

# *The Reformation* **Messenger**

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



“And He changeth the times and the seasons: He removeth kings, and setteth up kings: He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:”

Daniel 2:21

## 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.

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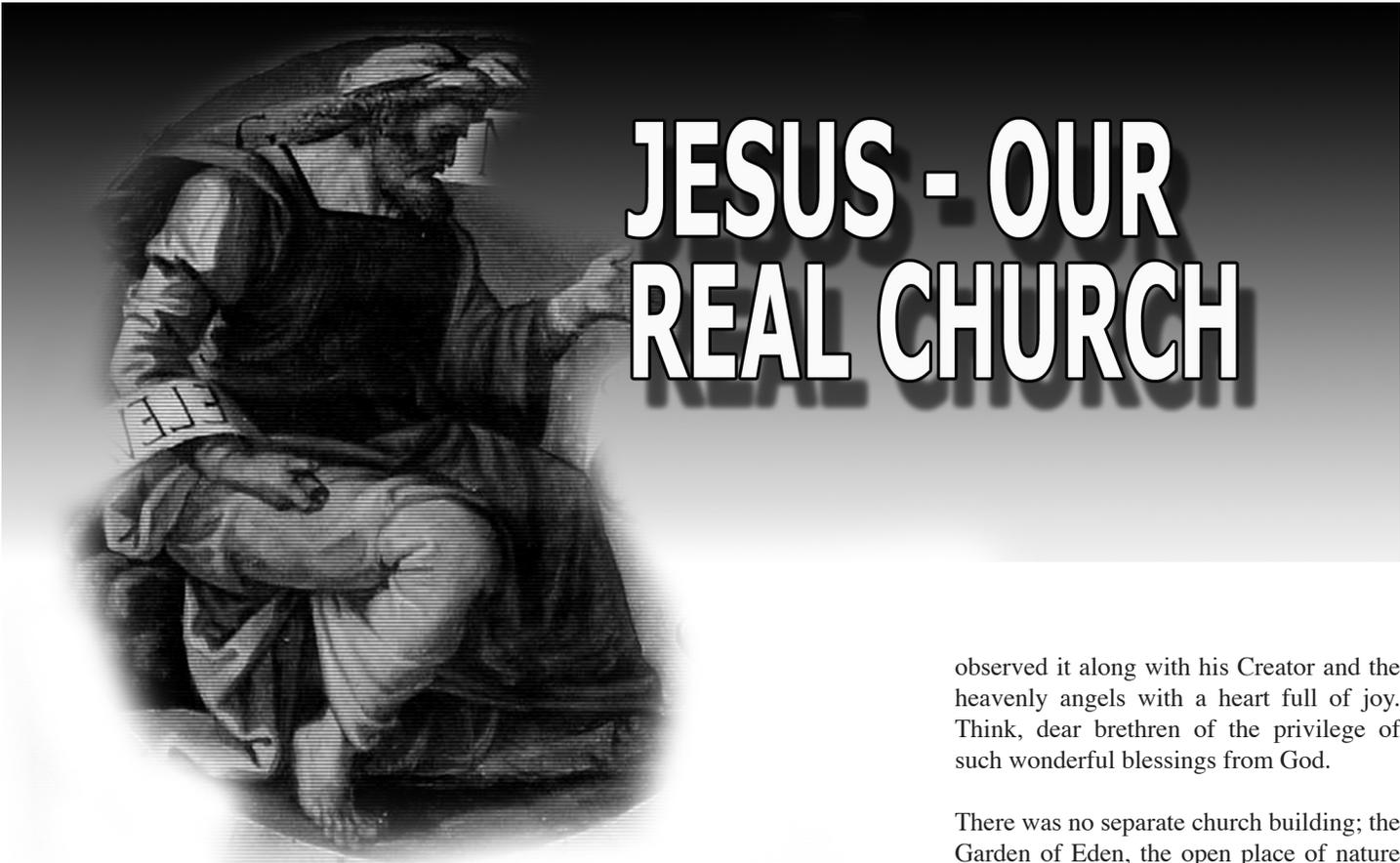
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# JESUS - OUR REAL CHURCH

“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.” Psalm. 27:4.

This was not only a Psalm of David, but also his wish and will, the beating of his soul. These words explain to us that he deeply loved the Lord. He always had a close relationship with Him. We can find an example of his great love for the Lord in Psalm 119:164, “Seven times a day do I praise thee, because of thy righteous judgments.”

My dear brethren, how many people feel like king David? Search your mind and your heart and ask yourself. Do we have a close relationship with the Lord God, like David did? How many times do we worship the Lord each day? Do you understand this question? How long are we going to waste our time and our life?

The Bible says that the desire of David is: “For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.” Psalm 84:10. “But as for me, I will come into thy house in the

multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.” Psalm 5:7.

We have a proverb in the Tamil language which says, “don’t dwell in the village, if there is no temple.” So, the meaning of this is, the temple is the first house for the people wherever they dwell. It means that the people must worship the Lord. How did the Lord God explain to mankind regarding the method of worship?

## ***Eden was the First Church for Mankind***

As we know, our first parents Adam and Eve were created by God on the sixth day of the first week. Their first night was the start of the Holy Sabbath. There was no sin. Before sin entered into this world only two members of the church worshipped the Lord. Think on how cheerful and wonderful an experience this must have been. The first Sabbath observance of Adam in his life in Eden is inexpressible in words. The first sunset in his life was the first opening of the Sabbath in Eden. Man was created on the day of preparation that was the day before the holy Sabbath. On the first holy Sabbath day on this earth in the life of Adam, he

observed it along with his Creator and the heavenly angels with a heart full of joy. Think, dear brethren of the privilege of such wonderful blessings from God.

There was no separate church building; the Garden of Eden, the open place of nature was their wonderful church. It was the happiest and most joyful church because the great Creator Jesus was with them as the Church. There was no taint of sin.

When sin entered into the lives of our first parents Adam and Eve, they lost their everlasting life and face-to-face communication with the heavenly hosts, and their Creator Jesus Christ and the church of God in the Garden of Eden.

After sin entered into this world, the method of worship changed for mankind. They started to give offerings that required the shedding of blood for redemption from sin.

## ***Sacrificial Offerings***

When anyone committed a sin, sacrificial offerings were to take place before God as instructed by God for redemption from sin. This would continue until the death of Jesus Christ on the cross on behalf of mankind. Jesus Christ is, “the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” John 1:29. The cruel sacrifice of animals witnessed by the sinner made him realize the awfulness of sin, and decide that he would never commit sin in his life here after. Man sacrificed animals without knowing the reason for the

sacrifice. So, this animal offering was of no use to man to set him free from sin because without the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ there is no redemption for mankind.

So, we can understand that these sacrificial offerings were offered temporarily until the death of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

### **Worship in the Sanctuary**

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying “And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.” Exodus 25:8 Here the people of Israel offered their sacrificial offerings to the Lord according to the word of God. “Now this is that which thou shalt offer on the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually. One lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even.” Exodus 29:38, 39. In the time of the Old Testament this animal sacrificial system of offerings were followed by our forefathers, Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the people of Israel, judges, kings and prophets.

“... Also their acts of devotion, their energy and

liberality in bringing their free-will offerings to Moses are recorded for the benefit of the people of God. Their example in preparing material for the tabernacle so cheerfully is an example for all who truly love the worship of God. Those who prize the blessing of God’s sacred presence, when preparing a building that He may meet with them, should manifest greater interest and zeal in the sacred work in proportion as they value their heavenly blessings higher than their earthly comforts. They should realize that they are preparing a house for God.” – The story of Redemption, pp. 152, 153.

Apostle Paul wrote to us, “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore, when he cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offerings thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will, O God.” Hebrews 10:4-7.

### **Sacrificial Offering of Jesus Christ**

Even that there was no redemption for man from sin, these sacrificial offerings of animals continued unto the death of Jesus Christ. Those who offered the animals waited for the coming of Christ to offer Himself as the sacrificial offering; His blood for the real redemption of man. Now here, according to the expectation of all sinners, Jesus Christ came into this world for man. He suffered much torture, was cruelly crucified on Calvary, He shed His blood, died and was buried and then resurrected victoriously in the breaking of the sepulcher. Hereafter there is no offering necessary for the redemption of man; and with this, all the sacrificial offerings were finished with the sacrificial offering of Jesus Christ. “The Messiah, which is... the Christ.” John 1:14 “The Messiah shall be cut off... And He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease...” Daniel 9:26, 27.

### **Solomon Built the House of the Lord**

From the time of Adam and Eve, people worshipped the Lord at altars, and the sanctuary with bloodshed offerings. They didn’t have a permanent place of worship. King David tried to make a permanent house for the Lord. “That the king (David) said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains. But our loving Lord replied to him, when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for My name...” 2 Samuel 7:2, 12, 13.

### **David Gathered Materials for the Church**

“With deepest interest the king (David) had gathered the rich material for building and beautifying the temple. He had composed the glorious anthems that in afteryears should echo through its courts. Now his heart was made glad in God, as the chief of the fathers and the princes of Israel so nobly responded to his appeal, and offered themselves to the important work before them. And as they gave their service, they were disposed to do more. They swelled the

offerings, giving of their own possessions into the treasury. David had felt deeply his own unworthiness in gathering the material for the house of God, and the expression of loyalty in the ready response of the nobles of his kingdom, as with willing hearts they dedicated their treasures to Jehovah and devoted themselves to His service, filled him with joy. But it was God alone who had imparted this disposition to His people. He, not man, must be glorified. It was He who had provided the people with the riches of earth, and His Spirit had made them willing to bring their precious things for the temple. It was all of the Lord; if His love had not moved upon the hearts of the people, the king's efforts would have been vain, and the temple would never have been erected." PP, pp. 752, 753.

According to the will of God, King Solomon began to build the house of the Lord. When he started the construction, he said, "And it was in the heart of David my father to build an house of the Lord God of Israel. And the Lord said unto David my father, whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart. Nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but thy son that shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house unto my name. So the Lord hath performed his word which he spake; for I am risen up in the room of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised; and have built an house for the name of the Lord God of Israel." 1 Kings 8:17-20; 1 Chronicles 17:4 - 12.

From the time of King Solomon, the people of Israel went to Jerusalem yearly to worship the Lord. This took place until the period of the disciples of Jesus Christ. After that the people worshipped the Lord everywhere.

### **The Voice of the Prophet about Church Buildings**

King Solomon built a wonderful church to the Lord. Yet he said about the church, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?" 1 Kings 8:27. We read in the book of Acts about the church building. "But Solomon built him an house. Howbeit, the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet; Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what

house will ye build me? saith the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all these things?" Acts 7:47 - 50; Isaiah 66: 1, 2.

"...and this house, which I have hallowed for my name will I cast out of my sight." 1 Kings 9:7. "Thus saith the Lord of hosts... the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest." Jeremiah 26:18; Micah 3: 12.

Jesus said about the church building, "And Jesus said unto them, "See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, there shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." Matthew 24:2.

### **You are the Temple of God**

Every year the people of Israel went to the church at Jerusalem to worship the Lord God. But now the Lord God comes to the church within us. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Rev. 3:20. Why does the Lord God knock at the door of our heart? Apostle Paul replies to this question. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Corinthians 3: 16,17.

My dear brethren, according to the word of God, we, our soul, body and spirit are the temple of God. So we have to keep clean, holy and perfect, the temple of God. Why? We do not belong to ourselves, but we solely belong to God. The Holy Bible asks us, "What know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20.

So my dear brethren, let us sing as follows:

*"Our hearts are temples  
Our thoughts are offerings  
Our love is prayer  
Kindly accept these, my Lord."*

### **The First Church was the Best Church**

Before sin entered into the world, Jesus was the real and original Church to our first parents Adam and Eve. Yes, the first Church was the best church. After sin entered into this earth, from Adam to our time today, the method of worship changed in many different ways among mankind. But the real church, Jesus Christ was there at creation and with our first parents. This will continue in the new heaven and the new earth. Yes, the real and everlasting Church of Jesus Christ will be the true Church for the redeemed souls in the new heaven and the new earth. "And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones: ...And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. And I saw no temple therein, for the Lord God Almighty and the lamb are the temple." Rev. 21:19-22.

Two thousands years ago, when our Saviour Jesus Christ was on this earth, He explained very clearly about Himself as our Church. "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt Thou rear it up in three days? But He spake of the temple of His body." - John 2:19-21; Matthew 26:61; 27:40; Mark 14:57; 15:29.

We can see all around us and in all our thoughts that our loving Saviour Jesus Christ is the center of all; in the Holy Bible and throughout the history of the world, also. Without Jesus, there is nothing.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12. "I have longed for thy salvation, O Lord, and thy law is my delight." Psalm 119:174.

"Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,  
And He will dwell with them,  
And they shall be His people,  
And God Himself shall be with them,  
And be their God." Rev 21:3.

**AMEN.**

**S. Raj Israel, India**

# AM I WISE OR FOOLISH?



Jesus spoke of wise and foolish virgins. Both were in the church of God. Both did pray, sing and read the Bible. Then in the end, the wise will enter in but the foolish will remain outside, unsaved. Yet they did not look very different from the wise ones. They both fulfilled the conditions required to remain in the church membership. But something was neglected by the foolish virgins, and therefore they had no oil and their lamps went out. They lost the Holy Spirit, and fell into darkness.

What was the cause of their foolishness? People have asked questions, "If I eat a little meat sometimes will I be lost?" "If I do not attend church meetings, will I be lost?" "If I do not pay tithes will I be lost?" And many similar questions people ask, thinking that small deviations from the truth do not take their salvation away.

But Jesus said, He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." Like 14:10

The first sin committed by man was to eat the forbidden fruit. The next sin recorded was a murder. One sin committed leads to a next greater sin. Therefore it is foolishness to commit even the smallest sins.

A young man came to Canada from Europe some 40 years ago. He started working very hard. When others had vacations, holidays and parties, he just worked. He looked on these people as foolish, when they could have made money instead of enjoying holidays.

Soon after he started his own business and with hard work he was successful. A little later he started a second factory and eventually a third one. He often talked about his retirement, all that he would do with his money that he had accumulated. Then one day after a full day's work in the office he went to bed and never woke up. He passed away during his sleep. Was he wise or foolish?

He had no time for God, no time to go to church and very little did he enjoy the money that he had made. Jesus spoke a parable of a rich man whose ground brought a plentiful harvest. "I will say to my soul, Soul thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Luke 12: 19-21.

Many people look up to these successful millionaires, admiring them and wishing to be like them, and even envying them. This also is foolishness. True happiness is not gained by riches.

There is another class of people that are called fools in the Bible. "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Ps. 14:1.

There is enough evidence for the existence of God for everyone to believe. But these people do not want God. They want to be a god to themselves. To acknowledge God means to be accountable to Him and to render obedience to Him.

Even of those who believe that there is God, very few of them want to be His friend. When Jesus was upon the earth He was often alone. His own church rejected Him. Even His disciples left Him alone in time of danger. He had very few true friends.

When He suffered in the hands of evil men, there was nobody to wipe the blood and sweat from His forehead, or to offer a cup of water to Him. No one spoke a sympathetic word to Him when the sins of the world were pressing upon Him.

It was a custom in the Roman army that anyone to be crucified was first scourged. This flogging was done by an instrument of 4 or 5 chains attached to a wooden handle and in the end of each chain there was a 1/2" diameter lead ball with iron spikes sticking out of it. This flogging tore the skin and muscles, causing much bleeding. Then the criminal had to carry his cross to the place of execution, where he was stripped of his clothes and nailed to the cross with iron spikes.

This was the most severe, horrible, and shameful form of execution and at the same time listening to the ridicule and derision of the public.

He who created the whole universe, every star and planet, came to this world to suffer such a cruel and shameful death in the hands of evil men, filled with satanic spirit and hatred towards Him.

Now the way was opened for man to return to the favour of God and to become His sons and daughters and to inherit eternal life.

Yet how little do men value the salvation purchase with such a high price. How few are willing to become His followers.

This is the greatest foolishness that anyone can do, to turn away from Jesus and to despise His great sacrifice. The anger of God will be aroused towards them, towards people who think that the offer of Satan is better than the offer of God.

The half-hearted efforts by many professed Christians are not acceptable to God either. Their money is too precious to be spent for Jesus. Their time is too valuable for Him. They are too busy to work for Him. Are these Christians worthy of Jesus? No, never.

“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.” Rom. 1:21, 22.

Many Christians have fallen into this condition. They are lukewarm Christians and therefore in a lost condition.

Human wisdom is foolishness before God. The man with one talent was foolish and many are like him. The rich young man was foolish also, and millions follow his example.



In the time of Noah very few had the wisdom to save themselves. Almost the whole world perished because of their foolishness. And so it will be at the end of the world also.

It is foolishness to think that we gain by sin. Judas thought that he will gain by his betrayal. But he lost all. Balaam thought that he will gain, but he also lost it all. Ananias and Sapphira thought that they will gain by their lie, but they lost it all.

Solomon gives us advice in this regard, “Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.” Prov. 19:1.

There is no happiness in any sinful practice. “Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted.” Ps. 107:17. And this affliction will come upon every sinner.

Now let us look into wisdom. “O how I love Thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through Thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for Thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Thy precepts.” Ps. 119: 97-100.

“And unto man he said, “Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.” Job 28:28.

“How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver.” Prov. 16:16.

Soon the shaking and separation will take place between the wise and foolish virgins. Then it will be too late to gain wisdom. Today is the time to learn wisdom and to do deep heart searching, and examine ourselves carefully. The deceptions of Satan are many and those who are caught in them do not realize their foolishness, but consider themselves wise.

May the Lord help us to open our eyes and see what we may be lacking yet and what duty we may have neglected. Let us make our calling and election sure that not one of us will fail in the end. **AMEN.**

*Timo Martin, Canada*

# SECOND ADVENT AND PROMISES



*“Behold, I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” Rev 3:11*

Ready?

Do you believe in the second coming of Jesus Christ? “Act as though you really believe?” (5T266). If you do, how are you preparing for it? What preparations are you pursuing, in your mind and heart? Are you diligently watching for the subtle, hopeful signs? Do you believe, like so many believers today, that He is coming soon? In retrospect, if someone were to say 20, 10 or even 5 years ago, that Jesus was coming soon, what would have been your answer then?

For some, most probably the answer may have been, no, not yet! Today, however, many might say, “but, the signs are obviously there, symbolically fulfilling prophecy, and furthermore, the Scriptures verify this repeatedly, such as, Rev 22:12, “And behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Mat 4:17). Moreover, “people need to be warned and roused to prepare, and not make any presumptuous and careless delays.”(TM 238; Ev 217; GC 10).

## DNA

Well, before proceeding further, this is not just another paper (or sermon), on the second coming of Jesus. You have heard many, and, rightly so, are still hearing them; “there’s a need for more discourses on the doctrine of the second advent of Jesus.” (Ev 22). But, I believe we can agree on what the Scriptures say of the last generations, that we are the last generation, and what a generation! Or, rather generations: “evil”(Deut. 1:35); “perverse and crooked” (Deut. 32:5, 20); “that curses” (Prov. 30:11); “vipers” (Luke 3:7); “rejecting Jesus” (Luke 17:25) (Jesus, here, was also foretelling His second coming)! Elsewhere it speaks of a “degenerative” generation, and so on.

## Light Bearers

Yet, in spite of this, “the church has a special truth and work in every generation.” (COL 78); and, moreover, “the churches of this generation are exalted to the highest privileges.” (COL 317) Furthermore, the Scriptures add, “but you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light, who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” (2 Pet. 2:9)

## Who’s Who?

The question arises; are we a part of those, as of the ancient Israelites that rejected Jesus in the Old Testament? Or, the Israelites of today that accept Jesus as their Saviour, and Master? Or, the Israelites of the New Testament that are “absorbed in ambitious strife for place and power among men?” (GC 313). Or, those “that are made depositaries of the sacred truth?” (DA 819) Or, of those striving for, “exclusiveness of the Christian toward Gentiles?” (SR 303-04) This requires some “heart-work” for the answers, “search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts.” (Ps. 139:23; Lam. 3:40; Rom. 8:27). Also, “examine yourself whether you are in the faith.” (2Cor. 13:5)

## The Sealed

For we know also, that as we approach the end and before the second coming of Jesus, that “apostasy will increase.” (Ev 363), and “be surprised at nothing in line of apostasy.” (SM147). Apostasy, “falling

away”, is the act of professed Christians who deliberately reject revealed truth. Apostasy differs from error concerning truth, which may be the result of ignorance (Acts 19:1-6), or heresy, which may be due to the snare of Satan (2 Tim. 2:25-26). Apostasy in the church, as in Israel (Isa. 1:5-6; 5:5-7) is irremediable and awaits judgment (2 Thess. 2:10-12; 2 Pet. 2:17, 21; Jude 11-15).

So, are we of the ancient Israelites or those of the 144,000? “Saying, hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the tree, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads, and I heard the number of them which were sealed; and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.” (Rev. 7:3).

### Signs

What is an explicitly clear sign that we are, in fact, living in the end times? We search the Scriptures for this and find the predicted apostasy, “This know, also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying the power of it; from such turn away.” (2 Tim. 3:1-5).

### When?

The disciples believed that Jesus Christ was coming in their time. The apostle Paul believed the same. The martyrs in the Reform era, all who lifted up their voices for Jesus Christ, believed also Jesus was coming in their time. “Martin Luther expected the second advent of Jesus within 300 years.” (GC 303). The Adventist Millerites expected Jesus to return in 1843. We can clearly see He did not, however, come as expected. But we can now distinctly see that He is coming soon, however, it’s “apparently extended and delayed.” (4T306; DA 633-34) His “exact time of coming is a mystery.” (DA 633)

### Stray Sheep

For many of the Millerite Adventists, and the nominal (not Sabbath keepers) group, confusion arose, disappointments came, error was introduced, the sanctuary truth was rejected, dissensions and divisions

arose, fanaticism, and faith in the Advent movement was renounced. (EW 68-9; 250; 256-57; GC 409, 456). They were sheep without the Shepherd. Yet, there were honest children of God, and precious jewels among them. (EW 69, 261)

### New Hope

I can suggest why many lost hope then and are losing hope today. It’s due to the fact that the foundation of hope was on the “event” instead of on the person of Jesus Christ. If it is on the person of Jesus we need to know who He is first; where He is and what He is doing. It is all tied in with the sanctuary truth; a pillar of belief.

In whom and what event are they placing their faltering and lingering hope? Is the hope on Jesus Christ, the Saviour and King? If their feeble hope is the event – the second coming of Jesus Christ – and this is their foundation, then their hope is based also on the “signs” of His coming. In other words, their hope is based only on any one or more of the signs! What if the signs come and go? (and there are many) What happens then to our hope? Where is the promise of His coming?

### Whispered Promises

“And saying, where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” (2 Pet. 3:4) I have heard of His coming for years, and continue to hear it even more fervently today. Jesus did not come as expected. I remember very distinctly two early pioneers in the truth; both devout, true believers brought up in Europe, by ardent, firm Adventist parents. As very small children they were taught that Jesus was soon coming and to discontinue their schooling. They both recently died well into their eighties, always maintaining that expectant hope of His coming.

Therefore, Focus on Jesus Christ! The attention is not on Jesus Christ. What else? Focus on the promises! Heartfelt, unbreakable promises, whispered to you by the Holy Spirit, and fulfilled daily in your life – no matter what the signs reveal. Receive the daily blessings; protection, confidence, peace, joy, we so often overlook. “For bodily exercise profiteth little, but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.” (1 Tim 4:8) You see, godliness is a profitable investment!

Understand that it is He, Jesus Christ, who dwells in our foundation. Hope in Jesus Christ for His promises – and claim them! This is the hope of the faithful and God’s final triumph, saying, “The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God.” (Ps. 14:2).

### Turning Point

So, what does it take to shift from the place, the event, to Jesus Christ? What does it take? Well, it takes the work of the Holy Spirit, saying, “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and he will tell you things to come.” (John 16:13)

You see, the Holy Spirit guides and shifts the hope on Jesus Christ! But, for many the Holy Spirit is lacking.

A conversation took place between a man and Jesus Christ. It was with Nicodemus, the ruler of the Jews. “Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5)

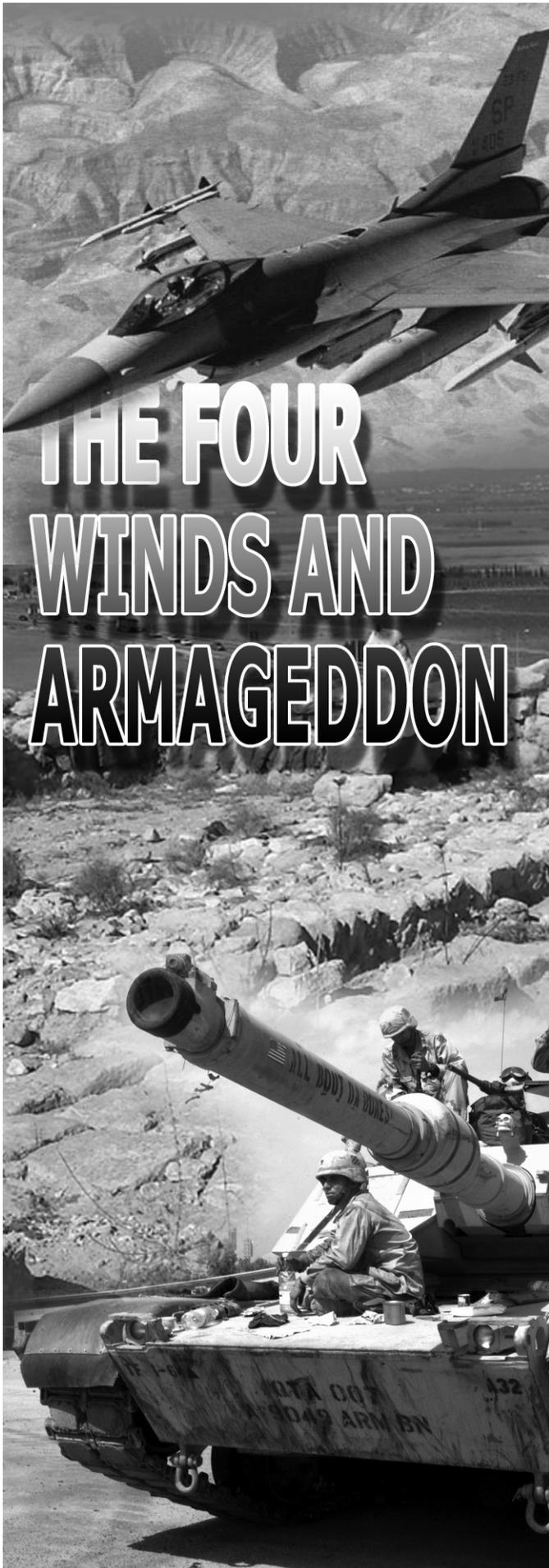
### New Birth

Notice the marvelous shift here, reading into the heart of Nicodemus by Jesus Christ. The shift is now to the Son of God. “Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?” Furthermore, “Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” (John 3:4)

Notice here, again, not born of water, but by the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Baptism is often spoken of, experienced, and witnessed, but no mention of just a water baptism, as an embryo in a membranous sac. The emphasis is on a Spirit-filled life, not water only. This allows us to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. What is the Kingdom of God? “For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy spirit.” (Rom. 14:17)

To be sure, focus not on the event of the second coming of Jesus Christ but on Jesus Christ! **AMEN.**

*John Theodorou, U.S.A.*



In the September 2004 edition of the Signs of the Times an article appears entitled “Armageddon and the Middle East crisis.” From this article we read the following:

Revelation indicates that the issues in earth’s final war will be global, not local. And the issues (and combatants) will be spiritual, not political as they are at present in the Middle East. The battle of Armageddon will pit the nations of the world against the armies of heaven.

Revelation 13 says that the second beast will use false miracles to deceive the inhabitants of the world (verse 14). It is possible that one such deception will be a counterfeit battle of Armageddon; after all, the spirits of demons will gather the entire world to this battle (16:12-14).

In this respect the Bible gives two important details that can prevent us from being deceived. According to popular Christian culture, Armageddon finds the nations of the world taking sides against each other, arrayed in battle on a dusty Palestinian plain.

In Revelation, on the other hand, the nations of the world assemble to make war against Christ, not against each other. Moreover, it appears that virtually all nations participate. So, no matter how terrifying a world war in the Middle East may be, if the nations of earth are fighting each other, that war is not the biblical Armageddon. {Signs of the Times, September 2004}

In the Signs of the Times article Armageddon is presented as a spiritual battle that takes place at the end of the world. After reading it one is left with the impression that any literal wars at the end of the world are only side issues or deceptions. However are we, as the people of God, to ignore any literal wars at the end of the world as deceptions?

In the Signs of the Times article Armageddon is called “the sixth in a series of seven plagues.” Indeed the seven last plagues come at end of the world. At the very same time, at the end of the world, the four winds are let loose (see Revelation 7:1). Therefore, Armageddon, the sixth plague (according to the Signs of the Times) comes at the very time the four winds are let loose. The following two statements show this:

The nations are now getting angry, but when our High Priest has finished His work in the sanctuary, He will stand up, put on the garments of vengeance, and then the seven last plagues will be poured out. {EW 36.1} I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus’ work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues. {EW 36.2}

Soon He will say to the angels who are holding the four winds, “Let the plagues loose; let darkness, destruction, and death come upon the transgressors of my law.” {RH, October 8, 1901 par. 15}

Read carefully Early Writings page 36 above quoted. It says two things 1) when Jesus’ sanctuary work is finished then the seven last plagues will fall and 2) when Jesus’ sanctuary work is done then the four winds will be released (no longer held). So when the sanctuary work is over, both these things occur. Thus the seven last plagues and the four winds are either one and the same thing, or at the very least they are concurrent events.

But what do the four winds represent? The four winds represent both the elements of nature gone awry, and political strife and war.

If such scenes as this are to come, such tremendous judgments on a guilty world, where will be the refuge for God's people? How will they be sheltered until the indignation be overpast? John sees the elements of nature--earthquake, tempest, and political strife-- represented as being held by four angels. These winds are under control until God gives the word to let them go. {TM 444.3}

Then I saw the four Angels cease to hold the four winds. And I saw famine, pestilence and sword, nation rose against nation, and the whole world was in confusion. {DS, March 14, 1846 par. 2}

So obviously during the time of Armageddon (the sixth plague) when the four winds are released there will be political strife. Nation will rise against nation. The nations of the earth will be fighting each other. Now if the people of God believe that the nations fighting each other is the four winds let loose there is absolutely no deception in that. The Middle East is the place of the greatest political tensions in the world. The nations of the Middle East are some of the most volatile on the earth. So if the nations of the Middle East are going to fight each other it is not a deception to believe that this is the four winds let loose. In fact the nations could even fight each other on the very "dusty Palestinian plain" and there would be absolutely no deception in believing that this is the four winds let loose.

***Consider the following three statements:***

Four mighty angels are still holding the four winds of the earth. Terrible destruction is forbidden to come in full. The accidents by land and by sea; the loss of life, steadily increasing, by storm, by tempest, by railroad disaster, by conflagration; the terrible floods, the earthquakes, and the winds will be the stirring up of the nations to one deadly combat, while the angels hold the four winds, forbidding the terrible power of Satan to be exercised in its fury until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. {RH, June 7, 1887 par. 13}

Everything in our world is in agitation. There are wars and rumours of wars. The nations are angry, and the time of the dead has come, that they should be judged. Events are changing to bring about the day of God, which hasteth greatly. Only a moment of time, as it were, yet remains. But while already nation is rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, there is not now a general engagement. As yet the four winds are held until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle. {6T 14.1}

Four mighty angels hold back the powers of this earth till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. The nations of the world are eager for conflict; but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed, there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instruments of warfare will be invented. Vessels, with their living cargo, will be entombed in the great deep. All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of satanic agencies. But they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the great battle of Armageddon. {7BC 967.8}

How should we understand the three preceding statements? Since the four winds represent political strife and the nations of the earth fighting each other, we can draw the following three conclusions: 1) The winds will be the stirring up of the nations to one deadly combat in which they will fight each other. 2) The powers of earth will marshal their forces to fight against each other and 3) the nations of the world are eager for conflict against each other.

The issues (and combatants) will be spiritual, not political as they are at present in the Middle East. The battle of Armageddon will pit the nations of the world against the armies of heaven...

What "weapons" would the beast and the rulers of earth employ in warfare against Christ and heaven? Will they deploy weapons of mass destruction or laser beams? The Bible doesn't say, but it's interesting to think about it. {Signs of the Times, September 2004}

The article in the Signs of the Times totally ignores the fact that at the very time of Armageddon the nations of the world will be fighting against each other as plainly

represented by the four winds. Instead they say that nations of the world will be fighting against the armies of heaven and not each other. They question how earthly nations could fight the armies of heaven perhaps with laser beams. This is ridiculous. The armies of heaven will fight as they have always done, not in a visible manner, but as the angel Gabriel fought in Daniel 10:20 "and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come." The angels fight behind the scenes influencing nations to fight each other as Greece fought to overcome Persia.

Read Revelation 7:1-4. The seal of the living God is given to the people of God so that they can be protected when the four winds are let loose. The reason for this is so that they can be protected from the winds of political strife and war. Consider the following:

Satan is now using every device in this sealing time to keep the minds of God's people from the present truth and to cause them to waver. I saw a covering that God was drawing over His people to protect them in the time of trouble; and every soul that was decided on the truth and was pure in heart was to be covered with the covering of the Almighty. {EW 43.2}

Satan was trying his every art to hold them where they were, until the sealing was past, until the covering was drawn over God's people, and they left without a shelter from the burning wrath of God, in the seven last plagues. God has begun to draw this covering over His people, and it will soon be drawn over all who are to have a shelter in the day of slaughter. God will work in power for His people; and Satan will be permitted to work also. {EW 44.2}

The people of God will be protected from the political strife and wars of the four winds. But not only that, in Early Writings page 44 above quoted it says that the seal of God is given to protect the people of God from the burning wrath of God, in the seven last plagues. So the seal of God is given to protect the people of God from both the seven last plagues and the four winds. Since they are protected from both, again we can say the seven last plagues and the four winds are either one and the same thing, or at the very least they are events that bear a remarkable similarity.

As we have shown previously the four winds represent earthquake, tempest, political strife, famine, pestilence, sword, and nation rising against nation. That being the case can we distinguish between the earthquake and tempest of the seventh plague and the earthquake and tempest of the four winds? Can we distinguish between the incurable sores of the first plague and the pestilence of the four winds? Can we distinguish between the heat of the fourth plague which brings famine and the famine of the four winds? Can we untangle the events of the seven last plagues from those of four winds and say they are something different? Also we recognise that the four winds represent political strife and war but is there nothing to represent political strife and war in the seven last plagues?

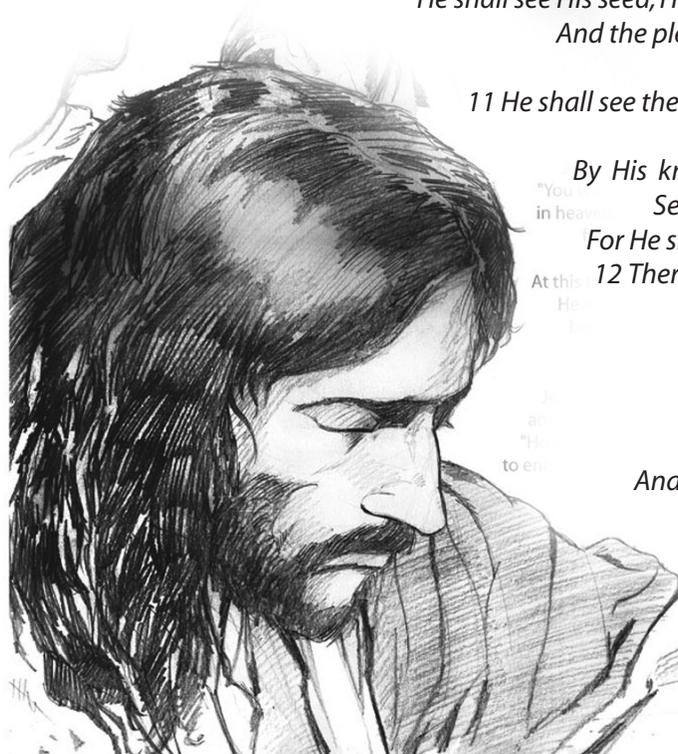
As the people of God, we are to be prepared for the time when there will be political strife and wars at the end of the world, at the very time of Armageddon. The article in the Signs of the Times ignores these facts and is itself a dangerous piece of deception. It is a "peace and safety" message, which attempts to set people at ease in regards to any political strife and especially that which is occurring in the Middle East at the moment. *AMEN.*

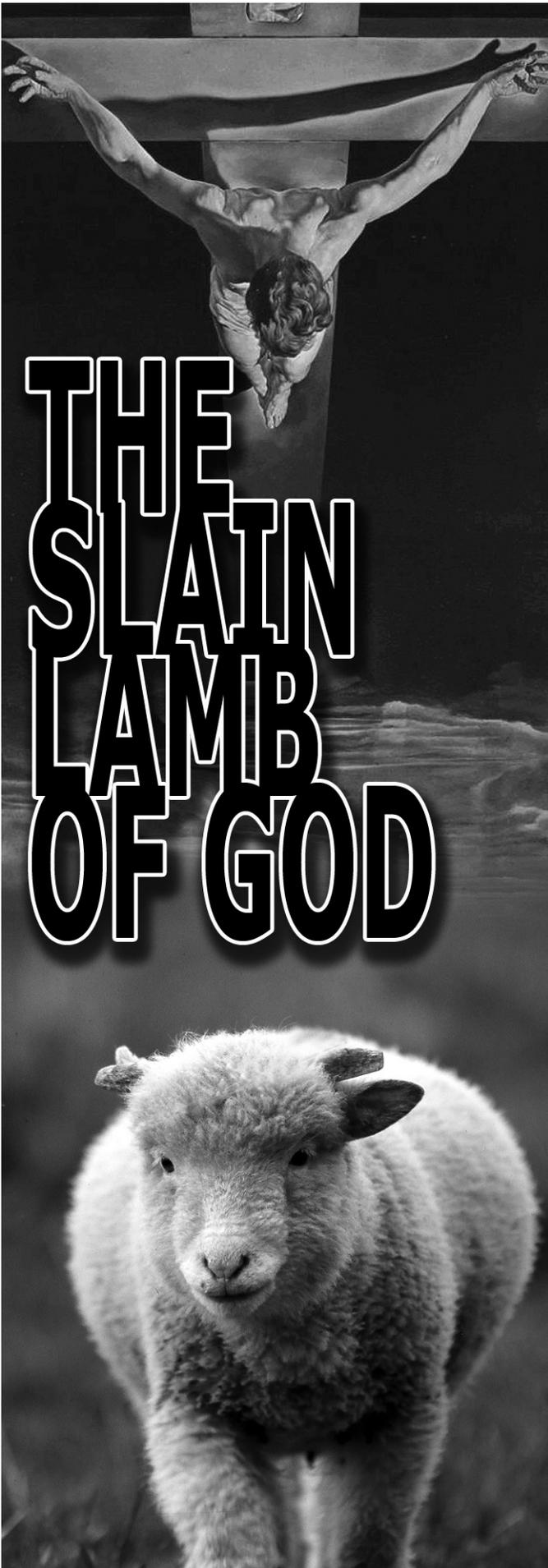
*Glendon Higgins, Australia*



## Isaiah 53

1 Who has believed our report?  
 And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?  
 2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,  
 And as a root out of dry ground.  
 He has no form or comeliness;  
 And when we see Him,  
 There is no beauty that we should desire Him.  
 3 He is despised and rejected by men,  
 A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.  
 And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;  
 He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.  
 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows;  
 Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.  
 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions,  
 He was bruised for our iniquities;  
 The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,  
 And by His stripes we are healed.  
 6 All we like sheep have gone astray;  
 We have turned, every one, to his own way;  
 And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.  
 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth;  
 He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,  
 And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
 So He opened not His mouth.  
 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment,  
 And who will declare His generation?  
 For He was cut off from the land of the living;  
 For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.  
 9 And they[a] made His grave with the wicked—  
 But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence,  
 Nor was any deceit in His mouth.  
 10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief.  
 When You make His soul an offering for sin,  
 He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days,  
 And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.  
 11 He shall see the labor of His soul,[b] and  
 be satisfied.  
 By His knowledge My righteous  
 Servant shall justify many,  
 For He shall bear their iniquities.  
 12 Therefore I will divide Him a  
 portion with the great,  
 And He shall divide the  
 spoil with the strong,  
 Because He poured  
 out His soul unto death,  
 And He was numbered with  
 the transgressors,  
 And He bore the sin  
 of many,  
 And made intercession  
 for the transgressors.  
 (New King James  
 Version)





Through the fall, man, who had been created in the image of God, had lost that image. Sin had all but obliterated it from his life. He had become an alien to God's kingdom, "strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world." Eph. 2:12. Gen. 3:23, 24. Sin had become man's first nature. He was unable to do good. Just as the Ethiopian is powerless to change his skin and the leopard his spots, so the sinner could not restore righteousness to his depraved soul. Death must be the dire consequence of his sin. So far as his own power was concerned, he was beyond hope.

"From the beginning, God and Christ knew of the apostasy of Satan, and of the fall of man through the deceptive power of the apostate. God did not ordain that sin should exist, but He foresaw its existence, and made provision to meet the terrible emergency." DA 22.

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot; Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you." 1 Pet. 1:18- 20.

"Before the foundations of the earth were laid, the Father and the Son had united in a covenant to redeem man if he should be overcome by Satan. They had clasped their hands in a solemn pledge that Christ should become the surety for the human race. This pledge Christ has fulfilled. When upon the cross He cried out, "It is finished." He addressed the Father. The compact had been fully carried out. Now He declares: Father, it is finished. I had done Thy will, O My God. I have completed the work of redemption. If Thy justice is satisfied, "I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am." John 19:30; 17:24. DA 834, EW 149, 150.

### Fountain of Life

"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness." Zech. 13:1.

"Solemnly, Christ said to Peter, 'If I wash thee not, thou hast not part with Me.'" John 13:10. The service, which Peter refused, was the type of a higher cleansing. Christ had come to wash the heart from the stain of sin. In refusing to allow Christ to wash his feet, Peter was refusing the higher cleansing included in the lower. He was really rejecting his Lord. It is not humiliating to the Master to allow Him to work for our purification. The truest humility is to receive with thankful heart any provision made in our behalf, and with earnestness do service for Christ.

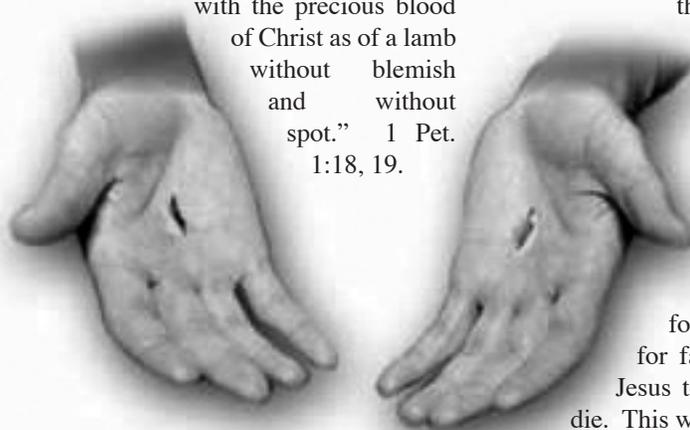
"At the words, 'If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with Me,' Peter surrendered his pride and self-will; he could not endure the thought of separation from Christ; that would have been death to him. 'Not my feet only,' he said, 'but also my hands and my feet.' Jesus saith to him, 'He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit.'

"These words meant more than bodily cleanliness. Christ is still speaking of the higher cleansing as illustrated by the lower. He who came from the bath was clean, but the sandaled feet soon became dusty, and again needed to be washed. So Peter and his brethren had been washed in the great fountain opened for sin and uncleanness. Christ

acknowledged them as His. But temptation had led them into evil, and they still needed His cleansing grace. When Jesus girded Himself with a towel to wash the dust from their feet, He desired by that very act to wash the alienation, jealousy, and pride from their hearts. With the spirit they then had, not one of them was prepared for communion with Christ. Until brought into a state of humility and love, they were not prepared to partake of the paschal supper, or to share in the memorial service which Christ was about to institute. Their hearts must be cleansed. Pride and self-seeking create dissention and hatred, but all this Jesus washed away in washing their feet. A change of feeling was brought about. Looking upon them, Jesus could say, 'Ye are clean.' Now there was union of heart, love for one another. They had become humble and teachable. Except Judas, each was ready to concede to another the highest place. Now with subdued and grateful hearts they could receive Christ's words.

"Like Peter and his brethren, we too have been washed in the blood of Christ, yet often through contact with evil the heart's purity is soiled. We must come to Christ for His cleansing grace. Peter shrank from bringing his soiled feet in contact with the hands of his Lord and Master; but how often we bring our sinful, polluted hearts in contact with the heart of Christ! How grievous to Him is our evil temper, our vanity and pride! Yet all our infirmity and defilement we must bring to Him. He alone can wash us clean. We are not prepared to communion with Him unless cleansed by His efficacy." DA 646.

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." 1 Pet. 1:18, 19.



Every human being; "rich and poor, high and low, free and bond, are God's heritage. He who gave His life to redeem man sees in every human being a value that exceeds finite computation. By the mystery and glory of the cross we are to discern His estimate of the value of the soul. When we do this, we shall feel that human beings, however degraded, have cost too much to be treated with coldness or contempt. We shall realize the importance of working for our fellow men, that they may be exalted to the throne of God." MH 162, 163.

"Wonderful is the work which God designs to accomplish through His servants, that His name may be glorified. God made Joseph a fountain of life to the Egyptian nation. Through Joseph the life of that whole people was preserved. Through Daniel God saved the life of all the wise men of Babylon. And these deliverances were as object lessons; they illustrated to the people the spiritual blessings offered them through connection with the God whom Joseph and Daniel worshipped. So, through His people today God desires to bring blessings to the world. Every worker, in whose heart Christ abides, everyone who will show forth His love to the world, is a worker together with God for the blessing of humanity. As He receives from the Saviour grace to impart to others, from his whole being flows forth the tide of spiritual life. Christ came as the Great Physician to heal the wounds that sin has made in the human family, and His Spirit, working through His servants, imparts to sin-sick, suffering human beings a mighty healing power that is efficacious for the body and the soul. 'In that day,' says the scripture, 'there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and uncleanness.' Zech. 13:1. The waters of this fountain contain medicinal properties that will heal both physical and spiritual infirmities." CH 209.

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32.

"Love for God, zeal for His glory, and love for fallen humanity, brought Jesus to earth to suffer and to die. This was the controlling power of His life. This principle He bids us adopt." DA 330.

"All heaven is interested in the work of saving the lost. Angels watch with intense interest to see who will leave the ninety and nine and go out in tempest and storm and rain into the wild desert to seek the lost sheep. The lost are all around us, perishing and sadly neglected." HP 100.

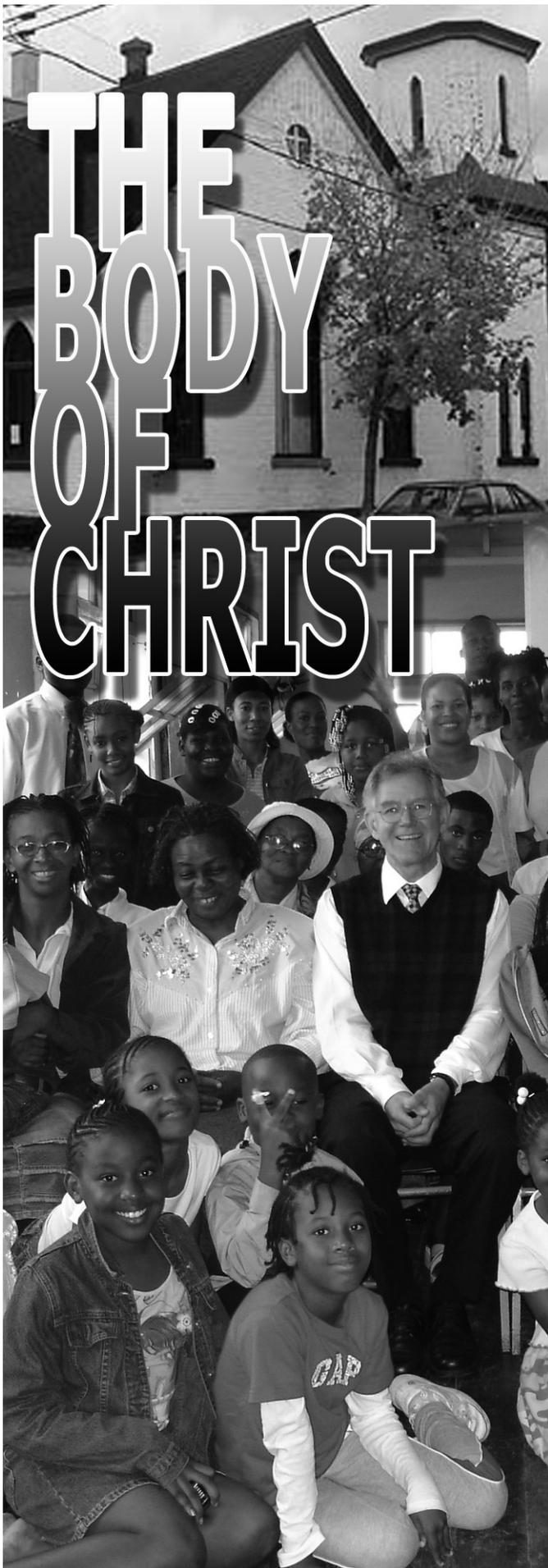
The word of the Lord came unto Ezekiel saying, "So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked man, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand." Ezek. 33:7, 8.

"Some ministers who profess to be called of God have the blood of souls on their garments. They are surrounded with backsliders and sinners, and yet feel no burden for their souls; they manifest an indifference in regard to their salvation. Some are so nearly asleep that they seem to have no sense of the work of a gospel minister. They do not consider that as spiritual physicians they are required to have skill in administering to souls diseased with sin. The work of warning sinners, of weeping over them and pleading with them, has been neglected until many souls are past all cure. Some have died in their sins, and will in the judgment confront with reproaches of their guilt those who might have saved them, but who did not. Unfaithful ministers, what a retribution awaits you." 2T 506.

As the gospel was preached to the world in that first century, so in these final times God's message will go to all humanity. Are you involved in this general proclamation? Has your individual effort joined that of your brothers and sisters to complete the work of God?

May the gracious Lord forgive our sinful negligence. May the self-sacrifice, the sympathy, and the love manifested in the life of Christ reappear in the life of the worker for God. **AMEN.**

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In the epistles to the Romans and to the Corinthians, chapter 12, the apostle Paul speaks about the church of God and the gifts of the Spirit given to its members to serve the whole. He compares the members of the church to the members of the human body and says, "So we, [being] many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." Romans 12:5. "For the body is not one member, but many." 1 Corinthians 12:14. The members are interrelated and all together form the body of Christ. Each member is given a talent or more.

"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; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another [divers] kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues." 1 Corinthians 12: 7-10.

One member has the talent of spiritual vision and is the eye of the church, another has the talent of helping others in a practical way, has medical training of some kind and is the hand; the feet are surely those who go around preaching the message of salvation to the world, as Isaiah so nicely describes them, reaching inaccessible places up on the mountains, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" Isaiah 52:7.

Some people have more than one talent, but even he who has only one is very necessary in the church to keep the body healthy. The eye can be very important, but if something gets into the eye, we need the finger to help to take it out. One member needs the other and all work together under the direction of the head, where the brain is. The head of the church is Jesus Christ, (Ephesians 5: 23) and for the body to be healthy it must be submitted to the head.

There are several people in the church who have the same talent, in the same way that in the body there are organs that are doubled; we have two arms and hands, two feet, two ears, two eyes, two lungs, two kidneys but they work together in perfect harmony; they share the burden and the one needs and complements the other. It should be the same way in the church among people with the same talent, no rivalry, no spirit of competition, no fear that the other one may be more appreciated or considered than we because his vision is sharper, his capacity of listening is greater, he is more skilful. If we observe the human body, we know that in spite of its symmetry there are tiny little differences: one foot is a little bigger than the other, one eye sees a little better than the other one, the right hand is more skilful than the left one, but have you ever been deprived even if temporarily from the use of one of the double members of the body? Have you experienced how difficult it is to have to make use of only one leg or one arm and hand? It is a big inconvenient to the whole body. The problem is surely much more serious for those who have to live with one kidney or have a sick lung. There is room for everyone in the church of God and the more talents there are the better it is, the more service it can render.

But our human body has only one head and one heart and so does the church. Jesus Christ is the source of wisdom and love. He has the power to purify and sanctify our talents. He can make that the foot, instead of treading and stamping, may wander in search of souls for His kingdom. He sanctifies the hand so that instead of being closed

in an aggressive or mean fist, it may open to caress, to give, to help. He makes that the eye, instead of looking at the mistakes of others, be fixed upon Jesus and receives power from Him to accept everybody with his weaknesses. He heals the ears so instead of listening to bad reports, they may listen to the word of God that leads to salvation. All members are very important. "...and the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those [members] of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely [parts] have more abundant comeliness" 1 Corinthians 12:21-23. The Lord does not want any separation in His body, "That there should be no schism in the body; but [that] the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it." 1 Corinthians 12:26-28.

In the church of God there should be sympathy for those who suffer and no jealousy or envy of those who are successful. If everyone understands the role he plays in the body, he will not occupy his mind with what he could have been, but try to do his best to fulfil his service to perfection, to be submitted to the head--to Christ, so that he can serve even better.

In Ephesians 4:11-13 we read, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." The purpose of all these talents is the spiritual edification of the body, of the church, so that Christ may be presented to the world.

In Corinthians 12:27, 28 we read, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." The last talent mentioned is the gift of tongues. This gift was given to the apostles on the day of Pentecost and

people from many nationalities heard the message of salvation in his own language! No need of interpretation from a booth, no turning of a button to choose the language one understands the best, but an opening of the heart to the words of salvation that came from the lips of almost illiterate preachers empty of self and fully possessed by the Spirit of God.

In the church there are persons who are the tongue, and although this is a small and a single member, it has its importance within the body. Jacob says, "the tongue is a little member", but he explains how dangerous such a member can be. "And the tongue [is] a fire." Just like the fire, it can have a destructive influence and burn everything to the ground or can set hearts on fire for the truth that is in Jesus. Actually every member can be either a blessing or a curse, depending whether it is submitted to the head or not, whether it is under the guidance of the Holy Spirit or some other power is leading it. In Matthew 5:29 we read, "And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast [it] from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not [that] thy whole body should be cast into hell." It is a great privilege to be the eye in the church, a person with ample vision who can foresee things and has spiritual discernment. Usually such people occupy leading positions, but the greater the gift the more the dependence on the Gift-giver should be. And who has given us the gift we have? "But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will" 1 Corinthians 12:11. How important it is then that all members may be subject to the Head and follow the commands of the Spirit. Only thus there will be real unity and growth in love and harmony.

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." Ephesians 4:15, 16.

"Speaking the truth in love;" this is the purpose for which the gift of languages was given. It is interesting that after the apostle shows the church in Corinth the importance of every member, regardless of how insignificant he may seem, he tells them

further on: "... yet show I unto you a more excellent way" 1 Corinthians 12:31. This is an introduction to chapter 13 in whose first verses we read, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become [as] sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have [the gift of] prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. The more excellent way is to do everything with love. After all the characteristics of love are enumerated and it is underlined that both faith and hope will cease to be, but love will remain in eternity, chapter 14 begins with the words, "Follow charity", in other words, "Follow love" (agape) as it is written in the Greek version. The German version instead says, "strive for love". In which way do we strive for love? By smiling more often, speaking nice words, doing good works? All that can only be fake and hypocritical. The Scriptures tell us, "God is love", so we can rephrase this verse and say, "follow God", "strive for a closer connection with the heavenly Father." As the hymn says, "Nearer, still nearer, close to Thy heart, draw me, my Saviour, so precious thou art." Look daily for a closer communion with your Lord "that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what [is] the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:16-19.

What power will such a church have! What a revelation of Christ it will give to the world! The members of the church of Laodicea who open the door to the Lord and have a special meal with Him will fulfil the Lord's 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. Agape has the power of uniting hearts with unbreakable and insoluble bonds and a real "Philadelphia"--love among brethren--will be the crown of Christ's sacrifice for us, "so that the world may believe" that the Father has sent Him. *AMEN.*

*Teresa Corti*



Human bodies run best on a diet rich in plant-based protein, high fibre and an abundance of fruits and vegetables. Myriad studies point to a high correlation between the typical Western diet—with large amounts of foods from animal sources—and disease.

As the evidence linking diet and health accumulates, so does the medical research examining how diet can prevent cancer or slow its growth.

A researcher quotes, “This field didn’t exist until nine or ten years ago, because medicine hadn’t been geared toward prevention-related research.”

Researchers found a link between a high-fat diet and cancer as far back as 1942, when tumours in animals fed a high-fat diet grew more quickly than in a control group.

One researcher gives this example regarding prostate cancer specifically, “The United States and Western Europe have the highest death rates from prostate cancer and the highest per capita fat consumption. In contrast, the Pacific Rim countries with the lowest death rates from prostate cancer have the lowest fat consumption.” However, he

[www.imsessenger.org](http://www.imsessenger.org)

notes that when these people move to the West, they lose their edge. Americans born in China or Japan, for example, have an incidence of prostate cancer three to seven times higher than those still living in their homelands.

“Something to do with diet is going on here,” cites a Toronto-area nutrition consultant. But she says that scientists don’t yet understand why. They are looking at whether fatty acids themselves contain carcinogens, whether people who eat a lot of meat consume too few fruits and vegetables (and thereby lose out on their protective effects), or whether it is that high-fat diets tend to lead to obesity, which itself carries a higher risk of cancer.

Dietary benefits may come not only from reducing fat intake, but also in eating foods rich in protective micronutrients. A study done in Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto added three micronutrients to the diets of mice. The incidence of cancer was reduced fourfold—even in the group fed a high-fat diet. These mice were put on this diet almost immediately after birth, suggesting that the later someone started a healthy diet, the smaller the beneficial effects may be. For people who want to start reducing

their risk of cancer, they need to start immediately on a diet high in soy products, fruits and vegetables, and cut down on fat and take in fewer calories.

Research suggests that we can lower our risk of getting cancer by exercising daily, limiting high-fat foods from animal sources, and eating mostly vegetables, fruits, and grains. Plant sources of food contain phytonutrients, which aren’t vitamins or minerals, but have important health benefits. Phytonutrients are not available in supplement form, so it is important to eat plenty of foods which contain these cancer-fighting compounds. The following food sources, offer specific cancer-fighting benefits because of the various phytonutrients they contain:

Red fruits and vegetables such as cranberries, tomatoes, watermelon, papaya and red peppers contain lycopene, which protects damaged cells from becoming cancerous. Lycopene is a powerful antioxidant, which gives red fruits and vegetables their colour. Antioxidants neutralize free radicals, which can damage the body’s cells. Research also shows that lycopene in tomatoes can be absorbed more efficiently by the body if processed into a juice or a sauce. The

heat produced in processing the tomatoes is what seems to increase its availability to the cells in the body.

In the body, lycopene is deposited into the liver, lungs, prostate gland, bladder, colon and skin. Therefore, lycopene-containing fruits and vegetables are most effective in preventing cancers in these organs. Studies show that Italians who consume large amounts of tomatoes as part of their diet had a lower incidence of digestive tract cancers. Of the red fruits and vegetables, tomatoes were the only ones that lowered the incidence of prostate cancer.

Cruciferous vegetables, such as cabbage, cauliflower, brussels sprouts and broccoli, are rich in sulphoraphanes, which help flush ingested cancer-causing compounds from the body. Sulphoraphanes are also powerful antioxidants. It is the group of sulphoraphanes that contain an extra sulfur atom that are anti-carcinogenic. Unlike tomatoes, broccoli needs to be eaten raw to get the best effects. When broccoli is chewed, it releases this chemical for the body to use. Heating broccoli in the conventional way destroys the enzyme that

produces the sulphoraphanes.

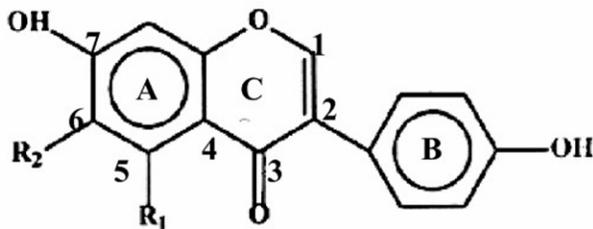
Leafy green vegetables, tofu, walnuts, canola oil, pumpkin seeds, and flaxseed contain Omega-3 fatty acids, which help maintain a healthy body and repair diseased tissues. Flaxseed has been shown to have the highest levels of omega-3 fatty acids. Flaxseed needs to be ground up, or chewed very well. If just eating whole seeds, they will pass through the body undigested and not be used. It is best to buy pre-ground seeds if possible. In addition to omega-3 fatty acids, flaxseed contains lignans, an antioxidant which also protect against various cancers. Flaxseed oil is not as beneficial as it does not contain the fibre and lignans that the actual flaxseed contains. Also, flaxseed oil breaks down with heat, so it should not be used to cook with. Ground flaxseed can be used in baking.

Not only does omega-3 fatty acids protect against cancer, but it has many health benefits in preventing heart disease, arthritis, cognitive decline, osteoporosis, diabetes, etc. Omega-3 acids are considered polyunsaturated fats, which are the healthy fats that prevent cholesterol build-up.

Vitamin E is also considered an antioxidant which can decrease the risk of cancer. It occurs naturally in plant-based fatty foods such as nuts, sunflower seeds, safflower, canola, corn and olive oils, wheat germ, leafy green vegetables, asparagus, mangoes, wheat germ and whole grains. Vitamin E also helps to counteract the effects of a high-fat diet. Although, cutting fat from the diet is more beneficial instead of using a supplement to diminish the bad effects of fat in the diet.

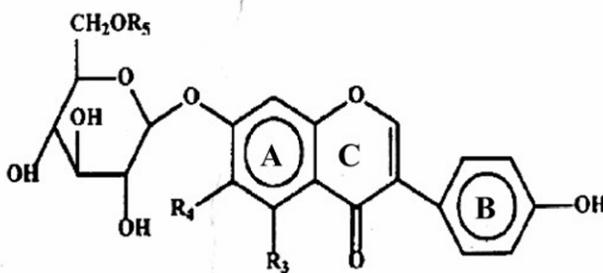
Garlic, leeks, and shallots contain selenium and antioxidants, and can help dispose of cancer-causing chemicals. They also protect DNA from harmful substances. These products belong to the family known as alliums. Garlic also has the added benefit of protecting the body from Choose foods made with fresh garlic instead of taking supplements, since a lot of synthesized compounds are added by manufacturers whenever garlic is chopped, crushed, or minced. After crushing fresh garlic, let it stand for 15 minutes before cooking with it—researchers have found that this activates a “cancer-fighting” enzyme within the garlic. On the other hand, roasting garlic in

## Aglycones



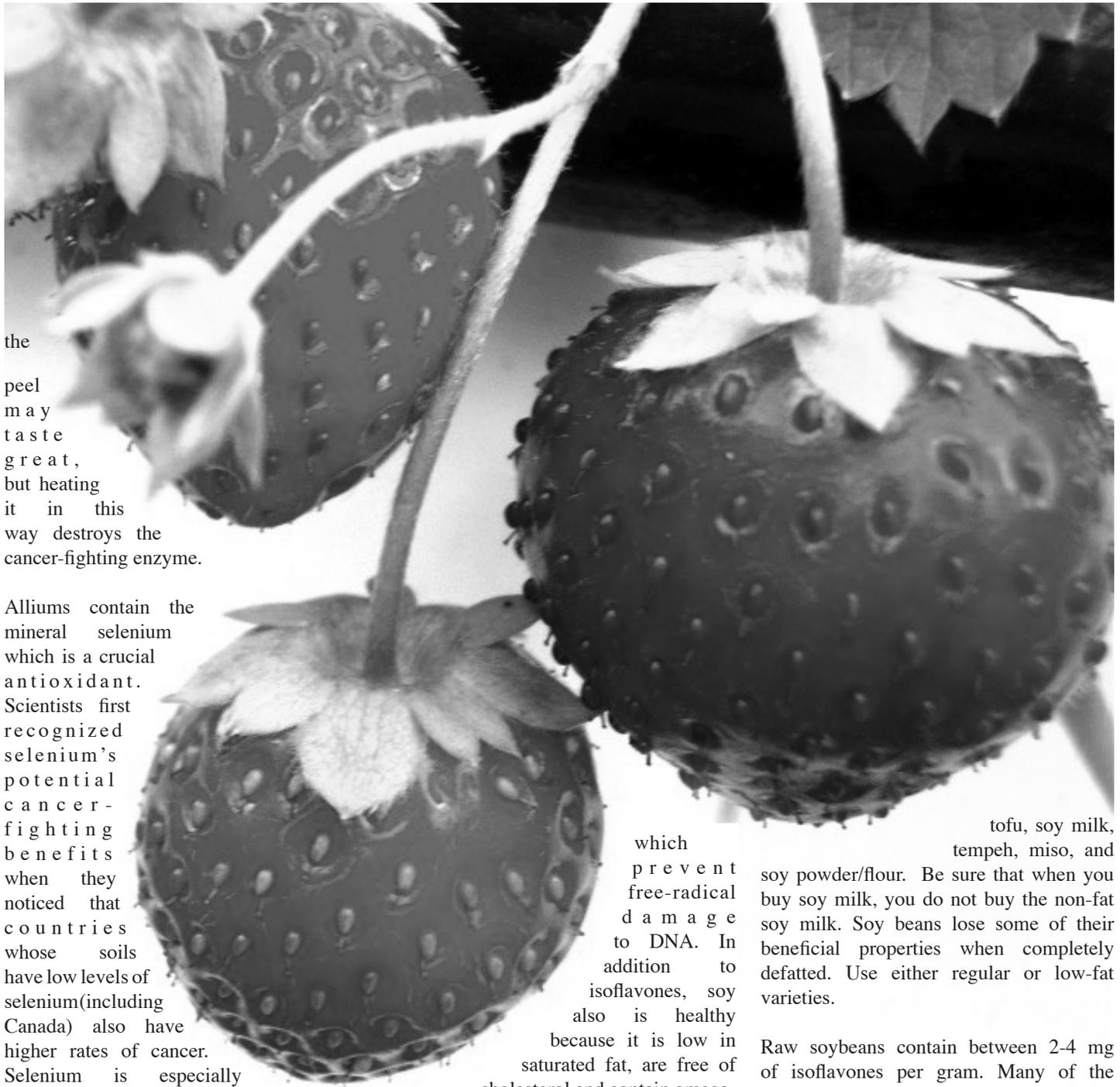
R1	R2	Compound
H	H	Daidzein
OH	H	Genistein
H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	Glycitein

## Glycosides



R3	R4	R5	Compound
H	H	H	Daidzin
OH	H	H	Genistin
H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H	Glycitin
H	H	COCH <sub>3</sub>	Acetyldaidzin
OH	H	COCH <sub>3</sub>	Acetylgenistin
H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	COCH <sub>3</sub>	Acetylglycitin
H	H	COCH <sub>2</sub> COOH	Malonyldaidzin
OH	H	COCH <sub>2</sub> COOH	Malonylgenistin
H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	COCH <sub>2</sub> COOH	Malonylglycitin

## Structures Of Isoflavones



the peel may taste great, but heating it in this way destroys the cancer-fighting enzyme.

Alliums contain the mineral selenium which is a crucial antioxidant. Scientists first recognized selenium's potential cancer-fighting benefits when they noticed that countries whose soils have low levels of selenium (including Canada) also have higher rates of cancer. Selenium is especially effective in reducing the incidence of prostate cancer. In countries with low selenium in the soil, it is recommended that a supplement be taken. But, do not exceed doses higher than 200mcg a day, as higher doses may be toxic and cause other health problems.

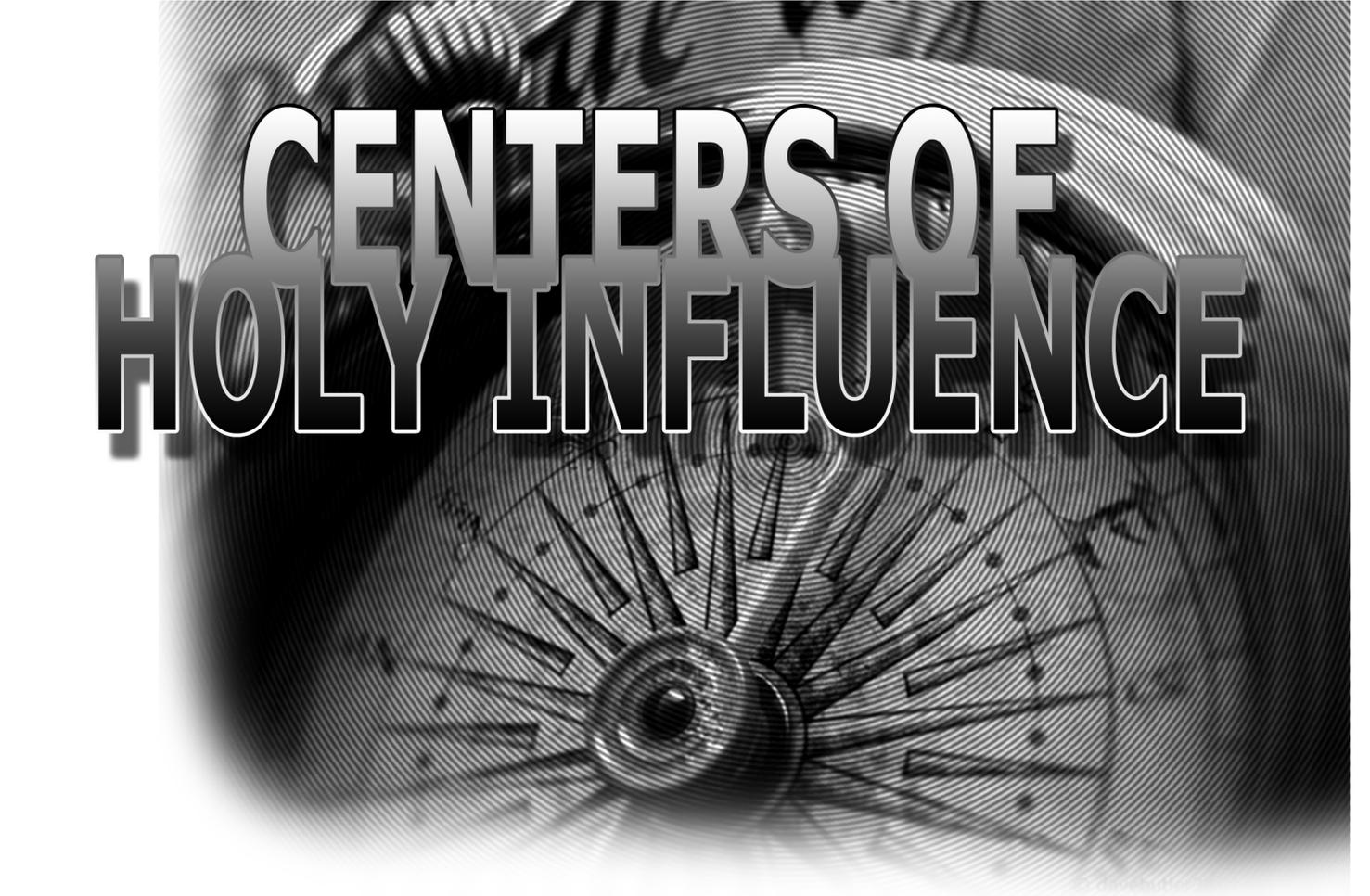
Soy protein is high in polyphenols known as isoflavones, which are believed to help prevent certain cancers, especially those cancers that are hormone related, like breast and prostate cancers. The two primary isoflavones in soy which protect against cancer are daidzein and genistein. Polyphenols are powerful antioxidants,

which prevent free-radical damage to DNA. In addition to isoflavones, soy also is healthy because it is low in saturated fat, are free of cholesterol and contain omega-3 fatty acids.

Soybeans have been used by man since creation. Only since the 20th century has soy become popular in the Western countries. Soy is the only plant protein that contains sufficient amounts of all nine amino acids. Also, soy contains carbohydrates along with the protein, unlike animal protein which contains high amounts of fat. Even in those people who already had cancer, tumours grew much slower when the daily food intake consisted of at least 40g of soy protein. Soy products that include significant levels of isoflavones include

tofu, soy milk, tempeh, miso, and soy powder/flour. Be sure that when you buy soy milk, you do not buy the non-fat soy milk. Soy beans lose some of their beneficial properties when completely defatted. Use either regular or low-fat varieties.

Raw soybeans contain between 2-4 mg of isoflavones per gram. Many of the processed soy products such as soy burgers, soy hot dogs, soy-based ice creams, etc. may not contain significant amounts of isoflavones because of the way the food has been processed. These products contain considerable amounts of non-soy ingredients.



# CENTERS OF HOLY INFLUENCE

We all, all who are converted, and being changed into the likeness of Jesus, need to become centers of holy influence. We need to have a strong magnetism that attracts. Not to attract to ourselves, however, but to point sinners to Christ our Saviour.

In order to exert this influence, we need to maintain a strong discipline over ourselves. And we need to understand our influence in the world. “One child, properly disciplined in the principles of truth, who has the love and fear of God woven through the character, will possess a power for good in the world that cannot be estimated.” CG 163.

“Love, sympathy, and kindness yield fruitage of blessing, a harvest that is imperishable.” CG 163.

“For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” Gal. 6:8.

To become a center of holy influence we must have, and practice tact. What is tact?

Tact is the ability to sense the exact right time to do or say a thing. **DICTIONARY:** “The ability to appreciate the delicacy of a situation and do or say the most fitting thing.” [**L** tactus, sense of touch]. It is related to tactics—the technique or science of securing strategic objectives, esp. the art of deploying and directing one’s own forces against an enemy. [**Gk** taktika, “matters of arrangement”]

Each of us need to know and learn how to manage ourselves. Therefore we need to know ourselves. **KNOW THYSELF!** Also we need to know our Captain, and what He expects of us. We need to understand our duty.

And when we have failed in our duty, missed our cue, followed our own headstrong way because it is our strong habit, then we must repent with all our heart and soul and mind. We must take time to reflect and review our actions, emotions, and words. We must do this daily and often otherwise we will become as fixed as stone in a crooked course, and God will have to dismiss us, reject us as reprobates, unmanageable, and

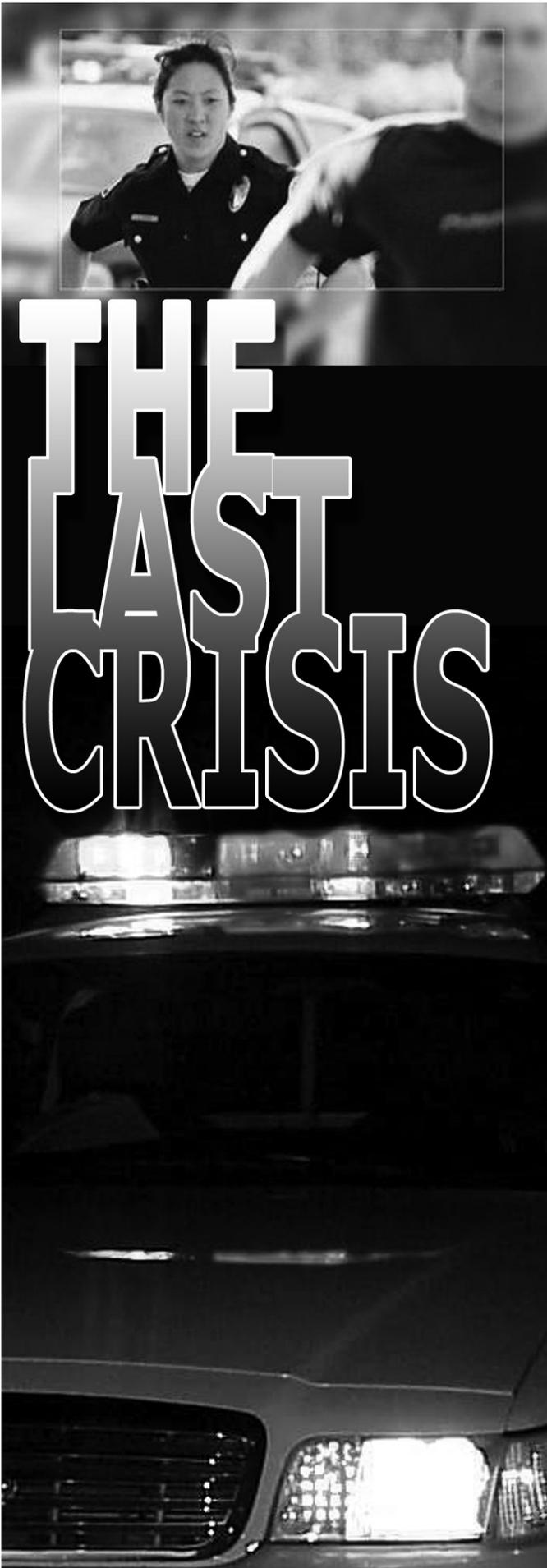
unfit for a place in His work.

**GOD FORBID!**

We will often have to bow down and weep at the feet of Jesus because of our shortcomings and mistakes, but we are not cast off, not rejected by our pitying Saviour. He will pick us up, again, set us on our way, (HIS way), and put a work into our hands that is appropriate for us. Even if it is the most humiliating, the lowest tasks on the list, do not reject it. It is practice, and a test, for other labour.

Our tears may fill an ocean, our mistakes may be myriad, but we have an extremely patient Commander. If we don’t give up trying, **HE NEVER WILL! AMEN.**

*Kathleen Ross, Alberta, Canada*



“We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand... The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.” 9T 11. “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” 2 Corinthians 6:17, 18. The Lord is calling out his people from the world, from its fleshly lusts and gratifications. “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” 1 Peter 2:9.

### Corruption, Crime, Calamities

“We are living in the midst of an ‘epidemic of crime’ at which thoughtful, God fearing men everywhere stand aghast. The corruption that prevails, it is beyond the power of the human pen to describe. Every day brings fresh revelation of political strife, bribery, and fraud. Every day brings its heart-sickening record of violence and lawlessness, of indifference to human suffering, of brutal, fiendish destruction of human life. Everyday testifies to the increase of insanity, murder and suicide.” MH, p. 142-143.

“The condition of things in the world shows that troublous times are right upon us. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the near future. Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand.” 9T 11.

Our world is not safe now with increased violence and crime, war and bloodshed. “We are standing on the threshold of the crisis of the ages. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another--fire, and flood, and earthquake, with war and bloodshed.” PK. 278.

G r e e d  
for gain,  
pleasure,  
a n d  
madness.  
“ T h e  
Scriptures  
describe the  
condition of  
the world  
just before  
Christ’s  
s e c o n d  
c o m i n g .  
James the  
a p o s t l e



pictures the greed and oppression that will prevail. He says, ‘Go to now, ye rich men,... ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of



in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were from the beginning.’ 2 Peter 3:3-4. Do we not hear these very words repeated, not merely by the openly ungodly, but by many who occupy the pulpits of our land? ‘There is no cause for alarm, they cry.’” PP 102.

“Like the dwellers in the vale of Siddim, the people are dreaming of property and peace. ‘Escape for thy life,’ is the warning from the angels of God; but other voices are heard saying, ‘Be not excited; there is no cause for alarm.’ The multitudes cry, ‘Peace and safety,’ while Heaven declares that swift destruction is about to come upon the transgressor. On the

sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton’... This is a picture of what exists today. By every species of oppression and extortion, men are piling up colossal fortunes, while the cries of starving humanity are coming up before God.” COL 170.

actors, its inhabitants, are preparing to act their part in the last great drama. With the great masses of mankind there is no unity, except as men confederate to accomplish their selfish purposes.” 8T 27.

night prior to their destruction, the cities of the plain rioted in pleasure and derided the fears and warnings of the messenger of God; but those scoffers perished in the flames; that very night the door of mercy was forever closed to the wicked, careless inhabitants of Sodom.” PP 167.

### **Crying Peace, Preparing for War**

“In the great cities there are multitudes living in poverty and wretchedness, well-nigh destitute of food, shelter, and clothing; while in the same cities are those who have more than heart could wish, who live luxuriously, spending their money on richly furnished houses.” 9T 12. People are absorbed in worldly business and pleasure, and like the antediluvians, “knew not until the flood came, and took them all away.” Matt. 24:39.

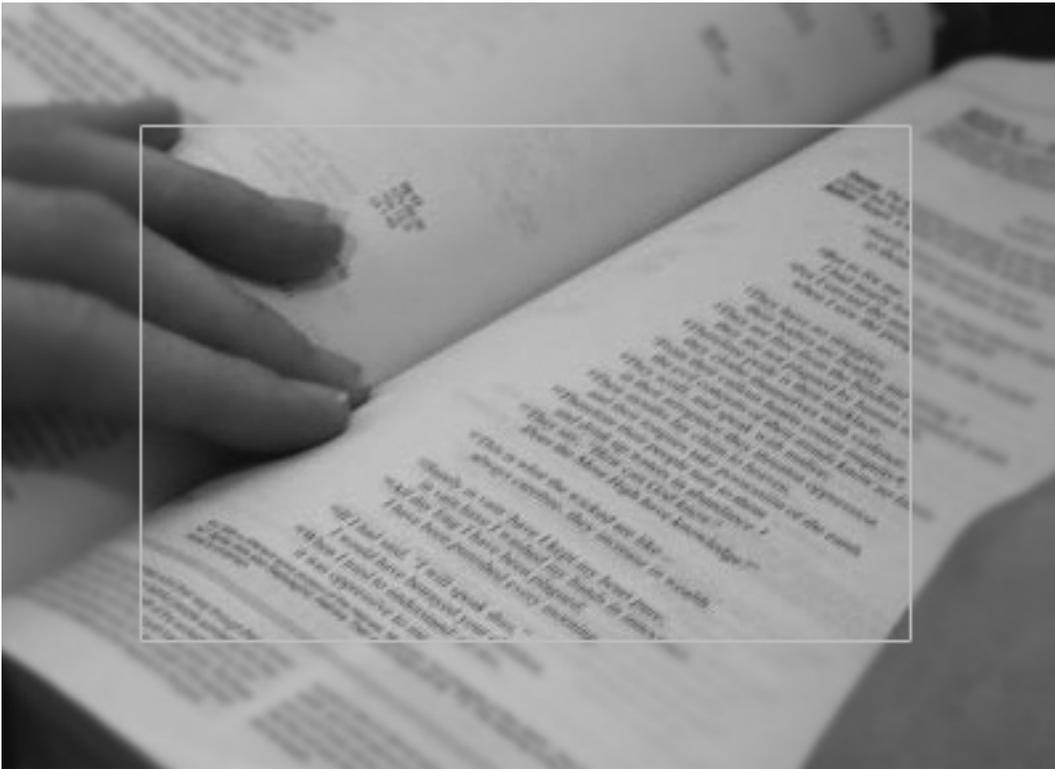
“Says the apostle Peter, ‘There shall come

Let us prepare ourselves and be ready to

“Transgression has almost reached its limit. Confusion fills the world, and a great terror is soon to come upon human beings. The end is very near. We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise.” 8T 28.

“The world is a theater; the





grace of Christ that the work of restoration, physical, mental, and spiritual, can be accomplished. Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people." MH 143. You and I, let us get ready to do the work of God while it is today, not tomorrow.

"Men in humble walks of life are to be encouraged to take up the work of God. As they labor they will gain a precious experience." 9T 118. Just a few years ago, terrorism seemed to be restricted to a few isolated places such as Northern Ireland, the Basque country in northern Spain and some areas of the Middle East. Now especially since September 11, 2001 with the destruction of the Twin Towers in New York City, it has mushroomed. In "Istanbul, November 15, 2003, Madrid, March 11, 2004 and London July 7, 2005. All these signs indicate that we are living in the last day of crisis. Get ready, get ready, is the warning message. *Amen*

take our stand with God. "The nations are angry, and the time of the dead has come, that they should be judged. Events are changing to bring about the day of God which hasteth greatly." 6T 14.

knows something of their profession of faith and of their high standard, and when it sees those who do not live up to their profession, it points at them with scorn." 9T 23.

"The battle of Armageddon is soon to be fought. He on whose vesture is written the name, King of kings, and Lord of lords, is soon to lead forth armies of heaven... The day of the Lord is approaching with stealthy tread; but the supposed great and wise men know not the signs of Christ's coming or of the end of the world." 6T 406.

"The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago--a revelation of Christ. A great work of reform is demanded, and it is only through the

*Anthony Cedric Adjei, Ghana.*

### **The Remnant People of God**

"Today the remnant people of God are to glorify His name by proclaiming the last message of warning, the invitation to the marriage supper of the Lamb... The Lord has wrought through human agents to fulfill the prophecies. He has made sacred, eternal truth stand out plainly amidst the heresies and delusions that Christ declared would exist in the last days." 8T 153.

"The world is watching Seventh-day Adventists, because it



# In Heavenly Places

## *Chap. 175 - Kind and Courteous Words*

The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. Isa. 50:4}

“What Christ was in His life on this earth, that every Christian is to be. He is our example, not only in His spotless purity, but in His patience, gentleness, and winsomeness of disposition. He was firm as a rock where truth and duty were concerned, but He was invariably kind and courteous. His life was a perfect illustration of true courtesy. . . . His presence brought a purer atmosphere into the home, and His life was as leaven working amid the elements of society. Harmless and undefiled, He walked among the thoughtless, the rude, the uncourteous; amid the unjust publicans, the unrighteous Samaritans, the heathen soldiers, the rough peasants, and the mixed multitude.

“He spoke a word of sympathy here and a word there as He saw men weary and compelled to bear heavy burdens. He shared their burdens and repeated to them the lessons He had learned from nature, of the love, the kindness, the goodness of God. He sought to inspire with hope the most rough and unpromising, setting before them the assurance that they might become blameless and harmless, attaining such a character as would make them manifest as children of God. . . . Jesus sat an honoured guest at the table of the publicans, by His sympathy and social kindness showing that He recognized the dignity of humanity; and men longed to become worthy of His confidence. Upon their thirsty souls His words fell with blessed, life-giving power. New impulses were awakened, and the possibility of a new life opened to these outcasts of society.

“The religion of Jesus softens whatever is hard and rough in the temper and smooths off whatever is rugged and sharp in the manners. It is this religion that makes the words gentle and the demeanour winning. Let us learn from Christ how to combine a high sense of purity and integrity with sunniness of disposition. A kind, courteous Christian is the most powerful argument that can be produced in favour of the gospel.

## *Chap. 176 - No Sharp or Hasty Words*

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby. 1 Peter 2:1, 2

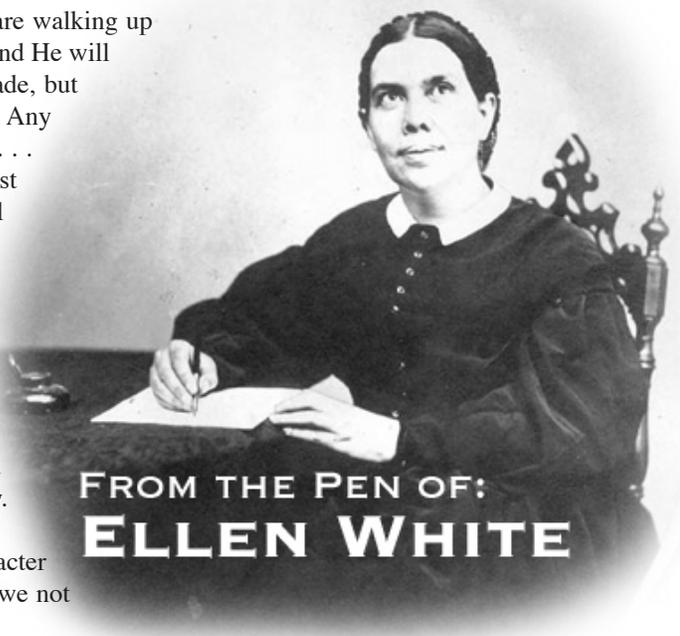
“We should study this instruction. It is our privilege to grow “unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13). We are not to be thoughtless or careless in speech, hurting one another by unkind words. . .

“Every human agency connected with the Lord’s work needs to appreciate the work in which he is acting a part. The work in God’s institutions is to be carried on without friction, without hasty speech, without dictatorial words. The workers are to be pure, clean, and holy in thought, in word, in act. They are to be Christ’s witnesses, testifying that they are born again.

“There is to be no sharp speaking, no fretful scolding, for angels of God are walking up and down in every room. Christ loves to commend every faithful worker, and He will do it. Every good act is registered in the book. Little mistakes may be made, but words of censure arouse feelings of retaliation, and God is dishonoured. . . . Any word spoken thoughtlessly or unadvisedly should be retracted on the spot. . . . We are to remember that as Christians professing to work in unity we must not act like sinners, whose sinful words and works, unless repented of, will condemn them. . . .

“‘Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die’ (Rev. 3:2). This is our work. There are many ready to die spiritually, and the Lord calls upon us to strengthen them. God’s people are to be firm to duty. They are to be bound together by the bonds of Christian fellowship and are to be strengthened in the faith by speaking often to one another about the precious truths entrusted to them. Never are they to quarrel and condemn. They are to unite upon the importance of obedience to God’s law.

“In this life there is nothing of greater importance than preparation of character that we may at last enter with joy into the saints’ abode on high. Why do we not improve our privilege of being saints here below?”



FROM THE PEN OF:  
**ELLEN WHITE**

# SISTER WHITE'S ACCIDENT



## CHILDRENS CORNER

When she was nine years old a terrible accident happened to Ellen Harmon (later, White)—something which was to change her life and work, and also the work of God in the earth.

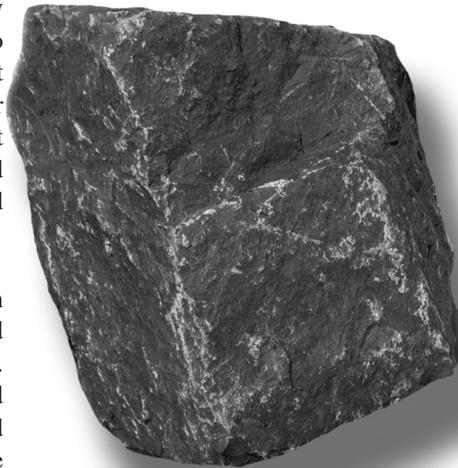
One day, as school closed, Ellen and her sister Elizabeth hurried with the other pupils out of the schoolhouse and across the common, going home. A friend of theirs was with them. But an older girl had become angry at them for some trifle, and now she followed them, saying ugly things and calling them names. Their parents had taught them not to quarrel but to turn away from evil. So now they hurried on, not saying anything back to the girl. But when they were almost across the common Ellen turned her head to see how near the girl was. Just then that girl threw a heavy stone, and it smashed right into Ellen's face and knocked her down, senseless.

When she came to, she found herself in a nearby store, where they had carried her. People were standing around her. Her face and clothing were all covered with blood, and she felt very weak and dizzy. A kind gentleman offered to take her home in his carriage, but she did not want to get it bloody, so she said she could walk. Helped by her sister and her friend, she started to go home; but she had not gone very far when she fainted again, and Elizabeth and her friend carried her the rest of the way.

Now she did not awaken for three weeks. Everyone but her mother thought she would die, but her mother believed that God would heal her. Her father was away from home on a long business trip. When she awoke she found that the rock which had hit her had broken her nose and so changed her face that she did not look like the same girl. In fact, when her father came home, he did not know her, and asked where his little Ellen was, though she was right there.

But worst of all, when after many months she tried to go to school again, she found that she could not study. The accident had made her so ill and nervous and had hurt her sight that the print all ran together. The girl who had thrown the stone was very sorry. The teacher set her to help Ellen study, but she could not help her much; and often tears of remorse came to her eyes as she watched the little girl struggling to read.

After three years of trying, Ellen had to give up; and that was the last she went to



school. However, later, when she grew better, she gained a good education by reading and studying outside of school. The Bible was always her most beloved book, and through its study she came to be wise and true and loving, a great helper of others, and the teacher of thousands of people.

But those three years of struggle and pain were very dark days for her. No longer was she the cheery, happy girl she had been before. She thought her life was ruined, her hopes of becoming a teacher were gone, and there stretched before her a dreary road. She tried to believe in the goodness of God and to love the Lord, but she found it hard. Many nights,

while her sister Elizabeth slept, she would creep from bed and bow for hours in agonized prayer upon the cold floor.

Her mother helped her to find Jesus, the gentle, pitying Saviour. The Harmon family were Methodists; and at a Methodist camp meeting, when she was twelve years old, Ellen found the peace of God. She knew that her sins were forgiven, for Jesus' sake, and that she was a child of the King. Now once again the world was to her a beautiful and joyous place, more than ever it had been when she was little. All nature seemed to be singing, and she sang with it.

The sun shone bright and clear, and flooded the earth with light and warmth. The trees and grass were a fresher green; the sky was a deeper blue. The birds sang more sweetly than ever before; they seemed to Ellen to be praising their Creator in their songs. She was so happy she did not care to talk. But when they reached home she went out into the garden, among the flowers that her mother lovingly tended and taught her girls to tend. The garden had never before looked so lovely as it looked this day.

There was one beautiful pink flower on a shrub called the rose of Sharon. Ellen went slowly toward it, drinking in its beauty, and she touched its delicate petals reverently. Her heart overflowed with tenderness and love for these beautiful creations of God. "Ah," she thought, "if God so loves and cares for the flowers He has decked with beauty, how much more tenderly will He guard the children who are made in His image!" And she said softly to herself, "I am a child of God. His loving care is around me. I will obey Him, and never displease Him. I will praise His dear name, and love Him always."

She was taken into the Methodist

Church; and with eleven others, on a windy day, while the waves rolled in from the Atlantic Ocean and dashed high on the shores of Portland Bay, she went down into the water and was baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It was a happy day for her, the beginning of a long life of Christian service.

Still she was not well and strong, and many years were to pass before she was to be made well by the goodness of God. But even in her weakness she went forward, working for the Lord. She prayed for her young friends, and she talked with them about the Lord Jesus. And they were converted. Yet as the days and the months went by, her old temptation to doubt the goodness of God would come back upon her, and sometimes she felt very sad.

A few months after her baptism there came to Portland the great apostle and herald of the second coming of Jesus, William Miller. From the prophecies of the Bible, and especially from Daniel 8 and 9, he was teaching that a great event, "the cleansing of the sanctuary," was to take place in 1843 or 1844; and he believed that this cleansing of the sanctuary was the cleansing of the earth by fire at the last day, and that would be the coming of Christ in glory. So he preached that the end of the world was right at hand, when Jesus would reign and His blessed kingdom of peace would cover the world. He was right about the time when the sanctuary of God should

be cleansed, but he was wrong about that being the coming of Christ, for the sanctuary is not this earth; it is the temple of God in heaven. And only after it shall have been cleansed will Jesus come back to earth for the faithful.

However, thousands of people believed and looked for the Lord to come on October 22, 1844. Among these believers in Portland were the Harmon family. Ellen was very happy over this hope to see her Saviour so soon, and to have all the troubles and pains of this life come to an end. Believers in the Second Advent were found in all the churches. But after a while their churches turned against them, and told them that either to stop believing in what William Miller taught, or else be cast out. The Harmon family, with many others, held to their faith, and so they were cast out from the Methodist Church. After that, the Adventists, as they had come to be called, met together, week after week, in a city hall.

Ellen was sixteen years old when the great day of their hope came. She had been a real Christian worker, whose bright experience and words of cheer were welcomed in all the churches before the Adventists were cast out, and afterward still among the believers.

But on  
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great day, October 22, when they expected their Lord to come, He did not come. Oh, how deep was their disappointment! It was as great as the disappointment of Jesus' disciples when He was crucified on Calvary. Those disciples had expected Him to become king of Israel, and instead He was nailed to the cross, crucified between two thieves. Now the Adventists expected Him to come in glory, but He did not come. They did not know then that He had fulfilled the prophecy, and had entered into the most holy place of the sanctuary in heaven, to cleanse it of the forgiven sins of His people. This they were soon to learn. But now they were bowed down, crushed in their disappointment.

The girl Ellen, with all the rest, was disappointed. But her hope held firm that in due time Jesus would come, and that very soon He would explain to His people what their disappointment meant. She did not yet know that she was Jesus' messenger, to carry the good news to the people. But she was.



ELLEN WHITE



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