

# The Reformation Messenger

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 11 NOVEMBER 2003

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

*"I will put my law  
in their inward parts,  
and write it in their hearts;  
and will be their God,  
and they shall be my people."*

(Jeremiah 31: 33)



## 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.

The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth, convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all unrighteousness.

The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine; the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform.

His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus.

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.

Official Publication of the International Missionary Society of the Seventh Day Adventist Church Reform Movement, Canadian Field.

- Tel: 416-252-1197 Fax: 416-252-6625
- Email: [tmartin@netcom.ca](mailto:tmartin@netcom.ca)
- Web: [www.ims.truepath.com](http://www.ims.truepath.com)

# In This Issue

<i>THE COVENANT RELATIONSHIP</i>	3
<i>TENT MEETINGS IN GUATEMALA</i>	4
<i>COMPARING NAPHTALI &amp; DAN</i>	5
<i>PATIENCE</i>	9
<i>THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE</i>	10
<i>THE ROOTS OF MODERN OCCULTISM...</i>	11
<i>THE NEW BIRTH</i>	15
<i>SINLESSNESS IN SINFUL FLESH</i>	18
<i>CURRENT SCENE</i>	22
<i>UNITY, EVIDENCE OF DISCIPLESHIP</i>	25
<i>THE KNOWLEDGE EXPLOSION</i>	28
<i>THE DUAL NATURE OF CHRIST: Part 1</i>	30
<i>REBELLION</i>	33
<i>CHILDRENS CORNER: HALFWAY</i>	37

### Subscribe To The Messenger

Please Fill In:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

No. of subscriptions:  at \$18.00 each per year

(Price includes 12 issues, one per month, including shipping & handling)

Amount of cheque: \$

Payable to: IMS Publishing

**Makes A Great Gift!**

[www.ims.truepath.com](http://www.ims.truepath.com)

### IMS PUBLISHING

54 Newcastle Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M8Y1A3  
CANADA

# THE COVENANT RELATIONSHIP

“If we would come into possession of the heavenly inheritance, the glorious eternal substance, we must be in covenant relationship with God.” R.H. Jan. 21, 1890

“The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, powers infinite and omniscient, receive those who truly enter into covenant relation with God.” 6 B.C. p. 1075

The Covenant we have made with God is more than mere casual promise. In order to understand the solemnity of this covenant we must go to Calvary and behold the sacrifice that God did on His part. Our part must not be any less. Our part includes strict obedience to the law of God and to defend His cause to the end, even unto death. The enemy can come to destroy this church only over our dead bodies. We are not to be just spectators in this drama of ages but actors who show to the world unflinching loyalty to our Master.

This covenant relationship was shown by Jesus in His prayer, “that they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us.” John 17:21

When we become one with Christ and the Father we enter into the inner circle of God’s family. Jesus will not call us servants anymore but friends. Abraham was called a friend of God, and therefore to him was revealed the mysteries of God which the outsiders did not understand or know even.

Sin brought separation between man and God. The terms of the covenant were not kept by men. If one of the parties in the covenant breaks the terms the second party is released from his responsibility, and the covenant becomes null and void. Therefore a new and better covenant was now necessary.

The old covenant that was made with Adam and Eve in the paradise was broken, the

same way as the covenant made at Sinai. The new covenant was based on different promises. It has provision to restore man to his original state. God covenanted to give His only begotten Son, “that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

This covenant included the second mile. God went beyond the law and the first covenant terms and gave His Son to die for the fallen mankind. This covenant is based on love which goes beyond the terms of the law.

“As the divine Sufferer hung upon the cross, angels gathered about Him, and as they looked upon Him, and heard Him cry, they asked, with intense emotion, ‘will not the Lord Jehovah save Him’”... Then were the words spoken, ‘the Lord hath sworn, and He will not repent, Father and Son are pledged to fulfill the terms of the everlasting covenant... With clasped hands they had entered into the solemn pledge that Christ would become the surety for the human race if they were overcome by Satan’s sophistry.” Y.I. June 14, 1900

God has fulfilled His part of the covenant of love. “The Father ratified the covenant made with Christ. He would receive repentant and obedient men, and would love them even as He loves His Son.” D.A. p. 790

The same way when we enter into this new covenant we go beyond the commandment and enter into a love relation with God.

This covenant relation with God makes us covenant messengers. We are to teach others the new covenant terms, which is nothing else but Christ’s righteousness message, the justification by faith. We become preachers of righteousness as was Noah and other patriarchs.

This involves a full surrender of all our powers and talents into His service. All

connections to Satan and his agencies will be broken.

But sadly we see that only few are willing to make the full surrender. Only few are going to keep the covenant terms which they promised at the baptism.

When the way becomes narrow and trials and afflictions come our way many will turn back and choose an easier way in order to save themselves from the persecution and from possible death.

“Then I saw the Christian company consulting together. Some said that they would lower the banner, accept the propositions, and save their lives, and at last they could gain strength to raise their banner among the heathen. A few, however, would not yield to this plan, but firmly chose to die holding their banner rather than to lower it. Then I saw many lower the banner and unite with the heathen; but the firm and steadfast would again seize it and bear it on high. I saw that persons were continually leaving the company of those who bore the pure banner, and were uniting with the idolaters under the black banner, to persecute those bearing the white banner. Many were slain, yet the white banner was held high, and believers were raised up to rally around it.” E.W. p. 212

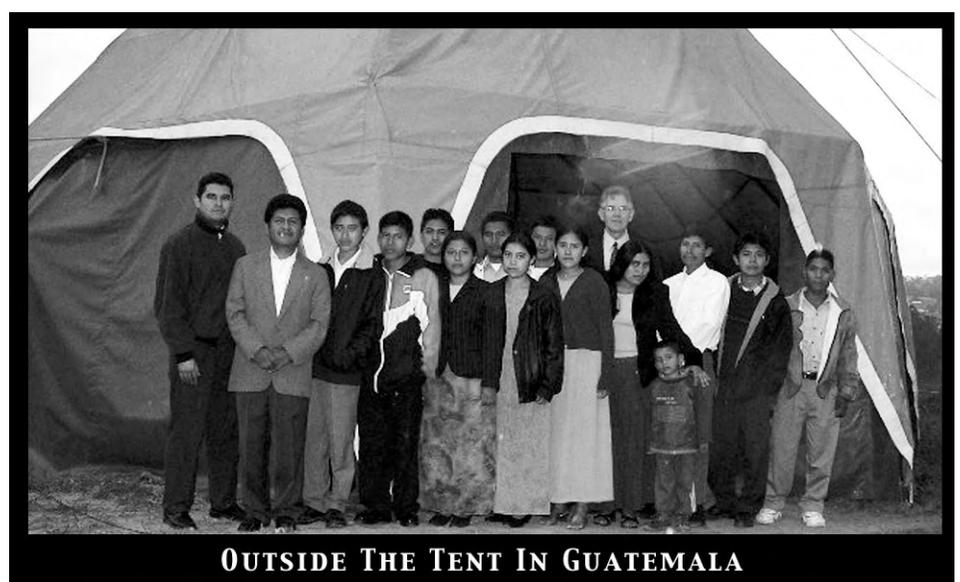
“Those who would rather die than perform a wrong act are the only ones who will be found faithful.” Test. Vol. 5. p. 53  
Humanly it seems impossible to fulfill the covenant terms. But part of the covenant is that God has promised to help us to fulfill our part. Paul says, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Phil. 4:13

“Those who consent to enter into covenant relation with the God of heaven are not left to the power of Satan or to the infirmity of their own nature.” D. A. p. 258

At the baptism we covenant ourselves to

the control of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We are being adopted into the family of God and we can claim all the promises of the Bible to ourselves. The fullness of joy, peace that passes understanding are part of the covenant promises. A power to move mountains has also been included. The atmosphere of heaven sur-

# TENT MEETINGS IN GUATEMALA

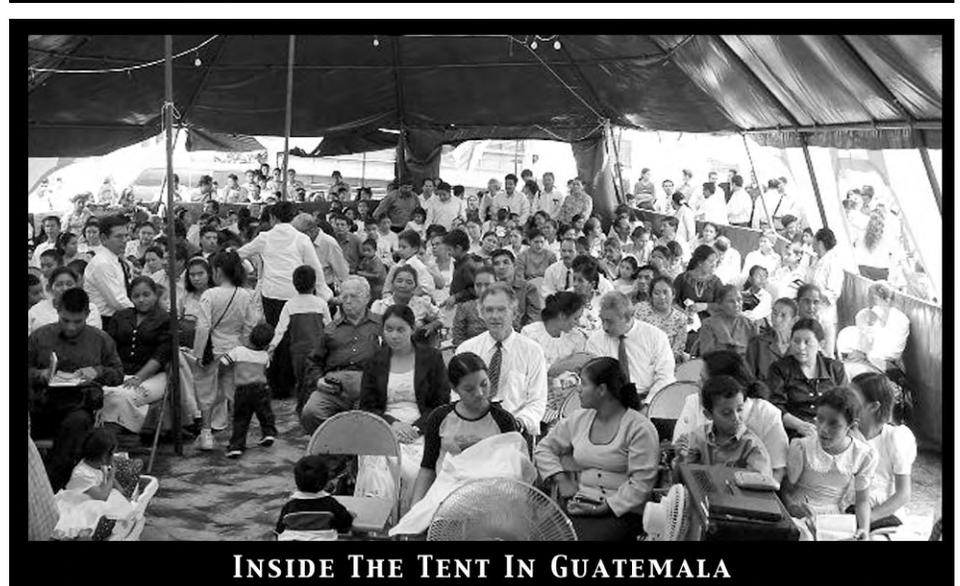


OUTSIDE THE TENT IN GUATEMALA

rounds all who have entered into this covenant relation with God.

My brother, my sister, my friend do not continue in a miserable life of the lukewarm professor of religion. To be a member of the church is not enough. We must become one with Christ and our Father in heaven. We must place all on the altar of sacrifice. We need to make a full surrender. When we fulfill our part of the covenant, God will surely fulfill His part and our covenant will not be only for a time but for eternity. **AMEN**

*Timo Martin*



INSIDE THE TENT IN GUATEMALA

# COMPARING NAPHTALI & DAN



We continue our study to show the 144,000 are a people with conditions which are far from holy.

Revelation 7:13,14. "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

The question is asked, where do these people come from? These words are significant. They come from circumstances that weren't favorable.

Jacob became Israel because he wrestled with God and prevailed. But he made some bad mistakes.

He lost all after he deceived his father. But the Lord drew near to Jacob with the ladder. The time of Jacob's trouble is in harmony with our experience.

The twelve sons of the tribes of Israel are as we are. Recall the dark beginnings.

Patriarchs & Prophets page 208-209. "The

sin of Jacob, and the train of events to which it led, had not failed to exert an influence for evil—an influence that revealed its bitter fruit in the character and life of his sons. As these sons arrived at manhood they developed serious faults. The results of polygamy were manifest in the household. This terrible evil tends to dry up the very springs of love, and its influence weakens the most sacred ties. The jealousy of the several others had embittered the family relation, the children had grown up contentious and impatient of control, and the father's life was darkened with anxiety and grief."

From what circumstances were Dan & Naphtali born into? Genesis 30:1-8. "And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die. And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, [Am] I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb? And she said, Behold my maid

"Bilhah, go in unto her; and she shall bear upon my knees, that I may also have children by her. And she gave him Bilhah her handmaid to wife: and Jacob went in unto her. And Bilhah conceived, and bare Jacob a son. And Rachel said, God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name Dan. And Bilhah Rachel's maid conceived again, and bare Jacob a second son. And Rachel said, With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed: and she called his name Naphtali."

There is no reason why anyone should say, I am too bad. Here is this terrible situation from which they are born. Rachel exer-

cised a selfish streak. There was a relationship tangle over having babies. The first one born Dan, had to do with judging and Naphtali was wrestling.

But why were those of Dan not part of the 144,000? Why did Naphtali make it?

T Volume 2 page 545. "Jealousy and stubbornness are the natural fruits of selfishness."

What effect did this jealousy have?

Genesis 30:6 "And Rachel said, "God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name Dan."

Dan means judging, or judged me. The environment of jealously affected Dan.

Genesis 30:8 "And Rachel said, With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed: and she called his name Naphtali."

Naphtali means wrestling of God. Not the type Jacob had. Leah saw she left bearing and took Zilpah.

T Vol 6 page 42 "Envy, jealousy, evil surmising, and evilspeaking are of Satan, and they effectually bar the way against the Holy Spirit's working. Nothing else in this world is so dear to God as His church. Nothing is guarded by Him with such jealous care. Nothing so offends God as an act that injures the influence of those who are doing His service. He will call to account all who aid Satan in his work of criticizing and discouraging. Those who are destitute of sympathy, tenderness, and love cannot do Christ's work. Before the prophecy can be fulfilled, The weak shall be "as David," and the house of David "as the angel of the Lord" (Zechariah 12:8), the children of God must put away every thought of suspicion in regard to their brethren. Heart must beat in unison with heart. Christian benevolence and brotherly love must be far more

abundantly shown. The words are ringing in my ears: "Draw together, draw together." The solemn, sacred truth for this time is to unify the people of God. The desire for pre-eminence must die. One subject of emulation must swallow up all others--who will most nearly resemble Christ in character? Who will most entirely hide self in Jesus?"

If we have these characteristics, we bar the Holy Spirit from our lives.

Notice Dan's legacy.

Genesis 49:16 "Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel."

Jacob recognized Dan had a capability. To be a judge, is that something bad? No. To discern is a gift.

Matthew 10:16 "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."

A serpent is a very discerning character. He was like a serpent.

1 Cor 12:7,8. "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;"

The spirit to judge and be wise comes from the Holy Spirit.

FE page 257. "It is impossible for any one to foresee to what he may be called. He may be placed in situations where he will need quick discernment and well balanced arguments, and therefore it is for the honor of Christ that well educated workers should be multiplied among us; they will be better able to communicate the truth in a clear, intelligent way, and the truth should be presented in a way that will be as free as possible from defects."

Gospel Workers page 119. "Tact and good judgment increase the usefulness of the laborer a hundred-fold. If he will speak the right words at the right time, and show the right spirit, this will exert a melting power on the heart of the one he is trying to help."

It is good to have judgement, discernment and wisdom. When you have the capability of discerning things when you're growing up, there is a danger to tip the balance. By this gift of judging, like Lucifer, there was a discernment but also a balance problem.

Genesis 49:17 "Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse's heels, so that his rider shall fall backward."

His capability became serpent-like but not harmless as a dove! He was going to use it for his own ends. Jealousy, evil surmising, and evil speaking.

Notice where he bit, he came from behind. It made the horse veer up. This was the characteristic of Dan. But how did this beautiful quality become corrupt?

James 3:13-16 "Who [is] a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but [is] earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife [is], there [is] confusion and every evil work.

Was there not confusion in the household of Jacob? As time went on he continued in this trait.

It is evil surmising. Discrimination, in detecting guilt, fathoming evil motives in others. It is pride to say, I have discernment. We conclude certain guilts.

"He who opens his heart to the suggestions of the enemy in evil surmisings and jealousy frequently misconstrues this evil-mindedness to be special foresight, discrimination or discernment to detect guilt and wrong motives in others; he regards it as a precious gift vouchsafed to him, and he draws apart from his brethren, with whom he should be in harmony.

"He climbs upon the judgment seat and shuts his heart against the one he supposes has erred, as though he himself were above temptation. Jesus separates from him, and leaves him to walk in the sparks of his own kindling."{15MR 180.2}

As you do that you forget, there are circumstances in peoples lives that you are not aware of.

This spirit of dealing with people in wrong doing is deceptive and harmful. It is the fruit of an unregenerated heart. Observe now the shrewd mindedness of Dan.

Judges 18:1,2. "In those days [there was] no king in Israel: and in those days the tribe of the Danites sought them an inheritance to dwell in; for unto that day [all their] inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel. And the children of Dan sent of their family five men from their coasts, men of valour, from Zorah, and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land, and to search it; and they said unto them, Go, search the land: who when they came to mount Ephraim, to the house of Micah, they lodged there." Judges 18:26-30 "And the children of Dan went their way: and when Micah saw that they [were] too strong for him, he turned and went back unto his house. And they took [the things] which Micah had made, and the priest which he had, and came unto Laish, unto a people [that were] at quiet and secure: and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and burnt the city with fire. And [there was] no deliverer, because it [was] far from Zidon, and they had no business with [any] man; and it was in the valley that [lieth] by Bethrehab. And they built a city, and dwelt therein.



“And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born unto Israel: howbeit the name of the city [was] Laish at the first. And the children of Dan set up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.”

They didn't care about the quietude of others. They were judges like the Levites were priests, therefore they didn't have land, but they wanted a city.

Here is another aspect of their smartness, they were skillful.

II Chronicles 2:1-2,11-14 “And Solomon determined to build an house for the name of the LORD, and an house for his kingdom”

“Then Hiram the king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon, Because the LORD hath loved his people, he hath made thee king over them. Hiram said moreover, Blessed [be] the LORD God of Israel, that made heaven and earth, who hath given to David the king a wise son, endued with prudence and understanding, that might build an house for the LORD, and an house for his kingdom. And now I have sent a cunning man, endued with understanding, of Hiram my father's, The son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father [was] a man of Tyre, skillful to work in gold, and in silver, in brass, in iron, in stone, and in timber, in purple, in blue, and in fine linen, and in crimson; also to grave any manner of graving, and to find out every device which shall be put to him, with thy cunning men, and with the cunning men of my lord David thy father.”

SM B2 page 174-175. “In the tribes of Judah and of Dan there were men who were regarded as especially ‘cunning’ in the finer arts. For a time these men remained humble and unselfish; but gradually, almost imperceptibly, they lost their hold upon God and His truth. They began to ask for higher wages because of their superior skill. In some instances their request was granted, but more often those asking higher wages found employment in the surrounding nations. In place of the noble spirit of self-sacrifice that had filled the hearts of their illustrious ancestors, they cherished a spirit of covetousness, of grasping for more and more. They served heathen kings with

their God-given skill, and dishonored their Maker.”

Here we can see the decline of this people. How does God judge this?

Romans 2:1-3 “Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?”

Those that judge others, are guilty of the very same act. If we judge others, we are also guilty of their sin.

James 4:11,12

“Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of [his] brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law; but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?”

What will God do with people like Dan?

Psalms 101:5 “Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.”

Privily = secrecy of tongue being slanderous

The pride of judging results in being cut off from God.

TM page 266-267 “To unite with the fault-finding element, to be accusers of the brethren, to take up the reproach they lay at your door is seconding the work of the enemy by playing yourself into his hands to make his work a success.”

T Vol 5 page 97 “The Lord is testing and proving His people. You may be just as severe and critical with your own defective character as you please; but be kind, pitiful, and courteous toward others.”

T Vol 5 page 130 “All pride must perish, all jealousy be overcome, all ambition for supremacy be given up, and the meekness and trust of the child be encouraged.”

If Dan had done that, he would have been one of the 144,000. His name is not among them in Revelation 7:1-5. He did not wash his robe. Psalms 15:1-3 “LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? Psa 15:2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. [He that] backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.”

Naphtali We will now observe Naphtali Revelation 7:6 “Of the tribe of Aser [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses [were] sealed twelve thousand.”

Genesis 49:21 “Naphtali [is] a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words.”

What was his condition? He was like a hind [a deer]. A deer is timid. What is the root of timidity? Selfishness. It comes from a feeling of being hurt easily.

“Don't let your humility turn into timidity” A characteristic that came from the same source. But look at how it was overcome.

SM 2 page 167. “What a thought that God chooses a man and brings him into close connection with Himself, and gives him a mission to undertake, a work to do, for Him. A weak man is made strong, a timid man is made brave, the irresolute becomes a man of firm and quick decision.”

T Vol 2 page 630 “If he would overcome



timidity and possess more confidence that God would be with him and strengthen him he would be much more happy and a greater blessing to others.”

Did Naphtali ever come?

Deuteronomy 33:23 “And of Naphtali he said, O Naphtali, satisfied with favour, and full with the blessing of the LORD: possess thou the west and the south.”

There was a special blessing given him:

Judges 4:4 & 6-8. “And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time. And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedeshnaphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel

commanded, [saying], Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun? And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, [then] I will not go.”

Barak came from the tribe of Naphtali but he wanted a woman to accompany him as he was timid. But he overcame: Judges 4:14 & 15 “And Deborah said unto Barak, Up; for this [is] the day in which the LORD hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the LORD gone out before thee? So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him. And the LORD discomfited Sisera, and all [his] chariots, and all [his] host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down off [his] chariot, and fled away on his feet.”

Judges 5:18 “Zebulun and Naphtali [were] a people [that] jeoparded their lives unto the death in the high places of the field.”

Hebrews 11:33-34, 32 “Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.”

“And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and [of] Barak, and [of] Samson, and [of] Jephthae; [of] David also, and Samuel, and [of] the prophets:”

Naphtali rejected the slant of his older brother and turned it to humility.

Genesis 49:21 Naphtali [is] a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words. He was a different person because he overcame.

T V 5 96 “True Christians will not exult in exposing the faults and defi-

ciencies of others. They will turn away from vileness and deformity, to fix the mind upon that which is attractive and lovely. To the Christian every act of faultfinding, every word of censure or condemnation, is painful.”

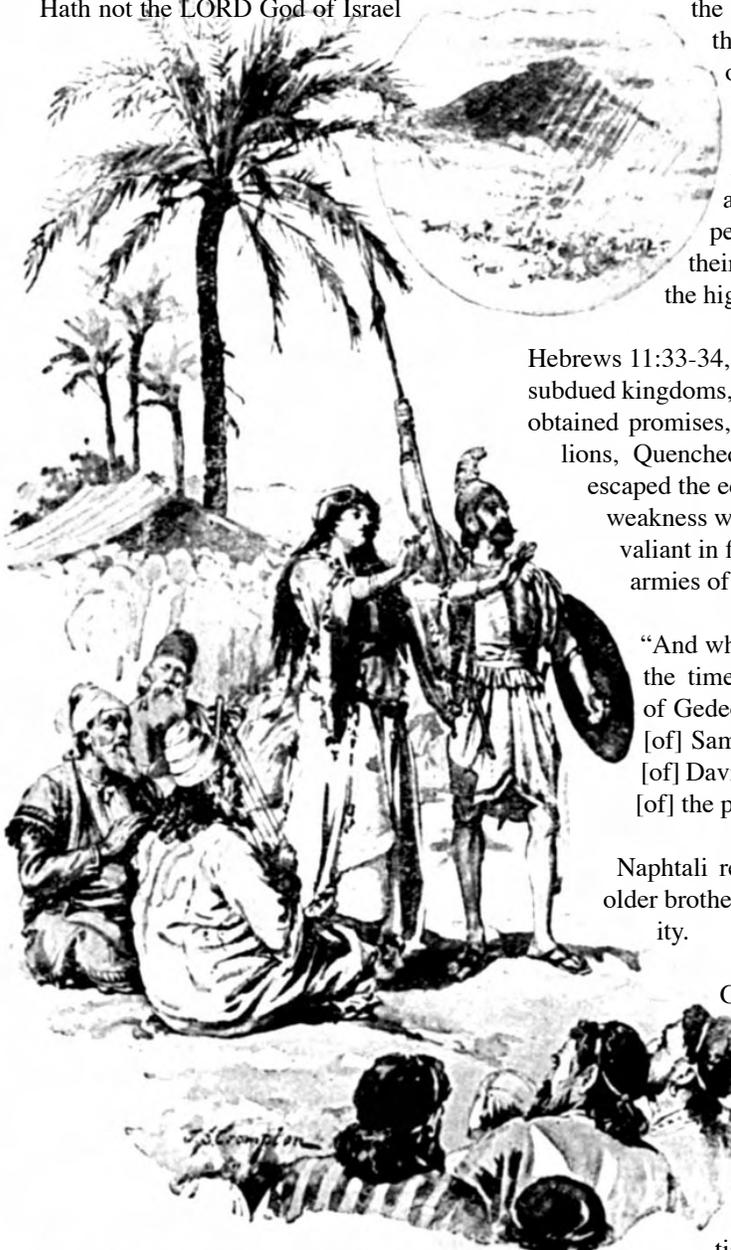
FE 458 “Those who have tasted that the Lord is gracious cannot partake of the dish of nonsense, and folly, and backbiting. They will say decidedly, “Take this dish away. I do not want to eat such food. It is not the bread from heaven. It is eating and drinking the very spirit of the devil; for it is his business to be an accuser of the brethren”

The church that will heed the comparison of Dan and Naphtali will go through. Those who are shrewd and capable, pursuing a relentless course, bringing people to censure, they will be dealt with as was Dan, they will be cut off.

T V 5 page 94 “It pains me to say that there are unruly tongues among church members. There are false tongues that feed on mischief. There are sly, whispering tongues. There is tattling, impertinent meddling, adroit quizzing. Among the lovers of gossip some are actuated by curiosity, others by jealousy, many by hatred against those through whom God has spoken to reprove them. All these discordant elements are at work. Some conceal their real sentiments, while others are eager to publish all they know, or even suspect, of evil against another.”

BC Vol 7 page 937 “Those who criticize and condemn one another are breaking God’s commandments, and are an offense to Him. They neither love God nor their fellow beings. Brethren and sisters, let us clear away the rubbish of criticism and suspicion and complaint, and do not wear your nerves on the outside. Some are so sensitive that they cannot be reasoned with. Be very sensitive in regard to what it means to keep the law of God, and in regard to whether you are keeping or breaking the law. It is this that God wants us to be sensitive about (GCB April 1, 1903). {7BC 937.2}”

To be among the 144,000 you can see that this characteristic must go or we will not have a part. **AMEN.**



THE SONG OF DEBORAH & BARAK, JUDGES 5:1

# PATIENCE

Patience = to stay under (behind), i.e. Remain; fig. To undergo, i.e. bear (trials), have fortitude, persevere = cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy

LOVE = patience – 1 Corinthians 13

“In your patience possess your souls.” Luke 21:19

“Because you have kept the word of My patience, I also will keep you from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” Revelation 3:10

“If we are courteous and gentle at home, we shall carry the savor of a pleasant disposition when away from home. If we manifest forbearance, patience, meekness, and fortitude in the home, we shall be able to be a light to the world.” AH 429

“Soul culture, which gives purity and elevation to the thoughts and fragrance to word and act, requires more painstaking effort. It takes patience to keep every evil motive weeded from the garden of the heart.” CT 108

The plant of patience grows rapidly when carefully cultivated. (ML 97)

“All should cultivate patience by practicing patience. By being kind and forbearing, true love may be kept warm in the heart, and qualities will be developed that Heaven will approve.” AH 106

“It is impossible for an intemperate to be a patient man. First temperance, then patience.” 2T 95

“There is a wonderful power in silence. When impatient words are spoken to you, do not retaliate. Words spoken in reply to one who is angry usually acts as a whip, lashing the temper into greater fury. But anger met by silence quickly dies away. Let the Christian bridle his tongue, firmly resolving not to speak harsh, impatient words. With the tongue bridled, he may be victorious in every trial of patience through which he is called to pass.

In his own strength man cannot rule his spirit. But through CHRIST he may gain

self-control. In HIS strength he may bring his thoughts and words into subjection to the will of God. The religion of CHRIST brings the emotions under the control of reason and disciplines the tongue. Under its influence the hasty temper is subdued, and the heart is filled with patience and gentleness.

Hold firmly to the One who has all power in heaven and in earth. Though you so often fail to reveal patience and calmness, do not give up the struggle. Resolve again, this time more firmly, to be patient under every provocation. And never take your eyes off your divine EXAMPLE.” MYP 136

“Patience as well as courage has its victories. By meekness under trial, no less than by boldness in enterprise, souls may be won to CHRIST. The Christian who manifests patience and cheerfulness under bereavement and suffering, who meets even death itself with the peace and calmness of an unwavering faith, may accomplish for the gospel more than he could have effected by a long life of faithful labor. Often when the servant of God is withdrawn from active duty, the mysterious providence which our short sighted vision would lament is designed by God to accomplish a work that otherwise would never have been done.” AA 465

“We are living in a most solemn period of this earth’s history. There is never time to sin; it is always perilous to continue in transgression, but in a special sense is this true at the present time. We are now upon the very borders of the eternal world and stand in a more solemn relation to time and to eternity than ever before. NOW let every person search his own heart and plead for the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness to expel all spiritual darkness and cleanse from defilement.

To us who are standing on the very verge of their fulfillment, of what deep moment, what



living interest, are these delineations of the

things to come – events for which, since our first parents turned their steps from Eden, God’s children have watched and waited, longed for and prayed!

FELLOW PILGRIM, we are still amid the shadows and turmoil of earthly activities, but soon our Saviour is to appear to bring deliverance and rest. Let us by faith behold the blessed hereafter, as pictured by the hand of God.” AH 549-550

I have decided that a large share of my unrest and trials exist because I need to cultivate patience. This world is not heaven. We are still amid the shadows and turmoil of temporal life. We are in ‘boot camp’ as it were; a training ground, a battleground, not a playground. My innate desire is for ease and a carefree life, but difficulty and duty await me at every turn.

Therefore I decided to research patience because I need to learn about it. It will help me deal with this life.

If we have not been trained in necessary life lessons when we were young, then we must learn them in middle life. They are harder to learn then, but I trust that if met with cheerfully, this discipline will not be unbearable, and may even be joyful because of the hope laid up ahead.

My faithful dog must endure patiently much waiting while I’m about my daily duties. Barnyard animals must patiently endure their lot in life. Above all our Heavenly Father endures patiently our ignorance and waywardness, hoping to bring us to repentance and a higher aim in life than merely eating and drinking, sleeping and working. LOVE IS PATIENT. AMEN

*Kathleen Ross, Alberta, Canada*

# THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

The proverb "All the ways lead to Jerusalem" was used till the 15th century. Until then Jerusalem was considered as the center of the world. By Jerusalem one could situate the site of the countries surrounding her and the traveler could orientate himself. Today it seems to be the same. All eyes are focused on the Middle East and global events in and around Jerusalem; remaining the "crossroads of the world". After Christ's birth it was the "center of the greatest exclusiveness and bigotry." (AA 18) "Symbol of and faint shadow of final ruin and doom of the world (DA 743; GC 36). Thus North of Jerusalem was the King of the North that is Turkey, and South of Jerusalem was the King of the South, which is Egypt.

Turkey attacked the southern country and after fighting cruel conquering wars, founded the great Ottoman Empire. But all has a beginning, a development and an end. The Turks then were as strong as are both America and Russia together today... 450 million subjects populated the Ottoman Empire! But as the prophet had foreseen it, this empire was destroyed on the 2/8/1840.

The great river Euphrates started to dry up. This means that the country that is crossed by this river, which is Turkey, started to perish. Turkey is falling and failing and is called today "the sick man on the Bosphorus".

She tries desperately to establish again her empire... and attacked furiously the Russians (Crimea war). She is helped later by the French and the English, but not by much. Nobody wants to help her for no one agrees with her conquering and destructive plans. (Daniel II:45) Even today, the powerful countries help her in a measure that serves only their own purposes.

Turkey's downfall will open the way to the Kings that will come from the East. (Revelation 16:12). And then will take place the last battle in Armageddon

At that period will come the Prince Michael (Daniel 12:1) who had already risen in 1844.

When He will come all the prophecies will be accomplished. The three-fold angel's message will no more be heard. God's grace will not mediate anymore for the sinners. The 144,000 will be sealed. Many will beg for salvation but it will be too late. The fire that was burning at the altar will be thrown down by an angel. So the prayers will not be purified anymore by it, and because of that will not be able to reach God. The Holy of Holies will be filled with smoke. The remaining burning coal will be put in 7 jars, which will bring the 7 plagues on earth. The angel will pour the content of the jars with no more grace and mercy. They represent the fury of God: a frightening thing!

The jars can be compared to the cup of Gethsemane. Those who didn't place their sins on Christ have to bear the consequences of the lack of Grace. If we don't give our sins to Christ they come back on us; we "reap what we sow". (Gal. 6:7)

God is very sad because of the sinners. From the beginning He continuously urged his people to keep away from sin. No one can complain about not being warned by the message of repentance. We must try to wake up the people around us. Now is the time!

God will too bring a stop to the grievances of this world. On the day of the last Judgment even the lost ones will say: Lord, you are righteous and your judgments are righteous. (Rev. 19:2) **AMEN**

## John Theodorou, USA

For more information on the downfall of the Ottoman Empire:

"The Great Controversy" chapter 18 and chapter 39.

Revelation 9:10,11 - 5 months literally 150 years (5X30) days.

The 150 years start 27/7/1299 and end on 27/7/1449.

Revelation 9:13 - 15 - The 4 angels are the 4 sultans of Aleppo, Iconic, Damascus and Bagdad.

There was the center of the Ottoman Empire.

1 hour = 15 days

1 day = 1 year

1 month = 30 years

1 year = 360 years

Total: 391 years and 15 days, (from 27/7/1449 to 2/8/1840)

# The Roots of Modern Occultism

## Part 3



### Alice Ann Bailey 1880-1949

After Helena Blavatsky Alice Ann Bailey was next to greatly influence the New Age and present day occultism.

It is almost impossible to collect extensive information about Alice A. Bailey. The suspicion becomes even more obvious that there must be reasons why information is withheld.

Mrs. Dr. Hinrichs comments this fact in her preparation: "Ye shall be as gods": "We run here into a phenomenon which one may encounter quite frequently when researching and analyzing the New Age movement, namely that of a deliberate covering up of facts or even of misleading..." – Hinrichs, p. 18.

Till her age of fifteen Alice A. Bailey had attempted suicide three times, because she found that life was not worth living for. She was very shy, neurotic, introverted. Looking back she stated that these difficult years were to be taken as the beginning of the mystic phase in her life, a period which eventually would give place to the occult phase with a greater self-confidence, deeper insight and unmovable convictions." – Ibid. p. 11.

"At the end of the first fifteen years full of inner turmoil, insecurity and self-doubts, she made this her entire future life shaping experience: "She comes in contact with her master ... He tells her that in this world would be something to do for her, that this is planned and that her future usefulness

for him and the world would depend on how much she would be able to learn, to discipline herself and to always serve her master." – Ibid. p. 11.

"Even Alice Bailey made the point that in every human being lives a spar of divinity and therefore it is crucial for man that he listens to his inner voice. Karma and reincarnation belong to the main teachings like the necessity of Yoga." – Gassmann, Madame Blavatsky, p. 80.

Alice Ann Bailey was led by the "Tibetan." Her other masters were Djwahl Khul and Khoot Homi (K.H.) who also directed the pen of Mrs. Blavatsky.



Alice Ann Bailey

Just like with H.P.B., Bailey was in her writings guided by her medium.

Between 1919 and 1949 she wrote over twenty books of theosophical content which, as she says originated through the inspiration of her masters. "She saw herself in the role of the legitimate successor of Blavatsky." – Holthaus, Madame Blavatsky, p. 81.

With her work and her establishing of

organizations, Bailey can be specified as one of the most important figures of the New Age.

### *The Age of the Aquarius – since 1975*

"A.A. Bailey possessed enough far-sight to leave precise instructions for decades to come... easy to understand and follow like cooking recipes, which her disciples gladly observed. She put in her instructions the charge, from 1975 in to go public (she died 1949) to propagate the Age of Aquarius." – Hinrichs, p. 17.

We have here two new terms: Aquarius and Age of Aquarius. The Aquarian Age: "An age of universal brotherhood and enlightenment that many believe humanity is presently entering. It is often identified with the New Age. While Astrologers have used it as a technical term for many years, it was popularized 1967 by the Broadway musical: "Hair", with the song: "This is the Dawning of the Age of Aquarius."

Astrologers believe that the earth enters a new zodiacal age every 2160 years, a figure calculated by the changing of the sun at the spring equinox each year. Among astrologers and occultists there is no consensus on the date for the beginning of the Age of Aquarius... some early as the 17th century, while others place it as late as the 21st century." Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology, 4th ed. Vol. 1. p. 66; G.Gordon Melton, edit.

According to A.A. Bailey's belief, the Fish-Age or the Christian Age is to be replaced with the Age of Aquarius or the mystic, occult New Age. From this point of time 1975 the term New Age has become part of our word power. It may be of interest to mention, that according to experts in contemporary music - since

1975 no more real good music has been written.

**Occultism in the Catholic Church**

We start this section with a statement from Pope Paul VI, 1972: "From somewhere... the smoke of Satan has entered the temple of God." – Fatima Crusader, winter 1997. The well known and often quoted author Malachi Martin, former professor at the Georgiana Papal University in Rome – was known as an insider. We read from him in the Fatima Crusader from above: "Whoever has been familiar with the conditions within the Vatican these last 35 years, is surely aware of the fact, that the prince of darkness has his agencies in the court of St. Peter in Rome." Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo is also quoted in the same issue: "The devil within the Church today is actually protected by certain Church authorities..."

Dave Hunt in his book "Occult Invasion" says: "In fact, there are millions of Christians who, for a thousand years before the Reformation, refused allegiance to the Church of Rome because of its pagan/occult practices and apostasy. These true followers of Christ were persecuted and killed by Rome." - Hunt, p. 407.

We may start with the most popular symbol: Mary. Semiramis, the wife of Nimrod declares her son as the coming Saviour. Nimrod was the first mortal to be worshiped and deified.

"From Babylon, this worship of the Mother and the Child spread to the ends of the earth. In Egypt, the Mother and the child were worshiped under the names of Isis and Osiris. In India, even to this day, as Isi and Iswara; in Asia, as Cebele and Deoius; in Pagan Rome, as Fortuna and Jupiter-puer,

Jupiter, the boy; in Greece, as Ceres, the Great Mother, with the babe at her breast, of as Irene, the goddess of Peace, with the boy Plutus in her arms; and even in Tibet, in China, and Japan, the Jesuit missionaries were astonished to find the counterpart of Madonna and her child as devoutly worshiped as in Papal Rome itself; Shing Moo, the Holy Mother in China, being represented with a child in her arms, and a glory around her, exactly as if a Roman Catholic artist had been employed to set her up." Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, p. 20-21.

Martin Luther concludes in his article "The Babylonian Captivity of the Church": "Now I am convinced that the papacy is Babylon and the rule of the mighty hunter Nimrod." This documentation bears also the significant under-title: "Papal worship proven to be the worship of Nimrod and his wife."

Again a quote from Dave Hunt: "Most of the corruption of the church can be traced to the supposed conversion of Constantine to Christianity. This remarkable event could only have been a master strategy of Satan. Constantine married Christianity to paganism and opened the door of the church to a massive occult invasion. In fact, Constantine's "conversion" itself involved two classic occult events: On the afternoon before the battle ...Constantine saw a flaming cross in the sky, with the Greek words en toutoi nika – "in this sign conquer." Early the next morning, according to Eusebius... Constantine dreamed that a voice commanded him to have his soldiers mark upon their shields the letter X with a line drawn through it and curled around the top....This perverted "cross" resembled the

Mithraic "cross of light" that the followers of the god Mithras in Constantine's army were not offended. Under this ecumenical blend of paganism and Christianity, this "first Christian emperor" slaughtered his enemies in the name of Christ." Hunt. P. 408-9.

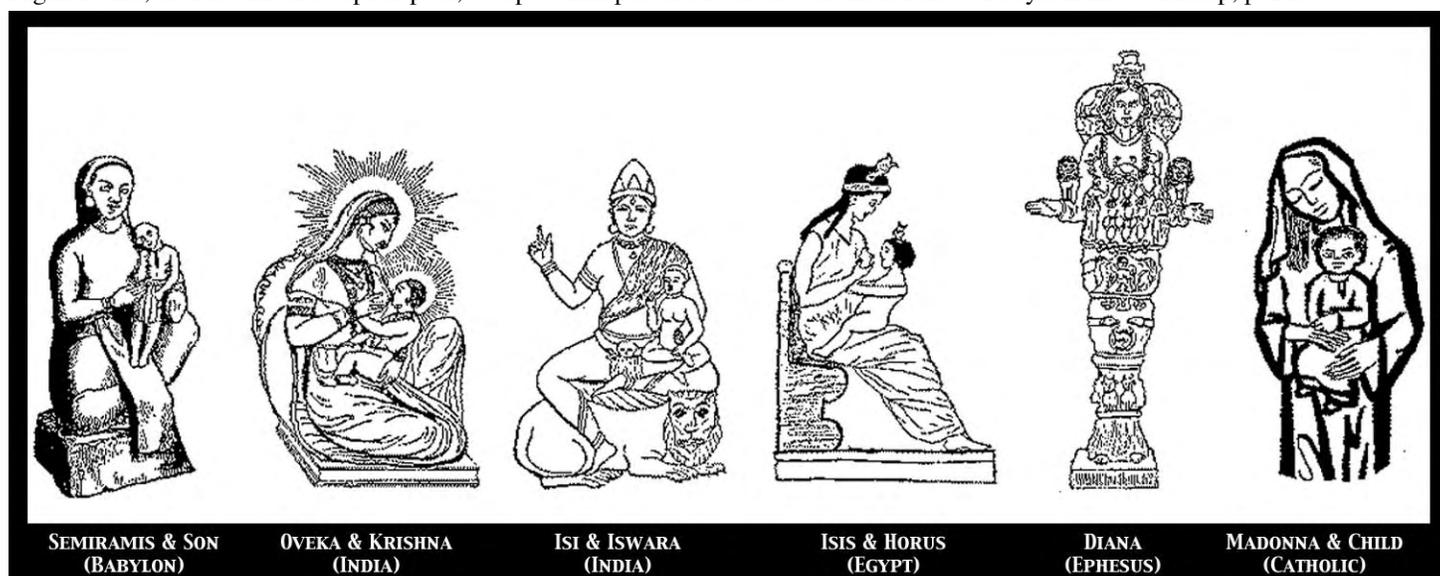
"Throughout his "Christian "life Constantine mixed pagan and Christian rites and continued to rely upon "pagan magic formulas to protect crops and heal disease. Historian Philip Hughes, a Catholic priest, writes:

"In his manners he (Constantine) remained, to the end... the Pagan of his early life." Ibid. p. 410.

Will Durant writes: "Paganism survived (within the church)... in the form of ancient rites and customs condoned, or accepted and transformed, by an often indulgent Church. An intimate and trustful worship of saints replaced the cult of pagan gods...Paganism passed like maternal blood into the new religion, and captive Rome captured her conqueror..." Ibid. p. 410-11.

More pagan traditions we find in Christmas, child baptism (a symbol of child sacrifice to Moloch), justification by works, the mass, the wafer, in the Bible also called cake (Jer. 44:19), purgatory and prayer for the dead, veneration of relics, Pontifex or Pope, and the priesthood.

"The two-horned mitre, which the Pope wears, when he sits on the high altar at Rome and receives the adoration of the Cardinals, is the very mitre worn by Dagon, the fish-god of the Philistines and Babylonians." – Hislop, p. 215.



We turn again to Dave Hunt for information from Malachi Martin, the Jesuit and former professor of the Papal University in Rome: "In his latest book, "Windswept House," a novel published by Doubleday and based upon thinly disguised facts known to Malachi Martin, he depicts satanic rituals being practiced by high-level Roman Catholic officials and even within the Vatican itself. When asked whether some of the events contained in the novel, including the very enthronement of Satan himself within the Church, reflected fact, Martin replied: Oh, yes it is true; very much so. But the only way I could put that down into print is in novelistic form." – Hunt, p. 431.

### Freemasons

When contemplating occultism one must not leave out a description of Freemasonry. Are Freemasons occultist?

Freemasons use many to an outsider secret symbols. The reason for their use is taken from their claim the Word is not enough, therefore they use symbols on top of him. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." – John 1:1-3.

Since Freemasonry considers the Word is not sufficient, therefore God is not sufficient. Those symbols which men invented are thus set above God. Man puts himself above God. Considering this it is clear that Freemasonry is of occult character.

If Freemasonry would have remained within a small circle of people, one may simply overlook them. But "Nearly all of the American presidents were Freemasons. ... Since the beginning of modern Freemasonry about 280 years ago, adherents of Freemason philosophy seek to influence the affairs of the western world on all levels. They pursue two big goals:  
1. To unite all the world into one great family. "Freemason and philosopher Guiliano Di Bernardo, professor at the University of Trient, puts this goal into Freemason jargon: "It is their goal to unite all the people of the world under the starry firmament of the temple into one brotherhood."

To realize this object is needed:

2. A better, nobler human being. To create this "new man" Freemasons are constantly working on the "self-improvement of character."

They call it the hewing of the raw stone." – Topic 5/2002, p. 1.

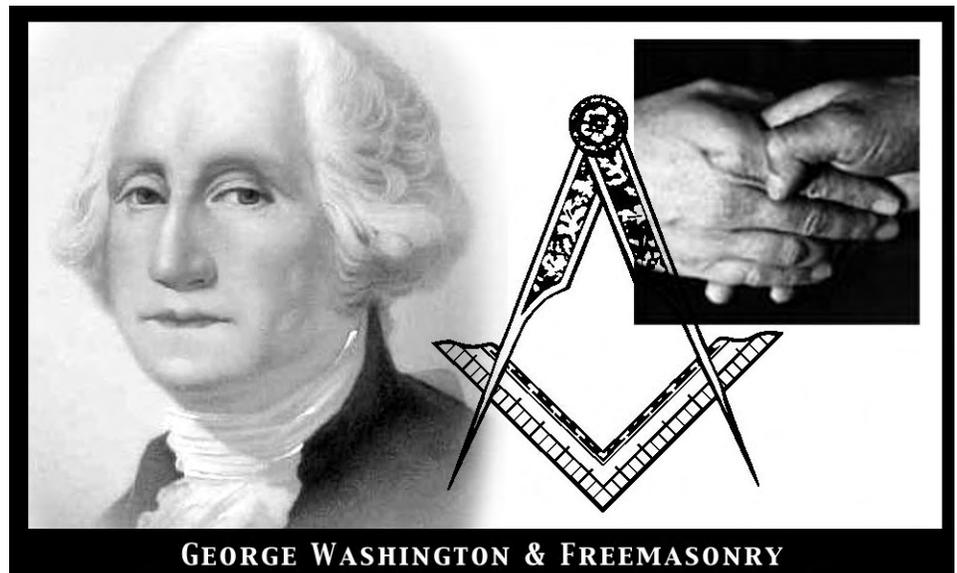
"Di Bernardo expressed it that way: "The idea of Mason self-perfection must purely be seen from the ethnic point of view." – Ibid.

On April 22, 2001 was signed the Charta Oecumenica at the Conference of European

God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me." – Ex. 20:2,3.

Another quote from Topic: "To the Freemason man is the ultimate thing. He does not need salvation from outside, because in principle he is good and is able to perfect himself."

This is actually the idea of the serpent in Eden: "Ye shall be as gods." The editor of Topic adds: "The fact that Freemasonry refuses any claim of absoluteness, yet sets



Churches and the Catholic European Bishop Conference in Strassbourg. The news magazine Topic, May 2001 issue comments: "With this commitment the churches signed more than one of the intentions of Freemasonry. To Freemasonry Christianity is equal to any other religion. Freemasonry endeavors to incorporate all religions and all world views into their "fraternity", offering a framework of general acceptable values unto which all sorts of beliefs and ideologies can be fitted in."

"Tolerance is the key word in all Freemason thinking and dealing. She acts as "binder" for all the various opinions and values. The trigger to the Freemason tolerance idea is the assumption, that there is no "real" truth ... Freemasonry tolerates almost anything, but never that such a thing as "the" truth exists." – Topic 5/2001.

In sharp contrast to this stands the word of the Redeemer: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." John 14:6. Or let us take the first commandment: "I am the LORD thy

herself up as absolute makes her into the enemy of Christ." – Topic 5/2001.

Freemasonry therefore rejects Jesus Christ in His divine, biblical mission: "No man cometh to the Father, but by me." John 14:6.

### Antichrists

*Who is the antichrist?*

Little children, it is the last time; and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even so are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." – 1. John 2:18.

In this verse we see the concept of antichrist not in the single term alone, but also in plural, antichrists.

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son." – 1. John 2:22.  
"For many deceivers are entered into the

world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.” – 2. John 7

In our studies about the term “antichrist” we usually see the antichrist in the form of the papacy. At the definition of the word “anti” from the root, we find beside the term “against” also the expression “instead.” At the same time we broaden the term “antichrist” with the one in 1.John 2:18 used plural, “antichrists.”

With these two interpretations we find new and surprising points to ponder.

#### *Is Occultism an Antichrist?*

Is he “against” Christ, or “instead” of Christ?

The biblical definition is: “...but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist...”

1 John 2:22.

Looking at what we have put into consideration we can observe that both criterions “anti” or “instead” meet in occultism. His whole idea has one goal: I can do all myself without Jesus Christ. I do not need God. Friedrich Schiller strongly emphasized a breaking away from God. I can develop into a god.

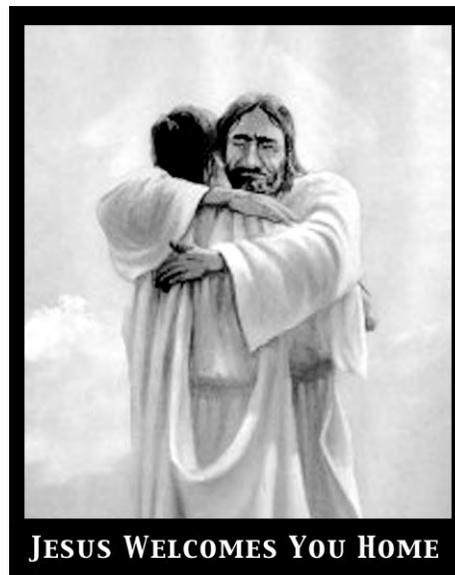
New Age teaching often takes up the thought of an so called “inner” knowledge. We hear repeatedly the unbiblical term trance; reincarnation is the word used instead of salvation. Meditation substitutes prayer. Spirituality replaces the personality with God. Magic and mysticism become common knowledge pushing aside God’s Spirit. Spiritual healing substitutes the healing of the mind. Self-salvation instead of salvation through the blood of Christ. Instead about a connection with God, we are taught of “God in us.”

Magical power through means of stones or crystals are to replace divine help. Oracles are to replace prayers. Activated energy (homeopathy) is substituted for herbal action in medicines. Trusting astrology is to replace trust in God.

Spiritual liberty is taught instead dependency on God. Magnetism is believed having supernatural powers. From the myths come the ideas to follow one’s own imagination instead to be led by the Spirit of God.

Self-perfection and self-salvation are to replace the sanctification of the Bible. Mediums are accepted instead Jesus Christ. Flows of energy distract the mind from the Spirit of God. Magic cancels out divine action. Energy from within is to substitute divine energy.

Immersion in meditation supplants the waiting for divine response. Visualizing replaces the personal talking with God. Satanic literature takes the place of the Bible. The personal connection with God is given up for total independence from His influence. Satanism is taken in exchange for Christianity. The lie of the serpent offered instead of the truth of God. Christ is being exchanged for Satan.



“Who is a liar, but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is an antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.” 1.John 2:22.

Instead of Christ, the New Age movement and the occult are to do the work. Both put man in the center – instead of God. In their eyes man is capable to continually develop and to increase until at last he shall become God himself.

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

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

Jesus is Victor. By His death upon the cross He conquered over the satanic powers – which now arm themselves for the last desperate struggle against God to try to destroy as many people as possible. We may partake in Jesus’ victory if we put our whole trust in Him alone, and His accomplished work by the blood He shed for us. The cross of Calvary cancels all high handed human striving for the gaining of a higher knowledge of supernatural matters. Not an arrogant human knowledge like gnosis, New Age occultism and anthroposophy, but a divine, grace-given faith, exalting the lowliness of the cross - this is the way to peace and salvation.

We close with the words of the apostle Paul from the letter to the Ephesians: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.” Eph. 6:10. *Amen.*

*By Helmut Welker, Germany, translated by Edda Tedford, Canada.*

#### *Literature/Sources:*

**Antholzer**, Roland; *Machte der Bosheit – Occultbedrohung und Seelsorge*, Schwengler Verlag CH 9442 Berneck, 1998.

**Gassmann**, Dr. Lothar; *Rudolf Steiner und die Anthroposophie*, Schwengler Verlag H 9442 Berneck, 1994.

**Holthaus**, Dr. Stefan, *Madame Blavatsky und die Theosophische Gesellschaft*, Schwengler Verlag CH 9442 Berneck, 1990.

**Hinrichs**, Dr. Regina; *Ihr werdet sein wie Gott*, Verlag Franz Schmitt, Siegburg, 1999.

**Hislop**, Alexander; *The Two Babylons*, Loizeaux Brothers, Inc.

**Hunt**, Dave; *Occult Invasion*, Harvest House Publishers, Oregon, 1998.

**Meskemper**, Gottfried; *Falsche Propheten unter Dichtern und Denkern*, Schwengeler Verlag CH 9442 Berneck, 5. Auflage 2000.

**Neumann**, Brian; *Die Macht der Musik*, Wegweiser Verlag, Wien, 2000.



New birth means conversion from sin. When God created man in the beginning He gave him life. Just as long as man did not break this union with God his life continued. However, when Adam and Eve sinned they began to die. Man does not have life in himself. To live eternally he must be born again.

In common, all people are sinners, "for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Rom. 3:23. Man is a sinner. As such he cannot save himself. He is condemned to die. His only hope of life is through the power of God. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23. Sinfulness is a part of man's nature. "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil." Jer.13:23. "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." Rom. 7:18, 19.

### BORN SINNERS

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" Rom. 5:12. Just as disease is transmitted to succeeding generations, so is sin.

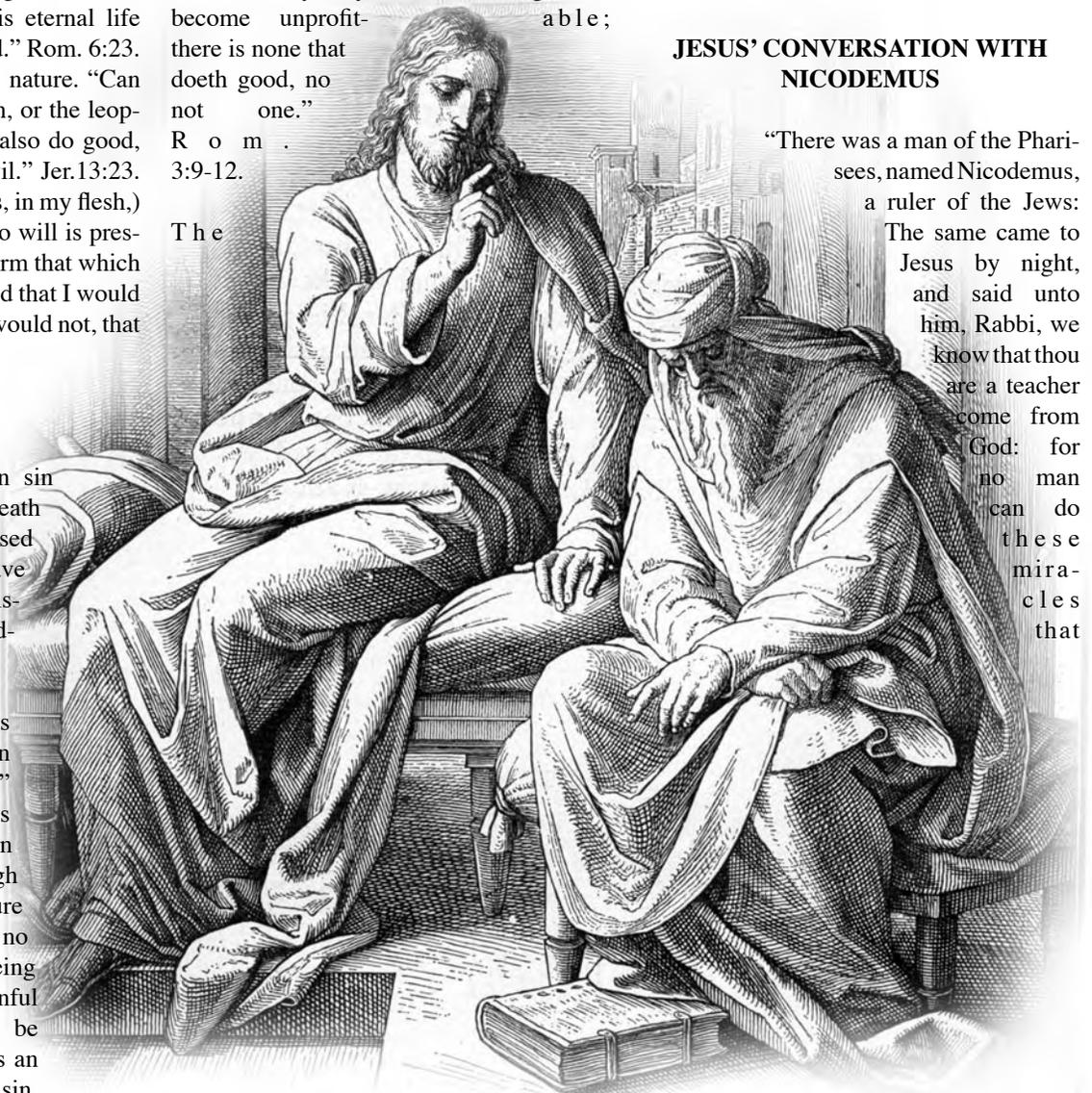
Behold the psalmist "I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me," Psalm 51:5. Sin therefore is an inheritance. Men are born with sinful tendencies. Through disobedience, Adam's nature became changed. He was no longer a holy and righteous being but a sinful being. And this sinful nature must, of necessity, be transmitted to his children as an inheritance. To this inherited sin,

Adam's posterity have added the guilt of their own transgressions. They have all followed his example, for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Rom. 3:23.

"What then? Are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; as it is written; There is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none

that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no not one." Rom. 3:9-12.

The



fall of Adam left the entire human family stranded. Man was cut off from God and lost. But for God's mercy, there would have been no way of escape.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that who soever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

Christ said, "I am come that they might have life." John 10:10, last part. Further He said, "I am ... the life." John 14:6. Man's eternal destiny depends on God who is the source of life.

### JESUS' CONVERSATION WITH NICODEMUS

"There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that



thou doest, except God be with him.” John 3:1,2. “Jesus bent His eyes upon the speaker, as if reading his very soul. In His infinite wisdom He saw before Him a seeker after truth.” DA 168. “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3.

“Nicodemus had heard the preaching of John the Baptist concerning repentance and baptism, and pointing the people to One who should baptize with the Holy Spirit. He himself had felt that there was a lack of spirituality among the Jews, that, to a great degree, they were controlled by bigotry and worldly ambition. He had hoped for a better state of things at the Messiah’s coming. Yet the heart-searching message of the Baptist had failed to work in him conviction of sin. He was a strict Pharisee, and prided himself on his good works. He was widely esteemed for his benevolence and his liberality in sustaining the temple service, and he felt secure of the favour of God. He was startled at the thought of a kingdom too pure for him to see in his present state.

“The figure of the new birth, which Jesus had used, was not wholly unfamiliar to Nicodemus. Converts from heathenism to the faith of Israel were often compared to children just born. Therefore he must have perceived that the words of Christ were not to be taken in a literal sense. But by virtue of his birth as an Israelite he regarded himself as sure of a place in the kingdom of God.

He felt that he needed no change. Hence his surprise at the Saviour’s words. He was irritated by their close application to himself. “Surprised out of his self-possession, he answered Christ in words full of irony, ‘How can a man be born when he is old?’ Like many others when cutting truth is brought home to the conscience, he revealed the fact that the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God. There is in him nothing that responds to spiritual things; for spiritual things are spiritually discerned.

“But the Saviour did not meet argument with argument. Raising His hand with solemn, quiet dignity, He pressed the truth home with greater assurance, ‘Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus knew that Christ here referred to water baptism and the renewing of the heart by the Spirit of God. He was convinced that he was in the presence of the One whom John the Baptist had foretold.

“Jesus continued: ‘That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.’ By nature the heart is evil, and ‘who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.’ Job 14:4. No human invention can find a remedy for the sinning soul. ‘The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.’ ‘Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.’ Rom. 8:7; Matt. 15:19. The fountain of the heart must be purified before the streams can become pure. He who is trying to reach heaven by his own works in keeping the law is attempting an impossibility. There is no safety for one who has merely a legal religion, a form of godliness. The Christian’s life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. This change can be brought about only by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit.” DA 171, 172

“There was no excuse for the blindness of Israel in regard to the work of regeneration. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Isaiah had written, ‘We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags:’ David had prayed, ‘Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right

spirit within me.’ And through Ezekiel the promise had been given, ‘A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes.’ Isa. 64:6; Ps. 51:10; Ezek. 36:26, 27.” DA 174

It is important to note that God says, “I” will do this. The new birth is an experience that comes only from God.

“‘Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ John 3:3. He may conjecture and imagine, but without the eye of faith he cannot see the treasure. Christ gave His life to secure for us this inestimable treasure; but without regeneration through faith in His blood, there is no remission of sins, no treasure for any perishing soul. COL 112

#### GRACE NOT INHERITED

“Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” 2 Cor. 5:17.

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.’ John 1:12. Verse 13. Which were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man. But of the God. The old nature, of blood and the will of the flesh cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The old ways the hereditary tendencies the former habits must be given up for the grace of not inherited. The new birth consists of new tendencies. Those who are begotten unto a new life by the Holy Spirit, have become partakers of the divine nature, and in all their habits and practices they will give evidence of their relationship to Christ. When men who claim to be Christians retain all their natural defects of character and disposition, in what does their position differ from that of the worldling? They do not appreciate the truth as a sanctifier. They have not been born again.” RH 04-12-92

“Nicodemus was being drawn to Christ. As the Saviour explained to him concerning the new birth, he longed to have this change wrought in himself. By what means could it be accomplished?” DA 174

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him

should not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:14, 15

“Not through controversy and discussion is the soul enlightened. We must look and live. Nicodemus received the lesson, and carried it with him. He searched the Scriptures in a new way, not for the discussion of a theory, but in order to receive life for the soul. He began to see the kingdom of heaven as he submitted himself to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

“There are thousands today who need to learn the same truth that was taught to Nicodemus by the uplifted serpent. They depend on their obedience to the law of God to commend them to His favour. When they are bidden to look to Jesus, and believe that He saves them solely through His grace, they exclaim, ‘How can these things be?’” DA 175

“The hope of salvation is accepted without a radical change of heart or reformation of life. Thus superficial conversions abound, and multitudes are joined to the church who have never been united to Christ.” GC 468

“The new birth is a rare experience in this age of the world. This is the reason why there are so many perplexities in the churches. Many, so many, who assume the name of Christ are unsanctified and unholy. They have been baptized, but they were buried alive. Self did not die, and therefore they did not rise to newness of life in Christ.” 6BC 1075

Baptism is a gospel ordinance commemorating the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. In baptism public testimony is given to the effect that the one baptized has been crucified with Christ, buried with him, and raised with him to walk in newness of life.

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also [in the likeness] of [his] resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall

also live with him:” Rom. 6:3-8

“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.” John 3:8

“Like the wind, which is invisible, yet the effects of which are plainly seen and felt, is the Spirit of God in its work upon the human heart.” DA 57

This mysterious, yet very real experience is called conversion or the new birth. The Ethiopian eunuch listened to Philip give an explanation of Isaiah 53 and was converted (Acts 8:26-39). Paul had a direct encounter with God on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1 – 22, 22:1-21, 26: 1-23). When Paul preached the gospel Lydia was converted at Thyatira (Acts 16:13-15). When the Jailer witnessed the miraculous deliverance of Paul and Silas from the jail at Philippi Paul preached Christ and he and his house were converted (Acts 16:25-33)

### THE CHANGES THAT WILL BE SEEN IN THE LIFE OF A PERSON WHO IS BORN AGAIN

#### (a) *New Heart.*

“And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:” Ezekiel 1:19.

#### (b) *A New Mind.*

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,” Romans 12:2

#### (c) *The Law Written in the Heart.*

“I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:” Hebrews 8:10

#### (d) *Different Interests.*

“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.” Romans 8:5

### SOME OF THE OUTWARD EVIDENCES OF TRUE CONVERSION

#### (a) *We will speak every man truth.*

“Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.” Eph. 8:5

#### (b) *If we have stolen, we will steal no more.*

“Let him that stole steal no more: but rather

let him labour, working with [his] hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.” Eph. 4:28

#### (c) *No corrupt communication will proceed from a converted person’s lips.*

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” Eph. 4:29

#### (d) *All bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour will be put away.*

“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:” Eph. 4:31

#### (e) *We will not let the sun go down upon our wrath.*

“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:” Eph. 4:26

#### (f) *We will be kind toward one another.*

“And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Eph. 4:32

#### (g) *We love our brethren.*

“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not [his] brother abideth in death.” 1 John 3:14

#### (h) *We will not grieve the Holy Spirit.*

“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” Eph. 4:30

### HOW THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE BELIEVER IS MAINTAINED

“And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:4-6

The person who is born again enters into a personal union with Christ. The power of Christ becomes his and he bears the fruit of love to God’s glory. There must be a recognition on our part that we can do nothing without Christ’s help.

“The great burden of every soul should be, Is my heart renewed? Is my soul transformed? Are my sins pardoned through faith in Christ? Have I been born again?” 2SM 117

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service.” Rom. 12:1

*Golden Kayawa Hingabantu, Zambia*



“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” 2 Peter 1:20,21

The men of God, who wrote down the prophecies, are called holy. But did they make a boastful profession of holiness? Did these holy men of God say, “I am holy, I am sinless?” Is this how holy men behave?

When Isaiah saw the holiness of the Lord he said, ‘woe is me for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips’ (Isaiah 6:1-5). When Daniel saw the glory of the Lord he said, ‘my comeliness was turned in me into corruption’ (Daniel 10:5-8). When Peter saw the miracle working power of the Lord he said, ‘depart from me Lord, for I am a sinful man’ (Luke 5:4-8). When these men became aware of the presence of God they were brought to recognise their own condition. They said I’m unclean, I’m corrupt, and I’m sinful. But these were the holy men of God that were moved upon by the Holy Spirit to write the Scriptures. Surely they would have recognised a condition of holiness in themselves rather than uncleanness, corruption, sinfulness?

### Holy Flesh

In the year 1900 a fanatical teaching was started in the state of Indiana, in the United States. This fanatical teaching was termed “the doctrine of holy flesh.” Advocates of this movement taught the following: that when Christ passed through the agony of Gethsemane he obtained holy flesh; that those who follow Christ by faith in the Gethsemane experience would likewise obtain holy flesh; that having obtained physical holiness, they could no more

# SINLESSNESS IN SINFUL FLESH

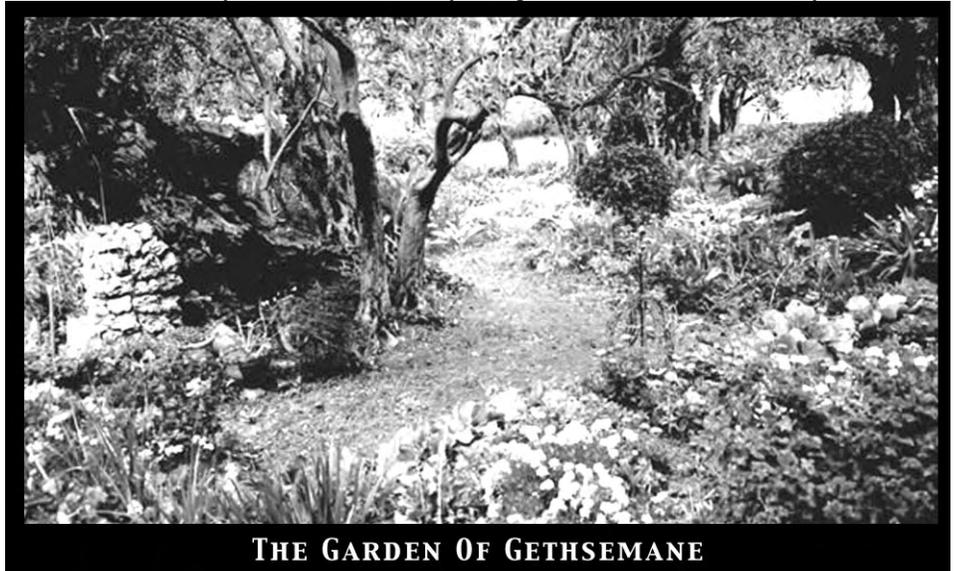
experience corruption and having obtained that they would not die but be translated to heaven. That was the theory of the holy flesh movement. In attempting to gain this holy flesh they sought an experience of physical demonstration with excitement, loud music and hysterical preaching. In 1900, the same year, Sister White wrote against this movement and spoke on it when she came to the General Conference session of 1901. When we study what Sister White wrote denouncing the holy flesh movement it gives us some wonderful insight.

“The teaching given in regard to what is termed ‘holy flesh’ is an error. All may now obtain holy hearts, but it is not correct to claim in this life to have holy flesh. The apostle Paul declares, ‘I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing’ (Rom. 7:18). To those who have tried so hard to obtain by faith so-called holy

is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.” Romans 7:18

However there is another text that was used by advocates of the holy flesh movement to affirm that they could obtain holy flesh. “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thessalonians 5:23 How should this text be understood? It says to seek for sanctification of the spirit, body, and soul and if we are sanctified in body doesn’t that mean we have holy flesh?

“The Scriptures teach us to seek for the sanctification to God of body, soul, and spirit. In this work we are to be labourers together with God. Much may be done to



THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

flesh, I would say, You cannot obtain it. Not a soul of you has holy flesh now. No human being on the earth has holy flesh. It is an impossibility.” {2SM 32.1}

From this statement we note the following: we can all obtain holy hearts but the flesh, that is something which cannot be holy in this lifetime. The text used to affirm we cannot obtain holy flesh in this lifetime is Romans 7:18. “For I know that in me (that

restore the moral image of God in man, to improve the physical, mental, and moral capabilities. Great changes can be made in the physical system by obeying the laws of God and bringing into the body nothing that defiles. And while we cannot claim perfection of the flesh, we may have Christian perfection of the soul.” {2SM 32.3}

Sanctification of the body does not produce

perfection of the flesh or holy flesh. Great changes can be made in the body but this does not produce perfection of the flesh. However sanctification of the body does assist to produce Christian perfection of the soul.

“A diseased body and disordered intellect, because of continual indulgence in hurtful lust, make sanctification of the body and spirit impossible. The apostle understood the importance of the healthful conditions of the body for the successful perfection of Christian character. He says, ‘I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.’ He mentions the fruit of the Spirit, among which is temperance.” {RH, September 8, 1874 par. 13}

Sanctification of the body assists to produce perfection of Christian character. Character is everything because that’s the only thing we take to heaven. We don’t take our body. Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthians advocating the sanctification of the body because without it, without temperance, without sanctification of the body the Corinthians would fail at the perfection of a Christian character.

“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Will it ever be possible to have a body that could be termed holy flesh?

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” Philippians 3:20,21

“When human beings receive holy flesh, they will not remain on the earth, but will be taken to heaven. While sin is forgiven in this life, its results are not now wholly

removed. It is at His coming that Christ is to ‘change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body’ (Phil. 3:21).” {2SM 33.3}

Apostle Paul calls this vile body, the body of this death. “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” Roman 7:24. The vile body or body of this death remains until Jesus comes.

“When Christ shall come, our vile bodies are to be changed, and made like His glorious body; but the vile character will not be made holy then. The transformation of character must take place before His coming. Our natures must be pure and holy; we must have the mind of Christ, that He may behold with pleasure His image reflected upon our souls.” {OHC 278.3}

The nature of the flesh will be changed when Jesus comes but the nature of the character must be pure and holy before he comes. All can obtain holy hearts or holy characters before Jesus comes. Character is something that can be transformed. It’s something that can be changed. And changes in the physical system, changes in the body can assist in the transformation of the character. For example the food we eat can assist to change the temperament and thus help perfect the character. But the flesh, the vile body, that is something that cannot be holy in this lifetime. The results of sin are not wholly removed from the body and until this body is changed we cannot say I am sinless or holy.

“We shall not boast of our holiness. As we have clearer views of Christ’s spotlessness and infinite purity, we shall feel as did Daniel, when he beheld the glory of the Lord, and said, ‘My comeliness was turned in me into corruption.’ {3SM 355.3}

We cannot say, ‘I am sinless,’ till this vile body is changed and fashioned like unto His glorious body.” {3SM 355.4}

### Sinful Flesh

The study we have done so far shows that, in this life, it is possible to obtain: holy hearts, Christian perfection of the soul, or perfection of Christian character. Those are all the terms used. Also that it is impossible to obtain holy flesh, perfection of the flesh, or sinless flesh. Those are the terms used. Therefore, if in this life we do not have and cannot obtain holy flesh, then, we

must necessarily have sinful flesh. Pretty simple.

“. . . praying earnestly that God’s people may more distinctly and forcibly realize the dignity that our heavenly Father has conferred upon us in calling us to represent before the world, in sinful flesh, His goodness and mercy.” {Medical Ministry 255.2}

We are to represent, God’s goodness and mercy, before the world, in sinful flesh. It seems that in this life we will always have sinful flesh. So if in this life we always have sinful flesh and cannot obtain holy flesh until we go to heaven what happens when probation closes and we still have sinful flesh? The answer is “nothing” because it is not a sin to have sinful flesh. If it were, then, we would have no hope once probation closes. Yet we cannot be sinning once probation closes then there would be no hope. So it appears that we will have to reach a state of sinlessness yet in sinful flesh. We will need to reach a condition of sinlessness in a sinful nature. This is what we find with Christ our example.

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:” 1 Peter 2:21,22

Here is our example. Christ did no sin. He lived on earth, in a state of sinlessness.

“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:” Romans 8:3

Christ was in the likeness of sinful flesh and Hebrews 2:14 tells us “likeness” means the same, the same flesh as you and I.

“Clad in the vestments of humanity, the Son of God came down to the level of those he wished to save. In him was no guile or sinfulness; he was ever pure and undefiled; yet he took upon him our sinful nature.” {RH, December 15, 1896 par. 7}

“He took our nature and overcame, that we through taking His nature might overcome. Made ‘in the likeness of sinful flesh’ (Rom. 8:3), He lived a sinless life.” {DA 311,312}

Christ, in his life on earth, lived in a state of sinlessness yet in sinful flesh. His was a state of sinlessness in our sinful nature.

A book well representative of church beliefs is Bible Readings for the Home Circle. The 1915 edition of this book shows that the church in 1915 held the belief that it is possible to “live a sinless life in sinful flesh.” In Bible Reading for the Home Circle about Romans 8:3 we read the following:

“God, in Christ, condemned sin, not by pronouncing against it merely as a judge sitting on the judgment seat, but by coming and living in the flesh, in sinful flesh, and yet without sinning. In Christ, He demonstrated that it is possible, by His grace and power, to resist temptation, overcome sin, and live a sinless life in sinful flesh.” – Bible Readings for the Home Circle, 1915 Edition.

That was the belief of the church at that time that it is possible to live a sinless life in sinful flesh. However something was lost in the 1958 edition of Bible Readings for the Home Circle. Reading the same paragraph as in the old edition note what is missing.

“God, in Christ, condemned sin, not by pronouncing against it merely as a judge sitting on the judgment seat, but by coming and living in the flesh, and yet without sinning. In Christ, He demonstrated that it is possible, by His grace and power, to resist temptation, overcome sin, and live a sinless life in the flesh.” – Bible Readings for the Home Circle, 1958 Edition.

Something missing? Twice the word sinful has been omitted which makes it to a certain degree ambiguous. Was it holy or sinful flesh? But let’s make it really clear.

“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” Romans 8:3,4

““For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh’--it could not justify man, because in his sinful nature he could not keep the law.” {PP 373.1}

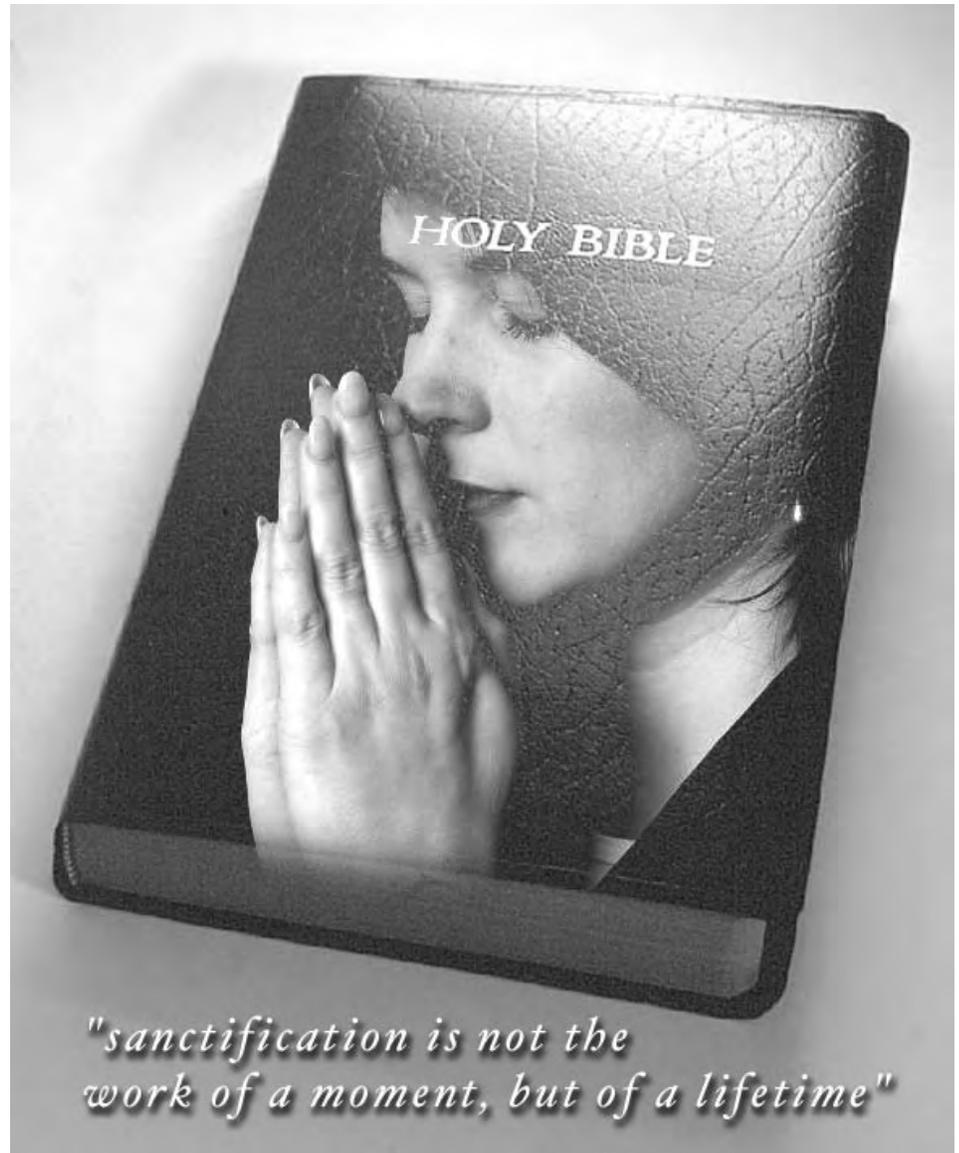
Man in his sinful nature could not keep the

law of God. Man in sinful flesh could not keep the law. Man could not live a sinless life because he had weak sinful flesh. But that is the very thing that we are saying is possible to live a sinless life in sinful flesh. So the first part of Romans 8:3 is saying that man couldn’t do it because he is weak in the sinful nature. However the second part is saying that man could do it because Christ as man’s example has done it.

“That He [Christ] might by His own example condemn sin in the flesh, He took

that it is possible, by his grace and power, to resist temptation, overcome sin, and live a sinless life in sinful flesh. This is the very thing we need to understand before the close of probation. We are by the grace of God, to live sinless yet in our present weak flesh. The same expression of ideas can be found in Review and Herald.

“After the fall, it had been impossible for man with his sinful nature to render obedience to the law of God, had not Christ, by the offer of his own life, purchased



upon Himself the likeness of sinful flesh.” {TMK 131.3}

Christ condemned sin by coming and living in the flesh, in sinful flesh, and yet without sinning. He showed by his own example, that in sinful flesh, man could keep the law of God. He showed that man could live a sinless life in sinful flesh. He demonstrated this by his own example. He demonstrated

the right to lift up the race where they could once more work in harmony with its requirements.” {RH, September 27, 1881 par. 11}

There are persons professing to be ministers of Christ, who declare with the utmost assurance that no man ever did or ever can keep the law of God. But, according to the Scriptures, Christ “took upon himself

our nature,” he “was made in fashion as a man.” He was man’s example, man’s representative, and He declares of himself, “I have kept my Father’s commandments.” The beloved disciple urges that every follower of Christ “ought himself also so to walk even as He walked.” All who are Christ’s will follow the example of Christ.” {RH, September 27, 1881 par. 12}

We have a sinful nature and that nature is weak making it impossible for us to keep the law of God yet an example is set before us in Romans 8:3,4. It is an example that condemns sin in the flesh so that we can no longer find an excuse for sin in the weakness of our sinful nature because the Spirit can give us the power and strength to overcome the weakness of our sinful nature. That is what Romans 8:4 is saying. The Spirit can give us the power to keep the law of God. In our nature we have weaknesses that make us susceptible to sin. We have weaknesses that make us liable to sin. Christ also had these liabilities to sin.

“Christ took humanity with all its liabilities. He took the nature of man with the possibility of yielding to temptation, and he relied upon divine power to keep him.” {GCB, February 25, 1895 par. 6}

This is exactly our example. In our sinful nature it’s inevitable that we will sin. All that we can do without Christ is tainted with selfishness and sin. But it is a fact that we can rely upon divine power to keep us from sinning and thus we can reach a state of sinlessness in weak sinful flesh. This gives us great hope. The next statement now falls into place.

“Those only who through faith in Christ obey all of God’s commandments will reach the condition of sinlessness in which Adam lived before his transgression.” {6BC 1118.10}

Adam before his transgression did not have a sinful nature but we realise that, while on earth, we will always have a sinful nature. So those persons who reach the condition of sinlessness in which Adam lived before the fall will not have lost their sinful natures. Their condition will be sinlessness in the sinful nature. They will need to reach that condition before the close of probation because after it has closed they will need to live without sinning.

Here are the ones that are going to reach

that condition who will live after the close of probation. “Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12

### Perfection of Character Not Easy

Now we begin to wonder what are the implications of sinlessness in sinful flesh? Is that something easy to achieve? We know that perfection of the flesh is an impossibility. We will always have sinful flesh while we live on this earth. But perfection of the character, sanctification of the character, or holiness of character that is something that is now within the realms of possibility and in fact it is quite essential.

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” Hebrews 12:14

Is holiness easy to achieve? How long will it take?

“The arduous struggle for conquest over self, for holiness and heaven, is a lifelong struggle. There is no release in this war; the effort must be continuous and persevering. Christian integrity must be sought with resistless energy and maintained with a resolute fixedness of purpose.” {5T 412.2}

“But while we are to seek earnestly for perfection of character, we must remember that sanctification is not the work of a moment, but of a lifetime. Said Paul, ‘I die daily’ (1 Cor. 15:31). Day by day the work of overcoming must go forward. Every day we are to resist temptation, and gain the victory over selfishness in all its forms.” {YRP 353.2}

Set before us is a life long struggle for holiness and for the perfection of character. That’s why it says, “here is the patience of the saints.” It takes a long persistent effort to struggle forward to perfection of character. Is there any point at which we can say I have now arrived? I am now perfect in character, I am now holy?

“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto

those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded:” Philippians 3:12-15

Apostle Paul makes no boast of perfection. He says not as though I were already perfect but I keep struggling forward, I press toward the mark.

“Not one may claim to be perfect. Let the recording angels write the history of the holy struggles and conflicts of the people of God, let them record their prayers and tears; but let not God be dishonoured by the proclamation from human lips, declaring, ‘I am sinless. I am holy.’ Sanctified lips will never give utterance to such presumptuous words. Paul had been caught up to the third heaven, and had seen and heard things that could not be uttered, and yet his modest statement is, ‘Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect; but I follow after.’ Let the angels of heaven write of Paul’s victories in fighting the good fight of faith. . . . but let Paul utter no vain praise of himself in making a boast of his attainments.” {ST, May 23, 1895 par. 9}

That’s an interesting statement. Sanctified lips will never declare such presumptuous words as, “I am sinless, I am holy.” So even if we do obtain holy hearts, Christian perfection of the soul, or perfection of Christian character we will never hear those words “I am sinless, I am holy.”

Apostle John who was a holy man of God inspired to write the Scriptures does not separate himself from his brethren writes this: “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” 1 John 1:8

Also isn’t it true that although we may have perfection of character we still have the sinful nature so, as quoted before “We cannot say, ‘I am sinless,’ till this vile body is changed and fashioned like unto His glorious body.” {3SM 355.4}

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” 1 John 3:2,3 **AMEN**

*Glendon Higgins, Perth, Australia*



## HERMAN GOERING AND WAR

Herman Goering, condemned to death at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trial after World War II, at least testified truthfully on one issue during his trial. He stated: “Why of course the people don’t want war...But after all it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy, and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship....Voice of no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is to tell them that they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger.”

“Recent wars have certainly confirmed the ease with which leaders of participating nations have been able to manipulate public opinion in favour of that in which Satan delights – war. *Even some Seventh-day Adventists have been beguiled.*”

“Incredibly, in the recent war upon Iraq, the rationale for the war had to be altered on at least five occasions in order to provide a plausible reason for the war. This has been well expressed by a correspondent of an Australian newspaper which strongly supported the war. This commentary article suffers from exaggerated rhetoric, but the facts presented are worth our consideration in the light of Revelation 13.

“And so this vile war drags on and with it the hollow rhetoric, its endless mendacity and its clinical conflict speak that swathes unimaginable horror in a cloak of soothing, vowel-loaded words and phrases.

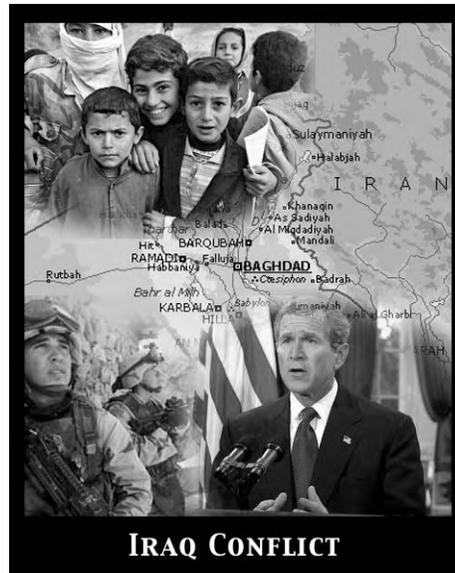
“It is salutary to recall how it started, as a response to September 11, 2001, although no-one ever managed to pin that outrage on Iraq.

22

“Then it became a war on terror, but that didn’t wash.

“Then it devolved into a campaign for ‘regime-change,’ but the public wasn’t buying that either, so it became a campaign to disarm Iraq, to remove weapons of mass destruction that no-one so far has been able to find.

“Now it’s ‘Operation Iraqi Freedom,’ although there is no hard evidence the



Iraqis want the kind of freedom that seems to be on offer, which might be better described as a free-for-all in which US companies grow fat on profits from post-war reconstruction.

“Supporting this squalid enterprise is a motley ‘coalition of the willing.’ Countries (the number keeps changing) such as Micronesia, Tonga, Palau, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uzbekistan.

“In truth, only Britain (Australia’s contribution is a token one, as evidenced by the rare mentions of our involvement in any international media reports) has sent

a significant number of troops, and the illegal adventure has been launched without a United Nations resolution because there was no time to negotiate one. *Sydney Sunday Telegraph*, April 6, 2003

The independent SDA reporting of this war has been typically mixed and confused. “Some SDAs have been beguiled” cautions this article, while another independent SDA paper ran an F.C. Gilbert reprint from the time of the First World War exhorting the SDA youth to faithfulness to spiritual duty even as they were being shipped out to the front to kill and be killed. Is it any wonder that some SDAs have been beguiled when they, and the SDA independents have no clear position on the sixth commandment?

Make no mistake, God’s true church has a high and holy calling to give the trumpet a certain sound – proclaiming the divine truth that it is only Satan that delights in war. And, “I was shown that God’s people, who are His peculiar treasure, cannot engage in this perplexing war [American Civil War, 1861-1865] for it is opposed to every principle of their faith. **In the army** they cannot obey the truth and at the same time obey the requirements of their officers. There would be a continual violation of conscience. Worldly men are governed by worldly principles. They can appreciate no other. Worldly policy and public opinion comprise the principle of action that governs them and leads them to practice the form of right doing. But God’s people cannot be governed by these motives. The words and commands of God, written on the soul, are spirit and life, and there is power in them to bring into subjection and enforce obedience. The ten precepts of Jehovah are the foundation of all righteous and good laws. Those who love God’s commandments will conform to every good law of the land. But if the requirements of the rulers are such as conflict with the laws

of God, the only question to be settled is: Shall we obey God or man?" *Testimonies Vol. I, p. 361*

"Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant," declared Isaiah, "we should have been as Sodom, and . . . Gomorrah." Isaiah 1:9. {PK 324.2}

"In every age, for the sake of those who have remained true, as well as because of His infinite love for the erring, God has borne long with the rebellious, and has urged them to forsake their course of evil and return to Him. "Precept upon precept; line upon line, . . . here a little, and there a little," through men of His appointment, He has taught transgressors' the way of righteousness. Isaiah 28:10." {PK 324.3}

"In the time of the end every divine institution is to be restored. The breach made in the law at the time the Sabbath was changed by man, is to be repaired. God's remnant people, standing before the world as reformers, are to show that the law of God is the foundation of all enduring reform and that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is to stand as a memorial of creation, a constant reminder of the power of God. **In clear, distinct lines they are to present the necessity of obedience to all the precepts of the Decalogue.** Constrained by the love of Christ, they are to co-operate with Him in building up the waste places. They are to be repairers of the breach, restorers of paths to dwell in. Isaiah 58:12 {PK 678.2}

We have unity in the faith, unity in the truth, and what could be more simple and right than being unified in the Ten Commandments? God's people are to heed these divine injunctions and appeal to every sincere Christian, especially every sincere SDA, that God still has a church that is uplifting all of His commandments. "Men of His appointment" are still sharing the pure love of God through the truth committed to us that the sincere may find His true remnant people.

### **CALL FOR PROHIBITION ON BRITISH ROMAN CATHOLIC MONARCH TO BE LIFTED?**

The [British] Catholic Herald, June 7, 2002 reported that:

"Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor marked the Golden Jubilee weekend [of

Queen Elizabeth II's ascension to the British throne] by calling for the repeal of the 300 year-old law barring Catholics from succession to the throne.

"The Archbishop of Westminster said the Act of Settlement 1701 was irrelevant in



**QUEEN ELIZABETH II & CARDINAL MURPHY-O'CONNOR**

today's Britain. But the Cardinal, who played a prominent role in the weekend's royal celebrations, made it clear that his appeal for reform was not an attack on the Monarchy. Catholics, he said, should pay homage to the Queen and give thanks to God for her 50 years of devoted service to Britain.

"Last week, the Cardinal endorsed a campaign seeking to overturn the Act. The Act ensures that the British monarch is Protestant and bars them from marrying a Catholic. The campaign, led by The Guardian newspaper and the Labour backbencher Kevin McNamara, a Catholic, has won the backing of 72 MPs and 35 peers.

"In an interview with Sky News on Sunday, the Cardinal explained why he believed the Act should be amended.

"He said: 'I think with regard to the Act of Settlement, it's not really and shouldn't be relevant in today's world and today's Britain,' it was unjust he added, that Prince William could marry a Hindu or a Buddhist, but not a Catholic. 'That seems to me anomalous, and I think it should go,' he said."

"The British Act of Settlement enacted in 1701 ensured that no Roman Catholic nor

anyone married to a Roman Catholic could sit upon the throne of Britain. This, of course, was not an act of religious liberty. Rather, it was an attempt to ensure that Britain would never again come under Papal tyranny. Further, the monarch being titular head of the Church of England, it

was deemed essential to preserve this faith from Papal pollution.

"The Church of England, three centuries later, appears to possess no fear of Rome nor does its present head, Queen Elizabeth II. It is likely that very shortly Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor will see his wishes enacted. "And all of the world wondered after the beast." Revelation 13:3

### **HELP FOR TEENS AT RISK**

"Research has yet to prove the value of this novel approach to lowering teen high-risk behaviours. But according to social researcher Gary Hopkins, it's a win-win anyway.

"I heard a story, not a scientific study using strict rules of research, mind, of a very small town in the American North West where alcohol and teen pregnancy had surfaced as a problem. The town councillors were concerned about their kids and would often hold town meetings to discuss what to do.

"They started with the logical steps: Experts in teen pregnancy were consulted and thousands of dollars were spent on the purchase of fancy teen-pregnancy prevention programs along with drug-prevention programs. These seemed to

look great and the councillors implemented these programs for a few years. Interesting speakers were paid to give assembly talks to the students about drugs, alcohol and teen pregnancy. They spent a lot of money on their prevention efforts.

“Evaluation of their efforts showed that the rates of teen pregnancy remained stable. The number of girls in that school who had quit due to pregnancy hadn’t changed when a comparison of drop-outs before and after the program was initiated. And it appeared that no fewer kids had been caught using alcohol and drugs.

“A school board meeting was held. They were really surprised. The kids had enjoyed the programs, but none of what they had tried had been effective. What had happened? What were they going to do?

“Then one board member, an older rancher said, ‘I don’t know what to do. It seems like when I was a kid, everyone in town knew us-called us by name and sort of hooked into our lives.

“People were real back then, and these problems weren’t very common. Maybe we should get to know these kids.’

“Board members reminisced about their earlier days and then someone said, ‘Let’s hold a town meeting. That wouldn’t be hard. There are only about 1200 people living here. Why don’t we ask every adult in town to learn the names of every kid? Let’s greet them every time we see them and get to know them. Maybe that will have some effect.’

“The school board members weren’t overwhelmed with the idea but decided to give it a try. A town meeting was held and the idea was presented. The town’s people seemed willing to make a go of it. What did they have to lose? And it didn’t cost anything.

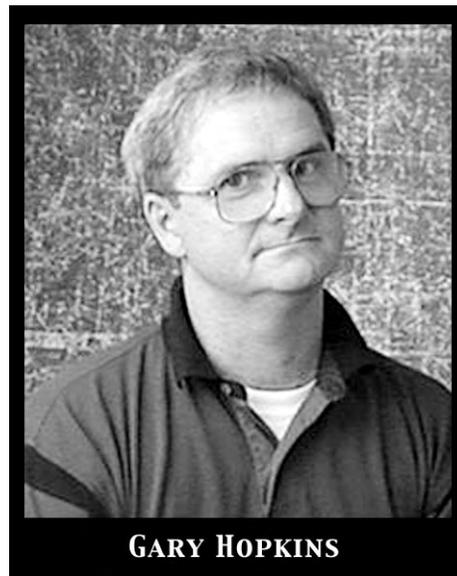
“So the plan was put into action. Names were learned and relationships between adults and kids were nurtured.

“Several months after the town started on their effort to learn the names of the local kids another town meeting was held. There was an enthusiastic buzz in the room. People couldn’t wait to tell their stories and every person in the room seemed to

have one. People told of the relationships that they had developed with youngsters in town that started just by learning their names.

“At a school board meeting a couple of years later the registrar mentioned something interesting. ‘It looks like the number of school drop-outs has decreased for some reason. I did some digging, and it actually looks like the number of girls who quit school due to pregnancy has also decreased.’

“There were still a few pregnancies among the students but improvement was obvious.



**GARY HOPKINS**

“Do you think that this has something to do with the town people learning the names of the kids?’ someone asked.

“In fact, in that town, arrests for alcohol and drugs among the high-school kids had decreased. All, it appears, started by simply learning their kids’ names and watching out for them.

“The way of measuring whether or not you are doing this well is by watching to see what happens when you see a young person playing on the footpath or filling their car at the station. If they see you and wave, you aren’t close enough to them. If they see you and actually come up to you, you’ve probably got it right.’

“Research shows that loved people survive AIDS longer, heart attacks and cancer more; they live longer, heal faster after surgery, take drugs less often and many more

benefits accrue from healthy interaction.

“So can you imagine what might occur if we were to combine a correct message with correct love?

“Do not withdraw your love now. That love and sympathy is needed now as never before. When others look with coldness and put the worst construction upon the misdeeds of your boy, should not the father and mother [and every church member] in pitying tenderness seek to guide his footsteps into safe paths? I do not know the character of your son’s sins, but I am safe in saying, whatever they may be, Let no comments from human lips, no pressure from human actions, of those who think they are doing justice, lead you to pursue a course which can be interpreted by your son that you feel too much mortified and dishonored to ever take him back into confidence and to forget his transgressions. Let nothing cause you to lose hope, nothing to cut off your love and tenderness for the erring one. Just because he is erring, he needs you, and he wants a father and a mother to help him to recover himself from the snare of Satan. Hold him fast by faith and love, and cling to the all-pitying Redeemer, remembering that he has One who has an interest in him, even above your own. . . . {CG 266.2}

“Do not talk discouragement and hopelessness. Talk courage. Tell him he can redeem himself, that you, his father and mother, [and any true Christian] will help him to take hold from above to plant his feet on the solid Rock, Christ Jesus, to find a sure support and unfailing strength in Jesus. If his fault be ever so grievous, it will not cure your son to press this constantly upon him. A right course of action is needed to save a soul from death and keep a soul from committing a multitude of sins. {CG 267.1}

“I wish to say to every father and mother, [and every church member] If you have a hasty temper, seek God for help to overcome it. When you are provoked to impatience, go to your chamber, and kneel down and ask God to help you that you may have a right influence over your children. {CG 267.2}

*Edited by Jerry Eaton*



# UNITY, EVIDENCE OF DISCIPLESHIP

“Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:” 1 Peter 3:8.

“God’s servants are to work together, blending in kindly, courteous order, “in honour preferring one another.” Romans 12:10. There is to be no unkind criticism, no pulling to pieces of another’s work; and there are to be no separate parties. Every man to whom the Lord has entrusted a message has his specific work. Each one has an individuality of his own, which he is not to sink in that of any other man. Yet each is to work in harmony with his brethren.” AA 275/6

“It is the will of God that union and brotherly love should exist among His people. The prayer of Christ just before His crucifixion was that His disciples might be one as He is one with the Father, that the world might believe that God had sent Him. This most touching and wonderful prayer reaches down the ages, even to our day; for His words were, “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word.” John 17:20. While we are not to sacrifice one principle of truth, it should be our constant aim to reach this state of unity. This is the evidence of our discipleship. Said Jesus, “By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13:35.” PP 520

“**Unity In Diversity** – John 17:20 – 21, What kind of Unity is spoken of in these words? – Unity in Diversity. Our minds do not all run in the same channel, and we have not all been given the same work. God

has given to every man his work according to his several ability. There are no different kinds of work to be done, and workers of varied capabilities are needed. If our hearts are humble, if we have learned in the school of Christ to be meek and lowly, we may all press together in the narrow path marked out for us.” MS 52, 1904.

“**No Destruction Of Personality** – Christ is one with the Father, but Christ and God are two distinct personages. Read the prayer of Christ in the seventeenth chapter of John, and you will find their point clearly brought out. How earnestly the Saviour prayed that His disciples might be one with Him as He is one with the Father. But the unity that is to exist between Christ and His followers does not destroy the personality of either. They are to be one with Him as He is one with the Father.” RH June 1, 1905.

“What a wonderful statement! The unity that exists between Christ and His disciples does not destroy the personality of either, in mind, in purpose, in character, they are one, but not in person. By partaking of the spirit of God, conforming to the law of God, man becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ brings His disciples into a living union with Himself and with the Father. Through the workings of the Holy Spirit upon the human mind, man is made complete in Christ Jesus. Unity with Christ establishes a bond of unity with one another. This unity is the most convincing proof to the world of the majesty and virtue of Christ, and of His power to take away sin.” MS 111, 1903.

“If the professed followers of Christ would

accept God’s standard, it would bring them into Unity; but so long as human wisdom is exalted above His Holy Word there will be divisions and dissension.” PP 124.

God has united believers in church capacity in order that one may strengthen another in good and righteous endeavours. The church on earth would indeed be a symbol of the church in heaven if the members were of one mind and one faith. It is those who are not moved by the Holy Spirit that mar God’s plan. Another spirit takes possession of them, and they help to strengthen the forces of darkness. Those who are sanctified by the precious blood of Christ will not become the means of counter working the great plan which God has devised. They will not bring human depravity into things small or great. They will do nothing to perpetuate division in the church.

“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and [that] there be no divisions among you; but [that] ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” 1 Cor. 1:10.

“Notwithstanding the fact that Paul was personally taught by God, he had no strained ideas of individual responsibility. While looking to God for direct guidance, he was ever ready to recognize the authority vested in the body of believers united in church fellowship. He felt the need of counsel, and when matters of importance arose, he was glad to lay these before the church and to unite with his brethren in seeking God for wisdom to make right decisions.” AA 200

“Oh, how many times, when I have seemed to be in the presence of God and holy angels, I have heard the angel voice saying, “Press together, press together, press together. Do not let Satan cast his hellish shadow between brethren. Press together; in unity there is strength.” 2SM 374

“Though we have an individual work and an individual responsibility before God, we are not to follow our own judgment, regardless of the opinions and feelings of our brethren; for this course would lead to disorder in the church. It is the duty of ministers to respect the judgment of their brethren; but their relations to one another, as well as the doctrines they teach, should be brought to the test of the law and the testimony; then, if hearts are teachable, there will be no divisions among us.” TM 503

“One object must be kept in view constantly; that is, harmony and co-operation must be maintained without compromising one principle of truth.” CW 79.

“If there is a point of truth that you do not understand, upon which you do not agree, investigate, compare scripture with

scripture, sink the shaft of truth down deep into the mine of God’s Word. You must lay yourselves and your opinions on the altar of God, put away your preconceived ideas, and let the Spirit of Heaven guide you into all truth.” 1SM 412

“Christ calls upon his followers to come into unity on the pure gospel principles which are plainly revealed in the word of God.” GW 391

“We have a testing message to give, and I am instructed to say to our people, unify, unity. But we are not to unify with those who are departing from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. With our hearts sweet and kind and true, we are to go forth to proclaim the message, giving no heed to those who lead away from the truth.” RH 4-19-1906.

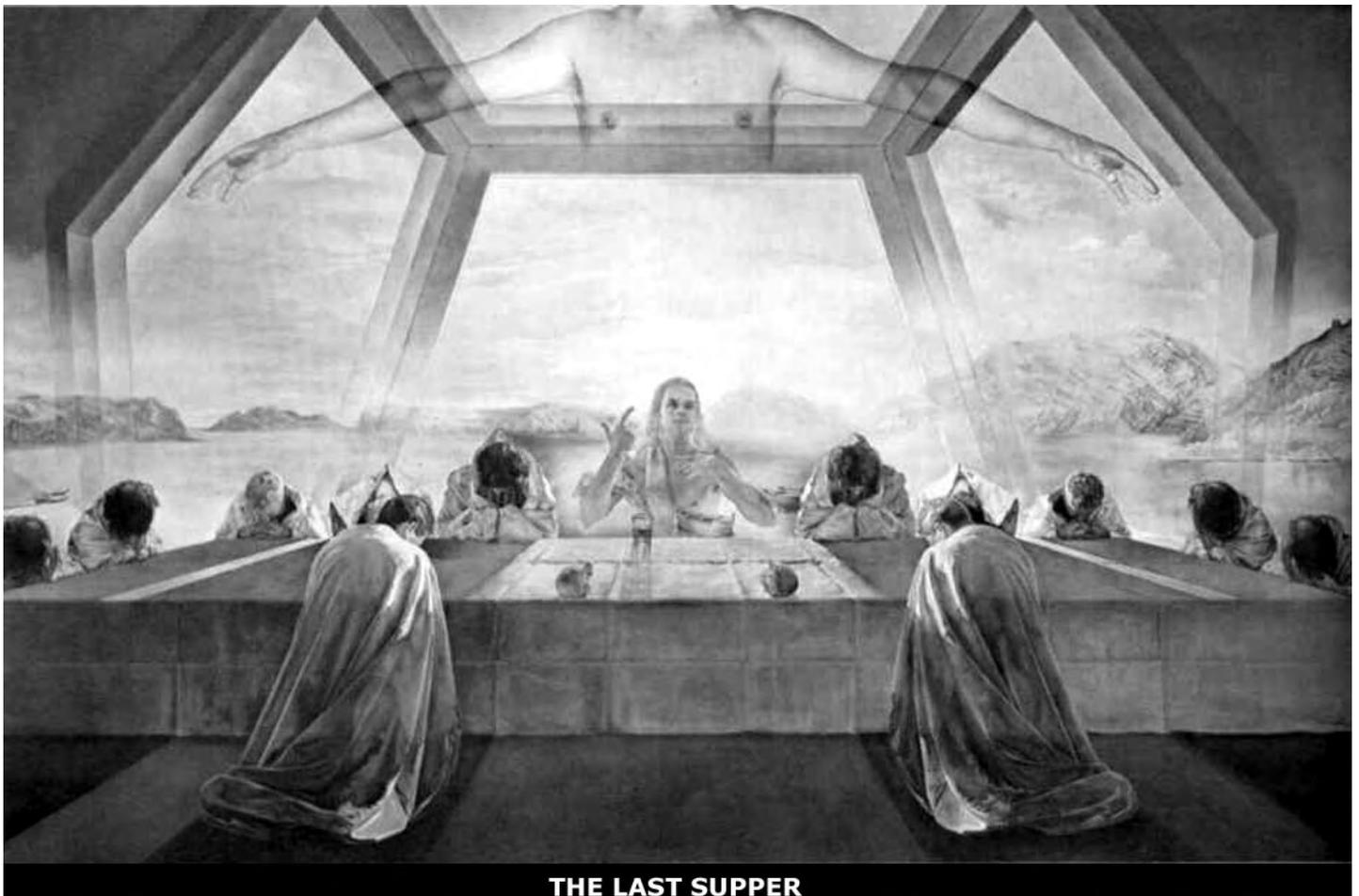
#### ***Problem solving and conflict resolution***

***“When united with christ, members will solve church problems with sympathy, tenderness, and love*** – The Bible sets before us a model church. They are to be in unity with each other, and with God. When believers are united in Christ the living

vine, the result is that they’re one with Christ, full of sympathy and tenderness and love.” 3 SM 18.

***“Solve problems by counseling together”*** – The Spirit of Christ is grieved when any of His followers give evidence of possessing a harsh, unfair, or exacting spirit. As labourers together with God, each should regard the other as part of God’s great firm. He desires that they shall counsel together. There is to be no drawing apart, for the Spirit of independence dishonours the truth we profess. One special evidence that the Spirit of Christ is abiding in His church is the Unity and harmony which exists among its members. This is the brightest witness to the possession of true relation; for it will convert and transform the natural man, and fashion him after the diving similitude.” RH Feb. 18, 1909.

***“An accusing spirit prevents the solving of problems”*** – There are some who imagine that it is their duty to be church tinkers. It is agreeable to their natural feelings to be seeking sport and stain in others; they watch diligently for something to reprove, and they become narrower and narrower in their ideas, until they are ready to make



**THE LAST SUPPER**

YOUTH CONFERENCE IN ENGLAND



LORD'S SUPPER IN LATVIA



URISAR FAMILY IN TORONTO



BAPTISM @ COLORADO CONFERENCE



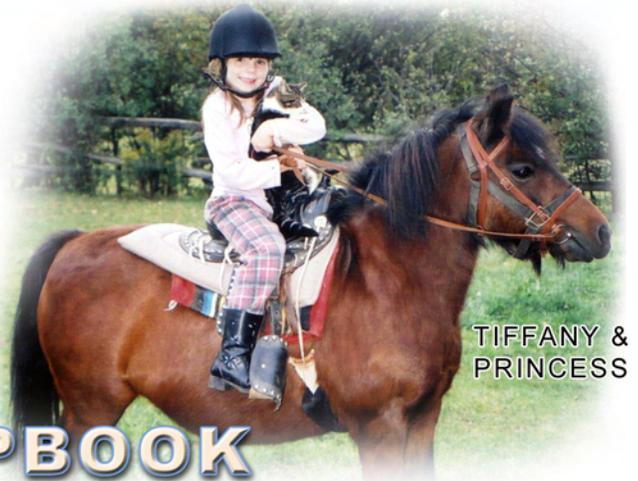
COLORADO CONFERENCE



JAMES & HOUDINI



TIFFANY & PRINCESS



IMS SCRAPBOOK

# YOUTH CONFERENCE



*in England*

[www.imssdarm-bg.org/Messenger](http://www.imssdarm-bg.org/Messenger)