

# The Symbolic Code

MT. CARMEL CENTER  
Mountaindale, N.Y.



**AWAKE! AWAKE!... ARISE  
O ZION!**

Isa 52:1,2

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**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.  
*Revelation 22:21.***

# CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

## The Deadly Peril of Formalism

Interwoven all through the instruction given by the Spirit of Prophecy regarding the great importance of receiving, experiencing, and proclaiming the gracious truth of **righteousness by faith**, we find impressive warnings concerning the great peril of formalism.

Righteousness by faith is not formalism. The two are direct opposites. Righteousness by faith is an experience, a reality. It involves a complete transformation of the life. He who has entered into his new life has experienced deep contrition, and has made sincere, heartfelt confession and repudiation of sin. With his divine Lord, he has come to love righteousness and hate iniquity. And being justified—accounted righteous by faith—he has peace with God. He is a new creature; old things have passed away, all things have become new.

Formalism is vastly different. It is of the head, and deals with externals. It stops with the theory of religion. It goes no deeper than the form and the pretense. Hence it is like salt without savor. It is a joyless, loveless religion, for it does not bring peace, assurance, and victory. Formalism springs from and thrives in the natural heart, where it has its root.

It is one of those subtle, all-pervading evils which the Redeemer came to uproot and eliminate from the human heart.

Formalism has always been a real peril to the church.... The warnings the Spirit of Prophecy deal with this peril in its many phases, as the following extracts clearly indicate.

## Formalism in Preaching

"Scores of men have preached the word when they themselves had not faith in it, and did not obey its teachings. They were unconverted, unsanctified, unholy. But if they would stand the test, piety must be brought into the life. What we want is inspiration from the cross of Calvary. Then God will open eyes to see that we are not to expect to do any work for the Master successfully, unless we connect with Christ. If we are indeed laborers together with God, we shall not have a *dead, scientific religion*, but our hearts will be infused with a living power, even the Spirit of Jesus."

—*Review and Herald*, Jan. 31, 1893.

"Many present the doctrines and theories of our faith; but their presentation is as salt without savor; for the Holy Spirit is not working through their faithless ministry. They have not

opened the heart to receive the grace of Christ; they know not the operation of the Spirit; they are as meal without leaven; for there is no working principle in all their labor, and they fail to win souls to Christ. *They do not appropriate the righteousness of Christ; it is a robe unworn by them, a fullness unknown, a fountain untouched.*" —*Review and Herald*, Nov. 29, 1892..

"Ministers are wanted who feel the necessity of being laborers together with God, who will go forth to bring the people up in spiritual knowledge to the full measure of Christ. Ministers are wanted who will educate themselves by solemn, reverential communion with God in the closet, so that they shall be men of power in prayer. Piety is degenerating into a dead form, and it is necessary to strengthen the things that remain that are ready to die." —*Review and Herald*, May 24, 1892.

"A man may preach pleasing, entertaining sermons, yet be far from Christ as regards religious experience. He may be exalted to the pinnacle of human greatness, yet never have experienced the inward work of grace that transforms the character. Such a one is deceived by his connection and familiarity with the sacred truths of the gospel, which have *reached the intellect*, but have *not been brought into the inner sanctuary of the soul*. We must have more than an intellectual belief in the truth." —*Review and Herald*, February 14, 1899.

"Could we now leave the cold, traditional sentiments which hinder our advancement, we would view the work of saving souls in an altogether different light." —*Review and Herald*, May 6, 1890.

### **Theory of Truth Is Not Sufficient**

"Our doctrines may be correct; we may hate false doctrine, and may not receive those who are not true to principle; we may labor with untiring energy; but even this is not sufficient....A belief in the theory of the truth is not enough. *To present this theory to unbelievers does not constitute you a witness for Christ.*" —*Review and Herald*, Feb. 3, 1891.

"The trouble with our work has been that we have been content to present a cold theory of the truth." —*Review and Herald*, May 28, 1889.

"How much more power would attend the preaching of the word today, if men dwelt less upon the theories and arguments of men, and far more upon the lessons of Christ, and upon practical godliness." —*Review and Herald*, Jan. 7, 1890.

### **The Only Way Truth Becomes of Value to the Soul**

"The truth is of no value to any soul unless it is *brought into the inner sanctuary, and sanctifies the soul*. Piety will degenerate, and religion become a shallow sentimentalism, unless the plowshare of truth is made to go deep

into the fallow ground of the heart.”  
—*Review and Herald*, May 24, 1892.

“A theoretical knowledge of the truth is essential. But the knowledge of the greatest truth will not save us; our knowledge must be practical....The *truth must be brought into their hearts*, sanctifying and cleansing them from all earthliness and sensuality in the most private life. The soul temple must be cleansed.” —*Review and Herald*, May 24, 1887.

“The greatest deception of the human mind in Christ’s day was, that a mere assent to the truth constitutes righteousness. In all human experience a theoretical knowledge of the truth has been proved to be insufficient for the saving of the soul. It does not bring forth the fruits of righteousness. A jealous regard for what is termed theological truth, often accompanies a hatred of genuine truth as made manifest in life. The darkest chapters of history are burdened with the record of crimes committed by bigoted religionists. The Pharisees claimed to be children of Abraham, and boasted of their possession of the oracles of God; yet these advantages did not preserve them from selfishness, malignity, greed for gain, and the basest hypocrisy. They thought themselves the greatest religionists of the world, but their so-called orthodoxy led them to crucify the Lord of glory.

“The same danger still exists. Many take it for granted that they are Christians,

simply because they subscribe to certain theological tenets. But they have not brought the truth into practical life. They have not believed and loved it, therefore they have not received the power and grace that come through sanctification of the truth. Men may profess faith in the truth; but if it does not make them sincere, kind, patient, forbearing, heavenly minded, it is a curse to its possessors, and through their influence it is a curse to the world.” —*The Desire of Ages*, 309, 310.

“The tremendous issues of eternity demand of us something besides an imaginary religion,—a religion of words and forms, where the truth is kept in the outer court, to be admired as we admire a beautiful flower; they demand something more than a religion of feeling, which distrusts God when trials and difficulties come. Holiness does not consist in profession, but in *lifting the cross, doing the will of God.*” *Review and Herald*, May 21, 1908.

“In the lives of many of those whose names are on the church books there has been no genuine change. The truth has been kept in the outer court. There has been no genuine conversion, no positive work of grace done in the heart. Their desire to do God’s will is based upon their own inclination, not upon the deep conviction of the Holy Spirit. Their conduct is not brought into harmony with the law of God. They profess to accept Christ as their Saviour, but they do not believe that He will give them power to overcome their

sins. They have not a personal acquaintance with the living Saviour, and their characters reveal many blemishes." *Review and Herald, July 7, 1904.*

"Our hope is to be constantly strengthened by the knowledge that Christ is our righteousness...The meager views which so many have had of the exalted character and office of Christ have narrowed their religious experience, and have greatly hindered their progress in the divine life. Personal religion among us as a people is at a low ebb. There is much form, much machinery, much tongue religion; but something deeper and more solid must be brought into our religious experience....What we need is to know God and the power of His love, as revealed in Christ, by an *experimental knowledge*....*Through the merits of Christ, through His righteousness, which by faith is imputed unto us, we are to attain to the perfection of Christian character.*" *Testimonies, Vol. 5, pp. 742-744* (written in 1890).

### **Cold, Legal Religion—A Christless Religion**

"A cold, legal religion can never lead souls to Christ; for it is a loveless, Christless religion." *-Review and Herald, March 20, 1894.*

"The saving salt is the pure first love, the love of Jesus, the gold tried in the fire. When this is left out of the religious experience, Jesus is not there.

What, then, is the religion worth? Just as much as the salt that has lost its savor. It is a *loveless religion*. Then there is an effort to supply the lack by busy activity, *a zeal that is Christless.*" *-Review and Herald, Feb. 9, 1892.*

### **Formal Religion Devoid of Saving Faith**

High pretensions, forms, and ceremonies, however imposing, do not make the heart good and the character pure. True love for God is an active principle, a purifying agency...The Jewish nation had occupied the highest position; they had built walls great and high to inclose themselves from association with the heathen world; they had represented themselves as the special, loyal people who were favored of God. But Christ presented their religion as devoid of saving faith." *-Review and Herald, April 30, 1895.*

"It is possible to be a formal, partial believer, and yet be found wanting, and lose eternal life. It is possible to practise some of the Bible injunctions, and be regarded as a Christian, and yet perish because you are lacking in essential qualifications that constitute Christian character." *-Review and Herald, Jan. 11, 1887.*

"To subscribe the name to a church creed is not of the least value to any one if the heart is not truly changed....Men may be church members, and may apparently work earnestly, performing duties from year to year,

and yet be unconverted." -*Review and Herald, Feb. 14, 1899.*

"There is a form of religion which is nothing more than selfishness. It takes pleasure in worldly enjoyment. It is satisfied with contemplating the religion of Christ, and knows nothing of its saving power. Those who possess this religion regard sin lightly because they do not know Jesus. While in this condition they estimate duty very lightly." -*Review and Herald, May 21, 1908.*

"It is painful to see the unbelief that exists in the hearts of many of God's professed followers. We have the most precious truths ever committed to mortals, and the faith of those who have received these truths should correspond to their greatness and value." *Review and Herald, Mar. 5, 1889.*

"There are many who do not feel averse to suffering, but they do not exercise simple, living faith. They say they do not know what it means to take God at His word. They have a religion of outward forms and observances." -*Review and Herald, Mar. 5, 1889.*

"All who assume the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will appear in the shame of their own nakedness." -*Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 81.*

"The five foolish virgins had lamps (this means a knowledge of scripture truth), but they had not the grace of Christ.

Day by day they went through a round of ceremonies and external duties, but their service was lifeless, devoid of the righteousness of Christ. The Sun of Righteousness did not shine in their hearts and minds, and they had not the love of the truth which conforms to the life and character, the image and superscription, of Christ. The oil of grace was not mingled with their endeavors. Their religion was a dry husk without the true kernel. They held fast to forms of doctrines, but they were deceived in their Christian life, full of self-righteousness, and failing to learn lessons in the school of Christ, which, if practised, would have made them wise unto salvation." -*Review and Herald, March 27, 1894.*

### **Danger in Depending Upon Human Plans and Methods**

"While we are incased in self-righteousness, and trust in ceremonies, and depend on rigid rules, *we cannot do the work for this time*" -*Review and Herald, May 6, 1890.*

"The observance of external forms will never meet the great want of the human soul. A mere profession of Christ is not enough to prepare one to stand the test of the judgment." -*Review and Herald, Jan. 25, 1887.*

"Let us no forget that as activity increases, and we become successful in doing the work that must be accomplished, there is danger of our trusting in human plans and methods.

There will be a tendency to pray less and to have less faith." -*Review and Herald, July 4, 1893.*

"Spiritual things have not been discerned. Appearance and machinery have been exalted as of power, while the virtues of true goodness, noble piety, and heart-holiness, have been made a secondary consideration. This which should have been made first has been made last and of least importance." -*Review and Herald, Feb. 27, 1894.*

"When fastings and prayers are practised in a self-justifying spirit, they are abominable to God. The solemn assembly for worship, the round of religious ceremonies, the external humiliation, the imposed sacrifice,—all proclaim to the world the testimony that the doer of these things considers himself righteous. These things call attention to the observer of rigorous duties, saying, This man is entitled to heaven. But it is all a deception. Works will not buy for us an entrance into heaven....Faith in Christ will be the means whereby the right spirit and motive will actuate the believer, and all goodness and heavenly mindedness will proceed from him who looks unto Jesus, the author and finisher of his faith." -*Review and Herald, Mar. 20, 1894.*

"There are many who seem to imagine that outside observances are sufficient for salvation; but formalism, rigorous attendance on religious exercises, will fail to bring the peace of God which passeth understanding. It is Jesus alone

who can give us peace." -*Review and Herald, Nov. 18, 1890.*

"Those who have not a daily experience in the things of God will not move wisely. They may have a legal religion, a form of godliness, there may be an appearance of light in the church; all the machinery—much of it human invention—may appear to be working well, and yet the church may be as destitute of the grace of God as were the hills of Gilboa of dew and rain." -*Review and Herald, Jan. 31, 1893.*

(Note: This is a continuation of a chapter by chapter study of the book, *Christ Our Righteousness*,—outlining the principles of Righteousness by Faith as set forth in the Word of God and the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy. This is chapter 8, pp. 95-105. To be continued).

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"...When Satan tells you that you are a sinner, and cannot hope to receive blessing from God, tell him that Christ came into the world to save sinners. We have nothing to recommend us to God; but the plea that we may urge now and ever is our utterly helpless condition that makes His redeeming power a necessity. Renouncing all self-dependence, we may look to the cross of Calvary and say,—

'In my hand no price I bring:  
Simply to Thy cross I cling.' "  
-*Desire of Ages, 317*

# *FIVE MEN SLAY AFTER ONE SETS A MARK*

Victor T. Houteff

The subject of our study this afternoon is found in the ninth chapter of Ezekiel. We shall begin with --

Ezekiel 9:1-6--"He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand. And behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar. And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon He was, to the threshold of the house. And He called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side; 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. 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."

Note that at the command of the Lord, the angels in charge are to slay the sinners in

Jerusalem (in the church), not in the world. Only the abomination-hating ones, those who receive the mark for sighing and crying against the wrongs are to be left.

The day Ezekiel had this vision in Babylon, Jerusalem had already been in captivity and emptied of its people for years. See Ezekiel 1:1; 8:7. No such a purification or cleansing as here described ever took place in Ezekiel's day or in the annals of the church since his day. It is, therefore, certain that the prophecy is yet to be fulfilled.

Inspiration in our day, moreover, puts this foreseen cleansing still in the future and makes this explanation:

"The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God. The Lord commissions his messengers, the men with slaughtering weapons in their hands: '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.

"Here we see that the church--the Lord's sanctuary--was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God. The ancient men, those to whom God had given great light, and who

had stood as guardians of the spiritual interests of the people," says the Spirit of God, "had betrayed their trust." -*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, 211.

The enemies of God, you note, have taken possession of the churches, but soon the tables will be turned, and the servants of the Devil will be no more; they will fall and not be found.

The people, you note, are deceived by the ancient men who have betrayed their trust. You well know that the prophets, the apostles, Jesus Christ, and the reformers, were all in their times railed against and taunted as "Offshoots," but we thank God that the "offshoots" and the Truth, not the dead tops, triumphed.

"...They [the ancient man] had taken the position that we need not look for miracles and the marked manifestation of God's power as in former days." -*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 211.

Is not this now the position of the ancient men? Are they not now crying peace and safety? Are they not now preaching that Ezekiel nine is not now to take place in the church, that this message is a false alarm? What does it take to awaken a dreaming sleeper? They are dreaming that--

"...Times have changed. These words strengthen their unbelief, and they say, The Lord will not do good, neither will he do evil." "God will not slay His people, " "The church is His most precious object on earth," they say.

Of course the church is His most precious object on earth, and that is just exactly why He is to cleanse it, that is why He is to slay

the wicked in the midst of her and seal (preserve) the penitent so that He may have a church clean, "without spot, wrinkle, or any such thing." Eph. 5:27.

"...Thus peace and safety is the cry from men who will never again lift up their voice like a trumpet to show God's people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins. These dumb dogs, that would not bark, are the ones who feel the just vengeance of an offended God. Men, maidens, and little children, all perish together." -*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 211. Continuing further, the Spirit of God asks:

"Who are standing in the counsel of God at this time? Is it those who virtually excuse wrongs among the professed people of God, and who murmur in their hearts, if not openly, against those who would reprove sin? Is it those who take their stand against them, and sympathize with those who commit wrong? No, indeed! Unless they repent, and leave the work of Satan in oppressing those who have the burden of the work, and in holding up the hands of sinners in Zion, they will never receive the mark of God's sealing approval. They will fall in the general destruction of the wicked, represented by the work of the five men bearing slaughter weapons. Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those 'that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done' in the church. Their love for purity and the honor and glory of God is such, and they have so clear a view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin that they are represented as being in agony, even sighing and crying. Read the ninth chapter of Ezekiel." Then says the Spirit:

"But the general slaughter of all who do not thus see the wide contrast between sin and righteousness, and do not feel as those do who stand in the counsel of God and receive the mark, is described in the order to the five men with slaughter weapons: '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.' " *Testimonies, Vol. 3, p. 267.*

Here are shown two classes in the church--the faithful and the unfaithful--those who view sin as sin and those who view it as fun. Also it is seen that the church has a closing work, a work that must be done especially for her, not for the world. In addition, it reveals that the closing work for the church is the sealing of the 144,000, that they, therefore, are the ones who will feel most deeply the wrongs among God's professed people.

Verses 7-11-- "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. And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord God! wilt Thou destroy all the residue of Israel in Thy pouring out of Thy fury upon Jerusalem? Then said He unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The Lord hath forsaken the earth, and the Lord seeth not. And as for Me also, Mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head. And, behold, the man

clothed with linen, which had the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou has commanded me."

When is this separation of the wicked from among the righteous to take place? Jesus places it in the end of the world. Says He:

"Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into My barn. Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away." *Matt. 13:30, 47, 48.*

As tares they are burned; as bad fish, they are cast out. This is the way in which the Kingdom comes, says the Lord. And what is the harvest if not the Judgment for the Living?--the work which separates the one from the other.

"The true people of God," says Inspiration, "who have the spirit of the work of the Lord, and the salvation of souls at heart, will ever view sin in its real, sinful character. They will always be on the side of faithful and plain dealing with sins which easily beset the people of God. Especially in the closing work for the church, in the sealing time of the one hundred and forty-four thousand who are to stand without fault before the throne of God, will they feel most deeply the wrongs of God's professed people. This is forcibly set forth by the prophet's illustration of the last work under the figure of the men each having a slaughter weapon in his hand." *Testimonies, vol. 3, 266.*

Now the subject of the 144,000 stands out brighter than ever before. Now you can clearly see that those who escape the slaughter foreseen in Ezekiel nine, are the 144,000, the future servants of God, the firstfruits of the harvest, resulting from the cleansing of the sanctuary (church), the work of the investigative judgment of the living. This work and this Truth, therefore, are the most important for the day, and should whole-heartedly be heeded if one expects to receive the mark and the seal and escape the slaughter, survive the great and dreadful day of the Lord. Our neglect to sigh and cry for the abominations in the church would mean our eternal loss. We dare not allow anything to divert our attention from this great and glorious work for the saints, and most dreadful and inglorious for the sinners. This work must "engross the whole mind, the whole attention," --*Early Writings, p. 118*. Nothing should be allowed to interfere with your eternal welfare. No, not for a moment, for the day is far spent! What?--friends, relatives, husbands, wives, you are to lose them with yourself if this Truth fails to convince you and them? But the promise to the faithful is: "For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them." Isa. 61:7.

Do you, Brother, Sister, actually comprehend, actually realize, the crisis as outlined here? Do you see the prediction that the sealing message is to be resisted by those who foster the abomination? Are you with them? I hope not. Is there then any question that if the brethren are left ignorant of this cleansing work that God is about to do among His people, I say, if they be left ignorant of it, will they not fall in the

general destruction of the wicked, represented by the work of the five men bearing slaughter weapons?

Obviously all the sinners in the church will perish in this slaughter of the wicked, be they men, women, or children. Parents who continue to serve the Devil will have their little ones with them in hell; and parents who break away from abominations will have their little ones with them in the Kingdom. Where do you stand? Are you with those who have the burden of this work, or are you against them? This you see is the decisive hour for you, for me.

"...Mark this point with care," counsels the Spirit of God. "Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those 'that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done' in the church. Their love for purity and the honor and glory of God is such, and they have so clear a view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, that they are represented as being in agony, even sighing and crying. Read the ninth chapter of Ezekiel." --*Testimonies, Vol. 3, p. 267*.

Who are true Seventh-day Adventists at this crucial moment?-- Those who resist the closing work for the church? or those who put their heart and soul into it? Let us face the situation honestly and sincerely. Let us anoint our eyes with this Heavenly eyesalve that we might see and know what Truth is. Only those who repent and promote the message of the hour rather than fight against it will stand with the Lamb on Mount Zion. Let me read again:

"In the time when his wrath shall go forth in judgments, these humble, devoted

followers of Christ will be distinguished from the rest of the world by their soul-anguish, which is expressed in lamentation and weeping, reproofs and warnings. While others try to throw a cloak over the existing evil, and excuse the great wickedness everywhere prevalent, those who have a zeal for God's honor and a love for souls, will not hold their peace to obtain favor of any. Their righteous souls are vexed day by day with the unholy works and conversation of the unrighteous. They are powerless to stop the rushing torrent of iniquity, and hence they are filled with grief and alarm. They mourn before God to see religion despised in the very homes of those who have had great light. They lament and afflict their souls because pride, avarice, selfishness, and deception of almost every kind are in the church. The Spirit of God, which prompts to reproof, is trampled under foot, while the servants of Satan triumph...." *-Testimonies, vol. 5, pp. 210, 211.*

No longer serve Satan. No longer fight God's Truth against your own interests. The Spirit of Prophecy in these lines has made it as plain as it can be made, that when the sealing message is brought to the attention of the people, the servants of the Devil will temporarily triumph, while God's servants and His Truth for a time will be trampled under foot by those who control the churches. This evil work, you are all well aware, is already in progress: The ministering brethren are already fighting the message instead of teaching it. The pulpits are occupied by men who Sabbath after Sabbath stage tirade after tirade against this Truth, the Truth of the Judgment for the Living.

As the gospel prophet in chapter sixty-six was also given light on this subject, we shall turn to it.

Isaiah 66:15-17, 19--"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 [in places of worship] behind one tree [following a leader] in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the Lord.... And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard My fame, neither have seen My glory; and they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles."

Verse 20--"And they [the escaped ones, says the scripture] shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the Lord out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to My holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the Lord, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the Lord."

Since the 144,000 are the first fruits, and also the servants of God, and are of both the antitypical house of Judah and of Israel, they must be the escaped and sent ones. Those whom they bring to the house of the Lord out of all nations (Rev. 7:9) must, therefore, be the second fruits. The former are the fruits from the church, and the latter are the fruits from the Gentiles (See Rev. 7:2-9).

In order to hush the truth, the ancients in their wickedness and ignorance now teach the laity that the subject of the 144,000 is a

moot question rather than revealed Truth! The Devil would have it thus so that the people might fall under the slaughter weapons of the angels. What folly! And, what a hold the Devil has on the men that control the churches! Are they not deceiving the very elect, the 144,000? This is truly the time for you to "come to the help of the Lord against the mighty," if you are to receive God's mark of approval, and if you are to escape the slaughter weapons of the angels--if you are to be "left," if you are to be of the remnant.

There has never been made so great an effort to awaken any people in any age, as the effort of today. Hundreds and thousands, yes, millions, of booklets have been scattered through the Denomination. These have been going now for over a decade. Truly it can even now be said of the church:

"Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the Day of Judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained unto this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the Day of Judgment, than for thee." *Matt. 11-21-24.*

The Devil today, you see, has the people deeper in the pit than he had them in the days of Christ or in the days of Luther. The Lord's victory, though, and the victory of those who escape from the pit, shall be just that much more glorious. "And they shall

call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the Lord: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken." *Isaiah 62:12.*

"Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off." *Nahum 1:15.*

The wicked in the church, you note, have finally come to their end. With which company do you stand? With those who close their eyes to this Truth? or with those who endeavor to bring It to the front. You judge your own case. *1 Timely Greetings No. 52.*

Brethren, here are two statements from the pen of Ellen White which present a clearer picture of the prophecy of Ezekiel nine:

"Study the 9th chapter of Ezekiel. These words will be literally fulfilled; yet the time is passing, and the people are asleep. They refuse to humble their souls and to be converted. Not a great while longer will the Lord bear with the people who have such great and important truths revealed to them, but who refuse to bring these truths into their individual experience. The time is short. God is calling; will you hear? Will you receive His message? Will you be converted before it is too late? Soon, very soon, every case will be decided for eternity." *-Letter 106, 1909. (Manuscript Releases, Vol. 1:260).*

"The time will soon come when the prophecy of Ezekiel 9 will be fulfilled; the prophecy should be carefully studied for it will be fulfilled to the very letter." *-Letter 31A, 1894.*

# THE GOSPEL OF HEALTH

## STRESS!

The American Medical Association reports that nearly 80 percent of the diseases and health problems we have are either stress related or stress antagonized. These include headaches, colds, ulcers, rashes, backaches, allergies, asthma, arthritis, colitis, high blood pressure, digestive complaints, and even heart disease and cancer.

Medical scientists now know that severe, continuous and prolonged stress suppresses and exhausts the disease fighting immune system, leaving the body vulnerable to attack by degenerative diseases, various and sundry complaints, or whatever "bug" (bacterial or viral diseases) that is going around.

Exactly what is stress? Dr. Hans Selye, the Vienna born endocrinologist, who is considered the world authority on stress, defines it as the nonspecific response of the body to any demand made upon it. This includes the reaction to everyday pressures, responsibilities and deadlines, as well as our response to good or bad news, financial woes, traffic jams, interpersonal relationships and many others. Indeed, four types of stress will be discussed here: Physical, nutritional, chemical and emotional.

### PHYSICAL STRESS

This type of assault on the body includes overworking without getting sufficient periods of rest, relaxation and sleep, staying

up late at night and a general "burning the candle at both ends." lifestyle. The vital forces of the body are thus compromised and are not prepared to resist disease.

### IMPROPER NUTRITION

Arnold Fox, M.D., a California physician who specializes in internal medicine and cardiology with strong interests in stress, anti-aging and nutrition, warns that many of the foods consumed in large amounts by the American public (junk foods) are stressors to the body. These are either directly harmful (a poison) or create additional work for the body. They include caffeine, alcohol, tobacco, excess salt, white sugar and flour, refined foods, excess fats, cholesterol, and excess protein.

Caffeine, as found in coffee, tea, cola, chocolate, cocoa, and many headache, cold and pep pills, triggers the stress response by weakening the heart, nervous system and respiratory tract. This, along with various acids and oils found in coffee and black tea destroys thiamine (vitamin B-1), a nutrient that helps the system cope with stress.

Refined sugar causes a sudden rise in blood sugar levels. This "sugar rush" stimulates the production of surplus insulin and adrenaline, throwing the body into a sates of supercharged agitation, followed by a corresponding "low period."

While a small amount of vegetable oil is necessary to provide the system with Omega-3 and other essential fatty acids, the

consumption of animal fats represents a severe overload on the body's biochemistry. This excess fat intake disrupts the metabolism and acts as a stressor. In addition, excess levels of fats (total lipids, triglycerides and cholesterol) in the bloodstream reduces oxygen availability and are directly implicated in heart disease and cancer risk.

Overeating even of healthful foods, adds extra stress, as well as pounds, emotional problems and fatigue. At the same time, a nutrient poor diet—one overloaded with junk food and very little food value contributes to the ill effects.

### CHEMICAL STRESSORS

The body is the perfect computer that registers accurately everything that is put into it. What happens when it is bombarded with the vast amounts of chemicals, food additives and foreign substances that everyone in the United States ingests each year? Stress—with all of its baleful results.

Artificial coloring agents, flavor enhancers, emulsifiers, chelating agents, stabilizers, antibacterials, moisture-retaining agents, and a host of other chemicals are dumped into and onto our food on a regular basis. In addition, prescription and over-the-counter drugs are a daily fact of life for many. Add to this the pollutants from the air and water and it is not difficult to see that we are nearly drowning in a sea of chemicals.

Chemicals,—all of which stress the eliminative organs of the body: the liver, lungs, kidneys, skin, intestines and lymphatic system. Indeed, many times these organs are overwhelmed, with various

diseases and disorders being the result. Every effort should be made to avoid as much as possible these substances.

### EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL STRESS

This is the type of stress that we ordinarily refer to when we say "stress." That is emotional or mental stress—events such as losing a job, marital difficulties, running late for an important appointment, changes in financial status and many more. These outside demands on both mind and body are perceived as draining, unnatural and exhausting and require a behavioral response rather than a physical one. Indeed, this constant stream of stress makes many feel as if they are a perpetual pressure cooker, ready to explode.

Negative emotions, likewise add their heavy burden of stress to an already overstressed individual. Claude A. Frazier, M.D., an Asheville, North Carolina allergist, writes that "when feelings run strong and are prolonged, our bodies undergo specific alterations." He points out that powerful feelings of fear, anger, guilt, anxiety, depression, grief, resentment, self-pity, hate, unhappiness or loneliness, cause acute physical changes to occur. Changes so drastic that the body expresses these emotions with illnesses such as migraines, back problems, ulcers, heart disease and cancer.

Along the same line, Dr. Arnold Fox informs us that a person's high emotional and volatile state can lead to the breakdown of bodily defenses. Those who are unwilling or unable to forgive others and themselves for real or perceived affronts and have a vindictive and unyielding attitude, carry a heavy burden. Indeed, it has been

said that the heaviest burden one can carry is a grudge.

Stress, then is a multifaceted assault on the body, mind and spirit. It is imperative that we find ways to cope. The following stress fighters have proven to be of specific value in dealing with this most "pressing" problem.

## A HEALTHFUL DIET

Most nutritional scientists agree that a sound and sensible nutritional program is extremely vital in alleviating and preventing the ravages of stress. A good rule of thumb is to stay as close to nature as possible. This, of course, means that the diet should be composed primarily of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts and legumes.

More specifically, certain foods and supplements have proven to be most crucial to stress control. Adelle Davis, writing in *Let's Get Well*, speaks glowingly of the "anti-stress factor" as found in brewer's yeast, wheat germ, soy flour, rice polish, and the pulp of green leafy vegetables. These foods are rich in the B-complex vitamins which are the most important vitamin group in the control of stress. Green vegetables and sprouts are well known energizers and when eaten in ample amounts are guaranteed to lift the spirits.

Large amounts of vitamin C have likewise been shown to protect against every form of stress. Food sources are most fresh fruits and vegetables, especially citrus fruits.

The mineral kingdom offers help too. Calcium, as found in sesame seeds, almonds, green leafy vegetables and supplemental forms, has been shown to be a

natural sedative. Deficiencies can lead to fatigue, nervousness, tension and grouchiness. Magnesium, its companion mineral, is known as the "anti-stress" mineral and "nature's own tranquilizer." Food sources are leafy greens, almonds, legumes, bananas, potatoes, seeds, dates and prunes.

Vitamins A, D, E, potassium, zinc, iron, selenium and chromium have all been listed as aiding the body in its fight against stress. Indeed, the whole spectrum of vitamins and minerals and other nutrients are necessary for total health and should have a prominent place in the diet. Herbs that fight stress include ginseng, valerian, catnip, skullcap, hops and chamomile.

## EXERCISE

Physical activity is a powerful weapon in dealing with this 21st century phenomenon. Herbert A. deVries, Ph.D., former director of the Physiology of Exercise Laboratory at the Andrus Gerontology Center, University of Southern California, in Los Angeles, praises exercise--jogging, walking, swimming, and bicycling--as a means of alleviating stress. And, it does not have to be strenuous, indeed, according to the doctor, 30 minutes of brisk walking each day does the job.

Or if you prefer doing something more useful, many find that useful physical labor in the fresh air and sunshine is just what the doctor ordered in helping to melt tensions, stress and anxieties.

## PET THERAPY

Studies show that animals play a role in lessening human stress and helping people

to cope with physical and mental disorders, according to researchers at the Univ. of Pennsylvania's Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society. Watching a goldfish swim around in the aquarium, petting the dog or cat or taking them for a walk, or just having them around as companions does much to provide relaxation and reduce stress.

## SPIRITUAL HELP

"Amid the perplexities that will press upon the soul, there is only One who can help us out of all our difficulties, and relieve all our disquietude. We are to cast all our care upon Jesus, and bear in mind that He is present, and is directing us to commune with Him."  
*-Sons and Daughters of God, p. 27.*

A definite commitment to our heavenly Father, a meaningful prayer life and a daily time to study the Word, may be the most important things we can do to maintain an even keel in these troublesome times. Additionally reaching out to help someone else can work miracles in helping us eliminate stress and anxiety.

"Casting all your care on Him for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7.

## THE SABBATH

A most meaningful demonstration of God's care and concern is embodied in the Sabbath. Here once every week we are called away from the routine and the hustle and bustle of everyday life and are led to commune with our Maker. Jacob Mermelstein, Ed.D., a New York city clinical psychologist who is also an orthodox rabbi, summed it up succinctly: "The idea of the Sabbath prevents us from

pursuing our day to day chores. It forces us to rest and to undergo a change of attitude, a kind of mental change. There are two kinds of stress, mental and physical, and the Sabbath was meant to combat both."

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28.



## Food For Thought

"God is pleased when we keep our faces turned toward the Sun of Righteousness... When we are in trouble and pressed down with anxieties, the Lord is near, and He bids us cast all our care upon Him, because He cares for us...."

He comes to all His children in their affliction. In time of danger He is their refuge. In sorrow, He offers them joy and consolation. Shall we turn from the Redeemer, the fountain of living water, to hew out for ourselves broken cisterns, which can hold no water? When danger approaches, shall we seek for help from those as weak as ourselves, or shall we flee to Him who is mighty to save? His arms are open wide, and He utters the gracious invitation, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."...

He knows just what we need, just what we can bear, and He will give us grace to endure every trial and test that He bring upon us. My constant prayer is for a greater nearness to God. Every provision has been made to meet the needs of our spiritual and our moral nature...." *-Ellen White, Sons and Daughters of God, p. 19*

# ***THE MAIL BAG***

Dear Sir:

Thank you for promptly responding to my request for cassette tapes: "The 144,000," and "The Great Multitude," as well as the three booklets.

My entire family was spellbound as they sat in rapt attention and listened to the truths unfolding from the cassettes. We have been made aware of what is really at stake for the Seventh-day Adventist church and what role we have to play in the last day events.

I plan to play the cassettes during Vespers for the coming week so that the entire congregation may know truths that have been hidden.

I would be greatly obliged if you could send the remaining cassettes, as they should be helpful in the life of our church members, my students, my family and myself in preparing for the coming of the Lord.

## **BANGALORE, INDIA**

Christian Greetings:

Just writing to let you know how much I appreciate the tapes. So far I've received "The 144,000," "The Church and the Dragon " (Rev. 12), "The Harvest of Matt. 13," and "The Great Paradox of the Ages," (Zech 6)... I would like to receive more of the other tapes, please.

God bless you in your ministry

## **AUSTRALIA**

Dear Friends:

I listened to one of your teaching tapes and it opened my spiritual mind to understand the work of God. Please send me these tapes right away.

1. The Great Image.
2. The Great Multitude.
3. The 144,000.
4. The Harvest.
5. The Great Paradox of the Ages.

Thank you very much

## **ATLANTA , GEORGIA , USA**

Dear Brethren:

Thank you very much for the tapes you sent. Would you please send me a few more of the following:

1. Three days and Three Nights...
2. The Seven Trumpets.
3. Playing the Harlot.

I really appreciate your generous service in sharing these messages.

## **ONTARIO, CANADA**

Brethren:

I have been blessed by the truth on the cassettes you have sent. I am now

listening to "The 144,000 which I see comes in two parts. I'm not sure how many studies you have but there are the one I have: "The Harvest," "The Great Paradox of the Ages," "The Great Multitude of Rev. 7," "The Great Multitude, Part 2," and "The World Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

Please, please, if it is possible, please send me the rest of the studies--the ones that I do not have. I would also like to know more about the "Mark of the Beast," and just more truth on a whole.

Please send more studies so that I may learn and share. Here is the address of a friend that would also be interested in the studies... I pray that God will continue to bless you all and your work. And I thank Him for reaching me and giving me more truth.

**EVANSVILLE, INDIANA, USA**

Dear Brethren:

I was delighted by reading a copy of *The Symbolic Code* loaned me by a friend. I would like to know the truths of the Bible regarding the present world conflicts.

May I request a subscription of the Code and other literature. Also I would like some of your cassette tapes on the 144,000 and other subjects

May the good Lord keep on blessing you for your good and free service.

**MALAWI, CENTRAL AFRICA**

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Greetings in the sweet name of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the grace of our almighty Father be with you as you endeavor to proclaim the last hour message of mercy to the darkened world.

I came across two of your cassettes namely "The Eleventh Hour Call," and "The Woman and the Dragon." Sincerely speaking they have proved a help indescribable in words to me.

I am kindly requesting that you send me other cassettes for study, as well as some reading material, especially Spirit of Prophecy books.

I really want to be a part of the eleventh-hour laborers who are to work with the power and efficiency of the Holy Spirit.

**KENYA, EAST AFRICA**

□

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

"...Some have the gift given them of God to act as organizers. Other fill their place as they work in retirement, feeling themselves little and unknown, with but few to recognize their work, and none to pity their mistakes or praise their victories. But the Lord uses all these elements. No man can fill every place, and God's great work must go forward." --*Ellen White, The Upward Look, p. 273.*

## Questions and Answers Regarding Davidia

**Q.** What Conditions Will prevail in Davidia Just Before the 144,000 Are Delivered?

“...And since the enemy cannot get around the Truth, he does all he can to blacken character and to pick flaws in personalities. The prophet’s message nevertheless cannot be judged by the behaviour of its professors, for even the Apostles misconducted themselves before the ascension of Christ. The multitude, too, that followed Moses was anything but exemplary; in fact in many instances they were disgraceful. And the “holy men of God” who wrote the Scriptures were faulty men. Even Moses himself was not faultless. Regardless, though, he was still Moses, and his was the only message and movement for the day.

“Likewise, irrespective of considerations of personnel faults, frailties, and failings, Elijah’s message and movement will be the only ones to fear, to love, to stand by, to live or to die for. No, there will be no other shield when heaven opens and the storm breaks in all its dread fury upon the world, to unavoidably pour down its lethal lightning from the skies.” -*General Conference Special*, pp. 8, 9.

“In the year 1930, God again spoke to His people, as He spoke to Israel in the days of Joshua, but now, as then, there are among us the 10 spies, the Korahs, Dathans, and Abirams, and the Achans--all such as love to make discouraging reports, who seek position, who covet the Babylonish garment, the silver, and the wedge of gold. And as a result, we also are held back, and will continue to be until the Lord manifests His power and takes from among us the

pretending ones, makes us free from sin and sinners, as in the time of Korah and as in the time of Achan,....2 Answerer p. 55.

“Every wind of doctrine will be blowing, false revivals and reformations will be at their peak. Everything that can be done will be done to distort the Truth and thus distract and dishearten believers and draw their attention to something other than the message of Elijah. *Gen. -Conference Special*, 7.

“Before they are sealed, those who are to be the inhabitants of Zion (the 144,000) think God has forsaken them,...” -*ITG.46:8*.

“Some of us may think we have hardship now, but the fact is that we do not know what hardship is. We cannot now comprehend or even imagine how great the trouble will be. ‘Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.’ The trouble actually is what saves him. Then the time of trouble is coming for the good of the latter-day Jacobites. It is coming to deliver them. Through this most difficult time, it is the man who has the greatest faith in God that will fear the least. The more faith one has then the greater will be his deliverance.

“Jacob should not fear, because he shall be saved out of his trouble. God is going to deliver him by a miracle. If it was not a fearfully troublous time they would not need to be told to fear not nor be dismayed. It is to be a terrible time of trouble just before Jacob is delivered. Certainly, then, the statement that there is a silver lining behind every cloud is true in this case.

“Just before God’s people are delivered they will be painfully aware that there is no

possible way for them to be delivered. But a miracle is to take place. Then all will know that God alone wrought their deliverance." *S.C. Vol. 13, No. 1,2 . pp. 10,12,13.*

"Do you not see that the Esauites are going to be enraged with God's people and give them trouble behind and a bigger trouble ahead? And besides all the trouble Jacob will suffer from Esau, he is also to have Laban running after him! Somebody typified by Laban will pursue antitypical Jacob for trouble.

"It is very apparent, then, that **God's people will have much trouble among themselves**, on the way, and ahead. Trouble is what they face. But God will take care of them today as he did anciently." *S.C. Vol. 12, No. 5, p. 19.*

"Will you realize that as he beguiles the rich with vanities and grinds the poor with cares, he will use every weapon he has to dishearten, discourage, and scatter all who accept the Lord's merciful invitation to His supper?

"Moreover, as sure as the Devil lives, he will employ every possible agency to either add to God's Truth, or to subtract from it, aggravating and disheartening, especially capitalizing on the misfortunes and afflictions of the saints, to thus secure their downfall if possible. Principally will he depend upon two of his most powerful and successful agencies--extremism--one pushing to the right and another to the left: In an effort to scatter as many as possible away from the center-path of light he will endeavor to drive one class into the fires of fanaticism, and to plunge another class into the icy waters of unconcern. To this end he will seek to convince the former class that their afflictions and misfortunes are the

evident results of imperfect obedience to present truth, and will mock the latter class as fanatically strict in their course of faith.

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

"The informed, however, will rejoice rather than be pushed and driven to despair. Nothing, not even the afflictions of Job, will discourage them, for they will be wise and will understand: They will know the truth, and the truth will set them free from Satan's snares.

"They will not be found murmuring, doubting, accusing, or despairing, for whatsoever their lot while inside God's hedge, they will know it is His will for them.

"Miracle-mongers and miracle-hunters, fanatics all, bear in mind, may become dangerously subversive, ready to sabotage everything that is not in accordance with their thinking. Loose and rattling tongues will endeavor to shake the faith of us all. The ones, though, who bear the heaviest burden of feeding the flock with 'meat in due season' will be the Devil's main targets.

"It will be discovered that there will be thousands of voices, some from professed believers, and some from those who fight against the faith of the saints, one voice condemning one thing, and another condemning another thing, and what one condemns, another will approve. But when held close to the light of God's word, all their discordant philosophizing and murmurings, their man-made plans and carnal ideas, will be seen to be but a tumult of envy, jealousy, pride, self-opinionation,

hatred, malice, politics, greed, prejudice, and every other selfishness. These unfortunate, self-sent ones, being yet in spiritual darkness, doubtless imagine themselves to be working for God with zeal and energy. But one day they will horrifyingly discover that they have been working against the Lord, as Saul of Tarsus discovered about himself. May the prayers of the Saints awaken them, and put them working for the Lord, as the prayers of Stephen caused Saul to become the great Apostle Paul for both Jew and Gentile. And may he that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit saith, and hold fast that which he hath lest the enemy deceitfully take it from his grasp." 2 T.G.46:43-46, 48,49.

**Q. Will We See the Work Advancing More Rapidly for Laodicea Than in Times Past?**

"Though the work, moreover, is to have a small, hard, mattock-like beginning, it will gain speed and will emerge from the mattock stage into the ox-plow state--the stage which will see all the believers of Present Truth (except the 'lesser cattle') unitedly go forth to dig or plow other 'hills' until all the thorns and briars shall be uprooted throughout the land, the ground broken up, and the vineyard restored even beyond its original excellency." *Tract 6:40.*

"...These small comprehensive publications, the bright clouds, laden with present Truth, are now being scattered as leaves of autumn throughout Laodicea to every church member, 'to every one grass' in the vineyard of the Lord. The final results? 'More than one thousand,' attests Inspiration, 'will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first conviction to the reading of our publications.' Review and Herald, Nov. 10, 1885." 1 TG.17:5

..."The only revelation pertaining to and coming 'at a year,' and preparing the 4 angels 'for to slay the third part of men' is, says the Lord, 'the year of my redeemed.' Isa. 63:4. And this 'year' at which His people, are redeemed is, of course, the time of the sealing and of the deliverance of the 144,000,--those who are redeemed who escape the slaughter decreed in Ezekiel 9.

"These four messages prepare the four angels 'for to slay the third part of men'--all who fail to receive into their lives the saving truth of the gospel as revealed in the four messages. They are to recapitulate, 1) those who close their ears to the proclamation of the judgment, which is revealed 'at an hour'; 2) those who heed not the solemn warning of the day of God's vengeance, which is revealed 'at a day'; 3) those who receive not the latter rain, which comes 'at a month'; and 4) those who do not join 'His redeemed' (the 144,000), who are sealed 'at a year.' " *Tract 5:88,89.*

The following statement shows that the truth will be trampled under foot temporarily. This would suggest that the Truth will one day soon triumph.

"...When the sealing message is brought to the attention of the people, the servants of the Devil will temporarily triumph, while God's servants and His Truth for a time will be trampled under foot by those who control the churches." 1.TG.52:23.

"Again, at Israel's mighty trumpet blast, after their seventh silent encirclement of the impregnable walls of Jericho, the great iron gate suddenly fell as the walls mysteriously came crashing down, and Israel marched in--triumphant! So shall it be with the massive walls of opposition within

which the Enemy is keeping the Laodiceans in lukewarmness---... Consequently, ere long the tight-closed gates now bolted, barred, and barricaded against Heaven's rescuers with provisions of Truth, meat in due season, for the captive flock will suddenly fall open as the walls come tumbling down Jericho-like at the Recruiter's seventh round and trumpet blast. Then all God's hidden ones shall be 'disclosed to view.' "*The White-House Recruiter*, p. 57.

"Because God's people are mis-ruled, mislead, and abused, and His name blasphemed, He declares that He will not leave them in ignorance: He promises that regardless how hard the carnal rulers of unsifted Zion and Jerusalem try to keep the people in ignorance of this sifting message, He will, in spite of it, cause His people to hear and to know that it is He speaking, not an enemy as they are told." *1.TG.38:26*.

"When the church drifts with the current of the world, away from the Lord, He can no longer bless her, lest He drive her the faster downstream toward destruction. The only way that He can then save her and bring her back to Him, is to withdraw His helping hand from her until she finds herself grounded on a reef of her own folly, with the fierce waves of retribution beating over her sides. Then only will she respond to His voice." *Tract 4:24*. See also *Tract 2:4*.

"Here we are told that the people are to be among the Gentiles, and the land remain desolate until the Spirit be poured upon them from on high. Then will they return." *1 T.G.33:7*.

The following is an experience that happened to the disciples before the first Pentecost.

" 'And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.' The Holy Spirit was not yet fully manifested; for Christ had not yet been glorified. The more abundant impartation of the Spirit did not take place till after Christ's ascension. Not until this was received could the disciples fulfill the commission to preach the gospel to the world. But the Spirit was now given for a special purpose. Before the disciples could fulfill their official duties in connection with the church, Christ breathed His Spirit upon them. He was committing to them a most sacred trust, and He desired to impress them with the fact that without the Holy Spirit this work could not be accomplished." *-Desire of Ages, 805*.



#### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

"We shall see faults and weaknesses in those about us, but God claims every soul as His property—His by creation, and doubly His as purchased by the precious blood of Christ. All were created in His image, and even the most degraded are to be treated with respect and tenderness. God will hold us accountable for even a word spoken in contempt of one soul for whom Christ laid down His life." *Mount of Blessing, 56,57*.

"Satan's Special Temptation-- If men desire to place themselves where they can be used by God, they must not criticize others, to make their defects apparent. This is Satan's special temptation, whereby he strives to hinder the work." *Evangelism, p. 634*.

# DAILY CONSECRATION

Ellen G. White

Consecration is a very simple thing. When brought daily into our individual life in practice, we shall know far more by consecration than by trusting to an experience. Each day, each hour, let the heart go out after God: "Here, Lord, am I, Thy property; take me, use me today. I lay all my plans at Thy feet; I will have no way of my own in the matter. My time is Thine; my whole life is Thine." Let the heart be constantly going forth to God for strength, for grace every moment.

Let not one evil word escape our lips, because our lips, our voice, belong to the Lord, and must be consecrated to the Lord and to His service. These lips must not dishonor Jesus, for they belong to Him. He has bought them and I must speak nothing that will offend Jesus. My ears must be closed to evil. Thus day by day we can consecrate ourselves to God. The ears must not be defiled by listening to any gossip that faultfinding ones would have us hear, for I not only cause them to sin in allowing them to talk of others' faults, but I sin myself in listening to them. I can prevent much evil speaking in thus having ears consecrated to God. I can say before the evil is done, "Let us pray," than ask God to

enlighten both our minds to understand our true relation to one another and our true relation to God.

Let us open our hearts to Jesus with all the simplicity that a child would tell his earthly parents his perplexities and the things that trouble him. Thus we can restrain evil not only in ourselves but in others. Practice consecration to God daily; then there will be no danger in the life of service to God. We want gratitude brought into our life, words, and works.

Every word, every thought of complaining indulged in, is a reflection upon God, a dishonor to His name. We want our hearts attuned to His praise, full of thankfulness, talking of His love, our hearts softened and subdued by the grace of Christ, full of sweetness and peace and fragrance. We shall be patient, kind, tenderhearted, pitiful, courteous, even when dealing with those who are disagreeable. Oh, how many precious blessings we lose because we esteem self altogether too highly and have so little esteem for others....

We must not demerit ourselves and lightly esteem the ability given us of God, neither should we overestimate our own importance and trust to our human ability. --*The Upward Look*, p. 237.

"...Those who believe the truth are to be newly converted every day. Then they will be vessels unto honor." *Ibid.* p. 270.

# *The Kingdom*

-By a 9 year old from Florida

The kingdom is a place with kids playing in the streets and some preaching. We will teach the great multitude what the real message is.

The followers of Satan will try to stop the great multitude, but God will find a way for those people. Satan is actually dumb enough to think that he and his followers can kill the Davidian/good people, but what he doesn't know is nothing can hinder the Lord from saving His people. 1 Samuel 14:6, NIV.

If God knows that a person is too weak, he may allow him to pass away and wake up to eternal life. But as for the the evil, they'll wake up to hell and burn till all is ashes.

We will live 7 years in the kingdom, then fly to heaven and have eternal life as well. Those who go to heaven will not sin because the biggest sinner of all—Satan—will be gone. We will have true peace. And the animals will not harm one hair upon our heads.

Why on earth would anyone want to do wrong if they know they'll lose the Kingdom and heaven? There is one explanation for that—Satan.

We will swim under water while breathing and fly with birds.

Soon the true message of the Lord will be revealed and his glory will come to this earth and those who don't accept it will make a bad choice!

□

## **ADDENDUM**

It has come to our attention that there may be need of clarification in regard to the relationship between systematic tithing and applying for and/or holding a fellowship card.

Therefore, the following is an attempt to make the matter clearer for those who may still have questions about the subject.

All applicants or current fellowship cardholders are to return first and second tithes (4 Answerer, 63) on a consistent or systematic basis. (See 2000 Session Code, p. 39, Article 5-A). First tithes would be ten percent of your "increase" or net income (4 Answerer, 47, 48). Second tithes is defined as ten percent of the remainder after the first has been deducted (4 Answerer, 52).

When is "impossible to pay a full second tithe, of course, a part is acceptable" (4 Answerer, 63); but the 2000 Session—as noted from the minutes, requests that "an explanation" be given as to why a full second tithe cannot be paid.

Thank-you and God bless you.

The Executive Council

# UPDATE

## A NEW PRINTING PRESS

By now you are probably aware that the Association is in the process of acquiring money to purchase a Heidelberg Printmaster 46, two-color press. This means that we are in the midst of a drive to acquire \$64,000 (including delivery and installment) for this needed item. The primary purpose of this communication is to bring you up-to-date on this very important goal. We are presently entering our sixth month of the drive and through the generous sacrificial giving of several members, to date we have collected just over \$10,500—about 17 percent of the total goal. We praise God for this, and thank all who have thus far contributed.

For those who did not receive our first communication, or may need a refresher, allow us to briefly re-explain this important item.

The reason for the new press is that there is a great demand for literature and it increases monthly. Secondly, we are behind on stocking the shelves. Furthermore, we now print not only English, but Spanish.

The present printing press is old and has had the staff at times struggling

to keep it going. In fact, the quality of the printing has become so poor, that it had to be partially overhauled to keep it going. Even so we do not know how long it will last, or how long until it needs more work; which means more time, energy and money.

Well, after a thorough investigation, it was decided that a new press would be, in the long run, more cost effective than to keep nurturing the old. Furthermore, we understand that our present brand and model are outmoded, not particularly reliable, and parts may be difficult to get in the near future. In addition, we have located other presses that are more reliable, versatile, durable and easier to operate and able to meet our demanding program.

*Why not buy a new version of the one we have already?* The answer? Well, a new one would cost \$10,000 to \$13,000 less than a better quality press. So, for a moderate increase, we can acquire a new, far superior machine.

After much prayer and research, we have concluded that a new two color Heidelberg Printmaster 46 is the machine we want. Heidelberg's are

unquestionably the top of the line among printing presses. To own one is the dream of many print shops, but financially out of reach. But, praise God, Heidelberg recently started producing a press that is within our reach. It has the same quality standard, efficiency and automation of larger more expensive presses, but sized for us and at a lower cost.

So, dear friends and brethren, as not to miss this opportunity, we suggested that 200 persons giving \$300.00 US dollars would yield \$60,000, nearly the entire cost. We had hoped to have reached our goal by Spring. As you see, we did not achieve this. We realize, of course, that many are struggling just to make ends meet from month to month—so naturally, whatever you can give in faith is appreciated. If you cannot give any at all, we most certainly would value your prayers, and most of all, God will bless you.

Again, we thank everyone who has already contributed and for your earnest consideration. Let us all cling to Jesus, His love, and His never failing word.

"Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus

Christ in sincerity. Amen." Ephesians 6:23, 24.

Your Fellow stewards,

The Executive Council

□

### **Food For Thought**

"Even the enmity of the wicked will prove a blessing, by disciplining you for heaven." *My Life Today*, 5.

"The surrender of all our powers to God greatly simplifies the problem of life." *Ibid.* 6.

"If we commit the keeping of our souls to God in the exercise of living faith, His promises will not fail us; for they have no limit but our faith." *Ibid.* 14.

"It is part of God's plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask. *Ibid.* 15.

"Ask God to do for you those things that you cannot do for yourselves...If you will find voice and time to pray, God will find time and voice to answer." *Ibid.* 16.

"Temporary failure should make us lean more heavily on Christ." *Ibid.* 19.

# THE STORY OF REDEMPTION

Ellen G. White

## THE SIN OF MOSES

Again the congregation of Israel was brought into the wilderness, to the very place where God proved them soon after leaving Egypt. The Lord brought them water out of the rock, which had continued to flow until just before they came again to the rock, when the Lord caused that living stream to cease, to prove His people again, to see if they would endure the trial of their faith or would again murmur against Him.

When the Hebrews were thirsty and could find no water, they became impatient and did not remember the power of God which had, nearly forty years before, brought them water out of the rock. Instead of trusting God, they complained of Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the Lord!" That is, they wished that they had been of that number who had been destroyed by the plague in the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Aabiram.

They angrily inquired, "Why have ye brought up the congregation of the Lord into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there? And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or

of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.

"And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the Lord appeared unto them. And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts to drink. And Moses took the rod from before the Lord, as He commanded him.

**Moses Yields to Impatience--** "And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock; and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed Me not, to sanctify Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them."

Here Moses sinned. He became wearied with the continual murmurings of the people against him, and at the commandment of the Lord, took the rod, and instead of speaking to the rock, as God commanded him, he smote it with the rod twice, after saying, "Must we fetch you water out of this rock?" He here spoke unadvisedly with his lips. He did not say, God will now show you another evidence of His power and bring you water out of this rock. He did not ascribe the power and glory to God for causing water to again flow from the flinty rock, and therefore did not magnify Him before the people. For this failure on the part of Moses, God would not permit him to lead the people to the Promised Land.

This necessity for the manifestation of God's power made the occasion one of great solemnity, and Moses and Aaron should have improved it to make a favorable impression upon the people. But Moses was stirred, and in impatience and anger with the people, because of their murmurings, he said, "Hear now, ye rebels, must we fetch you water out of this rock?" In thus speaking he virtually admitted to murmuring Israel that they were correct in charging him with leading them from Egypt. God had forgiven the people greater transgressions than this error on the part of Moses, but He could not regard a sin in a leader of His people as in those who were led. He could not excuse the sin of Moses and permit him to enter the Promised Land.

The Lord here gave His people unmistakable proof that He who had wrought such a wonderful deliverance for them in bringing them from Egyptian bondage, was the mighty Angel, and not Moses, who was going before them in all their travels, and of whom He had said, "Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of Him, and obey His voice, provoke Him not; for He will not pardon your transgressions: for My name is in Him." Ex. 23:20, 21.

Moses took glory to himself which belonged to God, and made it necessary for God to do that in his case which should forever satisfy rebellious Israel that it was not Moses who had led them from Egypt, but God Himself. The Lord had committed to Moses the burden of leading His people, while the mighty Angel went before them in all their journeyings and directed all their travels. Because they were so ready to forget that God was leading them by His Angel, and to ascribe to man that which God's power alone could perform, He had proved them and tested them, to see whether they would obey Him. At every trial they failed. Instead of believing in, and acknowledging, God, who had strewed their path with evidences of His power and signal tokens of His care and love, they distrusted Him and ascribed their leaving Egypt to Moses, charging him as the cause of all their disasters. Moses had borne with their stubbornness with

remarkable forbearance. At one time they threatened to stone him.

**The Heavy Penalty--** The Lord would remove this impression forever from their minds, by forbidding Moses to enter the Promised Land. The Lord had highly exalted Moses. He revealed to him His great glory. He had taken him into a sacred nearness with Himself upon the mount, and had condescended to talk with him as a man speaketh with a friend. He had communicated to Moses, and through him to the people, His will, His statutes, and His laws. His being thus exalted and honored of God made his error of greater magnitude. Moses repented of his sin and humbled himself greatly before God. He related to all Israel his sorrow for his sin. The result of his sin he did not conceal, but told them that for thus failing to ascribe glory to God, he could not lead them to the Promised Land. He then asked them, if this error upon his part was so great as to be thus corrected of God, how God would regard their repeated murmurings in charging Him (Moses) with the uncommon visitations of God because of their sins.

For this single instance, Moses had allowed the impression to be entertained that he had brought them water out of the rock, when he should have magnified the name of the Lord among His people. The Lord would now settle the matter with His people, that Moses was merely a man, following the guidance and direction of a mightier than he, even the Son of God. In this He would leave them without doubt.

Where much is given, much is required. Moses had been highly favored with special views of God's majesty. The light and glory of God had been imparted to him in rich abundance. His face had reflected upon the people the glory that the Lord had let shine upon him. All will be judged according to the privileges they have had, and the light and benefits bestowed.

The sins of good men, whose general deportment has been worthy of imitation, are peculiarly offensive to God. They cause Satan to triumph, and to taunt the angels of God with the failings of God's chosen instruments, and give the unrighteous occasion to lift themselves up against God. The Lord had Himself led Moses in a special manner, and had revealed to him His glory, as to no other upon the earth. He was naturally impatient, but had taken hold firmly of the grace of God and so humbly implored wisdom from heaven that he was strengthened from God and had overcome his impatience so that he was called of God the meekest man upon the face of the whole earth.

Aaron died at Mt. Hor, for the Lord had said that he should not enter the Promised Land, because with Moses, he had sinned at the time of bringing water from the rock at Meribah. Moses and the sons of Aaron buried him in the mount, that the people might not be tempted to make too great ceremony over his body, and be guilty of the sin of idolatry. (*The Story or Redemption, chapter 21, pp. 164-169*). To be continued.



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