

The Reformation Messenger



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International Missionary Society of S.D.A. Church Reform Movement

*"I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one;
and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast
loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

*Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me,
be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory,
which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me
before the foundation of the world."
(John 17: 23, 24)*





We Believe

The all-wise, loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ; He is its Owner and Sustainer.

He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh.

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Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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THE EVERLASTING COVENANT

God's promises to Abraham (and therefore to us as well) are "the new covenant".

"And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.

"For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise." Ga. 3:17, 18

When God makes a covenant, it is based on a condition that we believe and obey it. Abraham became "the father of us all" when he chose to believe those promises. "It is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (as it is written "I have made you a father of many nations")... Rom. 4:16-18

We read those promises in Genesis 12

- I will make you a great nation
- I will bless you
- And make your name great
- And you shall be a blessing
- I will bless those who bless you
- And I will curse him who curses you
- And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed

The promises were renewed again in chapter 15 when God called him out of his tent one night and asked him to count the stars:

- "So shall your descendants be"

As we read the entire report through chapters 12-19, we learn that the fulfillment of God's promises were based on faith and on obedience; and we find that Abraham did fulfill these conditions when He responded: "He believed in the Lord; and He counted it to him for righteousness." Gen. 15:6

That's all what God has asked us to do: believe His promise to us and obey His commandments.

Jesus said: "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." John 3:16. Those who worry that salvation by grace through faith won't produce good works need to remember that true faith always "works through love". Eph. 2:8,9; Gal 5:6

The reason why God's covenant is so often broken by us is because our nature is so weak and sinful that we cannot keep our promises to Him in our own strength. We make promises to Him and then often we break them later. We get down on ourselves "I'm not so good", "I'm not cut out to go to heaven." Note how Paul speaks of God's covenant "and a promise as being identical." "The Law...cannot annul the covenant...that it should make the promise of no effect." Gal. 3:17. This is part of His promise that He will give us power to live a sinless life.

The old covenant "gives birth to bondage". Gal. 4:24. Some people in the church even give up in despair, and many go through their so-called "Christian experience" under a constant cloud of discouragement.

But the confusion about the two covenants can be resolved very simply. The problem concerns "the law" given at Mount Sinai. Does it alter the "new covenant" that was the straightforward promise of God?

Paul was probably the first Israelite who clearly understood the function of the law and of the two covenants in the light of Israel's up and down, discouraging Old Testament history. Apostle Paul clarifies the confusion in several simple steps.

1. "The blessing of Abraham" is to come on everyone, "that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith". Gal. 3:14. Not one human soul is left out if they have faith.

2. A "will" or covenant that anyone makes (even God's!) cannot be annulled or added to once the testator dies.

Gal. 3:15. In God's "will" or "covenant" He promised (and then swore to it a solemn oath) to give Abraham the whole earth "as an everlasting possession". Gen. 17:8. This had to mean after the resurrection, for he could never inherit it that way unless he also was given everlasting life.

But since only "righteousness" can

“dwell” in the “new earth” 2 Peter 3:13, the promise had to include making righteous those who believe God’s promise

Therefore the new covenant has to be the essence of righteousness by faith, and the old one – by self-righteousness.

3. When we make a covenant, it is always a contract. You do so-and-so, and then I will do so-and-so. God also makes such contracts with us. His new covenant is always a promise on His part. And our part is to believe and obey.

4. God said that His promise was to Abraham’s descendant (singular,



“seed”) “who is Christ”. We came into the picture only as being “in Christ” by adoption through faith. Gal. 3:16.

5. Since God made His solemn promise to Abraham (which He sealed with an oath), nothing under heaven could change an iota, so that the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai 430 years later could not be an extra feature because Abraham knew the law and he obeyed it.

6. “If the inheritance is of the law, it

is no longer of promise, but God gave it to Abraham by promise.” Gal. 3:18. The new covenant does tell us what to do, and that is to believe. Then the new covenant is to believe and to obey, the old covenant is to obey in human weakness.

7. God did speak the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai because people had forgotten His law. Abraham knew the law, they were written in his heart. “Because that Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.” Gen 26:5.

8. The law of God is eternal (Ps. 111:7-8.) It has always existed, and will exist for ever. But the people of Israel had forgotten it. It had to be proclaimed to them on Mount Sinai and also other laws added to it, which remained valid till Christ died on the cross. In the new covenant the same law will be written in the hearts of the people.

The forming of the Old Covenant:

Before we get to the Exodus 20, in the chapter 19 God made a covenant with the people of Israel. They promised to do all that the Lord had spoken and to obey Him.

When they gathered at Mount Sinai, God told Moses to renew to them the same covenant. “Tell the children of Israel” “you have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people.” Ex. 19:3-5.

“Keep My covenant” He said, that is, cherish it.

Thus the Lord said to Israel. “Now therefore, if ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye

shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: for all the earth is Mine: And ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.” Ex. 19:5-6.

The people answered, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do”. Ex. 19:8. Thus the old covenant was formed.



Paul saw the significance of this old covenant promise of the people: “Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness should have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. Gal. 3:21-24. The word “tutor” is petagogue in the Greek, from “paideuo” which means to exercise discipline.

Paul saw the old covenant that the people voluntarily put themselves under as a disciplinarian, keeping the people of Israel obedient until such a time as they could find the new covenant and the Justification by faith which their father Abraham enjoyed.

Since they brought the old covenant upon themselves, God must let them learn through their own history how vain were their promises to keep the

law in their own strength – until at last they come to the experience of their father Abraham to be justified by faith and not by their self-righteous “works of law”.

The difference between the New covenant and the Old Covenant is simply “where the law is written.” In the new covenant it is written in the heart and in the old covenant upon the tables of stone. Our salvation does not depend alone on our making promises to God but on our believing His promises and keeping His commandments.

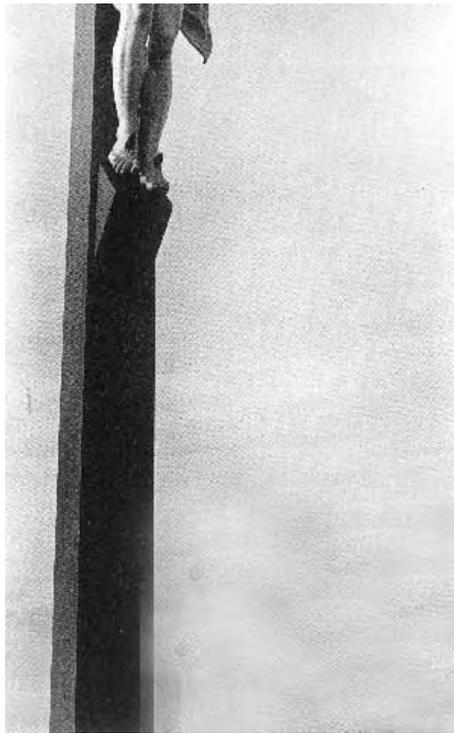
Believing God’s new covenant promise delivers us from the “yoke of bondage”. No longer do we serve Him through fear of punishment or even from hoping for some great reward. The new covenant is based on love. Because we love God above all, then our love is expressed in obedience and in keeping His commandments.

All this sense of compulsion is summed up in Paul’s expression of being “under the elements of the world”, the health



– destroying anxiety that all humans know by nature. Gal. 4:3

The old covenant drove Israel through



long centuries on a relentless history of ups and downs. Prophets, judges and some kings tried but in vain to bring in permanent reformation and revival. Samuel’s blessed ministry ended in the people’s clamor for a king like the nations around them; Saul nearly ruined the nation. Kings such as Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah and finally Josiah tried their utmost to set the people on the right course. But their revivals were always frustrated by their lack of faith.

What do the two covenants mean to us today?

The two covenants are not hemmed in by matters of time, as though people living anciently were automatically under the old and we today are automatically under the new. There were people in the Old Testament times who lived under the new covenant (Abraham, for example) and we today can be living under the old covenant, if we don’t understand and believe the freedom giving gospel.

A gourmet chef can prepare a delicious seven-course dinner with good wholesome food, but if he put in a little tiny amount of arsenic, it is spoiled. Even if it doesn’t kill us, it will cause paralysis.

Luke warmth in His people is a mixture of hot and cold that produces the condition that God will spew them out of His mouth. Rev. 3:15,16.

Both Abraham and Sarah waded through the discouragement of old covenant thinking. Sarah cherished bitterness against God in her heart because she could not get pregnant. “The Lord has restrained me from bearing children,” she complained. Gen. 16:2. Her solution – Abraham taking Hagar and adopting Ishmael as their son to help God fulfill His promise. Finally we read in Hebrews 11:19 that Sarah discovered new covenant repentance. Her heart was melted somehow by the grace of God.

“By faith Sarah... received strength to conceive...” and finally Abraham’s faith triumphed when he offered up Isaac as an object lesson, sensing a little of what it cost the heavenly Father to offer up His Son.(Gen. 22)

The new covenant is part of the light yet to “lighten the earth with glory” (KJV) in the closing hours of this world’s history. Rev. 18:1-9

The message will be centered in a true understanding of righteousness by faith which alone can prepare God’s people for the final time of trouble.

Many when they hear its good news will awaken as of a dream. All of God’s biddings will become enablings, and the Ten Commandments will become to them ten precious promises of good news. Nothing will be able to stop them from responding to God’s gracious last call. “Come out of her My people.” Rev. 18:4 **Amen**

Alin Sirbu Emanuel
Finland

I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD

“I do not pray that you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep them from the evil” John 17:15

Our Lord Jesus Christ, prayed for His disciples, asking His father to keep them from the evil deeds of the devil. The devil’s desire was, and still is, to see mankind continue sinning. But Jesus’ desire for mankind is to be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect. Although Jesus was to leave His disciples as a

47 years of age. This lady had been suffering for a year in bed because of an unknown disease. She felt helpless and all her money and possessions had been spent buying the medicine prescribed to cure her rotten womb! Her children never slept. Day and night they took care of her. I remember her saying “It would be better if I die rather than suffer this kind of pain.”

She was in a desperate situation, without food for her children, and without her

diseases, hunger, war and strife, terrorism and many other disasters.

Powerful countries have used powerful weapons to fight terrorism, but is there any hope of clearing it all? They have spent large amounts of money also to fight poverty and AIDS in the developing countries but will they succeed? Will money free us from the disease of sin?

Sin is the origin of all problems we

flock without a shepherd in the world, He knew that they were to be in harmony with Him as long as they were to discard sin from their hearts. Sin, brethren, is like a terrible disease which renders the invalid a social misfit. It deprives a person of mental and physical strength and also can bring agony.

One Sabbath after church services we, as friends and close relatives, went to see the condition of a lady who was

comforter - her husband. He had died 10 years earlier. She had lost almost everything in her efforts to regain her health, but it all seemed to be in vain. The only hope we left with her was “The hope of Glory” Colossians 1:27 “Who is the first born from the dead” verse 17 “In whom we have redemption through His blood.” Verse 14.

Diseases and calamities in the world originated in the Garden of Eden. The entrance of sin has brought us incurable

have faced. There is a curse of sin on earth. If we put away sin from our hearts Jesus has promised; though we pass through the seas and fire we shall never be consumed for “What will it matter though we toil and suffer here, if we may only attain the resurrection of life! We will patiently wait till our time of trial ends and then we shall raise the glad shout of victory.” Life Sketches pg 266

“I may fall at my post before the Lord

shall come; but when all that are in their graves shall come forth I shall, if faithful, see Jesus, and be made like Him. Oh, what joy unspeakable, to see Him who we love -- to see Him in His glory who so loved us that He gave Himself for us." Life Sketches pg 226

We do not now expect to be lifted above all infirmities and tribulations. We expect trials, losses, disappointments and bereavements; but we have the Saviour's promise, My grace is

supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death. He was heard because of His Godly Fear. "He learnt obedience by the things that He had suffered" Heb 5:7.

The Christian world prays for peace and we also should pray for it. They also pray for prosperity on earth. Yes, we do wish prosperity too but will God grant all our prayers in this world? Will He set us free from the bondage of tribulation? He says, "I have overcome

not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand"

Our challenge and promise set before us is precious. The tribulation that we undergo will result in us obtaining the promises of God. "In my father's house are many mansions...I go to prepare a place for you...I will come again and receive you to myself; that where I am, there you may be also" John

sufficient for thee. To be buried and tested is a part of moral discipline.

Jesus said, "...in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" John 16:33. So we shall overcome only if we become "...partakers of divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world" 2 Peter 1:4. He overcame, never having sinned in the days of His flesh when He offered up prayers and

the world." "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith" 1John 5:4

My prayer is that we overcome the world through our faith in the dead and risen Saviour, who is able to help us to overcome. He will not overcome for us, but He will help us to overcome for without Him we will accomplish nothing. He has encouraged us in Isaiah 41:10, "Fear not, for I am with you; be

14:2-3. And He is the Way the Truth and Life. His words are yours and mine personally, not for us collectively.

This call is for individual responsibility.

May the Lord bless us in this world to overcome sin as He did. *Amen.*

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FOUND WANTING

“The judgment was set, and the books were opened.” Daniel 7:10.

Although we may have read this Bible verse many times, do we really take it as seriously as we should? It is a very solemn time in which we live. Those of us who have known the message for many years are more or less settled into the truth, but there are many young people who are still deciding. There is not much time left in which to decide because soon the time will come when the judgment will be finished and the pronouncement will be made, “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Revelation 22:11,12

“And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.” Mat. 25:32,33 There are only two sides – you have to be on one side or the other when Jesus comes. Have you considered which side you will be on when Jesus separates the sheep from the goats? There is no middle ground.

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” 2Cor. 13:5. Sometimes we have to stop and take time to examine ourselves to see which side we really are on.

“Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Ye have

sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.” Hag. 1:5-7. This warning is also for us today. We are to consider also our spiritual life. We need to ask ourselves how will we stand in the judgment?

BELSHAZZAR

In the book of Daniel chapter 5, we read of the drunken feast of King Belshazzar. This feast was interrupted by God’s hand, writing on the wall, delivering a message to the king. Daniel was called to interpret the mysterious writing. This is the interpretation given to him by God.

“MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.” Daniel 5:26-28.

“At the very moment when the feasting was at its height, a bloodless hand came forth, and traced on the wall of the banqueting room the doom of the king and his kingdom.

“Little did Belshazzar think that an unseen Watcher beheld his idolatrous revelry. But there is nothing said or done that is not recorded on the books of heaven. The mystic characters traced by the bloodless hand testify that God is a witness to all we do, and that He is dishonored by feasting and reveling.

We cannot hide anything from God. We cannot escape from our accountability to Him. Wherever we are and whatever we do, we are responsible to Him whose we are by creation and by redemption.” Te 49

I want to focus on the middle part of this message – the TEKEL. Here God told Belshazzar that he was weighed in the balances and found wanting. His moral worth was placed in God’s balances and was found to be sadly very short of what God’s high standard was. While the rest of the

prophecy was directed to King Belshazzar and came to pass exactly as Daniel interpreted it, the TEKEL part is a warning for God’s people of all time. We need to take this very seriously. What does it mean to be “weighed in the balances and found wanting?” In the judgment, which is going on in heaven right now, (as I mentioned in the beginning) every person will be put into God’s balances and weighed.

When Belshazzar heard those words, did he repent? No he died soon after. Those words mean --- TOOLATE. They are very serious words. If your name is called in the heavenly sanctuary today and there is something lacking in your character – you too will receive that same pronouncement, “you are weighed in the balances and found wanting.” It is too late to change.

“Those who are unfaithful to the work of God are lacking in principle; their motives are not of a character to lead them to choose the right under all circumstances. The servants of God are to feel at all times that they are under the

eye of their employer. He who watched the sacrilegious feast of Belshazzar is present in all our institutions, in the counting-room of the merchant, in the private workshop; and the bloodless hand is as surely recording your neglect as it recorded the awful judgment of the blasphemous king. Belshazzar's condemnation was written in words of fire, 'Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting'; and if you fail to fulfill your God-given obligations your condemnation will be the same." MYP 229

Although someone may have been weighed in the balances and found wanting, does that mean they die immediately? No, not always. A man named Canright opposed E. G. White and her work for years, however towards the end of his life he decided to make peace with Sister White. He was miserable, but he went to talk to her anyhow and she told him to repent. He said he couldn't. As much as he really wanted to, he simply couldn't any more – there was no repentance for him. He had gone too far.

SIN AGAINST HOLY SPIRIT

Canright had sinned against the Holy Spirit. That is a sin that cannot be forgiven ever. "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come." Matthew 12:31, 32 When you sin against the Holy Spirit, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting. Your name may not have come up in judgement yet, but it may be too late for you, for example, King Saul was rejected by the Lord, but still continued living for years.

I found 3 ways in which you can sin against the Holy Spirit in the following quotations.



Handwriting on the wall at King Belshazzar's Feast

"It is not God that blinds the eyes of men or hardens their hearts. He sends them light to correct their errors, and to lead them in safe paths; it is *by the rejection of this light* that the eyes are blinded and the heart hardened. Often the process is gradual, and almost imperceptible. Light comes to the soul through God's word, through His servants, or by the direct agency of His Spirit; but when one ray of light is disregarded, there is a partial numbing of the spiritual perceptions, and the second revealing of light is less clearly discerned. So the darkness increases, until it is night in the soul. Thus it had been with these Jewish leaders. They were convinced that a divine power attended Christ, but in order to resist the truth, *they attributed the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan*. In doing this they deliberately chose deception; they yielded themselves to Satan, and henceforth they were controlled by his power.

"Closely connected with Christ's warning in regard to the sin against the Holy Spirit is *a warning against idle and evil words*. The words are an indication of that which is in the heart."

DA 322. Although the third one is not directly the sin against the Holy Spirit, we read that it is closely connected. How careless we sometimes are with our words, not realizing that idle and evil words are closely connected with the sin against the Holy Spirit.

Here is another good definition from the Spirit of Prophecy about the sin against the Holy Spirit.

"What constitutes the sin against the Holy Ghost? It is willfully attributing to Satan the work of the Holy Spirit. For example, suppose that one is a witness of the special work of the Spirit of God. He has convincing evidence that the work is in harmony with the Scriptures, and the Spirit witnesses with his spirit that it is of God. Afterward, however, he falls under temptation; pride, self-sufficiency, or some other evil trait, controls him; and rejecting all the evidence of its divine character, he declares that that which he had before acknowledged to be the power of the Holy Spirit was the power of Satan. It is through the medium of His Spirit that God works upon the human heart; and when men willfully reject the Spirit and declare it to be from Satan, they

cut off the channel by which God can communicate with them. By denying the evidence which God has been pleased to give them, they shut out the light which had been shining in their hearts, and as the result they are left in darkness. Thus the words of Christ are verified: "If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" For a time, persons who have committed this sin may appear to be children of God; but when circumstances arise to develop character and show what manner of spirit they are of, it will be found that they are on the enemy's ground, standing under his black banner." 5T 634

To have sinned against the Holy Spirit means you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting. Perhaps a person's name has not come up in judgment yet, but they have rejected God's calls of mercy – it will still be too late. This is serious. It is life and death. There is no way we can make it to heaven on our own – and Jesus knows this – He is still pleading for you to make a change in your life. He is a God of love and mercy, not a God of vengeance and hatred. He loves, not destroys. We destroy ourselves by refusing the help He is offering to us. We chase the Holy Spirit out of our lives when we persist in sin. When He is gone, He is gone – it's forever.

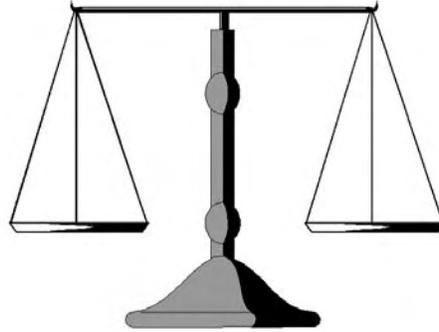
***What does it mean to be weighed in the balances and found wanting?
It means – TOO LATE!***

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it. In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst." Amos 8:11-13.

These people mentioned above realize

too late that the Holy Spirit is gone. Many of them realize this after the close of probation – there is no more mercy – no more messages from heaven for them.

"In this world we have temporal duties to perform, and in the performance of these duties we are forming characters that will either stand the test of the judgment or be weighed in the balances and found wanting. We may do the smallest duties nobly, firmly, faithfully,



as if seeing the whole heavenly host looking upon us." TMK 157

"Let the human agent consider the solemn fact that the day of reckoning is just before us, and that we are daily deciding what our eternal destiny shall be.It will be an awful thing to be found "wanting" when the book of accounts is opened in that great day. . . Upon the decisions reached in that day depends the future, eternal interest of every soul. We shall have unspeakable joy, or unutterable woe and misery. . . O how Jesus will love to recompense every true worker! Every faithfully performed duty will receive His blessing. It is then that He pronounces the benediction, 'Well done.'" TMK 326

TYPE OF PEOPLE WHO WILL BE FOUND WANTING

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in

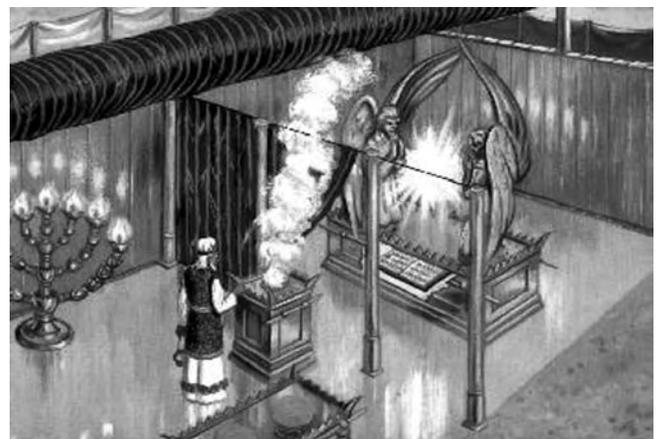
heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:21-23 Christian people are mentioned here who only have a form of godliness, but do not possess the power of God. Those that have been filled with self-righteousness.

In the days of Christ, the Pharisees were keeping the law piously, but what did Jesus call them? He called them hypocrites. Why? They were keeping the letter of the law and not the spirit of the law. What is the difference?

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. Mat 5:27-28.

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." Mat. 5:21,22. How many people call each other derogatory names implying foolishness in the other person?



You see this especially true in unconverted young people. How lightly they regard the matter of calling someone a fool, yet in the eyes of God it is a grievous sin.

So we see a difference. There is so much included in the spirit of the law than we at first realize. I have a few statements from the spirit of prophecy here regarding other ways that it is seen whether a person is keeping the spirit of the law or not. Here are statements about the kinds of people who will be weighed in the balances and found wanting.

“When Christ gave the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, there were many in the Jewish nation in the pitiable condition of the rich man, *using the Lord’s goods for selfish gratification*, preparing themselves to hear the sentence, ‘Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.’ Dan. 5:27.” COL 267

“Home missionary work has been strangely neglected. Those who have had the greatest reason for earnest, Christlike solicitude for the salvation of their children, have been indifferent to their responsibilities, and have lightly regarded the wants of their households. The responsibility which God has given to men and women as parents, many have shifted from themselves to the Sabbath school worker and to the church influence. But each instrumentality has its work, and *parents who neglect their part will be weighed* in the balances and found wanting.” CSW 44

“Perilous is the condition of *those who, growing weary of their watch, turn to the attractions of the world*. While the man of business is absorbed in the pursuit of gain, while the pleasure lover is seeking indulgence, while the daughter of fashion is arranging her adornments—it may be in that hour the Judge of all the earth will pronounce the sentence: ‘Thou art weighed in the

balances, and art found wanting.’ Daniel 5:27.” GC 491

“It is for the eternal interest of everyone to search his own heart and to improve every God-given faculty. Let all remember that there is not a motive in the heart of any man that the Lord does not clearly see.

The motives of each one are weighed as carefully as if the destiny of the human agent depended upon this one result.

. . . God in heaven is true, and there



is not a design, however intricate, or a motive, however carefully hidden, that He does not clearly understand. He reads the secret devisings of every heart.

“Men may plan out crooked actions for the future, thinking that God does not understand; but in that great day when the books are opened, and every man is judged by the things written in the books, those actions will appear as they are. . .

“There are many who need now to consider the words, ‘TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting’ Dan. 5: 27” HP 156

“None can know what may be God’s purpose in His discipline; but all may be certain that faithfulness in little things is the evidence of fitness for greater responsibilities. Every act of life is a revelation of character, and he only who in small duties proves himself ‘a workman that needeth not to be ashamed’ can be honored by God with higher service. 2 Timothy 2:15. *He who feels that it is of no consequence how he performs the smaller tasks*

proves himself unfit for a more honored position. He may think himself fully competent to take up the larger duties; but God looks deeper than the surface. After test and trial, there is written against him the sentence, ‘Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.’” PK 218

“If you have not laid aside *your envy, your jealousies, your hatred one against another*, you cannot enter into the kingdom of God. You would only carry the same disposition with you; but there will be nothing of this character in the world to come. Nothing will exist there but love and joy and harmony.” 3SM 155

“Purity of life and a character molded after the divine Pattern are not obtained without earnest effort and fixed principles. *A vacillating person* will not succeed in attaining Christian perfection. Such will be weighed in the balances and found wanting. Like a roaring lion, Satan is seeking for his prey. He tries his wiles upon every unsuspecting youth; there is safety only in Christ. It is through His grace alone that Satan can be successfully repulsed. Satan tells the young that there is time enough yet, that they may indulge in sin and vice this once and never again; but that one indulgence will poison their whole life. Do not once venture on forbidden ground. The only safety for the youth in this age of pollution is to make God their trust. Without divine help they will be unable to control human passions and appetites. In Christ is the very help needed, but how few will come to Him for that help.” 2T 408

“*Those who are ‘do-nothings’* now will have the superscription upon them, ‘Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.’ They knew their Master’s will, but did it not. They had the light of truth, they had every advantage, but chose their own selfish interests, and they will be left with those whom they did not try to save.” TM 237

“There is no one, however earnestly he may be striving to do his best, who can say, *‘I have no sin.’* He who would say this would be under a dangerous deception. ‘If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us’ (1 John 1:8). How then can we escape the charge, ‘Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting?’” UL 53



CONCLUSION:

“This is the great day of atonement, and our Advocate is standing before the Father, pleading as our intercessor. In place of wrapping about us the garments of self-righteousness, we should be found daily humbling ourselves before God, confessing our own individual sins, seeking the pardon of our transgressions, and cooperating with Christ in the work of preparing our souls to reflect

the divine image. Unless we enter the sanctuary above, and unite with Christ in working out our own salvation with fear and trembling, we shall be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary, and shall be pronounced wanting.” 7BC 933

Who wants to hear the following words?

“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” Jeremiah 8:20

“As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God. Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth, our Advocate



presents the cases of each successive generation, and closes with the living. Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected. When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book of God’s remembrance...

“All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven; as they have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ, and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life.” GC 483

In the light of all this solemnity what is Jesus calling us to do? Matthew 11:28-30, Isaiah 8:20.

“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” 1 Timothy 2:3-6

It is a very solemn time in which we live, and the Lord is calling each of you to come to Him and surrender your lives to Him, while there is still time. While mercy is still lingering in the heavenly sanctuary. Let us pray for one another that we may make earnest efforts towards this end. There is nothing in this world that is too dear to hold onto, in exchange for eternal happiness, eternal peace and eternal joy. Yes, the world may look attractive to young minds today, but the Lord is trying to tell you that He has something better. Something money can’t buy. All that is on this earth will soon be all burnt up. With all the sacrifices we have to make on this earth (the battle to give up cherished idols and habits that seem so hard to give up and change) - when Sister White saw a vision of heaven, she said “heaven is cheap enough.” The things we have to suffer are small in comparison with glory of the heavenly city. Yes, Jesus paid our penalty – heaven is cheap enough.

May God help us to take Him into our hearts and leave the world behind, making more earnest efforts to live for Christ so that when our name is brought up in the heavenly sanctuary we will not be weighed in the balances and found wanting.

AMEN

Wendy Eaton.

THE WORLD AND YOU



“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” Heb 13:5

If we compare humanity with a village of 100 inhabitants and if we count the people, the village will be composed of:

57 Asiatic
21 Europeans
14 Americans (North and South)
8 Africans

52 are going to be females
48 will be males

70 won't be white
30 will be white

70 non-Christians
30 Christians

6 persons will possess 59% of the world riches

6 persons will be coming from USA

80 won't have housing

70 will be unlettered

50 will be dependent on somebody

1 would die
2 will be born

1 will have a PC at home
1 will have a degree

If we look at the world from this perspective and compare our situation with the situation of the others then I believe we will be happy with what we have. It is said “The happiest man on earth is the one who is satisfied with what he has.”

If you wake up one morning and you are not ill, you are blessed, because 1 million people are going to die in the coming days.

If you have never experienced war, solitude, the suffering of been wounded, famine, then you are blessed because 500 million people live under such circumstances.

If you can go to church freely, not being menaced, that someone will stop you or kill you, you are blessed, because 3 billion people don't have this freedom. If you find something to eat in your refrigerator, if you are clothed, if you have a shelter and a bed you are richer than 75% of the world's population.

If you have a bank account and a little

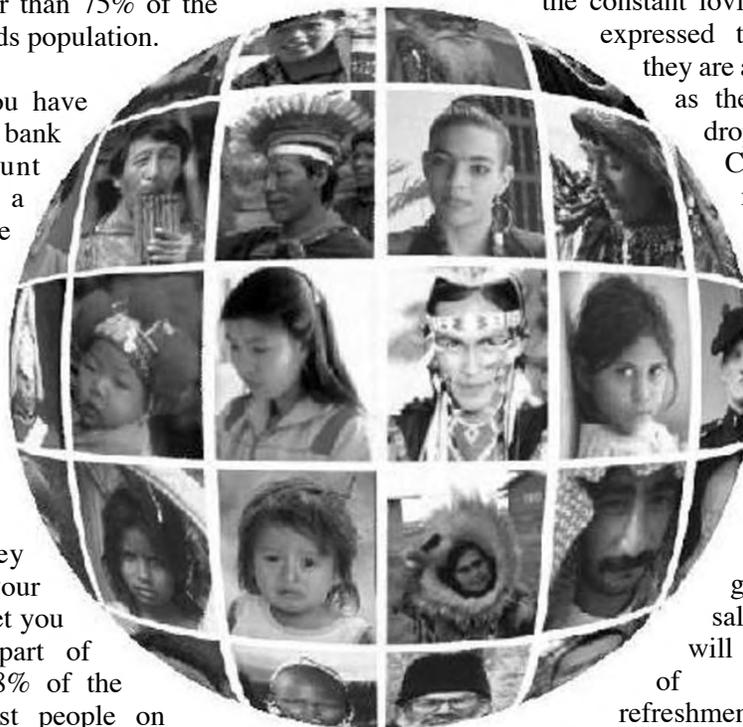
money in your wallet you are part of the 8% of the richest people on this world.

If you can read this article you are doubly blessed because:

1. Someone thinks about you
2. You are not part of the 2 billion people who don't know how to read.

Someone has said:

“The mercies of God surround you every moment; and it would be profitable for you to consider how and whence your blessings come every day. Let the precious blessings of God awaken gratitude in you. You cannot number the blessings of God, the constant loving-kindness expressed to you, for they are as numerous as the refreshing drops of rain. Clouds of mercy are hanging over you, and ready to drop upon you. If you will



appreciate the valuable gift of salvation, you will be sensible of daily refreshment, of the protection and love of

Jesus; you will be guided in the way of peace. Ellen White {YI, January 5, 1887 par. 8}

Ivo Ionov

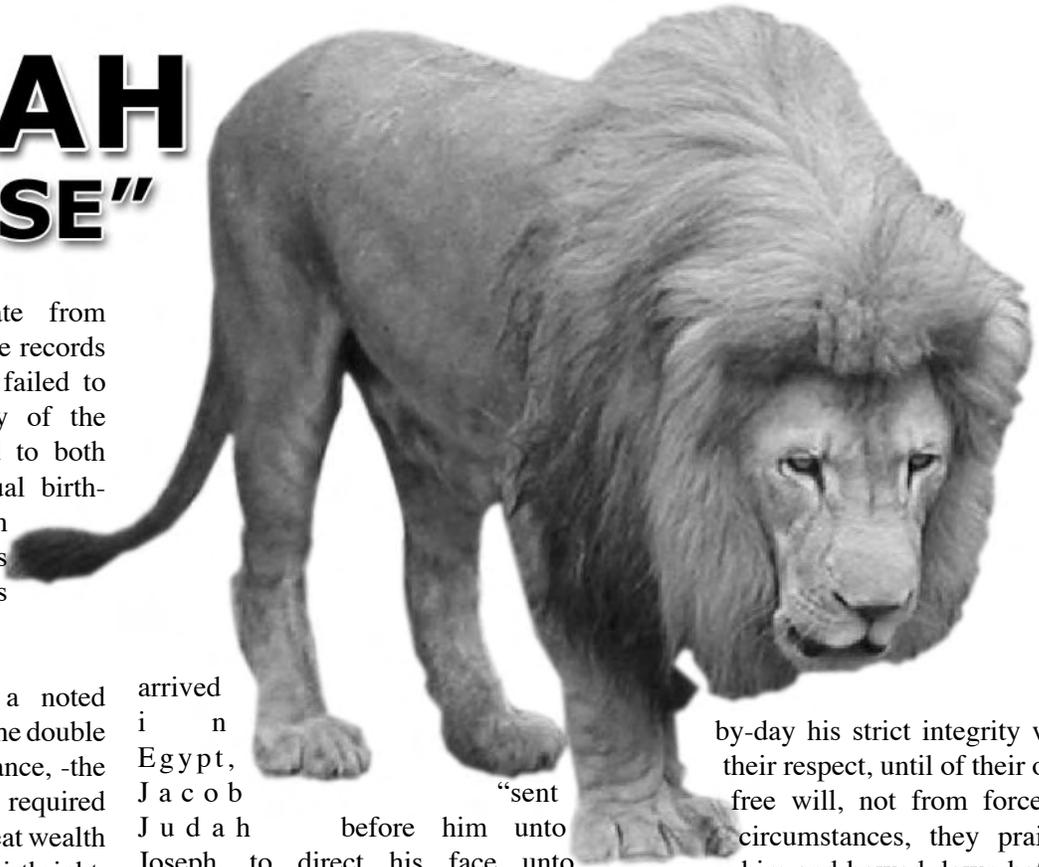
JUDAH

"PRAISE"

Name of pedigree, separate from character, has no weight in the records of heaven. Because Reuben failed to cultivate a character worthy of the first-born, - the one entitled to both the temporal and the spiritual birth-right, - his blessing was taken from him, and given to others who had developed characters worthy of them.

Joseph, who had become a noted business manager, was given the double portion of his father's inheritance, -the temporal birth-right; but it required more than ability to control great wealth to be entitled to the spiritual birthright, and to become the progenitor of the Messiah.

The records state that Judah, the fourth son, "prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the Chief Ruler." (1 Chron. 5:2) Jacob, upon his deathbed, pronounced the prophetic words: "The Scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be." Gen. 49:10. How did Judah prevail above his brethren, and thus inherit the spiritual birthright? This is a subject worthy of careful study by every one who desires a part in the great spiritual birthright by which we today may become heirs of the eternal inheritance. We have no record of Judah's ever prevailing over his brethren by force of arms. But a careful study of the lives of the twelve sons of Jacob reveals the fact that Judah was a leader. When he offered to stand as surety for Benjamin, Jacob consented to let Benjamin go into Egypt, although Reuben's offer had been refused. When Jacob and his family



arrived
i n
Egypt,
J a c o b
J u d a h "sent
before him unto
Joseph, to direct his face unto
Goshen." (Gen. 43: 8-13; 42: 37, 38)

When the sons of Jacob were in great perplexity because the ruler of Egypt demanded Benjamin as a hostage, it was Judah who pleaded their cause so earnestly that Joseph threw off his disguise, and made himself known unto his brethren. (Gen. 44: 14-34; 45: 1-3)

By strict integrity to principle, Judah had won the confidence of his father and his brethren. The whole story is told in the blessing pronounced over Judah by his aged father, just before his death: "Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow before thee." (Gen. 49: 8)

His brethren bowed down before Joseph, but the circumstances were different. Joseph's wealth and position, acquired in a foreign land, gave him the pre-eminence; but Judah won the respect of his brethren in the every-day contact of the home life. This confidence was not born in a moment; but day-

by-day his strict integrity won their respect, until of their own free will, not from force of circumstances, they praised him and bowed down before

him. A life of conflict and victory over the selfish tendencies of his own heart is bound up in the words, "Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise".

It is worthy of note that Judah prevailed under the same circumstances in which Reuben failed. It was not sin committed against the public that debarred Reuben from the privileges of the first-born; he proved himself untrue in the home life. (1 Chron. 5: 1). He had no regard for the honor of his own family. His father and his brethren could not trust him in their private life. In the same home, surrounded by the same temptations and environments, "Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the Chief Ruler." (1 Chron. 5: 2)

Twelve thousand of the one hundred and forty four thousand will enter the holy city under the name of Judah, Rev. 7: 5 -persons who, in times of perplexity, have been recognized by their brethren as trusted leaders.

"Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up; he stooped

down, he crouched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?" (Gen. 49:9). In these words Jacob gives the impression that it would be as easy to conquer a lion as to overcome one with the character of Judah; that it would be as safe to rouse an old lion as to contend with one who stood fast in his integrity to God.

Judah's is a character we may well covet, --that firmness that will not surrender our Christian integrity, but will know of a surety that the Lord is with us when we are assailed by Satan and all his hosts. Matt. 7: 24-25

Judah is mentioned more often in the Scriptures than any other of the twelve patriarchs, except Joseph. Of the five sons of Judah, two died childless; but from the three remaining sons, came the strongest tribe in all Israel.

At Sinai the children of Judah numbered 74,600. They evidently had a very small part, if any in the apostasy at Shittim, where Simeon's numbers were greatly reduced; for Judah numbered 76,500 as they left Shittim to enter the Promised Land.

The tribe of Judah occupied a position among the other tribes similar to that which their progenitor held in his father's family. They were entrusted with the care of the priesthood. The nine cities occupied by the family of Aaron, the priests, were all within the territory of Judah and Simeon. (Joshua 21: 9-16). The remainder of the forty-eight cities occupied by the Levites were scattered throughout the other tribes.

Judah was an independent tribe. After the death of Saul, they did not wait for others to acknowledge David as king, but crowned him king of Judah, and David reigned over them seven and one-half years before he was crowned king over all Israel. 2 Sam. 2: 4, 11. After the death of Solomon, Judah and Benjamin remained true to the seed

of David, and formed the kingdom of Judah. This kingdom retained their own land about 142 years after the kingdom of Israel was carried captive into Assyria. 2Kings 17: 6; 2 Chron. 39: 17-20.

Zedekiah, king of Judah, was given the last opportunity of saving the holy city from falling into the hands of the heathen, Jer. 38: 17-20, but he failed, and Judah, the kingly tribe was carried captive into Babylon.

The Scepter never fully departed from Judah until Shiloh came. Herod, the last king who reigned over the Jews, died a few years after the birth of Christ. In his first will Herod appointed



Antipas as his successor; but his last will named Archelaus, but afterward revolted. Archelaus and Antipas both went to Rome to present their claims before Caesar. Caesar confirmed neither, but sent Archelaus back to Judea as ethnarch, Matt. 2: 19-22, with the promise of the crown if he proved worthy of it. Thus the land was "forsaken of both her kings" during the childhood of Christ, as prophesied by Isaiah. Isa. 7:14-16.

The tribe of Judah furnished a galaxy of names noted in sacred history. No other tribe furnished the world with so many mighty men of God. At the head of

the list is the one incomparable name, --Jesus of Nazareth, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

Caleb's great faith and courage had been an inspiration to men of all ages. In the prime of life his faith was strong. When other men saw only the giants of difficulties in the way of entering the land, he said: "We are well able to overcome it." Num. 13: 30. At the age of eighty-five, in the strength of God, he drove the enemies from the stronghold of Hebron. Joshua 14: 6-15; 15: 13-15.

David has been honored above all earthy kings in being taken as a type of Christ, and inspiration calls the Saviour "the Son of David." Matt. 21:9. Judah furnished a number of other kings who, surrounded by all the temptations of the court life, stood true to God.

After captivity, when for a time it seemed as if the Israel of God were almost obliterated from earth, four young men of Judah, true to the lion-like character of their tribe, risked their lives rather than defile themselves with the royal dainties, Prov. 23: 1-3, from the table of the king of Babylon. Dan. 1: 8.

A few years later three of these men stood fearlessly before the king of Babylon, saying, "Be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods." Dan. 3: 18. In fulfillment of the promise made over one hundred years before, Isa. 43: 2, the Lord walked with those three sons of Judah through the fiery furnace, and they came forth unhurt. Dan. 2: 24-27. And Daniel, true to the integrity of his tribe, faced hungry lions rather than have any interruption in his communion with God. Dan. 6: 7-10, 16-22.

May the Lord Help us to become more and more like the Lion of Judah. Next time we'll study about Nephtali. **AMEN.**

Oscar Oveido

THE CHICAGO SCENE



“Scenes that would soon take place in Chicago and other large cities also passed before me [Sister White]. As wickedness increased and the protecting power of God was withdrawn there were destructive winds and tempests. Buildings were destroyed by fire and shaken down by earthquakes...” Last Days Events, p. 113.

While visiting Toronto, Canada during the Easter weekend, I was told (and later read in the American News Letter) that in the coming week Brother Henry Dering will visit Chicago, and conduct a Daniel and Revelation Seminar. Desirous of seeing him and the believers who live in that city, I telephoned them, asking, If I may come there? They said, “Come.” Then I, after opening the Sabbath in my apartment, drove non-stop in the car my Lord gave me to Chicago, Illinois.

To my surprise, Brother Joshua Martinez, a worker from Florida, was also visiting. He was assisting Brother Henry and the Chicago church set up for the seminar. Brother Joshua was also our translator. After morning worship and breakfast at the home of Brother Javier de Dios, we traveled to the church where the little company met for Sabbath services.

Brother Joshua opened the Sabbath school. Brother Rufo Samano led us in prayer. His wife, Sister Silvia Samano, gave the secretary’s report. I reviewed the previous week’s Sabbath school lesson. Sister Gladys Conde gave the new lesson. The Sabbath school was closed with Brother Javier’s prayer. Before the divine service began, Brother Javier and his wife Julia

dedicated their one month old baby boy, Jonathan, to the Lord.

Brother Henry Dering’s message was about Heaven. It’s a long way from here. Are you ready to go there? The apostle Paul has been there. He called it the “third heaven”-where there is no pain, sickness, or death. Sister White has been there. “But I [Sister White] declare to you, my brethren and sisters in the Lord, it is a goodly land, and we are well able to go up and possess it.” Early Writings, p. 14.



Like any trip the traveler must make preparations. “Said the angel, ‘Get ready, get ready, get ready. Ye will have to die a greater death to the world than ye have ever yet died.’” Early Writings, p. 64. Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe

in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:1-3. “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.” 1 John 3:3. They are justified, sanctified, and will be glorified.

“And the Lord spake... saying,... On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them, ‘The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.’ And they shall put My name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.” Amen.

During lunch, a long time friend of the church, Fredrick Conde, announced that he was ready, willing and able to become a baptized member of the church of God-The International Missionary Society of Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement. Praise the Lord.

After a delicious and healthy lunch prepared by the mothers of Israel, we gathered in a room to look at a pictures of Brother Henry’s missionary

experience in Belize, Central America. Afterward, he gave instructions on giving sermons. These can be found in the April 19th Sabbath school lesson.

From the church we traveled to a recreation center where the seminar was being held. A good group of interested souls were present. They were surprised to hear that the antichrist is the Roman Catholic Church. But in the end, those who have rejected the message of the Reformation will be more surprised. “In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from heaven.” GC, pp. 607, 608. “The people see that they have been deluded. They accuse one another of having led them to destruction; but all unite in heaping their bitterest condemnation upon the ministers. Unfaithful pastors have prophesied smooth things; they have led their hearers to make void the law of God and to persecute those who would keep it holy. Now, in their despair, these teachers confess before

the world their work of deception.” GC, pp. 655, 656.

Sunday morning, the members gathered together at Brother Rufo’s home where we participated in our Lord’s Supper. This was done not to offend our Adventist friends who believe that the Lord’s Supper is open to all Christians. But the Scripture says, “This is the ordinance of the Passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof.” “A foreigner and an hired servant shall eat thereof.” “But every man’s servant that is brought for money, when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat.” Exodus 12:43, 4,5 44.

“In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.” Colossians 2:11.

From there we drove to Battle Creek, Michigan—the historic site of the Advent Movement. We went inside the house where Sister White once

lived. In her upstairs room, she received a vision and wrote *The Great Controversy*. The grave where she is buried is there, too. I did not go there. I remembered what she had wrote about Moses and thought that some may treat her the same way. “Many who had been unwilling to heed the counsels of Moses while he was with them would have been in danger of committing idolatry over his dead body had they known the place of his burial.” PP, pp. 477, 478.

“As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies as the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal Sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains.” 5T, pp. 464, 465. *Amen*

Chester Cosby



WHITE HOME, BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN



Florida Seminar June 27-July 5, 2003

youth asked questions and spent a nice time in nature in the early morning. Worship was held every morning by a different youth.

In the afternoons there was time to play volleyball, and weather permitting, to go canoeing.

Brother Idel Saurez spoke of the health of the soul, in regards to the mind, body, and spirit, and how a medical missionary can reach others through the gospel of health. He related the health of the body in relation to the Bible, which gave us a new perspective on this subject. We had a chance to learn about the specifics of our own health as we had

a chance to measure our: BMI (Body Mass Index), the circumference of our waists, our pulse rate, blood pressure, respiration rate, haemoglobin, glucose, the amount of calories per day we need, the amount of protein, a nutritional assessment made through a Food Frequency questionnaire, and our body frame sizes.

This assessment of our health was very useful since it gave us an insight about the degree of our own health and how we can apply these concepts as medical missionaries, bringing the gospel to the world.

Brother Gary Foster spoke of the benefits of natural remedies. He gave us lessons on the uses of different herbs.

The Florida Conference began on June 27 at Camp Ithiel. The teachers present were Brothers: Henry Dering, Gary Foster, Timothy Martin, and Idel Suarez. It was a nice time of fellowship for those who were able to make it.

Every morning at 7:00 a.m. the youth went out for a half an hour walk while Br. Gary Foster instructed the youth about health, the importance of exercise and the reason for dress reform. The



LUNCHTIME AT THE SEMINAR



TEACHERS AT THE SEMINAR

Later we had a chance to go around the campground and identify and learn about different herbs found in Florida. We also had a lesson on hydrotherapy, and how different water treatments could be used for treating different maladies. Another lesson was on making poultices along with the benefits of charcoal, water and flaxseed. Brother Foster emphasized the importance of the natural remedies being in accordance with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The topic of natural remedies is one that is essential for the medical missionary work.

Brother Henry Dering spoke about prophecy in Daniel and Revelation. He went through the seven churches, which are seven time periods the church went through. He also explained the seven seals (significant events which happened and will happen to God's people). We also learnt about the United States in Bible Prophecy. John saw "...another beast...[who] had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a

dragon" (Rev 13:11). Since only the United States fits the description of this beast it must be this beast. He also went through spiritual Babylon and her characteristics. Even members of our church can be part of Babylon by what they do, the way they act and how they speak.

Brother Timo Martin spoke about the past, present and future of our church. Even though our church's history can be traced all the way back to Adam, because our time was short, he decided to begin with the history of the early Adventists. It wasn't until 1831 that William Miller began preaching Christ's Second Coming though he had understood the 2300 days prophecy years before. People who had never come into contact with the Millerites understood this message all over the world, with the help of the Holy Spirit. He also retold stories about the early Adventists and how God helped them through their troubles. When 1844 came and Christ did not come a great

disappointment fell upon the people; only one in a hundred remained. The Early Adventists remained faithful and with Ellen G. White as a prophet helped build the foundation of what we presently believe. The main focus was on the message of 1888 given by Jones and Waggoner at the Conference in Minneapolis. All the General Conference leaders rejected the message, yet they remained leaders of God's Church. In 1914 they failed to remain faithful by joining the army. Anyone who refused to do so was disfellowshipped. Next, he spoke about the shaking the church experienced in 1951. Many would blame Satan or Nicolici for this separation, whereas it was actually God who did it. Lastly he spoke about what we, as a church should expect in the near future.

On Thursday, the entire day was spent at Jerusalem Park (The Holy Land Experience) until 3:00 p.m. It was a small re-enactment of what Jerusalem must have looked like. Within

the park, there were people dressed up like Jews, including the shop keepers, a small version of the Jerusalem Temple, a diorama of the entire city of Jerusalem, a scriptorium museum with special effects depicting the entire history of the Bible and how it was written from beginning to end, ending with the hope that in Jesus we can all be saved.

There was also a live musical presentation of “La Via Dolorosa”, and other

slideshow, power-point presentation by Br. Dering.

Br. Idel said that as a child he used to love to play hide-n-seek, one person was the seeker and he would have to count to 10 while the rest would hide. Another game he loved to play that was very similar to this one was Sardines in a Can. In this game, one person hides while the rest count and search for him. Each time a person finds the hiding spot he joins in, until all have found it...hence

On another evening, Br. Dering showed a slideshow power-point presentation of his trip to Peru. He spoke about all of his adventures there and all the wonderful things that are currently happening in Peru.

On Sunday, the camp people who run Camp Ithiel said that they were thankful to have had such a special group with them and that although cooking was a bit hard with such a strict vegetarian diet it had also been a blessing.



TEACHERS AND STUDENTS AT SEMINAR

hymns, by people dressed up as the women who followed Jesus and the disciples.

Finally, there was a demonstration of the sacrificial system with a view of what the Holy and Most Holy place must have looked like, complete with a man dressed as Aaron the High Priest would have been dressed.

Two evening worships that stood out were a short one by Br. Idel and a

the name, sardines in a can.

He compared these childhood games to the way we try to hide from the Lord. Although we try so hard to hide from Him like Adam and Eve did, He still searches for us until He finds us.

In Colossians 3:2 it says: “ In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Instead of hiding from God we should desire to hide with Him and in Him.

They were even motivated to eat like vegetarians for the 10 days of the seminar.

After morning worship, held by Br. Idel, the conference came to an end. It was a wonderful blessing and plans are being made to hold another one like it in Canada for the summer of 2004 with the help of God.

Amen.

“AND KNOWEST NOT”



A terrible deception has fallen upon the angel of the church of the Laodiceans. He believes that he is “rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing,” and his true condition as revealed by the True Witness is exactly the opposite. “And knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” Rev. 3:17.

This rebuke applies to the leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Sister White repeatedly spoke to them and wrote in the testimonies that they are in a lukewarm condition and in a great deception. And what makes this condition almost incurable is the fact that they do not know it, because of their spiritual blindness. The lack of knowledge in the spiritual things destroys many.

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thy hast rejected knowledge, I will reject thee.” Hosea 4:6. This verse applies to the people of God. What about the billions of people who are not part of the people of God? Over one billion Catholics do not know that their leader is the antichrist, and that their church is the beast of Revelation. They do not know that they are in the spiritual Babylon. There are educated, intelligent people: lawyers, doctors, priests with university degrees and yet lacking the most important knowledge.

There are hundreds and millions of Protestants and Evangelicals who do not know that the Sabbath is the day of rest, sanctified by God. They do not know that they are in the image of the beast, and the false prophet of Revelation.

There are millions of Seventh-day Adventists who do not know that the prophesied Reformation has come. Like the Jewish people who are still waiting for the coming of the Messiah, they are still waiting for the Reformation in the future.

There are thousands of members in the '51 movement who do not know that by rejecting the true Reformation in prophecy, they are rejecting Christ and their salvation.

In the time of Noah, eight souls knew that the ark was their only salvation.

In the wilderness only two adults knew that murmuring against God's leaders is a great sin.

After the disappointment in 1844, only a small remnant knew that sanctuary truth.

In 1914, only two percent of the European Seventh-day Adventists knew that it is sin to join the army.

Truly people have lost their salvation for the lack of knowledge. The church of God has been like a mustard seed since the beginning. It has grown to a large tree but after each shaking we see that the true children of God are still only a mustard seed, the smallest of all.

Now let us look into the true church of God, our Reform movement. Are there members who do not know that they are not ready for the Lord's coming? Are there members who do not reflect the image of Jesus fully? Are there foolish virgins, who have no oil in their vessels? They have come a long way in

their knowledge. They have come into the very church of God, but unless they learn to know what is yet lacking in them and put it into practice, they will perish with the previously mentioned groups; they will be found wanting.

The Jewish people thought that they were an holy nation, who fasted twice a week, who gave money to the poor and paid tithes of the mint and cumin. Yet Jesus called them the children of the devil, hypocrites.

They did also much missionary work but did Jesus approve it? He said, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.” Matt. 23:15.

When they cried, “Crucify Him, give us Barabbas,” they made a terrible choice because of their lack of knowledge.

It was lack of knowledge and utter blindness when the Seventh-day Adventists disfellowshipped the faithful members in 1914. They do not know that they became an enemy of God when they were fighting against His remnant church. It was lack of knowledge when they rejected the message of Christ's righteousness in 1888. Today this is our message, but the question is, “how many understand this message for themselves?” In 1889, Sister White wrote that there was not one in hundred who understood it.

Anyone who has understood this message for themselves and fulfilled the conditions for receiving it, have stopped doing sin. Who is still struggling to

overcome sin and failing in it, has failed for lack of knowledge.

The most difficult knowledge to learn is to know ourselves. Peter did not know himself when he said, "I will go to prison for you, and I will die for you." Paul did not know that he was fighting against God when he persecuted the Christians. Judas did not know himself when he decided to betray Jesus.

"To know oneself is great knowledge.... Self knowledge leads to humility, and to trust in God." Counsels to Parents and Teachers, p. 67.

Without the Holy Spirit we cannot have the true knowledge of ourselves. Humanly alone we tend to over-estimate ourselves.

The next great knowledge is to know God, His character and His love. When

we learn to know Jesus, we want to be with Him, copy Him and be His disciple.

not even in our thoughts.

We need to learn how happy is the life of the faithful children of God.

Sister White writes that a true Christian is surrounded by the atmosphere of heaven. The same happiness that we feel in heaven we can have now in the presence of angels and the Holy Spirit.

Our whole life is a school. Daily we are to learn lessons from God, from his Word, from His book of nature. Pray for the divine wisdom, and become a missionary to teach others who are still ignorant of this great salvation.



**"narrow is the way,
which leadeth unto life,
and few there be that find it."**

We also need to learn to know the evil nature of sin. If Adam and Eve had seen the future of their disobedience they most likely would not have gone near the forbidden tree. If we only would know that every sin we do will bring suffering upon us, we would hate sin so much that we would never want to sin,

May the Lord help us that none of us will perish for the lack of knowledge is my wish and prayer.

AMEN

Timo Martin



CONFERENCE IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA, NOV. 2002

"WHO SHALL ROLL AWAY THE STONE?"

MARK 16:1-3

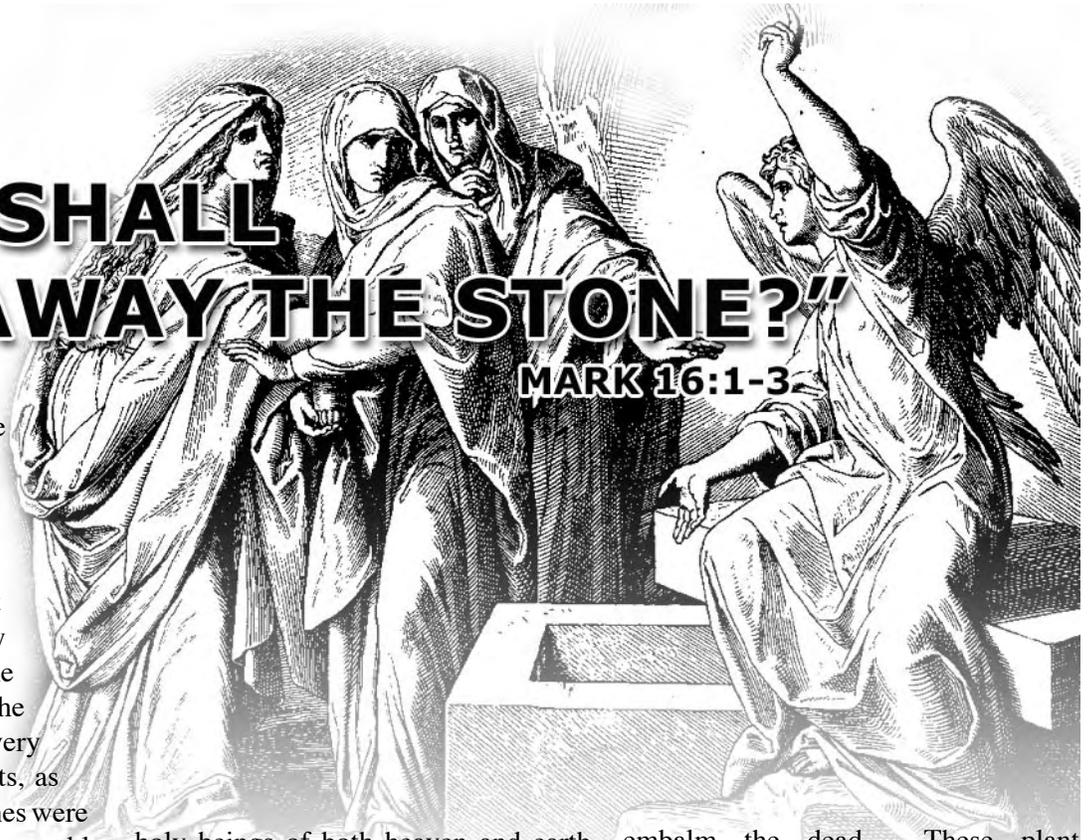
Stones were important in the life of people of the holy land, both practically and symbolically. The word, stone, in fact is mentioned 536 times in the Bible. We find also that the word, stone, is commonly used for Rock-Jesus Christ. The Holy Land, and much of the surrounding countries are very rock-filled, stony environments, as in Greece, as well. Piles of stones were very useful, however, for memorable events: Jacob and brethren ate off of tables of stones (Gen. 31:46); twelve stones were placed in the midst of the Jordan River in remembrance (Josh. 4:5-8); the Ten Commandments were written on two tables of stone (Ex. 31:18); an altar was built of stone by the Jordan (Josh. 22:10); the High Priest's breastplate contained two stones, "urim" and "turim" on the shoulder (Ex. 28:12); Job had a heart firm as stone (Job 41:12); on one hand also stones were used to kill people (Acts 7:59; Deut. 22:24); Jesus was the tried stone--a precious cornerstone which the Jewish stone builders rejected (Isa. 28:16; Ps. 118:22); the important Stone that smote the Great Image (Dan. 2:35). In the book of Revelation, on a white stone, a new name will be written for each saint in Heaven which only we will know, and fearfully in the final destruction of the world, "stones" will be rained from Heaven weighing 100 kilos each!

But, let us return to Mark 16:3, and "Who shall roll away the stone for us from the door of the sepulcher?" "Christ rested in the tomb carved out of stone on the Sabbath day, and when

holy beings of both heaven and earth were astir on the holy morning of the first day of the week, He rose from the grave to renew His work of teaching His disciples. But this fact does not consecrate the first day of the week, and make it a Sabbath." (study Bible--EG White Comments, p. 1237). So, just after the Sabbath as it began to dawn, Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James, Salome and other women that accompanied Jesus from Galilee, bought spices and ointment for the body of Jesus. The Sabbath passed, and the shops were now open. Salves, ointments, and balms were very expensive at that time and precious. There was no soap in those days, and there was great exposure of the body to the burning sunlight. These things, therefore, were not only to freshen the body of the living but the

embalm the dead. These plant ingredients were from Arabia, India, Far East, Ceylon and the Red Sea. Great effort, thereby, was used to obtain them.

Saints, in their love, sometimes prepare that for Christ which He will never need. The weaker sex, over which Satan at first triumphed sometimes appear the veriest, greatest or utmost heroes in the cause of Christ. Apprehending



difficulties which they know not how to surmount, they go forward depending on God, and find them removed, and readily, amidst fear and confusion, they obey the heavenly direction.

Happy are they who have a risen Redeemer as theirs, with all mercy in His heart, and all power in His hand! How marvelous His love in appearing first to Mary Magdalene, who had been lately so notorious a sinner; and so early

to the disciples, who had so shamefully deserted Him!

Joseph of Arimathea, said to be a friend of Pilate and Jesus, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Joseph then wrapped Him in linen. The tomb, carved of stone, was said to have been his. This was all done on the preparation day--Friday before the Sabbath day. The women all went home for the night, and then early in the morning after the close of the Sabbath at the early dawn hours, as the sun rose, they were walking the two miles and asked one another, "Who shall roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" The women went to the sepulcher of Jesus to anoint His body, even though they did not know how they could get into the sepulcher.

The large disc-shaped stone rolls edgewise in a gutter. Outside the rock tomb of Gordon's Calvary in Jerusalem one can still see the gutter, but not the stone. Matthew tells us in v. 28:2, an earthquake occurred, and an angel rolled back the massive stone. When they asked, "Who shall roll away the stone?" - they

thinking in terms of "earthly factors". The question was unanswerable! The stone was too heavy. There it stood, before their eyes, immovable!

This is the type of thinking we share today. In spite of our belief in God we tend to look out on the world--in particular difficult situations as if only earthly factors were at work.

How now can the "stone" get rolled back?! NEVER by earthly powers! There was no answer to their question in terms of the Earth. But, God has an answer to immovable stones. There's the stone we ALL come to--the gravestone like this one--but, "Who will roll it away?!" Heavy weight of grief, sorrow, anxiety, loneliness... feeling that life is crushed... can't be restored. It is a "universal question." "Who will roll away the stone?"

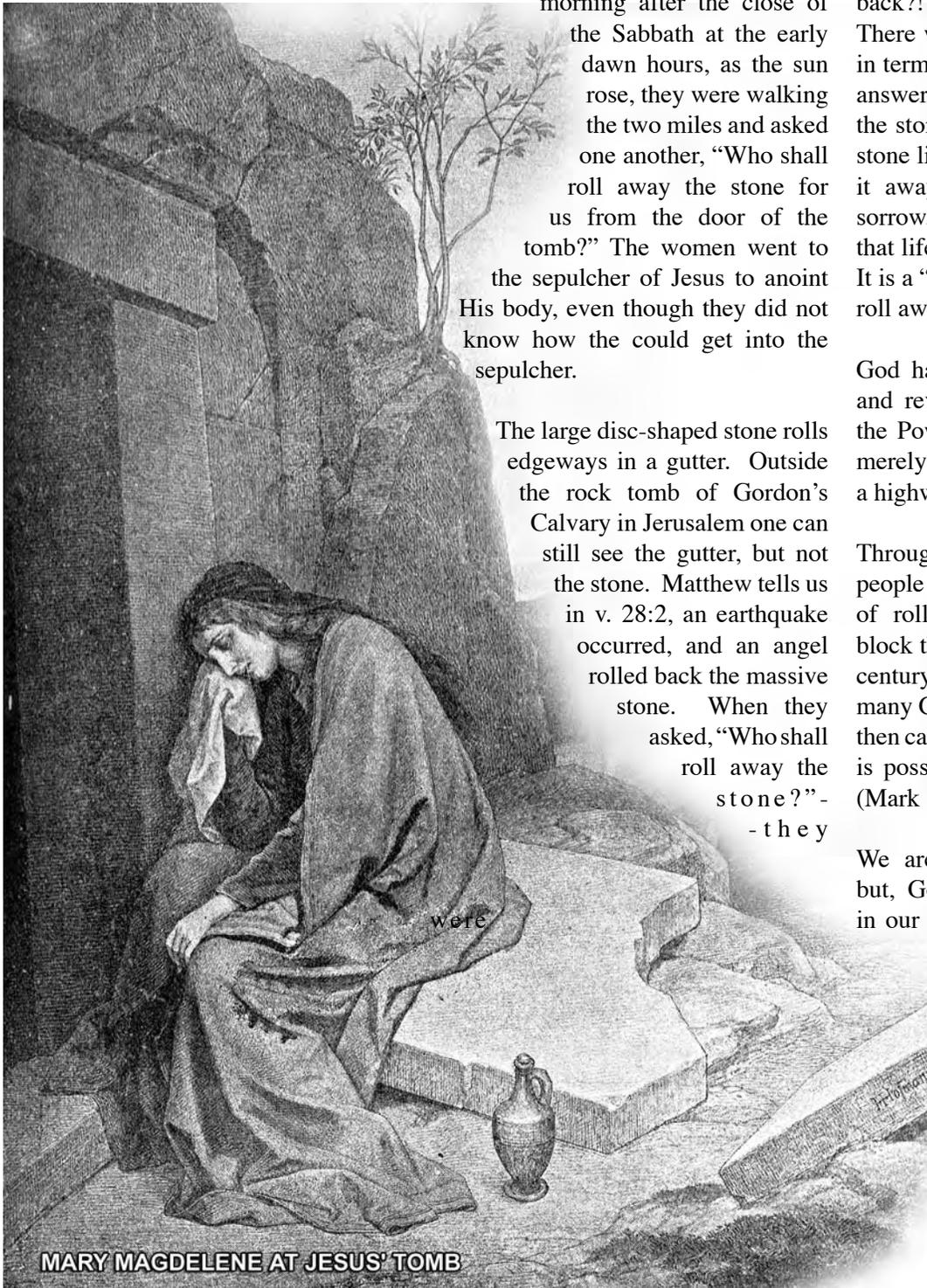
God has rolled it away by the Truth and revealed it in His resurrection... the Power of Faith! The tomb is not merely a blind alley, but a thoroughfare, a highway or channel to Heaven.

Through the years, people, even God's people have lost hope, and despairing of rolling away great "stones" that block the coming of Jesus. In the 19th century, Christianity was regarded by many Christians to be senile decay, and then came the "revival"! God said, "All is possible with God--not with men." (Mark 10:27).

We are up against huge "stones"... but, God acts silently at night, even in our sleep... stones are removed by God's messengers; telling us that Christ is not in the grave.

Yes... there is a LIVING CHRIST... God continues to roll away "stones" for us... if we let Him. **AMEN.**

*John Theodorou
USA/Greece*



MARY MAGDELENE AT JESUS' TOMB



Often when doing missionary work, or when sharing our faith it can be very disheartening when people don't respond. It becomes even more discouraging when people are negative towards the message we want to share. We are tempted to give up on people and think there is no hope for them to change. Jeremiah faced much opposition to his ministry, however he continued year after year, preaching the message that the Lord had for His people. Even though it seemed that the entire nation was against him, he didn't give up. He continued preaching with the hope that a few people would respond. When the Lord has a duty for us to do, we must do it – leaving the results in His hand.

One such faithful missionary was a man named John Vassar. He lived in the United States of America in the pioneer days. He was a man of great courage who continued to go and preach the message of the love of Christ, even when faced with opposition. Here are a few experiences from his life.

Upon entering his cabin in the Rocky Mountains after a day in the woods a pioneer saw a strange book on the kitchen table.

“What's this?” He demanded, as frowns clouded his grim, weather-tanned face.

“It's – well, it's – a Bible,” said his wife. “John Vassar gave it to us. He meant no harm,” she added quickly. And she looked pleadingly at her husband.

“He should have known better!” said the man, as he grabbed the Book. Then seething with anger he got a sharp axe and cut the Bible into two parts. “A wife should have half the property,” he said. “Here's your half.” And he threw one piece of the Bible to her. Then he tossed his part into a dark closet where he kept odds and ends.

During months that followed neither wife nor husband said anything about the torn Bible. Then one rainy day he wanted

something to read. He looked into the closet for an old magazine or perhaps a newspaper. But the only reading material he could find was his part of that Bible.

So to pass dreary time he browsed through some of the Book. His interest was highly stimulated when he began reading about a boy who left home, spent all his money, and had to eat with pigs.

Whatever happened to that boy? The man did not know, because he had never read the story of the Prodigal Son. His part of that Bible left him wondering what happened. How he would have liked to have the rest of the Book so his curiosity would be satisfied! Yet he was too proud to let his wife know this. But finally curiosity triumphed over pride, and he asked her for her part of the Bible. She, being a Christian, was of course happy to supply it.

The man read this story and became so much under conviction of his own spiritual needs that he was not satisfied until he accepted Jesus as his Saviour. This spiritual victory would not have been possible if John Vassar had not visited the couple numerous times and finally left a Bible in that home. Vassar was a horse-and-wagon salesman and distributor of Bibles and other devotional literature for the American Tract Society of New York. “I am legs for Bunyan, Baxter, Flavel, and others,” he often said. “They are all in my bag here.”

This Christian witness was very persistent. For instance, he visited one man twenty times without ever being able to get him to talk about salvation. Then one day he stopped again to talk with this man, Robert. John Vassar went out into the field where the man was working with a hoe. The conversation had scarcely begun when Robert flung his hoe aside and made as though to strike the Christian with his fist.

“He came at me fierce as a lion, cursing and swearing. I stood still and he stopped,

and we stood looking at each other,” said Vassar. Then feeling sorry for the man, the home missionary said, “You'll never have any peace until you give your heart to God!”

But that statement only made Robert angrier than ever. In a terrible rage he shouted, “Get out and never let me see your face again or I will kill you!”

Without replying, John walked peacefully away. But he intended to try again. And Robert probably expected him to return.

A few days later, when he came back, he saw the man hurrying around a corner of his house in the general direction of the barn, as though he wanted to hide.

Upon checking at the house with Robert's Christian wife, John was told, “He warned me not to tell you where he was going. He saw you coming and ran out to get away from you. But, I think he went to the barn.”

“You stay here and pray, and I'll try to find him,” said John. He went to the barn, but found the door locked. He stood at the door and knocked, but there was no answer. “Robert, please let me in, for Jesus' sake – please do!” said John. But the door remained locked.

There was another door. John tried it, but it was also locked. There was more knocking at this door, and pleading for entrance. No response. The faithful Christian kept trying until it seemed he must give up for today. Then he heard a sigh and a step on the inside of the barn. There were more steps. The door was opened from the inside. And there stood Robert with open hands and open heart. Jesus had made him willing to open the door. “When I heard you so earnestly pleading outside, I finally felt convinced that I was not fighting you, but fighting Jesus, the Man you kept preaching to me about. Since it seems so very important to you, I realized there

must be something of value in this. You are pleading more for my salvation than people plead for gold and silver. The value of this is more than anything in this world to you. I wanted to have this valuable treasure also. I want the peace you have. You never turned away or got upset or angry at me, even though I was so abusive towards you."

"Let's kneel and thank God together," said John. They did. Then they went to Robert's house. "I tell you the two minutes it took us to go from the barn to the house were the happiest two minutes I had ever seen. And you ought to have seen that woman's face when she saw us coming together!" Said John. "She knew what it meant. Besides a single glance at him was enough. It seems to me I never saw so happy a woman in my life!" John was extremely happy too.

Another time when he was walking to the church where he would speak an unkempt man called to him from a store porch, "Hey, Captain, I want to talk to you."

"Do you mean me?" asked John.

"Yeah, I mean you. Who else?" The voice was coarse and mean.

John walked directly to the store porch. And the thug continued speaking, "Let me tell you something. If you don't leave this town within twenty-four hours I'll give you a hard thrashing."

John stood his ground and said kindly, but firmly, "I have planned to leave tomorrow morning. But let me tell you something, I am about my Master's business, and if He wants me to stay here longer than twenty-four hours be assured I will stay."

Then John took the man's hands and prayed with him until he was as peaceful as a little boy.

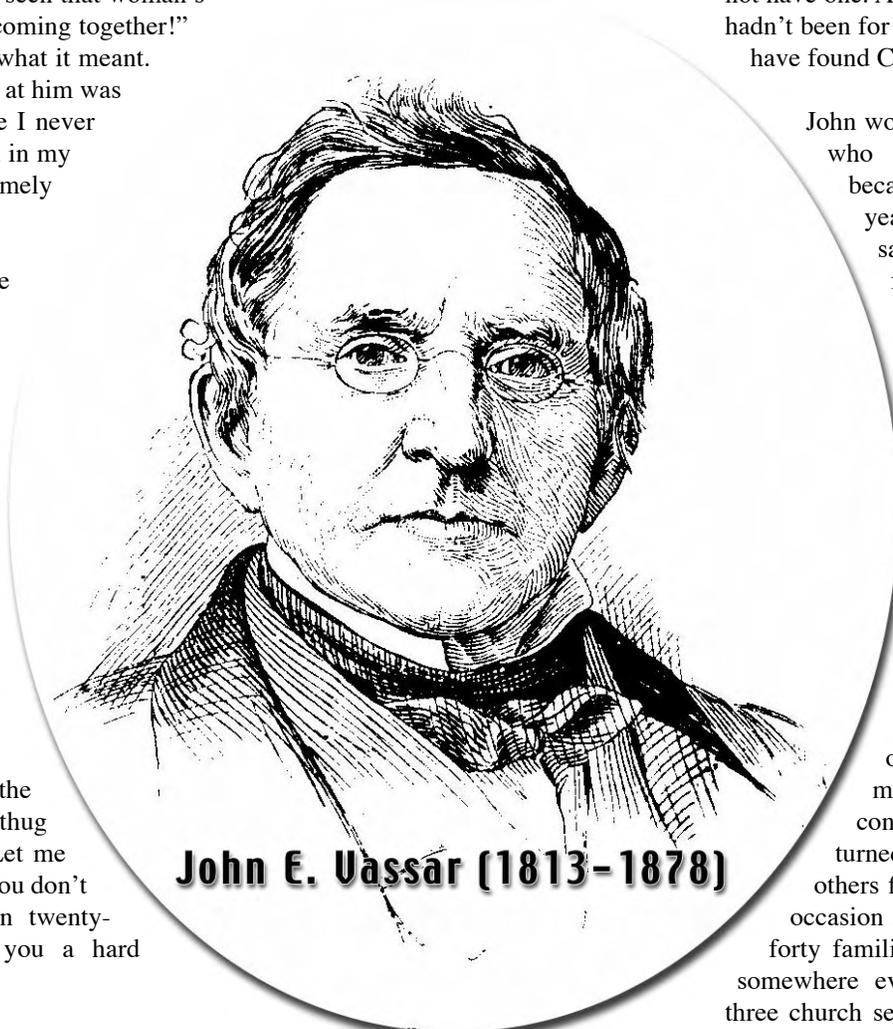
Several men who observed this event went

to church that night for the first time in years. They declared that John had won their respect.

This home missionary frequently talked with young people about Jesus. Often he was successful, but sometimes he was not. For example, in one community he was told about a girl who was very popular and influential with other young people but was not a Christian. "If she would only accept Jesus as Saviour many other teenagers would too," he was told.

J o h n

visited her.



John E. Vassar (1813-1878)

But she firmly refused to accept salvation. After this visit it seemed the whole town turned against the missionary. People would not even allow him into their homes. The reason for this attitude was that the girl whom the missionary had visited quickly circulated a false report that he had insulted her. About all John could do was pray that somehow the truth would be revealed.

It was, in a rather unusual way. When John was in another town twenty young people and the girl who had visited came to visit him. With many tears this girl told him how sorry she was for telling a lie about him – that she had repented and had led the twenty other young people to Jesus. It was time to rejoice again!

In various parts of America, John Vassar witnessed to thousands of people in homes, in shops, stores, factories, and on the street, anywhere people would listen. He especially had a fervent desire to get a Bible into the hands of anyone who did not have one. And many people said, "If it hadn't been for John Vassar I would never have found Christ."

John would sympathize with those who were apart from God, because for more than twenty years he refused to listen when salvation was mentioned. In fact, he went to his first revival meeting only after his cousin, Matthew Vassar, bribed him to go. He gave him a sum of money to go, 'just once.'

After John went once, he returned willingly. And before long Jesus had come into his heart and all things became new. A prayer came readily to his lips where once profanity had been so much at home. He gained control of his temper and turned his mind towards helping others find peace and joy. On one occasion he said, "I visit frequently forty families a day, have a meeting somewhere every night, and speak to three church services on Sabbath. I have conversed with more than three thousand people during the past three months of the subject of personal religion, and feel that for this city a wonderful blessing is in store."

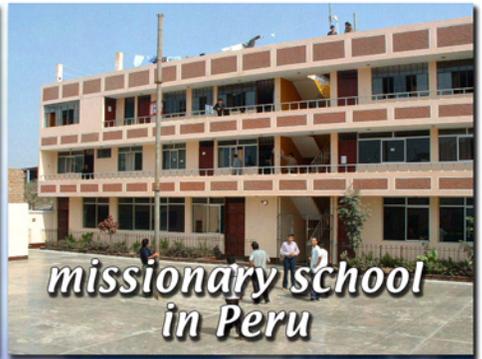
This procedure was repeated, over and over, in other communities through the years until God called John Vassar to rest with, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."



music at baptism in Peru



students @ mission school in Peru



missionary school in Peru



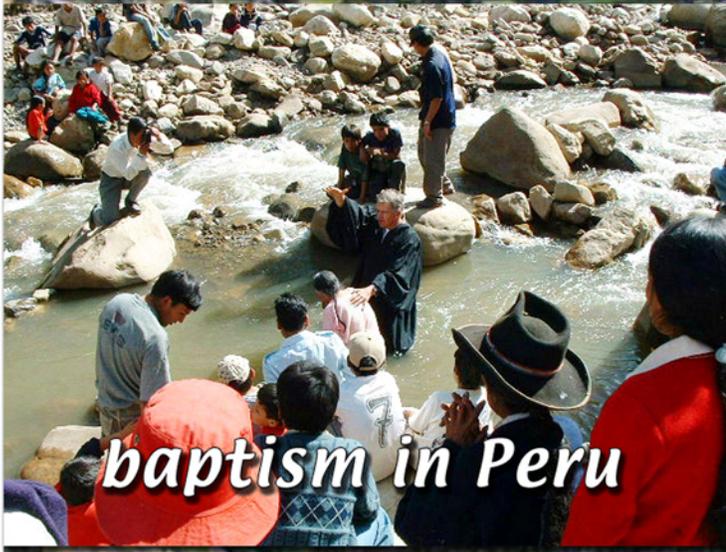
Lunch Time in Peru



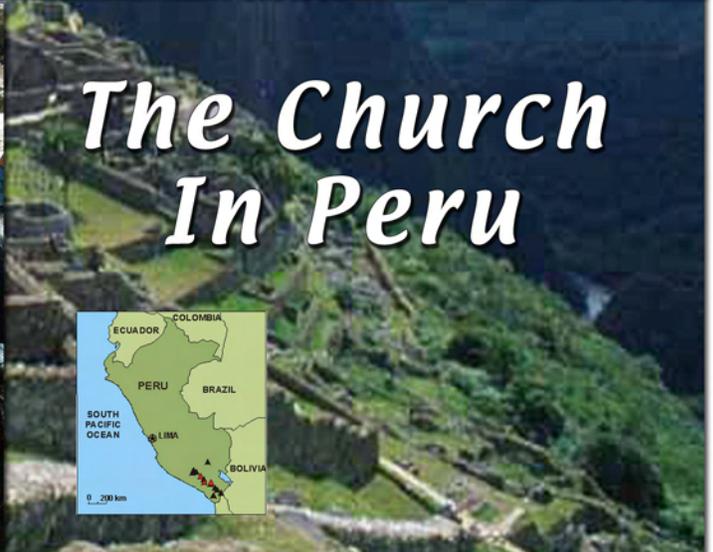
Evangelical Meeting



Church Meeting



baptism in Peru



The Church In Peru



Teachers @ youth health seminar in Orlando



Mike, Toronto, Canada

YOUTH HEALTH SEMINAR



ORLANDO, FLORIDA

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