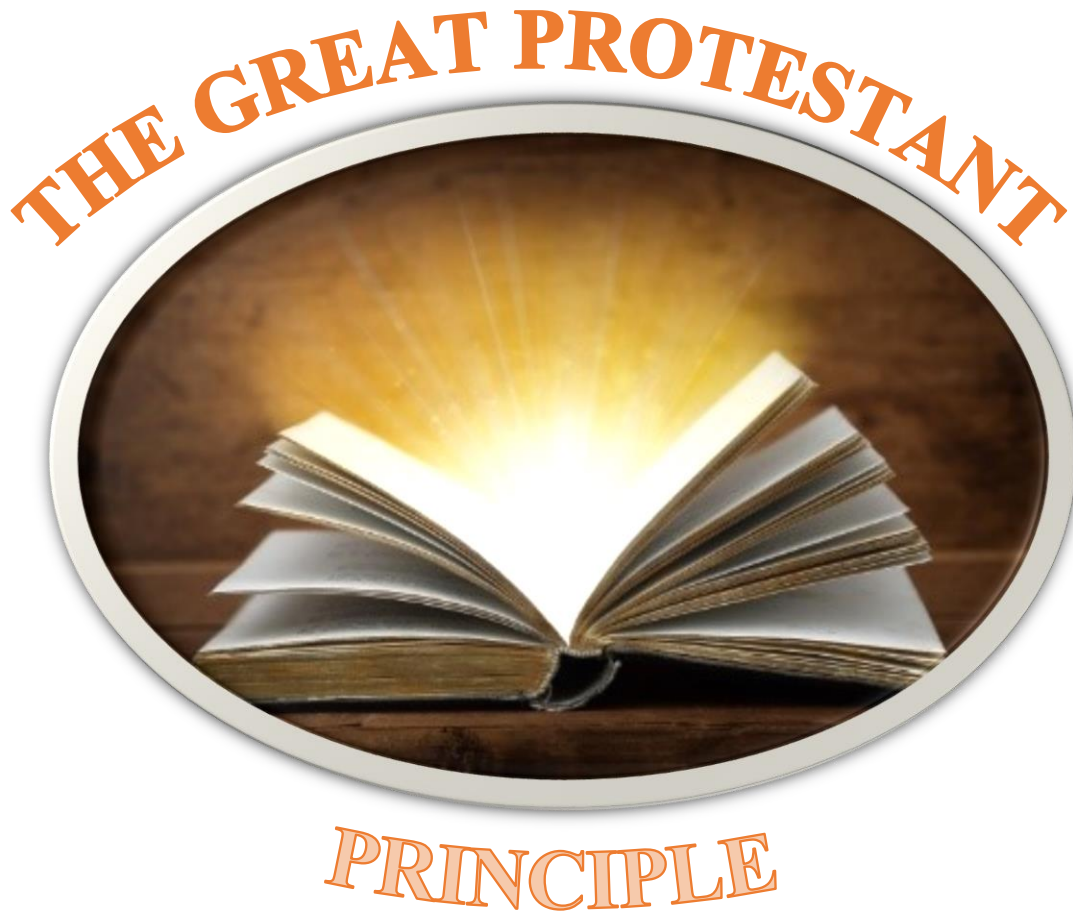


THE BIBLE INSTRUCTOR



MAY 2018

INTRODUCTORY ISSUE

AN ADDRESS

TO THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE BIBLE INSTRUCTOR

We are happy to send you the first number of our paper. To many its name, THE BIBLE INSTRUCTOR, will be a sufficient explanation of its object. For the benefit of others, we will state that the aim of the editors is to make the paper a through exponent of the Bible. That is, it will advocate nothing that is not distinctly taught in the scriptures, and will vigorously oppose every theory that is not supported by the same authority. Its watchword shall be THE GREAT PROTESTANT PRINCIPLE - "the Bible and the Bible only" is the rule of faith and practice. Why this line of policy? This above all others is an age of doubt. For "when the Son of man cometh will He really find faith on the earth"? Luke 18:8. He will find it in but 144,000 who after "earnestly contending for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints" will "keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus". Jude 3, Revelation 14:12. We do not say that they will be keeping, as in the future, but now already they "keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus". How have they the faith of Jesus? "God has dealt to every man the measure of faith". Romans 12:3. The faithful ones keep this faith and seek an increase of it from the Bible. For "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God". Romans 10:17 "*Blessed*" also "*is he that readeth*". Revelation 1:3 "The truth and the glory of God are inseparable; it is impossible for us, with the Bible within our reach, to honor God by erroneous opinions. Many claim that it matters not what one believes, if his life is only right. But the life is molded by the faith." (Great Controversy 597.2). To do away with doubt in an age of doubt, and establish faith, then, the Bible and the Bible alone, must be our chief study. Thus the Bible Instructor.

In introducing this paper, we have several objections to meet. However, we move not by sight, but by faith, as it is written that "the just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, Hebrews 10:38). In an age of much watching, listening and talking, and little -if any- reading, this is almost a futile affair. We only trust in God who says "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days" Ecclesiastes 11:1. "The value of time is beyond computation... we have no time to waste... now is our time to labor for the salvation of our fellow men." (Christ's Object Lessons p342-343) The members of Gospel Sounders and editors of The Bible Instructor have by this paper cast the talent of time into the waters to be collected at the end of time with plenty of increase.

The first issue that we deal with concerns itself with the interests of the people at the present time. It is

said, and verily so, that because of the attention ruining influence of the media, few would be interested in a religious paper having articles of up to four or so pages. A word or two of encouragement, it is said, is sufficient to help men meet the storm that is coming as an overwhelming surprise to many. Our response - "Almost every family takes one or more secular papers, and these frequently contain love stories and exciting tales of villainy and murder which injure the minds of all who read them... Their children are deeply interested in reading the fictitious tales and love stories which are found in these papers, and which their father can afford to pay for, although claiming that he cannot afford to pay for our periodicals and publications on present truth... The mind assimilates to that which it feeds upon. The secular papers are filled with accounts of murders, robberies and other revolting crimes, and the mind of the reader dwells on the scenes of vice therein depicted. By indulgence, the reading of sensational or demoralizing literature becomes a habit, like the use of opium or other baleful drugs, and as a result, the minds of thousands are enfeebled, debased, and even crazed. Satan is doing more through the productions of the press to weaken the minds and corrupt the morals of the youth than by any other means" (Publishing Ministry p350 - 376). We expect that the Bible Instructor will provide a suitable replacement in many homes for the positively injurious secular papers of the day. What's more? Although "there will also be many who will refuse to see or hear anything upon the present truth", "God will make many willing to read" (Publishing Ministry p45)

If "God will make many willing to read", then faithfulness demands that this paper must stick to its policy of presenting nothing but the present truth. But present truth always invites objections along these lines: why talk so much about the coming of the Lord? Can we know anything about when it is to occur? Does not the Bible say, "Of that day and hour knoweth no man"? And even if we could know when it was coming, what is the use of saying so much about it? If we are only prepared to die, are we not prepared for the coming of the Lord? Why make division, and stir the people on this point? Would it not be better to unite with others in converting souls to God by preaching Christ and repentance instead of making a separate party by talking about the coming of Christ? All believe that He will come sometime, etc. The "faithful servant" is he giveth "meat in due season" Matthew 24:45. Now what is meat in due season but present truth?

“Our work is to fill every page of printed matter with spiritual food.... This is a time when every sentence written should mean something definite, should be true, sincere. Not a scratch of the pen should be made in order to become popular or to vindicate that which God condemns. (ibid. p223)

The Bible exhorts us to preach and teach, by pen and voice, in such a way as to “both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers” Titus 1:9. This we intend to do: to present the present truth in such a way that even the most ardent gainsayer – that is, opposer – will be convinced as to what is truth, and in so pleasing and humble a manner that all may be drawn to it. The editors will study every word penned down to see that it is written in meekness so that no charge of pride, disrespect to the powers that be, etc, may rightfully be brought against us, and thus the cause of truth be ridiculed and the word of God blasphemed. For it is “with meekness and fear” that we are to “give an answer to every man that asketh us a reason of the hope that is in us.” 1 Peter 3:15. “Wycliffe began to write and publish tracts against the friars, not, however, seeking so much to enter into dispute with them as to call the minds of the people to the teachings of the Bible and its Author.” (Great Controversy p84.2) “It was the influence of such teachers that led the Jewish nation to reject their Redeemer.” (ibid. p595.3) When we shall call the minds of the people away from such teachers to the only “name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” it will be with the same spirit that actuated

Table of Contents

<u>Consider Christ</u> – Ellet J. Waggoner	4
Lessons on Righteousness by Faith, which is the third angel’s message in verity.	
<u>The Great Disappointment</u> – Brian Onang’o	7
How a departure from the Great Protestant Principle led to the greatest disappointment in Christian History.	
<u>Order of Final Events</u> – Sammy Wilberforce	11
Lessons to the final generation from the attitude of the Jews at Christ’s first advent	
<u>Interview with Ellen White</u>	12
Spirit of Prophecy answers to questions on the Laodicean Message	
<u>Health Principles</u> – Zaddoch Ponde	16
Health principles and the Eight Laws of Health	
<u>The Holy Scriptures</u> – Ellen White	21
Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers Chapter 6, reprint concerning how to study the Bible.	
<u>Garden Missionary</u> – Wycliffe Ndere	26
God’s plan for the jobless graduate and indeed for all victims of false education.	
<u>What is Education</u> – Sammy Buruchara	27
Identifying the purpose of true education to be able to distinguish and avoid the false.	
<u>When is the Sabbath Day</u> – Brian Onang’o	29
Keeping the Whole of the right day, from sunset to sunset.	
<u>Important Lessons on Prophecy</u>	30
A study guide to the prophecies in Daniel.	
<u>Dispensing with Drums</u>	32
Dispensing with drums is not enough: identifying the right words to sing.	

Wycliffe: not so much to enter into dispute with them as to call the minds of the people to the teachings of the Bible.

In preparing this paper, the shortness of time poses to us yet another challenge. “Deep, studied articles, which require considerable time for preparation, will be too late for the present need.” (Publishing Ministry p45) What solution have we to this problem? “The standard-bearers who have fallen in death, are to speak through the reprinting of their writings. I am instructed that thus their voices are to be heard. They are to bear their testimony as to what constitutes the truth for this time.” (Counsels to Writers and Editors p32.1) “Let the aged men who were pioneers in our work speak plainly, and let those who are dead speak also by the reprinting of their articles in our periodicals. Gather up the rays of divine light that God has given as He has led His people on step by step in the way of truth. This truth will stand the test of time and trial. (Manuscript Releases 760 p10.5)

Finally, “Satan is busy in this department of his work, scattering literature which is debasing the morals and poisoning the minds of the young. Infidel publications are scattered broadcast throughout the land. Why should not every member of the church be as deeply interested in sending forth publications that will elevate the minds of the people, and bring the truth directly before them? These papers and tracts are for the light of the world, and have often been instrumental in converting souls.” (Publishing Ministry p349.2) That this first paper may be to you, dear reader, a savour of life unto life is the prayer of the editors of The Bible Instructor and the members of Gospel Sounders.

Brian Onang’o, Chief Editor

CONSIDER CHRIST

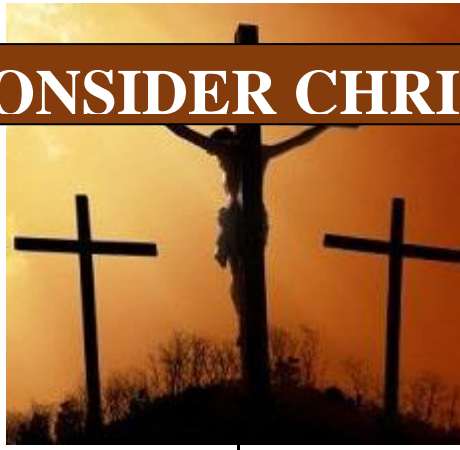
Ellet J. Waggoner

In the first verse of the third chapter of Hebrews we have an exhortation which comprehends all the injunctions given to the Christian. It is this: "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus." To do this as the Bible enjoins, to consider Christ continually and intelligently, just as He is, will transform one into a perfect Christian, for "by beholding we become changed."

Ministers of the gospel have an inspired warrant for keeping the theme, Christ, continually before the people and directing the attention of the people to Him alone. Paul said to the Corinthians, "I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" 1 Cor. 2:2, and there is no reason to suppose that his preaching to the Corinthians was different in any respect from his preaching elsewhere. Indeed, he tells us that when God revealed His Son in him, it was that he might preach Him among the heathen (Gal. 1:15, 16), and his joy was that to him grace had been given to "preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." Eph. 3:8.

But the fact that the apostles made Christ the burden of all their preaching is not our sole warrant for magnifying Him. His name is the "only name under heaven given among men whereby we can be saved." Acts 4:12. Christ Himself declared that no man can come unto the Father but by Him. John 14:6. To Nicodemus He said, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:14, 15. This "lifting up" of Jesus, while it has primary reference to His crucifixion, embraces more than the mere historical fact; it means that Christ must be "lifted up" by all who believe in Him, as the crucified Redeemer, whose grace and glory are sufficient to supply the world's greatest need; it means that He should be "lifted up" in all His exceeding loveliness and power as "God with us," that His Divine attractiveness may thus draw all unto Him. See John 12:32.

The exhortation to consider Jesus and also the reason therefore, are given in Heb. 12:1-3: "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run



with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him

that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." It is only by constantly and prayerfully considering Jesus as He is revealed in the Bible that we can keep from becoming weary in well-doing and from fainting by the way.

Again, we should consider Jesus because in Him "are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Col. 2:3. Whoever lacks wisdom is directed to ask of God, who gives to all men liberally and upbraids not, and the promise is that it shall be given him, but the desired wisdom can be obtained only in Christ. The wisdom which does not proceed from Christ and which does not as a consequence lead to Him is only foolishness, for God, as the Source of all things, is the Author of wisdom; ignorance of God is the worst sort of foolishness (see Rom. 1:21, 22) and all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hid in Christ, so that he who has only the wisdom of this world knows, in reality, nothing. And since all power in heaven and in earth is given to Christ, the apostle Paul declares Christ to be "the power of God and the wisdom of God." 1 Cor. 1:24.

There is one text, however, which briefly sums up all that Christ is to man and gives the most comprehensive reason for considering Him. It is this: "But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." 1 Cor. 1:30. We are ignorant, wicked, lost. Christ is to us wisdom, righteousness, redemption. What a range! From ignorance and sin to righteousness and redemption. Man's highest aspiration or need cannot reach outside the bounds of what Christ is to us and what He alone is to us. Sufficient reason this why the eyes of all should be fixed upon Him.

How Shall We Consider Christ?

But how should we consider Christ? Just as He has revealed Himself to the world, according to the witness which He bore concerning Himself. In that marvelous discourse recorded in the fifth chapter of John, Jesus said, "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom He will. For the Father judgeth no

man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son; that all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent Him." Verses 21-23.

To Christ is committed the highest prerogative, that of judging. He must receive the same honor that is due to God and for the reason that He is God. The beloved disciple bears this witness, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1. That this Divine Word is none other than Jesus Christ is shown by verse 14: "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth."

The Word was "in the beginning." The mind of man cannot grasp the ages that are spanned in this phrase. It is not given to men to know when or how the Son was begotten; but we know that he was the Divine Word, not simply before He came to this earth to die, but even before the world was created. Just before His crucifixion He prayed, "And now, O Father, glorify thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was." John 17:5. And more than seven hundred years before His first advent, His coming was thus foretold by the word of inspiration: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from the days of eternity." Micah 5:2, margin. We know that Christ "proceeded forth and came from God" John 8:42, but it was so far back in the ages of eternity as to be far beyond the grasp of the mind of man.

Is Christ God?

In many places in the Bible Christ is called God. The Psalmist says, "The mighty God, even the Lord [Jehovah], hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence; a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people. Gather My saints together unto Me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. And the heavens shall declare His righteousness; for God is judge Himself." Ps. 50:1-6. That this passage has reference to Christ may be known [1] by the fact already learned, that all judgment is committed to the Son, and [2] by the fact that it is at the second coming of Christ that He sends His angels to gather together His elect from the four winds. Matt. 24:31. "Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence." No. For when the Lord Himself

descends from heaven, it will be "with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God." 1 Thess. 4:16. This shout will be the voice of the Son of God, which will be heard by all that are in their graves and which will cause them to come forth. John 5:28, 29. With the living righteous they will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, ever more to be with Him, and this will constitute "our gathering together unto Him." 2 Thess. 2:1. Compare Ps. 50:5; Matt. 24:31, and 1 Thess. 4:16.

"A fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him" for when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, it will be "in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Thess. 1:8. So we know that Ps. 50:1-6 is a vivid description of the second coming of Christ for the salvation of His people. When He comes it will be as "the mighty God." Compare Habakkuk 3.

This is one of His rightful titles. Long before Christ's first advent, the prophet Isaiah spoke these words of comfort to Israel, "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." Isa. 9:6.

These are not simply the words of Isaiah; they are the words of the Spirit of God. God has, in direct address to the Son, called Him by the same title. In Ps. 45:6 we read these words, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; the scepter of Thy kingdom is a right scepter." The casual reader might take this to be simply the Psalmist's ascription of praise to God, but when we turn to the New Testament, we find that it is much more. We find that God the Father is the speaker and that He is addressing the Son, calling Him God. See Heb. 1:1-8.

This name was not given to Christ in consequence of some great achievement, but it is His by right of inheritance. Speaking of the power and greatness of Christ, the writer to the Hebrews says that He is made so much better than the angels, because "He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they." Heb. 1:4. A son always rightfully takes the name of the father; and Christ, as "the only begotten Son of God," has rightfully the same name. A son, also, is, to a greater or less degree, a reproduction of the father; he has to some extent the features and personal characteristics of his father; not perfectly, because there is no perfect reproduction among mankind. But there is no imperfection in God, or in any of His works, and so Christ is the "express image" of the Father's person. Heb. 1:3. As the Son of the self-existent God, He has by nature all the attributes of Deity.

It is true that there are many sons of God, but Christ is the "only begotten Son of God," and therefore the Son of God in a sense in which no other being ever was or ever can be. The angels are sons of God, as was Adam (Job 38:7; Luke 3:38), by creation; Christians are the sons of God by adoption (Rom. 8:14, 15), but Christ is the Son of God by birth. The writer to the Hebrews further shows that the position of the Son of God is not one to which Christ has been elevated but that it is one which He has by right. He says that Moses was faithful in all the house of God, as a servant, "but Christ as a Son over His own house." Heb. 3:6.

And he also states that Christ is the Builder of the house. Verse 3. It is He that builds the temple of the Lord and bears the glory. Zech. 6:12, 13.

Christ Himself taught in the most emphatic manner that He is God. When the young man came and asked, "Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" Jesus, before replying to the direct question, said, "Why callest thou Me good? There is none good but One, that is, God." Mark 10:17, 18. What did Jesus mean by these words? Did He mean to disclaim the epithet as applied to Himself? Did He mean to intimate that He was not absolutely good? Was it a modest depreciation of Himself? By no means, for Christ was absolutely good. To the Jews, who were continually watching to detect in Him some failing of which they might accuse Him, He boldly said, "Which of you convinceth me of sin?" John 8:46. In the whole Jewish nation not a man could be found who had ever seen Him do a thing or heard Him utter a word that had even the semblance of evil, and those who were determined to condemn Him could do it only by hiring false witnesses against Him. Peter says that He "did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth." 1 Peter 2:22. Paul says that He "knew no sin." 2 Cor. 5:21. The Psalmist says, "He is my Rock and there is no unrighteousness in Him." Ps. 92:15. And John says, "Ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins, and in him is no sin." 1 John 3:5.

Christ cannot deny Himself, therefore He could not say that He was not good. He is and was absolutely good, the perfection of goodness. And since there is none good but God, and Christ is good, it follows that Christ is God and that this is what He meant to teach the young man.

It was this that He taught the disciples. When Philip said to Jesus, "Show us the Father, and it sufficeth us," Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?" John 14:8, 9. This is as emphatic as when He said, "I and my Father are one." John 10:30. So truly was Christ God, even when here among men, that when asked to

exhibit the Father He could say, Behold Me. And this brings to mind the statement that when the Father brought the First-begotten into the world, He said, "And let all the angels of God worship Him." Heb. 1:6. It was not simply when Christ was sharing the glory of the Father before the world was that He was entitled to homage, but when He came a Babe in Bethlehem, even then all the angels of God were commanded to adore Him.

The Jews did not misunderstand Christ's teaching concerning Himself. When He declared that He was one with the Father, the Jews took up stones to stone Him, and when He asked them for which of His good works they sought to stone Him, they replied, "For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God." John 10:33. If He had been what they regarded Him, a mere man, His words would indeed have been blasphemy, but He was God.

The object of Christ in coming to earth was to reveal God to men so that they might come to Him. Thus the apostle Paul says that "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself" 2 Cor. 5:19, and in John we read that the Word, which was God, was "made flesh." John 1:1,14. In the same connection it is stated, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only-begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" (or made Him known). John 1:18.

Note the expression, "the only-begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father." He has His abode there, and He is there as a part of the Godhead, as surely when on earth as when in heaven. The use of the present tense implies continued existence. It presents the same idea that is contained in the statement of Jesus to the Jews (John 8:58), "Before Abraham was, I Am." And this again shows His identity with the One who appeared to Moses in the burning bush, who declared His name to be "I AM THAT I AM."

And, finally, we have the inspired words of the apostle Paul concerning Jesus Christ, that "it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell." Col. 1:19. What this fullness is which dwells in Christ, we learn from the next chapter, where we are told that "in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." Col. 2:9. This is most absolute and unequivocal testimony to the fact that Christ possesses by nature all the attributes of Divinity. The fact of the Divinity of Christ will also appear very distinctly as we proceed to consider: Christ As Creator.

(To be continued in June)

THE CAUSE OF THE GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT

Brian Onang'o

What was the common cause of the greatest disappointments in Christian history? Without a doubt, it was a departure from the Great Protestant Principle - that the Bible and the Bible alone is the rule of faith, and not of faith only, but of all practice also. However "greatly beloved" were the leading men in any reform movements, when they departed, in however small a way, from the Word of God, and put the traditions of men in the place of the Word of God, even if it were but in a single Word, a great disappointment followed. For "God is no respecter of persons" Acts 10:34. The Bible speaks in a certain place that "many shall awake... some to shame and everlasting contempt" Daniel 12:2 and also that "there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" Luke 13:28 when some shall appear at the judgment bar thinking that they have also a right into the kingdom of God. But oh the great disappointment that awaits these, to whom the LORD will say "depart from me ye workers of iniquity" Matthew 7:23. "Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning" and "for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" Romans 15:4, 1 Corinthians 10:11. God did not respect the disciples of His Son Jesus Christ when they misapplied the prophecies to give to Christ a work different from that for which He came down here, nor did He respect Father Miller when he misapplied the prophecies to assign a wrong event to the "cleansing of the Sanctuary". Both of these errors received a just recompense of reward: great disappointments - the two greatest disappointments in Christian history. The third great disappointment awaits every Christian who shall misapply a single word of Scripture giving to it the "generally received view" as opposed to comparing scripture with scripture and letting the Bible be its own interpreter.

The Great Protestant Principle

We have with us today a beautiful phrase which should be on the lips of every Christian, faithful Catholics and faithful protestants alike: the Great Protestant Principle. And this is that "the Bible and the Bible alone is the rule of faith and practice". Many churches may accept the Bible as a sufficient rule of faith, but is there any left that accepts it also as a sufficient rule of practice? Have they not all formulated rules, enjoining what the Bible has forbidden and forbidding what the Bible has enjoined, to which all members are expected to implicitly bow? We thank God for the great protestant principle that sets, nay, makes us free from all such forms of slavery. For "you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" - "free indeed" John 8:32, 36. How scriptural is this principle and who is its originator? In Deuteronomy we find these words: "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." Deuteronomy 4:2. And in Revelation also: "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." Revelation 22:18-19. That should suffice to show that the words of the Bible are sufficient as a rule of both faith and practice.

May 2018

And it was held so by all the reformers, beginning with John "Wycliffe" who "accepted the Holy Scriptures with implicit faith as the inspired revelation of God's will, a sufficient rule of faith and practice." (Great Controversy p38)

But the Great Protestant Principle must go further back past the reformers to Christ. For "*Christ was a protestant.*" What did He protest about? - "Christ was a protestant. He protested against the formal worship of the Jewish nation, who rejected the counsel of God against themselves. He told them that they taught for doctrines the commandments of men, and that they were pretenders and hypocrites. Like whited sepulchres they were beautiful without, but within full of impurity and corruption. The Reformers date back to Christ and the apostles. They came out and separated themselves from a religion of forms and ceremonies. Luther and his followers did not invent the reformed religion. They simply accepted it as presented by Christ and the apostles. The Bible is presented to us as a sufficient guide; but the pope and his workers remove it from the people as if it were a curse, because it exposes their pretensions and rebukes their idolatry. (Review and Herald, June 1, 1886 par. 14)

We know that there will be no lairs in heaven. "For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie." "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" Revelation 22:15, 21:27. Here is the prediction of

the great disappointment that awaits anyone today, or anywhere in history, who ever taught for doctrine the commandments of men, even if it were – as we shall see- just at a single word. For “*every word of God is pure*”. Proverbs 30:5. And the admonition to all is “add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar”. Proverbs 30:6. And thou be found a liar and thou in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven.

The Great Disappointments

While the term “the Great Disappointment” is rightly applied almost exclusively to the experience brought to view in the book of Revelation 10:9-10, we shall here also use it to refer to the experience of the disciples of Christ given in Luke 24 and summarized in verse 21. We need not go forward to the end of time to describe the experience of professed Christians in Matthew 7:21-23 as that time is yet to come. These three experiences together will form a perfect trio of the greatest disappointments in Christian history. We will now go on to show how the first two disappointments were caused by applying to the words of the Bible words of men and thus giving to them meanings constructed in the imaginations of the unsatisfied hearts of men.

On the Road to Emmaus

The account is given in the twenty-fourth of Luke of the Sunday when Christ arose a victor from the grave having the “keys of death and of hell”, never more to die again. On that morning, He appeared to some disciples on the way to Emmaus. His testifies of them, that they were “sad”. Verse 17. The reason for this sadness, they said, is that, “we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel” verse 21. Then Christ reproved them, “O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?” verse 25-26. We find here a word, just a single word, that caused them the difficulty they had. And that is “redeemed”. It was by misunderstanding this single word that they did not believe all that the prophets had said. “We trusted”, they said, “that it was He that which should have redeemed Israel”. How did they err?

“Before His crucifixion the Saviour explained to His disciples that He was to be put to death and to rise again from the tomb, and angels were present to impress His words on minds and hearts. But the disciples were looking for temporal deliverance from the Roman yoke, and they could not tolerate the thought that He in whom all their hopes centered should suffer an ignominious death. The words which they needed to remember were banished from their minds; and when the time of trial came, it found them unprepared. The death of Jesus as fully destroyed their hopes as if He had not forewarned them.” (Great Controversy p594) It had been written that “he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.” Psalm 130:8. Thus He was to “redeem us unto God out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation” Revelation 5:9. And to the disciples it was written “unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.” Acts 3:26. The meaning of the single word posing a difficulty was then not “redemption from the temporal yoke of the romans”, but “reception from iniquity”. And since “without shedding of blood is no remission” Hebrews 9:22, it “it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” Hebrew 2:10. This was the clear testimony of the scriptures: that Christ ought to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory.

What was the error of the Jewish nation? While Christ walked among them, He had taught them the great protestant principle: “*how readest thou?*”, “*it is written*”. But they applied to the prophecies concerning Christ, not the interpretations of scripture, but the popular view of their day. “We trusted that it was He that should have redeemed Israel”. “To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth.” John 18:37. That was His ministry and not what the Jewish nation expected. The Jewish nation, as we have seen, misapplied a single word of scripture – redeem- and thus misunderstood the ministry of Christ. And then was fulfilled what is written in scripture “add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar”. For in their interpretation they were found liars.

“The Jews misinterpreted and misapplied the word of God, and they knew not the time of their visitation. The years of the ministry of Christ and His apostles,--the precious last years of grace to the chosen people,--they spent in plotting the destruction of the Lord's messengers. Earthly ambitions absorbed them, and the offer of the spiritual kingdom came to them in vain. So today the kingdom of this world absorbs men's thoughts, and they take no note of the rapidly fulfilling prophecies and the tokens of the swift-coming kingdom of God.” (Desire of Ages p235.2)

The 2300 Days

A similar mistake to that of the Jews would be committed by faithful followers of Christ about 2000 years later. “The scripture which above all others had been both the foundation and the central pillar of the advent faith was the declaration:

"Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Daniel 8:14." (Great Controversy p409.1) That verse which was the foundation of their faith also proved to be their stumbling block, becoming to many of them in the testing time a savour of death unto death.

For the sake of our readers who may not be familiar with the experience of the great disappointment of 1844, either because they have not been taught by their sleeping ministers or because they have not yet been placed in a position where they could learn, we will briefly give an explanation of this experience here.

"A Great religious awakening under the proclamation of Christ's soon coming is foretold in the prophecy of the first angel's message of Revelation 14. An angel is seen flying "in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." "With a loud voice" he proclaims the message: "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Verses 6, 7.

"The fact that an angel is said to be the herald of this warning is significant. By the purity, the glory, and the power of the heavenly messenger, divine wisdom has been pleased to represent the exalted character of the work to be accomplished by the message and the power and glory that were to attend it. And the angel's flight "in the midst of heaven," the "loud voice" with which the warning is uttered, and its promulgation to all "that dwell on the earth,"--"to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,"--give evidence of the rapidity and world-wide extent of the movement.

"The message itself sheds light as to the time when this movement is to take place. It is declared to be a part of the "everlasting gospel;" and it announces the opening of the judgment. The message of salvation has been preached in all ages; but this message is a part of the gospel which could be proclaimed only in the last days, for only then would it be true that the hour of judgment had come. The prophecies present a succession of events leading down to the opening of the judgment. This is especially true of the book of Daniel. But that part of his prophecy which related to the last days, Daniel was bidden to close up and seal "to the time of the end." Not till we reach this time could a message concerning the judgment be proclaimed, based on the fulfillment of these prophecies. But at the time of the end, says the prophet, "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel 12:4. (Great Controversy p355) From 1798, the book of Daniel was opened and in different lands the study of these prophecies concerning the judgment that had come led to a great religious awakening.

William Miller

The Christians that accepted the doctrine of the LORD's soon return formed the advent movement and while these appeared independently in different lands, William Miller was the leader of this movement. "Angels of heaven were guiding his mind and opening the Scriptures to his understanding." (ibid. p320.2)

To William Miller was revealed the great protestant principle. And this he applied in his study of the scriptures.

"Endeavoring to lay aside all preconceived opinions, and dispensing with commentaries, he compared scripture with scripture by the aid of the marginal references and the concordance. He pursued his study in a regular and methodical manner; beginning with Genesis, and reading verse by verse, he proceeded no faster than the meaning of the several passages so unfolded as to leave him free from all embarrassment. When he found anything obscure, it was his custom to compare it with every other text which seemed to have any reference to the matter under consideration. *Every word* was permitted to have its proper bearing upon the subject of the text, and if his view of it harmonized with every collateral passage, it ceased to be a difficulty. Thus whenever he met with a passage hard to be understood he found an explanation in some other portion of the Scriptures. As he studied with earnest prayer for divine enlightenment, that which had before appeared dark to his understanding was made clear. He experienced the truth of the psalmist's words: "The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Psalm 119:130. (ibid. p320.1).

From the paragraph quoted, we can derive the following rules that William Miller used in the study of the scriptures. [1] Laying aside all preconceived opinions. [2] Dispensing with generally accepted views of scripture and making the scripture its own interpreter [3] Checking every single word not understood.

These same rules he applied in the study of the prophecies. "With intense interest he studied the books of Daniel and

the Revelation, employing the same principles of interpretation as in the other scriptures" (ibid. p320.2). The 2300 years of Daniel 8:14 he saw that they began in 457 BC. For this period would begin "from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem" Daniel 9:25. "In the seventh chapter of Ezra the decree is found. Verses 12-26. In its completest form it was issued by Artaxerxes, king of Persia, 457 B.C. But in Ezra 6:14 the house of the Lord at Jerusalem is said to have been built "according to the commandment ["decree," margin] of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia." These three kings, in originating, reaffirming, and completing the decree, brought it to the perfection required by the prophecy to mark the beginning of the 2300 years. Taking 457 BC, the time when the decree was completed, as the date of the commandment, every specification of the prophecy concerning the seventy weeks was seen to have been fulfilled. (ibid. 326.3) " The whole page which has been given to the explanation of this experience of 1844 should suffice. We direct the readers who would like to understand the prophecies more clearly to the section dedicated to explaining the prophecies on page 30 of this paper.

The 2300 years of Daniel 8:14, beginning in 457 BC would end in 1844 as they had calculated. But while they got the date right, they got the event all wrong. What caused this error? Again, it was the misinterpretation of a single word "sanctuary". Laying aside the great protestant principle and his rules of studying the Bible, "Miller accepted the generally received view that in the Christian age the earth is the sanctuary, and he therefore understood that the cleansing of the sanctuary foretold in Daniel 8:14 represented the purification of the earth by fire at the second coming of Christ." (ibid. p324.3). They therefore expected Christ to come on October 22, 1844. For there was a prophetic event to happen right at that time. But they got the wrong event, and how great their disappointment. "Like the first disciples, William Miller and his associates did not, themselves, fully comprehend the import of the message which they bore. Errors that had been long established in the church prevented them from arriving at a correct interpretation of an important point in the prophecy. Therefore, though they proclaimed the message which God had committed to them to be given to the world, yet through a misapprehension of its meaning they suffered disappointment." (ibid. p351.2)

"Miller, as has been stated, adopted the generally received view that the earth is the sanctuary, and he believed that the cleansing of the sanctuary represented the purification of the earth by fire at the coming of the Lord. When, therefore, he found that the close of the 2300 days was definitely foretold, he concluded that this revealed the time of the second advent. His error resulted from accepting the popular view as to what constitutes the sanctuary... Those who proclaimed this warning gave the right message at the right time. But as the early disciples declared, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand", based on the prophecy of Daniel 9, while they failed to perceive that the death of the Messiah was foretold in the same scripture, so Miller and his associates preached the message based on Daniel 8:14 and Revelation 14:7, and failed to see that there were still other messages brought to view in Revelation 14, which were also to be given before the advent of the Lord. As the disciples were mistaken in regard to the kingdom to be set up at the end of the seventy weeks, so Adventists were mistaken in regard to the event to take place at the expiration of the 2300 days. In both cases there was an acceptance of, or rather an adherence to, popular errors that blinded

the mind to the truth. Both classes fulfilled the will of God in delivering the message which He desired to be given, and both, through their own misapprehension of their message, suffered disappointment." (ibid. p352.3)

The Last Days

Both the disappointment of the disciples and that of the advent believers could not have been had they understood the messages they bore from the scripture. And as we have seen they both erred on a single word- redeemed and sanctuary respectively- applying to these meanings from the popular errors of their day rather than comparing scripture with scripture. Is it not true that even in our day there are popular errors which are applied to scripture? What is said about the Sabbath, the State of the dead, the time of the end, the begotten Son of God, etc? Will not just another single word again lead those who allow the popular errors of the day to misunderstand it to a great disappointment? We have two experiences to learn from.

The people of God are directed to the Scriptures as their safeguard against the influence of false teachers and the delusive power of spirits of darkness... None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict. (ibid. p593). Our prayer for all who take this paper is that the Bible and the Bible alone may be to them the sufficient rule of faith and practice.



THE ORDER OF FINAL EVENTS

AND THE CLOSE OF PROBATION

Sammy Wilberforce

The order of final events and the close of probation have been of much interest to believers waiting for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is with gladness we submit this short article giving brief details of the events. As Seventh Day Adventists, we have been privileged as the ancient Israel to know the great wonders of God through the sanctuary. In the first advent of Christ and His second advent are many parallels: "The trials of the children of Israel, and their attitude just before the first coming of Christ, illustrate the position of the people of God in their experience before the second coming of Christ." (Healthful Living p280.1)

If then we can understand the manner, position, condition and attitude of the Jewish nation just prior to the first coming then we can definitely know how it shall be during the second coming.

"The parable of the vineyard applies not alone to the Jewish nation. It has a lesson for us. The church in this generation has been endowed by God with great privileges and blessings, and He expects corresponding returns" (Christ's Object Lessons p296.2).

Prior to the first coming of Christ the Jewish people had been waiting for Him eagerly, but it is a great wonder that the Bible has this to record: "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not." John 1:10, 11

How could Christ come to them who were His own but they could not recognize, but rejected Him? This is a matter that should engross every believers mind because we are told in that typology, that the same shall happen. The parable of the vineyard illustrates this so well. What really happened? I will tell you the truth that many know but don't embrace. The Jews took the Bible and came up with a Talmud, translated it to Mishna then Gemara and finally Oral Law. By the time Christ came, they were not reading the Bible but the Oral Law, which was the words of Rabbis, the doctrines of men. That's why they couldn't remember the prophecies of the Messiah and even when the Messiah came, they clashed with Him on how He kept the Sabbath. The same mistake is being repeated. Many have translated the Bible into a manuals, then handbooks, then lessons. By the time of the second coming of Christ, they won't be believing in the Bible but words of men. Their end will be like that of the Jewish nation. Their condition during Christ's first coming is thus summed up is this announcement:

"... as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son? And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country. And he said,

Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country. But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian. And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. But he passing through the midst of them went his way" Luke 4:16-30

This was the condition of the church that was waiting for Christ. They had been robbed of spiritual sight by the words of men. They could accept that the lowly Jesus was their Messiah. They expected a Messiah who could give them earthly glory and annihilate their enemies. Is this not the same condition today. This is the counsel to us: "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. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:18-20

(To be continued in June)

AN INTERVIEW WITH ELLEN WHITE



Ellen White is one of the foremost authorities on the subject of Laodicea. Her many books and articles spanning nearly seven decades have touched on this subject from a variety of angles. It was a subject of much concern to her soul as we see in the following interview.

Q: We have the theme of the great protestant principle for the Bible Instructor this month – that the Bible and the Bible alone is the rule of faith and practice. What would you say is the most important theme revealed in the scripture?

A: One of the most solemn and yet most glorious truths revealed in the Bible is that of Christ's second coming to complete the great work of redemption. To God's pilgrim people, so long left to sojourn in "the region and shadow of death," a precious, joy-inspiring hope is given in the promise of His appearing, who is "the resurrection and the life," to "bring home again His banished." The doctrine of the second advent is the very keynote of the Sacred Scriptures. (Great Controversy p299)

Q: For how long have the faithful waited for the Messiah?

A: From the day when the first pair turned their sorrowing steps from Eden, the children of faith have waited the coming of the Promised One to break the destroyer's power and bring them again to the lost Paradise. Holy men of old looked forward to the advent of the Messiah in glory, as the consummation of their hope. Enoch, only the seventh in descent from them that dwelt in Eden, he who for three centuries on earth walked with his God, was permitted to behold from afar the coming of the Deliverer. "Behold," he declared, "the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all." Jude 14, 15. The patriarch Job in the night of his affliction exclaimed with unshaken trust: "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: ... in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another." Job 19:25-27. (ibid. p299)

Q: You have mentioned Job and Enoch who lived during the times of the Old Testament. What about the New Testament Christians, did they also look forward to the coming of the Messiah? For example, Paul, what did he say that could show us that even he, although expecting the man of sin to be first revealed expected Christ in his day?

A: 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 4:16-17

Q: I see. He said he would be alive at the coming of Christ. But this is about 2000 years later and about 50 generations have passed since then and Christ is yet to come. I'd like you to explain this delay. But before that, should we also in this generation expect him in our day?

A: Get ready! get ready! get ready! for the fierce anger of the Lord is soon to come. His wrath is to be poured out, unmixed with mercy, and ye are not ready. Rend the heart, and not the garment. A great work must be done for the remnant. Many of them are dwelling upon little trials. (Early Writings p119)

Q: Does that mean that we have a preparation to do?

A: Get ready, get ready, get ready. Ye must have a greater preparation than ye now have, for the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate and to destroy the sinners thereof out of it. Sacrifice all to God. Lay all upon His altar—self, property, and all, a living sacrifice. It will take all to enter glory. Lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where no thief can approach or rust corrupt. Ye must be partakers of Christ's sufferings here if ye would be partakers with Him of His glory hereafter." (ibid p66.2)

Q: What will happen to us if we neglect the preparation?

A: A storm is coming relentless in its fury. Are we prepared to meet it? (8 Testimonies p315) Transgression has almost reached its limit. Confusion fills the world, and a great terror is soon to come upon human beings. The end is very near. We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an

overwhelming surprise. (8 Testimonies p28.1)

Q: You say the end is very near. Are you in a position to explain why it has not yet come? Is there anything God is still waiting for to bring the world to its end?

A: Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own. It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, (2 Peter 3:12, margin). Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain. (Christ's Object Lessons p69)

Q: Christ is waiting for His character to be manifested in the church, you say. Does this mean that the church is not worth its salt today as the light of the word and the salt of the earth? What is the condition of the church?

A: 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 "eye-salve," He will spew them out of His mouth. (Early Writings p107.2)

Q: You have mentioned many things: Laodicean condition, gold tried in the fire, white raiment and eye-salve. Could you explain what is meant by these?

A: The message to the Laodicean church is applicable to our condition. How plainly is pictured the position of those who think they have all the truth, who take pride in their knowledge of the Word of God, while its sanctifying power has not been felt in their lives. The fervor of the love of God is wanting in their hearts, but it is this very fervor of love that makes God's people the light of the world. (Faith and Works 82.2).

Q: To whom is the message of the Laodiceans sent?

A: The message to the church of the Laodiceans is a startling denunciation, and is applicable to the people of God at the present time. "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write: These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."

The Lord here shows us that the message to be borne to His people by ministers whom He has called to warn the people is not a peace-and-safety message. It is not merely theoretical, but practical in every particular. The people of God are represented in the message to the Laodiceans as in a position of carnal security. They are at ease, believing themselves to be in an exalted condition of spiritual attainments. "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and

poor, and blind, and naked." (3 Testimonies 252)

Q: How did this condition come about?

A: What greater deception can come upon human minds than a confidence that they are right when they are all wrong! The message of the True Witness finds the people of God in a sad deception, yet honest in that deception. They know not that their condition is deplorable in the sight of God. While those addressed are flattering themselves that they are in an exalted spiritual condition, the message of the True Witness breaks their security by the startling denunciation of their true condition of spiritual blindness, poverty, and wretchedness. The testimony, so cutting and severe, cannot be a mistake, for it is the True Witness who speaks, and His testimony must be correct.

It is difficult for those who feel secure in their attainments, and who believe themselves to be rich in spiritual knowledge, to receive the message which declares that they are deceived and in need of every spiritual grace. The unsanctified heart is "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." I was shown that many are flattering themselves that they are good Christians, who have not a ray of light from Jesus. They have not a living experience for themselves in the divine life. They need a deep and thorough work of self-abasement before God before they will feel their true need of earnest, persevering effort to secure the precious graces of the Spirit. (ibid. p252-253)

Q: How can we overcome this condition?

A: God leads His people on step by step. The Christian life is a constant battle and a march. There is no rest from the warfare. It is by constant,

unceasing effort that we maintain the victory over the temptations of Satan. As a people we are triumphing in the clearness and strength of the truth. We are fully sustained in our positions by an overwhelming amount of plain Scriptural testimony. But we are very much wanting in Bible humility, patience, faith, love, self-denial, watchfulness, and the spirit of sacrifice. (ibid. p253)

Q: Why have we failed?

A: We need to cultivate Bible holiness. Sin prevails among the people of God. The plain message of rebuke to the Laodiceans is not received. Many cling to their doubts and their darling sins while they are in so great a deception as to talk and feel that they are in need of nothing. They think the testimony of the Spirit of God in reproof is uncalled for or that it does not mean them. Such are in the greatest need of the grace of God and spiritual discernment that they may discover their deficiency in spiritual knowledge. They lack almost every qualification necessary to perfect Christian character. They have not a practical knowledge of Bible truth, which leads to lowness of life and a conformity of their will to the will of Christ. They are not living in obedience to all God's requirements. (ibid. p253)

What greater deception can come upon human minds than a confidence that they are right when they are all wrong!

Q: Don't our beliefs at least help in themselves at least partially help to eliminate the condition of Laodicea?

A: It is not enough to merely profess to believe the truth. All the soldiers of the cross of Christ virtually obligate themselves to enter the crusade against the adversary of souls, to condemn wrong and sustain righteousness. But the message of the True Witness reveals the fact that a terrible deception is upon our people, which makes it necessary to come to them with warnings, to break their spiritual slumber, and arouse them to decided action. . (ibid. p254)

Q: There you have talked about the great protestant principle. That we have to believe, and practice, what is in the Bible. A mere profession is not enough. You've also said that a terrible deception is upon our people. Do we expect more deceptions to come in?

A: The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.

Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict. To every soul will come the searching test: Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. Are our feet planted on the rock of God's immutable word? Are we prepared to stand firm in defense of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus? (Great Controversy p593)

Q: You have mentioned that the deception carry with it the requirement of obedience to men rather than God. Other than the enforcement of the Sunday Laws, what more are we to look out for?

A: The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were

this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure. (1 Selected Messages p204)

Q: You said that the counterfeit will so resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. From your previous statement I understand that one of these counterfeits would be a new organization which would be subtly formed. And by its books of a new order, its papish gospel order, disregard for the Sabbath and great work in the cities we shall know when it has been formed. What are we to do with it when it is formed?

A: The Lord has declared that the history of the past shall be rehearsed as we enter upon the closing work. Every truth that He has given for these last days is to be proclaimed to the world.

Every pillar that He has established is to be strengthened. We cannot now step off the foundation that God has established. We cannot now enter into any new organization; for this would mean apostasy from the truth. (2 Selected Messages p390)

Q: The subject of the counterfeit new organization so resembling the true is an interesting one. But I fear we can speak but little about it today. You have said the leaders of this new organization would go into the cities and do a great work. Is this not a good thing? Why shouldn't we join it?

A: It was by the display of supernatural power, in making the serpent his medium, that Satan caused the fall of Adam and Eve in Eden. Before the close of time he will work still greater wonders. So far as his power extends, he will perform actual miracles. Says the Scripture: "He ... deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do," not merely those which he pretends to do. Something more than mere impostures is brought to view in this scripture. But there is a limit beyond which Satan cannot go, and here he calls deception to his aid and counterfeits the work which he has not power actually to perform. In the last days he will appear in such a manner as to make men believe him to be Christ come the second time into the world. He will indeed transform himself into an angel of light. But while he will bear the appearance of Christ in every particular, so far as mere appearance goes, it will deceive none but those who, like Pharaoh, are seeking to resist the truth. (2 Selected Messages p698)

Q: So the great work in the cities is just a deception of Satan. And God has in mercy given us the Laodicean message to save us from these deceptions. But how has the message been received?

A: Even this decided message of the True Witness had not accomplished the design of God. The people slumber on in their sins. They continue to declare themselves rich and having need of nothing. Many inquire: Why are all these reproofs given? Why do the Testimonies continually charge us with backsliding and with grievous sins? We love the truth; we are prospering; we are in no need of these testimonies of warning and reproof. But let these murmurers see their hearts and compare their lives with the practical teachings of the Bible, let them humble their souls before God, let the grace of God illuminate the darkness, and the scales will fall from their eyes, and they will realize their true spiritual poverty and wretchedness. They will feel the necessity of buying gold, which is pure faith and love; white raiment, which is a spotless character made pure in the blood of their dear Redeemer; and eyesalve, which is the grace of God and which will give clear discernment of spiritual things and detect sin. These attainments are more precious than the gold of Ophir (3 Testimonies 254).

Q: You have explained what the white raiment, gold and the eyesalve are. But could you explain a little more what this eyesalve is?

A: 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... (5 Testimonies 233). The eyesalve is that wisdom and grace which enables us to discern between the evil and the good, and to detect sin under any guise. (4 Testimonies 88).

Q: How do many people react to the straight testimony?

A: Very many feel impatient and jealous because they are frequently disturbed with warning and reproofs which keep their sins before them. Says the True Witness, "I know thy works." The motives, the purposes, and the unbelief, suspicions, and jealousies may be hid from men, but not from Christ. The word of the Lord spoken through his servants, is received by many with questionings and fears. And many will defer their

obedience to the warnings and reproofs given, waiting till every shadow of uncertainty is removed from their minds. The unbelief that demands perfect knowledge will never yield to the evidence God is pleased to give. God requires of his people faith that rests upon the weight of evidence, not perfect knowledge. The followers of Jesus Christ, those who accept of the light God sends them, must obey the voice of God speaking to them, when there are many other voices crying out against it. It requires discernment to distinguish the voice of God.

Those who will not act when the Lord calls upon them, waiting for more certain evidence, and more favorable opportunities, will walk in darkness, for the light will be withdrawn. The evidence given one day, if rejected, may never be repeated. (Review and Herald, September 16, 1873)

Q: You also mentioned that our condition is Laodicean because we lack a spirit of Sacrifice How is this so?

A: In the first rise of the third angel's message, those who engaged in the work of God had something to venture. They had sacrifices to make. They started this work in poverty, and suffered the greatest deprivations and reproach. They met determined opposition, which drove them to God in their necessity, and kept their faith alive. Our present plan of Systematic Benevolence amply sustains our ministers. And there is no want and no call for the exercise of faith as to a support.

Those who start out now to preach the truth have nothing to venture. They have no risks to run, no especial sacrifices to make. The system of truth is made ready to their hand. Publications are provided for them, vindicating the truths

Some young men start out with no real sense of the exalted character of the work. They have not privations, and hardships, and severe conflicts to meet, which call for the exercise of faith. They do not cultivate practical self-denial, and cherish a spirit of sacrifice. Some are becoming proud and lifted up, and have no real burden of the work upon them.

The True Witness speaks to these ministers, "Be zealous, therefore, and repent." These ministers are some of them so lifted up in pride that they are really a hindrance and a curse to the precious cause of God. They do not exert an influence which is saving upon others. There is need of these men being thoroughly converted to God themselves, and sanctified by the truths they present to others. (ibid.)

Q: How about the ones who are not in the Laodicean condition. How do we know who they are?

A: Those who heed the testimony of warning, and zealously go about the work of separating their sins from them, in order to have the needed graces, will be opening the door of their hearts that the dear Saviour may come in and dwell with them. This class you will ever find in perfect harmony with the testimony of the Spirit of God. (ibid.)

Q: Finally, what would you like to say to each one of us personally?

A: I would present before you the necessity of seeking most earnestly to heed the counsel of the True Witness; for no, "in this thy day" is your opportunity. (Review and Herald, March 11, 1902)

HEALTH PRINCIPLES

AND THE EIGHT LAWS OF HEALTH

Zaddoch Ponde

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" 3 John 2

"... then shall we raise against him seven shepherds and eight principle men." Micah 5:5

"Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in Divine power—these are the true remedies" (Ministry of Healing p127)

The Eight Laws of Health

1. Fresh Air

"And God called the firmament Heaven." Genesis 1:8

The Most essential element to sustain life is oxygen.

- Without food you will die in a few weeks.
- Without water you will die in a few days.
- Without air you will die in a few minutes.
- Blood and cells are dependent upon oxygen.

Fresh air invigorates the vital organs and aids the system in ridding itself of accumulated impurities. Fresh air also brings life to the skin and has a decided influence on the mind. Fresh air contains negative ions which help the immune system to fight disease. The lack of fresh air causes specific problems such as fevers, colds, and lung diseases.

"The stomach, liver, lungs and brain are suffering for want of deep, full inspirations of air which would electrify the blood and impart to it a bright, lively color, and which alone can keep it pure, and give tone and vigor to every part of the living machinery." (2 Testimonies p67-68)

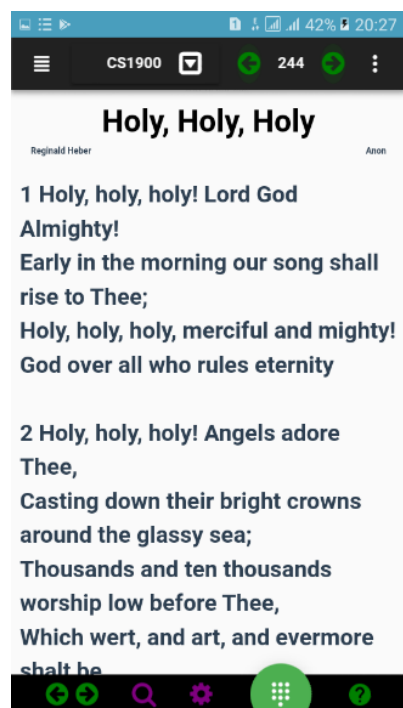
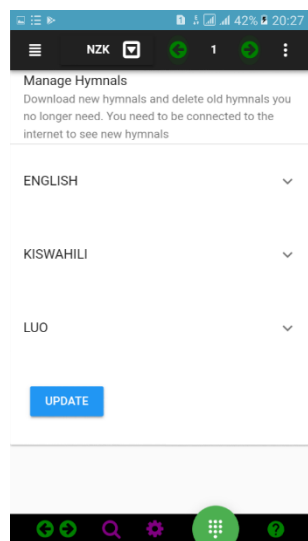
In the morning, step outside and breathe deeply; then expel all the air from your lungs. Repeat this about 3 or 4 times. Have fresh air circulating in your home day and night. Exercise in the open air will promote good circulation. Air is a free blessing of heaven.

"In the matchless gift of His Son, God has encircled the whole world with an atmosphere of grace as real as the air which circulates around the globe. All who chose to breathe this life-giving atmosphere will live and grow up to the stature of men and women in Christ Jesus. (Steps to Christ p68)

2. Sunshine

"And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day." Genesis 1:16

(Continued on page 18)



We appreciate your interest in The Bible Instructor. And to this end we are offering you the most comprehensive database of the hymnals ever used by advent believers who lived under the third Angel's message. How will you use this database?

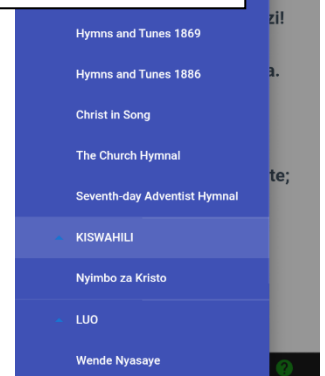
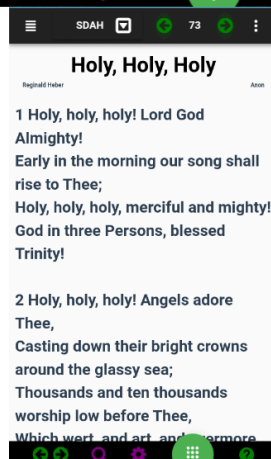
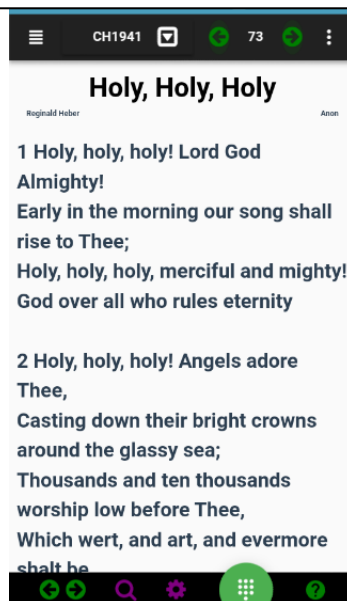
We are offering you an application to use in your phone.

The application is so designed in such a manner that it can be called a "Study Hymnal". Open a hymn in one hymnal and it will lead you to all the versions of it different hymnals.

We believe that every user of this application must come to ask these questions: Why does the Song "Rock of Ages" have 3 stanzas in English and 4 in Kiswahili? Why do **three** hymnals say "**God over all who rules eternity**" and **one** "**God in three persons blessed trinity**"? Did we find an imposter? Up to you to decide. We have found many imposter Bible versions over the years, from the Jesuit Green Bible, NIV, the counterfeit so resembling the true – NKJV, etc. Did we find an imposter hymnal? At the mouth of two or three witnesses (here hymnals), let the matter be established.

That this hymnal may lead you to the Truth, that you may sing what is truth with the understanding is the prayer of its developer.

Brian Onang'o, Developer.



Every living thing in our world is dependent on sunlight. Without sunlight nothing would live. The following discoveries show the benefits derived from the sun: It lowers blood sugar and blood pressure; it lowers cholesterol by converting it to vitamin D; it utilizes calcium and phosphorus; it increases red blood cells; it increases white blood cells; it strengthens the immune system; it calms the nerves and increases adrenaline; it destroys germs on the skin; it reverses jaundice; it increases circulation; and it helps eliminate pesticides and other chemicals from the system.

"Pure air, good water, sunshine, the beautiful surroundings of nature...these are God's means for restoring the sick to health." (7 Testimonies p85)

Start the day with exposing your face and body to the sun for 10 to 15 minutes. Gradually increase your time to 30 to 45 minutes daily. DO NOT GET A SUNBURN. The best time for sunbathing is between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM and between 4:30 PM and 5:30 PM.

"As the flower turns to the sun, that the bright beams may aid in perfecting its beauty and symmetry, so should we turn to the Sun of Righteousness, that Heaven's light may shine upon us, that our character may be developed in to the likeness of Christ." (Steps to Christ p68)

3. Abstemiousness

"Out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is...good for food." Genesis 2:9

Abstemiousness means temperance. True temperance teaches us to dispense entirely with

everything harmful and to use judiciously that which is healthful.

Avoid anything that is harmful to your body. This includes liquor, drugs, tobacco, overeating, eating between meals, sugar-laden foods, strong condiments and spices, all caffeinated foods (chocolates and sodas contain caffeine, as do coffee and tea), large combinations of foods, grease and fat, excess salt, and animal foods. "Indulgence in eating too frequently, and in too large quantities, overtaxes the digestive organs, and produces a feverish state of the system. The blood becomes impure, and then diseases of various kinds occur." (Review and Herald, September 5, 1899)

"Abstemiousness in diet and control of the passions will preserve the intellect and give mental and moral vigor, enabling men to bring all their propensities under the control of the higher powers, and to discern between right and wrong, the sacred and the common." (3 Testimonies p491)

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:1-2

4. Rest

"He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made." Genesis 2:2

- The greatest remedy for exhaustion is SLEEP.
- The body requires plenty of rest to heal.
- Sleep is the greatest rejuvenator; it restores strength to muscles, nerves, and brain.
- During sleep the body repairs, reenergizes, and prepares for renewed activity.
- One hour of sleep before midnight is equal to 2 hours of sleep after midnight.

During a day of work and activity, toxins build up in our system, which cannot immediately be thrown off. These toxins product fatigue - that well-known weariness at the end of the day. Sleep gives the body time to expel wastes and to make repairs.

"The stomach, when we lie down to rest, should have its work done, that it may enjoy rest, as well as other portions of the body. The work of digestion should not be carried on through any period of the sleeping hours." (Healthful Living p84)

Rest is not synonymous with sleep. Four types of rest are:

- Physical Rest—sitting, lying down, or relaxing. Not eating late at night or at before bed.
- Sensory Rest—quietness and refraining from using the eyes.
- Emotional Rest—a withdrawing from the ups and downs caused by personal interaction.
- Mental Rest—a detaching of the mind from all intellectual demands or activity.

Get the sleep your body needs, 8 hours a day and several hours before midnight. Second, do not neglect that important rest we need, such as taking morning walks, sitting in a jacuzzi or by a mountainside, looking at a forest or lake, going to the ocean, or reading the Scriptures.

"A life in Christ is a life of restfulness. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there should be an abiding peaceful trust. Your hope is not in yourself; it is in Christ. Your weakness is united to His strength, your ignorance to His wisdom, your frailty to His enduring might... Let the mind dwell upon His love, upon the beauty, the perfection of His character.." (Steps to Christ p70)

5. Exercise

"The Lord God put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." Genesis 2:15

"God designed that the living machinery should be in daily activity. For in this activity or motion is its preserving power.... The more we exercise, the better will be the circulation of the blood."—Ellen G. White, *Healthful Living*, pp. 131-132

"There is no exercise that can take the place of walking. By it the circulation of the blood is greatly improved. Walking, in all cases where it is possible, is the best remedy for the diseased bodies, because in this, all of the organs of the body are brought into use." (3 Testimonies 78)

"Moderate exercise every day will impart strength to the muscles, which without exercise become flabby and enfeebled." (2 Testimonies p533)

"Exercise will aid in the work of digestion. Take a walk after a meal; but no violent exercise after a full meal." (2 Testimonies p530)

"Morning exercise, walking in the free, invigorating air of heaven, or cultivating flowers, small fruits, and vegetables, is the surest safeguard against colds, coughs, congestion of the brain, inflammation of the liver, the kidneys, and the lungs, and a hundred other diseases." (Healthful Living p176-177)

Studies are finding that exercise is an important factor in the fight against cancer.

"If physical exercise were combined with mental exertion, the blood would be quickened in its circulation, the action of the heart would be more perfect, impure matter would be thrown off, and new life and vigor would be experienced in every part of the body." (Counsels on Health p572)

"Those who thus exercise the Christian graces will grow and will become strong to work for God. They will have clear spiritual perceptions, a steady growing faith, and an increased power in prayer.... Strength comes by exercise. Activity is the very condition of life. Those who endeavor to maintain a Christian life by passively accepting the blessing that come through the means of grace, and doing nothing for Christ, are simply trying to live by eating without working.... A man who would refuse to exercise his limbs would soon lose all power to use them. Thus the Christian who will not exercise his God-given powers, not only fails to grow up into Christ, but he loses the strength that he already had." (Steps to Christ p80)

6. Water

"And a river went out of Eden and watered the garden." Genesis 2:10

The body requires water constantly. Most of this water is recycled within the body itself. However, it must have a replacement of about eight glasses of water per day. Cleansing of waste material is a daily task for the body, not only from its own wastes, but from the constant bombardment of germs and viruses, and in today's society, from chemicals and drugs. If the body is not thoroughly cleansed, it is forced to break down. "Water is the best liquid possible to cleanse the tissues.... Drink some, a little time before or after a meal." (Healthful Living p226)

Frequent bathing is very beneficial, especially at night before retiring or upon arising in the morning. "The bath soothes the nerves. It promotes general perspiration, quickens the circulation, overcomes obstruction in the system, and acts beneficially on the kidneys and the urinary organs. Bathing helps the bowels, stomach, and liver, giving energy and new life to each. It also promotes digestion and instead of the system being weakened, it is strengthened...and a more easy and regular flow of the blood through all the blood vessels is obtained." (Counsels on Health p104)

"Impurities are constantly and imperceptibly passing from the body, through the pores, and if the surface of the skin is not kept in a healthy condition, the system is burdened with impure matter... and if the garments worn are not frequently cleansed...the pores of the skin absorb again the waste matter thrown off. The impurities of the body... are taken back into the blood, and forced upon the internal organs." (Healthful Living p143)

Food should not be washed down, and no drink is needed with meals. Eat slowly and allow the saliva to mingle with the food. The more liquid there is taken into the stomach with the meals, the more difficult it is for the food to digest, for the liquid must first be absorbed. (ibid. p163)

Many make a mistake in drinking cold water with their meals. Taken with meals, water diminishes the flow of the salivary glands, and the colder the water, the greater the injury to the stomach. (ibid. p163) The best time to drink your water is half an hour before or an hour after your meals. A couple large glasses of hot water first thing in the morning will assist your bowels in elimination.

Other benefits of water are hydrotherapy, hot and cold fomentation, enemas, etc.

"God is the source of life and light and joy to the universe. Like rays of light from the sun, like the streams of living water bursting from a living spring, blessings flow out from Him to all His creatures. And wherever the life of God is in the hearts of men, it will flow out to others in love and blessing." (Steps to Christ p77)

7. Nutrition

"And God said, 'Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed...and every tree in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat (food).' " Genesis 1:29

Proper nutrition is vital to good health. Food that is devitalized cannot supply the vitamins and minerals it lacks. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that we choose wisely the food that goes on our table. Vegetables and fruits should be making the

greater proportion of our meals, along with whole grains, beans, legumes, and seeds. Nuts can be included in small amounts. From our food, we will obtain all the elements essential for good health: vitamins, minerals, water, carbohydrates, protein, fats, and fiber.

Foods should be prepared with simplicity and variation, perhaps only three or four dishes at a meal, and properly cooked. Food should be carefully chosen and prepared with intelligence and skill. Avoid the use of grease in foods. Lard, butter, and hydrogenated vegetable fats may be classified as grease. If using oil, use natural oils sparingly, such as olive, flax, or canola, and keep it refrigerated.

Avoid sugar. It is not good for the stomach, because it causes fermentation. "Milk and sugar clog the system, irritate the digestive organs, and affect the brain. Sugar, when largely used, is more injurious than meat." (ibid.)

Eat raw vegetable salads or raw fruits before the main course. This will stimulate and assist digestion, and help avoid overeating of cooked foods. Fruits and vegetables should not be eaten at the same meal. Eat fruits at one meal and vegetables at another.

Eat sparingly—for strength and not for drunkenness. Take time to eat and enjoy mealtimes. Avoid eating compulsively or when emotionally upset, in pain, or overtired.

In order to secure healthy digestion, food should be eaten slowly. Those who wish to avoid dyspepsia, and those who realize their obligation to keep all their powers in a condition which will enable them to render the best service to God, will do well to remember this. If your time to eat is limited, do not bolt your food, but eat less, and masticate slowly. The benefit derived from food does not depend so much on the quantity eaten as on its thorough digestion; nor the gratification of taste so much on the amount of food swallowed as on the length of time it remains in the mouth. Those who are excited, anxious, or in a hurry, would do well not to eat until they have found rest or relief; for the vital powers, already severely taxed, cannot supply the necessary digestive fluids. (ibid. p120)

Not a particle of food should be introduced into the stomach till the next meal – Ellen White

Eat at regular intervals, allowing 5-6 hours to elapse between meals. Do not eat a morsel of food between meals. When hungry between meals, drink a large glass of cool water. Do not eat before going to bed. The stomach must not be constantly at work, but have periods of rest.

Eat a substantial breakfast - It is the custom and order of society to take a slight breakfast. But this is not the best way to treat the stomach. At breakfast time the stomach is in a better condition to take care of more food than at the second or third meal of the day. The habit of eating a sparing breakfast and a large dinner is wrong. Make your breakfast correspond more nearly to the heartiest meal of the day. (Counsels on Diets and Foods p173) "A second meal should never be eaten until the stomach has had time to rest from the labor of digesting the preceding meal. If a third meal be eaten at all, it should be light, and several hours before going to bed." (ibid. p174)

Two meals a day are better than three; but if a third meal is eaten at all, it should be light, and eaten several hours before going to bed. Example: two meals—8 AM and 3 PM or three meals—6 AM, 12 PM, and 6 PM.

In grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, and seeds are found all the food elements to make good blood.

REMEMBER, include in the diet a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, dark leafy greens, more raw foods, whole grain cereals and breads, vegetable proteins from sources such as dry beans, peas, and other legumes (soybeans, kidney beans, pintos, lentils, etc.), tofu, nuts, seeds, and soybean or rice milk. Our recommendations are a high starch, low fat, and moderate protein diet that includes plenty of raw fruits and vegetables.

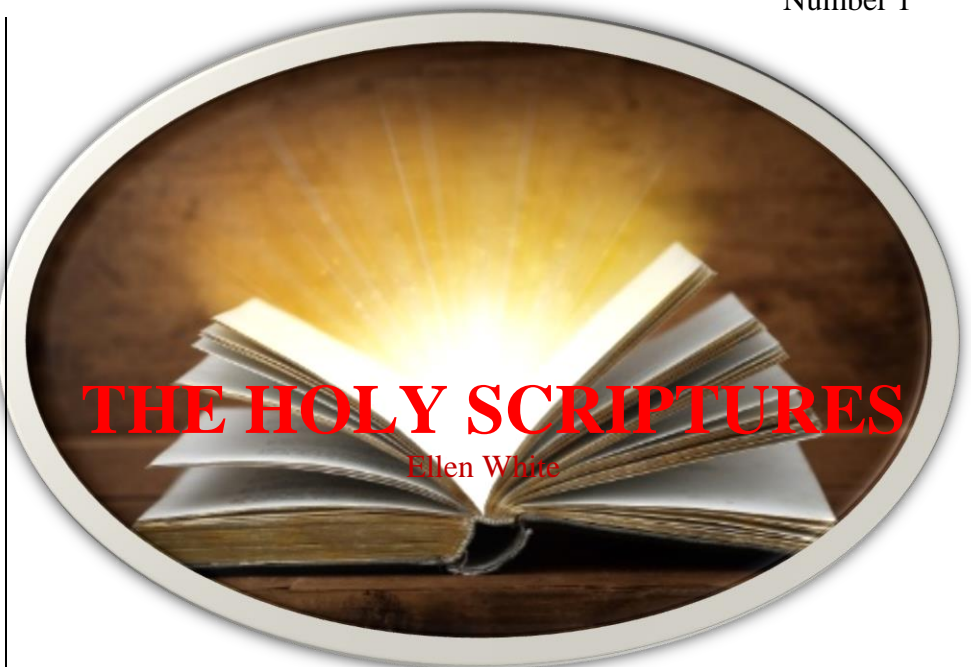
Reduce the fats, oils, salt, and sugars in the diet and avoid high cholesterol foods such as eggs, cheese, butter, and meats. Avoid all animal products. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20, and 10:31: "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own... For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

8. Trust in Divine Power

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and the He is a rewarded of them that diligently seek Him" Hebrews 11:6

(To be continued in June)

May 2018



How Shall We Search the Scriptures?

How shall we search the Scriptures in order to understand what they teach? We should come to the investigation of God's word with a contrite heart, a teachable and prayerful spirit. We are not to think, as did the Jews, that our own ideas and opinions are infallible; nor with the papists, that certain individuals are the sole guardians of truth and knowledge, that men have no right to search the Scriptures for themselves, but must accept the explanations given by the fathers of the church. We should not study the Bible for the purpose of sustaining our preconceived opinions, but with the single object of learning what God has said.

Some have feared that if in even a single point they acknowledge themselves in error; other minds would be led to doubt the whole theory of truth. Therefore, they have felt that investigation should not be permitted, that it would tend to dissension and disunion. But if such is to be the result of investigation, the sooner it comes the better. If there are those whose faith in God's word will not stand the test of an investigation of the Scriptures, the sooner they are revealed the better; for then the way will be opened to show them their error. We cannot hold that a position once taken, an idea once advocated, is not, under any circumstances, to be relinquished. There is but One who is infallible—He who is the way, the truth, and the life.

Those who allow prejudice to bar the mind against the reception of truth cannot receive the divine enlightenment. Yet, when a view of Scripture is presented, many do not ask, Is it true—in harmony with God's word? but, By whom is it advocated? and unless it comes through the very channel that pleases them, they do not accept it. So thoroughly satisfied are they with their own ideas that they will not examine the Scripture evidence with a desire to learn, but refuse to be interested, merely because of their prejudices.

The Lord often works where we least expect Him; He surprises us by revealing His power through instruments of His own choice, while He passes by the men to whom we have looked as those through whom light should come. God desires us to receive the truth upon its own merits—because it is truth.

The Bible must not be interpreted to suit the ideas of men, however long they may have held these ideas to be true. We are not to accept the opinion of commentators as the voice of God; they were erring mortals like ourselves. God has given reasoning powers to us as well as to them. We should make the Bible its own expositor.

Carefulness in Presenting New Views

All should be careful about presenting new views of Scripture before they have given these points thorough study, and are fully prepared to sustain them from the Bible. Introduce nothing that will cause dissension, without clear evidence that in it God is giving a special message for this time.

But beware of rejecting that which is truth. The great danger with our people has been that of depending upon men and making flesh their arm. Those who have not been in the habit of searching the Bible for themselves, or weighing evidence, have confidence in the leading men and accept the decisions they make; and thus many will reject the very messages God sends to His people, if these leading brethren do not accept them.

No one should claim that he has all the light there is for God's people. The Lord will not tolerate this. He has said, "I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." Even if all our leading men should refuse light and truth, that door will still remain open. The Lord will raise up men who will give the people the message for this time.

The Truth Will Stand

Truth is eternal, and conflict with error will only make manifest its strength. We should never refuse to examine the Scriptures with those who, we have reason to believe, desire to know what is truth. Suppose a brother held a view that differed from yours, and he should come to you, proposing that you sit down with him and make an investigation of that point in the Scriptures; should you rise up, filled with prejudice, and condemn his ideas, while refusing to give him a candid hearing? The only right way would be to sit down as Christians and investigate the position presented in the light of God's word, which will reveal truth and unmask error. To ridicule his ideas would not weaken his position in the least if it were false, or strengthen your position if it were true. If the pillars of our faith will not stand the test of investigation, it is time that we knew it. There must be no spirit of Pharisaism cherished among us.

The Scriptures to be Studied with Reverence

We should come with reverence to the study of the Bible, feeling that we are in the presence of God. All lightness and trifling should be laid aside. While some portions of the word are easily understood, the true meaning of other parts is not so readily discerned. There must be patient study and meditation and earnest prayer. Every student, as he opens the Scriptures, should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit; and the promise is sure that it will be given.

The spirit in which you come to the investigation of the Scriptures will determine the character of the assistant at your side. Angels from the world of light

will be with those who in humility of heart seek for divine guidance. But if the Bible is opened with irreverence, with a feeling of self-sufficiency, if the heart is filled with prejudice, Satan is beside you, and he will set the plain statements of God's word in a perverted light.

There are some who indulge in levity, sarcasm, and even mockery toward those who differ with them. Others present an array of objections to any new view; and when these objections are plainly answered by the words of Scripture, they do not acknowledge the evidence presented, nor allow themselves to be convinced. Their questioning is not for the purpose of arriving at truth, but is intended merely to confuse the minds of others.

Some have thought it an evidence of intellectual keenness and superiority to perplex minds in regard to what is truth. They resort to subtlety of argument, to playing upon words; they take unjust advantage in asking questions. When their questions have been fairly answered, they will turn the subject [and] bring up another point to avoid acknowledging the truth. We should beware of indulging the spirit which controlled the Jews. They would not learn of Christ, because His explanation of the Scriptures did not agree with their ideas; therefore they became spies upon His track, "laying wait for Him, and seeking to catch something out of His mouth, that they might accuse Him." Let us not bring upon ourselves the fearful denunciation of the Saviour's words, "Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered."

If the pillars of our faith will not stand the test of investigation, it is time that we knew it. There must be no spirit of Pharisaism cherished among us

In Simplicity and Faith

It does not require much learning or ability to ask questions that are difficult to answer. A child may ask questions over which the wisest men may be puzzled. Let us not engage in a contest of this kind. The very same unbelief exists in our time as prevailed in the days of Christ. Now as then the desire for preferment and the praise of men leads people away from the simplicity of true godliness. There is no pride so dangerous as spiritual pride.

Young men should search the Scriptures for themselves. They are not to feel that it is sufficient for those older in experience to find out the truth; that the younger ones can accept it from them as authority. The Jews perished as a nation because they were drawn from the truth of the Bible by their rulers, priests, and elders. Had they heeded the

lessons of Jesus, and searched the Scriptures for themselves, they would not have perished.

Young men in our ranks are watching to see in what spirit the ministers come to the investigation of the Scriptures; whether they have a teachable spirit, and are humble enough to accept evidence, and receive light from the messengers whom God chooses to send.

We must study the truth for ourselves. No man should be relied upon to think for us. No matter who he is, or in what position he may be placed, we are not to look upon any man as a criterion for us. We are to counsel together, and to be subject one to another; but at the same time we are to exercise the ability God has given us, in order to learn what is truth. Each one of us must look to God for divine enlightenment. We must individually develop a character that will stand the test in the day of God. We must not become set in our ideas, and think that no one should interfere with our opinions.

When a point of doctrine that you do not understand comes to your attention, go to God on your knees, that you may understand what is truth and not be found as were the Jews fighting against God. While warning men to beware of accepting anything unless it is truth, we should also warn them not to imperil their souls by rejecting messages of light, but to press out of the darkness by earnest study of the word of God.

When Nathanael came to Jesus, the Saviour exclaimed, "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said, "Whence knowest Thou me?" Jesus answered, "When thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee." And Jesus will see us also in the secret places of prayer, if we seek Him for light that we may know what is truth.

If a brother is teaching error, those who are in responsible positions ought to know it; and if he is teaching truth, they ought to take their stand at his side. We should all know what is being taught among us; for if it is truth, we need to know it. The Sabbath school teacher needs to know it, and every Sabbath school scholar ought to understand it. We are all under obligation to God to understand what He sends us. He has given directions by which we may test every doctrine—"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." But if it is according to this test, do not be so full of prejudice that you cannot acknowledge a point simply because it does not agree with your ideas.

It is impossible for any mind to comprehend all the richness and greatness of even one promise of God. One catches the glory of one point of view, another the beauty and grace from another point, and the soul is filled with the heavenly light. If we saw all the glory, the spirit would faint. But we can bear far

greater revelations from God's abundant promises than we now enjoy. It makes my heart sad to think how we lose sight of the fullness of blessing designed for us. We content ourselves with momentary flashes of spiritual illumination, when we might walk day after day in the light of His presence.

Dear brethren, pray as you never before prayed for beams from the Sun of Righteousness to shine upon the word, that you may be able to understand its true meaning. Jesus pleaded that His disciples might be sanctified through the truth—the word of God. Then how earnestly should we pray that He who "searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God," He whose office it is to bring all things to the remembrance of God's people, and to guide them into all truth, may be with us in the investigation of His Holy Word.

God wants us to depend upon Him, and not upon man. He desires us to have a new heart; He would give us revealings of light from the throne of God.

The Study of the Books of Daniel and the Revelation

God's Spirit has illuminated every page of Holy Writ, but there are those upon whom it makes little impression, because it is imperfectly understood. When the shaking comes, by the introduction of false theories, these surface readers, anchored nowhere, are like shifting sand. They slide into any position to suit the tenor of their feelings of bitterness.... Daniel and Revelation must be studied, as well as the other prophecies of the Old and New Testaments. Let there be light, yes, light, in your dwellings. For this we need to pray. The Holy Spirit, shining upon the sacred page, will open our understanding, that we may know what is truth.

There is need of a much closer study of the word of God; especially should Daniel and the Revelation have attention as never before in the history of our work. We may have less to say in some lines, in regard to the Roman power and the papacy; but we should call attention to what the prophets and apostles have written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit has so shaped matters, both in the giving of the prophecy and in the events portrayed, as to teach that the human agent is to be kept out of sight, hid in Christ, and that the Lord God of heaven and His law are to be exalted. Read the book of Daniel. Call up, point by point, the history of the kingdoms there represented. Behold statesmen, councils, powerful armies, and see how God wrought to abase the pride of men, and lay human glory in the dust.

The light that Daniel received from God was given especially for these last days. The visions he saw by the banks of the Ulai and the Hiddekel, the great

rivers of Shinar, are now in process of fulfillment, and all the events foretold will soon come to pass. Consider the circumstances of the Jewish nation when the prophecies of Daniel were given.

Let us give more time to the study of the Bible. We do not understand the word as we should. The book of Revelation opens with an injunction to us to understand the instruction that it contains. "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy," God declares, "and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." When we as a people understand what this book means to us, there will be seen among us a great revival. We do not understand fully the lessons that it teaches, notwithstanding the injunction given us to search and study it.

In the past teachers have declared Daniel and the Revelation to be sealed books, and the people have turned from them. The veil whose apparent mystery has kept many from lifting it, God's own hand has withdrawn from these portions of His word. The very name "Revelation" contradicts the statement that it is a sealed book. "Revelation" means that something of importance is revealed. The truths of this book are addressed to those living in these last days. We are standing with the veil removed in the holy place of sacred things. We are not to stand without. We are to enter, not with careless, irreverent thoughts, not with impetuous footsteps, but with reverence and godly fear. We are nearing the time when the prophecies of the book of Revelation are to be fulfilled.

We have the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, which is the spirit of prophecy. Priceless gems are to be found in the word of God. Those who search this word should keep the mind clear. Never should they indulge perverted appetite in eating or drinking.

If they do this, the brain will be confused; they will be unable to bear the strain of digging deep to find out the meaning of those things which relate to the closing scenes of this earth's history.

When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that heart and mind will be impressed with the character that all must develop in order to realize the blessedness which is to be the reward of the pure in heart.

The Lord will bless all who will seek humbly and meekly to understand that which is revealed in the Revelation. This book contains so much that is large with immortality and full of glory that all who read and search it earnestly receive the blessing to those "that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein."

Result of True Study

One thing will certainly be understood from the study of Revelation—that the connection between God and His people is close and decided.

A wonderful connection is seen between the universe of heaven and this world. The things revealed to Daniel were afterward complemented by the revelation made to John on the Isle of Patmos. These two books should be carefully studied. Twice Daniel inquired, How long shall it be to the end of time?

"And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And He said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand....But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days."

It was the Lion of the tribe of Judah who unsealed the book and gave to John the revelation of what should be in these last days.

Daniel stood in his lot to bear his testimony which was sealed until the time of the end, when the first angel's message should be proclaimed to our world. These matters are of infinite importance in these last days; but while "many shall be purified, and made white, and tried," "the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand." How true this is! Sin is the transgression of the law of God; and those who will not accept the light in regard to the law of God will not understand the proclamation of the first, second, and third angel's messages. The book of Daniel is unsealed in the revelation to John, and carries us forward to the last scenes of this earth's history. Will our brethren bear in mind that we are living amid the perils of the last days? Read Revelation in connection with Daniel. Teach these things.

Unconquerable Forces Waiting

Those who eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God will bring from the books of Daniel and Revelation truth that is inspired by the Holy Spirit. They will start into action forces that cannot be repressed. The lips of children will be opened to proclaim the mysteries that have been hidden from the minds of men.

We are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Many of the prophecies are about to be fulfilled in quick succession. Every element of power is about to be set to work. Past history will be repeated; old controversies will arouse to new life, and peril will beset God's people on every side. Intensity is taking hold of the human family. It is permeating everything upon the earth.

Study Revelation in connection with Daniel, for history will be repeated.... We, with all our religious advantages, ought to know far more today than we do know.

Angels desire to look into the truths that are revealed to the people who with contrite hearts are searching the word of God and praying for greater lengths and breadths and depths and heights of the knowledge which He alone can give.

As we near the close of this world's history, the prophecies relating to the last days especially demand our study. The last book of the New Testament Scriptures is full of truth that we need to understand. Satan has blinded the minds of many so that they have been glad of any excuse for not making the Revelation their study. But Christ through His servant John has here declared what shall be in the last days; and He says, "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein."

The books of Daniel and the Revelation should be bound together and published. A few explanations of certain portions might be added, but I am not sure that these would be needed.

This is the suggestion that I made to Elder Haskell which resulted in the book he published. The need is not filled by this book. It was my idea to have the two books bound together, Revelation following Daniel, as giving fuller light on the subjects dealt with in Daniel. The object is to bring these books together, showing that they both relate to the same subjects.

A message that will arouse the churches is to be proclaimed. Every effort is to be made to give the light, not only to our people, but to the world. I have been instructed that the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation should be printed in small books, with the necessary explanations, and should be sent all over the world. Our own people need to have the light placed before them in clearer lines.

The vision that Christ presented to John, presenting the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, is to be definitely proclaimed to all nations, people, and tongues. The churches, represented by Babylon, are represented as having fallen from their spiritual state to become a persecuting power against those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. To John this persecuting power is represented as having horns like a lamb, but as speaking like a dragon.

As we near the close of time, there will be greater and still greater external parade of heathen power; heathen deities will manifest their signal power, and will exhibit themselves before the cities of the world; and this delineation has already begun to be fulfilled. By a variety of images the Lord Jesus

represented to John the wicked character and seductive influence of those who have been distinguished for their persecution of God's people. All need wisdom carefully to search out the mystery of iniquity that figures so largely in the winding up of this earth's history.... In the very time in which we live, the Lord has called His people and has given them a message to bear. He has called them to expose the wickedness of the man of sin who has made the Sunday law a distinctive power, who has thought to change times and laws, and to oppress the people of God who stand firmly to honor Him by keeping the only true Sabbath, the Sabbath of creation, as holy unto the Lord.

The perils of the last days are upon us, and in our work we are to warn the people of the danger they are in. Let not the solemn scenes which prophecy has revealed be left untouched. If our people were half awake, if they realized the nearness of the events portrayed in the Revelation, a reformation would be wrought in our churches, and many more would believe the message. We have no time to lose; God calls upon us to watch for souls as they that must give an account. Advance new principles, and crowd in the clear-cut truth. It will be as a sword cutting both ways. But be not too ready to take a controversial attitude. There will be times when we must stand still and see the salvation of God. Let Daniel speak, let the Revelation speak, and tell what is truth. But whatever phase of the subject is presented, uplift Jesus as the center of all hope, "the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright and morning Star."

Dig Deeper

We do not go deep enough in our search for truth. Every soul who believes present truth will be brought where he will be required to give a reason of the hope that is in him. The people of God will be called upon to stand before kings, princes, rulers, and great men of the earth, and they must know that they do know what is truth. They must be converted men and women. God can teach you more in one moment by His Holy Spirit than you could learn from the great men of the earth. The universe is looking upon the controversy that is going on upon the earth. At an infinite cost, God has provided for every man an opportunity to know that which will make him wise unto salvation. How eagerly do angels look to see who will avail himself of this opportunity! When a message is presented to God's people, they should not rise up in opposition to it; they should go to the Bible, comparing it with the law and the testimony, and if it does not bear this test, it is not true. God wants our minds to expand. He desires to put His grace upon us. We may have a feast of good things every day, for God can open the whole treasure of heaven to us.

GARDEN MISSIONARY

Wycliffe Ndere



“He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread...” Proverbs 28:19

Everywhere there are hearts crying out for something which they have not. They long for a power that will give them **mastery over sin**, a power that will deliver them from the **bondage of evil**, a power that will **give health and life and peace**. (Ministry of Healing p143)

For us to know what is best for us in this world and the world to come, we need to follow the blue print of the lifestyle that God gave man in the beginning.

GOD IS A GARDENER

Gen 1:1, 31: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth... And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, *it was* very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.
Gen 2:8 - 10: And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.

Some of the key things we find out from the verses above include:

- (i) Everything that God created was very good.
- (ii) The Lord God planted a garden for Man.
- (iii) God made trees that are pleasant to the sight, and that are **good for food**.

Where did man get his food from? Certainly, it was from the ground. The best occupation that our Creator gave to man was to till the land. What a wonderful work for us even today! ‘God is a lover of the beautiful. He has given us unmistakable evidence of this in the work of His hands. He planted for our first parents a beautiful garden in Eden. Stately trees were caused to grow out of the ground,

of every description, for usefulness and ornament. The beautiful flowers were formed, of rare loveliness, of every tint and hue, perfuming the air. . . It was the design of God that man should find happiness in the employment of tending the things He had created, and that his wants should be met with the fruits of the trees of the garden’. (Adventist Home p27.1)

Before sin, the act of tilling the land was a pleasurable employment. However, after sin, the condition of things changed.

Genesis 3:17-19: And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

After sin, God cursed the ground for man’s sake. Well, God says that, in sorrow shall we eat from the soil all the days of our life. We are living beings powered by living plants that grow directly in the earth. Plants are high octane fuels, containing nutrients and calories to fuel and repair the human body, which God made. We re-mineralize ourselves by eating the plants He has created to grow in the

earth. The greatest food factory God has ever given to man is the garden.

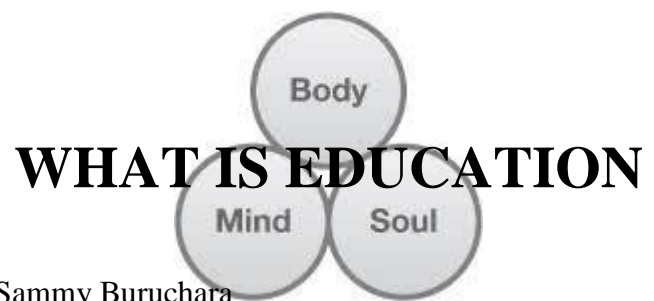
In these last days, we need to learn how to produce our own foods, because of the condition of the world. A lot of chemical farming: the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers kills many people. If we entrust ourselves with doing the work of agriculture, we will learn the greatest Bible lessons like patience, determination and being grateful for the love of God and his blessings that we receive from the soil. He causeth the ground to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food. 'Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it...' James 5:7.

God calls his remnant people to learn how to be independent, and self-supporting, by producing their own food. Therefore, studies in agricultural lines should be the A B and C of the educational work of our schools. If we can take this task that God has given us with joy and zeal, then God will surely bless the work of our hands and we will be a blessing to the world.

Remember 'In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import-the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention'. (9 Testimonies p19.2)

We should understand that the three angels' messages lead us to obtaining an experience with Jesus, righteousness by faith message in verity. 'God's purpose in giving the third angel's message to the world is to prepare a people to stand true to Him during the investigative judgment. This is the purpose for which we establish and maintain our publishing houses, our schools, our sanitariums, hygienic restaurants, treatment rooms, and food factories. This is our purpose in carrying forward every line of work in the cause. (1 Manuscript Releases p228.2)

Now is the time to embrace agriculture and follow the blue print that God gave us in the beginning. If we believe the word of God and His Prophets, indeed we shall prosper and bring glory to the Almighty God.



Sammy Buruchara

What is education? This is a very sensitive subject. Today, anyone who can afford education acquires it. Even the church has recognized the importance of education and every beginning of the term, we call all students and place them in the hands of God in prayer, that God may give them success in their educational pursuits, that they may be the heads and not the tails.

We have all gone through the educational system of this world. Christians have come to treat education as a separate compartment from the rest of their lives. It is special and far apart from their spirituality. In fact, nearly all religions, Christianity included, pray for the good performance in the academic life of students.

So is education neutral? Is it a platform where all religions meet? Is it a noble thing? People take time to choose where to live, with whom to spend the rest of their lives, and what kind of house to stay in. But it appears a default that everyone of sound mind must go through this world's education. So we need to establish what it is, and why it is so noble that it almost passes without scrutiny or debate, that all who can afford it must acquire it. It must be acquired at all costs.

Again let me pose the question: what is education? What is the purpose of education? Why do we go to school? Is it to obtain an education that can get us a good job in later life? Is it simply to avoid ignorance and not be left out of modern society? Is it a lifetime achievement, a rite of passage that makes us conform to the norm? Why do we spend half of our lives in School? Why do we spend the prime time of our life in school? Something that we give the best of our life must certainly be rewarding, or it would have been a waste of time.

I meet many graduates today, without jobs. If you called many of those that had an education and now are in their forties and fifties, they will tell you that the area of study in school is not what they are involved in right now. So who is fooling who? Many

Now, as never before, we need to understand the true science of education. If we fail to understand this, we shall never have a place in the kingdom of God. "This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent" If this is the price of heaven, shall not our education be conducted on these lines? (1 Mind, Character and Personality 53.3)

professors, the greatest scientists, the men who planted a flag on the moon, are all now in their graves. Likewise, the wealthiest, the most famous, the greatest philosophers this world has produced, are all six feet under. What was it all for?

We must answer these questions in order for us to make a change for the better. Otherwise we shall be like sheep, like those who have gone before us, who spent all their lives chasing after the wind and never caught it, and retired to their graves, with regret and unfulfilled dreams and goals.

The Word of God gives some ideas on the basis of living. Our savior, the Son of God, while on this earth, and who went to no earthly school except the school of Bethlehem, the school of his parents, said the following:

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:19, 20, 25-33.

Yes, that is it. The Creator of the Universe, our Creator, He who created our brains, the master of Economics, the Chief Scientist, and the greatest Philosopher who has confounded this world’s thinkers, said these words. Now what did Jesus mean by these words, in relation to the educational pursuits of this world? Do we read these verses and simply say they do not apply to education?

We take our children to school at a very early age. By eighteen months, the child of today has begun the long journey of this world’s education. The stories taught, the theories, the teachers in the school, the

games, the interactions will before long mold the character either for eternal life or eternal damnation. But our church today will close its eyes to the type of education that our children and ourselves receive. They will pray for us, visit us in school and even send us success cards like the heathen do, that we successfully pass through this system. It must be a great system, I suppose for great and small, Muslim or Hindu, religious or atheist all agree that it is a noble system that all humanity if possible must pass. What is it then, that does not require God’s involvement or sanction?

As we ponder this important, all important subject, it is my prayer that God will open your eyes that you will be enlightened so that you make the right choice in the few remaining days of your life.

Jesus again posed the following all important Question: “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” Matthew 16:26.

The closing words of advise by Moses to the Israelites before their entry to Canaan would be very timely to us today in relation to this all important subject: “If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it. See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.”

Deuteronomy 30:10-16

Man has always thought that he can by the educational system find wisdom. In fact, the modern man prides himself of the wisdom of this world. When one attains a Ph.D., it is called Doctor of Philosophy. The word philosophy in its original Greek meaning is “love of wisdom”. Therefore, the highest learning of modern man is called by the term “the love of Wisdom”, the Greek wisdom. But is it really the true wisdom?

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

God is the true source of wisdom. And to fear Him, to live in accordance with his commandments, to love the Lord with all our hearts, with all our minds and with all our strength, that is wisdom, and that is the beginning of knowledge. For "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." Proverbs 9:10.

At the mention of the word education, many think it is simply a course of study at some institution of learning. The dictionary definition of education is "a form of learning in which the knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to the next through story telling, discussion, teaching, training, and or research." Thus education is much more broader than simply a course in Medicine at the university. It comes as a package and depends on the environment. The package will either lead to a closer walk with God or a closer walk with the devil. For Education includes values, beliefs and habits.

We pick these from all sources that we come in contact with. It is true that children and youth spend a large amount of their time in school therefore their lives are shaped largely by the influences at the schools. This is why the pen of Inspiration says that "unless we understand the true science of education, we cannot have a share in the kingdom of God".

Purpose of Education.

The true object of education is to restore the image of God in the soul. When God created man in the Garden of Eden, He made the man in His image, in His likeness. Sin marred this image. Ever since, God has endeavored to restore this image to its original form. Through warnings, admonitions, His dealings with the patriarchs, the commandments, and ultimately the coming of Son of God, the whole effort has been to restore man to the image of God. Anything therefore that does not lead to the restoration of the image of God in man is not true education.

Whatever is not Christian is not becoming to Christians. The Bible, the word of God is the Book of Christians. It should be at the center of education of the Christian.

Sadly modern education casts out the Bible completely from the course of study and in fact rejects the existence of God. It is no wonder that children after completion of a course of study at institutions of higher learning come out farther from God than when they went in. The higher in worldly education one goes, irrespective of the course, the farther away he/she is drawn from knowledge of God. For modern education is based on Greek Education that is pagan in nature and which does not recognize God the creator.

(To be continued in June)

WHEN IS THE SABBATH DAY?

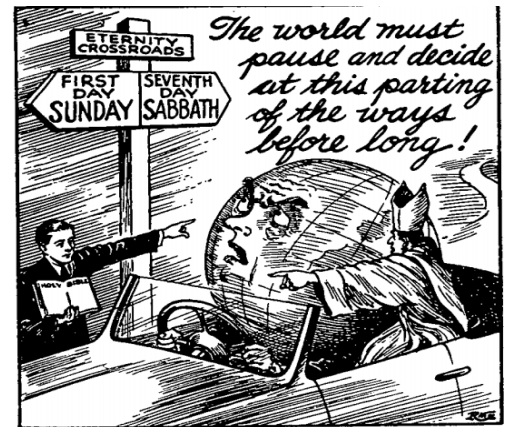
Brian Onang'o

The Sabbath question is one that will decide the eternal destiny of many souls. For the command says "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy". "The" implies that it is one

definite day that we can know. From the *The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine* we find the question: Which is the Sabbath Day? Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath Day.

To the surface reader, this appears a very plausible answer. But can any good thing come from Rome? Christ gave this species of deception as the first sign of the end of the world. (Matthew 24:4, Mark 13:5). "So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures." (Great Controversy p593) In the presence of Pharaoh, Satan was able to produce, through his magicians, counterfeit snakes so closing resembling real snakes that to this day the record says: "For they (the magicians) cast down every man his rod and they became serpents" Exodus 7:12. "The magicians did not really cause their rods to become serpents; but by magic, aided by the great deceiver, they were able to produce this appearance. It was beyond the power of Satan to change the rods to living serpents. The prince of evil, though possessing all the wisdom and might of an angel fallen, has not power to create, or to give life; this is the prerogative of God alone. But all that was in Satan's power to do, he did; he produced a counterfeit. To human sight the rods were changed to serpents. Such they were believed to be by Pharaoh and his court. There was nothing in their appearance to distinguish them from the serpent produced by Moses. Though the Lord caused the real serpent to swallow up the spurious ones, yet even this was regarded by Pharaoh, not as a work of God's power, but as the result of a kind of magic superior to that of his servants." (Patriarchs and Prophets p 264) Satan has also today created many counterfeit churches having the name and appearance of the true, but with his banners, and false Sabbaths in which to worship in them. How many are not deceived by these? Only the very elect. Thank God for the Bible!

How is Saturday a counterfeit? "But the Seventh day is the Sabbath day". Saturday, beginning on Friday midnight, can only be the seventh day after Rome's attempt to "change times" Daniel 7:25. When we ask the question "when is the Sabbath day" as opposed to "which" we find the answer "from even unto even shall ye celebrate your Sabbath". That the LORD may cause the real Sabbath and the real church to swallow up the spurious ones is our prayer.



IMPORTANT LESSONS ON PROPHECY

First Sabbath - Nebuchadnezzar's Dream.

1. Who were taken captives to Babylon during the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah? **Dan. 1:1-3.**
2. What remarkable persons were among these Jewish captives? **Verse 6.**
3. What special blessings did God bestow upon Daniel and his companions? **Verse 17.**
4. What troubled the king's spirit? **Dan. 2:1.**
5. How did the king try to obtain an interpretation of his dream? **Verses 2-8.**
6. What decree did the king make concerning the magicians who could not tell the dream? **Verse 9.**
7. Did that decree embrace Daniel and his companions? **Verse 13**
8. What request did Daniel make of the king? **Verse 16.**
9. What did Daniel next do? **Verses 17, 18.**
10. Were the prayers of these men answered? **Verse 19**
11. When brought before the king again, did Daniel claim any wisdom of his own to interpret the dream? **Verse 30.**
12. In giving Nebuchadnezzar the dream, what did God design to reveal to him? **Verses 28, 29.**
13. Repeat the dream as Daniel related it to the king. **Verses 31-35**
14. What did Daniel say that the head of gold represented. **Verse 38.**
15. What kingdom was to arise after Nebuchadnezzar? **Verse 39.**
16. What was the name of the kingdom over which Nebuchadnezzar reigned? **Dan.1:1**
17. What kingdom conquered and succeeded Babylon? **Dan. 5: 30, 31**
18. How far did the Medo-Persian kingdom finally extend? **2 Chron. 36:23.**
19. By what kingdom was Medo-Persia subdued? **Dan. 8:3-7,20-21.**
20. Then what was the name of the third kingdom?
21. What was its extent and power? **Dan. 2: 39.**

THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL.-The lines of prophecy in the Book of Daniel are entirely devoted to the history of the world, as connected with the people of God, and reach to the consummation of all earthly scenes, to the setting up of God's everlasting kingdom, and the final redemption of his people. The expression, "Thou art this head of gold," has reference to the kingdom over which Nebuchadnezzar ruled, the Babylonian kingdom. In verse 39, the statement is made, that "after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee." This has reference to the Medo-Persian kingdom, which did not arise in his day, but in the time of his grandson Belshazzar, the reign of three other kings

intervening. The king is often given as representing the kingdom he governs. See Dan. 7:17, 24, 8:20, 21. These all have reference to the kingdoms governed, and not to any one king, as a long line of kings governed many of the kingdoms thus represented. Sorcerers were such as pretended to hold communication with the dead. In this sense, we believe, it is always used in the Scriptures. Modern spiritualism is simply ancient heathen sorcery revived. The Chaldeans here mentioned were a sect of philosophers, similar to the magicians and astrologers, who made physic, divinations, etc., their study.

All these sects or professions abounded in Babylon. The end aimed at by each was the same; namely, the explaining of mysteries and the foretelling of future events, the principal difference between them being the means by which they sought to accomplish their object. The king's difficulty lay equally within the province of each to explain; hence, he summoned them all. - *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation.*

Second Sabbath - The Dream Continued.

1. What part of the image represented the fourth kingdom?
2. Which is strongest: gold, silver, brass, or iron?
3. If the first three kingdoms were universal, and the fourth was to be stronger than they, must it not also be a universal kingdom?
4. Do the Scriptures mention any king as having universal dominion later than the time of the Grecian empire? **Luke 1:1.**
5. Over what empire did Cesar Augustus reign? Ans. The Roman empire.
6. Name each of the four universal kingdoms represented by the great image.
7. By what part of the image was each represented?
8. Give proof that each of these kingdoms was universal.
9. How was the division of the Roman kingdom symbolized? **Dan. 2:41.**
10. How many divisions or kingdoms, would the toes naturally indicate?
11. What will the God of Heaven do in the days, or during the existence, of these kingdoms? **Verse 44.**
12. What will it do to the kingdoms of the earth?
13. By what symbol was this kingdom represented in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar? **Verses 31, 35.**
14. Where was the stone to smite the image?
15. Did the feet and toes represent Rome in its united, or in its divided, state?
16. In which state is the Roman kingdom at the present time?

17. Then what is the next event in order to be looked for?

"The empire of the Romans filled the world. And when that empire fell into the hand of a single person, the world became a safe and dreary prison for his enemies. To resist was fatal; and it was impossible to fly."- *Gibbon*.

To take the ten toes to represent the ten kingdoms into which Rome was divided, is so easy, consistent, and natural, that it requires a labored effort to interpret it otherwise. - *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*.

"IN THE DAYS OF THESE KINGS."-This shows that at the time the kingdom of God is set up there will be a plurality of kings existing contemporaneously. It cannot refer to the four preceding kingdoms; for it would be absurd to use such language in reference to a line of successive kings, since it would be in the days of the last king, only, not in the days of any of the preceding, that the kingdom of God would be set up.- *Ibid*.

In BC 538 the conquest of the Babylonian empire by the Medes and Persians was completed in the capture of the city of Babylon by Cyrus. See Dan. 5:28, 30, 31, This empire is represented by the silver of the image, as it followed Babylon, which was symbolized by the head of gold. History agrees with prophecy that Medo-Persia was the second great universal empire of the world.

At the taking of Babylon, BC 538, Cyrus, as an act of courtesy, had assigned the first place in his kingdom to his uncle, Darius. But two years afterward, BC 536, occurred the death of Darius; and in the same year also died Cambyses, king of Persia, Cyrus's father. By these events, Cyrus was left sole monarch of the empire.

Third Sabbath - Vision of the Four Beasts.

1. Who had a remarkable dream in the first year of the reign of Belshazzar king of Babylon? Dan. 7:1.
2. What did he first behold in his vision? Verse 2.
3. What was the result of this strife? verse 3.
4. What was the first beast like? Verse 4.
5. Describe the second beast. Verse 5.
6. Give a description of the third beast. Verse 6.
7. How did the fourth beast appear? Verse 7.
8. As Daniel considered the ten horns upon the head of the beast, what transpired? Verse 8.
9. What did the four beasts of this vision represent? Verse 17.
10. What did the fourth beast denote? Verse 23.
11. Since the fourth beast represented the fourth kingdom, what then was symbolized by the three preceding beasts?
12. What did the ten horns on the fourth beast represent? Dan. 7:24.

13. In the fourth kingdom of the second chapter, what indicated its division into ten parts?

14. Since the terrible beast, which is also a symbol of the fourth kingdom upon earth, had ten horns to represent its divided state, is it not shown that the beast of the seventh chapter, denotes the same kingdom as that represented by the legs of the image? See lesson two.

15. What kingdom preceded Rome?

16. What kingdom preceded Grecia?

17. What one preceded Medo-Persia?

BELSHAZZAR.-Three rulers came to the throne of Babylon between the death of Nebuchadnezzar and the ascension to the throne of Belshazzar, the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar. While Belshazzar succeeded to the rule of the great empire which had been governed by his grandfather, it seems that he inherited none of his good qualities. He was weak and pusillanimous, and did nothing to build up his kingdom or protect it from his foes. He relied simply on the impregnable nature of the walls of his city, and gave himself over to the luxury and debauchery of his court, and was there slain when the city was overthrown by Cyrus.

"FOUR WINDS . . . STROVE UPON THE GREAT SEA." - All Scripture language is to be taken literally, unless there exists some good reason for supposing it to be figurative; and all that is figurative is to be interpreted by that which is literal. . . Winds, in symbolic language, denote strife political commotion, and war. Jer.25:31-33: "Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth." Here the prophet speaks of a controversy which the Lord is said to have with all nations, when the wicked shall be given to the sword, and the slain of the Lord shall be from one end of the earth to the other; and the strife and commotion which produce all this destruction is called a great whirlwind.

That winds denote strife and war is further evident from a consideration of the vision itself; for as the result of the striving of the winds, kingdoms arise and fall and these events are accomplished through political strife.

The Bible definition of seas, or waters, when used as a symbol, is peoples, and nations, and tongues. In proof of this, see Rev. 17:15.- *Thoughts on, Daniel and the Revelation*.

Fourth Sabbath.-Babylon.

1. What was the first universal kingdom on the earth?

2. By whom was it founded? Gen. 10:8-10.
3. To what does the name Babel correspond? Ans. Babylon. See margin of Gen. 10:10.
4. When did the kingdom become universal? Ans. about 603 BC.
5. How did Babylon first become connected with God's people? 2 Chron. 33:11.
6. When did this take place? Ans. 677 B. C. See margin of 2 Chron. 33:11.
7. By what was Babylon represented in the great image?
8. By what was it represented in Daniel's vision of the four beasts?
9. Which symbol best represented the wealth and grandeur of the kingdom?
10. By what was the warlike character of the Babylonians best represented?
11. Of what were the wings of the lion an emblem? Hab. 1:6-8.
12. Who was the most noted ruler of that kingdom? Ans. Nebuchadnezzar.
13. How did he gain his great power and dominion? Jer. 27:5-8,
14. When was his kingdom overthrown? Ans. A. D. 538. See margin of Dan. 5:28-30, 31.
15. How long did the Babylonian kingdom continue after it became connected with the people of God?

BABYLON. This empire, the head of gold, was founded by Belesis, BC 747. This ruler is also called in secular history Nabonassar, and in the Scriptures, Baladan. -Isa. 39:1. Arising from the ancient Assyrian empire, founded by Nimrod, great grandson of Noah (Gen. 10:9, 10), which had governed Asia for about thirteen hundred years, it reached the summit of its glory under Nebuchadnezzar, who added to its original dominions the provinces of Asia Minor, Phoenicia, Egypt, Syria, and Palestine. These, with the empire of Babylon proper, embraced all the then known world of any national influence or power.

It is a manifest rule of interpretation that nations are not particularly noticed in prophecy until they become so far connected with the people of God that mention of them becomes necessary to make the records of sacred history complete. When this was the case with Babylon, it was the great and over-towering object in the political world.

In 677 BC, Babylon became connected with the people of God by the capture of Manasseh, king of Judah, and comes at this point, consequently, into the field of prophecy.

The character of this empire is indicated by, the nature of the material composing that portion of the image by which it was symbolized—the head of gold.

It was the golden kingdom of a golden age.

SINGING WITH THE UNDERSTANDING

Editors

We cannot here mention all the advantages that music affords the Christian. In one song we find these words: "let those refuse to sing, who never knew our God". And the Bible says: "this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God..." John 17:3. The Christian must know God and only those who do not know God should refuse to sing. So the Christian must sing.

What songs should the Christian sing? "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Ephesians 5:19. Christ and His disciples "when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives". Matthew 26:30. If psalms, hymns and spiritual songs are conducted aright they might be a blessing, nay, they are a blessing. But they can be perverted by a number of things. "A bedlam of noise shocks the senses and perverts that which if conducted aright might be a blessing."

A bedlam of noise perverts any kind of song, even the best hymns. But God in His mercy has made it difficult – almost impossible – for almost all individuals to sing with a bedlam of noise in their private singing. "Oh the pure delight of a single hour that before Thy throne I spend". During that single hour, it is almost impossible while singing to have a bedlam of noise. A bigger perversion than the bedlam of noise then is in the words of the song. Have you dispensed with drums? You have done well. But the battle is not yet over. Check the words that you sing. For song is one of the most powerful tools for fixing the words of scripture in memory. If the words are not scriptural, what will be fixed in the memory?

We might consider the song: "~~When this life is over I'll fly away.. When I die.. by and by I'll fly away~~". This is a greater perversion than any bedlam of noise. Spurious Bibles have perfected the art of changing verses or doing away with others completely. This species of perversion has been taken up by some hymnals also which change words and do away with some stanzas completely. With this condition of things, singing with the understanding requires much individual keenness at detecting error. This month we are offering you tools to help you begin your journey or to strengthen you on your way towards singing with the understanding. Go to page 17 to find these.

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