

Symbolic Code

Fall 2017



**War of Words—
Or WWIIII?**





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Symbolic Code

It is the mission of the Symbolic Code to declare the Gospel of Jesus for these last days. It will present important truths from different angles and on various topics. We hope that every article will be a blessing to you and will help to strengthen your relationship with the Lord Jesus. If you are blessed by any of these articles, please let us know.

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Signs of the Times

Brethren, the signs of the times are sending clear signals that we are indeed living in the end of the sealing time. We see and hear of disaster around the world--hurricanes, floods, earthquakes. We hear of wars and rumors of war. The news headlines daily bring to our attention the heinous crimes committed by men who have no regard for human life. Inspiration puts it like this:

“Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Everything in our world is in agitation. Before our eyes is fulfilling the Saviour’s prophecy of the events to precede His coming: “Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars.... Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. Matthew 24:6, 7.

“The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis.” *PK 537.*

“We have no time to lose. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecies of eleventh chapter of Daniel have almost reached their final fulfillment.” *RH Nov. 24, 1904.*

“We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.” *9T11.*

“We are on the verge of the time of trouble, and perplexities that are scarcely dreamed of are before us” *9T432.*

“We are standing on the threshold of the crisis of the ages.” *PK 278.*

Let us take these words to heart and be ready for the events that are ahead and do all in our power to help others to be ready as well.

Editors



War of Or

Over fifteen years ago former president George W. Bush identified three nations as part of what he termed “the axis of evil” — Iran, Iraq and North Korea. The US shortly after went on to invade Iraq and removed the cruel Saddam Hussein with intentions to destroy his weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The “axis of evil” list was shortened.

Did the US uncover Iraq’s hidden WMD? Well, that’s a topic for another time. Suffice it to say, the invasion did not work out the way that George W. Bush planned. It has left Iraq as a dysfunctional state, engaging the US in a war it is still fighting 15 years later. Meanwhile Iran and North Korea became embolden in their nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

Through sanctions and diplomacy, the Obama administration managed to temporarily restrain Iran’s

nuclear program. Will this continue under the Trump administration? It does not seem likely. Since taking office president Trump, with threatening undertone, has ordered a review of US policy toward Iran. His rhetoric towards North Korea is demonstrating aggression and a willingness to use force, if necessary, to curb Kim Jung Un’s nuclear program.

Will President Trump be the one to lead the US and her allies into World War III? Could these war of words between he and Kim Jung Un be a precursor to the war prophesied in Zechariah chapter 14 - WWIII? These questions we cannot answer in the affirmative, but anything is possible. It is likely that hostilities with North Korea could be the spring board as it were, from which a war in the Middle East may erupt.

Words WWIII?



A Brief History

North Korea was gestated in the womb of what was once Korea and birthed after World War Two. Like the Middle East after World War I and II, and many Third World countries, Korea underwent a metamorphosis after the cessation of hostilities in 1945, but not for the better.

During World War Two, Korea was promised independence by the United States, Great Britain, and China at a conference in Cairo, Egypt, in 1943. After the major disputes between Russia and the United States, Korea was divided into two occupation zones—Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Republic of Korea, or North and South Korea respectively. After occupation troops were withdrawn, on June 25, 1950, North Korea

invaded South Korea. United States troops, led by General Douglas Mc Arthur, stopped the invasion but the war continued. Through a number of successes, failures, and ineffective truces between Communist forces and the West, North and South Korea remained as it had been before the invasion—divided along the 38th parallel. The Korean War ended in 1953 with the North making agreements with Russia and China for aid, and the South with the United States for mutual defense.

Becoming Dangerous

Since becoming totalitarian, North Korea has remained a stalwart Communist state and built a strong military program to the detriment and suffering of its people. It has now taken center stage as United States enemy number one with lethal nuclear potential.

Since 2006, North Korea has carried out six nuclear tests. The latest being its most powerful Hydrogen bomb test so far. The international community is becoming worried. The UN Security Counsel has met a few times to determine how to respond to this development.

South Korea has been conducting military exercises by firing missiles at practice targets to send a strong message to its northern neighbor that it has the capability to strike and destroy the north's nuclear test facility and other key military outposts.

According to the Aljazeera news network, N. Korea's nuclear capability (Hwasong-14) could travel about 10,400 km and has the potential to reach the whole world except for US East Coast, Latin America, Western Africa, and Antarctica. No wonder the West is becoming increasingly worried. Everybody is scared now!

Imagine a confrontation between the United States, its treaty nation, South Korea, with North Korea, who has been salivating in hopes of dining on its southern counterpart. (North Korea has always wanted the South back since its separation in 1948). It appears unlikely that with such a scenario, China and/or Russia would allow the West to humble its Communist brother without a fight. It could be World War II and the Korean War returned to life. The world would call it World War III and we would call it a fulfillment of prophecy. Of course, God alone knows the future and we cannot predict how events will unfold, but the point is that the present crisis with North Korea is dangerous, has world implications of the fulfillment of prophecy.

As just stated, a war with this nation could have monstrous repercussions. It would affect Japan, South Korea, China, and possibly the Philippines and Indonesia. The entire Far East and Indochina could be destabilized and arouse old bitter hatreds.

A military strike on Yongbyon's nuclear complex could send radioactive pollution around the Korean Peninsula, affecting millions, including South Koreans, just across the border who are friendly to the West.

Communism is Not Dead

Prophecy does not mention North Korea specifically, but could it be included in the ten horns of the Scarlet Colored Beast, which we know from Inspiration are "Communist or Communist-like powers?" We will have to wait and see. But this we do know. Revelation 17:16 tells us: "And the ten horns [civil powers] which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, [apos-

tate-counterfeit religion] and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire."

"That the woman riding the beast symbolizes the world in this day and age is evident from the fact that the ten horns, the civil powers that be during the reign of Babylon, hate the woman—the Church. Communism being the only world-wide ruling power since the world began to hate religion, the Church, is itself solid proof that the ten horns are symbolical of Communism..." 2 TG 36, p. 7.

"God, therefore, for the sake of His own will puts in the hearts of the communists, or communist-like powers (the ten horns of the scarlet-colored beast who hate the woman, hate religion, as does communism) to "give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled." Rev. 17:17." 2 TG 41, p. 17.

For further evidence, note carefully what verses 9 and 10 of Revelation 18 tells us:

"And the kings of the earth who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning."

What does this mean? Note that the kings who are crying for the woman [apostate religion], cannot be the same crownless kings or horns in Revelation 17;16 who destroy her!

The Lord's servant puts it this way: "The lamentation of the "kings" shows that they are sympathetic toward her, while the horns hate her. The "kings," therefore, cannot be those who are symbolized by the beast's crownless horns, but rather those who are symbolized by the crowned horns of the leopard-like beast." 12 TR 15.

We know that a woman in the Bible represents a religious entity or church. (Jeremiah 6:2). If she is a pure woman it represents a pure church; a vile woman would represent an apostate church. See GC 382. The scarlet-colored beast represents the wicked world just before the return of our Lord. Beasts as you know represent kingdoms (Daniel 7:17, Daniel 8:20,21). Note that this beast has horns, heads and a body all of scarlet or red indicating sin (Isaiah 1:18). The point is further made by John telling us that the beast was "full of names of blasphemy."

Heads we know represent religious bodies. Do you remember the wounded head of the beast of Revelation 13? We know that it represents the Papacy who is a religious entity—a church. If one head is a religious body,

then all the heads must be religious bodies as well.

The key emphasis of our study for the moment, though, are the horns. Horns would represent civil powers. (See Daniel 8:20, 21). The horns of the Dragon of Revelation 12, verses 3,4, and the ten horns of leopard-like beast of Revelation 13, are well known to be symbols of governments or civil powers.

The horns of Revelation 17, however, are a unique civil power. This is evident from the fact that the ten horns, the civil powers that be during the reign of Babylon, hate the woman, the church, and destroy her. The fact that Communism is the only world-wide ruling power since the world began to hate religion—the church, is itself solid proof that the ten horns are symbolical of Communism. Inspiration states:

“Communism being the only world-ruling power since the world began to hate religion, the Church, is itself solid proof that the ten horns are symbolical of Communism, and that the beast represents a period of time in which Communism is about to dominate the world’s seat of government.” 2TG 36, p.7

This point was stated a few paragraphs ago but it is crucial that we understand it. “And the kings of the earth who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning.”

There are two types of kings described here. Those who are sympathetic to the woman and those who hate her. The kings of Revelation 18 cannot be those who are symbolized by the scarlet-colored beast’s crownless horns of Revelation 17. After the horns destroy the woman, another set of leaders or kings mourn her loss. They are just not the same!

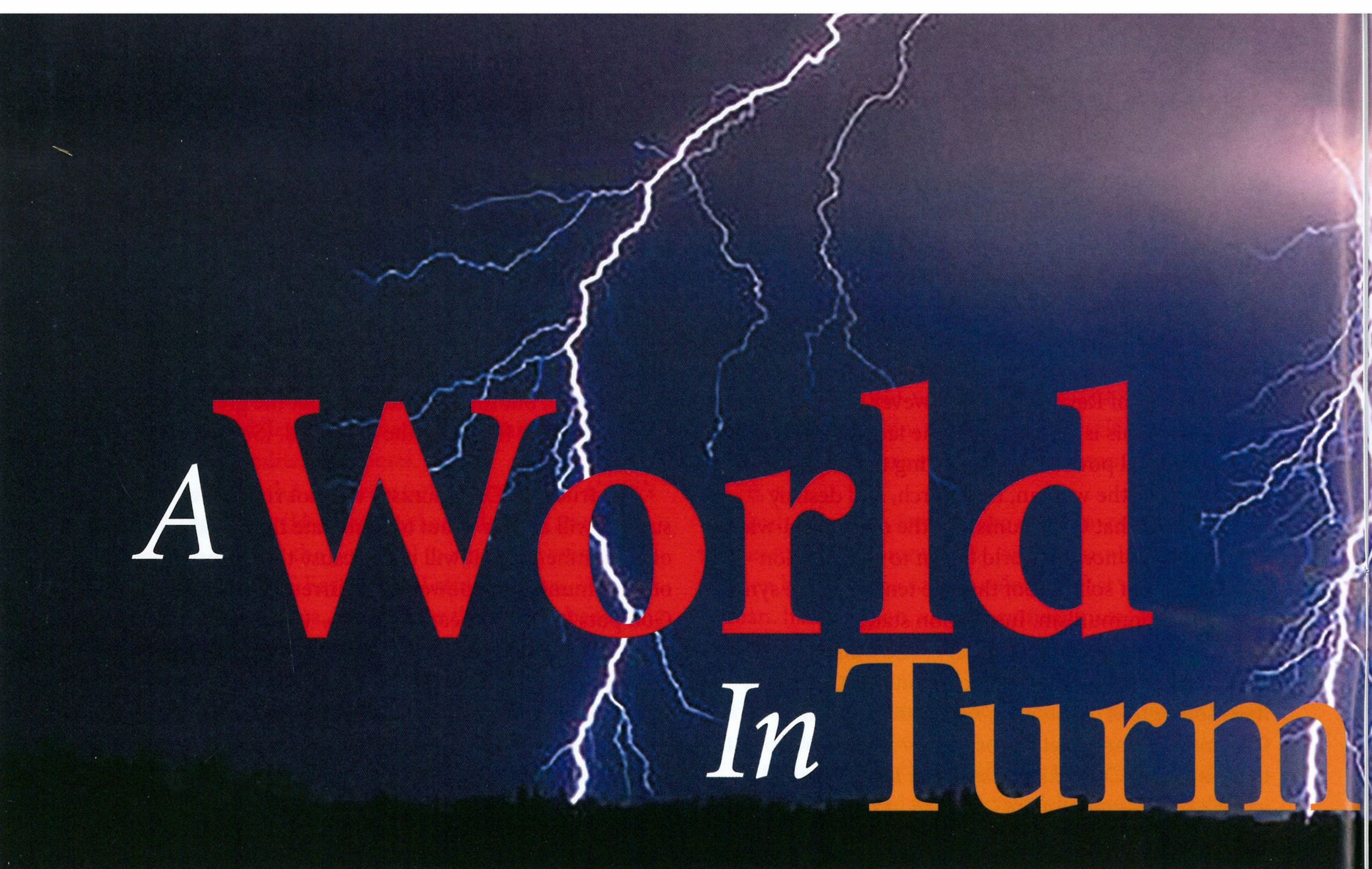
The evidence clearly reveals that the ten horns of the scarlet-colored beast are “Communists or Communists-like powers” whereas the kings who are crying for the woman must be Capitalist kings or so-called Democratic rulers who lived deliciously with her. They are crying for her because they profited from religion. Revelation 18:11 mentions the “merchants” who mourned for her, showing that they are Capitalists. It says: “And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more.” Thus, the kings who destroyed her hated religion, but the ones who mourned for her loved religion! Is it not the Western nations that are known as Capitalists and who love religion? Is it not the Communists who hate religion and Capitalism?

But you ask, how did the Communist kings gain the political upper hand? Is not America and the other Western nations Capitalists or Democratic, and don’t they now lead the world? Now we come to the heart of the matter. Yes, the United States and her Allies now dominate the world’s political seat of power, but a change is coming. Just how this is to come about no one can say in any detail, but the Bible tells us that the greatest of all wars is to be fought in the holy land. (See Zechariah 14:1,2)

It is true that Communism will not rule the world as such. It will appear about to dominate the world’s seat of government but it will not because the Communist or Communist-like powers will surrender their control. God puts it in their hearts to do so. (See Revelation 17:17). It is true that in the near future the world will be ruled by an ecclesiastical power—a rule where church and state are combined but controlled by religion. The Bible refers to it as the Mark of the Beast or the Image of the Beast. Nonetheless, Communism will gain the political upper hand after the fall of the West, enough to become the “kings” of the scarlet-colored beast and surrender their power to the church-state system. (Rev. 17:12, 13, 17).

Will North Korea be the nation that God will use to initiate the war that will be waged in the holy land? Will North Korea be included as a part of the ten horns of the scarlet-colored beast? Only time will tell, but as we did not see it before, we can certainly see how it could be now. We also can see just how a war in the Middle East and a war in the Far East can become the “greatest of all wars.”

Brothers and sisters, now is the time to *be* ready, the time to get ready is past. May the Lord have mercy on us all. □



A World In Turm

Hurricanes, Earthquakes, Fires, etc. What do they portend? In rapid, breath-taking succession, hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Jose, Maria, Nate, and Ophelia; Two earthquakes in Mexico, ferocious wild fires in Los Angeles, California, and other places. Also, what about North Korea and the United States whose leaders keep escalating fierce words and threats of missiles, nuclear war, and killing myriads of people! What is next? What do these things mean? Are we, as Gods, people discerning the signs of the times as we should? What says the infallible Word—the “more sure word of prophecy”? 2 Peter 1:19.

“The restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and by land follow each other in quick succession. Science is seeking to explain all these. The signs are thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God., are attributed to any other than the true cause. Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed; but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can

picture. – CCh 343.

The painful and graphic damages inflicted by these scourges have been seen in the news media worldwide. They include wreaking havoc and great destruction in Texas, USA, some Caribbean islands like Barbuda, and Dominica, St. Marten, Florida, Puerto Rico and other places, causing billions of dollars worth of damage to homes, hospitals, industrial companies, power plants, etc., in these places besides the harrowing loss of human lives. Again what do these ominous things mean, what do they signify?

Are these calamities Judgments of God or the work of the enemy?

What do these things portend? Will God send judgments upon wicked cities, nations, countries, and individuals?

In Isaiah 26:20, 21 we read:

“Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.” Isaiah 26:20, 21.



Hurricane Irma brought destruction to Dominica and several islands across the Caribbean.

Digging for survivors in the aftermath of a magnitude 8.1 earthquake in Mexico

oil



From this we see that God promises to bring judgment upon the earth because of the wickedness and iniquity of men. And according to Inspiration these calamities will become more and more frequent and severe as the wickedness of fallen humanity increases upon the planet.

“I am instructed that when the Lord’s time comes, should no change have taken place in the hearts of proud, ambitious human beings, men will find that the hand that had been strong to save will be strong to destroy. No earthly power can stay the hand of God. No material can be used in the erection of buildings that will preserve them from destruction when God’s appointed time comes to send retribution on men for their disregard of His law and for their selfish ambition. CCh 38.

The Wise Men Of The Earth Do Not Know

“There are not many, even among educators and statesmen, who comprehend the causes that underlie the present state of society. Those who hold the reins of

government are not able to solve the problem of moral corruption, poverty, pauperism, and increasing crime. They are struggling in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis. If men would give more heed to the teaching of God’s word, they would find a solution of the problems that perplex them.” – CCh 38.

Satan Brings Destruction When God Permits

“While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and

famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. "The earth mourneth and fadeth away," "the haughty people ... do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant." Isaiah 24:4, 5. GC 589.

"And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God's commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity. Thus the accusation urged of old against the servant of God will be repeated and upon grounds equally well established: "And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim." 1 Kings 18:17, 18. As the wrath of the people shall be excited by false charges, they will pursue a course toward God's ambassadors very similar to that which apostate Israel pursued toward Elijah." GC 590.

The Devils are Active In End Time Miracles

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. ..." Rev. 16:14.

Knowing Exactly Who is Causing Destructions

We may not know or be able to say specifically that God sent this particular destruction. However, we know from the Bible and Inspiration that Satan can do nothing like this without God's permission. As we see in the case

of righteous Job. (Job chapters 1-3). Nonetheless, when the particular places are very wicked and have become hot beds of iniquity, we can know that great calamities will soon arrive, as Isaiah tells us that the Lord cometh out of his place [the sanctuary] "to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity." Isaiah 26:20, 21.

Signs Of The "Great And Dreadful Day Of The Lord"

Definitely. Wherever sin exists there will the dreadful judgments of God fall.

"The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness. A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord : and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. [18] Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land. ..." Zeph 1:14-18.

Calamities among God's people

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 1 Pet. 4:17.

"For, behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the Lord plead with all flesh: and the slain of the Lord shall be many. They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the Lord." Isa. 66:15-20.

"And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The Lord will not do good, neither will he do evil. [13] Therefore their goods shall become a booty, and their houses a desolation: they shall also build houses, but not inhabit them ; and they shall plant vineyards, but not drink the

wine thereof” Zeph. 1:12-13.

“The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?” Isa 33:14.

“And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house. And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city.” Eze. 9:5-7.

Our Current God-Given Duties

“Could the curtain be rolled back, could you discern the purposes of God and the judgments that are about to fall upon a doomed world, could you see your own attitude, you would fear and tremble for your own souls and for the souls of your fellow men. Earnest prayers of heart-rending anguish would go up to heaven. You would weep between the porch and the altar, confessing your spiritual blindness and backsliding. CCh 343.

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.” Luke 21:28-31.

Sighing and crying

“And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.” Ezekiel 9:4.

Put on the wedding garment

“And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For

many are called, but few are chosen.” Mat. 22:1-14.

Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand (The Review and Herald, March 9, 1905). 7BC 970.

Blow the trumpet in Zion

“Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.” Joel 2:1-2.

Approaching the parting of the ways

“We are approaching the parting of the ways where we must decide whether we will be among the many of whom Daniel spoke that shall be purified, and made white, and tried and understand; or of those who shall do wickedly and not understand. If we would be among the wise and purified ones we had better without delay find out what our idols are and put them away, for that is the factor that will decide which of the two classes we will belong to. Since none of the wicked shall understand in the day of the Lord, it shows that the truth will become deeper and deeper until finally the wicked will not be able to comprehend it. The point where they first lost out or became blinded, however, was when they met their idol and refused to tear themselves from it. The things we love and esteem more than God’s kingdom are our idols. 12 SC 6-7:18.

“Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.” Isaiah 26:20, 21.

“Choose ye this day whom ye will serve.” Joshua 24:15. □

Is the Law Made Void?

By V. T. Houteff

Paul writes: "One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded In his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks, and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks." Rom. 14:5, 6.

In the light of this scripture, is it not true that one is saved by faith no matter what his doctrinal belief may be in the Sabbath and in diet?

Answer:

Having anticipated this very question, Inspiration through Paul and his co-laborers straightway answered it:

"Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." Rom. 3:31. "For whosoever shall keep the whole law and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10. "For this is the love of God that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous." 1 John 5:3. "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Rev. 22:14.

"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?... Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.... Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?... For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." James 2:14, 17, 19, 20, 26.

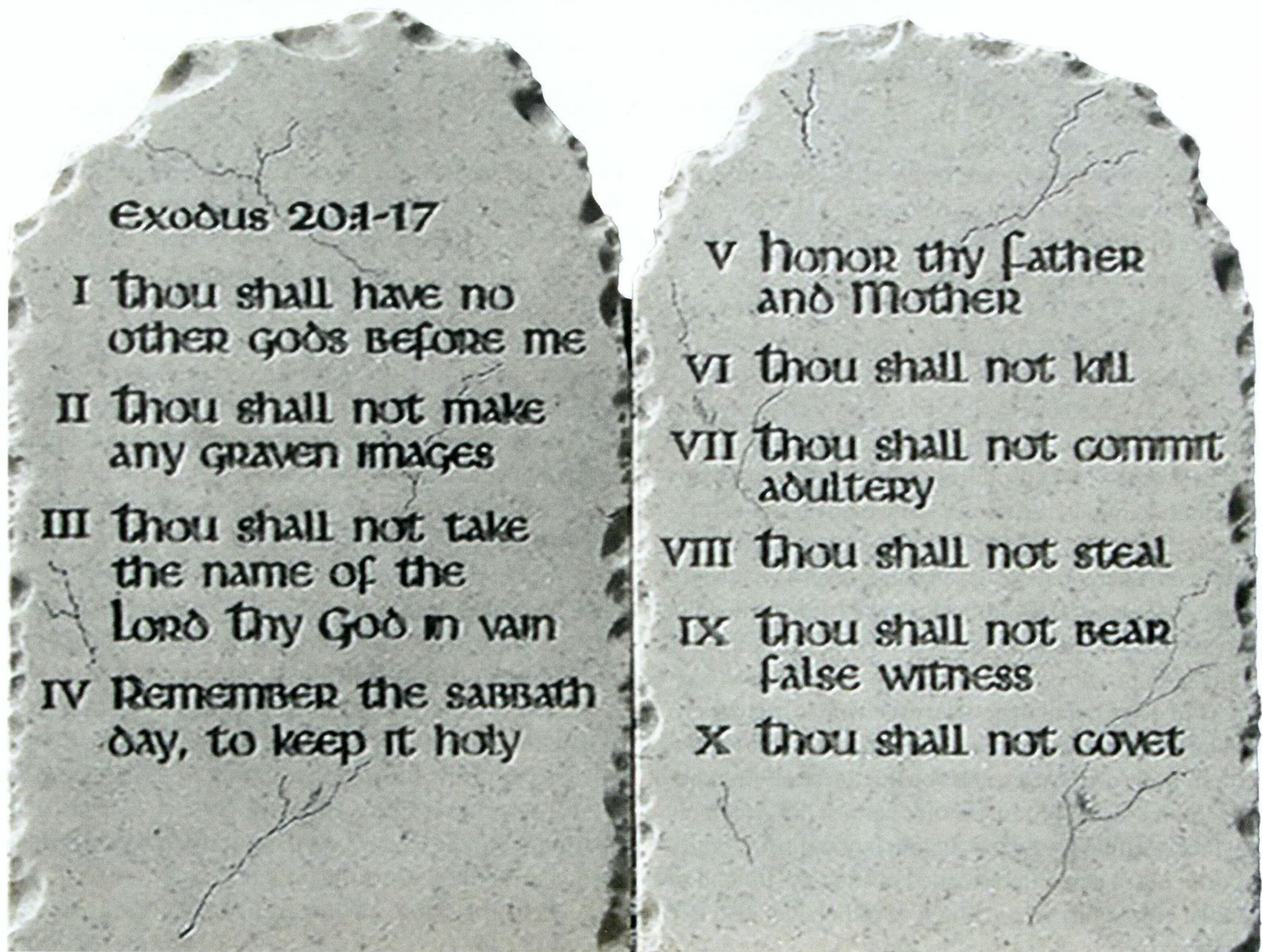
Again: having written, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:8), Paul could not possibly have turned around and advocated that a man can be saved by a gospel of his own, by what he himself thinks or does.

No rational person who believes Paul's writings as a part of Holy Writ can honestly convince himself that Paul would at one moment uplift the law and at the next moment tread it down. Decidedly, therefore, one's interpretation of the apostle's writings must be such as to make them consistent.

In Romans 14:5, 6 he is endeavoring to correct unfair criticism by admonishing the believers that everyone must be persuaded in his own conscience, and that the duty of a Christian is to keep, speak, and teach the Truth, not to demand obedience to it; not to despise those who eat or those who do not, or those who esteem one day above another; but to let all be fully persuaded in their own minds. In short a Christian's duty is to be charitable, to be an altogether-Christian, having a mind of his own, but ever being ready to forgo his opinions for a "thus saith the Lord."

That the Sabbath and consequently all the other commandments are perpetual, to be kept even hereafter, anyone can easily see from the following scriptures: "And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith the Lord." Isa. 66:23. And looking forward to the time of "the great and dreadful day of the Lord," the time just ahead of us, the Lord admonishes the people who will be living at that time: "Remember ye the law of Moses My servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments." Mal. 4:4.

"Thus saith the Lord, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for My salvation is near to come, and My righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil. Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the Lord, speak saying, The Lord hath utterly separated me from His people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree. For thus saith the Lord unto the eunuchs that keep My sabbaths, and



choose the things that please Me, and take hold of My covenant; even unto them will I give in Mine house and within My walls a place and a name better than of sons, and of daughters; I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off. Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of My covenant; even them will I bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer: their burnt offerings, and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon Mine altar; for Mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people. The Lord God which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.” Isa. 56:1-8.

As therefore not only the Sabbath but also the whole law is to be kept now and forever by both Jew and Gentile, faith does not do away with the law of God, but

rather establishes it forever, and enables one to keep it.

Those who are truly converted to God through the righteousness of Christ, find no hardship in obeying the law. They delight to do God's will.

And finally, when they enter the promised land and God gives them new hearts and inscribes His commandments thereupon (Ezek. 36:23-29), then for the cleansed ones to venture to sin, will be a thousand times greater trial than it was to Joseph in Egypt when he cried out against temptation: “How...can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” (Gen. 39:9), and no more possible than it was for Christ. Indeed, sin will be as naturally abhorrent to us then as death is now. Christ makes this possible by washing away our sins with His precious blood, recreating in us a sinless nature, a “new heart,” while taking us from among the heathen, and bringing us into our “own land. Ezek. 36:24. □

Taken from 3 Answer, pp. 86-90.

Those who are truly converted to God through the righteousness of Christ, find no hardship in obeying the law. They delight to do God's will.

In the laws of God in nature, effect follows cause with unerring certainty. The reaping will testify as to what the sowing has been. The slothful worker is condemned by his work. The harvest bears witness against him. So in spiritual things: the faithfulness of every worker is measured by the results of his work. The character of his work, whether diligent or slothful, is revealed by the harvest. It is thus that his destiny for eternity is decided.

“Every seed sown produces a harvest of its kind. So it is in human life. We all need to sow the seeds of compassion, sympathy, and love; for we shall reap what we sow. Every characteristic of selfishness, self-love, self-esteem, every act of self-indulgence, will bring forth a like harvest. He who lives for self is sowing to the flesh, and of the flesh he will reap corruption.

“God destroys no man. Everyone who is destroyed will have destroyed himself. Everyone who stifles the admonitions of conscience is sowing the seeds of unbelief, and these will produce a sure harvest. By rejecting the first warning from God, Pharaoh of old sowed the seeds of obstinacy, and he reaped obstinacy. God did not compel him to disbelieve. The seed of unbelief which he sowed produced a harvest of its kind. Thus his resistance continued, until he looked upon his devastated land, upon the cold, dead form of his first-born, and the first-born of all in his house and of all the families in his kingdom, until the waters of the sea closed over his hors-

es and his chariots and his men of war. His history is a fearful illustration of the truth of the words that “whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Galatians 6:7. Did men but realize this, they would be careful what seed they sow.

“As the seed sown produces a harvest, and this in turn is sown, the harvest is multiplied. In our relation to others, this law holds true. Every act, every word, is a seed that will bear fruit. Every deed of thoughtful kindness, of obedience, or of self-denial, will reproduce itself in others, and through them in still others. So every act of envy, malice, or dissension is a seed that will spring up in a “root of bitterness” (Hebrews 12:15), whereby many shall be defiled. And how much larger number will the “many” poison. Thus the sowing of good and evil goes on for time and for eternity.

“Liberality both in spiritual and in temporal things is taught in the lesson of seed sowing. The Lord says, “Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters.” Isaiah 32:20. “This I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” 2 Corinthians 9:6. To sow beside all waters means a continual imparting of God’s gifts. It means giving wherever the cause of God or the needs of humanity demand our aid. This will not tend to poverty. “He which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” The sower multiplies his seed by casting it away. So it is with those who are faithful in distributing God’s

Harvest

By E. G. White

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The sower multiplies his seed by casting it away. So it is with those who are faithful in distributing God's gifts.

gifts. By imparting they increase their blessings. God has promised them a sufficiency that they may continue to give. "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom." Luke 6:38.

"And more than this is wrapped up in the sowing and the reaping. As we distribute God's temporal blessings, the evidence of our love and sympathy awakens in the receiver gratitude and thanksgiving to God. The soil of the heart is prepared to receive the seeds of spiritual truth. And He who ministers seed to the sower will cause the seed to germinate and bear fruit unto eternal life.

"By the casting of the grain into the soil, Christ represents the sacrifice of Himself for our redemption. "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die," He says, "it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." John 12:24. So the death of Christ will result in fruit for the kingdom of God. In accordance with the law of the vegetable kingdom, life will be the result of His death.

"And all who would bring forth fruit as workers together with Christ must first fall into the ground and die. The life must be cast into the furrow of the world's need. Self-love, self-interest, must perish. But the law of self-sacrifice is the law of self-preservation. The seed buried in the ground produces fruit, and in turn this is planted. Thus the harvest is multiplied. The husbandman preserves his grain by casting it away. So in human life, to give is to live. The life that will be preserved is the life that is freely given in service to God and man. Those who for Christ's sake sacrifice their life in this world, will keep it unto life eternal.

"Such are a few of the many lessons taught by nature's living parable of the sower and the seed. As parents and teachers try to teach these lessons, the work should be made practical. Let the children themselves prepare the soil and sow the seed. As they work, the parent or teacher can explain the garden of the heart with the good or bad seed sown there, and that as the garden must

be prepared for the natural seed, so the heart must be prepared for the seed of truth. As the seed is cast into the ground, they can teach the lesson of Christ's death; and as the blade springs up, they can teach the lesson of the truth of the resurrection. As the plants grow, the correspondence between the natural and the spiritual sowing may be continued.

"The youth should be instructed in a similar way. They should be taught to till the soil. It would be well if there were, connected with every school, lands for cultivation. Such lands should be regarded as God's own schoolroom. The things of nature should be looked upon as a lesson book which His children are to study, and from which they may obtain knowledge as to the culture of the soul.

"In tilling the soil, in disciplining and subduing the land, lessons may constantly be learned. No one would think of settling upon a raw piece of land, expecting it at once to yield a harvest. Earnestness, diligence, and persevering labor are to be put forth in treating the soil preparatory to sowing the seed. So it is in the spiritual work in the human heart. Those who would be benefited by the tilling of the soil must go forth with the word of God in their hearts. They will then find the fallow ground of the heart broken by the softening, subduing influence of the Holy Spirit. Unless hard work is bestowed on the soil, it will not yield a harvest. So with the soil of the heart: the Spirit of God must work upon it to refine and discipline it before it can bring forth fruit to the glory of God.

"The soil will not produce its riches when worked by impulse. It needs thoughtful, daily attention. It must be plowed often and deep, with a view to keeping out the weeds that take nourishment from the good seed planted. Thus those who plow and sow prepare for the harvest. None need stand in the field amid the sad wreck of their hopes." □

Taken from Christ Object Lesson, pp. 84 - 88.

What the Bible Says About Stress

While most major translations of the Bible don't specifically use the word stress, Scripture does speak to things such as anxiety, worry and trouble and gives us clear answers on how we should deal with them. The dictionary defines stress as "physical, mental, or emotional strain or tension." Everyone suffers from stress at one time or another. In fact, research indicates that children who live in a stressful home environment are at greater risk to become highly stressed by life's challenges. Stress can cause us to do things we would not normally do or cause us to shut down completely. Anything that causes stress is called a "stressor."

Stress can be caused by either processive stressors or systemic stressors. Processive stressors are those that elicit what is called the "fight or flight" reaction. Systemic stressors are our bodies' automatic physiological responses to stress. Stress takes its toll on all of us to varying degrees, and how we deal with it depends in large part on who we are. It is no wonder that many days we struggle trying to cope with



the distresses that come from our jobs, our health or family issues. God has created us and knows that, because of our fallen natures, we can sometimes allow stress to rule our lives.

Many people become stressed because they don't trust God to provide the basic necessities of life. Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?" (Matthew 6:25, 27). This passage is a classic example of why we get stressed in the first place—we worry about providing for ourselves and our loved ones. We stress over money because we never seem to feel that we have enough. We worry about making ends meet, often living paycheck to paycheck. Or we become consumed by materialism and, in turn, stressed-out about maintaining our lifestyle. Materialism inevitably leads to stress because, when we seek the world's goods, we have fallen for the "deceitfulness of wealth" (Mark 4:19), the lie that such things relieve stress and lead to happiness, contentment and joy. They do not.

The starting point for dealing with stress is Jesus Christ. Jesus offers us great encouragement in John 14:1: "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me." We desperately need Him in our lives. We need Him because He is the only one who can give us the strength to cope with the troubles in our lives. Believing in Him does not mean that we will have a trouble-free life or that we will not succumb to stress in our lives. It simply means

The starting point for dealing with stress is Jesus Christ.

that a life without Jesus Christ makes coping with stress an impossible and often debilitating task.

Believing leads to trusting. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us to "trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Leaning on "our own understanding" often means adopting the world's ways of relieving stress—things like alcohol or drugs or mindless entertainment. Instead, we are to trust His Word as our ultimate guide to a stress-reduced life. David says, "I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears" (Psalm 34:4). David knew that by seeking the Lord and sharing his troubles with Him that perhaps he would find favor with Him. The Lord in turn answered him and calmed him down.

Perhaps no passage in Scripture better captures how to handle stress than Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." The Lord tells us not to be anxious about anything, but rather to turn everything over to Him in prayer. Lifting our burdens and concerns to a holy and righteous God daily will mitigate or eliminate

the stress in our lives. Psalm 55:22 tells us to cast all our cares on Him because He will sustain us and never fail us. Jesus Christ offers peace if we come to Him with our worries and concerns. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27).

Stress of all kinds is a natural part of life (Job 5:7, 14:1; 1 Peter 4:12; 1 Corinthians 10:13). But how we deal with it is up to us. If we choose to try to do it on our own, we face a long, uphill battle that will not end well. The only way we can deal with stress is with Jesus Christ, first by believing in Him. Without believing in Him we are on our own, and success in coping with stress is almost impossible. Second, we need to trust Him and obey Him. We should trust Him to do what is right because His ways are always best for us. Disobedience and sin can produce stress and cut us off from the only means of peace and joy. By obeying His commandments we reap the blessings of true contentment from a loving God. Finally, we need to seek His peace daily by filling our minds with His Word, lifting all things to Him in prayer, and sitting at His feet in awe and reverence. It is only by His grace, mercy and love that the stress in our lives can be managed. □

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What Has the **Mess** Done fo

To Whom Should My Tithe Go?

While still holding membership in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, should one pay tithe to the Davidians?

Answer:

One can best answer this question by asking himself the following questions:

Do I believe that The Shepherd's Rod contains the message of the hour, the sealing message of the 144,000? Have I received any spiritual help from it? Has it caused me to repent of formerly indulged sins? Am I now a better Seventh-day Adventist than I was before I accepted it? Has it made me love the Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the brethren more than ever before?

If one's answer to each of these questions is "No," then he should pay his tithe to the church of which he is still a member. If his answer to them is "Yes," and if he is still in doubt as to where he should pay his tithe, then he should further question himself:

Had I continued in the Laodicean course in which the Rod found me, could I be saved and ready to meet the Lord at His coming? Can my Seventh-day Adventist brethren be saved by remaining in their present condition? If to these questions one's answer is "No," then his answers to the following questions will instruct him where to pay this tithe.

Since I am responsible for the light which is now shining upon my pathway, and since I must help give it to my brethren, should I pay my tithe to the Denomination so that the ministry may have more money with which to fight both the message and my personal endeavors to reach the people with it, and thereby, working at cross-purposes, only help to keep them in darkness? Or, should I pay it to the Davidians, the "storehouse" of Present Truth, where it naturally should go to promote the advancement of a heart-searching reformation and to rescue my Seventh-day Adventist brethren from eternal ruin? And as they themselves are not prepared to meet the Lord

(Testimonies, Vol. 6, p. 371), then how can they adequately prepare the heathen? In view of all these facts, shall my tithe go to the Seventh-day Adventist denomination in behalf of the heathen or to the sealing message in behalf of the brethren? If I dare not place my tithe to the support of what I believe to be Present Truth, then how will it be supported, and where else can I conscientiously place my tithe?

Furthermore, if I place it in the Denomination to be used largely for the evangelizing of worldlings, rather than in the storehouse of Present Truth to be used for the benefit of my brethren, then am I not doing so to the neglect of my own brethren, and thus denying that I am my brother's keeper? And ought I, moreover, obey the ministers' order to go in search of sheep in the house of Baal, instead of heeding the Lord's express command to take the heaven-sent remedy to the sin-sick sheep in the house of Israel (Matt. 10:6)? Which of these two endeavors would be the more sure to gain for me the

age r You?



commendation, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord?” Matt. 25:21.

“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing.” Matt. 24:45, 46.

Now if after having answered these questions to your satisfaction, you are still undecided as to what you should do with your tithe, then read Tract No. 4, *The Latest News for Mother*, 1943 Edition, pp. 63-70. Then “remember Lot’s wife,” and do as the Lord bids you.” Answerer Booklet, Vol. 4, p. 41-44.

Cannot My Home Be His “Storehouse”?

Is it Scriptural for one to retain and personally use his tithe and offerings in order to carry on the gospel work in his own community,

according to his own plans?

“Nowhere in the Scriptures do we find permission to use the Lord’s money at our own discretion. The only justification for so doing would be sheer inability, for some reason to send it to the Lord’s “storehouse.” Should one voluntarily, though, engage in such a practice then he would set the wrong example before others. And if following in his lead, others assume the same right, their course must inevitably result in seriously handicapping the Lord’s work, bleeding and subverting His treasury, and thus disorganizing His work and reducing the church to a mere shell, while her members are hiring themselves as laborers in the Lord’s vineyard, helping themselves to the Lord’s money, and running without having been sent! What a Babylon that would be!

Though the Lord commands, “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse” (Mal. 3: 10), He does not say to bring all the offerings. Thus, He shows that if we would engage in some personal charity or missionary

activity, we should sustain it from offerings, not from the tithe.

“Angels keep a faithful record of every man’s work, and as judgment passes upon the house of God, the sentence of each is recorded by his name, and the angel is commissioned to spare not the unfaithful servants, but to cut them down at the time of slaughter....And the crowns they might have worn, had they been faithful, are put upon the heads of those saved by the faithful servants...” Testimonies, Vol. 1, p. 198. Answerer Booklet, Vol. 4, p. 45.

Is It My Duty To Set Right The Lord’s Treasury?

Should we pay our tithe to the “storehouse” if we know that it is not used rightly?

Answer:

“Knowing that our tithe belongs to God’s storehouse, our greatest burden should be to see that it is faithfully paid there. Nowhere in the Bible do we find that the Lord has laid upon any tithe payer the polic-

ing of the channels through which these funds pass.

The Lord's treasury is under His control, and if He Himself should not see fit to correct an abuse in the handling of His money, certainly we could not correct it however hard we might try. If we guard carefully that part of His work which He entrusts to us, our only concern will be to find out where His "storehouse" is, and then faithfully to deposit His money there. He has not made us responsible for its use; that, He will personally take over—even as He is now "taking the reins in His own hands."

When the Promised Land was divided among the twelve tribes

He had entrusted to it. Thus it must be today." Answerer Booklet, Vol. 4, p. 46.

What Is Subject To Tithing?

Deuteronomy 14:22 says: "Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year." How shall I tithe my crop?

Answer:

To facilitate answering this question, let us consider for example the case of a potato grower. Say that he is without expense for hired labor, irrigation, rent, etc. If free from such overhead and if his gross returns are \$50 an acre, then the whole amount

wage earner, sustaining the expense of social security, transportation to and from work, etc., then he deducts the amount of such expenses from his wages before tithing them. For example, if he receives \$100 a month wages, and if he must spend 10 cents a day, or about \$2.60 a month, for transportation, he then deducts \$2.60 from \$100, which leaves \$97.40 to tithe.

If one's income is from rentals, then he deducts the amount spent on upkeep of the property from his untithed gross income. Thus figuring one's income, one tithes all his increase." Answerer Booklet, Vol. 4, p. 47.

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of Israel, the tribe of Levi received no land for an inheritance, as did the eleven tribes. Instead, the Lord decreed that the tithes of the other tribes were to go to the Levites. This was their inheritance. It was actually their own. And just as they, as the tithe receivers, had no right to dictate to the others, the tithe payers, what to do with their own increase after it had been tithed, so the tithe payers had no right to dictate to the tithe receivers what to do with the tithe. Each tribe was itself to be accountable to the Lord for that which

would be subject to tithe, which of course would be \$5 an acre. If, however, he must operate with an overhead expense to produce his crop, then obviously such expense should be deducted from the gross value of the produce, and only the remainder tithed. For instance, if the gross value of the crop be \$50 an acre, and the overhead expense \$10 an acre, then the net increase, the amount subject to tithe, would be \$40 an acre, and the tithe only \$4 instead of \$5 an acre.

If, on the other hand, one is a

What About Tithing Gifts?

Since the Bible teaches that one should tithe all his increase, should not one therefore pay tithe on all gifts?

Answer:

Used as a noun, the word "increase" means "that which is added to the original stock; profits"—the return from one's labor or inheritance. As we do not know whether it can therefore be Scripturally construed to enjoin paying tithe on small love gifts, the decision must

rest entirely with the individual.”
Answerer Booklet, Vol. 4, p. 48.

Who Are Worthy Of Aalms?

Who are the “worthy poor”?

Answer:

The “worthy poor” are those who through misfortune, not through mismanagement or idleness, are wanting for the necessities of life, and who are honestly endeavoring to walk in all the light that is given them.

“The object of the words of our Saviour in Luke 12:33, has not been clearly presented. I saw that the object of selling is not to give to those who are able to labor and support themselves, but to spread the truth. It is a sin to support and indulge in idleness those who are able to labor. Some have been zealous to attend all the meetings, not for the glory of God, but for the “loaves and fishes.” Such would much better have been at home laboring with their hands, “the things that is good,” to supply the wants of their of their families, and to have something to give to sustain the precious cause.”—Early Writings, p. 95.

Inspired instruction to the church (1 Tim. 5:9), counsels that no widow under sixty years of age is to lean on the church for her subsistence.

Altogether, therefore, we see that the worthy poor are those faithful members whom adversity has despoiled of the material things of life. And we need well to remember that this misfortune may befall any of us at anytime, for, as it is written, “time and chance happeneth to them all.” Eccles. 9:11.

“As we have therefore opportunity” says Paul, “let us do good unto

all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Gal. 6:10), to them who hold a Certificate of Fellowship.” Answerer Booklet, Vol. 4, p. 48.

What Is The Second Tithe Used For?

To what purposes is the second tithe put?

Answer:

“To promote the assembling of the people for religious service, as well as to provide for the poor, a second tithe of all the increase was required. Concerning the first tithe, the Lord had declared, ‘I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel.’ But in regard to the second he commanded, ‘Thou shalt eat before the Lord thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the Lord thy God always.’ This tithe, or its equivalent in money, they were for two years to bring to the place where the sanctuary was established. After presenting a thank-offering to God, and a specified portion to the priest, the offerers were to use the remainder for a religious feast, in which the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow should participate. Thus provision was made for the thank-offerings and feasts at the yearly festivals, and the people were drawn to the society of the priests and Levites, that they might receive instruction and encouragement in the service of God.

“Every third year, however, this second tithe was to be used at home, in entertaining the Levite and the

poor, as Moses said, ‘That they may eat within thy gates, and be filled.’ This tithe would provide a fund for the uses of charity and hospitality.

“And further provision was made for the poor. There is nothing, after their recognition of the claims of God, that more distinguishes the laws given by Moses than the liberal, tender, and hospitable spirit enjoined toward the poor. Although God had promised greatly to bless his people, it was not his design that poverty should be wholly unknown among them. He declared that the poor should never cease out of the land. There would ever be those among his people who would call into exercise their sympathy, tenderness, and benevolence. Then, as now, persons were subject to misfortune, sickness, and loss of property; yet so long as they followed the instruction given by God, there were no beggars among them, neither any who suffered for food.

“The law of God gave the poor a right to a certain portion of the produce of the soil. When hungry, a man was at liberty to go to his neighbor’s field or orchard or vineyard, and eat of the grain or fruit to satisfy his hunger. It was in accordance with this permission that the disciples of Jesus plucked and ate of the standing grain as they passed through a field upon the Sabbath day.

“All the gleanings of harvest-field, orchard, and vineyard, belonged to the poor. ‘When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field,’ said Moses, ‘and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it...When thou beatest thine olive-tree, thou shalt not go over the boughs again.... When thou gatherest the grapes of thy vineyard, thou shalt not glean it afterward. It shall

be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow. And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bond-man in the land of Egypt.’

“Every seventh year, special provision was made for the poor. The sabbatical year, as it was called, began at the end of the harvest. At the seed-time, which followed the ingathering, the people were not to sow; they should not dress the vineyard in the spring; and they must expect neither harvest nor vintage. Of that which the land produced spontaneously, they might eat while fresh, but they were not to lay up any portion of it in their store-houses. The yield of this year was to be free for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and even for the creatures of the field.

“But if the land ordinarily produced only enough to supply the wants of the people, how were they to subsist during the year when no crops were gathered?—For this the promise of God made ample provision. ‘I will command my blessing upon you in the sixth year,’ he said, ‘and it shall bring forth fruit for three years. And ye shall sow the eighth year, and eat yet of old fruit until the ninth year; until her fruits come in ye shall eat of the old store.’”—Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 530, 531.

So the second tithe, while on a more voluntary basis than the first, is just as important, and is actually a divinely ordained, long-range contribution to one’s own welfare. At present it constitutes our general offerings. Formerly it was used to forward our Academy work and to pay some of its back debts. But now, as the Association grows and expands, the use of the second tithe is likewise widening.

In the first place, it now takes care of that part of the Educational work for which the first tithe cannot legitimately be used. And in the second place, it takes care of the needs of the worthy poor. In short, it is actually the original and only true mutual insurance policy, and should be carried by all Davidians who are eligibly holding the Certificate of Fellowship.

So while it is imperative that all Present-truth believers avail themselves to this Certificate of Fellowship, it is even more urgent that all such should be first and second tithe payers, because if a Certificate of Fellowship is extended to those who could be but are not such tithe payers, they would become not only a demoralizing influence among believers but also deadly parasites in their midst. For this obvious reason the Association is therefore obliged to grant the Certificate of Fellowship only to full-fledged believers and cheerful doers of the Word. (In cases where it is impossible to pay a full second tithe, then, of course, a part is acceptable.)

The Denomination’s neglect to care for its members, a dereliction for which it is under heavy condemnation, should be a stern lesson to all of us, that we as reformers and message-bearers dare not fail. Privileged to build the old wastes, to raise up the former desolations, and to repair the waste cities the desolations of many generations (Isa. 61:4), we must if necessary tax every nerve and stretch every muscle in order to comply with the Lord’s wishes. And more so in this respect because it is for the material as well as the spiritual benefit of each one of us. It is a fool-proof economic plan—part of the balanced program given by

God to Moses on Mt. Sinai, and long neglected and obscured. As such, it is one of the “divine institutions” (Prophets and Kings, p. 678) that must be restored “before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.”

Let us therefore honestly and intelligently ask ourselves the questions: If we fall on the world’s charity organizations or on the world’s insurance companies, then how can we Davidians be the pillars of the church and thus of the world? And has the Lord appointed the church or the world to care for His peculiar people? If we, as saviours, cannot take care of the needs of those who are in the world, then the least we can do is to take care of our own.

“There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet but it tenneth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.” Prov. 11:24, 25.

“The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.” Prov. 20:4.

“And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: and all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God. Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Blessed shall

be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

“The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and He shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto Himself, as He hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in His ways.

“And all the people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of thee. And the Lord shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the Lord sware unto the fathers to give thee. The Lord shall open unto thee His good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

“And the Lord shall make thee the head, and the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them.” Deut. 28:1-13.—Answerer 4, pp.

59-66.

To Tithe Or Not To Tithe?

My husband is not a believer and would not approve of my paying first and second tithe on all the money I handle. What am I to do?

Answer:

“Though the Lord has commanded man to tithe all his increase, He does not hold a believer accountable for tithing the income of an unbelieving companion who is opposed to tithing.

He has endowed every man with the inalienable right of religious liberty, and no man may justly take it from another man. And doubly inviolate is it in the family. Neither husband nor wife should interfere with the other’s exercise of religious choice.

The wife who faithfully keeps house for her husband and faithfully cares for the family, is not doing so as a menial or a slave: she is a partner a “helpmeet” in the home. And therefore by all moral rights, the husband’s earnings are half hers. Both are accordingly under highest moral obligation to honor each other’s right in the matter of tithing. So if the husband chooses not to tithe his half of the family income, the wife has no right to interfere.”

Answerer Book, Vol. 5, p. 85

Is Small Income Tithe Exempt?

As my income is very small, am I not exempt from paying tithe?

Answer:

“God designed the plan of systematic benevolence so as to make it as equitable to the poor as to the rich, no more a tax on the mite than on the million. And we know of no Scriptural authority for exempting from tithe any income, however small. All, poor as well as rich, are given the privilege of returning to the Lord His own. Many with a “mite” income are paying both first and second tithe, and in return are receiving a rich bestowal of blessing.

Thus reason forces the conclusion that if one is not obliged to receive charity help in addition to his income (whatever its source) to cover his living expenses, then for him not to pay tithe is to cheat Himself of the abundant blessing which attends a faithful regard for the royal privilege of being one of God’s stewards.” Answerer Booklet vol. 5, pp. 84-87

“The tithe is the Lord’s, and those who meddle with it will be punished with the loss of their heavenly treasure, unless they repent. Let the work no longer be hedged up because the tithe has been diverted into various channels other than the one to which the Lord has said it should go. Provision is to be made for these other lines of work. They are to be sustained, but not from the tithe. God has not changed.” Gospel Workers, p. 227.

“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.” 1 Cor. 4:2. □

Taken from: 4Ans. 41-44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 59-60; 5Ans. 85.

Had I continued in the Laodicean course in which the Rod found me, could I be saved and ready to meet the Lord at His coming?

The Message Is Clear

March 8, 2017 to March 15, 2017, a group of seven members from the Mountain Dale Headquarters visited the Bashan headquarters in Exeter, Missouri, for continued discussions on several doctrinal beliefs held by each Association. The aim in view was to see if we could find agreement in establishing a working relationship between the two Associations.

Bashan believes:

- That V.T. Houteff was the last prophet and that his message, “The Shepherd’s Rod message,” was the very last message from God to His people before the “great and dreadful day of the Lord.”
- They believe there is not to be any additional new truth until the Kingdom.
- That the Rod should be taught exactly the way the prophet understood and taught it.
- That we should not add anything to the Rod, nor should we subtract anything from the Rod.
- That we should teach the message word for word—exactly the way the inspired writings read to avoid inserting teachings that are not in the message.
- That real unity is only possible on the basis of completely seeing eye-to-eye. And that it is not possible for us to come together as a result of human negotiations or skillful diplomacy.
- That only the Holy Spirit can draw us into the unity of the truth. And He cannot fail to ac-

complish this if and when both sides honestly, sincerely, and open-mindedly follow the leadings of the Holy Spirit.

- That once this happens, the work will be able to advance much more rapidly, as many on the sidelines decide to take a position themselves in the front ranks of the battle.
- That God has used Mountain Dale in the past and that He will continue to use Mountain Dale in the future, if faithful.
- That God has used Bashan in the past, and they also believe that He will use Bashan in the future, if faithful.

We at Mt. Carmel Center, Mountain Dale subscribe to the above; however, there are several areas that we do not currently agree with, and they are as follows:

- Bashan believes that the “Living Spirit of Prophecy” is a living prophet. **Mountain Dale disagrees** because 1TG12:17; 2TG45:8:2; 2TG34:20.6; 6Tr9:2 show us that it is the inspired **interpretation of the scriptures** that constitute the “Living Spirit of Prophecy.”
- Bashan believes that “Carmel” is a physical location in Waco, Texas, and existed from 1935-1959. Subsequently, after the death of the prophet, “Carmel” withered in Waco, Texas between the years 1955 – 1959. **Mountain Dale disagrees.** 1SR:243.2 shows us that 1) “Carmel” is a spiritual pasture. Furthermore 2) we (DSDAs) receive or

have the command to give out the book (feed), which contains the spiritual food (the Rod) and this began in earnest in 1930. Thus 3) we come to comprehend that “Carmel” is a spiritual pasture which existed in 1930 and “Carmel” withers at the end of probationary time. (See: 1SC14:6.)

- Bashan believes that they must have a president to administrate, lead the association, and that the president is not necessarily a prophet and can act as chairman of the board. Mountain Dale disagrees because the Leviticus of DSDA shows that the criteria for a President is a prophet and can be appointed only by God Himself. We see that the prohibition in the By-laws on page 9 is in harmony with the Constitution found in page 6 (See: the Constitution, Art. 4, Sec 1(b) **and** the By-laws, Art. 1, Sec. 1(c).)
- Bashan believes that to “Bind up the Testimony” means physically to compile statements from the Rod on any given subject into one “bound” booklet and as an example of this binding work they pointed us to the compilation work of Sis. White books by the White Estate. **Mountain**

Dale disagrees and believes as indicated in 2TG41:21 and 1SR:29.1 that this “Binding” has been the work of the third angel since 1845. Therefore to “Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples” means to exalt and continue to sustain the Sabbath truth contained in the 10 commandments and to confirm the gift of “the Spirit of Prophecy” among Christ’s disciples.

- Bashan believes that the “Leah-Rachael” typology is an application only. They believe it applies to Bashan and the other “Associations.” **Mountain Dale disagrees** and believes that the prophet in 1SR:61.4-62.1 applied the typology to the SDA Denomination, other Protestants and the world both religious and irreligious. We must not add to what the prophet has clearly stated

While we at Mount Carmel Center remain optimistic for unity, we cannot at this time unify while the foregoing differences still exist. It is our hope, however, that we can have further discussions with the aim of uniting on the platform of truth. □

Brethren from both Mount Carmel Center and Bashan



Field Report

We are not all asked to serve as Elisha served, nor are we all bidden to sell everything we have; but God asks us to give his service the first place in our lives, to allow no day to pass without doing something to advance his work in the earth. He does not expect from all the same kind of service. One may be called to ministry in a foreign land; another may be asked to give of his means for the support of the gospel work. God accepts the offering of each. It is the consecration of the life and all its' interests, that is necessary. Those who make this consecration will hear and obey the call or Heaven." CC 222.

We want to update you on the progress of the message as we endeavor to plead with mother. Summarizing the activities of some pushing the work in different parts of the vineyard, we can see, in a small way how many are receiving this sealing message.

To begin with, we are seeing new fields of interest opening up in the Congo, French Guiana, Ireland, and parts of Kenya. For the first two quarters of 2017, there have been more than 300 Bible studies given. And that's just from reports from The US, Uganda, and Kenya. Some of the workers are using Face book, What's App, and Skype to share the Rod with interested parties. New believers are being added while many more are studying with eager interest to know the truth.

French Guiana

A few months ago, Bro. Stanford made a trip to French Guiana with the intention to visit Brazil also. But at the disposition of providence all the six weeks had to be spent in French Guiana with the Brazilian trip postponed for next year.

The work done in French Guiana with Gods' help was really a blessing. During the six-week series of prophetic lectures, many of our Laodicean brethren attended. Numbers sometimes reaching about thirty persons and overflowing the small room. Of course all types came as the word went out of the American who was present-

ing prophecies in French: the curious, the reverent, the spiritually thirsty, the critics and of course, the spies. All came and were blessed.

Praise the Lord indeed! The Rod Present Truth can bless and stand up to any group of theologians anywhere in the world and remain as solid as a rock, for it stands upon the Rock eternal. Does it not?

About halfway during the course of the meetings there was a massive country-wide strike against France. They claimed that France was an oppressive and repressive government. The strike blocked the mail roads and affected even and lasted for several weeks, definitely affected the meetings. Even air traffic was blocked but in the providence of Jehovah we carried on our lectures daily even when only a third of regulars could attend.

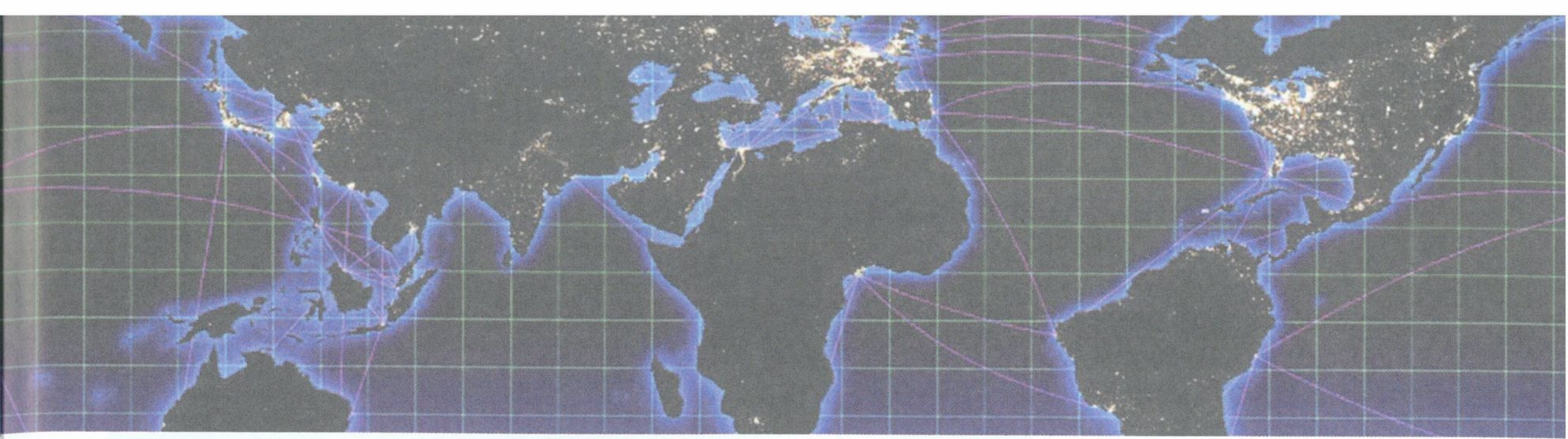
In fact the Lord had to open a special way for Bro. Stanford to leave the country as the plane could not arrive due to the national strike. He traveled from French Guiana to Suriname by land and boat and from there flew to our group in Trinidad, and finally to New York.

Thank God there is now a group of more than a dozen persons there rejoicing in Present Truth. God be praised! It was certainly worth it all. Is it not true that one blood-bought soul is so infinitely precious that the Redeemer would have died for that soul anyway? Indeed praise God that the work is extending in different countries and parts of the vineyard even in different languages.

Philippines DLI

About the same time Bro. Ricardo and Sis. Judith Rollan traveled to the Philippines to conduct a DLI Bible worker training class and visit some of the groups that were buffeted by the enemy. The class was held at Santa Maria, Trento, Agusan del Sur last April 2017.

Most of the DLI students have already undergone a prophetic seminar before coming to attend DLI. All came two weeks earlier before the official start of the training to help prepare the venue and to work for the



improvement of the center here in the Philippines. So we took the plow first before taking the books, so to speak.

As our much awaited teachers arrived, Bro. Ricardo and Sis. Judith Rollan, we thank God for His guidance and protection to our beloved teachers who arrived safe and sound. We then started the class even though they were still adjusting to the weather and climate.

Most of us students thought that this is just a piece of pie for we have known the message. But our expectations slowly wane as we realized that to study prophecy in depth is a task between life and death and its more than a College level class. We have to be up early and stay a bit late at night just to be able to do what was required of us at DLI. We have to memorized Gems, not to mention the poem: Davidian Indeed!, read the references and give a presentation which before giving you have to practice before delivering it to the class. Each of us diligently studied the lessons and lectures we had everyday. Everyone was striving and doing their best to learn how to better deliver the message. Despite the difficulties we've experienced in the training, we were able to continue learning along the way. Praise God! We hope and pray that we will be able to use what we have learned about how to share the message effectively to our dear brethren in church.

We also have some good times for we attended not just one but two Wedding Ceremonies conducted by Bro. Ric Rollan, HQ minister, alongside with our minister here in the Philippines Bro. Cris Agapay.

We visited brethren who have strange doctrines, in Bayugan, Agusan del Sur, Cagayan de Oro City and also in Sipalay, Negros Occidental, not to argue with them but to reason out and harmonized passages that seemed contradicting and also show to them that we love them and hope they will be back with us again.

The climax of this trip is when an invitation was received to go visit and clear up some issues with some brethren in yonder place. The trip was then scheduled,

unbeknown to the brethren, the President of the Philippines issued Martial Law in the land of Mindanao especially to the place where they are going. The trip that would only be for 3 hours became a whole day trip. It was a bit scary but all of us just trusts the Lord since we are doing and going for His work. There were a lot of checkpoints and military along the way but praise God all went well and the brethren were safe and were able to meet with the brethren on that side and have studies to encourage and inspire and came back to Mountaindale, our Association, of course to the Lord. Praise God! It was such a blessed trip especially when the Lord's name is glorified through and through.

From the lenses of the Philippines: Grateful for the DLI conducted. Grateful for the support HQ has to the Philippine Division, Grateful for the privilege of sharing the message to the brethren, Grateful for each one presence, Grateful Oh, Lord for thy Loving mercies and protection. Praises be unto God! Your Name is worthy to be Praise, All the time!

Ireland

Lastly, in May, Bro. Glenroy Matthews visited Ireland. The brethren in Zimbabwe passed a contact to him requesting that he go study with someone there who had received one bible study. A visit was planned.

In Ireland Bro. Mathews shared Present Truth with not only bro. Oasis but with four other brethren from other African countries who are also interested in the message. The brethren there are really eager to learn and made themselves available daily for bible studies.

Bro. Matthews continues to work with the brethren there to firmly establish them on the platform of Present Truth. Let us keep them in our prayers. We can now say that there are believers in Ireland! Praise God!

"The harvest truly is plenteous", says the great Redeemer, "but the laborers are few". □

Mt. Carmel's Agriculture department is in full swing this year and we are happy to tell you that in a few months (and with God's rich blessings), we are expecting a bountiful harvest both in Mt. Carmel's Orchard/Vineyard and garden.

Praise the Lord, yes praise the most high indeed, for Inspiration says:

"Agriculture should be the A, B, and C's of the education given in our schools." ED, p.

Though we had a great fire about two years ago, along with a hot and withering drought, we thank God that more than 60 percent of our orchard trees survived and are really doing fine. We never cease to give thanks for Bro. Edgar Lugo who got God's orchard started with a most generous donation of fruit trees a few years ago.

May God continue to bless him. Now, with Bro. George Isaac as the director, and Bro. E. Stanford, and Sis. Desiree Roberts as very active Board members, Mt. Carmel's orchard and garden are really showing what the great Lord can do with a large plot of land and even in a temperate climate.



More specifically, the trees that are growing in God's orchard here include peach trees, plum trees, cherries, apples, nectarines, nut trees, mulberry trees and many grape vines. And can we forget our blueberries? By no means! Oh hallelujah! Say it loud beloved brethren. Hallelujah, praise the Lord!

And now, you may have a hard time believing it, but it is true, just two of our peach trees have between them more than a thousand developing peaches. Some most likely will fall off, but yes, if we talk about fruitful-trees, they fully quality. Would it not be nice and pleas-

The Joy *of* Gardening



Note: The pictures in order of appearance.:

- 1) Bro. George pruning.
- 2) Plum tree.
- 3) Cabbage from green house.

ing to the Lord if we as Present Truth believers could be fruitful like these trees in the Master's spiritual vineyard? Certainly heaven would be pleased!

And what about the greenhouse? Oh yes, its vegetables and greens are flourishing. The greenhouse is presently supplying our DLI students and Carmel residents with fresh, natural and 100 percent organic produce. Also we are prepared and preparing in this respect for the youth camp members and staff next month. In these days when so much deception and fake are found in the stores and markets; when you can hardly trust what they call organic fruits and vegetables, it is wonderfully reassuring to know that God's people can avoid or minimize the overwhelming quantity of chemically-poisoned, pesticide-laden, and GMO contaminated produce saturating the markets of today and thus undermining the health of millions of people especially in "civilized", "developed" countries. Indeed, [he Satan], the thief cometh not but to steal, and to kill and to destroy" (John 10:10)...but God wants for his people, nothing but

abundant blessings and health and eternal life.

As we are still in the Spring, and most of the trees in our orchard have young and tender fruits, we will be happy to update you and send you pictures later in the summer when the fruits are developed and maturing. Until then please let us keep God's HQ in your daily prayers and to reiterate, please especially strive that we too as trees in the Lord's vineyard may be exceedingly productive and avoid the withering curse pronounced by the master against the unfruitful tree.

"Cut it down, why cumbereth it the ground." In positive contrast as we conclude:

How beautiful the words of the psalmist describing the righteous: "...and he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of waters that bringeth forth his fruit in his season, his leaf also shall not wither and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper..." Ps. 1: 3.

Let us by God's grace be numbered among these righteous trees under the sunshine of God's blessings. □



Your health today is as good as you purpose it to be by the way you lived yesterday; and your health tomorrow will be as good as you purpose it to be by the way you live today.

It was such a joy to see Mt. Carmel Holistic Center beaming with activities last year. The Health Center is opened year round. Please note services are by appointments only. Come and avail yourselves of the following services:

- Health Consultation
- Health Coaching
- Health Classes
- Healthy Cooking
- Vision (Eye) Check-Up
- Fresh Juicing
- Ear Candling
- Pain management
- Steam Bath with Essential Oils
- Essentials Oils
- Raindrop Technique
- Therapeutic Massage
- Chair Massage
- Foot Spa Massage
- Foot Reflexology
- Scalp massage
- Infant Massage with Specific Essential Oils & uses
- Blood Pressure Check
- Weight check

Announcements

Obituary of Delphina Seraphin

Delphina Seraphin was born in Anse La Rye, St. Lucia, West Indies on December 24, 1956, to the proud parents of Emmanuel and Ann Marie Stanislaus. She was the third of six children.

She married her childhood sweetheart at an early age and was the mother of two daughters, Myra and Mathurine, and one step-daughter, Cyrilla. She instilled strong Christian values in her children and labored tirelessly to ensure that her family was taken care of.

Her life's work was dedicated to the up-building of "Present Truth" and she worked vigorously and vigilantly to help the advancement of the work at Mt. Carmel Center, Mountain Dale, New York. She will be warmly remembered for her fidelity and dedication to her religious beliefs.

When we reflect on Delphina's life, we think of tough love. She was perceived as being very direct, and not afraid to tell the truth as she saw it. She was blessed with the gift of discernment, not only in the life of her children but also the life of her friends. Three words that



described her character at best were loving, determined and respectful.

Delphina is survived by her husband, Joseph ("JJ"), her two daughters, a stepdaughter, three grandchildren, Mya, Yoshua, and Yasmina, two step grand children, twenty five nieces and nephews, two sisters, three brothers and a host of other relatives.

Session 2018

Session for 2018 will commence on Friday July 28th and end on Sabbath, August 12th .

Overseas Delegates:

Please inform Headquarters who the delegates from each location will be so that the necessary invitation letters, etc. can be taken care of early.

Accommodations:

Remember, accommodations will be provided for card holders primarily. All other attendees will be determined by availability. However, every effort will be made to accommodate everyone.

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The Shepherd's Rod Android App

You can find it in the PlayStore using the following search phrases:

- VTH Writings
- Mt. Carmel Center, NY

