GOD ON TRIAL
"They shall put you out of the synagogues." John 16:2. “And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” Matthew 24:12–13.

I cannot tell you the number of calls I get from people who have been cast aside in their local churches. Some have even been asked to leave! We expect this kind of treatment from the world, but from the church as well? What does Sister White have to say about that?

“When Christ was upon this earth, the world preferred Barabbas. And today the world and the churches are making the same choice. The scenes of the betrayal, the rejection, and the crucifixion of Christ have been re-enacted, and will again be re-enacted on an immense scale. People will be filled with the attributes of the enemy, and with them his delusions will have great power. Just to that degree that light is refused will there be misconception and misunderstanding. Those who reject Christ and choose Barabbas work under a ruinous deception. Misrepresentation and false witness will grow to open rebellion. The eye being evil, the whole body will be full of darkness. Those who give their affections to any leader but Christ will find themselves under the control, body, soul, and spirit, of an infatuation that is so entrancing that under its power souls turn away from hearing the truth to believe a lie. They are ensnared and taken, and by their every action they cry, Release unto us Barabbas, but crucify Christ.” The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 5, 1106.

She says that the “world” and the “churches,” are making the same choice.

“Even now this decision is being made. The scenes enacted at the cross are being re-enacted. In the churches that have departed from truth and righteousness it is being revealed what human nature can do and will do when the love of God is not an abiding principle in the soul. We need not be surprised at anything that may take place now. We need not marvel at any developments of horror. Those who trample under their unholy feet the law of God have the same spirit as had the men who insulted and betrayed Jesus. . . . Even now Christ is being betrayed in the person of His saints.” Ibid.

When she makes the statement that “Christ is being betrayed in the person of His saints,” she is referring to us today, all those that are suffering persecution for standing up for the right. What a powerful statement! If we are being betrayed, if we are being maligned, if we are being scorned for holding onto the faith once delivered to our fathers, she says it is Christ that this is being done to. Where have we heard a similar statement before?

“And the King shall answer and say 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.

“In view of the history of the life and death of Christ, can we be surprised if the world is hollow and insincere? Can we in our day trust in man, or make flesh our arm? Shall we not choose Christ as our Leader? He alone can save us from sin.” Ibid.

“This is the time when men and women should make determined efforts to keep wide-awake spiritually because of the prevalence of iniquity. Those who preserve their first love will be saved. The promise is, ‘He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.’ Matthew 24:13. Those who have genuine faith in God’s Word will, when tested, stand firm for principle. They have a definite message to proclaim in the time of the end.” Manuscript Releases, vol. 18, 178.

In spite of all the rejection, the ill treatment, the coldness we receive from others, we are promised that if we will hold fast, we will be saved. Praise God! It is those who treat us so contemptuously that need our love and prayers. We know where we are going, if we are faithful, and we also know what will happen to them, if they don’t change. Our compassion must be aroused; we know not how much time may be left for them! ¶
God On Trial

Randy Floyd

How could the Ruler of the universe be on trial?

Ye Are Complete in Him, Part 1

Ellen G. White

“There is brightness and attractiveness in the Christian’s hope.”

Who Was the Greatest Prophet?

Russell & Colin Standish

What would your answer be?

Did Jesus Die the Second Death? Part 2

Bob Jorgensen

When and how did Jesus gain the victory over death?

Killing a Prophet

Admiral Ncube

Such a horrible thing would not happen today, would it?

A Lesson From Israel’s Sin, Part 2

Ellen G. White

“God’s servants are to be very careful lest they encourage anything savoring of idolatry.”
Is God on trial? It may sound like a very strange idea, but a study into the deeper issues involved in the plan of salvation reveals that God is indeed on trial.

Let us read Ephesians 3:8–11: "Unto me [Paul], who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

In his deep humility and sense of his own unworthiness, Paul expresses his sincere appreciation of God’s grace; that God has chosen him and given him the great privilege of being a minister of the gospel mystery. He then explains that the “intent” or purpose of the mystery is that the “manifold wisdom of God” “might be known” by the “principalities and powers in heavenly places.” The manifold wisdom of God, he explains, will be made known unto these principalities and powers “by the church.”

Principalities and Powers
Who are these “principalities and powers in heavenly places”? These are heavenly beings of the highest rank and influence, no doubt including the angels. It also probably includes another class of beings as well:

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.” Job 1:6–7

The rest of the story is a very familiar one. But there is much more here for us than the familiar story. Notice that these beings, called “sons of God” came to “present themselves before the Lord.”

When God created the earth, it is recorded that “the morning stars sang together” and “all the sons of God shouted for joy.” See Job 38:4–7. The “morning stars” are the angels (see Revelation 1:20; 12:4), but who are these “sons of God”?

It is currently estimated that there are 100 billion galaxies besides our own. Each of these galaxies is estimated to have 200 billion suns. That is possibly 200 to 400 billion inhabitable planets in each of the estimated 100 billion galaxies!

Did God create sons and daughters only upon this planet? Did He create all the other billions of worlds as nothing more than ornaments? Isaiah 45:18 says that He did not create this planet “in vain. He formed it to be inhabited.” Hebrews 1:2 and 11:3 tell us clearly that He made worlds other than this one. He didn’t create those in vain either, but to be inhabited. It seems clear that these “sons of God” in Job were the representatives of their respective worlds.

Had Adam not chosen to yield his dominion, he, not Satan, would have presented himself before the Lord as a representative of earth. Thus, the “principalities and powers in heavenly places” mentioned by Paul refer, not only to the angels, but to the representatives of other worlds in the unfallen universe of God’s creation. God’s prophet Ellen White saw much in regard to this. See The Desire of Ages, 19, 693, 759–760, 834; Patriarchs and Prophets, 68–69, 78–79; Prophets and Kings, 148; Education, 307–308; Testimonies, vol. 3, 240.
Satan’s Accusations

Why is it though that “the manifold wisdom of God” must be made known to these principalities and powers by the church? Is there some question as to the wisdom of God? Indeed there is! The questions (or accusations) were raised by Satan himself, for he is “the accuser” of God and of man.

The plan of salvation, the “mystery” of which Paul speaks encompasses much more than we realize. There is much more at stake than merely our getting into heaven.

What are the issues? In the Garden of Eden, Satan insinuated doubt about the character of God. “You can eat the fruit. God doesn’t want you to eat the fruit because He doesn’t want you to have the wisdom He has. His motives are thus impure, tainted with selfishness.” He also insinuated that man might choose another path than the one God has chosen for him and live. Man may sin, disobey his Maker, and yet not perish. God and His laws are therefore arbitrary and need not be obeyed.

Eve believed these lies and sinned. Death and misery are the result. Once mankind had fallen, Satan now declared God to be unjust in allowing man to live, and declared that man could not be uplifted from the ruin and degradation he found himself in. In their fallen condition, they can never obey God’s holy law, he says. Mankind is hopelessly selfish; self-centered.

This is the issue in the book of Job. Listening to the way God talks about Job, it sounds like He has something to prove, does it not? He speaks of Job as if Job is the proof! Satan responds to God by saying that Job only serves God because all that he does is blessed — no evil befalls him. He insinuates that if God allowed Job to suffer loss, he would curse God.

Satan made these accusations before all the Universe. If man suffers the consequences of sin, he will not, cannot serve God. This is the story of the human race. Will man, can man, willingly choose to obey God’s law while in the midst of a sin cursed world? Is God unjust in showing mercy to sinners, to fallen beings? Will God’s mercy result in the upbuilding of man? Can the image of God be restored in man?

upbuilding of man? Can the image of God be restored in man? Satan claims this is not possible; that fallen man will not and cannot obey God’s law and thus reflect His image.

There is another instance in the Bible that clarifies the issues in the great controversy. In Zechariah 3 Satan is depicted standing at the right hand of Joshua to resist or accuse him. He declares that Joshua, in his filthy garments (his sin polluted character), has no right to be granted the privilege of a place among heavenly beings. The Lord rebukes Satan, takes away Joshua’s filthy garments, and clothes him in the garments of salvation — the garments of Christ’s righteousness. The attending angel then counsels him that if he will choose to walk with God willingly and wholeheartedly, he can and will be granted a place among heavenly beings.

“Our little world is the lesson book of the universe.” The Desire of Ages, 19. Will Satan’s accusations be proven false by the church of God? Or will the plan of redemption be shown to be a failure?

How Is God Vindicated?

God will be vindicated before the unfallen Universe, and before man. How is this to be accomplished? Ezekiel 36 gives us some insight:

In verses 17–23, God reveals the unworthiness and utter wretchedness of Israel, His people. They are a rebellious and stiff-necked people. His name, which is His character, has been profaned among the heathen who look upon Israel and say, “this is the Lord’s people.” See verses 20–23. Today also, people see all kinds of hypocrites who bear the name of Christ. They see what Christianity produces and they deem it an altogether worthless venture and are thus led to blaspheme and trample upon the worthy name of Christ (Romans 2:24).

But God says, “I will take you and clean you up. I will wash you from all your sins, and then I will put my righteous law, not upon stone tablets, but upon the tables of your hearts. I will cause you to walk in My ways and keep My laws.” See verses 24–29. He says that the heathen will not be able to cast contempt upon their behavior; they cannot blaspheme that wor-
thy name by which they are called. God's faithful people are the result of the plan of redemption—the restoration of the image of God, the divine nature, in fallen man! This is the new covenant promise He is talking about here in Ezekiel 36.

“Not for your sakes,” God says, “do I do this, But for My holy name’s sake. I will be sanctified in you before their eyes.” Verses 22–23, 32. What a privilege—to vindicate God's character and holy name before mankind and the Universe! To be the proof that stops the mouth of the accuser once and for all! God is on trial, being judged, but He will prevail. See also Ezekiel 20:9, 14, 22,

In Ephesians 4:8–14, Paul explains that the gifts of the Holy Spirit were for the edifying of the body of Christ, for the perfecting of the saints. Not until the church grows up into “the full measure of the stature of Christ,” will it be declared, “the bride has made herself ready.” See Revelation 19:7.

God desired to bring His people to this perfection soon after the termination of the 2300 days of Daniel in 1844. Yes, we are waiting for Jesus to come; but He is waiting for us. See also James 5:7–8; Mark 4:26–29.

Revelation 10:6–7 declares that in the time of the seventh (last!) angel, “the mystery of God should be finished.” This is the mystery of which Paul so eloquently spoke of—“Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:26. When Christ is fully formed in every believer, then will the mystery be finished. See Galatians 4:19; Christ’s Object Lessons, 69.

As Christ was nailed to the cross, He unmasked Satan and the fallen angels, openly exposing his vile and insidious character. See Colossians 2:15, “Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings.” The Desire of Ages, 761.

However, Christ’s life and death is not the only evidence that God will present to the universe: “The church, endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depositary, in which the riches of His mercy, His grace, and His love, are to appear in full and final display.” Ibid., 680. The security of the unfallen universe is at stake, and it must be shown that it is safe for man to enter heaven. “It was God's purpose to place things on an eternal basis of security, and in the councils of heaven it was decided that time must be given for Satan to develop the principles which were the foundation of his system of government.” Ibid., 759.

It must be demonstrated clearly and conclusively that the image of God has been restored in man before he can expect to be allowed back into the garden.

Waiting for the Final Generation

Hebrews 11:39–40 explains that the faithful of all generations “they” without the final generation “us,” will not be made perfect. It rests upon the final generation to give the full and final demonstration of the power of the gospel before Heaven’s gates are swung open to the faithful of all ages. This is what all creation is waiting for, groaning for—a full “manifestation of the sons of God.” See Romans 8:19–25; 2 Corinthians 5:1–4. Then will be “the restitution of all things.” Acts 3:21. Then it will be sure that “affliction shall not rise up the second time.” Nahum 1:9.

We may have the honor of vindicating God’s holy name before man and all the Universe. Will we allow another generation to pass before this is done? Or will we hasten the coming of the Lord? The choice is ours to make! $
For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; that their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

“And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.” Colossians 2:1–10.

Mark the words of the last clause, “Ye are complete in him.” Is not this a wonderful statement? Notwithstanding all our various temperaments, our different defects and imperfections, notwithstanding the attacks of the enemy, his grievous temptations and suggestions, we are said to be “complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.”

Very much is presented before you in the words which I have read; but we shall be able to notice only a few of the points contained in this scripture. But we desire that you should be able in some measure to comprehend the possibilities to which we may attain in our Christian life. We are to walk even as Christ walked, or the words of inspiration would not so present the course of the follower of Christ. “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.”
In order to attain to this high calling of God in Christ Jesus, you must begin the day with your Saviour. The very first out-breathing of the soul in the morning should be for the presence of Jesus. “Without me,” He says, “ye can do nothing.” John 15:5. It is Jesus that we need; His light, His life, His spirit, must be ours continually. We need Him every hour. And we should pray in the morning that as the sun illuminates the landscape, and fills the world with light, so the Sun of righteousness may shine into the chambers of mind and heart, and make us all light in the Lord. We cannot do without His presence one moment.

The enemy knows when we undertake to do without our Lord, and he is there, ready to fill our minds with his evil suggestions that we may fall from our steadfastness; but it is the desire of the Lord that from moment to moment we should abide in Him, and thus be complete in Him, accepted in the Beloved.

God designs that every one of us shall be perfect in Him, so that we may represent to the world the perfection of His character. He wants us to be set free from sin, that we may not disappoint Heaven, that we may not grieve our divine Redeemer. He does not desire us to profess Christianity, and yet not avail ourselves of that grace which is able to make us perfect, that we may be found wanting in nothing, but unblameable before Him in love and holiness.

I hear one say, “I can never reach that standard.” But this is what you must be, or you will never enter heaven. We want to gain heaven; for there, there is no disappointment, no sorrow, no sin, no one who shall say, “I am sick,” no burial trains there, no mourning, no death, no parting, no broken hearts; but Jesus is there, peace is there.

**In His Presence**

O, we must be with Him; for in His presence is fulness of joy, at His right hand there are pleasures for evermore. See Psalm 16:11. And it is here that we must behold Him, and become changed into His image. “We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 3:18. How much comfort it gives to behold Him here by the eye of faith, that we may by beholding be made like Him, but what will it be to behold Him as He is, without one dimming veil between?

And who is He? He is the One who has made an infinite sacrifice in our behalf, the One who has brought eternal redemption to our view, and should we behold in Him all He is to us, how gladly would we yield our hearts to Him, to love Him and obey Him. Can we not do this now? Is there not need that we behold Him by faith and become changed into His image, when we know that the world is covered with moral darkness like the pall of death, that as we reflect light into the gloomy pathway of those who are in perplexity and error, they may see that there is brightness and attractiveness in the Christian’s hope?

But all this depends upon your reception of the Holy Spirit. It is your privilege to be anointed from on high, or you cannot represent Jesus as He is, and the world cannot take knowledge of you that you have been with Him and have learned of the divine Teacher. You are to walk in Him, to love Him because He first loved you.

Jesus did not seek you and me because we were His friends; for we were estranged from Him, and unreconciled to God. It was while we were yet sinners that Christ died for us. Romans 5:8. But He has promised to give us His Holy Spirit, that we might become assimilated to His nature, changed into His image. Therefore we must put away everything like passion, impatience, murmuring, and unrest, and find a place for Jesus in the heart. We must have the buyers and the sellers cleared out of the soul-temple, that Jesus may take up His abode within us.

Now He stands at the door of the heart as a heavenly merchantman; He says, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and will open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” Revelation 3:20. “Open unto Me; buy of Me the heavenly wares; buy of Me the gold tried in the fire.” Buy faith and love, the precious, beautiful attributes of our Redeemer, which will enable us to find our way into the hearts of those who do not know Him, who are cold and alienated from Him through unbelief and sin. He invites us to buy the white raiment, which is His glorious righteousness: and the eyesalve, that we may discern spiritual things. O, shall we not open the heart’s door to this heavenly visitor?
My Way or Christ’s Way?

But every one who is Christ’s, who has tasted of the powers of the world to come, has “crucified the flesh, with the affections and lusts.” Galatians 5:24. As the physical nature is sustained by the food we eat, so the spiritual nature must be sustained by the Word and Spirit of God. God desires us to have a healthful experience. We shall be feeble and dying Christians if we have the experience described by the apostle as fashioned after “the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” We must have Christ abiding in our hearts by faith, and then we shall manifest the fruits of the Spirit, which the Word of God declares are “love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.” Verses 22–23.

But sometimes those who profess to be followers of Christ, will say, “You must not be surprised if I am rough, if I speak bluntly, if I manifest temper; for it is my way.” But is not Heaven surprised at such manifestations, since the plan of salvation has been devised, since an infinite sacrifice has been made on Calvary’s cross, that we might reflect the image of Jesus? Will your way lead to heaven?

Suppose one should come up to the pearly gates, and say, “I know that I have been rude and unkind, and it is my disposition to lie and to steal; but I want an entrance into the heavenly mansions;” would that way give him an entrance into the portals of the heavenly city? — No; it is those who keep Christ’s way that will enter there. He says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6. If any one thinks he can climb up some other way, he will find that it will not lead him to the mansions of glory.

We want Christ’s way. His life must be in us, even as blood is the life that nourishes the body. Jesus has said, “Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. . . . He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood dwelleth in me, and I in him.” John 6:53, 56. We should study that we may understand the meaning of these words; for they are of vital importance to us. Jesus has explained their significance. He says, “It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” Verse 63.

To be continued.

The Bible Echo and Signs of the Times, January 15, 1892. A sermon preached in Federal Hall, North Fitzroy, Melbourne, Australia, December 19, 1891.

Ellen G. White, 1827–1915, received the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the fruits of her life and work accord with the biblical tests of a true messenger of God. To this day, her counsels are an incalculable blessing to God’s people around the world.

‘Of His people God says, ‘They shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon His land. For how great is His goodness, and how great is His beauty!’ Zechariah 9:16–17. The exaltation of the redeemed will be an eternal testimony to God’s mercy. . . . “Through Christ’s redeeming work the government of God stands justified. The Omnipotent One is made known as the God of love. Satan’s charges are refuted, and his character unveiled. Rebellion can never again arise. Sin can never again enter the universe. Through eternal ages all are secure from apostasy. By love’s self-sacrifice, the inhabitants of earth and heaven are bound to their Creator in bonds of indissoluble union.” The Desire of Ages, 26.
In 1979, Russell was itinerating in the north of Thailand with Dr. Dunbar Smith, the Medical Director of the Far Eastern Division. Russell was then the newly-appointed President of the Bangkok Adventist Hospital in the Thai capital city.

One of the great joys of denominational service was the camaraderie which existed between fellow-workers for God in the Mission Field. The same is true in self-supporting work. As we traveled together in the cause of our Lord we did not engage one another in small talk. Rather, the chief themes of our conversation were either “Discussion of the means to further pursue God’s commission to spread His gospel to the billions of precious souls in Asia,” or “The deeper matters of God’s inspired Word which He has graciously provided to us that we may find the path to heaven.”

Dr. Smith was considerably senior in years to Russell. An American, he was an ordained minister who, following his ordination to the ministry, studied medicine. Russell’s calling was in the reverse order. Although he did not possess the least anticipation in 1979 that he, too, would also have placed upon him the sacred responsibility of an ordained minister in addition to that of a medical missionary, however, on December 6, 1980, this transpired.

Prior to his appointment to the Far Eastern Division, Dr. Smith had held the same post in the Trans-African Division, which included the former British colonies in southern and eastern Africa.

The passage of time has dimmed Russell’s memory of how the conversation between Dr. Smith and himself turned to the work of Sister Ellen White. But Russell will never forget the impact of a statement uttered by Dr. Smith. It was a thought which had never previously entered Russell’s mind and which dominated his moments of contemplation for days ahead.

Dr. Smith proposed a conjecture. “Russ, I wonder if when we finally reach heaven we shall discover that Sister White was the greatest of all the prophets.” Russell’s thoughts did not match his response. He held Dr. Smith in too great respect to challenge this proposition. Yet in his mind many thoughts were traveling in rapid succession. These thoughts did not arise in near articulation or well-crafted sentences.

Sister White greater than Jeremiah, Isaiah, Daniel? Surely not! What about John the Baptist? How can Dunbar even think this? “Only God can judge this matter.”

Yet, during the subsequent days, Dr. Smith’s “outrageous” suggestion plagued Russell’s thoughts. Russell emphatically concluded that neither Dr. Smith nor he himself,
greater than he." Matthew 12:41. Notwithstanding he that hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist. . . . “Luke 7:28.

Thus when God’s prophetess of the last days comes under serious attack in the precious church of God, we believe it devolves upon us to rise up in her defense. Sister White is dead. She cannot defend herself. It showed little courage on the part of General Conference leaders to wait four years after Sister White’s death before they launched into a decided denigration of her prophetic gift in the Bible Conference of 1919. 1

More years have passed—eighty-five, at the time of writing this manuscript—since that disgraceful denial of faith in 1919. In the South Pacific Division, at the present time, the spirit of rebellion against the inspired words of Sister White is reaching unprecedented proportions.

One hundred and seven years ago, in 1897, also in Australia, false accusations were leveled against Sister White. In Letter 98a, Sister White wrote:

“When man assails his fellow men, and presents in a ridiculous light those whom God has appointed to do work for Him, we would not be doing justice to the accusers, or to those who are misled by their accusations should we keep silent, leaving the people to think that their brethren and sisters, in whom they have had confidence, are no longer worthy of their love and fellowship. . . . And on every point the accusers should be called upon to bring their proof. Every charge should be carefully investigated; it should not be left in any uncertain way, the people should not be left to think that it may be or it may not be. The accusers should do all in their power to lift every sign of reproach that cannot be substantiated. . . . The people must not be left to believe a lie. They must be undeceived. The filthy garments with which the servant of God has been clothed must be removed.” Selected Messages, book 3, 348-349.

In upcoming months we will respond to this divine command, exposing some of the current subtle attacks upon God’s greatest gift to His remnant church.

When God’s prophetess of the last days comes under serious attack in the precious church of God, we believe it devolves upon us to rise up in her defense.

Russell Standish, speaker and author, writes from Australia, where he directs Remnant Ministries.

Colin Standish, president of Hartland Institute, writes from Rapidan, Virginia.

Note:

1 The 1919 Bible Conference is discussed at length in chapter 21 of The Greatest of All the Prophets, mentioned below.

This article was taken from The Greatest of All the Prophets, by Russell and Colin Standish. You may purchase this book from Hope International for $16.99 plus shipping & handling (see page 30).
When the Suffering of Death Takes Place

Not only can we say that Christ has tasted death for every man, but we can also say that Christ is the only one who has fully tasted the sufferings of death. Any discussion of the sufferings of death, or the tasting of death, must of necessity be a discussion of the elements of experience involved with death that precede the point at which unconsciousness begins. All elements beyond the point of unconsciousness are totally meaningless to the person because he feels nothing and knows nothing. Though it is hard for us to grasp completely, we may say that there is no difference in the experience of unconsciousness for a person in the first death and that of a person in the second death. While it is true that the state of unconsciousness lasts forever in the second death, that fact is meaningless to the unconscious person. There is no difference in the feeling of death for one year or for a billion billion years—it all feels exactly identical to the unconscious person who feels nothing. He knows no difference at all in his state of unconsciousness in either the first death or the second. It is only to the mind in a state of consciousness that a sense of horror can be felt, and to all who experience the second death such a horror will be felt before they lapse into unconsciousness. It can be said that the primary sense in which their suffering, or “tasting,” exists is in what they consciously feel, touch, taste, and perceive in the time preceding unconsciousness.

This, then, is the real torment of the second death. Once irrevocable unconsciousness has come upon a person they have no more perception, or “tasting,” of any length of that state of unconsciousness, nor do they have any capacity of hoping for a resurrection. I realize that we know all these things, but they need to be stated clearly so that we can discern their far-reaching implications. We can thus see that all real difference between the first death and second death in terms of experience resides in what transpires in the person’s experience previous to the instant of expiration when consciousness ceases.

In considering what was accomplished by Christ we must then evaluate primarily His experience in the final hours and moments preceding His last expiring breath when life and consciousness ceased.
When Did Jesus Gain the Victory Over Death?

During most of my life, with a background of growing up in Adventism, I had assumed that Jesus gained the victory over death by being resurrected. I had viewed that Christ died in consequence of our sins, but that He triumphed over death by rising from the dead in that resurrection on the morning of the first day.

Only in recent years did it dawn upon my comprehension that it was necessary for Christ to gain the victory over death before He died, or He would not be the victor over death. If He had been borne down by His death experience to the point of lying in the grave then He would have had to accomplish some further work in order to finally gain victory that would make the resurrection possible. But to hold such a position would be to entertain shades of the immortality of the soul teaching. For Christ to accomplish anything more than what He accomplished before He died would be, I say, to give credence to the immortality of the soul doctrine. Furthermore, we would have a basis for giving some validity to the concept of honoring Sunday as a day of victory when Christ was resurrected.

In the experience of Christ we can see the connection of the two great pillars of truth that oppose the two great pillars of error. Sunday sacredness and the immortality of the soul are the two great pillars of the theological system of Babylon. The significance of the Sabbath and the non-immortality of the soul are inseparably connected in the events of Christ’s life and death.

Since we do not believe in the consciousness of the soul in death we must conclude that Christ accomplished the victory in His conflict with death before He “gave up the ghost.” This is in harmony with His statement proclaimed from the cross in strong trumpet tones, “It is finished.” But we must ask: Precisely what is it that was finished? We find a significant commentary on what was finished, or completed, in *The Desire of Ages*.

“Christ did not yield up His life till He had accomplished the work which He came to do, and with His parting breath He exclaimed, ‘It is finished.’ John 19:30. The battle had been won. His right hand and holy arm had gotten Him the victory. As a Conqueror He planted His banner on the eternal heights. Was there not joy among the angels? All heaven triumphed in the Saviour’s victory. Satan was defeated, and knew that his kingdom was lost.

But we must

The significance of the Sabbath and the non-immortality of the soul are inseparably connected in the events of Christ’s life and death.

“To the angels and the unfallen worlds the cry, ‘It is finished,’ had a deep significance. It was for them as well as for us that the great work of redemption had been accomplished. They with us share the fruits of Christ’s victory.” Page 758.

Very clearly then, the battle had been fought in Gethsemane and on Calvary, but the victory had been fully and completely gained while Christ was conscious. It was during His consciousness that He tasted and suffered death for all men. It was during His conscious moments that He drank the dregs and emptied the bitter cup. He had felt every torture and torment that it is possible for unabated guilt to force upon the human soul. He had felt the depths of the sense of the separation from God just as any human can possibly feel it knowing that it is for eternity. In other words, before Christ died the first death of unconscious sleep, He endured all the elements of conscious separation from God for eternity. But, praise God, Jesus had a faith that was stronger than death. Though He experienced the exceeding sorrow of death (Matthew 26:38), and though He consciously experienced “the dust of death” (Psalm 22:15), He passed through the struggle and emerged the victor over death before He yielded up His life. Notice again the words of *The Desire of Ages*: “Christ did not yield up His life till He had accomplished the work which He came to do. . . . The battle had been won. . . . All heaven triumphed in the Saviour’s victory.”

On page 756 we read: “Amid
But now, in the closing moments as Christ hangs on the cross, He senses full restoration of His Father’s favor. He has full assurance of the battle won and the victory gained, and He ushered in the Sabbath, the Son of God lay in quietude in Joseph’s tomb. His work completed, His hands folded in peace, He rested through the sacred hours of the Sabbath day.” Ibid., 769. Christ would not have had the right to Sabbath rest if anything had remained to be done in order to complete the victory over death. If being resurrected was necessary in order to complete the victory, then Sabbath rest must follow the resurrection, and Sunday is indeed the new rest day. However, this is not the case. As we have seen, Christ completed the work, rested the Sabbath, and arose from the tomb after Sabbath rest was over.

Did Jesus Die the Second Death?

We come back to the question posed at the beginning of this article: Did Jesus die the second death?

To be consistent with truths committed to Seventh-day Adventists, which we have discussed here, we must say, “No, Jesus did not die the second death.” We may say that Jesus gained the victory over the second death. Jesus experienced the pain and torment of the second death, and it had nothing more it could put upon Him. The second death did not gain the victory over Him, as would be the case if He had died the second death. Jesus gained the victory over every element of the second death, and then He died the first death. In doing so He showed that the second death “hath no power” (Revelation 20:6) over those who develop the “faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12) and overcome as He overcame (Revelation 3:21).

Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

Concluded.

Bob Jorgensen lives on a mountain farm in North Carolina, where he and his wife, Vicky, operate their ministry Medical Missionary Press.
Imagine on a sunny afternoon during the Old Testament times, you notice a mob wielding sticks and stones and jeering as they follow a helpless man being dragged in the streets. Just outside the city the excited mob gathers around a gasping victim who had earlier received a cruel scourging.

Amidst the cursing and mocking, you notice many excitedly fumbling for stones. Suddenly, at the sound of someone’s voice, the mob hurls sticks and stones at the victim who is almost motionless. As you identify the victim, you hear his fading groans and pleas to God. After a few moments, the body lies still, covered with flies, thus signifying the death of another faithful witness for God.

As the mob begins to disperse and dogs gather to lick the blood, you begin to wonder why this man had to suffer such an ordeal. Is this really the price of speaking the truth to your countrymen? Is there anything you could have done to prevent such an unfair result? Will you be held accountable for just watching God’s messenger die in the hands of sinful men? If you really believed in the prophet, why did you not stand up and at least do something to uphold justice?

Killing a prophet! Is it possible for this to happen in our day and age and among God’s professed people?

Given for Our Benefit

Not wanting any of His children to perish in ignorance, God has often raised up prophets with messages of rebuke, exhortation and encouragement. Unfortunately throughout history, these faithful messengers have suffered rejection, insult, persecution, and even death from God’s professed people. Israel repeatedly despised and rejected God’s messengers until He rejected them:

“And the Lord God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no remedy.” 2 Chronicles 36:15–16.

As He promised in His Word, God has raised a prophet among us in the person of Ellen G. White. See Joel 2:28; Ephesians 4:11.

Even in the early church, the gift of prophecy was recognized, and believers were exhorted to heed all prophesying. See 1 Thessalonians 5:20. Therefore the raising up of Ellen White is not to take the place of Scripture; it shows that God wants us to know His will and that He wants us to be wise unto salvation amidst the battle with the father of lies.

Unappreciated

It is very sobering to note how much the writings of Ellen White have been and are still being neglected in Adventism today. It seems that every day that goes by witnesses a greater and more general lack of appreciation of the importance of the Spirit of Prophecy. Why is it that we have kept quiet as “renowned” theologians and academics in the church degrade and drown out the voice of Inspiration? By keeping quiet, are we not equally guilty of killing the prophet as was ancient Israel?

The increasing non-use and lack of appreciation of the Spirit of Prophecy is testified to by the following.

1. Little or no progress in translating the writings into local languages for the benefit of non-English speaking people.
2. The unavailability and/or high retail price of Sister White’s writings especially in developing countries, testified to by the general ignorance pertaining to her writings.
3. The little use or reference to the Spirit of Prophecy in sermons, studies and discussions in many congregations. They are often reduced to mere devotional readings with little or no bearing on one’s salvation.
Could it be that the widespread neglect of the Testimonies has contributed to the decline and decay in spirituality and standards among us?

“The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. ‘Where there is no vision, the people perish.’ Proverbs 29:18. ” Selected Messages, book 1, 48.

“Doubt, and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches everywhere. Satan would have it thus. Ministers who preach self instead of Christ would have it thus. The testimonies are unread and unappreciated. God has spoken to you. Light has been shining from His word and from the testimonies, and both have been slighted and disregarded. The result is apparent in the lack of purity and devotion and earnest faith among us.” Testimonies, vol. 5, 217.

Could it be that the widespread neglect of the Testimonies has contributed to the decline and decay in spirituality and standards among us? To help us appreciate the magnitude of the problem, here are some examples of the erroneous teachings, practices, and problems facing world Adventism today:

**General**
- Compromise with the world and sin, accompanied by a general attitude of “do as you please”
- Secular mindedness
- Various forms of spiritualism and worldly psychiatry

**The Ministry**
- Pastors who joke and jest and who laugh at obedience to God’s Word

**Church Administration**
- Financial mismanagement
- Heavy-handed control over the local churches; trademark lawsuits
- Reliance on doctoral degrees; seeking worldly accreditation and government aid at the risk of accompanying regulations

**Lifestyle**
- Immorality
- Reading of fiction, worldly magazines and books
- Attendance at the theater; indiscriminate use of television
- Listening to worldly music
- Ridicule and neglect of healthful living standards
- Worldly and immodest clothing; colorful cosmetics and jewelry

**Doctrine**
- Increasing opposition to historic beliefs related to topics such as the humanity of Christ; who the first beast of Revelation 13 is; the heavenly sanctuary; fitting entertainment; and so on
- Time setting
- Increasing acceptance of homosexuals
- Teachings that we were already saved at the cross, that we need not obey the law of God, that there is no sanctuary in heaven, that there is no investigative judgment, and so on.

The list seems endless, but the truth is, we have departed from the path in which God bids us to walk.
given, line upon line, precept upon precept, should be heeded. If we disregard them, what excuse can we offer?” Testimonies, vol. 8, 298.

“All who believe that the Lord has spoken through Sister White, and has given her a message, will be safe from the many delusions that will come in these last days.” Selected Messages, book 3, 83–84.

**Picking and Choosing**

We are also in danger of picking and choosing from the Spirit of Prophecy those parts which seem agreeable while opposing or suggesting doubts regarding anything that would call for greater self-denial and sacrifice.

“If you lose confidence in the Testimonies you will drift away from Bible truth. I have been fearful that many would take a questioning, doubting position, and in my distress for your souls I would warn you. How many will heed the warning? As you now hold the Testimonies, should one be given crossing your track, correcting your errors, would you feel at perfect liberty to accept or reject any part or the whole? That which you will be least inclined to receive is the very part most needed.” Testimonies, vol. 5, 98. “It is not alone those who openly reject the Testimonies, or who cherish doubt concerning them, that are on dangerous ground. To disregard light is to reject it.” Ibid., 680.

Some who profess to believe in Sister White pass judgment on her work by suggesting that in some instances she wrote her opinions, that her counsel was merely her own recommendation.

“God sets no man to pronounce judgment on His Word, selecting some things as inspired and discrediting others as uninspired. The testimonies have been treated in the same way; but God is not in this.” Selected Messages, book 1, 23. See also Testimonies, vol. 5, 671-673.

As indicated earlier on, the Testimonies are not meant to take the place of the Bible but to shed more light upon it. We cannot dispense without either, especially in these last days. As a generation living at the close of this earth’s history, we do well to heed and obey everything contained therein.

“I took the precious Bible and surrounded it with the several Testimonies for the Church, given for the people of God. Here, said I, the cases of nearly all are met. The sins they are to shun are pointed out. The counsel that they desire can be found here, given for other cases situated similarly to themselves. God has been pleased to give you line upon line and precept upon precept. But there are not many of you that really know what is contained in the Testimonies.” Testimonies, vol. 2, 605. See also ibid., vol. 5, 654.

Therefore the issue is not about who Ellen White was but what God has spoken through her. Rejecting and despising the writings of God’s chosen servant is simply rejecting the voice of God and insulting Him. See Ibid., vol. 5, 680. Remember the story of Korah, Dathan and Abiram in Numbers 16.

For those who are yearning for more light, I would recommend the use of the Spirit of Prophecy. Ellen White was raised to be a prophet of the end, and her counsel applies with more force to us than for her time. Additional light will be granted only if we effectively make use of the light already shining in our pathway.

“Unbelief in the testimonies of warning, encouragement, and reproof is shutting away the light from God’s people.” Ibid., 674; see also ibid., vol. 1, 119.

“As the Word of God is walled in with these books and pamphlets, so has God walled you in with reproofs, counsel, warnings, and encouragements. Here you are crying before God, in the anguish of your souls, for more light. I am authorized from God to tell you that not another ray of light through the Testimonies will shine upon your pathway until you make a practical use of the light already given.” Ibid., vol. 5, 666; see also ibid., vol. 1, 119.

**Hold Up the Hands**

Brothers and sisters, we cannot just sit and watch the killing of a prophet; we must hold up the hands of the prophet. At a time when there is a general decay in spirituality, we have a duty to encourage others by precept and example to invest in, study, and obey the Spirit of Prophecy. Jesus is coming soon, and we are on the verge of a crisis, let us therefore leave no stone unturned in preparing for eternity.

May our book publishers, porteurs, and Bible workers do all they can to get these books to the people. If ever we needed the Spirit of Prophecy, it is now. May God help us to get ready, get ready, get ready!

Admiral Ncube writes from Zimbabwe, Africa. He assists in a small literature distribution ministry called Project Prepare, which is dedicated to distribute truth-filled material in that part of the world.
Let us follow the history of Israel further. Moses returned from the mount to find the children of Israel eating and drinking, and dancing and singing around the golden calf. “And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.” Exodus 32:20. This was their god.

Then Moses turned to Aaron and said, “What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?” Verse 21.

The man who might have saved the Hebrews in the hour of their peril is calm. He does not show indignation because of the sins of the people; neither does he reproach himself, nor manifest remorse under the sense of his wrong; but he seeks to justify himself in a grievous sin. He makes the people accountable for his weakness in yielding to their request.

Aaron’s course, in permitting such a condition of things, was displeasing to God. Notwithstanding the defiant attitude of the people, Aaron should have stood firm as a rock to duty. Had he stood with true moral courage, and in boldness rebuked the leaders in their shameful request, his timely words would have prevented that terrible apostasy. True, noble decision for the right in the hour of Israel’s peril would have balanced their minds in the right direction. But his desire to be popular with the congregation, and his fear of incurring their displeasure, led Aaron to sacrifice the allegiance of the Hebrews in that decisive moment.

This instance should teach us that in every place the church needs faithful sentinels. God’s servants are to be very careful lest they encourage anything savoring of idolatry; for the Lord will charge the sin upon them. The church claiming to believe the truth will have all kinds of temptations to enter into a course of action that will divide the soul from God; and in all our churches, faithful men should be appointed, who will bear responsibilities nobly for God. Firm barriers should be erected to prevent disaffection and corruption from entering the church.

The apostle declares: “A bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; holding fast the faithful Word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: whose mouths must be stopped.” Titus 1:7–11.

“Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the Lord’s side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbor. And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.” Exodus 32:26–28.

Before this action was taken, opportunity was given for all who would to take sides against idolatry and for God. But when the people stood in sullen stubbornness, God saw that He must punish the transgressors, that there might not be rebellion in the camp of Israel.

In the prayer of Moses we may learn something of the burden brought upon Him because of the weakness of Aaron in not standing firm for that which he knew to be right: “And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee.
behold, mine Angel shall go before thee; nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them.” Verses 30–34.

If the people so mercifully spared by God would repent with that repentance which needs not to be repented of; if they would serve God and honor His name, their sin on this occasion would no more be remembered against them. But if, when tempted, they pursued a similar course; if they showed no strength to resist temptation, but repeated their evil work; if they murmured and complained against Moses, these former sins would be placed to their account as un forgiven.

The Lord did not look favorably upon His people because of their sin. He said: “I will send an Angel before thee; . . . unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiff-necked people: lest I consume thee in the way. And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned: and no man did put on him his ornaments. For the Lord had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a stiff-necked people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee; nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them.” Verses 30–34.

Our dangers are not less, but greater, than were those of the Hebrews. There will be temptations to jealousies and murmurings, and there will be outspoken rebellion, as are recorded of ancient Israel. The Hebrews were not willing to submit to the directions and restrictions of the Lord. They wanted to have their own way, to follow the leadings of their own minds, and to be controlled by their own judgment. But God would have His people disciplined, and brought into harmony of action, that they may be of the same mind and of the same judgment.

Peter exhorts his brethren: “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resieth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” 1 Peter 5:5. The apostle Paul also exhorts his Philippian brethren to love and unity: “If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, fulfil ye my joy, that ye be like minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vain-glory; but in lowliness of mind believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me, and hast loved me.” John 17:20–23. ¶

Concluded.

Review and Herald, March 14, 1899.

Ellen G. White, 1827-1915, received the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the fruits of her life and work accord with the biblical texts of a true messenger of God. To this day, her counsels are an incalculable blessing to God’s people around the world.
Since work opportunities were more numerous around Topsham and Brunswick than in the neighborhood of Gorham, James decided to move his family to that area. The Howlands invited James and Ellen to move into their large house, offering them furnished rooms on the second floor in which to set up housekeeping. In October they moved there. The trip from Gorham to Topsham was approximately thirty-five miles.

If there was one thing James White abhorred more than debt, it was the feeling that he was dependent upon the labors of others for the support of his family. He first found work hauling stone for the railroad being built between Portland and Brunswick. The work was hard. Many times the handling of the stones abraded his finger tips until the blood oozed from them. But the most discouraging aspect of this job was that he found it almost impossible to collect even the small amount of money due him. He soon began looking for an employer from whom he could be sure of collecting his pay.

A short time later James went into the woods with his ax and began cutting wood. In spite of a continual pain in his side, he continued this work from morning till night, earning approximately fifty cents a day. He refused to become discouraged. Each morning he and Ellen knelt and prayed for strength for that day’s work, and each evening they gave thanks that this request had been granted.

One stormy morning the Whites found themselves with no food. James pulled on his boots. “I’m going to see my employer. He owes me several dollars, and perhaps I can collect some from him.”

“I wish you wouldn’t go out in such a storm,” said Ellen soberly, looking at little streams of water trickling down the windowpanes. “I can’t help it,” replied James, putting on his overcoat. “There’s no way to stop the rain,” he went on, trying to be cheerful.

More than two hours passed before James returned. Wearily he shook water out of his hat brim and stamped his feet to warm them. Then he climbed the stairs, entered the room, and laid down his bag of provisions. He had walked six miles. On his way he had passed through the town of Brunswick on the south side of the Kennebec River. He was well known in that area, having often lectured there during the time the Second Coming was being preached. Suddenly the picture of her husband carrying provisions in a cloth sack over his shoulder through the town in the rain struck Ellen with overwhelming force.

The floodgates of her tears were unleashed, and she wept a long time. At last she fainted. James and Brother Howland knelt beside her and pleaded with God to give her relief. Their prayers were answered, and when Ellen recovered, she expressed regret at allowing feelings of discouragement to overwhelm her.
Though the Whites had a good home, it was a long, hard winter. The Howlands willingly shared everything with them. But they also had invested most of their means in the Advent cause and were dependent upon their current income for food and clothing.

About that time Ellen had a vision in which she was shown that it was their duty not to settle down but to go from place to place for the salvation of others.

“You mean we must leave our home here and go traveling?” James asked in surprise. “That means we will have to take our small baby with us on steamers, stagecoaches, and rattling trains! How can we do such a thing?”

“James, I’m only telling you what the Lord showed me. You know that this winter we have not been prospered. I saw that the Lord was stirring up our nest so we wouldn’t settle down in comfort and thus fail to do His work.”

Together they discussed their problem. Seldom did they receive much help to pay travel expenses. They had no money themselves. And carrying a small child around from place to place, at all hours, and not always under comfortable circumstances, made leaving their home seem impossible at the time.

Not long after this, little Henry became very ill. No remedy seemed to help. James and Ellen wondered, Since they had made their baby an excuse for not engaging in God’s service, was He going to take him from them, thus removing that excuse?

It was a sobering thought. They talked the matter over and decided they must obey by taking little Henry and going wherever God’s providence should lead them.⁴

Some time later James received a letter from a Brother E. L. H. Chamberlain, who lived in Middletown, Connecticut, inviting them to attend a conference of all the believers in that part of the State the following month. James and Ellen talked it over and decided the call was from God. They wrote back that they would come if they could find the money for fares.

James collected ten dollars that his employer owed him. Ellen used five to purchase some essential clothing. (Their second five dollars would take them to Dorchester, near Boston.)⁵ Then she set to work to patch what was worth patching of the others. Humorously, she pointed out that she had to patch some of the patches on her husband’s overcoat. “I doubt if anyone will be able to guess the original color,” she laughed.

The Whites took Henry with them to Dorchester, where they visited their friends, the Nicholses. As they were leaving to continue their journey to Connecticut, Mrs. Nichols handed James five dollars. At the railway station they bought tickets costing $4.50, saw their trunk loaded onto the baggage car, and boarded the train.

At the Middletown station they claimed their trunk. Not willing to spend their last fifty cents for a conveyance to take them to the home of believers, James tossed the trunk onto a pile of lumber. Then they walked, carrying Henry, in to the center of town. A few inquiries enabled them to find Chamberlain, who took the weary travelers and their trunk to his home. Albert Belden, a relative of Ellen’s, sent his two-horse wagon to Middletown to carry the Whites and the few believers in Middletown the eight miles to Rocky Hill.

“If you have a room large enough to hold the people who will come?” James asked Belden as they visited together.

“My large unfinished room should be big enough for all who come,” Belden answered.

The next day, Friday, other Sabbathkeeping Adventists arrived, along with some who had not yet decided to keep the Sabbath. In all, about fifty attended.

During the meeting, which lasted through Sunday afternoon, Elder Bates, who had joined the group the day before, presented the commandments clearly and convincingly.

“The word had effect to establish those already in the truth, and to awaken those not fully decided.” James wrote to Brother Howland.⁶ That year, 1848, was destined to be one of great importance in the history of Adventism. The meeting at Rocky Hill was the first of a series of six “Sabbath conferences” (so called because they were held by “friends of the Sabbath”) that would be held before the end of the year.

The “little flock” was growing. James White exclaimed, “Praise the Lord!” ⁷

Notes:

¹ To erode by friction.
² Life Sketches (1888), 242.
³ Ibid., 242, 243.
⁴ Ibid.
⁵ Life Sketches (1915), 107.
⁶ Ibid., 108.
In this series of articles published in the Review and Herald, editor F. M. Wilcox expressed great concern for the increasing practice of sending Seventh-day Adventist young people and teachers to the schools of the world for study.—Editors.

There is another phase of this question which should be considered in this connection. While the Spirit of Prophecy has warned very definitely against allowing our young men and women to go to the great schools of the world because of the delusive teachings which they would face, teachings which would prove a real menace to their spiritual faith and life, at the same time the instruction which has come to us is just as definite that our own colleges should provide a sufficiently liberal course of instruction, so that those of our youth who desire to take a medical course would be prepared, when graduating from our schools, to enter the medical college and meet the demands of that school in the way of educational qualification.

We quote from an article by Mrs. E. G. White in the Review and Herald, October 15, 1903:

“All our denominational colleges and training schools should make provision to give their students the education essential for evangelists and for Christian business men. The youth and those more advanced in years who feel it their duty to fit themselves for work requiring the passing of certain legal tests should be able to secure at our union conference training schools all that is essential . . .

“If there are legal requirements making it necessary that medical students shall take a certain preparatory course of study, let our colleges teach the required additional studies in a manner consistent with Christian education. . . .

“In our training schools, the Bible is to be made the basis of all education. And in the required studies, it is not necessary for our teachers to bring in the objectionable books that the Lord has instructed us not to use in our schools. From the light that the
Lord has given me, I know that our training schools in various parts of the field should be placed in the most favorable position possible for qualifying our youth to meet the tests specified by state laws regarding medical students. To this end the very best teaching talent should be secured, that our schools may be brought up to the required standard.

“Let me repeat: It is not necessary for so many of our youth to study medicine. But for those who should take medical studies our union conference training schools should make ample provision in facilities for preparatory education.”

A Perplexing Problem

We are definitely told in this instruction that our union conference training schools or colleges should be prepared to qualify those students planning on medical education for entrance into our medical college, that we must be prepared to meet the legal requirements demanded for those attending our medical school. But these legal requirements affect our literary schools as well as our medical school. Indeed, in some states our young men and women can teach in our church or elementary schools only as they have certification from some school of recognized legal standing.

That a real problem in our educational situation exists, all recognize. Some have suggested the establishment of a graduate school of our own, where higher educational qualification could be provided. Perhaps this might prove the needed remedy; we do not know. The proposition would require time and careful study. Data regarding the cost and maintenance of such a school would have to be obtained. Its need and place in our system of church schools would have to be determined.

Our Schools Should Lead, Not Follow

We should elevate and hold our schools to a high standard. They should lead in the world of practical, efficient education. Wherein they fail of reaching this plane, every effort should be made to raise the standard in grammar, academy, and college grade. Our schools should not merely be the equal but the superior of all other schools because of the light and instruction we have received and because of their higher objectives in training their product, not alone for life in this world, but in the world to come. Graduates from our colleges should be able, because of the thoroughness of their training, to make better preachers, better physicians, better teachers, better business men and women, than the graduates of any other college in the world. Is this too high a standard, too lofty an ideal? It is the very standard to which we are invited by the Spirit of Prophecy:

“God would not have us in any sense behind in educational work. Our colleges should be far in advance in the highest kind of education.” Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, 45.

“We need young men and women who have a high intellectual culture, in order that they may do the best work for the Lord.” Ibid., 42.

“Our students should tax the mental powers; every faculty should reach the highest possible development.” Ibid., 394.

“True education does not ignore the value of scientific knowledge or literary acquirements; but above information it values power; above power, goodness; above intellectual acquirements, character. The world does not so much need men of great intellect as of noble character. It needs men in whom ability is controlled by steadfast principle.” Education, 225.

This height of excellence can be reached, not by following the ideals

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### Upcoming Events

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<th>Speaker(s) / Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 1–2</td>
<td>Eureka, Montana</td>
<td>Ron Spear, Clark Floyd</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8–10</td>
<td>Knoxville, Illinois</td>
<td>Hope International Spring Convocation</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15–17</td>
<td>Vancouver, BC, Canada</td>
<td>Ron Spear, Clark Floyd, Joe Olson</td>
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<td>April 22–25</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
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<td>May 14</td>
<td>St. Louis, Missouri</td>
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<td>June 29–</td>
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<td>July 20–24</td>
<td>Knoxville, Illinois</td>
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of worldly schools, but in faithfully following the path marked out for us by divine wisdom. Where worldly requirement and Christian principle conflict, there can be but one choice for the child of God; he must prove true and loyal to the right at any cost. If this stand robs us of recognition by others, then we must trust God to vindicate our stand and work for our deliverance.

We are told by the Spirit of Prophecy that “as long as time shall last, we shall have need of schools” (Counsels to Teachers, 417); but notwithstanding this that, “all schools among us will soon be closed up” (Testimonies, vol. 5, 156). What will lead to this deplorable tragedy we do not know. It certainly will not result because of the conformity of our schools to the standards and requirements of worldly schools. And by no premature course or unwise decision should we precipitate this most undesirable ending of the toil and sacrifice of years. But it is possible, if not probable, that this situation may result in consequence of our inability to compromise the principles of truth and the character and integrity of our schools in the final controversy between the commandments of God and the requirements of men.

**The Head and Not the Tail**

Had we faithfully followed the instruction received relative to the conduct of our schools, we would be recognized by the world today as the leaders in educational reform and development. The intrinsic value and practical worth of our courses of study would be recognized.

The time has come as never before when we should review the instruction we have received. The courses in our schools should be formulated after the pattern given us. We should give to industrial education its true place in our curricula of studies. Had this been done, the graduates from our schools would not feel that they must seek service in professional lines alone, and if no place was afforded them in the organized work, that they must turn to public school teaching or other lines of service where university qualification was required.

We have been definitely told that every youth on leaving one of our schools should have acquired a knowledge of some trade or occupation by which, if need be, he might earn a livelihood. We quote from *Education*, 218:

> “Instruction should be given in agriculture, manufactures—covering as many as possible of the most useful trades—also in household economy, healthful cookery, sewing, hygienic dressmaking, the treatment of the sick, and kindred lines. Gardens, workshops, and treatment rooms should be provided, and the work in every line should be under the direction of skilled instructors.

> “The work should have a definite aim and should be thorough. While every person needs some knowledge of different handicrafts, it is indispensable that he become proficient in at least one. Every youth, on leaving school, should have acquired a knowledge of some trade or occupation by which, if need be, he may earn a livelihood.”

**A Return of Pentecostal Power**

It is when we return to the simplicity of true godliness in our educational work, that we may expect...
the Pentecostal blessing. Declares the servant of the Lord:

“All this higher education that is being planned will be extinguished; for it is spurious. The more simple the education of our workers, the less connection they have with the men whom God is not leading, the more will be accomplished. Work will be done in the simplicity of true godliness, and the old, old times will be back when, under the Holy Spirit’s guidance, thousands were converted in a day. When the truth in its simplicity is lived in every place, then God will work through His angels as He worked on the day of Pentecost, and hearts will be changed so decidedly that there will be a manifestation of the influence of genuine truth, as is represented in the descent of the Holy Spirit.” Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 7, 63–64.

May Heaven hasten this blessed hour in our experience. But it will not come unless we fulfill the conditions necessary to our receiving the blessing. $

To be continued.


Francis McLellan Wilcox served the Seventh-day Adventist church as author, minister, and administrator and was the editor of the Review and Herald from 1911 to 1944.

Historical Footnotes

“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.” —E. G. White, Life Sketches, 196. Many today have neglected to study the history and people that made up the early days of the Advent movement. To help encourage interest in Adventist history, we have put together questions about people and events of our past. Our goal is to spark faith, and further study into “the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”

1. What year was the first Seventh-day Adventist camp meeting held in Europe?
   a. 1855
   b. 1881
   c. 1887
   d. 1899

2. What country in Europe was the first Seventh-day Adventist camp meeting held in?
   a. England
   b. Germany
   c. Norway
   d. Sweden

3. Stephen Haskell was editor of Present Truth in England and had a secretary, who was it?
   a. William Spicer
   b. Jennie Owen
   c. Uriah Smith
   d. Dudley Canright

4. What year was the first Seventh-day Adventist church organized in London, England?
   a. 1888
   b. 1863
   c. 1898
   d. 1905

5. The General Conference sent Stephen Haskell out to inspect the “world field” with a young man in 1889, who was he?
   a. O.A. Olson
   b. D.A. Robinson
   c. Percy T. Magan
   d. William Ings

6. Who was Hetty Hurd?
   a. First missionary to China
   b. Nurse to James White
   c. Second wife of Stephen Haskell
   d. Child of J.N. Loughborough

7. Where is Avondale College?
   a. England
   b. Australia
   c. Ireland
   d. South Africa

8. What was the name of Ellen White’s home in California?
   a. Elmshaven
   b. Sunnyside
   c. Oakhaven
   d. Heaven’s Gate

9. In 1902, a new paper was launched by the SDA church. What was its name?
   a. The Morning Star
   b. The Clarion Call
   c. Signs and Wonders
   d. Bible Training School

10. E.A. Sutherland and Percy T. Magan started a school modeled after the counsels of Sister White. Where was it located?
    a. Madison, Wisconsin
    b. Battle Creek, Michigan
    c. Loma Linda, California
    d. Madison, Tennessee


Emergent Churches

**News Item:** “Mars Hill Bible Church, one of the largest and youngest churches in the country, with 10,000 meeting weekly for worship in a converted mall outside Grand Rapids, Michigan...”

“Frequently urban, disproportionately young, overwhelmingly white, and very new—few have been in existence for more than five years—a growing number of churches are joining the ranks of the ‘emerging church.’...”

“Mars Hill’s teaching pastor, Rob Bell, hair tousled and reddish brown, hops on stage in the center of what must have been the mall’s anchor store. ...”

“The Bells started questioning their assumptions about the Bible itself—‘discovering the Bible as a human product,’ as Rob puts it, rather than the product of divine fiat. ...”

“I grew up thinking that we’ve figured out the Bible,’ Kristen [Bell, Rob’s Wife] says, ‘that we knew what it means. Now I have no idea what most of it means.’” Andy Crouch, “The Emergent Mystique,” *Christianity Today, November 2004,* 37–38.

**End-time Perspective:** And these are the leaders of the new “emergent churches!”

“Because the Creator and His works are so far beyond their comprehension that they are unable to explain them by natural laws, they regard Bible history as unreliable. Those who doubt the reliability of the records of the Old and New Testaments, will be led to go a step farther, and doubt the existence of God; and then, having lost their anchor, they are left to beat about upon the rocks of infidelity.” *Christian Education,* 193. See also Romans 1:18–22.

Walnuts: Heart Savers

**News Item:** “Walnuts are now more than just the crunchy surprises in brownies. They’re heart savers, the first food to be allowed to bear a qualified health claim by the Food and Drug Administration.

“The California Walnut Commission has been arguing that these holiday treats should be promoted for their ability to reduce the risk of heart disease. The FDA, which is trying to inject solid science into this notoriously squishy world of health claims, was not ready to endorse such a broad claim. Instead, walnuts can now bear a label saying that eating 1.5 ounces a day, a good handful, ‘may reduce the risk of coronary heart disease.’ Studies have shown the nuts lower LDL, or bad cholesterol, and they also contain omega-3 oils, considered heart healthful.” Nancy Shute, “Sweet and Crunchy,” *U.S. News & World Report,* April 12, 2004, 46.

**End-time Perspective:** “In grains, fruits, vegetables, and nuts are to be found all the food elements that we need.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods,* 310. Plain and simple isn’t it? Glad the world is starting to figure it out.

65 Million Americans Have It

**News Item:** “If its nickname, the ‘silent killer,’ isn’t scary enough, the perils it can lead to surely are: kidney damage, heart disease and stroke. The culprit? High blood pressure. In a study published last week, researchers found that 65 million American adults—close to one in three—are ‘hypertensive,’ a startling 30 percent surge over the last decade.” Claudia Kalb, “Know the Numbers,” *Newsweek,* September 6, 2004, 72.

**End-time Perspective:** “I wish to tell you that soon there will be no work done in ministerial lines but medical missionary work.” *Counsels on Health,* 533. Let us learn now, while we can, to understand simple home remedies that we will be able to continue the proclamation of the gospel through the medical missionary lines.
Spreading “The Word”

News Item: “Rob Lacey doesn’t sound like your typical Bible translator. ‘There are bits of the Bible that I don’t actually like,’ he says. ‘Leviticus, for example. I have to just try to be respectful of the fact that that book needs to even exist.’ So it’s no surprise that the Welsh actor’s translation isn’t your typical Good Book, either. His version, titled The Word on the Street, is a somewhat irreverent 496-page paraphrasing of both the Old and the New Testaments. (Day one of Creation: ‘God’s voice booms out, “Lights!” and, from nowhere, light floods the skies and “night” is swept off the scene. God gives it a big thumbs up, calls it a “day.”’) Elise Soukup, “Spreading the Word,” Newsweek, September 20, 2004, 10.

End-time Perspective: The disrespect to God and His Word is as staggering as the patience God has for those who commit the abominable acts!

‘The question is asked, What is the cause of the dearth of spiritual power in the churches? The answer is, We allow our minds to be drawn away from the Word. If the Word of God were eaten as food for the soul, if it were treated with respect and deference, there would be no necessity for the many repeated testimonies that are borne. The simple declarations of Scripture would be received and acted upon. The Word of the living God is not merely written, but spoken. It is God’s voice speaking to us just as surely as if we could hear it with our ears. If we realized this, with what awe we would open God’s Word, and with what earnestness we would search its pages. The reading of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Most High.’ Review and Herald, March 31, 1903.

Even the World Sees It!

News Item: “‘American culture is an enormously powerful force,’ says [Boston College political scientist Alan] Wolfe. ‘It will change religion, just as religion will change culture.’ Already, he says, evangelicals ‘are far more shaped by the culture than they are capable of shaping it to their own needs.’

‘A case in point, he says, is the success of evangelical megachurches’—huge suburban congregations like Willow Creek near Chicago, author Rick Warren’s Saddleback Valley Community Church in California, and hundreds of others throughout the country—that are aimed at attracting ‘spiritual seekers’ who may be disenchanted with traditional organized religion. ‘The priority is to get them in,’ says Wolfe, ‘but to do that you downplay the Christian symbolism: You take the crosses off the church; you put a McDonald’s franchise in the lobby.’ Sometimes, he says, ‘you don’t even know you’re in church.’ The net result, he says, is that ‘the faithful now are remarkably like everyone else.’” Jeffery Sheler, “Nearer My God To Thee,” U.S. News & World Report, May 3, 2004, 66.

End-time Perspective: Everything is so watered down that when it is all said and done, there is barely a semblance of the faith you once held dear! And this is not just the case with the churches of Babylon!

‘The people of the world will try to induce us to soften down our message, to suppress some of its more distinctive features. They say, ‘Why do you make the seventh-day Sabbath so prominent in your teaching? This difference is always thrust before us. We would harmonize with you if you would not say so much on this point. Let arguments in the Sentinel be free from mention of the seventh-day Sabbath, and we will give it our influence and support.’ This is their invitation to compromise, and there has been a disposition on the part of some of our workers to adopt this policy. But those who favor this action entertain deceptive sentiments, are bound by false modesty and caution, and manifest a disposition to withhold the confession of our faith. Seventh-day Adventists have discussed the feasibility of conceding to these demands; but shall we permit the world to shape the messages that God has given us to bear to them? Shall we entertain the proposals of Satan, and thereby entangle our souls, and the souls of others, for the sake of policy? Shall we betray sacred trusts? If the world are in error and delusion, breaking the law of God, is it not our duty to show them their sin and danger? We must proclaim the third angel’s message.” Review and Herald, January 31, 1893

Contributor: Joe Olson
General Books

Batchelor, Doug

**Last Elijah Message: Essentials for Revival, The**
Learn how purity, sacrifice, reverence, faith, obedience, and more are essential to the work of revival. You will be convicted to awaken your spiritual life, and you will be blessed.

Paperback, 151 pages, 2002
BEBD-LEME $9.99

Cavaness, Rich

**Life After 9/11**
In just one tragic day, men and women across the nation felt the same cosmic shockwave and sensed a new, urgent life-changing need. This book explores five key spiritual lessons uncovered from the horrifying destruction of 9/11.

Paperback, 96 pages, 2003
BECR-L911 $5.99

Crews, Sharon Thomas

**Faithful Witness, The**
Have you ever been perplexed by the great number of English Bible versions? Have you wondered which one you should choose as your primary study Bible? This booklet will help you find the answers.

Paperback, 47 pages, 1990
BECS-FWIT $0.95

Ferrell, Vance

**Bringing it Back**
This little book explains the simple steps needed to strengthen our denomination so it can more fully do the work God intended for us to do in these final hours of earth’s history.

Paperback, 128 pages, 2004
BEFV-BIBA
10 or more: $0.99
24 or more* : $0.80

*Must be ordered in multiples of 24

Fitch, Charles

**Guide to Christian Perfection**
Written in 1840, Charles Fitch was convicted by the Holy Spirit regarding sanctification. Before the Advent movement began this pastor wrote a biblical defense of the doctrine of Christian perfection.

Paperback, 80 pages, 1997
BEFC-GTCP $7.99

Jones, A.T.

**Third Angel’s Message, The**
These 26 sermons were given by A.T. Jones at the General Conference of 1895. They present the righteousness of Christ in the context of religious liberty.

Paperback, 253 pages, 2004
BEJA-TAME $14.99

**What Is Patriotism in the United States?**
A sermon from 1896 by religious liberty champion, A. T. Jones. Though the issues were different in 1896, the principles regarding the separation of church and state are ever the same.

Paperback, 32 pages, 2004
BEJA-WIPI $2.99

Kay, Leslie

**To Live in His Sight**
Revival! It’s a word that conjures images of sawdust-strewn tent meetings and charismatic evangelists, of fever-pitch excitement and...
perhaps even rank fanaticism. But what is revival really all about? This book will help you discover the answer.

Paperback, 125 pages, 2004
BEKL-TLIH $6.99

Morgan, Clyde

Wedding Ring, The

Many church leaders have voiced their opinions regarding the wedding ring, but what does the Bible say about it? This book compares the popular views with the unchanging Word of God.

Paperback, 64 pages
BEMC-WRIN $3.99

Richards, H. M. S.

Promises of God, The

Now in this classic devotional, first published in 1956, author H.M.S. Richards (1894–1985) shares the bedrock certainties that lay at the core of his being.

Hardcover, 371 pages, 2004
BERH-POGO $12.99

Robinson, Virgil

James White

This well-written biography of James White was written by one of the great-grandsons of Ellen and James White and constructed from the documents of the time.

Paperback, 316 pages, 2005
BERV-JWHI $11.99

Sparks, Vernon

Authority in God’s Church

The counsel contained in this book will help us to understand true loyalty to God and the need for obedience to His inspired Testimonies for His beloved church.

Spiral Bound, 226 pages, 2004
BESV-AIGC $6.49

Spear, Ron

Final Generation and the Fourth Angel, The

Is there something special about the final generation of God’s people? What must we do to prepare for the loud cry of the fourth angel? Get Inspired answers to these questions and much more.

Paperback, 157 pages, 2004
BESR-FGFA $3.99

Standish, Russell R./Standish, Colin D.

Greatest of All the Prophets, The

In 2004, under the guise of protecting the Spirit of Prophecy, the South Pacific Division launched an eight-pronged attack against the Testimonies of God. This book thoroughly documents, examines, and refutes this attack.

Paperback, 412 pages, 2004
BESR-GOAP $16.99

Tsatalbasidis, Karl

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White, Ellen G.

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Paperback, 96 pages, 2004
BEWE-RTRE $3.99

Bibles

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A leather-bound study Bible that also includes the full text of the Conflict of the Ages books (PP, PK, DA, AA, GC) plus MB, COL, and SC. Includes scripture cross-references only to these eight S.O.P. books. Includes maps. (No marginal references, concordance, or subject index.)

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Batchelor, Doug

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Paperback, 136 pages, 2002

**BEBD-BOAF** $7.99

Trinity, The

The mystery of the triune God is under attack! Learn how to defend this essential tenet from dangerous assault.

Paperback, 32 pages, 2003, 3 1/2 x 5 1/2

**BEBD-TRIN** $0.79

Heathman, Lee, Tillotson, Mildred

*Leaves From the Tree of Life*

This is a practical manual based on biblical principles. Eight chapters are devoted to exploring the basic laws of health and showing how these principles can help enhance and lengthen a person’s life. Then follow 71 pages of recipes to put these principles into practice.

Paperback, 84 pages, 2004

**BEHT-LFTL** $15.99

Roberts, Tom

*100% Organic Pest Control*

Insects, good and bad, are the most common “wild animals” we observe in the garden. The question most gardeners ask is “What do I do about the bugs?” Here are some alternatives to the use of persistent or broad range poisons. This outline should help you with your own experimentation—the trial and error process that is a large part of the fun and delight in gardening.

Paperback, 90 pages, 1998

**BERT-1OPC** $10.99

Sanidad, Benjamin

*Choosing to Live*

In 1996 Dr. Sanidad was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus, a disease usually fatal within months. Resigned to die he underwent surgery but then something changed. He renewed and deepened his faith in God and began to fight for survival. Refusing chemotherapy, he chose an alternative, natural treatment. Four years later, Dr. Sanidad returned to work. Now you can benefit by learning from his experience.

Paperback, 192 pages, 2001

**BESB-CTLI** $6.99

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All money received must be in US funds, drawn on US banks.
I wish I had more money to send you, for this ministry is a real Godsend to me. I am learning so much from reading all of the articles.

Wishing God’s richest blessings to you all. May we be faithful to Him in all situations.

AS, New York

We first heard of Hope International many years ago. Before 1988 we received a complimentary copy of Our Firm Foundation in our mail, and we have always appreciated the messages we found there. A few years ago we attended a camp meeting in Washington and were pleased to have such spiritual messages to bring home on video tape.

We have a small, home-based ministry. We have a couple of web pages which have been putting us in touch with people from around the world. We have requests coming from Nigeria for Bibles and books, so we have made up several boxes with not only Bibles but also our distinctive Spirit of Prophecy books.

Like one of the gentlemen said, “We don’t have books with these types of messages over here.” We pray that these materials will find their way into the hands of those who are truly searching for truth.

Thank you for the great work you are doing. We especially are happy for the guidance we find in Our Firm Foundation as it addresses some of the errors that have to be met. Recently we have especially enjoyed Dr. Larson’s series on Questions on Doctrine and the education series by Elder Wilcox.

ES, Alberta, Canada

I just wanted to tell you how much we have enjoyed listening to your camp meeting tapes. What inspiration! I wish we could hear these every Sabbath in our churches. We home school our three children, and I have wondered where they are going to hear truth and know about our Sabbath and the holiness of God. We have discovered the Waters family and now you—maybe we will get out to see you some day!

Thank you so much for your faith, that you keep setting our standards much higher than ever before.

TM, Washington

Some years ago someone gave me ten issues of Our Firm Foundation, the oldest being from 1987. It wasn’t until recently that I sat and read one of the magazines.

When they were given to me, I wasn’t devoted enough, I guess, because I just thumbed through a few of them and set them on the shelf where they sat as life went on. I was going to church, raising my children the way I thought I was supposed to. I was a “good person,” so why did I need to read anything else? The Spirit of Prophecy was difficult to understand; it seemed impossible to my husband to live and attain what she wrote. Any time I read the Spirit of Prophecy he didn’t like it, and it made things uneasy. So, we were comfortable.

Something was missing for me. It just wasn’t there. I came across one of your issues of Our Firm Foundation, and I couldn’t put it down. I read all ten magazines in a couple weeks’ time. I have never read a publication that moved me so. The truths were presented so that I understood and could not be filled.

Each morning, when all are asleep, I sit and read. I have been an “Adventist” since my teens, but I have never been fed. If these truths were spoken from the pulpit, there would be such a movement!

We need it straight! We need to be “shocked”! We need to be fed! Why aren’t our pastors doing this?

I am just so thankful that I have been awakened. Praise God in all His mercy to have accepted a wretch like me!

I have shared Our Firm Foundation with my husband, and we both read Ellen G. White now, and it seems so clear to us, so attainable. We know that through Christ, and with Christ, we can live sinless lives—with much prayer and devotion! Praise God!

TV, Idaho
Natural Remedies Encyclopedia

By Vance Ferrell, Edgar E. Archbold, M.D., and Harold M. Cherne, M.D.

This book is a “must have” for all who are interested in God’s method of healing. It is the most comprehensive, easily understood health encyclopedia we have ever seen. There have been many accolades given this book as being par none, the highest quality they have ever seen.

In these last days, as we see more disease, less effective treatment by conventional medical methods, and increasing costs of traditional medicine, this book is a welcome assistance to the world’s need of caring and treating the body according to God’s plan.

In this volume we are given rebuilding principles, the eight laws of health, dietetic principles, special nutrients, healing herbs and even hydrotherapy techniques. It deals with generalized problems such as skin problems, head and throat problems, gastro-intestinal, urinary, respiratory, cardiovascular problems, as well as pregnancy, emergencies, baby delivery, causes of pain, new diseases and more. It includes a chapter on tumors and cancer, including symptoms, causes, prevention, and natural treatment.

In addition to all of this, there is a section on herb and seed sources with company names and addresses. There are even names and addresses for gardening catalogs!

Take advantage of the tremendous amount of work that has been done to make a single volume available in a beautiful hard cover format that deals with everything from coughs to cancer!


“The solution to the health problems of the world today is to be found in natural remedies, not in poisoning the system with chemicals. Although they may appear to bring temporary relief, they add a debt of debilitating poison which will later result in serious problems.” John Harvey Kellogg, M.D.

“If the United States is to be saved from catastrophic health-care costs, it is time to take a good look at the wisdom and cost-effectiveness of alternative medicine.” — John R. Lee, M.D.

“For health-care reform to succeed at reducing costs…disease prevention must be the ultimate focus of the primary health-care system, rather than disease treatment.” National Institutes of Health 1994 Report

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