

The Symbolic Code



Harvest Time!

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"MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL CULTURE - Truth has a power to elevate the receiver. If Bible truth exerts its sanctifying influence upon the heart and character, it will make believers more intelligent. A Christian will understand his responsibilities to God and to his fellow men if he is truly connected with the Lamb of God, who gave His life for the world. Only by a continual improvement of the intellectual as well as the moral powers can we hope to answer the purpose of our Creator.

The Christian should possess more intelligence and keener discernment than the worldling. The study of God's word is continually expanding the mind and strengthening the intellect. There is nothing that will so refine and elevate the character, and give vigor to every faculty, as the continual exercise of the mind to grasp and comprehend weighty and important truths.

The human mind becomes dwarfed and enfeebled when dealing with commonplace matters only, never rising above the level of the things of time and sense to grasp the mysteries of the unseen. The understanding is gradually brought to the level of the subjects with which it is constantly familiar. The mind will contract its powers and lose its ability if it is not exercised to acquire additional knowledge and put to the stretch to comprehend the revelations of divine power in nature and in the Sacred Word." —Testimonies, Vol. 4, p. 545,6.

CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Message Set Forth at the Minneapolis Conference

The message of Righteousness by Faith came clearly and fully into the open at the General Conference held at Minneapolis, Minn., in November, 1888. It was made the one great subject of study in the devotional part of the Conference. It would seem that the presentation of the subject had been anticipated, and that there was an understanding that it would receive a thorough discussion in the Conference. At any rate, that was what took place.

The message was not received alike by all who attended the Conference; in fact, there was serious difference of opinion concerning it among the leaders. This division of opinion may be classified as follows:

Class 1.—Those who saw great light in it and gladly accepted it; who believed it to be a most essential phase of the gospel, and felt that it should be given great emphasis in all efforts to save the lost. To this class the message appeared to be the real secret of a victorious life in the conflict with sin, and that the great truth of being made righteous by faith in the Son of God was the most pressing need of the remnant church in preparing for translation at the second advent.

Class 2.—There were some, however, who felt uncertain about the "new teaching," as they termed it. They seemed unable to grasp it. They could not reach a conclusion. As a result, their minds were thrown into a state of perplexity and confusion. They neither accepted nor rejected the message at the time.

Class 3.—But there were others who were decidedly opposed to the presentation of the message. They claimed that the truth of righteousness by faith had been recognized by

our people from the very first, and this was true theoretically. For this reason they saw no occasion for placing such great stress and emphasis upon the subject as was being done by its advocates. Furthermore, they feared that the emphasis placed upon this theme of righteousness by faith would cast a shadow upon the doctrines that had been given such prominence from the beginning of our denominational history; and since they looked upon the preaching of those distinctive doctrines as the secret of the power and growth of our movement, they were fearful that if these doctrines were overshadowed by any teaching or message whatsoever, our cause would lose its distinctive character and force. Because of these fears, they felt in duty bound to safeguard both cause and people by decided opposition.

This difference of views among the leaders led to serious results. It created controversy, and a degree of estrangement which was most unfortunate. But through the intervening years there has been steadily developing the desire and hope—yes, the belief—that someday the message of Righteousness by Faith would shine forth in all its inherent worth, glory, and power, and receive full recognition. And during this same time, misapprehension and opposition have been disappearing. With many, there is now a pressing conviction that this message of Righteousness by Faith should be studied, taught, and stressed to the fullest extent that its importance demands.

No complete report of the presentation and discussion of the message of Righteousness by Faith at the Minneapolis Conference was published. Oral reports were given by those in attendance. But through subsequent writings of the Spirit of Prophecy, information is furnished

regarding the developments in connection with the giving of the message and its reception and also its rejection, and it is quite necessary to become familiar with this inspired information in order to understand better our present situation. It would be far more agreeable to eliminate some of the statements given by the Spirit of Prophecy regarding the attitude of some of the leaders toward the message and the messengers. But this cannot be done without giving only a partial presentation of the situation which developed at the Conference, thus leaving the question in more or less of mystery.

The Source From Which the Message Came

It became necessary for positive assurance to be given that the message of Righteousness and Justification by Faith that came at that time was by the direct leading of God, because of the confusion that had resulted by the opposition raised against it. The statement which follows should remove all question of doubt regarding the source of the message set forth at the Minneapolis Conference:

"The present message—Justification by Faith—is a message from God; it bears the divine credentials, for its fruit is unto holiness."—*Review and Herald*, Sept. 3, 1889.

"Messages bearing the divine credentials have been sent to God's people: the glory, the majesty, the righteousness of Christ, full of goodness and truth, have been presented; the fullness of the Godhead in Jesus Christ has been set forth among us with beauty and loveliness, to charm all whose hearts are not closed with prejudice. We know that God has wrought among us. We have seen souls turned from sin to righteousness; we have seen faith revived in the hearts of the contrite ones."—*Review and Herald*, May 27, 1890.

Its Varied Reception

As previously stated, some who attended the Minneapolis Conference received the message of Righteousness by Faith with great satisfaction. It was to them a message of life. It gave them a new appreciation of Christ, a new vision of His great sacrifice on the cross. It brought to their hearts peace and joy and hope. It was the supreme element needed to prepare a people to meet God.

These individuals returned to their churches with a new unction to preach the gospel of salvation from sin, and to help their brethren to accept by faith the righteousness of Christ as revealed in the gospel. Sister White herself took a very active, earnest part in this work, and reported through the *Review* some of her experiences. For example:

"We thank the Lord with all the heart that we have precious light to present before the people, and we rejoice that we have a message for this time which is present truth. The tidings that Christ is our righteousness has brought relief to many, many souls, and God says to His people, 'Go forward.' The message to the Laodicean church is applicable to our condition. How plainly is pictured the position of those who think they have all the truth, who take pride in their knowledge of the word of God, while its sanctifying power has not been felt in their lives. The fervor of the love of God is wanting in their hearts, but it is this very fervor of love that makes God's people the light of the world.....

"In every meeting since the General Conference, souls have eagerly accepted the precious message of the righteousness of Christ. We thank God that there are souls who realize that they are in need of something which they do not possess, of faith and love, white raiment of Christ's righteousness, eyesalve of spiritual discernment. If you possess these precious gifts, the temple of the human soul will not be like a desecrated shrine. Brethren and sisters, I call

upon you in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, to work where God works. Now is the day of gracious opportunity and privilege."—*Review and Herald*, July 23, 1889.

Eight months later she wrote:

"I have traveled from place to place, attending meetings where the message of the righteousness of Christ was preached. I considered it a privilege to stand by the side of my brethren, and give my testimony with the message for the time; and I saw that the power of God attended the message wherever it was spoken." —*Review and Herald*, March 18, 1890.

Of a meeting in South Lancaster she stated:

"I have never seen a revival work go forward with such thoroughness, and yet remain so free from all undue excitement. There was no urging or inviting. The people were not called forward, but there was a solemn realization that Christ came not to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance. The honest in heart were ready to confess their sins, and to bring forth fruit to God by repentance and restoration, as far as it lay in their power. We seemed to breathe in the very atmosphere of heaven. Angels were indeed hovering around. Friday evening, the social service began at five, and it was not closed until nine.... There were many who testified that as the searching truths had been presented, they had been convicted in the light of the law as transgressors. They had been trusting in their own righteousness. Now they saw it as filthy rags, in comparison with the righteousness of Christ, which is alone acceptable to God. While they had not been open transgressors, they saw themselves depraved and degraded in heart. They had substituted other gods in the place of their heavenly Father. They had struggled to refrain from sin, but had trusted in their own strength. We should go to Jesus just as we are, confessing our sins, and cast our helpless souls upon our compassionate Redeemer. This subdues the

pride of the heart, and is a crucifixion of self."—*Review and Herald*, March 5, 1889.

What a mighty revival of true godliness, what a restoration of spiritual life, what a cleansing from sin, what a baptism of the Spirit, and what a manifestation of divine power for the finishing of the work in our own lives and in the world, might have come to the people of God if all our ministers had gone forth from that Conference as did this loyal, obedient servant of the Lord!

The Opposition

How sad, how deeply regrettable, it is that this message of righteousness in Christ should, at the time of its coming, have met with opposition on the part of earnest, well-meaning men in the cause of God! The message has never been received, nor proclaimed, nor given free course as it should have been in order to convey to the church the measureless blessings that were wrapped within it. The seriousness of exerting such an influence is indicated through the reproofs that were given. These words of reproof and admonition should receive most thoughtful consideration at this time:

"God has raised up men to meet the necessity of this time who will 'cry like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.' Their work is not only to proclaim the law, but to preach the truth for this time,—the Lord our righteousness....

"But there are those who see no necessity for a special work at this time. While God is working to arouse the people, they seek to turn aside the message of warning, reproof, and entreaty. Their influence tends to quiet the fears of the people, and to prevent them from awakening to the solemnity of this time. Those who are doing this, are giving the trumpet an uncertain sound. They ought to be awake to the situation, but they have become ensnared by the enemy." —*Review and Herald*, Aug. 13, 1889.

Mark the serious indictment which follows: "You will meet with those who will say, 'You are too much excited over the matter. You are too much in earnest. You should not be reaching for the righteousness of Christ, and making so much of that. You should preach the law.' As a people we have preached the law until we are as dry as the hills of Gilboa, that had neither dew nor rain. We must preach Christ in the law, and there will be sap and nourishment in the preaching that will be as food to the famishing flock of God. We must not trust in our own merits at all, but in the merits of Jesus of Nazareth." —*Review and Herald, March 11, 1890.*

Note also the serious implication in the following statements:

"Some of our brethren are not receiving the message of God upon this subject. They appear to be anxious that none of our ministers shall depart from their former manner of teaching the good old doctrines. We inquire, Is it not time that fresh light should come to the people of God, to awaken them to greater earnestness and zeal? The exceeding great and precious promises given us in the Holy Scriptures have been lost sight of to a great extent, just as the enemy of all righteousness designed that they should be. He has cast his own dark shadow between us and our God, that we may not see the true character of God."—*Review and Herald, April 1, 1890.*

"God has sent to His people testimonies of truth and righteousness, and they are called to lift up Jesus, and to exalt His righteousness. Those whom God has sent with a message are only men, but what is the character of the message which they bear? Will you dare to turn from, or make light of, the warnings, because God did not consult you as to what would be preferred? God calls men who will speak, who will cry aloud and spare not. God has raised up His messengers to do His work for this time. Some have turned from the message of the

righteousness of Christ to criticize the men."—*Review and Herald, Dec. 27, 1890.*

"The Lord has sent a message to arouse His people to repent, and do their first works: but how has His message been received? While some have heeded it, others have cast contempt and reproach on the message and the messenger. Spirituality deadened, humility and childlike simplicity gone, a mechanical, formal profession of faith has taken the place of love and devotion. Is this mournful condition of things to continue? Is the lamp of God's love to go out in darkness?—*Review and Herald, Extra, Dec. 23, 1890.*

Lest we miss the force of these heart-searching messages, let us recount the salient points:

- 1) God raised up men to meet the necessity of the time.
 - 2) Some sought to turn aside the message, and to prevent an awakening among the people.
 - 3) Such persons were ensnared by the enemy, and gave the trumpet an uncertain sound.
 - 4) These men declared that the law should be preached,—not the righteousness of Christ.
 - 5) The exhortation is to *preach Christ in the law.*
 - 6) Some were fearful of a departure from the former manner of preaching the good old doctrines.
 - 7) God raised up men to herald the message of Righteousness by Faith.
 - 8) The challenge: "Will you dare to turn from, or make light of, the warnings?"
 - 9) The twofold result of rejecting the message.
 - a. Deadening of spirituality
 - b. Influx of a mechanical, formal profession of faith.
 10. The climactic question: "Is this mournful condition of things to continue?"
- Verily it is a sobering resume!

The Results of Division of Opinion

The division and conflict which arose among the leaders because of the opposition to the

message of righteousness in Christ, produced a very unfavorable reaction. The rank and file of the people were confused, and did not know what to do. Concerning this reaction, we read:

"If our brethren were all laborers together with God, they would not doubt but that the message He has sent us during these last two years is from heaven. Our young men look to our older brethren, and as they see that they do not accept the message, but treat it as though it were of no consequence, it influences those who are ignorant of the Scriptures to reject the light. These men who refuse to receive truth, interpose themselves between the people and the light. But there is no excuse for anyone's refusing the light, for it has been plainly revealed. There is no need of any one's being in ignorance....Instead of pressing your weight against the chariot of truth that is being pulled up an inclined road, you should work with all the energy you can summon to push it on."
—*Review and Herald, March 18, 1890.*

"For nearly two years, we have been urging the people to come up and accept the light and the truth concerning the righteousness of Christ, and they do not know whether to come and take hold of this precious truth or not. They are bound about with their own ideas. They do not let the Saviour in."—*Review and Herald, March 11, 1890.*

"Some have turned from the message of the righteousness of Christ to criticize the men....The third angel's message will not be comprehended, the light which will lighten the earth with its glory will be called a false light, by those who refuse to walk in its advancing glory. The work that might have been done, will be left undone by the rejecters of truth, because of their unbelief. We entreat of you who oppose the light of truth, to stand out of the way of God's people. Let Heaven-sent light shine forth upon them in clear and steady rays."—*Review and Herald, May 27, 1890.*

"There is sadness in heaven over the spiritual blindness of many of our brethren....The Lord has raised up messengers and endued them with His Spirit, and has said, 'Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.' Let no one run the risk of interposing himself between the people and the message of Heaven. The message of God will come to the people; and if there were no voice among men to give it, the very stones would cry out. I call upon every minister to seek the Lord, to put away pride, to put away strife after supremacy, and humble the heart before God. It is the coldness of heart, the unbelief of those who ought to have faith, that keep the churches in feebleness."—*Review and Herald, July 26, 1892.*

The solemn import of these Heaven-indited words should not be missed. Mark well these crystal-clear statements:

- 1) The message of 1888-90 was from heaven.
- 2) Its rejection by some of the more experienced brethren led the younger men into uncertainty and confusion.
- 3) Those who rejected the message, interposed themselves between the people and the light.
- 4) There is no excuse; the light has been plainly revealed.
- 5) The reason men are slow to take hold of this precious truth is that they are bound about with their own ideas.
- 6) The course of some has been to turn from the message to criticize the messengers.
- 7) Those who refuse to walk in this advancing light, will be unable to comprehend the third angel's message.
- 8) Those who refuse to walk in this heavenly light, that is to lighten the earth with its glory, will call it a "false light."
- 9) As a result of their unbelief, important work will be left undone.
- 10) Solemn entreaty to those who oppose the light to "stand out of the way" of the people.
- 11) Such spiritual blindness causes "sadness in heaven."

12) The positive assurance that God "raised up messengers and endued them with His Spirit."

13) If there had been no human voice lifted to give the message, the very stones would have cried out.

14) The call to every minister to humble the heart before God in order that spiritual strength may come to the church.

Surely comment on such solemn warnings and entreaties would be superfluous.

Fundamental Principles Involved

Back of the opposition is revealed the shrewd plotting of that master mind of evil, the enemy of all righteousness. The very fact of his determination to neutralize the message and its inevitable effects, is evidence of its great value and importance; and how terrible must be the results of any victory of his in defeating it! Concerning Satan's shrewd planning, we are given plain warning:

"The enemy of man and God is not willing that this truth [justification by faith] should be clearly presented; for he knows that if the people receive it fully, his power will be broken. If he can control minds so that doubt and unbelief and darkness shall compose the experience of those who claim to be the children of God, he can overcome them with temptation."—*Review and Herald, Sept. 3, 1889.*

"Our present position is interesting and perilous. The danger of refusing light from heaven should make us watchful unto prayer, lest we should any of us have an evil heart of unbelief. When the Lamb of God was crucified on Calvary, the death knell of Satan was sounded; and if the enemy of truth and righteousness can obliterate from the mind the thought that it is necessary to depend upon the righteousness of Christ for salvation, he will do it. If Satan can succeed in leading man to place value upon his own works

as works of merit and righteousness, he knows that he can overcome him by his temptations, and make him his victim and prey. Lift up Jesus before the people. Strike the doorposts with the blood of Calvary's Lamb and you are safe."—*Review and Herald, Sept. 3, 1889.*

Once more let us summarize these statements, because of their far-reaching importance:

1) It is Satan who is unwilling that the truth of Righteousness by Faith shall be presented.

2) The reason is that, if this truth is fully received by the people, his power will be broken.

3) If Satan can throw about the people doubt and unbelief, he can overcome them through temptation.

4) It is Satan's endeavor to obliterate from the mind that it is necessary to depend upon the righteousness of Christ for salvation.

5) Satan knows that if he can lead men to depend upon their own works for righteousness, they will be his victims.

6) Therefore the call is sounded: **Lift up the crucified Saviour, and place your trust in His blood.**

What a challenge to prayer is here presented! How we should seek God in humility for the anointing of the heavenly eyesalve! Only by the full acceptance and appropriation of these glorious provisions can a people be prepared to stand without spot or wrinkle before a holy God at His coming. **Only thus may His commandments be truly kept, and only by this divine power can the church finish its great commission.**

(Note: This is chapter four of the book, *Christ Our Righteousness*,—a study of the principles of Righteousness by Faith as set forth in the Word of God and the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy). To be continued.

WHERE DO THE SEALS AND TRUMPETS BEGIN AND END?

Victor T. Houteff

This afternoon we shall see where each Seal and Trumpet begins and ends. Let us first read the description of the first five seals:

Rev. 6:1-11—And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering and to conquer. And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword. And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine. And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth. And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony which they held: and they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little

season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

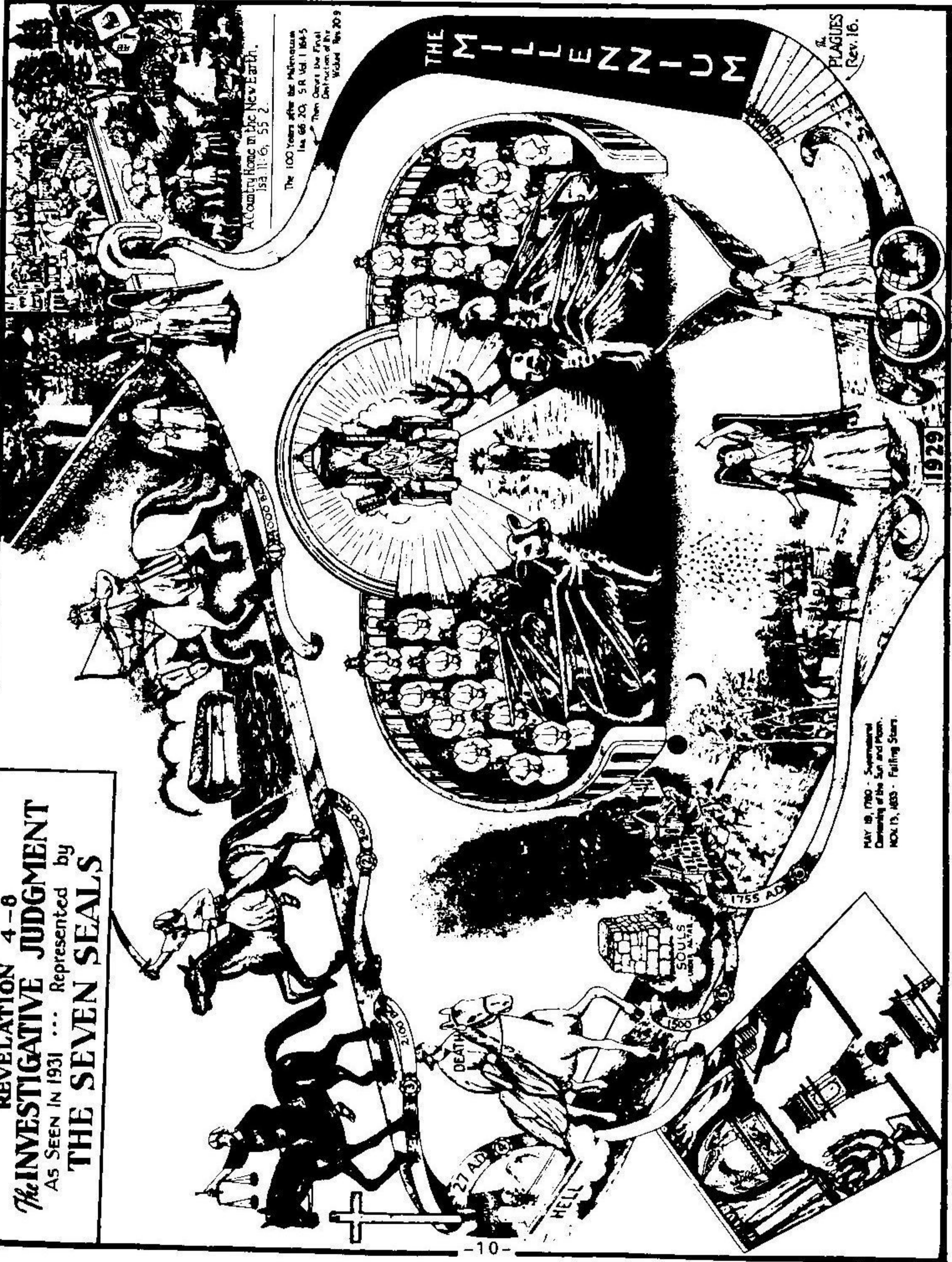
To find where the Seals begin, we shall carefully note that History records only one period of martyrdom such as is described in the fourth and fifth seals—the martyrdom that began with John the Baptist and, with but little interruption, continued on to about the middle of the eighteenth century.

Obviously, then, the fourth seal opened with the closing of the Old Testament time and the beginning of the New. Since this is so, and since the Seals are consecutive, the first three seals find their fulfillment, not in the New Testament period, but in the Old Testament period.

Now let us see when the second seal began. We are told that the rider of the second seal was "to take peace from the earth," implying that there had been peace before. To learn the time of the second seal, therefore, we need to answer the question: When was peace taken away from the earth?—

We all know that there were no wars before the flood, that wars began after the confusion of tongues at the tower of Babel, after the human family had been divided into numerous tongues, nations, and races. The first war recorded in sacred history, was fought in the days of Abraham, and wars have stayed with us ever since. Before that day there was peace. Where else, then, could the second seal apply but after the flood, the time peace was taken away from the earth? Finally, the history of the first seal

REVELATION 4-8
The INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT
 AS SEEN IN 1931 ... Represented by
THE SEVEN SEALS



Account Home in the New Earth.
 Isa. 11: 6, 55 2.

The 100 Years after the Millennium
 Isa. 66: 20; 5 R. Vol 1 184-5
 Then Comes the Final
 Destruction of the
 World Rev. 20:9

MAY 18, 1780 - Supernatural
 Dimming of the Sun and Moon.
 NOV. 13, 1833 - Falling Stars.

must be sought in the period before the flood. The color (white) of the horse itself speaks of peace, and so obviously the seals begin with creation.

What could the horses, driven by men, symbolize?—They can symbolize only something over which man rules, for a rider always rules that which he rides. The horsemen, then, must be symbolical of man's rule over the creation of God.

The colors of the horses and the professions of their riders show progress in greed and crime. It is evident from the symbolism that man's ruling the world has not wrought improvement.

The white horse denotes peace and purity which existed only at the beginning of the creation of God. By the rider of the white horse is seen man's great aim to subdue and to replenish the earth. And by the red horse and his rider we see bloodshed and wars. This brutality led the way for the black horse to come on the scene. The color black is significant of enslaving nations, and the balances are expressive of inventing commercial schemes to obtain wealth. The fourth horse, the pale, portrays a system of indefinable character—difficult to distinguish whether Christian or Pagan—hypocrisy. The fifth seal shows that the persecution of the saints continued to the opening of the sixth seal. Are not these the headlines of history? The Seals, therefore, begin with the commencement of these things.

Rev. 6:12-17—And I beheld when He had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great

men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

The sixth seal contains the signs of the times and brings the end of the world. And since the sixth chapter of The Revelation brings us to the end of the world, and as the things of the seventh chapter take place before the end, it is obvious that the subject of chapter 7—the sealing of the 144,000 from the tribes of Israel, and the gathering of the great multitude from all nations (the first fruits from the church, and the second from the nations)—lapses back into the period of the sixth seal. Besides, the seventh seal begins with chapter 8.

Now, where does the seventh seal begin? First let us remember that the sixth seal brought us up to the end of the world. Obviously, therefore, the seventh seal, which covers a number of subjects, must overlap with the sixth. Let us note that the beginning of the seventh seal disclosed the Seven Trumpets.

The number 7 in the Scriptures always carries the connotation of completeness. The 7 Trumpets therefore carry, as do the 7 Seals, a complete subject of their own. The term "trumpet" is significant of broadcasting a message. And so the 7 Trumpets in particular demonstrate the result which the disobedient to these messages suffered from the beginning to the end. That the seventh trumpet represents the last message is quickly seen from reading—

Rev. 11:15—And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.

Here we see that the last message on earth is the message which announces the end of all earthly governments.

The Trumpets are in two divisions—the last three are "woe" Trumpets, the first four are not. That the Seven Trumpets cover both the Old and the New Testament times can easily be seen in a brief study of the fifth trumpet—

Rev. 9:1-4—And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a Star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to Him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And He opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

To the Star which came down from heaven is applied the masculine pronoun "He". To Him the key of the bottomless pit was given. Whom could the Star symbolize?—Let us turn to Revelation 20:1—

Rev. 20:1—And I saw an angle come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in His hand.

Here we are told that this mighty angel, Satan's enemy, has the "key of the bottomless pit." If He has it, then to him the key must have been "given." The Star that received the key, therefore, is symbolical of this angel.

Moreover, let us notice that as the key opened the bottomless pit, the locusts were released. Finally, the fact that the locusts are enemies to

those who have not the seal of God in their foreheads, then the "Star" (angel) that came from heaven and opened the pit to release the locusts is a friend to them and a mighty enemy to Satan. There is therefore no escaping this conclusion: The heavenly Star represents a heaven-sent Being, the same "angel," of Whom we again read in chapter 20:1, and the locusts are Heaven's rescued multitude. Who else, then, can the "Star" and the locusts represent but Christ and the Christians? Satan had shut up into the bottomless pit the entire Jewish nation,—the only nation that had previously been out of the pit. Christ therefore came to open the pit and to let the captives go free. To such a world was the Lord of Heaven sent, and when He came He immediately declared:

Luke 4:18,19—The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Here you have it in Inspiration's own code of mysticism, freshly unveiled that Jesus Christ is indeed a heaven-sent Being, the Saviour of the world.

Now the plain fact that the Christian era began with the sounding of the fifth Trumpet, the truth of the first four Trumpets must be sought in the Old Testament era.

We have now seen the nature and time where the Seven Seals and the Seven Trumpets begin and end, and those who want to know the subjects in all their details can do so by studying the tracts—"The Final Warning," and "The Breaking of the Seals,"—which will be mailed free upon request. —2 *Timely Greetings*, No. 13.

WE HAVE NOT FOLLOWED CUNNINGLY DEvised FABLES

We who have studied the message contained in *The Shepherd's Rod* are just as deeply convinced that it is the "message of the True Witness" to the Laodiceans," which finds God's people in a "sad deception," as we are of the Sabbath or any other truth ever known to the church. And indeed we should be, for it has opened to our understanding chapter after chapter of the Scriptures, the meaning of which we hitherto had not the faintest idea, but which we now understand as plainly as we do any plain Bible truth. Through the message, we now see that the prophecies of these chapters (Isaiah's, Ezekiel's, Hosea's, Joel's, Micah's, Zechariah's, Daniel's, The Revelation's, etc.) focus on this time, and shine out in wondrous beauty. It has multiplied to us the proof that the Seventh-day Adventist denomination is the church of God, thus strengthening more than ever, if possible, our determination to stay in it regardless of its condition. And as a consequence, it has established us more solidly than ever in the Third Angel's Message, causing us to have greater love for the brethren. Then, finally, it has driven us to study the Bible and the *Spirit of Prophecy* as never before.

Without reading for oneself the publications of the *Rod*, one cannot know the wonderful change they make in the lives of all who truly accept them, nor can one appreciate the wonders of the prophecies which they reveal, many of which, heretofore, men have never even attempted to explain. No human wisdom could possible unlock these mysteries of God which have been hidden for ages from the wise and prudent. Those who have not for themselves made "a thorough investigation" of the message which the *Rod* contains, and which has come "in the name of the Lord," the *Spirit of Prophecy*

counsels them not to say: "I am satisfied with my position. I have set my stakes, and I will not be moved away from my position, whatever may come. I will not listen to the message of this messenger; for I know that it can not be truth."—*Testimonies on Sabbath-School Work*, p. 65.

Clearly, those who by word or action contend that they know more about *The Shepherd's Rod* than do we who have carefully studied it, are not only stultifying their own intelligence, but also insulting ours. Moreover, in judging and condemning without hearing, they are violating the laws of common justice, and are despising the counsel of the Lord and placing themselves above His Throne!

"It was from pursuing this very course that the popular churches were left in partial darkness, and that is why the messages of heaven have not reached them....There is no virtue or manliness in keeping up a continual warfare in the dark, closing your eyes lest you may see, closing your ears lest you may hear, hardening your heart in ignorance and unbelief lest you may have to humble yourselves and acknowledge that you have received light on some points of truth. To hold yourselves aloof from an investigation of truth is not the way to carry out the Saviour's injunction to 'search the Scriptures.' Is it digging for hidden treasures to call the results of someone's labor a mass of rubbish, and make no critical examination to see whether or not there are precious jewels of truth in the collection of thought which you condemn?"—*Testimonies on Sabbath School Work*, pp. 65,66.

So, as to implement his constant purpose of keeping Christendom beset with false teachers,

the Devil is causing every wind of doctrine to blow in every direction. One after another he keeps these teachers shooting upward, like plants in the shade, only to wither when exposed to the sun. Thus keeping ever prominent the bad example of them and of their followers, he effectively discourages and frightens all who have the disposition to investigate any purported light on the Scriptures, thereby preparing them to reject the very message of Truth whenever God may send it.

When, therefore, "a message comes to you in the name of the Lord," if you, because of the delusive messages which the enemy has brought in the past, refuse to investigate for yourself, saying, "There is no use, it is simply another 'off shoot'; I know it cannot be the truth"; then, whether it be the *Rod* or some other publication, which contains the message, certain it is that sooner or later, you will reject the very message you need to save you from the Laodicean sad deception.

Thus ever keeping before the church his master bug-bear, "off-shoots," the old Deceiver is accomplishing his diabolic design of betraying many into rejecting the light that is to lighten the whole earth.

We know that the Lord is speaking to His people at this very time through the publications of *The Shepherd's Rod*; that the message they contain is that which "will cause a shaking among God's people" (*Early Writings*, p. 270); that those who accept this counsel of the True Witness will receive the seal of God and be numbered among the 144,000 (*Testimonies*, Vol. 3, p. 266); that those who reject it will fall in the slaughter of Ezekiel 9 (*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 445; *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 211) and Isaiah 66:16; and that those who "escape of them," the 144,000, the first fruits, are to be the servants of God in the time of the Loud Cry (Rev. 14:4;

Testimonies, Vol. 5, pp. 80,81) to bring the second fruits out of "all nations." Isa. 66:19,20.

Therefore, Brethren, as we have "full assurance of faith" that our knowledge, judgment, and faith in the S.D.A. doctrines are as sound as yours, and as you know not our position as well as we know yours, there is at least as much chance of our being right as there is of your being right. So for your own soul's sake, you dare not refuse to investigate. If you close your ears to the voice of the True Witness, it will mean your eternal ruin! This is why our hearts are troubled, why we are concerned that you investigate for yourselves, the message of the *Rod*. And if you are a "man of wisdom" who heeds "the Lord's voice...unto the city," you will "hear...the *Rod*," and know "Who hath appointed it." Micah 6:9.

We have unloaded our responsibility. Now you must shoulder yours and exercise your God-given ability and duty to make sure your eternal reward. Risk not your crown of life on a peradventure, on any possibility of losing out after being years in the message. What a loss, tragic loss, "world without end" that would be! Accept this counsel and obey its demands and your obedience will secure unto you peace and joy and life everlasting....

"But beware of rejecting that which is truth. The great danger with our people has been that of depending upon men, and making flesh their arm. Those who have not been in the habit of searching the Bible for themselves, or weighing evidence, have confidence in the leading men, and accept the decisions they make; and thus many will reject the very messages God sends to His people, if these leading brethren do not accept them." —*Testimonies to Ministers*, pp. 106, 107. (An excerpt from *Tract, No. 7, The Great Controversy Over "The Shepherd's Rod"*, pp. 68-73)

THE COUNTRY OF MANY ISLANDS

Right in the heart of southeast Asia lays its chain of some 7,107 islands and islets. From north to south, this tropical archipelago stretches for more than 1,700 kilometers toward the equator. The south China sea bathes its northern shores, which when crossed would lead you to its northern neighbors, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

The Philippines is nestled between China, Singapore, Indonesia and Borneo, with Japan to its far north and the Pacific Ocean on its east, looking toward Micronesia and Polynesia. This was the country I would spend three and one half months in active labor and sweet fellowship.

On January 20, 1997, the jumbo jet lifted from New York's Kennedy airport and landed in Hong Kong, then finally on January 22, 1997 in Manilla, its capital city. From there I boarded another flight to Davao City, which some have said is the largest city in the world in land area.

At the airport I was greeted by Br. Ricardo Rollan, a Davidian minister, along with his wife Judith and their children, JR and Shiloh. I was warmly greeted and was accommodated at the family's home for the night in preparation for the somewhat arduous day's journey to Mauswagon, where the Camp was located. The primary purpose of this visit was to conduct a DLI, with the end being to provide more workers or more active members who would swell the message in this very important part of the world.

The trip to Mauswagon would start early the next morning while it was still dark. We travelled on an open-backed truck—some in the back, others in the cab, across a mostly rough, hilly and very dusty, but picturesque and breathtaking terrain.

Mauswagon is a remote township located in an area called Bukidnon—the land of mountains. Here tucked away among the many hills, mountains, and valleys lay the Davidian camp. Here lived several families who primarily farmed for a living, but who actively and wholeheartedly supported the work. Some of them were to become students of the DLI. Other students arrived from Davao City and Bayugan. In all 16 would complete the class and graduate.

Before class could start, however, more preparation was needed. Where would the students stay? The classroom/meeting place was not yet ready for use. Although prior plans were made, little time remained for preparation. Rey Barroa and his family very graciously loaned us their home for the entire period of the class. Their whole family of 7 moved to a relative's smaller house, in cramped quarters. This home became my home and the home of several of the students for over 3 months. The Rollan family also resided there and became translators and assistant teachers. They were extremely helpful during the entire trip. This home became a center of activity as visitors, patients, students, workers and friends passed through, studying the Word or receiving treatments and spiritual encouragement. We were busy from early morning to late at night.

Since classes were about ten days away, this allowed us time to visit another area. So while the men labored to build the classroom/chapel, and make other preparations, Br. Ric and I journeyed to Bayugan, more than a half day's journey across more difficult roads. After arriving in Bayugan and meeting some of the brethren, we travelled further up to Katipunan, where we fellowshipped with the Arrellano family and the local Davidian group, called "Hephzibah". Here we had a comparative study

of the Hephzibah teachings. It was also here that we contacted Br. Welvim Arrellano, the then chairman of the Philippines Branch and a very dedicated and active Bible-Worker. Br. Welvim would from then on accompany Br. Ric and me on nearly all the major missionary journeys. In fact, he drove us to an independent S.D.A. group known nationally throughout the country, as "Wilderness". The leader is Br. Ric's uncle. The leader's wife studied the Rod message and visited Mt. Carmel Center, Mountindale, NY in the 1980's and "thoroughly enjoyed it" and was interested in the message. To our surprise, the leader (Noel) asked me to deliver the mid-day/mid-week sermon to a rather large congregation, and welcomed us into his home for lunch.

It was here, incidentally, where the Rod's message had found many, including Br. Ric and Sr. Judith. It was here that through Br. T. Davis, God convicted many souls of the message. But later opposition forced the message out; but not out of the hearts of those truly hungry for righteousness.

After about two days in Katapunan, we travelled back down the hillsides on the back of Br. Welvim's motorcycle, often slipping and sliding over the muddy dips, bumps and stones. Several times down the approximately 3 or 4 mile stretch we had our hearts in our mouths or had to stop and walk, as Br. Welvim endeavored to maneuver out of a muddy bog. In one instance we had to stop to assist another cyclist who had slipped and fallen along with his passenger.

In the Philippines, especially in rural areas it is common and necessary to use motorcycles, carabao, (a large cow), or horses for transport. Motorcycles have become very common. Cyclists would carry nearly everything on these two wheelers—sacks of corn, rice, wood, groceries, etc. It is not unusual to see five or six persons on a motorcycle. In the city they rig a cab to it and carry even more when needed.

A sight that, to say the least, was most intriguing.

But praise God for His mercy and Br. Welvim's skill, we reached Bayugan safely, where we had a wonderful stay, and spirit-filled meetings. Here as in Mauswagon I felt the warmth, cordiality and earnestness of these dear brethren.

Upon our return to Mauswagon, the classroom was ready for use, although not complete; it was remarkable how quickly they had worked. The class started with about 20 persons, but because of family or personal difficulties, a few could not continue.

During the Sabbaths we would visit churches within the district, where we from time to time encountered the district pastor who ardently opposed the Rod.

As opposed to the western world, hats are not so accepted in the Philippines. Women wearing any kind of head-covering is frowned upon. So, the Pastor was not too pleased to see Davidian members of the church wearing head-coverings (a kind of veil-like cover designed to cover the hair, but not the face). The Sabbath I attended the local church, it was a fellowship or gathering of representatives of most of the churches in the district. In response to what may have been a request by members the Pastor allowed us to present our doctrinal position on head-coverings; but later tried to refute it—to his embarrassment. This apparently got the church thinking. Another week he came to the camp with an assistant Pastor and tried to refute our teaching on Ezekiel 9—again to his utter embarrassment. By this time an interest had developed. The assistant Pastor, whatever his motivation, requested outlines and literature, and subsequently visited by himself.

Later on while we were away again on another missionary trip, Sr. Judith was able to present a

study to another church—the Mauswagon congregation. This further deepened the controversy. Before long we were giving studies in both the Mauswagon church and another local congregation. By far, however, the heart of the controversy was in Mauswagon. Before long, a group of young men from Mauswagon, with their interest aroused began coming to the Camp (about a mile away) at night to receive Bible studies. Some of the church leaders—elders and deacons also attended the meetings, asking questions. Sometimes at night the classroom which holds about 40-45 people, was filled. On one or two occasions visitors numbered almost twenty. Even when the Pastor threatened to disfellowship those who came to the camp, they came back again and again. We were teaching both night and day. The students took turns practicing their lessons on the new comers. What a thrill it was! What a blessing! What a privilege it was to see the light of God's Word ablaze. The church was becoming convicted. So much interest had been generated that on the last Sabbath, while conducting our National Session, the members requested, in the presence of the Pastor, to have us come again and give a study. We were able to give three studies in the church.

Besides conducting the DLI class and working with the local S.D.A. members, Br. Welvim, Ric and I would periodically travel to other islands and areas. We visited the island of Cebu and fellowshipped with a family there. We visited Negros, another island, and studied with a lovely group of believers. We also travelled to Bohol (a third island) to visit with the "Waco believers" who had invited us to present our side of the issue. Before visiting Bohol we fellowshipped with a strong group in Cagayan de Oro City, led by Br. Victor Lubguban, a very zealous and dedicated member.

While we were there, Mountain View College, an S.D.A. school, conducted a youth congress. With over ten thousand S.D.A.'s attending, we

could not miss the opportunity to fellowship with our people and collect many names and addresses. This endeavor opened the door for Bible studies.

The Philippines is not blessed with the wealth and conveniences of the United States and Europe. In fact, most are very poor by comparison to U.S. standards. Life is hard. As present truth missionaries, we do not stay in hotels, or live as most tourist or missionaries do, who reside in more comfortable quarters. We strive to live as those who we come to serve. This affords us a richer blessing, especially if they are like those I came to meet, live with, and love as my second family. In the Philippines I found a people not rich in this world's goods, but wealthy in faith, zeal, camaraderie, and a deep love for Truth. The workers there gave up worldly honor to spread this marvelous Shepherd's Rod message. Br. Ric Rollan was an engineer, his wife, Sr. Judith was a lawyer. Other members diligently labor to share the glad tidings in their respective areas.

A special blessing to me was to see the many young people who were so spiritual and zealous. They love the Truth and strive to know and practice it. Many demonstrated a strong desire to know Jesus personally. This phenomenon was remarkable since it is rarely seen anywhere else, especially in the Western world.

No, I shall never forget them, or the rich experiences I had there. They are indelibly etched on my being. Please remember the brethren of the Philippines, new and old believers. Pray that they will hold firmly to the faith and that they all will grow in their convictions and reflect the character of Christ our blessed Redeemer to whom be glory forever.

A. Anthony Hibbert, Education director.

THE AFRICAN EXPERIENCE—UNIQUE BLESSINGS

Blessings come dressed in diverse ways and in packages of different shapes and sizes. Sometimes they come like bright, shining Gabriel to announce the good news of a son to a frustrated and barren couple; sometimes they come in the form of a miracle that multiplies two fishes and five loaves to feed hungry thousands. At other times, they may come disguised as an assailant in the dark ready to stalk a troubled Jacob and wrestle with him all night. Then again they may arrive in the form of a hungry Elijah asking you to give him your last meal and then God will provide **afterwards**. Finally, blessings may come as an invitation to visit dark, poor and pestilential regions of the earth and there work for the Master.

The African experience between February and June 1997 falls into this last category of blessings. All the major participants, I do firmly believe, received God's special favor: those whom God used to provide the money; the one sent as a missionary teacher and the African brethren themselves.

Africa is a beautiful, interesting and strange continent—a land of great contrasts. It features sandy, burning, barren deserts and also wet hot, steamy, mosquito-ridden rain forests. It boasts the beautiful snowy peaks of Mt. Kilimanjaro and likewise the barren dusty plains of the Sahara where in some parts it may not rain for years. In this land of exotic peoples, and even more exotic animals, the many poor live in pathetic closeness to the few rich. And there are places where the sumptuous palaces of selfish, unscrupulous political leaders, unpitifully overlook the countless poverty-stricken huts and hovels that many call home.

Oh for time and space to tell of these many peoples: their tribes, their language, their strange and often harmful customs. Oh that

time and space would permit us to talk of their diet and eating habits. One of the main dishes in East Africa is called Ugali (pronounced oo-ga-lee). It is made from cornmeal and water, which is stirred in boiling water and cooked until it becomes solid and can be cut like a cake. Surely it would require books to write all about the colorful birds and animals that still inhabit that vast continent, from the massive stellar creatures like the powerful elephants and the majestic giraffes to the tiny water shrew.

Africa may be one or two centuries behind in technological and scientific development; tribalism is a real curse to its inhabitants (it engenders continual strife, rivalries and prevents strong unity). And witchcraft, like a great shadowy pall of death, darkens and further curses that poor continent. (In parts of West Africa even the smallest child knows how to use witchcraft to send a cobra or other venomous snake to fatally bite an opponent). Yes, political corruption, like the murderous, blood-lusting witchcraft that engenders it, is still a third curse upon that unfortunate land! Through all of this, though, there is hope.

Yes, in spite of the fact that there are many problems... Did you know, for instance, that Nigeria has been internationally rated as the most corrupt country upon planet earth? Kenya, famous worldwide for its great athletes, unblushingly runs in third in this race of corruption. Yes, and again, though African leaders like Idi Amin Dada have performed mass slaughters and other dark demonic acts, that like ancient Nero of Rome, have caused the world's spine to tingle in cold, nightmarish horror; though all these and other conditions exist—there is a brighter and lighter side.

On the lighter or humorous side, would you for instance, know how to pack about 20 people in

a vehicle that was meant for five or six? Would you as an unquestionable, macho, he-man, Samson male, dare to put on what is best described as a rose pink or red robe-like dress and calmly walk the streets to church or some other religious function? Africa indeed has a lighter and colorful side.

And then we may consider the brighter side in this land of extremes. Most Kenyans and other Africans are a friendly and an intelligent people. Oh what an experience it is to witness the revelation of 32 dazzling and enviably white teeth, like the sudden flash of a great camera, smiling forth from the thick lips of a jet black Negro.

And now for the important spiritual side. Do you remember, the experience Jesus had while talking to the Samaritan woman at the well? How before speaking to her Jesus was hungry and thirsty, but after sharing the gospel with her, he was so transported with spiritual joy that he was no longer hungry or thirsty when they brought him food? Beloved, many such blessings are richly available in this poor, light-starved land. Africans love the word of God. They appreciate the bread of life and the water of salvation as only the poor and needy can. Like the woman at the well, they **drink and drink and drink** and ask for more.

The pleasure of feeding them is one of the greatest blessings in the world. The Bible worker is in great danger of overworking as the people clamor for more of the heavenly bread. Such workers can best appreciate the words of the Saviour—His being anointed to preach the gospel to the **poor**.

The trip to Africa (Kenya) was a real blessing from the Almighty. The Lord worked in mysterious ways His wonders to perform. The first few weeks were spent near the Adventist University at Baraton—that in itself was a tremendous blessing. The whole University was stirred and awakened—some to fight and some

to privately or publicly rejoice in the truth. A large number of tapes and cassettes were distributed and among the many Africans from various countries all over the continent, the light of truth shone with unmistakable brightness. The seeds of present truth have been sown far and wide. Actually, only the omniscient God would be able to measure the results for good. We praise the Lord indeed for His mighty providence, with all our heart. Indeed, we continue to trust Him that the scattered seeds of truth, will be watered by His Spirit to bring forth much fruit to His name's glory.

The Lord, however gave even greater cause for rejoicing. He did great things for His people in Kenya. Originally, we had no center, no base, no full time workers, but the Lord has wrought for his children. There were representatives from three African countries: Br. Isaac Muwonge from Uganda and Br. Litia Mutumba from Zambia. These, along with some faithful, self-sacrificing brethren from Baraton, Kenya, (Br. Elijah Natili, Edwin Abwao, Franklin, Leonard and Peter), set out to build the Camp or center. God sent us much help. Br. Michael Kilonzo and Charles Oyando, though they could not be with us on campus, were of great help to us in many ways. There have been other faithful helpers who came later also. I know that God will richly bless them all.

We moved forward in God's name, with very little money, but with much faith and prayer. We fasted and prayed and asked our Omnipotent Jehovah to send us means. Did God abandon us? Did He hear our prayers? Oh no, He did not abandon us. On the contrary, He had respect unto our prayers and answered them miraculously. The Lord, through friends and brethren, provided enough means to buy 5 acres of land and to put up three buildings! "Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and for His wonderful works toward the children of men"! What hath God wrought!

So now we have our own place: A Mt. Carmel Center in Kenya, to serve as an international base for all Africa. We have a main building with a chapel and a classroom for about 30 or more students. We have a dormitory for male and for female students. We also have a building for storage. Oh how wonderfully Jehovah has worked to bless his people. My tongue is altogether too short to exalt his name.

More than this, we were able to conduct a pre-D.L.I. for about nine weeks. The number of students on campus, hovered between 13 and 18,—very promising young men who love the message and are anxious to prepare themselves for active service.

Our health program, spearheaded by Br. Muwonge, was a success. We gave free health consultations and treatments to many poor people in the community, and what a blessing it was! The people in the community gained confidence in us, despite the lies the mother church was spreading about us. In fact, they have actually said that we were the true Adventists—Glory to God.

A Board of seven members, has been selected to manage the operations and activities of Mt. Carmel Center, Kenya, during the absence of a New York representative. These are five members and two alternates. Namely: Br. Charles Oyando (Chairman), Br. Elijah Natili, secretary, Br. Edwin Abwao, treasurer, Br. Samuel and Br. Olango, members, with Br. Franklyn Webuye and Br. Michael Kilonzo as alternates.

Toward the end of my stay in Africa, I suffered a modicum of nostalgia. To get all the work completed and teach the students further, my stay was extended for 21 days. Sometimes as I traveled around under very difficult and at times even painful conditions (made worse when I remembered my own spacious car at home), I wondered if I would ever get back to the U.S.A.

It was a strange feeling, but I knew from experience that God always sent mighty angels with me when I was out on the mission field. I knew by faith that no witchcraft, however powerful could derail God's blessings on my work as long as I remained close to Him.

Returning to the U.S.A., however, a great surprise, or shall I say blessing awaited me. Ironically, I had no illness in Africa, apart from two or three days of sniffles. I felt fine for the first two days, after returning, but on the third day, a violent attack of malaria overtook me and literally knocked me down for more than two weeks. Going to the doctor for a blood test, they diagnosed **full-blown malaria**.

I refused to take any drugs. The brethren prayed for me and took good care of me. I used steam baths, bitter herbs, clay poultices and predominantly raw foods. God blessed these natural remedies and though I lost enough weight to look like a scarecrow, I am presently about 95% recovered. I give thanks for this because malaria in many people often can last up to two years.

Yes, praise the Lord. The whole trip was indeed a blessing. But as I laid writhing in pain and agony for the first few days, and thinking I would soon be delirious with unremitting pain, fever, weakness and no appetite, it was difficult to see how that was a blessing. It was not easy to understand, why after I gave my 100% most cheerfully, why would the Lord permit such a thing. Afterward, however, the Lord helped me to understand what He told Paul: "My strength is made perfect in weakness". Even my first real sickness in my entire life brought me spiritual blessings; brought me closer to the Lord.

In closing I want to say thanks to all my friends who were so nice to me in Africa. Thanks to the Executive Council who made the trip and

mission possible. Thanks to Mary Guil, whom God used to help us miraculously in answer to fervent prayer. Thanks to God Almighty for His indispensable and unceasing help.

Dear reader, if you are called to go to what they call the dark continent, I urge you to cheerfully go in the name of the Lord. As for me, God has impressed me that my work there is not yet done. I must not fear anything, for He is able. Though cobras, mambas, famine, malaria, pestilences and such should bar the way, someone must go to share the light with those benighted lands. Oh Lord, remember Africa...when shall those hungry millions be fed the bread of life? Shall your Son's deep anguish be in vain? Shall we not as your people arise, and quickly reap heaven's richest blessings? Almighty Jehovah, help us share those blessings and reap from all lands the sons of Jacob—the long-awaited 144,000.

Brother Errol Stanford

FROM THE GOLDEN BOWL

Question: Who is the Israel of today?

Answer: "In order to be purified and to remain pure, **Seventh-day Adventists** must have the Holy Spirit in their hearts and in their homes. The Lord has given me light that when the **Israel of today** humble themselves before Him, He will hear their prayers in behalf of the sick and will bless in the use of His remedies for disease. When in faith the human agent does all he can to combat disease, using the simple methods of treatment that God has provided, his efforts will be blessed of God." —*Testimonies, Vol. 9, p. 164.*

...These 144,000 'servants of God,' being the first increment of the harvest, are called 'firstfruits.' And as all of them are 'of all the tribes of the children of Israel' (Rev. 7:4), they are therefore necessarily harvested from the **Israel of today—the Church Itself.** Whereas the great multitude which no man can number, are gathered subsequently from 'all nations' (Rev. 7:9) over whom the harlot, Babylon the Great, then reigns."—*White House Recruiter, pp. 33,34.*

"...In the mighty sifting soon to take place we shall be better able to measure the strength of **Israel.** The signs reveal that the time is near when the Lord will manifest that His fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor." —*Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 80.*

"...**Spiritual Israel, the church of God on earth today,** to whom will finally be fulfilled **all the covenant promises.**" —*Life Sketches, p. 435.*

"...the purified **Israel today (the 144,000),** the ones who survive the forty-year period of wandering from 1890-1930, and who escape the slaughter of Ezekiel 9 are to be promoted to the final leadership of the antitypical Exodus Movement, then to inherit 'the promised land,' and to be citizens in the everlasting Kingdom." —*3 Answerer, p. 20,21.*

"...professed **Sabbathkeepers...the Israel of God in these last days...**" —*Testimonies, Vol. 1, p.480.*

"...Modern **Israel** are in greater danger of forgetting God and being led into idolatry than were His ancient people. Many idols are worshiped, even by professed **Sabbathkeepers.**" —*Ibid. p. 609.*

Note - Summarizing the above statements. The **Seventh-day Adventist church is modern Israel today.** Out of her will come the purified **144,000** who will gather in the great multitude out of all nations.

THE GOSPEL OF HEALTH

Mad Cow Disease, AIDS in cattle, regular E. coli scares, Spirit of Prophecy counsel...what will it take to get some of our people to see the necessity of eliminating meat and animal products from their diet? We have much information on this important subject. For your health's sake, consider the following:

Meat Eating - A Cause Of Chronic Diseases. Nearly 1.5 million Americans are crippled and killed each year by heart failure, stroke, cancer, diabetes, arthritis and other chronic diseases associated with excessive consumption of meat and animal fat. The elements held principally accountable include saturated fat, cholesterol, hormones, pesticides, and nitrites. Not surprisingly, meat contains few of the essential nutrients. The excess protein contained in a meat diet also places a heavy stress on the liver and kidneys.

World Hunger. While 800 million people around the world face agonizing starvation, we continue feeding to animals the grains and legumes that could save these lives. Production of these foodstuffs uses up to 90 percent of our agricultural resources, drastically depletes our vital topsoil and ground water, and jeopardizes our ability to grow sufficient food to meet our future needs.

Environmental Devastation. Millions of acres of forest land are devastated through conversion to grazing land and cropland to feed farm animals, both in the U.S. and abroad. Runoff from these lands carries suspended and dissolved solids, organic matter, nutrients, and pesticides into our lakes and streams, accounting for more water pollution than all other human activities combined. Overgrazing and intense cultivation eventually turn these lands into desert.

Animal Suffering. Meat production is responsible for 96% of the six billion animals who are abused and killed in the U.S. yearly. That works out to 70 animals annually for the average family. Animals are viewed as mere tools of production and treated accordingly. From birth, they are caged, crowded, deprived, medicated, mutilated, and manhandled, until the butcher's knife ends their agony.

Health Facts. During the last few decades we have seen a steady stream of medical reports linking consumption of animal fat and meat with elevated risk of "killer" diseases. Here are some examples:

General Diseases. A massive study of the diet and health of 6,500 Chinese conducted by a Cornell Univ. biomedical team, documents conclusively the merits of a diet free of all animal ingredients in preventing heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, osteoporosis, and even calcium and iron deficiency! Moreover, while the Chinese consume 20 percent more calories, Americans are 25 percent fatter, because they consume three times as much fat. Although the Chinese take in only half as much calcium as Americans do, they rarely suffer from osteoporosis, because they consume less protein which depletes calcium from the bones. —*The New York Times, May 8, 1990.*

A study of 142 diabetic and 79 healthy children at the Toronto Hospital for sick children concluded that drinking cow's milk during infancy may trigger juvenile diabetes in people who are genetically predisposed to the disease. —*New England Journal of Medicine, July 30, 1992.*

A study of 45,619 male health workers by Harvard's School of Public Health found that

men with the highest intake of potassium, contained in fruits and vegetables, reduced their risk of kidney stones by 50 percent, while those who ate the most animal protein increased their risk by 33 percent. —*New England Journal of Medicine*, March 25, 1993.

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

A comparative study of 64 vegetarians and 90 non-vegetarian children aged 5-8 at Boston University found that none of the vegetarian children were at risk of future heart disease, whereas 20 percent of the non-vegetarian children were. —*Vegetarian Times*, Sept. 1992.

As early as 1961, an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, pointed out that "97% of coronary occlusions (the usual heart attacks) could be prevented by a vegetarian diet."

"A vegetarian diet deriving no more than 10% of calories from fat can actually reverse heart disease." —*Dean Ornish, M.D., University of California, San Francisco, 1993*.

A study of 87,245 female nurses by Harvard Medical School found that women who ate lots of fruits and vegetables cut their risk of stroke by 54 percent. Spinach and carrots, with the antioxidant vitamins (beta-carotene, C and E), were quite effective. —*American Heart Association's Epidemiology Meeting, March 1993*.

A study of 1,851 male employees of Chicago's Western Electric Co. by University of Texas scientists found that men whose diet contained amounts of vitamin C and beta-carotene from one or two oranges and carrots per day had a 30 percent lower risk of dying from heart disease. —*Ibid.*

A study of 1,160 Massachusetts men and women aged 67-96, concluded that older people should eat five servings a day of fruits and vegetables to

reduce their risk of heart disease and stroke. Fruits and vegetables contain vitamin B-6 and folate which prevent the formation of an amino acid (homocysteine), that contributes to arterial blockage. —*Journal of the American Medical Association*, December 7, 1993.

American men killed in the Korean war showed, even at the age of twenty-two, striking signs of arteriosclerotic disease in their hearts as compared with Korean soldiers who were free of this damage to their blood vessels. The Americans were well fed with plenty of milk, butter, eggs and meat. The Koreans were basically vegetarians. —*Medical Counterpoint*, Dec. 1969.

CANCER Studies comparing vegetarian and non-vegetarian Seventh-day Adventist, report 50 percent less cancer overall in the vegetarian group. —*EarthSave*, Winter, 1996-1997.

Walter Willett, M.D., of the Harvard School of Public Health, directed a 6-year study of 90,000 women. He found that no amount of red meat is safe when colon cancer is involved. Those eating red meat as infrequently as once a week or once a month were still 40 percent more apt to get cancer of the colon than those eating it less than once a month. Dr. Willett warns, "If you step back and look at the data, the optimum amount of red meat you eat should be zero." —*The New York Times*, Dec. 13, 1990.

Dr. Takeshi Hirayama, of the National Cancer Research Institute in Tokyo, warns that those who consume meat daily face an almost four times greater risk of getting breast cancer than those eating little or no meat. Similarly, the more eggs, butter and cheese consumed, the greater risk of breast cancer. —*John Robbins, Diet for a New America*.

American men whose diets are rich in animal fats and particularly fats from red meat, have nearly an 80 percent greater risk of developing

potentially fatal prostate cancer than men with the lowest intake of such foods. This and other Harvard studies show that prostate cancer is highly correlated to fat consumption. Also at risk were men who ate large amounts of mayonnaise, creamy salad dressing and butter. —*Newsweek*, October 18, 1993, *The Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, October 6, 1993.

Prostate cancer occurs less frequently in men whose diets are lower in fats and protein and richer in a variety of vegetables. Medical scientists at our own Loma Linda University found that male S.D.As who ate lots of fatty foods like meat, cheese and eggs were 3.6 times more likely to contract fatal prostate cancer than Adventist vegetarians. —*Prevention*, April 1986.

A review of 156 diet and health studies by researchers from the National Cancer Institute and University of California (Berkeley) characterized the evidence linking fruit and vegetable consumption with prevention of several forms of cancers as "exceptionally strong and consistent." The authors concluded that people with a low intake of fruits and vegetables have twice or more the risk of cancer as people with a high intake. —*Nutrition and Cancer*, September 1992.

OTHER DISEASES

A report from the International Vegetarian Congress, held in March 1997, at Loma Linda University, showed a striking relationship between meat-eating Seventh-day Adventists and fatal diabetes. There was 85 percent more diabetes in the meat eaters than the SDA vegetarians. —*Journal of Health and Healing*, Vol. 20, No. 2.

The more protein in our diet, the more calcium we lose, regardless of how much calcium we take in. The result is that high-protein diets in general, and meat based diets in particular, lead

to a gradual but inexorable decrease in bone density, and produce the ongoing development of osteoporosis. —*John Robbins, Diet for a New America*.

There are many kinds of arthritis, including osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, lupus erythematosus and ankylosing spondylitis...The evidence strongly suggests that diets very low in saturated fat, low in protein, high in fiber, and without any cholesterol would be best for the prevention of arthritis, and as an important element in treatment. —*Ibid*.

In a huge, 17-year study of 10,000 "health-conscious" eaters in England, Scotland and Wales, the people who ate fresh fruit every day (compared with average eaters who didn't make it a habit) had 24% less chance of a fatal heart attack, 32% less chance of fatal strokes and 21% less chance of dying from any cause. Vegetables and whole grains were also protective, but in this study daily fresh fruit was the winner. —*British Medical Journal*, Sept. 28, 1996.

Another study found men who ate fresh fruit (such as apples, pears, oranges and bananas) every day—equal to only about one half cup of fruit salad—had 70% less chance of dying from cancer of the digestive tract than those who ate almost no fruit. —*Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention*, Sept. 1996.

MEAT-EATING QUOTES

"The liability to take disease is increased tenfold by meat eating. The intellectual, the moral, and the physical powers are depreciated by the habitual use of flesh meats. Meat eating deranges the system, beclouds the intellect, and blunts the moral sensibilities." —*E.G. White, Counsels on Health*, p. 70.

"Ill health in a variety of forms, if effect could be traced to the cause, would reveal the sure

result of flesh eating." —*E.G. White, Medical Ministry, p. 222.*

"Meat is the greatest disease breeder that can be introduced into the human system." —*Ibid. p. 266.*

"Cancers, tumors, and all inflammatory diseases are largely caused by meat eating. From the light God has given me, the prevalence of cancers and tumors is largely due to gross living on dead flesh." —*Id. 278.*

"Little did humanity realize that in adopting the meat diet, it was sowing the seeds of its own destruction, and laying the foundation for a host of 'diseases,' which would—unless checked—undermine the health of the whole human race!" —*Hereward Carrington, Ph.D., The Argument for Vegetarianism.*

"We are basically a vegetarian species and should be eating a wide variety of plant foods and minimizing our intake of animal foods." —*T. Colin Campbell, Director of the Chinese Health Study, Cornell University, May 1990.*

"Feeding meat to young children is not only absolutely unnecessary but is one of the most certain methods of laying the foundation for life-long misery from constipation, auto-intoxication and various disorders which grow out of these conditions." —*J.H. Kellogg, M.D.*

"A vegetarian diet is the acid test of humanitarianism." —*Leo Tolstoy*

"The unlimited capacity of the plant world to sustain man at his highest is a region yet unexplored by modern science...I submit that scientists have not yet explored the hidden possibilities of the innumerable seeds, leaves and fruits for giving the fullest possible nutrition to mankind." —*Mahatma Gandhi, 1944.*

"I have no doubt that it is part of the destiny of the human race...to leave off eating animals." —*Thoreau*

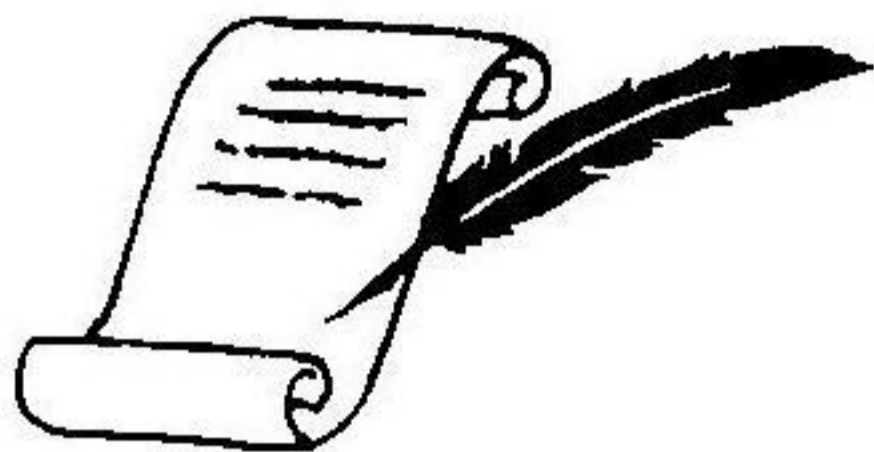
"If a man's aspirations towards right living are serious...he will first abstain from animal food because...its use is simply immoral, as it requires the performance of an act which is contrary to moral feeling—killing; and is called forth only by greed and the desire for tasty food." —*The Ethics of Diet*

"This (vegetarian) movement should bring particular joy to those concerned with bringing about the kingdom of God on earth...because vegetarianism is a sign that the aspiration of mankind towards moral perfection is serious and sincere." —*Tolstoy*

"...should we not be thankful and happy for having been given a better diet than that which angry beasts are still subsisting on? And should we not gladly comply with this exemplified Divine request to abstain from flesh food, so that our strength and character be equal to our task? Only by so doing shall we be fitting ourselves for the work and for the Kingdom, where 'the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord,...' Isa. 11:6-9.

Should we not now as intelligent human beings, Divinely enlightened candidates for the Kingdom, privileged to prepare the way for such a happy and perfect day, give up flesh food before the lions and the serpents do?" —*The Entering Wedge, V.T. Houteff.*

THE MAIL BAG



Dear Brethren:

My name is _____. I am an Ethiopian and was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church for the last ten years. But now I am not a member any more due to many reasons. It doesn't mean that I have retreated back to the world. No!

Brethren, there are divisions and controversies, within the church itself. It has become divided over political and nationality issues and a struggle for power and money. They seemed to have forgotten the advent of Christ.

I received your booklet, *The 1950 General Conference Special*, miraculously and have read it repeatedly. I want to know more about your message. Please send me your literature! And brethren, let us pray for the church in Ethiopia!

ETHIOPIA, EAST AFRICA

Dear Sir:

I wish to ask your favour. I am a member and Christian in the S.D.A. church. Since 1982, I read some of your books and was interested in getting more. Please send me the following:

- 1) *The Shepherd's Rod, Vols. 1 and 2*
- 2) *Bible Studies Handbook*, by S.N. Haskell
- 3) *Present Truth*, by E.G. White
- 4) *Early Writings*, by E.G. White
- 5) *Testimonies to Minister*

- 6) *Christ Our Righteousness*
- 7) *Tracts - Numbers 1 to 15*
- 8) All volumes of the *Timely Greetings*

I also have a friend who would like to receive these books and the Bible lessons. Thank you very much!

ZAMBIA, CENTRAL AFRICA

Dear Sir/Madam:

Would you please send me urgently the tapes: The 144,000 - Who Are They, Revelation 7, and the Great Multitude. I am very interested in discovering the true facts about this! Also send a brochure of other tapes and leaflets available on other topics.

LONDON, ENGLAND

Dear Friends in Christ:

I am a Seventh-day Adventist and had the chance to listen to your explicit and accurate interpretation of Daniel 2. What a powerful lesson! May God bless you!

I have a few questions that have baffled me and am in need of explanations...about the Kingdom, the Mark of the Beast, the "rapture," and Colossians 2:16 - Is the Sabbath not necessary? I have taken an ardent interest in your ministry and therefore wish to fill my library with your powerful recordings and books. I will be sharing these with others. I was fascinated by the quotations you read from *The Testimonies* and other inspirational books. I humbly appeal to your association or individuals who would like to quench my thirst for the Word of God. Thank you sincerely in advance.

GHANA, WEST AFRICA

My Dear Brethren:

I have studied your literature carefully and realize how important that it is to my life. Please pray for me that the Lord will help me to discern His truth.

I have completed all the lessons so if you have other correspondence, please send them to me to amplify by studies. My mind is open to truth and I want to be a disciple of God. I have begun to share the studies with others but I need more assistance and materials. I am waiting for your help. Please don't forget me.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

Dear Sir:

A friend recently shared the following audio tapes with us:

- 1) The Eleventh Hour Message of Matt. 20.
- 2) The 144,000 - Who Are They?
- 3) The Great Multitude

We enjoyed these sermons several times and I are interested in whatever other presentations you have. Do you have an order sheet or newsletter available. Could you send some sermons that we haven't heard as yet. Thank you.

NEBRASKA, USA

Dear Friends in Christ:

This is a request for S.D.A. Prophetic Ministries cassettes. I am a member of the S.D.A. church here. I once came across a cassette about the 144,000, and became much interested. I will be very happy if you can send me the tape on the 144,000 and any other cassettes you have. Yours in Christ.

GHANA, WEST AFRICA

Dear Sir/Madam:

I would like to request free information on any matters relating to diet and health from your centre. I would appreciate it if you will kindly send me the small pocket book, "The Entering Wedge, the Genesis of Diet and Health, and any other matters on the same topic. God bless you.

ZAMBIA, CENTRAL AFRICA

Dear Sirs:

I was at my friend's house when I had the opportunity to listen to a cassette bearing your address. The recorded lessons in these cassettes impressed me so much that I was prompted to open the Holy Scriptures and study it closely.

I am a student at present and have made it a solemn duty to study the Holy Bible. I found your cassettes very helpful. Please send me the following tapes.

- 1) Thy Kingdom Come, Part 1 and 2
- 2) The Harvest - A Study of Matt. 13
- 3) The Great Paradox of the Ages - Zech. 6
- 4) The 11th Hour Call of Matthew 20
- 5) The Great Multitude - Who Are They?
- 6) Hosea, Chapters 1 and 2
- 7) The Great Image of Daniel 2
- 8) The 144,000, Who Are They - Rev. 7

I assure you these cassettes will very much benefit my friends, my parents and myself. Thank you for your cooperation.

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Dear Sir/Madam:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I have been listening to a tape of yours. I believe that we have very little time left before Jesus' second coming. I'd like you to

send me your cassettes, The 144,000 and the Great Multitude; also in written form on both subjects. If you have a catalog do not hesitate to send that. If my demand is too much because I know it costs in this place to do everything, please send me a bill. Thank you and God bless you richly.

MASSACHUSETTS, USA

Dear Brethren:

How are you there in the USA and at the headquarters of the work? I am sure you are still holding strongly in the message through a lot of disappointments and hardships of all kinds. We are fine here in Zambia and are longing to see you soon.

Brethren, I want to inform you that I was in a road accident and almost died. I saw myself flying through the air and at last pressed down by a very big thing like a mountain, (the car landed on top of us). I thought that was the end of me, but before I lost my senses I gave a short prayer saying, "Lord of David help us!"

The car was removed from off of us and I was taken to the hospital and discharged after 3 days. I tell you that not even a small cut was found on my skin. Brother, I repeat the words of Br. Houteff that timely truth not only saves our souls for eternity but it protects us from day to day. It supplies our needs today and gives us hope for the hereafter. Faith is our only peace of mind, especially in this day and age!

"Religion obviously is profitable not only for hereafter, but certainly for today as well. Do not play the fool by trying to get along without it." *1 Timely Greetings*, 49, pp. 12,13.

Brethren, it is a great blessing to be there in the USA and you should continually praise the Lord God for that. We here are in hardship...in the past two years we were in great hunger and

many died in that hunger. We have gone for more than two weeks without grain, only vegetables and water. However, the Lord did miracles for every one of us here. Praise God...He is still ruling the earth. In God have I put my trust!

I want to work for God now more than ever and so I request a chart and Spirit of Prophecy books. I want to be a full time worker as soon as I receive the materials. God has given me a lot of miracles as he did to Daniel so in God's power I should strive even harder to be among God's present truth believers. I was idle for many years...pray for me brethren, pray for me....

ZAMBIA, CENTRAL AFRICA

FROM THE GOLDEN BOWL

Ellen G. White

Just as you conduct yourself in your home life, you are registered in the books of heaven. He who would become a saint in heaven must first become a saint in his own family. If fathers and mothers are true Christians in the family, they will be useful members of the church and in society after the same manner in which they conduct their family concerns. Parents, let not your religion be simply a profession, but let it become a reality.

Religious instruction means much more than ordinary instruction. It means that you are to pray with your children, teaching them how to approach Jesus and tell Him all their wants. It means that you are to show in your life that Jesus is everything to you, and that His love makes you patient, kind, forbearing, and yet firm in commanding your children after you, as did Abraham. —*The Adventist Home*, p. 317.

YOUR GARDEN – WHAT GROWS THERE?

Jesus told the story of a man going out to sow seed. That seed is the Word of God—words from the Bible. There are seeds for many plants in the Word of God that you should be growing in your garden. Match the seeds below with the plants they will produce.

There are lots and lots of “let us” seeds; the following are just a few. I am sure you can find many more seeds of your own.

Psalm 34:3	Let us Hold fast to faith
Psalm 95:6	Let us Worship
Romans 14:19	Let us Love in truth
Galatians 5:25	Let us Offer praise
1 Thessalonians 5:6,8	Let us Exalt the name of God
Hebrews 4:14	Let us Follow after things that make Peace
Hebrews 13:15	Let us Watch and be serious
1 John 3:18	Let us Walk in the Spirit

“Be”ns should grow in abundance.

Acts 1:8	Be Obedient
Ephesians 4:32	Be A Student of the Word
1 Corinthians 4:2	Be A Witness
2 Timothy 2:15	Be Kind
1 Peter 4:10	Be Faithful
Romans 12:2	Be Trusting
John 14:23	Be Transformed
Philippians 4:6	Be A Good Steward

You will want a few rows of “P’s”.

Colossians 3:15	Perseverance
James 5:7	Prayer
1 Thessalonians 5:17	Purity
1 Timothy 4:12	Peace
Galatians 6:9	Patience

Weeds are dangerous and need to be pulled up while they are small. The following are just a few of the weeds to watch out for.

Ephesians 4:31	Pride
James 3:6	Envy
Proverbs 16:18	Jealousy
Ephesians 5:6	Gossip
Proverbs 23:17	Disobedience
James 3:14	Evil speaking

Adapted From:
Bread

Contributed by
Penny Payne

When you plant good seed, learn to know your plants so that you recognize any weeds when they first come up. Pull them out quickly and allow your good plants to grow and produce fruit.

Fascinating Facts About Ellen White's Life

- Ellen and her twin sister, Elizabeth, were the youngest in a family of eight children.
- Ellen had only three years of schooling because of an accident she suffered at the age of 9. Someone threw a rock at her, which struck her on the nose. Remaining unconscious for three weeks, Ellen nearly died.
- At the age of 14 Ellen was baptized into the Methodist Church. She was disfellowshipped the next year because she believed in the second coming of Jesus.
- Ellen became a Sabbathkeeper in the early fall of 1846, soon after her marriage to James White on August 30, 1846.
- James and Ellen had four boys—Henry, Edson, William (Willie), and John Herbert. John Herbert died at 3 months, and Henry died of pneumonia at the age of 16. Edson spent much of his life working among African-Americans in the state of Mississippi in the U.S.A. on the *Morning Star* missionary boat.
- By 1878 Ellen had crossed the United States 12 times.
- Ellen worked in Europe from August 1885 to August 1887.
- She helped establish the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia from December 1891 to 1900. Ellen spent a total of 11 years working outside the United States.

More than coincidence

Here are just a few of the amazing parallels between the lives of Moses and Jesus:

- Both escaped death as infants (Exodus 1:15, 16; Matt. 2:16).
- Both had to go into exile (Exodus 2:15; Matthew 2:13, 14).
- A divine command caused both to return to the land of their birth (Exodus 4:19, 20; Matthew 2:19-21).

The "Wicked Bible"

An early version of the King James Bible contained a serious error: It left the word "not" out of the seventh commandment. The version read: "Thou shalt commit adultery." The printers were fined for the mistake.

Fascinating Bible Facts

Hard facts

There are six metals cited in Scripture. Gold is the first metal mentioned in the Bible (Genesis 2:11), followed by bronze and iron (Genesis 4:22). Abraham was reported to be rich in silver (Genesis 13:2). Finally, tin and lead are cited (Numbers 31:21-23).

Strong evidence

There are more ancient copies of the New Testament than any other book of its age. About 24,000 manuscript copies of parts of the New Testament are in existence. The *Iliad*, by Homer, comes in second, with only 643 manuscripts still around today. *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*

Right on Target

If a prophet's words do not come true, we know that he or she was not a prophet from God. What about Ellen White? Did God guide her? The answer is yes. In the area of science, for example, Ellen White received information that scientists did not discover until years later.

- In 1865 she wrote that it is important to allow sunlight and air into rooms every day. In 1944, a scientist discovered that sunlight kills bacteria.

- In 1905 Mrs. White wrote in *The Ministry of Healing*, that tea and coffee are harmful. Years later scientists discovered that caffeine, a major ingredient of coffee and many soft drinks, has many poisonous effects on the body. It can cause the heart to beat irregularly and make a person depressed.

- Ellen White also warned against the use of flesh meat, long before it was discovered that animal fat causes heart and blood-vessel diseases.

- She knew long before scientists did that a mother can affect her unborn child by the way she acts and by what she eats. It wasn't until 1954 that a scientist named Ashley Montagu wrote about the influences of the mother on her child during pregnancy.

- In 1900 she said that poor diet was causing the ruin of many youth. It is now a well-known fact that diet greatly affects a student's grades and behavior. Students who eat a healthy breakfast do better in school.

A Branch to Their Nose

In Ezekiel 8:17 God said, "Is it a trivial matter for the house of Judah to do the detestable things they are doing here? Must they also fill the land with violence and continually provoke me to anger? Look at them putting the branch to their nose!" (NIV). What was God talking about when He referred to "putting the branch to their nose"?

Holding a branch to the nose was a ceremonial gesture in nature worship. The Israelites were more eager to worship nature than they were to worship the God who had created it.

Why did Job's sheep have roller skates for their tails?

"The most common sheep in Palestine during the biblical period was the 'fat-tailed,' also called the dumba. It was a tall, large-boned, long-nosed, round-backed animal with a black face and drooping ears. Such sheep stored fat in their rump and enormous tails, which often became so heavy that they dragged on the ground. To protect the tails the shepherds sometimes tied them to two-wheeled carts that carried them. A flock of fat-tailed sheep dragging the carts after them made quite a bit of noise, and the [Jews] prohibited the owners from allowing the sheep to leave their fold on the Sabbath" (Harry J. Baerg, *Bible Plants and Animals* [Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1989], pp. 84, 85).

What kind of vegetables did Daniel and his friends eat in Babylon?

Since the most common vegetable eaten by the Babylonians was the onion, the people might smell a little strong to you. They also ate lentils, beans, peas, cucumbers, cabbage, lettuce, and the heart of growing palm trees, which was like celery.

THE STORY OF REDEMPTION

Ellen G. White

THE SANCTUARY

The tabernacle was made according to the commandment of God. The Lord raised up men and qualified them with more than natural abilities to perform the most ingenious work. Neither Moses nor those workmen were left to plan the form and workmanship of the building. God Himself devised the plan and gave it to Moses, with particular directions as to its size and form and the materials to be used, and specified every article of furniture which was to be in it. He presented before Moses a miniature model of the heavenly sanctuary and commanded him to make all things according to the pattern shown him in the mount. Moses wrote all the directions in a book and read them to the most influential people.

Then the Lord required the people to bring a free-will offering, to make Him a sanctuary, that He might dwell among them. "And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the Lord's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all His service, and for the holy garments. And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered offered an offering of gold unto the Lord."

Great and expensive preparations were necessary. Precious and costly materials must be collected. But the Lord accepted only the free-will offerings. Devotion to the work of God and sacrifice from the heart were first required in preparing a place for God. And

while the building of the sanctuary was going on, and the people were bringing their offerings unto Moses, and he was presenting them to the workmen, all the wise men who wrought in the work examined the gifts and decided that the people had brought enough, and even more than they could use. And Moses proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, "Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. so the people were restrained from bringing."

Recorded for Later Generations

The repeated murmurings of the Israelites, and the visitations of God's wrath because of their transgressions, are recorded in sacred history for the benefit of God's people who should afterward live upon the earth, but more especially to prove a warning to those who should live near the close of time. Also their acts of devotion, their energy and liberality in bringing their free-will offerings to Moses are recorded for the benefit of the people of God. Their example in preparing material for the tabernacle so cheerfully is an example for all who truly love the worship of God. Those who prize the blessing of God's sacred presence, when preparing a building that He may meet with them, should manifest greater interest and zeal in the sacred work in proportion as they value their heavenly blessings higher than their earthly comforts. They should realize that they are preparing a house for God.

It is of some consequence that a building prepared expressly for God to meet with His people, should be arranged with care—made comfortable, neat, and convenient, for it is to be

dedicated to God and presented to Him, and He is to be entreated to abide in that house and make it sacred by His holy presence. Enough should be willingly given to the Lord to liberally accomplish the work, and then the workmen be able to say, Bring no more offerings.

According to the Pattern

After the building of the tabernacle was completed, Moses examined all the work, and compared it with the pattern, and directions he had received of God, and he saw that every part of it agreed with the pattern: and he blessed the people.

God gave a pattern of the ark to Moses, with special directions how to make it. The ark was made to contain the tables of stone, on which God engraved, with His own finger, the Ten Commandments. It was in form like a chest, and was overlaid and inlaid with pure gold. It was ornamented with crowns of gold round about the top. The cover of this sacred chest was the mercy seat, made of solid gold. On each end of the mercy seat was fixed a cherub of pure, solid gold. Their faces were turned toward each other and were looking reverentially downward toward the mercy seat, which represented all the heavenly angels looking with interest and reverence upon the law of God deposited in the ark in the heavenly sanctuary. These cherubs had wings. One wing of each angel was stretched forth on high, while the other wing of each angel covered his form. The ark of the earthly sanctuary was the pattern of the true ark in heaven. There, beside the heavenly ark, stand living angels, at either end of the ark, each with one wing overshadowing the mercy seat, and stretching forth on high, while the other wings are folded over their forms in token of reverence and humility.

In the earthly ark Moses was required to place the tables of stone. These were called the tables of the testimony; and the ark was called the ark of the testimony, because they contained

God's testimony in the Ten Commandments.

Two Apartments

The tabernacle was composed of two apartments, separated by a curtain, or vail. All the furniture of the tabernacle was made of solid gold, or plated with gold. The curtains of the tabernacle were of a variety of colors, most beautifully arranged, and in these curtains were wrought, with threads of gold and silver, cherubim, which were to represent the angelic host, who are connected with the work of the heavenly sanctuary and who are ministering angels to the saints upon the earth.

Within the second vail was placed the ark of the testimony, and the beautiful and rich curtain was drawn before the sacred ark. This curtain did not reach to the top of the building. The glory of God, which was above the mercy seat, could be seen from both apartments, but in a much less degree from the first apartment.

Directly before the ark, but separated by the curtain, was the golden altar of incense. The fire upon this altar was kindled by the Lord Himself, and was sacredly cherished by feeding it with holy incense, which filled the sanctuary with its fragrant cloud day and night. The fragrance extended for miles around the tabernacle. When the priest offered the incense before the Lord he looked to the mercy seat. Although he could not see it he knew it was there, and as the incense arose like a cloud, the glory of the Lord descended upon the mercy seat and filled the most holy place and was visible in the holy place, and the glory often so filled both apartments that the priest was unable to officiate and was obliged to stand at the door of the tabernacle.

The priest in the holy place, directing his prayer by faith to the mercy seat, which he could not see, represents the people of God directing their prayers to Christ before the mercy seat in the heavenly sanctuary. They cannot behold their

Mediator with the natural eye, but with the eye of faith they see Christ before the mercy seat and direct their prayers to Him, and with assurance claim the benefits of His mediation.

These sacred apartments had no windows to admit light. The candlestick was made of purest gold and was kept burning night and day, and gave light to both apartments. The light of the lamps upon the candlestick reflected upon the boards plated with gold, at the sides of the building, and upon the sacred furniture and upon the curtains of beautiful colors with cherubim wrought with threads of gold and silver, which appearance was glorious beyond description. No language can describe the beauty and loveliness and sacred glory which these apartments presented. The gold in the sanctuary reflected the colors of the rainbow.

Only once a year could the high priest enter into the most holy place, after the most careful and solemn preparation. No mortal eye but that of the high priest could look upon the sacred grandeur of that apartment, because it was the especial dwelling place of God's visible glory. The high priest always entered it with trembling, while the people waited his return with solemn silence. Their earnest desires were to God for His blessing. Before the mercy seat God conversed with the high priest. If he remained an unusual time in the most holy, the people were often terrified, fearing that because of their sins or some sin of the priest, the glory of the Lord had slain him. But when the sound of the tinkling of the bells upon his garments was heard, they were greatly relieved. He then came forth and blessed the people.

After the work of the tabernacle was finished, "a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle." For "the cloud of the Lord was upon the

tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys."

The tabernacle was constructed so as to be taken to pieces and borne with them in all their journeyings.

The Guiding Cloud

The Lord directed the Israelites in all their travels through the wilderness. When it was for the good of the people and the glory of God that they should pitch their tents in a certain place and there abide, God signified His will to them by the pillar of cloud resting low directly over the tabernacle. And there it remained until God would have them journey again. Then the cloud of glory was lifted up high above the tabernacle, and then they journeyed again.

In all their journeyings they observed perfect order. Every tribe bore a standard, with the sign of their father's house on it, and every tribe was commanded to pitch by their own standard. And when they traveled the different tribes marched in order, every tribe under their own standard. When they rested from their journeyings, the tabernacle was erected, and then the different tribes pitched their tents in order, in just such a position as God commanded, around the tabernacle, at a distance from it.

When the people journeyed, the ark of the covenant was borne before them. "And the cloud of the Lord was upon them by day, when they went out of the camp. And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, Lord, and let Thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate Thee flee before Thee. And when it rested, he said, Return, O Lord, unto the many thousands of Israel." (*The Story of Redemption, Chapter 19. pp. 151-157*). To be continued.

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