give to our Laodicean brethren. They can be requested by simply writing to Mount Carmel Center. In turn, the tapes will be sent to you without cost or obligation. Order yours today!

THE GUIDING HAND

The way is dark, I cannot see
The hand of love that guideth me;
My eyes are full of unshed tears,
My heart-strings throb with gloomy fears.

My will is crossed at every turn,
And bitter lessons oft I learn;
The path in life I fain would tread
Is not the one in which I'm led.

My pride marks out a pleasant road;
I'm made to bear a heavy load.
Stern duty points to cross and crown,
And bids me lay no burden down.

I'm human, Lord, and flesh is weak;
Thou art divine, Thy aid I seek.
O scatter clouds, false hopes dispel,
And teach me that Thy ways are well.

O thoughts that tend to earthly bliss
Turn out to be the traitor's kiss.
Vain glory, pomp, and worldly love!
They pass away like homing dove.

O may my heart be stayed on Thee,
Thou Rock to whom all ages flee!
Thy will, O may I understand,
And ne'er distrust Thy guiding hand!

--Eliza Morton

Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

--Ephesians 6:24

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