

The Reformation **Messenger**

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 7, JULY 2008

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



"But Jesus called them unto him, and said,
Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not:
for of such is the kingdom of God."

Luke 18:15-17

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.

ABOUT THE COVER

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"I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord" I Sam. 1:27, 28, NIV. {LHU 339.1}

He who gave Eve to Adam as a helpmeet . . . ordained that men and women should be united in holy wedlock, to rear families whose members, crowned with honor, should be recognized as members of the family above. {AH 159.1}

To be recognized as members of the family above, all members of each family on earth should meet the inspirational requirements of God. For instance, mothers should regard the duty of child rearing as a sacred work. The mother's first duty is to "educate her children for usefulness in this world and for a home in the better world". {AH 231.1}

We may safely say that the distinctive duties of woman are more sacred, more holy, than those of man. Let women realize the sacredness of their work and in the strength and fear of God take up their life mission.

How should parents regard children?

Children are the heritage of the Lord, and we are answerable to Him for our management of His property. . . . In love, faith, and prayer let parents work for their households, until with joy they can come to God saying, "Behold, I and the children whom the Lord hath given me." {AH 159.2}

Examples of mothers in Biblical History

The day of God will reveal how much the world owes to godly mothers for men who have been unflinching advocates of truth and reform--men who have been bold to do and dare, who have stood unshaken amid trials and temptations; men who chose the high and holy interests of truth and the glory of God before worldly honor or life itself. {AH 243.1}

In the day of final reckoning, fathers and mothers will be required to answer in regard to their children. Parents will be asked what they did and said to secure the salvation of the souls they took upon themselves the responsibility of bringing into the world. Did they neglect their lambs, leaving them to the care of strangers? Fathers and mothers, are you allowing your children to grow up in impurity and sin? A great good done for others will not cancel the debt you owe to God to care for your children. The spiritual welfare of your family comes first. Take them with you to the cross of Calvary, laboring for them as those that must give an account.--MS 56, 1899. {1MCP 162.2}

Timothy's mother

The faith of his mother and his grandmother in the sacred oracles was to him a constant reminder of the blessing in doing God's will.



Let
Mothers
Come To
Jesus

The word of God was the rule by which these two godly women had guided Timothy. The spiritual power of the lessons that he had received from them kept him pure in speech and unsullied by the evil influences with which he was surrounded. Thus his home instructors had co-operated with God in preparing him to bear burdens. {AA 203.2}

Best Missionaries Come From Christian Homes.-- Missionaries for the Master are best prepared for work abroad in the Christian household, where God is feared, where God is loved, where God is worshiped, where faithfulness has become second nature, where haphazard, careless inattention to home duties is not permitted, where quiet communion with God is looked upon as essential to the faithful performance of daily duties. {AH 35.1}

Samuel's mother-Hannah

For this child I (Hannah) prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought [it] to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home 1 Sam. 1:27, 19, 20

Misconception of the Mother's Work

Her days are occupied with a round of little duties, all calling for patient effort, for self-control, for tact, wisdom, and self-sacrificing love; yet she cannot boast of what she has done as any great achievement. She has only kept things in the home running smoothly. Often weary and perplexed, she has tried to speak kindly to the children, to keep them busy and happy, and to guide their little feet in the right path. She feels that she has accomplished nothing. But it is not so. Heavenly angels watch the careworn mother, noting the burdens she carries day by day. Her name may not have been heard in the world, but it is written in the Lamb's book of life. {AH 244.1}

Where must the great reformatory movement begin?

The great reformatory movement must begin in the home. {SD 43.5}

Can foreign missionary work be an excuse for neglecting my children?

His first duty is to his children and his nearest relatives. Nothing can excuse him from neglecting the inner circle for the larger circle outside.

Invitation To Mothers

Jesus does not send children to the Pharisees; for He knows that

these men would teach them to reject their best Friend. The mothers that brought their children to Jesus did well. . . . Let mothers now lead their children to Christ. Let ministers of the gospel take the little children in their arms and bless them in the name of Jesus. Let words of tenderest love be spoken to the little ones; for Jesus took the lambs of the flock in His arms and blessed them. {AH 274.2}

Let mothers come to Jesus with their perplexities. They will find grace sufficient to aid them in the management of their children. The gates are open for every mother who would lay her burdens at the Saviour's feet. . . . He . . . still invites the mothers to lead up their little ones to be blessed by Him. Even the babe in its mother's arms may dwell under the shadow of the Almighty through the faith of the praying mother.

John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit from his birth. If we live in communion with God, we too may expect the divine Spirit to mould our little ones, even from their earliest moments. {AH 274.3}

Tribute to Faithful Mothers

When the judgment shall sit, and the books shall be opened; when the "well done" of the great Judge is pronounced, and the crown of immortal glory is placed upon the brow of the victor, many will raise their crowns in sight of the assembled universe and, pointing to their mother, say, "She made me all I am through the grace of God. Her instruction, her prayers, has been blessed to my eternal salvation.--MYP 330 (1881). {LDE 294.1}

The angels of God immortalize the names of the mothers whose efforts have won their children to Jesus Christ.--CG 568 (1895). {LDE 294.2}

I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord. 1 Sam. 1:27, 28, NIV {LHU 339.1}

As the little infants come forth immortal from their dusty beds, they immediately wing their way to their mothers' arms. {Mar 299.5}

Friends long separated by death are united, nevermore to part, and with songs of gladness ascend together to the City of God. {Mar 299.6}

*By Charles Mogunde
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This sentence is a part of the Lord's Prayer that Jesus taught during the Sermon on the Mount and that today is repeated daily by millions of people, "Give us this day our daily bread." Matt. 6:11.

In our developed countries, people take for granted that they will always get something to eat on their plate. We have an abundance of products that not only can satisfy our hunger but also our palate. As we well know, this is not the case everywhere. There are continents where, when the believers say this sentence, they actually implore and mean every word of it. Many of the true believers make the experience that the Lord is faithful to His promise given more than 2000 years ago, "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" Matt. 6:25, 26. And this because they have complied with the condition, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33.

In the gospel of John, we read something else that Jesus taught His followers, "I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." John 6:48-51.

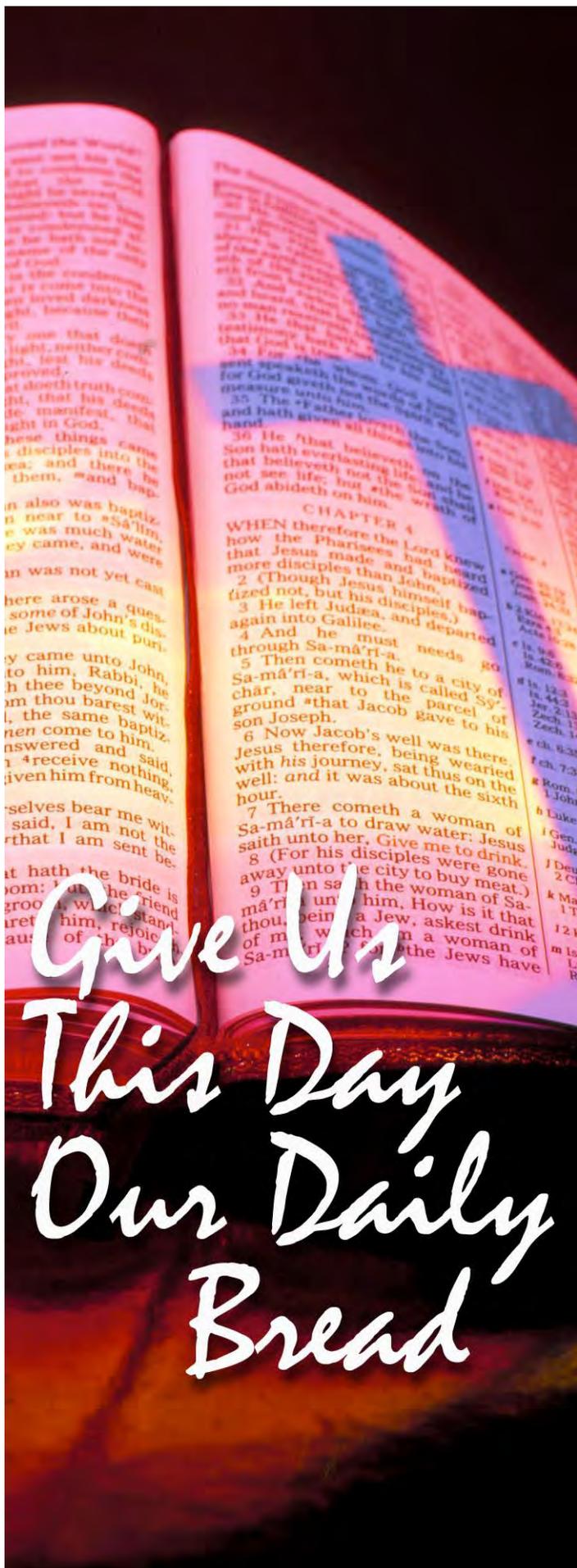
Manna was the food God gave His people in the wilderness, but although it was heavenly food, they all died. There was no seed of eternal life in this bread. Only in Jesus' blood and flesh is our hope of eternity. "For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him." John 6:55, 56. Christ's sacrifice on Calvary means LIFE for every single person upon this earth, whether they believe it or not. But, if we accept His sacrifice of love personally, with it we receive the seed of ETERNAL LIFE in us.

Therefore, for us who have food in abundance, this sentence of the Lord's prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread" should mean, "Give us Jesus daily", so that our soul does not starve.

In our well-fed society there are many people who are starving for lack of affection, of company, of understanding, of real love and all that can be found in Jesus.

Today, in a spiritual sense, there are different types of bread; the eastern world offers its philosophy that speaks much about love and is connected with the kingdom of the spirits, but what kind of spirits? They have a completely different teaching from what Jesus left us.

Once, after Jesus had performed the miracle through which he



fed 5000 men with five loaves of bread, he went with His disciples to Magdala. "Then Jesus said unto them, take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, [It is] because we have taken no bread. [Which] when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?"

How is it that ye do not understand that I spake [it] not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Then understood they how that he bade [them] not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees." Matt. 16:6-12.

The Sadducees and Pharisees, as we well know, were the spiritual leaders of the people. They preached from the pulpit and taught the law, which they themselves did not have written in their heart. Jesus warned His disciples that they should be careful with their teachings

Today there are so many Christian churches and each one has another doctrine, another kind of bread, another Christ.

The prophet Isaiah already spoke about this in his time, "And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach." Isaiah 4:1. As we know, a woman is a symbol of the church and seven means plenitude, therefore plenty of churches want to carry the name of Christ, but insist on keeping their own doctrine and practicing their own righteousness, even their right to eat and dress in the way they want, in a real sense.

Therefore, Christ explains to His listeners, "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" John 7:38. Do we believe as the scripture say? Today, even in our ranks, people interpret certain things in the Bible in a different way; they tend to accept some part of our doctrine based on the Holy Scripture and to reject others. But, can we really know what the right doctrine is?

The Lord has an answer for every question, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God," John 7:17. We can examine ourselves using this measure. Do I want to do God's will in my life? If that is the case, I will not find peace until I find the right doctrine and if, by the grace of God, I have already found it, I will treasure it as the most precious thing. The Holy Spirit will be always at my side to guide me in the whole truth and to help me be faithful to what I believe.

"Give us this day our daily bread" means many things in different

circumstances. Our daily bread should not be taken for granted, because our condition today may be another one tomorrow; therefore, let us always thank the Lord for the privilege of having something to eat. The bread is also Jesus, therefore, our plea should be, "Lord, give me Jesus daily; I need to feel His presence" and that is possible if we earnestly study our Bible, our spiritual bread, and live accordingly. But as we saw, bread is also the heavenly doctrine and our next plea should be, "Give me the right understanding of what I read because I do want to do your will." "Lord, I do mean it when in my prayer I say, "Thy will be done in earth, as [it is] in heaven."

May the Lord help us to do His will in all things so that His kingdom may come soon. *Amen. Teresa Corti*

LOOKING FOR YOU!!

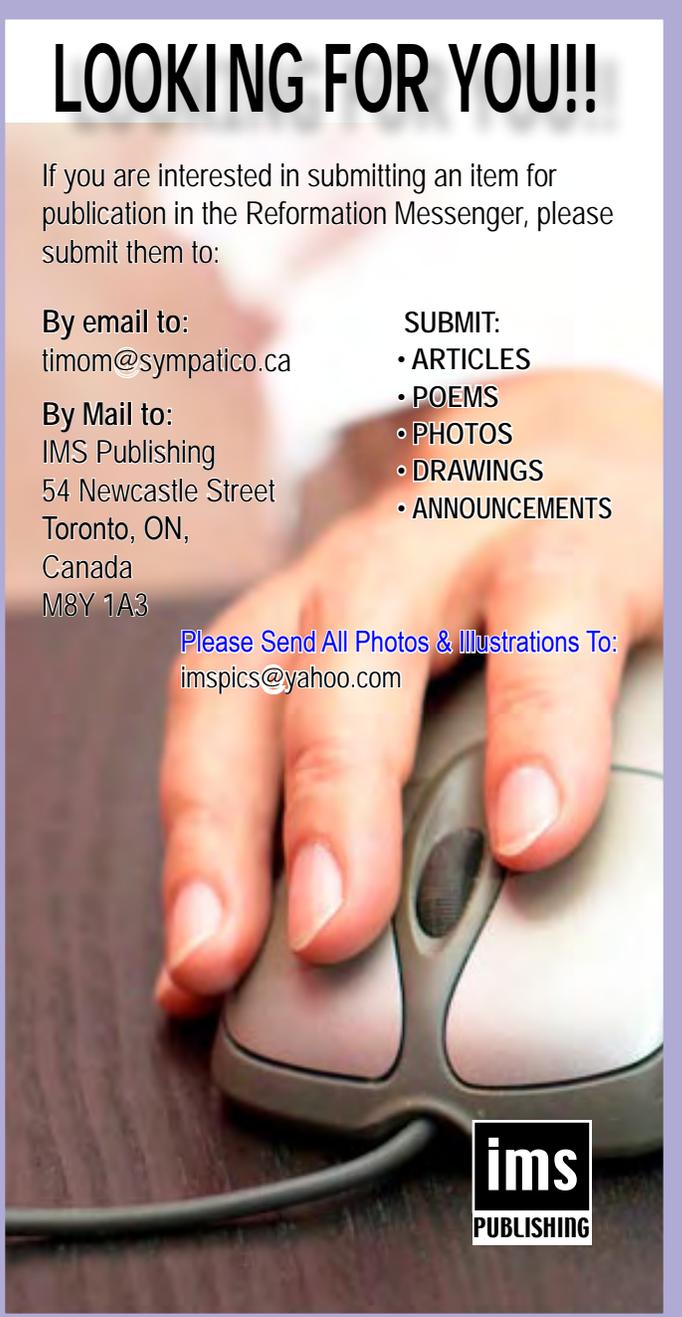
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A Second Chance

How many people have failed the first time, but then when they were given a second chance they tried harder, and this time they succeeded. On the first time they did not realize how much is required in order to succeed.

In this game of life everyone has lost the first chance. They have sinned and deserve the death penalty. But God in His mercy has purchased for us a second chance at a high price. It cost the life of His Son.

Man was given the Holy Spirit, and he can start with a clean page in the book of heaven. All his past sins are forgiven. If he would sin against the Holy Spirit, he would be eternally lost, because there is not a third chance.

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to open shame.” Heb. 6:4-6.

Yet millions are failing and losing the second chance. A large number of the world’s population is beyond salvation today. They lost the Holy Spirit, and He will never return to a person who has sinned against Him.

The second chance is freely offered to everyone who is willing to accept it.

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” Isa. 1:18.

Murderers, thieves, adulterers, drug-addicts, liars, all are offered another chance in life. The thief on the cross accepted the second chance and all his sins were forgiven.

Because the first time God forgives so easily, so freely the greatest sins even, people think that it will be done again and again. They think that sin is not so terrible. They only need to say, “Forgive me,” and all their sins are forgiven again, day after day.

But it is not so. Jesus spoke a parable about God’s forgiveness. “Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an

Christ's Love For His Remnant Church



Pedro Moura Pinheiro, flickr.com

Revelation 19:11-16. "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him [was] called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes [were] as a flame of fire, and on his head [were] many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he [was] clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies [which were] in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on [his] vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

This picture that is drawn is a picture of aggressive warfare. This picture is shortly to be reality; the coming of Christ to judge the nations of this world. To rule them with a rod of iron. The energy which is exerted, is done so in righteousness.

As we consider this text, it will pay for us to note that these remarks of the end of the world are here shown just as the long awaited marriage of the lamb is taking place.

Revelation 19:7-9. "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed [are] they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."

The Lamb has just been married and is receiving the kingdom which He was to have. He has had his wedding; He then comes to earth to finish the war. A marriage is the ultimate reconciliation or atonement of two individuals becoming one. When that reconciliation has taken place to the degree of marriage, then our Lord comes to smite the nations and rule them with a rod of iron.

He has many crowns, He is the King of all spheres in all the universe. Here, Jesus is coming, not as a humble minister or a carpenter's son but as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

As we consider the marriage, how did this marriage come about? This joining of two. Before the marriage takes place, they are not joined yet. The war that He comes to finish commenced in heaven. We want to understand how this marriage came about. The battleground is here on earth, but the battleground used to be in the courts of heaven.

Little by little Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation. The Scripture says, "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness." Ezekiel 28:17. "Thou hast said in thine heart, ... I will exalt my throne above the stars of God... I will be like the Most High." Isaiah 14:13,

14. Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself. Not content with his position, though honoured above the heavenly host, he ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it was his endeavour to secure their service and loyalty to himself. And coveting the glory with which the infinite Father had invested His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power that was the prerogative of Christ alone. {PP 35.2}

Self-exaltation to serve self is the core and foundation of every discordant note on this planet. To serve me, what I want. Everywhere where this want is exercised, there is discord and war.

Proverbs 13:10 "Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised [is] wisdom."

Contention comes in no other way but from pride. From a sense of me, what I want. How I feel. Here, little by little, Lucifer came to regard and indulge in the desire for self-exaltation. To the point that it developed, that he would even contest the seat of God himself. In this subtle little by little manner, Satan thought to contend. He made little comments here and there about injustices against him. There came a war in heaven. The war came to Christ. God was attacked. God doesn't attack, but He was attacked. The basis of the attack was, You are too hard a God, and You want to keep everything to yourself. You're selfish. That was the attack. So, the war was in heaven, as we know.

The challenge was brought from Lucifer to Christ and the battleground changed place from heaven to earth. Here God had created humanity, which was after His own image. Individuality, freedom, all these things He bestowed upon us and crowned Adam. Humanity was crowned as kings of this world. The battleground of Christ's and Lucifer's war, which Lucifer brought to the earth, was regarding the method of Christ's authority. Satan thought he was a beautiful being and of a better calibre than Jesus. I will be like the most high; I will exalt my throne above God's. Higher than Christ. This consideration of Lucifer, that he had the qualities in himself to rule with more majesty than Jesus was the ground in which the battle was fought. Rulership.

It is of utmost consequence how we act as kings in our own sphere. It is of utmost consequence because the way we act and the way, which we do things, shows of whom we are following. As the battleground was taken, Satan came, and there he said to Eve, "you will be as gods. I want to put you in a better position than you are." And she accepted that and so did Adam. Here the gates were open for warfare on this earth.

What Satan did on earth was to reveal the character of God and also his own character. We can't forget this. Everything we do on earth is revealing the character of God or the character of Satan. This war was revealed to the whole universe. Here Satan

accomplished the fall of man.

"Satan accomplished the fall of man, and since that time it has been his work to efface in man the image of God, and to stamp upon human hearts his own image... He intercepts every ray of light that comes from God to man, and appropriates the worship that is due to God..." {AG 161.2}

"But the only begotten Son of God has looked upon the scene, has beheld human suffering and misery... He looked upon the schemes by which Satan works to blot from the human soul every trace of likeness to God; how he led them into intemperance so as to destroy the moral powers which God gave to man as a most precious, priceless endowment. He saw how, through indulgence in appetite, brain power was destroyed, and the temple of God was in ruins... The senses, the nerves, the passions, the organs of man, were worked by supernatural agencies in the indulgence of the grossest, vilest lust. The very stamp of demons was impressed upon the countenances of men, and human faces reflected the expression of the legions of evil with which they were possessed. Such was the prospect upon which the world's Redeemer looked. What a horrible spectacle for the eyes of infinite purity to behold!..." {AG 161.3}

God made man in His own image and Satan is trying to erase that. We either have the stamp of God or Lucifer on our characters. There are only two options. We know that in Revelation there is mentioned the mark of the beast and the seal of God. This is what the whole issue is about. Will you be like God or Satan? Satan is feverishly trying to get rid of that and that is where the war is.

We had the wherewithal to choose and act in a right correct manner. God gave that to us and Satan believes his method of government is better. How does he take God's government away? Meat eating, coffee, tea, tobacco and alcohol to destroy the powers of the brain. This is where the warfare is. Satan is trying to efface God's stamp of perfection. What is Satan doing to us? Working the senses, nerves and passions. You have an intense feeling of disappointment or offence, whatever it may be, that is the sort of evil we experience. The battle ground is here, our heart, it has been changed from heaven to us. The whole universe is watching, what are you going to do with such a feeling? What are you going to do with such desires? God won't make you serve Him.

Psalms 102:19, 20. For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth; To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death;

The war was such a heartache because the war was against Christ, and then Satan went and brought in others. That hurt Christ. You could have left them alone and we could have dealt with it, one on one, but no, Satan brought in more. Now there was a third person. Satan, the angels, and man. God bestowed man on neutral

ground. He bestowed so much love on him. You can choose. Man is placed in the middle of this war. The drawing of Christ's love and the pulling of Satan. It has been like this for how long? Are you tired of the pulling and shoving of the evil one? Or are you tired of the drawing of the love of Christ? We get tired of the wooing of the love of God or tired of Satan pulling us? Are you tired of coming to church? Does sitting in the business meeting tire you out? Or does the rattling of the enemy tire you out? Jesus saw this. So he left man be, he didn't say, "do this, do that." God came down later after everyone sinned in a casual and relaxed way and said, "where are you? I want to talk," knowing full well what happened. With such gentleness and love, it made them feel worse.

In order to fully realize the value of salvation, it is necessary to understand what it cost. In consequence of limited understanding of the sufferings of Christ, many place a low estimate upon the great work of the atonement. The glorious plan of man's salvation was brought about through the infinite love of God the Father. In this divine plan is seen the most marvellous manifestation of the love of God to the fallen race. Such love as is manifested in the gift of God's beloved Son amazed the holy angels. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "This Saviour was the brightness of His Father's glory and the express image of His person. He possessed divine majesty, perfection, and excellence. He was equal with God. "It pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell. (Col. 1:19)" {AG 160.2}

"Christ consented to die in the sinner's stead, that man, by a life of obedience, might escape the penalty of the law of God." {AG 160.3}

"Jesus was the majesty of heaven, the beloved Commander of the angels, who delighted to do His pleasure. He was one with God, "in the bosom of the Father" (John 1:18), yet He thought it not a thing to be desired to be equal with God while man was lost in sin and misery. He stepped down from His throne, He left His crown and royal scepter, and clothed His divinity with humanity. He humbled Himself even unto the death of the cross, that man might be exalted to a seat with Him upon His throne. In Him we have a complete offering, an infinite sacrifice, a mighty Saviour, who is able to save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by Him. In love He comes to reveal the Father, to reconcile man to God, to make him a new creature renewed after the image of Him who created him." {AG 160.4}

"Our heavenly Father made an infinite sacrifice in giving His Son to die for fallen man. The price paid for our redemption should give us exalted views of what we may become through Christ." {AG 160.5}

Jesus came down to get married; to become one with His bride. But first He had to put His stamp on His bride before He could be one with her. So with love, intense love, He came. With gentle,



meek, love. He came to reconcile to bring one again, to make a marriage. We see that after the marriage then He will finish the war. But He's coming because He is in love with His creation. He allowed Satan to display himself.

When Satan ruled the earth it was a groaning prison house. We are born into this. Because we are born into this, we think it is normal, but it is not. We can say it's going to finish soon because it is. We can rejoice in the pain as it's going to finish, because Christ's form of government wins every time, but it takes a long time to win.

A certain hymn says "My fathers house of light, my glory circled throne, I left for earthly night, I left, I left it all for thee..."

This is the reality of it. I left my crown behind, I took it off, and I came to serve and to have a marriage. Man was to be exalted to the seat with Him. Those that get married, do so because they want to be together all the time. In courtship you see each other and then you have to go home, and you didn't like that so you said, "let's get married."

"God places before Him the highest objects of ambition--a spotless white robe, a crown studded with jewels, a scepter, a throne of glory, and honor that is as enduring as the throne of Jehovah." {TMK 91.2}

This was his motive for coming to the earth; I want to make me a people to be with me. The condemnation of the world will come. What love, such love. He came on this earth to establish a church. We need to understand what the scriptures are saying so we can have purpose. What is God trying to teach us?

Matthew 20:25-28. "But Jesus called them [unto him], and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

When Jesus came to earth, one of the important things He wanted to tell His newly founded bride to be, was that the war is about how you rule. How does the world rule? Satan works the passions. The world rules after the pattern of Lucifer. God says, "you know how they do it in the world, it WON'T BE LIKE THAT AMONG YOU."

Here Jesus established the core of what the war was about. Satan said, "I could rule better," so Jesus said, "demonstrate." And he did, and there were groanings. God says, "I will put my mark back on you, I'm reforming. What I originally gave Adam, I want you to have. When you go to heaven, you're going to be a priest or a king." He is training how to rule. The 144,000 will be kings in heaven. Those kings need to learn a very valuable lesson before

they go, how to rule. We have the most equipped ground to learn how to rule because everyone has got a mind of their own as Satan has put his ingredient in and God has put His in.

The ground in which we have our training is very well equipped. We can thank God for that, he knows what we need. If I were to be your minister would you be offended? No, we like to be served. Has anyone asked you a question and you said, "no I don't want that?" I often wonder why people reject gifts when it comes from the heart. The ministry of Jesus was not always appreciated. The ministry of Jesus is a test whether or not we are a child of God. There is something about the ministry of serving that doesn't sit with humanity.

John 13:5-8. "After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe [them] with the towel wherewith he was girded. Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me."

Why is it that Peter was offended and said, "don't wash my feet?" It was a service to him. If it was the young lad to wash his feet, he would have accepted that, but of Jesus? No. If you don't do it, you have no part with Me. Then Peter said, wash all of me.

Matthew 11:5, 6. "The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is [he], whosoever shall not be offended in me."

Jesus is saying, "I'm healing the sick, I'm helping the poor, I'm preaching the gospel, I'm down with the people and blessed are you if you don't get offended."

Why does humanity get offended with such a ministry? Why is it that the condescension of the great God to earth is such an offence? Why?

Matthew 13:55-57. "Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? and his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this [man] all these things? and they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house."

The way He presented himself and then His claim, and the way He was, was an offence. If you're a king, act as a king. They wanted Jesus to act different than He was. You have all things and you are the Son of God, then what are you doing? He consisted in this lowly ministry and it was an offence.

Are you offended of Jesus? The pulling, the battle, God wooing you to his side and Satan pulling you?

Mark 4:16 "And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness."

You're happy, Jesus is here, wonderful, the truth is good.

Mark 4:17 "And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended."

When we come across the gospel we like it because we are going to be kings, we're going to have this paradise. So with gladness they receive it but they have no roots. When the training comes to be kings, they get offended. When persecution comes, there is immediately an offence. Why? They don't like the ministry of service. They don't like to do the hard work. To do it as a feeling of importance. "God is going to make me do this and that." Jesus came to serve. Do you know how long He did his active ministry for? Three years, and then they killed Him. For three years He acted as a minister should serve, and then they killed Him. We have been born in a prison house and we like it and we want oppression over us, a king. Where are we at? Are we tired of Jesus wooing? Are we tired of the prison house? Are we tired of the leadership which God is displaying? This method of leadership is to come into every method of God's ways. The Bible says you are to look after yourself, you are to be healthy, so you do it with kindness, and you don't treat your body rough. In the family you are kind and you serve, and in the church, and in every sphere God wants us to be kings according to His way. You know how they do it in the world, you don't do it like that. Learn of Me for I am meek and lowly in heart and you shall rest. The prison house will be open and you can go out into green pastures. But people don't like how they are served. Jesus was establishing His kingdom as the King in the kingdom and he was washing, serving, and healing His servants and yet he was the King. The world was saying, "we have no king but Caesar". Israel said, "we want a king."

Samuel 8:10-22. "And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint [them] for himself, for his chariots, and [to be] his horsemen; and [some] shall run before his chariots. And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and [will set them] to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. And he will take your daughters [to be] confectionaries, and [to be] cooks, and [to be] bakers. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, [even] the best [of them], and give [them] to his servants. And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your

goodliest young men, and your asses, and put [them] to his work. He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants. And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day. Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles. And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city."

When Jesus comes on a horse, what is he destroying? The nations. We want to be like other nations, to rule over us. He will destroy it as it is opposing His government. Whatever your profession, if you rule the way Lucifer rules, you will be destroyed. Why is it that people like to be told what to do? I've been in a church where people tell us what to do. The church likes it a lot. The thing I found strange was when I was in a position in the church and I didn't know what to do, no one told me what to do. That was a bit of a stumbling block. God doesn't tell us what to do when it comes to individuality. That is God's method. It feels different. There are people in this world who want to be told what to do. In God's church is it not like that. You do the sermons, the Bible studies, and you do it according to individuality.

God says to Adam, "here this is your world." He brought the animals before him and said, "what are you going to call them? What are you going to do?" Adam named all the animals. God is intrigued with the individuality of you and me. What will you do with everything God has given you? What will you do with the position you hold, will you start appointing and telling? Or let it naturally come about?

Israel wanted a king. King Saul was the first king that was given to Israel and they suffered. What was described, he did, and the people were oppressed by him. Then Saul's children weren't heirs of this throne.

David was the king, Saul couldn't control himself. Here is a shepherd boy, someone who cares for the sheep and who will fight off the beasts. He was a type of Christ because Christ was like that. God will not let people get away with others offending His little lambs because He loves them.

"David laid off his kingly attire, and clothed himself with garments similar to the priests', which had never been worn before, that not the least impurity might be upon his clothing. Every six paces, they erected an altar and solemnly sacrificed to God. The special blessing of the Lord rested upon King David, who thus manifested before his people his exalted reverence for the ark of God. "And David danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel

brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. And as the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart." The dignity and pride of king Saul's daughter were shocked that king David should lay aside his garments of royalty, and his royal scepter, and be clothed with the simple linen garments worn by the priests. She thought that he was greatly dishonoring himself before the people of Israel. But God honored David in the sight of all Israel by letting his Spirit abide upon him." {1SP 411.1}

Saul's daughter saw David without his pomp and she was offended and despised him in her heart. The dignity and pride of King Saul's daughter was shocked. In the ministry of Jesus, in His preparation for coming into the kingdom, he was humble. It is a down to earth principle, and humanity is shocked. If you were shocked, you were testifying to the mark which you have. If you were not shocked, you testify of your love for Jesus. Not everyone loves Jesus, they say they do when He comes as a king, but not when He comes as a man of sin and sorrows, who was made sin for us. They are offended, that is not my king.

My appeal is that Jesus left his crown, he took it off, and he didn't come to earth with a crown. The first time He got a crown back again, it was a crown of thorns. He has many crowns when he comes back, as per the book of Revelation. The first thing He comes back as is conqueror over death, He rules it, and He conquers it. He can raise anyone up. He is the king over death. How did He become king over death? By going through it. Do you want to be a king with Jesus? Go through with Him, suffer what He suffered. They're in the text, His eyes of a flame of fire. He knows how to be a Father to the children. He has done it and shown it. To take control of the family is to serve to the uttermost. To be the king of the local church, He becomes a member, a Brother in the same sufferings as you and me. As the king of heaven, He doesn't consider it of more value that He can't leave it for us.

Revelation 18 is the message of the last days and the message which we profess.

Revelation 18:1-4. "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become

the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

Babylon is a kingdom and is fallen. All nations rule like her. Come out of that rulership, come out. Are we coming out? All nations, the kings of the earth, those who are in positions of leadership are drunk with that intoxication. The voice from heaven today is' "come out, from every sphere." The soul, the family, the church, the country, the world. God will put you on His throne.

Jesus is coming to smite the nations.

Revelation 18:7 "How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow."

The path of Christ is a path of sorrow, and if you say you will see no sorrow, you are saying that which Babylon says, and you will regret it. Do not be offended with the ministry of Jesus that becomes part of you, and in you. Anyone that comes close to you for the sake of salvation, don't bite them. In doing that you will accept Jesus Christ and God will make us sit in heavenly places. *Amen*

Paul Godfrey



Lemons, scientifically known as *Citrus limon*, are oval in shape and feature a yellow, texturized outer peel. Like other citrus fruits, their inner flesh is encased in segments, with the average lemon having eight to ten. While most lemons are tart, acidic and astringent, they are also surprisingly refreshing.

Lemons were originally developed as a cross between the lime and the citron and are thought to have originated in China or India, having been cultivated in these regions for about 2,500 years. Their first introduction to Europe was by Arabs who brought them to Spain in the 11th century around the same time that they were introduced into Northern Africa. The Crusaders, who found the fruit growing in Palestine, are credited with bringing the lemon to other countries across Europe. Like many other fruits and vegetables, lemons were brought to the Americas by Christopher Columbus in his second voyage to the New World in 1493.

Although lemons are very acidic, it has an alkaline effect in the human body, which means it is able to neutralize acids in the body. Regular consumption of lemons results in improved appetite which also eases the acidity in the stomach, helping a person deal better with ulcers. It aids in digestion by boosting the activity of the liver, pancreas, and the small and large intestine. This property of the plant makes it very effective and useful in the treatment of rheumatic conditions including arthritis, and with the physical symptoms of gout, which are caused by high acidity in the body. In arthritic conditions, the lemon can be massaged into the joints, relieving inflammation.

The antiseptic and antibacterial effects of the lemon are useful in the treatment of infections and fevers. Drinking lemon juice is very good for treating common colds and the flu, it is also helpful in dealing with scarlet fever, and chest infections of all kinds. All types of fevers can be effectively cured using the lemon as a remedy. The citric acid present in the lemon strengthens the feverish body better than any other nutrient. The elimination of toxins via the skin seems to be increased by the lemon, this helps in reducing the fever affecting a person.

It is possible to prevent common colds at the first sign of a cold, if the affected person drinks a glass of warm and sugarless lemonade.

Lemon juice used as a gargle or oral wash also helps bring relief from sore throats, and can help alleviate gingivitis, as well as canker sores in the mouth. The juice of lemons is excellent and effective remedy to treat disorders of the throat and persistent catarrh.

Accumulated toxins in the body can be flushed out using lemons; they are considered to be ideal for detoxification of the body. All citrus fruits including the lemon are excellent for the treatment of cases of putrefaction, particularly when it concerns disorders in the liver. Citruses in many cases really help in stirring up any of the latent toxins accumulated inside the body which cannot be eliminated by any other means. Consuming lemon juice is of great value when it

is necessary to be rid of the impurities and the fermentative effects of an impaired liver.

The application of lemon juice on the body directly can help eliminate persistent acne, it can bring relief from athlete's foot, it can treat chilblains, and is also useful for dealing with stings and bites of insects, as well as ringworm, sunburn, and warts on the skin.

Compounds called bioflavonoids in the lemon help in strengthening the inner lining of all the blood vessels; this action is particularly beneficial with respect to the veins and capillaries. The lemon helps alleviate bleeding gums and varicose veins, and stops easy bruising of the skin.

In addition to their unique nutrient properties which are beneficial to our health, lemons are an excellent source of vitamin C. Vitamin C is vital to the function of a strong immune system. The immune system's main goal is to protect you from illness, which is another reason that the lemon is useful in conditions like colds, flu's, and recurrent ear infections.

Vitamin C is also one of the most important antioxidants in nature. Vitamin C is one of the main antioxidants found in food and the primary water-soluble antioxidant in the body. Vitamin C travels through the body neutralizing any free radicals with which it comes into contact in the aqueous environments in the body both inside and outside cells. Free radicals can interact with the healthy cells of the body, damaging them and their membranes, and also cause a lot of inflammation, or painful swelling, in the body. This is one of the reasons that vitamin C has been shown to be helpful for reducing some of the symptoms of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Since free radicals can damage blood vessels and can change cholesterol to make it more likely to build up in artery walls, vitamin C can be helpful for preventing the development and progression of this plaque build up in the walls of the arteries. This condition, known as atherosclerosis, causes heart attacks and strokes.

Owing to the multitude of vitamin C's health benefits, it is not surprising that research has shown that consumption of vegetables and fruits high in this nutrient is associated with a reduced risk of death from all causes including heart disease, stroke and cancer.

Because of lemon's antioxidant properties, it is also used as a preservative, to prevent other foods from spoiling. As an example, adding lemon juice to apples will prevent them from turning brown.

Important nutrients such as potassium, magnesium, calcium, phosphorus, copper, zinc, iron, manganese and vitamin B1 are also found in high amounts in the lemon.

Many chronic illnesses can also be treated by the general tonic effects of the lemon. The lemon is generally a nutrient rich food that

can help a person maintain general good health and wholeness. Lemons, like other vitamin-C rich fruits, were highly prized by sailors aboard British sailing ships in the 18th century. Also, miners and developers during the California Gold Rush in the mid-19th century. These fruits were used to protect against the development of scurvy.

Lemons unique compounds also have anti-cancer properties. In animal studies and laboratory tests with human cells, compounds in citrus fruits, including lemons, called limonoids have been shown to help fight cancers of the mouth, skin, lung, breast, stomach and colon. When test subjects were given a limonoid compound called limonin, which is found in lemons, traces of it were seen in the bloodstream up to 24 hours after consumption. The length of time that limonins stayed in the body may help explain why citrus limonoids are potent anti-carcinogens that may prevent cancerous cells from proliferating. Other natural anti-carcinogens are present in the body for much less time; usually for just 4 to 6 hours.

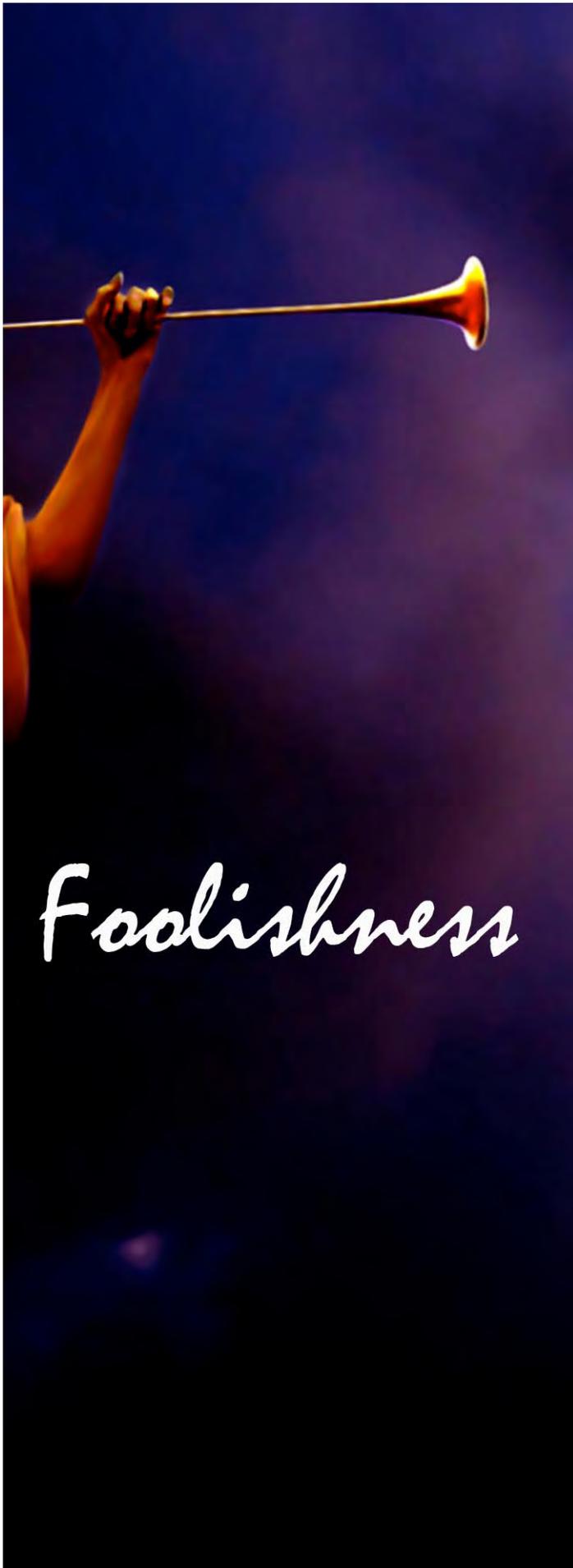
For the highest antioxidant content, choose fully ripened lemons. Research conducted at the University of Innsbruck in Austria suggests that as fruits fully ripen, almost to the point of spoilage, their antioxidant levels actually increase.

One of the tricks to finding a good quality lemon is to find one that is rather thin-skinned since those with thicker peels will have less flesh and therefore be less juicy. Therefore, choose lemons that are heavy for their size and that feature peels that have a finely grained texture. They should be fully yellow in color as those that have green tinges will be more acidic due to the fact that they have not fully ripened. Signs of over-mature fruit include wrinkling, soft or hard patches and dull coloring.

Care needs to be taken to prevent erosion of teeth enamel in the use of lemons. The habit of sucking the juice out of a lemon or sucking on lemon slices over a prolonged period can destroy the enamel of the teeth. The use of lemon juice is best when it is diluted with water, especially if one is consuming lemons on a daily basis.

If lemons are left exposed to the air for long periods of time, most of the valuable vitamin C in the juice is lost. For this reason, fresh lemons should be used. Lemons will stay fresh kept at room temperature, away from exposure to sunlight, for about one week. If you will not be using them within this time period, you can store the lemons in the refrigerator crisper where they will keep for about four weeks.

In the book *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, Sis. White spoke of the need for temperance, to discard things that have brought about the ruin of one's health and to include fresh fruit in the diet, including lemons. She also writes how she included lemons in her diet to increase her appetite and aid her digestion. And often she would have lemon pie with her meals.



Foolish=dull or stupid (as if shut up), i.e. heedless, blockhead, absurd... dull, sluggish, "to be silly"; hence, "stupid"...

"But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; ... and base... and despised." 1 Cor. 1: 27, 28.

Now why would God do that?

After all, foolishness...is...well, foolish!

You know, joking around. Making up silly poetry, singing "foolish" songs. Acting up, dancing around, standing on your head. You know, stuff like that; kids stuff; crazy.

I recall a time when King David danced and he looked pretty foolish to certain eyes. Embarrassing! Undignified!

"And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house. Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself! And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD. And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour." 2 Samuel 6: 14-22.

Why did David dance like that?

Personally, I think it was with a feeling of great relief and joy. Jehovah was in control of all things. Everything was going to be all right!

When a great tension is released, a great reaction occurs. Like a spring stretched taut—suddenly let go. What a dizzy motion it makes! But it is still held secure by the other end. The instability is only apparent; in reality, there is perfect control, but it doesn't

appear so at the moment.

When God's people were fired up at Pentecost, they united together in perfect oneness. Unwelcome elements were for a time divinely excluded.

They had a short period of glorious freedom. Outsiders would not have understood this joyous, unreserved interaction, so their meetings were exclusive; private. Only members of their own company were invited. (Acts 4: 23; 15: 22; Romans 15: 24; 1 Cor. 5: 9, 11)

Personally, I have decided to be foolish all the time, all the rest of my natural life. If God chooses the foolish, then I want to be there! I'm never going to stop!

And, another thing. With the young boy in a Muslim land who became a Christian with his grandmother, who said to Jesus one day: "Dear Jesus—I love you, and I'll follow you all my life; but—DON'T GIVE ME ANY REST—I HATE RESTING!" (This was because of the regular afternoon nap he was required to take).

"The Lord is my light; then why should I fear? By day and by night His Presence is near; He is my salvation from sorrow and sin; This blessed persuasion the Spirit brings in. The Lord is my light, my joy and my song; By day and by night He leads me along. The Lord is my light; though clouds may arise, faith stronger than sight, looks up to the skies. Where Jesus forever in glory doth reign: Then how can I ever in darkness remain? [REFRAIN] The Lord is my light, the Lord is my strength; I know in His might I will conquer at length; my weakness in mercy He covers with power, And walking by faith, He upholds me each hour. [REFRAIN] The Lord is my light, my all and in all; there is in His sight no darkness at all; He is my Redeemer, my Saviour and King; with saints and with angels His praises I sing!"

When someone asks you if you are a Christian, and you say, "Yes!" And they say, "How do you know?" And you say, "Because I'm foolish, weak, base and despised!"

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how

shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:26-39.

Kathleen Ross, Alberta, Canada

IMS PUBLISHING ANNOUNCEMENT

We would like to advise you of the literature that are available for purchase. Over the next few issues we will be highlighting different publications and pamphlets/flyers. They are great for missionary work and make excellent gifts.

Shipping costs will be added to the price. Volume discounts are available. If you would like to purchase a complete set of publications or require further information please contact us at:

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- The Sabbath Commandment, Has it been changed? H. Dering
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- The Place of Herbs in Rational Therapy, by E. White

*"Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!"
Luke 14:15*

PRICELESS SECRET

Here we have a parable. Mathew calls it the parable of the "marriage feast" (Gr -trapeze, Latin-fest). Luke calls it the parable of the "great supper." But, what is a parable? Well, it's a story, not just an ordinary story, but a story which describes one thing but with an "image" of another; (GR-allegory, paraboloi). For us, however, it's a story with a moral lesson. So, it moralizes or teaches in order to drive home a point, by making a comparison, setting one thing alongside another.

Either way, it could be joyful or tragic. Jesus wanted to emphasize His point this way to the Chief Priests, the Pharisees, illustrating it from a familiar situation of common everyday life (Math 13:34). Hence, a feast or supper.

In this parable, the "great marriage feast," Jesus shows that many will choose the world above Himself.

"The banquet provided for the human race, and represented as the Word of Christ was accepted by very few."(TMK94:2; UL 304:1). What will be the result of this mistaken choice or alternative? They will lose heaven! Not only lose heaven but the true enjoyment of it, and sacrifices endured for it. The great feast, therefore, is both a warning and instruction. But, all of the parables have one distinctive theme in common. They are all full of the secret of the Kingdom of God, but this one is the most distinctive parable of all. For many it has been a mystery for mankind, even the disciples. We will, through this parable learn more about this priceless secret and how it can be ours.

EXCUSES

There was a certain man who made a great supper; a supper of salvation provided by God. Long before the feast, invitations were prepared and the servants called on the guests, announcing, "Come for all things are now ready." (v-17). All the guests did not appreciate these invitations and made lame excuses. "No Lord, I cannot come, I pray thee, have me excused."(v 18-20). Who were some of these invited guests? They were self-righteous, unbelieving Jews, especially the Pharisees; good upstanding and respectable Jews; who are supposed to be closest to God and know how to obey God, because they are the most religious of all the people represented in Palestine at this time. They are the ones reading the Prophets, the Psalms, Proverbs, books of Moses.

What were their excuses to get out of attending the great supper of salvation provided by God? Firstly, one stated, "I bought a piece of land." Secondly, "I have five yokes of oxen." Another said, "I have a newly married wife and cannot come." Many say of God, "He's asking too much of me. He's asking me to abandon my traditions!"



Holiday traditions for one, such as the Hanukkah, whereas the traditional Jews feast on fried chicken, the Israelis on fried donuts, and the East European descendants on potato pancakes (latkes). But, God does not tolerate excuses!

SECOND CALL

Again a second call went out. The loving King presented another opportunity, to reflect somewhat that they might accept the gracious call. The King announced, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner. My oxen, fatlings, are killed...all things are ready. Come to the marriage feast." (v-17). But, they all returned to their feeble excuses; one back to his land and farm, which he bought, and that absorbed all his interest. Another back to his merchandise and oxen which satisfied his interest further with a buyer. It worsens! The other was absorbed in his delicate newly married wife. They all were still welcomed to the feast, but took it lightly, a state of indifference, apathy. None of them had a real necessity for rejecting the invitation; mixed emotions and priorities; worldly entanglements. Sound familiar?

THIRD CALL

A third call went out. The King now became angry – in fact. He was furious. So he invited another class of people, the outcasts of Jewish society, that: 1) did not have any possessions, land, or even a house. 2) Were poverty stricken, hungry, diseased. 3) Would joyfully appreciate the invitation; receptive to his message. He told His servants, "go into the streets, and call on the harlots, and sinners; the poor, lame, and blind." (v21, 23) Those were the ones that would give the Master sincere gratitude, love, and humble devotion. Just think, that you and I—gentiles—have come to hear the **Good News** of Jesus Christ through people like Peter and Paul, and their disciples!

THE CALLED ONES

Let's look into the background and history of the Jewish connection and rejection as a lesson for us:

1. Privileged -- The Jewish nation, the "called ones" of all the nations were endowed with the greatest privilege from God! Why, then, this divine distinction? Well, many reasons. **Firstly**, they had the supreme possession of the magnificent light concerning the Kingdom of God. **Secondly**, they were entrusted with the clear revelation of God's will, while others were desperately struggling in the darkness; having no guidance, no protection, no hope. **Thirdly**, the truth was very clear to them; the primitive Israelis. It was their obligation, however, to give and share this truth with others. "God gave bread to the Jews so they would break it for the world."(COL221). The Jewish nation, furthermore boasted in being the only "favored people" of God, and were more exalted than all the other nations! "The Pharisees were not thinking about fitness for heaven, but what they would enjoy in heaven."(COL221).

2. Outward Signs - The signs, which the early Israelis placed

such emphasis on, are of no value to God, if the heart, mind and strength are not devoted to Him. Many only exalt and favor "selves." A divine principle for the children of God is "selflessness!" Jesus says, "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom;" the mighty in might; and the rich in riches." (Jer. 9:23). So, the Lord tells us in a way, "just understand and know Me, that I am the Lord which gives you love, kindness, judgment, justice, righteousness, and hope, on this earth."

SAVORY TRUTHS

Jesus Christ first sent out seventy disciples, then twelve. What was their message? It was, "Repent; for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." (Matt. 3:2). This was their gospel message, the Good News. It was not, however, accepted, but widely rejected outright! Here was a magnificent feast, but those invited would not come. The loyal servants were sent out later again. The message was pronounced, and acclaimed with fervor and zeal, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner, all things are ready... come!" The message was given again, and again to the Jewish nation, even after Jesus Christ was crucified! This message, brought by the Holy Spirit, to those who professed to be God's peculiar people, was rejected outright! By so doing they rejected the gospel feast and all its savory truths, and an eternity of delectable delights.

Now just how was this rejected? Many rejected it in a bitter, scornful manner, mocking it in a contemptible, disdainful manner. Others were exasperated, and even offended by this sweet offer of salvation, this offer and taste of pardon; rejecting the Lord of Life and Glory.

COMPELLING CALL

This cascading state of hostility and intense maliciousness consequently resulted in the catastrophic stoning and cruel death of Stephen, the brutal killing of James with a sword, and the torture and imprisonment of many faithful believers; defying and openly revolting against these loyal servants of the King. The Master and King, however, was not discouraged but made a third call, saying, "Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in." (v-23).

In this interesting call, and work of the servants, the Lord represented a call to the distant gentiles. The Lord is saying, in essence, "when making such a feast, call the poor, maimed, lame, blind, and thou shall be blessed." (Deut 14:29). Look at all the misfits and outcasts in the book of Acts who were part of the first churches! Amazing!

The Jews, however, wantonly despised and detested this gracious message, also, and subsequently continued to cruelly treat the messengers.

HONORED GUESTS!

Yet, with or without them, and in spite of all their destructive and plotting devices, the wedding feast, the glorious banquet was furnished with willing guests; an enduring remnant. The Apostle Paul and Barnabas spoke to the backsliding, complacent Jews, saying, "it was necessary that the word of God should first be spoken to you, but since you openly rejected it, judge yourselves as unworthy of everlasting life; we turn then to the gentiles. When the gentiles heard this they were glad; they glorified the word, and the Lord, but, more so... believed." (Acts 13:46-48). They embraced Jesus and His message.

PARTY'S OVER!

And so, this finally shut out self-righteous Israel as a nation; the "death of a nation!" Israel, like a gleaned vine was literally devastated; rejecting the ancient paths – backsliding! Ironically, the invitation to the gospel feast, the marriage banquet, was sent and accepted, "to those that the Jews vehemently despised." (COL 220). Furthermore, those who they were drawn away from or avoided, such as the lepers. Moreover, it's written of ancient Israel, "Ephraim is joined to idols. Let him alone." (Hos. 4:17). And, "behold, your house is left to you desolate." (Luke 13:34, 35). Frightening words; cutting words of solemn condemnation.

GNASHING TEETH!

The scene now changes. The loving King enters and examines the guests. One at a table was without a wedding garment. It's an insult not wearing such a garment. The King says, "Friend, why do you come in without a wedding garment?" The guest is speechless. The King then said, "bind him hand and foot and take him away and cast him into outer darkness." There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen" (Luke 13:28; Mark 22:14).

NO GOD, HEAVEN, HEREAFTER!

This parable correctly represents the condition of many who profess to believe in Christ today. Why? Iniquity abides in the heart, their refusal of God's wayward message, praying to be seen of men, pride in fasting, lack of faith, in tithes and offerings, doubting, double-mindedness, asking wrongly to spend on selfish passions, inconsideration of husbands or wives, and thereby, abusiveness of children and elders.

Furthermore, many more are thereby suffering from unanswered prayer, loneliness, separation, and confusion.

The Lord sent His invitation to the gospel supper, but, worldly interests were more important than eternal interests and heavenly treasures. Of greater importance were the "farms, animals, and

home" than obedience to the Heavenly invitation.

Earthly things, pursuits are merely excuses for disobedience to the command, "come, all things are ready!" A notable example is Lot's wife, who dreamily looked back.

"Men are chasing for gain and selfish indulgence as if there were no God, no heaven, no hereafter." (COL 228). "No Lord, I cannot follow thee, I pray thee have me excused." (Lk. 14:18,19). This often results in aggressive goals, boredom and stress! The very blessings God has given man to test them, "whether they are the things that are God's," (Lk. 20:25; Mt. 22:21; Mk. 12:17) they use as an excuse in refusing to obey the truth!

Many, many say, "I must take care of these things **now!** They are **mine!**" Consequently, they close the door of their hearts to Heavenly gospel messages and open themselves to the world's burdens and complex business problems. Jesus knocks.... no one answers!

LAST CHANCE

All who had the light of truth are being tested like the Jews. The Lord revealed the light to the ancient Israelis, and now to us with increasing light in 1844 and 1888. Is this our last chance, or last call? "For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not" (Jer. 33:14). What call is yours? Our privileges are now greater than the early Jews. We have the great light given to ancient Israel, increased evidence of greater salvation brought to us by Christ.

What were signs and symbols to the Jews are now realities to us; the Old Testament history is now added to the New Testament history, and we have the assurance of a Saviour who came, was crucified, risen, and said, "I am the resurrection." We, in addition, have the knowledge of Jesus... His life and love. By this we have the Kingdom of Heaven placed in the midst of us! Furthermore, Christ is proclaimed to us in our sermons, hymns, intercessory prayers, and prophetic fulfillment! Now!

SPIRITUAL -- HEAVENLY BANQUET

There's a *Spiritual Banquet*, set before us, by the same messengers of God. It's a bountiful feast offering righteousness of Jesus Christ, justification by faith, promises of God, His Word, free access to the Father by Jesus, the comforts of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Prophecy, assurance of an eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Think on this! What gifts! What promises! Claim them!! What are you doing?

We're also offered a *Heavenly Banquet*; the glory, riches, and honor offered us by the son of God, and of infinite value, a rejoicing which refreshes the inner man.

The secret thoughts of our inner soul are crystallized in the oneness

with God. "A clearer light is ready to shine on all who follow Him." (RH 1910). These promises are beyond the powers of men's earthly concepts in their worth, even to the angels!

UNWELCOME GUEST

Ah! But, if man stays in sin, refuses heavenly benefits, refuses a life of obedience, not advancing in the path of obedience, "unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ," (Eph. 4:13) refuses the mercy and grace of God, **refuses the invitation**, and chooses the things of the world, living their own lives, their own ways, what happens next? Well, Christ will carry out the example of the parable; the "unwelcomed guest" at the banquet will not taste of His glory and dine at His side. The invitation will be given to another. It's over! Furthermore, those who choose to continue making excuses, continue in sin, and conform to the world, will then be left to their idols! Utter darkness!

Following Christ is serious business to God. It demands; **all of who we are, and everything we have--totally committed**; having Jesus Christ be the **leader of your life!**

This is where many Christians are failing. It's a demanding and serious religion. But, "many are amusing themselves to death on worldly pleasures and grumbling." (RC 247:3) Jesus speaks out with very tough words, "In the same way, any of you who do not give up everything he has cannot be My disciple." (Luke 14:33).

It's difficult to find guests to a banquet! Governor Felix told the Apostle Paul, "go away for now. When I have a convenient time I will call for you." (Acts 24:25). Felix procrastinated! Many are procrastinating today. Many are addicted to procrastinating! Procrastination endangers and wearies one. Many more are resignedly saying, "it will be difficult in my social relations. If I obey God. What will they say?" When is a convenient time for you?

BITTER DAY

Ah! But there will be a day, very soon, when no one will beg to be excused. When Jesus comes in all His inevitable glory, and the promised glory of His Father and many angels, there will not be one indifferent spectator! The piles of gold, and rich palaces will no longer be attractive. They will turn from them with loathing. No one then will plead his, "land, oxen, or wife," as a reason to be excused from sharing the glory that burst upon his astonished vision. All will want a share, but know it's not for them anymore.

Panic stricken, painful, tearful prayers will pour out, asking God not to pass them by; the Kings, the mighty, lofty, proud, mean man, alike will all bow down under pressure of misery and desolation.

It will be a bitter day when the seven plagues (Rev 15:8) turn the joyful **Gospel Feast** into a day of mourning. The sinking hearts will swell up with anguished prayer. What will be that sobbing prayer? "Save us from the wrath of an offended God." (Amos 8:10-13). But a voice answers, terrible in its majesty, "Because I have called and you refused my outstretched hand, and you refused to repent, I will mock when your fear comes." (Proverbs 1:26). Their cry is in vain; the door of the Ark is shut! Now they themselves are to become the **sacrifice!** Jesus ends the parable with these chilling words; "I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet." (Luke 14:24) (Heb. 12:25).

THE GOSPEL FEAST

"God speaks in one way or another, but man does not perceive." (Job 33:14). "Christ is waiting for the door of your heart to open. The messengers are still saying.... come" (COL 237). Listening? But, what exactly is the great **Gospel Feast?** What is the disciple's explanation? "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the Kingdom of God." (Luke 14:15). The entire Christian life may be called a "feast." (1Cor 5:8) The universality of the Gospel is a feast in which many from the East and the West will eat with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." (Luke 13:29, 30)

THE GORGING FEAST

But there's another Banquet, another Feast; but **unknown to many believers!** It's God's judgment on a people as a **Sacrificial Banquet**; but in fact a **Gorging Feast!** It's solemnly proclaimed in Ezekiel 39:17,19. "And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord God: Speak unto every feathered fowl and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountain of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, or rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. And ye shall eat fat till ye be full and drink blood till ye be drunk, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you."

Furthermore, the Lord says, "I will do unto them after their way, and according to their desertions will I judge them, and they shall know that I am the Lord." (Ezek 7:27). "Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord." (Ezek 38:23). So, in the final judgment of the wicked the ultimate justice of God will leave no doubt of His reality. "Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord God; for the day of the Lord is at hand; for the Lord hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bidden his guests." (Zeph. 1:7)

The slaughtering of animals was originally a sacrificial act. Ordinarily **fat and blood**, the holiest part of the sacrifice, were offered to the Lord. (Lev 3:11) Here they are eaten by fowls and beasts! Birds and beasts are invited to a **Great Sacrificial Feast** upon the "flesh of the mighty, and ... the blood of the princes." Horses, riders, man are the fare for the scavengers summoned to the Lord's table. These horrendous details give force to Ezekiel's prophecy; a universe-embracing event; "The Last Day!"

It's a fearful Banquet, a solemn Banquet, in which man will **reflectively** say, "Lord I pray thee have me excused." You see, it's much like the contrary, or reverse side of a coin. It's a concept of the **Banquet in the Apocalypse** when the cruel, gluttonous, predatory birds and fowls come screaming down to earth when invited by God to enjoy and indulge in the **Great Sacrificial Feast of God**, "And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God." (Rev 39:17)

The doom of kings and armies are evident, also, at Armageddon, "And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth; and all the fowls were filled with their flesh." (Rev 19:21) It worsens! "And the carcasses of this people shall be food for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth, and none shall frighten them away." (Jeremiah 7:33)

EVIL BIRDS

Thoreau (a famous writer) made a journal entry in 1842, "...How is it that man always feels like an interloper in nature, as if he had intruded on the domains of bird and beast?" (from Thoreau's "Bird Lore," 1906). The intrusion, however, here expressed will be reversed and **man will be the prey** in his domain. Birds are mentioned often in the Scriptures in various ways, but are here expressed in reference to Babylon, the "great harlot" Rev 18:2, as "the habitation of demons, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird," or "every unclean spirit." You see, birds represent evil spirits, representing in essence, demonic forces or angels participating in the culminating scenes of the world's demise by the birds of preys' ravenous, scavenging feast on the fallen wicked; gorging on the lost ones, the stench of the lost generation! All too monstrous to envision!

These birds of prey (called raptors), include eagles, hawks, buzzards, harriers, kites, falcons, owls, crows, and vultures. They are opportunists, eating any living species, including carrion (rotting dead flesh). They are awesome, and powerful, using their beaks to rip off pieces of flesh from the body; have sharp, taloned feet, and can see many kilometers away. Raptors (birds of prey) fly better, longer, higher, and faster than any other birds! The falcon is the fastest animal in the world! The condor is the largest flying bird in N. America; their wings spanning more than nine feet from tip to tip. The pelican can reach a height of 8000ft (3000meters)! They are soaring high in the thermal updrafts, in their constant search for food; waiting and watching for the divine sign to fearsomely descend as "guests" and joyfully "feast."

You see, this is all the counterpart of the **Great Messianic Feast**; the simple idea being -- **GOD DOES NOT TOLERATE EXCUSES!** Moreover, "Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, amend **your ways and your doings**, and I will cause you to dwell in this place." (Jeremiah 7:3). Do not suffer the curse of Meroz; "Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof, because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty." (Judges 5:23). This is the sin of doing "**nothing!**" Are the "buzzards" circling you now from above, and feeding off fresh tidbits of your disobedience, apathy, indifference, iniquity, pride, and procrastination? The implications in this parable involve our invitation to this Great Banquet at the end of time. _And whether or not you will share in the Kingdom of God! Time after time Jesus has said, now is the time! You should be ready! "**Come to the Banquet!**"

The Kingdom of God is ready to take off and rule in your heart when you believe in Him. The time is near; the last time we're living in; it's running out. **Don't trifle with it!**_

"An end is come, the end is come; it watcheth for thee; behold, it is come." (Ezekiel 7:6) What will it be? Will you **FEAST OR BE FEASTED UPON?** Amen. *John Theodorou, U.S.A.*

Meeting The Tempter's Challenge

Satan will come to you saying, "you are a sinner." But do not let him fill your mind with the thought that because you are sinful, God has cast you off. Say to him, "Yes I am a sinner and for that reason I need a Savior. I need forgiveness and pardon, and Christ says that if I come to him I shall not perish. In His letter to me I read, if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John1:9) I will believe His word He has left for me. I will obey his commands." When Satan tells you that you are lost, answer, "Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. The greater my sin, the greater my need of a Saviour." Lt. 986,1896 Mcp Pg. 33.

God Alone Can Raise Man In Moral Worth

The value of man as God estimates him is through his union with Christ, for God is the only one able to raise man in the scale of moral worth through the righteousness of Christ. Worldly honor and worldly greatness are of just that value that the Creator of man places upon them. Their wisdom is foolishness, their strength is weakness. Lt9, 1873(HC 149) Mcp pg 30.

Challenge From The Master's Parable

And he spoke this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others... And the publican standing afar off would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. Luke 18:9-14

Whoever trusts in himself that he is righteous, will despise others. As the Pharisee judged himself by other men, so he judges other men by himself. His righteousness is estimated by theirs, and the worse they are the more righteous by contrast he appears. His self righteousness leads to accusing "other men." He condemns them as transgressors of God's law. Thus he is making manifest the very spirit of Satan, the accuser of the brethren. The publican had gone to the temple with other worshippers, but he soon drew apart from them as unworthy to unite in their devotions. Standing afar off, he would not lift up so much as his eyes but smote upon his breast in bitter anguish and self abhorrence. He could not expect even pity from those around him, for they looked upon him with contempt. C.O.L. pg.151

For that reason Paul the apostle of Jesus is exhorting us so that we do not enter unto unwarranted and imprimatur judgment; "therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts; and then shall every man have praise of God." 2 Corinthians 4:5. *Amen.*

Hildon Mbogela, Belize.



Judge
Nothing
Before
The Time

TEACHING HIM A LESSON



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Two boys were walking home from school one day, and this was their conversation:

"Isaac," said George, "why don't you take that boy and teach him a lesson? He has insulted you almost every day this week."

"I do plan on teaching him a lesson when I am ready," said Isaac.

"I would make him stop, if I had to take his ears off."

"O I will make him stop," replied Isaac.

"Go flog him now. I would like to see you do it. You can do it easily enough as you are much stronger than he is."

"I'm sure I could, but I will not do it today."

At this point in time the conversation of the boys ended and they parted. They had been walking home from school and now they had to take different streets to go to their homes.

The boy they had talked about was the son of a man who was an alcoholic, who was angry at Isaac's father, who had done something to make it difficult for him to obtain his rum.

The drunkard's son stood by his father and called Isaac cruel names every time he saw him pass; and as he did not do anything in retaliation, he went further and threw stones at him.

Isaac was at first provoked at the boy's conduct. He thought he ought to be thankful that his father prevented him, in some degree, from obtaining rum, the source of much misery to himself and family.

But when he thought of the way in which he had been brought up, and of the poor boy's ignorance and wretchedness, he pitied him and ceased to wonder, or to be offended at his conduct.

But Isaac resolved, indeed, to one day teach him a lesson and to stop him, but not in the manner that his school fellow expected. The boy's name was Jim.

The first opportunity that Isaac had for teaching Jim a lesson was on a cool November day on the way home from school. He saw a group of boys a little way off the road, and heard some shouting and laughing.

Curiosity led him to the spot. He found that the boys were gathered around Jim, and they were much larger than Jim. This boy was making fun of Jim's clothing, which were very ragged and dirty, and telling him how he must act to become as distinguished a man as his father.

Jim was very angry, but when he attempted to strike his persecutor, he would take hold of Jim's hands, and he was so much stronger that he could easily hold him.

Jim then tried kicking, but as he was barefoot, his kicks did little harm to the larger boys. Besides when he was kicking with one foot, his tormentor stepped on his other bare foot.

When Isaac came up and saw what was going on, he remonstrated with the boys for their actions. Isaac was slightly larger than the group of boys and had an air of commanding influence about him. The ringleader, however, did not like Isaac's interference; but soon saw that Isaac was not afraid of him and that he was too popular with the other boys to be made the object of abuse. As he turned to go away, Isaac said to Jim: -

"I'll keep an eye on you, and when you get home, I'll go with you. It is on my way; they won't hurt you; so don't cry any more. Come Jim, go home with me; I'm going now," continued Isaac.

Jim did not look up or make any answer. He did not know what to make of Isaac's behaviour toward him. It could not be because he was afraid of him, and wished to gain his good will, for Isaac was not afraid of one much stronger than he. He had never heard the command, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you," for he had never been to Sabbath School, and could not read the Bible.

He followed silently and sullenly, close to Isaac, until he had reached his home, if you can call it a home. It was a rather run-

"I guess so; he is pretty quiet this morning, did you notice?"

By this conversation George was under the impression that Isaac had flogged Jim and he started to spread a rumour around that this is what had happened. This surprised a lot of people as it was not in the character of Isaac to hit anyone, or to beat anyone up. The rumour finally reached the ears of the teacher and he decided to talk to Isaac to clarify the matter. Upon talking to Isaac the teacher realized that George had misunderstood. He warmly commended Isaac for his new method of teaching his enemies a lesson. He advised Isaac to continue this practice.

A few days later, when Isaac was on his way home from school, he met Jim driving some cattle to a distant field. The cattle were very unruly, and Jim made little headway with them. First one would run back, and then another, until he began to despair of being able to drive them to pasture.

He burst out crying and said, "Oh dear, I can't make them go through, and father will kill me if I don't."

Isaac pitied his distress, and volunteered to help him. It cost him a good deal of running and kept him from school nearly all morning. But when the cattle were safe in the pasture, Jim said, "I won't throw stones at you any more."

When Isaac reached the school house he showed signs of the violent exercise he had been taking.

"What has Isaac been up to?" was the whispered question on everyone's lips. When he was asked by the teacher, he replied, "I have been chasing cattle to pasture." Everyone thought it was his own father's cattle.

After school, he waited until all the students had left the school room before going up to the teacher and giving him a complete explanation as to why he was late for school. "I was teaching Jim another lesson today sir;" and he gave him an account of his proceedings, adding at the close, "I thought you would excuse me, sir."

"Very well, you are excused."

After this Jim and Isaac became very good friends and Jim decided not to follow in his father's footsteps. Jim eventually went to school and became a successful businessman. He even decided to come to church with Isaac and learn how he can teach others a lesson.

Reader, if you have enemies that annoy you, teach them a lesson in the same way Isaac did, and you will be certain, if you persevere, you will conquer them. You never know the reasons behind their actions. By showing love and mercy, you may be able to help them find a better road to travel.

down looking building.

He parted from Isaac without saying thank you for his good efforts in his behalf. Isaac was not surprised by this, considering the influences under which the poor boy had grown up. The fact that he parted with him without cursing, swearing at, or abusing him, Isaac considered it a step in the right direction.

The next morning George and Isaac met on their way to school again. As they passed by the drunkard's house, Jim was at the door, but he did not look up or say anything as they passed. He looked very much like he had been whipped. George had no idea what had happened the day before.

"Why is Jim so quiet," he asked.

"Oh, I've taught him a lesson."

"Have you! I'm so glad for that. When was it?"

"Yesterday."

"Did anyone see you do it?"

"Yes; some of the boys."

"I bet you found it easy enough, didn't you?"

"Yes."

"Did you give him enough to stop him?"



Br. Henry Dering

**Visits Believers
In Zambia**



MY REST

There is a door that's left ajar, it's waiting just for you
Come, come enter my rest, Oh come enter my rest
It's left ajar for you.

Will you today my weary one just enter in this rest
Come, come take my rest. Come, come take my rest
There is a remaining rest in store.

Now take my yoke upon you and learn of me today
Come, come take my yoke. Come, come take my yoke
No more heavy burdens bear.

Now walk with me my blessed one, as you now enter in
Receive, receive this easy yoke. Receive, receive this easy yoke
And your burden will be light.

By: Rose Powell