Clark Floyd

This morning as I walked my dogs, I experienced an unusual occurrence. The dogs began barking and looking upward. As I looked up, I noticed the object of their consternation—high among the limbs of the giant Poplar trees I was under, a squirrel was taking long leaps from one branch to another, from one tree to another. It was amazing to see the distance he could hop between trees. I wondered if he was purposely teasing the dogs. Then it happened. He missed a branch, and I could see him falling, almost directly toward me. He hit fairly close to my feet, and the dogs came scurrying after him. But he didn't lose a beat. He was up and running as soon as he hit, and to the dogs' great dismay, he was up another tree before they could get to him.

I find that with the cats and dogs that we have at our home, many of the little creatures, the mice, the chipmunks, and the squirrels are often at risk. Even the larger animals are sometimes at risk because of coyotes in the area, although the coyotes very seldom come close to the house.

The lead article of our magazine this month depicts two times of extremely great risk to the people of this world. The first was at the time of the flood that filled the whole earth with water, and the second will be with the lake of fire. The majority of the people in both instances was lost or will be lost because of their failure to fully accept the invitation of our God to be aboard an ark of safety to be provided by Him.

As Seventh-day Adventists we realize or should realize how close we are to the end, and that difficult times are ahead of us. Hopefully we are daily seeking to bring Jesus more fully into our lives, and to get self out.

I am reminded of a quote in Christ's Object Lessons at page 69: “Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.” It then goes on to say, “It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

We, however, also know that as we get closer to the end, God's people will be persecuted. “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” 2nd Timothy 3:12.

As I realize the times we are in, I have a desire to not only encourage our readers in their own lives, but also to encourage their outreach to others. Prayerfully, you will use my article in regard to a return in unbelief in your discussions with you dispensationalist friends.

In your personal lives I would recommend that you use your times of walking, your times of driving, your times of wakefulness, and at night, to commit more Scripture to memory, maybe even some of the promises in Scripture.

2nd Corinthians 1:20 reads, “For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”

A Scripture that I have recently been memorizing is Psalm 91. It contains many promises that seem to apply to the time that we are in. It begins with, “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”

In Volume 3 of the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, page 843, we read, “When we are ‘admitted into closest intimacy and communion with God’, we may be said to dwell ‘in the secret place of the most High’.”

The psalm speaks of deliverance and protection from pestilence, plague and other evil. It speaks of a thousand falling at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it not coming upon you. It speaks of the Lord giving His angels charge over you to keep you in all your ways.

I would recommend this psalm being put to the memory of every Christian.

The psalm ends with the statements, “I will be with him in trouble (could that be the time of trouble?); I will deliver him and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.”
Contents

December 2009 • Volume 24, Number 12

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

Executive Director:
Joe Olson executivedirector@hopeint.org

Editor:
Clark Floyd editorial@hopeint.org

Director of Hope For Health:
Heather Olson, N.D., R.N., C.H. hopeforhealth@hopeint.org

Bookstore Manager:
Kaye Olson shipping@hopeint.org

Layout & Design:
Jessica Sipe www.wavelinedirect.com

About Hope International:
We are a lay ministry founded, supported, and operated by Seventh-day Adventists to assist God’s Church in the proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel in every way that is consistent with the principles of God as revealed in Inspiration.

Invitation to Writers
We are accepting article-length manuscripts (1700 to 4000 words) for possible publication in Our Firm Foundation. We prefer that submissions be submitted in Word .doc format as a computer file. Include a digital picture and a short bio. Please address all correspondence to Editor, Our Firm Foundation, P.O. Box 220, Knoxville, IL 61448, or by email to editorial@hopeint.org.

Subscription Information: See page 29 • Shipping & Sales Tax: See page 29

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

Editorial

Our Firm Foundation
submissions be submitted in Word .doc format as a computer file. Include a digital picture and a short bio. Please address all correspondence to Editor, Our Firm Foundation, P.O. Box 220, Knoxville, IL 61448, or by email to editorial@hopeint.org.

Subscription Information: See page 29 • Shipping & Sales Tax: See page 29

Content credited in this publication is the property of its respective owner(s) and is licensed or used with permission. Other items are the property of Hope International.

Hope International
P.O. Box 220
Knoxville, Illinois
61448 USA

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Central Time • Friday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Central Time
Phone: 309.343.1844 • Fax: 309.343.3721 • Email: office@hopeint.org • Web: www.hopeint.org

cover story

06 The Lake of Water and the Lake of Fire
Joe Olson

features

04 The Bible Museum Opened
A.L.O.E

12 The Bible Looking Glass
John W. Barber

14 The Seal of God
Ellen G. White

18 A Return In Unbelief
Clark Floyd

21 Concerning Trials
Elder M. E. Kellogg

24 Trust
Pauline S. Fife

departments

02 Editorial

23 Historical Footnotes

25 Health Gem
Thyroid Problems, Alzheimer’s, and Cognitive Decline

28 News Watch

31 Annual Index for the Year 2009

ad features

27 Mega-Multi

30 European Green Clay
Again we enter into the halls of the House Beautiful, the Bible Museum Opened, to gaze upon another reminder from our God of the Biblical history of our past, an object of importance, rescued from oblivion, by the inspired writer, Moses.

**noah's olive-leaf**

Precious little leaf, symbol of hope and of peace; well worthy art thou of being thus preserved for thousands of years, to be viewed by generation after generation of the sons of men as a pledge of God’s loving-kindness! Far more valuable art thou, leaflet once borne in the bill of a bird, than the glittering diadem worn by Solomon in all his glory. With what delight wert thou once hailed by all that survived of mankind, by the whole Church enclosed in the ark; and we can well believe that even in Paradise Noah will dwell with pleasure on the recollection of that moment when he first looked upon thee!

To conceive what must have been the joy felt by the patriarchs at the sight of the first leaf from a renovated world, let us try to realize their position when the dove flew back with that leaf in its bill.

**A PLETHORA OF EMOTIONS**

When Noah and his family first took refuge in the ark, and the windows of heaven were opened, and the fountains of the great deep broken up, their emotions were doubtless those of thankfulness for deliverance and safety, when the great judgment, so long threatened, so long expected, had come at length on the earth. While the storm raged around them, they were secure; the waves that swept over a guilty world could but lift their floating home nearer to heaven! With their emotions of thankfulness would be mixed those of sorrow, pity, regret, for neighbours, perhaps friends and relatives, who had been warned in vain, then perishing beneath the terrible flood. Had not God Himself shut him in, how often would Noah have thrown wide open the door of the ark to receive the poor struggling, drowning wretches, whose dying eyes would be turned to that refuge which they had rejected and despised until it was too late to seek it.

**THE STILLNESS OF DEATH**

But when the flood had fulfilled its terrible mission; when no cries of the drowning were borne on the blast; when the cataract of rain had ceased, and the dashing of waters was heard no more; then the excitement, the strong emotions of the family in the ark must also have sunk into comparative rest. As the wild raging of the tempest was exchanged for the stillness of death, and the great vessel floated tranquilly over placid waters, and week after week, month after month passed, with out bringing a change, great and probably wearisome monotony would pervade the life of the inmates of the ark. That which they had at first rejoiced in as a refuge, would gradually, but increasingly, become to them like a prison. How long were they to be confined within its narrow bounds; when would they be permitted again freely to tread the earth, and partake once more of its fresh produce?

**DID NOAH HAVE REGRETS?**

If the Israelites bitterly recalled to memory the riches of the gardens of Egypt—the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks and the onions—would no such regrets be felt by the family of Noah? Would not woman sigh for the flowers that she had been wont to cherish, and an inexpressible yearning oppress all, a yearning to look once more on the green smiling face of nature? For how many
more months, or years, were weary eyes to rest on the same objects, counting the beams above or the planks below of the now familiar prison? A fear might even arise that the supply of the provisions, however large at first, might fail, and privation and want ensue. The venerable Noah may have waited with unshaken faith and calm submission for the hour of freedom, but it is more than probable that the younger members of his family grew impatient under the restraint of lengthened confinement.

AWAITING THE SIGNAL
At last Noah opened the window of the ark and sent forth a raven. In the monotonous routine of the life which he led, this was an event thought worthy of record; the creature appears to have been sent as a messenger, and its return must have been anxiously awaited. But never again did the dark bird re-enter the ark which he had quitted.

Again Noah sent forth a bird, a dove; but in the beautiful language of Scripture, “the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark.”

THE FIRST LEAF
Not yet had come the signal for release; patience had not yet had its perfect work; the fathers of mankind, the inheritors of the world, must wait longer ere entering into its possession. Seven times the sun rose and set ere the dove was sent forth again by Noah. But this time the gleam of the silver wing was to bring joy to the waiting patriarch: “The dove came in to him in the evening; and lo, in her mouth was an olive-leaf pluckt off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth.” When was earthly treasure ever received with the rapturous welcome given to that leaf; the first brought from a world new-born, as it were, from the dead!

A BEAUTIFUL PARABLE
If we regard the Church of Christ as the ark floating now on the troublous waters of the world, the story of Noah’s olive-leaf becomes a beautiful parable. “How long, Lord, how long,” has been for ages the weary cry of the people of God, waiting and watching for the final deliverance and restitution of all things. They are safe, for they rest in Christ, but the heirs of the new heaven and the new earth may seem to wait in vain. Unbelief suggests the discouraging thought, “since the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” Virtue still suffers; evil still spreads; sin and sorrow, like the waters of the flood, are covering the face of the earth.

THE SAVIOUR’S PROMISE IS OUR OLIVE-LEAF
But there is an olive-leaf still for the family of God in the ark. It is the Saviour’s promise, “I will come again and receive you unto Myself.” To find it and bear it home is not granted to mere human reason, however keen of eye and strong of wing: the raven brought not the emblem of hope. It is the Dove, the Heavenly Comforter alone who brings to the waiting Church, to each weary individual heart, the pledge and promise of a glorious inheritance, when Christ shall return to throw wide open the bolted door, and bid His redeemed come forth to rejoice and to reign for ever!

HAVE YOU REJOICED IN THE PROMISE?
Has the Dove, dear Reader, brought that olive-leaf to your soul; have you rejoiced in the promise? Are you eagerly looking for Him, whom, not having seen, you have loved; and is His word, “I will come again”, more precious to you than thousands of silver and gold? Well may the Christian, looking to the promise, adopt the language of the poet—*

Oh! Who could bear life’s stormy doom,
Did not Thy Heavenly Dove
Come brightly bearing through the gloom
A peace-branch from above!

Then sorrow, touched by Thee, grows bright
With more than rapture’s ray,
As darkness shows us worlds of light
We never saw by day.
The Lake of Water
and the Lake of Fire

By Joe Olson
“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Genesis 1:1. God starts out the story of man with the creation of the world He was going to put him in… or on. When He was done with all He had created for man, He said it was good. When God says something is good, you can correctly assume that it was as perfect as it could be made. When Almighty God goes about to create something, what comes from His hands is altogether lovely and peaceful and surpassing in beauty anything we can today envision.

**GOD’S PLAN**

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” Genesis 1:26. God’s plan, after He made the earth, was to make man, and to have him be in charge of the new earth He had made, along with everything in it. He made man; He made us… in His image. We were made to be like Him. We were made to act like Him, think like Him, love like Him. And speaking of love, God made man an “help meet” or a partner in life, to love and care for, to respect and enjoy the company of.

Everything was lovely, peaceful, calm and joyous. God had made a perfect world with perfect animals and perfect trees and perfect people. Everything made was as God wanted it. But in God’s mind, to have everything be absolutely perfect, man must have the freedom of choice. What kind of joy and happiness could His creation really have, if they HAD to obey and follow His will? For God to have complete satisfaction with His creation, they must see His will and ways and choose to follow it.

**ALL THEIR NEEDS AND WANTS WERE MET**

God gave them everything
they could need or even want. When everything came from God’s hands, nothing could be improved upon. It was perfect. He even made them their own special garden… called Eden. And the man and woman that God created, were taught of God in that garden, every day. God met with them in Eden in the “cool of the day…” “And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...” Genesis 3:8.

Sister White puts it this way… “In His interest for His children, our heavenly Father personally directed their education. Often they were visited by His messengers, the holy angels, and from them received counsel and instruction. Often as they walked in the garden in the cool of the day they heard the voice of God, and face to face held communion with the Eternal.” Ed 21.

And again, in the book MH 261, she writes: “Adam and Eve, in their untainted purity, delighted in the sights and sounds of Eden. God appointed them their work in the garden, “to dress it and to keep it.” Genesis 2:15. Each day’s labor brought them health and gladness, and the happy pair greeted with joy the visits of their Creator, looking upon His creation, all ruined by sin. It had gotten so bad that the Bible says that the people were only evil continually… “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” Genesis 6:5.

They had sinned. Sin began to make everything ugly and imperfect. Sin caused death and decay, which was never part of God’s plan. Sin began to eat away at the people God had made, the animals God had made and even the earth that God had made. It was all beginning to crumble. This perfect world God had made with its perfect people, was becoming a vast cesspool of sin. It had gotten so bad that the Bible says that the people were only evil continually… “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” Genesis 6:5.

**AND THEN CAME SIN**

Then, one day, sin entered the picture. Sin marred the perfection that God had made. Sin began to make everything ugly and imperfect. Sin caused death and decay, which was never part of God’s plan. And sin began to eat away at the people God had made, the animals God had made and even the earth that God had made. It was all beginning to crumble. This perfect world God had made with its perfect people, was becoming a vast cesspool of sin.

It had gotten so bad that the Bible says that the people were only evil continually… “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” Genesis 6:5.

The Hebrew word for “repenteth” is “nacham [naw-cham],” and it means to “sigh or breathe strongly or be sorry.” Can’t you picture it? Can’t you feel the utter resignation of the Creator, looking upon His creation, all ruined by sin? If you were the creator of this world and its inhabitants, how would you feel about sin? Would you want to keep it around? How long would you put up with it? For two thousand years, sin had done nothing but make things worse and worse and worse, until it is so bad that God was sorry that He made man.

It’s a little like having a son, who turns out later in life to rape and murder and destroy and cause all sorts of pain to others. Don’t you imagine if that were your son… you would be sorry you ever even had him? Imagine the mother and father of a Hitler, or other rulers who have killed untold millions... can’t you imagine that they would have wished that the
child had never been born? What if you could do it over? Would you choose to? Or... would you continue to let Hitler, or whomever, continue his reign of terror? If you could begin again, and make a new child, would you do it? Would you try to reverse the pain and misery and destruction that resulted from your first child?

I know I would. I believe I would do the same thing God did. I would start over.

**GOD REVEALED HIS PLAN TO NOAH!**

And so, He decided to destroy all of the sin-infected people and animals and land, clean it up and start over. And He revealed His plan to Noah. Noah was a righteous man. A man who had seen God's desire for this earth and the people God had made, and His love for man, and loved Him back and wanted to follow Him.

So God told Noah to build an ark, because He was going to destroy the world by water, and all who wanted to get in, would be saved from the impending destruction. Noah preached for 120 years, saying God was going to destroy the sin-infected world, and to get into the boat. You know the story. The people didn't believe Noah. They didn't believe that God would destroy the world by water. They said it was impossible. They considered Noah a fanatic. As a result, only Noah and his family got in the ark.

And they were the only ones saved. "And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth." Genesis 7:17.

**EVERY LIVING SUBSTANCE WAS DESTROYED**

What was destroyed by this lake of water... or flood? "And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and all men: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark." Genesis 7:21-23.

Every living substance was destroyed... everything and everyone.

And God started over.

**SIN CAUSES DISBELIEF**

Unfortunately, it did not take long before sin began to rear its ugly head again. Regardless of the fact that God had specifically stated that He wouldn't destroy the world by water again, they didn't believe Him. Sin causes that. Sin causes man to distrust God and what He says. Sin has again gotten so bad that God said He is going to destroy the world one final time... this time with fire... a lake of fire... a "flood" of fire.

And guess what?

Most people do not believe it... again. "It's impossible," they say. "God would never destroy all the people on the earth," they say. They don't believe God. Sin causes that. A lot of people do not even believe there is a God. Sin has caused that as well. It's kind of like the clay pot telling the potter that he did not make the clay pot... it just sort of "became." Uh-huh. And there are many, many people convinced that the pot just "came to be." Sin causes that too.

**THE LAKE OF FIRE**

So, once again, God has to get rid of sin... but this time for good. "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." 2 Peter 3:7.

The "fire" has been reserved... until it is time.

The "lake of fire" is not here yet, but it soon will be. "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth
with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” Revelation 21:8.

Our Creator, just like with Noah and the people before the flood, wanted everyone to be saved. So, He came here personally to explain how everything was going to go down... “As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” Matthew 13:40-42.

Jesus doesn’t want us to die, just like He didn’t want the antediluvians to die. He offered a way of escape now. He offers a way of escape now. “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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” John 3:16-17.

Jesus is our “ark.” Do you believe that? Remember, it was a lack of faith that caused the destruction of the people at the flood. They didn’t believe God when He said He was going to destroy everything. They didn’t believe God, so they didn’t get into the ark.

JESUS IS OUR ARK

Jesus doesn’t want us to die, just like He didn’t want the antediluvians to die. He offered a way of escape then. He offers a way of escape now. “For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matthew 24:38-39.

What do you think He meant by, “they knew not?” Noah preached for 120 years, telling them the flood was coming. How could they not know? They chose not to “know” or understand. They decided not to believe that it was really going to happen.

Do you know people like that today? In spite of what you have said, in spite of what they themselves have heard or read... they simply choose not to believe. But right now, the door to the ark is still open. Right now mercy still opens her hand. But once that door shuts, the time of mercy will be over.

HOW THEY REGRETTED THEIR UNBELIEF!

When the rain began to fall in Noah’s day, this is what they felt... “How those doomed sinners longed for the opportunities which they had slighted! How they pleaded for one hour’s probation, one more privilege of mercy, one call from the lips of Noah! But the sweet voice of mercy was no more to be heard by them.” PP 100.

GOD HAS TOLD US...

The antediluvians were given 2,000 years to believe; we have been given 4,000. God told them He was going to start over. God has told us He is going to start over as well. So, where are we today? “Men are living for the pleasures...
Extravagance pervades all circles of society. Integrity is sacrificed for luxury and display. They that make haste to be rich pervert justice and oppress the poor, and “slaves and souls of men” are still bought and sold. Fraud and bribery and theft stalk unrebuked in high places and in low. The issues of the press teem with records of murder—crimes so cold-blooded and causeless that it seems as though every instinct of humanity were blotted out. And these atrocities have become of so common occurrence that they hardly elicit a comment or awaken surprise. The spirit of anarchy is permeating all nations, and the outbreaks that from time to time excite the horror of the world are but indications of the pent-up fires of passion and lawlessness that, having once escaped control, will fill the earth with woe and desolation. The picture which Inspiration has given of the antediluvian world represents too truly the condition to which modern society is fast hastening. Even now, in the present century, and in professedly Christian lands, there are crimes daily perpetrated as black and terrible as those for which the old-world sinners were destroyed.”

There is hardly a reason for comment after that quote. And please note that that was written before World Wars 1 & 2, before the holocaust, before the Twin Towers were destroyed, and before any of the many terrible things that have happened in the last 100 years!

ARE WE BECOMING HINDU?

And, as if we needed any more proof of where we are now, I read this in an article entitled “We Are All Hindu Now”, by Lisa Miller:

“A Hindu believes there are many paths to God. Jesus is one way, the Qur’an is another, yoga practice is a third. None is better than any other; all are equal. The most traditional, conservative Christians have not been taught to think like this. They learn in Sunday school that their religion is true, and others are false. Jesus said, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.’

Americans are no longer buying it. According to a 2008 Pew Forum survey, 65 percent of us believe that ‘many religions can lead to eternal life’—including 37 percent of white evangelicals, the group most likely to believe that salvation is theirs alone.”

The same article, in addressing how Americans are becoming more Hindu, states: “…here is another way in which Americans are becoming more Hindu: 24 percent of Americans say they believe in reincarnation, according to a 2008 Harris poll.”

GOD STILL HOLDS THE DOOR OPEN

But, in spite of many of us no longer “buying” that Jesus is the only way… In spite of many people believing in reincarnation, rather than salvation… God holds the door open. That makes me fall in love with Him and His ways all over again.

What kind of God would allow this to go on for as long as He has? Only One who loves us more than we could ever even love ourselves. Don’t you want to serve a God like that? What kind of God does any other religion or faith offer that loves like our God loves?

NO ONE BUT JESUS

But remember, to love us completely, He has to finally remove sin again. And the world that was once covered in water… will be covered in fire. Everyone who wanted, was able to avoid the lake of water that covered the world 4,000 years ago. And everyone who wants to avoid the lake of fire that’s coming is able to do so as well. Buddha won’t be able to help you then… Yoga will be pointless to save you… Mohammed can’t do it either…

One day soon, we will know for a surety that the only way to heaven… is through Jesus Christ. “Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?” John 16:31.

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

The Iceberg lifts its towering summit to the clouds, sparkling and dazzling like a group of temples overlaid with silver. Its crystalline magnificence is bewildering; it forms one of the most splendid objects that the mariner meets with in the northern seas, and at the same time one of the most dangerous. It is a floating mass without foundation; winds, waves, and currents bear it along in all directions. It assumes the most fantastic shapes imaginable; sometimes it looks like mountains piled on mountains; then temples, palaces, and ships are seen by turns; then again cathedrals, of every order of architecture, appear to the eye of the wondering beholder. After awhile it drifts out of the high latitudes into milder climes. It is carried toward the southern shores; the sun pours its burning rays upon the mammoth temple; turret after turret, spire after spire disappear until the whole has dissolved. Its glory has departed.

The Rock

How very different is the nature and destiny of the Rock that is seen lifting its time-worn head above the surrounding waves! It is probably as old as time itself; it retains its ancient position; its foundations take hold of the world; it is marked in the charts, men always know where to find it, and are therefore not endangered by it. Changing the form of the element that surrounds it, itself unchanged, the summer’s sun and winter’s storm alike pass harmlessly by it. It is one of the everlasting hills, it must abide forever.
THE COMPARISON

The comparison is an emblem of True and False Principles. False principles are represented by the Iceberg. Like the iceberg, they are without a foundation; however spacious, brilliant, and fascinating their appearance, they have no solidity. Like it, too, they are ever changing; their form receives its various impressions from the ever fluctuating speculations of mankind, and from the power and influence of the times. Like it, they are cold and cheerless to the soul, nipping all its budding prospects, cramping all its mighty powers. Like the iceberg, also, false principles will melt away before the burning sun of truth, and pass into oblivion. It will not do to trust in them. Who would make a dwelling-house of the transitory iceberg?

THE FIRM FOUNDATION

It is not so with true principles; although they may appear somewhat homely at first sight, yet the more they are contemplated the more they will be admired. Like the Rock, their foundations are laid broad and deep. The principles of truth rest on the throne of God; they are as ancient as eternity. Like the Rock, they may always be found. Are they not written in the Holy Bible? Like their Author, they are without variableness or shadow of turning; for,

“Firm as a Rock, God’s Truth must stand
When rolling years shall cease to move.”

THE MOTTO

Semper idem—“Always the same”—is their motto. Like the Rock of Ages, true principles live when time shall be no more. As are the principles, so are all who trust in them, for “the righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance.”

“Always the same”
To the apostle John on the isle of Patmos were opened scenes of deep and thrilling interest in the experience of the church. Subjects of intense interest and vast importance were presented to him in figures and symbols, that the people of God might become intelligent concerning the perils and conflicts before them. The history of the Christian world to the very close of time was revealed to John. With great clearness he saw the position, dangers, conflicts, and final deliverance of the people of God. He records the closing message which is to ripen the harvest of earth, either as sheaves for the heavenly garner, or as fagots for the fires of the last day.

JOHN'S VISION
In vision John beheld the trials which God's people would endure for the truth's sake. He saw their unyielding firmness in obeying the commandments of God, in the face of the oppressive powers that sought to force them into disobedience, and he saw their final triumph over the beast and his image. Under the symbols of a great red dragon, a leopard-like beast, and a beast with lamblike horns, the earthly governments which would especially engage in trampling upon God's law and persecuting His people, were presented to John. The war is carried on till the close of time. The people of God, symbolized by a holy woman and her children, were represented as greatly in the minority. In the last days only a remnant still existed. Of these John speaks as they "which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

THROUGH THE AGENCY OF ROMANISM, SATAN TOOK THE WORLD CAPTIVE
Through paganism, and then through the Papacy, Satan exerted his power for many centuries in an effort to blot from the earth God's faithful witnesses. Pagans and papists were actuated by the same dragon spirit. They differed only in that the Papacy, making a pretense of serving God, was the more dangerous and cruel foe. Through the agency of Romanism, Satan took the world captive. The professed church of God was swept into the ranks of this delusion, and for more than a thousand years the people of God suffered under the dragon's ire. And when the Papacy, robbed of its strength, was forced to desist from persecution, John beheld a new power coming up to echo the dragon's voice, and carry forward the same cruel and blasphemous work. This power, the last that is to wage war against the church and the law of God, was symbolized by a beast with lamblike horns. The beasts preceding it had risen from the sea, but this came up out of the earth, representing the peaceful rise of the nation which is symbolized. The "two horns like a lamb" well represent the character of the United States Government, as expressed in its two fundamental principles, Republicanism and Protestantism. These principles are the secret of our power and prosperity as a nation. Those who first found an asylum on the shores of America rejoiced that they had reached a country free from the arrogant claims of popery and the tyranny of kingly rule. They determined to establish a government upon the broad foundation of civil and religious liberty.

PROTESTANTISM FOLLOWS IN THE STEPS OF THE PAPACY
But the stern tracing of the prophetic pencil reveals a change in this peaceful scene. The beast with lamblike horns speaks with the voice of a dragon, and "exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him." Prophecy declares that he will say to them that dwell on the earth that they should make an image to the beast, and "he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads; and that no man might buy
or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” Thus Protestantism follows in the steps of the Papacy.

A LITTLE COMPANY WHO WILL NOT SWERVE IN THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO GOD

It is at this time that the third angel is seen flying in the midst of heaven, proclaiming: “If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation.” “Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” In marked contrast to the world stands the little company who will not swerve from their allegiance to God. These are they of whom Isaiah speaks as repairing the breach which had been made in the law of God, they who are building the old waste places, raising up the foundation of many generations.

The most solemn warning and the most awful threatening ever addressed to mortals is that contained in the third angel’s message. The sin that calls down the wrath of God unmixed with mercy must be of the most heinous character. Is the world to be left in darkness as to the nature of this sin?—Most assuredly not. God does not deal thus with His creatures. His wrath is never visited upon sins of ignorance. Before His judgments are brought upon the earth, the light in regard to this sin must be presented to the world, that man may know why these judgments are to be inflicted, and may have opportunity to escape them.

THE SEAL--THE MARK

The message containing this warning is the last to be proclaimed before the revelation of the Son of man. The signs which He Himself has given declare His coming to be near at hand. For well-nigh forty years has the message of the third angel been sounding. In the issue of the great contest two parties are developed, those who “worship the beast and his image,” and receive his mark, and those who receive “the seal of the living God,” who have the Father’s name written in their foreheads. This is not a visible mark. The time has come when all who have an interest in their soul’s salvation should earnestly and solemnly inquire, What is the seal of God? and what is the mark of the beast? How can we avoid receiving it?

SPURIOUS SABBATH IS THE MARK OF THE BEAST

The seal of God, the token or sign of His authority, is found in the fourth commandment. This is the only precept of the Decalogue that points to God as the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and clearly distinguishes the true God from all false gods. Throughout the Scriptures the fact of God’s creative power is cited as proof that He is above all heathen deities.

The Sabbath enjoined by the fourth commandment was instituted to commemorate the work of creation, thus to keep the minds of men ever directed to the true and living God. Had the Sabbath always been kept, there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel. The sacred observance of God’s holy day would have led the minds of men to their Creator. The things of nature would have brought Him to their remembrance, and they would have borne witness to His power and His love. The Sabbath of the fourth commandment is the seal of the living God. It points to God as the Creator, and is the sign of His rightful authority over the beings He has made.

What, then, is the mark of the beast, if it is not the spurious sabbath which the world has accepted in the place of the true?

“I AM NOT COME TO DESTROY, BUT TO FULFIL.”

The prophetic declaration that the Papacy was to exalt itself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped, has been strikingly fulfilled in the changing of the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week. Wherever the papal Sabbath is honored in preference to the Sabbath of God, there the man of sin is exalted above the Creator of heaven and earth.

Those who assert that Christ changed the Sabbath are directly contradicting His own words. In His Sermon on the Mount He declared: “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever, therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven; but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

PROTESTANTS ARE DECEIVING THEMSELVES

Roman Catholics acknowledge that the change in the Sabbath was made by their church, and they cite this very change as evidence of the supreme authority of this church. They declare that by observing the first day of the week as the Sabbath, Protestants are
recognizing her power to legislate in divine things. The Roman Church has not relinquished her claim to infallibility, and when the world and the Protestant churches accept the spurious sabbath of her creating, they virtually acknowledge her claim. They may cite the authority of the apostles and fathers in defense of this change, but the fallacy of their reasoning is easily discerned. The papist is sharp enough to see that Protestants are deceiving themselves, willingly closing their eyes to the facts in the case. As the Sunday institution gains favor, he rejoices, feeling assured that it will eventually bring the whole Protestant world under the banner of Rome.

The change of the Sabbath is a sign or mark of the authority of the Romish Church. Those who, understanding the claims of the fourth commandment, choose to observe the false sabbath in the place of the true, are thereby paying homage to that power by which alone it is commanded. The mark of the beast is the papal sabbath, which has been accepted by the world in the place of the day of God’s appointment.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NEVER CHANGES

Marvelous in her shrewdness and cunning is the Roman Catholic Church. She presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties, and declaring that her spirit of persecution no longer exists. But she is the same as in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up at the peril of their lives to expose her iniquity; the same as when she assumed the power to control kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. She may clothe herself in Christlike garments, the better to carry forward her purposes; but she still retains the venom of the serpent, and her principles are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in churches, and in the hearts of men. Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when it crushed out human liberty, and slew the saints of the Most High.

PROTESTANT AMERICA WILL FORM AN IMAGE OF THE PAPACY

By compromises and concessions, Protestants have tampered with and patronized popery, giving her vantage-ground which papists themselves are surprised to see and fail to understand. The Protestant world needs to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and religious liberty.

When the State shall enforce the decrees and sustain the institutions of the church, then will Protestant America have formed an image of the Papacy. Then the true church will be assailed by persecution as were God’s people in ancient times. Almost every century furnishes instances of what human hearts, controlled by rage and malice, can do under a plea of serving God by protecting the rights of the church and State. The Protestant churches that have followed in the steps of Rome by forming alliances with worldly powers have manifested a similar desire to restrict liberty of conscience. How many non-conformist ministers have suffered under the power of the Church of England! Persecution always follows a restriction of religious liberty on the part of secular governments.

REJECTION OF GREAT LIGHT

It is urged by many that the intellectual and moral darkness prevailing during the middle ages favored the spread of dogma, superstition, and the oppression of popery, and that the general diffusion of knowledge, and the well-nigh universal acceptance of the principles of religious liberty, forbid a revival of superstition and tyranny. It is true that great light, intellectual, moral, and religious, is shining upon this generation. Since 1844 light from the heaven of heavens has beamed from the open door of the temple of God. But it is to be remembered that the greater the light bestowed, the greater the delusion and darkness of those who reject the Word of God and
accept fables, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.

**LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE WILL NO LONGER BE RESPECTED**

Satan will excite the indignation of apostate Christendom against the humble remnant who conscientiously refuse to accept false customs and traditions. Blinded by the prince of darkness, popular religionists will see only as he sees, and feel as he feels. They will determine as he determines, and oppress as he has oppressed. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected. The church and the world will unite, and the world will lend to the church power to crush out the right of the people to worship God according to His Word.

The decree which is to go forth against the people of God in the near future is in some respects similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews in the time of Esther. The Persian edict sprang from the malice of Haman against Mordecai. Not that Mordecai had done Haman harm, but he had refused to flatter his vanity by showing him the reverence which is due only to God. The king’s decision against the Jews was secured under false pretenses. Satan instigated this scheme in order to rid the earth of those who preserved a knowledge of the true God. But his plots were defeated by a counter-power that reigns among the children of men. Angels who excel in strength were commissioned to protect the people of God, and the plots of their adversaries returned upon their own heads.

**THE SAINTS OF GOD DO NOT RECEIVE THIS MARK**

History repeats itself. The same masterful mind that plotted against the faithful in ages past is now at work to gain control of the Protestant churches, that through them he may condemn and put to death all who will not worship the idol sabbath. We have not to battle with man, as it may appear. 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. But if the people of God will put their trust in Him, and by faith rely upon His power, the devices of Satan will be defeated in our time as signally as in the days of Mordecai.

The decree is to go forth that all who will not receive the mark of the beast shall neither buy nor sell, and, finally, that they shall be put to death. But the saints of God do not receive this mark. The prophet of Patmos beheld those that had gotten the victory over the beast and over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having the harps of God, and singing the song of Moses and the Lamb.

WHO ARE PREPARED TO STAND?

To every soul will come the searching test, Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. Satan is putting forth his utmost efforts in the rage of a last despairing struggle against Christ and His followers. False teachers are employing every device possible to stimulate the hardened sinner in his rebellious daring, to confirm the questioning, the doubting, the unbelieving, and, by misrepresentation and falsehood, to deceive, if it were possible, the very elect. Who are prepared to stand firmly under the banner on which is inscribed, “The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus”?

Christ never purchased peace and friendship by compromise with evil. Tho His heart overflowed with love toward the human race, He could not be indulgent to their sins. Because He loved men and women, He was a stern reprover of their vices. His life of suffering, the humiliation to which He was subjected by a perverse nation, show His followers that there must be no sacrifice of principle. God’s tried people must maintain watchfulness, with fervent prayer, lest, in their eagerness to prevent discord, they surrender truth, and thus dishonor the God of truth. Peace is too dearly obtained if purchased by the smallest concession to Satan’s agencies. The least surrender of principle entangles us in the snare of the enemy.

**“WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN.”**

Paul writes to the Romans, “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.” But there is a point beyond which it is impossible to maintain union and harmony without the sacrifice of principle. Separation then becomes an absolute duty. The laws of nations should be respected when they do not conflict with the laws of God. But when there is collision between them, every true disciple of Christ will say, as did the apostle Peter when commanded to speak no more in the name of Jesus, “We ought to obey God rather than men.”

(St, November 1 & 8, 1899)

Ellen G. White, 1827–1915, received the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the fruits of her life and work accord with the biblical texts of a true messenger of God. To this day, her counsels are an incalculable blessing to God’s people around the world.
One of the fundamental statements in the New Testament in regard to the promises of God is made by Paul in 2nd Corinthians 1:20: “For all the promises of God in him (Christ) are yea, and in him (Christ) Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” This Scripture clearly indicates that there are no promises of God to those not in Christ. It is clear that today Zionism and the Republic of Israel are not involved in being in Christ.

However, a majority of Christians today, those referred to as dispensationalists or futurists, believe that Israel today is there because of God's promises. They specifically believe that Israel was restored to the land in 1948 because of the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, rather than the outworking of politics or statecraft.

**REACHING DISPENSATIONALISTS**

In my article in the November magazine, I sought to help our people understand better how to reach dispensationalists through showing how probation had closed on the nation of Israel as predicted in Daniel 9:24 at the stoning of Stephen in Acts, chapter 7, in 34 A.D.

In this article, I will show you another approach to these dispensationalists through helping them to see that their understandings of prophecy and of the restoration of the land are not in accord with Bible principles.

**A COMPLETE REVERSAL OF HOW GOD WORKS**

Dispensationalists realize and admit that the return of Israel to the land is in unbelief. But they still focus their Christian beliefs on what is happening and will happen in the nation of Israel today. They believe that Israel returned to the land with God’s blessing. They see a conversion of Israel to Christ after the land is fully restored. They believe in a conversion to Christ by sight as He returns in the clouds of heaven. Their understanding is a complete reversal of how God works, as evidenced by both the Old and New Testament. “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.” Hebrews 13:8.

**NO BLESSINGS IN UNBELIEF**

The curses follow in Deuteronomy 28:15: “But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee and overtake thee.” And many curses follow. Verse 20 is somewhat of a summary, “The Lord shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me.” There are definitely no blessings in unbelief.

**BLESSINGS FOLLOW OBEDIENCE**

In Deuteronomy chapter 28 we read, beginning with verses 1 & 2, “And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth, and all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.” Notice the double emphasis on “hearkening unto the voice of the Lord.” The blessing of the land, crops, and life in general follow obedience.
THEY WILL NOT SEE THE LAND IN UNBELIEF

The following is a quote from the dispensational writings: “The Jews are to be gathered back to the land in a state of unbelief. The national conversion to Jesus Christ their Messiah will not take place until after they are restored to the land.”

Keith M. Baily, “Israel: Nation of Destiny” (Christian Life Magazine, November 1967, p. 54). In the Old Testament, after their escape from Egypt, Israel was not allowed to enter the land in unbelief. The twelve spies had searched out the land, but only two believed in God’s promise to give them the land. The other ten, as well as the rest of the nation of Israel were in unbelief and therefore initially refused to go in. The Lord’s response to their unbelief was, “Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it: but my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went…” (Numbers 14:23, 24).

A PEOPLE THAT DO ERR IN THEIR HEART

This experience is referred to in Psalm 95:7-11, “Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as the day of temptation in the wilderness: when your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, it is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: unto whom I sware in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest (the land).”

Paul refers also to this incident and quotes from Psalm 95 (Hebrews 3:7-11) and then in verse 12 states a warning: “Take heed brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.” And in verse 19, Paul states clearly, “So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”

THE STANDARD FOR RETURN

A second principle that we recognize from Scripture is that the standard for return to the land can’t be of lesser importance than the standard by which the land is retained in the first place. In the Book of Joshua, we have the people of Israel gaining the land God had promised to them. “And the Lord gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.” Joshua 21:43, 45.

THE ANGER OF THE LORD WAS HOT AGAINST ISRAEL

In Chapter 24:15, Joshua said to the people, “choose you this day whom ye will serve;...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” “And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods.” Verse 16. But soon after in the Book of Judges, after the death of Joshua and the deaths of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the good works of the Lord, that He did for Israel, “the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim.” Judges 2:11. “And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies...so they could no longer stand before their enemies.” Judges 2:14.
THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HATH SPOKEN

The Lord would raise up Judges that would bring them back to the Lord and deliver them out of the hands of their enemies. But as soon as the Judge would pass away, they would return to disobedience, and lose the influence of the Lord.

Throughout the Old Testament God never allowed the Israelites to retain the land in unbelief or disobedience. He warned them in many instances through His prophets of what the result of unbelief and disobedience would be.

“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.” Isaiah 1:19, 20.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE AND LACK OF FAITH

In II Kings 17:7-23 the story of Israel’s turning against the Lord is told, and in verse 23 is the conclusion of that rebellion: “So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.”

In Jeremiah 11:8, God speaks to Judah of their disobedience: “Yet they obeyed not, not inclined their ear, but walked everyone in the imagination of their evil heart…” And throughout the Book of Jeremiah warnings are issued of the consequences that will follow disobedience and lack of faith. And finally the people of Judah are removed from the land for 70 years by the Babylonians for their disobedience and lack of faith in the Living God.

Then in Daniel 9, we have the beautiful prayer of Daniel admitting the sin of the people and the failure of the people to listen to the prophets. The people are restored to the land after 70 years, but in a recommitment to God, and a warning of their final close of probation if they fail to end their sinning against God. See Daniel 9:24.

If unbelief wrought eviction from the land, unbelief cannot, ipso facto, effectuate repossession of the land.

I WILL REMEMBER MY COVENANT

Leviticus 26:40-42: “If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary to me; and that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept the punishment of their iniquity: then will I remember my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land.”

THERE CAN BE NO RETURN TO THE LAND IN UNBELIEF

In the dedication of the Temple these interesting words were spoken by Solomon: “When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house: then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of the people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gave unto their fathers.” 1Kings 8:33, 34.

It becomes clear that returning to God fully always precedes any return to the land. Biblically there is never a return to the land in unbelief.

Clark Floyd, editor of Our Firm Foundation magazine, has been co-host of the radio program Bible Answers with Clark and Lee and is a licensed attorney and an ordained Seventh-day Adventist pastor. He has spoken internationally and makes his home in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina.
A friend and brother was relating to me his trials. He is well known, and one whom few, perhaps, would suppose had any trials; yet he told me that during two years he had walked in the shadows, sometimes almost crushed by the burden.

Tempted and tried, and feeling certain that brethren were treating him unjustly, he was at times almost at the point of severing his connection with the work of God, and taking up a line of work which promised well in a business way, and which the difficulties were not so great. He himself could hardly tell what held him from doing so, but there was a restraining power somewhere. Perhaps the prayers of a mother long since dead called him back; or it may be the memories of his former associations with those whom he knew were true and noble restrained him.

An encouraging word can lighten a burden

It may be, though perhaps unremembered by him, that some friend said an encouraging word just at the right time to help him. More than all, the Spirit of God would not let him take such a step without long pleading with him. Under all these influences, he was able to weather the storm, and finally to emerge at the further side of the trial. There is a blessing in every trial which we endure, and so it proved with him. Now the cloud has rolled away, God's sunshine fills his heart; he never was so happy, so hopeful in God, so confident of personal salvation, and of the final triumph of the truth, as he is today. He has found the silver lining to the dark cloud, and is content. Job's
experience has been his. “When he hath
 tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”

No one is exempt from trials
The case of this brother is not by any
means a remarkable one. Everybody has
trials. The boy has them, and so does the
girl. Young men and young women have
them. Those in the noon of life, upon
whom rest the care and maintenance of
families, have trials without number. The
aged are not exempt. The minister and
those who hold positions of trust have
their full share. No doubt every one who
reads these lines meets people very often
in whose hearts secret griefs are gnawing
at the tenderest cords of life. Perhaps, in
their distress, they think they have no
friends. Satan would be very glad to have
them think so.

Silence can be golden
Now you meet such people, though you
may not realize their condition. What
impression do you make upon them when
you meet them? Do you greet them in
a way to make the
shadows darker, to
thrust the iron deeper
into the soul, to shut
off the last faint ray
of light which the
weary one, groping in
darkness, still enjoys?
Do you confirm the
impression that he
already holds, that
he has no friends;
that there is no truth,
nor honesty, nor
brotherly kindness;
that goodness is
nothing but a name,
and happiness but
an iridescent dream?
You can do so, and you
can do so without saying
anything! It is true that
there are times when
silence is golden. It was
so in Christ when he
was brought before his
accusers. He “answered
nothing.” There is “a
time to keep silence, and
a time to speak.” Speech
at a proper time, as well as
silence is golden. It was
when Christ encouraged
the sinful woman by saying: “Neither do I
curse thee; go, and sin no more.”

We are not to add to the
burdens of others
You little know what trials those you
meet may be passing
through. They may even
be upon the turning point
for life or death. When
one is in that condition,
a very little influence,
whether good or evil,
helpful or discouraging,
goes a great ways. There
is a saying that it is the
last feather that breaks
the camel’s back. One
might also say that taking
away a feather would
relieve the burdens. It
is better to take away
than to add to the burdens of another,
even though it is but a feather’s weight.
One ray of sunlight
dissipates the gloom
and makes the world
brighter. So one
friendly hand-clasp,
one heart answering
to heart, one kindly
word spoken or action
done, will make the
whole world assume
a different aspect
to the tempted one.
Remember this
whenever you meet
any one, whether
high or low, rich
or poor, old-time
friend, or shabby,
unknown tramp.
Treat everyone with
consideration and kindness. Let all whom
you meet know that they have at least one
friend. You cannot tell how much good
it will do them. A kind word, a friendly
interest in another’s welfare, may mark the
turning point in his career.

Are we not all unworthy?
Suppose one should prove very
unworthy; should we therefore cease to
treat him kindly, and to help him if we
can? Are we not all unworthy? How
many times have we been compelled to
confess to the Lord our unfaithfulness
in performing known duty, and to tell
Him that we would, by His help, live a
better life? We have told our brethren the
same things, and then we have repeated
the same reprehensible actions, over and
over again! How, then, can we judge
another harshly because of his repeated
failures, and refuse to help him? Jesus, our
Master and Pattern, granted pardon to a
repentant criminal at the point of death,
and by this we may know that there are
no hopeless cases. Let us do all in our
power to lift the burdens from the hearts
of the sorrowing. If it is a work worthy of
God, it is not too cheap work for men. No
day is wasted if we have been able to lift a
cloud of sadness from a human heart, or to
replace a frown by a smile.

“There are lonely hearts to cherish,
While the days are going by;
There are weary souls who perish,
While the days are going by;
If a smile we can renew,
As our journey we pursue.--
O, the good we all may do,
While the days are going by!”

Editor’s note: The above article came from
the Review and Herald, May 11, 1897.
Editor's Note: The Final Exam: One question from each of the first ten months of 2009

1. The first Sabbath-keeping Adventist minister in North America was
   a. James White
   b. William Farnsworth
   c. Frederick Wheeler
   d. Joseph Bates

2. What Seventh-day Adventist helped lay a firm foundation for Adventism in Scandinavia?
   a. J.N. Andrews
   b. John G. Matteson
   c. O.B. Johnson
   d. George Wheeler

3. What was the name of the Steamer used in the Southern work in America by J.E. White?
   a. The Morning Star
   b. The Bethel
   c. The Three Angels
   d. The Southern Bell

4. What convinced Elder Bates of Ellen White's prophetic ability?
   a. Her description of the heavens in her vision
   b. Her holding a Bible above her head
   c. The witness of others
   d. Her Bible understanding

5. How many children of Ellen White's parents became Christians?
   a. Only 1
   b. 4
   c. 6
   d. 8

6. How old was Ellen White when she heard Wm Miller give his 2nd course of lectures?
   a. 13
   b. 17
   c. 12
   d. 15

7. 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

8. Who in 1844 while in a cornfield had the powerful impression that the sanctuary to be cleansed was in heaven, not the earth?
   a. O.R.L. Crosier
   b. Joseph Marsh
   c. Hazen Foss
   d. Hirem Edson

9. Which of the following was not present during Ellen White's visions?
   a. Her eyes were open
   b. There was no breath
   c. There were graceful movements of the shoulders, arms and hands expressive of what she saw.
   d. There was great fear among the people present.

10. When did the sun become “black as sackcloth”?
    a. June 11, 1759
    b. May 19, 1790
    c. October 1, 1785
    d. April 1, 1791

“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.”

Historical Footnotes


Taken from prior months, different publications.
TRUST

By Pauline S. Fife

The night is here. The stars
Keep watch in heaven's blue,
And seem to say to me,
"O, trust! Thy God is true."

The birds do sleep. They fold
Their tiny wings and rest,
Content to trust in Him
Who always doeth best.

How still it is—no sound
Save of these solemn trees,
Which whisper secrets strange
To every passing breeze!

I can not choose nor see
My way. When darkness drear
Hides from mine eyes the path,
My heart grows faint with fear.

But hush! I hear a voice;
I feel a presence near;
And, tho I see no form,
I know that God is here.

Ah, surely He will guide
Me home! I need no light.
Nor fear with such a One
To walk in blackest night.

My soul, be still! Some day
Shall lift the night of sin.
As fades the morning mist
To let the sunlight in.

Sad heart, canst thou not trust
As do the birds? O, fling
Away the foolish fear.
And in the darkness sing!

And now, while sorrow's night
Lets down its dreary pall,
Teach me to trust. O Thou
Who watcheth over all.
A significant body of science now links poor thyroid function and cognitive decline, including Alzheimer’s risk (doubling the risk for women). The information is proving interesting, and not what many would expect. In fact, taking thyroid hormone to help offset aging issues may make cognitive decline worse.

The data shows that individuals with a baseline higher TSH at age 65 had lower scores on mental performance, even though they did not at that time have cognitive impairment. Interestingly, high normal levels of T4 signified even worse cognitive scores and a stronger likelihood of cognitive decline as time goes by. The researchers did not understand why this was the case but correctly warned that taking thyroid medication, as is done in many anti-aging clinics, is likely to make cognitive decline worse.

ELEVATED T4 MAKES BRAIN FUNCTION WORSE

The reason elevated T4 makes brain function worse is because thyroid function in your brain is regulated by every cell, as different from the rest of your body. In other words, every cell in your brain can change T4 into biologically active T3, whereas your liver is the main site of T3 activation for the rest of the cells in your body.

A KEY SURVIVAL MECHANISM

The reason your brain works this way is because your head has to be able to stay awake in times of extreme famine so that you could hunt if you happened to see something to hunt. However, the rest of your body needs to be in “hibernation mode” so that you don’t use too many calories. This is a key survival mechanism.

However, one of the first signs of low thyroid is actually an elevation of T4 – which means it is not getting converted to T3. Such an elevation conks out thyroid activation in your brain, which is why a heavy or sluggish feeling in your head is a key symptom of poor thyroid function. It is now obvious that unless this is corrected it will lead to cognitive decline.

TAKING THYROID HORMONE COULD WORSEN THE PROBLEM

However, taking thyroid hormone may raise blood levels of T4 and could easily make this problem worse. This would especially be the case in a person lacking the key nutrients to convert T4 into T3 or to protect the thyroid gland from oxidative damage while thyroid hormone is being produced.

This data means that how your head feels is one of the most important indicators of successful thyroid support. If you are taking medication and your head isn’t feeling better you could actually be making your brain deteriorate faster.

A common assumption is that an elevation of TSH, even when in the normal range, is a sign of sluggish thyroid function. Data coming from a study of centenarians (the very long-lived) shows that there are a few very important caveats to understand. As a person successfully enters very old age the TSH level is actually higher. This is not reflecting the first stages of hypothyroid,
Our Firm Foundation

it is reflecting a new fitness of the thyroid system in a person who is aging healthfully. This finding throws a major monkey wrench into the simplistic idea of adjusting thyroid hormone levels to meet lab test scores. Taking thyroid hormone would lower TSH in this population, thereby disturbing the thyroid fitness that is associated with their longevity!

TRY ADJUSTING YOUR THYROID WITH NUTRITION

My take home message is as follows. How you feel is more important than lab test numbers. Try to fix your thyroid without any medication, by using nutrition to protect your thyroid gland and liver, and by providing the key nutrients that enable the healthy activation of T4 to T3.

HOW DOES YOUR HEAD FEEL?

If your TSH starts to rise as you get older realize that this could be a first sign of poor thyroid function or a sign of adaptation and thyroid fitness that is associated with longevity. How do you tell the difference? By how your head feels. If your head is mostly alert and cognitively clicking along, then you are most likely in the health zone. If your head is heavy and tired then you need to work on improving thyroid function as a priority, as otherwise you are not on a healthy track but on a path to rapidly deteriorating cognitive function.

The same lab test score means two entirely different things, which can be differentiated based on how you are feeling. The other important point is, do what you can to naturally get your body to work better without taking actual hormone. If you need hormone, try to take the lowest dose you can (of course work with your doctor), while naturally fixing your metabolism.

Thyroid hormone can for some make symptoms feel better for a while. These studies indicate that long term use, especially in older individuals, runs a high risk for accelerated brain aging.

NATURAL ALTERNATIVES

If you are suffering from thyroid problems, and either do not want to start medication, or you are currently taking medication for your thyroid and want to discontinue the treatment and switch to a natural alternative, there are options for you. Some of the products we recommend for improving thyroid health include:

• Super Thyro – If you suffer from a thyroid condition, we have help! Super Thyro is specifically formulated to help normalize and improve functioning of the thyroid. Whether you are suffering from an over- or under-active thyroid, Super Thryo can help.

For hypothyroidism, take with Super Kelp for best results!

• Super Kelp – For years, kelp has been known to improve thyroid function and aid in weight loss, but that’s just the beginning! Kelp is also chock full of vitamins and minerals that help to improve a great number of conditions. Try it today, you’ll feel the difference! – For hypothyroid ONLY.

• Living Green Energy – Are you tired, lifeless, and unable to lose weight? Increase and sustain your energy levels all day long, with no more ups and downs, by taking Living Green Energy! The nutrients in our Living Green Energy are wonderful for normalizing thyroid function. Just one tablespoon of Living Green Energy is equivalent to eating 2 pounds of nutritious vegetables!

• Slender – An all-natural appetite-suppressant that is used as an aid to burn fat, help regulate the thyroid, and promote weight loss.

• B-Complex – B-Complex vitamins are some of the most important vitamins involved in weight regulation, fat utilization, energy production, and proper thyroid function. If you are trying to lose weight or improve your thyroid function, supplementing with B-Complex vitamins may just be that extra push your body needs!

We offer FREE health counseling with trained professionals who can help you with a personalized health plan. Call us today, at 309-343-5853.
These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to prevent, diagnose, treat, or cure any disease.

**Super Thyro**

Discover the benefits of just a few of the extraordinary ingredients in Super Thyro:

- **Blue Flag Root** - Stimulates and improves performance of the thyroid.
- **Fucus Vesiculosus (seaweed)** - Helps regulate thyroid hormone levels in the blood and improves overall thyroid function.
- **Gentian Root** - Has a normalizing effect on the thyroid gland.
- **Guggul Gum Resin** - Stimulates metabolism, promotes weight loss, and increases production of thyroid hormones.
- **Magnesium** - Helps balance thyroid gland functioning.
- **Manganese** - Required to help transport thyroid hormones.
- **Iodine** - Helps to normalize the metabolism, burn calories more efficiently, improve energy levels, detoxify the body, and aids in weight loss.
- **Vitamin B6** - Regulates thyroid operation.
- **Selenium** - Required for proper maintenance and performance of the thyroid.

**Facts:**

- Women are at a seven times greater risk of developing thyroid disease than men.
- An estimated 27 million Americans have thyroid disease, yet over half of those people are undiagnosed.
- The thyroid gland produces hormones that influence essentially every organ, tissue, and cell in the body. In short, if the thyroid doesn’t work properly, neither do you!

**Super Thyro**

- 90 Caplets........... $17.99 HXHH-STHY
- Suggested Adult Dosage:
  - 2-3 caplets daily

To Order Call Today:
1-800-468-7884
or Visit us on the web at:
www.hopeforhealthusa.com

*These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to prevent, diagnose, treat, or cure any disease.*
1. Fox News.com, November 6, 2009--Army: Fort Hood Gunman in custody After 12 killed, 31 injured in Rampage by Michelle Maskaly

“An Army psychiatrist who reportedly feared an impending war deployment is in custody as the sole suspect in a shooting rampage at Fort Hood in Texas, that left 12 dead and 31 wounded, a Army official said Thursday night.”

End Time Perspective: “The blood of Christ has been shed for the whole human family. None need be lost. Those who are lost will perish because they chose to forfeit an eternity of bliss for the satisfaction of having their own way. This was Satan’s choice, and today his work and his kingdom testify to the character of his choice. The crime and misery that fill our world, the horrible murders that are of daily occurrence, are the fruit of man’s submission to Satan’s principles.

“My brethren, read the book of Revelation from beginning to end, and ask yourselves whether you might not better spend less time in strife and contention, and begin to think of how fast we are approaching the last great crisis.” YRP 288

2. Yahoo! News, October 20, 2009--Vatican Seeks to Lure Disaffected Anglicans by Nicole Winfield

VATICAN CITY --” The Vatican announced Tuesday it was making it easier for Anglicans to convert to Roman Catholicism — a surprise move designed to entice traditionalists opposed to women priests, openly gay clergy and the blessing of same-sex unions. The decision, reached in secret by a small cadre of Vatican officials, was sure to add to the problems of the 77-million-strong Anglican Communion as it seeks to deal with deep doctrinal divisions that threaten a permanent schism among its faithful. The change means conservative Anglicans from around the world will be able to join the Catholic Church while retaining aspects of their Anglican liturgy and identity, including married priests. Until now, disaffected Anglicans had joined the church primarily on a case by case basis. “The unity of the church does not require a uniformity that ignores cultural diversity, as the history of Christianity shows,” said Cardinal William Levada, head of the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in announcing the decision.”

End Time Perspective #1: “While the Protestant world is being led by the wily sophistry of Catholic doctrines, while the mystery of iniquity is gathering to itself the world of professed Christians, what are we about? Are those who know the truth for this time anchored in Bible doctrine? Are our weapons, ‘Thus sayeth the Lord: It is written?’ Is our anchor cast within the vail? Are we individually rooted and grounded in gospel truth, so that we may be established, strengthened, and settled in the faith?” GH January 1, 1900

End Time Perspective #2: “How the Roman church can clear herself from the charge of idolatry we cannot see. . . . And this is the religion which Protestants are beginning to look upon with so much favor, and which will eventually be united with Protestantism. This union will not, however, be effected by a change in Catholicism, for Rome never changes. She claims infallibility. It is Protestantism that will change. The adoption of liberal ideas on its part will bring it where it can clasp the hand of Catholicism. The professed Protestant world will form a confederacy with the man of sin, and the church and the world will be in corrupt harmony.”-- LDE 130
3. World Net Daily, October 28, 2009—Obama signs ‘hate-crimes’ bill into law—“It’s a very sad day for America and religious liberties” by Chelsea Schilling

A “hate crimes” bill opponents claim will be used to crack down on Christian speech, even the reading of the Bible, was signed into law today by President Obama. The Senate approved the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act by a vote of 68-29 on Oct. 22 after Democrats strategically attached it to a “must-pass” $680 billion defense appropriations plan. Most Republicans, although normally strong supporters of the U.S. military, opposed the bill because it hands over federal money to states and local governments in pursuit of “preventing” hate crimes. The bill creates federal protections and privileges for homosexuals and other alternative lifestyles but denies those protections to other groups of citizens. Obama signed the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act at a White House ceremony today. Prior to signing the act into law, Obama spoke briefly of the hate crimes bill. “After more than a decade, we’ve passed inclusive hate-crimes legislation to help protect our citizens from violence based on what they look like, who they love, how they pray or who they are,” he said. “I promised Judy Shepard when she saw me in the Oval Office that this day would come, and I’m glad that she and her husband, Dennis, could join us for this event. I’m also honored to have the family of the late Sen. Ted Kennedy who fought so hard for this legislation. I just want you all to know how proud we are of the work that Ted did to help make this day possible.”

American Family Association President Tim Wildmon warned that the new law “creates a kind of caste system in law enforcement, where the perverse thing is that people who engage in non-normative sexual behavior will have more legal protection than heterosexuals. This kind of inequality before the law is simply un-American.” Wildmon said the legislation creates possible situations where pastors may be arrested if their sermons on sexuality can be linked in even the remotest way to acts of violence. “It threatens free speech and freedom of religion and is totally unacceptable,” he said.

End Time Perspective: Editor’s note: This sort of legislation is a precursor to future Sunday Legislation. “Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth...Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected. In the soon-coming conflict we shall see exemplified the prophet’s words: ‘The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.’” Revelation 12:17. GC 592

Hope International does not solicit tithes; however, we are a tithe-worthy organization and accept tithes. We use the tithe only for the gospel ministry. Donations designated “Gospel Ministry” will be considered tithe.

Subscription Order Line: 1-800-468-7884

Subscription Information
United States............................... US $23.99 per year
Canada & Mexico ......................... US $34.99 per year
Foreign (Air Mail) ......................... US $59.99 per year
Large Print Edition ....................... Black & White US $29.99 per year
Large Print Edition ....................... Color US $39.99 per year
Audio CD or Cassette Edition .......... US $36.00 per year
Foreign Audio & Large Print Edition .. Please Inquire

Shipping, Sales Tax & Currency
For all products advertised in this publication (unless otherwise noted): • USA destinations: $0.00-$25.00 = $6.25, $25.01-$50.00 = $9.25, $50.01-$100.00 = $13.50, $100.01-$200.00 = $16.75, $200.01 or more = $2.99
• To destinations outside the USA: Actual shipping rate will be charged.
Sales tax: Illinois residents, please add 6.5%
All money sent must be in US funds, drawn on US banks.

Subscription Assistance
We strive to keep our subscription prices as low as possible. We want this material to be available to all. If your finances cannot meet the requested amount, please send whatever you can. Those desiring to assist in providing subscriptions for individuals with limited funds should send a gift marked “Subscription Assistance” to Hope International. Your donations are tax deductible.
SUPER KELP

The electrolytic magnetic action of kelp releases excess body fluids from congested cells and dissolves fatty wastes through the skin, replacing them with depleted minerals, particularly potassium and iodine. As iodine boosts thyroid activity, food fuels are used before they can turn into fatty deposits.

In addition to vitamins and minerals, kelp also contains alkali, which plays an important part in our diet and our bodies' chemistry by helping to bring the pH to a healthy alkaline level.

250 Tablets ............ $7.99 HXHH-SKEL

Suggested Adult Dosage:
• 1-6 tablets daily

Super Kelp Can Help:
• Promote thyroid function
• Reduce the risk of certain cancers
• Improve the strength and appearance of hair, skin, and nails
• Combat stress, anxiety, and depression
• Strengthen the adrenal glands
• Alleviate arthritis pain
• Boost immunity
• Improve liver function
• Detoxify the body
• Increase energy levels
• Lower cholesterol levels
• Maintain the health of the mucous membranes
• Fight heart disease
• Kill the herpes virus
• Control appetite and increase weight loss with its metabolism-stimulating properties
• Prevent birth defects and improve general health during pregnancy
• And much more!

FACT: No land plant has even 1/2 the essential mineral content of seaweed such as kelp. It contains over 30 minerals and vitamins, including minerals such as: iron, sodium, phosphorus, calcium, magnesium, and potassium. In addition, it contains vitamins A, B1, B2, B6, B12, C, D, E, and K, plus amino acids.

*These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to prevent, diagnose, treat, or cure any disease.
EDITOR’S FEATURE ARTICLES
• “Act of God”, March
• “Celebration, Conformed or Transformed”, May
• “Who Was Belshazzar?” August
• “Without a Breath”, September

BARBER, JOHN W.
• “The Synagogue of Satan”, November
• “True and False Principles”, December

FIELDER, DAVE
• “Adventist Chain Gangs”, February

FLOYD, CLARK
• “A Few Good Men”, March
• “Walking With God”, April
• “The Two Israels”, July
• “Why Hebrews?” August
• “The Race Before Us”, September
• “The Thing That Hath Been”, November
• “A Return in Unbelief”, December

JONES, A. T.
• “Righteousness”, October
• “The Faith of Jesus”, October

KELLOGG, M.E.
• “Concerning Trials”, December

KLUMP, JOHN
• “The Little and the Great Controversy”, June

OLSON, HEATHER, DR.
• “Powerful Immune Boosters”, January
• “Diabetes and You”, February
• “Depression and You”, March
• “Arthritis and You”, April
• “Why Apples” May
• “Influenza, Part 1: Sorting Out the Flu Confusion”, June
• “Influenza, Part 2: Seasonal Flu vs. Swine Flu”, July
• “Influenza, Part 3: Seasonal Flu vs. Swine Flu”, August
• “Influenza, Part 4: The Facts on Tamiflu and Swine Flu Vaccine”, September
• “Smoking and Brain Damage”, October
• “Massive Brain Drugging of Children Underway”, November
• “Thyroid Problems, Alzheimer’s and Cognitive Decline”, December

OLSON, JOE
• “The Forgetfulness Factor”, January
• “Be Careful Whom You Trust”, February
• “Malchus’ Moment”, March
• “God Will Never, Ever Leave You”, April
• “Who’s In Your Boat?” May
• “Why Foot Washing?” June
• “Did the Inquisition Really Happen?” July
• “The Woman at the Well”, August
• “Why Do I Have to Be Holy?” September
• “The Prodigal Son—The Rebellion”, October
• “The Two Covenants”, November
• “The Lake of Water and The Lake of Fire”, December

POEMS
• Anonymous
  “It Couldn’t Be Done”, September
  Avery-Stuttle, L. O.
  “My Pathway”, June
  “Abide With Me”, September
  Baker, Miss M. A.
  “Peace Be Still”, May
  Blanchard, Richard
  “Fill My Cup Lord”, August
  Brumbaugh’s Reader
  “Gossip Town”, November
  Floyd, Clark
  “The Apple Tree”, May
  Gabriel, Charles H.
  “The Waiting Time”, January
  Hopkins, John M.
  “Walking With Thee”, April
  M’Leod, Norman
  “Trust in God and do the Right”, November
  Morton, Elizabeth
  “The Victory of Faith”, July
  Santee, L.D.
  “Christ is Coming By and By”, March
  Westphal, Bruce
  “Who Can We Trust?” October
  Wilson, G. T.
  “The Christian’s Motto”, October

REDLICH, JOHN M.
• “The Laodicean Remedy”, February

SPICER, W. A.
• “The Book That Speaks to Our Day”, July

SPURGEON, C. H.
• “The Righteous Shall Hold On His Way”, January
• “Strengthening Words from the Saviour’s Lips”, May

THE BIBLE MUSEUM OPENED
• “Gideon’s Ephod”, March
• “The Cross”, April
• “Jonah’s Gourd”, May
• “David’s Harp”, June
• “Abraham’s Tent”, July
• “Jehoiakim’s Knife”, August
• “The Bed of the Paralytic”, September
• “The Trumpet of Nehemiah”, October
• “Forbidden Fruit”, November
• “Noah’s Olive-leaf”, December

WALES, W. C.
• “The Necessity of Religious Agitation”, May

WATSON, CHARLES H.
• “Separation From the World”, January

WHITE, ELLEN G.
• “Pure and Undeclared Religion”, January
• “As Much As Lieth In You, Live Peaceably With All Men”, February
• “How to be Like Jesus”, February
• “The Signal of Advance”, March
• “Lessons From the Life of Enoch”, April
• “Be Watchful”, May
• “The Spirit of Christ”, May
• “The Foundations of Our Faith”, June
• “The Power of Love”, July
• “A Time of Trouble”, August
• “The Lord’s Vineyard”, September
• “Influence of the Testimonies”, October
• “Romanism the Religion of Human Nature”, November
• “The Seal of God”, December
We do not want the cause of God to go crippling along for want of means that are needed upon the right hand and upon the left. We want the little rivulets to be turned into the treasury. Let everyone bring in an offering to God. Don’t you think that this is the way to observe Christmas? Don’t you think it is the best way, rather than that means should go into the treasuries of the ungodly?
- 21MR 224.7

Satan has managed to turn our offerings from God to one another, and thus has exalted self in His stead. He has interposed self in between the creature and the Creator, in order to shut out the large offerings as well as the little rivulets of personal offerings from flowing into the treasury of the Lord to carry forward His work of mercy and love to the world. He has turned it into a channel of selfishness, to purchase toys and trifles that will do your children no good, and to make larger gifts to one another. This is the work of Satan, that the great work of salvation might be hindered and God’s name might not receive the glory due to Him.
- 21MR 224.6