Understanding Aright the “Daily,”
Historically & Scripturally

Part 6
"Why do we not exercise greater faith in the Divine Physician? As He worked for the man with the palsy, so He will work today for those who come to Him for healing. We have great need of more faith. I am alarmed as I see the lack of faith among our people. We need to come right into the presence of Christ, believing that He will heal our physical and spiritual infirmities.

"We are too faithless. Oh, how I wish that I could lead our people to have faith in God! They need not feel that in order to exercise faith they must be wrought up into a high state of excitement. All they have to do is to believe God’s Word, just as they believe one another’s word. He hath said it, and He will perform His Word. Calmly rely on His promise, because He means all that He says. Say, He has spoken to me in His Word, and He will fulfill every promise that He has made. Do not become restless. Be trustful. God’s Word is true. Act as if your heavenly Father could be trusted. . . .” 1SM 83.

Remember the story of the paralytic? Mark 2:2-5: “And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them. And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.”

We are told that it is our "privilege" to exercise faith in God’s promises. “It is the privilege of every soul to exercise faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.” Reflecting Christ, 130. A privilege is something that we are entitled to. Webster’s defines privilege as “a special advantage or immunity or benefit not enjoyed by all, and/or a right reserved exclusively by a particular person or group.”

As children of the heavenly King, we have certain privileges, one of them being able to exercise faith in our Father. We are able, as Paul says, to come boldly unto the throne of grace. Hebrews 4:16: “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

Now, the Lord recognizes that even though it is a privilege, some are so despondent, things are so dark, that they can’t see through the clouds of despair. It is hard for them to “exercise” their faith. It is in times like these that I especially like this quote from God through Sister White:

“If you cannot rely upon your own faith, rely upon the faith of others. We believe and hope for you. God accepts our faith in your behalf.” 2T 319.

Can you imagine the grace of God, to allow others to exercise their faith in your behalf? When I consider these attributes of our heavenly Father, I begin to understand how and why the heavenly intelligences are constantly praising His name! Who can you serve that is more pitiful and merciful than our God?

It reminds me of Psalm 103:14: “For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.”

And again, what God says in the book of Isaiah: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9.

The Lord is so good, so merciful, and so kind to us, that if we end up not turning to Him, it will be completely our own faults. We will then be asked the question:

“And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it?” Isaiah 5:3-4.

Can you see why Sister White was almost agonizing over the fact that we do not trust our heavenly Father, that we don’t utilize our privilege to exercise faith? Can you also see why it is so important for us individually to exercise our faith? It may not be for us; it may be for our children, our spouses, our church friends and others.

Let us act as if we believe that we are royalty, that we are indeed . . . children of the heavenly King! ☰

Joe Olson serves as the executive director and chairman of the board of Hope International. He also travels as an international speaker.
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Understanding Aright the “Daily,” Historically & Scripturally
Part 6
How and When Christ’s Sanctuary Ministry Was “Taken Away”: Church-State Issues in AD 538

In our last issue, we connected Clovis’ adoption of the Breviary as the law code of his reign to the establishment of a “National” religion—that of Catholicism. In the Breviary, an extract from the Theodosian code that upheld the “one and true Catholic faith” gave Clovis the necessary legal vehicle to impose the orthodox faith on his subjects and eliminate the Arian and any other creeds.

Daniel 11:31 and 12:11 Analysis

Having now a firm foundation of the historical events, documents, and policies related to A.D. 508, that understanding must be applied and understood in the context of Daniel 11:31 and 12:11. We’ll begin with Daniel 11:31:

“And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.”

“And arms shall stand on his part.” With confidence we can say that it was the “arms” of Clovis, the state’s military and political strength, that allied itself with Catholicism. “And they” (Clovis and Catholicism) “shall pollute” (symbiosis of church and state) “the sanctuary of strength.” “Of strength” should read “the Rock” (masculine singular future tense), as it is rightly translated in the Hebrew: “The Rock,” of course, is none other than Jesus Christ, so the phrase “sanctuary of strength” can be interpreted “the sanctuary of Christ.” “And shall take away the daily.” (“Sacrifice” is a supplied word and does not belong in the text.)

Thus far, three of the four segments of Daniel 11:31 have been documented and interpreted historically. The fourth part now becomes our focus, as a biblical, historical, and inspired basis is sought for a correct understanding of “the abomination that maketh desolate.” Note that the “abomination of desolation” is not only “placed” in Daniel 11:31, but “set up” in Daniel 12:11:

“And they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.”

“And they shall [Clovis and Catholicism] place or set up, Daniel 12:11] the abomination.”

“Abomination,” by its very nature, is sin. It is abhorrent to God, disgusting to Him, “espec. idolatry or (conc.) an idol.” (See Strong’s #8251, #8441.) In this case, as will be shown, the “sin” is idolatry, manifested in spiritual adultery.

The Meaning of “Abomination”

Synonym for Idolatry

Due to the ominous role of the “abomination,” it is prudent to examine that word closely for full understanding. “Abomination,” when used prophetically, applies to both pagan and papal Rome. It is employed three times in the book of Daniel:

1 Daniel 9:27 “And for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.” This refers to the pagan Romans with their idolatrous standards in the siege, capture and destruction of Jerusalem. This is the Old Testament source to which Jesus referred in Matthew 24:15.

2 Daniel 11:31 “And they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.” This refers to papal Rome.

3 Daniel 12:11 “And the abomination that maketh desolate set up.” This is a repetition and enlargement of Daniel 11:31, and also refers to papal Rome.

Each usage in Daniel is #8251 in concordances and lexicons. It is defined as something that is “abhorrent or blasphemous,” or even a “blasphemous activity. . . . Most often it is used as a synonym for an idol or idolatry.” Warren Baker and Eugene Carpenter, The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, s.v. “abomination” (Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 2003), 1193.

Before applying that meaning to pagan and papal Rome, however, “abomination’s” six uses in the New Testament should be considered in conjunction with its Old Testament usage.

1 Matthew 24:15. “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place . . . .” The “abomination” spoken of here refers to the pagan Roman armies surrounding Jerusalem with their idolatrous standards. Ellen White, in commenting on this, connects “abomination” with Rome’s idolatry:

“When the idolatrous standards of the Romans should be set up in the holy ground which extended some furlongs outside of the city walls, then the followers of Christ were to find safety in flight.” Great Controversy, 26.

2 Mark 13:14. “But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand). . . .” This is applied to
the same action by the same power as in Matthew 24:15.

3 Luke 16:15. “Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.” This refers to things men permit or seek that are in competition with their loyalty and homage to God—things that God therefore hates. It indirectly refers to idolatry.

4 Revelation 17:4. “And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication.” This applies to papal Rome.

5 Revelation 17:5. “And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” This again is applied to papal Rome.

6 Revelation 21:27. “Andthere shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie.” This is applied to all idolaters.

Thus twice in the New Testament, “abomination” is specifically applied to pagan Rome and twice to papal Rome. In each case, its meaning is defined as something detestable—specifically, as idolatry or idolatrous worship (Strong’s #946).

And in the book of Daniel, that same meaning is once applied to pagan Rome and twice to papal Rome. Idolatry is rejection of God, defection from His law and His principles, a preference for another ruler—even self—whose influence and values are preferred above God’s. This is the significance and application of the term “abomination,” the particular “sin” referred to in these prophetic Scriptures.

Idolatry Manifested in Church in Her Preference for Power of the State

Exactly how this idolatry manifested itself in the “abomination” of prophecy, within the documented historical context of a counterfeit worship system and the growing symbiosis of church and state, can be seen in an investigation of a related term of equal significance—that of spiritual fornication or spiritual adultery. A church can be guilty of the sin of spiritual fornication or spiritual adultery in three ways.

1 By the worship of idolatrous images, which is spiritual unfaithfulness to Christ.
   “Thou hast made to thyself images of men [idols] and did commit whoredom [fornication] with them.” Ezekiel 16:17.

   By worshiping images, ancient Israel was unfaithful to God. “She committed adultery with sticks and stones.” Jeremiah 3:6, 9.

2 By the church becoming friendly with the degenerate world. “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?” James 4:4.

3 By the union of church and state. “Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.” Romans 13:7.

   By illicit or forbidden union, the church commits spiritual adultery. In Scripture, the spiritual husband of the church is Jesus Christ. If a church unites with or receives favors of one who is not her husband, she commits spiritual adultery or spiritual fornication. That unlawful union occurs when the kings, rulers or civil powers of the state unite with the church and/or support the church’s interests and aims. It occurs when the church forsakes its dependence upon divine grace and power, preferring instead earthly power, usually as expressed in legislative decrees. She thus devotes her energies and priorities to a mutual relationship with someone or something other than the One who deserves such attention. It is spiritual unfaithfulness, spiritual adultery, in the sight of God. Her unlawful act is a form of idolatry. (Pastor Austin P. Cooke, with many thanks for his portions of information)

“Abomination” in Daniel is Union of Church and State

In sum, the “abomination” or “sin” of idolatry that is spoken of in Daniel 11:31 and 12:11 refers to the amalgamation or union of church and state. That is the specific sin referred to in those verses of Daniel’s prophetic vision. The church had committed spiritual adultery and had married one other than her spiritual husband, Jesus Christ. In
this study of “abomination” in the Old Testament and the New, in the context being addressed, Rome’s role in prophetic history is thus firmly established. Rejecting Christ, the Church of Rome had transferred her dependence, welcomed the influence of, and given her undue affection and allegiance to the state, thereby crossing a forbidden line into idolatry. It can now be summarized that the “abomination” that desolates = idolatry = spiritual adultery = alliance of church and state = Rome.

“Two Swords” Theory: Church “Sword” More Powerful

This idolatrous development and the setting-up process in 508 came about from church policy under Pope Gelasius I:

A.D. 492 Gelasius I became the new pope on March 3, 492, and died on November 21, 496, thus ending his pontificate of only four years, eight months and eighteen days. During this short time, however, he established the two swords theory, which set forth the church’s foundational understanding of church and state relationship.

A.D. 494 Pope Gelasius I wrote to Emperor Anastasius, declaring the theory of the two swords, or two powers, governing the world. “There are two . . . by which the world is chiefly ruled: the sacred authority (auctoritas) of bishops and the royal power (potestas). Of those the responsibility of bishops is more weighty insofar as they will answer also for the kings of men themselves at divine judgment. The popes did not claim to wield the temporal sword but to direct its proper use. . . . Gelasius conceived church governance as analogous to that exercised by temporal rulers. This juridical understanding of the papacy guided papal theory and practice in subsequent centuries. The two swords theory maintained that secular leaders were subject to the pope’s spiritual authority.” J. Michael Miller, The Shepherd and the Rock: Origins, Development, and Mission of the Papacy (Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, 1995), 94-5. Imprimatur.

“The two swords theory maintained that secular leaders were subject to the pope’s spiritual authority.”

A.D. 495 Pope Gelasius I was the first pope at a Roman synod to be saluted as “Vicar of Christ.”

A.D. 501 (Pope Symmachus, A.D. 498-514) The church council in Rome pronounced sentence on October 23, 501, that no human court could judge the pope; God alone could do that. Thus the pope was officially exalted above every other man.

“Thus it was that men acknowledged that they had no power to judge the Pope. St. Avitus, Bishop of Vienne, had declared before the opening of the council: To question the authority of the Pope of Rome is to overthrow not one bishop alone, but the whole Episcopate.” Fernand Hayward, A History of The Popes (New York: Dutton, 1931), 76. Trans. from the French by monks of St. Augustine’s Abbey, Ramsgate. See also Archibald Bower, The History of the Popes (London: 1750), 2:261-2.

True Church Made “Desolate”

In developing the identity of the “abomination,” Daniel 11:31 describes its distinctive action: “. . . that maketh desolate.” When church and state amalgamate, the fruit of that union will always be one of force. To confirm this, all one has to do is read the four verses after Daniel 11:31. All too well, history confirms that Rome physically desolated Christ’s true church for nearly 1260 long years. By the acts of Clovis and Catholicism, the union of church and state had been conceived in A.D. 508.

“The mingling of church craft and statecraft is represented by the iron and the clay. This union is weakening all the power of the churches. This investing the church with the power of the state will bring evil results. Men have almost passed the point of God’s forbearance. They have invested their strength in politics, and have united with the papacy. But the time will come when God will punish those who have made void His law, and their evil work will recoil upon themselves.” Manuscript 63, 1899; Manuscript Releases, Vol. 1, 12-13.

Once again Ellen White rightly directs us to the foundational issue, the uniting of church and state after the passing of A.D. 476. The bride of Christ (the church) cannot unite with the state in any degree, for to do so is to practice idolatry and commit spiritual adultery, and thus the church separates herself from Christ.
Desolation Began in AD 508

The facts have revealed that the “abomination” (or sin) that “desolates” was “set up” (Daniel 12:11). What had taken place was the amalgamation or union of church and state. The two swords theory proposed by Pope Gelasius I had become accepted church and state policy, which in turn brought literal desolation to the Christian church. Simultaneously, the “daily” was “taken away” (Daniel 12:11) when the false gospel of the papal mediatorial system was imposed, free exercise of non-Catholic faiths was proscribed and compulsion of Sunday worship instituted. As error and superstition grew dominant, confusion increased in God’s faithful waiting ones. Over time they became so completely oblivious to the ongoing work in the heavenly sanctuary that, by 1844, God’s people actually believed the sanctuary to be cleansed was the earth! They simply had no awareness of Jesus’ priestly ministry in the heavenly sanctuary until specific light was given to reestablish that understanding. To say, then, that the “daily,” meaning Christ’s first-apartment mediation, was not intentionally removed, taken away or obscured from human mindfulness is a denial of some of the most obvious facts of history.

The “one and true Catholic faith” having been legislatively established, then, it was enforced by the state as the law of the land. All other faiths were prohibited.

Thus Satan succeeded in turning the people away from Christ (heavenward) to man (earthward), nay, more, to the prince of darkness himself, which indeed brought spiritual desolation to millions of true Christians. Now it can be seen that the one was being taken away at the same time that the other one was being set up. Both find their prophetic commencement in A.D. 508 (Daniel 11:31; 12:11 and 8:11).

The warning that Paul had given the church in II Thessalonians 2:3-12 regarding the mystery of iniquity then began to take on real meaning. And in reference to spiritual devastation, Ellen White adds this particular:

“This degrading confession of man to man is the secret spring from which has flowed much of the evil that is defiling the world and fitting it for the final destruction.”

*Great Controversy, 567.*

The “Host” is Part of Desolation

It is of interest to mention that Pope Symmachus (A.D. 498-514), the bishop of Rome who reigned during the time period of 508, has been recognized by Catholic historians for one of his great feats. During his pontificate, through ordination, he created “one hundred and seventeen bishops, ninety-two priests, and sixteen deacons,” The Chevalier Artaud De Montor, “Pope Symmachus” [A.D. 498-514], The Lives and Times of the Popes (n.p.: Catholic Publication Society, 1911), p.150. Imprimatur.

It was a number that no previous pope had matched up to the reign of Pope Symmachus. A. T. Jones rightfully declared. “It was ‘by reason of transgression,’ that is, by reason of sin, that this power gained ‘the host’ that was used to cast down the truth to the ground, to shut away from the church and the world Christ’s priesthood, His ministry, and His sanctuary; and to cast it all down to the ground and tread it underfoot.” Indeed, a host was given him.” The Consecrated Way to Christian Perfection, Chapter 13.

Prophecy Fulfilled After AD 476

It is now appropriate to address a common error that church and state had already merged prior to A.D. 508, a view that would invalidate the prophetic interpretation here presented and supported. Those who advocate that historical understanding have done so by walking away from the text into private interpretation. In Daniel 7:24-25, one can observe that the issues involved in this prophecy do not come about until after the ten divisions of the Western Roman Empire have come onto the stage of action. That means that antichrist and all its prophetic issues do not come into focus until sometime after A.D. 476. Anything prior to this in connection to this prophecy is
immaterial. We must look for church and state issues after this time.

Defining “Take Away”

In our May issue we said that, in regard to the terms “take away” or “taken away” in Daniel 11:31 and 12:11, we would return to this Hebrew word 'nuve' in Daniel 8:11 to consider the possibility that Daniel wanted to convey the idea of “exalt” or “take away” or both, in contrast to the Hebrew word sur. But now that it has been documented what really took place in 508, we can address this issue with confidence. The research of Brother Gerhard Pfandl, Associate Director of the Biblical Research Institute, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, will settle the matter most effectively. We quote from his findings about 'nuve' meaning:

“Peters ... argues that in Daniel 8:11 it should also be translated ‘lifted up’ (see above). However, there is a reason for this exception in Daniel 8:11. The verbal root 'nuve' in Hiphil/Hophal, the basic meaning of which is “bring aloft, raise up, lift up” (HALOT, 3:1204), takes on a specific meaning in clauses with the preposition min (from) and a direct or prepositional object. Proebstle has made a study of the twenty-three passages where 'nuve' appears with the preposition min and direct or prepositional objects (Lev 2:9; 4:8, 10, 19; 6:8; Num 17:2; 18:26, 28, 29, 30, 32; 31:28, 52; 1 Sam 2:8; 1 Kgs 14:7; 16:2; Isa 14:13; 57:14; Ezek 45:1; Ps 75:7; 89:20; 113:7; Dan 8:11; all references are according to the Hebrew Bible) and has come to the following conclusions:

1. If the object is not personal, i.e., a physical object or part of a (dead) animal, 'nuve' designates the activity of removing or setting aside something from a larger group of which that object was a part (See Lev 2:9; 4:8, 10, 19; 6:8; Num 17:2; 18:26, 28, 29, 30, 32; 31:28, 52; Isa 14:13; 57:14; Ezek 45:1). To illustrate this point I will quote a few texts:

“Lev 2:9 ‘the priest shall take [nuve] from [min] the grain offering’

“Num 17:2 ‘Tell Eleazar . . . to pick up [nuve] the censers out of [min] the blaze’

“Ezek 45:1 ‘when you divide the land by lot into inheritance, you shall set apart [nuve] a district for the LORD, a holy section of [min] the land’

2. If the object is a person, the activity of separation or removal expressed by 'nuve' takes on the additional notion of exaltation. A person is separated from a group to a higher status, usually by God Himself (See 1 Sam 2:8; 1 Kgs 14:7; 16:2; Ps 75:7; 89:20; 113:7).

‘1 Sam 2:8 ‘[God] lifts [nuve] the beggar from [min] the ash heap, To set them among princes’

‘Ps 113:7 ‘I have exalted [nuve] one chosen from [min] the people.’

“In other words, in a cultic context [Ed.: in a context of a system of religious worship] 'nuve' in Hiphil/Hophal means ‘to set aside’ or ‘to remove,’ whereas when the context refers to social status it means ‘to exalt.’ Parallel expressions to 'nuve,' e.g., sur ‘remove’ (Lev 4:9, 31, 35; Ezek 21:31; 45:9) and baddai in Niphal ‘separate [oneself]’ (Num 8:14; 16:21) provide clear support for the conclusion that 'nuve' in a cultic context always means ‘to set apart, remove.’

“Applying what we have just learned to Daniel 8:11 b we come to the following conclusions:

1. In Daniel 8:11, in a cultic context, the object is impersonal. The word 'nuve', therefore, designates the activity of removing or setting aside the tamid.

2. The preposition min indicates from whom the tamid is removed. And as indicated above, the person from whom the tamid is removed is the Prince of the Host and not the little horn.” Gerhard Pfandl, Evaluation of “The Mystery of ‘The Daily’” by John W. Peters. July 2005, p. 6-7.

The law of God was to be cast down and trampled in the dust at a specific time in earth’s history.
Daniel 8:12 Analysis: “Host”

We are now ready to analyze Daniel 8:12: “And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered.” A literal translation of this verse reads thus: “And a host will be given over to the continuance causing transgression, and it throws the truth down to the earth; and it practiced, and prospered.” “And an host” (tsaba) Usage: AV - host 393, war 41, army 29, battle 5, service 5, appointed time 3, warfare 2, soldiers 1, company 1, misc 5; 485; 461 verses 485 hits. Who is the “host” of verse 12? We have already shown in verse 11 how the little horn (papal Rome) has taken on priestly attire. The only other entity presented in Daniel 8:11 was “the prince of the host,” whom we have also seen was none other than Christ Himself. So it should not be a hard matter for one to recognize that the “host” in verse 12 that is to be set over or given over the “daily” is the one and same “host” in verse 11 that has taken away the “daily” and cast down the “place” of “his” (Christ’s) sanctuary. Therefore, the causing of or the concept of transgression has its origin in verse 11, by the heinous illegal acts perpetuated by papal Rome.

Confirming Identity of “Host”

At this point all we need to do is verify if heaven uses the term “host” to identify a priesthood of believers or a group of people in religious garb, thus representing themselves to be priestly intercessors. Numbers 4:2:3: “Take the sum of the sons of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, after their families, by the house of their fathers, From thirty years old and upward even until fifty years old, all that enter into the host, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation.” Clearly, these sanctuary priests were the “host,” so we find heaven indeed uses “host” in a context of religious ministry. Thus the host of verse 12 finds its fulfillment only in papal Rome. In the context of Daniel 8:11-12, the supposition that the “host” is in reference to the barbarians that invaded and subverted the Roman Empire has no Biblical or historical support whatsoever.

“Transgression” Defined as “Trespass” or “Sin”

Continuing with verse 12 we come to the word “transgression” (pesa). Usage: AV - transgression 84, trespass 5, sin 3, rebellion 1; 90 verses 93 hits. This transgression is one committed by human beings. Notice how the Bible introduces this Hebrew word and its context: “And Jacob was wroth, and choed with Laban: and Jacob answered and said to Laban, What is my trespass? what is my sin, that thou hast so hotly pursued after me?” Gen. 31:36.

“So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.” Gen. 50:17.

Thus far in Daniel 8:11 and in this first clause in verse 12, “And a host will be given over the continuance [or “daily”] causing transgression,” we have seen and documented how this scripture had its fulfillment in AD 508. The Bible now moves us forward to a new time period in the career of the papacy.

“Truth” That Was “Cast Down”

“And it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered.” Daniel 8:12. There are two major clues that determine the chronology of these last two clauses. The first is “the truth” (emeth). Usage: AV - truth 92, true 18, truly 7, right 3, faithfully 2, assured 1, assuredly 1, establishment 1, faithful 1, sure 1, verity 1; 125 verses 127 hits. What is the “truth” that the papacy cast down? Certainly it was the truth concerning the “daily” and the “place” of his sanctuary that papal Rome cast down or obscured, as we have already witnessed, but the Bible has a much wider and all-encompassing application in mind, for it says: “Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.” Ps. 119:142. The first clue is that the Bible says the “law is the truth.” So why is the Law of God introduced in Daniel 8:12? And by what authority? Before we answer those questions, we must disclose the second clue that will then define the chronology of verse 12.

A Sunday Law in AD 538: God’s Law Abrogated; Church Claimed Power to Command and Punish

After the papacy cast down to the ground the truth, the law of God (thus proceeding in transgression in the fullest sense), it is then that the Bible says it “practised, and prospered.” Daniel 7:25 confirms this: “And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of
Acts were subscribed by nineteen bishops, and seven priests as representatives of absentees. In the subscription of Archbishop Lupus, the time of the holding of the Synod is given as *Die Nonarum mensis tertii, quarto post consulatum paulini junioris V.C.anno 27 regni Domini Childeberti Regis*. This indicates the year 538, and probably the 7th of May, since in ancient times it was common to begin the year with the 25th of March. The assembled bishops declare their aim to be the reestablishment of the old laws of the church and the passing of new ones. This they accomplished in thirty-three canons, many of which contain several ordinances.”


It is significant that the third synod of Orleans, France, in A.D. 538, was not merely a provincial synod, meaning a local one, narrow or limited in scope. The bishops assembled on that date for the specific purpose of reestablishing the old laws and the passing of new ones. They produced thirty-three canons at this synod. Hefele paraphrases the twenty-eighth canon of the new laws of the church with little justice to the original Latin.

“28. It is a Jewish superstition that it is unlawful to ride or drive on Sunday, or do anything for the decoration of house or person. But field labors are forbidden, so that people may be able to come to church and worship. If anyone acts otherwise, he is to be punished, not by the laity, but by the bishop.”

Ibid., 208-9.

The original wording of the twenty-eighth canon, as it is translated from the original Latin document into fluent English, reads thus:

“28. Whereas the people are persuaded that they ought not to

In this church law [of AD 538]
there is irrefutable evidence of the
compelling of the conscience by the church.
found doing the works forbidden above, let him be punished, not as the civil authorities may direct, but as the ecclesiastical powers may determine.” Joannes Dominicus Mansi, 

Prophetic Significance of Sunday Law

In this primary source document of church law there is irrefutable evidence of the compelling of the conscience by the church. The phrase “we have ordained” is of particular significance. Reasoning from the definition in Webster’s Dictionary, “ordained” is “to decree, order, establish, enact or to appoint” Sunday in direct opposition to the fourth commandment of the Law of God. Rural work was prohibited for the first time, thus perfectly fulfilling the prediction of the prophet: “And he shall speak [by legislation] great words against the most High.” Daniel 7:25.

As we shall see from the pen of Ellen White and foretold by prophecy, “the papal power cast down the truth to the ground” (a direct quote from Daniel 8:12). The law of God was to be cast down and trampled in the dust at a specific time in earth’s history.

“Among the leading causes that had led to the separation of the true church from Rome was the hatred of the latter toward the Bible Sabbath. As foretold by prophecy, the papal power cast down the truth to the ground. The law of God was trampled in the dust, while the traditions and customs of men were exalted. The churches that were under the rule of the papacy were clearly compelled to honor the Sunday as a holy day. Amid the prevailing error and superstition, many, even of the true people of God, became so bewildered that while they observed the Sabbath, they refrained from labor also on the Sunday. But this did not satisfy the papal leaders. They demanded not only that Sunday be hallowed, but that the Sabbath be profaned; and they denounced in the strongest language those who dared to show it honor. It was only by fleeing from the power of Rome that any could obey God’s law in peace.” Great Controversy, 65.

Here is the phenomenal statement that fully confirms our application and interpretation of Daniel 8:12 and the prophetic event that heaven declared commenced the beginning of the 1260 year prophecy:

“The change in the fourth commandment exactly fulfills the prophecy. For this the only authority claimed is that of the church. Here the papal power openly sets itself above God.” Great Controversy, 446. (See Source Book for all additional documentation, including the uprooting of the three horns.)

Hefele paraphrases canon thirty-three thus:


The parallel is ironic. God wrote His Ten Commandments in stone; and the church, in this council, wrote her Sunday sabbath in figurative stone when she attested to its implacable intention. The year was A.D. 538.

“Man of Sin” at Work

In A.D. 538 we now have a perfect application of 2 Thessalonians 2:4.

“The archdeceiver had not completed his work. He was resolved to gather the Christian world under his banner and to exercise...
his power through his vicegerent, the proud pontiff who claimed
to be the representative of Christ. Through half-converted pagans,
ambitious prelates, and world-loving churchmen he accomplished
his purpose. Vast councils were held from time to time, in which
the dignitaries of the church were convened from all the world. In
nearly every council the Sabbath which God had instituted was
pressed down a little lower, while the Sunday was correspondingly
exalted. Thus the pagan festival
came finally to be honored as a
divine institution, while the Bible
Sabbath was pronounced a relic
of Judaism, and its observers were declared to be accursed. The
great apostate had succeeded in
exalting himself ‘above all that is
called God, or that is worshiped.’ 2
Thessalonians 2:4. He had dared
to change the only precept of the
divine law that unmistakably points
all mankind to the true and living
God. In the fourth commandment,
God is revealed as the Creator of the
heavens and the earth, and is thereby
distinguished from all false gods. It
was as a memorial of the work of
creation that the seventh day was
sanctified as a rest day for man. It
was designed to keep the living God
ever before the minds of men as the
source of being and the object of
reverence and worship. Satan strives
to turn men from their allegiance
to God, and from rendering
obedience to His law; therefore
he directs his efforts especially
against that commandment which
points to God as the Creator.”
Great Controversy, 53-4.

Next: Consideration of “Two
Desolating Powers” and Defense
of Investigative Judgment

Next month we will reveal the
profound and critical importance
of understanding Daniel 8:13-14, the
two verses we’ve not yet addressed.
When this series is completed,
the reader will have more than
sufficient documentation to ably
show that 1844 does stand firm in
connection with the “daily” of verse
13. The very foundation of our faith
is involved in this understanding.
We will examine to see if the Bible
supports the interpretation that the “continuance of desolation” and the
“transgression of desolation” represent two desolating powers
of paganism and papalism. We
will also further document that
the advocates of paganism have
misinterpreted and misapplied the
only noun phrase in Daniel 8 that
supports the investigative judgment,
and thereby have removed the
investigative judgment.

To be continued. 

Heidi Heiks, edi-
tor of Our Firm
Foundation mag-
zine, has been a col-
lege educator, an
author, and a radio
speaker for The
People of the Book
radio program. He continues to write
and is currently a teacher and speaker
for Hope International throughout the
United States.

Heidi Heiks has supplied for Adventist readership, both scholarly and lay, the historical
and legislative documentation from primary sources that describes what really happened
in AD 508 and 538. Finally, the dates for the commencement of the 1290- and 1260-
year prophecies are fully established. Submitted beforehand for critical review before
the most prestigious scholarly institutions within Adventism the world over, it is now
presented with the endorsements of William H. Shea, Ph.D., associate of the Biblical
Research Institute of the General Conference, professor at Andrews University; Herbert
Edgar Douglass, Th.D., professor at Pacific Union College, president of Atlantic Union
College; and others. To obtain your copy of this documentation in hardback, call
or visit our bookstore and request the 508 538 1798 1843 Source Book (Preliminary).
BEHH-5085
$19.99
In all the details of life, Christians are to follow the principles of strict integrity. These are not the principles that govern the world; for there Satan is master, and his principles of deception and oppression bear sway. But Christians serve under a different master, and their actions must be wrought in God. They must put aside all desire for selfish gain.

To some, deviation from perfect fairness in business deal may look like a small thing, but our Saviour does not thus regard it. His words on this point are plain and explicit: “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.” A man who will overreach in a small matter will overreach in a large matter if the temptation comes to him.

Christ’s followers are obliged to be more or less connected with the world in business matters. In His prayer for them the Saviour says, “I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.” Christians are to buy and sell with the realization that the eye of God is upon them. Never are they to use false balances or deceitful weights. God says:--

“Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small. . . . But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have; that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the Lord thy God.” “Thou shalt not oppress an hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of thy brethren, or of thy strangers that are in thy land within thy gates; at his day thou shalt give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it; lest he cry against thee unto the Lord, and it be sin unto thee. . . . Thou shalt not pervert the judgment of the stranger nor of the fatherless; nor take a widow’s raiment to pledge. . . . When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it; it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow; that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands. When thou beatest thine olive tree, thou shalt not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow; and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all the work of thine hands.”

In every action of life the true Christian is just what he desires those around him to think he is. He is guided by truth and uprightness. He does not scheme; therefore he has nothing to gloss over. He may be criticized, he may be tested; but through all, his unbending integrity shines out like pure gold. He is a friend and benefactor to all connected with him; and his fellow-men place confidence in him; for he is trustworthy. Does he employ laborers to gather in his harvest?
He does not keep back their hard-earned money. Has he means for which he has no immediate use? He relieves the necessities of his less fortunate brother. He does not seek to enlarge his possessions by taking advantage of the untoward circumstances of his neighbor. He accepts only a fair price for that which he sells. If there are defects in the articles sold, he frankly tells the buyer, even tho’ by so doing he may seem to work against his own pecuniary interests.

A man may not have a pleasant exterior, but if he has a reputation for straightforward, honest dealing, he is respected. Stern integrity covers many unpleasant traits of character. A man who steadfastly adheres to the truth wins the confidence of all. Not only do Christians trust him; worldlings are constrained to acknowledge the worth of his character.

Satan knows full well what a power for good is the life of a man of unbending integrity, and he puts forth zealous efforts to prevent men from living such lives. He comes to them with alluring temptations, promising them wealth, position, worldly honor, if they will but yield the principles of righteousness. And he has much success. Thousands yield to his bribery. The desire for wealth, for fame, for position, is too powerful for them to resist. Forgetting God, they withdraw their affection from Him, and worship mammon.

From the sad history of many who have failed we learn the danger of prosperity. It is not those who have lost their property who are in greatest danger, but those who have obtained a fortune. Adversity may depress, but prosperity frequently elevates to presumption. Prayer is often requested for men and women in affliction; and this is right. But those in prosperity are more in need of the prayers of God’s servants; for they are in greater danger of losing salvation. In the valley of humiliation men walk securely while they reverence God and make Him their trust. On the lofty pinnacle, where praise is heard, they need the help of special power from above.

**True religion... is an actual imitation of Christ.**

Seeing the fearful danger of love of gain, Paul writes: “They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. . . . Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

The temptation comes to a man to pursue a wrong course for the sake of gaining money. He yields, and commits himself to that which the Lord cannot indorse. And daily the spiritual life of that man grows weaker. Daily he wanders farther from true happiness.

The sad history of Judas is a lesson for all. Judas was blessed with wonderful opportunities. He was with Christ during the entire period of the Saviour’s ministry. Day by day for three years he listened to His instruction and witnessed His marvelous works. Had he been willing to renounce all selfishness, the Lord would have used him to advance His kingdom. But Judas loved gain. He was a speculator. He thought that he could manage the finances of the church, and so make money. Stronger and stronger grew his covetousness, till at last he sold his Master for thirty pieces of silver.

How many today are like Judas betraying their Lord! How many are sacrificing principle for the sake of worldly gain! Thus they crucify Christ afresh, and put Him to open shame.

**Those in prosperity are... in greater danger of losing salvation.**

In the smallest as well as the largest affairs of life the first question should be, “What is God’s will?” “To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” Christ calls upon His children to rid themselves of all selfishness, all covetousness, all impurity. “Come unto Me.” He says, “and I will give you rest.” Yield yourselves to My training. Submit your will to My will, your way to My way. Let your life be one with My life. So shall you gain treasure that will endure unto life eternal.

True religion is not an experiment. It is an actual imitation of Christ. God keeps a personal account with every man, testing him by the practical results of his work. Soon will be heard the call, “Give an account of thy stewardship.”

*Signs of the Times*, February 19, 1902.

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.
Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”

“There is nothing so offensive to God or so dangerous to the human soul as pride and self-sufficiency. Of all sins it is the most hopeless, the most incurable.” COL 154.

These words should strike fear in all of us and cause us to humble ourselves before the Lord and to ask if there be any “pride or evil way” in us. We all know the pride and arrogancy of the devil, of the Israelite nation, of Saul, Solomon, Judas and so many others. But one I had not thought of before was “good king Josiah.” Did you know that it was pride that killed him?

King Josiah’s Good Beginning

2 Chronicles 34:1-2 “Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left.”

Not only was he young and committed to the Lord, but the Bible says that there was no king like him . . . ever!

2 Kings 23:25 “And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all
his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.”

God was so happy with Josiah’s humble heart that He promised Josiah that he would not let him see all the evil that was to come; that he would go to his grave in peace.

2 Kings 22:19-20 “Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD. Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again.”

“Pre-Josiah impressive endorsement, wouldn’t you say? Surely a man with such impeccable credentials, a king that was like no other king, either before or after, with such a humble heart, could not be taken in the snare of pride! But the scriptures tell a different story, one you may not be familiar with. You don’t really learn about this incident until the end of his story in 2 Chronicles:

Josiah “Hearkened Not”

2 Chronicles 35:20-24 “After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by Euphrates: and Josiah went out against him. But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, thou king of Judah? I

come not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I have war: for God commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from meddリング with God, who is with me, that he destroy thee not. Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hear-

kened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God.”

Note that the Bible says Josiah “hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God.” These words were God’s words. When I first read it, my thoughts were, “Well, maybe Josiah didn’t realize they were words from the Lord. After all, he was so humble.” That

“There is nothing so offensive to God or so dangerous to the human soul as pride and self-sufficiency.”

When pride enters in, spiritual discernment leaves.

Pretty impressive endorsement, wouldn’t you say? Surely a man with such impeccable credentials, a king that was like no other king, either before or after, with such a humble heart, could not be taken in the snare of pride! But the scriptures tell a different story, one you may not be familiar with. You don’t really learn about this incident until the end of his story in 2 Chronicles:

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and he died . . .”

was, until I read what Sister White had to say about it:

“Read the history of Josiah. He had done a good work. During his reign idolatry was put down, and apparently successfully uprooted. The temple was reopened and the sacrificial offerings re-established. His work was done well.

“But at the last he died in battle.
Why?--Because he did not heed the warnings given. . . . [2 Chronicles 34:26-33; 35:20-24 quoted.]

**Fatal Pride**

“Because Josiah died in battle, who will charge God with denying His word that Josiah should go to his grave in peace? The Lord did not give orders for Josiah to make war on the king of Egypt. When the Lord gave the king of Egypt orders that the time had come to serve Him by warfare, and the ambassadors told Josiah not to make war on Necho, no doubt Josiah congratulated himself that no word from the Lord had come directly to him. To turn back with his army would have been humiliating, so he went on. And because of this, he was killed in battle, a battle that he should not have had anything to do with. The man who had been so greatly honored by the Lord, did not honor the word of God. The Lord had spoken in his favor, predicted good things for him; and Josiah became self-confident, and failed to heed the warning. He went against the word of God, choosing to follow his own way, and God could not shield him from the consequences of his act.” 2BC 1039.

This young, humble, courageous, zealous king, commended by God and promised peace, was overcome by the devil and became self-confident. He decided to choose his own way because it would have been humiliating to do otherwise.

We are told in 1 Corinthians 10:11 “Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.” What happened to Josiah is Satan’s plan for each one of us. We must remain ever vigilant.

**Heed This Warning**

“Satan is now more earnestly engaged in playing the game of life for souls than at any previous time; and unless we are constantly on our guard, he will establish in our hearts, pride, love of self, love of the world, and many other evil traits. He will also use every possible device to unsettle our faith in God and in the truths of His Word. If we have not a deep experience in the things of God, if we have not a thorough knowledge of His Word, we shall be beguiled to our ruin by the errors and sophistries of the enemy. False doctrines will sap the foundations of many, because they have not learned to discern truth from error. Our only safeguard against the wiles of Satan is to study the Scriptures diligently, to have an intelligent understanding of the reasons of our faith, and faithfully to perform every known duty. The indulgence of one known sin will cause weakness and darkness, and subject us to fierce temptation.” RH Nov. 19, 1908; 2 SM 58.

**Pride Affects Discernment**

Please remember, God says: “There is nothing so offensive to God or so dangerous to the human soul as pride and self-sufficiency.” COL 154. And when God says there is “nothing so offensive” to Me, it is something we should take very seriously. I think it is so offensive because He knows what it does to our hearts and our “spiritual eyesight.” When we become proud, things that God requires sound humiliating to us and we refuse to do them. Can you see the evil in this? We don’t even recognize it as doing wrong anymore; we see it as actually doing God a service.

John 16:2: They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.”

When pride enters in, spiritual discernment leaves. The Holy Spirit, who guides us into all truth, cannot abide in a pride-filled heart. We are left to our own and if we are not
willing to see the error of our ways and repent, we will be “beguiled to our ruin.” Often we think that we would recognize if we started down this path to ruin, but it is often the little things, little bits of pride or little bits of self-humiliation that we refuse to endure, that causes the most damage.

**Death in the Soul**

“Spiritual death in the soul is evidenced by spiritual pride and a crippled experience; those who have such an experience seldom make straight paths for their feet. If pride is nourished, the very qualities of the mind which grace, if received, would make a blessing, become contaminated. The very victories which would have been a savor of life unto life, if the glory had been given to God, become tarnished by self-glory. These may seem to be little things, unworthy of notice, but the seed thus scattered brings forth a sure harvest. It is these little sins, so common that they are often unnoticed, that Satan uses in his service.” MS 47, 1896; 6BC 1080.

Satan, the “roaring lion,” does not always appear loud nor is he always noticed. Subtleness, imperceptibility, is Satan’s plan today, not the frontal assault. Pride is a killer. It was the killer of a good king many years ago. Satan hasn’t forgotten that, and neither should we.

Joe Olson serves as the executive director and chairman of the board of Hope International. He also travels as an international speaker.
For sixteen years I have had the privilege of selling God’s truth-filled books door-to-door in various states in North America. I would not trade this experience for any other. What it has done for my own spiritual life and experience is really beyond measure. I also have the confidence that out of the thousands with whom I have talked and shared our literature, there will be with all certainty a harvest of souls, for the Lord has promised, “My Word shall not return unto Me void, but shall accomplish that which I please.”

A Word in Season

Recently I was in a home showing books to a family. I explained to them the great truth of Jesus’ willingness to forgive each one of us our sins and also to create in us a clean heart. Ps. 51:10. The wife was familiar with Ps. 51:10 and said she had learned it as a girl. After I had written up the order and delivered the books, I asked to have prayer with the family. Then, as I was leaving, I noticed the lady had tears in her eyes. I believe the Lord had touched her heart. We are told in Desire of Ages, p. 504-5, that “many, many, have fainted and become discouraged in the great struggle of life, when one word of kindly cheer would have strengthened them to overcome.” Some time back I also read where she says that there are many people who will perish unless they hear from human lips the great truth that Jesus will forgive them of their sins. So I often mention this as I’m explaining the books to a customer.

The Harvest is Ripe

Recently I worked a day with another literature evangelist. We stopped at a home where he had sold a set of The Conflict of the Ages, including Desire of Ages and Great Controversy. We delivered the set to the family. While there we talked to the wife about prophecy and the book of Revelation. She was so fascinated that she said, “You’ve got to come and visit us again.” I went back a couple more times. On the third visit I talked to the lady again about current events and the signs of the end. While I was there at the door, her husband returned from work. So I briefly recounted to him what I had just said to his wife. I then gave them a National Sunday Law book and had prayer.

Afterwards, the lady asked me,
“So do you go to church every Sunday?”

In response I simply said to her, “No, I don’t.” When she heard my answer, her mouth dropped open in absolute surprise. Here I had been talking to her about God and the Bible and now I had said I didn’t go to church every Sunday!

She then questioned me, “Do you go to church?”

“Yes,” I answered. “Every Saturday.”

Her next question was, “Why?”

I explained briefly to her and her husband the reason that the Sabbath was on Saturday and not on Sunday, and how it had been changed. Her husband admitted that he had noticed the “seventh day” in the Bible. The lady then looked over to her husband and said, “Well, dear, it looks like we’ll have to start keeping Saturday.” It was amazing to see how quickly she saw and was convinced of this truth.

I try very diligently to take care of my health by exercising, drinking plenty of water and limiting my quantity of food. I have found that by eating less food—by ‘under-eating’—I have more strength, vitality and enthusiasm, which are very important in my work as a literature evangelist.

I always try to be kind, gentle and loving towards the people. I make it a rule to be absolutely honest. I find that people have much more confidence in the salesperson when they sense his or her honesty with them.

**Insights from Experience**

I find it impossible to give Bible studies to my contacts; there are so many of them. I believe that this close to the end, until more help is available, getting the books into people’s hands to read is the most efficient thing I can do.

I also carry with me health magazines such as *Health of the Nations*, by Cornerstone Publishing. This magazine fully endorses a vegetarian diet and is free to those who write in and request to be put on the mailing list. I consider it a superb magazine. I sell hard-bound books and carry with me and distribute many paperback books, as well. The book *Great Controversy* is the most important single book that contains the warning message for this time. I go prepared and share at each door what seems appropriate and what will meet the need for that person.

**No Stony Heart Neglected**

Some time back, as I steered my car into a driveway, I saw a man in his garage. I walked in and began to talk to the man in a friendly way. He somewhat abruptly asked me what I wanted. I then pulled out my card and explained that I was selling *Bible Story* books. He immediately said, “We don’t want that around here. I’m an atheist.”

I immediately said, “You know, sir, there have been atheists who read the Bible through and then became Christians.”

He then said somewhat arrogantly, “I’ve read the Bible through.” I then pulled out of my bag the book *Great Controversy* and told him that I had sold it to another lady who was an atheist. She had stated that she would at least read the first 100 pages. After that she would decide whether or not to finish the book.

I then asked him if he had heard of the French Revolution, when the whole nation of France turned atheistic for three and a half years. I told him why. The people were disgusted with what they thought was Christianity, so they went to the opposite extreme and became atheistic. I told him what a terrible
result this brought and how France afterward turned back to and recognized the Bible as of God.

At this point I knew I didn’t have much time, so I quoted the text from the Bible that says, “What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?”

He responded by throwing up both his hands and saying loudly and angrily, “I have had enough of this conversation!”

I then looked him in the eye and said softly, “I can understand that, but I care about you. If I give you this book, will you at least read this one chapter about the nation of France?” He said he would and took the book. I praise God for so soften ing that man’s heart.

Plea from the Field

Dear fellow soldier in the service of Christ, may I urge you to get your hands on the book Colporteur Ministry. It is a most eloquent and urgent appeal for the revival of the canvassing work. Note the following:

“I have been instructed that the canvassing work is to be revived, and that it is to be carried forward with increasing success.” P. 17.

“Let every believer scatter broadcast tracts and leaflets and books containing the message for this time. We need colporteurs who will go forth to circulate our publications everywhere.” P. 21.

“From the light given me I know that where there is one canvasser in the field, there should be one hundred.

“There is a work that should be done. The end is near. Already much time has been lost, when these books should have been in circulation. Sell them far and near. Scatter them like the leaves of Autumn. This work is to continue without the forbiddings of anyone. Souls are perishing out of Christ. Let them be warned of His soon appearing in the clouds of heaven.” P. 25.

I pray that God will hold back the four winds and raise up workers.

“...Souls are perishing out of Christ. Let them be warned of His soon appearing in the clouds of heaven.”

(See Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 717.) I pray that YOU will be one of those who will feel a love for the lost and get this message to them with all the love and urgency that this message demands. MARANATHA!!

The author has requested anonymity.
Miss Jenny loved her cat Peabody and he loved her. He would come when she called, but not when someone else did. When she came home from work, he would run to meet her. She would pick him up and hug him and talk to him, and he would purr so loudly. When she sat down, he settled next to her—or in her lap—and purred. When she worked in her garden, he stayed close by, and at night he slept on her bed.

When Peabody was outside, he hardly ever left the back yard where Miss Jenny spent so much time with him. And that’s why it was so strange that she couldn’t find him one day.

Miss Jenny realized she hadn’t seen Peabody for several hours. Upstairs and downstairs she went, calling him. Usually he came running, but not this time. Outside she went, around the house, but no Peabody. Finally, a very worried Miss Jenny came next door, to talk to my mother.

“Franny, please help me look for Peabody. I don’t know what’s happened to him. I haven’t seen him since this morning. I’ve looked and called everywhere, but he didn’t come. I’m so scared something has happened to him.”

Mom agreed immediately to join the search, and she enlisted my help, too. Even though I was only eight years old, I could help as much as any grown-up. “Katie, your job is to walk up and down the street. Look and call for Peabody. Since you’ve petted him many times, maybe if he’s lost and frightened, he will come if he recognizes your familiar voice.” What we all hoped I wouldn’t find is Peabody run over or hit by a car. We didn’t say that out loud, of course, for that would have upset Miss Jenny even more.

Then Mom said to Miss Jenny, “Why don’t you go back home and look in every closet and basket in your house. Maybe Peabody didn’t come because he’s stuck behind a door or sleeping in a cozy basket.”

After we prayed together for a fruitful search, Miss Jenny and I hurried off in different directions and Mom searched under all Miss Jenny’s bushes. I hadn’t gone more than six or seven houses before Mom called my name. I looked back to see her wave me home. She was smiling, so that meant Peabody must have been found!

“You’ll never guess where Peabody was,” she laughed. “Miss Jenny shut him in her closet this morning after she got dressed. He was sleeping among her shoes when she found him. She’s home making a big fuss over him right now.”

Later that day, a happy Miss Jenny came over to thank us for our help. “I was so scared,” she said. “All I wanted was to see my Peabody alive again and hear his purring. Thank God he’s okay.”

Then her face turned thoughtful and serious, and she said something I’ve never forgotten. “You know, it occurred to me when I was thanking God for his safe return, that I don’t think I’ve ever wanted God in my heart as much as I wanted my cat back. And that made me think that as much as I love my cat, he must never be as important to me as my Savior is. My cat doesn’t love me like Jesus does, and only Jesus can save me. Today’s experience showed me I’ve got to get my priorities straight. God first, everything else second—even Peabody.”

Miss Jenny learned an important lesson that day, and because of her, Mom and I did, too. God first. Always. 

Volume 22, Number 7
**Water contributes more to our well-being than we may suspect.**

What if I told you there was a cure out there that everyone has access to? What if I told you that it can fix or help fix almost every malady out there? What if I told you it was available to everyone? Well, most people would brush it off as nonsense. Most people would say that it’s probably just a scheme to make money. But what if I then told you that we don’t sell it, and you can get it absolutely free? Do I have your attention yet?

This substance has been used for thousands of years to treat many disorders. It can be used in a number of ways to help with colds, fevers, cancerous tumors, blood pressure, skin disorders, asthma, ulcers, digestive problems, joint pain, irritable bowel syndrome, depression, migraines, sinusitis, fatigue, and the list just goes on. And did I mention that it’s free? “No way!” you say.

If it’s so good, then why haven’t you been told about it? Why isn’t the medical world jumping on this and having doctors prescribe it worldwide? Well, obviously because they can’t make any money from it. They know it’s free! The medical community has tried to keep the lid on this for years, but I’m about to let the cat out of the bag.

By now you may have guessed it. For those of you who haven’t, I think you will be pleasantly surprised. This substance, this “miracle cure,” is simply . . . water. Wait a minute! Don’t put the article down! I know you’re saying, “Come on, Heather. Everyone knows we need water. It’s one of the eight laws of health. We know, we know.”

But do you really know? Would you be surprised to know that about ninety-nine percent of the people who call our health center for advice admittedly do not drink enough water? And when we ask them how much water they drink, almost all of them say, “Well, not as much as I should.” What does this tell you? It tells me that they must not know how good it actually is!

What I need to address then, is how much water do we actually need? Not how much can we survive on (which is what most of us are doing), but how much do we need for our bodies to function at optimal level?

Dr. F. Batmanghelidj (Dr. B) has written some absolutely amazing books on our body’s needs and how to fix many problems with nothing but water. He explains that water is a natural anti-histamine. He tells how the primary cause of Alzheimer’s disease is chronic dehydration. Page after page of testimonials sent in from his patients are included. Over and over, the testimonials are from patients who were literally “cured.”

Correspondence between Dr. B and the American Medical Association is included. He explains all of the benefits of water and implores the medical world to do something about it. Their response? Thanks, but no thanks. They haven’t done anything yet, and they won’t start. Why? Because there is no money in it! Folks, do you realize what a moneymaker drugs are? The pharmaceutical industry rakes in billions of dollars a year. Why would they endorse something that is going to cause them to lose profit? They won’t!

So, how important is water? Well, we know that we need it, but unless we’re thirsty, it’s just so easy to forget! And by the way, did you know that thirst is the last indicator of dehydration? That means that by the time you feel thirsty, you’ve already been dehydrated for a while!

What happens if you become dehydrated? What does it really do? Excellent questions! According to the online encyclopedia Wikipedia, “Around 5% to 6% water loss, one may become groggy or sleepy, experience headaches or nausea, and may feel tingling in one’s limbs (paresthesia). With 10% to 15% fluid loss, muscles may become spastic, skin may shrivel and wrinkle, vision may dim, urination will be greatly reduced and may become painful, and delirium may begin. Losses greater than 15% are usually fatal.”

To be continued.

OURCE: batmanghelidj.com

*These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, prevent, treat, or cure any disease.
or paralyzed, making it impossible for you to discern sacred things, and to value the atonement, the cleansing blood of Christ, as of priceless worth.” CD 83.

Two Global Warnings

“...And so suddenly what had seemed to many Americans as an abstract and remote danger took on the foreboding aspect of an existential threat. The extinction of entire ecosystems and the species they harbor would be hard on biologists, but for everyone else, there would still be plenty of animals left....People feel differently, though, about their own children. ‘I sensed a shift about 24 months ago,’ says...an environmental consultant to corporations as well as an author. ‘Suddenly the CEOs were expressing genuine concern about this issue, not just, Can you get these people off our back?’ Over and over he heard a variation of the same story: CEO’s daughter comes home from college and says, Dad, we can’t be that stupid.

END-TIME PERSPECTIVE:

“The cook fills an important place in the household. She is preparing food to be taken into the stomach, to form brain, bone, and muscle. The health of all the members of the family depends largely upon her skill and intelligence.” CTBH 74.

“In order to render to God perfect service, you must have clear conceptions of His requirements. You should use the most simple food, prepared in the most simple manner, that the fine nerves of the brain be not weakened, benumbed, or paralyzed, making it impossible for you to discern sacred things, and to value the atonement, the cleansing blood of Christ, as of priceless worth.” CD 83.
Cities and states... companies large and small, religious leaders and educators are all rising to the challenge of building a sustainable future. The impending crisis transcends their individual agendas, because if civilization is at stake, it isn’t going to matter what the capital-gains tax rate is, or whether 10th graders are taught intelligent design or evolution. The time to act is now, if we don’t want our children someday to wonder how we could have been so stupid.”


END-TIME PERSPECTIVE:

Even more serious is this “impending crisis:” “I saw that all things are intensely looking and stretching their thoughts on the impending crisis before them. The sins of Israel must go to judgment beforehand. Every sin must be confessed at the sanctuary, then the work will move. It must be done now.” Spalding and Magan Collection, 2A.3.

 Violence Now Mainstream

Movie director Quentin Tarantino: “There was a time when extreme violence was the thing that would stop a movie from being mainstream. Now it’s horror, horror, horror.”

Newsweek, April 16, 2007, 8.

END-TIME PERSPECTIVE:

“In Christian homes a bulwark should be built against temptation. Satan is using every means to make crime and degrading vice popular. We cannot walk the streets of our cities without encountering flaring notices of crime presented in some novel, or to be acted at some theatre. The mind is educated to familiarity with sin...Every youth should ask himself seriously, What influence will these amusements have on physical, mental, and moral health? Will my mind become so infatuated as to forget God? shall I cease to have His glory before me?” Bible Echo, Oct 15, 1894.


END-TIME PERSPECTIVE:

The ultimate political objective is complete abridgement of certain American laws: Pope Pius IX, in his encyclical letter of December 8, 1864, cursed “those who assert the liberty of conscience and of religious worship,’ also ‘all such as maintain that the church may not employ force.” Josiah Strong, Our Country, ch. 5, pars. 2-4. From GC 565.

Just in Time for American Elections?

“Two years into his reign, Pope Benedict XVI is finally poised to make a major mark on American Catholicism with a string of key bishop appointments and important decisions about the future of U.S. seminaries and bishops’ involvement in politics.”

The pope has focused on other world arenas until now, “yet America’s turn may be coming.... Key appointments are expected in [at least 10 major dioceses]...Then there is the potential ripple effect—if some bishops move to larger cities, then they too must be replaced....

“The Rev. Richard John Neuhaus, editor of the Catholic journal First Things, predicted that for the major posts that lie ahead, Benedict will appoint bishops who are ‘vibrantly orthodox’ and strong communicators....

“The pope ‘is taking a forceful approach on a number of life issues,’ said Wister, of Seton Hall. ‘He has made very clear his opposition to same sex marriage and abortion. The question is, to what extent he will ask bishops to take very forceful positions or not take steps in the political arena?’”

When Jose Luis de Jesus Miranda enters the stage, the people chant, “Lord! Lord!” He’s introduced as “Jesus Christ Man.” Claiming over 100,000 followers, he says he reaches millions through various medias.

“In the early years,...de Jesus didn’t claim to be Christ. Instead, he worked as a pastor spreading his doctrine: that under a new covenant with God, there is no sin and no Satan, and people are predestined to be saved. But as his following expanded, his claims did, too. In 1998, de Jesus avowed he was the reincarnation of the Apostle Paul. Two years ago...he declared himself Christ. And just last week, he called himself the Antichrist.... His explanation: that, as the second coming of Christ, he rejects the continued worship of Jesus....

“Over the past year, de Jesus has encouraged his followers to protest the alleged lies of other churches. In response, supporters have picketed Catholic congregations...
and burned religious materials, including crucifixes. ‘Our purpose is to open up people’s minds,’ says de Jesus’ right hand man,...who says the group rejects violence. Jesus wouldn’t have it any other way—the question is whether de Jesus feels the same.” Arian Camp-Flores, Newsweek, Feb 5, 2007.

END-TIME PERSPECTIVE:

“‘And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.’ False prophets and false Christs did arise, deceiving the people, and leading great numbers into the desert. Magicians and sorcerers, claiming miraculous power, drew the people after them into the mountain solitudes. But this prophecy was spoken also for the last days. This sign is a sign of the second advent....” Signs of the Times, Feb. 20, 1901.
1. At age 44, due to constant physical and mental stress and insufficient rest, who suffered a “partial shock of paralysis?”
   a. Hiram Edson
   b. John Loughborough
   c. James White
   d. Ellen White

2. James and Ellen White were taken to the Danville sanitarium, where they stayed about ____ month(s).
   a. 1
   b. 2
   c. 3
   d. 4

3. In her husband’s collapse, Ellen saw God’s hand. Why?
   a. It occurred before he was too exhausted to ever recover.
   b. At Danville they learned much in a short time about natural treatments and wholesome diet.
   c. The Whites became equipped in the sacred work of health reform.
   d. All of the above.

4. What other pioneer(s) received rest and treatment at Danville at the same time?
   a. J.N. Loughborough
   b. Uriah Smith
   c. A and B
   d. Joseph Bates

5. What biblical counsel had been neglected by the overburdened workers?
   a. Mk 6:31 “Come apart and rest a while.”
   b. Ecc 8:15: “…Eat, …drink, and …be merry.”
   c. Ps 66:1: “Make a joyful noise unto God, …sing forth…”
   d. All of the above.

6. For 3 weeks after leaving Danville, the Whites stayed at friends’ homes so friends from all over could
   a. prepare for James’ expected funeral.
   b. pray for James’ recovery.
   c. learn hydrotherapy from them.
   d. fundraise to pay their sanitarium expenses.

7. About a year after James’ collapse, fearing he was getting too little exercise to recover, Ellen planned
   a. a family reunion at Battle Creek.
   b. to open a Review office at home.
   c. a winter preaching tour in Michigan.
   d. a work-out routine for him.

8. During the summer, having been shown the weakened James needed mental and physical activity to recover, Ellen
   a. bought hoes for all but the youngest in the family.
   b. convinced the neighbors not to do James’ haying for him.
   c. persuaded him to write articles for the Review.
   d. All of the above.

9. During December 1867 meetings, 18 young people requested baptism. Some were so eager for baptism that
   a. a hole was cut in pond ice for them.
   b. snow was melted in a barn’s water trough.
   c. a bonfire on a lake made an opening.
   d. it was administered in a kitchen washtub.

10. Hurt and disappointed at one point by cold disapproval and suspicion at Battle Creek, James and Ellen White moved to a new home built in
    a. Greenville, MI
    b. Chicago, IL
    c. Plymouth, IN
    d. All of the above.

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Sales tax: Illinois residents, please add 6.5%. Washington state residents, please add 7.8%.
All money sent must be in US funds, drawn on US banks.
I showed the clay DVD in our church on Sabbath. Everyone wanted to get some clay for themselves, so I'll be placing an order for all of us. Also, we're copying the DVD so we can give it to people we know. Here's a donation so we can keep receiving the DVDs so we can play them on Sabbath when we don't have a speaker.

---

Thank you so much for the DVDs. I had been saving them and praying for a DVD player. This Friday I had a doctor appointment and my son came to drive me. On the way he stopped and bought me a DVD player. He is not an Adventist but he is a Christian and I know the Lord spoke to his heart because I never even told him I was wanting one. My daughter, who usually takes me, must have told him, and the fact that she did makes me even more happy, for I know who touched their hearts.

I have played each one this weekend. One message really touched my heart. It's hard to speak against brothers and sisters, but to allow ourselves to be blind and not know that Satan works in our church also is to court with danger.

---

We really appreciate the study *The Bible Made Simple* that you sent us as a free gift with our last order. It was just what my wife was looking for, and I have been blessed by them, also. In fact, we sent for more materials. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

We have also enjoyed the DVDs that you have sent recently. I see my wife took the CD *We're Homeward Bound* with her today. When she and three other women clean the church building the Adventist company rents, they’ll be able to enjoy beautiful music while they work.

---

I really respect a ministry that isn’t afraid to tell the truth, especially when you knew that in doing so, you’d probably lose some supporters for not agreeing with their views. But as word gets around, we expect you’ll see an increase of support, because many people really want the truth.

---

Thank you for the comforting, restful Word of God. I appreciate the fact that I do not have to be alert to rewriting of the Bible and glorifying God’s enemies.

I look forward to the *Firm Foundation* magazine informing me and keeping me ready for the last of the prophecies. I also appreciate your clean, refined language.

---

We would like at least two DVDs a month instead of one. We have no congregation to meet with and our home church consists of two. We appreciate your ministry. Enclosed is an offering to help with the DVD program.

---

We just subscribed to *Our Firm Foundation* as a surprise for my husband. He and I both enjoy your publication.
True happiness may be found in unselfishly striving to help those who need help. God helps the feeble, and strengthens those who have no strength. In the fields where the trials and the conflicts and poverty are the greatest, God’s workmen must have increased protection. To those laboring in the heat of the conflict, God says, “The Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.”

Our Lord adapts Himself to our special needs. He is a shade on our right hand. He walks close by our side, ready to supply all our necessities. He comes very near to those who are engaged in willing service for Him. He knows every one by name. O what assurances we have of the tender love of Christ.

Manuscript 51, 1903