Am I a Legalist?

See page 8
Editorial

THE Bible says, “Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7. God promises to reveal the prophetic picture so the message of warning can go forth before the event takes place. God “will do nothing” that will affect His church and the enemy of God’s church without ample notification.

Let us consider several examples concerning the life and mission of our Saviour, in each case noting the prediction and its fulfillment: Before Jesus was born, the Bible predicted that His mother would be a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22-23), that He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), that other children would be slain as the enemy sought to destroy the Christ child (Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16-18), that His earthly parents would take Him to Egypt and then return (Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:13-15), that He would grow up in Nazareth (Matthew 2:23), and that His ministry would be preceded by a forerunner (Isaiah 40:3; Matthew 3:1-3).

Before Jesus was crucified for our sins, the Bible foretold His triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Zechariah 9:9; Luke 19:38-40; Matthew 21:1-9), that He would be betrayed by one of His disciples (Psalm 41:9; John 13:18-26), that He would be betrayed for a certain price (Zechariah 11:12-13; Matthew 26:14-16), that His disciples would forsake Him (Zechariah 13:7; Matthew 26:36, 31), that false witnesses would testify against Him (Psalm 35:11; Matthew 26:59-60), that He would be smitten (Micah 5:1; Matthew 26:67), that He would be scourged and spat upon (Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 27:30), that He would not retaliate, but keep silent before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-14), that His hands and feet would be pierced (Psalm 22:16), and that He would die with the wicked and be buried with the rich (Isaiah 53:9, 12; Mark 15:27-28).

Before Jesus comes the second time, the Bible has warned us of the signs and times of His coming. We were told that the Papacy would arise again to political power. See Revelation 13:3. Is it happening? Yes. We were told that Protestants would reach across the gulf to clasp hands with the Roman power. See Revelation 13:11-12. Is it happening? Yes.

Ralph Reed said, “The future of American politics lies in the growing strength of Evangelicals and their Roman Catholic allies. If these two core constituencies—Evangelicals comprising the swing vote in the South, Catholics holding sway in the North—can cooperate on issues and support like-minded candidates, they can determine the outcome of almost any election in the nation.” Ralph Reed, Politically Incorrect, page 16.

An agreement was signed on March 30, 1994, between Evangelicals and Roman Catholics, whereby, they promised to stop proselytizing one another’s members. “This is the wave of the future,” commented Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition. Reed described the new unity expressed in the agreement as evidence of a potential political coalition that will significantly influence American politics in the years to come. Hope Liberty News, volume no. 8, June 1994.

We were warned that the church-state wall would be destroyed and that worship would be legislated. See Revelation 13:3-4, 12-15. Is it coming? Yes.

Keith Fournier, a Catholic, is the executive director of the American Center for Law and Justice, which is the “religious liberty” arm of the Christian Coalition. He said, “The wall of separa-

tion between church and state that was erected by secular humanists and other enemies of religious freedom has to come down. That wall is more of a threat to society than the Berlin Wall ever was.”

While the pope continues to push for Sunday laws in Europe, and the Christian Coalition presses for moral legislation in the United States, the United Nations is also speaking about Sunday laws. The following article was quoted in Newsweek magazine in the November/December issue, pages 4-5, after they quoted Revelation 13:16-18. “The French magazine, Foy et Rai, reported from the United Nations organization in Geneva, Switzerland, that plans are worked out to dissolve the UNO to make way for a World Tribunal. . . . This project and this plan provides for a total unification of church and state, and also provides for a single form of worship. The appointed day for all people will be Sunday. The number received by the people will promise the right to buy or sell.”

While we cannot independently verify this statement through other sources, we can see that we are not the only people who are suggesting that the privilege to buy and sell will be based on Sunday worship.

“Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret.” Assuredly, as God “will do nothing” until He has fully notified His people before hand, just so, God will permit these things to take place after we have been fully warned. And, as surely as Protestants are reaching across the gulf, we should expect Sunday laws to be just around the corner.

We will soon see the last verses of prophecy fulfilled. We will be the last of the faithful to proclaim them. Indeed, we are a privileged people with a message for the whole world. □

Jeff Wehr, Associate Editor
It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of Our Firm Foundation to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days that yet remain of this world are few, and what we do we must do quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world... Editors

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Invitation to Writers

We are accepting article-length (1500–4000 words) manuscripts for possible publication in Our Firm Foundation. We cannot give consideration to longer submissions. Whenever possible, we ask that manuscripts be submitted either on 3½- or 5½-inch floppy disk in IBM format or neatly typed and double-spaced. Address all correspondence to Editors, Our Firm Foundation, P.O. Box 940, Eatonville, WA 98328.

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The editors send forth this article with the desire that it will serve to bring out the Berean response of searching the Scriptures daily with all readiness of mind to prove whether these things are so. See Acts 17:11. With our readers, we also look forward to even clearer understanding of Bible prophecy as the scroll of world events continues to unroll.

—EDITORS

In Daniel chapter two, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had a dream. In that dream he saw a great image. The image had a head of gold, breast and arms of silver, a belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and feet partly of iron and partly of clay. Adventists have recognized that the gold represented the kingdom of Babylon; the silver represented the kingdom of Medo-Persia; the bronze represented the kingdom of Greece; the iron represented the Roman empire. The feet of iron and clay represented the breakup of the Roman empire into ten smaller kingdoms, and also represented the mingling of churchcraft and statecraft in the form of the Papacy.

"We have come to a time when God’s sacred work is represented by the feet of the image in which the iron was mixed with the miry clay. . . . The mingling of churchcraft and statecraft is represented by the iron and the clay. . . . Men have almost passed the point of God’s forbearance. They have invested their strength in politics, and have united with the Papacy.” The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 4, 1168-1169.

This dream was repeated and enlarged upon in the vision found in Daniel chapter seven. Daniel saw a lion, a bear, a leopard, and a ferocious fourth beast with ten horns. Then there arose another little horn. These are the same exact powers found in Daniel chapter two—Babylon (lion), Medo-Persia (bear), Greece (leopard), Rome (fourth beast), the ten divisions of Rome, and the Papacy (little horn).

Daniel chapter eleven will now repeat and enlarge upon the visions found in chapters two and seven. Daniel eleven begins with the Medo-Persian empire. Verses 1-2. Then Greece takes over the reins of the old world. Verses 3-15. The major portion of this description of Greece concerns the interaction between the “king of the south” and the “king of the north.” After the death of Alexander the Great, his empire was divided among his four generals, namely, Ptolemy in Egypt, Seleucus in Syria, Lysimachus in Asia Minor, and Cassander in Macedonia. Two of these four divisions, Egypt in the south and Syria in the north are addressed in verses 5-15.

Then comes the mighty power of the Roman empire. Verses 16-30. Here we find the rule of Caesar Augustus, the raider of taxes. Verse 20. We find the crucifixion of Jesus, the prince of the covenant. Verse 22. We find Constantine transferring the capital from Rome to Constantinople. Verse 28. Constantine was also described as being against the “holy covenant” of God, which he demonstrated by the legislation of Sunday laws in A.D. 321. (See Hebrews 8:10; 10:16 for a definition of God’s covenant with His people.) But then the empire begins to weaken, and “it shall not be as the former, or as the latter.” Verse 29.

The “ships of Chittim,” the Vandals and other invading armies ransack Rome and weaken the empire in the west. The emperor, now ruling from Constantinople, is “grieved.” Verse 31. The emperor then has “intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant,” namely, the Papacy. Here begins the transition from pagan Rome to papal Rome. The “daily” desolation of pagan Rome against Christians was now replaced by the “abomination that maketh desolate.” Under papal Rome, fierce assaults against God’s true church were carried out. Mil-
lions were persecuted under pagan Rome, but over one hundred million were martyred as a result of papal Rome's intolerance. Verses 31-39 describe the 1260-year rule of papal supremacy.

Daniel 11:40

Verse 40 takes us to the "time of the end" when papal Rome received her deadly wound in A.D. 1798. It is here that we find the "king of the south" pushing at the Papacy, the king of the north. "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him." History tells us that it was the French Revolution which inflicted the Papacy with a deadly wound in A.D. 1798.

Is the atheistic French Revolution accurately symbolized by the term "king of the south" in verse 40? We know that the "king of the south" referred to Egypt at the beginning of the chapter. We also know that it was not literal Egypt that inflicted the deadly wound to the Papacy in 1798. So where do we find the atheistic French Revolution symbolically or spiritually described as Egypt?

"And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves." Revelation 11:7–9.

The two bodies that were dead for three and one-half prophetic days are the Old and New Testaments. See The Great Controversy, 256-266. In Revelation 11:8, the power that persecuted the Word of God and killed it for three and one-half years is spiritually called Egypt. Is Egypt then symbolic of an atheistic power? Yes. This power came out of a bottomless pit, meaning that it had no foundation in the Bible. It is an atheistical power founded on erroneous principles. In Exodus 5:2 "Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go." Did any power in 1798 manifest this spirit? "By the decree of the French Government, declaring that the nation acknowledged no God, the Old and New Testaments were slain throughout the limits of Republican France. . . . On the 1st of November, 1793, Gobet, with the Republican priests of Paris, had thrown off the gown, and abjured Religion. On the 11th, a "Grand Festival," dedicated to 'Reason and Truth,' was celebrated in the Cathedral of Notre Dame, which had been desecrated, and been named 'the Temple of Reason.' " —George Croly, The Apocalypse of St. John, 175–177.

Was the Bible suppressed for three and one-half years in France? "In 1793, the decree passed the French Assembly suppressing the Bible. Just three years after that, a resolution was introduced into the Assembly going to supersede the decree, "Of all the events that have shaken the Soviet bloc in 1989, . . . the czar of world atheism, Mikhail Gorbachev, will visit the Vicar of Christ, Pope John Paul II . . . . The meeting of the two men symbolizes the end of the 20th century's most dramatic spiritual war, a conflict in which the seemingly irresistible force of Communism battered against the immovable object of Christianity." TIME, Dec 4, 1989. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

Verse 40 not only describes the warfare between the Soviet Union and the Papacy, but it even describes how the Vatican would bring an end to Communism in the Soviet Union. The Papacy would topple the Soviet Union by "chariots and horsemen," and "ships." What do "chariots and horsemen," and "ships" represent in Bible prophecy?

Chariots and horsemen represent military strength. "Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him." "And Benaiah the king of the city of the kings of Syria gathered all his host together: and there were thirty and two kings with him, and horses, and chariots: and he went up and besieged Samaria, and warred against it." "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war." (Revel 19:11:1) Ships represent economic power. "Thy ships that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters." "For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off. . . . And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she . . . .

It might be logical to ask, How could the Papacy defeat the Soviets militarily and economically?

In 1981, the Communist bloc got another shock. A new American President, Ronald Reagan, began fulfilling his promise to challenge the Soviets, not to placate them. Over the next few years, he accelerated the military buildup and announced the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), a space-based system for protecting against missile attack. He backed anti-Communist rebels in Nicaragua, Angola, Cambodia, and Afghanistan. And with American troops, he liberated the island of Grenada from Communist thugs.

"Reagan came in with very simple and strongly held views," says Admiral Bobby Inman, former deputy director of the CIA. "It is a valid point of view that he saw the collapse (of Communism) coming and he pushed it hard." During the first half of 1982, a five-part strategy emerged that was aimed at bringing about the collapse of the Soviet economy ....

1. "The U.S. defense buildup, already under way, aimed at making it too costly for the Soviets to compete militarily with the U.S. Reagan’s Strategic Defense Initiative-Star Wars—became a centerpiece of the strategy.

2. "Covert operations aimed at encouraging reform movements in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

3. "Financial aid to Warsaw Pact nations calibrated to their willingness to protect human rights and undertake political and free-market reforms.

4. "Economic isolation of the Soviet Union and the withholding of Western and Japanese technology from Moscow. The Administration focused on denying the U.S.S.R. what it had hoped would be its principal source of hard currency in the 21st century: profits from a transcontinental pipeline to supply natural gas to Western Europe ...


The Papacy was able to topple the Soviet Union through an alliance with the United States. The cover story of TIME magazine on the collapse of the Soviet Union was entitled, HOLY ALLIANCE: How Reagan and the Pope conspired to assist Poland’s Solidarity movement and hasten the demise of Communism. TIME, February 24, 1992.

Verse 41

The next big event on the horizon is the Papacy entering into the “glorious land” of America through the legislation of Sunday laws. “He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.”

The “glorious land” is none other than that land which helped the Vatican topple the Soviet Union. Without an alliance with the United States the Vatican could not even begin to conceive of a New World Order based on Roman Catholic Christianity.

The Hebrew word for “glorious” in this passage is tseb-ee. In Daniel 11:16, tseb-ee is used in reference to ancient Israel. Israel was well situated at the crossroads of the world to be a place where people could come and hear the gospel. Israel was a favored nation that became an asylum for God’s people. The “glorious land” today is the United States. It is the haven that God has provided for the birth and development of His remnant church.

“The Lord has done more for the United States than for any other country upon which the sun shines. Here He provided an asylum for His people, where they could worship Him according to the dictates of conscience. Here Christianity has progressed in its purity. The life-giving doctrine of the one Mediator between God and man has been freely taught. God designed that this country should ever remain free for all people to worship Him in accordance with the dictates of conscience. He designed that its civil institutions, in their expansive productions, should represent the freedom of gospel privileges.” Maranatha, 193.

“The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of Spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power.

Protestants in America are creating an unholy alliance with Rome and spiritualism. This will lead to Sunday laws in America, but not all will support this unholy alliance. Some within the communion of “Edom, Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon” choose to escape—and do escape this corruption.

Could those who escape represent those who come out of Catholicism, apostate Protestantism, and spiritualism, by obedience to God’s Law? The Hebrew word for “chief” in reference to Ammon in Daniel 11:41, is from the same root word as “firstfruits” and “shaking.” When the Papacy enters the “glorious land” of Protestant America with the legislation of Sunday laws, there will be a shaking going on in Edom, Moab, and Ammon. (Catholicism, apostate Protestantism, and spiritualism)

I believe these three ancient enemies of Israel of old symbolize the threefold enemies of God’s church today—namely, spiritualism (the dragon), Catholicism (the beast), and apostate Protestantism (the false prophet). See Revelation 16:13. All the seeds we are planting now prior to the Sunday laws will begin to bear fruit when the Sunday laws are passed. Those that come out of Edom, Moab, and Ammon represent the firstfruits that join the remnant church through obedience to God’s Law. The Bible says, “Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” Revelation 18:4. Unfortunately, not all will come out of Edom, Moab, and Ammon.
Verses 42-43

In verse 42, we begin to see the Vatican influencing the political decision making of the world. "He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape." There is not one country that will escape this New World Order combining Church and State, not even atheistic China. All will pay homage to the Papacy, for "he shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries."

In verse 43, we begin to see the Vatican influencing the economic orders of the day. "But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps." Very suddenly, temporal prosperity will cease to exist. Not only will each country be looking for a national solution, but the world will be looking for a global solution to the economic crisis. Why do I believe it depicts an economic crisis? When did literal Egypt lose all her "precious things" in the Old Testament? God punished Egypt with one plague after another for not letting Israel go. When the tenth plague hit Egypt, the Egyptians became eager for the Hebrews to take their precious things and leave the country. This does not represent the seven last plagues, but the increasing disasters that come upon the earth by air, land, and sea, which will bring the world economies to a crisis. The world will then look to the highly centralized, multinational, and multicultural Vatican to work with the United States and the United Nations to solve these global problems. All countries will be involved and supportive of this New World Order of Church and State. Why do I believe that? The verse says that the Ethiopians and the Libyans will be at his steps. The Ethiopians were the rich neighbors of Egypt, while the Libyans were considered the poor neighbor. The Bible says, "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man may buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Revelation 13:16-17. All nations, whether rich or poor, will be caught up in the mark of the beast, whose number is 666.

Verse 44

The message that inspired Edom, Moab, and Ammon to escape the corruption of the unholy alliance, has now come to its crescendo in verse 44. "Tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many." This represents the loud cry.

"East" and "North" are often associated in Scripture with Christ or with God's throne. "I have raised up one from the north, and he shall come: from the rising of the sun shall he call upon my name: and he shall come upon princes as upon morrow, and as the potter treadeth clay... The first shall say to Zion, Behold, behold them: and I will give to Jerusalem one that bringeth good tidings." Isaiah 41:25, 27.

The "tidings out of the east" refer to the second coming of Christ. "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:27. God's true church will be preaching the soon return of Christ, while the world has already received the false christ. Paul warned us, "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." 2 Corinthians 11:14-15. Satan will come and pretend to be Jesus. Under this grand deception of Satan the world will be deceived into forming an allegiance with Rome.

Jesus warned us, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many... And many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many... Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 23-24.

In Bible prophecy "north" represents judgment. Very often Israel was invaded from the north side. These invasions were divine judgments because of their apostasy. "Then the LORD said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land. . . . And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands." Jeremiah 1:14, 16.

While God's people are declaring that "judgment is come," (Revelation 14:7) the world will have already judged God's people, and penalized them with economic boycotts and a death decree. See Revelation 13:15-17. While God's people are being condemned by an apostate Christianity, they must love their enemies and warn them of the impending judgments of God upon a rebellious world. See Revelation 14:9-11.

Unfortunately, the main body of this apostate Christianity will take that fatal step in "great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many." There will be many martyrs in the end of time. See Maranatha, 199. But always remember, the persecutor is never in the right.

The increasing disasters that come upon the earth . . . will bring the world economies to a crisis. The world will then look to the . . . Vatican to work with the United States and the United Nations to solve these global problems.

Verse 45

Verse 45, brings us to the Battle of Armageddon. "And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him." Here is depicted a great battle, symbolically fought between the seas (the Mediterranean) and the glorious holy mountain (in Jerusalem). What battlefield existed between these two geographical points? The prophetess Deborah was instructed of God to tell Barak to lead ten thousand men to fight the enemy of Israel. They would engaged in battle by the "waters of Megiddo," Judges 5:19. It was here that all the wicked were slain. See Judges 4:6, 16.

Continued on 11
However, I want our readers to know that we are totally committed to a balanced gospel. Justification and sanctification are Siamese twins that cannot be separated. To sever them would be to destroy them both. The same is true of the Law and the gospel, faith and works, the Commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. The servant of the Lord says, “The Commandments of God and the faith of Jesus are both important, immensely important, and must be given with equal force and power.” Selected Messages, book 3, 184.

One of the greatest challenges that Christians have in this day is to keep that perfect balance between forgiveness and victorious Christian living. Both are available only through the perfect merits of Jesus Christ, His death, and High Priestly ministry for us. I believe that there are those who would like us to emphasize the justification principle and de-emphasize the sanctification principle, but we cannot do that because it would be a denial of the Word of God.

Elder Pierson on one occasion told me that he did not preach justification without sanctification, or sanctification without justification. In the more than seventeen years that have transpired since he made that comment, I have endeavored to follow that same principle, for I believe that it is pivoted upon the Word of God. Not only I, but also the editor, the associate editors, and the contributing editors of Our Firm Foundation magazine are immovable upon that principle which combines both the pardon and purification of God’s people in the gospel proclamation.

Pause to reflect on the issue; without forgiveness of sin there can be no restoration of life, for guilt and condemnation would rest upon all of us. But that is not the plight of those who have surrendered their lives to Christ.

I have shown a number of times in this magazine the way in which justification and sanctification are repeatedly united in Scripture. I want to remind our readers of several such texts: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins [justification], and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness [sanctification].” 1 John 1:9. “To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins [justification], and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.” Acts 26:18. “And forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors [justification]. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil [sanctification].” Matthew 6:12-13. “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still [justification]: and he that is holy, let him be holy still [sanctification].” Revelation 22:11.

On a number of occasions in Our Firm Foundation, I have also emphasized that the same faith that justifies also sanctifies. “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1.

Likewise, I have quoted the Word of God to affirm that the same sacrifice that justifies, sanctifies. “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” Romans 5:9. “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” Hebrews 10:10.

On many occasions I have pointed out that justification involves more than just a mental assent; it involves one of the most difficult works for humanity. “God requires the entire surrender of the heart, before justification can take place; and in order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience, through active, living faith that works by love and purifies the soul.” Selected Messages, book 1, 366. That is not a work that we do alone. We do have to make decisions and act upon them for our salvation, but it is God who provides the strength. “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” Philippians 2:12-13.

While knowing the theory of truth, it is always important for us to ponder the love and mercy of God. When we consider the revelations in Romans 5, our contemplation upon what God did for erring, rebellious human beings must bring wonderment to every sincere individual. God demonstrated the selfless love of the universe in providing for the salvation of man. “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. . . . For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.” Romans 5:8, 10.

It is His love and His grace that all may receive. In His most compassionate way the Lord has provided grace for all of us. “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9. The grace of God is unlimited—enough for every human being. “And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.” 1 Timothy 1:14.

In the early years of the Seventh-day Adventist Church there were those who preached the Law and the Sabbath with unchallengeable proofs, but they had for-}

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he same sacrifice that justifies, sanctifies.

“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ.”

That surrender is clearly presented by James: “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7.

On the other hand, the antinomian sees the keeping of God’s Law as of no significance to salvation. Indeed, he normally believes that it is impossible to keep the Law, even though in truth we should do everything we can to reach toward that objective.

2. God’s saints are motivated to keep the Law through the constraining love of Christ. “For the love of Christ con-
magnify the sins of others, yet knowing he himself has much to overcome.

On the other hand, the antinomian, in acts of great “generosity,” claims to love the sinner while condoning the sin. It is not uncommon to see such a one put an arm around someone who needs to earnestly confess and repent of his sin with the assuring words, “Don’t worry about it; God loves you, and He understands.” How dangerous such an approach is! Un-
to Jesus. “I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Verse 25. This leads the legalist into self-condemnation, frustration, despondency, and neuroticism; some have been led to such despair that they have either left the fellowship of Christianity or have committed suicide. The legalist is of all men most miserable.

The experience of the antinomian is similar, yet greatly different. Like the legalist, he does not keep the Law, for he

Surely this is the time to preach Christ our righteousness with such certainty that the legalist and the antinomians will see the failure of their positions and the eternal danger of continuing in such a path.

fortunately, the antinomian is inclined to condone the life of the sinner and to condemn those who are living a life in harmony with God.

4. True Christians, while having day by day victory in the power of Christ, never claim perfection. God said Job was a perfect man: “And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil?” Job 1:8. But Job told of the danger of professing perfection: “If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse. Though I were perfect, yet would I not know my soul: I would despire my life.” Job 9:20–21.

There have been times in the lives of God’s saints when they have taken their eyes off Jesus and have fallen. Then they have gratefully relied upon the promise of 1 John 2:1: “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” The experience of the legalist is recorded in Romans: “For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. . . . For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.” Romans 7:15, 19.

No wonder he cries out, “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” Verse 24. Tragically, he has failed to find the true answer to salvation in the commitment of his life believes that the saints will continue to sin until Jesus comes. He suffers none of the frustrations or neuroticism of the legalist, feeling entirely content in his carnal security, but it is hard to imagine his anguish and consternation on the day of judgment, when at last he realizes that he is a lost man. “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto you, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Matthew 7:20–23.

5. His saints have great peace: “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” Psalms 119:165. On the other hand, the legalist suffers with guilt, frustration, and failure, experiencing repetitive sin and deep condemnation, without the power in Christ which would have assured him of forgiveness and given him the strength to resist evil. This effect is clear from the writings of Solomon: “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” Proverbs 28:13.

Antinomians live in carnal security. You will remember that when the New Theology gained a stranglehold on many members of our church, the use of heavy makeup and jewelry became common, and there was an increase in the drinking of wine and other alcoholic drinks. There was a feeling that the Spirit of Prophecy books were too legalistic, and so they were sold or burned. There was a light regard for the Sabbath, and the feeling by some that itthe paying was a legalistic act. Many moved out of the Seventh-day Adventist Church into the Good News Churches, eventually into the fallen churches of Babylon, and finally out of Christianity altogether. How tragic the result!

6. The saints will inherit eternal life, but it is not because of anything worthy in their lives, for they will be singing, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.” Revelation 5:12. Knowing how unworthy they are, and knowing that Christ alone is worthy, when they receive the crown of life from the Saviour, they will cast it at His feet.

So completely knit with Christ has their life become that they have not realized that their works of love to one another have been the evidence of their true conversion. Thus Jesus says unto them, “Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Matthew 25:40.

These are those that have been truly born again: “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.” 1 Peter 1:22–23.

Sadly though, the antinomians and the legalist who have fought each other bitterly, and have each condemned the positions of the other, eventually find that their fate is the same. Both will fail to obtain eternal life.

Surely this is the time to preach the everlasting gospel. Surely this is the time to preach Christ our righteousness with such certainty that the legalists and the antinomians will see the failure of their positions and the eternal danger of continuing in such a path. May all know the beautiful pathway of Christ which is founded upon a Saviour, Who died for our justification and sanctification, which is founded upon a faith that accepts both the forgiveness of God and the restoring power of Christ.

My appeal to the legalist, frustrated by the failure of the legalistic life, is to resist the temptation to walk across the deceptive bridge that sweeps over the narrow
highway that leads to life eternal, into the camp of antinomianism. Rather, take hold of Jesus every single day, each morning pleading with Him for the power to gain victory over all temptations and deceptions of Satan. I know that in my own experience I have to be very specific, for I know the many areas of weakness that I have. For each day, just for that day, I take hold of Christ, asking for His strength so that when I am tempted I can resist the devil—because I need the infinite Power of Heaven to gain the victory.

For the antinomian I would say not to become so disgusted with the meaningless facade of your life that you go across the highway of righteousness into the legalistic camp, believing that in human strength you can live a perfect life. That is an impossibility. Only the merits of Christ and the power of God are able to forgive and restore. These alone can lead men and women into the kingdom of heaven.

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The Collapse of the Soviet Union and the Rise of the Papacy
Continued from 7

God has drawn our attention to the literal battle that has already been fought by the waters of Megiddo, so that we might better understand the worldwide battle of Armageddon. Armageddon and Megiddo come from the same root word. The Battle of Armageddon is not a literal battle in the Middle East. There is no geographical place called by that name. Armageddon, which means "mountain of slaughter," is worldwide. The outcome will be the same, namely, all the wicked will be slain. When the wicked attempt to wipe out God's people in one decisive blow, they will themselves be totally annihilated as a result of God's intervention. Christ will come, at which time the remnant of the wicked will be slain by the brightness of His coming.

The "glorious holy mountain" also represents Christ who is the "corner stone" of Mount Zion. See Isaiah 28:16. The 144,000 find their refuge in Christ alone. The Papacy is able to enter into the glorious land of America, but she is not able to enter into the "glorious holy mountain." She can enter into the minds of Protestants who are willing to compromise truth for political gain and temporal security, but the Papacy cannot enter into the minds of the faithful followers of Christ who will make up the 144,000.

The 144,000 are sealed with "the seal of the living God." See Revelation 7:2-4. "These are they which were not defiled with women [the apostate churches]; for they are virgins [completely obedient to God]. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God." Revelation 14:4-5.

Time is short, and many Adventists have not had the privilege of receiving a sample copy of Our Firm Foundation. Hope International is presently working on an eighteen-month project to send a minimum of three copies of Our Firm Foundation to some 150,000 previously unreached addresses. The cost of publishing and distributing these additional copies is approximately $10,000.00 monthly. This is an additional $10,000.00 monthly above our normal operating costs. We believe that we must all do our part to help share the saving, historic truths of Adventism with leaders and laity around the world.

Will you help? We urge you to consider making an extra contribution today, marked Our Firm Foundation, to help with this project.
In order to be saved, we must know by experience the meaning of true conversion. It is a fearful mistake for men and women to go on day by day, professing to be Christians, yet having no right to the name. In God’s sight, profession is nothing, position is nothing. He asks, Is the life in harmony with My precepts?

There are many who suppose that they are converted, but who are not able to bear the test of character presented in the Word of God. Sad will it be, in the day when every man is rewarded according to his works, for those who cannot bear this test.

Conversion is a change of heart, a turning from unrighteousness to righteousness. Relying upon the merits of Christ, exercising true faith in Him, the repentant sinner receives pardon for sin. As he ceases to do evil and learns to do well, he grows in grace and in the knowledge of God. He sees that in order to follow Jesus he must separate from the world, and, after counting the cost, he looks upon all as loss if he may but win Christ. He enlists in His army, and bravely and cheerfully engages in the warfare, fighting against natural inclinations and selfish desires, and bringing the will into subjection to the will of Christ. Daily he seeks the Lord for grace, and he is strengthened and helped. Self once reigned in his heart, and worldly pleasure was his delight. Now self is dethroned, and God reigns supreme. His life reveals the fruit of righteousness. The sins he once loved he now hates. Firmly and resolutely he follows in the path of holiness. This is genuine conversion.

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 a living Saviour, and their characters reveal many blemishes.

Many a one who looks at himself in the divine mirror, and is convinced that his life is not what it ought to be, fails to make the needed change. He goes his way and forgets his defects. He may profess to be a follower of Christ, but what does this avail if his character has undergone no change, if the Holy Spirit has not wrought upon his heart? The work done has been superficial. Self is retained in his life. He is not a partaker of the divine nature. He may talk of God and pray to God, but his life reveals that he is working against God.

Let us not forget that in his conversion and sanctification, man must cooperate with God. “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,” the Word declares. “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” Philippians 2:12-13. Man cannot transform himself by the exercise of his will. He possesses no power by which this change may be effected. The renewing energy must come from God. The change can be made only by the Holy Spirit. He who would be saved, high or low, rich or poor, must submit to the working of this power.

As the leaven, when mingled with the meal, works from within outward, so it is by the renewing of the heart that the grace of God works to transform the life. No mere external change is sufficient to bring us into harmony with God. There are many who try to reform by correcting this bad habit or that bad habit, and they hope in this way to become Christians, but they are beginning in the wrong place. Our first work is with the heart.

The great truth of the conversion of the heart by the Holy Spirit is presented in Christ’s words to Nicodemus: “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of
God. . . That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.” John 3:3, 6–8.

The leaven of truth works secretly, silently, steadily, to transform the soul. The natural inclinations are softened and subdued. New thoughts, new feelings, new motives, are implanted. A new standard of character is set up—the life of Christ. The mind is changed; the faculties are aroused to action in new lines. Man is not endowed with new faculties, but the faculties he has are sanctified. The conscience is awakened.

The Scriptures are the great agency in this transformation of character. Christ prayed, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” Chapter 17:17. If studied and obeyed, the Word of God works in the heart, subduing every unholy attribute. The Holy Spirit comes to convict of sin, and the faith that springs up in the heart works by love to Christ, conforming us, body, soul, and spirit, to His will.

A man sees his danger. He sees that he needs a change of character, a change of heart. He is stirred; his fears are aroused. The Spirit of God is working in him, and with fear and trembling he works for himself, seeking to find out his defects of character, and to see what he can do to bring about the needed change in his life. His heart is humbled. By confession and repentance he shows the sincerity of his desire to reform. He confesses his sins to God, and if he has injured anyone, he confesses the wrong to the one he has injured.

While God is working, the sinner, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, works out that which God is working in mind and heart. He acts in harmony with the Spirit’s working, and his conversion is genuine.

The nobility and dignity of the man increase as he takes his position against the wily foe, who for so many years has kept him in slavery. He feels a holy indignation arising within him as he thinks that for so long he has been Satan’s bondsman, allowing the enemy to lead him to refuse to acknowledge his Best Friend.

Let the sinner cooperate with his Redeemer to secure his liberty. Let him be assured that unseen heavenly agencies are working in his behalf. Dear souls in doubt and discouragement, pray for the courage and strength that Christ waits to give you. He has been seeking for you. He longs to have you feel your need of His help. He will reach out His hand to grasp the hand stretched out for aid. He declares, “Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” Chapter 6:37. Let mind and heart be enlisted in the warfare against sin. Let your heart soften as you think of how long you have chosen to serve your bitterest foe, while you turned from Him who gave His life for you, who loves you, and who will accept you as His, though you are sinners. Step out from under the rebel flag, and take your stand under the bloodstained banner of Prince Emmanuel.

Pray for the courage and strength that Christ waits to give you. He has been seeking for you. He longs to have you feel your need of His help. He will reach out His hand to grasp the hand stretched out for aid. He declares, “Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” Chapter 6:37. Let mind and heart be enlisted in the warfare against sin. Let your heart soften as you think of how long you have chosen to serve your bitterest foe, while you turned from Him who gave His life for you, who loves you, and who will accept you as His, though you are sinners. Step out from under the rebel flag, and take your stand under the bloodstained banner of Prince Emmanuel.

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

Let us not spare ourselves, but carry forward in earnest the work of reform that must be done in our lives. Let us crucify self. Unholy habits will clamor for the mastery, but in the name and through the power of Jesus we may prevail. To him who daily seeks to keep his heart with all diligence, the promise is given, “Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38–39.

“Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, . . . Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.” Isaiah 49:7. God Himself is “the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.” Romans 3:26. And “whom he justified, them he also glorified.” Chapter 8:30. Great is as is the shame and degradation through sin, even greater will be the honor and exaltation through redeeming love. To human beings, striving for conformity to the divine

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The True Remedies—V
Exercise, Continued

"The student who with limited time and means is struggling to gain an education should realize that time spent in physical exercise is not lost. He who continually pores over his books will find, after a time, that the mind has lost its freshness. Those who give proper attention to physical development will make greater advancement in literary lines than they would if their entire time were devoted to study." Education, 208-209.

"Again, excessive study, by increasing the flow of blood to the brain, creates morbid excitability that tends to lessen the power of self-control, and too often gives sway to impulse or caprice. Thus the door is opened to impurity. The misuse or nonuse of the physical powers is largely responsible for the tide of corruption that is overspreading the world. 'Pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness,' are as deadly foes to human progress in this generation as when they led to the destruction of Sodom." Ibid., 209.

"Teachers should understand these things, and should instruct their pupils in these lines. Teach the students that right living depends on right thinking, and that physical activity is essential to purity of thought." Ibid.

"The question of suitable recreation for their pupils is one that teachers often find perplexing. Gymastic exercises fill a useful place in many schools; but without careful supervision they are often carried to excess. In the gymnasium many youth, by their attempted feats of strength, have done themselves lifelong injury." Ibid., 210.

"When useful labor is combined with study, there is no need of gymnastic exercises; and much more benefit is derived from work performed in the open air than from indoor exercise. The farmer and the mechanic each have physical exercise; yet the farmer is much the healthier of the two, for nothing short of the invigorating air and sunshine will fully meet the wants of the body, the former finds in his labor all the movements that were ever practiced in the gymnasium. And his movement room is the open fields; the canopy of heaven is its roof, the solid earth is its floor." Healthful Living, 128-129.

"I was speaking to teachers in messages of reproof. All teachers need exercise, a change of employment. God has pointed out what this should be—useful, practical work; but you have turned away from God's plan to follow human inventions, and that, to the detriment of the spiritual. Not a jot or a tittle of the after influence of an education in that line will fit you to meet the severe conflicts in the last days. What kind of education are our teachers and students receiving? Has God devised and planned this kind of exercise for you, or is it brought in by human inventions and human imaginations? How is the mind prepared for contemplation and meditation, and serious thoughts, and the earnest, contrite prayer, coming from hearts subdued by the Holy Spirit of God; 'As it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.' Luke 17:26. 'And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.' Genesis 6:5." Spalding and Magan's Unpublished Manuscript Testimonies, 70.

"Exercise in a gymnasium, however well conducted, cannot supply the place of recreation in the open air, and for this our schools should afford better opportunity. Vigorous exercise the pupils must have. Few evils are more to be dreaded than indolence and aimlessness. Yet the tendency of most athletic sports is a subject of anxious thought to those who have at heart the well-being of the youth. Teachers are troubled as they consider the influence of these sports both on the student's progress in school and on his success in afterlife. The games that occupy so much of his time are diverting the mind from study. They are not helping to prepare the youth for practical, earnest work in life. Their influence does not tend toward refinement, generosity, or real manliness." Education, 210.

"But what returns have our young people made to the Lord? Has it been as it was with the people of Israel on that most solemn occasion described in Exodus? Moses had gone up into the Mount to receive instruction from the Lord, and the whole congregation should have been in humble attitude before God; but instead of that, they ate and drank and rose up to play. Has there been a similar experience in Battle Creek? Have not many lost their hold on God? Did the exercise in games of football bring the participants into more close relation to God?" Spalding and Magan's Unpublished Manuscript Testimonies, 69.

"In the night seasons messages have been given to me to give to you in Battle Creek, and to all our schools. While it is in the order of God that physical powers shall be trained as well as the mental, yet the physical exercises should in character be in complete harmony with the lessons given to the world and should be seen in the lives of Christians, so that in education and self-training the heavenly intelligences should not record in the books that students and the teachers in our schools are 'Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.' This is the record now being made of a large number—'Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.' Thus Satan and his angels are laying their snare for your souls, and he is working in a certain way upon teachers and pupils to induce them to engage in certain exercises and amusements which become intensely absorbing, but which are of a character to strengthen the lower powers, and create appetites and passions that will take the lead and counterfeit most decidedly the operations and working of the Holy Spirit of God upon the human heart." Ibid., 69-70.

"What saith the Holy Spirit to you? What was its power and influence upon your hearts during the General Conference and the conference in other states? Have you taken special heed to yourself? Have the teachers in the school felt that they must take heed? If God has appointed them as
educators of the youth, they are also overseers of the flock. See Acts 20:28. They are not in the school work to invent plans for exercises and games to educate pupils; not there to bring down sacred things on a level with the common." Ibid., 70.

"Thousands are sick and dying around us who might get well and live if they would; but their imagination holds them. They fear that they will be made worse if they labor or exercise, when this is just the change they need to make them well. Without this they never can improve. They should exercise the power of the will, rise above their aches and debility, engage in useful employment, and forget that they have aching backs, sides, lungs, and heads. Neglecting to exercise the entire body, or a portion of it, will bring on morbid conditions. Inaction of any of the organs of the body will be followed by a decrease in size and strength of the muscles, and will cause the blood to flow sluggishly through the blood vessels." Testimonies, vol. 3, 76.

"The chief if not the only reason why many become invalids is that the blood does not circulate freely, and the changes in the vital fluid, which are necessary to life and health, do not take place. They have not given their bodies exercise nor their lungs food, which is pure, fresh air; therefore it is impossible for the blood to be vitalized, and it pursues its course sluggishly through the system. The more we exercise, the better will be the circulation of the blood. More people die for want of exercise than through overfatigue; very many more rust out than wear out. Those who accustom themselves to proper exercise in the open air will generally have a good and vigorous circulation. We are more dependent upon the air we breathe than upon the food we eat. Men and women, young and old, who desire health, and who would enjoy active life, should remember that they cannot have these without a good circulation. Whatever their business and inclinations, they should make up their minds to exercise in the open air as much as they can. They should feel it a religious duty to overcome the conditions of health which have kept them confined indoors, deprived of exercise in the open air." Ibid., vol. 2, 525-526.

"Some invalids become willful in the matter and refuse to be convinced of the great importance of daily outdoor exercise, whereby they may obtain a supply of pure air. For fear of taking cold, they persist, from year to year, in having their own way and living in an atmosphere almost destitute of vitality. It is impossible for this class to have a healthy circulation. The entire system suffers for want of exercise and pure air. The skin becomes debrilliated and more sensitive to any change in the atmosphere. Additional clothing is put on, and the heat of the room increased. The next day they require a little more heat and a little more clothing in order to feel perfectly warm, and thus they humor every changing feeling until they have but little vitality to endure any cold. Some may inquire: 'What shall we do? Would you have us remain cold?' If you add clothing, let it be but little, and exercise, if possible, to regain the heat you need. If you positively cannot engage in active exercise, warm yourselves by the fire; but as soon as you are warm, lay off your extra clothing and remove from the fire. If those who can, would engage in some active employment to take the mind from themselves, they would generally forget that they were chilly and would not receive harm. You should lower the temperature of your room as soon as you have regained your natural warmth. For invalids who have feeble lungs, nothing can be worse than an overheated atmosphere." Ibid., 526-527.

"Many labor under the mistaken idea that if they have taken cold, they must carefully exclude the outside air and increase the temperature of their room until it is excessively hot. The system may be deranged, the pores closed by waste matter, and the internal organs suffering more or less inflammation, because the blood has been chilled back from the surface and thrown upon them. At this time, of all others, the lungs should not be deprived of pure, fresh air. If pure air is ever necessary, it is when any part of the system, as the lungs or stomach, is diseased. Judicious exercise would induce the blood to the surface, and thus relieve the internal organs. Brisk, yet not violent exercise in the open air, with cheerfulness of spirits, will promote the circulation, giving healthful glow to the skin, and sending the blood, vitalized by the pure air, to the extremities. The diseased stomach will find relief by exercise. Physicians frequently advise invalids to visit foreign countries, to go to the springs, or to ride upon the ocean, in order to regain health; when, in nine cases out of ten, if they would eat temperately and engage in healthful exercise with a cheerful spirit, they would regain health and save time and money. Exercise, and a free abundant use of the air and sunlight—blessings which Heaven has freely bestowed upon all—would give life and strength to the emaciated invalid." Ibid., 530.

"Those who are feeble and indolent should not yield to their inclination to be inactive, thus depriving themselves of air and sunlight, but should practice exercising out of doors in walking or working in the garden. They will become very much fatigued, but this will not injure them. You, my sister, will experience weariness, yet it will not hurt you; your rest will be sweeter after it. Inaction weakens the organs that are not exercised. And when these organs are used, pain and weariness are experienced, because the muscles have become feeble. It is not good policy to give up the use of certain muscles because pain is felt when they are exercised. The pain is frequently caused by the effort of nature to give life and vigor to those parts that have become partially lifeless through inaction. The motion of these long-disused muscles will cause pain, because nature is awakening them to life." Ibid., vol. 3, 78.

"Invalids, I advise you to venture something. Arouse your will power, and at least make a trial of this matter. Withdraw your thoughts and affections from yourselves. Walk out by faith. Are you inclined to center your thoughts upon yourselves, fearing to exercise, and fearing that if you expose yourself to the air you will lose your life; resist these thoughts and feelings. Do not yield to your diseased imagination. If you fail in the trial, you can but die. And what if you do die? One life might better be lost than many sacrificed. The whims and notions which you cherish are not only destroying your own life, but injuring those whose lives are more valuable than yours. But the course we recommend will not deprive you of life or injure you. You will derive benefit from it. You need not be rash or reckless; commence moderately at first to have more air and exercise, and continue your reform until you become useful, a blessing to your families and to all around you. Let your judgment be convinced that exercise, sunlight, and air are the blessings which Heaven has provided to make the sick well and to keep in health those who are not sick. God does not deprive you of these free, Heaven-bestowed blessings, but you have punished yourselves by closing your doors against them. Properly used, these simple yet powerful agents will assist nature to overcome real difficulties, if such exist, and will give healthy tone to the mind and vigor to the body." Ibid., vol. 2, 534.
In a letter dated September 16, 1892, the servant of the Lord, Ellen G. White, penned some counsel from God which has special significance for those living in this remnant of time:

"Perilous times are before us. The whole world will be involved in perplexity and distress, disease of every kind will be upon the human family, and such ignorance as now prevails concerning the laws of health would result in great suffering and the loss of many lives that might be saved...."

"As religious aggression subverts the liberties of our nation, those who would stand for freedom of conscience will be placed in unfavorable positions. For their own sake, they should, while they have opportunity, become intelligent in regard to disease, its causes, prevention, and cure. And those who do this will find a field of labor anywhere. There will be suffering ones, plenty of them, who will need help, not only among those of our own faith, but largely among those who know not the truth." *Counsels on Health*, 504, 506.

These words were written in the context of the importance of training nurses and physicians. In reality, though, these instructions from the Lord are directed to every follower of Christ. At baptism, each one of us was set apart to be educated in, and to do, Christ's medical missionary work:

"The Lord wants every one of us to educate himself for God. At baptism, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost we were set apart to engage in the very work that Christ came to the world to do. What was He?—In the highest sense He was a missionary, and He was a healing missionary." *Review and Herald*, January 7, 1902.

All true believers are to be involved in meeting the physical needs of those around them:

"The Saviour lived on this earth a life that love for God will constrain every true believer in Christ to live. Following His example, in our medical missionary work we shall reveal to the world that we are His representatives, and that our credentials are from above." Ibid., June 16, 1904.

The true interpretation of the gospel is to work the way Christ worked:

"The union of Christlike work for the body and Christlike work for the soul is the true interpretation of the gospel." *My Life Today*, 224.

We are each to combine ministry to the soul with ministry for the body:

"In one hand they are to carry the gospel for the relief of sin-burdened souls, and in the other hand they are to carry remedies for the relief of physical suffering. Thus they will be true medical missionaries for God." *Medical Ministry*, 328.

**False Healing As a Test**

In 1904, God led the prophetess to warn His people that in finishing the work that Christ began on earth—the healing ministry—they would encounter false methodology that would severely test them. It was predicted that many will depart from the truth because of disagreements over how best to meet the needs of those who are ill:

"Wonderful scenes, with which Satan will be closely connected, will soon take place. God's Word declares that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick, and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test. Many who have had great light will fail..."
to walk in the light, because they have not become one with Christ.” Selected Messages, book 2, 53.

**Agents of Satan**

We are told that Satan’s crowning act of deception will be to personate Christ and His healing miracles. See The Great Controversy, 624. But, in 1862, God had explained that this deceptive work would be instigated by the evil angels and would thus, undoubtedly, precede Satan’s personation of Christ. We are warned that Satan’s evil angels will “assume new ground” with the intent to take us off guard:

“If our eyes could be opened to discern the fallen angels at work with those who feel at ease and consider themselves safe, we would not feel so secure. Evil angels are upon our track every moment. We expect a readiness on the part of bad men to act as Satan suggests; but while our minds are unguarded against his invisible agents, they assume new ground and work marvels and miracles in our sight. Are we prepared to resist them by the Word of God, the only weapon we can use successfully?

“Some will be tempted to receive these wonders as from God. The sick will be healed before us. Miracles will be performed in our sight. Are we prepared for the trial which awaits us when the lying wonders of Satan shall be more fully exhibited? Will not many souls be ensnared and taken?” Testimonies, vol. 1, 302.

Satan and his evil angels will work through human agents who will claim to miraculously cure disease. Their claims will appear as true miracles, but they will work by first causing the disease through satanic power and then removing it by the same power:

“Men under the influence of evil spirits will work miracles. They will make people sick by casting their spell upon them, and will then remove the spell, leading others to say that those who were sick have been miraculously healed.” Selected Messages, book 2, 53.

Not all “healing” agents of Satan will present their work as miraculous or supernatural. Many false cures will be presented with scientific-sounding explanations. Many false methods of healing will be presented with claims that they are based upon the laws of the Creator, when, in reality, their success may be the results of the working of Satan’s electric currents.

The miracles of healing that bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test, and which will cause many to depart from the faith, may seem to be the natural outworking of simple methods of diagnosis and treatment. These false miracles may even be mixed with the eight natural remedies such as exercise, proper diet, and so on, but the end results may well cause many to lose their way. Just as the doctrinal counterfeiters of Satan lie close to the path of truth, just so will error appear very much like truth in the end-time health ministry.

**False Science of the Mind**

We are told that as we near the close of probation Satan will work increasingly through the sciences of the mind:

“In these days when skepticism and infidelity so often appear in a scientific garb, we need to be guarded on every hand. Through this means our great adversary is deceiving thousands, and leading them captive according to his will. The advantage he takes of the sciences, sciences which pertain to the human mind, is tremendous. Here, serpentlike, he imperceptibly creeps in to corrupt the work of God.

“This entering in of Satan through the sciences is well devised. Through the channel of phrenology, psychology, and mesmerism [hypnosis], he [Satan] comes more directly to the people of this generation, and works with that power which is to characterize his efforts near the close of probation.

Through the channel of phrenology, psychology, and mesmerism [hypnosis], he comes more directly to the people of this generation, and works with that power which is to characterize his efforts near the close of probation.

**Natural or Supernatural**

A miracle is any event or healing that is not the natural result of the working of the laws of nature. Health cures that are not explainable by our knowledge of anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pathology, and so on, may be the result of supernatural power and must be avoided, except for the biblically inspired procedure of anointing by the elders. Thus, methods of diagnosis and/or methods of treatment that are not explainable by natural science may very well be used by agents of Satan to produce cures through

magnetism, the so-called sympathetic remedies, or to latent forces within the mind of man.

Satanic agents claim to cure disease. They attribute their power to electricity, magnetism, or the so-called sympathetic remedies, while in truth they are but channels for Satan’s electric currents. By this means he casts his spell over the bodies and souls of men.” Mind, Character, and Personality, vol. 2, 701.

It will require great watchfulness to be safeguarded from deception by the false healing methods of Satan’s agents. Evil spirits will cast spells upon people, causing disease. These spirits will then allow their agents to remove the spells and the diseases, resulting in cures that are considered to be miraculous:

“I am instructed to say that in the future great watchfulness will be needed. There is to be among God’s people no spiritual stupidity. Evil spirits are actively engaged in seeking to control the minds of human beings. Men are binding up in bundles, ready to be consumed by the fires of the last days. Those who discard Christ and His righteousness will accept the sophistry that is flooding the world. Christians are to be sober and vigilant, steadfastly resisting their adversary the devil, who is going about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” Selected Messages, book 2, 53.
the use of hypnosis or Satan's electric currents. This is especially true of those methods that purportedly work through magnetic or electric currents or energies, or through the inner powers of the mind or body. Such false methods of diagnosis and treatment are presently bringing Seventh-day Adventists to the test, and will increasingly do so.

These false methods of healing will readily be accepted by those who do not believe in a supernatural adversary, and edge of the science of human life is necessary in order to glorify God in our bodies. It is therefore of the highest importance that among the studies selected for childhood, physiology should occupy the first place.” Counsel on Health, 38.

“It is well that physiology is introduced into the common schools as a branch of education. All children should study it. It should be regarded as the basis of all educational effort.” Review and Herald, October 31, 1871.

These false methods of healing will readily be accepted by those who do not believe in a supernatural adversary, and therefore, do not feel the need to know whether a given cure is rational—in harmony with natural law—or not.

Therefore, do not feel the need to know whether a given cure is rational—in harmony with natural law—or not. They will accept the attitude that, if a method gives good results, it is to be used without concern.

“He [Satan] fastens upon minds the delusion that there is no personal devil, and those who believe this make no effort to resist and war against that which they think does not exist. Thus poor, blind mortals finally adopt the maxim, ‘Whatever is, is right.’ They acknowledge no rule to measure their course.” Testimonies, vol. 1, 295.

Rules to Detect Error

But the followers of Christ need not be misled. God has given His people rules by which to “measure their course.”

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20.

In addition to the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy as tools to test for truth, God’s remnant people have also been given a knowledge of natural law. A knowledge of human anatomy and physiology is essential in order for the remnant to respond appropriately to the three angels’ messages to glorify the Creator. The study of physiology is to be the basis of all educational effort:

“So closely is health related to our happiness, that we cannot have the latter without the former. A practical knowl-

In general, the prevention of disease and the recovery of health is only available through obedience to the divine laws of nature:

“The laws of nature, as truly as the precepts of the Decalogue, are divine, and only in obedience to them can health be recovered or preserved.” Loma Linda Messages, 110.

In order to help alleviate mankind’s physical sufferings, and also to help His remnant people distinguish between the true and the false methods of health care, “God has permitted a flood of light to be poured upon the world in both science and art.” Patriarchs and Prophets, 113.

To make the laws of our physical being clear, is an integral part of the third angel’s message in order to prevent God’s people from being misled by Satan:

“To make plain natural law, and urge the obedience of it, is the work that accompanies the third angel’s message to prepare a people for the coming of the Lord.” Testimonies, vol. 3, 161.

To those who obey God He gives the Holy Spirit to teach them “all things” to guide them “into all truth.” John 14:26; 16:13. The Christian is to request the help of the Holy Spirit in his search for truth in the physical, as well as in the spiritual realm.

Thus the Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and natural law are three rules or yardsticks by which all methods of diagnosis and treatment, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are to be evaluated. If a method of health care is not clearly in harmony with these three rules, then it is possible for it to be one of Satan’s methods, possibly working through the effects of hypnotism—the effect of mind upon mind. Such a method of health care can be used by Satan to cast his spell upon the soul as well as upon the body.

Faith Miracles

The prophecies regarding Satan’s end-time, deceptive miracles are, to some extent, already being fulfilled. There are presently a wide variety of religious faiths that are associated with purported miraculous healings.

Some of these apparently supernatural cures occur without a human intermediary. Perhaps the most famous site in the world associated with miraculous cures is that of Lourdes, France. In 1858, an apparition of the virgin Mary, on its first appearance, was purported to have instructed a poor shepherd girl to dig in a shallow grotto. Digging with her hands, a “miracle-working” spring of water came forth. Even since that time, bathing in the spring at this Catholic shrine has been associated with purported miraculous cures. It has been stated that there are some fifty cases of healing by the faith of a poor sick person. Studying the evidence scientifically, that they are clearly designed to bring us to a test of our faith. See “Divining Miracles: Art or Science,” Science Illustrated, (document in author’s file is undated).

There are a wide variety of methods claiming to produce miraculous cures that utilize a human intermediary. Faith healers commonly claim to miraculously heal the sick during religious services broadcast to the world by radio and television.

Christian Scientists stress total reliance on spiritual healing. They teach that all illness is an illusion, a spiritual rather than a physical problem, and thus their form of treatment consists solely of “heartfelt yet disciplined prayer.” They avoid all forms of treatment, including not only all medications and modern scientific health care, but even simple home remedies such as charcoal, hydrotherapy, and massage. Since 1900, their church papers have reported over 53,000 testimonials of healing as a result of prayer alone. Longevity studies of those of this persuasion have shown, however, that is it the benefits of their “healings” that are illusionary rather than the diseases. Even though Christian Scientists do not believe in
smoking or in the use of alcohol, their life expectancy has been shown to be “slightly below” equivalent general population groups. See the Journal of the American Medical Association, September 22/29, 1989; September 19, 1990.

The above modes of healing are associated with what are claimed to be Christian beliefs, and thus are presented as the result of the working of Christ’s or God’s supernatural power. There is no attempt made to explain them on the basis of natural or physiological law. Other non-Christian faiths also have their miracle-working healers. Essentially, every population group in the world seems to have its miracle-working healers. Most, if not all, primitive peoples openly worship evil spirits and try to appease them as a means of preventing and/or curing disease. Psychiatric surgeons, associated with spirit worship, have been purported to remove diseased tissues using their bare hands, without instruments and without anesthesia.

We may lessen our concern regarding this widespread, deceptive work by promising ourselves to avoid every method of treating disease that presents itself as, or claims to be, supernatural or miraculous, especially if it is associated with clear erroneous religious beliefs. The devil, however, is too astute to be brushed aside so readily by those who hold to pure religious beliefs.

Mind Healing Itself

While our minds are unguarded, Satan’s agents come with other methods to deceive and beguile. There are a wide variety of health-promoting methods that are presented with supposedly scientific, rather than religious faith, explanations for how they work. There are many movements that claim health benefits from some form of meditation. Many times the meditation is combined with natural, simple remedies such as diet, herbs, and exercise programs. One of the best-known forms of meditation is transcendental meditation which has its roots in Hinduism. This method of health care is widely promoted by health professionals as Ayurvedic medicine. Meditation therapy is based on the premise that the mind can cure the body, and it is claimed that it works by balancing various energy forces in the body. A physician promoting this method of health care describes it as follows:

“True healing . . . consists of a shift in consciousness in which one ceases to identify with one’s illusory physical body and instead, becomes aware of one’s ‘quantum mechanical body’—that energy field described as reality by Ayurveda. . . . As a result of this shift . . . one is ‘no longer bound by the concept of mortality.’”


This form of meditation usually consists of emptying the mind of all thought except for concentration on the repetition of a secret-to-the-person word referred to as the “mantra.” Such an emptying of the mind in search of supposed inner powers to heal oneself, undoubtedly permits Satan to enter, and allows him to control the results. Such meditation is described in Holy Writ as the house swept and garnished, then filled with seven spirits in addition to the original one.

“When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first.” Luke 11:24–26.

In contrast to this, is the true meditation of Christianity which seeks solace, power, and healing from outside of oneself, and in which you concentrate on imaging that which is desired—physical health, spiritual healing, wealth, and so on. It is the concept of the power of positive thinking carried to its ultimate extreme. Based on the belief that the thought produces the reality, this is becoming the primary message of some so-called Christian ministries.

Some ministers are teaching their followers, and counselors teach their patients, to imagine that they are having a visit with the consultant of their choice, such as the virgin Mary, or even Jesus, for the purpose of spiritual solace or physical healing. This group is reporting remarkable experiences and results. Some claim that these are merely imaginary encounters, but others claim that imagination produces reality, that Mary, Jesus, or whomever, has actually come to them and consoled or healed them.

We need to remind ourselves that for millennia, witch doctors have used this same technique of “visualization” or “imaging” to place themselves in contact with the “spirit guides.” See The Seduction of Christianity, by Dave Hunt and T. A. McMahon, 160–179. (Available through Hope International.)

We are told that we are spiritually strengthened by allowing the imagination to grasp the closing scenes of Christ’s earthly life:

“It would be well to spend a thoughtful hour each day reviewing the life of

In contrast to this, is the true meditation of Christianity which seeks solace, power, and healing from outside of oneself, and operates upon the principle of “by beholding we become changed.”

Christ from the manger to Calvary. We should take it point by point and let the imagination vividly grasp each scene, especially the closing ones of His earthly life. By thus contemplating His teachings and sufferings, and the infinite sacrifice made by Him for the redemption of the race, we may strengthen our faith, quicken our love, and become more deeply imbued with the spirit which sustained our Saviour.” Testimonies, vol. 4, 374.

But imagination of, or meditation upon, the historical events of Christ’s real life, given for our example and reemp-
The Testimony
of Two Rivers

Before reading this article, we encourage the reader to review “The Collapse of the Soviet Union and the Rise of the Papacy,” by Jeff Wehr in this issue of Our Firm Foundation. Wehr’s article gives an overview of the same prophetic interpretation of Daniel 11:40-45 that Jeff Pippenger is setting out to teach in greater detail below.

The editors send forth this article with the desire that it will serve to bring out the Berean response of searching the Scriptures daily with all readiness of mind to prove whether these things are so. See Acts 17:11. With our readers, we also look forward to even clearer understanding of Bible prophecy as the scroll of world events continues to unroll.—Editors.

In the following series of articles we will study Daniel 11:40-45. These six verses in the book of Daniel were left unsolved until our time. It is our generation that has the honor of seeing and recognizing the fulfillment of these verses.

We will endeavor to show that these verses contain a sequence of events which lead down to the close of human probation and beyond. We will see that Daniel 11, which is enlarged upon in Revelation, chapters 13-18, delineates the transactions which Sister White said would be “the final movements.”

Daniel 11:40-45 is a prophetic key which was designed by the Lord to help guide, prepare, and empower His people during the final moments of earth’s history by helping to unlock the future to those who would seek to know these events.

At least four propositions are worthy of stating before we set forth this study:

First, the overall weight of prophetic evidence leads us to believe that we are the final generation of God’s people upon this earth, the very generation that holy men and prophets longed to see.

Second, the final series of events have already begun with the collapse of the Soviet Union, but Adventism at large has slept on.

Third, these verses were designed by God to be a catalyst to help bring on the final revival of God’s people.

Finally, these verses show the sequence of events which Sister White so often warns will be rapid ones.

The Setting

As we begin this study let us determine whether or not the time period associated with the final movements of Daniel 11 has arrived. The time in which we are living is clearly set forth within the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. One passage which describes the conditions of our time is found in the opening chapter of volume nine of the Testimonies:

“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.

“The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.

“The condition of things in the world shows that troubous times are right upon us. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the near future. Bold
robbings are too frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. Men have become infatuated with vice, and every species of evil prevails.

There is 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.

The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place.

Satan is a diligent Bible student. He knows that his time is short, and he seeks at every point to counterwork the work of the Lord upon this earth. It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive on the earth when celestial glory and a repetition of the persecutions of the past are blended. They will walk in the light proceeding from the throne of God. By means of angels there will be constant communication between heaven and earth. And Satan, surrounded by evil angels, and claiming to be God, will work miracles of all kinds, to deceive, if possible, the very elect. Testimonies, vol. 9, 11, 13-14, 16. (All emphasis added unless otherwise stated.)

Does this passage speak of our day? Notice the setting which is portrayed by Sister White as she informs us that "the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment." This is clearly referring to our day, therefore, Daniel 11 is soon to be completed.

The Spirit Withdrawn

Do we not see the Spirit of God being withdrawn from the earth through the judgments which follow that withdrawal? Surely the earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, wars, bombings, murders, famines, and diseases all confirm that the restraining influence of God's Spirit is being removed from this planet and its inhabitants.

We see also the consolidations in the religious world through the ecumenical movement. Big businesses are merging into giant corporations. Countries are signing treaties such as GATT and NAFTA, creating economic alliances in an attempt to create a world marketplace in order "to place business operations on a more secure basis." We now see the United Nations emerging as a power which in its previous fifty years it has never been able to attain, though it attempted to consolidate the entire world through its global bank, global health system, global police force, global court, global laws, and its global population and ecological concerns. Mankind's problems are now set forth in the pressures of the world as "global" problems.

Recently, this author was at the Million Man March in Washington, D.C., where I heard Louis Farrakan, the black militant, call not only for strengthening the family, but also the black community, by admonishing black people to come together into one voting and economic group. He insisted that this coming together was a necessity for the black community. But more significant was his call to set aside any religious differences, so that all black people could consolidate for the common good of black America, which, of course, in his opinion supersedes any religious differences.

Certainly the crime of our day fulfills Sister White's prediction, and the statement that the leaders of this nation "are struggling in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis" aptly describes the present crisis in our nation's capital. It also sends us a warning that what we must do as a people must be done before our money becomes useless. With this warning though, comes the comfort that God is in control. A clear description is given by Ellen White informing us that the economic predicament which is confronting the leaders of this nation did not take God by surprise. It is also a certainty that the "spirit of war" can readily be seen at this time.

The vision on the banks of the Ulai is the vision of Daniel eight, and the only part of the vision by the Ulai which had not been fulfilled when Sister White made this statement was Daniel 8:14, which began its fulfillment in 1844. However, it was, and still is, "in process of fulfillment." When the Ulai flows into the sea, it ceases to exist. Likewise, when Christ finishes His work in the Most Holy Place the message of the everlasting gospel has finished its course. They are those who follow Christ's work in the Most Holy Place whom Daniel sees "purified, and made white, and tried," while John sees "them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass." Daniel 12:10; Revelation 15:2.

The vision which was "now in the process of fulfillment," that was given to
Daniel by the Hiddekel, is the vision of the last six verses of Daniel eleven—the only part of Daniel eleven which was as yet unfulfilled. When the Hiddekel flows into the sea it ceases to exist, so too when the king of the north comes “to his end,” and “none shall help,” Daniel’s testimony of Babylon, has finished its course. John also sees the end of Babylon as, “The beast [is] taken, and with him the false prophet. [and] cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.” Revelation 19:20.

Two rivers headed to two totally different bodies of water: the Ulai with the River of Life to the sea of glass; the Hiddekel with the foul Euphrates to the lake of fire.

The visions by these two rivers present both the story of the redeemed and the story of the lost. As these rivers flow into the sea their messages cross the boundary line of human probation—forever separating the righteous and the wicked.

“Oh, who will describe to you the lamentations that will arise when at the boundary line which parts time and eternity the righteous Judge will lift up His voice and declare, ‘It is too late.’ Long have the wide gates of heaven stood open and the heavenly messengers have invited and entreated ‘Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.’ Revelation 22:17. ‘Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your heart.’ But at length the mandate goes forth, ‘He that is unjust, let Sister White informs us that the books of Daniel and Revelation complement each other:

“In the Revelation all the books of the Bible meet and end. Here is the complement of the book of Daniel. One is a prophecy; the other a revelation. The book that was sealed is not the Revelation, but that portion of the prophecy of Daniel relating to the last days. The angel commanded, ‘But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end.’ Daniel 12:4.” Acts of the Apostles, 585.

Daniel and Revelation complement one another in many areas, including the messages of the two rivers, which are used to identify the last two-fold message in the book of Daniel. These rivers also find symbolic counterparts in the two rivers of Revelation. There we find the river of life conveying the promise of life to those who accept the everlasting gospel, while we also see the dried up Euphrates illustrating the bankruptcy of the worship of Babylon.

As we partake of the water of life we are to call those who are drinking the foul waters of the Euphrates to flee from the broken cisterns of fallen Babylon. The book of Daniel contains the final message of warning for this last hour of earth’s history. This final message symbolized in the visions on the banks of the Hiddekel and Ulai rivers identify both the false worship of the King of the mind will be impressed with the character that all must develop in order to realize the blessedness which is to be the reward of the pure in heart. . . . One thing will certainly be understood from the study of Revelation—that the connection between God and His people is close and decided.” The Faith I Live By, 345.

We also know that our greatest need is for this revival to come to God’s people:

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work.” Review and Herald, March 22, 1887.

Understanding that our greatest need is for a genuine revival and that this revival will be connected with an understanding of the books of Daniel and Revelation, does not necessarily identify the story of these two rivers as the key to this revival. It can easily be recognized, though, that the vision by the Ulai, addressing the work of Christ in the Most Holy Place, certainly has a connection with this long-awaited revival, for no true revival would be separated from Christ’s work above.

When God’s people enter into the Most Holy Place experience they will see that the connection between themselves and God is as “close and decided” as the connection which Christ maintained while He walked among men. There is no way to be closer to the Father than to have His Spirit living within. But acknowledging that the vision by the Ulai has a relationship to the final revival, does not necessarily mean the vision by the Hiddekel has an influence upon this revival. For it speaks not of the truth of the sanctuary, but of the enemy who casts the truth to the ground. Does the message of this river contribute to our experience in such a way as to bring on a revival? Yes. Just as surely as the warning of the third angel against receiving the mark of the beast is part of the everlasting gospel, so too, is the message of the Hiddekel. It is through an understanding of this message also that God’s people will be prepared to stand.

“The book that was sealed was not the book of Revelation, but that portion of the prophecy of Daniel which related to the last days. The Scripture says, ‘But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.’ Daniel 12:4. When the book was opened, the proclamation was made, ‘Time shall be no longer.’ See Revelation 10:6. The book of Daniel is now unsealed, and the revelation made by Christ to John is to come to all the inhabitants of the earth.

As we partake of the water of life we are to call those who are drinking the foul waters of the Euphrates to flee from the broken cisterns of fallen Babylon.

him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.’ Revelation 22:11.” In Heavenly Places, 362.

The two-fold theme found in the story of these two rivers is also illustrated in the three angels’ messages of Revelation fourteen. Not only do these three messages point mankind to the everlasting gospel in connection with the judgment which is taking place in the Most Holy Place of the sanctuary above, but these messages also identify the enemy power which will oppose this message during this final judgment hour.

north and the true worship of the King which is now in the Most Holy Place above.

A Great Revival

Certainly the visions given by the Ulai and Hiddekel are part of the story of Daniel, but how important are they to us today? Sister White puts great emphasis upon the study of Daniel and Revelation in connection with bringing on a revival:

“When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that heart and
By the increase of knowledge a people is to be prepared to stand in the latter days.” Selected Messages, book 2, 105.

Notice here that there will be an “increase of knowledge,” and that it is through this “increase of knowledge” that “a people is to be prepared to stand.” What is this “increase of knowledge” which will prepare us to stand? In the same section, two paragraphs down, we find the answer:

“In the first angel’s message men are called upon to worship God, our Creator, who made the world and all things that are therein. They have paid homage to an institution of the Papacy, making of no effect the Law of Jehovah, but there is to be an increase of knowledge on this subject.” Ibid., 106.

The increase of knowledge which will prepare God’s people to stand is a knowledge concerning the counterfeit Sabbath. This knowledge concerns the message about the entire world being forced to worship the idol sabbath which is the mark of the Papacy. This knowledge is in agreement with the warning of the three angels’ messages not to worship the beast, and this increase of knowledge is in agreement with the message by the Hiddekel river of Daniel 11:40-45, for the king of the north is the Papacy. We are told:

“The scenes connected with the working of the man of sin are the last features plainly revealed in this earth’s history.” Ibid., 102.

**Daniel 12:1**

We know that the last six verses of Daniel eleven span the final scenes of “this earth’s history,” for in the next verse, Daniel 12:1, is recorded the close of probation. The “last features” of these “scenes” are connected with “the man of sin,” and his efforts to bring the entire world under his control through the enforcement of a Sunday law. The king of the north is the “man of sin.”

“I was then pointed to the flattering things taught by some of these transgressors of God’s Law. I was shown a bright light, given by God to guide all who would walk in the way of salvation, and also to serve as a warning to the sinner to flee from the wrath of God, and yield a willing obedience to His claims. While this light continued there was hope. But there was a period when this light would cease. When he that is holy will remain holy forever, and when he that is filthy will remain filthy forever. When Jesus stands up, when His work is finished in the Most Holy, then there will be another ray of light to be imparted to the sinner.

“But Satan flatters some, through his chosen servants, as he flattered Eve in Eden. Thou shalt not surely die, and tells them there will be a season for repentance, a time of probation, when the filthy can be made pure. The coworkers with Satan and his angels carry the light into the future age, teaching probation after the advent of Christ, which deludes the sinner, and leads the cold-hearted professor to carnal security. He is careless and indifferent, and walks stumblingly over the hours of his probation. The light is made to reach far ahead, where all is total darkness. Michael stands up. Instead of mercy, the deluded sinner feels wrath unmixed with mercy. And they awake too late to this fatal deception. This plan was studied by Satan, and is carried out by ministers who turn the truth of God into a lie.” Spiritual Gifts, vol. 2, 275-276.

Daniel 12:1 is the close of probation, which takes place as Daniel 11:44-45 is being fulfilled. These last six verses are “scenes connected with the working of the man of sin,” and they are the vision by the Hiddekel which is “now in process of fulfillment.” This vision pictures the final scenes connected with the “man of sin,” concerning which there will be an “increase of knowledge,” and by which, “a people is to be prepared to stand.”

The last six verses of Daniel 11 are a sketch of the final scenes of earth’s history. Primarily, these verses isolate the story of the Papacy, as its deadly wound is healed, and it returns to the throne of the world, and ultimately “comes to his end.”

**What Must We Know?**

We have been told that Daniel 11 is now in the process of fulfillment and that through the books of Daniel and Revelation will come a catalyst for the long-awaited revival. We have been informed that there would be an increase of knowledge about the Papacy, and the mark of its authority which would help to prepare God’s people to stand. We have also been admonished that we must know these events:

“All that God has in prophetic history specified to be fulfilled in the past has been, and all that is yet to come in its order will be. Daniel, God’s prophet, stands in his place. John stands in his place. In the Revelation the Lion of the tribe of Judah has opened to the students of prophecy the book of Daniel, and thus is Daniel stand-

ing in his place. He bears his testimony, that which the Lord revealed to him in vision of the great and solemn events which we must know as we stand on the very threshold of their fulfillment.” Selected Messages, book 2, 109.

All God’s commands are promises, and while He commands that “we must know” these events, He also sets forth promises that we may know them if we will search:

“The time has come for Daniel to stand in his lot. The time has come for the light given him to go to the world as never before. If those for whom the Lord has done so much will walk in the light, their knowledge of Christ and the prophecies relating to Him will be greatly increased as they near the close of this earth’s history.” The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 4, 1174.

As we continue in this series of studies we should solemnly accept the command to study these prophecies and humbly pray for the promised light which will be found by those who strive to be among the wise.

Individually, we need to recognize our responsibility to proclaim the warning message symbolized by the Hiddekel river, which identifies the king of the north as the Papacy. More importantly, we must recognize and fulfill our responsibility to experience the message which is symbolized by the Ulai river, which points to the final work going on in the heavenly sanctuary. If we are unwilling to enter into the experience symbolized by the Ulai river, the message of the Hiddekel is of little value to us. Without the power received from an experience which enters within the veil of the Most Holy Place, any warning message which we may proclaim will have little effect on those who may hear it, and will avail nothing in our personal salvation.

It is possible to have a genuine experience with Christ in the Most Holy Place without understanding the message of Daniel 11:40-45. It is also possible to understand Daniel 11:40-45 without having an experience with Christ. The story of the two rivers in the book of Daniel is calling us to understand both. These testimonies are calling us to finish the work in our lives, in order that we may help finish the work in this world by proclaiming the final warning message in the power of the Holy Spirit. The signs of the times testify that Christ is ready to close the story on these two rivers. Are we?
Church and State on Trial

For over twelve centuries the union of church and state has been on trial. What has been the fruit of that union? The union of church and state has stained the history with the greatest apostasies from God, and the martyrdom of millions. When the Papacy ruled both civilly and religiously from A.D. 538 to A.D. 1798, over one hundred million people were martyred.

Today, we are threatened with that same unholy alliance between church and state. Protestants and Catholics are clasp- ing hands to control politics in America. While I do not question their intentions, many do not truly understand where their efforts are tending. They will pass religious legislation, and that legislation will lead to persecution, because all laws are meant to be enforced. We will begin this series of articles on religious liberty with the rise of that antichrist power known as the Papacy. In our next article we will look at the progression of American thought that led up to the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Jesus came to our world not only to die for our sins, and to be our Example in all holy living and conversation, but to reveal to men the kingdom of heaven. He came to reveal its principles and how we could become citizens of heaven. As Paul said, “Our citizenship is in heaven.” Philippians 3:20, NASV. Christian patriotism manifests itself in obedience to the laws of God’s kingdom in heaven. Those who believe in Jesus, “desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.” Hebrews 11:16.

Patriotism is love and allegiance to the country of one’s birth or adoption. Christian patriotism is love and allegiance to that “better country” of one’s spiritual birth and adoption. That “better country” is none other than heaven. We, therefore, manifest our love and allegiance to heaven by rendering “unto God the things which be God’s.” Luke 20:25.

The twelve disciples went forth preaching the principles of Heaven. They remained obedient to God’s heavenly kingdom under penalty of persecution and death by the civil government. God blessed their efforts and the church flourished for the first five centuries. However, an apostate element grew during this time, which, by the sixth century, seized the power of the state and persecuted the true apostolic church. The apostle Paul spoke about this apostate element in the church: “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [the second advent of Christ] shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? . . . For the mystery of iniquity doth already work.” 2 Thessalonians 2:3–5, 7.

There would be a “falling away” in the church, by someone claiming to have the authority of God. Paul describes him as the “man of sin” and the “son of perdition.” Unfortunately, certain church leaders did not accept Christ’s warning to refrain from exercising kingly authority over the church. This “mystery of iniquity” was already at work in the church. In the book of Acts, Paul further identifies the “man of sin.”

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.” Acts 20:28–31.

Who was Paul speaking to? He went “to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.” Verse 17. The word here for “elders” is translated from the Greek word episkopos, which is also translated as “bishops.” Paul was speaking to a group of “overseers,” or “elders,” or “bishops.” He says, “After my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you [bishops], not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves
shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

Notice that these certain bishops would not spare the true flock of God, and would deceive others into becoming their disciples. Instead of making disciples for Christ, they made disciples for themselves. How would they accomplish this? The historian Mosheim said, "The [certain] bishops augmented the number of religious rites in the Christian worship, by way of accommodation to the infinities and prejudices both of Jews and heathen, in order to facilitate their conversion to [their] Christianity."

These certain bishops, in order to make it easier to convert the heathen to their form of Christianity, to multiply the membership in their church, and to increase their influence over the masses and magistrates, began to adopt heathen customs and forms. Which customs and forms did they adopt? "The Christians were pronounced atheists, because they were destitute of temples, altars, victims, priests, and all that pomp in which the vulgar suppose the essence of religion to consist. For unenlightened persons are prone to estimate religion by what meets their eyes. To silence this accusation, the Christian doctors thought it necessary to introduce some external rites, which would strike the senses of the people, so that they could maintain themselves really to possess all those things of which Christians were charged with being destitute, though under different forms." Mosheim, Ecclesiastical History, Century ii, part ii, chap. iv, par. 3. Murdock's translation, as quoted by A. T. Jones, The Two Republics, 207.

These certain bishops rose to prominence after the departing of Paul. They purposely introduced perverse things by adopting heathen customs and forms; for example, the erecting of elaborate temples, the setting up of altars, the establishment of a priesthood, the indulgence of pomp and display, and, of course, the offering of the bloodless victim. What was the bloodless victim? It was the mass, and the declaration that the wafer at communion was the literal body of Christ.

The most obvious compromise by these certain bishops was the purported change they made in the Ten Commandments. To make it more appealing to the sun-worshiping pagans, they claimed to change the Sabbath to Sunday. Mosheim wrote, "The oldest, the most widespread, and the most enduring of all the forms of idolatry known to man, is the worship of the sun."

This sun-day movement was made manifest in the Easter controversy. The early Christians who continued to celebrate the Passover did so on the fourteenth day of Nissan. Hence, it would be celebrated on different days of the week from year to year. However, these certain bishops changed the day of celebration to Sunday. Why? They wanted to be like the heathen as much as possible so that they could draw disciples after themselves, and be unlike the Jews who were being persecuted.

Less than twenty years after the death of the apostle John, the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month became Easter Sunday in Rome. They chose the Sunday closest to the fourteenth day of Christians of Alexandria and at Rome, on account of some ancient tradition, refuse to do this. . . . that is, upon the Saturday. It should be observed, that Sunday is never called 'the Sabbath' by the ancient Fathers and historians." Socrates, Ecclesiastical History, Book 5, chap. 22, 289.

We must ever keep in mind that the reason for introducing these perverse things was to establish authority over an increasing number of people. In fact, these certain bishops would have to speak perverse things to establish preeminence over their fellow men. Their thirst for preeminence is well recorded. Ignatius wrote in the second century A.D., "It is manifest, therefore, that we should look upon the bishops even as we would upon the Lord himself." Epistles to the Ephesians, chap. vi, as quoted by A. T. Jones, The Two Republics, 233.

Irenaeus wrote, during the bishopric of Eleutherius in Rome, A.D. 176–192, "It is incumbent to obey the presbyters who are in the church—those who, as I have shown, possess the succession from the apostles; those who, together with the succession of the episcopate, have received the certain gift of truth, according to the good pleasure of the father." Against Heresies, book iv, chap. xxvi, par. 2, ibid.

In the third century, Cyprian wrote, "The church is founded upon the bishops, and every act of the church is controlled by these same rulers." "Whence you ought to know that the bishop is in the church, and the church in the bishop; and if any one be not with the bishop, that he is not in the church." "Neither have heresies arisen, nor have schisms originated, from any other source than from this, that God's priest is not obeyed." Epistle XXVI, chap. i, and Epistle LXVIII, chap. vii, liv, v, ibid., 237–238.

Anyone that was not obedient to the bishop was considered a heretic. Unity with the Church of Rome was unity without a conscience. However, most churches at that time did not fall under her jurisdiction.

These certain bishops, in order to make it easier to convert the heathen to their form of Christianity, to multiply the membership in their church, . . . began to adopt heathen customs and forms.
Beginning in A.D. 303, all Christians experienced fierce persecution under Diocletian. This persecution lasted for ten years, during which time church properties were confiscated and many Christians lost their lives. General Constantine was a rival to Diocletian as emperor of Rome. The Church of Rome and her daughter churches supported Constantine. In A.D. 313, Constantine became emperor and the persecution ended. Immediately, Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, which confirmed “to each individual of the Roman world the privilege of choosing and professing his own religion.” Ibid., 181.

The Edict of Milan ordered that church property which had been confiscated be returned to all Christians without distinction. “And this we further decree, with respect to the Christians, that the places in which they were formerly accustomed to assemble, concerning which also we formerly wrote to your fidelity, in a different form, that if any persons have purchased these, either from our treasury, or from any other one, these shall restore them to the Christians, without money and without demanding any price, without any superadded value or augmentation, without delay or hesitancy.” Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, book x, chap. v.

The Edict of Milan provided for religious liberty, which was before unknown in pagan Rome. Unfortunately, Constantine had formed an alliance with the bishops to gain political power. Now these certain bishops demanded political favors in return. They argued that they had jurisdiction over all true Christian churches, and that those who were not obedient to her rule were heretics, not Christians. Therefore, all church property should rightfully be restored only to the Church of Rome. In less than thirty days, these bishops had destroyed religious liberty within the empire in an attempt to draw disciples after themselves. The new edict read that all church property was to be restored “to the Catholic Church of the Christians.” Ibid.

Constantine was now unable to keep the peace between religious factions because he mistakenly favored the Catholic Church in a religious controversy. Innocent Christians were slaughtered because Constantine sold himself to church influence, and the Church of Rome sold herself to politics.

Constantine’s policies did not stop with the Roman church acquiring all confiscated church property. He lavished the Catholic Church with money to build churches and to help the poor. He even gave money for gifts to bring people into the church. “In all ways unbelievers must be saved. It is not everyone who will be converted by learning and reasoning. Some join us from desire of maintenance; some for preferment; some for presents: nothing is so rare as a real lover of truth. We must be like physicians, and accommodate our medicines to the diseases, our teaching to the different minds of all.”

What was the result of these policies? Masses of people within the empire, with no change either of character or conviction, were drawn to become disciples of the bishop of Rome. Unconverted masses remained unconverted. The Church of Rome became the church of the world.

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By A.D. 425, the law was passed to close all theaters and circuses on Sunday, “in order that the devotion of the faithful might be free from all disturbances.” Neander, History of the Christian Religion and Church, Vol. ii, Section Third, part ii, div. iii, par. 4.

The unconverted church members still did not come to church—even when everything else was closed. The church then took the next logical step, namely, to force the people to come to church. Augustine said, “It is, indeed, better that men should be brought to serve God by instruction than by fear of punishment or by pain. But because the former means are better, the latter must not therefore be neglected. . . . Many must often be brought back to their Lord, like wicked servants, by the rod of temporal suffering, before they attain the highest grade of religious development.” The Corrections of the Donatists, chap. vi., Schaff’s translation, History of the Christian Church, vol. iii, section 27, par. 12.
It was exactly this mentality that led to the Inquisition and the martyrdom of seventy-five to one hundred fifty million people. The guiding principle behind this unnatural and satanic behavior was that it is better for a multitude of innocent people to die than for one heretic to go free.

The fruit of this injustice was not due to the barbarism of the age. It was the fruit of the union of church and state. It was the fruit of Rome’s false theocratic philosophy which might go as follows: “God has moral laws and a moral government. Moral laws have to do with the thoughts, the intents, and secrets of men’s hearts. The Papacy, being the head of God’s church on earth, is God’s moral governor on earth. Therefore, the Papacy rules over men in the realm of morals. But how can the Papacy discover the intents and secrets of men’s hearts, so that she can pass judgment upon them? For those who submit to her authority there is the confessional. For those who do not submit there is the thumbscrew, the rack, the stake, and her other tortures.”

This martyrdom of innocent people was not due to the unenlightened and uneducated masses. The principles that fueled the Inquisition came straight down from the popes. The Papacy continued this injustice from generation to generation, long after civilized countries in Europe had abandoned them. That the Papacy could drag innocent Christians through unjust trials, similar to those endured by Jesus Christ, illustrates the inevitable fruit of the union of church and state.

“That the church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history... It is impossible to form a complete conception of the multitude of her victims, and it’s quite certain that no powers of imagination can adequately realize the sufferings.” W. E. H. Lecky, History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe, vol. 2, p. 32, 1910 edition.

“For professing faith contrary to the teachings of the Church of Rome, history records the martyrdom of more than one hundred million people. A million Waldenses and Albigenses [Italian Swiss and French Protestants] perished during a crusade proclaimed by Pope Innocent III in 1208. Beginning from the establishment of the Jesuits in 1540 to 1580, nine hundred thousand were destroyed. One hundred and fifty thousand perished by the Inquisition in thirty years. Within the space of thirty-eight years after the edict of Charles V against the Protestants, fifty thousand persons were hanged, beheaded, or burned alive for heresy. Eighteen thousand more perished during the administration of the Duke of Alva in five and one half years.” Brief Bible Readings, 1.

On August 24, 1527, Roman Catholics in France, by prearranged plan under Jesuit influence, murdered 70,000 Protestants within the space of two months. The pope rejoiced when he heard the news of the successful outcome. “Catholics say only 30,000 were slain. Protestants put the number at 70,000. We prefer the latter figure. If there were 70,000 Huguenots [French Protestants] in Paris the night of the massacre, so much the more justification of the slaughter... We have heard ring out many times the very bells that called the Catholics together on that fatal night. They always sounded sweetly in our ears.” Western Watchmen, November 21, 1912, [Catholic].

Burning heretics is not the will of God. If there were one heretic in the whole world who believed contrary to all others, the world would be no more justified in silencing that one man, than that one man, if he were able, would be justified in silencing the whole world.

Absolute power, whether it is civil or religious, corrupts absolutely. He who truly has the Spirit of Christ, will not only allow others to believe differently, but will fight for laws that permit others to speak out against that which he himself believes. It is manifest that in any relig-

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Twenty-one Days With Jesus
by Jeff and Marlene Wehr

It has been said that it takes twenty-one days to learn a new habit or to unlearn an old one. If, by daily perseverance, we choose to behold Jesus and to follow Him, our lives will become fashioned after the similitude of Christ.

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I CHARGE thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and doctrine.” 2 Timothy 4:1-2.

The duty of the minister of Christ is made plain in these direct and forcible words. He is charged to “preach the word,” not the opinions and traditions of men, not pleasing anecdotes or sensational stories to move the fancy and excite the emotions. He is not to exalt himself by parading his accomplishments, and by seeking to make manifest his wisdom; but as in the presence of God and Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead, he is to stand before a dying world and preach the solemn truth of God. There is to be no levity, no trifling, no fanciful interpretation, but in sincerity and deep earnestness the minister must be as a voice from God expounding the Sacred Scripture.

There are ministers who wrest the Word of God to their own destruction. They handle the Scriptures deceitfully, and will receive the greater condemnation when they appear before the Judge of all the earth to render up their account. Those who make it appear that the inspired utterances of the Bible support false doctrines that teach the transgression of God’s Law, though they stand in the sacred desk, are agents of Satan, and are deceiving and being deceived.

The faithful minister of Christ must preach the Word of God in such a manner as will carry a weight of influence, and impress men with the importance and truth of its instruction. He must be instant in season and out of season, ready to seize and improve every opportunity to further the work of God. His appointments should be filled with promptness and interest. He cannot afford to be negligent or indifferent when a suitable occasion presents itself for bringing the truth before the minds of men. To be “instant in season,” is to be alert to the privileges of the house and hour of worship and to the time when men are conversing on the topics of religion. And “out of season,” when you are at the fireside, in the field, by the wayside, in the market, seek to be ready to turn the thoughts of men, in a suitable and wise manner, to the great themes of the Bible. With tender and fervent spirit urge the claims of God upon the soul. Many, many precious opportunities are allowed to slip by unimproved, because men are persuaded that it is out of season. But who knows what might be the effect of a wise appeal to the conscience, by using the Word of God that will accomplish that for which God has given it? It is written, “In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.” Ecclesiastes 11:6. Satan has a whole store of excuses and evasions to keep men from the performance of duty. If he can lead them to neglect their opportunities, he can keep souls in darkness that might have yielded to the claims of the truth, if the followers of Christ had discerned their advantage and improved upon it.

The minister is not only to warn men, but to “reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.” On every hand there are openings for the work of the God-fearing minister; and he who deals faithfully, as one who must give an account, is a laborer together with God. He is sowing seeds of eternal truth, and though he may bear a burdened heart, and send up prayers with supplication and tears, he will come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

The minister who loves to sermonize will be in danger of preaching long and wordy discourses. His prolonged effort will leave him without strength or disposition to engage in personal and individual labor.

Ministering in the sacred desk is not the complete work of the ambassador of Christ. Paul, as well as laboring publicly, went from house to house preaching repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. He met with men at
their homes, and besought them with tears, declaring unto them the whole counsel of God. Jesus came in personal contact with men. He did not stand aloof and apart from those who needed His help. He entered the homes of men, comforted the mourner, healed the sick, aroused the careless, and went about doing good. And if we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, we must do as He did. We must give men the same kind of help as He did. We must come close to the hearts of those who need our ministry. We must open the Bible to the understanding, present the claims of God’s Law, read the promises to the hesitating, urge the backward, arouse the careless, strengthen the weak. The minister must become a servant unto all men, like Him who came “not to be ministered unto, but to minister.” Matthew 20:28. This is faithful dealing with the flock of Christ.

There are many who neglect the work of personal and private intercourse with families and individuals. Many leave their fields of labor with much neglected that should have been done. They have not reproved the injurious and evil habits of the people, nor showed the positive necessity of clearing the life from everything condemned by the Word of God. The fear of giving offense, of losing the friendship of men, often causes the minister to lower the standard to the people, instead of bringing the people up to the standard. Plain dealing with errors at the right time will prevent a vast amount of evil; and will be the means of saving souls from destruction.

If this work is neglected by one, it has to be done by some other under more unfavorable circumstances; for those who are in error think the faithful reproof is exciting and uncharitable by comparing him to the first laborer. Oh, how important it is that every one should be faithful to his God-given trust! It is not enough to be simply a minister in the desk. You must reprove, rebuke, exhort, give full proof of your ministry, ever showing your disapproval of iniquity and your sorrow for sin. But all efforts must be made in the spirit of meekness, of long-suffering love and untiring patience. Nothing will be gained by manifesting impatience or unholy anger. You must cherish the spirit of the meek and lowly Jesus. If there seems to be but little good resulting from your work, you are not to be discouraged. It will work for your good; for the long-suffering will make you patient, and give you an experience in trusting God in dark hours. Keep working, be discreet, be discerning when to speak and when to be silent; watch for souls as they who must give an account; watch for the devices of Satan, lest you be beguiled from doing the disagreeable duty. Difficulties must not dishearten or intimidate you. With strong faith, with well-balanced minds, with intrepid purpose, meet the difficulties and overcome them. Do the work of an evangelist; and that is to water the seed already sown.

When the laborer is called to other fields, the new church should not be left destitute of help. It should be visited and and its relation to the plan of salvation is evident, is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view, and no positive instruction gained.

Those who enter the sacred desk should not feel when they have become able to present a certain round of subjects, that they are excused from further labor and study. There is no end of preparation for the solemn responsibilities of your office. The importance of your position as a representative of Christ, should urge you to most diligent habits in acquiring all the knowledge possible to be obtained. Carefully, prayerfully, conscientiously, you should search the Scriptures, that you may be able to give meat in due season to the household of God. You must bring forth things new and old from the treasure house of God’s Word.

“Preach the word.” 2 Timothy 4:2. It is the Word that demands your attention. There is not so much need of a knowledge of authors as of an understanding of the Book of books. A thoughtful and painstaking task is put upon the mind when the Sacred Scriptures are diligently searched.

The practicing of the truth in your daily life is to preach the Word, as well as the exposition of Scripture in the pulpit. The knowledge you obtain is to be committed to faithful men who in turn will teach others.

Everyone should seek to understand the great truths of the plan of salvation, that he may be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks the reason of his hope. You should know what caused the fall of Adam, so that you may not commit the same error, and lose heaven as he lost Paradise. You should study the lives of patriarchs and prophets, and the history of God’s dealing with men in the past; for these things were “written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.” 1 Corinthians 10:11. We should study the divine precepts, and seek to comprehend their depth. We should

Strength of mind is acquired by exercise. Ability to expound the Word of God, depends upon the work that is put into the time of study—depends upon the attitude of the soul toward God.
mediate upon them until we discern their importance and immutability. We should study the life of our Redeemer, for He is the only Perfect Example for men. We should contemplate the Infinite Sacrifice of Calvary, and behold the exceeding sinfulness of sin and the righteousness of the Law. You will come from a concentrated study of the theme of redemption strengthened and ennobled. Your comprehension of the character of God will be deepened; and with the whole plan of salvation clearly defined in your mind, you will be better able to fulfill your divine commission. From a sense of thorough conviction, you can then testify to men of the immutable character of the Law manifested by the death of Christ on the cross, the malignant nature of sin, and the righteousness of God in justifying the believer in Jesus, on condition of his future obedience to the statutes of God’s government in heaven and earth.

Thousands more might have been saved if men had preached the Word, instead of the maxims, philosophies, and doctrines of men. If from every pulpit had sounded the faithful truth of God, men would have been left with a better knowledge of the Bible, with a deeper conviction of the truth of its principles, and the reality of its promises; and far more might have come to an understanding of what is truth. The world is full of unsound doctrines, of the traditions and opinions of men, of seducing theories of evil spirits; but let every one who has a knowledge of the present truth, study to show himself approved unto God; and by word and action let him proclaim the Word of God that “liveth and abideth forever.” 1 Peter 1:23.

Review and Herald, April 24, 1888.

End-Time Methods of Healing
Continued from 19

tion, is totally different from the imagination dwelling upon a truly imaginary visit with Christ or with some personage known to have died. If the reported imagining results are a real encounter with an intelligent being, it undoubtedly is an encounter with an evil spirit in the guise of the one being “imaged.” The Bible does not promise that Christ will personally come to us at our beck and call. Christ’s promise that He will be with us “even unto the end of the world” is accomplished through the work of the holy angels and of the Comforter. Christ “comes” to us and “lives in our heart” through the ministry of the angels and of the Holy Spirit. The Bible clearly teaches that “the dead know not anything” until resurrected by Christ, and labels as erroneous the idea of communicating with those known to have died.

Some therapists claim that meditation greatly benefits patients in the alleviation of stress, treatment of drug addiction, improvement in job productivity and performance, and so on. Other health providers claim to see patients with problems resulting from meditation—such as inability to sleep and a variety of psychological problems, some even severe.

But in spite of these red flags of warning, many are being caught up in seeking help from the supposed inner powers of the mind. Even communist atheism is caught up in the “research” of supernatural powers, such as transcendental meditation and mental telepathy.

Mind Healing Mind

While false forms of meditation look to the power of one’s own mind to affect body functions, hypnosis is the working of one person’s mind upon another person’s mind, and thus upon the second person’s body. The will of the hypnotized person is subdued in varying degrees to the mind of the hypnotist. While hypnotized, the patient voluntarily suspends some of his or her critical faculties. Apparently, hypnosis was used in religious ceremonies in ancient Egypt. It was rediscovered and popularized by Antoine Mesmer in the 1700s, and is thus sometimes referred to as mesmerism. Hypnosis is purported to help the same type of problems as does meditation—stress, smoking, drug abuse, overweight, and so forth. But it also finds use in more life-threatening disease conditions. In 1890, a surgeon reported doing major surgeries with hypnosis as the only anesthetic. It is estimated that ninety percent of the population can be hypnotized to some degree, and that one in four can be hypnotized so that they feel no pain during surgery. See “What’s Behind the Hocus-Pocus?” Family Health, February 1976, 59.

In 1958, the American Medical Association officially recognized hypnosis as an acceptable remedy. It is presently used by a large number and variety of health providers for a great array of problems. Frequently, the patient is taught self-hypnosis as a means of maintaining the “benefits” achieved. See Family Practice News, May 15-31, 1989, 47, 71; Journal of the American Medical Association, November 28, 1990, 2681. At least one health provider warns of seeing undesirable effects from hypnosis in approximately ten percent of his patients. The problems encountered included headaches, anxiety, intrusive thoughts or feelings, dizziness, memory and attention lapses—all of which may be temporary, but could last for a prolonged time. See Psychology Today, January 1987.

1. A future article will address electricity and magnetism in further depth.

The Sabbath: Saturday or Sunday?

by Joel Allen

This 60-page booklet addresses the great testing question for Earth’s final generation: What is God’s true Sabbath—Saturday or Sunday? Or does it matter? The majority of the chapters are compiled from studies in Bible Readings for the Home Circle (1916 edition) that address God’s Law and the Sabbath.

An excellent book to share with someone searching to learn more about what the Bible has to say regarding this important subject.

Price: $2.00. Order 10 to 99 for only $1.50 each (a 25% discount) or order 100 or more for only $1.40 each (a 30% discount). Please see page 3 for shipping and sales tax information.
I hope you are all fine and doing well. I just want you to know how much I appreciate the Firm Foundation magazine and the fine work you are doing. Time is very short. We must do all we can.

CL, Ohio

May God bless you all. We pray each day for you and that He will fill your every need. Jesus is coming soon! Praise God!

JC, North Carolina

Thank you for your ministry. It has been a great help to me. May God’s blessing continue to be with you.

GM, Massachusetts

I must tell you I am so very thankful to have learned about Hope International two years ago, and I always love the really in-depth study offered in the publications of Our Firm Foundation. I am convinced you all are doing an exceptionally wonderful work.

While my funds are quite limited in my present circumstances, I am exceedingly impressed to send this check to you to help in God’s work during these final hours.

JS, California

Thank you so much for coming for our mini-camp meeting. Thank you so much for the truth-filled messages that fed my hungering soul. How I wish that I could hear sermons like these in church! They are what we as a people desperately need. I have been an Adventist all my life, and never heard God’s message until the past few years. What a tragedy! JL, Georgia

Brethren, I am asking for some free literature from there. As you know we are in the last days in which every Christian has to prepare himself for some tribulations that we will encounter as Christians. According to the prophecy, God says only those who will receive the latter rain will endure the troubles or tribulations that God’s people will face. Hence, earnest prayer and Bible studies have to be conducted in order to be in line with God’s desires.

The other thing that I would like to be assisted with is some books like Bible Readings for the Home, Prophets and Kings, Christ’s Object Lessons, and a King James Bible with some Bible studies.

I am a Seventh-day Adventist, and this year I am serving as a church elder.

GH, Zambia

It is God who will pay you for your kindness. May our Lord God bless you. I am very happy to let you know all the books reached me: A Bible, Bible Readings, Great Controversy, Preparing for Eternity, and others. We cannot get these books here in Kenya, although we are Seventh-day Adventist Church members.

I am the father of seven children. I would like any kind of further help if possible.

SK, Kenya

We appreciate the donations we receive marked “Literature Assistance.” It is with these funds that we are able to meet some of the many requests that we receive for free literature, mostly from the poorer overseas countries.—Editors.

Responses to Earth’s Final Warning

Your paper Earth’s Final Warning is so interesting and true! A street ministry group, of which I am a member, has decided to spread the gospel through this magazine. Please send me quantity prices of this tabloid as well as any other end-time magazines that you have in publication.

CJ, New York

Enclosed is a check for the book The Great Controversy. Please also send the free Rome’s Challenge and Heralds of Peace.

I received your tabloid when we were residing in Los Angeles, and this paper opened my eyes to the question of which is the right day to worship.

Our dilemma now is which church to go to. Is the Seventh-day Adventist Church the right one, as it is the only church which has worship services on Saturday instead of Sunday, as far as we know? Thank you for your kind attention.

AR, California

Will you kindly send the two samplers, Rome’s Challenge, and Heralds of Peace? Please also send a copy of Earth’s Final Warning.

JT, Texas

I would like to have the four volumes, The Desire of Ages, Acts of the Apostles, Prophets and Kings, and Patriarchs and Prophets. My dad already sent me The Great Controversy. I was born an Adventist.

PP, Hawaii

I am writing to request a free copy of Rome’s Challenge and the abridged chapters of Heralds of Peace. I have been doing personal research on the Roman Catholic Church for a while now, and the information in these two publications would be useful.

DC, Georgia

Comments from Truth for Today Bible Studies

Very eye-opening and thought-provoking. Please send as many study aids as possible. I am in the midst of a hungriness for the Word. I am a former member of the Worldwide Church of God (before doctrinal changes).

HM, Bahamas

God’s Word is forever. It is unchanging. Let me never stray from its truth and instructions. May the Holy Spirit fill me so that I may understand completely and fully.

TE, Oklahoma

I admire this person’s [Ellen G. White’s] desire to go on like she did. I think of the hard times I went through myself, but God helped me through them.

CH, Louisiana
HERE is a witnessing tool you will not want to be without. The Seventh-day Sabbath and a National Sunday Law is prepared as a bulk mailer with a four-color cover and is by far the most powerful presentation on the Sabbath-Sunday issue to date. The book’s 24 chapters are easy reading for non-Adventists, and they beautifully cover the broad spectrum of Sabbath issues.

The last chapter is followed by an appendix entitled “Rome’s Challenge.” This appendix was originally published in September 1893, as four separate articles in the Catholic Mirror, the official organ of the late Cardinal Gibbons and the Papacy in the United States. It supports the premises brought forth by Teske as it challenges Protestantism to either uphold the Bible Sabbath that the Hebrews, Seventh-day Adventists, and others observe as the day of worship, or else to admit their compromise of Bible authority and to acknowledge that their “mother church” exercised her power to change the Law of God.

Order several copies of The Seventh-day Sabbath and a National Sunday Law to share with your neighbors, friends, and business contacts.

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