

The Symbolic Code



Does God Kill?

Fall Of 2003

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**"While we each have an individuality, while we each should hold our convictions firmly, we must hold them as God's truth and in the strength which God imparts. If we do not, they will be wrung from our grasp."
*Testimonies, Vol. 6:401.***

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DOES GOD KILL?

The following is a response to another controversial doctrine that is becoming more prevalent within Adventism. The object of our study is not to address advocates of this belief, but an attempt to help present-truth believers "know what they believe and believe what they know," (1 TG 7:13), and being able to give the "reason for the hope that is within us." (1 Peter 3:15).

Does God really kill? Does He expressly cause the death and suffering of His creatures? Was He responsible for the flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the first born in Egypt, the rebellious Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (Numbers 16), Uzzah who touched the Ark of the Covenant (2 Samuel 6:3-7), and thousands of others?

Well, before you pass the idea off as sheer absurdity and turn to the next article, remember that thousands are now embracing the idea which attacks the very fundamentals of the Shepherd's Rod. For example, if God does not kill, how do we teach Ezekiel 9 and the Judgment for the Living?

Is God Like Us?

For those who may not be familiar with the teaching, or who may have forgotten, we will need to do a brief review. We will try to present the idea with all fairness. But we do ask the reader to bear in mind that there may be slight variations and explanations of this teaching. Thus, since space is limited, we can only give a synopsis

of the fundamentals of this controversial doctrine and not expound upon all aspects of its defense.

The heart and core of the, (shall we call it) "God Does Not Kill" (GDNK) belief is that a loving and merciful God could not have been responsible for the severe judgments in the Old and New Testaments, including the destruction of the wicked in the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:8-10).

So how did these horrible events come about? The answer is, mankind's own wickedness and persistent rejection of God's love, laws, and grace—whether it was Cain, the antediluvians, Pharaoh, Korah, Dathan and Abiram, or the destruction of Jerusalem. As a loving heavenly Father withdrew His Spirit and left the apostates to their own devices, natural causes, disasters, and the onslaught of Satan resulted. Thus according to the "God Does Not Kill" belief, it is ultimately natural or spiritual forces, *not God*, who was, is, and will be responsible for the dreadful events we read of in the Scriptures.

For the "God Does Not Kill" believer, it is a question of the character of God. If He is so loving, how could He be a God of retribution? God is not vindictive, selfish, rash, or vain, like us, and therefore is not motivated by any of these attributes to destroy or punish His creatures as we are prone to think. Our benevolent God is love—purely unselfish, and could never, they would say, destroy the antediluvians (for

example) in a horrific flood because He was angry and fed-up with their rebellion. That is how we think and act but not God!

Where Does the Idea Come From?

There are a number of statements from Inspiration that are used to support the "God Does Not Kill" concept. Space will only permit us to quote the "most convincing." "God destroys no man," says God's servant, "everyone who is destroyed will have destroyed himself."¹ "We want all to understand how the soul is destroyed," she says in another place, "It is not that God sends out a decree that man shall not be saved. He does not throw a darkness before the eyes which cannot be penetrated."²

"The exercise of force is *contrary* to the principles of God's government..."³ Comparing Christ's character with that of Satan's, Inspiration writes: "Compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order. His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love..."⁴ "When truth cannot save, it kills."⁵ Speaking about Esau, Inspiration wrote: "...For God is not a hunter, *not interested in killing and destroying the lives He created.*"⁶ "The rabbis had a saying that there is rejoicing in heaven when one who has sinned against God is destroyed; but Jesus taught that to God the work of destruction is a strange work."⁷

The Other Side of the Matter

When one looks at the other side of these and the other statements in question, we find that the entire premise is based upon a misconception. What did Sis. White mean when she said, for example, that "God destroys no man"? When one reads the

context of this and most of the other passages, you will find she was referring to the *soul*—not the body or physical being. God *does not want to destroy souls* but save them. However, as we will see, after the soul has made its choice to reject Him, Divine justice can and often has physically removed the body and/or its surroundings.

Take for example, this statement found in the Testimonies: "The time is near when the large cities will be visited by the *judgments of God*. In a little while these cities will be terribly shaken...*let God touch these buildings*, and in a few minutes or a few hours they are in ruins. The ungodly cities of our world are to be swept away by the besom of destruction."⁸ It is in this sense that "when truth cannot save it kills!"⁹ So it is true, God does not "force" anyone to conform to His ways. But when they reach the point of no return, he can and will pour out His judgments. Yet even in this, He is good, merciful, and loving. We must remember that, if all destruction is evil, or unjust, and God allows it, but has the power to stop it, He would be just as guilty as Satan who brought it. Even our earthly courts recognize this fact. Furthermore, it would mean that the two work in a sort of collusion! God forbid!

In regard to the statement about Esau, Inspiration told us that God is "not interested in killing and destroying the lives He created."¹⁰ The context of this reference is endeavoring to show that God does not sanction the *occupation* of a hunter—not that killing is wrong under all circumstances. The preceding statement said: "Jacob graduated from the school of God, and Esau from the school of man. How do I know? I know this, because if

Esau had walked with God he could not have learned to hunt.” Although God is not interested in destroying his creatures, He did sanction the slaughter of thousands, perhaps millions of animals for the sacrificial services! So this and the other statements must be understood in their proper context.

What Does the Bible Say?

In response to the “*God Does Not Kill*” view, we respectfully say that while there are certainly some concerns, we should take the Bible as it reads. That is, although, both lay and clergy often misrepresent God’s character in regards to His judgments and tag God with our human attributes, that cannot overthrow the explicit fact that God, in addition to being a God of love, is also a God of justice, and as such, does overtly destroy evil and evil doers. How He can be both loving and just at the same time is a crucial study into the nature of God.

Take the Bible as it Reads

There can be no doubt from the Scriptures that God Himself is responsible for the judgment that fell upon the two infamous cities. It could not have been a natural occurrence. Brimstone does not naturally fall from the sky, and if so, not so specifically as to fall only where Sodom and Gomorrah were situated—the most wicked vicinity of its day. Neither could this have been an act of Satan—you would wonder why he would want to destroy his own capital of wickedness and vice. Inspiration is in perfect harmony with the biblical evidence; let us consider one. Speaking about Lot’s wife, God’s servant wrote: “Again the solemn command [from the angels of God] was given to hasten, for the

fiery storm would be delayed but little longer. But one of the fugitives ventured to cast a look backward to the doomed city, and she became a monument of God’s judgment.”¹³

In other words, this was not a case of God simply withdrawing His presence or grace resulting in the self-destruction of the wicked. It is clear that God Himself initiated and carried out this divine act of justice.

The Plagues in Egypt

The plagues in Egypt are another area of controversy. However, it presents one of the best demonstrations of divine purpose, operation, and our Lord’s superior sense of justice.

After instructing Moses to demand that Pharaoh should let His people go, the Lord went on to say: “And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand. *And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go.*” (Exodus 3:19, 20).

This same thrust is replete throughout the entire record of the deliverance of the Israelites. The plagues were not natural phenomena or Satan’s work. The same God who commanded and turned Moses’ rod into a serpent (Exodus 7:10) before Pharaoh and his servants, is the same God who commanded Moses and Aaron to stretch out the same rod later to turn the waters into blood, (Exodus 7:19-21), caused the scourge of frogs to come out of the streams (Exodus 8:5,6), dust turned into lice (Exodus 8:16,17), and so on. Again, the Bible specifically states that God instructed Moses to stretch out his rod and told

him what the results would be—blood, frogs, lice, flies, etc. Most certainly this was not Satan's doing, because although he imitated the conversion of water into blood and the conjured up frogs through the magicians of Pharaoh, (Exodus 7:22; 8:7), he could not replicate the other plagues. So much so, that even the magicians had to declare after failing to turn dust into lice, "*This is the finger of God*" [not man or natural causes]. If Satan through his own magicians can admit this, then we should too. Satan knew that it was not a natural phenomenon nor from him. So then it must have been from God. This was further emphasized with the last plague, where God repeatedly declared that "*I will bring* (Exodus 11:1)...*I go* (verse 4)...*I will execute judgment, I am the Lord.*" (Exodus 12:12).

Other Examples

There are countless other examples that illustrate a loving God's super aptitude for justice. In numerous instances, God instructed Israel to destroy men, women, and children while conquering the land of Canaan. (Deuteronomy 7:23, 24). The wicked sons of Aaron—Nadab and Abihu—were destroyed by a fire which went out "*from the Lord, and devoured them...*" (Leviticus 10:1, 2). King Saul was told to completely annihilate the Amalekites and lost the kingdom because he failed to follow God's strict directions. (1 Samuel 15:24-30). Samuel hacked up king Agag, (1 Samuel 15:33). Surely when Samuel carried out this *apparently* harsh act, he was not following Satan's instructions! Herod, while giving a great speech, was struck down because he did not give God the glory. The Bible declared that "*the angel*

of the Lord smote him....and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost." (Acts 12:22, 23).

Is God Mean?

Among the most difficult things for us to understand are God's judgments—His concept of justice. It is true that often times God does not directly bring disasters and afflictions, but instead allows circumstances to follow through to their natural sad conclusion. But not always. And there are times when Satan directly is responsible for disasters. (Job 1, 2). It is also equally true that there are natural disasters—things that God nor Satan directly causes; they are the natural consequences of living in a world of sin—lightning strikes, accidents of various sorts, genetic defects, etc. Such was the case of the man of whom Christ told His disciples that he was blind not because of his [blind man's] or his parent's sin, but for the glory of God. (John 9:1, 2). God does not "arbitrarily" inflict "on account of sin," although all diseases are a result of sin.¹⁴ Some afflictions are hereditary or familial. So although this is a result of sin (in general), it does not necessarily implicate the sins of the parents or the children as the direct cause of the affliction.

Be this as it may, however, there are, as has been shown, times when God specifically and expressly brings judgment which can lead to disaster, affliction, pain, or death. We do not always recognize them, but the Bible has revealed many of them.

Everything God Does, or Allows, is Because of Love

We discipline our children because we love them. So does our heavenly Father—it is just that His discipline is broader in scope—albeit from love. Indeed, His discipline is truer than ours as His love is far greater. Thus He is more patient, kind, longsuffering, gentle, meek, and selfless than we are. Thus His sense of justice and law is far greater as He is greater.¹⁵ We cannot always understand it, because His ways and thoughts are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-11). He sees the entire picture—the full view.

It could be compared to looking at a spider's web. Have you ever been close to a spider's web, especially those spiders that tend to weave special patterns. Up close the web appears to be a jumble of confusion—webs going in every direction. But from a distance, the great beauty—the marvelous symmetry can be clearly seen. So it is with us, being so close to the web of life, history, the present and future appear jumbled, disorderly, confusing. But with God, He sees it all from a distance and weaves the affairs of our individual lives and mankind like the exquisite beauty of the spider's web. He alone knows the thoughts and intentions of every heart. And He alone has the right to orchestrate our lives.

We could ask, why did God order the utter destruction of the Amalekites? Or even the destruction of the Canaanites? Wasn't that mean?

As a surgeon has to amputate a part of the body in order to protect the remaining healthy ones, so God has to cut off nations for the good of the whole.¹⁶ And He bears long with his erring creatures. He told Abraham, "But in the fourth generation

they shall come hither again: for the *iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.*" (Genesis 15:16). Four hundred years later, God told Israel to conquer them.

God also bore long with the Amalekites who, unprovoked, fought against God's people during the Exodus to impede their way. (1 Samuel 15:2). But although God told Israel to fight with them, He did not at that time instruct Israel to completely destroy them. However, in the time of Saul, nearly *five hundred years* later, God instructed him to "utterly destroy all they have, and spare them not." (1 Samuel 15:3). That's right! Our Lord tolerated hundreds of years of the grossest vice, corruption, and immorality.

Do you know why God had to exterminate such nations? Do we remember that these nations were steeped in wickedness of every sort. They were deep into spiritualism and spiritism. The Bible tells us that they sacrificed to devils (Leviticus 17:7; Psalms 106:37). Their worship involved murder, prostitution, incest, infanticide, bestiality, homosexuality, human sacrifices, etc. There was no chance of them to change. They all were lost souls, unrepentant! Should a loving and wise God allow such evils to continue on indefinitely? For what purpose would they be preserved? Is it not more just and loving to be rid of the spiritual and moral cancer before it destroys the good? Think of the disease and misery they caused their citizens and the nations around them? The idea of "*God Does Not Kill*" reveals a weak, indulgent, and unloving God who would allow such unremitting evil to destroy all that's right and good! What good would there have been in keeping the antediluvians or Sodom and Gomorrah?

Thus God's anger or wrath is holy, pure, springing out of a heart full of love, but love that is too noble, too perfect to allow evil to continue indefinitely. A child disobeys your instructions and crosses the busy street alone instead of waiting for you. Would you not be angry? Yet your anger is (should not be) not so much because you were slighted, but because you know that disobeying your instructions could cause him great pain or death. So it is with God. Thus even His severest judgments are from a heart full of love.

God is Not Unfair, Arbitrary or Despotic

God's stern sentences are not arbitrary. He is neither impulsive, imperious, or indiscriminate. Neither is He despotic. He is not a tyrant. Speaking about Cain and Abel, the servant of the Lord points out that "He [Cain] was not the victim of an arbitrary purpose. One brother was not elected to be accepted of God, and the other to be rejected."¹⁷ [Brackets ours.] Concerning Jacob and Esau, Inspiration said: "There was *no arbitrary choice* on the part of God by which Esau was shut out from the blessings of salvation. The gift of His grace through Christ are free to all. There is *no election* but one's own by which any may perish....God has elected a character in harmony with His law, and anyone who shall reach the standard of His requirement will have an entrance into the kingdom of glory."¹⁸

What About Pharaoh?

If God is not arbitrary, why did He harden Pharaoh's heart? (See Exodus 7:13, 14, 22). The answer to this question gives us insight into the workings of God, and is critical to

understanding His character and His operations among men. Speaking about God's dealings with the king of Egypt, Ellen White gives us the clue. "I will at this time send all My plagues upon thy heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people...that thou mayest know that there is none like Me in all the earth...And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to show in thee My power.' *Not that God had given him an existence for this purpose, but His providence had overruled events to place him upon the throne at the very time appointed for Israel's deliverance.* Though this haughty tyrant had by his crimes forfeited the mercy of God, yet his life had been preserved that through his stubbornness the Lord might manifest His wonders in the land of Egypt. The disposing of events is of God's providence. He could have placed upon the throne a more merciful king, who would not have dared to withstand the mighty manifestations of divine power. But in that case the Lord's purposes would not have been accomplished....*There was no exercise in supernatural power to harden the heart of the king...Every display of infinite power rejected by him, rendered him the more determined in his rebellion....*"¹⁹

Thus, we see that God does not predestinate or elect one class to be saved and another to be lost. But He does, through the working of His providence and the choices of each individual, overrule and orchestrate the affairs of mankind.

Justice and Mercy are Twin Sisters

"Justice and Mercy are twin sisters, standing side by side."²⁰ God's mercy does not set aside His justice.²¹ We cannot always understand it. No more than an ant can

understand our actions. But this can never be the reason for setting aside plain Scriptures in an attempt to harmonize His love, mercy and His justice. "Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth." Romans 9:18.

References

1. COL.84
2. 5.T.120
3. DA.22
4. Ibid. 759
5. 2.TG.15:10
6. Ibid. 25:5
7. COL.190
8. 7.T.83
9. 2 TG.15:10
10. Ibid. 25:5
11. GC.599
12. PP. 99, 100
13. PP. 161
14. DA.471
15. GC. 541
16. GC. 541, 542
17. PP. 72
18. PP. 207
19. PP. 267, 268
20. 4 T. 209
21. DA.762

INSPIRATION SAYS:

Brothers and sisters, this the "God Does Not Kill" teaching is just one of the many **heresies** that has come in among us. Consider these words of warning from the Bible and the *Spirit of Prophecy*.

"For there must be also **heresies** among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you." 1 Cor. 11:19.

"But there were false prophets also among the people even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable **heresies**,... 2 Peter 2:1.

"...I was shown the **heresies** which are to arise,... the miracle-working power of Satan – the false Christs that will appear—that will deceive the greater part even of the religious world, and that would, if it were possible, draw away even the elect." —3 *Selected Messages*, p. 114.

"The believers must be impressed with their great need of Bible knowledge. There must be painstaking effort to fasten in the minds of all, the solid arguments of the truth; for everyone will be tested, and those who are rooted and grounded in the work of God will be unmoved by the **heresies** that will arise on all sides; but if any neglect to obtain the necessary preparation, they will be swept away by errors that have the appearance of truth." —*Evangelism*, p. 365.

"From the light given me of the Lord, men will arise speaking perverse things. Yea, already they have been working and speaking things which God has never revealed,... We may expect that everything will be brought in and mingled with sound doctrine, but by clear, spiritual discernment, by the heavenly anointing, we must distinguish the sacred from the common which is being brought in to confuse faith and sound judgment and demerit the great, grand, testing truth for this time....

"Never, never was there a time when the truth will suffer more from being misrepresented, belittled, demerited through the perverse disputings of men than in these last days. Men have brought themselves in with their heterogeneous mass of **heresies** which they represent as oracles for the people...." Ellen White, —7A *Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6:1064.

Thinking Like The Pioneers

In the *Autobiography of Elder Joseph Bates*, one can read the story of a most fascinating man, with an adventurous life. As a former ship captain, Elder Bates found himself in many extraordinary situations. It was remarkable how he could show up in a town with no prior planning, and begin holding meetings. The fascinating part is that people flocked to these meetings. They enthusiastically attended his meetings and were happy to do so, sometimes for weeks at a time. Consider, for instance, what happened when he visited Kent Island:

"At the tavern we found people assembled for town meeting. The trustees of the meeting-house who were present, were unwilling to open their doors to us, and intimated the danger of preaching the doctrine of Christ's coming among the slaves. We applied to the tavern keeper for his house; he replied that we could have it as soon as the town meeting closed.

"We then made an appointment before them, that preaching on the second advent would commence in the tavern the next afternoon at a given hour. Said the keeper of the tavern, 'Is your name Joseph Bates?'

"I answered, 'Yes.' He said that he remembered my visiting his father's house when he was a small boy, and informed me that his mother and family were in another room and would be glad to see me. His mother said she thought she knew me when I first came to the house.

"The notice of our meeting soon spread over the island, and the people came to hear, and soon became deeply interested about the coming of the Lord. Our meetings continued here, I think, for 5 successive afternoons."
—*Autobiography of Elder Joseph Bates*, p. 278.

"On leaving Kent Island [Bates continued] we passed along on the east side of the Chesapeake Bay, called the eastern shore of Maryland, to the country town of Centerville, about thirty miles distant, where we had sent an appointment to hold meetings. We chose to walk, that we might have a better opportunity to converse with the slaves and others, and furnish them with tracts which we had with us." *Ibid.* p. 280.

The pioneers had a love for the Lord that was so deep, that given the option of riding in a carriage, or on horseback, they would choose to walk 30 miles so that they could witness to strangers as they went along. At the time of the above account, Elder Bates was just turning 52.

There was a certain mindset, which both the pioneers as well as their audiences possessed; a mindset that is too often non-existent today. And this may be one of the major reasons why we have the problems in witnessing, giving Bible studies, and the lack of true conversions today.

The people of the 19th century lived in what we could call a *typographic* society. Books were the main source of all information. Whatever else can be said about the early Americans, it can be said that they

were dedicated and skillful readers, whose religious sensibilities, political ideas, and social life were deeply embedded in books.

We know that on the Mayflower several books, including the Bible, were transported as cargo. As a matter of fact, in the very first days of colonization, each minister was given ten pounds with which to start a religious library. Between 1640 and 1700, the literacy rate for men in Massachusetts and Connecticut was between 89 and 95 percent. The literacy rate for women at that time may have run as high as 62 percent. Martin Luther believed that printing was "God's highest and extreme act of Grace, whereby the business of the Gospel is driven forward." The stories of the boy with the plow in one hand and a book in the other were actually true.

Such proficiency in reading produced a people who naturally thought logically, and possessed a much greater attention span than what we have today. On October 16, 1854, in Peoria Illinois, the site of one of the early Lincoln/Douglas debates—prior to their becoming Presidential candidates, or even Senatorial candidates,—on this particular day Douglas delivered a three hour address, to which Lincoln, by agreement was to respond. When his turn came at 5 p.m., he reminded the audience of the time, stating that he would need at least as much time as Douglas for a rebuttal, and suggested that they go home, have dinner, and return refreshed for four more hours of talk. This they amicably did.

Try to picture someone listening to a seven hour debate today! Today each candidate in

our Presidential debates gets one minute to discuss an issue. How can anything, especially as complex as foreign policy, the economy, or nuclear weapons, be intelligently discussed in one minute? Now take it one step further, how can one understand the Bible, a book which we know interprets itself, line upon line, precept upon precept, when we have a thirty second attention span?

The question comes to mind: What does reading do to one's habits of thought? To engage the written word means to follow a line of thought which requires considerable powers of classifying, inference-making, gathering and reasoning. It means to uncover lies, confusions, and over generalizations, abuses of logic and common sense. It also means to weigh ideas, to compare and contrast assertions, to connect one generalization to another. To accomplish this, one must achieve a certain distance from the words themselves—nurture objectively, which is in fact, encouraged by the isolated and impersonal text. This is why a good reader does not stop to applaud a sentence or even an inspired paragraph. Analytical thought is far too busy for that.

This type of thought pattern which was developed by the average 19th century citizen, created the desire for the stump speaker, where people would literally go around to different towns, stand on an old tree stump and begin to expound a topic. This was unplanned, yet crowds would gather to listen intently, to question, comment, or analyze what was being said. In most cases, if the speaker was interrupted by applause, he would request that the audience refrain from such outburst, so that

the continuity of his presentation would not be disrupted.

In the 1800's all religious disputes were argued carefully in long expositions. The concepts of religion as entertainment did not exist. This only came about through the introduction of the show business age, or should we say, the television age.

We live in a society of "Now...this"—A society which presents us with tons of minute facts, but never expounds on a particular topic. One radio station used to say, "You give us 22 minutes, and we'll give you the world." We are given one fact after another. The so-called best news show is the Lehrer News Hour, where an entire ten to fifteen minutes is given to a subject, as opposed to forty-five seconds.

For example, a news cast may discuss the latest terrorist threat, thirty seconds later a story on breast cancer, next a story on local politics, then the sports scores, and then the weather. Not one item has anything to do with the other, and thus we are trained to think in a fragmented manner. This is how much of our information is given to us. Just look at a children's show such as *Sesame Street*, which often looks more like a blinking neon light with a continual flashing or non-contiguous pictures.

This is why we have a society which prizes games such as Trivial Pursuit. We have become a people who have filled our minds with many facts, having little to do with each other. We know a lot of information, a lot of facts and figures, yet we understand so little. We have become "chronically ill with too much knowledge and too little understanding." *2 Timely Greetings, No. 27.*

We have been changed from a typographical society to an *image* society. We receive lots of information that gives us things to talk about, but not things that can lead to any meaningful action. It often times is just entertainment. How can we witness to the world when the concept of religion is the "700 Club" or a Billy Graham crusade, the Christian Broadcasting Network, this show or the other?

"Television," says Billy Graham, "is the most powerful tool of communication ever devised by man. Each of my prime time specials is now carried by nearly 300 stations across the U.S. and Canada, so that in a single telecast I preach to millions more than Christ did in his lifetime." To this, Pat Robertson adds: "To say that the church shouldn't be involved with television is utter folly. The needs are the same, the message is the same, but the delivery can change...It would be folly for the church not to be involved with the most formative force in America." —*Amusing Ourselves to Death*, by Neal Postman.

Not everything is televisable. We have brought religion down to the level of a TV sitcom, and then we wonder why the youth want the church to resemble MTV when they come in on Sabbath, otherwise it is boring to them.

In Aldous Huxley's book, "*Brave New World*", the premise is different from the Orwellian society pictured in the book, "*1984*". There is no Big Brother required to deprive people of their rights. The people come to love their oppression, and to adore the technologies that undo their capacity to think. Huxley was not worried about the banning of books, for no one would want to

read one. He felt that real truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance, an overload of disjointed information. Eventually he saw a trivial culture, preoccupied with things that feel good because of man's infinite appetite for distractions.

In *Great Controversy*, p. 488, Sis. White recognized this when she stated: "Satan invents unnumbered schemes to occupy our minds that they may not dwell upon the very work with which we ought to be best acquainted."

We need to recognize what is happening to us before it is too late. In "*Brave New World*" the problem was not that the people were laughing instead of thinking, but that they did not know what they were laughing about or why they had stopped thinking. Before we as Seventh-day Adventists become members of Huxley's proclaimed "*New World*", we need to change the process in which we think. If we want to receive the Latter Rain of truth, we have to be in a position to receive it. In order to present the truths of the Bible, we have to completely understand them. In order to have the experience of the pioneers, we need to have the mindset of the pioneers. -Excerpts from a sermon by Bob Massarini. □

ELLEN WHITE MEETS JOSEPH BATES

"While on a visit to New Bedford, Mass., in 1846, I became acquainted with Elder Joseph Bates. He had early embraced the advent faith, and was an active laborer in the cause. I found him to be a true Christian gentleman, courteous and kind....

"I was glad of the privilege of attending the Vermont camp meeting, which was held in

Montpelier, August 30 to September 4....My mind was carried back 30 years, to the time when, in company with my sister, I visited Fairhaven, Mass., to bear my message to the little company in that place. Elder Bates was then living there, and expressed his conviction that it was his duty to visit Vermont, and preach the truth in that State. But he added: 'I have no means, and cannot tell where the money is coming from to take me there. I think I will walk out by faith, start on foot, and go as far as God will give me strength.' My sister said to me: 'I think the Lord will help me to open the way for Elder Bates to go to Vermont. Sis. F. is looking for a girl to do her housework, and...I will earn the money necessary.' She carried out her purpose, and, requesting her pay in advance, placed the money in Elder Bates's hand. He started the next morning, and my sister remained to work for a dollar and a quarter a week. Quite a number were brought into the truth in Vermont, and Elder Bates returned with great joy because the Lord had indeed blessed his labors...."

- *Life Sketches*, 95, 276.

"The record of the experience through which the people of God passed in the early history of our work must be republished. Many of those who have since come into the truth are ignorant of the way in which the Lord wrought. The experience of William Miller and his associates, of Captain Joseph Bates, and of other pioneers in the advent message, should be kept before our people.

"We must study to find out the best way in which to take up the review of our experiences from the beginning of our work... and went forward step by step in the light that God gave us."

- *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 145.

FIELD HIGHLIGHTS

The Land of Game Parks

In the heart of East Africa, slightly southwest of the horn of Africa, stands one of the world's most interesting countries. From lush green hills and mountains to its vast arid plains, the country of Kenya is nestled between Tanzania, Uganda, and Ethiopia. It covers a little under 600,000 square miles with a population of well over 26 million. It is one of the most stable and productive nations in Africa. Its capital, Nairobi, with a population of about 1.2 million, is East Africa's commercial hub, boasting skyscrapers and bustling vehicular traffic.

Like the extremes of its terrain, its people are diverse in both their cultures and status—including the Kikuyu farmers and famed Masai cattle herders who still live like their forefathers did hundreds of years ago, feeding primarily on milk and blood. The official language is English, but Swahili, the national tongue, is the commonly spoken vernacular amid the many native dialects. Petroleum products, food processing, cement, textiles, and mining, are among its primary industries, along with the exporting of coffee, tea, pineapples, corn, cassava, sorghum, beans and fruit.

Its most popular industry, however, may be tourism. Like its neighbor, Tanzania, Kenya has large and numerous wildlife parks with lions, elephants, giraffes, wildebeest, zebras, monkeys, and many others. If you want to see the famed animals of the Discovery channel and

countless nature films, Kenya is one of the countries to visit. You can take a two or three-day safari into the wild and take your own pictures of God's marvelous creatures, with the famed snowcapped Mt. Kilimanjaro (in neighboring Tanzania) in the background.

In the midst of this heart of East Africa, are the brothers and sisters who, against grave setbacks and struggles are keeping the flame of truth alive. James Ineche, Stephen Kitur, and Leonard Kochia, are the three full-time Bible Workers. These, along with Michael Nzengu, a pioneer and self-supporting worker, labor with the help of the Lord, to actively proclaim the message of the hour.

The history of the present work in Kenya goes back to 1988, when a worker, having just a list of names, searched and miraculously located several of them. As a result many received the message. Unfortunately, as the years went by, not all remained openly committed. But we thank God for the very few who did. It would be another nine years before someone else would visit. In 1997 Bro. Errol Stanford traveled to Kenya and God blessed His efforts; the older ones were encouraged and new ones embraced the truth. Subsequently a camp was built, a DLI was conducted, and a Bible Worker staff was formed. In 1999, Bros. Terry Harrison and Anthony Hibbert made a short visit to assist in rectifying some confusion that had made its way into the group. In 2000, Bro. Stanford returned.

Unfortunately, by 2002, the group had split up over doctrinal controversies and struggles with former members attempting to destroy the group.

But these unfortunate events have not stopped these dear souls from holding forth the words of life. Today, although the group is small, they are making many inroads into the churches and new ones are embracing the truth. Albeit, not without much opposition from church leaders.

“Yes, brethren, fear them not,” says Bro. Leonard Kochia, “whoever—older [member], a pastor, or [ministerial/college] graduate, so long that you have the Rod, the Lord will give you grace to meet them. So far He has made our foreheads stronger than theirs. Ezekiel 3:8, 9).”

One example of this, was a recent trip to the west. One of the workers was given a chance to give several studies, including Daniel 2 and the 666 study. At first, the worker said, it was not easy for them to give up cherished views, but through earnest studies, prayer and a humble spirit, the two truths [subjects] became clear to them. In giving their testimony, they said that the message has really touched their hearts and has led them to repent of some of the abominations they had knowingly done in the past. They affirmed that it has caused them to study the Bible more and to search the “Spirit of Prophecy.”

After the worker left, however, church leaders openly denounced the message and discouraged the members from continuing their studies of the Rod. Some time later the worker returned to find the members

indifferent. Ignoring the fear of the members, he personally visited them. Knowing that he would return in the afternoon, the leaders warned the members not to go back to church. They definitely disobeyed. In the midst of the worker’s presentation, two church leaders interrupted and requested that they have a chance to give a study. The members sharply protested. Imagine, they wanted to hear the Rod studies! To avoid controversy, it was suggested that they allow the leaders to rebut. As the two leaders made a floundering attempt to present Matthew 13, a question from one of the members floored them. Unable to answer, they were forced to turn the floor back over to the worker. The two leaders remained silent for the remainder of the time, and a mighty victory was gained for Christ; and a precious memorial for the truth. Although some have been shaken, most of the members are still holding to the message. Praise God.

Please lift your brothers and sisters in Kenya before the throne of our Almighty and Eternal Father. Pray that they will continue to grow in righteousness and faith and that His blessings will attend their efforts. □

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“Often the training and education of a lifetime must be discarded, that one may become a learner in the school of Christ. Our hearts must be educated to become steadfast in God. We are to form habits of thought that will enable us to resist temptation. We must learn to look upward. The principles of the Word of God—principles that are as high as heaven and that compass eternity—we are to understand in their bearing on our daily life. Every act, every word, every thought, is to be in accord with these principles. Ellen White, *—In Heavenly Places*, p. 159.

THE GOSPEL OF HEALTH

Save Your Life With Water

An inadequate amount of water has been linked with constipation, kidney stones, overeating, and dry eyes, mouth and skin. Now it has been linked to **coronary heart disease**.

Researchers at Loma Linda University found that drinking high levels of water can significantly reduce the risk of this our number one killer. Indeed, they show that drinking an adequate amount of plain water is as important as exercise, diet, and not smoking in preventing heart complications.

The researchers presented a study which indicates that whole-blood viscosity, hematocrit, and fibrinogen—which are considered independent risk factors for coronary heart disease—can be elevated by dehydration.

Water is absorbed immediately, thus hydrating the blood system. This has a blood thinning effect which reduces the risk of blood clotting, which can lead to heart attacks. Coffee, soda, milk, and caffeinated beverages did not show any statistically significant heart benefits. The effect of the high energy drinks is that initially they actually draw water from the blood, because they cannot be digested until their concentration is reduced to be similar to that of blood. This causes a temporary increase in blood viscosity, hence increasing the risk of blood clots.

Jacqueline Chan, Dr.P.H., the principle investigator and lead author of the study notes that “when we tested to see if these

protective effects from water might really have come from some other factor, we tested more than 11 risk factors, but the benefit of water remained.”

(Other risk factors for coronary heart disease include meat-eating, and a daily dietary regimen that does not feature an adequate amount of fruits, veggies, whole grains, legumes and nuts.)

The researchers also showed that by drinking more plain water, healthy people—without a history of heart disease, stroke, or diabetes—reduced their risk of dying from a heart attack by half or more. This is equal to adopting any of the other well-known preventive measures which include not smoking, lowering cholesterol levels, increasing exercise and maintaining ideal weight. Indeed, the benefits of drinking plain water surpasses that of drinking moderate amounts of alcohol and taking aspirin with **none of the adverse side effects** (social and physiological).

Drinking more plain water, they note, is a simple lifestyle change that anyone can do, and has the potential to save tens of thousands of lives each year with minimal cost.

How much water is recommended? The study showed that men who drank 3 to 4 glasses of water daily had a 40 percent reduction in risk of coronary heart disease, while women who drank the same number had a 43 percent risk reduction after taking into account other risk factors. Men who



THE OFFICE



THE PRINTSHOP



MT. CARMEL CENTER ENTRANCE



INSIDE THE CHAPEL



THE HEALTH CENTER



**DINING ROOM (LEFT) APARTMENTS (ABOVE)
CHAPEL (CENTER RIGHT) DORMS (ABOVE)**



VISITING DEER



INSIDE THE DINING ROOM



**LAUNDRY (FAR LEFT) FOUR-UNIT APARTMENTS (LEFT)
BACK OF DINING ROOM (CENTER) APARTMENTS AND DORMS (ABOVE)**



SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE KENYA BRANCH 2003



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES KENYA BRANCH 2003
STEPHEN KITUR, MICHAEL NZENGU, SAMUEL KISAKA,
LEONARD KOCHWA, JAMES INDECHE, JOSHUA KIPKASI**

drank 5 or more glasses a day showed a 62 percent reduction in risk, while females who drank the same amount of water had a 39 percent reduction, after taking into account other risk factors.

It is recommended that we begin the day with a glass or two of water. When we wake up in the morning our bodies are most dehydrated. Coffee and even orange juice can cause at least a temporary increase in blood viscosity at a time when the blood is most viscous. Combat this by beginning each day with water, and continuing throughout the day, but not at mealtime. For men, 6 to 12 eight-ounce glasses are recommended daily; while 4 to 9 eight-ounce glasses are suggested for women. (The study was published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, vol. 155, no. 9).

F. Batmanghelidj, MD., writing in his book, *Your Body's Many Cries for Water*, cites this information:

- Brain tissue is 85 percent water and receives 18 - 20 percent of blood circulation. Where there is a water shortage, the brain rations it to each organ in the body. Water is used constantly for every brain activity, including the processing of information and the transmission of messages through nerve endings.
- The digestive system (mouth, stomach, intestines, liver, kidneys, etc.) requires large amounts of water. Every organ in the body (heart, lungs, glands, skin, etc.) requires adequate water in order to function effectively. Every cell in the body needs water for cell structure and

metabolism, including the generation of hydroelectric energy. We need proper hydration. A good daily intake of water helps to prevent disease.

- Chronic pain, including headaches and muscle pains, are usually a strong signal of thirst. Pain is often relieved quickly with a good drink of water. Dyspeptic pain, is a sign of dehydration and is a most important signal in the human body. This pain includes gastritis, duodenitis and heartburn. Water corrects the problem. With water alone he has successfully treated over 3,000 persons with dyspeptic pain.
- Many disease conditions begin because of a water shortage in the body. Conditions Dr. B. has documented include Alzheimer's, allergies, asthma, depression, insulin independent diabetes, hiatal hernia, high blood cholesterol, hypertension, obesity, rheumatoid arthritis and others. Some can be corrected by increased water intake. However chronic dehydration will eventually cause damage that cannot be reversed. Because dehydration is the root cause of many diseases, Dr. B. believes that chronic dehydration causes more deaths in this country than any single disease.
- He insists that dehydration should be considered in any medical diagnosis and hopes for the day when doctors will make certain that a patient is not dehydrated before any medication is prescribed or any invasive procedure begun.
- Health insurers can save money by promoting water drinking and encouraging the proper diagnosis of de-

hydration. Prevention is less expensive than surgery or pharmaceuticals. Water consumption costs less than any medication or medical procedure. This is not some crazy new idea; it is simply a return to basics.

A return to basics indeed. Inspiration is quite clear on the importance of water therapy and its importance in natural healing and healthful living:

“We desire to encourage the sick to discard the use of drugs and to substitute the simple remedies provided by God, as they are found in **water**, in pure air, in exercise, and in general hygiene.” *1 Manuscript Releases*, p. 227.

“I saw that it was a sacred duty to attend to our health, and arouse others to their duty... and then point them to **God’s great medicine, water, pure soft water, for diseases, for health, for cleanliness, and for a luxury.**” *3 Selected Messages*, 280.

“Thousands have died for want of pure water and pure air, who might have lived....These blessings they need in order to become well. If they would become enlightened, and let medicine alone, and accustom themselves to outdoor exercise, and to air in their houses, summer and winter, and use soft water for drinking and bathing purposes, they would be comparatively well and happy instead of dragging out a miserable existence.”

—*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 419.

“In health and in sickness, pure water is one of Heaven’s choicest blessings. Its proper use promotes health. It is the beverage which God provided to quench the thirst of animals and man. **Drunk freely, it helps to**

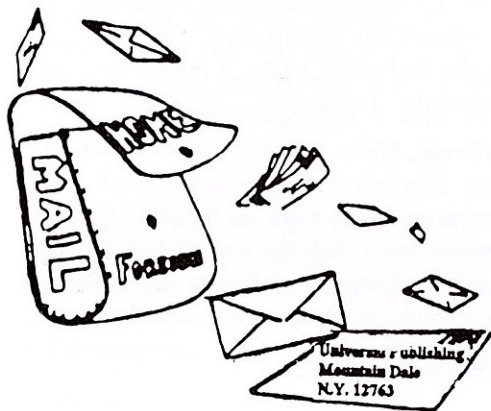
supply the necessities of the system, and assists nature to resist disease.” *Ibid.* 419.

A Right and Wrong Use of Water -

“Many make a mistake in drinking cold water with their meals. Taken with meals, water diminishes the flow of the salivary glands; and the colder the water, the greater the injury to the stomach. Ice water or ice lemonade, drunk with meals, will arrest digestion until the system has imparted sufficient warmth to the stomach to enable it to take up its work again. Hot drinks are debilitating; and besides, those who indulge in their use become slaves to the habit. Food should not be washed down; no drink is needed with meals. Eat slowly, and allow the saliva to mingle with the food. The more liquid there is taken into the stomach with the meals, the more difficult it is for the food to digest; for the liquid must first be absorbed. Do not eat largely of salt; give up bottled pickles; keep fiery spiced food out of your stomach; eat fruit with your meals, and the irritation which calls for so much drink will cease to exist. But if anything is needed to quench thirst, pure water, drunk some little time before or after the meal, is all that nature requires. Never take tea, coffee, beer, wine, or any spirituous liquors. Water is the best liquid possible to cleanse the tissues.” *Ibid.* 420.

“**And the Spirit and the bride say, Come
And let him that heareth say Come.
And let him that is athirst come.
And whosoever will, let him
take the water of life freely.**” Rev. 22:17.

The Mail Bag



To My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

May the blessings and grace of our Heavenly Father come unto you...I have read one of your tracts entitled "The Unexpected Reaping" which really gave me a lot of information on how to deal with the wheat and tares, especially in the church. The said pamphlet really helped a lot in my studies of the Scriptures of the Lord. In regards to this, I would like to ask for more tracts and audio cassettes from you. This would really be of great help to me to spread the gospel of Christ.

The Philippines

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am hereby applying for prophetic materials as stated above. I am a Seventh-day Adventist member since childhood and my family are also Adventists. I have viewed and listened to most of your audio and video tapes with

people who have them. Unfortunately, many tapes which I have viewed and listened to are not my personal tapes. I am just borrowing from friends. My wish is to have my own set of tapes. A member of our church advised me to write to your good office so that you can assist me with whatever materials that are available on the above mentioned subjects.

Zambia, Central Africa

Dear Brethren:

Please send me free comprehensive cassettes on the 144,000, the 11th Hour Call, Thy Kingdom Come, The Great Image of Daniel 2, The Harvest and the others that I have not indicated. I should be very grateful if my humble request is answered.

Zambia, Central Africa

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am thankful for the tapes you sent to me on the 144,000, Zechariah 6, and Daniel 2. I was so enriched by them and brought closer to our soon coming Savior. I now request that you send me any series of tapes that talk on the Sanctuary message, the close of probation and other end-time prophecies. I hope you consider me positively. Thanking you in advance.

Kenya, East Africa

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am an Adventist aged 21 attending a local church here in Zambia. I write

informing you that I have been touched and blessed with your Bible studies on cassettes. I first listened to the "11th Hour Call" and later the "144,000." I recently borrowed one from a brother, "The Great Paradox of the Ages", who is also attending the same local church. I was very much touched with this study and at the last of the cassette you said we can write to you for free literature and this is the reason I am writing you. These three tapes are the only cassettes I have listened to, so please, if you have more of them or printed material you can send to me at my top address.

Zambia, Central Africa

Dear Sir:

I wish to thank you for the tapes supplied to me free of charge. They have done the intended purpose to me although I am still having trouble with the 144,000 summons. I know the Holy Spirit will help me get the conviction and drive the fear away. I know you may have more tapes and if so, could you please supply me with more so that I can share with friends? I pray God blesses you.

Uganda, East Africa

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I humbly request the material of V.T. Houteff that comprises "The Shepherd's Rod". Presently, I understand that this message consist of several small booklets. If it is possible, may I receive the entire message?

California, USA

E-mails received:

Yes, I would be interested in learning any present-truth information. I would prefer audio and video tapes. I have a very busy schedule. Thank you.

Illinois, USA

I was given a tape on Ezekiel 9 that I found most helpful. Can you provide others of equal quality to be used and shared for God's ministry?

Tennessee, USA

Do you hold the exact same fundamental beliefs as the regular SDA's or are there differences? What elements do you feel need purifying? I think we may have had some people at our church who were Shepherd's Rods but they stopped coming all of a sudden. I am not really sure why. That is what sparked my interest. The couple that was coming to our church were really involved and I was kind of confused as to why they quit coming.

California, USA

I had no idea these precious gems of truths were in the Bible! I am soooo excited about studying the Bible again!!!! Thanks to the Lord.

Ohio, USA

I am a 16 year old boy and have been a Seventh-day Adventist since I was born. I have not read much on the *Shepherd's Rod* message or its founder, but I have read about the Waco incident as well as your

interpretation of the 666 and to tell you the truth, it has shaken the very foundation of my faith. Perhaps you will think that a 16 year old would have little interest in asking himself questions of the Divine at his early age, but I hear the Almighty and would not stand against him. Your message has convinced my soul to its core of its veracity. I am even scared of this feeling myself. I now yearn to know more about this message and its truths, it differences with Adventism and just about anything you would tell me.

Unknown

Questions and Answers

Q. I am being told by the leadership of my Church to stay away. They threaten to call the authorities if I continue to attend church. What shall I do? Some of us think we should go back and others that we should stay away. Please advise as soon as possible.

A. It is definitely a sad day when the Church resorts to such measures. Yet "this is what the Jews did in the days of Christ and what the Church has done ever since whenever she has lost the grace of Christ. Finding herself destitute of the power of love, she has reached out for the strong arm of the state to enforce...and execute her decrees. Here is the secret of all persecution from the days of Abel to our own time." —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 126-7.

However shameful the acts of our fellow brethren may be, we must continue to go back to our respective churches. "Our

relation to the church is the same as was Jonh the Baptist's, Jesus Christ's and the Apostles': We have a message to proclaim to the church, and though the church officials order us out, as the Sanhedrin ordered the Apostles out of the 'temple,' we must in a righteous way refuse to leave, and *continue returning to the church*. For if we depart and stay away and become strangers how, then, shall we proclaim the message to our people?" —*4 Answerer*, p. 30.

Inspiration pens a few lines of instruction that we must carefully observe so as to not be responsible for bringing reproach upon the message.

"All must realize, however that it ill becomes a Christian to cause any disturbance at any time, especially during church services. Neither is it possible for any of us by such methods to present the message to them, or to convince them that we are speaking 'the words of life.' By witnessing silently, reverently, and circumspectly in church and out of church, we shall give provocation for naught but false accusations."

"In Sabbath School, it is perfectly right and permissible to answer questions which arise in connection with the lesson. For this, they cannot justly accuse anyone of causing disturbance, as it is in no wise an infraction of the constituted purpose and rules of the Sabbath School. But if anyone should be specifically requested not to answer questions, then let him refrain from doing so rather than cause contention and displeasure. It is wrong to create controversy or to argue over any points which may arise. Nothing but harm to the cause of Present Truth can result

from such procedure. Let your deportment win the people's confidence." —*Ibid.* 30, 31.

"Therefore we advise all our people to be peaceful, make no disturbance of any kind, and **stay in the denominational churches for we have helped build them.** They took our tithes and offerings for the support of the ministry, etc., and as long as we are true S.D.A.'s by keeping the truth **they have no legal right from the King of heaven nor from the governments on earth to cast us out.** If they attempt to carry you out, do not resist them. If they set a watch at the doors and bar you out, do not attempt to force yourselves in. If they beat you do not fight back, but by all means try to get in and if you cannot, stay on the outside and witness for present truth until services are over except when physically unable to do so."

"The test is coming and regardless of temptations we must not fail to demonstrate what we believe and show them that we keep the truth, love the brethren, and are willing to die for them if it would awaken them and be saved, for we were no better than they when the truth found us." — *1 Symbolic Code, No. 14, p. 8, par. 4,5.*

Here is what can be done in circumstances when the leadership asks us to leave:

1. Instead of leaving at the leader's request, keep your seat. *1 Symbolic Code, No. 9, p. par. 10.*
2. If they attempt to carry you out, do not resist them. *1 S.C. No. 14, p. 8.*
3. If they beat you do not fight back. *Ibid.*
4. By all means try to get in. *Ibid.*
5. If you cannot get in, stay on the outside

and witness for present truth until services are over except when physically unable to do so. *Ibid.*

6. If reasoning with them fails, calmly step off church steps, remain in the parking strip in front of the church and quietly study your Bible. *2 S.C. No. 5,6, p. 5.*

If the leading brethren are not satisfied with this, they may resort to Un-Adventist activities including threatening to have us arrested if we continue to sit outside of the church. In such instances our faith will be tried. On occasions they will call the authorities, as was the case with past reformers including Bro. Houteff. (See: *Tract 7, p. 52; 2 Timely Greetings, No. 35, p. 23; 2 Symbolic Code, No. 9, p. 5* last two paragraphs).

However this should not discourage or dishearten us. The police that were summoned to arrest Bro. Houteff, took him right back to the church where they picked him up! (*2 T.G. 35:23*). Remember my brothers and sisters, "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain." *Ps. 78:10.* "God means that testing truth shall be brought to the front and become a subject of examination and discussion, even if it is through the contempt placed upon it. The minds of the people must be agitated. Every controversy, every reproach, every slander, will be God's means of provoking inquiry and awakening minds that otherwise would slumber... The efforts made to retard the progress of truth will serve to extend it." (*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 453-4*).

God may allow a situation to escalate to just such a point, because the minds of many would continue to slumber on and

"forever be dreaming of being rich and increased with goods" (2 T.G. 43"5), were it not for religious controversies and scandals of this type to awaken them from their Laodicean condition. Remember therefore "in God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me." Ps. 56:11. Hence if the angel of Laodicea threatens to call the authorities, be not afraid, most times it is a tactic employed in order to scare and to keep us away. Fear not, many times "it is only a bluff."

"Isaiah 51:13 (quoted). **When we begin to fear man, just that moment we forget God. The question, 'Where is the fury of the oppressor?' implies that in reality there is not any, that it is only a bluff.**" *I Timely Greetings, 37:17.*

Q. Why don't you stay away from the Church if they do not want you around here. Doesn't the Bible say, "And when ye come into an house, salute it. And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet." *Matthew 10:12-14.*

A. "Shameless perversion of Scripture in shameful defense of wrong! In Christ's plain words in the foregoing Scripture, He simply enjoins His followers, as any honest Bible reader will admit, to go out and stay out only if and when they are not welcome in a house (home), but not when ejected from the temple (church). This is attested to by the following experience: Read Acts 5:12, 17-29." *Tract 7:53, 54.*

"But let us follow the history of the men whom the Jewish priests and rulers thought so dangerous, because they were bringing in new and strange teaching on almost every theological subject. The command given by the Holy Spirit, 'Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life' was obeyed by the apostles; they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught.'..." *Testimony to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 71 (See pages 69-74).*

We see that although commanded to refrain from sharing or from congregating with our brethren in the church we must follow the example of the apostles and of other reformers and continue to agitate where not wanted and say with them "We ought to obey God rather than men" Acts 5:29; 4:19, 20. For further reading see 2 *Answerer, pp. 57, 58, entitled Why Agitate Where Not Wanted?* □

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"He who would build up a strong, symmetrical character must give all and do all for Christ. The Redeemer will not accept divided service. Daily he must learn the meaning of self-surrender. He must study the Word of God, getting its meaning and obeying its precepts. Thus he may reach the highest standard of Christian excellence. There is no limit to the spiritual advancement that he may make if he is a partaker of the divine nature. Day by day God works in him, perfecting the character that is to stand in the day of final test. Each day of his life he ministers to others. The light that is in him shines forth...Day by day he is working out before men and angels a vast, sublime experiment, showing what the gospel can do for fallen human beings. —Ellen White, *In Heavenly Places, 148.*

FAMILY MATTERS

Parenting Tips from Kids Themselves

Pastor C. Galea was assigned to the Guelph Correction Centre for his summer work. He asked the boys for clues as to *why* they had ended up in that institution. He then asked them to draw up a code for parents, zeroing in on areas where *they* had failed. Here is what emerged:

1. Keep cool. Kids need to see how much better things turn out when people keep their tempers.
2. Don't get strung out from liquor or pills. When we see our parents reaching for those crutches, we get the idea that it is perfectly OK to reach for a bottle or a pill when things get heavy.
3. Be strict. Show us who's boss. When you cave in, we get scared.
4. Don't try to dress, walk or talk like kids. You embarrass us, and you look ridiculous.
5. Light a candle. Tell us God is not dead or on vacation. We need to believe in something bigger and stronger than ourselves.
6. Scare us some. If you catch us lying, stealing or being cruel, get tough. Impress on us the importance of not repeating such behavior,
7. When we need punishment, dish it out. But let us know you still love us. It will

make us think twice before we make that move again.

8. Call our bluff. Stand up to us, and we'll respect you. Kids don't want everything they ask for.
 9. Be honest. We can smell uncertainty a mile away. The bottom line is that we want you to tell it like it is.
 10. Praise us when we deserve it. We will be able to accept criticism a lot easier.
- Ann Landers, Los Angeles Times, 9-29-99.

"The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home. The work of parents underlies every other. Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are 'the issues of life' (Proverbs 4:23); and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation is the household. The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences.

"The importance and the opportunities of the home life are illustrated in the life of Jesus. He who came from heaven to be our example and teacher spent thirty years as a member of the household at Nazareth. Concerning these years the Bible record is very brief. No mighty miracles attracted the attention of the multitude. No eager throngs followed His steps or listened to His words. Yet during all these years He was fulfilling His divine mission...." -Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 349.

Nature's Page

The Missing Day

**“And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.”
Joshua 10:13**

For all the scientists out there and for all the students who have a hard time convincing these people regarding the truth of the Bible...here's something that shows God's awesome creation and shows that He is still in control. Did you know that the space program is busy proving that what has been called “myth” in the Bible is true?

Mr. Harold Hill, president of the Curtis Engine Company in Baltimore Maryland and a consultant in the Space Program relates the following development. “I think one of the most amazing things that God has for us today happened recently to our astronauts and space scientists at Greenbelt, Maryland.”

They were checking the position of the sun, moon, and planets out in space where they would be 100 years and 1000 years from now. “We have to know this so we won't send a satellite up and have it bump into something later on in it's orbits. We have to lay out the orbits in terms of the life of the satellite, and where the planets will be so the whole thing will not bog down.”

They ran the computer measurement back and forth over the centuries and it came to a halt. The computer stopped and put up a red signal, which meant that there was something wrong either with the information fed into it or with the results as compared to the standards. They called in the service department to check it out and they said, “What's wrong?”.

Well, they found there is a day missing in space in elapsed time. They scratched their heads and tore their hair. There was no answer. Finally, a Christian man on the team said, “You know, one time I was in Sunday School and they talked about the sun standing still.” While they didn't believe him, they didn't have an answer either, so they said, “Show us.” He got a Bible and went back to the book of Joshua where they found a pretty ridiculous statement for any one with “common sense”. There they found the Lord saying to Joshua, “Fear them not, I have delivered them into thy hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.” Joshua was concerned because he was surrounded by the enemy and if darkness fell they would overpower them. So Joshua asked the Lord to make the sun stand still! That's right. “The sun stood still and the moon stayed and hasted not to go down about a whole day!” (Joshua 10:12-13)

The astronauts and scientists said, “There is the missing day!” They checked the computers going back into the time it was written and found it was close but not close enough. The elapsed time that was missing back in Joshua's day was 23 hours and 20 minutes—not a whole day. They read the Bible and there it was “about (approximately) a day.” These little words in the Bible are important, but they were

still in trouble because if you cannot account for 40 minutes you'll still be in trouble 1,000 years from now. Forty minutes had to be found because it can be multiplied many times over in orbits. As the Christian employee thought about it, he remembered somewhere in the Bible where it said the sun went BACKWARDS! The scientists told him he was out of his mind, but they got out the Book and read these words in 2 Kings that told of the following story: Hezekiah, on his deathbed, was visited by the prophet Isaiah who told him that he was not going to die. Hezekiah asked for a sign as proof. Isaiah said "Do you want the sun to go ahead 10 degrees?" Hezekiah said "It is nothing for the sun to go ahead 10 degrees, but let the shadow return backward 10 degrees." Isaiah spoke to the Lord and the Lord brought the shadow ten degrees BACKWARD!

Ten degrees is exactly 40 minutes! 23 hours and 20 minutes in Joshua, plus 40 minutes in 2 Kings make the missing day in the universe! Isn't it amazing? (References: Joshua 10:8,12, & 13 and 2 Kings 20:9-11).

The above is a well accepted account and has been often quoted. However, its original publication is unknown to us. □

Inspiration Says:

The Solar System -

"Inspiration declares that the sun was created on the fourth day of the week of creation, and astronomical science has discovered that in our solar system there are besides the planet Earth eight other planets depending on the sun for light, heat, and life-giving energy. (The probability is that three more planets will be discovered,

for according to Genesis 37:9 and other facts, there must needs be twelve major planets in our solar system.) During the week of creation, consequently, God must have created not only the earth but also the entire solar system. Otherwise, the planets in existing without benefit of the sun's life-sustaining influence would necessarily have suffered an uninhabited and altogether useless existence. Inspiration, moreover, says also that in the week of creation, God created the earth, sun, moon, and 'the stars also.' Gen. 1:16.

"Without a sun, our solar system would have been but a planetary assemblage without a controlling unit, left to careen and hurtle headlessly through space, only to endure, at the merciless caprice of fortuitous circumstance, an unending succession of accidental collisions. Created and set in motion together, though, by the Hand that sustains them, all the planets safely follow the sun as it sweeps through space at the tremendous velocity of 400,000,000 miles a year.

"Our heaven and earth, therefore, being a unit in the solar system, then both their passing away and their being renewed, necessarily involve the entire system. Not only our heaven, consequently, but also the heavens need to be renewed....

"...Since along with our heaven and earth, therefore, our whole solar system is to pass away, not only the saints from earth, then, but with them also the sons of God from the whole system, shall live and reign with Christ in the Heaven of heavens for a 1000 years! O what a privilege! What an opportunity! What a gathering that will be." -V.T. Houteff, 8 Tract, pp. 25, 26, 30, 31. (Please read the entire Tract.)

NEWS IN PERSPECTIVE

Passports, Smart Cards, and Your Eyes.

In June, European Union governments met in Greece to discuss the coordination of the EU immigration policy. One of the results of the summit was an agreement to include biometric data in computer chips embedded in "smart" passport cards. Last week deputy assistant secretary for the United States Passport Services Frank Moss also announced U.S. plans for implementing biometric data in U.S. issued passports.

The European Commission has set its timetable according to the United States' Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002, which mandates that those countries whose citizens are free to travel to the U.S. without a visa "must issue passports with biometric identifiers no later than Oct. 26, 2004.

"Smart" cards—cards containing computer chips that store personal information—are finding widespread use in the United States and around the world. Not only are they used as government ID cards, but many credit cards, television set top decoders and cell phones also contain "smart" capability.

Now, Europe and the U.S. will fade out the paper passports and will replace them with smart cards that include biometric information stored on "contactless" computer chips. Contactless chips transmit data via low-power radio frequency rather than by direct contact like magnetic stripe cards. U.S. issued passport cards will include a digital facial scan and digital signature as a means of verifying

identification. Europe's passports will include fingerprints and possibly retinal scan information.

The U.S. is working closely with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to make sure that all countries involved use the same standards and specifications. "We want a globally interoperable system." Frank Moss said.

Since 9-11, U.S. policy-makers have sought to improve security and efficiency in identifying people entering and leaving the country. The U.S. government has already issued over 3 million smart cards to government employees to improve identity verification and offer increased security for network and computer access. The government is working to make uniform standards for all government issued ID smart cards and then tie the smart cards to a central authentication system that works across the entire federal government. "We need to eliminate the need to carry around multiple cards," said Mary Dixon, director of the Access Card Office of the Department of Defense.

The U.S. and Europe are not alone, however. Malaysians who travel frequently to Brunei, Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines will be able to use their smart national citizen card, MyKad, as acceptable identification to enter these countries. Malaysia officially launched MyKad as a national ID card on Sept. 5, 2001, less than a week before the attacks in Washington DC and New York, and the system has generated a great deal of interest since. The MyKad card includes "the citizen identification, driver's license, Touch N' Go service, public key infrastructure (PKI) application to verify user's identity over the

Internet and e-cash for secure online transactions, auto-teller machine (ATM) services for banking transactions, health data storage and passport number for travel identification." Syria and other Middle East countries have investigated the MyKad program and the Asian country of Myanmar is implementing a pilot program.

As we can see, everything is ready. Are you?

"From all appearances it looks as though we are very, very close to the fulfillment of these prophecies. Only one thing hinders it and that is that we have not finished our work. Had we taken the message of warning to the church, this could all have been finished by now, for the nations are all ready." *12 Symbolic Code 1:24*

Koinonia House Online and other sources such as:

The Register

Washington Technology



Inspiration Says:

More On Heresies -

"...God never contradicts Himself. Scripture proofs are misapplied if forced to testify to that which is not true. Another and still another will arise and bring in supposedly great light, and make their assertions. But we stand by the old landmarks. [1 John 1:1-10 quoted.]

"...In the days of the apostles the most foolish **heresies** were presented as truth. History has been and will be repeated. There will always be those who, though apparently conscientious, will grasp at the shadow,

preferring it to the substance. They take error in the place of truth, because error is clothed with a new garment, which they think covers something wonderful. But let the covering be removed, and nothingness appears." *1 Selected Messages, 162, 163.*

"God will arouse His people; if other means fail, **heresies** will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat. The Lord calls upon all who believe His word to awake out of sleep. Precious light has come, appropriate for this time. It is Bible truth, showing the perils that are right upon us. This light should lead us to a diligent study of the Scriptures and a most critical examination of the positions which we hold..." *Testimonies, Vol. 5:707,8.*

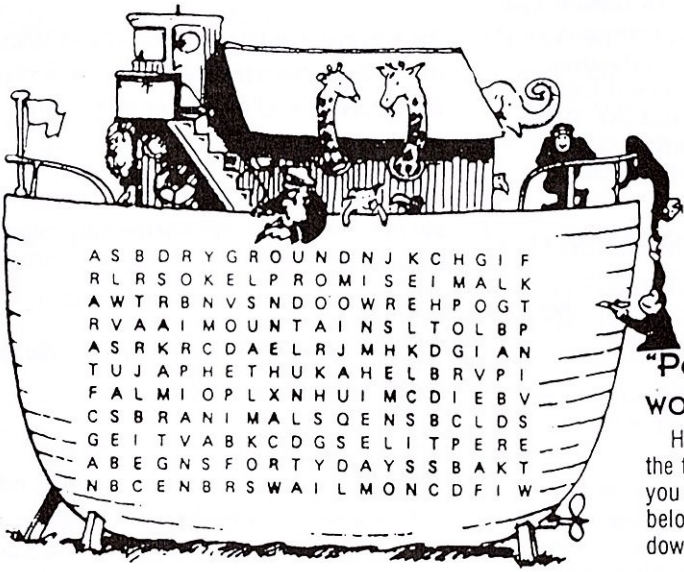
"...Let the people of God prepare for what is coming upon the earth. Extravagance in the use of means, selfishness, **heresies**, have taken the world captive. For centuries satanic agencies have been at work. Will they now give up without a struggle?" *7A Bible Commentary, Vol. 7:985.*

"Every semblance of error will come upon us. Some of these errors will be very specious and attractive..." *Medical Ministry, p. 87.*

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, **heresies**, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." *Galatians 5:19-21.*

YOUNG WORLD

NOAH ARK GOPHERWOOD SHEM HAM JAPHETH
 REPTILES RAIN FORTY DAYS FLOOD MOUNTAINS
 DRY GROUND BIRDS ANIMALS ALTAR ARARAT
 OLIVE LEAF DOVE SIGH RAINBOW PROMISE



A S B D R Y G R O U N D N J K C H G I F
 R L R S O K E L P R O M I S E I M A L K
 A W T R B N V S N D O O W R E H P O G T
 R V A A I M O U N T A I N S L T O L B P
 A S R K R C D A E L R J M H K D G I A N
 T U J A P H E T H U K A H E L B R V P I
 F A L M I O P L X N H U I M C D I E B V
 C S B R A N I M A L S Q E N S B C L D S
 G E I T V A B K C D G S E L I T P E R E
 A B E G N S F O R T Y D A Y S S B A K T
 N B C E N B R S W A I L M O N C D F I W

"Powerful" wordsearch

How many words related to the topic of the Holy Spirit can you find in the wordsearch below? You may move up, down, left, right, or diagonally.

In Old Testament times the Valley of Hinnom, a gorge near Jerusalem, was used for burning children as a sacrifice to Molech, a false god. Later it was used, tradition says, for burning rubbish and carcasses of dead animals. Scavenger birds and animals went there for food. Similar "garbage dumps" existed in other places—a reminder that sin has brought both pain and ugliness to the world.

Almighty voice

In Psalm 29 David compares the voice of God to a powerful thunderstorm that knocks down trees and shakes the ground.

S Y R E T S Y M
 P T I U R F O F
 I I G O D I U P
 R N V T Y L N E
 I I R E W O P A
 T R U T H V J C
 A T H R E E A E

Answer to "Powerful" Wordsearch puzzle: MYSTERY, PEACE, SPIRIT, THREE, JOY, POWER, YOU, LOVE, TRUTH, GOD, FRUIT, TRINITY.

FASCINATING FACTS

Dr. Roy Beaman, professor of archaeology at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, told of an amazing discovery. A fellow archaeologist was working in Persia when he accidentally fell into a pit. At first he thought it was a partially filled well. But closer study showed that it was actually an earthen cage used for wild beasts. An astonishing inscription on the edge of the pit told the rest of the story: "THE PLACE OF EXECUTION WHERE MEN WHO ANGERED THE KING DIED, TORN APART BY WILD ANIMALS."

-Guide

—Not until 300 years after the birth of Christ did Christians begin meeting in the buildings we now call churches, and they were first built by a pagan emperor.

—The basic order of worship hasn't changed for Catholics in more than 1,000 years.

—Because Martin Luther loved to stay up late on Saturday nights, he changed the church service time from dawn to 11:00 a.m. That was the last possible hour he could start the service and still call it "morning worship."

—Clerical collars emerged at a point in European history when the reverse collar was in style. After the fashion disappeared, clergy continued to wear the reverse collar because they couldn't afford new shirts.

—Christians most likely started wearing their finest clothes to church in case they happened into the emperor or royalty—not necessarily to honor God. - *Insight*

What Secret did Daniel Know?

1. Sandals are not good footwear to run in.
2. Never pray by an open window.
3. Don't forget God; keep Him with you throughout the day.
4. Lions smell bad. - *Guide*

Think it Through

An American soldier during World War II discovered the strongest argument that Scripture is God's word when he met a South Sea islander.

The friendly islander tried to assure the soldier they were not enemies by waving a Bible from the window of his hut. "This is my most prized possession," he said.

With disdain the soldier replied, "We've outgrown that nonsense."

The islander, whose tribe formerly practiced cannibalism, calmly remarked, "It's a good thing we haven't outgrown it here. If we had, we would have killed and eaten you as soon as we saw you."

What's the most compelling reason that the Bible is more than just another book? Its power to change lives. The Bible can transform the most jagged criminal into a joyful Christian. There is no natural explanation. Only a supernatural one.

- *Insight* - Compiled by Penny Payne

Answer: E Don't forget God; keep Him with you throughout the day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Computer Interest?

We are in the process of improving our Internet ministry and are asking if anyone with computer skills and/or ideas would be interested in contributing or assisting to contact the office. Brother Matthews is currently in charge of our web site and is looking for new ideas, as well as for anyone who would like to work with him on this project.

Good-bye!!!

We said a sad good-bye to our print shop manager, Jamie Valbert, this past July when he relocated to another state. He will be sorely missed here at headquarters but we do wish him the very best at his new location. Ricardo Rollan has agreed to assume the position of print shop manager, and we know he will do well with that added responsibility.

Sympathy

One of our dearly beloved mothers in the Lord has passed away. Cicilyn Myers, our faithful cook for several years here at Mt. Carmel, closed her eyes on July 3, 2003. We are hoping to see her soon in the kingdom. For those of us who knew her we will surely miss her and her wonderful cooking. We ask that you continue to remember her husband, Jesse Myers, and her family in your prayers.

New Apparel

The covers on our literature have taken on a new look! Thanks to Benito Medina and Judirick Rollan, covers of the tracts, T.G.'s and Answerer books are now in color. We think you will like their new apparel. We thank the Lord for the talent these two young people have given to His work.

Spanish Charts

Large charts are now available in Spanish. They are very attractive and the cost is the same as the English colored charts. The synthetic paper charts are \$115.00; the tyvek charts are \$221.000. An additional \$5.00 is charged for shipping.

Tapes and CD's

Did you know that we have new Assyrian Confederacy tapes? That's right. Instead of the eight tapes, we now have them in a set of four, entitled *The Fall of Assyria*. Also available on cassette tapes are *The World Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, (the beast studies) and the *The Trial of the Millennium* (the Judgment and the Seven Seals).

Several individuals have asked us about the availability of Bible studies on CD's. We are currently working on making these available in the near future.

Prayer

Continue to pray for our work and workers in all parts of the world field and may our Lord and Saviour bless you all.

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