

the
REFORMATION

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herald



**THE ORDER OF
FINAL EVENTS
IN PROPHECY**

Elijah Returns / A Warning Against Financial Speculation / The Original Diet

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“The age in which we live calls for reformatory action.”
—Testimonies, vol. 4, p. 488.

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The Message for Today

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse" (Malachi 4:5, 6).

These closing words of Malachi are a prophecy regarding the work to be done prior to both the first and the second advent of Christ. The prophecy was partially fulfilled by John the Baptist; for the Saviour Himself declared to His disciples, "Elias is come already" (Matthew 17:12). The mission and the work of John the Baptist were specific, as the angel of the Lord had said, "And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:17). The Holy Ghost was to be upon him.

Elijah means, "the Lord is my God." Elijah is not known for his physical strengths or weaknesses but for the message he bore. His message was related to revival and reformation, a call to the people for the restitution of divine things. This message was a call to obedience (Ecclesiastes 12:13), a call to children to be reconciled to their parents, and a call to parents to be reconciled to their children. Wherever this grand message is preached and practiced, there will be happy homes. The family relationship should be sanctifying in its influence in every home, and such homes, established and conducted in accordance with the divine plan, are types of the heavenly home and the

school for forming Christian character. "The family on earth is to be the symbol of the family in heaven."¹

John's message was, "Behold the Lamb of God" (John 1:29). By beholding Him we shall be changed. Too many families today are struggling in deep water because they have lost Jesus in their home. They have lost sight of the Saviour. The presence of Jesus is the definition for heaven. By one day's neglect, Joseph and Mary lost Jesus, but it cost them three days of anxious search to find Him. So with us—by carelessness in the family, or neglecting the family altar, we may in one day lose the Saviour's presence, and it may take many days of sorrowful search to find Him and to regain the peace that we have lost.

Dear parents, we must throw around our children the charms of home and of our society. If we do this, they will not have so much desire for finding that outside of your home. "One well-ordered, well-disciplined family tells more in behalf of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached."²

In the spirit, and with the power of Elijah, John the Baptist reproved the people of their sins. Likewise, the work of those who live in the last days should go forth in the spirit and power of Elijah. "[John the Baptist] was a representative of those living in these last days to whom God has entrusted sacred truths to present before the people to prepare the way for the second appearing of Christ."³

Herod himself had listened to the preaching of the Baptist. The dissolute king had trembled under the call to repentance. "The influence of John's teachings was not silenced; it was to extend to every generation till the close of time."⁴

"If we are only consecrated to [the Lord's] service, we shall be sent forth in the spirit and power of Elijah."⁵

The churches must experience a wonderful manifestation of the power of God, but it will not move upon those who have not humbled themselves before the Lord (2 Chronicles 7:14) and have opened the door of their heart by confession and repentance (Acts 3:19). As a people who believe in Christ's soon appearing, we have a definite message to bear. Our message must be as direct as was that of John.

"As a people, we are to stand firm on the platform of eternal truth that has withstood test and trial. We are to hold to the sure pillars of our faith. The principles of truth that God has revealed to us are our only true foundation. They have made us what we are. The lapse of time has not lessened their value."⁶

When religion is manifested in the home, its influence will be felt in the church and in the neighborhood. It should not be the theory of religion but the reality of life. All parents should realize that we are coworkers with God when training and disciplining our children in such a manner as will enable them to reflect the character of Christ. Just as you are in your family, so will you be in the church. Just as you treat your children, so will you treat Christ. Let us cooperate with God in making a happy Christian family. *R*

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¹ *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 20, p. 275.

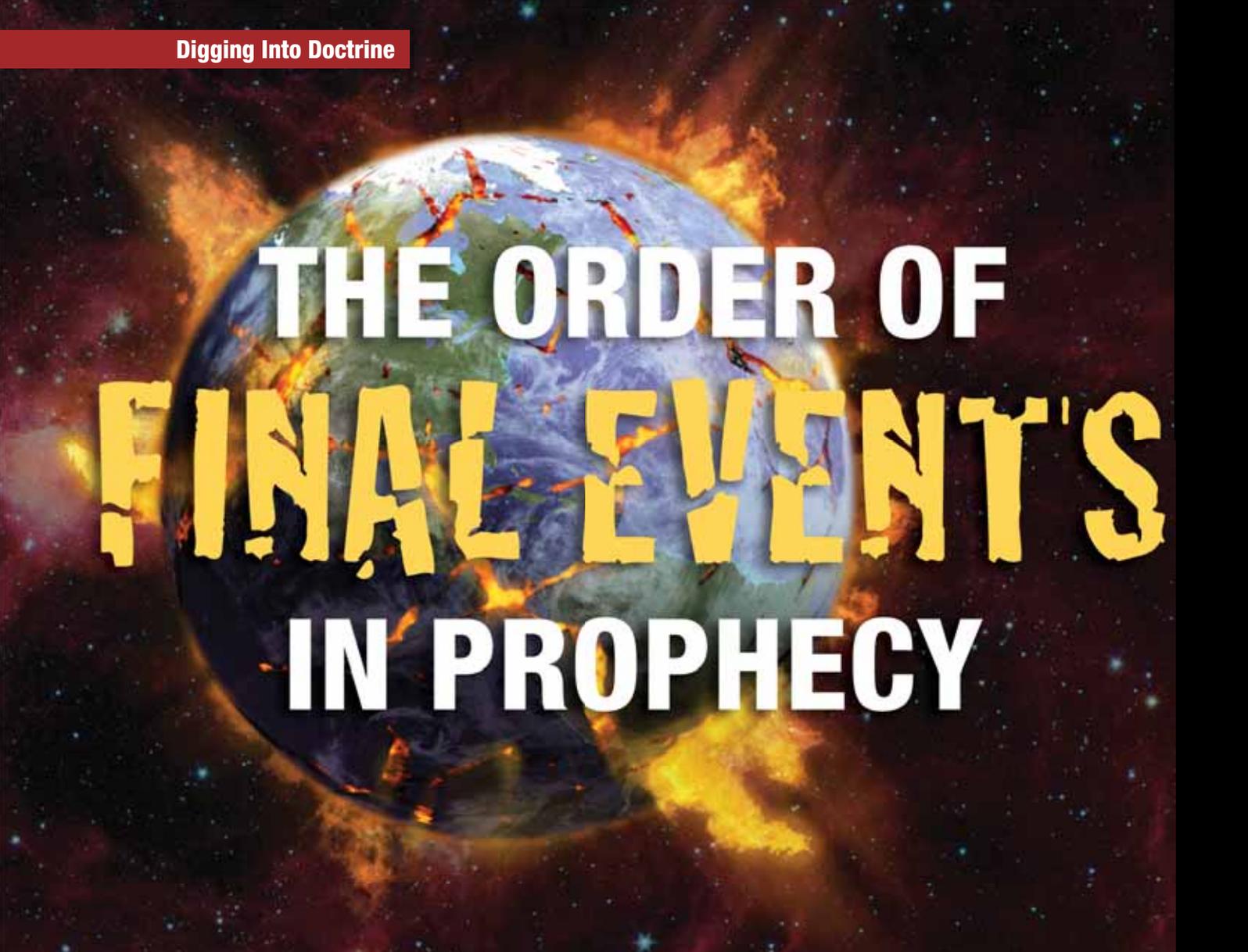
² *My Life Today*, p. 124.

³ *Maranatha*, p. 118.

⁴ *The Desire of Ages*, p. 222.

⁵ *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 5, p. 72.

⁶ *Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 201.



THE ORDER OF FINAL EVENTS' IN PROPHECY

Part One *in a Series*

*A Bible and Spirit of Prophecy
compilation, with comments
by A. C. Sas*

The study of the order of prophetic events to be fulfilled in the last days is both profound and important. Our position as a church has much to do with this question. If we do not understand this point correctly, we may reverse the order of events in our minds—seeing prophecies already fulfilled as being future events and prophecies to be fulfilled in the future as already having been fulfilled in the past.

The purpose of this first article in a three-part series is to present the chronological order of the final events as they are outlined in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. We hope that every believer in the threefold angels' message who reads these lines will pray

for understanding on the subject—and the Lord will surely answer the earnest prayer of His beloved children. It is our desire that God may bless all those who read the following information, giving them clear understanding on this point.

1. The Advent Movement

After the great disappointment of October 22, 1844, the First-day Adventist churches rejected the Sabbath truth. They were deceived by the enemy. It appeared that none were left to receive the truth. Says the messenger of the Lord:

“I asked the angel if there were none left. He bade me look in an opposite direction, and I saw a little company traveling a narrow pathway. All seemed

“For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth” (Amos 9:9).

to be firmly united, bound together by the truth, in bundles, or companies. Said the angel, ‘The third angel is binding, or sealing, them in bundles for the heavenly garner.’ This little company looked careworn, as if they had passed through severe trials and conflicts. And it appeared as if the sun had just risen from behind a cloud and shone upon their countenances, causing them to look triumphant, as if their victories were nearly won.”¹

This little company was traveling a narrow pathway. They were firmly united by the truth. How happy they were in their early experience! This happy condition, however, did not last long. In 1852 the servant of the Lord stated this:

“As I have of late looked around to find the humble followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, my mind has been much exercised. Many who profess to be looking for the speedy coming of Christ are becoming conformed to this world and seek more earnestly the applause of those around them than the approbation of God. They are cold and formal, like the nominal churches from which they but a short time since separated. The words addressed to the Laodicean Church describe their present condition perfectly. (See Revelation 3:14–20.) They are ‘neither cold nor hot,’ but ‘lukewarm.’ And unless they heed the counsel of the ‘faithful and true Witness,’ and zealously repent, and obtain ‘gold tried in the fire,’ ‘white raiment,’ and ‘eyesalve,’ He will spew them out of His mouth.”²

Seventh-day Adventists had been separated from the nominal churches, but in 1852 they were already as cold and formal as the other churches. The message to Laodicea was applicable to their condition. The warning from heaven was: “Unless they heed the counsel of the ‘faithful and true Witness,’ and zealously repent, . . . He will spew them out of His mouth.”

Before this (the complete rejection) could take place, the Lord called for a reformation.

In 1882, another testimony was written as follows:

“The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly’ (Zephaniah 1:14); but where do we behold the true advent spirit? Who are preparing to stand in that time of temptation which is just before us? The people to whom God has entrusted the sacred, solemn testing truths for this time are sleeping at their post. They say by their actions: We have the truth; we are ‘rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;’ while the True Witness declares: Thou ‘knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked’ (Revelation 3:17).

“With what fidelity do these words portray the present condition of the church: ‘Knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.’ Messages of warning, dictated by the Holy Spirit, are borne by the servants of God, defects of the character are presented before the erring; but they say: ‘That does not represent my case. I do not accept the message you bring. I am doing the best I can. I believe the truth.’”³

2. Two classes

There were two classes of people in the church: good and bad, or, faithful and unfaithful. Human eyes could not distinguish who were the faithful and who were the unfaithful. But the magnet of truth would attract the faithful. We read:

“The pure and the base metal are now so mingled that only the discerning eye of the infinite God can with certainty distinguish between them. But the moral magnet of holiness and truth will attract together the pure metal, while it will repel the base and counterfeit.”⁴

In this other testimony these two classes are focused upon again:

“It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner. They are professedly serving God, but they are more earnestly serving mammon. This half-and-half work is a constant denying of Christ, rather than a confessing of Christ. So many have brought into the church their own unsubdued spirit, unrefined; their spiritual taste is perverted by their own immoral, debasing corruptions, symbolizing the world in spirit, in heart, in purpose, conforming themselves in lustful practices, and are full of deception through and through in their professed Christian life. Living as sinners, claiming to be Christians! Those who claim to be Christians and will confess Christ should come out from among them and touch not the unclean thing, and be separate. . . .

“I lay down my pen and lift up my soul in prayer, that the Lord would breathe upon His backslidden people, who are as dry bones, that they may live. The end is near, stealing upon us so stealthily, so imperceptibly, so noiselessly, like the muffled tread of the thief in the night, to surprise the sleepers off guard and unready. May the Lord grant to bring His Holy Spirit upon hearts that are now at ease, that they may no longer sleep as do others, but watch and be sober.”⁵

In this testimony, the need of separation is clearly pointed out. Those who would be earnest Christians were to come out from among those who were unconverted, and be separate. The proportion of the faithful in the church is stated: Not one in twenty, which means 5 percent. Not even that many were faithful in 1893.

A separation certainly would come. The separation would be caused by a special message given to the church, namely, the message to Laodicea.

3. The shaking — separation

As mentioned, there were two classes of people in the church. A separation had to take place because the prophecy tells us that the magnet of godliness would attract the pure metal and would repel the base and counterfeit metal. The faithful who would accept the message were to remain no longer in the company of those who would reject it. These two classes of believers are presented in the following testimony:

"I saw some, with strong faith agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale, and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. . . .

"Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones. I saw angels of God hasten to the assistance of all who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them."⁶

Here are the two classes brought into focus. One is a pleading class, and the other is non-pleading. This vision impressed Sister White so much that she asked the angel the meaning of what she had seen:

"I asked the meaning of the shak-

ing I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear the straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people.

"I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it, and be purified."⁷

We read in the above testimony that



the counsel of the True Witness caused a shaking among God's people. Some accepted the counsel when it was presented to the church but others rejected it. The counsel reads:

"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou

mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve that thou mayest see" (Revelation 3:18).

Gold, white raiment, and eyesalve are the heavenly goods offered by the True Witness to the angel of the Laodicean church. The destiny of the church hangs on the acceptance or the rejection of the counsel. The Spirit of Prophecy tells us what are these goods offered by the celestial Vendor:

"The gold is faith and love, the white raiment is the righteousness of Christ, the eyesalve is that spiritual discernment which will enable you to see the wiles of Satan and shun them, to detect sin and abhor it, to see truth and obey it."⁸

Only a few accepted the counsel.

They lifted up the standard, which caused a shaking. What is the standard they lifted up? We read about it: "Lift up the standard—the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Make this the important theme. Then, by your strong arguments, make it of still greater force. Dwell more on the Revelation. Read, explain, and enforce its teaching."⁹ "God has placed in our hands a banner upon which is inscribed, 'Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus' (Revelation 14:12)."¹⁰

"This is not a time to haul down our colors, to be ashamed of our faith. This distinctive banner, described in the words, 'Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus', is to be borne through the world to the close of probation."¹¹

So the faithful, or pleading ones, lifted up the banner with the inscrip-

The work of purification or perfecting the character is not a work of short duration. So the shaking must go on among the members of this group until their character would either be perfected, or left behind in darkness.

tion: The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. They defended the commandments of God, while others consented in transgressing them. What happened in this sharp phase of the shaking? A separation took place. Shaking always results in separation. There is no reason for shaking except for separating the chaff from the wheat. The Bible and the Testimonies confirm that the shaking causes separation:

“For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth” (Amos 9:9).

“God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat.”¹²

“I was pointed to the providence of God among His people and was shown that every trial made by the refining, purifying process upon professed Christians proves some to be dross. The fine gold does not always appear. In every religious crisis some fall under temptation. The shaking of God blows away multitudes like dry leaves. Prosperity multiplies a mass of professors. Adversity purges them out of the church. As a class, their spirits are not steadfast with God. They go out from us because they are not of us; for when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, many are offended.”¹³

In every religious crisis the people of God are tested. In the test many are shaken out. Not only a few are cast out; often crowds are blown away with their organization, properties, and other assets. The sieve is the truth, and it keeps moving on to hold the faithful together and separate the unfaithful from them. These faithful represent the remnant church. This experience was repeated many times in the history of the Christian church.

History proves that in the time of war when the church was tested, the majority laid down the standard. They were the multitudes blown out from the church, from us.

Here is a parallel prophecy:

“As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. Some who are now ready to take up weapons of warfare will in times of real peril make it manifest that they have not built upon the solid rock; they will yield to temptation. Those who have had great light and precious privileges, but have not improved them, will, under one pretext or another, go out from us. Not having received the love of the truth, they will be taken in the delusions of the enemy; they will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and will depart from the faith.”¹⁴

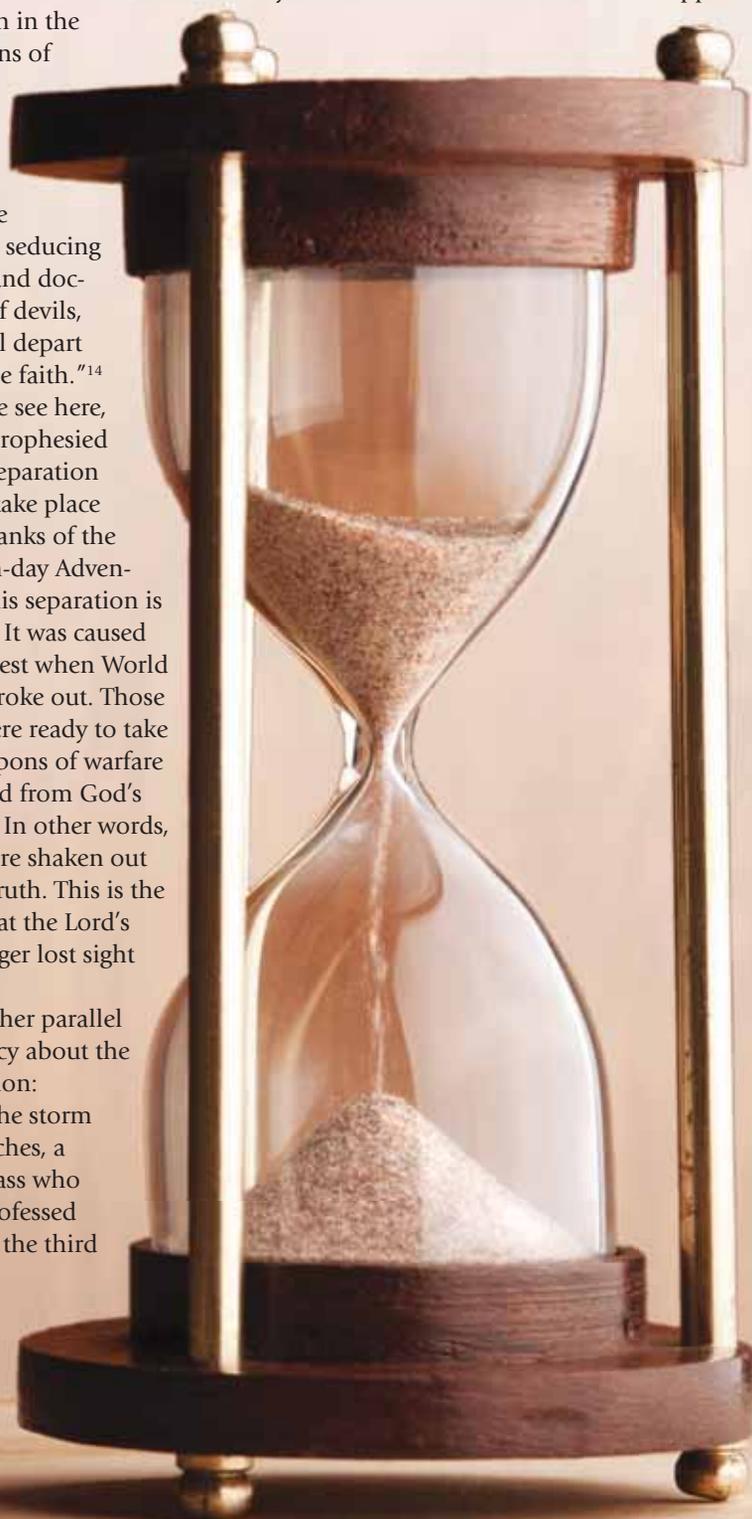
As we see here, it was prophesied that a separation would take place in the ranks of the Seventh-day Adventists. This separation is history. It was caused by the test when World War I broke out. Those who were ready to take up weapons of warfare departed from God’s people. In other words, they were shaken out of the truth. This is the class that the Lord’s messenger lost sight of.

Another parallel prophecy about the separation:

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third

angel’s message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition.”¹⁵

This “large class” cannot be Catholics nor Protestants but Adventists, because they are the ones who have believed in the faith of the third angel’s message. The prophecy says that they would abandon their position. When would they do it? “As the storm approaches,” before it has actually arrived. The storm is still approaching



today. It has not yet come. The “storm” or “tempest” will burst upon the earth in the time of the seven last plagues. (See *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 444.) The separation takes place before the storm is here, as it is approaching. In 1890 Sister White wrote:

“The tempest is coming, and we must get ready for its fury by having repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”¹⁶

From that time onwards, at any occasion the “large class” would abandon their position. In the time when absolute fidelity to the commandments of God was required, in that very time the “large class” abandoned their position.

In 1914–18 during World War I, those who were ready to take up weapons of warfare (98%), opposed

the faithful few (2%) who exalted the standard, abandoned their original position regarding the law of God, and joined the ranks of the opposition. We have historical facts which make us understand the specific time of the approaching storm in which the separation took place. These facts are explained in detail in our booklet *In Defense of the Law of God*.

We believe that the prophecies of EW 270, 6T 400, and GC 608 about a separation have been fulfilled already. The testimonies foretold the events, and history confirms them in consummated facts.

In the chronological order of the events our attention is focused only on one of the two groups, the faithful, pleading class. Occasional reference will be made to the other group, but our attention will be drawn to those who accepted the message. They are the faithful remnant that will be purified.

As we have studied in the previous section, the message to Laodicea causes a shaking which results in a separation. One of these two classes—the pleading class—accepts the counsel of the True Witness and starts a work of reformation. According to prophecy, only one of the classes in which the church is split undertakes this work. The other class, the non-pleading ones, unites more and more to the world.¹⁷

The work of reformation, preparation, purification, or sanctification must be done now. This is the time for this work to take place. The counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans has this purpose: to prepare a people for the latter rain. The Spirit of Prophecy says (a paragraph which we have already quoted in the previous section):

“This testimony (called forth by the counsel of the True Witness) must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified.”¹⁸

The counsel is given to the church in order to purify a people by the obedience to the truth. How does the purification of the church take place? We have the answer in the following words:

“Said the angel, ‘Look ye!’ My attention was then turned to the company

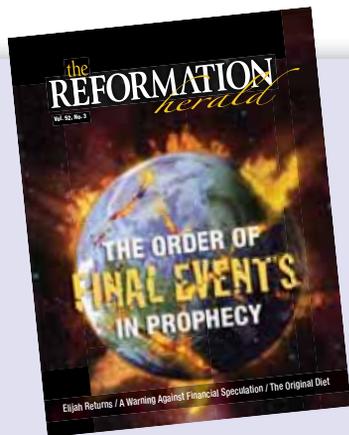
I had seen, who were mightily shaken. I was shown those whom I had before seen weeping and praying in agony of spirit.”¹⁸ Although this group accepted the counsel, lifted up the standard, and poured forth the straight truth, not all of them were wheat. Like the people of Israel who had a mixed multitude among them (Numbers 11:4; PP 281), this group had also some careless and indifferent with them. This is why they were now mightily shaken. The unfaithful must be blown out, so that this group may be purified. We read about them thus:

“The numbers of this company had lessened. Some had been shaken out and left by the way. The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks.”¹⁹

The “careless” and “indifferent” members in this pleading group are left behind. But the work of purification or perfecting the character is not a work of short duration. So the shaking must go on among the members of this group until their character would either be perfected, or left behind in darkness. The shaking would go on till no more “careless” and “indifferent” members would be found among them. *R*

References

- ¹ *Early Writings*, pp. 88, 89.
- ² *Ibid.*, pp. 107, 108.
- ³ *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 101.
- ⁴ *Ibid.*
- ⁵ *Christian Service*, p. 41.
- ⁶ *Early Writings*, pp. 269, 270.
- ⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 270.
- ⁸ *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 233.
- ⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 61.
- ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 7, p. 150.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 144.
- ¹² *Gospel Workers*, p. 299.
- ¹³ *Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 89.
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 6, pp. 400, 401.
- ¹⁵ *The Great Controversy*, p. 608.
- ¹⁶ *Messages to Young People*, p. 89.
- ¹⁷ See *The Great Controversy*, p. 608.
- ¹⁸ *Early Writings*, p. 271.
- ¹⁹ *Ibid.*



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Heavenly Dew

Part 2

in Due Season

*A compilation from the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy and a brief introduction
by Michel-Ange Ducheine*

*“Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain;
so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them
showers of rain, to every one grass in the field”*

(Zechariah 10:1).

In the previous issue of the *Reformation Herald*, three prerequisites were cited as necessary in order to receive the latter rain: Repentance, Obedience, and Purity. Besides these three qualities, there are also four more requirements:

1. Humility

"The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility" (Proverbs 15:33).

"If those who handle the Word of God will come to God as little children, they will see of His salvation, and Jesus will walk among them to make them vessels unto honor. Those who follow in the light need have no anxiety lest that in the outpouring of the latter rain they will not be baptized with the Holy Spirit."¹

"True holiness and humility are inseparable. The nearer the soul comes to God, the more completely is it humbled and subdued. When Job heard the voice of the Lord out of the whirlwind, he exclaimed, 'I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes' (Job 42:6). It was when Isaiah saw the glory of the Lord and heard the cherubim crying, 'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts,' that he cried out, 'Woe is me! for I am undone (Isaiah 6:3, 5).' Daniel, when visited by the holy messenger, says, 'My comeliness was turned in me into corruption' (Daniel 10:8). Paul, after he was caught up into the third heaven and heard things that it was not lawful for a man to utter, speaks of himself as 'less than the least of all saints' (Ephesians 3:8). It was the beloved John, who leaned on Jesus' breast and beheld His glory, who fell as one dead before the angel. The more closely and continuously we behold our Saviour, the less shall we see to approve in ourselves."²

2. Unity

a. "When the day of Pentecost was fully come, [the disciples and other believers] were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues

like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4).

John 17:11, 20-23; 1 Corinthians 1:10.

b. "We are to seek most earnestly to be of one mind, of one purpose. The baptism of the Holy Spirit, and nothing less, can bring us to this place. Let us by self-renunciation prepare our hearts to receive the Holy Spirit that a great work may be done for us, so that we can say, not 'See what I am doing,' but 'Behold the goodness and love of God!'"³

c. "We can be united with one another only as we are united with Christ."⁴

3. Love

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:34, 35).

"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need" (Acts 4:32-35).

"When the latter rain is poured out, the church will be clothed with power for its work; but the church as a whole will never receive this until its members shall put away from among them, envy, evil surmisings, and evil-speaking. Those who cherish these sins know not the blessed experience of love; they are not awake to the fact that the Lord is testing and proving their love for Him by the attitude they assume toward one another. Christ

says to us, 'A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.' When this commandment is obeyed, envy, evil speaking, evil surmising, and evil thinking will not be indulged; they will have no part in the formation of character.

"This love means growth spiritually. Christ has given an example which His people are to follow. He binds them to one another and to Himself by His own divine attributes. Their oneness with Jesus Christ makes them love one another, for this is the sure fruit. He makes their affection for one another the badge of their discipleship."⁵

"God would have us individually come into that position where He can bestow His love upon us. He has placed a high value upon man and has redeemed us by the sacrifice of His only begotten Son, and we are to see in our fellow man the purchase of the blood of Christ. If we have this love one for another, we shall be growing in love for God and the truth. We have been pained at heart to see how little love is cherished in our midst. Love is a plant of heavenly origin, and if we would have it flourish in our hearts, we must cultivate it daily. Mildness, gentleness, long-suffering, not being easily provoked, bearing all things, enduring all things—these are the fruits upon the precious tree of love."⁶

"Christ mentioned to Peter only one condition of service—'Lovest thou Me?' This is the essential qualification. Though Peter might possess every other, yet without the love of Christ he could not be a faithful shepherd over the flock of God. Knowledge, benevolence, eloquence, zeal—all are essential in the good work; but without the love of Christ in the heart, the work of the Christian minister is a failure.

"The love of Christ is not a fitful feeling, but a living principle, which is to be made manifest as an abiding power in the heart. If the character and deportment of the shepherd is an exemplification of the truth he advocates, the Lord will set the seal of His approval to the work. The shepherd

“Today you are to have your vessel purified that it may be ready for the heavenly dew, ready for the showers of the latter rain.”

and the flock will become one, united by their common hope in Christ.”⁷

4. Prayer

“If ye . . . being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” (Luke 11:13).

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:31).

a. “Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field” (Zechariah 10:1).

b. “We need to pray as we never have prayed before for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, for if there was ever a time when we needed this baptism, it is now. There is nothing the Lord has more frequently told us He would bestow upon us, and nothing by which His name would be more glorified in bestowing, than the Holy Spirit. When we partake of this Spirit, men and women will be born again. . . . Souls once lost will be found and brought back.”⁸

c. “We have now the invitations of mercy to become vessels unto honor, and then we need not worry about the latter rain; all we have to do is to keep the vessel clean and prepared and right side up, for the reception of the heavenly rain and keep praying, ‘Let the latter rain come into my vessel. Let the light of the glorious angel which unites with the third angel, shine upon me; give me a part in the work; let me sound the proclamation; let me be colaborer with Jesus Christ.’ ”⁹

d. “Let us, with contrite hearts, pray most earnestly that now, in the time of the latter rain, the showers of grace may fall upon us. At every meeting we attend our prayers should ascend, that at this very time God will impart warmth and moisture to our souls. As we seek God for the Holy Spirit, it will

work in us meekness, humbleness of mind, a conscious dependence upon God for the perfecting latter rain. If we pray for the blessing in faith, we shall receive it as God has promised.”¹⁰

Conclusion

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6).

“The third angel’s message is swelling into a loud cry, and you must not feel at liberty to neglect the present duty and still entertain the idea that at some future time you will be the recipients of great blessing, when without any effort on your part a wonderful revival will take place. Today you are to give yourselves to God, that He may make of you vessels unto honor, and meet for His service. Today you are to give yourself to God, that you may be emptied of self, emptied of envy, jealousy, evil surmising, strife, everything that shall be dishonoring to God. Today you are to have your vessel purified, that it may be ready for the heavenly dew, ready for the showers of the latter rain; for the latter rain will come, and the blessing of God will fill every soul that is purified from every defilement. It is our work today to yield our souls to Christ, that we may be fitted for the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord—fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.”¹¹

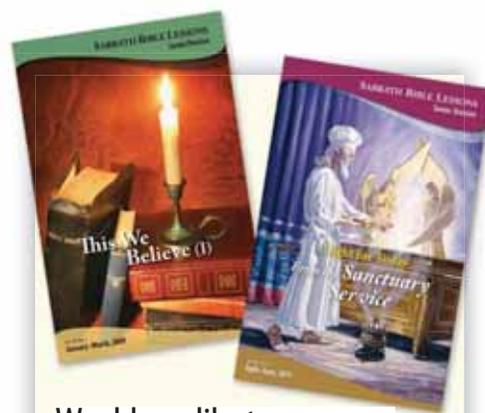
“The latter rain is to fall upon the people of God. A mighty angel is to come down from heaven, and the whole earth is to be lighted with his glory. Are we ready to take part in the glorious work of the third angel? Are our vessels ready to receive the heavenly dew? Have we defilement and sin in the heart? If so, let us cleanse the soul temple and prepare for the showers of the latter rain. The refreshing from the presence of the Lord will never come to hearts filled with impurity. May God help us to die to self, that Christ, the hope of glory, may be formed within!”¹²

An appeal to us

“Shall we now have that faith that works by love and purifies the soul here where this reformation means so much? Well, that is what we want; because the latter rain is coming, and we want the vessel all cleansed from its work of impurity. We want the vessel to be a vessel unto honor, fit for the Master’s use. There are vessels to dishonor, and there are vessels to honor. Now we want to make our choice, and reveal we choose to be a vessel unto honor.”¹³ *R*

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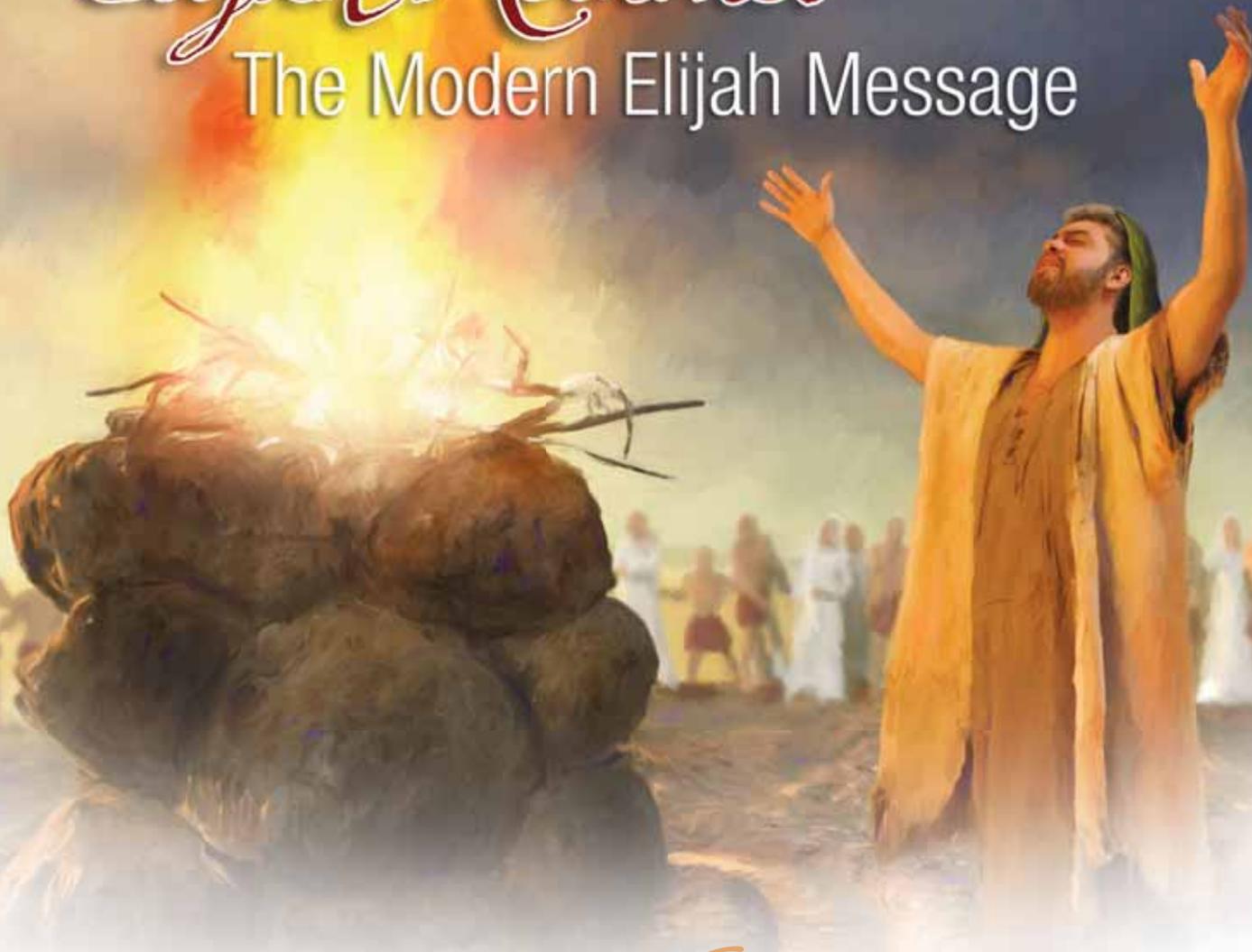


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Elijah Returns: The Modern Elijah Message



By Kay Clark

*W*e read in Malachi 4:5, 6 that God is sending Elijah the prophet. This was to happen prior to “the great and dreadful day of the Lord.” Just what is this fascinating prophecy referring to? Let us study further and find out.

Who was Elijah?

We have long heard the stories about Elijah, the messenger of God, who was fed daily by ravens.

“Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before

whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there” (1 Kings 17:1–4).

“Among the mountains of Gilead, east of the Jordan, there dwelt in the days of Ahab a man of faith and prayer whose fearless ministry was destined to check the rapid spread of apostasy in Israel. Far removed from any city of

renown and occupying no high station in life, Elijah the Tishbite nevertheless entered upon his mission confident in God's purpose to prepare the way before him and to give him abundant success. The word of faith and power was upon his lips, and his whole life was devoted to the work of reform. His was the voice of one crying in the wilderness to rebuke sin and press back the tide of evil. And while he came to the people as a reprover of sin, his message offered the balm of Gilead to the sin-sick souls of all who desired to be healed. . . .

"To Elijah was entrusted the mission of delivering to Ahab Heaven's message of judgment. He did not seek to be the Lord's messenger; the word of the Lord came to him. And jealous for the honor of God's cause, he did not hesitate to obey the divine summons, though to obey seemed to invite swift destruction at the hand of the wicked king. The prophet set out at once and traveled night and day until he reached Samaria. At the palace he solicited no admission, nor waited to be formally announced. Clad in the coarse garments usually worn by the prophets of that time, he passed the guards, apparently unnoticed, and stood for a moment before the astonished king."¹

Who was Ahab?

"In the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years. And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him. And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him" (1 Kings 16:29–33).

"Today there is need of the voice of stern rebuke; for grievous sins have separated the people from God."

The message

In the verses above we find that Ahab was a very wicked king and had done much to provoke God. As usually happens, God deals directly with such persons by using His special messengers. "Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word."

So here we have the scenario: Ahab was very evil—as was his wife, Jezebel—and they had set up an altar of worship to Baal. God was very displeased with this and sent a humble man, Elijah, with the message that there would be a drought in the land.

"Elijah made no apology for his abrupt appearance. A Greater than the ruler of Israel had commissioned him to speak; and, lifting his hand toward heaven, he solemnly affirmed by the living God that the judgments of the Most High were about to fall upon Israel."²

The results

After the prophecy was indeed fulfilled, "and it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" (1 Kings 18:17).

"Ahab knew that it was by the word of God that the heavens had become as brass, yet he sought to cast upon the prophet the blame for the heavy judgments resting on the land.

"It is natural for the wrongdoer to hold the messengers of God responsible for the calamities that come as the sure result of a departure from the way of righteousness. Those who place themselves in Satan's power are unable to see things as God sees them. When the mirror of truth is held up before them, they become indignant at the

thought of receiving reproof. Blinded by sin, they refuse to repent; they feel that God's servants have turned against them and are worthy of severest censure."³

The prophet's reply

Elijah answered, "I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim" (verse 18).

"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word." (verse 21).

Elijah had to have complete faith in the God of heaven before he could carry out the work which God had appointed him to do. When he was asked to go and be a messenger of the Lord, he went fearlessly onward. Are we ready to do the same thing?

Elijah is to come again before the great day of the Lord. What does this mean?

Jesus said, "All the prophets and the law prophesied until John [the Baptist]. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear" (Matthew 11:13–15).

John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah to do the work that Elijah did. If the Jews would have received him, a great work would have been accomplished among them. But, like Ahab, they would not receive the message. In the spirit and power of Elijah, John denounced the corruption of the Jewish nation. He reproved them for their sins. A good number did repent and were baptized by him in the Jordan.

In the spirit and power of Elijah

“And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias” (John 1:19–23).

God has always had His agencies to carry forward His work which must be done in His appointed way. Like Elijah, John the Baptist had a special work to do—that of preparing the way of the Lord. Why was this title given to John?

“And [John] shall go before [the Lord] in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Luke 1:17).

John’s appearance reminded his hearers of Elijah. He resembled him in his manner and dress. With the same spirit and power he denounced the national corruption and rebuked the prevailing sins. In these last days, just prior to the Lord’s second coming, God is calling for a people who will do this very work. God has His chosen instruments by whom He can send these messages of warning.

What is God’s message for us today?

In James 5:19, 20 we read, “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

“Today there is need of the voice of stern rebuke; for grievous sins have separated the people from God. Infidelity is fast becoming fashionable. ‘We will not have this man to reign over us,’ is the language of thousands

(Luke 19:14). The smooth sermons so often preached make no lasting impression; the trumpet does not give a certain sound. Men are not cut to the heart by the plain, sharp truths of God’s word. . . .

“So men who should be standing as faithful guardians of God’s law have argued, till policy has taken the place of faithfulness, and sin is allowed to go unproved. When will the voice of faithful rebuke be heard once more in the church?”⁴

John, like Elijah, looked upon the broken altar of Jehovah and asked the same question: “How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.” Israel had forsaken the commandments of the Lord and needed a reformation. Many times they failed to heed the warnings given to them.

How do we measure up today?

In our day, the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14:6–12 are proclaiming in trumpet tones the warning which carries the last message to humankind before the terrible day of the Lord.

These angels represent those who receive the truth of God and with power open the Gospel to the world. What kind of people will these be who will prepare “the way of the Lord” as did Elijah and John the Baptist?

“He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth.” “But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it” (Luke 11:23, 28).

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12).

“And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to

stand before the Son of man” (Luke 21:34–36).

We must be diligent students of the Bible. In this way God can mold and fashion us after His likeness that we may partake of His divine nature, as bidden in 2 Peter 1:3–7.

The secrets of victorious living

When we have prayer and Bible study within our lives, and we choose to do good with the spiritual strength we receive, we will have the secrets for victorious living.

“For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving” (Colossians 2:5–7).

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

Conclusion and appeal

When we come to Jesus and submit ourselves fully to Him, all the old ways and habits will pass away, and we can live as He lived. We will become in character as He was, we will take on the whole armor of God as did Elijah and John—and not be fearful of calling sin by its right name. Taking the word of God as our standard, we shall bring reproof upon sinners so they, too, will see themselves in a more accurate light, be cleansed from sin, and commit themselves to following the Sinless One. This is evidence of the Holy Spirit’s moving. (See John 16:7, 8.)

May it be the desire of every heart to have such an experience and to enter victoriously into the work which has been committed to us in these last days of earth’s history. Amen! *✠*

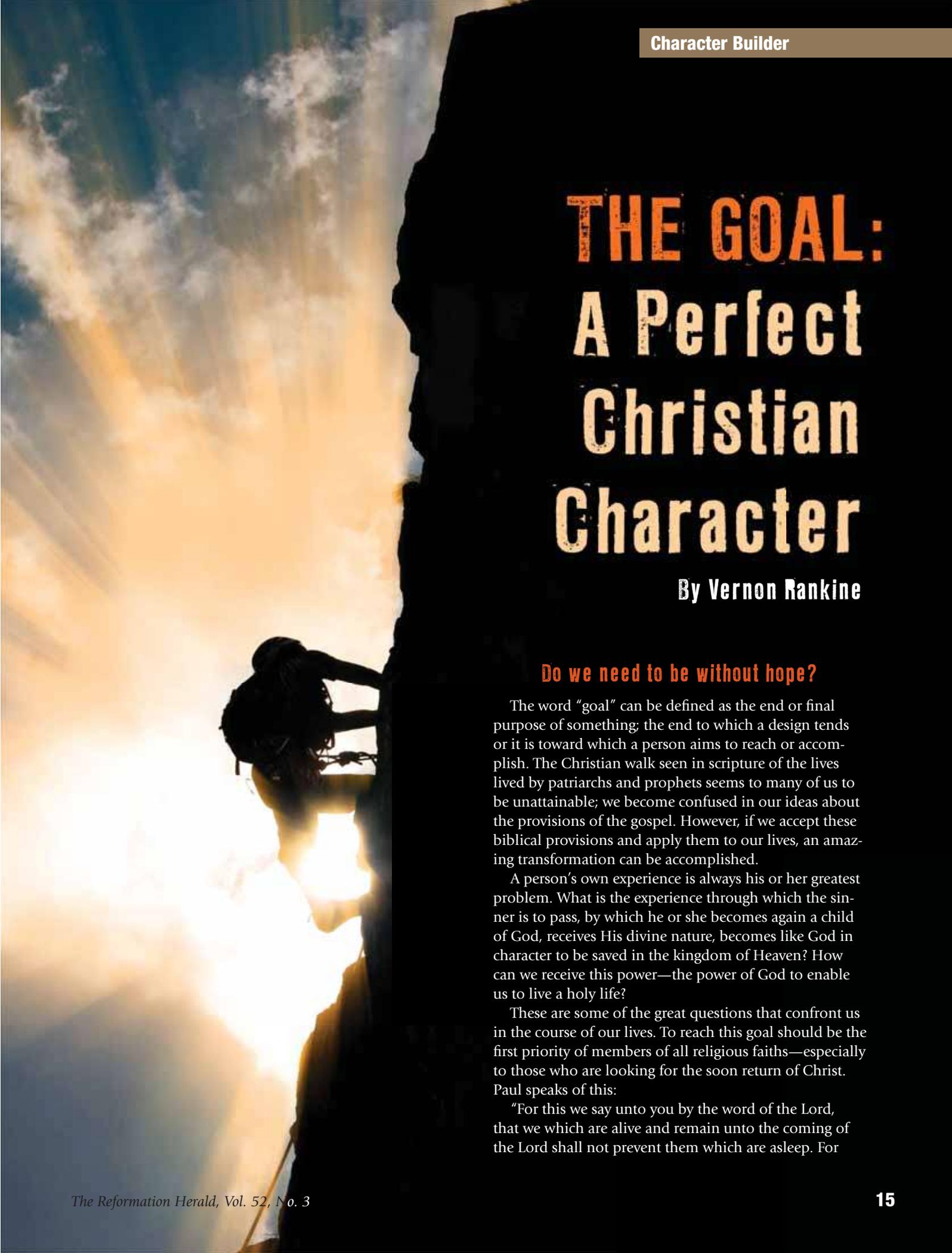
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THE GOAL: A Perfect Christian Character

By Vernon Rankine

Do we need to be without hope?

The word “goal” can be defined as the end or final purpose of something; the end to which a design tends or it is toward which a person aims to reach or accomplish. The Christian walk seen in scripture of the lives lived by patriarchs and prophets seems to many of us to be unattainable; we become confused in our ideas about the provisions of the gospel. However, if we accept these biblical provisions and apply them to our lives, an amazing transformation can be accomplished.

A person’s own experience is always his or her greatest problem. What is the experience through which the sinner is to pass, by which he or she becomes again a child of God, receives His divine nature, becomes like God in character to be saved in the kingdom of Heaven? How can we receive this power—the power of God to enable us to live a holy life?

These are some of the great questions that confront us in the course of our lives. To reach this goal should be the first priority of members of all religious faiths—especially to those who are looking for the soon return of Christ. Paul speaks of this:

“For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For

the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:15–17).

We should have this hope fixed in our heart: That grand climax to the operation of the plan of redemption throughout six thousand years. Travel with me on the journey that the apostle Paul depicts:

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Corinthians 15:52–54).

A glimpse of Christ's glory

The beloved John in his experience penned these words: "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14). From the Scripture those who will enter, according to Revelation 14:12, have "the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Not only will they keep the commandments of God—they will actually have the faith of Jesus, not just faith in Jesus. Thus, we need to explore the faith of Jesus. It is trusting implicitly in God and His leadings, regardless of the consequences. Jesus vowed to do His Father's will even if it would lead to His death. Likewise, by a most solemn covenant we, too, have bound ourselves to serve the Lord and Him only. The apostle Peter expressed it this way: "We, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may

be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless" (2 Peter 3:13, 14). We could never go further except as we share the experience and faith of the beloved John as he looked to this goal, both in his life and the blessed hope of entering into the presence of our dear Saviour and the Father with these words: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (1 John 3:1–3). Therefore, the Christian goal is to become pure even as He is pure.

Now is the time to strive for the goal

Looking to the message of the servant of the Lord for the present time, Inspiration marks clearly the path to which we must aspire, because this goal must be achieved by all means possible. "In heaven there is perfect order, perfect obedience, perfect peace and harmony. Those who have had no respect for order or discipline in this life would have no respect for the order which is observed in heaven. They can never be admitted into heaven, for all worthy of an entrance there will love order and respect discipline. The characters formed in this life will determine the future destiny. **When Christ shall come, He will not change the character of any individual. Precious, probationary time is given to be improved in washing our robes of character and making them white in the blood of the Lamb.** To remove the stains of sin requires the work of a lifetime. Every day renewed efforts in restraining and denying self are needed. Every day there are new battles to fight and victories to be gained. Every day the soul should be called out in earnest pleading with God for the mighty victories of the cross."¹

"It is a solemn thing to die, but a far more solemn thing to live. Every

thought and word and deed of our lives will meet us again. What we make of ourselves in probationary time, that we must remain to all eternity. Death brings dissolution to the body, but makes no change in the character. The coming of Christ does not change our characters; it only fixes them forever beyond all change."²

The attainment of this goal, fellow believers—victory over sin—is the purpose of every Bible doctrine behind every principle of our faith, from the simplest to the greatest. The object of the Bible is to lead the believer through the experience that will restore the image of God in the soul and lead him or her to character perfection. Charles Wesley had it right when he penned this song which should become the living experience of our life if we will ever see Jesus:

*"O for a heart to praise my God,
A heart from sin set free,
A heart that always feels Thy blood
So freely shed for me.*

*"A heart resigned, submissive, meek,
My great Redeemer's throne,
Where only Christ is heard to speak,
Where Jesus reigns alone.*

*"A humble, lowly, contrite heart,
Believing, true and clean,
Which neither life nor death can part
From Christ who dwells within.*

*"A heart in every thought renewed
And full of love divine,
Perfect and right and pure and good,
A copy, Lord, of Thine.*

*"Thy tender heart is still the same,
And melts at human woe:
Jesus, for Thee distressed I am,
I want Thy love to know.*

*"My heart, Thou know'st, can never rest
Til Thou create my peace;
Til of mine Eden repossess,
From self, and sin, I cease.*

*"Fruit of Thy gracious lips, on me
Bestow that peace unknown,
The hidden manna, and the tree
Of life, and the white stone.*

*"Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart;
Come quickly from above;
Write Thy new name upon my heart,
Thy new, best name of Love."*

The challenge before us

From the earliest days of the Advent movement, believers in the threefold angels' message of Revelation 14 have found themselves confronted with two fundamental principles that pose a tremendous challenge to fallen humanity: Perfect obedience to all of the Ten Commandments of God, and complete victory over every last sin.

This twofold requirement is absolutely necessary for translation, and it constitutes the great test for God's church. Many people struggle along the way, unable to achieve this goal; some give up in discouragement. Others continue struggling, hoping somehow that the way will yet be found. Still others are continually advancing in their experience and are daily drawing nearer the goal. Satan for six thousand years has held that God is asking for the impossible and that His requirement is an unjust demand.

If God be God, He is not asking for the impossible; it is possible for the gospel to do its work; God's plans are perfect and will operate successfully if followed, bringing us to the goal of conquering sin and obtaining holiness.

"The prophets and apostles did not perfect Christian character by a miracle. They used the means which God had placed within their reach; and all who will put forth the same effort will secure the same results."³

The wise man Solomon describes the Christian life thus: "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the

perfect day" (Proverbs 4:18). And as we walk this path there is a precious counsel: "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (verse 23).

"There is a science of Christianity to be mastered—a science as much deeper, broader, higher, than any human science as the heavens are higher than the earth. The mind is to be disciplined, educated, trained; for we are to do service for God in ways that are not in harmony with inborn inclination. Hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil must be overcome. Often the education and training of a lifetime must be discarded, that one may become a learner in the school of Christ. Our hearts must be educated to become steadfast in God. We are to form habits of thought that will enable us to resist temptation. We must learn to look upward. The principles of the word of God—principles that are as high as heaven and that compass eternity—we are to understand in their bearing up on our daily life. Every act, every word, every thought, is to be in accord with these principles."⁴

No other science is equal to that which develops, in the life of the student, the character of God. Those who become followers of Christ find that there are new motives of action supplied, that new thoughts arise, and that new actions appear. But they can make advancement only through conflict; for there is an enemy who ever contends against them, presenting temptations to cause the soul to doubt and sin. There are hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil that must be overcome.



Hope for the hopeless

Our case may seem
hopeless and impossible.

"The prophets and apostles did not perfect Christian character by a miracle. They used the means which God had placed within their reach, and all who will put forth the same effort will secure the same results."

However, the apostle Paul expressed this sentiment: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). Brethren and sisters, we should never lose hope of our confidence in Jesus to make us complete. When you are tempted, look to the Scriptures, and you will find the sure answer. Here is a perfect answer: "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body" (2 Corinthians 4:8-10). Then we may affirm our confidence in these promises:

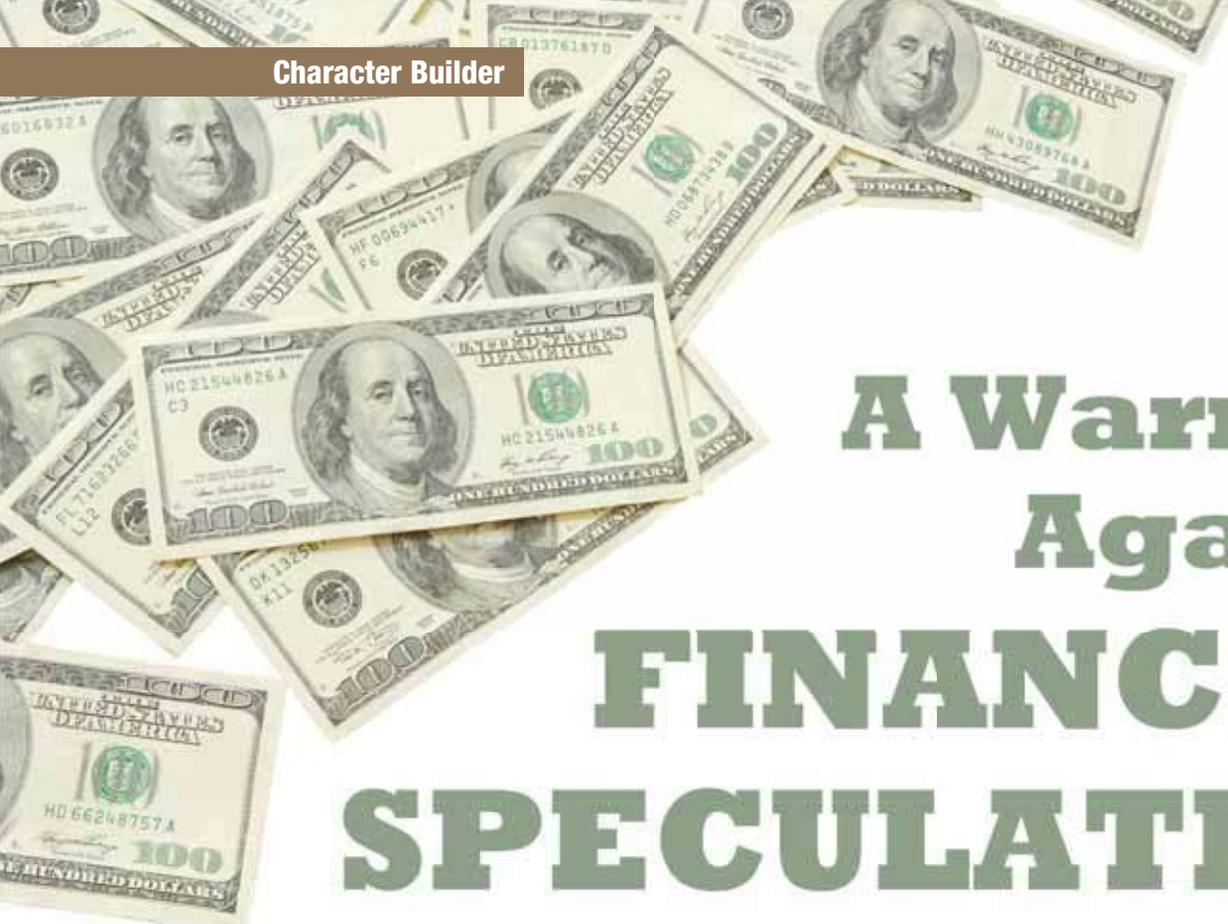
"Every soul may say: 'By His perfect obedience He has satisfied the claims of the law, and my only hope is found in looking to Him as my substitute and surety, who obeyed the law perfectly for me. By faith in His merits I am free from the condemnation of the law. He clothes me with His righteousness, which answers all the demands of the law. I am complete in Him who brings in everlasting righteousness. He presents me to God in the spotless garment of which no thread was woven by any human agent. All is of Christ, and all the glory, honor, and majesty are to be given to the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world.'"⁵

The appeal

We have a High Priest who is seated at the right hand of God who has never lost a case. The virtue of His sacrifice is able to make us clean and spotless, as we wash our robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. Our Saviour can present us spotless before the Father. "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 24). May this be our experience! *R*

References

- ¹ *Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 429. [Emphasis supplied.]
- ² *Ibid.*, vol. 5, p. 466.
- ³ *The Sanctified Life*, p. 84.
- ⁴ *The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 453, 454.
- ⁵ *Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 396.



A Warning Against FINANCIAL SPECULATION

By Ellen G. White



Financial speculations are Satan's snares, laid to catch souls. In all business transactions the only safeguard for a man is the love and fear of God. In our world today there are seen the same dishonest practices which prevailed before the Flood swept this earth of its moral pollution, and which prevailed in Sodom before fire from heaven consumed its wicked inhabitants. Satan engrosses men's minds with dreamlike prospects of great gain, and in their greed for gain, those who yield to him make representations which are positively untrue. God and the truth are forgotten.

Many unwary souls are beguiled and make an easy conquest, as they listen to a minister, whom they have heard proclaiming the truth, presenting the great advantage to be gained from speculation in mines and land, telling how by the means which will accrue from the investment, workers may be supported in new fields. By the exaggerated accounts of what can be thus gained, men are induced to invest their

means in the hope of making money easily. To gain money for the cause of God is the plea offered by the one asking for means, and his glowing descriptions fascinate God-loving, God-fearing men, leading them to invest money which should have been given to God's cause, in schemes from which, when it is too late, they find that they receive no equivalent.

We have no confidence in a man who today preaches to a congregation about the solemn truths of God's word, and tomorrow yields to the temptations of Satan to engage in land and mine speculation. The ungodly are quick to see that his practices are wholly inconsistent with his teaching, and while they speak smooth, flattering words to him, at heart they despise him.

Look at the history of our brethren at Fresno [California]. Men left churches that needed their help to go to Fresno, some for their health, others in search of riches, attracted by glowing representations. The temptation to speculate came fierce and strong.

Satan may pave the way by making the first investment successful, but Oh, how bitter will be the final outcome!

Young men and men of grey hair, and even ministers of the gospel, were drawn into the sweeping current, their hopes raised high by their interest in mining shares and city lots. This was Satan's plans to bind up the means that were needed for the advancement of the cause of God. But the bubble burst. The unreasonable hopes failed. The transactions, recorded in the books of heaven as gambling, bore their bitter fruit.

God desires His servants to avoid all speculation. Satan may pave the way by making the first investment successful, but Oh, how bitter will be the final outcome! If the professing Christian has success in his first speculation, His ruin is almost certain. Visionary schemes are wildly entered into as schemers present promising enterprises which they declare will pay a large percentage on all money invested. Good men are fascinated and deceived. Shares are purchased. Then comes confusion and loss. Some are totally ruined, having in the excitement invested all they had. In the thirst for riches, reason seems to depart. One or two may gain wealth, to their own injury, but many, many are bitterly disappointed.

Man proposes, but to save him from ruin, God disposes. The Lord has instructed me that should our brethren who are engaged in speculation realize their expectation, it would be the greatest curse that could come to Seventh-day Adventists. Thus others would be led into the snare, to the peril of their souls. Those who can earn an honest living would give up their business to speculate in mining stock, selling their souls for the hope of gain.

God requires His people to deal justly and in all kindness, never oppressing their fellow-beings in any way. Instead of entering into speculation, let those who know the truth find some steady,

honest employment in which they can earn their living in a way that glorifies God. Those who encourage the thirst for speculation will extinguish the light that God has given to guide their feet aright. Making money easily, they will spend it unwisely, and their prodigality will be their ruin. To maintain their habits of selfish indulgence, they must continue to make money rapidly. The effort to make money fast enough to meet their extravagant expenses draws many into the gambling hell.

Man cannot prosper while he tramples on God's principles and ignores His wisdom. Those who refuse to obey the words of Christ will in time reap what they have sown. When in any sense God's way is departed from, when His will is violated, whether by nations, churches, institutions, or individuals, it is written in the books of heaven, and retribution will surely follow.

Once speculation is entered into, there is ever after an unrest, a thirst for gain, a desire to engage in some enterprise by which means can be obtained with ease, to be spent with prodigality. If by the grace of God the error of this course is seen, and therefore does not prove fatal, the character bears the scars for years.

The Ruler of the universe has protested against the greed of the natural heart, saying, "He that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent" (Proverbs 28:20). God records them as guilty of fraud and transgression. "Nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us

richly all things to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17). "Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure" (Leviticus 19:35). "By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honour, and life" (Proverbs 22:4). "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). "He that loveth silver shall nor be satisfied with silver, nor he that loveth abundance with increase" (Ecclesiastes 5:10). He who says to gold, "Thou art my confidence" (Job 31:24), shall find himself "pierced . . . through with many sorrows" (1 Timothy 6:10). "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).

My prayer to our heavenly Father is, Lord, let the clear light shine forth. Carefully and prayerfully studied, God's Word keeps men well-balanced. In this Word we find God's way clearly defined. No one who searches the Word with sincerity will walk in darkness. But we cannot cast aside the light God sends and at the same time walk in its rays. To be Christians at all, we must be Christians in all things, revealing His virtues, doing His works. The truth is our safeguard. Planted in the heart by the Holy Spirit, it enables us to see clearly the difference between what is right and what is wrong. Those who cherish the truth will refuse to be drawn into speculation.—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 15, pp. 71–75. *R*

Take Heed That No Man Deceive You

Part 2 of 2

A Bible and Spirit of Prophecy compilation with commentary
by Tony Maraizu



It is the first and highest duty of every rational being to learn from the Scriptures what is truth, and then to walk in the light and encourage others to follow his example. We should day by day study the Bible diligently, weighing every thought and comparing scripture with scripture. With divine help we are to form our opinions for ourselves as we are to answer for ourselves before God.¹

Fathers, mothers, and children are all encouraged to study for themselves as they have to answer for themselves before God. Why? Because “the soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him” (Ezekiel 18:20).

Many are astonished when they read that “many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many” (Matthew 24:11). They ask, “Why should Christ allow the false prophets to deceive those for whom He suffered and died?”

The Word of God warns of the ploys of the impostor “whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not **the love** of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thessalonians 2:9–12, emphasis added).

What was the problem? Why did this happen?

Notice about whom this is speaking. It does not say that these people

did not receive the truth—the problem is that they did not **love** the truth so much as to enable it to deeply affect their life. These are sent a strong delusion because they persist in finding sin to be pleasurable—almost as if they wallowed in it, instead of pursuing purity of heart and reformation of life through the Saviour.

“We want all to understand how the soul is destroyed. It is not that God sends out a decree that man shall not be saved. He does not throw a darkness before the eyes which cannot be penetrated. But man at first resists a motion of the Spirit of God, and, having once resisted, it is less difficult to do so the second time, less the third, and far less the fourth. Then comes the harvest to be reaped from the seed of unbelief and resistance. Oh what a harvest of sinful indulgences is preparing for the sickle!

“When secret prayer and reading of the Scriptures are neglected today,

tomorrow they can be omitted with less remonstrance of conscience. There will be a long list of omissions, all for a single grain sown in the soil of the heart. On the other hand, every ray of light cherished will yield a harvest of light. **Temptation once resisted will give power to more firmly resist the second time; every new victory gained over self will smooth the way for higher and nobler triumphs.** Every victory is a seed sown to eternal life."²

"It is not God that blinds the eyes of men or hardens their hearts. He sends them light to correct their errors and to lead them in safe paths; it is by the rejection of this light that the eyes are blinded and the heart hardened. Often the process is gradual and almost imperceptible. Light comes to the soul through God's word, through His servants, or by the direct agency of His Spirit; but when one ray of light is disregarded, there is a partial benumbing of the spiritual perceptions, and the second revealing of light is less clearly discerned. So the darkness increases, until it is night in the soul."³

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:13-15).

How only can we be safe from delusion?

"God cannot save man against his will from the power of Satan's artifices. Man must work with his human power, aided by the divine power of Christ, to resist and to conquer at any cost to himself. In short, man must overcome as Christ overcame. And then, through the victory that it is his privilege to gain by the all-powerful name of Jesus, he may become an heir of God and joint heir with Jesus Christ. This could not be the case if Christ alone did all the overcoming. Man must do *his* part; he must be victor on his own account, through the strength and grace that Christ gives him. Man must be a

coworker with Christ in the labor of overcoming."⁴

"The question is, 'What is truth?' It is not how many years have I believed that makes it the truth. You must bring your creed to the Bible and let the light of the Bible define your creed and show where it comes short and where the difficulty is. The Bible is to be your standard, the living oracles of Jehovah are to be your guide. You are to dig for the truth as for hidden treasures. . . .

"Have you no mind? Have you no reason? Has not God given judgment to the common people just as well as He has to the priests and rulers? When Christ, the Lord of life and glory, came to our world, if they had known Him, they never would have crucified Him. . . .

Miracles will be performed in our sight. Are we prepared for the trial which awaits us when the lying wonders of Satan shall be more fully exhibited?

"If you see a little light, you are not to stand back and say, 'I will wait until my brethren have seen it.' If you do, you will go on in darkness."⁵

Trust not in miracles, signs, or wonders

Christ continues to explain, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matthew 24:24).

Christ made it clear to His disciples that these false prophets have the power to perform miracles. (See Revelation 13:13, 14 and 16:13, 14.)

"The man who makes the working of miracles the test of his faith will find that Satan can, through a species of deceptions, perform wonders that will appear to be genuine miracles. It was this he hoped to make a test question with the Israelites at the time of their deliverance from Egypt."⁶

"As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power."⁷

"Men under the influence of evil spirits will work miracles. They will make people sick by casting their spell upon them, and will then remove the spell, leading others to say that those

who were sick have been miraculously healed. This Satan has done again and again."⁸

"Wonderful scenes, with which Satan will be closely connected, will soon take place. God's Word declares that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick, and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed."⁹

"Some will be tempted to receive these wonders as from God. The sick will be healed before us. Miracles will be performed in our sight. Are we prepared for the trial which awaits us when the lying wonders of Satan shall be more fully exhibited? Will not many souls be ensnared and taken? By departing from the plain precepts and commandments of God, and giving heed to fables, the minds of many are preparing to receive these lying wonders. We must all now seek to arm ourselves for the contest in

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).

which we must soon engage. Faith in God’s word, prayerfully studied and practically applied, will be our shield from Satan’s power and will bring us off conquerors through the blood of Christ.”¹⁰

“Let not the days pass by and precious opportunities be lost of seeking the Lord with all the heart and mind and soul. If we accept not the truth in the love of it, we may be among the number who will see the miracles wrought by Satan in these last days and believe them. Many strange things will appear as wonderful miracles, which should be regarded as deceptions manufactured by the father of lies.”¹¹

You won’t be able to believe your eyes

“The time is coming when Satan will work miracles right in your sight, claiming that he is Christ; and if your feet are not firmly established upon the truth of God, then you will be led away from your foundation. The only safety for you is to search for the truth as for hid treasures. Dig for the truth as you would for treasures in the earth and present the Word of God, the Bible, before your heavenly Father, and say, ‘Enlighten me; teach me what is truth.’”¹²

“So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures.”¹³

Remember, “there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; inso-much that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect” (Matthew 24:24).

After deceiving many as Christ said in verse 11, Satan continues with these great signs and wonders because his final target is to deceive if possible the very elect, but, thank God, it is not possible.

Why is it not possible to deceive the very elect?

The Word of God has the answer, “These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God” (Revelation 14:4, 5).

Christ warned, “Wherefore if [the false Christs and the false prophets] shall say unto you, Behold, [He] is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not” (Matthew 24:26).

Christ knew the power in beholding, therefore He warned in verse 26, “Go not forth.”

“By beholding we become changed into the same image.”¹⁴

A practical illustration

Recently I saw a woman who captivated the people’s attention as she wept bitterly beside a market entrance. What was her problem? The husband had returned from his office and had handed over to her his salary to go to the market and buy everything they needed for the whole month; unfortunately, she saw a group of gamblers and stopped to watch what they were doing. These men noticed that she had a lot of money with her, and in few minutes two people won a huge amount of money in her presence. This woman without knowing that the two people who won were the same gambler’s group tried and lost some of her money—and then, as she was trying to recover the money, she lost more and more until all the money was gone. Then the gamblers relocated, leaving her alone in that place.

“Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go

not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.”

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).

We are not to condemn every spirit, but are to try them to determine whether they are of God. The truth is that no imitation can exist without the original. It is from the original that the false comes. God has His honest ministers who will perform miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit when that time arrives.

“We are living in perilous times, and it does not become us to accept everything claimed to be truth without examining it thoroughly; neither can we afford to reject anything that bears the fruits of the Spirit of God; but we should be teachable, meek and lowly of heart.”¹⁵

“Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from Heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. [Revelation 13:13.] Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.”¹⁶

Take heed that no one deceives you with the false and counterfeit. Wait on the Lord for the genuine to harmonize fully with Scripture! *R*

References

¹ *The Great Controversy*, p. 598.

² *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 120, (emphasis supplied).

³ *The Desire of Ages*, p. 322.

⁴ *God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 254.

⁵ *Faith and Works*, pp. 77, 78.

⁶ *Selected Messages*, bk. 2, p. 52.

⁷ *The Great Controversy*, p. 588.

⁸ *Selected Messages*, bk. 2, p. 53.

⁹ *Last Day Events*, p. 166.

¹⁰ *Maranatha*, p. 156.

¹¹ *Selected Messages*, bk. 2, p. 53.

¹² *Faith and Works*, p. 56.

¹³ *The Great Controversy*, p. 593.

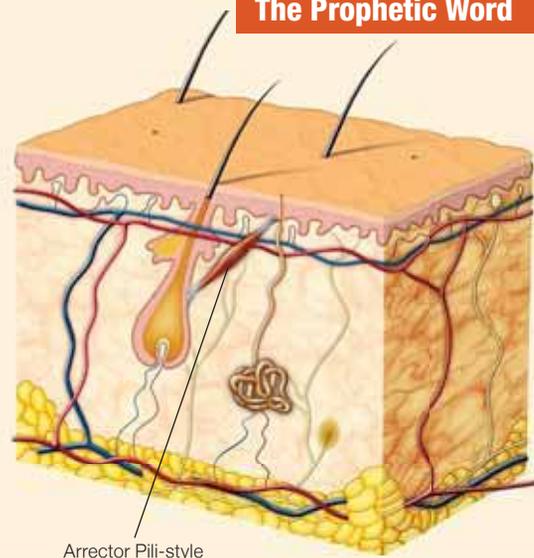
¹⁴ *Gospel Workers* (1892), p. 422.

¹⁵ *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 35.

¹⁶ *The Great Controversy*, p. 612.

“Arrector Pili-style” ACTION

By B. Monteiro



Arrector Pili-style

What is an arrector pili muscle? You have plenty of them! Here’s proof: Remember the last time you felt very, very cold—or perhaps even extremely frightened? What happened to your skin at that moment? That’s right—you got goose bumps!

Every little hair follicle in your skin has associated with it a bundle of smooth muscle cells called an arrector pili muscle.

Underneath the skin, most hair follicles approach the surface at an oblique angle. For example, look at the hairs on your arm. They tend to rest diagonally rather than pointing straight up.

The arrector pili muscle is attached in such a way that when it contracts, the hair follicle is then pulled into an upright position. The skin surface becomes dimpled (hence the goose bumps), and the hair stands on end. In humans, this “hair-raising” response is not as noticeable as it is in furry animals that can stay warmer by trapping a layer of insulating air in their fur. When the arrector pili muscle comes into action, the animal is able to retain heat better. This mechanism also provides more protection to the scared animal whose standing hair on end makes it appear larger and more formidable to enemies.

A spiritual parallel

What spiritual lesson can we draw from this intriguing phenomenon of God’s creation?

“Arrector” has the same root as the word “rectify” or make right. Just as this multitude of muscle cells work together to raise up the tiny little hairs on our skin, as God’s humble team of minutemen, we have been entrusted with the job of rectifying our characters through His power—standing more spiritually upright, as it were. In the beginning, “God hath made man upright,” but through the beguiling of Satan, “they have sought out many inventions” (Ecclesiastes 7:29). As a result of the indwelling life of Christ, this spiritual action uplifts us and even can help us become “hotter” instead of Laodicean lukewarm.

For the church as a body, this means an uplifting of standards as we raise the banner of truth, not allowing it to trail in the dust. How essential this is in a time of fearful religious crisis! “When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19, emphasis added).

What is our danger—and our duty?

Our human nature tends to allow our own personal, slack, unconverted standards to keep us from aiming upward.

“Our hearts are naturally sinful and slothful in the service of Christ; and we need to be guarded constantly, or we shall fail to endure hardness as good soldiers of Christ; and we shall not feel the necessity of aiming vigorous blows against besetting sins, but will readily yield to the suggestions of Satan and

raise a standard for ourselves rather than accept the pure and elevated standard that God has raised for us.”¹

“Are we keeping our eyes fixed upon the perfect Pattern, or are we lowering the standard? . . . [Christ] has brought His people together in church capacity in order that He may teach them to put off the world and prepare for heaven. He came to this world to raise men and women from the degradation of sin and fit them for heaven.”²

“Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people” (Isaiah 62:10).

“To raise the standard and plant it firmly means work, activity.”³

“There is one thing you can do. You can see that you yourselves are in a condition of repentance. Your hearts need to be converted. The end is near; the time is short. Plead with God; clear the King’s highway; and lift up the trailing standard on which is inscribed, ‘The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.’”⁴

“Perplexities will increase; but let us, as believers in God, encourage one another. Let us not lower the standard, but keep it lifted high, looking to Him who is the Author and the Finisher of our faith.”⁵ ❧

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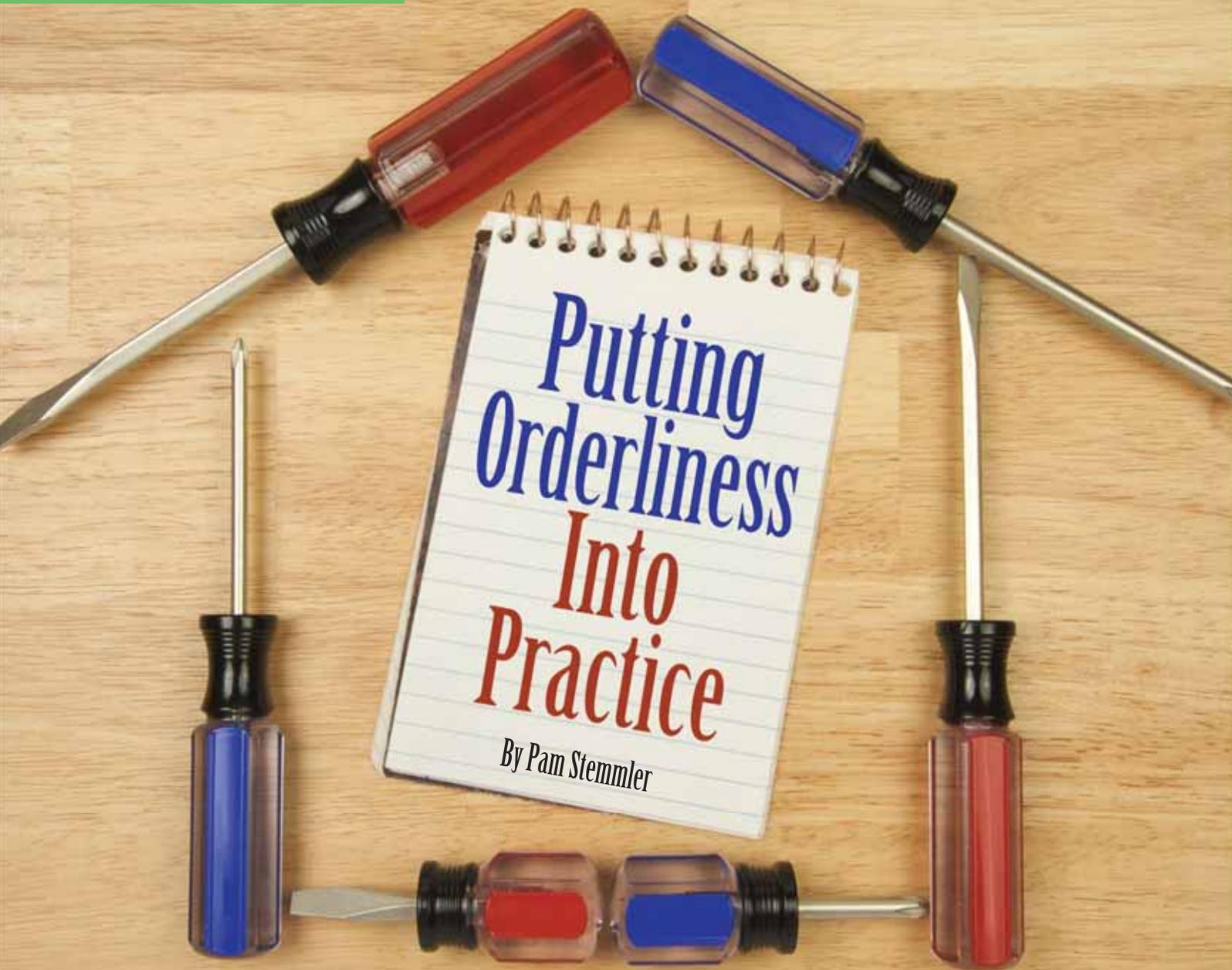
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² *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 3, p. 105.

³ *The General Conference Bulletin*, April 1, 1899.

⁴ *Lift Him Up*, p. 334.

⁵ *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 215.



Help! How can I accomplish the goal of orderliness?

Many people are overwhelmed by the prospect of having to organize their life and their homes. Some are so busy; they don't seem to have time. Others have never been taught and haven't any idea of where to start. Still others have inherited or cultivated this quality already. With God's help, anyone can learn more of efficiency and refinement. If you are one who has already some ability in this organizational realm, be available to help others.

Many years ago, while attending a women's retreat regarding the subject of ordering our lives, the speaker shared a concept which is often hard to receive. She stated that if you don't know how to organize, ask someone who does. Simple. So why is it hard to receive? Often pride keeps us where we don't want to be.

A neighbor of mine took the suggestion seriously. We were good friends and shared different talents. I love to organize, she loves music. So we made a deal. Once a week, she would teach our children music. While she taught

music, I would organize a place in her home that she found difficult. When it was put into a system, she was able to keep it that way. Twenty years later, you can go into her home and find it very nicely ordered. She is intelligent and capable; she just needed a little help in developing a system.

Even businesses call in experts to help in organizational needs. This is not a new concept. So let's make it an adventure to learn better how to organize our homes and our lives, not so that we can look good, but for the honor and glory of our Maker. Will you try?

Now for the fun: How do I get there?
We are going to cover seven basic steps:

1. First Things First
2. Keep It Simple
3. A Place for Everything and Everything in Its Place
4. A Time and a Season
5. Maintenance
6. All Hands on Deck
7. Step by Step

1. First things first

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him” (James 1:5).

We need to pray for God’s help. Not just for mental ideas and physical disciplines, but for that heart that wants to do it for Him and that will give Him honor for anything good that is accomplished. Will you pray with me?

“Dear Father in Heaven, knowing that You are the Almighty, and that Your character is one of love and order, I am asking You for your help. Please work in and through me to accomplish this order in my home and life. Help me to make the changes I need to make, to unlearn the wrong and cultivate the right. Teach me more about Jesus through this whole process. In His name I pray, Amen.”

2. Keep it simple

This is a hard thing for many people. We need to understand a basic principle and then choose a place to begin. Simplifying our lives is for that very reason: To make them simpler. Simplifying needs to take place in many areas:

- a. In our **things**
- b. In our **activities**
- c. In our **responsibilities**
- d. In our **clothing**
- e. In our **menus**

Why in all these areas? To make life simpler. We will address each one individually. The basic principle is to get rid of those things that are not needed.

a. Things

It is good to reevaluate, reconsider, and reduce the amount of things we must have and care for in the first place. This also cuts down on the space required to organize them.

How do you know what to get rid of? You can always keep going back to step one—pray for wisdom (James 1:5). Some basic rules of thumb are suggested.

If it is wrong and contradicts any Biblical principles, it automatically should be gone. Examples: rock music, immoral books, CDs, videos, clothing, junk food, wine, immoral pictures.

If you have not used it in one year, you can probably part with it.

If it is used seasonally and you haven’t used it for 2 seasons, it’s time maybe to say good-bye.

If you don’t like it, share it with someone who might.

I usually suggest that you choose a room to begin with. Maybe it is a bedroom, or a closet, or a living room. Take 3 boxes into that room. If there are bigger items that you don’t want, get help to move them to a storage area, or give them away as quickly as possible.

- Box #1: items to get rid of for sure.
- Box #2: items to get rid of (maybe).
- Box #3: items to keep for sure.

As you sort through that room, pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you. There have been times in my life that I was going to get rid of something, but it just wouldn’t go. The Lord knew that I or someone I knew would need it soon. He is so good to help us.

After you have sorted your things, sort again box #1. If things are garbage, place them there. If they would still be useful to someone else, you could give them away, donate them to a thrift store, take them to a consignment shop or have a garage sale. We did this many years ago as a project to raise missionary funds. It made getting rid of things very worthwhile.

You can start to put away the items in box #3 after a little planning and cleaning time. As you have emptied your spaces, you can give them that extra cleaning attention, or maybe some painting or sprucing up that may have been waiting a long time. If your

budget is low, there are places that you can get discount paint and for a little amount, make everything look fresh and new. Sheets can be sewn into curtains and with creativity you can make things look nice with little outlay. Again, if you don’t have that talent, find a friend that does. Most likely, he or she would love to share it.

Box # 2 is the most difficult. It often requires some heart separation. Sometimes just a little time helps with the decisions or by placing that box in a storage area and bringing it out after a few months, then looking at it objectively to see whether there are legitimate needs there.

That doesn’t seem so hard with our things, does it? But now what about the other areas of our lives that need simplifying? Can we put them in boxes too?

b. Activities

We can prioritize. This will be covered more on the section of time management.

What is most important?

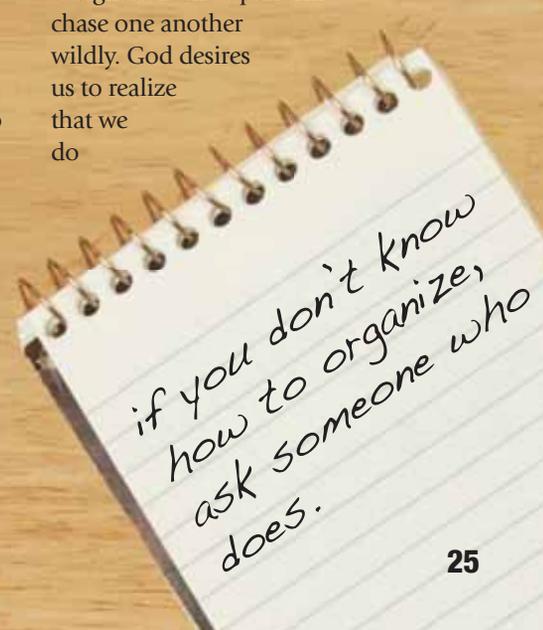
What is a “want to”?

What can be eliminated?

c. Responsibilities

The same principles apply here as to our activities. Pray for guidance and discernment to really know what is the Lord’s will for you specifically.

“Overwork sometimes causes a loss of self-control. But the Lord never compels hurried, complicated movements. Many gather to themselves burdens that the merciful heavenly Father did not place on them. Duties he never designed them to perform chase one another wildly. God desires us to realize that we do



Our God is a
God of order.

not glorify His name when we take so many burdens that we are overtaxed and, becoming heart-weary and brain-weary, chafe and fret and scold. We are to bear only the responsibilities that the Lord gives us, trusting in Him, and thus keeping our hearts pure and sweet and sympathetic."¹

If you are a parent, remember that your responsibilities to train up your children are paramount to all other things. There is not a more important role than to develop Christlike characters in our children. Let not the temptation to have position, approbation, or more finances draw you away from your home.

d. Clothing

There are books written about how to develop what are known as working wardrobes; clothing selections that can be combined in many different ways to create more outfits from less items. A knowledge of colors suited to your own skin and hair tones, and the ability to coordinate these in tasteful ways will create a refined wardrobe and yet simplify your expenditures and the space required to keep it.

e. Menus

Keep your meal ideas simple and as natural as possible, yet tasty and nutritional. Having a menu plan for 2 to 4 weeks that can be rotated, makes shopping, storage, and preparation much simpler. Food preparation and clean-up can take enormous amounts of time if not planned correctly. We can learn efficiency here and still maintain excellent health. It is quality that is needed, not quantity.

4. A time and a season

In order to keep order you will need to establish routines for getting and keeping things the way that you

want and to have the time to do the necessary things of life. "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Order begins with routine. All persons will benefit from establishing their own schedule for themselves and for their families.

Thinking about your objectives will help you to know what you want to include in your schedule. If worshipping the Lord and making Him the foundation of all that you say and do is important, then He must be first and last in the day's schedule. There is no way that I can emphasize enough the importance of family worship in your day-to-day routine.

Eating, sleeping, studying, exercising, cleaning, all need their regular times, and the blessings will be noticed by everyone. Simple routine tasks allotted to each family member will make life a lot simpler for all involved and develop positive character qualities.

You will be able to remember the concept of order by giving attention to order demonstrated in all the details of life. Even in teaching, the mathematical formulas, the laws of science, the spelling of words, and the like, show order. In nature itself, we can notice many, many examples to use in developing those traits that we desire to see in ourselves and in our children.

Another important factor in seeing order implemented is to teach and practice the Biblical concept, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much" (Luke 16:10).

Teach yourself and your children to be careful in all the little details of life. If these are faithfully done, the child and/or yourself can be trusted with larger responsibilities and more complicated tasks. When my children were young, I couldn't understand the importance of this concept, but now as they get older, the lesson is so clear.

Some may be tempted to think that this really isn't as important as it is made out to be, but let's think about something. Take a blade of grass or a flower and look with a magnifying

glass. Can you see more detail? Now look under a microscope. Can you see more detail? Now if you had access to very powerful microscopes, what would you find if you could look even deeper into that item? More detail! The smaller the object you look at, the more detail you will find in God's creation. He is concerned with little things.

If an individual will not be careful in their penmanship or their bed-making, they will not be so careful in their attitude or their studies, or their doing of tasks allotted to them. What is the greatest concern I hear from employers today? It is hard to get good, reliable, responsible help these days. Why? Because the adults were not taught to be responsible and reliable as children. It is our responsibility to take this very seriously and be doers of the Word and not hearers only.

Make up your schedule, realizing that you may need to make some adjustments down the road. But include these vital principles.

Regularity

"The importance of regularity in the time for eating and sleeping should not be overlooked. Since the work of building up the body takes place during the hours of rest, it is essential, especially in youth, that sleep should be regular and abundant.

"In regulating the hours for sleep, there should be no haphazard work. Students should not form the habit of burning the midnight oil and taking the hours of the day for sleep. If they have been accustomed to doing this at home, they should correct the habit, going to bed at a seasonable hour. They will then rise in the morning refreshed for the duties of the day."²

Our God is a God of order. Remember, we can time sunsets and sunrises, the phases of the moon, the journeys of stars, of comets and planets to the minute. God is punctual, and so should we be. Again, this needs to be taught to our children, in our homes, in our practice. *R*

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¹ *The Review and Herald*, October 31, 1907.

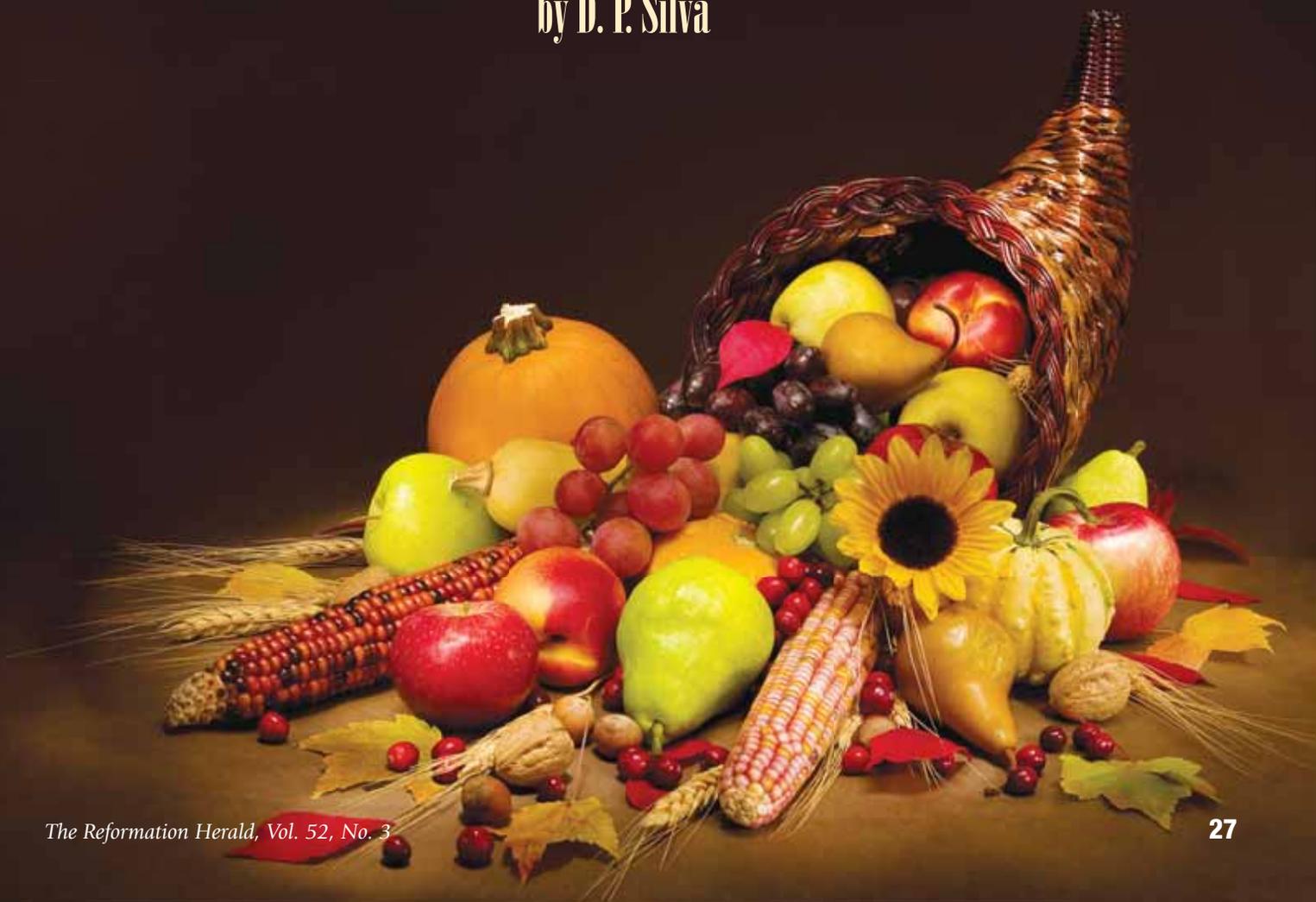
² *Child Guidance*, pp. 363, 364.

THE GOSPEL OF RESTORATION
THE ORIGINAL DIET
BEFORE SIN ENTERED

Part 2

A Bible and Spirit of Prophecy compilation with commentary

by D. P. Silva



In order to know what are the best foods, we must study God's original plan for man's diet. He who created man and who understands his needs appointed Adam his food. 'Behold,' He said, 'I have given you every herb yielding seed, . . . and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for food' (Genesis 1:29, ARV). Upon leaving Eden to gain his livelihood by tilling the earth under the curse of sin, man received permission to eat also 'the herb of the field' (Genesis 3:18).

"Grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables constitute the diet chosen for us by our Creator. These foods, prepared in as simple and natural a manner as possible, are the most healthful and nourishing. They impart strength, a power of endurance, and vigor of intellect, that are not afforded by a more complex and stimulating diet.

"God gave our first parents the food He designed that the race should eat. It was contrary to His plan to have the life of any creature taken. There was to be no death in Eden. The fruit of the trees in the garden was the food man's wants required."¹

After sin

Following their transgression, our first parents were told: "Thou shalt eat the herb of the field." Scientists know today that the antioxidant properties of vegetables are essential in helping us resist disease. When sin entered, so did sickness—and God in His mercy added vegetables to the human diet.

After the Flood

After the Flood God allowed Noah and his descendants to use flesh food with some restrictions, for two reasons:

First, there was no vegetation as a result of the Flood.

Second, God intended to reduce the lifespan of human beings because of their sinful condition. Imagine an unrepentant sinner living a criminal life for 900 years!

"Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat" (Genesis 9:3, 4).

"The diet appointed man in the beginning did not include animal food. Not till after the Flood, when every green thing on the earth had been destroyed, did man receive permission to eat flesh."²

"Previous to [the] time [when Noah left ark] God had given man no permission to eat animal food. Every living substance upon the face of the earth upon which man could subsist had been destroyed, therefore God gave Noah permission to eat of the clean beasts which he had taken with him into the ark. God said to Noah, 'Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you, even as the green herb have I given you all things.' As God had formerly given them the herb of the ground and fruit of the field, now, in the peculiar circumstances in which they are placed He permits them to eat animal food. Yet I saw that the flesh of animals was not the most healthy article of food for man."³

"After the Flood the people ate largely of animal food. God saw that the ways of man were corrupt, and that he was disposed to exalt himself proudly against his Creator, and to follow the inclinations of his own heart. **And He permitted that long-lived race to eat animal food to shorten their**

sinful lives. Soon after the Flood the race began to rapidly decrease in size, and in length of years."⁴

God's plan for the Israelites' diet

"Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, **I will rain bread from heaven for you;** and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily. . . . And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, **This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat**" (Exodus 16:4, 5, 14, 15, emphasis added).

The people protest against the divine diet

"And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: And the children of Israel said unto them, **Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full;** for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger. . . . And Moses said, This shall be, when the Lord shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the Lord heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord. And Moses spake unto

"Grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables constitute the diet chosen for us by our Creator."



Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the Lord: for he hath heard your murmurings. And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God" (Exodus 16:2, 3, 8-12, emphasis supplied).

"In choosing man's food in Eden, the Lord showed what was the best diet; in the choice made for Israel He taught the same lesson. He brought the Israelites out of Egypt and undertook their training, that they might be a people for His own possession. Through them He desired to bless and teach the world. He provided them with the food best adapted for this purpose, not flesh, but manna, 'the bread of heaven' (Psalm 105:40). It was only because of their discontent and their murmuring for the fleshpots of Egypt that animal food was granted them, and this only for a short time. Its use brought disease and death to thousands. Yet the restriction to a nonflesh diet was never heartily accepted. It continued to be the cause of discontent and murmuring, open or secret, and it was not made permanent."⁵

"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were

our examples, to the intent **we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted"** (1 Corinthians 10:1-6, emphasis supplied).

No flesh food

"Both young men and young women should be taught how to cook economically and to dispense with everything in the line of flesh food"⁶

"When God led the children of Israel out of Egypt, it was His purpose to establish them in the land of Canaan a pure, happy, healthy people. Let us look at the means by which He would accomplish this. He subjected them to a course of discipline, which, had it been cheerfully followed, would have resulted in good, both to themselves and to their posterity. He removed flesh food from them in a great measure. He had granted them flesh in answer to their clamors, just before reaching Sinai, but it was furnished for only one day. God might have provided flesh as easily as manna, but a restriction was placed upon the people for their good."⁷

"The moral evils of a flesh diet are not less marked than are the physical ills. Flesh food is injurious to health, and whatever affects the body has a corresponding effect on the mind and the soul. Think of the cruelty to animals that meat eating involves, and its effect on those who inflict and those who behold it. How it destroys the tenderness with which we should regard these creatures of God!

"The common use of the flesh of dead animals has had a deteriorating influence upon the morals, as well as the physical constitution. Ill health in a variety of forms, if effect could be traced to the cause, would reveal the sure result of flesh eating.

"Those who use flesh meat disregard all the warnings that God has given concerning this question. They have no evidence that they are walking in

safe paths. They have not the slightest excuse for eating the flesh of dead animals. God's curse is resting upon the animal creation. Many times when meat is eaten, it decays in the stomach, and creates disease. Cancers, tumors, and pulmonary diseases are largely caused by meat eating."⁸

"Greater reforms should be seen among the people who claim to be looking for the soon appearing of Christ. Health reform is to do among our people a work which it has not yet done. There are those who ought to be awake to the danger of meat eating, who are still eating the flesh of animals, thus endangering the physical, mental, and spiritual health. **Many who are now only half converted on the question of meat eating will go from God's people, to walk no more with them.**"⁹

A call to return

"The Lord intends to bring His people back to live upon simple fruits, vegetables, and grains. . . . God provided fruit in its natural state for our first parents."¹⁰

"With our first parents, intemperate desire resulted in the loss of Eden. Temperance in all things has more to do with our restoration to Eden than men realize."¹¹

"We are to be workers together with God for the restoration of health to the body as well as to the soul."¹² *R*

References

¹ *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 81.

² *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 311.

³ *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, p. 76.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 4A, p. 121. [Emphasis supplied.]

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⁶ *Child Guidance*, p. 376.

⁷ *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, pp. 377, 378.

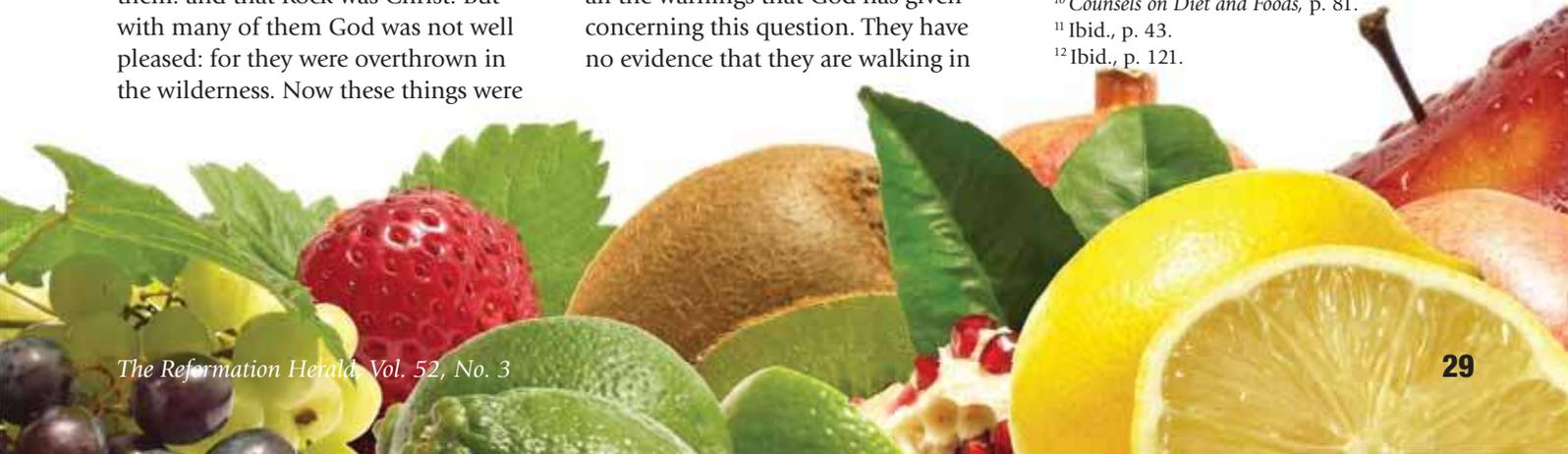
⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 383.

⁹ *The Review and Herald*, May 27, 1902. [Emphasis supplied.]

¹⁰ *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 81.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 43.

¹² *Ibid.*, p. 121.





Malawi

*Believers and friends
in Malawi,
March 2011.*



Ecuador

*Workers' seminar in
Ambato, July 2011.*

Africa

*Youth convention,
January 2011.*



Suriname

First baptism in this country prepared by laymen missionaries, July 2010.

USA

Youth convention in Tennessee, July 2011.

Serbia

Annual conference, Summer 2010.



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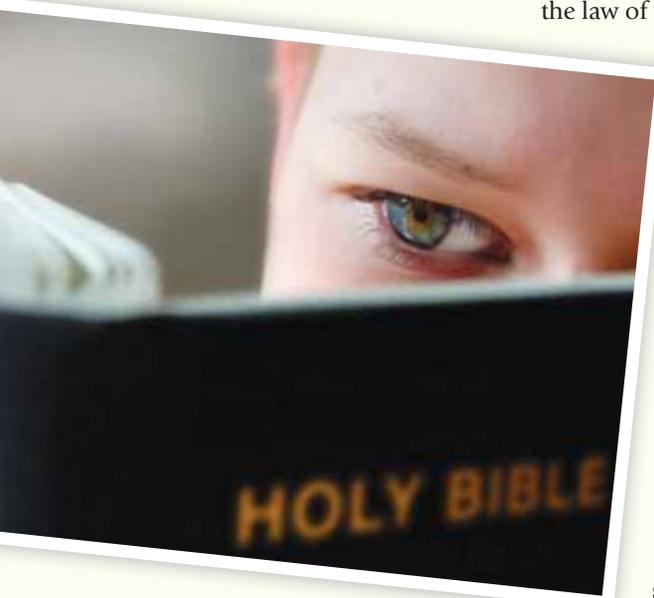


CHILDREN'S
CORNER

THE CHILD-PREACHERS OF SCANDINAVIA

By E. G. White

"Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger" (Psalm 8:2).



During the great second [advent movement] in Scandinavia . . . the advent message was proclaimed, and a widespread interest was kindled.

Many were roused from their careless security to confess and forsake their sins, and seek pardon in the name of Christ. But the clergy of the state church opposed the movement, and through their influence some who preached the message were thrown into prison. In many places where the preachers of the Lord's soon coming were thus silenced, God was pleased to send the message, in a miraculous manner, through little children. As they were under age, the law of the state could not restrain them, and they were permitted to speak. . . .

"The child-preachers themselves were mostly poor cottagers. Some of them were not more than six or eight years of age; and while their lives testified that they loved the Saviour, and were trying to live in obedience to God's holy requirements, they ordinarily manifested only the intelligence and ability usually seen in children of that age. When standing before the people, however, it was evident that

they were moved by an influence beyond their own natural gifts. Tone and manner changed, and with solemn power they gave the warning of the judgment, employing the very words of Scripture: 'Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come' (Revelation 14:7). They reproved the sins of the people, not only condemning immorality and vice, but rebuking worldliness and backsliding, and warning their hearers to make haste to flee from the wrath to come.

"The people heard with trembling. The convicting Spirit of God spoke to their hearts. Many were led to search the Scriptures with new and deeper interest, the intemperate and immoral were reformed, others abandoned their dishonest practices, and a work was done so marked that even ministers of the state church were forced to acknowledge that the hand of God was in the movement.

"It was God's will that the tidings of the Saviour's coming should be given in the Scandinavian countries; and when the voices of His servants were silenced, He put His Spirit upon the children, that the work might be accomplished. . . . As God wrought through children at the time of Christ's first advent, so He wrought through them in giving the message of His second advent. God's word must be fulfilled, that the proclamation of the Saviour's coming should be given to all peoples, tongues, and nations."¹ *R*

Reference

¹ *The Great Controversy*, pp. 366-368.