

THE SYMBOLIC CODE



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Lightening



The Earth

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"COURAGE - God's servants are not to be easily discouraged by difficulties or opposition. Those who proclaim the third angel's message must stand bravely at their post, in the face of detraction and falsehood, fighting the good fight of faith, and resisting the enemy with the weapon that Christ used, 'It is written.' In the great crisis through which they are soon to pass the servants of God will encounter the same hardness of heart, the same cruel determination, the same unyielding hatred, encountered by Christ and the apostles.

All who in that evil day would faithfully serve God according to the dictates of conscience, will need courage, firmness, and a knowledge of God and His word; for those who are true to God will be persecuted, their motives will be impugned, their best efforts misinterpreted, and their names cast out as evil." —*Gospel Workers*, p. 264.

SANCTIFIED IN A MOMENT, OR DAY BY DAY?

VICTOR T. HOUTEFF

Question: What part do we play in the process of sanctification, and when is a person sanctified?

"We should consider the words of the apostle Paul, in which he appeals to his brethren, by the mercies of God, to present their bodies 'a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.' ...sanctification is not merely a theory, an emotion, or a form of words, but a living, active principle, entering into the everyday life. It requires that our habits of eating, drinking, and dressing, be such as to secure the preservation of physical, mental, and moral health, that we may present to the Lord our bodies—not an offering corrupted by wrong habits, but—a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.' Rom. 12:1." —*Counsels on Health*, p. 67.

"True sanctification comes through the working out of the principle of love. 'God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.' The life of him in whose heart Christ abides, will reveal practical godliness. The character will be purified, elevated, ennobled, and glorified. Pure doctrine will blend with works of righteousness; heavenly precepts will mingle with holy practices.

"Sanctification...is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ. Wrongs cannot be righted nor reformations wrought in the character by feeble, intermittent efforts. It is only by long, persevering effort, sore discipline, and stern conflict, that we shall overcome. We know not one day how strong will be our conflict the next. So long as Satan reigns, we shall have self to subdue, besetting sins to overcome; so long as life shall last, there will be no stopping place, no point which we can reach and say, I have fully attained.

Sanctification is the result of lifelong obedience."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 560.

"Day by day, hour by hour, a vigorous work of self-denial and of sanctification must go on within; then the works will bear witness that Jesus is abiding in the heart by faith. Sanctification does not close the avenues of the soul to knowledge, but expands the mind, and inspires it to search for truth as for hidden treasure."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 449.

"There is no Bible sanctification for those who cast a part of the truth behind them' (*Testimonies*, Vol. 1, p. 338), for "this work cannot go on in the heart while the light on any part of the truth is rejected or neglected. The sanctified soul will not be content to remain in ignorance, but will desire to walk in the light and to seek for greater light. As a miner digs for gold and silver, so the follower of Christ will seek for truth, as for hidden treasures, and will press from light to a greater light, ever increasing in knowledge. He will continually grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth"—*The Review and Herald*, June 17, 1890.

"Many...do not exemplify the truth in their lives. They have special exercises upon sanctification, yet cast the word of God behind them. They pray sanctification, sing sanctification, and shout sanctification...The present truth, which is the channel, is not regarded, but is trampled under foot. Men may cry, Holiness! holiness! sanctification! sanctification! consecration! consecration! and yet know no more by experience of what they talk than the sinner with his corrupt propensities. God will soon tear off this whitewashed garb of professed sanctification which some who are carnally minded have thrown around them to hide the deformity of the soul." —*Testimonies*, Vol. 1, pp. 338, 336.

"The prophet Daniel was an example of true sanctification. His long life was filled up with noble service for his Master. He was a man 'greatly beloved' of Heaven. Yet instead of claiming to be pure and holy, this honored prophet identified himself with the really sinful of Israel, as he pleaded before God in behalf of his people: 'We do not present our supplications before Thee for our righteousness, but for Thy great mercies.' 'We have sinned, we have done wickedly.' He declares, 'I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people.' And when at a later time the Son of God appeared, to give him instruction, Daniel says, 'My comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.'

"When Job heard the voice of the Lord out of the whirlwind, he exclaimed, 'I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.' It was when Isaiah saw the glory of the Lord, and heard the cherubim crying, 'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts,' that he cried out, 'Woe is me! for I am undone.' Paul, after he was caught up into the third heaven, and heard things which it was not possible for a man to utter, speaks of himself as 'less than the least of all saints.'"—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 470, 471.

Paul's sanctification was the result of a constant conflict with self. He said, 'I die daily.' His will and His desires every day conflicted with duty and the will of God. Instead of following inclination, he did God's will, however crucifying to his own nature.

"God leads His people on step by step. The Christian life is a battle and a march. In this warfare there is no release; the effort must be continuous and persevering. It is by unceasing endeavor that we maintain the victory over the temptations of Satan. Christian integrity must be sought with resistless energy, and maintained with a resolute fixedness of purpose.

"No one will be borne upward without stern, persevering effort in his own behalf. All must

engage in this warfare for themselves....The struggle for conquest over self, for holiness and heaven, is a life-long struggle. Without continual effort and constant activity, there can be no advancement in the divine life, no attainment of the victor's crown."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 8, p. 313.

"This is the will of God concerning human beings, even their sanctification. In urging our way upward, heavenward, every faculty must be kept in the most healthy condition, prepared to do faithful service. The powers with which God has endowed man are to be put to the stretch....Man can not possibly do this of himself; he must have divine aid. **What part is the human agent to act?**—'Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.' Phil. 2:12, 13."—*Id.*, p. 64.

Finally, the working of the principle of true sanctification in the Christian heart is inimitably illustrated in Christ's parable of the growing seed: "first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear." Mark 4:28.

Thus from grace to grace ascends the climb of true sanctification, which is the dynamic process of progressive regeneration through the continual impartation of the righteousness of Christ, "by the power of the indwelling Spirit of God" (*The Great Controversy*, p. 469); for "the impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ" (*Gospel Workers*, p. 285)—complete sanctification.

By way of comparison: "The righteousness by which we are justified [the first phase of sanctification] is imputed. The righteousness by which we are sanctified [the second phase] is imparted. The first is our title to heaven; the second is our fitness for heaven."—*The Review and Herald*, June 4, 1895.

"The germination of the seed represents the beginning of spiritual life, and the development

of the plant is a beautiful figure of Christian growth. As in nature, so in grace; there can be no life without growth. The plant must either grow or die. As its growth is silent and imperceptible, but continuous, so is the development of the Christian life. At every stage of development our life may be perfect; yet if God's purpose for us is fulfilled, there will be continual advancement. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime. As our opportunities multiply, our experience will enlarge, and our knowledge increase. We shall become strong to bear responsibility, and our maturity will be in proportion to our privileges."—*Christ Object Lessons*, pp. 65,66.

"Here is Bible sanctification. It is not merely a show or outside work. It is sanctification received through the channel of truth. It is truth received in the heart, and practically carried out in the life."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 1, p. 339.

"Christ prayed for His disciples in these words: 'Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.' There is no genuine sanctification, except through obedience to the truth."—*The Sanctified Life*, p. 49. (4 Answerer, pp. 12-18).

ESAU OR JACOB—WHICH? • A TYPOLOGY

Victor T. Houteff

"And Isaac entreated the Lord for his wife, because she was barren: and the Lord was entreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

"And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to inquire of the Lord.

"And the Lord said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people

shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

"And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau. And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob." Gen. 25:21-26.

In the preternatural birth and the lives of Esau and Jacob, there is unmistakably Divine design and typology. The strange anomaly of this family's experience obviously dramatized in miniature an experience through which God's church would one day pass. Rebekah herself was made well aware of this fact when "the Lord said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger." Verse 23.

What is the typology in this throbbing life drama?—Basically that which stands forth in Paul's interpretation of the equally intense drama of Hagar and Ishmael, Sarah and Isaac. Inspiration unveils the fact that the former pair represent the old Testament Church and its members, the Jews; and that the latter pair represent the new Testament Church and its members, the Christians (Gal. 4:22-31).

Similarly, though in another phase, Rebekah also represents the church, while Esau and Jacob represent her offspring, the laity. And since the two struggled within the mother before they were born (delivered), the important lesson is that while the church is travailing with her children just before they are delivered, receive the second birth (John 3:3) and are led into the kingdom, they are to struggle within. So, Rebekah's carrying two sons makes known that the church is carrying within her two classes of people—Esaus and Jacobs.

"There are two opposing influences," affirms Inspiration, "continually exerted on the members of the church. One influence is working for the purification of the church, and the other for the corrupting of the people of God."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 46.

The manner in which Esau and Jacob were born—Jacob's following Esau ahold of his heel—has very obvious significance: Esau's leading makes him a type of leaders possessing his character, and Jacob's following makes him a type of followers possessing his character. This analogy unerringly signifies, too, that the one represents a class which precedes the other in church fellowship. Broadly speaking, therefore, they together represent candidates for a successor ministry and laity respectively.

There is also typical significance in the further fact that Esau was born hairy and Jacob smooth. This outstanding external unlikeness obviously imports some kind of outstanding visible identification of the two classes typified.

God ordained the man to lead and the woman to follow, and as such He created the man hairy and the woman smooth. These Divine marks of distinction reveal that Esau and the class which he represents possess the natural equipment for leadership, while Jacob and the class he represents do not. Besides, being the first-born, Esau by birthright was to be the family's priest. Through him were to come the progenitors of the twelve tribes, the prophets, the princes, and the kings of Israel, even the King of kings Himself, the Saviour of the world.

But the desires, ambitions, and aims of Esau and Jacob, ran counter to their inherited positions. Esau had no special interest in the part of the work which his birthright permitted, whereas Jacob coveted it. Blocked, though, by the law of inheritance from possessing Esau's part, Jacob in his inordinate longing for the birthright managed to purchase it at the

opportune time. Then in order to receive his father's blessings, he consented to his mother's conniving to obtain it through deceit.

The tragic lesson is painfully conspicuous: The Esau class who attend the duties of their office less than its sanctity demands, indifferently let it slip from their hands into the eager, reaching grasp of the Jacob class, who do veritably appreciate and prize its obligations, but who, not being natural-born leaders, must acquire the equipment for the holy office by passing through the disciplinary training of some soul-trying experience as foreshadowed by Jacob's training while he was a fugitive from home. Thus in their providential lot, cast out of the church by their elder brethren, as was Jacob cast out of the home by his elder brother, because of their zeal in God's service, they gain a training for the privileged work which is to be theirs.

What an inestimable blessing the firstborn, the present ministry, are losing! Theirs is the matchless privilege of standing on Mt. Zion with the Lamb and of fathering forth the latter day subjects of the Kingdom, ushering the Kingdom itself, bringing the second advent of Christ, and finally leading the redeemed host into the heavenly Canaan, into the realm of fadeless glory. But they are about to lose out—tragedy of tragedies!

For some tempting mess of pottage they let slip this sovereign privilege! Sadly, they are even now letting it slip away to the Jacob class, the faithful laity, the 144,000 future servants of God (Rev. 7:3; 5:10; *Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 475, 476).

"As Esau awoke to see the folly of his rash exchange when it was too late to recover his loss, so it will be in the day of God with those who have bartered their heirship to heaven for selfish gratifications."—*Patriarch and Prophets*, p. 182. (Read also *Testimonies*, Vol. 2, pp. 38,39.)

"Brethren," years ago pleaded the Spirit of

Truth with the first-born in warning them of their danger of losing their birthright, "if you continue to be as idle, as worldly, as selfish as you have been, God will surely pass you by, and take those who are less self-caring, less ambitious for worldly honor, and will not hesitate to go, as did their Master, without the camp, bearing the reproach. The work will be given to those who will take it, those who prize it, who weave its principles into their every-day experience. God will choose humble men, who are seeking to glorify his name and advance his cause rather than to honor and advance themselves. He will raise up men who have not so much worldly wisdom, but who are connected with him, and who will seek strength and counsel from above."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 461.

"The call to this great and solemn work was presented to men of learning and position; had these been little in their own eyes, and trusted fully in the Lord, he would have honored them with bearing his standard in triumph to the victory....

"God will work a work in our day that but few anticipate. He will raise up and exalt among us those who are taught rather by the unction of his Spirit, than by the outward training of scientific institutions."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 82.

"Here [Ezek. 9:5,6] we see that the church—the Lord sanctuary—was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God. The ancient men, those to whom God had given great light, and who had stood as guardians of the spiritual interests of the people, had betrayed their trust. They had taken the position that we need not look for miracles and the marked manifestation of God's power as in former days. Times have changed. These words strengthen their unbelief, and they say, The Lord will not do good, neither will he do evil. He is too merciful to visit his people in judgment. Thus peace and safety is the cry

from men who will never lift up their voice like a trumpet to show God's people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins. These dumb dogs, that would not bark, are the ones who feel the just vengeance of an offended God. Men, maidens, and little children, all perish together."—*Id.*, p. 211.

Now, as this numerous-phased typology turns round to its next aspect, Esau and Jacob are seen in a further representation of two sinful classes: Esau, both by the color of his skin and by the significance of his name after it was changed from Esau to Edom; Jacob, by the meaning of his name before it was changed from Jacob to Israel.

Singularly enough, as was the color of Esau's skin red, so was the meaning of his new name, Edom. And as he failed to appreciate and cherish the paternal gift, never fulfilling the meaning of his birth name ("he that finishes"), it is seen that his new name, unlike Jacob's new name, signifies, not advancement, but rather failure to advance, going on unrestrained in his carnal ways—remaining in his inborn, "red," character. Hence, the class of leaders which he typifies are to lose out, never to finish their God-appointed work, and never to be transformed from sinners to saints! What a loss!

Not so, though, with the Jacob class. Just as their type, who diligently cared for the sheep, carefully tended to his business, and triumphantly overcame his covetous nature, had his name changed from Jacob (supplanter) to Israel (an overcomer and thus a Prince), so they, too, finally triumphing over their own carnal nature, have their names changed from Jacobites to Israelites, from supplanters to overcomers,—from servants of self to servants of God, from common Christians in Laodicea to exalted princes on Mt. Zion. Thus in their own right the antitypical Jacobites become antitypical Israelites; by acquisition of the priestly birthright they become finishers of the gospel work, and as

servants of God they stand on Mt. Zion with the Lamb.

So it is seen that both classes, like their types, have their names changed: the Jacob class, because they cherish, as did Jacob, an imperishable birthright; the Esau class, because they despise, as did Esau, the imperishable birthright, and cherish the perishable glory of this life. The one has a sharp, correct sense of life's values; the other, a dull, incorrect sense of them.

And though Jacob lacked the natural qualifications for performing the duties of his office, the lack was more than offset by his overwhelming zeal. Regardless, therefore, how much or how little natural talent and acquired training one may have for any position, he will never make a success at it unless he invests in it everything he possesses—throws his whole heart and soul into it. This is one of life's immutable laws, and it should be remembered by all that it governs prosperity in every field of endeavor whether for believer or unbeliever.

Since one's loss is always another's gain, just as Esau's loss was Jacob's gain, so the dreadful, irreparable, and priceless loss to the Esau class is to be a glorious eternal gain to the Jacob class.

In gnawing remorse over the realization of his inestimable loss, Esau "found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears." Heb. 12:17. His fate irrevocably types that which is to overtake all who by their works place themselves in the Esau class. (An excerpt from *The Shepherd's Rod, pocket edition, Vol. 1, pp. 25-33.*)

WHY AGITATE WHERE NOT WANTED?

Question: If the Davidians think they have a message, why are they not content to go their way and let others go theirs? Why should they

agitate their message in our church?

Answer: Tracing the church's history down through the ages, we find that if all had taken the same position as the questioner, the advancing Truth would never have reached the church in any period. Had God's messengers at sundry times failed to agitate their message in their own churches, how, then, would the various reformatory messages have reached His people? Is He not more interested in them than He is in the heathen? John the Baptist, Jesus, and the apostles, all sacrificed their lives in order to take their message to their own church. Why, then, should not the Davidians do likewise?

"Against these men [Wycliffe, Huss, Luther, Tyndale, Baxter, Wesley], persecution raged with relentless fury; yet they ceased not to declare the truth. Different periods in the history of the church have each been marked by the development of some special truth, adapted to the necessities of God's people at that time. Every new truth has made its way against hatred and opposition; those who were blessed with its light were tempted and tried. The Lord gives a special truth for the people in an emergency. Who dare refuse to publish it? He commands His servants to present the last invitation of mercy to the world. They cannot remain silent, except at the peril of their souls."—*The Great Controversy, p. 609.*

Consequently, we dare not refuse to publish the special Davidian truth for the church today. (*2 Answerer, pp. 57,58.*)

**And in the days of these kings
shall the God of heaven set up a Kingdom,
which shall never be destroyed: and the
kingdom shall not be left to other people,
but it shall break in pieces and consume
all these kingdoms,
and it shall stand for ever.
Dan. 2:44, 45.**

CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Preparatory Messages

The Bible account of God's dealings with His people is full of most helpful instruction for the remnant church. It shows that through the centuries He has had but one unchangeable, eternal purpose. He has allowed nothing to defeat that purpose. In all the crises and developments that have arisen, He has been in control. He has foreseen the perils lurking along the way, and has sent warnings to His people to guard and protect them. When they have needed messages to awaken, inspire, and regenerate them, He has raised up messengers to give the messages. The great exodus movement from Egypt to Canaan, the history of Samuel and Israel, of David and the kingdom he was chosen to establish, and the tragic experiences of Jeremiah in the kingdom of Judah, and its overthrow and captivity,—all are illustrations of this.

In the records of these great crises we find that God's messages to the people were of a twofold character: *First*, they pointed out the deceptions into which His people were being led, and warned them of the serious results which would come unless they returned to Him: *second*, they revealed most clearly just what was needed to help them, and gave assurance that He would not only supply all their needs, but would also inspire and empower them to lay hold of the proffered help if they would but choose it with the whole heart. Nothing was lacking on the Lord's side to meet fully every deception and peril by which Satan sought to ruin the people and the cause.

The developments and experiences connected with the coming of the message of Righteousness by Faith, in 1888, bear striking similarity to the experiences which came to the

people of God in olden times. It is well to give most careful consideration to the messages of the Spirit of Prophecy just preceding the Minneapolis Conference of 1888.

The Message of 1887 - The testimonies of the Spirit of Prophecy which were received during the year 1887 gave warning of danger. They named again and again a specific evil, a deception into which the church was falling. That deception was pointed out as the fatal mistake of drifting into formalism; the substitution of forms, ceremonies, doctrines, machinery, and activities for that heart experience which comes alone through fellowship with Christ Jesus our Lord. Throughout the entire year this specific danger was kept before ministers and people by messages which appeared in the *Review and Herald*. In order that the seriousness of the situation at that time may be realized and the warnings better understood, we quote a few paragraphs, giving the date of publication:

1) "It is possible to be a formal, partial believer, and yet be found wanting, and lose eternal life. It is possible to practice some of the Bible injunctions, and be regarded as a Christian, and yet perish because you are lacking in essential qualifications that constitute Christian character."—*Review and Herald, Jan. 11, 1887.*

2) Two week later another message declares: "The observance of external forms will never meet the great want of the human soul. A mere profession of Christ is not enough to prepare one to stand the test of the judgment."—*Review and Herald, Jan. 25, 1887.*

3) Three weeks following this it was clearly stated: "There is too much formality in the

church. Souls are perishing for light and knowledge. We should be so connected with the Source of light that we can be channels of light to the world....Those who profess to be guided by the word of God, may be familiar with the evidences of their faith, and yet be like the pretentious fig tree, which flaunted its foliage in the face of the world, but when searched by the Master, was found destitute of fruit."—*Review and Herald, Feb. 15, 1887.*

4) Two weeks thereafter came another of like import: "The Lord Jesus, on the Mt. of Olives, plainly stated that 'because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.' He speaks of a class who have fallen from a high state of spirituality. Let such utterances as these come home with solemn, searching power to our hearts....A formal round of religious services is kept up; but where is the love of Jesus? Spirituality is dying....Shall we meet the mind of the Spirit of God? Shall we dwell more upon practical godliness, and far less upon mechanical arrangements?"—*Written Mar. 1, 1887; appears in "Testimonies," Vol. 5, pp. 538, 539.*

On and on throughout the entire year messages continued to come telling us that formality was coming into the church; that we were trusting too much in forms, ceremonies, theories, mechanical arrangements, and a constant round of activities. Of course these messages were true, and they should have made a profound impression. But formalism is most deceptive and ruinous. It is the hidden, unsuspected rock upon which, through the centuries, the church has so often been well-nigh wrecked. Paul warns us that the "form of godliness" without the power of God will be one of the perils of the last days, and admonishes us to turn away from the deceptive, bewitching thing. Over and over again, and through various channels, God sends warnings to His church to escape the peril of formalism.

It was precisely this perilous deception against which the Spirit of Prophecy gave repeated

warning in 1887; and it was to save us from its full results that the message of **Righteousness by Faith** was sent to us.

This movement is of God. It is destined to triumph gloriously. Its organization is Heaven-indited. Its departments are the wheels within the wheels, all skillfully linked together; but they are incomplete and partial without the Spirit within the wheels giving power and speedy results. These wheels are composed of men and women. God baptizes men and women rather than movements; and when men receive the power of the Spirit into their lives, then the beautiful machinery moves speedily forward on its appointed task. This must be realized individually before it can be realized collectively. How imperative, then, our need of God's provision!

But not alone came the warnings against the substitution of theories, forms, activities, and the machinery of organization. With these warnings came a direct, powerful, positive message telling exactly what should be done to save us from the situation into which we were drifting. The entire message cannot be reproduced here because of its length. However, a few excerpts will convey some idea of its serious import, and of the hope it held out to the church if the instruction were heeded:

Greatest and Most Urgent Need - "A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it....There are persons in the church who are not converted, and who will not unite in earnest, prevailing prayer. We must enter upon the work individually. We must pray more, and talk less. Iniquity abounds, and the people must be taught not to be satisfied with a form of godliness without the spirit and power....

"We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world....

"There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. If Satan had his way, there would never be another awakening, great or small, to the end of time. But we are not ignorant of his devices. It is possible to resist his power. When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come. Satan can no more hinder a shower of blessing from descending upon God's people than he can close the windows of heaven that rain cannot come upon the earth. Wicked men and devils cannot hinder the work of God, or shut out His presence from the assemblies of His people, if they will, with subdued, contrite hearts, confess and put away their sins, and in faith claim His promises. Every temptation, every opposing influence, whether open or secret, may be successfully resisted, 'not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.'

"What is our condition in this fearful and solemn time? Alas, what pride is prevailing in the church, what hypocrisy, what deception, what love of dress, frivolity, and amusement, what desire for the supremacy! All these sins have clouded the mind, so that eternal things have not been discerned."—*Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887.

What a solemn message, and yet how full of tender, helpful counsel! What hope is held before the church if she will but sincerely heed it! How sad that this great message passed with the annual files of the *Review*, to lie buried so long! Is it not time to bring again this message clearly and forcefully to the attention of the church, as Ezra brought forth the forgotten book of the law of Moses and read the

instruction it contained to Israel?

The Remedy to Be Applied - As the year closed, a message came, pointing clearly and positively to the only remedy of the evils so earnestly and repeatedly set before us during the entire year. That remedy, we are told, is union with Christ Jesus the Lord.

"There is a wide difference between a pretended union and a real connection with Christ by faith. A profession of religion places men in the church, but this does not prove that they have a vital connection with the living Vine....**When this intimacy of connection of communion is formed, our sins are laid upon Christ, His righteousness is imputed to us.** He was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him....

"**The power of evil is so identified with human nature that no man can overcome except by union with Christ.** Through this union we receive moral and spiritual power. If we have the Spirit of Christ, we shall bring forth the fruit of righteousness....

"A union with Christ by living faith is enduring; every other union must perish. Christ first chose us, paying an infinite price for our redemption; and the true believer chooses Christ as first and last, and best in everything. But this union costs us something. It is a relation of utter dependence, to be entered into by a proud being. All who form this union must feel their need of the atoning blood of Christ. They must have a change of heart. They must submit their own will to the will of God. There will be a struggle with outward and internal obstacles. There must be a painful work of detachment, as well as a work of attachment. Pride, selfishness, vanity, worldliness,—sin in all its forms,—must be overcome, if we would enter into a union with Christ. The reason why many find the Christian life so deplorably hard, why they are so fickle, so variable, is, they try to

attach themselves to Christ without first detaching themselves from these cherished idols."—*Review and Herald, Dec. 13, 1887.*

This message takes us into the very heart of the gospel—union with Christ. No man can overcome sin except by this union. By union with Christ, our sins are laid upon Him, and His righteousness is imputed to us. This is *reality*, not form nor ceremony. It is not church membership, nor assent of the intellect to theory and dogma. Union with Christ is a satisfying reality in all that pertains to the Christian life. In this lies our security. This was our great need in 1887, and to lead us into that experience the Lord sent the message of **Righteousness by Faith.**

The Message of 1888 - As we pass into the year 1888, the positive remedial messages which began in 1887 were continued, growing in clarity and force, as will be observed. The true way is clearly set forth,—the only way that gives genuine sincerity, reality, and victory. This true way is through fellowship with our risen Lord. Note the following ringing words:

The Only True Way - "Without the presence of Jesus in the heart, religious service is only dead, cold formalism. The longing desire for communion with God soon ceases when the Spirit of God is grieved from us; but when Christ is in us the hope of glory, we are constantly directed to think and act in reference to the glory of God."—*Review and Herald, April 17, 1888.*

"We should study the life of our Redeemer, for He is the only perfect example for men. We should contemplate the infinite sacrifice of Calvary, and behold the exceeding sinfulness of sin and the righteousness of the law. You will come from a concentrated study of the theme of redemption strengthened and ennobled. Your comprehension of the character of God will be deepened; and with the whole plan of salvation clearly defined in your mind, you will be better

able to fulfill your divine commission. From a sense of thorough conviction, you can then testify to men of the immutable character of the law manifested by the death of Christ on the cross, the malignant nature of sin, and the righteousness of God in justifying the believer in Jesus on condition of his future obedience to the statutes of God's government in heaven and earth."—*Review and Herald, April 24, 1888.*

Our Redeemer, His atoning sacrifice for us, the malignant nature of sin, the righteousness of Christ to be received by faith,—in the serious contemplation and full acceptance of these vital truths of the gospel are to be found pardon, justification, peace, joy, and victory.

A Startling Message - Following the pointing out of the only true way, there came a startling message that must have been designed of the Lord to lead His people to sense their peril and step quickly into the way of security:

"The solemn question should come home to every member of our churches. How are we standing before God, as the professed followers of Jesus Christ? Is our light shining forth to the world in clear, steady rays? Have we, as a people, solemnly dedicated to God, preserved our union with the Source of all light? Are not the symptoms of decay and declension painfully visible in the midst of the Christian churches of today? Spiritual death has come upon the people that should be manifesting life and zeal, purity and consecration, by the most earnest devotion to the cause of truth. The facts concerning the real condition of the professed people of God, speak more loudly than their profession, and make it evident that **some power has cut the cable that anchored them to the Eternal Rock, and that they are drifting away to sea, without chart or compass.**"—*Review and Herald, July 24, 1888.*

Some power, it is declared, had cut the cable that anchored the church to the Eternal Rock,

and its members were drifting away to sea without chart or compass. What situation could be more alarming than this? What more convincing reason could be given to show the need of turning with all the heart to Him who alone is able to hold up fast?

Back to Safe Anchorage - Next came a message telling just what was necessary in order to repair the cable the enemy had cut, and thus bring us back to safe anchorage. Read it with care:

"It is not enough to be familiar with the arguments of the truth alone. You must meet the people through the life that is in Jesus. Your work will be made wholly successful if Jesus is abiding with you, for He has said, 'Without Me ye can do nothing.' Jesus stands knocking, knocking at the door of your hearts, and yet for all this, some say continually, 'I cannot find Him.' Why not? He says, 'I stand here knocking.' Why do you not open the door, and say, 'Come in, dear Lord'? I am so glad for these simple directions as to the way to find Jesus. If it were not for them, I should not know how to find Him whose presence I desire so much. Open the door now, and empty the soul temple of the buyers and sellers, and invite the Lord to come in. Say to Him, 'I will love Thee with all my soul. I will work the works of righteousness. I will obey the law of God.' Then you will feel the peaceful presence of Jesus."—*Review and Herald, Aug. 28, 1888.*

The Climax of the Preparatory Message - Just a few weeks before the General Conference assembled at Minneapolis, the Lord sent the following message as an impressive climax to all the instruction that had been coming on this one great theme month after month for nearly two years:

"What is the work of the minister of the gospel? It is to rightly divide the word of truth; not to invent a new gospel, but to rightly divide the gospel already committed to them. They cannot rely upon old sermons to present to their

congregations; for these set discourses may not be appropriate to meet the occasion or the wants of the people. There are subjects that are sadly neglected, that should be largely dwelt upon. **The burden of our message should be the mission and life of Jesus Christ. Let there be a dwelling upon the humiliation, self-denial, meekness, and lowliness of Christ, that proud and selfish hearts may see the difference between themselves and the Pattern, and may be humbled. Show to your hearers Jesus in His condescension to save fallen man. Show them that He who was their surety had to take human nature, and carry it through the darkness and the fearfulness of the malediction of His Father, because of man's transgression of His law; for the Saviour was found in fashion as a man.**

"Describe, if human language can, the humiliation of the Son of God, and think not that you have reached the climax, when you see Him exchanging the throne of light and glory which He had with the Father, for humanity. He came forth from heaven to earth; and while on earth, He bore the curse of God as surety for the fallen race. He was not obliged to do this. He chose to bear the wrath of God, which man had incurred through disobedience to the divine law. He chose to endure the cruel mockings, the deridings, the scourging, and the crucifixion. 'And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death;' but the manner of His death was an astonishment to the universe, for it was 'even the death of the cross.' Christ was not insensible to ignominy and disgrace. He felt it all most bitterly. He felt it as much more deeply and acutely than we can feel suffering, as His nature was more exalted, and pure, and holy than that of the sinful race for whom He suffered. He was the Majesty of heaven; He was equal with the Father. He was the commander of the hosts of angels, yet He died for man the death that was above all others, clothed with ignominy and reproach. O that the haughty hearts of men might realize this! O

that they might enter into the meaning of the redemption, and seek to learn the meekness and lowliness of Jesus."—*Review and Herald, Sept. 11, 1888.*

This instruction is directed especially to ministers—the teachers in Israel:

1. They were to rightly divide the word of truth.
2. They were not to invent a new gospel, but to rightly set forth the gospel already committed to them.
3. They were not to continue to preach their "old sermons" to the people, as these "set discourses" might not be appropriate to meet the wants of the people.
4. They were to dwell largely upon subjects that had been sadly neglected.
5. The burden of their message should be the mission and life of Jesus Christ.

The concluding paragraph furnishes a comprehensive outline of this sublime theme—the mission and life of Christ.

In Retrospect - At this distance it does seem as if all these direct, clear-cut, solemn messages should have made a more profound impression upon the minds of all the ministers. It would seem that they would have been fully prepared to listen to and drink in the timely, inspiring message of revival, reformation, and recovery that was presented with such clearness and in such sincere earnestness by the messenger whom the Lord raised up to deliver the message. The appropriation of the perfect **Righteousness of Christ** by deceived, sinful hearts was the remedy the Lord sent. It was just what was needed. Who can tell what would have come to the church and the cause of God if that message of **Righteousness by Faith** had been fully and wholeheartedly received by all at that time? And who can estimate the loss that has been sustained by the failure of many to receive that message? Eternity alone will reveal the whole truth regarding this matter.

(Note: This is chapter three of the book, *Christ Our Righteousness*,—a study of the principles of Righteousness by Faith as set forth in the Word of God and the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy). To be continued.

"Self-righteousness is the danger of this age; it separates the soul from Christ. Those who trust to their own righteousness cannot understand how salvation comes through Christ. They call sin righteousness and righteousness sin. They have no appreciation of the evil of transgression, no understanding of the terror of the law; for they do not respect God's moral standard. The reason there are so many spurious conversions in these days is that there is so low an appreciation of the law of God. Instead of God's standard of righteousness, men have erected a standard of their own by which to measure character. They see through a glass darkly and present false ideas of sanctification to the people, thus encouraging egotism, pride, and self-righteousness. The doctrine of sanctification advocated by many is full of deception, because it is flattering to the natural heart; but the kindest thing that can be preached to the sinner is the truth of the binding claims of the law of God. Faith and works must go hand in hand; for faith without works is dead, being alone.

"The prophet declares a truth by which we may test all doctrine. He says, 'to the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them' (Isa. 8:20). Although error abounds in the world, there is no reason why men need remain in deception. The truth is plain, and when it is contrasted with error, its character may be discerned. All the subjects of God's grace may understand what is required of them. By faith we may conform our lives to the standard of righteousness, because we can appropriate to ourselves the **Righteousness of Christ.**" (*Ellen G. White, Faith and Works, pp. 96, 97.*)

THE GOSPEL OF HEALTH

OUR DUTY TO PRESERVE HEALTH

Ellen G. White

I am pained at heart as I see so many feeble ministers, so many on beds of sickness, so many prematurely closing their earthly history,—men who have carried the burden of responsibility in the work of God, and whose whole heart was in their work. The conviction that they must cease their labor in the cause they loved, was far more painful to them than their sufferings from disease, or even the thought of death itself.

Our heavenly Father does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men. He is not the author of sickness and death; He is the source of life. He would have men live; and He desires them to be obedient to the laws of life and health, that they may live.

Those who accept the present truth and are sanctified through it, have an intense desire to represent the truth in their life and character. They have a deep yearning of soul that others may see the light and rejoice in it. As the true watchman goes forth bearing precious seed, sowing beside all waters, weeping and praying, the burden of labor is very taxing to mind and heart. He cannot keep up the strain continuously, his soul stirred to the very depths, without wearing out prematurely. Strength and efficiency are needed in every discourse. And from time to time fresh supplies of things new and old need to be brought forth from the storehouse of God's word. This will impart life and power to the hearers. God does not want you to become so exhausted that your efforts have no freshness or life.

Those who are engaged in constant mental labor, whether in studying or preaching, need rest and change. The earnest student is constantly taxing the brain, too often while

neglecting physical exercise; and as the result the bodily powers are enfeebled, and mental effort is restricted. Thus the student fails of accomplishing the very work that he might have done, had he labored wisely.

If they worked intelligently, giving both mind and body a due share of exercise, ministers would not so readily succumb to disease. If all our workers were so situated that they could spend a few hours each day in outdoor labor, and felt free to do this, it would be a blessing to them: they would be able to discharge more successfully the duties of their calling. If they have not time for complete relaxation, they could be planning and praying while at work with their hands, and could return to their labor refreshed in body and spirit.

Some of our ministers feel that they must every day perform some labor that they can report to the conference. And as the result of trying to do this, their efforts are too often weak and inefficient. They should have periods of rest, of entire freedom from taxing labor. But these cannot take the place of daily physical exercise.

Brethren, when you take time to cultivate your garden, thus gaining the exercise needed to keep the system in good working order, you are just as much doing the work of God as in holding meetings. God is our Father: He loves us, and He does not require any of His servants to abuse their bodies.

Another cause of ill-health and of inefficiency in labor, is indigestion. It is impossible for the brain to do its best work when the digestive powers are abused. Many eat hurriedly of various kinds of food, which set up a war in the

stomach, and thus confuse the brain. The use of unhealthful food, and overeating of even that which is wholesome, should alike be avoided.

Many eat at all hours, regardless of the laws of health. Then gloom covers the mind. How can men be honored with divine enlightenment, when they are so reckless in their habits, so inattentive to the light which God has given in regard to these things?

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

Insufficient Diet - Do not, however, feel it your duty to live on an insufficient diet. Learn for yourselves what you should eat, what kinds of food best nourish the body, and then follow the dictates of reason and conscience. At meal-time cast off care and taxing thought. Do not be hurried, but eat slowly and with cheerfulness, your heart filled with gratitude to God for all His blessings. And do not engage in brain labor immediately after a meal. Exercise moderately, and give a little time for the stomach to begin its work.

These are not matters of trifling importance. We must pay attention to them if healthful vigor and a right tone are to be given to the various branches of the work. The character and efficiency of the work depend largely upon the physical condition of the workers. Many committee meetings and other meetings for counsel have taken an unhappy tone from the dyspeptic condition of those assembled. And

many a sermon has received a dark shadow from the minister's indigestion.

Health is an inestimable blessing, and one which is more closely related to conscience and religion than many realize. It has a great deal to do with one's capability. Every minister should feel that if he would be a faithful guardian of the flock, he must preserve all his powers in condition for the best possible service.

Our workers should use their knowledge of the laws of life and health. Read the best authors on these subjects, and obey religiously that which your reason tells you is truth.

The Lord has presented before me that many, many will be rescued from physical, mental, and moral degeneracy through the practical influence of health reform. Health talks will be given, publications will be multiplied. The principles of health reform will be received with favor, and many will be enlightened. The influences that are associated with health reform will commend it to the judgment of all who want light, and they will advance step by step to **receive the special truths for this time.** Thus truth and righteousness will meet together. (*Gospel Workers*, pp. 239-242).

One important part of the work of the ministry is to faithfully present to the people the health reform, as it stands connected with the third angels's message, as a part of the same work. They should not fail to adopt it themselves, and should urge it upon all who profess to believe the truth. (*Testimonies*, Vol. 1, p. 469, 470).

Much of the prejudice that prevents the truth of the third angel's message from reaching the hearts of the people, might be removed if more attention were given to health reform. When people become interested in this subject, the way is often prepared for the **entrance of other truths.** (*Christian Temperance*, p. 121).

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE....

Research conducted at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, added hearty support to previous studies that linked high consumption of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains to a reduced risk of colon cancer. But there was a new finding: When the data from the diet questionnaire completed by more than 400 middle-aged men and women with a history of colon cancer was compared with the same info gathered from their cancer-free counterparts, another link appeared. Among women who drank more than five glasses of plain water a day, there were fewer cases of colon cancer. In fact, their risk was about half of what it was for women who drank fewer than two glasses a day. The same water intake afforded the men in the study only a suggestion of a reduced risk, a difference researchers say they can't explain without further study.

Although water plays a vital role in the workings of the innards, it has rarely been considered in studies looking at diets. Scientists aren't sure exactly how it might provide this apparent benefit, but they offer several possibilities: Increased water intake helps prevent constipation and speed up the works in general. That might reduce the contact with, and concentrations of, carcinogens in the colon. (*Prevention*, March 1997, pp. 22,23).

The general recommendation for adults remains: at least eight glasses (8 ounces each) of water a day. Rehydrate upon arising in the morning, midmorning and midafternoon but never with meals.

KINDNESS IS A GERM KILLER

New studies suggest that the brain is more involved in physical health than had previously been thought—and a brain that thinks *caring* thoughts may be especially health promoting.

"This may explain why almost all societies have developed social conventions emphasizing...caring for others, being generous to others and serving them," writes Drs. Robert Ornstein and David Sobel in *The Healing Brain*. "Doing so is helpful not only to the entire community but also to the health of the donor."

David McClelland, Ph.D., of Harvard showed films of Mother Teresa in action to college students and found that even just *viewing* good deeds resulted in elevated levels of germ-fighting substances (immunoglobulin A) in the students' saliva. These increases occurred in students whether they were fans of Mother Teresa or not.

Other studies reveal that doing regular volunteer work—more than any other activity—boosted life expectancy. Men who did no volunteer work at all were 2½ as likely to die during a study as men who volunteered at least once a week, report the authors of *Positive Living and Health* (Rodale Press, 1990)

Indeed, doing good is good for you. It is better to give than to receive. Helping other produces the same benefits—physical and emotional—as a strenuous workout. It lowers the blood pressure and makes you happy by releasing endorphins — mood elevating hormones. (*Let's Live*, Dec. 1992).

Conversely, according to other studies people deficient in the "helping others" department may suffer just the opposite of increased immunity: Dr. McClelland reported *low* levels of immunoglobulin A in dental students who scored high in tests measuring need for control over others. These students also reported higher than normal rates of upper-respiratory infections.

The need for control over others appears to trigger the production of aggression-related chemicals like adrenaline, which may in turn suppress immune-system activity, Dr. McClelland says. (*Prevention*, Dec. 1987).

Keeping a close circle of friends, learning to relax and even just caring for a pet or a plant can bolster the body's disease-fighting powers.

Inspiration says: "...In blessing others, you will realize a blessing yourselves. Those who, so far as it is possible, engage in the work of doing good to others by giving practical demonstration of their interest in them are not only relieving the ills of human life in helping them bear their burdens, but are at the same time contributing largely to their own health of soul and body. Doing good is a work that benefits both giver and receiver. If you forget self in your interest for others, you gain a victory over your infirmities. The satisfaction you will realize in doing good will aid you greatly in the recovery of the healthy tone of the imagination. The pleasure of doing good animates the mind and vibrates through the whole body. While the faces of benevolent men are lighted up with cheerfulness, and their countenances express the moral elevation of the mind, those of selfish, stingy men are dejected, cast down, and gloomy. Their moral defects are seen in their countenances. Selfishness and self-love stamp their own image upon the outward man. That person who is actuated by true disinterested benevolence is a partaker of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust; while the selfish and avaricious have cherished their selfishness until it has withered their social sympathies, and their countenances reflect the image of the fallen foe, rather than that of purity and holiness....(*Testimonies, Vol. 2, p. 534*) □

Gospel workers should be able also to give instruction in the principles of healthful living. There is sickness everywhere, and most of it might be prevented by attention to the laws of health. The people need to see the bearing of health principles upon their well-being, both for this life and for the life to come. They need to be awakened to their responsibility for the human habitation fitted up by their Creator as His dwelling place, and over which he desires

them to be faithful stewards. They need to be impressed with the truth conveyed in the words of Holy Writ:

"Ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." 2 Cor. 6:16.

Thousands need and would gladly receive instruction concerning the simple methods of treating the sick—methods that are taking the place of the use of poisonous drugs. There is great need of instruction in regard to dietetic reform. Wrong habits of eating and the use of unhealthful food are in no small degree responsible for the intemperance and crime and wretchedness that curse the world.

In teaching health principles, keep before the mind the great object of reform—that its purpose is to secure the highest development of body and mind and soul. Show that the laws of nature, being the laws of God, are designed for our good; that obedience to them promotes happiness in this life and aids in the preparation for the life to come.

Lead the people to study the manifestation of God's love and wisdom in the works of nature. Lead them to study that marvelous organism, the human system, and the laws by which it is governed. Those who perceive the evidences of God's love, who understand something of the wisdom and beneficence of His laws, and the results of obedience, will come to regard their duties and obligations from an altogether different point of view. Instead of looking upon an observance of the laws of health as a matter of sacrifice or self-denial, they will regard it, as it really is, as an inestimable blessing.

Every gospel worker should feel that the giving of instruction in the principles of healthful living is a part of his appointed work. Of this work there is great need, and the world is open for it. (*The Ministry of Healing, pp. 146, 147*).

HEALTH HINTS, CAUTIONS AND REMINDERS

- "Second Chance Nutrients" - Many patients are learning that certain nutrients can overturn a doctor's no-hope verdict. The nutritional therapy court of appeals has overturned many verdicts of conventional medicine. Many are using a healthy lifestyle to win reprieves from diseases that usually offer no way out.
- Spend more time reading how to maintain good health instead of wasting lives reading fiction or watching television.
- Flesh foods of all kinds are devoid of bulk, fiber or roughage and putrefy and rot in the long intestinal tract of man. All carnivorous animals have short alimentary tracts. The herbivorous animals have long intestinal tracts as does man.
- Often all that a subnormal stomach requires is an affiliation with a brain that knows how to choose food intelligently.
- Exercise is vital for good digestion, assimilation, elimination, circulation and respiration.
- Nutritional knowledge should be taught in every school, preached from every pulpit, disseminated from every state capitol and distributed free by the federal government to every home in the land!
- There is a nutritional protocol for each individual degenerative disease. Read, study, pray,...ask the Lord to show you your "pathway to healing."
- As little as 1 cup of coffee can produce an irregular heartbeat in some.
- A National survey found that vegetarian patterns of eating were associated with personality characteristics such as introspection,

low life stress, less combativeness and competitiveness, while fast food consumption was associated with a hurried lifestyle, high competitiveness, aggression, and considerable stress.

- There is an herb for every ailment!
- The practice of using herbs in health care sprang back to life in the United States so suddenly and dramatically in the late '60's and early '70's that the two decades since have been an "herbal renaissance."
- Many find that the aches and pains of arthritis are eliminated when candy and sweets are avoided. Others have discovered that fat and meat are the culprits and get blessed relief when on a vegetarian diet with only very moderate amounts of even vegetable oil.
- A report from Mercy Hospital in Rockville Centre, New York, states that excess fat of any kind can clog tiny arteries in your ear, leading to hearing loss.
- A new emphasis on prevention offers hope for greater progress in reducing the suffering and cost of disease. And prevention must rest upon the rock of nutrition in its fullest understanding and practices.
- "Cure" is to bring back into harmony with the laws of nature which are indeed God's laws.
- Vegetables are listed as cancer-rejecting foods.
- Nature has no prejudices. She rewards those who obey her laws with vigorous health, beauty and long life and punishes those who flaunt those laws with sickness and an untimely death.
- The laws of nature are written upon every nerve, muscle, faculty. These laws are pure water, pure air, sunlight, rest, exercise, a correct diet and trust in Divine power.

THE DAVIDIC- LEVITICAL INSTITUTE - 1997

Dear Believers:

Oh yes, it is here again! Time certainly does fly. Yes, the time has come to register for the DLI class of 1997.

International D.L.I. - 1997. In spite of the Middle East scenario and other problems at home and abroad, God still sits upon his throne and his Kingdom will prosper. Here is your opportunity to increase your knowledge and perfect your skills for the Master's service. Does not our Master deserve perfection?

Here are the prerequisites for DLI:

1) "Only those who hold the Association's 'Certificate of Fellowship' are eligible to matriculate in the Davidic-Levitical Institute." *5 Ans. p. 92*

2) "Students who prior to their coming here have done satisfactory work in the school's correspondence course are allowed ministerial credit....

3) "Right is reserved to refuse admission to anyone who appears for entrance without having previously filled out and returned an application form and without having received notification of acceptance." *Mt. Carmel Training Center, pp. 8,7*

4) It is required that the enrollee deposit with the Association the qualification fee of \$100.00. This fee will care for his room and board during his first month. "...Should he readily adapt himself to the manual phase of his training, and, during this first month period of his orientation, thereby earn enough wages to defray these expenses, then the (\$100.00) fee may be [refunded] credited to drawing or savings." (*See 5 Ans. 92*)

5) "In addition, he is required to deposit the amount of return transportation home, so that should he not find himself able to fit into the school's program, or for any other reason decide to leave Mt. Carmel, he as well as the Institute will be protected against his being stranded without sufficient funds to leave." *5 Ans. p. 92*

The class begins on June 2, 1997 and ends on October 25, 1997. We can only accept a limited number of students on a first-come, first-served basis. Now is your great chance. You are having some difficulties? So what? With God all things are possible. "Where is your faith?"

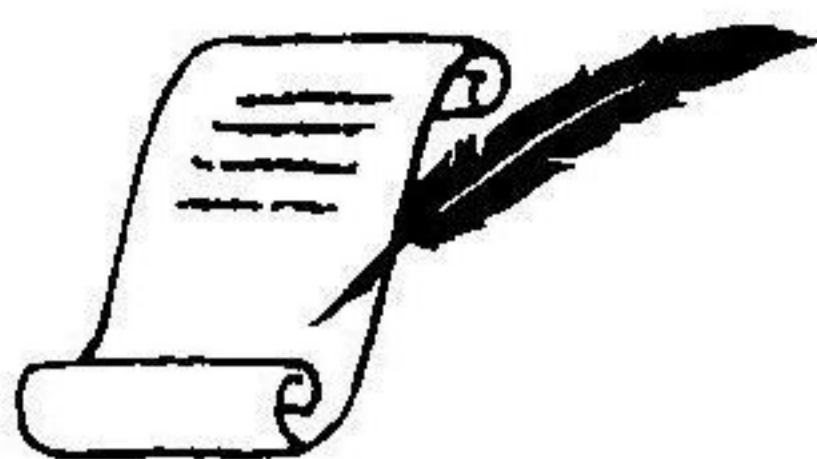
Please call or send for your application or get a photo copy from your area leader(s) right away. The overseas students do not miss their opportunities neither should you. Hurry! Now is the time. Pass the work along—get your application now from the Mountindale address. Overseas students send your application and request your immigration letters now. Yes, right now!! "Oh ye of little faith!" Can you not do all things through Christ with strengtheneth you?

Yours in Christ,

A. Anthony Hibbert,
Education Director

**Great is the Lord , and
greatly to be praised
in the city of our God,
in the mountain of his holiness.
Beautiful for situation,
the joy of the whole earth,
is Mount Zion,
on the sides of the north,
the city of the great King.
Psalms 48:1,2.**

THE MAIL BAG



Dear Friend:

I would like to again thank you for the long and elucidative explanation you gave me last week about your ministry. As I told you, I feel very much directed to continue searching and learning more about the Divine matters and for such I would need to receive from you all the publications and writings connected to Br. Victor T. Houteff. These include all the *Timely Greetings*, *The Answerers*, *Shepherd's Rod II* and any others available.

I must emphasize that the simple introduction of the *Shepherd's Rod* publications has already led me to read much more the Bible and E.G. White's books which have helped me to grow spiritually as I go deeper into the very urgent warnings of God's Spirit. I pray so that your work receives more acceptance among our brethren as we approach the crucial time of judgment.

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in response to your advice in the tract, *God's Answer...*" I read through the tract. Thank you for it. It will be very useful in my work as a new pastor. I use various materials, and this material is outstanding. Please send me other tracts for all topics

LATVIA

Dear Friends in Christ:

I am sorry I have not responded sooner, but I was unable to send a contribution at that time, and hoped to be able to do so later. I am on a fixed income, no longer working, and have had extra expenses, so I can not contribute to your worthy cause as much as I would love to.

I am sending a small donation with a sincere prayer that it will be of some help, even though it is late. I also pray that God will wonderfully bless your efforts there and that your building and all needed facilities will be completed....

ARKANSAS, USA

Christian greetings to all at Mt. Carmel:

You cannot imagine how glad I was to receive a few days ago, the *Session 1996 - Symbolic Code*. It is a sign from God...a sort of new link between your Association and my family.

I am so grateful for the wonderful literature you have sent. I want to thank you from the depths of my heart. My family and I and some friends (former members of the S.D.A church, left as sheep who had no shepherd and who now gather at our house) have benefited from it more than any other magazines and tracts or any other religious teaching we have come in contact with for many years. Your material is quite informative, and most importantly, extremely accurate. So you may consider us as you pupils and followers in the Ukraine.

Unfortunately we are on a low income and are unable to help you financially. May God bless you and each member of your staff as you continue to bring the Bible and the *Spirit of Prophecy* to us.

THE UKRAINE

Dear Brethren:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Hoping that the brethren at Mountindale are doing well.

There are things we must know as a people of the living God. We know that the prophecies will not fail to be fulfilled. The house of Israel and the house of Judah will soon come together. The message is growing and many members of the church are very much alarmed. Some give testimonies how the church and the leading men handle God's message and messengers.

At one of our churches one of our brethren was given the whole of the Sabbath from Divine service to the afternoon program. During Sabbath school he taught about the *eleventh hour* and in the afternoon on *Zechariah 6*. People were amazed that the servant of God whom they had disfellowshipped could speak such mighty words from the prophecies. They said that they knew very little about the books of Daniel and the Revelation, but that this is a new and true message.

At other church services we presented *Why Perish?* and various other prophetic studies. The people marveled and said the church is not teaching these things.

We are having good times but lack finances. Pray for us as we endeavor to share the message of the hour.

KENYA, EAST AFRICA

My Dear Brothers in Christ:

Thanks so much for your visit to our church and for explaining so well to us the subject of the 144,000. It was a real blessing to me, seeing that my determination is to be among that number. It was so nice of you all, coming from so far to

help us in our Christian walk. Please pray for me and my family and I will do the same here for you.

BELIZE, CENTRAL AMERICA

Dear Brethren:

Through the help of various members of your church the Truth with regard to the Word of God has been revealed to me. I, who have been in the Catholic ministry since 1977 have found that the authorities in the Catholic church have failed to follow the Bible according to God's divine will.

I cannot continue leading God's people in darkness. No! A reversal has to be made as soon as possible in order to recover what has been lost in the past years. After reading *The Great Controversy*, *The Desire of Ages*, *The Three Angel's Messages*, *Present Truth Sentinel Messages* and *Special Sabbath Issue (Last Generation)* I came to realize some truths which have been hidden from us (Catholics) since ages.

At length, I presented the Sabbath and other issues to my parish, but they refused to hear and I was forced out. I left the parish empty handed, but I know and believe that our Lord Jesus will not leave me alone. I even told them that we have only one mediator (**Jesus**) not Mary; Jesus is the only way, the Truth and the Life. I defended my position before the bishop, by letting him know that we Catholics were in the wrong. He decided to ex-communicate me, but my reply to him is "Glory be to God." I am a new creature in the Lord Jesus and am in the right way.

Please brethren, I am in great need of your prayers because the devil is tempting me much. But I believe that He who saved and delivered me will not allow me to backslide. I am in great need of Holy Bibles and inspirational books, tracts, tapes, *The Great Controversy* by

E.G. White and other materials. Thanks be to God for saving me through His Word.

NIGERIA, WEST AFRICA

Dear Sir:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us. I have successfully completed the Bible Correspondence course. It was difficult, but with God's help I was able to do it. I have formed an Association in our church, and am utilizing the books, cassette tapes, and other materials you sent. Please, we need more Bibles and cassette tapes as we have 70 people who are studying with us. Thank you so much!

GHANA, WEST AFRICA

CONVOCATION TIME APPROACHES

July 25 - July 27, 1977 is Convocation time once again. This will be held at Mt. Carmel Center at Mountain Dale, NY. The coming together of saints promises to be a time of refreshing and strengthening of faith with fellow believers. Do make plans now to be there to receive your blessing. Call or write to make reservations.

S.O.S. - URGENTLY NEEDED

Foreign students taking the Bible correspondence courses need **Bibles**. These students being unable to purchase Bibles, are looking to us for assistance. Please help us meet this need! The International Bible Society has the King James Version in paperback for \$50.00/case of 24 Bibles. This is only \$2.08 each in case lots. "*Spirit of Prophecy*" books are also urgently needed. Please send donations earmarked for Bibles and "*Spirit of Prophecy*," to headquarters as soon as possible. God will bless you and the students, as well as staff, will be very grateful. To date 4 cases of Bibles have been sent to our brethren. Thanks so much!!!

FEED A SMALL MULTITUDE

Wanted Cook - Do you have the talent to prepare attractive, nutritious meals economically? Individual must be a card holder, able to shop, store, prepare and serve meals to present truth believers. It is imperative that one to courteous, patient, and tolerant of individuals of various backgrounds and disciplines. Need more information? Write:

Gen. Assoc. of Davidian Seventh-day Adventists
P.O. Box 119
Mountaindale, N.Y. 12763, or call: 914-434-5282

TYPE MAKES ANTI-TYPE

Are you the type that desires to have a part in spreading this most precious message that is making its way throughout the church and the world?

Wanted - Printer! Qualifications are: One must be a card holder, have mechanical aptitudes, possess an eye for detail, a hard worker with good work habits, and able to research and learn new and suitable printing techniques. Experience preferred; will train if necessary. For more information contact us at the above address....

A SPECIAL NEED

The Lord in a mighty way has caused the work to flourish in Mexico, with Br. Mario Coria and the other brethren. As an implement, 5 acres of land has been given to serve as a working base for the Mexico Branch. It is anticipated with growth that an additional 10 acres will be needed.

By faith the Mexico brethren are trusting in the Lord for finances to acquire this acreage. Those who would like to help are urged to send a free-will offering marked 'Mexico Land Purchase' to the above address. Thank you so much!

FROM THE GOLDEN BOWL

"...In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged....God will work a work in our day that but few anticipate. He will raise up and exalt among us those who are taught rather by the unction of his Spirit, than by the outward training of scientific institutions....God will manifest that he is not dependent on learned, self-important mortals."—*Testimonies, Vol. 5, pp. 80,82.*

Indeed how could it possibly be otherwise unless "learned," "great" men either humbly descend or never ascend that man-exalted but God-condemned throne upon which sit the mighty who never accept unpopular Truth, and who ever keep others from doing so, unless it finds its origin in themselves? What is more, only the foolish, never the truly great and wise, assume to mount that God-forbidden seat of self-importance. The truly great know this; they know, too, that God has never once been able to use the so-called great—the popular—as instrumentalities through whom to reveal and disseminate fresh Truth. Rather, we are told:

"But the Holy Spirit will, from time to time, reveal the truth through its own chosen agencies; and no man, not even a priest or ruler, has a right to say, You shall not give publicity to your opinions, because I do not believe them. That wonderful 'I' may attempt to put down the Holy Spirit's teaching. Men may for a time attempt to smother it and kill it; but that will not make error truth, or truth error. The inventive minds of men have advanced speculative opinions in various lines, and when the Holy Spirit lets light shine into human minds, it does not respect every point of man's application of the Word. God impressed His servants to speak the truth, irrespective of what men had taken for granted as truth.

"Even Seventh-day Adventists are in danger of closing their eyes to truth as it is in Jesus,

because it contradicts something which they have taken for granted as truth, but which the Holy Spirit teaches is not truth."—*Testimonies to Ministers, p. 70.*

"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."—*Id., pp. 106, 107.*

Now that the eleventh-hour call is sounding, the Lord is at the outset calling into His vineyard all ministerial and Bible-work candidates who are graduates or undergraduates of Seventh-day Adventist Colleges, and who are standing idle, waiting to be "hired." In addition He is calling up for this glorious final service, all still able bodied sustentation workers. Will you not, Brethren, all of you, now respond to this last and most glorious call? You can start out for the vineyard immediately after successfully completing an intensive three-month seminar course of study on present Truth revelations which give power and force to the Third Angel's Message (*Early Writings, p. 277*), and which unveil the judgment of the living, the great and dreadful day of the Lord. —(*White-House Recruiter, pp. 48-51*).

THE STORY OF REDEMPTION

Ellen G. White

The Law of God

After the children of Israel left Rephidim, they came to the "desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount. And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto Myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: for all the earth is Mine: and ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the Lord commanded him. And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the Lord."

The people here entered into a solemn covenant with God and accepted Him as their ruler, by which they became the peculiar subjects of His divine authority. "And the Lord said unto Moses, Lo, I came unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever." When the Hebrews had met with difficulties in the way, they were disposed to murmur against Moses and Aaron, and accuse them of leading the host of Israel from Egypt to destroy them. God would honor Moses before them, that they might be led to confide in his instructions, and know that He had put His Spirit upon him.

Preparation to Approach God

The Lord then gave Moses express directions in regard to preparing the people for Him to approach nigh to them, that they might hear His law spoken, not by angels, but by Himself. "And the Lord said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, and be ready against the third day: for the third day the Lord will come down in the sight of all the people upon Mount Sinai."

The people were required to refrain from worldly labor and care, and to possess devotional thoughts. God required them also to wash their clothes. He is no less particular now than He was then. He is a God of order, and requires His people now upon the earth to observe habits of strict cleanliness. And those who worship God with unclean garments and persons do not come before Him in an acceptable manner. He is not pleased with their lack of reverence for Him, and He will not accept the service of filthy worshipers, for they insult their Maker. The Creator of the heavens and of the earth considered cleanliness of so much importance that He said, "And let them wash their clothes."

"And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death: there shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the

mount." This command was designed to impress the minds of this rebellious people with a profound veneration for God, the author and authority of their laws.

God's Manifestation in Awful Grandeur

"And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there was thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud: so that all the people that was in the camp trembled." The angelic host that attended the divine Majesty summoned the people by a sound resembling that of a trumpet, which waxed louder and louder until the whole earth trembled.

"And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God: and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly." The divine Majesty descended in a cloud with a glorious retinue of angels, who appeared as flames of fire.

"And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. And the Lord came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the Lord called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up. And the Lord said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the Lord to gaze, and many of them perish. And let the priests also, which come near to the Lord, sanctify themselves, lest the Lord break forth upon them."

Thus the Lord, in awful grandeur, spoke His law from Sinai, that the people might believe. He then accompanied the giving of His law with sublime exhibitions of His authority,

that they might know that He is the only true and living God. Moses was not permitted to enter within the cloud of glory, but only draw nigh and enter the thick darkness which surrounded it. And he stood between the people and the Lord.

God's Law Proclaimed

After the Lord had given them such evidences of His power, He told them who He was: "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." The same God who exalted His power among the Egyptians now spoke His law:

"Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments.

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

"Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

"Thou shalt not kill.

"Thou shalt not commit adultery.

"Thou shalt not steal.

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's."

The first and second commandments spoken by Jehovah are precepts against idolatry; for idolatry, if practiced, would lead men to great lengths in sin and rebellion, and result in the offering of human sacrifices. God would guard against the least approach to such abominations. The first four commandments were given to show men their duty to God. The fourth is the connecting link between the great God and man. The Sabbath, especially, was given for the benefit of man and for the honor of God. The last six precepts show the duty of man to his fellow man.

The Sabbath was to be a sign between God and His people forever. In this manner was it to be a sign—all who should observe the Sabbath, signified by such observance that they were worshipers of the living God, the creator of the heavens and the earth. **The Sabbath was to be a sign between God and His people as long as He should have a people upon the earth to serve Him.**

"And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. And

they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that His fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

"And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was. And the Lord said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven." The majestic presence of God at Sinai, and the commotions in the earth occasioned by His presence, the fearful thunderings and lightnings which accompanied this visitation of God, so impressed the minds of the people with fear and reverence to His sacred majesty that they instinctively drew back from the awful presence of God, lest they should not be able to endure His terrible glory.

The Peril of Idolatry

Again, God would guard the children of Israel from idolatry. He said unto them, "ye shall not make unto Me gods of silver, neither shall ye make unto you gods of gold." They were in danger of imitating the example of the Egyptians, and making to themselves images to represent God.

The Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of Him, and obey His voice, provoke Him not; for He will not pardon your transgressions: for My name is in Him. But if thou shalt indeed obey His voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries; for Mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hitties, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off." The angel who went before Israel was the Lord Jesus Christ. "Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor

do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images. And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and He shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee." Exodus 23:24, 25.

God would have His people understand that He alone should be the object of their worship; and when they should overcome the idolatrous nations around them, they should not preserve any of the images of their worship, but utterly destroy them. Many of these heathen deities were very costly, and of beautiful workmanship, which might tempt those who had witnessed idol worship, so common in Egypt, to even regard these senseless objects with some degree of reverence. The Lord would have His people know that it was because of the idolatry of these nations, which had led them to every degree of wickedness, that He would use the Israelites as His instruments to punish them and destroy their gods.

"I will send My fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee. I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land. And I will set thy bounds from the Red Sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand: and thou shalt drive them out before thee. Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against Me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee." Exodus 23:27-33. These promises of God to His people were on condition of their obedience. If they would serve the Lord fully, He would do great things for them.

After Moses had received the judgments from the Lord, and had written them for the people, also the promises, on condition of obedience, the Lord said unto him, "Come up unto the Lord, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off. And Moses alone shall come near the Lord: but they shall not come nigh; neither shall the people go up with him. And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the Lord hath said will we do." Exodus 24:1-3.

Moses had written not the Ten Commandments, but the judgments which God would have them observe, and the promises on condition that they would obey Him. He read this to the people, and they pledged themselves to obey all the words which the Lord had said. Moses then wrote their solemn pledge in a book and offered sacrifice unto God for the people. "And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words." The people repeated their solemn pledge to the Lord to do all that He had said, and to be obedient. (Exodus 24:7, 8.)

God's Eternal Law

The law of God existed before man was created. The angels were governed by it. Satan fell because he transgressed the principles of God's government. After Adam and Eve were created, God made known to them His law. It was not then written, but was rehearsed to them by Jehovah.

The Sabbath of the fourth commandment was instituted in Eden. After God had made the world and created man upon the earth, He

made the Sabbath for man. After Adam's sin and fall nothing was taken from the law of God. The principles of the Ten Commandments existed before the fall and were of a character suited to the condition of a holy order of beings. After the fall the principles of those precepts were not changed, but additional precepts were given to meet man in his fallen state.

A system was then established requiring the sacrificing of beasts, to keep before fallen man that which the serpent made Eve disbelieve, that the penalty of disobedience is death. The transgression of God's law made it necessary for Christ to die a sacrifice, and thus make a way possible for man to escape the penalty, and yet the honor of God's law be preserved. The system of sacrifices was to teach man humility, in view of his fallen condition, and lead him to repentance and to trust in God alone, through the promised Redeemer, for pardon for past transgression of His law. If the law of God had not been transgressed, there never would have been death, and there would have been no need of additional precepts to suit man's fallen condition.

Adam taught his descendants the law of God, which law was handed down to the faithful through successive generations. The continual transgression of God's law called for a flood of waters upon the earth. The law was preserved by Noah and his family, who for right-doing were saved in the ark by a miracle of God. Noah taught his descendants the Ten Commandments. The Lord preserved a people for Himself from Adam down, in whose hearts was His law. He says of Abraham, He "obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." Genesis 26:5.

The Lord appeared unto Abraham, and said unto him.

"I am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and be thou perfect. And I will make My covenant

between Me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly." Genesis 17:1,2. "And I will establish My covenant between Me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee." Genesis 17:7.

He then required of Abraham and his seed, circumcision, which was a circle cut in the flesh, as a token that God had cut them out and separated them from all nations as His peculiar treasure. By this sign they solemnly pledged themselves that they would not intermarry with other nations, for by so doing they would lose their reverence for God and His holy law, and would become like the idolatrous nations around them.

By the act of circumcision they solemnly agreed to fulfill on their part the conditions of the covenant made with Abraham, to be separate from all nations and to be perfect. If the descendants of Abraham had kept separate from other nations, they would not have been seduced into idolatry. By keeping separate from other nations, a great temptation to engage in their sinful practices and rebel against God would be removed from them. They lost in a great measure their peculiar, holy character by mingling with the nations around them. To punish them, the Lord brought a famine upon their land, which compelled them to go down into Egypt to preserve their lives. But God did not forsake them while they were in Egypt, because of His covenant with Abraham. He suffered them to be oppressed by the Egyptians, that they might turn to Him in their distress, choose His righteous and merciful government, and obey His requirements.

There were but a few families that first went down into Egypt. These increased to a great multitude. Some were careful to instruct their children in the law of God, but many of the Israelites had witnessed so much idolatry that they had confused ideas of God's law. Those who feared God cried to Him in anguish of

spirit to break their yoke of grievous bondage and bring them from the land of their captivity, that they might be free to serve Him. God heard their cries and raised up Moses as His instrument to accomplish the deliverance of His people. After they had left Egypt, and the waters of the Red Sea had been divided before them, the Lord proved them to see if they would trust in Him who had taken them, a nation from another nation, by signs, temptations, and wonders. But they failed to endure the trial. They murmured against God because of difficulties in the way and wished to return again to Egypt.

Written in Tables of Stone

To leave them without excuse, the Lord Himself condescended to come down upon Sinai, enshrouded in glory and surrounded by His angels, and in a most sublime and awful manner made known His law of Ten Commandments. He did not trust them to be taught by anyone, not even His angels, but spoke His law with an audible voice in the hearing of all the people. He did not, even then, trust them to the short memory of a people who were prone to forget His requirements, but wrote them with His own holy finger upon tables of stone. He would remove from them all possibility of mingling with His holy precepts any tradition, or of confusing His requirements with the practices of men.

He then came still closer to His people, who were so readily led astray, and would not leave them with merely the ten precepts of the Decalogue. He commanded Moses to write, as He should bid him, judgments and laws, giving minute directions in regard to what He required them to perform, and thereby guarded the ten precepts which He had engraved upon the tables of stone. These specific directions and requirements were given to draw erring man to the obedience of the moral law, which he is so prone to transgress.

If man had kept the law of God, as given to Adam after his fall, preserved in the ark by Noah, and observed by Abraham, there would have been no necessity for the ordinance of circumcision. And if the descendants of Abraham had kept the covenant, of which circumcision was a token or pledge, they would never have gone into idolatry or been suffered to go down into Egypt, and there would have been no necessity of God's proclaiming His law from Sinai and engraving it upon tables of stone and guarding it by definite directions in the judgments and statutes of Moses.

The Judgments and Statutes

Moses wrote these judgments and statutes from the mouth of God while he was with Him in the mount. If the people of God had obeyed the principles of the Ten Commandments, there would have been no need of the specific directions given to Moses, which he wrote in a book, relative to their duty to God and to one another. The definite directions which the Lord gave to Moses in regard to the duty of His people to one another, and to the stranger, are the principles of the Ten Commandments simplified and given in a definite manner, that they need not err.

The Lord instructed Moses definitely in regard to the ceremonial sacrifices which were to cease at the death of Christ. The system of sacrifices foreshadowed the offering of Christ as a Lamb without blemish.

The Lord first established the system of sacrificial offerings with Adam after his fall, which he taught his descendants. This system was corrupted before the Flood, and by those who separated themselves from the faithful followers of God and engaged in the building of the tower of Babel. They sacrificed to gods of their own make instead of the God of heaven. They offered sacrifices not because they had faith in the Redeemer to come but because they

thought they should please their gods by offering a great many beasts upon polluted idol altars. Their superstition led them to great extravagances. They taught the people that the more valuable the sacrifice the greater pleasure would it give their idol gods, and the greater would be the prosperity and riches of their nation. Hence, human beings were often sacrificed to these senseless idols. Those nations had laws and regulations to control the actions of the people, which were cruel in the extreme. Their laws were made by those whose hearts were not softened by grace; and while they would pass over the most debasing crimes, a small offense would call forth the most cruel punishment from those in authority.

Moses had this in view when he said to Israel, "Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon Him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?" Deut. 4:5-8. (*The Story of Redemption, chapter 18, pp. 137-150*).
To be continued.

KEEP AT YOUR WORK

"The Lord has given 'to every man his work'. It is every man's business to do his work, and the devil's business to hinder him if he can. Be sure as God has given you a work to do, Satan will try to hinder you. He may throw you from it; he may present other things more

promising; he may allure you by worldly prospects; he may assault you with slander; torment you with false accusations; set you at work defending your character; employ pious persons to lie about you; editors to assail you; officials to accuse you and excellent men to slander you. You may have Pilate and Herod, Annas and Caiphas, all combined against you and Judas standing by, ready to sell you for thirty pieces of silver; and you may wonder why all these things come upon you. Can you not see that the whole thing is brought about through the craft of the devil, to draw you off from your work and hinder your obedience to God?

"Keep at your work. Do not flinch because the lion roars; do not stop to stone the devil's dogs; do not fool away time chasing the devil's rabbits. Do your work. Let liars lie, let sectarians quarrel, let corporations resolve, let editors publish, let the devil do his worst; but see to it that nothing hinders you from fulfilling the work that God has given you.

"Keep about your work. Let your aim be as steady as a star. Let the world brawl and babble. You may be assaulted, wronged, insulted, slandered, wounded and rejected; you may be abused by foes, forsaken by friends, and despised and rejected of men; but see to it with steadfast determination, with unfaltering zeal, that you pursue the great purpose of your life and object of your being until at last you can say, 'I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do.'"

12.SC:4, pp. 30, 31.

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