



Our Firm Foundation

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary

Volume 20, Number 6

June 2005

The Church
Militant and the
Church *Triumphant*



Walking in the Light

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.” 2 Peter 1:19.

O how I love this verse! It is the *prophecies*, we are told, that are even more sure than eyewitness accounts and voices from heaven.

“For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were *eyewitnesses* of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And *this voice which came from heaven* we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.” Verses 16–18.

It is these *prophecies* that we are to “do well that ye [we] take heed.” Heeding “as unto a light that shineth in a dark place.” What a simple but powerful illustration. When we are in the dark, we always focus on the light, or on what the light is shining upon, because it is the only way we can safely walk, else we will stumble in the way.

No one in their right mind who has a light would refuse to use it to illuminate their path. Likewise, the prophecies are sure guides to lead us in the right direction. And these prophecies we are to use for our “light” until the day dawn. Once

you have the day, you no longer need the prophetic “light” to illuminate the path. *Then* there is perfect illumination, and no need for other light. O, when *that* day dawns, all will truly be made clear.

Now, “we walk by faith, not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7. Then we will walk by sight. “For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face.” 1 Corinthians 13:12.

No, sadly we are not yet in the “day,” but praise the Lord, we are not left without light; we have been given the “more sure word of prophecy.” As stated earlier, no one in darkness should fail to avail oneself of the light so that they could see. As a matter of fact, many people are deathly afraid of the dark. It is incomprehensible that someone would prefer to be in darkness, without light. Yet we have inspired counsel that indicates that some do just that:

“Will those who have almost everything to learn keep themselves away from every meeting where there is an opportunity to investigate the messages that come to the people, simply because they imagine the views held by the teachers of the truth may be out of harmony with what they have conceived as truth? Thus it was that the Jews did in the days of Christ, and we are warned not to do as they did, and be led to choose darkness rather than light, because there was in them an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God.” *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, 29–30.

How often will those that are called by God’s name refuse to take advantage of meetings, books, sermons, tapes, magazines, newsletters, and so on, and yet pray to God for more light, for His blessing, for His salvation? Our hearts ache for the Holy Spirit to be poured out upon our people, yet we know that God can never allow that until His people are willing to listen to the truth, from whomever He chooses to use. Again, God speaks through His prophet:

“No one can afford to stand back in an attitude of indifference and self-confidence, and say: ‘I know what is truth. I am satisfied with my position. I have set my stakes, and I will not be moved away from my position, whatever may come. I will not listen to the message of this messenger; for I know that it cannot be truth.’ It is from pursuing this very course that the popular churches were left in partial darkness, and that is why the messages of heaven have not reached them.” *Ibid.*, 28.

Soon, very soon Jesus is to return. I hope each one will be willing to have the messages of heaven reach them. The “Daystar” is soon to call us to Him, and we will finally get to go home, bathed in the continuous light that proceeds from God’s throne.

Even so, come Lord Jesus! ❀



Joe Olson serves as the executive director and chairman of the board of Hope International. He also travels as an international speaker.



Our Mission

It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of *Our Firm Foundation* to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days remaining for this world are few, and we must work quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world. — Editors

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Our Firm Foundation is published monthly by:



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Knoxville, IL 61448 USA

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Monday–Thursday: 8:00AM–5:00PM
Friday: 8:00AM–12:00PM
(All times are in the central time zone.)
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About Hope International

Hope International is a lay ministry founded, supported, and operated by Seventh-day Adventists to assist the Seventh-day Adventist church in the proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel in every way that is consistent with the principles of God as revealed in Inspiration.

Invitation to Writers

We are accepting article-length manuscripts (750 to 3000 words) for possible publication in *Our Firm Foundation*. We prefer that submissions be neatly typed, submitted either as a computer file or on paper. Please address all correspondence to Editors, *Our Firm Foundation*, PO Box 220, Knoxville, IL 61448, or by email to editorial@hopeint.org.

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Shipping & Sales Tax: See page 30

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The Church *Militant and the* Church *Triumphant*

Clark Floyd

God is in control. There is nothing that happens in history that God is not aware of before it takes place. "Because I knew that thou art obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass; I have even from the beginning declared it to thee. . . . I have shewed thee new things from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them." Isaiah 48:4–6.

God was aware that the apostasy and the increasing worldliness would take place in our beloved Seventh-day Adventist Church before it ever happened. Through the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy, He forecast that which would come to pass. "Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he." John 13:19.

In Zechariah 6:1–8, we have a prophecy that was given in the form of a parable. ("All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables: and without a parable spake he not unto them."

Matthew 13:34.) This prophecy involves mountains, and horses, and chariots and colors—but what does it mean? Let us look closer, using the Scriptures to interpret the Scriptures, here a little, and there a little, comparing spiritual things with spiritual things. See Isaiah 28:10; 1 Corinthians 2:13.

"And I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came four chariots out from between two mountains; and the mountains were mountains of brass. In the first chariot were red horses; and in the second chariot black horses; and in the third chariot white horses; and in the fourth chariot grisled and bay horses. Then I answered and said unto the angel that talked with me, What are these, my lord? And the angel answered and said unto me, These are the four spirits of the heavens, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth. The black horses which are therein go forth into the north country; and the white go forth after them; and

the grisled go forth toward the south country. And the bay went forth, and sought to go that they might walk to and fro through the earth: and he said, Get you hence, walk to and fro through the earth. So they walked to and fro through the earth. Then cried he upon me, and spake unto me, saying, Behold, these that go toward the north country have quieted my spirit in the north country." Zechariah 6:1–8.

Deciphering the Symbols

Mountains: As we look at this prophecy, we must first ask ourselves, what are the two brass mountains? What do they represent in Scripture? Before looking in other books of the Bible, we look in Zechariah to see if there is a spiritual meaning for *mountain*. In Zechariah 8:3 we find, "Thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; and Jerusalem shall be called a *city of truth*; and the *mountain* of the Lord of hosts, the *holy mountain*." All emphasis supplied.

Photo: © Corel

Mountain is clearly used in Scripture to describe God's people, His Church. Isaiah 51:16 states in part "I . . . say unto *Zion*, Thou art *my people*." See also Daniel 9:16, 20; Isaiah 2:2–3.

But here in Zechariah we have two brass mountains, and from between them we have horses and chariots coming.

Brass: The first definition given in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* for the Hebrew word used here for *brass* is "copper." Copper is a pure metal, while brass is a strong metal that is non-corrosive. The feet of Jesus are described as "like unto fine brass" in Revelation 1:15.

These two brass mountains are describing God's church, His people, in the two times in church history when they are a pure people or church. In Old Testament times they were never pure; they were continually going against the messages of God's prophets. But in the beginning of the New Testament era, at the time of Pentecost, they were a pure church:

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were *all with one accord*—in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it *sat upon each of them*. And they were *all* filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:1–4.

The only other time that the church will be pure is when it is made up of the 144,000 who are described as "virgins" with "no guile" in their mouths, "without fault before the throne of God." Revelation 14:4–5. Again the Holy Spirit will be poured out. See Joel 2:28.

"Clad in the armor of Christ's righteousness, the church is to enter upon her final conflict. 'Fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners' (Song of Solomon 6:10), she is to go forth

into all the world, conquering and to conquer." *Prophets and Kings*, 725.

Paul warned us of the time between these churches: "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [the coming of Christ] shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition." 2 Thessalonians 2:3.

Chariots: The chariots represent God's church, the truth bearer, during these same periods. "Instead of pressing your weight against the chariot of truth that is being pulled up an inclined road, you should work with all the energy you can summon to push it on." *Review and Herald*, March 18, 1890. See also Joel 2:5.

Horses: But what about the horses and chariots? Again, looking in Zechariah 1:8–11: "I saw by night, and behold a man riding

not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it. . . . The appearance of them is as the *appearance of horses*, and as horsemen. . . . The Lord shall utter his voice before *his army*."

Finally, "The spasmodic, fitful movements of some who claim to be *Christians* is well *represented* by the work of strong but untrained horses." *Testimonies to Ministers*, 489–490.

Thus we conclude that the horses represent God's people during the period between Pentecost and the 144,000.

The first horse is **red**. Red can stand for sin (Isaiah 1:18), or for blood (2 Kings 3:22—"as red as blood"). See also *Early Writings*, 18–19.

The red horses and chariot represent the first church period after Pentecost. All the apostles, except

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upon a red horse, and he stood among the myrtle trees that were in the bottom; and behind him were there red horses, speckled (grisled) and white. Then said I, O my Lord, what are these? And the angel that talked with me said unto me, I will shew thee what these be. And the man that stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, *These are they whom the Lord hath sent to walk to and fro through the earth.*"

In Zechariah 10:3 we read, "Mine anger was kindled against the shepherds and I punished the goats: for the Lord of hosts hath visited his flock the *house of Judah*, and hath made them as his *goodly horse* in the battle." Joel 2:2, 4, 11 says, "A great *people* and a strong; there hath

John were martyred, as were many of the early Christians. See *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. Note also that this is the one church that has no specific direction to go—death was their final destination.

The **black** horses and chariot that were to "go forth into the north country" (Zechariah 6:6) represent God's people during the dark ages, from 538 A.D. to 1798. "In the twilight, in the evening, in the *black and dark night*." Proverbs 7:9. "The *way of the wicked is as darkness*: they know not at what they stumble." Proverbs 4:19. *North*, in the Bible, often represents *Babylon*. "Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, a king of kings, from the north." Ezekiel 26:7.

There were many people sent forth with God's Word—the Waldenses, the Huguenots, and finally the Reformers (see *The Great Controversy*). These groups sought to reach the people under the control of the papacy. The papacy is represented in prophecy by Babylon. See Revelation, chapters 17 and 18.

The **white** horses and chariot represent the church of Philadelphia, the Millerite movement. *White* represents a *pure* people: "Many shall be *purified and made white*." Daniel 12:10; see also Revelation 19:8. "Of all the great religious movements since the days of the apostles, none have been more free from human imperfection and the wiles of Satan than was that of the autumn of 1844." *The Great Controversy*, 401.

The church of Laodicea—the Seventh day Adventist Church—is symbolized as one chariot being pulled in two different directions by two different sets of horses.

In Revelation 3:7–12 the church of Philadelphia, the church of brotherly love, has no condemnation. Zechariah 6:6 shows they also preached in the north country—to Babylon. In Miller's time modern Babylon represented Catholics and Protestants (Babylon and her daughters). See *The Great Controversy*, 382–383.

We note that those that go toward the north country have quieted the spirit in the north country. See Zechariah 6:8. The Holy Spirit is being resisted or quieted by those in Babylon.

After the church of Philadelphia is the church of Laodicea—the Seventh day Adventist Church. This is symbolized as one chariot being

pulled in two different directions by two different sets of horses. See Zechariah 6:6–7.

One set of horses is **grisled**—spotted or gray. It is neither black nor white—neither hot nor cold. They are headed toward the south country. See Zechariah 6:6. When "Abraham journeyed, going on still toward the south" (Genesis 12:9), he was headed toward Egypt. Egypt, in the Bible, represents atheism and worldliness. See Revelation 11:8; *The Great Controversy*, 269.

This set of grisled horses is leading the last chariot toward Egypt or the world. They are the first set of horses.

Speaking of the Seventh day Adventist Church, our prophet says, "The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader and is steadily retreating toward

Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches everywhere. Satan would have it thus." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 217; see also *ibid.*, 211; *ibid.*, vol. 1, 608–609; *ibid.*, vol. 9, 164; *Gospel Workers*, 14–15.

Now please note that *there is only one chariot, but two sets of horses*. There is not another church after the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Seventh-day Adventist Church never becomes Babylon. It does not become the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Church. But something does happen!

There is a second set of horses involved with this same chariot—

another group within the same church. These horses are a **bay** color. In many King James Bibles there is a footnote that indicates that the word translated "bay" could have been translated "strong." It comes from a prime root meaning *to be alert*, which is translated in some places "of good courage" or "steadfastly minded." See *Strong's Concordance*.

God's Final, Purified Church

These horses seek to "walk to and fro" through the earth. This is a group that strives to carry God's true end-time message—the full three angel's messages—to the whole world. "Sought" in verse 7 means "to search out" or "to strive after." See *Strong's Concordance*.

Finally the command goes forth, "Get you hence, walk to and fro through the earth. So they walked to and fro through the earth." Zechariah 6:7. Compare Zechariah 10:12; Micah 4:5. God will have a people, a people who will obediently stand for truth. He will purify this church. The bay horses will lead into and become the second brass mountain, the 144,000.

"God's care for His heritage is unceasing. He suffers no affliction to come upon His children, but such as is essential for their present and eternal good. He will purify His church, even as Christ purified the temple during His ministry on earth." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 524–525; see also *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 17.

The question is—Will you be among the grisled horses or the bay horses? Will you be among the 144,000? Will you be in the purified church?

Surrender fully to Jesus and you will be in the church triumphant! ❖



Clark Floyd and his wife Mary reside in Leicester, North Carolina. He is a board member and a speaker for Hope International.



How to Bring Our Church Back, Part 1

Vance Ferrell

What must we do to experience that unity in spirit and in truth that Christ longs to see in His church? The following article is adapted from the author's book entitled Bringing It Back: A Message to Our Denominational Leaders on All Levels.

Are you a church leader? You might not think so, but whatever your position or responsibility—you can influence others for good. All who are loyal to the best interests of the church will welcome this message.—Editors.

To our leaders on all levels in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. With all due respect, I greet you. This small book contains important principles which are able to help you in your work to strengthen our church.

Here you will find principles which are able to restore confidence, alleviate mounting problems, reduce a steady loss of our most faithful members, and reverse an ever worsening financial base.

If thoughtfully considered and carefully pursued, the following principles can greatly help you in your own portion of the Lord's work. Yet, if adopted on a wider scale, these principles, to the degree to which they are applied, are able to turn our church around and enable it to fulfill the mission God originally assigned it.

Thankful for this opportunity to speak with you, the respected leaders of our denomination, I thank you for giving this brief message your careful attention.

Our Present Crisis

Where can we go, where can we look, for answers to our present church crisis? Upon careful examination, we find that the underlying problems now confronting us can be found in the history of the Israelites. Indeed, it may come as a startling fact that, not only our basic problem—but also its solution—can be found in the Old Testament.

The Israelites, back then, may not have had the innumerable problems that our denomination is experiencing today; however the underlying causes which led to their collapse back then are identical to those eroding the foundations of our church at the present time.

Unfortunately, there are people in our churches, colleges, and

universities—men and women who are only partly converted—who are teaching church members and students that it is no longer necessary to obey God's commandments.

We have many good leaders who are perplexed at the extent of our problems, and how to solve them. Some despair of ever finding solutions to the mounting difficulties. But, thank God, His written

"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." 1 Corinthians 10:11.

In those examples we find a pattern for success, a pattern that succeeded! Just as with God's help, godly leaders in ancient times repeatedly brought the church back to God, so it can be done again today!

You bear an important responsibility in the sight of God. It is a responsibility which should cause you to tremble, lest you neglect the work with which you have been charged.

Word explains both the problems and the solutions in remarkable detail. Scripture reveals how the leaders of our church today—our leaders on all levels—can bring the church back to God in repentance and heartfelt obedience to His holy law.

So you can see why this brief message is important. *Please, I urge you, please consider it carefully.*

Hope in God's Word

In God's books, we find a door of hope. If you—the leaders in modern Israel—will but open and enter through that door, it is the heartfelt belief of many that our church can be returned to its historic purity.

Truly it may be said of you, "Thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this." Esther 4:14.

The Old Testament repeatedly reveals not only how the church got into apostasy but how it recovered from it. It was a pattern which repeatedly occurred down through the centuries. We can use that pattern of recovery today to bring our church back to reverence for God and obedience to His Inspired Writings!

I know this is what you want!

Respected leaders, on all levels in our work, I tell you it can be done! Take courage in the fact. *With God's help, you can have a part in doing it!* The answers are found in God's Word.

You may not think that your position of leadership in the church may be very large. You may only be a Sabbath School teacher, Sabbath School Superintendent, church missionary leader, youth leader, or head elder. You may only be a local pastor or district leader.

Or you may command one of the highest executive positions in one of our conferences, unions, publishing houses, hospitals, or the General Conference.

But whatever your office, there are people who are looking to you for daily guidance and leadership. They want to follow where you lead. And, I assure you, where you step *many are going to follow.*

What a fearful responsibility to be a leader in the church today! In the sight of God, you are leading others—men, women and children—*either upward or downward.* There is no level ground.

It is a solemn fact that, on whatever level it may be, your position

of leadership in the church is written down in Heaven's books. You bear an important responsibility in the sight of God. It is a responsibility which should cause you to tremble, lest you neglect the work with which you have been charged.

Problems in the Ancient Church

Let us briefly examine that which happened in God's ancient church. We need to better understand the cause of the hindrances. *Apostasy developed repeatedly*, not only in the time of Moses and the Judges, but also in the divided kingdoms of ancient Judah and Israel. This should not be surprising, for in every age, Satan works to lead God's people away from Him.

Significantly, the cause has always been the same. We are told, "The apostasy of Israel had developed gradually. From generation to generation, Satan had made repeated attempts to cause the chosen nation to forget the commandments . . . that they had promised to keep forever. Deuteronomy 6:1. He knew that if he could only lead Israel to forget God, and to 'walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them,' they would 'surely perish.' Deuteronomy 8:19." *Prophets and Kings*, 296.

There you have it. *The cause is always the same.* Satan did not leave on an extended vacation when the Adventist church came into existence. He is alive and well on Planet Earth. And his special target today is the commandment-keeping people of Revelation 12:17 and 14:12. There is no other denomination anywhere in the world that he is as intent on ruining.

Yet keeping God's law is not complicated. It is just trusting in Jesus and, in His strength, *obeying those commands!* We must do more than just "have faith in Jesus." Because we love Him, we must determine anew each day that, in His strength, we will live clean, godly

lives that are in accordance with His written Word.

It is a love of sin, a dislike for obeying the words of God, that is the basis of all apostasy! If Satan can lead the Advent people to forsake God and His law, his objective will be fulfilled. The world will then be his; for the voice of Sabbathkeepers will no longer be heard, calling men and women to obedience to God's holy law.

By the definition given in Revelation 12:17, *no longer will they be the remnant*. By the definition given in Revelation 14:12, *no longer will they be giving the third angel's message!*

"From the time of Jeroboam's death to Elijah's appearance before Ahab, the people of Israel suffered a steady spiritual decline. Ruled by men who did not fear Jehovah and who encouraged strange forms of worship, the larger number of the people rapidly lost sight of their duty to serve the living God and adopted many of the practices of idolatry." *Prophets and Kings*, 109.

The introduction of strange, unbiblical forms of entertainment and worship were gradually ruining Israel. How closely we must examine what is taking place in the Seventh-day Adventist Church today.

Fortunately, when a widespread church crisis occurred in God's ancient church, He would always prompt someone to warn of the increasing apostasy:

"Through faithful messengers the Lord sent repeated warnings to the apostate king and the people, but in vain were these words of reproof. In vain did the inspired messengers assert Jehovah's right to be the only God in Israel; in vain did they exalt the laws that He had entrusted to them." *Prophets and Kings*, 116.

Through faithful believers God pled with His ancient church, which He dearly loved. Yet many refused to repent and return to Him in humility of heart. For more detail, read *Prophets and Kings*, 279-281.

Personal Repentance and Prayer

From what we learn in Scripture, **your first step** as a leader in bringing the church back to obedience to God's Word is heartfelt prayer—by *you*, personally, alone with God.

Moses is an outstanding example of a godly leader. He was repeatedly confronted by people who were bent on rebellion against God. Yet, each time he was confronted by an outbreak of apostasy, *Moses immediately took that first step*.

When a problem arose, the great church leader got down on his knees—sometimes on his face—and prayed, crying to God for guidance and help. *That is why God could use him so well*. This was always the first step in resolving unrest and apostasy in the church—always! So it will ever be in the lives of the leaders of God's church on earth.

On one occasion, during a full-blown apostasy, the following incident occurred:

"They went so far as to appoint a captain to lead them back to the land of their suffering and bondage. . . . *In humiliation and distress 'Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel' (Numbers 14:5), not knowing what to do to turn them from their rash and passionate purpose.*" *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 389.

On another occasion: "Moses had not suspected this deep-laid plot, and when its terrible significance burst upon him, he fell upon his face in silent appeal to God. He arose sorrowful indeed, but calm and strong. Divine guidance had been granted him." *Ibid.*, 398.

When confronted by every puzzling question, our leaders today will also be guided by the Lord as to what they should do, if they will do this too. They will be strengthened to stand for the right, though the heavens fall!

Keep in mind that Moses did not have the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy to turn to, as we do now. It is our

first work, *today*, to plead with God for help—and to open those Inspired books and seek counsel from Heaven.

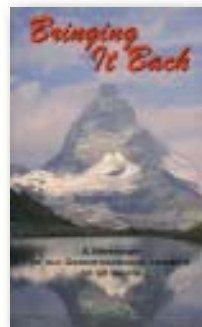
Regardless of how high or lowly may be your position in the denomination, when in earnest humiliation and prayer before God, you confess and forsake your own sins and rededicate your life before Him anew, *He will impress you* with what you must begin doing to change conditions in the church within your own territory.

Your heavenly Father will generally not reveal to you all that is farther down the path; but, as you take the first steps into the darkness, He will, through providential guidance, open the way before you! It is as if you are walking in the darkness with only a small flashlight to light the path through the woods. At each step, you will see a little farther.

This is the experience of all who have ever been used of God to do important things in His work; and He will do it for you also as you come before Him, amid deepest humiliation of soul, that you may know His will—and that you may do it. ✽

Vance Ferrell writes from Tennessee, where he operates his ministry Pilgrim's Rest.

Next month we will consider how we should proceed as earnest prayer to God for ourselves leads to earnest prayer for others and a deep concern to also help them to return to obedience to God's Word.



This article was taken from *Bringing It Back*, 4-12. You may order this book from Hope International for \$1.95 each. Quantities of 10 or more: 99¢ each; cases of 24: 80¢ per book.

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Conditions of Acceptance

A n o n y m o u s

Last month we presented three conditions of acceptance with God: (1) recognizing and acknowledging our guilt; (2) obeying God's commands; and (3) separating from the world. This month we will conclude with five more conditions.

4. Make Wrongs Right

Condition number four is found in Matthew 5:23-24, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."

The fourth condition for acceptance with God is making wrongs right with our fellow men. This, again, is not a popular idea, but it is a command from the Word of God.

Consider this statement from an article entitled "Conditions of

Acceptance with God" from *The Review and Herald*, April 2, 1889: " 'He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them, shall have mercy.' Proverbs 28:13. If any man has been dishonest and has wronged his neighbor and his God, there is but one course for him to pursue. He must confess his wrong; he must restore again that he has robbed; he must forsake his evil ways, and have 'repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.' Acts 20:21."

This came close to home for me not long ago when I found myself struggling with anger toward a brother who I believed had wronged me. The Lord brought the conviction to my heart that I needed to make things right with him and apologize for the ill-feelings I had harbored in my heart. I resisted this conviction until one Sabbath when this brother came into church and

sat right behind me. It was a good sermon and as the minister spoke, I could hear the brother behind me responding to the message. It seemed the Spirit of God was laboring with me to do the right thing and make things right. Once before I had apologized, but the anger had continued to fester in my heart, and what a struggle it was to give it to the Lord!

Now I do not recommend asking for a sign when the Lord has made it clear what you should do, but amidst the turmoil in my heart that day, I asked God to give me a clear sign that I was to confess again to this brother. Right after church some friends came up and engaged me in an intense conversation, but I was distracted. I was looking for that sign. The brother behind me began speaking to my wife who was at my right, and then he got up and began to make his way down to the end of the pew.

I was thinking maybe I would have a way out as the topic of the conversation was important, but all of a sudden, when that brother got to the end of the pew, he turned back to me and said, "Hello." Then he turned a second time and nearly shouted, "Hello!" Surely this was my sign.

I excused myself and went over to him and said, "I have been looking for an opportunity to ask your forgiveness for the ill-will that I have harbored in my heart toward you."

He looked at me and said that he had been looking for an opportunity to ask for my forgiveness as well for the injury that he had caused. Then we embraced.

What a blessing! I went home with a peace that I did not realize I was missing. Friend, that is a condition of acceptance with God. How many of us carry burdens around that are separating us from God! I know we are; I see and talk with so many people, and I have experienced it myself.

5. Do Not Cling to Sin

Condition number five is found at the end of the story of the healing at Bethesda. "Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." John 5:14. The fifth condition for acceptance with God is not to regard iniquity or cling to known sin.

"The conditions of acceptance are, that we come out from the world and be separate, that we put away secret sins, and that we cease to transgress knowingly any of God's requirements." *Review and Herald*, March 16, 1886.

And a familiar passage from *Steps to Christ*, 95: "If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cling to any known sin, the Lord will not hear us; but the prayer of the penitent, contrite soul is always accepted. When all known wrongs are righted, we may believe that God

will answer our petitions. Our own merit will never commend us to the favor of God; it is the worthiness of Jesus that will save us, His blood that will cleanse us; yet we have a work to do in complying with the conditions of acceptance."

6. Work for the Good of Others

Condition number six is found in Matthew 25:41–46, "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took

will of God through faith in Christ." *Review and Herald*, February 14, 1888.

In *SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 956, we read this, "In this scripture [Revelation 2:1–5] are outlined the conditions of acceptance with God. The first experience of the Ephesus church led to good works. God took delight in the fact that His church reflected the light of heaven by revealing the spirit of Christ in tenderness and compassion. The love that dwelt in the heart of Christ; the love that caused Him to give Himself a sacrifice for humanity, and to suffer with forbearance the reproach of men, even to the extent of being called a devil; the

"The conditions of acceptance are, that we come out from the world and be separate, that we put away secret sins, and that we cease to transgress knowingly any of God's requirements."

me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

"Those who will be accepted of heaven, will have put their talents out to the exchangers for the glory of God and the good of humanity. They will have become laborers together with God, and will receive the approval of the Master when He comes in the clouds of heaven. Religion is something more than a profession, something deeper than an impulsive feeling. It is doing the

love that prompted Him to perform mighty works of healing during His ministry — this was the love that was to be revealed in the lives of His disciples."

7. Be Perseverant

"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: and there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary, and he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though



he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:1-8.

the word of God, do not depend upon your feelings for evidence of acceptance with God. 'Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.' Verse

"If you have complied with the conditions, believe God, whether or not you feel any different."

This is a parable of contrast, not comparison. See *Christ's Object Lessons*, 141, 172. God does not answer us because we bother Him so much that He finally gives in and fulfills our request so we will leave Him alone. Jesus wanted us to see that if the unjust judge would eventually fill the request of the perseverant widow how much more willing God is to give us exceedingly and abundantly more in answer to perseverant prayer. "Perseverance in prayer has been made a condition of receiving." *Steps to Christ*, 97.

8. Have Faith

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6. Faith is a condition of acceptance with God.

By faith lay hold on this inspired promise: "Having complied with

1. If you have complied with the conditions, believe God, whether or not you feel any different. Christ declared, 'As the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. . . . If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love, even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.' John 14:31; 15:10. Let all who understand the abiding claims of the law of God, yield implicit obedience to every requirement given in the Word. The convictions of the Holy Spirit are warnings which it is dangerous to disregard." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, 368.

Eight Conditions in One

I found something very curious when I was researching this study. When I typed into the Ellen White CD-ROM CONDITIONS AND ACCEPTANCE I very clearly found each one of these points, but then I found a curious statement that caused me

to study the parable of the wedding feast in more detail.

In the parable, "when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: and he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless." Matthew 22:11-12.

He was speechless because the One who had freely provided a wedding garment for him was asking him the question, and he could give no logical answer.

Now in relationship to this parable, listen to what Mrs. White wrote: "We need to ask ourselves the question, What shall I do to inherit eternal life? Christ gave His own life that the transgressor of the law should not suffer the penalty of the law, that as our Redeemer He might stand before the Father with pierced, uplifted hands, and say, 'Lay their sins on Me. I am responsible for them. I will bear their transgressions. I have graven them upon the palms of My hands.' The sinner may be pardoned if he accepts Christ as a personal Saviour. *There is only one condition—the acceptance of the robe of Christ's righteousness.*" *Sermons and Talks*, vol. 2, 138. All emphasis supplied.

We have just noted eight conditions for acceptance with God in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy and now this statement says that there is only one. Is this a contradiction? The answer is very simple. What does it mean to accept the robe of Christ's righteousness? It is described in the eight conditions we just studied. These eight conditions comprise the one condition of accepting His robe of righteousness.

Praise the Lord that God's servant laid out for us how it is that we accept the robe of His righteousness. If we do this, we will be found properly clothed at the final wedding supper of the Lamb! ♣

Concluded.

Ye Are Complete in Him, Part 3

Ellen G. White

Text: Colossians 2:1–10.

When Moses prayed, “Lord, show me thy glory” (see Exodus 33:18), the Lord took this atom of humanity, who was yet a mighty man of faith, and placed him in the cleft of the rock, and covered him with his hand, and the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty.” Exodus 34:6–7.

The glory of the Lord is His goodness and love. Then do not teach your children that God frowns upon them, but that when they sin they grieve the Spirit of God, who always loves them. Draw your children to Jesus. But if you would draw your children to Jesus, you must not enter your home with cross words, with a frown upon your brow. If you come from your business weary and worn, just plead with God for His grace, for His restful spirit, that your heart

may be melted into tenderness, and that your lips may be filled with words of kindness and comfort.

Bind your children to your heart. Recommend your religion to them by its pleasantness. Your children are a part of you, and can you bear to have them separated from you in the day of Christ’s coming? Give them a representation of the character of Christ, by your own Christlike character, and let your home be as a heaven upon earth.

The religion of Christ will take away all the ruggedness of the character, and will melt and subdue the soul. It is the Spirit of God that we need. Let the work begin by turning to the Lord with full purpose of heart, that the heart may be softened, and that Christ may mould and fashion you after His own divine image.

The Confidence of Jacob

But many feel that they cannot go to Jesus in confidence. They say, “It does not seem as though God heard my prayers. I have tried and tried to rid my soul of sin, but I cannot do it.” Then say, “Lord, I am powerless to cleanse and save

myself, and I cast my helpless soul on Thee.”

That is what Jacob did. All night long he had been wrestling with One whom he supposed was his enemy; but it was the great I AM, the mighty God, the Prince of peace; and just as long as he continued his wrestling, he found no comfort, no hope. It was a life-and-death question with him, and his strength was almost exhausted. Then the Angel touched his thigh, and he knew that he wrestled with no common adversary.

Wounded and helpless, Jacob fell upon his bosom, just as you and I must do, just as any soul does when he falls upon the Rock and is broken. “Let me go, for the day breaketh” (Genesis 32:26), pleaded the angel; but Jacob ceased not his intercession, and Christ had to make terms with this helpless, broken, penitent soul, in accordance with His own character: “And let him take hold of my strength, and make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me.” Isaiah 27:5.

Our precious Saviour cannot tear himself away from a soul wounded and helpless, and crying

unto him for aid. Jacob pleaded with determined spirit, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me" Genesis 32:26. Who was it that inspired this spirit of persistence? It was He who wrestled with the patriarch: it was He who gave him the victory, who changed his name from Jacob to Israel, and said, "As a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed." Verse 28.

But many of you say, "The nearer I seek to come to Christ, the worse I feel." Did not Jacob have this very experience? As you see the wounds and bruises that sin has made in you, look upon the bruised body of your divine Redeemer,

sinner is to accept gladly the sacrifice which Christ has made, and appreciate His love, laying hold of His righteousness by faith. He loves you; and when you love Him because He first loved you, you will feel that every power of soul and body belongs to Him. Take His free gift to you, and then give yourself freely to Him; and the power of God will come upon you.

But when you ask God for His blessing, do not mark out the way in which He is to give you that blessing. You will not always receive it in just the way you think it will come. Ask the Lord to give you the very blessing you need in the very way in which He sees will

a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir." Isaiah 13:12. And we may all be made precious in Christ; for He says to those who feel their own weakness, "Let him take hold of my strength, and make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me."

Self-less Missionaries

If the life of Jesus was in you, you would be filled with vital energy. The church would not be in a cold, backslidden state, but we should see a revival of the missionary spirit. You would not rest in ease, taking the privileges of the gospel as though they were meant exclusively for you; but you would seek to extend the glad tidings of salvation to this and that relative, to this and that neighbor or friend.

You would go to them, not in a Pharisaical spirit, but in the spirit of love, seeking to break down all opposition. You would find your way into their hearts, and would tell them of the love of Jesus. You would present to the Lord in prayer those for whom you carried a burden, pleading with Him to give you this or that soul as a precious sheaf for the heavenly garner, to bring to the feet of the Master.

We are all to be missionaries, and it is essential for every one of us that we have the righteousness of Christ to go before us, and the glory of the Lord to be our rearward. My heart is lifted up as I think of the blessings that are in store for those who rightly relate themselves to God, and it causes a hope to spring up within me that we may be baptized with the Holy Ghost in this place. Jesus is holding out His precious gift to you; will you receive it? It is the Comforter which He promised should come and abide with you forever. Thank God for this precious promise.

It is known in heaven how we represent Christ to the world. It is known what impressions we make upon those around us. Our words and actions are all written in the

Man can do nothing to merit the favor of Heaven. That which avails for the sinner is to accept gladly the sacrifice which Christ has made, and appreciate His love, laying hold of His righteousness by faith.

wounded in your behalf, that the marks which sin has made may be healed. Have you not again and again felt distressed and agonized in looking to yourself for merit? I have. And now the question is, What will you do? You can say, "Lord Jesus, I cannot blot out one stain of sin from my soul. I must come to thee—

" 'Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me.'¹

"I can only come saying—
" 'Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to thy cross I cling.'²

You might say, "I will give all my goods to feed the poor, I will give my body to be burned" (See 1 Corinthians 13:3); but that would not better your case. Man can do nothing to merit the favor of Heaven. That which avails for the

be for your best good. Let your prayer be, "Give me that which my soul needs, in order that I may be a faithful sentinel for God."

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18. Can we not believe the promise of God, and know that He will do for us just what He has promised? We need the vital touch of faith, that we may know that the mercy of God is extended toward us.

God accepts us through Christ, and we are not to feel that we are of no value in His sight. He sent His only begotten Son into the world to die for us, and we are to value ourselves in the light of the cross of Calvary. Jesus declares: "I will make

books of heaven. Then how important it is that we reveal the fact that we have been with Jesus, and have learned of Him. Do any of you who profess to know Him indulge in light, trifling conversation? O, do not permit your lips to utter that which will be a stumbling-block to those who are watching to see what benefit you have received from your faith in Christ. Rather lift their minds to dwell upon eternal realities.

When you mingle with the people in the market place, as you walk the street, or wherever you may be, be sure that you have a living connection with God, and that you represent the character of Christ to the world. Jesus said, "As the Father hath sent me, so have I sent you." See John 20:21. As He represented the Father, so His followers are to represent their Lord to the world. But you cannot do this unless the converting power of God is felt in your own heart from day to day. Your life must be hid with Christ in God. Self must be hidden in Christ. There must be no great I in heaven but the great I AM.

"Ye are laborers together with God." See 1 Corinthians 3:9. God will work with the church, but not without their cooperation. May every one of you who have tasted the good word of God, "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Jesus says, "Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." Matthew 5:16, 13.

The saving salt, the savor of the Christian, is the love of Jesus in the heart, the righteousness of Christ pervading the soul. If the professor of religion would keep the saving efficacy of his faith, he must ever keep the righteousness of Christ before him, and have the glory of God for his rearward. Then the power of



Christ will be revealed in life and character.

O, when we come to the pearly gates, and have an entrance into the city of God, will any one who enters there, regret that he devoted his life unreservedly to Jesus? Let us now love Him with undivided affections, and cooperate with the heavenly intelligences, that we may be laborers together with God, and by partaking of the divine nature, be able to reveal Christ to others.

O, for the baptism of the Holy Spirit! O, that the bright beams of the Sun of righteousness might shine into the chambers of mind and heart, that every idol might be dethroned and expelled from the soul temple! O, that our tongues might be loosened to speak of His goodness, to tell of His power!

If you respond to the drawing of Jesus, you will not fail to have an influence on somebody through the beauty and power of the grace of Christ. Let us behold Him and

become changed into the image of Him in whom dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, and realize that we are accepted in the Beloved, "complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power." Colossians 2:10. ✠

Concluded.

Bible Echo and Signs of the Times, February 15, 1892. A discourse preached in 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.

Notes:

¹ Charlotte Elliot, "Just as I Am," 1836.

² Augustus M. Toplady, "Rock of Ages," 1776.

The Coming Storm of Persecution

*Will Ross, Elmer Johnson,
and Everett Rogers*

More than 50 years ago, a brother Will Ross testified of a time when Sister Ellen White related to a group of Seventh-day Adventists a vision that she received—one that, to the best of our knowledge, she never put down in writing.

In April 1989, Dave Fiedler, the then managing editor of Our Firm Foundation, received a letter from an Everett A. Rogers, which we quote below in its entirety. As you will see, Brother Rogers was confirming the testimony of Elmer Johnson, both of whom had heard brother Ross relate Sister White's vision on several occasions. Names have been enclosed in [brackets] to clarify who wrote each part of the letter.

Some have questioned the authenticity of the vision, referring to it as apocryphal. While we cannot prove or disprove the testimony of Brother Ross, we have followed this letter with quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy that will help the reader to see how this vision harmonizes with other inspired passages.—Editors.

[Elmer Johnson:]

Brother Will Ross (now deceased) was a personal friend of mine, and an acquaintance of about forty-five years. In our church fellowship we very frequently spent our Sabbath afternoons discussing his experiences in the message, and his conversations with Mrs. E. G. White.

About 1908, while in Loma Linda and living near Sister White, he would frequently accompany her in her walks, and would discuss the message and future events. On one of these walks together, and while waiting at the Loma Linda railroad depot in company with Sister McInterfer¹ and Elder D. E. Robinson² present, Sister White related to the three of them about the storm of persecution that was coming upon the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Will Ross related it to me as follows:

[Will Ross:]

"Sister White told us, as we three stood there on the railroad depot platform, that a terrible storm of persecution was coming, just like a windstorm, that blew down every standing object. There was not a Seventh-day Adventist to be seen. They, like the disciples forsook Christ and fled. All who had sought positions were never seen any more.

"After the storm there was a calm. Then the Adventists arose like a great flock of sheep, but were without shepherds. They all united in earnest prayer for help and wisdom, and the Lord answered by helping them choose leaders among them, who had never sought positions before. They prayed earnestly for the aid of the Holy Spirit which was poured out upon them making them fully ready for service. They then went forth 'fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners' to give the message to all the world. [See Song of Solomon 6:10.]

"I was astonished, and asked if that applied to Loma Linda, as we were looking that way. Sister White replied to my question by stating that it applied to the entire denominational world. It so stunned me, that I did not ask any more questions." Will Ross, Boulder, Colorado.

[Elmer Johnson:]

In the year 1943, Elder D. E. Robinson was visiting the churches of Colorado. I was serving as the elder on the platform that Sabbath that Elder Robinson visited and spoke in the Boulder SDA Church, and having with him the large Bible which Sister White held in her hand, and leafed through during one of her visions.

At the close of the service, Brother Ross talked with Elder Robinson and asked him if he remembered when he and Elder Robinson, and Sister McInterfer were standing on the depot platform visiting with Sister White, and she related to them about the terrible windstorm of persecution that was coming upon the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Elder Robinson replied, "Yes, brother Ross, I remember it."

So I documented this reply January 15, 1946. Not wishing to forget this important narration that was related to me by brother Ross, I frequently discussed it with him in later years, and his statements never varied.

(Signed)

Elmer Johnson

[Everett Rogers:]

4/20/89.

Dear Dave:

I wrote this up and had Elmer Johnson sign it as he knew Will Ross well for years. Elmer was an old pioneer Adventist around here and died at 88 years of age. I, too, heard Will Ross tell this story many times and am the only one left who heard Will Ross many times. Will Ross also passed away in Boulder, Colorado.

(Signed)

Everett Rogers

marked with severe internal anguish, now shone with the light and glory of heaven. . . .

"The numbers of this company had lessened. Some had been shaken out, and left by the way. . . . The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, but their numbers were immediately made up by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks." *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 181–182.

"The shaking of God blows away multitudes like dry leaves. Prosperity multiplies a mass of professors. Adversity purges them out of the church. As a class, their spirits are not steadfast with God. They go out from us because they are not of us; for **when tribulation or persecution arises because of the Word, many are offended.**"

Testimonies, vol. 4, 89.

"The darkest hour of the church's struggle with the powers of evil is that which immediately precedes the day of her final deliverance. But none who trust in God need fear; for 'when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against

The Terrible Storm

"I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this will cause a shaking among God's people. . . .

"My attention was then turned to the company I had seen, who were **mightily shaken**. I was shown those whom I had before seen weeping and praying with agony

of spirit. The company of guardian angels around them had been doubled, and they were clothed with an armor from their head to their feet. They moved in exact order, firmly, like a company of soldiers. Their countenances expressed the **severe conflict** which they had endured, the **agonizing struggle** they had passed through. Yet their features,

the wall,' God will be to His church 'a refuge from the storm.' Isaiah 25:4." *Prophets and Kings*, 725.

"Amidst the changing scenes, with heresy and false doctrines coming in that will test the faith of all, the house built on the solid rock cannot be shaken. But **when storm and tempest come**, the house built on the sand will fall, and great will

"Sister White replied to my question by stating that it applied to the entire denominational world. It so stunned me, that I did not ask any more questions."

be the fall of it." *Medical Ministry*, 87.

"As trials thicken around us, **both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks**. Some who are now ready to take up weapons of warfare will in times of real peril make it manifest that they have not built upon the solid rock; they will yield to temptation. **Those who have had great light and precious privileges, but have not improved them, will, under one pretext or another, go out from us**. Not having received the love of the truth, they will be taken in the delusions of the enemy; they will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and will depart from the faith. But, on the other hand, **when the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep**

for eternity on shifting sand, will find that **the storm and tempest of trial will sweep away their refuge of lies**. Their structure will fall, and they will perish—lost, lost for all eternity." *Review and Herald*, April 23, 1901.

"There is a wonderful deceitfulness in sin. To the heart unchanged by righteousness, Satan presents a **counterfeit righteousness**. Those who trust in this righteousness build on shifting sand, and the storm of test and trial will overcome them." *Signs of the Times*, December 15, 1898.

Humble Leaders Chosen

"The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion. Satan, clothed in angel robes, will deceive, if

Those who have had great light and precious privileges, but have not improved them, will, under one pretext or another, go out from us.

will hear the true Shepherd's voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd. **The people of God will draw together and present to the enemy a united front**. In view of the common peril, **strife for supremacy will cease**; there will be no disputing as to who shall be accounted greatest." *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 400–401.

"They that will be doers of the word are building securely, and **the tempest and storm of persecution will not shake their foundation**, because their souls are rooted to the eternal Rock." *The Upward Look*, 315.

"Those who are willing to be led by false theories and unsound doctrines, who build their hopes

possible, the very elect. . . . Those who have rendered supreme homage to 'science falsely so called' (1 Timothy 6:20), will not be the leaders then. **Those who have trusted to intellect, genius, or talent will not then stand at the head of rank and file**. They did not keep pace with the light. Those who have proved themselves unfaithful will not then be entrusted with the flock. In the last solemn work **few great men will be engaged**. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them. **The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view**. . . . It may be under a rough and uninviting exterior the pure brightness of a genuine Christian character will be revealed. . . .

"Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. . . . True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat. . . .

"When trees without fruit are cut down as cumberers of the ground, when multitudes of false brethren are distinguished from the true, then **the hidden ones will be revealed to view**, and with hosannas range under the banner of Christ. **Those who have been timid and self-distrustful** will declare themselves openly for Christ and His truth. The most weak and hesitating in the church will be as David—willing to do and dare. The deeper the night for God's people, the more brilliant the stars. Satan will sorely harass the faithful; but, in the name of Jesus, they will come off more than conquerors. Then will the church of Christ appear 'fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.' . . .

God will work a work in our day that but few anticipate. **He will raise up and exalt among us those who are taught rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the outward training of scientific institutions**. These facilities are not to be despised or condemned; they are ordained of God, but they can furnish only the exterior qualifications. God will manifest that He is not dependent on learned, self-important mortals." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 80–82. ✠

Notes:

¹ Sister White's secretary.

² The husband of Ellen White's granddaughter

God's Educational Plan

Are We Following It?

Clark Floyd

According to E. A. Sutherland, one of our Seventh-day Adventist pioneers in the field of education, it was God's desire to work with the Protestant churches of the 1830's to carry the midnight cry. However, because the Protestant schools would not follow His instructions, or be guided by His hand, He could not use them, and another group was raised up to be His messengers.

The Millerite movement that gave the midnight cry consisted mostly of men and women (from the various Protestant denominations) who were not highly educated. A remnant of the Millerite movement then became the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Those whom God chose were not unintelligent, quite the contrary; but they were not educated in the higher schools of their day. God had another plan and another way to educate His people:

"When the truth for these last days came to the world in the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages, we were shown that in the education of our children, a different order of things must be brought in." *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 126.

The Jesuits with their type of educational system were very successful in way-laying the Protestant reformation. "Worldly education compels students, regardless of their needs or future work, to follow a prescribed course of instruction. It deals with students en masse. Christian education recognizes individual needs, and works to perfect individual character. It permits students, in counsel with teachers, to select subjects according to their future needs. The papacy cannot thrive unless it puts students through a prescribed course, 'the grind,' to destroy independence and individuality. Protestantism is the reverse."¹

Protestant schools, however, began using Jesuit methods of training students, and the young students lost the missionary zeal that had so valiantly carried forward the spirit of Protestantism. They became more interested in obtaining special recognition than being prepared to give the message a certain sound, if at all. The Protestant educational system should never have started down that road, for "the granting of degrees, prizes, honors, etc., is borrowed from the papal system of education."²

As Seventh-day Adventist education began, we were to stay away from "rewards" and "honors" in our school system.

"In our institutions of learning there was to be exerted an influence that would counteract the influence of the world, and give no encouragement to indulgence in appetite, in selfish gratification of the senses, in pride, ambition, love of dress and display, love of praise and flattery,

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Speaker(s) / Event
June 29– July 10	St. Louis, Missouri	General Conference Session
July 20–24	Knoxville, Illinois	Hope International Summer Camp Meeting
September 9–10	Colton, California	Joe Olson, Lee Forbes
October 14–16	Knoxville, Illinois	Hope International Fall Convocation

and strife for high rewards and honors as a recompense for good scholarship. All this was to be discouraged in our schools. It would be impossible to avoid these things, and yet send them to the public schools." *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 286.

The Jesuit method of training students had evolved from the Egyptians, through the Greeks, through the Romans, and finally into the medieval Catholic Church. Moses had received the training of the Egyptian schools, and it took forty years herding sheep in the wilderness to replace that training so that Moses would be qualified to lead God's people.

"Many have, as had Moses, very much to unlearn in order to learn the very lessons that they need to learn. He had need to be self-trained by severest mental and moral discipline, and God wrought with him before he could be fitted to train others in mind and heart. He had been instructed in the Egyptian courts. Nothing was left as unnecessary to train him to become a general of armies. The false theories of the idolatrous Egyptians had been instilled into his mind, and the influences surrounding him and things his eyes looked upon could not be easily shaken off or corrected. *Thus it is with many who have had a false training in any line.* All the idolatrous rubbish of heathen lore must be removed, bit by bit, item by item, from Moses'

mind." *This Day with God*, 321, *emphasis supplied*.

"The student of the Bible can read in the history of ancient Israel a series of reforms which exalted the Word of God to its proper place in home and school. This was followed by carelessness in regard to Bible study and the practice of its principles in home and school. This meant that the ideas of worldly men took precedence over God's Word. . . . In the educational world she (Israel) became the tail instead of the head."³

We note that "the child Jesus did not receive instruction in the synagogue schools." *The Desire of Ages*, 70. He was home schooled, with the Scriptures as the basis of His training. Nor did Jesus choose the highly educated men of His day to form the leadership of the church at Pentecost. Even His own disciples had to go through a great disappointment and retraining to be qualified to lead out in the apostolic church.

The person chosen as the prophet for the Seventh-day Adventist church had only a third-grade education. It appears that highly educated men often get above the simplicity of the message and cannot be used effectively by God. "As laborers together with Him, we must never get above the simplicity of His work; for, unless we walk humbly with God; the Holy Spirit cannot attend our efforts." *The Australasian Union Conference Record*, July 1, 1902.

Humility does not always accompany a Ph.D. degree. It can be easily forgotten that "all ye are brethren" (Matthew 23:8), that all are to be treated equally in God's kingdom.

"Christians must hold before the world 'that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.' The papacy opposes these truths, and has found its most effective tools in overcoming these unalienable rights to be her educational system with its courses and degrees. On the one hand, these destroy freedom, independence, and originality of thought; while on the other hand, they develop class distinction, aristocracy, and imperialism."⁴

The world's method of education is contingent upon the pupil following exactly what the system has imposed, with degrees conferred upon those who have satisfactorily followed those proscribed rules. The idea of a degree also puts students in competition with one another, with some losing and others winning, which is so contrary to God's methods and ways.

"The Lord sees that the rigid course with the degree often brings into the church 'many men after the flesh.' 1 Corinthians 1:26."⁵

Instead of studying the Scriptures for themselves, as we are counseled to do, students often seek the approval of the teacher or pastor without seeking the Holy Spirit first. These men should be consulted, but not as the final authority.

"The Bible with its precious gems of truth was not written for the scholar alone. On the contrary, it was designed for the common people; and the interpretation given by the common people, when aided by the Holy Spirit, accords best with the truth as it is in Jesus. The great truths necessary for salvation are made clear as the noonday, and none will mistake and lose

their way except those who follow their own judgment instead of the plainly revealed will of God." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 331.

There must be a change in the way we educate our youth. We must teach them to think for themselves. We must get them away from the idea of how well they are doing in comparison to their schoolmates. Education is not a race; it is not a contest. The minds of the students should be directed to seeking God's approval, not to achieving a high GPA. God is the best instructor. If we would allow freedom of thought, so necessary to the growth of spirituality, we would see dramatic changes in the attitudes and characters of our youth. We would see a consecration not seen since apostolic times; then the work would be finished.

"The message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it to be given with the greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and of prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal proclaiming the words which God gives them." *The Great Controversy*, 606.

But we must be aware that we will not be able to do this work without opposition and resistance. Satan well knows that such educational reforms will lead to thinking people, praying people, and ultimately, holy people.

"Satan will work with all his power of deception to have a company of men at the head of the Seventh-day Adventist church at the time of the loud cry who will regard the work of humble instruments led by the Spirit of God, who have not graduated from a literary institution, with the same disfavor as the leaders of the Protestant churches before 1844 regarded such

irregularities. God wants thousands of men trained in our schools, but He does not want them to receive such a training that their attitude toward truth will be the same as that of the school men of other denominations prior to 1844."⁶

These are the words of E.A. Sutherland, one of the founders of Nashville Agricultural and Normal Institute, in Madison, Tennessee. He, along with Percy Magan, was told by Ellen White to begin a school and to never let it come under denominational control unless God should give specific direction to do so. It is also interesting to note that the board of this school was the only board of which Ellen White was a member.

In *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 139, our people are told: "Schools should be established, not such elaborate schools as those at Battle Creek and College View, but more simple schools with more humble buildings, and with teachers who will adopt the same plans that were followed in the schools of the prophets." God, through His prophet, said our schools must be simpler, not so elaborate. They are to follow God's plan and not the world's. We must get back to what God envisioned for our schools, where the Bible is the textbook, not infidel authors; where inspired writings are lifted up in the highest regard, and the world's opinions are not lifted up.

We might ask, what would Jesus do?

"In His teaching our Saviour did not encourage any to attend the rabbinical schools of His day, for the reason that their minds would be corrupted with the continually repeated, 'They say,' or 'It hath been said.' The Lord can do more with minds that have no connection with schools where infidel authors are perused. These lesson books He reaches out His hand to remove, and in their stead places the Old and New Testament Scriptures." *Sermons and Talks*, vol. 1, 285.

At Hope International, a school after the model of Madison is in the planning stages, to be opened soon in the country near Galesburg, Illinois.

"There is a refining, subduing influence in nature that should be taken into account in selecting the locality for a school." *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 423.

Please keep this new school in your prayers—time is short and we need to have people trained, not for the purpose of receiving degrees, but in order to finish God's work through the Loud Cry. ☞



Clark Floyd and his wife Mary reside in Leicester, North Carolina. He is a board member and a speaker for Hope International.

Notes:

¹ E.A. Sutherland, *Studies in Christian Education*, Upward Way, Dodge Center, MN, 1989, 33. Available online in html format at www.tlmi.net/sce and pdf format at www.maranathamedia.com.au/download/books.

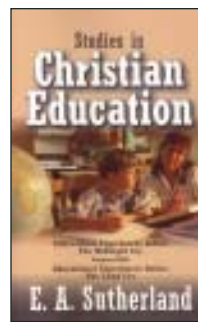
² Ibid., 40.

³ Ibid., 27–28.

⁴ Ibid., 38.

⁵ Ibid., 130.

⁶ Ibid., 131.

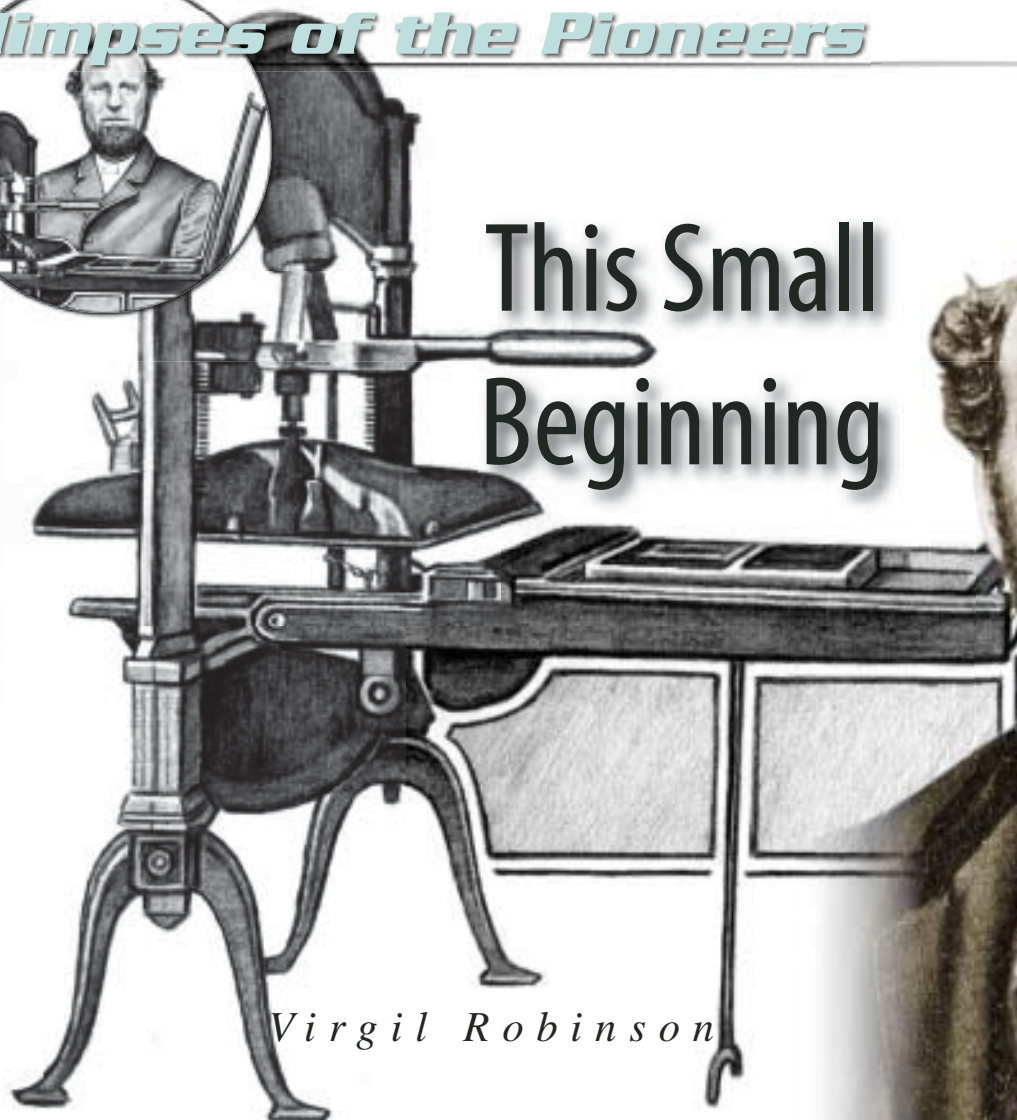


Are we in danger of following the course of Babylon in our educational system? "Now as never before we need to understand the true science of education. If

we fail to understand this, we shall never have a place in the Kingdom of God." Ellen G. White, *The Christian Educator*, August 1897. We highly recommend the study of *Studies in Christian Education*, by E.A. Sutherland. You can purchase copies from Hope International for \$8.99 each, plus shipping and handling (see page 30).



This Small Beginning



Virgil Robinson



James and Ellen White spent most of the 1848–1849 winter in Maine. It was only natural that they would spend as much time as possible with their friends, the Howlands, since this gave them an opportunity to be with their little son, Henry. Also James and Stockbridge were firm friends. Mr. Howland was a well-known builder in the area, and his influence among the businessmen of Topsham must have made it easier for him to help the young minister find employment.

One cold morning during family worship Ellen was given a vision. When it was over she said to her husband, “The Lord has shown me that it is our duty to go to Dartmouth, Massachusetts.”

“Were you shown why we should go there?” James asked. “Travel is not easy at this time of the year.”

“No, I don’t know just why we are needed. We will surely find out after we get there.”

After breakfast James walked to the post office to pick up the morning mail. When he returned he entered the house, ascended the stairs, and went into the room where Ellen was working. He was waving a letter in his hand.

“Here’s the answer, Ellen,” he told her. “This letter explains why we must go to Dartmouth.”

“What does it say, James? Who is it from?”

“It’s from Philip Collins. He says his son Gilbert is very sick and he

begs us to come and pray for the boy.”

“Why doesn’t he call for Joseph Bates? He is a man of prayer and faith, and he doesn’t live far away!”

“I shouldn’t be surprised if Elder Bates is away. He travels constantly, you know.”

So James and Ellen packed their small trunk and took the train for Dartmouth. Brother Collins was relieved when they arrived at his home. He led them to his son’s room, where the boy lay apparently at death’s door. He had wasted away almost to a skeleton.

“Nine weeks ago he came down with whooping cough,” the father explained. “His mother and I fear that now he may be going into consumption.”

With the parents of the sick boy, the Whites knelt by the bed of the apparently dying youth. As they prayed, the power of God flooded the room. James White rose from his knees, picked up the young lad in his arms, lifted him heavenward, and exclaimed as he walked to and fro in the room, "You will not die, but live!"

The Whites spent eight days visiting believers in the area before they turned their steps again toward the Collins home. The boy was at the gate to meet them. His cough was gone, and he had already gained four pounds in weight.¹

"Praise the Lord," exclaimed James White, as he and Ellen hurried into the house to greet the joyful parents. . . .

A few days later James and Ellen were again on their way back to Topsham, where they remained the rest of the winter.

When spring came the Whites received letters from friends in both Connecticut and New York, urging them to work in those States. Uncertain about what to do, they finally decided to go to Utica, New York, so they wrote a letter accepting the invitation.

But before James could mail the letter Ellen began to experience a feeling of distress, as though something was wrong. At this James burned the letter they had written and prayed that his wife's burden might be removed.

Returning from the post office the next morning, James brought another letter, which was to change their plans. This one was from Albert Belden, in whose home they had stayed for a few weeks the previous summer. Not only were they warmly invited to return to Rocky Hill but Belden had actually sent them money for transportation.² So in the spring of 1849 James and Ellen traveled again to Rocky Hill, Connecticut. It is probable that they occupied the same large unfurnished chamber in Belden's house

in which the Sabbath conference had been held the previous year. . . .

Now James began to feel deeply impressed that he must begin publishing the "little paper" about which his wife had received instructions in vision the previous November.³

Determining to follow his impressions, James felt God's blessing upon him. But then he was weighed down with perplexity when he thought of the fact that he was totally without money for such a venture. And those who could afford to help were not willing. Finally, discouraged, he said to Ellen, "I'm going to find a field of hay to mow. At least I will be able to earn something to help pay for the printing." He headed for the door.

As he was going out, a crushing burden fell upon Ellen and she fainted. Returning to her side, James knelt and began praying earnestly. Soon he could see she was in vision. He knew there was nothing to fear. Ellen would be strengthened. After the vision was over Ellen said, "James, the vision dealt with you and your work. You did right last year, mowing grass to earn money to attend the conferences. But it is not God's plan that you do so again. You must step out by faith. You must begin to write, write, write! If you go into the hayfield, you will be stricken with sickness."⁴

James accepted the message, although he still couldn't see just how everything was going to work out. He acted by faith, and wrote. *Present Truth* would be the name of his paper, James decided. He penned the words "It is through the truth that souls are sanctified, and made ready to enter the everlasting kingdom. Obedience to the truth will kill us to this world, that we may be made alive, by faith in Jesus."⁵

James went to visit Charles Pelton, a printer in Middletown, eight miles from Rocky Hill, and asked him whether he would be

willing to print an eight-page paper. The conversation probably went something like this:

Pelton: "Printing is my business. I don't see why I shouldn't print for you just as I do for everyone else."

James: "Perhaps there is a little difference in my case. You see, I have no money. But I expect to receive some soon after the papers go out."

Mr. Pelton undoubtedly eyed his customer warily. He had probably never met anyone who talked like this.

"You look like an honest man. What's your occupation?"

"I'm a minister of the gospel."

"I've met a few crooked preachers in my time, but I don't think you are one of them. I'll take the risk. Bring your material and we'll set it up and print it."

"Thank you, Mr. Pelton. I'll be back later."

With a light heart James White walked the eight miles back to Rocky Hill. The way was open. He would put God to the test, stepping out, as Ellen had said, depending wholly on the "naked promises of God."

James had taken the first step. *The Present Truth* would be published. ✠

Virgil Robinson was the great-grandson of James and Ellen White on his mother's side and the great-grandson of William Farnsworth (one of the first Seventh-day Adventists) on his father's side.

References:

¹ *Life Sketches* (1888), 225, 256.

² *Life Sketches* (1915), 123, footnote.

³ *Footprints of the Pioneers*, 125.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 125-126.

⁵ James White, *Present Truth* (Middletown, Conn.: 1849), vol. 1, no. 1, 1.



This article was taken from Virgil Robinson, *James White*, 54-58. This book is available from Hope International for \$11.99 plus shipping and sales tax (see page 30).



The Alpha and the Omega of Deadly Error, Part 8

A Call to the Watchmen

A Review of Significant Warnings
and Special Instruction From the Spirit of Prophecy

F. M. Wilcox

Twenty-five years ago, when the church was threatened with an invasion of atheistic and spiritualistic sentiments, the following call was sounded to the watchmen on the walls of Zion:

"Then I heard a voice saying, 'Where are the watchmen that ought to be standing on the walls of Zion? Are they asleep? How can they be silent? This foundation was built by the Master Worker, and will stand the storm and tempest. Will they permit this man to present doctrines that deny the past experience of the people of God? The time has come to take decided action.'

"I was instructed to call upon our physicians and ministers to

take a firm stand for the truth. We are not to allow atheistic, spiritualistic sentiments to be brought before our youth. God has led us in the past, giving us truth, eternal truth. By this truth we are to stand." *Special Testimonies*, Series B, No. 7, 38.

This same call comes to the watchmen today. If it was needed two and a half decades ago, it is needed even more greatly today. Shall we as ministers, as physicians, as members of the church of Christ, heed the call, and stand faithfully and unflinchingly for the truth as it is in Christ Jesus? Unless we do this, we shall basely betray our sacred trust.

Prisoners of Hope

We must view the question from both sides, and avoid a biased or unbalanced position. While we seek to escape the error on the one side, while we hold back by every power of our influence our boys and girls from throwing themselves into the great worldly vortex, the end whereof will be spiritual death, we should be just as faithful and prompt in providing means whereby they can secure the help which these days and the work before them demand.

Under God, and in His infinite mercy, our schools have done a noble work. Notwithstanding all our failures and mistakes of the

past, there has come forth from our colleges and academies a great army of devoted young men and women who are doing excellent service for God. And if we shall now turn to Him with all our hearts, this number will be greatly augmented in days to come. This is the promise made to us. Declares the servant of the Lord:

“Though in many respects our institutions of learning have swung into worldly conformity, though step by step they have advanced toward the world, they are prisoners of hope. Fate has not so woven its meshes about their workings that they need to remain helpless and in uncertainty. If they will listen to His voice and follow in His ways, God will correct and enlighten them, and bring them back to their upright position of distinction from the world.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 145.

What Is the Remedy

The editor of the *Review* can do little more than point out these dangers. It is his bounden duty to do this. It requires no special wisdom to do so; the facts are patent to every one who will give them even passing thought. But the remedy is not so easy to recognize. What should be done, needs careful study. The situation is an appeal to the church to seek God earnestly for help and deliverance.

This instruction which we have received from the Spirit of Prophecy relative to our schools, should be carefully reviewed. Wherein our schools fail to measure up to the pattern given us, they should be brought into line. We can expect God’s blessing and guidance only as we render to Him obedience. “Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.” 2 Chronicles 20:20.

The Responsibility of Leadership

To the leadership of the church particularly, the present situation

should make definite appeal—not only the educational problem, but the welfare of Israel from every angle. Grave dangers confront the remnant people. The spirit of

from the experience of many. Israel of old yielded to these influences. The history of the church is marred by the compromise of truth and right. Good Jehoshaphat “joined

*It is in such an hour as this that
the leaders in the second advent movement
are called by the prophet Joel to
humiliation of soul, to confession of sins, to
fasting and weeping and supplication.*

worldliness, of pleasure seeking, of commercialism, of creature comforts, of self-centered interests, of compromise with evil, is finding entrance into the lives of Seventh-day Adventists. The old-time simplicity of faith and practice is departing

affinity with Ahab” (2 Chronicles 18:1), and merited the just rebuke of Heaven. The great churches around us have been honeycombed with apostasy, and God has committed to Seventh-day Adventists a message of reform. Shall we give that

My Saviour

UNDER an Eastern sky,
Amid a rabble cry,
A Man went forth to die
For me.

Thorn-crowned His
blessed head,
Blood-stained His weary
tread,
Cross-laden, on He sped
For me.

Pierced were His hands
and feet.
Three hours on Him beat
Fierce rays of noontide
heat,
For me.

Thus wert Thou made all
mine.

Lord, make me wholly
thine;

Grant grace and strength
divine
To me.

In thought and word and
deed

Thy will to do—O lead
My soul, e’en though it
bleed,
To Thee.

—Selected
Review and Herald
May 12, 1904

message faithfully, true to our high and holy commission; or shall we yield, as have many others? Shall we allow the church, over which God has made us the overseers, to follow in the wake of other organizations, and be wrecked upon the rocks of disobedience and disloyalty to Heaven's requirements? Of this there is great danger unless we awaken to our God-given responsibilities. In all these evils threatening the church, there is found in the ultimate result the essence of the omega against which we have been warned.

Not only dangers from within, but also from without, threaten the advance of our work today. A lessening income promises embarrassment to our missionary advance. A worldwide economic depression enshrouds the earth. Growing unemployment exists in practically every country. But these very conditions awaken an interest in divine prophecy, and the desire to know the meaning of the things coming upon the earth. Rapidly opening doors are found in every field. The calls to workers were never so

insistent as today. Thank God for these evidences of His working on the hearts of men. With the day of danger, there comes also the day of unparalleled opportunity. With the opportunity will come power to improve it if we but rightly relate ourselves to God and to His work with the spirit of true consecration and heroic sacrifice.

The Summons to Fasting and Prayer

It is in such an hour as this that the leaders in the second advent movement are called by the prophet Joel to humiliation of soul, to confession of sins, to fasting and weeping and supplication, to new consecration of heart and life to God and His service. The cry should arise from every loyal heart, "Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach." Joel 2:17. Read the divine summons to the priests and ministers of the Lord:

"Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?" Verses 2:12-17.

God's Gracious Answer

If we will obey this call to prayer and truly humble our souls before God, seeking from Him the way of



One More Day (A Christian Soldier's Challenge)

One more day to fight life's battles, . . .
To war while there's still time—
'Tis no time now for discouragement,
For you've almost reached the finish line.

One more day to be courageous, . . .
To stand up for the right,
Though the odds may be against you,
With Christ, you can win the fight.

One more day to hold on . . .
To endure when the wait seems long;
So bear every trial with patience,
For truth will soon triumph over wrong.

One more day to be faithful . . .
To work, watch, and pray,
To live the Christian Charter,
While helping others along life's way.

One more day to be victorious . . .
To overcome every fault and sin.
A soldier bravely fighting the warfare,
For there's a crown for you to win.

—Reginald Holden, 2005

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Ephesians 6:13.

deliverance, the remedy for our ills, this is His gracious promise:

"Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people. Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen. . . . Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things. Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength. Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. . . . And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed." Verses 18–27.

May we seek this experience, and seeking, we shall find in this our hour of perplexity, the way out of every difficulty, and wisdom according to our need in Christ Jesus. ❀

Series Concluded.

Source: "Why Our Educational Symposium? The Alpha and the Omega of Deadly Error: A Review of Significant Warnings and Special Instruction from the Spirit of Prophecy, in Two Parts—Part 2," *Review and Herald*, Takoma Park, Washington, D.C., October 23, 1930, 7–8.



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."

- How many grandchildren did James and Ellen White have?
 - 2
 - None
 - 7
 - 12
- How old did Ellen White live to be?
 - 87
 - 92
 - 82
 - 103
- What was Ellen White's maiden name?
 - Gorham
 - Gould
 - Roberts
 - Harmon
- Ellen White's family roots go back to what country?
 - Denmark
 - Ireland
 - Holland
 - England
- What church did Ellen White belong to before the Millerite Movement?
 - Baptist
 - Catholic
 - Methodist
 - Presbyterian
- Ellen White's grandfather Daniel was in what famous war?
 - War of 1812
 - Revolutionary War
 - Spanish War
 - World War I
- How many brothers and sisters did Ellen White have?
 - 7
 - 10
 - 12
 - 0
- What year did William Miller's first published work appear proclaiming the soon coming of Christ?
 - 1798
 - 1833
 - 1843
 - 1812
- Who was president of the United States when Ellen White was born?
 - Andrew Jackson
 - John Quincy Adams
 - James Monroe
 - Thomas Jefferson
- Ellen White's father was a hat maker. What was the average wage for a well-trained artisan in Ellen White's youth?
 - 10 cents a day
 - 5 Dollars a day
 - 75 cents a day
 - 10 Dollars a day

Answers: 1:C, 2:A, 3:D, 4:D, 5:C, 6:B, 7:A, 8:B, 9:B, 10:C.
Source: For specific references to any answer, please contact Hope International.

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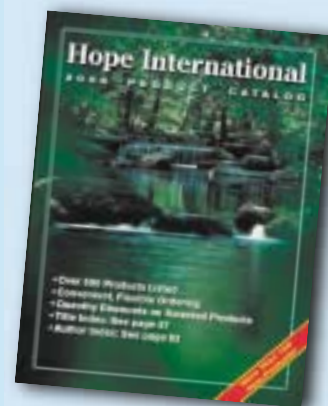
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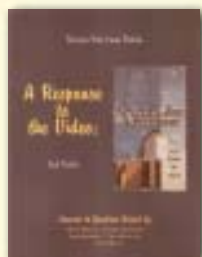
Andrews, J. N.

Three Messages of Revelation 14

This book played a formative role in the development of Seventh-day Adventist thought. Truly God's message of warning found in Revelation 14 is present truth for today.

Paperback, 141 pages, Facsimile of 1892 edition

BEAJ-TMOR \$9.99



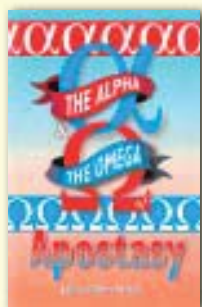
Pickle, Bob

Response to the Video: Seventh-day Adventism: The Spirit Behind the Church, A

This book provides more than 200 thorough, biblical, and well-documented answers to questions raised on a video produced by former Adventist preachers and other critics of the Seventh-day Adventist movement.

Paperback, 160 pages, 2002

BEPB-RTVI \$8.99



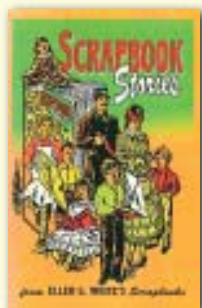
White, Julius Gilbert, M.D.

Alpha and the Omega of Apostasy, The

Do you know what the Alpha and the Omega of Apostasy is? Don't be deceived, for "many will depart from the faith and follow doctrines of the devil." A vital message for God's last-day church.

Paperback, 87 pages

BEWJ-AOOA \$8.99



Children and Youth

Lloyd, Ernest

Scrapbook Stories

During a visit to Elmhaven, California, Ernest Lloyd selected some stories from the scrapbooks in Mrs. White's collection. In this book you will read what he found to be the best of the stories.

Paperback, 96 pages, 2005

BELE-SSTO \$8.99

Hare, Eric B.

Eric B. Hare Stories

Now on Audio CD, these wonderful mission stories will become a favorite past-time for your children and you, teaching valuable lessons how to live for Jesus.

Stories on this CD: "Mister Crooked Ears," "Silver and the Snake," "Me Me," "The Chinese Lady and the Rats," "Little Engine," "Bunny and Jim," "The Big Yellow Truck," and "Pip Pip, the Naughty Chicken."

Vol. 1, Audio CD, 8 Stories, 2004

CEHE-EBH1 \$8.99

Eric B. Hare Stories

"Sweet Potatoes," "White Bean," "The Hermit and the King," and "Jack's Quarter."

Vol. 2, Audio CD, 4 Stories, 2004

CEHE-EBH2 \$8.99

Eric B. Hare Stories

"Who Put the Fire Out?" "What a Fool I've Been," "Little Call," "Guess Who Saw the King?" "The Mean Old Mistress," "Ronnie and the Robber," "The Impossible Fish Story."

Vol. 3, Audio CD, 7 Stories, 2004

CEHE-EBH3 \$8.99

Spirit of Prophecy

White, James / White, Ellen G.

Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene

A compilation of various writings of James and Ellen White, elucidating the principles of health reform. Also includes the personal testimonies of J.N. Andrews and Joseph Bates regarding the benefits of health reform.

Paperback, 268 pages, 2005 (facsimile)

BEWJ-CTBH \$12.99





Bible Study

God's Word

Deluxe Study Bible, The

The Study Bible—The perfect companion for the serious Bible student. Contains commentary from the Spirit of Prophecy, S.O.P. scriptural index, and concordance.

Genuine leather, Black, KJV, 1620 pages, 2000

BEGW-SBSD \$39.99

Pilgrim Bible

This beautiful mid-size King James Version is illustrated with hundreds of full-color photos of the Bible lands. Also includes 4 Bible maps. (No concordance, marginal references, or EGW references.)

Genuine leather, Black, KJV, 1454 pages, 2001

BEGW-PBIB \$29.99

Study Bible, The

The Study Bible—The perfect companion for the serious Bible student. Contains commentary from the Spirit of Prophecy, Scripture cross-references, S.O.P. scriptural index, and concordance.

Bonded leather, Thumb-indexed, Black, KJV, 1755 pages, 1997

BEGW-SBST \$39.99

Outreach

Pinkoski, Jim

God's Law and God's Grace

Has God's grace replaced His law? This book answers this very important question and gives you real Bible answers, showing that *both* God's law and His grace are still in operation today. An excellent choice for those who have questions about God's law.

Paperback, 56 pages, 2002

BEPJ-GLGG \$3.49

Video

Veith, Walter J.

From Evolutionist to Creationist

See how God changed an atheistic evolutionary scientist into a Seventh-day Adventist creationist evangelist. A miracle conversion story you will never forget!

DVD, 90 minutes

DEVW-FETC \$12.99

God's Guiding Gift

See how the Bible predicts that the remnant would possess the spirit of prophecy and that the restoration of this gift would be one of the issues that Satan would war against.

DVD, 110 minutes

DEVW-GGGI \$12.99

Health

Batmanghelidj, F., M.D.

How to Deal With Back Pain and Rheumatoid Joint Pain

In this book, back pain and rheumatoid joint pain are explained as indicators of local chronic dehydration. Shows how to find relief from two common pains of the body—low back pain and rheumatoid joint pain.

Paperback, 112 pages, 1991

BEBF-HTDW \$12.99

Water: Rx for a Healthier Pain-Free Life

Learn the basics of Dr. Batmanghelidj's discoveries regarding degenerative effects of dehydration and the curing power of water.

Paperback, 48 pages, 1997

BEBF-WRFH \$5.99

Lee, Celeste

Understanding the Body Organs and the Eight Laws of Health

This book explains simply and concisely how the body organs function, how they relate to one another, and the benefits from following the eight laws of health. Excellent for home schoolers.

Paperback, 111 pages, 2004

BELC-UBOE \$11.99

M.E.E.T. Ministry

God wants us to be happy and healthy. These booklets give valuable information that will help you understand your health needs and what to do to help others who may be suffering from one of the following areas:

God's Plan: Disarming Diabetes

Paperback, 56 pages, 2002

BEMM-GPDD \$7.99

God's Plan: High Blood Pressure

Paperback, 64 pages, 2003

BEMM-GPHB \$7.99

God's Plan: Taking the ITIS Out of Arthritis

Paperback, 65 pages, 2003

BEMM-GPTI \$7.99

God's Plan: The Answer to Cancer

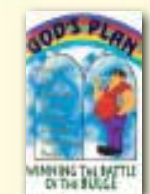
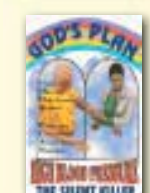
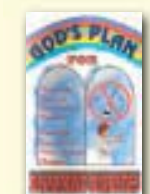
Paperback, 56 pages, 2003

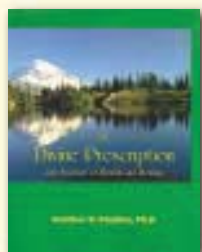
BEMM-GPAT \$7.99

God's Plan: Winning the Battle of the Bulge

Paperback, 64 pages, 2003

BEMM-GPWB \$7.99





Paulien, Gunther B., Ph.D.

Divine Prescription and Science of Health and Healing, The

This 540-page book presents principles on how to keep our bodies in total health, from the standpoint of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. If you want to keep current on health issues this book is a great resource.

Paperback, 541 pages, 1997

BEPG-DPSH \$19.99

White, Julius Gilbert

Diet of the Last Church, The

Perhaps you have been asked, "How do you harmonize the teaching of a vegetarian diet with the Bible permission to eat clean meats, and the practice of the church in all ages?" This booklet answers this question and more.

Paperback, 15 pages

BEWJ-DOLC \$1.99

Video

Veith, Walter J.

Life At Its Best

A complete presentation on the nutritional principles, and benefits involved in a vegan diet. Also discusses the harmful impact of drugs, tea, and coffee, food additives, meat, and dairy products.

5 DVD discs

DEVW-LAIB \$54.99



Cookbooks

Pickle, Julianne

100% Vegetarian

This cookbook is designed to fill real needs of real people. It makes 100% vegetarian food affordable, attainable, delicious, and easy to prepare. All ingredients can be found in your local grocery store!

Spiral Bound, 124 pages, 1990

BEPJ-1VEG \$6.99



Music

Video

Neumann, Brian

Sound Advice

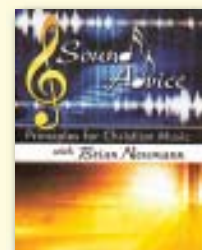
In this powerful, eye-opening video series Brian Neumann delivers clear, persuasive, and biblical arguments for choosing music not by mere preference, but by the principles of our loving Creator.

3 DVDs, 6 presentations

DENB-SADV \$50.99

3 Video tapes, 6 presentations

VENB-SADV \$42.99



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Sales tax: Illinois residents, please add 6.5%. Washington state residents, please add 7.8%.

All money received must be in US funds, drawn on US banks.

Letters to the Editor



I am so glad that NewsWatch is back after an absence. It helps me keep up with current events in the light of Bible prophecy.

HL, Hawaii

I heard about Hope International some time ago, but it was not until someone gave me a copy of *Our Firm Foundation* (and I liked the straight message) that I subscribed to it.

There are a lot of changes in the world and also in the church, and some are not easy to understand. I am a life-long Seventh-day Adventist; my father and mother joined in 1929. May the Lord bless you and the good work you are doing.

WG, Florida

I enjoy the magazine—so much so that I am buying extra copies to give out to others. I really enjoyed your camp meeting; they were the most spiritual meetings that I have ever attended.

RF, Arizona

Thank you for your letter. I am very pleased to have your magazine, *Our Firm Foundation*. I have truly been blessed by many of its articles. I came into the church twelve years ago, and much has changed since then—so much so that I have found myself lacking in my desire to attend church and get involved.

Your magazine takes me back to when I first joined the church, when Bible study beyond the

Sabbath school lesson was encouraged.

Yes, your magazine does feed me spiritually. I look forward to receiving each copy. The “Historical Footnotes” are great.

JK, Tennessee

I have just read the article in *Our Firm Foundation* by Ralph Larson entitled “The Scandal of a Book,” Part 8. Thank the Lord you had the courage to print this, and that the very likely party of the Jesuits was named. I know for sure that a good number of conservative Seventh-day Adventists believe the church has been infiltrated. This is not something that I want to occupy a lot of my time with but it very likely is true. All I know to do at this time is to keep my focus on no man, no organization, but on Christ.

DT, Maine

I really appreciate the magazine and enjoy the format and color. I especially enjoy the “Historical Footnotes.” I have read the magazine for years and it is better than ever. Keep up the good work! I am praying for you all.

FL, Virginia

Thank you for sending me a copy of your magazine, *Our Firm Foundation*. May God richly bless you and your staff to reach more people in the United States. I urge you to reach out to the people of the third-world countries—such as Indonesia with

its 17,000 islands—that need to know the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that we all love Him so dearly as our personal Saviour.

I am looking forward to His second return to this world to take His children home.

LN, Indonesia

I love your new sections on past Seventh-day Adventist pioneers and other writers who have passed away. It is great to show how men have stood up for the unpolluted truth in the varying conditions leading to today's apostasy.

The return of the world news column is welcome also, especially with the photos.

Oh, Yes, *Our Firm Foundation* is looking the best it has ever been—not to praise you, but . . . to the One who guides and sharpens all human abilities and resources. And glory to the author (and publisher!) of our salvation!

BH, Maryland

I love you all—especially for the spiritual uplifting I am receiving. Pray for me and my husband and my son.

VS, Illinois

Thank you and the Lord for the fine magazine you put out. It is always a joy to receive it each month. May the Lord continue to bless all your staff as you prepare timely messages for the final countdown here on earth.

RS, Tennessee

Did you miss the . . .

Illinois 2005

Spring Convocation?



In April of this year we held our Spring Convocation here in Illinois, and it was a blessing indeed! More and more people told us they were not hearing these stirring messages in their churches.

Would you like to share in the blessings they received? Do you long for something more than what you are getting each week? If so, we are happy to provide some "meat" for your diet. Why not order the messages so you can be filled as well?

We hope you will take advantage of the Spirit-filled messages and will share them with others and maybe use them for a special Sabbath blessing.

The signs of the times should awaken us to see that the door of mercy may not remain open much longer. With the change to a new pope (noting that his nicknames included "the enforcer" and "God's rottweiler"), we can be certain that we need all the spiritual food we can get to help prepare us for the final events.

Speaker / Title

Joe Olson — Welcome and report

on Hope's Happenings

Lee Forbes — "How Much Milk Is Too Much Milk?"

Tony Morais — "Arise and Shine"

Clark Floyd — "Two Horses, One Chariot"

Roscoe Smiley — "Forgiveness and Relationships"

Richard Harris — "Just Like Them"

Gary Foster — "Education Dilemma"

(Speaker Panel) — "Talk Back Live"

Prices

Audio Cassettes:	\$1.95 ea.	\$12.95 / set
Audio CDs	\$2.95 ea.	\$19.95 / set
Audio MP3 CD:	\$7.95 ea.	

(All messages on 1 MP3 CD)

Video tapes:	\$5.95 ea.	\$39.95 / set
Video DVDs:	\$5.95 ea.	\$39.95 / set

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