THE TWO ISRAELS
Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: “It might have been.” The lead article in this July issue of Our Firm Foundation speaks of two Israels—one after the flesh and one after the Spirit. God’s original plan was for one Israel that would worship and be led by the One True God, one Israel that would go forth to witness to other nations to bring them into the same fold—“to extend to all nations a knowledge of saving truth.” PK 466.

God, over and over again, gave evidence of the blessings that would come if the people were faithful to Him, and the cursings that would result from their unfaithfulness.

“And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee.” Deut 28:1.

Throughout the Old Testament, there are evidences of God’s blessings when the people were faithful, and evidences of His cursings when they were unfaithful.

Jehoshaphat was a king of Judah of whom it was said, “he did right in the sight of the Lord.” II Chron. 20:32.

“IT came to pass…that the children of Moab and the children of Ammon and others came against Jehoshaphat to battle.” “And Jehoshaphat feared and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.” II Chron. 20:1 & 3.

All the people came together to seek the Lord. Jehoshaphat had a beautiful prayer. (see II Chron. 20:6-12).

Jehoshaphat told the people: “Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.” II Chron.20:20.

His army sang as they went to battle, and they praised the Lord thanking Him in advance for victory. The Lord delivered the enemy and their riches into the hands of Jehoshaphat and his people. The opposing armies wiped each other out. Not a single person was lost to Judah.

This could have been the lot of both Israel and Judah on a world wide scale if they would have been faithful. But the Old Testament is a history of their unfaithfulness time after time until they brought their own Messiah to the cross. “Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, but walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart.” Jer. 11:8. Thus their house was left unto them desolate, and a new Israel was born.

Ellen White comments: “In obedience to God’s law there is great gain. In conformity to the divine requirements there is a transforming power that brings peace and good will among men.” PK 192.

In speaking of the battle above referred to, she states: “God was the strength of Judah in this crisis, and He is the strength of His people today.” PK 202. His people today are the Israel after the Spirit.

Literal Israel, as a nation, “might have been” the “head” and not the “tail” if only they would have been obedient to God. (see Deut 28:13). Now all those who are faithful to God including individual Jewish people can be members of Spiritual Israel and receive all the blessings promised.

Brothers and Sisters, please strive to be among that group!

Editor’s note: The painting of Paul’s enlightenment is by Reen Swindle.
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. —Editor

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About Hope International:
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Cover Image: Reen Swindle
Come my Christian reader, and let us examine together one of the ancient objects rescued by the inspired writers from oblivion, and undimmed by the dust of many ages. Let us not handle it with superstitious reverence as a relic, but make use of it to raise our minds from the absorbing cares and pleasures of the present, to holy musings on the past. May the Spirit of Wisdom and Truth assist us in our meditations, and increase our deep reverence for those sacred Scriptures in which this object of interest is preserved.

Abraham's Tent

We experience natural pleasure in visiting spots celebrated in history. Corn may wave, and fruit ripen over the scene of some celebrated battle, but we cannot look with indifference on the scene where once was held a world-famous struggle for freedom. No modern palace would have the interest which would be attached to the ruin of one which had been trodden by famous monarchs of old. Were there buildings remaining of which it could be said, “here Alexander planned his conquests” or “there Cyrus administered justice”, we should regard such buildings, however crumbling and defaced, as places gilded by memories which time could never destroy.

Here dwelt the father of the faithful

But no palace of monarch, no fortress of hero, could ever wake in us such feelings of reverence as a tent of black goat's hair, such as those which the nomad descendants of Abraham now pitch on the sands of Arabia, if it could be certified to us,--“here dwelt the father of the faithful; he who in Scripture is called the friend of God. In that doorway sat the venerable patriarch in the heat of the day, when, raising his eyes, he beheld three mysterious visitors from Heaven stand before him. Behind yon curtain Sarah listened with eager interest to the conversation between her lord and the angel, laughing to herself at tidings which she would not at first believe. There also, when time had rolled on, she laughed with joy over the babe, the promised gift of God; the child from whom should descend a race as the stars in the sky or the sands by the sea for number. It was there that Abraham first embraced his Isaac, and blessed God for the fulfillment of that promise which faith had grasped, when the aged man had against hope believed in hope.

Though the patriarch's tent was most unlike our own habitations, and though the dwelling of a wealthy sheik would contain fewer comforts than many an English cottage, we turn to it for lessons of what a home should be in all climates, and through all ages. Not that it can be altogether a model even as regards the conduct of its inmates; Sarah's chidings, Hagar's scorn, and Ishmael's mockings must not be forgotten; but in four respects, at least, the tent of Abraham offers a scene which we may contemplate with reverence and profit.

A dwelling of faith

Firstly, it was the dwelling of faith. Wherever its stakes were driven in, its cords stretched, its curtains spread, there rose a habitation in which God was truly worshipped. The ground upon which it stood became in a manner holy. Could that tent speak, of what fervent prayers, what wrestling faith, what earnest adoration, could it tell, and that at a time when idolatry had spread over
almost all the earth! In the midst of darkness a bright light shone from that tent; a light which has never been, and never will be, extinguished. Are our homes thus centers of light? Is God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, thus constantly honoured in them? Could the word spoken of the patriarch be also spoken, reader, of thee? “I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment.” Had thy walls a voice, what witness would they bear to earnest pleadings in secret, or humble devotion in family prayer?

A home should be as a monarchy, governed by laws of love

Again: Abraham’s tent was the abode of conjugal, parental, and filial affection. Sarah, with all her faults, is held up to us as a model wife. Though, even in advanced life, celebrated for exquisite beauty, Sarah’s adorning appears to have been no outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; she obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, yielding loving reverence to her husband. Isaac was brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and his obedience to God, and submission to his aged parents, were alike shown when he suffered himself to be bound, an unresisting victim, on the altar of sacrifice. In these days, when a spirit of lawless independence sometimes pervades even the nursery, and wives too often forget that they have vowed to honour and obey as well as to love, it is well that we should let our thoughts dwell awhile in the tent of Abraham, to see that a home should be as a monarchy, governed by laws of love, the husband and father a wise beneficent ruler, emphatically a power ordained by God.

Abraham entertained angels unawares

Again: Abraham’s tent reminds us of the duty of hospitality—that hospitality without grudging, which alone is worthy of the title; not that interchange of worldly courtesies—that asking in order to be asked again—that ostentation which consumes at one luxurious meal what would suffice to feed starving multitudes. Never let the name of hospitality be profaned by being applied to such entertainments as these. But the hearty welcome given even to strangers, the readiness to spread the meal for the guest who may never be able to return the kindness, these we learn from the patriarch. Abraham entertained angels unawares; and the same may be said of many of those who exercise hospitality in a spirit like his. In one sense the Lord of angels visits the dwellings of those who welcome His servants for His sake. It is a privilege and an honour to entertain the humblest of His saints; for He hath said, Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these My brethren, ye did it unto Me.

Our dwellings and our mortal bodies are tabernacles

Lastly, let us regard our dwellings, as Abraham did his, as a tabernacle rather than as a settled home. Here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come. Let not our hearts cling too closely to an earthly habitation, as if it were to be ours for ever, but let us rather remember that, like the family of Abraham, we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth:

“Here in the body pent,
Absent from Heaven we roam,
But nightly pitch our wandering tent,
A day’s march nearer home.”

Yes; for not only our dwellings, but even these our mortal bodies are but tabernacles, to be taken down and laid aside, to be exchanged for a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. In the meantime let us pray that they may be the abodes of peace and joy and love, and that the Holy Spirit may be our guest, not as one who tarries but awhile and departs, but as one who comes to abide with us always.
Saul, a Pharisee of the Pharisees, was raised in a strict Hebrew family in Tarsus, the chief city of Cilicia. (Acts 21:39). Tarsus was distinguished for its wealth and for its schools of learning in which it rivaled even Athens and Alexandria. It was on the banks of the Cydnus River, about 12 miles north of the Mediterranean.

Saul had been introduced to the Books of the Old Testament, especially the Torah, from a child up. His early education was in Tarsus, but he later went to Jerusalem and studied under Gamaliel. His family background and his education were truly preparing him to be a leader among the Hebrew people—a Hebrew of the Hebrews.

Saul had most likely heard of Jesus and the claim Jesus had to being the Messiah, but Saul apparently had never witnessed any of the Lord’s ministry. What he had heard was most likely from the Jewish leadership—the people he associated with. Saul knew about the crucifixion and also about the Lord’s followers—probably little tidbits here and there. There was anger within him, a Jewish pride, concerning these people that were “turning Jerusalem upside down”.

The Stoning of Stephen
When Stephen was brought before the Sanhedrin and questioned, Saul “was present and took a leading part against Stephen.” AA 98. “Not only did Stephen speak in the power of the Holy Spirit, but it was plain that he was a student of the prophecies and learned in all matters of the law.” AA 97. Saul had truly met his match. As Stephen was being stoned, he saw “the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.” Acts 7:26. (The standing up of Jesus is a clear sign of the close of probation—see Daniel 12:1). The death of Stephen resulted in the conviction of Saul, who could not efface from his memory the faith and constancy of the martyr, and the glory that had rested on his countenance.” AA101.

God was seeking to reach these leading Jews through Stephen, but their hard-heartedness and misunderstanding of Scripture prevailed. Their minds could not be opened to the truth of the real gospel. They were literalists in their thinking—they looked for a literal Israel to be restored to a literal leadership over the Roman Empire.

Saul continued to fight against his own conscience. After Stephen’s trial and death, Saul became the enforcer. He sought other Christians to bring them to trial and some even to death. The picture of Stephen remained in his mind.

Clarification of Scripture on the Road to Damascus
On the road to Damascus, Saul had an encounter that changed the direction of his life—an encounter that has changed many of our lives—he met the risen Saviour. Light shined into his
mind. The Scriptures he had long known opened in a new way. He was blinded physically, but he began to see spiritually. In the words of John Newton, “I once was blind, but now I see.” (Amazing Grace).

What was it that Saul, the leadership of the Jews in his day, and the disciples failed to recognize in Scripture that kept them from understanding the Messiahship of Jesus? First, even though John the Baptist identified Jesus as the Lamb of God, none of the Jewish people, including John, seemed to connect that identification with their own historic sacrificial system that went all the way back to the gates of Eden, and extended down to their day in the temple service—and especially the sacrificial part of that service that pointed to a Lamb slain from the foundation of the world for the sins of the people. This sacrificial part of the service terminated at the cross, but neither Saul nor his associates recognized that either.

The Book of Daniel was in existence long before the days of Saul and the disciples, but again these folks had a wrong understanding of the prophecies therein, especially as contained in chapter nine. They certainly did not understand the 490-year probationary period that came to a close for them as a nation at the death of Stephen. Nor did they understand the time period in verse 25 that indicated when the Messiah would come, or verses 26 and 27 that pointed to the Messiah being cut off in the midst of the last week thus causing the sacrifice and the oblation to cease—the great sacrifice had come.

We can’t know for sure what was flashed into Saul’s mind on the Road to Damascus, but I can’t help but believe that among other Scripture, a true understanding of the sanctuary service, and chapter 9 of Daniel were clarified. In Acts of the Apostles at page 227, in speaking of Paul in Thessalonica, Ellen White states: “Paul showed how closely God had linked the sacrificial service with the prophecies relating to the One who was to be “brought as a lamb to the slaughter.”

Paul who had been learning the Scriptures from his youth had the meaning of those Scriptures flash forth in his mind like never before on the Road to Damascus, as well as in the weeks that followed—“His arguments from prophecy were so conclusive, and his efforts were so manifestly attended by the power of God, that the Jews were confounded and unable to answer him.” AA123.

One after the flesh, one after the spirit.

Today a majority of Christians have become what is termed “futurists” or “dispensationalists”. They have failed to recognize the true meaning of Daniel 9 and also of the Jewish sacrificial system. Many have learned what they believe by watching movies and reading books other than the Bible. Much of the information they believe about the Bible today was originated by a Jesuit Priest, Francisco Ribera, many years ago, to remove the understanding of the Protestant Reformation that the Catholic Church was the Antichrist power of Scripture. They look today to Literal Israel for fulfillment of prophecy. They fail to understand that probation was closed for Literal Israel as a nation at the stoning of Stephen as prophesied in Daniel 9. They speak of a sacrificial system that will be restored in Israel and then will be ended by the “Single Man” antichrist in the midst
Our Firm Foundation of the week.

They separate prophecy in Daniel 9 with a “gap” theory.

As Seventh-day Adventists, we need to know Daniel 9 well enough to explain its truths to these futurists, but much more than that we need to be able to show that the Bible speaks of two Israels—one after the flesh and one after the spirit.

God originally called Abram, soon to become Abraham, as his representative upon the earth. “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curse curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” Gen. 12:1-3.

**God has ever preserved a remnant to serve him.**

“Abraham had grown up in the middle of superstition and heathenism. Even his father’s household, by whom the knowledge of God had been preserved, were yielding to the seductive influences surrounding them, and they served other gods than Jehovah. But the true faith was not to become extinct. God has ever preserved a remnant to serve him. Adam, Seth, Enoch, Methuselah, Noah, Shem, in unbroken line, had preserved from age to age the precious revelations of His will. The son of Terah became the inheritor of this holy trust. Idolatry invited him on every side, but in vain. Faithful among the faithless, uncorrupted by the prevailing apostasy, he steadfastly adhered to the worship of the one true God.” PP125.

Abraham was willing to yield unqualified obedience to the divine will. “Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.” Gen. 26:5 “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.” Heb. 11:8 “And the Scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the friend of God.” James 2:23 “And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed to them also: and the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised. For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham or his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.” Romans 4:11-13.

**The Nation of Israel**

Abraham had Isaac, and Isaac had Jacob. Jacob’s name was changed to Israel only after his wrestling encounter with the Angel of the Lord in which his change in character was recognized. Later Jacob’s offspring were called the Nation of Israel. But the Nation of Israel’s history in the Old and New Testament with few exceptions is a history of unfaithfulness to God.

In seeking the death of Jesus in John 19:15, we have the statement of the Jewish leadership, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, shall I crucify your king? The chief priests answered, we have no king but Caesar.” And how did all the people respond? “His blood be on us, and on our children.” Matthew 27:25

Jesus had sought to warn the people and the leadership of the Israel Nation through His parables
and teachings. See specifically Matthew 21 and the parable of the householder and its conclusion when the son is killed: the householder “will let out his vineyard, unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.” “Therefore say I unto you, the Kingdom of God shall be taken from you (the Jewish Church), and given to a nation (the Christian Church—consisting of both faithful Jews and faithful Gentiles) bringing forth the fruits thereof.” Matthew 21:41 & 43.

Your house is left to you desolate.

See also Matthew 21:13, and the cleansing of the temple in which Jesus says, “My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.” And then compare what Jesus says two chapters later in Matthew 23:37 & 38: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold your house is left unto you desolate.”

Then notice Acts 13:45 & 46: “But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.”

Read especially Romans, chapters 9-11, to get a full understanding of the position of the Jews as a nation after the stoning of Stephen and the appointment of Paul as an Apostle to the Gentiles. In Romans 9:6, we read, “Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect, for they are not all Israel, which are of Israel.” And in Romans 9:25 & 26, Paul quotes from Hosea speaking of the Gentiles: “As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.”

In Romans 2:28 & 29, the two Israels are set out clearly: “For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God. (Literal and Spiritual Jews).

If ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed.

Then the climatic conclusions found in Galatians:

Galatians 3:6-9, “Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the Scripture foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, in thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.”

Galatians 3:26-29, “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

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I Corinthians 10:11 “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.” “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” - Spanish-born American philosopher George Santayana.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HISTORY?

History is not just a collection of dusty memories, to be archived in a museum somewhere; it is a vital part, or should be a vital part, of our learning. I recently had the opportunity to visit with several young people, from the ages of 13 to 24. I was asking them what they knew, or had heard about the Dark Ages. They knew nothing. I asked about the Crusades. Nothing. I asked about the Inquisition. Again… nothing.

Then I asked them about President John F. Kennedy and what his religious affiliation was. Nothing. I asked if they might have ever read about why he was almost not elected. Again, clueless.

I asked if they had ever heard about the hatred that used to be directed toward Catholics in this country. No idea.

Then I asked about the United State’s highest court of the land. Several knew it was the Supreme Court. Then I asked if they knew the religious make-up of the Supreme Court; the men and women that make the final decisions for the people of the United States. No idea.

I didn’t even ask about the Patriot Acts 1 & 2, the world tribunal, The Hague, or anything like that. As you can imagine, I was astounded at how little they knew or had heard about any of these things.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

Where were the history lessons? Where were the teachers giving an accurate account of our past? Or did they hear about it, and promptly forget? And lest we put all of the blame on the teachers and school systems, where are the lessons from the pastors? For that matter, where are the discussions in the family circle about the past?

We cannot see where we are going, if we do not know where we came from! When someone calls here and asks for directions to get to Hope International, the first thing that is asked, is “Where are you coming from?”

If you do not know where you are, how can you possible know where you are going?

HISTORY IS OUR COMPASS

History tells us where we have been. History can show us where to go. History can help us see what to do, and what not to do. And we need reminders of where we have been, to make sure we remember where to go, or not to go again.

Remember the holocaust? People still remember that. That was not that long ago. And we have many reminders of that, so we never, ever, allow that to happen again.

In Peoria, a city just 50 miles from here, there is a display about the holocaust in a courtyard area of one of the malls. The display consists of several very large glass containers that are filled with buttons. 11 million buttons to be exact. One button for every person who was killed during the holocaust. It is a silent reminder of a dark time. It is there to make sure we never, ever forget… And it is there to make sure we never, ever allow it to happen again. And, interesting enough, there are people Did the Inquisition Really Happen?

By Joe Olson
today who deny that the holocaust ever happened. You may have read or heard that the President of Iran denied that it ever happened… It was just mentioned again in this month’s National Geographic. And he is not alone!

We need constant reminders to keep it fresh. We need to have it taught in school. We need to tell it from the pulpit. We need to remind our children at home… We need to remember, so it never happens again.

SOME OF AMERICA’S DARK DAYS

I was just reading about our own United States history of what happened during World War II, right here in our own land. We have had our own dark days… right here in America. This history relates to the Japanese-Americans here in America during WWII.

The article, “Journey Into a Dark Past,” taken from the U.S. News and World Report May 19, 2008, p 32, states that, “…nearly 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry - most of them American citizens - …were forcibly removed to [internment] camps after Pearl Harbor. Ordered to leave their homes with only what they could carry, they were sent by train and bus to 10 internment camps scattered across remote areas of the country, small cities enclosed by barbed wire.”

How many of you were aware of that?

It was only 63 years ago.

“Twenty years ago, the U.S. government officially apologized to Japanese-Americans for the way they had been treated, authorizing payments of $20,000 to each living survivor.” U.S. News and World Report May 19, 2008, p 32.

Our government, remembering what they had done, decided to do what they could to repair the damage they had caused. The Japanese-Americans had lost homes, lands, livestock, cars, family heirloom furniture, etc., etc. They could only keep what they could carry. And 43 years later, those Japanese-Americans that were still alive, were given a small token of money to represent the official apology they were given.

Preserve the memories

By the way, those campsites still exist!

There is not much left to most of them, but the land is still there, and some of the markers that identified the buildings and guard towers and other things.

“In 2006, President Bush signed a bill authorizing up to $38 million for a grant program to preserve the camps.” U.S. News and World Report May 19, 2008, p 33. We need those sites preserved. We need to remember.

You see, there was great pressure upon Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Here is another quote from this same article:

“The entire political establishment in the western states, from governors to congressmen to law enforcement, was pushing for “evacuation” too. War hysteria and racial prejudice ruled the day.” U.S. News and World Report May 19, 2008, p35.

Interestingly, Roosevelt’s own intelligence network on the West Coast was assuring him that the Japanese-American community was loyal. But in the face of all the others wanting this dastardly deed done, the president of the United States gave these Americans up to the fear and hate-mongers.

Think it can’t happen again?

Here is a quote from a Henry
McLemore, a popular newspaper columnist for the Los Angeles Times:

“I am for the immediate removal of every Japanese on the West Coast to a point deep in the interior... I don't mean a nice part of the interior either. Herd 'em up, pack 'em off, and give 'em the inside room in the badlands.” U.S. News and World Report, May 19, 2008, p35.

Scary isn't it? Were you aware of that? Think it can't happen again? Think again. Most people today don't even know what happened in their own country just 63 years ago! Imagine how few know about hundreds of years ago. We have to remember, to avoid making the same mistakes again.

People can turn on a dime from being your friend, to being your enemy.

“Betty Abe, who was 15 years old in 1941 and living on her father's vegetable farm near Los Angeles, remembers how suddenly the atmosphere changed after the order. “It was very scary,” she says. “People, just like the snap of a finger, their attitude was different towards us.”

And what did some of the people do who were not Japanese?

“Some whites swooped down on Japanese communities looking for bargains. Cars, silverware, furniture—all were gobbled up for a fraction of their value.” U.S. News and World Report, May 19, 2008, p35.

HOW STRONG IS YOUR WILL?

Hard to imagine, isn’t it? Right here in the good ole’ U.S. of A. Many families lost everything during the internment. Few were able to return to their land after the war. It was a dark, shameful time in American history.

Addressing the Japanese-Americans and their internment, they wrote this about the president: “It still isn't clear exactly what Roosevelt thought, but his cardinal sin during the months after Pearl Harbor, historians believe, was not saying anything at all.” U.S. News and World Report, May 19, 2008, p35.

Think no one will make you yield and treat someone badly? Think you can overcome public pressure? The president of the United States couldn't do it.

This quote should cause some chills... especially if you think the constitution will be our defense... “In times of stress,” says Greg Robinson, author of By Order of the President: FDR and the Internment of Japanese Americans, “nobody can be trusted to defend constitutional rights without public support.” U.S. News and World Report, May 19, 2008, p35.

If the public doesn't like it, according to Greg Robinson, the constitution will simply be laid aside.

Think it can't happen? It did happen. And it happened just a few years ago. And how many remember it?

CLEANSING THE WORLD OF HERESY

Now, with this history as our guide, let me ask you... did the Inquisition really happen?

The Inquisition, or actually Inquisitions, for there were several of them, went on from the late 1100's to the middle 19th century. The Catholic Church carried on these “Inquisitions” to cleanse the world of “heresy.” And there was a “Grand Inquisitor” who was in charge of all that went on. Kind of like a commanding general. I will not even begin to go into the details or what they did to their poor victims, or how many multiplied millions died. I have a few pictures of a church they built from the bones of
those they murdered. Human skulls were used to adorn the chapel as trimmings.

The Inquisition went on for a long, long time. Far longer than Hitler did. Far longer than the Japanese internment did. But we almost never hear about it. It is rarely taught.

“Oh, that can never happen again”

And even if you do hear something about it, it is usually so whitewashed that it seems like some sort of anecdotal note, not a centuries-long persecution.

Remember what Santayana said: “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

“Oh, that could never happen again,” you think?

Ever heard of Ratzinger? He is pope Benedict XVI.

This is a quote from Newsweek magazine in 2005…


Sound ominous? “Oh,” you say, “They don’t mean anything by that title.”

Here is the very next sentence…

“In Ratzinger’s time, of course, torture wasn’t part of the agenda.”

Apparently someone remembers what the “Grand Inquisitor’s” job was.

**MAYBE ROME HAS CHANGED?**

But maybe things are different now.

After all, Pope John Paul apologized, back in March 2002, for the “errors of his church for the last 2000 years.”

Maybe Rome has changed. Think that might be?

Here is what God has to say about that…

“…Rome never changes. She claims infallibility. It is Protestantism that will change.” Review and Herald, June 1, 1886.

It’s hard to be infallible, and wrong at the same time.

Remember the hubbub just a short while ago when Pope Benedict said that the Protestant churches were not really churches anyway? He said the Catholic Church is the true church and the rest of us are just wayward children, needing to come back into the fold. That might sound quaint, or not too menacing now, but in it, you can see the same attitudes the Catholic Church had in the Dark Ages, during the inquisitions.

Here is another quote from God’s servant to prepare us for future events:

“The pacific tone of Rome in the United States does not imply a change of heart. She is tolerant where she is helpless. Says Bishop O’Connor: ‘Religious liberty is merely endured until the opposite can be carried into effect without peril to the Catholic world.’” “The archbishop of St. Louis once said: “Heresy and unbelief are crimes…” Great Controversy, 1888, 564. This is from the Catholic Church’s own bishop!

Thank God our constitution guarantees us freedom of conscience! At least, for now. Remember the Japanese internment?

You do now. And you need to keep it in mind.

**A CURSE ON ALL WHO THINK THEY DESERVE LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE**

Just a little less than 150 years ago, the pope, Pius IX, said this: “The absurd and erroneous doctrines or ravings in defense of liberty of conscience, are a most pestilential error—a pest,
of all others, most to be dreaded in a State.” Encyclical Letter of December 8, 1864. The same pope also anathematized: ‘...those who assert the liberty of conscience and of religious worship,’ also ‘all such as maintain that the church may not employ force.’ Great Controversy, 1888, 564,565.

To “anathematize” someone is to pronounce a curse on them. The pope said that you are cursed if you think you should have liberty of conscience and worship as you want to.

Doesn’t sound like much of a change to me.

This was in 1864, not 1364! Can you see now why there was such an animosity toward the Catholic religion, even just 40 or 50 years ago? Forty or fifty years ago, Americans still remembered what was done and what was said. How about now? Now is Catholicism still an issue to people? It was, just 48 years ago to the American people.

This is part of an address that then presidential candidate, John F. Kennedy gave to the “Greater Houston Ministerial Association” on September 12, 1960:

“While the so-called religious issue is necessarily and properly the chief topic here tonight, I want to emphasize that from the outset that I believe we have far more critical issues in the 1960 campaign… But because I am a Catholic, and no Catholic has ever been elected President, the real issues have been obscured… So it is apparently necessary for me to state once again – not what kind of church I believe in, for that should be only important to me – but what kind of America I believe in.”

Well, that sounds good… unless the church you believe in thinks we should all be tortured and killed if we do not believe as your church does.

Does that sound familiar to you today? Isn’t that what the Muslims teach? Kill the infidels? The attitude the Muslims have is not something new. It has been around a long, long time. And no religion that demands worship is compatible with Christianity.

**CHOOSE THIS DAY**

God never ever beat anyone into following Him. It has always been your own choice. Jesus simply said, “Come, follow Me.” No bribes, no pain, no anathemas. Just a gentle, kind, compassionate request. And anyone who forces obedience, forces the conscience, forces religion… is not from God.

Here is what God does: John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

You see, in God’s way, He does the dying, not you. Unless you choose to die for other’s sakes.

1 John 3:16 “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

Do you notice the difference here? Man says, “Follow me, or I’ll kill you.” God says, “Follow Me, and I’ll die for you.”

Remember the past!

Remember what man has done, over and over again.

Remember what God has done, over and over again.

*Choose you this day, whom you will follow.*

Joe Olson serves as the executive director and chairman of the board of Hope International. He also travels as an international speaker.
The Victory of Faith
II Chronicles 20

In days of old were warriors,
Who sought the Lord in prayer,
And asked for help in battle,
And lo, the help was there.

And God is just as mighty
As in the days of yore;
He’ll help in every conflict,
If we but praise him more.

They met the foe with singing,
With shouts of joyful praise:
“The Lord our God is mighty,
And wonderful his ways.”

We’ll boldly seek our Saviour,
Acknowledging his power,
And asking him to help us,
Then praise him from that hour.

And he in whom they trusted
Laid bare his strong right arm,
And ambushments appointed
To save his own from harm.

His promises are many,
And faith the victory wins;
‘Tis when we grasp the promise
That victory begins.

By Eliza H. Morton
Love is power. Intellectual and moral strength are involved in this principle, and cannot be separated from it. The power of wealth has a tendency to corrupt and destroy; the power of force is strong to do hurt; but the excellence and value of pure love consist in its efficiency to do good, and to do nothing else but good. Whatsoever is done out of pure love, be it ever so little or contemptible in the sight of men, is wholly fruitful; for God measures more with how much love one worketh, than the amount he doeth. Love is of God. The unconverted heart cannot originate nor produce this plant of heavenly growth, which lives alone, and flourishes only where Christ reigns. Love cannot live without action, and every act increases, strengthens, and extends it. Love will prevail and gain the victory when argument and authority are powerless. Love works not for profit nor reward; yet God has ordained that great gain shall be the certain result of every labor of love. It is diffusive in its nature, and quiet in its operation, yet strong and mighty in its purpose to overcome great evils. It is melting and transforming in its influence, and will take hold of the lives of the sinful, and affect their hearts when every other means has proved unsuccessful.

Go about your duty
Wherever the power of intellect, of authority, of force, is employed, and love is not manifestly present, the affections and will of those whom we seek to reach, assume a defensive, repelling position, and increase their strength of resistance as they are met by another power than love. Jesus was the Prince of Peace. He came into the world to bring resistance and authority into subjection to himself. Wisdom and strength he could command, but the means he employed to overcome evil were wisdom and strength of love. Suffer nothing to divide your interest from your present work until God shall see fit to give you another piece of work in the same field. Seek not for happiness, for that is never to be found by seeking for it. Go about your duty. Let faithfulness mark all your doings, and be clothed with humility.

Pure love is simple
“Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do you even so to them.” Blessed results would appear as the fruit of such a course. “With what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again.” Here are strong motives which should operate on minds to constrain them to love one another with a pure heart, fervently. Christ is our example. He went about doing good. He lived to bless others. Love beautified and ennobled all his actions. We are not commanded to do to ourselves what we wish others to do unto us; we are to do unto others what we wish them to do to us under like circumstances. The measure we mete is always measured to us again. Pure love is simple in its operations, and is distinct from any other principle of action. The love of influence and the desire for the esteem of...
others may produce a well-ordered life, and, frequently, a blameless conversation. Self-respect may lead us to avoid the appearance of vice. A selfish heart may perform generous actions, acknowledge the present truth, and express humility and affection in the outward manner, with the motives deceptive and impure; and the efforts and actions that flow from them may be destitute of the savor of life and the fruits of true holiness, being destitute of the principles of pure love. Love, love, should be cultivated. It needs cherishing, for its influence is divine.

This is only the deceptive part. It is Satan's hellish arts masked. Beguiled souls take one step, then are prepared for the next. It is so much more pleasant to follow the inclinations of their own hearts than to stand on the defensive, and resist the first insinuation of the wily foe, and thus shut out his in-comings. Oh! how Satan watches to see his bait taken so readily, and to see souls walking in the very path he has prepared. He does not want them to give up praying and maintaining a form of religious duties; for he can thus make them more useful in his service. He unites his sophistry and deceptive snares with their experiences and professions, and thus wonderfully advances his cause.

Union with the world
The hypocritical Pharisees prayed and fasted, observed the forms of godliness, while corrupt at heart. Satan stands by, taunting Christ and his angels with insults, “I have them! I have them! I have prepared my deceptions for them. Your blood is worthless here. Your intercessions and power and wonderful works may as well cease; I have them! They are mine! for all their high profession as subjects of Christ, for all they once enjoyed the illuminations of his presence, I will secure them to myself in the very face of Heaven, which they are talking about. It is such subjects as these that I can use to decoy others.” Solomon says, “He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool;” and there are hundreds of such to be found among professors of godliness. Says the apostle, “We are not ignorant of his devices.” Oh! what art, what skill, what cunning, to lead to a union with the world, to seek for happiness in the amusements of the world, under the delusive idea that some good is to be gained! And thus they walk right into the net, flattering themselves that there is no evil in the way. The affections and sympathies of such are wrought upon, which lays a foundation for their ill-built confidence that they are the children of God. They compare themselves with others, and settle down satisfied that they are even better than many true Christians. But where is the deep love of Christ shining forth in their lives, its bright rays blessing others? Where is their Bible? and how much is it studied? And where are their thoughts? upon heaven and heavenly things? It is not natural for
their minds to go forth in that direction. The study of God’s word is uninteresting to them. It does not possess that which excites and fevers the mind, and natural, unrenewed hearts will prefer some other book to the study of God’s word. Their attention is engrossed in self. They have no deep, earnest longings for the influence of the Spirit of God upon the mind and heart. God is not in all their thoughts.

There is a necessity for close self-examination
How can I have it that most of the youth in this age will come short of everlasting life? Oh that their sound of instrumental music may cease, and they no more while away so much precious time in pleasing their own fancy! Oh that they would devote less time to dress and vain conversation, and send forth their agonizing prayers to God for a sound experience! There is a necessity for close self-examination, and to closely investigate in the light of God’s word, Am I sound, or am I rotten, at heart? Am I renewed in Christ, or am I still carnal

Lovers of pleasure
While others are panting after earthly enjoyment, be ye panting after the unmistakable assurance of the love of God, earnestly, fervently crying, Who will show me how to make my calling and election sure? One of the sins that constitute one of the signs of the last days, is that professed Christians are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. Deal truly with your own souls. Search carefully. How few, after a faithful examination, can look up to Heaven and say, I am not one of those thus described. I am not a lover of pleasure more than a lover of God. How few can say, I am dead to the world; the life I now live is by faith on the Son of God. My life is hid with Christ in God, and when he who is my life shall appear, then shall I also appear with him in glory. The love and grace of God! Oh precious grace! more valuable than fine gold. It elevates and ennobles the spirit beyond all other principles. It sets the heart and affections upon Heaven. While those around us may be engaged in worldly vanity, pleasure-seeking, and folly, the conversation is in heaven, whence we look for the Saviour; the soul is reaching out after God for pardon and peace, for righteousness and true holiness. Converse with God, and contemplation of things above, transform the soul into the likeness of Christ. {RH, May 11, 1886}

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.
Man may write a true book, but only God, the source of life, can write a living book. “The word of God…liveth and abideth forever.” 1 Peter 1:23. The Bible is the living word of God. We look at the volume; we hold it in our hands. It is like other books in form and printer’s art. But the voice of God speaks from these pages, and the word spoken is alive. It is able to do in the heart that receives it what can be done only by divine power.

**The Book That Talks**

Far in the heart of Africa a missionary read to the people in their own language from the translated Word of God. “See! They cried; “See! The book talks! The white man has a book that talks!” With that simplicity of speech so common to children of nature, they had exactly described it. This is a book that talks. What the wise man says of its counsels through parents to children, is true of all the book: “When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.” Prov. 6:22

Here is companionship, faithful and true, a blessed guide and guardian and friend. “Holy Bible! Book divine! Precious treasure, thou art mine!”

**GOD, ITS AUTHOR**

The sixty-six books of Holy Scriptures were written by many penmen, over a space of fifteen centuries; yet it is one book, and one voice speaks through its pages. Spurgeon once said of his experience with this book: “When I see it, I seem to hear a voice springing up from it, saying, ‘I am the book of God; man, read me. I am God’s writing; open my leaf, for I was penned by God; read it, for He is my author.’”

This book declares of itself: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God.” 2 Tim. 3:16. “The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” 2 Peter 1:21. As the rugged verse of the old hymn puts it:

> “Let all the heathen writers join To form one perfect book: Great God, if once compared with Thine How mean their writings look!

> “Not the most perfect rules they gave Could show one sin forgiven, Nor lead a step beyond the grave; But Thine conducts to heaven.”

It is the voice of the Almighty. Very different it is from the sacred books of the non-Christian religions. In those writings it is man speaking about God; in the Holy Scriptures it is God speaking to man. The difference is as great as heaven is higher than earth. Here it is not man groping in the darkness after God. In this book of
God’s revelation we see the divine arm reaching down to save the lost, and hear the voice of the loving Father calling to His children, every one and everywhere. “Incline your ear,” He calls; “hear, and your soul shall live.” Isa. 55:3.

**The Word That Creates**

We must have something more than instruction; we must have a word of power that is able to tell of sins forgiven, and to conduct us beyond the grave to heaven. One of the greatest of China’s sages, Mencius, said, “Instruction can impart information, but not the power to execute.” That touches the crucial point. We must have instruction that can come with power divine to execute. We have it only in God’s words. Christ said:

> “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” John 6:63.

The words of God are living words. Then God spoke in the beginning, “Let there be light,” and the light sprang out of the darkness. There was power in the word spoken to bring forth. “Let the earth bring forth grass,” was the word of the Lord: and the earth was carpeted with its first rich greensward. So through all the work of creation, the creative power was in the word spoken.

> “By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.”
> “He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” Ps. 33:6, 9.

Even so, when this word speaks instruction to man, there is creative power in the word, if received, to work mightily in the soul that is dead in trespasses and sins. Man must be born again, be re-created. That we know; for Christ says, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3.

And the word of God—the Bible from heaven—received by faith, is the agency by which this new birth “from above” is wrought. This is the declaration of our text: “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.” 1 Peter 1:23.

**The Word That Works Within**

Not only does the word of God give the new birth, making the believer a new man,--the past forgiven and a new heart within,--but the word that re-creates abides in the believing heart that studies it and clings to it, to work in the life with actual power that is not of man himself. To the Thessalonians, who had “turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,” the apostle wrote:

> “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.” 1 Thess. 2:13.

The word itself works within, and works effectually. There is nothing mechanical about it. The mere letter profits nothing. The Bible on the center table, unstudied and unloved, has no magic power. But God promises to abide by His Spirit of power in the heart that listens to His voice and trembles at His word. Jesus Himself tells us the secret of this power of the word to work in
the believing heart:

“If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” John 14:23.

No wonder, then, that believing and receiving the word brings divine power into the life, making it possible for transformations of character to be wrought, for victories to be won and obedience rendered to every command of God.

Simply believing God’s word touches the current of everlasting power, even as the trolley arm of the electric car reaches up and touches the current of power flowing through the wire overhead. The faith that takes the living word brings the power divine into the heart to move all the spiritual mechanism of life’s service.

**The Word Our Safety and Defense**

When Christ came to live as our example in the flesh, and to give His life a sacrifice for sin, He, the divine Son of God, made Himself like unto His brethren. “I can of Mine own self do nothing,” He said. John 5:30. Tempted and tried, He found His defense in the Holy Scriptures. When Satan came to tempt Him to sin, the Saviour said, “It is written.” He clung to the sure defense. Again the tempter came. He was met with the word, “It is written again.” The third time it was the same weapon of defense, “It is written.” Matt. 4:1-11.

Christ found safety only in the Scriptures of truth. So the Bible is the Christian’s shield against the enemy’s attacks. As Jesus studied the Scriptures and kept the words ever in His heart for a defense against temptation, so must every Christian study and meditate upon God’s Holy Word if its counsels and precepts are to be his defense in the moment of sudden temptation to sin. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart,” said the psalmist, “that I might not sin against Thee.” Ps. 119:11. It was the only way for Christ, our Pattern; it is the only way for us.

**The Bread of Life**

The word of God is the daily food for the soul. “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Matt. 4:4.

Who has not, in hurried times, missed a meal, working on through the day, never thinking of the prolonged fast? But after a time there came a sense of weakening force, a lack of physical power. What was the trouble? At once the reason was evident— one had not taken food, and the system was calling for a renewal of its forces. Just so the spiritual life must needs be fed by the word of God.

Do we at times feel a sense of weakening of the spiritual power, a letting down of the vital forces of the soul? Ah, in the hurry of life we have neglected to feed upon the living bread. We can no more sustain spiritual vigor and health without feeding daily upon God’s Holy Word than we can maintain physical power without eating our daily bread. Eat of the life-giving word. The taste of it grows with the partaking.


From *Our Day in the Light of Prophecy* by W.A. Spicer, Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1917
Feel sick? Immune system down?
Sensing sickness coming on?
Fight back with Ultra Fighter!

Ultra Fighter is our one-two punch for taking down the illnesses trying to take YOU down!

Ultra Fighter is a combination of powerful herbs and extracts designed to strengthen your immune system, while aiding in the prevention of viral, fungal, and bacterial infections.

Discover some of the benefits of the 14 extraordinary ingredients in Ultra Fighter:

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Although modern medicine has provided us with antibiotics, most of the antibiotics used today are synthetic chemicals. While these drugs may help kill the “bad” bacteria, unfortunately they also kill the “good” bacteria. This can weaken your immune system, leaving you more susceptible to illness.

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1. To which member of her family did Ellen White write: “When all around me are locked in slumber, I am kept awake with anxiety about your spiritual condition?
   a. James White  
   b. Willie White  
   c. Edson White  
   d. Robert Harmon

2. Who was elected General Conference president in 1865?
   a. James White  
   b. Uriah Smith  
   c. J. N. Loughborough  
   d. Joseph Bates

3. What sort of illness affected James White in 1865 near the close of the civil war?
   a. heart disease  
   b. asthma  
   c. pneumonia  
   d. stroke

4. Which Doctor offered some of the best water-and-sunshine treatments available in the country at that time?
   a. Dr. Samson  
   b. Dr. Hill  
   c. Dr. Jackson  
   d. Dr. Smith

5. What other treatments did the doctor in #4 give that made Ellen White become increasingly worried about his treatments?
   a. strenuous exercise  
   b. drug therapy  
   c. meat eating for strength  
   d. dancing and playing cards to help patients relax

6. What health institution was founded in 1866 in response to an Ellen White vision?
   a. The Western Health Reform Institute  
   b. The Battle Creek Sanitarium  
   c. Little Creek Health Institute and Sanitarium  
   d. Sand Hills Sanitarium

7. How many children were born into the J. P. Kellogg family?
   a. 4  
   b. 8  
   c. 16  
   d. 10

8. How tall was John Harvey Kellogg?
   a. 5'4"  
   b. 6'7  
   c. 5'6"  
   d. 5'8

9. How old was John Harvey Kellogg when he became a proof reader for the SDA publishing house?
   a. 10  
   b. 12  
   c. 14  
   d. 21

10. Where did John Harvey Kellogg receive his medical training?
    a. Dr. Trall’s Hygeio-Therapeutic College in New Jersey  
    b. The medical college of Ann Arbor, Michigan  
    c. Bellevue Medical College in New York City  
    d. Harvard Medical School

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.”

Answers:  1. c;  2. a;  3. d;  4. c;  5. d;  6. a;  7. c;  8. a;  9. c;  10. a,b,&c

These questions came from: Tell It To The World by C. Mervyn Maxwell, published by Pacific Press 1976, 1977
Influenza Part 2:
Seasonal Flu vs. Swine Flu

I had a little bird,
Its name was Enza,
I opened the window,
And in-flew-enza.
-American Skipping Rhyme circa 1918

Last month I addressed a few aspects of "seasonal" flu and the effectiveness of seasonal flu shots. I reported that in less than 3 weeks (according to the World Health Organization), 1,419 people were confirmed infected in at least 21 countries and there were 30 confirmed deaths. Those numbers are already on the rise. Four days ago, there were 3,440 confirmed cases of "swine" flu in 29 countries, with 48 deaths from the sickness. As of today, the number of confirmed H1N1 flu cases worldwide has skyrocketed to 11,000 people in 41 countries and including 85 deaths. (1) Yet, although these numbers are getting high, most of us are still fairly unaffected by this illness, and are wondering if there is really any cause for concern.

The CDC “about 36,000 people die from flu-related causes” (2) each year. Yet, “according to the CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), “influenza and pneumonia” took 62,034 lives in 2001—61,777 of which were attributed to pneumonia and 257 to flu, and in only 18 cases was flu virus positively identified. (3) So we’re talking about 18 actual, confirmed, for-sure cases, 257 possible cases, and 36,000 “estimated” cases of “seasonal” flu. So why, all of a sudden, are reports all over the news now saying that seasonal flu kills over 500,000 people each year? It seems they are downplaying the severity of the swine flu and trying to make everyone feel like the seasonal flu is the one to worry about. “Unfortunately, the cause of most deaths that may be related to influenza is not verified by any virological testing for infection by the virus… Most often there is no evidence of what virus or other agent was the cause of death, especially for viral pneumonias.” (4)

Now, I’m not saying that there are “only” 18 deaths from the flu each year. I’m sure there are more than those, and many more that are related. But what is so interesting is that they can drastically over-exaggerate the numbers for seasonal flu, yet for this new outbreak, they are only counting the cases that have actually been confirmed in a laboratory. This of course will prevent widespread panic, but will it also cause people not to prepare in case this is the next big pandemic? Will it cause them to eat, drink, and be merry with no concern for what could be coming?

Last month I ended the article with a couple unanswered questions:
1. Is Swine Flu (H1N1) the same as the “regular” flu that goes around each year?
2. Is there really anything to worry about?

The Spanish Flu of 1919

“Around Thanksgiving 2005 a teenage boy helped his brother-in-law butcher 31 pigs at a local Wisconsin slaughterhouse, and a week later the 17-year-old pinned down another pig while it was gutted. In the lead-up to the holidays the boy’s family bought a chicken and kept the animal in their home, out of the harsh Sheboygan autumn. On Dec. 7, the teenager came down with the flu, suffering an illness that lasted three days. He visited a local clinic, then fully recovered, and nobody else in his family took ill.

This incident would hardly seem worth mentioning except that the influenza virus that infected the Wisconsin lad was unlike any previously seen. It appeared to be a mosaic of a wild-bird form of flu, a human type, and a strain found in pigs. It was an H1N1 swine influenza. Largely ignored at the time, the Wisconsin virus was a step along the evolutionary tree, leading to a virus that four years later would stun the world.” (5)

Unlike any previously seen virus

Have you ever heard of the Spanish Flu/1918 Flu? If not, don’t feel bad, many people haven’t. In fact, it is almost as if it has been erased from our history books and our memories. When asked, the majority of people say they had never even been taught about it in school. Yet it wasn’t some strange rare disease that only killed 2 people on some remote island. This was a disease that struck in pandemic proportions, killing both the young and the old indiscriminately. This disease killed more people than all of the
The plague took off in September of that year, and when it was over, more than a half million Americans would lie dead. The illness spread to the most remote parts of the globe. Some Eskimo villages were decimated, nearly eliminated from the face of the earth. Twenty percent of western Samoans perished. Children were orphaned, families destroyed. Some who lived through it said it was so horrible that they would not even talk about it. Others tried to put it behind them as another wartime nightmare, somehow conflating it with the horrors of trench warfare and mustard gas. It came when the world was weary of war. It swept the globe in months, ending when the war did. It went away as mysteriously as it appeared.

They call the plague of 1918 “influenza”, but it was like no influenza ever seen before. It was more like a biblical prophecy come true. Like something from the book of Revelation.

When the strange new disease was finally identified, it turned out to be a very old and familiar one: influenza: the flu. But it was unlike any flu that any one had ever seen. (10) Young people in strapping good health and without symptoms could be struck suddenly and within hours be too feeble to walk. Many died the very next day.

**A TINY, SILENT COMPANION**

“That summer and fall, over one and a half million Americans crossed the Atlantic for war. But some of those doughboys came from Kansas. And they’d brought something with them: a tiny, silent companion. Almost immediately, the Kansas sickness resurfaced in Europe. American soldiers got sick. English soldiers. French. German. As it spread, the microbe mutated -- day by day becoming more and more deadly. By the time the silent traveler came back to America, it had become a relentless killer.” (8)

When the disease re-emerged in America in September, it began gaining publicity. It was announced that the flu had reached “epidemic” proportions. But most officials, however, failed to recognize the growing threat. The Health Commissioner of New York City at the time, Royal Copeland, even issued a contrary statement saying, “The City is in no danger of an epidemic. No need for our people to worry.” Right before the surge of the pandemic, San Francisco public health officials had been downplaying the potential dangers of the flu. Dr. William Hassler, Chief of San Francisco’s Board of Health, had gone so far as to predict that the flu would not even reach the city. That was in early September.

People wanted to think that this influenza was similar to a common cold or regular seasonal flu, but this strain of influenza, H1N1, was far from innocuous.

The same month (September), it began to strike the military bases.

Dr. Victor Vaughn, acting Surgeon General of the Army, received urgent orders to proceed to Camp Devens near Boston. Once there, what Vaughn saw would change his life forever. In a letter written to a fellow physician, Dr. Vaughn wrote: “I saw hundreds of young stalwart men in uniform coming into the wards of the hospital. Every bed was full, yet others crowded in. The faces wore a bluish cast; a cough brought up the blood-stained sputum.” (9)

“On the day that Vaughn arrived at Camp Devens, 63 men died from influenza. An autopsy revealed lungs that were swollen, filled with fluid, and strangely blue. Doctors were stunned: what was happening to these lungs? When the strange new disease was finally identified, it turned out to be a very old and familiar one: influenza: the flu. But it was unlike any flu that any one had ever seen.” (10) Young people in strapping good health and without symptoms could be struck suddenly and within hours be too feeble to walk. Many died the very next day.

**DESIGNER FACE MASKS**

Attempts were made to keep the disease from spreading. Red Cross workers worked tirelessly around the clock making gauze masks and helping the sick. Flu masks were so common, fashion designers began to make them out of expensive fabrics and sell them as a fashion accessory. No one would be caught outdoors without one, as the disease continued its ravaging course. Yet, “the number of cases sometimes jumped by 800 or more people a day, and...
H1N1

citizens were advised to cease shaking hands. Libraries stopped circulating books, and Dr. [Royal] Copeland’s calls for calm sounded less cavalier and more urgent.” (11)

It was now that they began to enforce rules to try to stop this deadly virus.

But it was too late. The disease had already started to spread...and rapidly. Houses were quarantined, and no one was allowed in or out. Wearing gauze masks became mandatory. While some cities enforced mask laws, some were even under martial law. (Keep in mind, this is the same month that authorities in San Francisco and New York said there was nothing to fear!) Posters and signs were posted throughout cities all over the country. Yet the disease kept spreading. Spitting was prohibited. “Chicago police officers were ordered to arrest anyone sneezing or coughing in public. In Nashville, all public gatherings— including in movie houses, dance halls and pool parlors—were prohibited. Even ministers were ordered not to hold church services.” (12)

NO CONTROLLING THIS DEADLY VIRUS

Despite these efforts, there was no controlling this deadly virus. It just kept spreading and spreading. It was just so easily transmitted. Just one cough or sneeze could release millions of droplets of virus and infect countless other people. In the month of September, some 12,000 people died of influenza in America. But those numbers would soon be dwarfed. For the full horror now began. October would be the cruelest month. “One agonized official in the stricken east sent an urgent warning west: Hunt up your

wood-workers and set them to making coffins. Then take your street laborers and set them to digging graves.” (13)

“The morgues were packed almost to the ceiling with bodies stacked one on top of another. The morticians worked day and night,” wrote Navy nurse Josie Brown, who was stationed at Great Lakes Naval Station near Chicago. “You could never turn around without seeing a big red truck loaded with caskets for the train station so bodies could be sent home. We didn’t have the time to treat them. We didn’t take temperatures; we didn’t even have time to take blood pressure. We would give them a little hot whisky toddy; that’s about all we had time to do. They would have terrific nosebleeds with it. Sometimes the blood would just shoot across the room. You had to get out of the way or someone’s nose would bleed all over you.” (14)

In Philadelphia, death carts roamed the city. It was a scene from the time of the Black Plague. So many people died until they were instructed to ask for wooden boxes and to put the corpse on the front porches. An open truck came through the neighborhoods and picked up the bodies. Still, the dead sometimes lay in the gutters, abandoned. Over at Potter’s Field, they began to use a steam shovel to dig trenches. For graves. Mass graves. (15)

Death carts roamed the city

“The doctors didn’t know what to do for the treatment of these patients. The ambulances would arrive in the morning, the drivers would bring in four living patients, but the nurses would go ahead and wrap these patients in the winding sheets and they would put toe tags on the boys before they were even dead. One doctor told a patient’s wife, this is my
twenty-fifth case. And I’ve lost the first twenty-four. A twelve-year-old boy was told by his doctor, “Get on the waiting list for a casket”. “(16)

Acting Surgeon General Dr. Victor Vaughn wrote: “Two hours after admission they have the mahogany spots over the cheek bones, and a few hours later you can begin to see the cyanosis extending from their ears and spreading all over the face, until it is hard to distinguish the colored men from the white. It is only a matter of a few hours then until death comes, and it is simply a struggle for air until they suffocate. It is horrible.” (17)

Soldiers dropped like flies on the battle front, not from injuries of war, but from this deadly bug. In an Alaskan village, out of 77 adults in the village, 72 died. Leaving only 5 adults and 46 orphaned children. The flu was so bad that during the year of 1918 the average American lifespan dropped by at least 12 years.

Just one month after the declaration of safety and being told that the flu would not reach epidemic proportions, 851 people died of the flu in a single day in New York alone! As the death tolls rose, violence broke out. In San Francisco, where they had been assured previously that the flu would not reach, a Health Department inspector shot a man who refused to wear a mask. In Chicago, a worker shouted, “I’ll cure them my own way!” and then cut the throats of his wife and four children. Headlines read: “Flu Five Times Deadlier Than World War.” (18)

IN LESS THAN 3 MONTHS IT COVERED THE GLOBE
The world was not ready for what was still about to come. October saw the epidemic’s full horror: more than 195,000 people died in America alone in that one month. According to W.H.O, the 1918 pandemic is considered one of the deadliest disease events in human history. By the time the flu was finished, an estimated 50 million people died worldwide. To put these numbers into perspective: the 1918 H1N1 flu killed as many as 25 million people in its first 25 weeks. In contrast, AIDS has killed 25 million people in its first 25 years. It took less than one month to cover the entire United States, and less than 3 months to cover the globe. And that was in 1918! Can you imagine today, with our means of travel, how fast a virus could move?

Could this happen today?

Do you even remember the Avian Flu scare a few years back? It seems as though with this new epidemic on the rise, no one is talking much about the “Bird Flu” anymore. Like the Bird Flu, the 1918 Influenza was an avian flu virus that passed to humans after slowly mutating.

“When a young girl in Southeast Asia died of the Avian flu, a researcher took notice. Robert Webster of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis has studied viruses for 40 years and says he has never seen the likes of one like the one that killed this girl. “This virus right from scratch is probably the worst influenza virus, in terms of being highly pathogenic [disease-producing], that I’ve ever seen or worked with,” Webster says.” [Including the 1918 Flu] Not only is it frighteningly lethal to chickens, which can die within hours of exposure, swollen and hemorrhaging, but it kills mammals from lab mice to tigers with similar efficiency.” (19)

WHAT HAPPENS IF BIRD FLU MEETS SWINE FLU?

“Bird flu kills more than 60 percent of its human victims, but doesn’t easily pass from person to person. Swine Flu can be spread with a sneeze or handshake, but kills only a small fraction of the people it infects. So what happens if they mix? This is the scenario that has some scientists worried: The two viruses meet - possibly in Asia, where bird flu is endemic - and combine into a new bug that is both highly contagious and lethal, and can spread around the world. Scientists are unsure how likely this possibility is, but note that the new swine flu strain - a never-before-seen mixture of pig, human and bird viruses - has shown itself to be especially adept at snatching evolutionarily advantageous genetic material from other flu viruses. “This particular virus seems to have this unique ability to pick up other genes,” said leading virologist Dr. Robert Webster” (20)

“For an avian flu and a human flu to mix it up, they have to infect the same animal. Scientists have long considered the pig a likely mixing vessel, because pig cells have surface molecules that allow entry to both kinds of viruses. A pig could conceivably catch a human flu from a farmer and a bird virus from, say, ducks at the same farm. The two viruses could then “reassort”, creating a hybrid that - in the worst case - would now be able to infect human cells while still carrying bird-virus genes that would make it radically new to the immune system of the people who catch it, and unusually virulent. (21)

POSSIBLY 20 YEARS TO EVOLVE

Ann Reid, a molecular biologist, has performed studies that indicate that the 1918 virus apparently evolved over a period of years before it matured into a virus strong enough to kill millions. The study speculates that the virus may have percolated in humans as early as 1900. So, it started almost 20 years before the pandemic actually broke loose.

“Every year, the world catches a new influenza virus. Many people become infected, and many die. But what made the 1918 pandemic so particularly deadly? Like other viruses, the influenza virus changes constantly. This mutation, or antigenic drift, normally causes only minor changes... However, as historical records dating from the 1700s show, every 10 to 40 years the world suffers a global flu pandemic, the result of a major antigenic drift. The virus mutates so much that the human body no longer recognizes it and is left defenseless.” (22)

“History tells us we are ready for another pandemic,” says Kirsty Duncan, Spanish flu researcher and author of Hunting the 1918 Flu: One Scientist’s Search for a Killer Virus. “In many ways we are even more vulnerable now than in 1918. We travel and tour the world more. You can travel from one continent to another in a matter of hours now. Someone unknowingly harboring a disease can

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London—Tens of thousands of Irish children were sexually, physically and emotionally abused by nuns, priests and others over 60 years in a network of church-run residential schools meant to care for the poor, the vulnerable and the unwanted, according to a report released in Dublin… “A climate of fear, created by pervasive, excessive and arbitrary punishment, permeated most of the institutions,” the report says. In the boys’ schools, it says, sexual abuse was “endemic.” It exposes for the first time the scope of the problem in Ireland, as well as how the government and the church colluded in perpetuating an abusive system. David Clohessy, director of the Survivors Network of Those abused by Priests, said that while the report had failed in its duty to bring the perpetrators to justice, it had been clear about the failings of the church. “While horrific, widespread reports of abuse and cover-up are sadly quite common, the significance here is that a government panel is conclusively saying that the finger-pointing and blame shifting and excuse-making of the church hierarchy is bogus.”

End Time Perspective: “I have had this class of sins presented to me as producing moral defilement. What can the impression be upon those youth whose bodies you degrade by your actions? How can you be a shepherd of the sheep and lambs while corrupting their minds, and tainting and polluting their moral sense? This is a crime in the sight of God and I cannot cover it over as a light matter. It is a Sodomitish sin. It is tainting and polluting in all its tendencies, and an abomination in the sight of a holy God. It is practicing iniquity… Human beings are the Lord’s property, and to do any action to corrupt them is a terrible insult to Jesus Christ, who gave His life for these precious souls, that they should not perish in their sins, but have everlasting life, and such actions may ruin the souls for whom Christ has died.” [TSB 125]

End Time Perspective #2: “And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” Revelation 18:1-5

2. Time Magazine, June 1, 2009—THE WORLD, page 16—“Ignoble Exit”

London—Michael Martin became the first Speaker of the British House of Commons in 300 years to be ousted, resigning May 19 amid an outcry over his attempt to block London’s Daily Telegraph from publishing details of lawmakers’ expense account abuses. So far, 80 members of Parliament have been singled out for absurd write-offs, from porn to diapers.

End Time Perspective: “We are living in the midst of an “epidemic of crime,” at which thoughtful, God-fearing men everywhere stand aghast. The corruption that prevails, it is beyond the power of the human pen to describe. Every day brings fresh revelations of political strife, bribery, and fraud…Who can doubt that satanic agencies are at work among men with increasing activity to distract and corrupt the mind?… And while the world is filled with these evils, the gospel is too often presented in so indifferent a manner as to make but little impression upon the consciences or the lives of men.” [CH 25]

3. Time Magazine, June 1, 2009—THE WORLD, page 17—“Keeping Tabs on Pakistan’s Nukes”

Despite Pakistan’s assurance that its nuclear materials are safe even amid increasing political instability, some U.S. officials are voicing concerns. Just days after Admiral Mike Mullen noted that there is evidence that Islamabad is adding to its nuclear arsenal (which it denies), CIA Director Leon Panetta admitted on May 18 that the U.S. does not know where all of Pakistan’s nuclear weapons
Health Gem
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bring it from one country to another, passing the disease along to other travelers before they ever show signs of the disease.” (23)

DEAD BEFORE THE SUN WENT DOWN

In March and April of 1918 the first Spanish flu (H1N1) was reported in Kansas and New York, and it was not very lethal. Neither is the Swine Flu so far. The early reports of the 1918 flu sounded remarkably similar to those of a few weeks ago as the first cases of Swine Flu were being confirmed in the United States. In August 1918 a Times headline simply read “Spanish Influenza Found in ‘Mild Form’. That same month, the flu hit in a second wave that was so deadly, it killed before enough coffins could be made. People were up and fine in the morning and then dead before the sun went down, all over the world.

So, is the Swine Flu the same as the “regular” seasonal flu? Not even close. Do we have anything to worry about? There is no telling how this virus might mutate. This may be the next big pandemic, or it could just putter out. There is simply no way of telling. However, what we can do is give our bodies the correct nutrition and supplementation so that if this bug does come back with a vengeance this fall, we are prepared to meet it. “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

How was Spanish flu defeated? Were vaccines effective? What can you do to prepare your body and mind in case of a deadly global pandemic? Stay tuned next month to find out!

4. How do we know how many people die from flu each year?, http://scienceblogs.com/effectmeasure/2009/05/how_do_we_know_how_many_people.php, May 4, 2009
5. The Path of a Pandemic, Newsweek, May 18, 2009
6. Flu: The Story Of The Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918 and the Search for the Virus that Caused It, Gina Kolata
7. The American Experience: Influenza 1918, PBS Program Transcript
8. The American Experience: Influenza 1918, PBS Program Transcript
9. A Letter from Camp Devens, Massachusetts, Dr. Victor Vaughn, 29 Sept. 1918
10. The American Experience: Influenza 1918, PBS Program Transcript
13. The American Experience: Influenza 1918, PBS Program Transcript
15. The American Experience: Influenza 1918, PBS Program Transcript
16. The American Experience: Influenza 1918, PBS Program Transcript
17. A Letter from Camp Devens, Massachusetts, Dr. Victor Vaughn, 29 Sept. 1918
19. Tracking The Next Killer Flu, National Geographic, October 2005
21. Tracking The Next Killer Flu, National Geographic, October 2005

End Time Perspective: “Whereunto, asked Christ, ‘shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?’ Mark 4:30. He could not employ the kingdoms of the world as a similitude. In society He found nothing with which to compare it. Earthly kingdoms rule by the ascendancy of physical power; but from Christ’s kingdom every carnal weapon, every instrument of coercion, is banished.” (AA 12) “The Word must be our weapon of warfare.” (Ev 489)

If you’re recently unemployed and worried about the cost of medication, Pfizer wants to help. The world’s largest pharmaceutical firm announced plans to provide free one-year supplies of more than 70 of its most widely prescribed drugs—including Viagra and Liptor—to Americans laid off since Jan.1 who have been taking the drugs for at least three months. Sure beats sneaking them in from Canada.

End Time Perspective: “ My dear friends, instead of taking a course to baffle disease, you are petting it and yielding to its power. You should avoid the use of drugs, and carefully observe the laws of health. If you regard your life, you should eat plain food, prepared in the simplest manner, and take more physical exercise. Each member of the family needs the benefits of health reform. But drugging should be forever abandoned; for while it does not cure any malady, it enfeebles the system, making it more susceptible to disease.” [CD 82]
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- According to one study, Anamú was found to reduce blood sugar levels in fasting mice by more than 60% within one hour after its administration. This apparent hypoglycemic activity indicates the possible benefits of using Anamú in the treatment of diabetes. *Source:* "Anamú, Study of the Hypoglycemic Effect." Med Interne; 1990, 28(4), 347-352

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- Anamú leaves have been found to contain several active constituents, namely tannins, sennols, polyphenols, and an antibiotic compound called benzyl-2-hydroxyethyl-trisulfide. This latter substance may be responsible for the majority of anamú’s immune-enhancing properties. *Source:* Duke PhD, J. Dr. Duke’s Phytochemical and Ethnobotanical Databases

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Editor’s note: The following quotes are from the book, God’s Amazing Grace; Please send your favorite quotes—Help to get our people ready!

“We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Eph. 6:12.

“The fallen world is the battlefield for the greatest conflict the heavenly universe and earthly powers have ever witnessed. It was appointed as a theater on which would be fought out the grand struggle between good and evil, between heaven and hell. Every human being acts a part in this conflict. No one can stand on neutral ground. Men must either accept or reject the world’s Redeemer. All are witnesses, either for or against Christ. Christ calls upon those who stand under His banner to engage in the conflict with Him as faithful soldiers, that they may inherit the crown of life.” AG 36

“The message that we have to bear is not one that we need cringe to declare. Its advocates are not to seek to cover it, to conceal its origin and purpose. As those who have made solemn vows to God, and who have been commissioned as the messengers of Christ, as stewards of the mysteries of grace, we are under obligation to declare faithfully the whole counsel of God.” AG 59

“We are not to make less prominent the special truths that have separated us from the world, and made us what we are; for they are fraught with eternal interests. God has given us light in regard to the things that are now taking place, and with pen and voice we are to proclaim the truth to the world.” AG 59

“No one was so exalted as Christ, and yet He stooped to the humblest duty. . . . Christ Himself set the example of humility. He would not leave this great subject in man's charge. Of so much consequence did He regard it, that He Himself, One equal with God, acted as servant to His disciples. While they were contending for the highest place, He to whom every knee shall bow, He whom the angels of glory count it honor to serve, bowed down to wash the feet of those who called Him Lord. He washed the feet of His betrayer. . . . His whole life was under a law of service. He served all, ministered to all. Thus He lived the law of God, and by His example showed how we are to obey it.” AG 106

“It is God’s purpose that His people shall be a sanctified, purified, holy people, communicating light to all around them. It is His purpose that, by exemplifying the truth in their lives, they shall be a praise in the earth. The grace of Christ is sufficient to bring this about.

“There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. All who consecrate body, soul, and spirit to His service will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical, mental, and spiritual power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own Spirit, the life of His own life. The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in mind and heart. Through the grace given us we may achieve victories that because of our own erroneous and preconceived opinions, our defects of character, our smallness of faith, have seemed impossible.

“To everyone who offers himself to the Lord for service, withholding nothing, is given power for the attainment of measureless results.” AG 208

“Would that all might feel that every step they take may have a lasting and controlling influence upon their own lives and the characters of others. Oh, how much need, then, of communion with God! What need of divine grace to direct every step, and show us how to perfect Christian characters!” AG 311

“To have fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ is to be ennobled and elevated, and made a partaker of joys unspeakable and full of glory. Food, clothing, station, and wealth may have their value; but to have a connection with God and to be a partaker of His divine nature is of priceless value. Our lives should be hid with Christ in God; and although it ‘doth not yet appear what we shall be,’ ‘when Christ, who is our life, shall appear’ (Col. 3:4), ‘we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.’ The princely dignity of the Christian character will shine forth as the sun, and the beams of light from the face of Christ will be reflected upon those who have purified themselves even as He is pure. The privilege of becoming sons of God is cheaply purchased, even at the sacrifice of everything we possess, be it life itself.” AG 341
"We should be much in secret prayer. Christ is the vine, ye are the branches. And if we would grow and flourish, we must continually draw sap and nourishment from the Living Vine. For separated from the Vine we have no strength."

I asked the angel why there was no more faith and power in Israel. He said, “Ye let go of the arm of the Lord too soon. Press your petitions to the throne, and hold on by strong faith. The promises are sure. Believe ye receive the things ye ask for, and ye shall have them.” — Early Writings, 73

(These quotations are found also in the book Power of Prayer by Ellen G. White, available at Hope International Bookstore for $8.99.)