

The Symbolic Code



What Next?

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THE RESTORATION AND THE TIME

— Victor T. Houteff

Acts 3:19-21—Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

Here we are told that the heavens must receive the Lord, not forever, but until the times "of restitution of all things." He is, therefore, at the time of restitution to return to earth.

Shall this returning be unexpected? or shall the Lord first send someone to prepare His way? And if someone is to precede His coming, who will it be?—"And He answered and told them, Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things." Mark 9:12. The Lord, moreover, through the prophet Malachi declares:

Mal. 3:1; 4—Behold, I send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord, Whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the

messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

Here the Scriptures point out that someone in the spirit and power of Elijah the prophet is first to appear, and will not only prepare the way, but will also restore all things. Plainly, the message of Elijah shall restore all things, in the great and dreadful day of the Lord, the day of restitution, the day the Lord comes to His temple, the Church. The spirit of Elijah was a spirit against idolatry, and his power was a power to destroy those who led in idolatry, and to bring about purity.

Verses 2, 3,—But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' sope: and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

At this coming He is not to take His saints to the mansions above, but

He is to purify the sons of Levi —the ministry. Since the purity of His servants is first to be restored, the restoration, therefore, commences in the Church. Thus is the Edenic state of peace and security to be restored, for we are told that —

Isa. 11:6-9 —The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

So it was in Eden, and so it must be again if all things are to be restored, and if these prophecies are to be fulfilled.

Verse 10 —And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and His rest shall be glorious.

"In that day"—that is, in the day this Edenic peace and security are restored—then, not after, is the

Kingdom of Judah and Israel to be restored (Ezek. 37:16-28) and made to stand for an ensign. To it shall the Gentiles seek. This restoration of Judah and Israel, therefore, takes place in probationary time, for the Gentiles shall seek the 'ensign.' Plainly, then, the Gentiles shall still be standing when Edenic peace and security are restored to God's people during the great and dreadful day.

"Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest. But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Micah 3:12; 4:1,2.

Clear it is that after dispersion of the Jews, and after the destruction of Old Jerusalem, in the Christian era, the last days, then it is that the restoration of all things takes place; and the fact that many people shall then join the Lord, the restoration therefore takes place in probation-

any time, in the great and dreadful day. The "ensign," too, shall then stand and to it shall the Gentiles seek. The day is to be great for the righteous, and dreadful for the sinners.

Zech. 14:4,5 —And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.

"In that day." In what day?—In the day all nations gather against Jerusalem that now is, and bring its fall from Gentile rule. In that day the Lord's feet shall stand upon the Mount of Olives. The Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, there shall be a very great valley; "and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south." Zechariah 14:4. The Lord's post-millennial coming, too, shall be

similar to this. See *Early Writings*, pp. 51, 52.

The servants of God shall then flee to the valley of the mountains, where the Lord's feet shall stand, and all the saints with them; that is, the Lord's "feet" will open the way for the restoration of the Kingdom, and for the gathering of the people into it.

Isa. 11:11-14 —And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And He shall set up an ensign for the nations and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.

Here we see that there is to be peace in "the valley of the

mountains"—peace between beast and beast, and also between man and man, for the lion shall not hurt the lamb, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim, and Ephraim shall not envy Judah. Judah and Ephraim are nevertheless to be in conflict with the countries surrounding the land, for they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines, and lay hand upon Edom and Moab. The Ammonites, though, shall obey them.

Verse 15 —And the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with His mighty wind shall He shake His hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make man go over dryshod.

Yes, the Lord will open the way for the gathering of His people. The Exodus of today, therefore, shall be as the Exodus of yesterday, only on a greater scale. God's people in these last days shall be gathered from every land, not from the land of Egypt only.

Verse 16 —And there shall be an highway for the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.

Thus shall the kingdom of Judah and Israel be restored, and be given peace and plenty.

Micah 4:4 —But they shall set every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it.

And now this is God's light, and this His plea:

Isa. 2:5 —O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The message of Elijah that restores all things is indeed an addition to the Third Angel's Message, and it shall certainly swell into a loud cry. It shall gather God's people from the four corners of the earth, and bring them out of Babylon as the earth is lightened with the glory of the angel (Rev. 18:1-4). (See *Early Writings*, p. 277).

As Noah's ark preserved every living thing that was to inhabit the earth after the flood, in like manner the restored Kingdom of Judah and Israel is to gather and preserve from the plagues every living thing that is to inhabit the new earth; the Kingdom restored is to be the ark in our day, and her people shall live and reign a thousand years with Christ (Rev. 20:4), and finally return when the earth is made new.

Isa. 65:17, 18, 25 —For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be

remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, saith the Lord.

Obviously those who seek to enter into this ark of safety shall live and reign with Christ during the thousand years, and those who spurn it shall lie breathless in the "bottomless pit" until the post-millennial resurrection, only to rise in shame and everlasting contempt, subject to suffer the second death.

How important, then, that we be not napping, but that we arise and put on the wedding garment now lest we find ourselves weeping and gnashing our teeth, even worse than did the antediluvians outside the ark when the rains came and the lightning and thunder blasted through the sky as the fountains of the deep broke up.

We have now seen that the restoration "of all things" begins with the gathering of the people unto Judah, and that the Kingdom is complete when the earth is made new. Let us therefore do what we can to help

build the ark now and to enter into it with as many souls as possible, for Inspiration's own revelation of this Truth shows that we are approaching the day of restitution of all things, that this is the message of the hour. —2 *Timely Greetings*, No. 31, pp. 3-10. □

More from Inspiration regarding the restitution of all things:

"...Thus to rescue the honest in Laodicea from spiritual starvation and death, to **revitalize, restore, and rearm** them for the final conflict, the Lord has sent the *Rod*.

"When this work of restitution has been completed according to Matthew 17:11, and the Modernist element has been 'cut off' as decreed by Ezekiel 9 and in *Testimonies*, Vol. 5. p. 80, then will be seen in the church a speedy fulfillment of the words of Christ: 'The rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house;' and it stood. Matt. 7:25.

"Like the early pioneers of the Adventist church, those who heed the *Rod* are the restorers of the 'old paths'; they realize the grave consequences involved in going contrary to any light the Lord chooses to send His people...."
3 Answerer, pp. 62, 63.

THE UP-COMING NEW WORLD ORDER

At present, much effort is being made to bring about peace between the Arabs and Jews in the Middle East. To say the least, this is a monumental task, and one that will, in the final analysis, end in complete failure. In fact, "the greatest of all wars will be fought about the Holy Land." The Bible makes it plain that just prior to, and about the time of the establishment of God's Kingdom in the Promised Land (12.SC.1:18), the Middle East is to be engulfed in a "Gigantic War" (14.TR:21). As we will see, this war will first, be God's means of punishing the nations for their great wickedness. Second, this war will be God's means of clearing out the Promised Land for His true people in the last days, the 144,000 and great multitude and the establishment of his Eternal Kingdom. Third, this great war will be a tool to save the faithful in modern Assyria (the English speaking Christian world—the U.S.A. and her allies), although she will lose the war. Fourth, it will prepare the world for a *New World Order*, so to speak—the Image of the Beast. Of course, right in the midst of this "Gigantic War," God's church will be purified by the events foretold in Ezekiel 9 (Ibid. p. 22, 25); the time of the deliverance for God's faithful saints—the 144,000.

Let us focus on these key features of this mighty conflict. In order for the *New World Order* to be truly successful, control of the Middle East is imperative. To have control of this most sensitive region, peace between Arabs and Jews is necessary, even crucial. Of course, their plans are not God's plans. The attempts to establish a *New World Order* have nothing to do with honoring God, although their rhetoric would give the impression that their cause is for peace, happiness and a better world, as a supposed remedy for what ails mankind. The nations' efforts to confederate, to form a workable union is nothing more than Satan's counterfeit kingdom, a dominion to overthrow God's principles and His people. Hence, the reason why God is not in their plans and why we must oppose it. Nevertheless, all nations will be brought into Jerusalem to battle and God will punish the nations for their evil. Inspiration says: "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against

those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle" (Zech. 14:1, 2, 3).

"In view of the fact that Jerusalem is to be protected by a wall of fire (Zech. 2:5) while the house of Judah reigns there, it is definite that the battle here described must be fought before the house of Judah is established. In that battle the nations will defeat the rulers of the Promised Land. Then it is that the house of Judah commences to be set up. "As the warring nations besiege the city, and rifle the houses, also ravish the women, they are by no means righteous nations, but since not all the inhabitants go into captivity, and since all are not cut off from the city, it must be that the wicked are taken away and the righteous left in to join the house of Judah" (I.TG.19:3,4).

Zephaniah shows that the unbelieving Jews and Arabs will be thoroughly punished and disseminated. Zephaniah puts it this way:

Zeph. 2:1, 2, 4, 5 — "Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you. For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up. Woe unto the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of Cherethites! the word of the Lord is against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant."

"The fourth verse definitely implies that the 'nation' is to gather together in the cities of Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, and Ekron, in the land of the Philistines, in the land of Canaan in Palestine.

"In view of the fact that this scripture is now being unfolded, and also the fact that there is but one people, one nation (the descendants of the ancient scribes, priests, and Pharisees who rejected the Lord and who have not even to this day accepted Him; that are hardly desired anywhere in the world) that is now doing all she can to gather together in Palestine—in view of all this, the present-day Jews are that undesired nation. Upon her, therefore, the Lord's anger is to fall if she continues to deny Christ. Yes, the universally hated Jews are the only nation that has been scattered throughout the Gentile world, and is the only one that is now gathering together in Palestine.

"Moreover, in these verses, two truths stand out clearly: 1) that in vain the Jews seek to establish themselves in the Promised Land; 2) that we who are bearing the message of the great and dreadful day of the Lord are counseled to seek meekness and righteousness, for thus only shall we "be hid in the day of the Lord's anger," that is, merely bearing knowledge of the message will not save us, there should be corresponding deeds with it.

"Let us now connect verse 3 with verses 6 and 7, the verses that are applicable to

the people of God, the meek." 1 TG.22:25-27.

Zeph. 2:3, 6, 7 —"Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger. And the sea coast shall be dwellings and cottages for shepherds, and folds for flocks. And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah; they shall feed there upon: in the houses of Ashkelon shall they lie down in the evening: for the Lord their God shall visit them, and turn away their captivity."

"Now, the fact that the Lord is to destroy all the inhabitants in the land of the Philistines (verse 5), and at the same time make it dwellings for 'shepherds, and folds for flocks,' shows that He is first to drive out of the land all the wicked, all those who are not seeking meekness, then He is to set up the 'house of Judah' in it.

Zeph. 2:8 —"I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the revilings of the children of Ammon, whereby they have reproached My people, and magnified themselves against their border."

"Not only the unbelieving Jews, but also the unbelieving Arabs who resist the meek, are to be swept away from the land.

Zeph. 2:9—"Therefore, as I live, saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, surely Moab shall be as Sodom, and the

children of Ammon as Gomorrah, even the breeding of nettles, and salt pits, and a perpetual desolation: the residue of My people shall spoil them and the remnant of My people shall possess them."

"While Moab and Ammon become as Sodom and Gomorrah, go out of existence, the captivity of God's people is turned away. They become an independent nation and possess all the wealth of the people round about. (1 TG.22:25-27).

Jeremiah also describes this same war, pointing out like Zechariah and Zephaniah that God's judgments will fall upon the nations.

(Jer. 25:15-18)—"For thus saith the Lord God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at My hand, and curse all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it and they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them. Then took I the cup at the Lord's hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the Lord had sent Me: To wit, Jerusalem, the cities of Judah, and the kings thereof, and the princes thereof, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, an hissing, and a curse; as it is this day."

Verse 19—"Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and his servants, and his princes, and all his people."

Jeremiah then goes on to list all the nations that He will punish. (see verses

20-29). Please keep in mind that these prophecies are yet future for they have not yet been fulfilled. The servant of the Lord says this about these verses:

(Jer.25:15-29)—"The Lord here declares that He commenced His punishment with His own people and He is not going to excuse other people from punishment. All the nations to whom he sent it were to drink of the curse, and what He did to punish His people, is a sample of what He will do to the nations, because he will not allow them to go unpunished" (13 SC.1&2:16-19).

Verses 30,31—"Therefore, prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The Lord shall roar from on high, and utter His voice from His holy habitation; He shall mightily roar upon His habitation; He shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations; He will plead with all flesh; He will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the Lord."

Verse 32—"Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth."

"Evil will go forth from nation to nation, for God will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth. It means war."

Verse 33 —"And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the

earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground."

"This verse is not describing the conditions that will prevail as a result of the coming of the brightness of the Lord when He comes in the clouds. This is a slaughter from the great whirlwind of verse 32. **IT IS FROM WAR.** Why should the Lord first bring this on Judah and Jerusalem and then to the nations? Because they had the greatest light and therefore they had the least reason to be wicked. Then when this war starts in the time of the deliverance of God's people the most enlightened people will suffer first" (Ibid.).

Please turn now to Jer. 30:23—"Behold, the whirlwind of the Lord goeth forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind: it shall fall with pain upon the head of the wicked.

"This whirlwind is warfare which does not arrive and then quickly die out. It is to start in the latter end of the time God's people are delivered" (Ibid.)

These inspired texts and comments make it crystal clear that there will be a "gigantic war" in the Middle East centered in the Promised Land, during which God will punish the nations for their wickedness. In this war, the unbelieving Jews will be "rooted up" and destroyed (Zeph. 2:1,2,4,5). The Arabs (Moab and Ammon) will be like "Sodom

and Gomorrah" (Zeph. 2:9). In fact, all nations will face His...judgments, that is drink the "cup" of this "fury," "against all the inhabitants of the earth" (Jer. 25:30). Yet, His true and faithful people will be spared and brought into His long awaited Kingdom. Then and only then will there be peace, real peace in that region.

What about modern Assyria (America and her allies)? Is she too to fall under the judgments of God? No doubt, if God's judgments include all nations, then she too will have to be included. In fact, America will face the brunt, being the most enlightened nation of all.

MODERN ASSYRIA WILL FALL IN THE PROMISED LAND

"And they (the ancient Jews) shall fall by the edge of the sword and be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24).

After Jerusalem was taken captive by Rome in 70 A.D., it was to fall into the hands of the Gentiles. One Gentile nation after another was to be in possession of Jerusalem until the time when God would decree that the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled. Then God's Kingdom will be set up in the Holy Land. Just how long will these last Gentiles be in occupation of Jerusalem?

Inspiration, in commenting on this verse says: "Seven times seven, forty-nine,

determined the year of Jubilee, the liberation of the people and of the land, the type of the Kingdom complete. Besides any other significance, the forty-two months being only six sevens, it signifies that the Holy City, Jerusalem, will not be 'trodden down' all the way up to the time of the Jubilee,—the Gentiles are to be driven out of it before the mystery of God is finished,..." (2 TG.15:9).

In a letter, dated Feb. 3, 1953, just two years before the servant of the Lord died, Br. Houteff made the following comments: "Jerusalem did not begin to be trodden under foot in 538 A.D., but was completely taken and destroyed in 70 A.D. The Holy City is still under foot and will be until the Gentiles drive out the Gentiles as predicted in Zech. 1:21. Not any part of the city will be under foot then, at which time the Kingdom (the church purified) is set up there."

"When antitypical Israel, the 144,000 guileless servants of God, are sealed and taken to Mt. Zion, there to stand with the Lamb, the times of the Gentiles in these days will be fulfilled." (5.TR:112).

In the following statements inspiration identifies the last Gentiles who are to tread Jerusalem.

"Inferentially, with the fall of the 'Assyrians' (the Gentiles in possession of the Promised Land, U.S. and Allies) 'the time of the Gentiles' is fulfilled" (Luke 21:24) (14.TR:25).

There are many statements from Inspiration stating that modern Assyria (U.S. and allies) will be in possession of Palestine just before she falls and just before God's Kingdom is established. We quote just a few here.

Assyria (U.S. and her allies) will be beaten down in the Promised Land through the voice of the Lord" (13.SC.1&2:26).

"The Assyrian will control the land (Palestine) just so long as God's people continue in idolatry" (1.TG.33:4.6).

"The Assyrian—the power which rules Jerusalem at the time God delivers His people (Isa.31:7,8)" (15.TR:67).

The prophet Isaiah also documents the fall of Assyria in the Promised Land.

(Isa. 14:24-26)—"The Lord of hosts hath sworn, saying, surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand: that I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders. This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: this is the hand that is stretched out upon all nations.

"He declares that He will surely do it and we must not doubt it. Just as God was able to lead His people into their land of promise anciently, so He can now also

today lead His people back and take from them their yoke and make of them a nation that shall never be given to other people, but which will stand forever..." (12.SC.1:20-22).

Verse 29 —"Rejoice not thou, whole Palestina, because the rod of him that smote thee is broken: for out of the serpent's root shall come forth a cockatrice, and his fruit shall be a fiery flying serpent.' Here the subject again changes, this time to Palestina, the promised land. Anciently the rod that smote Palestina was Israel who came into the land and became a nation of its own. But because of her disobedience Israel was broken down and scattered and has remained so to this day. This verse tells Palestina, however, not to rejoice over Israel's broken condition, because something worse is coming upon Palestina" (Ibid.)

Verse 31 —"Howl, O gate; cry O city; thou, whole Palestina, art dissolved: for there shall come from the north a smoke, and none shall be alone in his appointed times."

"Palestina is to be completely dissolved. Through our study of the Bible we have come to expect the heathen to be dissolved out of Palestina in the Assyrian period. Whole Palestina is dissolved: for there shall come from the north a smoke. Smoke does not creep along the surface of the ground, but travels through the air, and as the smoke comes from the north, the phrase suggests that aerial attack will

be waged against her from the north and pass on to the south. It will mean that those who now possess Palestina will lose out" (Ibid.)

Isaiah also states this in (Isaiah 31:7, 8, 9)—"For in that day every man shall cast away his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which your own hands have made unto you for a sin. Then shall the Assyrian fall with the sword, not of a mighty man; and the sword, not of a mean man; shall devour him: but he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall be discomfited. And he shall pass over to his stronghold for fear, and his princes shall be afraid of the ensign, saith the Lord, whose fire is in Zion, and His furnace in Jerusalem."

"Then—when this idolatry is cast away by 'every man'—the Assyrian will fall by the sword. In the time when God pleads for His people to return to Him, and when they do it, then the Assyrian will fall. Not before that. It was because of their idolatry that they lost the land and God is not going to bring His people back to their land with their idolatry. Therefore, we and all God's people must not delay putting away our idols. We had better cast them out and be ready on time to go to the place where it will be so much better than it is in the present world. For there, none will be tired or sick or lonely or afraid.

"The Assyrian will fall by a sword which God Himself shall send. Assyria will not fall by a mean man. His fall will come

under circumstances that will clearly show that God caused it to happen. When ancient Israel fell, it was God who brought it; it was God who was responsible for it. So it will be also with Assyria unless she, too turns to God. Moreover, it is a vain thing for them to look to some other nation for help. None can stay God's punishment. Only God can help at such a time" (13.SC.1&2:29-31).

"At the time God's purifying fire is in Zion and His purifying furnace is in Jerusalem, the Assyrian shall pass over to his stronghold for fear, and his princes shall be afraid of the ensign. From this we can see that Nineveh will not lose out completely when she loses in Palestina. She is to lose out in Palestina first then flee to her stronghold. This has reference to the time when the Kingdom is set up before the scarlet-colored beast comes, before the woman rules the beast. Indeed, this prophecy is talking about Assyria, not Babylon. It shows that Assyria will lose out in the promised land before she loses her stronghold. **The Kingdom is to be established before the complete fall of Assyria takes place**" (13. SC. 1&2:29-31).

Thus we see that the U.S. and her allies (Modern Assyria) are the last Gentiles to tread the Promised Land, yet they will be defeated in the Holy Land. We have also seen that with Assyria's fall, the dissolution of Palestina—the Jews and Arabs being driven out and punished during this up-coming war, the land will

be prepared for the establishment of God's Holy Kingdom. Yes, God's people will be made free and caused to return to "their own land" (Jer. 30:3, 24; Jer. 23:5-8, 20). What a "great" day that will be, but how "dreadful" a day for the wicked in the church and the world. Of course, God's judgments will begin first among His people. This is indeed the "great and dreadful day of the Lord" (Mal. 4:5).

WHEN IS THE CHURCH TO BE PURIFIED?

All scriptural evidence indicates that God will purify (Eze.9) the church while punishing the nations—particularly Assyria (U.S. and her allies). The servant of the Lord made the following statements while explaining (Nahum 1:15).

"Plainly, therefore, in the time when Assyria crumbles, the Lord is to perform a dual work among His professed people, some of whom will be made free because of their faithfulness, and some of whom will be slain because of their wickedness...." (14.TR.18).

"Very obviously, then the penitent Laodiceans are separated from the impenitent ones during Assyria's fall, and then are liberated from her rule." (14.TR.19).

"Here in prophetic utterance is not only a promise to purify the church when modern Assyria is being crushed, but

also a suggestive statement as to which constitutes "meat in due season" for men today; and as to what movement they are to enlist in if they would make sure of salvation...." (14.TR.22).

"Inferentially, with the fall of the 'Assyrians' (the Gentiles in possession of the Promised Land), 'the time of the Gentiles' is fulfilled (Luke 21:24)" (14.TR.25).

"The Lord counsels them to be honest with Him, honest in their profession of faith. They are, moreover, assured that at the fulfillment of this prophecy the destroying angels are to remove the wicked from the midst of the righteous. Thus will the wicked be "raptured" away and be no more.

"So it is that while Nahum predicts liberation and peace for God's faithful people, he predicts disaster and humiliation for antitypical Assyria (the power which they serve) and for the wicked in the church" (1.TG.24:12).

"Here the prophet predicts that Assyria's capital city will be emptied, and her palace dissolved. Clearly, then, the kingdom of Judah is set up in time of war and turmoil...." (1.TG.24:13).

"Most important of all, though, the prophet Nahum plainly tells that all these things take place in our day, and that the fall of Assyria takes place while God's people are turning to Him, while revival and reformation are successfully carried

by him who "publisheth peace" (Nah. 1:15). If we, therefore, fail to take hold of the message, and if we fail to reform as it recommends, then it is not possible to survive the day of the Lord" (1.TG.24:19).

These references along with what has already been quoted should suffice to show that indeed God's church, the Seventh-day Adventist church, will be cleansed by the angels by removing the wicked in its midst while God is "beating down Assyria." This only proves that the Kingdom will be established in the time of "war and turmoil." Have we completely cast away all our idols?

WHO WILL BE ASSYRIA'S OPPONENT?

Inspiration does not tell us precisely who Assyria's opponent will be. We know that there will be a world war in the Holy Land, yet there is no clear evidence as to precisely who Assyria's antagonist will be. Will it be the Arabs? could it be Saddam Hussein, or will the hardline Communists arise again and become a formidable contender against the U.S. and her allies? We just do not know positively.

We do know this, however, that Communism is indicated by Inspiration to be a threat to the world and will politically benefit from Assyria's losing the war in the Holy Land and will become the next political world leader. Shocked? Surprised? Although this may

be surprising, it is the fact; it is what the Bible clearly teaches. No, Communism is not out of the picture in spite of its apparent fall. (To be continued in our next Symbolic Code). □

Inspiration Says:

There are possibilities for work to be done by you for Jesus that you have never dreamed of. A Christian is a Christ-like man, a Christ-like woman who is active in God's service, who is present at the social meeting, whose presence will encourage others also. Religion does not consist in works, but religion works; it is not dormant. The pure religion of Jesus is the fountain from which flow streams of charity, love, self-sacrifice....With the love of Christ in the heart, the lips will utter His praise and magnify His name. There will be a pressure upon the soul filled with Christ's love.

God's sons and daughters must show they are of heavenly extraction. The great man in God's sight is he who in the midst of crowds, of cares and financial pressure, keeps his soul unpolluted, unstained, without one blot of worldly pollution. Firmly relying upon God by prayer and faith, the soul will stand firm in moral independence, yet with perfect kindness, love, and goodness. The temptations of society are met and resisted., communication is maintained with God,... —*Ellen G. White, Sons and Daughters of God, p. 271.*

THE GOSPEL OF HEALTH

NATURE'S MEDICINE CHEST

Fruits, grains, nuts and seeds, legumes, vegetables and herbs as given in the Bible (Gen. 1:29; Gen. 3:18), compose the dietary fare the Lord designed for our health, welfare and happiness. More than this, these foods are disease-fighters par excellence, and should form the mainstay of every diet. In very interesting and fascinating ways, medical science is finding this indeed to be the case. Consider the following:

FRUITS:

- In a 17-year study of 10,771 "health conscious" people in England, Scotland and Wales, those who ate fresh fruit every day (compared with average eaters who did not) had 24 percent less chance of fatal heart attacks, 32 percent less chance of fatal strokes and 21 percent less chance of dying from ANY cause.

(British Medical Journal, Sept. 28, 1996).

- Another study found men who ate fresh fruit—such as apples, pears, oranges, grapes and bananas) every day, equal to only 1/2 cup of fruit had a 70 percent less chance of dying from cancer of the digestive tract than those who ate almost no fruit. *(Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention, Sept., 1996)*

VEGETABLES:

- Fresh vegetables, of course, join fruit as being absolutely essential for good health. A 1998 study in Italy looked at a group of healthy Italian centenarians,—average age 103 and no signs of disease! —to see what were their health secrets. It was found that they ate more than twice as many vegetables as most younger people. Indeed, veggies are a powerful ally in maintaining your body in top form. *(Journal of the American Geriatric Society, July 1998).*

- Other studies measured the total antioxidant power (the ability of each vegetable to neutralize disease causing free radicals) of 22 commonly eaten vegetables. 9 veggie all-stars were listed because of their superior amounts of total antioxidant power per half-cup helping: kale, beets, red bell peppers, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, spinach, potatoes, sweet potatoes and corn. *(Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry, vol. 44, 1996)*

- Broccoli, listed as the most nutrient dense veggie speaks many languages and is welcome in cuisines worldwide—steamed, stir-fried, blanched, baked, or raw. Nutrition's Crown Jewel has heroic potential to fight today's major diseases. It's loaded with compounds that block

cancer; offers heart protection through vitamin C which helps arteries remain elastic and helps prevent blood from getting sludgy. It contains glutathione which helps reduce the risk of arthritis, diabetes, and heart disease, as well as bolstering the immune system; lowers cholesterol, lowers blood pressure and keeps people at a healthy weight. (*Prevention, Oct. 1997*).

This champion crucifer is joined by its "kissin cousins"—cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, mustard, turnip and various other leafy green vegetables, each offering similar benefits.

- Carrots—the beta carotene champions send a blitz of this nutrient—a potent antioxidant—storming through the bloodstream, fighting off heart disease, cataracts, strokes and some cancers. Mother nature's "wonder drug" is also found in abundance in other brightly colored veggies which also contain the entire combination of all 500-plus health bestowing carotenoids, all of which dramatically boosts beta-carotene's disease fighting power. (*The Doctor's Book of Food Remedies*).

- Don't fret if your favorite fruit or vegetable has not been listed. Be assured that they all contain many health promoting and disease fighting properties: fiber, vitamins, minerals phytochemicals, etc. Indeed, each individual fruit and vegetable has its own nutritional profile. Be sure to enjoy a wide variety!

NUTS AND SEEDS

- Gary Fraser, Ph.D., professor of medicine at Loma Linda University, in a study of over 31,000 SDAs found that nuts stood out as the number-one food among those who did not suffer heart attacks. Those who ate a handful of nuts at least 5-times a week had half the chance of a heart attack or coronary death as those eating nuts less than once a week. Even eating nuts once a week cut heart disease risk about 25 percent. What kinds of nuts were involved: peanuts, almonds, walnuts, and various others. (*Archives of Internal Medicine, 1992; 152:1416-23*).

Nuts are tree seeds and thus pack a rich supply of nutrients, including protein, monounsaturated fats, antioxidants, vitamin E, selenium (especially Brazil nuts) and ellagic acid (notably walnuts), that guard arteries against the ravages of cholesterol. Ellagic acid is also known to inhibit certain carcinogen-induced experimental cancers. Researchers also found that it stopped cell division in cervical cancer; inhibited overall cell growth and caused cellular self-destruction (in cancer cells). They pointed out that ellagic acid may play a role in regulating the division of cancer cells. (*Cancer Letters, 1999, 136:215-21*).

- Seeds, including nuts, are nutritional dynamite. As carriers of new life—sunflower sesame, pumpkin, flaxseeds, etc.—have been described as potential

remedies for prostate swelling, and other disease conditions.

LEGUMES: BEANS, PEAS, etc.

- Eating plenty of beans, including soy beans, helps protect against breast cancer. They contain compounds that help block the activity of cancer-promoting estrogen. Soy beans are especially beneficial in this regard. (*Jean Carper, Food Your Miracle Medicine*).

- Beans fight cholesterol with soluble fiber and heart healthy folate; and also with potent antioxidants called polyphenolics. In test-tube studies these antioxidants from pinto beans and kidney beans actually beat out one of the most famous antioxidants of all—good old vitamin C at keeping fat in the blood from becoming oxidized. (*Presented at the Experimental Biology Meeting in Wash. D.C. in April 1996*).

- Lentils, a super source of vitamin B-6 and iron, cook faster than most dried beans. This very nourishing food is a good body builder and is recommended in cases of low blood pressure and anemia.

WHOLE GRAINS:

- Consuming whole rather than refined grains reduces the risk of gastric and colorectal cancer and may also decrease the risk of coronary heart disease and endometrial cancer. (*Nutrition and Cancer, 24:221-229, 1995*).

- An article in *Prevention, Nov. 1997*, points out that whole grains are hot! A growing number of studies show they put a crimp in heart disease, colon and breast cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, ulcers, diverticulosis, gallstones and even obesity. The American Dietetic Association recommends at least 3 servings a day.

- Oats contain lots of soluble fiber, especially beta-glucan which lowers cholesterol. They also contain 3 different disease fighting antioxidants. Whole wheat flour is high in fiber with 4 times more than white flour. It also contains antioxidants, vitamin E (20 times more than white); zinc (4 times more) and selenium (twice as much). Barley is rich in powerful antioxidants and vitamin E that helps prevent heart disease and cancer. Rye bread has been called a "wonder bread" for the heart.

Brothers and sisters, the original diet is proving to be just what the doctor ordered in alleviating, treating and preventing the many diseases that are causing so much pain and sorrow in our world today. Let us thank the Lord that He has shown us how to live in order to secure the highest possible development of mind, soul and body.

WHAT'S IN RESTAURANT FOOD?

Ever wonder why you can't duplicate at home that "luscious" taste of restaurant food? Well, most professional chefs throw in more butter than the average

home cook can even imagine without having his arteries clog. More than this, the pros have another trick up their sleeves: duck and goose fat.

Many chefs at popular restaurants and eateries sear or poach meat in duck fat. Others sweat onions and cabbage, etc. for *choucroute* in goose fat. A popular cookbook from a French/Asian eatery in New Orleans, urges duck fat on amateurs, too. "It nourishes the meat. It makes it more savory."

Cooking in rendered poultry fat has long been a common practice in many restaurants, although the growing numbers of chefs who have adopted it generally don't say so on the menu. "The average lay person would be repulsed," says Richard Simpson of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School.

Vegetarians worried about lurking animal fat should ask. Chefs point out that there's nothing like sautéing potatoes in duck fat to add a scrumptious flavor. (Adapted from *U. S. News & World Report*, Dec. 18, 2000).

CHRIST: OUR EXAMPLE

-Ellen G. White

While Christ accepted invitations to feasts and gatherings, He did not partake of all the food offered Him, but quietly ate of that which was appropriate for His physical necessities, avoiding the many

things that he did not need. His disciples were frequently invited with Him, and His conduct was a lesson to them, teaching them not to indulge appetite by overeating or by eating improper food. He showed them that portions of the food provided could be passed by, and portions chosen.

Christ went to these feasts because He wished to show those who were excluding themselves from the society of their fellow men how wrong their course of action was. He wished to teach them that truth was given to be imparted to those who had it not. If they had truth, why keep it selfishly to themselves. The world is perishing for want of the living Truth. -7 *Manuscript Releases*, p. 412.

The health of the body is to be regarded as essential for the advancement of growth in grace, an even temper. If food is given to the stomach which will prove a tax to it, it will surely result in perverting the finer feelings of the heart. The stomach has a controlling influence upon the whole being, and has everything to do with the health of the whole body. If the stomach is not properly cared for, the formation of a moral character will be hindered. The brain and nerves are in sympathy with the stomach. Erroneous eating and drinking will result in erroneous thinking and acting. -7 *Manuscript Releases*, p. 133.

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

THE MAIL BAG

Dear Friends:

Will you send me the Present Truth series of publications revealing the last day message? Also will you send me your Bible Study course?

PENNSYLVANIA, USA

Dear Brethren:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I am receiving all the small books that you are posting to me and I thank you very much.

I learned so much of many prophecies of which I did not know before. I have come to know so much of the Davidian message. May God richly bless you.

ST. LUCIA, WEST INDIES

Dear Brethren:

My lovely brothers in the Shepherd's Rod message, we were so happy for your visit. After your missionary journey we have many new converts to the message.

I am still waiting for the parcel of books, I have received the packet of tapes only. Indeed, please send us more tapes because the message is growing nicely.

ZAMBIA, CENTRAL AFRICA

Dear Brethren:

I am writing in reference to your response toward my request. I hereby acknowledge that I have a keen interest in reading more literature in regards to the Revival and Reformation within the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Could you kindly send me the literature and I will be very grateful for your efficient and thoughtful service.

ZAMBIA, CENTRAL AFRICA

Dear Sir/Madam:

I have committed myself before the New Year to study God's word. Kindly send me audio cassettes of the various tapes you have on the Harvest, the 144,000, the Seven Trumpets and the Seven Seals.

I am searching for truth and as I study more I know God will help me understand His message and be a part of the Harvest.

OSHAWA, ONTARIO CANADA

Dear Brethren:

I have just finished listening to your tapes of Bible studies mainly on the 144,000. Please send me any other tapes or information that you have available.

GEORGIA, U.S.A.

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am a young Christian aged 20 and would like to grow spiritually. I am humbly requesting that you send me audio tapes on the Harvest, Matthew 13, and others.

Also I do not have a Bible and would like for you to send me one. I really want to know God's work and will and the future. I hope to hear from you soon. May the Lord bless you very much.

ZAMBIA, CENTRAL AFRICA

To Whom It May Concern:

Recently some friends shared with me a number of messages as follows: The Harvest of Matt. 13; The 144,000 of Rev. 7, Who Are They? I also read a book called *Before the Flames*. I have been an SDA for 18 years and have some concerns with respect to the liberal and worldly influences that are apparent in the church today.

Could you please forward this information to either the above mailing address or fax it to me. I would like to have a list of your sermons, books and charts and their associated cost. If you have a web site that I can access for this, that would be even more convenient.

May God's richest blessings be with you.

ONTARIO, CANADA

Dear Publisher:

Thanks for the information on pen-pal friends. I wish to inform you that I am interested in getting a pen-pal friend from the U.S.A. Guyana, Philippines, Canada, or Europe.

My interests are listening to stories, swimming and marching and playing with small animals. God bless and use you faithfully.

ZAMBIA, CENTRAL AFRICA

Dear Brother/Sister in Christ:

I have one audio cassette, *The Great Multitude, Who Are They?* and I would like to know if I can receive other similar audio cassettes.

Please, can you send me a list and details of what you have to offer of the teachings of the SDA church.

NEW YORK, U.S.A.

Dear Friends:

I have just listened to your tape on the 144,000. Please send me more information. Thank you.

ENGLAND

Dear Brethren:

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It is my joy to

write to you informing you that I am interested in the study of the Shepherd's Rod message.

One friend of mine gave me The Timely Greetings and I began to study it. Indeed, it is my intention to study the Shepherd's Rod message in its depth. For this purpose I felt that I should have my own personal reading materials. I want to ask your cooperation in this regard. Would you send me the literature that will be helpful in my studies. I look forward to hearing from you. God bless you.

ETHIOPIA, EAST AFRICA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Greetings in the name of our precious Saviour Jesus Christ. As I have received a cassette tape of "Daniel 2," I would like more of your tapes. Thank you for all that you have been doing for the Lord. May the Lord bless you.

FIJI ISLAND

Dear Sir:

I am one of the pastors in this area of Zambia. My request is to ask you to include me on your mailing list for cassettes on Christian subjects. I listened to one of your productions and I enjoyed it. Your favorable consideration will be highly appreciated.

ZAMBIA, CENTRAL AFRICA

Sir:

I have read your tract, The Pre-Eleventh Hour Extra, and would like to read more of your message. Thank you.

KENYA, EAST AFRICA

Dear Publishers:

I received your tape on the 144,000, The Great Image of Daniel 2, the book on Health, and the White House Recruiter. I have also listened to the tape on the 4 Horses and Chariots in Zechariah 6 and was really impressed and want to learn more.

Thank you for sharing your treasures of wisdom from God's Word. Please send more. Thanks so much

ONTARIO, CANADA

Dear Brothers:

I greet you in our Lord Jesus Christ's mighty name. I thank you from the depths of my heart for sending me the Bible, tapes and Christian publications. Oh! I have no precise words with which to convey to you the full worth of the materials to my spiritual life.

Thank you very much for your unfailing love.

ETHIOPIA, EAST AFRICA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I am very much happy with your cassettes and literature. Now my local church has given me an assignment to teach them on the Judgment. Please can you send me more details on this topic:

1. What is the Judgment?
2. Why should We Be Judged?
3. When Shall We Be Judged?
4. Who Will Be Judged?
5. Who Is the Judge?

I look forward to hearing more from you. May the Lord bless you all.

KENYA, EAST AFRICA

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am very much pleased and interested in the prophetic gospel and message which is being conducted to all churches throughout the world. I therefore would like you to send me your tapes and literature, so that I may grow in the Lord Jesus Christ.

May the almighty God bless all of you at your centre of prophetic ministry.

ZAMBIA, CENTRAL AFRICA

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Could you please send me a free tape or information about the Big Multitude found in Revelation 7:9-10. I have come in touch with the first tape about the 144,000, so I want to know more about the second group.

I would also be thankful if you availed me with any further information or literature that could help me get closer to my Jesus. I wish you well and will keep on praying for you.

UGANDA, EAST AFRICA

Dear Friends:

I am a girl, 10 years old. I am a Davidian and would like to get pen-pal friends from all over the world.

My interest are many but the basic ones are singing, cooking and looking for pictures. I am in grade 3 in a rural school. God bless you all.

ZAMBIA, CENTRAL AFRICA

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CHRIST, THE ONLY WAY

Indulgence says, "Drink your way out."
Philosophy says, "Think your way out."
Science says, "Invent your way out."
Industry says, "Work your way out."
Communism says, "Strike your way out."
Fascism says, "Bluff your way out."
Militarism says, "Fight your way out."
But Christ says, "I am the way out."

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. John 15:5.

NEWSLETTER

Winter's icy hand is beginning to grip the Northeast. At present a bit of snow is on the ground—winter's jewels have arrived but not for long, we think, as it is still early for lots of snow. Albeit it is a sign that winter is here. That however, does not stop God's work. In fact, it is during this time of year when most of the missionary and office-type work is accomplished, as we are not engaged in other outdoor activities.

Another type of winter, though, may be on its way; we can't be certain, but with the heated events of the Middle East—the tensions between the Palestinians and the Israelis rising, it could be a sign that God's people are about to enter into the wintry night of the Assyrian Confederacy and Jacob's trouble. Again, no one can know definitely—only God. Nonetheless, it reveals that time is running out and soon the sealing will be over. What a solemn thought! Soon the saints will all be sealed and the church purified. Are you ready? Are we ready?

Remember, the night is not long. The morning cometh and so does spring! Our time of trial is not long—our winter is brief. But the major concern now is preparation. There is still so much work to be done; so many who still need to be warned.

The purpose of this Newsletter is to primarily bring you up to date on the work, especially since we are in the new year. Secondly, we hope to encourage you to participate in future plans and projects vital to the promulgation of the message we love so dearly.

THANKS!

Thanks to everyone who has been praying for the Association and for its workers and all its efforts. We need those prayers and be assured that they are not in vain.

Thanks to all of you who faithfully support the Association regularly.

Thanks to you who give so unselfishly of your time, labor, and support in whatever way you can. We sincerely thank God and you for your sacrifices.

Our work, as your servants/stewards would not be possible without you. God bless you.

MT. CARMEL CENTER

We have just completed another **DLI Program**. Because of various circumstances, the program started late, but the class made it through. Five students graduated—two from California,

two from Holland and one from Florida. Pray for them that they will allow God to use them for the advancement of His great Kingdom.

By now you must have received the 2000 Session Symbolic Code, briefing you on the Session and its challenges and blessings.

Before the Session, the previous Council renovated the laundry room, prepared the way for an addition to the print shop, and added two new bathrooms for the newly enlarged meeting room/chapel. It is not yet completed, but it was used during the Session and improved upon before graduation. The extra space was very much needed.

At present, we are endeavoring by God's grace to do some necessary repairs and upgrading for the print shop. The equipment is aging and requires much money and labor to keep the publishing work going. The folder has just been remodeled. It cost over \$7,000. The press is aging and has been giving the crew much difficulty at times. Nonetheless, with God's help we have been able to keep the printing going.

More good news is that in spite of the difficulties, the print shop has been able to speed up production. At present it averages one tract per week, and as mandated by the Session—printing one tract in English then one in Spanish. Our next goal is to include some Dutch tracts as well.

All of this is made possible by the dedication and skill of the print shop staff. And by the way, one of the reasons for the increase in productivity is that God has enabled us to add another full-time printer—totaling three—unprecedented for us. Benito Medina joined the staff in October. He is a graduate of the 1997 DLI class, and has returned since then each summer to volunteer his time in the print shop. Now he is a permanent member of the staff. Please pray for him and all the print shop workers who are at the heart of our work—Jamie Valbert, Ricardo Rollan, Jesse Myers and Benito.

Another critical aspect of our work is the **preaching and teaching** of present truth by the Bible workers who carry this work out. We will not have time or space to recount all activities but we would like to highlight a few.

The success of our visit to the **2000 General Conference Session** is still being realized as sporadic calls and requests come to the office.

Here at home in the U.S., besides the already established areas in New York, Connecticut, California, and Georgia, in-roads are being made in Nebraska, Florida, Colorado, Arizona, Texas, Oregon and Maryland.

Outside the U.S., Sr. Judith Rollan, a Bible worker from the Philippines, now residing at Headquarters, has been working with many new interests in the

TRINIDAD—THANKS YOU

Filipino community in Canada. Br. Tim Fowlie, a dedicated and zealous believer, has had his labors rewarded with several new believers who are diligently studying the message, breathing new hope and life in Canada.

St. Lucia, in the West Indies, is growing by leaps and bounds. Our God given success with the court case is still stirring up interest. Br. John Seraphin's visit brought back marvelous reports of the many new believers.

The work in Kenya, Mexico, El Salvador, the Philippines, Uganda, Vanuatu and Zambia is growing as new efforts are being made to reach out to new areas and to aid the brethren to become better organized. Yes, there has been setbacks, but God is gaining the victory.

Br. Dwight McCoy has been working in Florida. Br. Terry Harrison is visiting Barbados. Pray for these and the many other endeavors.

We cannot forget to mention two special projects afoot.

The brethren in California have located a building that can be used for their branch office. As you may be aware, there is a large group of believers on the West Coast. There is a great need for a place where they can meet and operate an office. A final decision should be reached by the beginning of the year.

The second item is the work in Trinidad, West Indies. The work in this important Island began anew a couple of years ago after a visit by Brs. E. Stanford and P. Bridgewater. As a result a group has been established, and the building of a Caribbean Center is on its way. In fact, Br. Stanford has just completed a four week training class with the group.

The brethren in Trinidad, as well the Council, sincerely thank God for all those who contributed moneys and their earnest prayers to lay the platform for this project. Whether near or far, little or much, we extend our heartfelt thanks, knowing that the Great Master will reward you. This is especially true for Br. and Sr. Bridgewater and Francis Bridgewater, who have given of their time, means, and donated the land.

Now, the work is not complete, there is still much to be done, and the demand and challenges to us as believers of present truth are becoming greater as we advance to the Kingdom. Br. Patrick Bridgewater plans to return to Trinidad soon to continue working on the building project.

For those who may not be familiar with this project, it is being built primarily as an all purpose Center for those residing in the Caribbean, including DLI training classes, health siminars, general office use and convocations.

Here is a partial list of the items needed so that the building will be ready for the June, 2001, Caribbean DLI.

1. 1 steel window 4' x 6' side, plus top vent.....U.S. \$200.00.
2. 1 metal door 4' x 7' with doors....U.S. \$200.00
3. 1 single door....U.S. \$125.00
4. 1 Aloxinc Galvanize sheet 34' (2 sheets)....U.S. \$40.00
5. 4 concrete blocks 4" x 8" x 16"....U.S. \$04.00
6. Cement, \$35.00 (18 bags) aprox..... U.S. \$100.00
7. 1 load gravel (6 cubit yards)....U.S. \$100.00

The Executive Council would like to extend the invitation to all to contribute to this important project as God impresses your heart. You may donate toward one or more of the items on the above list. This will be very much appreciated as you lay up treasure in heaven and help advance God's cause in this most important field.

Please include Trinidad in your prayers along with all the fields here mentioned.

A NEW PRINTING PRESS

Perhaps, the most important item the Association needs now is a printing press. **The publishing work is at the heart of the work**, and the heart is weak, while the demand for truth-filled material is burgeoning. Not only is English material needed, but Spanish and Dutch

is in great demand, and we are still behind on stocking the shelves.

Furthermore, as stated earlier, the present printing press is old, in need of an overhaul, and has the staff at times struggling to keep it going, only to do mediocre work. It wastes paper and time and gives inferior quality. Of course, all of this is a drain on the Lord's money.

Why do we not overhaul it? Well, after a thorough investigation, it was decided that a new press would be, in the long run, more cost effective than to recondition the old. Furthermore, we understand that our present brand and model are outmoded, not particularly reliable, and parts may be difficult to get in the near future. In addition, we have located other presses that are more reliable, faster, versatile, and easier to operate, able to meet our demanding program, and get us caught up on our printing. In short, it is neither expedient nor wise to continue with our present one.

Why not buy a new version of the one we have already? The answer? Well, a new one cost almost as much as the other quality presses we have surveyed. So, for just a little more, we can acquire a new, far better quality press, which is faster, more versatile and durable.

No doubt by now you are wanting to know what we suggest. After much prayer and research, we have concluded

that a new two color **Heidelberg Printmaster 46**, is the machine we need.

Heidelbergs are unquestionably the top of the line among printing presses. To own one is the dream of many print shops, but financially out of reach. But, praise God, Heildberg recently started producing a press that is within our reach. It has the same quality standard, efficiency and automation of larger more expensive presses, but sized for us at a lower cost. It could be like saying that instead of having the Mercedes Benz 500 Series (the larger Mercedes), we can get the 200 series, smaller, but still a Mercedes!

So, friends and brethren, we do not want to miss this opportunity. Of course, you are waiting for the price tag. Delivered and installed it is about \$64,000. Standardly, a quality press of its caliber could cost \$75,000 and upward.

Concerned that our present press could develop a serious problem or crash somewhere in the near future—a risk we cannot afford—and being confident that this is the press that God would have us purchase, we have no recourse but to in faith make plans to acquire this fine machine for the Lord's cause.

As you may guess, the Association does not have the money to purchase it in cash. Yet we deem it wise to avoid debt as far as possible. Thus, we are constrained to ask you to come up further to the help of the Lord, and assist in obtaining this much needed equipment.

How much the print shop would rejoice to have this machine! What a blessing that would be.

THIS IS THE PLAN

Some have made great sacrifices in the past to help the Association reach where it is today. So once again we ask you and all members and affiliates to pledge to God and contribute, above and beyond the regular tithes and general offerings.

Actually, purchasing this press, a vital part of our work, is not as formidable as it appears. For example, 200 persons giving \$300 U.S. dollars would yield \$60,000, nearly the entire cost. It works like this: The idea is to obtain it by spring, 2001—somewhere around April, 2001. If 200 persons between January and April gave \$300, that is, not necessarily all at once if they could not afford to, then the Association could have the press by spring. Did you get that, dear brethren? By Spring, the press could be in the print shop.

We feel compelled to ask this because, although the Association could contribute some toward the purchase, from the tithes and offerings, with its present burdens and the growing field, it is hard-pressed to raise \$60,000 anytime soon without going into debt.

Furthermore, with current events—especially the circumstances in the Middle East as they are, we may not have time. So that is why we are coming

to you—you who love the truth and long for the Kingdom.

We are more than confident that God will bless this endeavor if everyone comes to the help of the Lord and pray and give. God will honor our faith. He can multiply the fish and loaves and do more than we can imagine.

So, today place this project on your prayer and priority list. And receive a blessing and push God's cause onward and upward. The following inspired passage, summarizes our convictions about this matter.

"The Lord wants His people in these days to believe that He will do as great things for them as He did for the children of Israel in their journey from Egypt to Canaan. We are to have an educated faith that will not hesitate to follow His instructions in the most difficult experiences. 'Go forward' is the command of God to His people." CS:277.

We look forward today to hear from you and your pledge. God is counting on us.

IN CONCLUSION

In closing these news items, we ask you to draw still nearer to our Saviour. Yes, this is above all things, the most important. Then remember us, the new Executive Council—men and women like yourselves, with the weaknesses, frailties of humanity, who must administer, serve,

and coordinate the world work, lacking enough wisdom, skill, and understanding, and having too few laborers, time and funds. What a stupendous task! It is beyond human power alone. Please, please, dear brethren pray for us—earnestly that God will beat back the enemy and infuse us with His wisdom, knowledge and understanding, and most of all His love. Do that, as we ask Heaven to do the same for you.

We welcome your suggestions, comments and questions.

God bless!

The 2000-2002 Executive Council

From the Golden Bowl:

"All present truth believers should now see the necessity of shunning every wind of doctrine regardless how plausible or reasonable it might appear to be. Remember the words: "Behold, those that go toward the north country have quieted My Spirit in the north country." Get your doctrine, Brother, Sister, only from the Golden Bowl (see *The Shepherd's Rod*, Vol.2), and be not like the waves of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed—be not carried about by the many winds of doctrine that are blowing wildly from every direction to cause you to lose your way to the everlasting Kingdom." —Victor T. Houteff, *God's Titles Not Restricted to One Language*, p. 12.

WHEN THEY SHALL SAY, PEACE

While the various factions are still somehow searching for peace, the year 2000 saw renewed hostilities in the Middle East. President Clinton remained hopeful that he could initiate the peace process before leaving office in January 2001. But this was not to be.

Those who are predicting a new Middle East will have to confront an antiquity of enmity, witnessed regularly in the region. Just when peace seems to be a possibility, another incident shatters all hope for any lasting peace in the area.

Where did the struggle all begin? No doubt you are aware that much of the Arabic world are descendants of Ishmael, the son of Abraham, born to Hagar (a hand-maid) after Abraham and Sarah's lack of faith and endeavor to help God fulfill His promise of giving them a son. You also remember how owing to the struggle between Hagar and Sarah, Hagar was forced to depart with her son Ishmael. Nonetheless God promised that Ishmael as well as Isaac (the son of the promise) would be the progenitors of great nations. (See *Gen. 21:1-20*). Of course, through Isaac came Jacob and from him came the twelve patriarchs, the fathers of the twelve tribes.

"Ishmael was the eponymous progenitor of twelve princes (*Gen. 25:12-16*), every

one of whom gave his name to a tribe mentioned elsewhere in the Bible, like Nebaioth (*Isaiah 60:7*); Kedar, a group of wealthy pastoral and trading tribes (*Ezekiel 27:21*), famous for its archers (*Jeremiah 49:28-32; Isaiah 21:17; 60:7*); Tema (*Isaiah 21:14; Jeremiah 25:23; Job 6:19*); Jetur and Nephish (*1 Chronicles 5:19*). The region held by Ishmael and his sons 'in the presence of all his brethren' (*Genesis 16:12*) includes East Palestine (the Kingdom of Jordan) and territory around the Gulf of Aqabah. The Assyrians called the land 'Arabia.' Throughout the Bible the descendants of Ishmael, because of their origin, are considered of lower rank than the sons of Issac. But by the Moslems, Ishmael is hailed as ancestor, buried with his mother in the Kaaba of Mecca.

"Though the Twelve Tribes of Ishmael were traced to Abraham, yet, because they were descendants of the Egyptian-born handmaid Hagar, Ishmaelites were inferior to Hebrews, from the standpoint of racial purity, as well as in standards of living. Ishmaelites were a numerous and great people (*Gen. 17:20*), yet Hebrew historians considered them beneath them. This is one of the racial attitudes that has persisted in the Middle East." *Harper's Bible Dictionary.*

Many of the Arabs of the Trans-Jordan (east of Palestine and the Dead Sea, i.e., the nation of Jordan) are descendants of Lot after escaping Sodom. (See Gen. 19:30-38). His two daughters fearing that since their mother (who turned into a pillar of salt) was now dead, the remainder of the family lost in the destruction of Sodom, there would be no way of carrying on the family line, so after intoxicating Lot with wine, and incestuous relations, bore two sons, Moab and Ammon.

Will the children of Abraham and Lot finally have lasting peace? Will the Middle East now experience general rest from strife and bloodshed? The answer to these questions from the only One who knows the future is, NO! At least not until God's Kingdom is established. The greatest of all battles will soon take place right there in this region. (2TG.41:18). Zechariah puts it this way:

"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather **all nations against Jerusalem** to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city." Zech. 14:1,2.

"Just how this is to come about, I do not know; but I do know that **the greatest of all war is to be fought about the holy land;**" 2 TG.41:18.

No, dear friends, there will be no peace now in the Middle East. The scriptures declare that the mightiest of all battles is still to be fought. Zephaniah shows that both unbelieving Jews and Arabs will be thoroughly punished and disseminated:

"Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you. For **Gaza** shall be forsaken, and **Ashkelon** a desolation: they shall drive out **Ashdod** at noon day, and **Ekron** shall be rooted up. Woe unto the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethites! the word of the Lord is against you; O **Canaan**, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant. Zeph. 2:1,2,4,5.

"The fourth verse definitely implies that the 'nation' is to gather together in the cities of Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, and Ekron, in the land of the Philistines, in the land of **Canaan in Palestine**.

"In view of the fact that this scripture is now being unfolded, and also the fact that there is but one people, one nation (the descendants of the ancient scribes, priests, and Pharisees who rejected the Lord and who have not even to this day accepted Him, that are hardly desired anywhere in the world) that is now doing all she can to gather together in Palestine—in view of all this, the **present-day Jews** are that undesired nation. Upon her, therefore, the Lord's anger is to fall

if she continues to deny Christ. Yes, the universally hated Jews are the only nation that has been scattered throughout the Gentile world, and is the only one that is now gathering together in Palestine.

"Moreover, in these verses, two truths stand out clearly: 1) that in vain the Jews seek to establish themselves in the Promised Land: 2) that we who are bearing the message of the great and dreadful day of the Lord are counseled to seek meekness and righteousness, for **thus only shall we 'be hid in the day of the Lord's anger,' that in merely bearing knowledge of the message will not save us, there should be corresponding deeds with it.**" (1 TG.22:25-27). But what of the Arab world?

"I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the revilings of the children of Ammon [Arabs] whereby they have reproached My people, and magnified themselves against their border. Zephaniah 2:8.

"Not only the unbelieving Jews, but also the unbelieving Arabs who resist the meek, are to be swept away from the land.

"Therefore, as I live, saith the Lord of host, the God of Israel, surely **Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah,** even the breeding of nettles, and salt pits, and a perpetual desolation: the residue of My people shall spoil them and the remnant

of My people shall possess them." Zeph. 2:9.

"While Moab and Ammon become as Sodom and Gomorrah, go out of existence, the captivity of God's people is turned away. They become an independent nation and possess all the wealth of the people round about." (1 TG.22:25-27).

"For when they shall say, peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

1 Thess. 5:3.

The long searched for peace treaties, then will not materialize. There will be no lasting peace now in the Promised Land. Never! until Christ purifies His church and established His holy Kingdom, then and only then will there be real peace in the Middle East, "when the saints go marching in to the Kingdom without sin."

ARE YOU READY?

From the Golden Bowl:

Christ was treated as we deserve,
that we might be treated as He deserves.

He was condemned for our sins,
in which He had no share,
that we might be justified by His
righteousness,

in which we had no share.

He suffered the death which was ours,
that we might receive the life which was
His. "With His stripes we are healed."

—*Desire of Ages, p. 25*

NEWS IN PERSPECTIVE

POPE APOLOGIZES FOR CATHOLIC SINS PAST AND PRESENT

In a landmark public confession, Pope John Paul II begged God's forgiveness Sunday, March 12, 2000, for sins committed or condoned by Roman Catholics over the last 2,000 years, including sexism, racism, hatred of Jews and violence in defense of the Catholic faith.

The pope listed or alluded to a wide range of victims of Catholic hostility, prejudice and indifference as he asked his church to enter its third millennium with a purified conscience. These victims included heretics, Protestants, Jews and other non-Christians, immigrants, ethnic minorities, women, abused children and the unborn.... Their failings he said, were especially glaring "in the second millennium"—a period covering the holy wars of the Crusades, the executions of heretics and other non-Catholics by courts of the Inquisition, and the forced conversions of native people in Africa and the Americas.

"We forgive and ask for forgiveness," John Paul II said several times during his solemn Day of Pardon Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, a crowning moment of a 21-year old papacy that has made repentance a central theme....
—*Los Angeles Times*, March 13, 2000.

In Response:

What does Inspiration have to say regarding this?: "The Roman Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with *apologies* her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christ-like garments; but she is *unchanged*. Every principle of popery that existed in past ages exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. Let none deceive themselves. The popery that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity. She possesses the same pride and arrogant assumption that lorded it over kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when she crushed out human liberty, and slew the saints of the Most High.

"Popery is just what prophecy declared that she would be, the apostasy of the latter times. (2 Thess. 2:3,4). It is a part of her policy to assume the character which will best accomplish her purpose; but beneath the variable venom of the serpent. "We are not bound to keep faith and promises to heretics," she declares. Shall this power, whose record for a thousand years is written in the blood of the saints, be now acknowledged as a part of the church of Christ?" —*The Great Controversy*, p. 571.

YOUNG WORLD

True Story for
Cradle Roll/Kindergarten

A HUG FROM JESUS

"Stop, Christy, leave me alone," April yelled and slammed their bedroom door in her older sister's face.

"April, honey, come here, please," Mommy said, laying her Bible aside.

April stomped into Mommy's room, head down and a stormy scowl on her face. "What?" she said in a gruff voice.

"You know, that 's not the way to answer me." Gently taking April's hands, mommy drew her closer. "It's yes, mommy." Still scowling, April mumbled, "Yes, mommy."

"What's the matter this morning? You don't sound like a girl who knows Jesus loves her." "But, mommy," April whined, "Christy's bothering me. She 's looking at me. I don't like that."

Mommy put her arm around April's shoulders. "Do you know who makes you cross first thing in the morning and why?" April nodded, "Satan, cause he doesn't want Jesus in my heart, but I do."

"OK. Every morning, say, 'Jesus, please come into my heart today. Help me say no to Satan and yes to You.' Then, when Satan knocks at your heart's door, he'll see Jesus and run away." Softly mommy sang the Sabbath School song, *When Mr. Satan Knocks at My Heart's Door*.

April stopped scowling, but she held her head down and refused to smile.

Instead she rubbed her eyes and yawned.

"Honey, I know it's hard to be nice early in the morning," mommy said, moving April closer. "I get up on the wrong side of the bed sometimes, too. What you need every morning is a hug to get you going. One from me—mommy squeezed April tight. She lifted April in a teddy bear-hug, planting kisses on both cheeks. "That's from Jesus."

"Now, little girl, mommy said, pretending not to recognize her daughter, "scoot and send my April back here. I want to see her smile."

The hint of a smile danced in April's eyes and tugged the corners of her mouth. Finally she laughed. "Mommy, you're funny. Sing that song—you know—about the sun shining in," April said, putting her face up to mommy's and looking into her eyes.

"Oh, let the sunshine in, Face it with a grin. Smilers never lose and frowners never win. So, let the sunshine in; face it with a grin. Open up your heart and let the sunshine in." Mommy held her head high and sang the happy song.

"Mommy will you and Jesus give me a hug every morning?"

"Sure thing," mommy said.

April felt all tingly inside. "Sing the sunshine song again, mommy, please." This time April sang along with a smile.

—by Penny Payne

A CANDIDATE FOR THE 144,000, A DAVIDIAN INDEED

When you are forgotten or neglected or purposely set at naught, and you do not sting and hurt at the oversight, but your heart is happy, being counted worthy to suffer for Christ, **THAT IS DEATH TO SELF.**

When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart, or even defend yourself, but take it all in patient loving silence, **THAT IS DEATH TO SELF.**

When you lovingly and patiently bear any disorder, any irregularity, any impunctuality, or any annoyance, when you can stand face to face with waste, folly, extravagance, spiritual insensibility and endure it as Jesus endured it, **THAT IS DEATH TO SELF.**

When you are content with any food, any raiment, any climate, any society, any solitude, and interruption by the will of God. **THAT IS DEATH TO SELF.**

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation, or to record your own good works, or itch after commendation, when you can truly love to be unknown, **THAT IS DEATH TO SELF.**

When you can receive correction and reproof from one of less stature than yourself and can humbly submit inwardly

as well as outwardly, finding no rebellion or resentment rising up within your heart, **THAT IS DEATH TO SELF.**

LET US AWAKE OUT OF SLEEP

Isa. 52:1—"Awake, awake; put on thy strength. O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean."

...We see that the time of purification of the church is at hand; that Zion (the General Conference) and Jerusalem (the local conferences) are called to "awake," so that the daughter of Zion, the church, might be clothed with the righteousness of Christ; that she is weak; that she has not the righteousness of Christ; that the day of her redemption is now at hand; that she is to be freed from man's rule and from hypocrisy; that Zion and Jerusalem as they are today, are no less oppressing the laity than were the Assyrian lords oppressing the children of ancient Israel; that God will not leave His people in ignorance; that they shall know it is He speaking, not an enemy as they are made to believe; that the message of the Kingdom of God is a message of comfort; that His faithful servants shall exalt His message (the Voice); that after Zion and Jerusalem awake they shall see "eye to eye," and only those who have withstood temptation in the strength of the Mighty One will have a part in proclaiming this message in the Loud Cry..." *Victor T. Houteff, 1.TG.38:30.*

JUDGE NOT

-ELLEN G. WHITE

"For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Matt. 7:2

Last night I was in a sleepless state much of the time. Many representations passed before me. One was a scene in a council meeting where several were present. One man arose and began finding fault with one of his brethren. I looked at the speaker's garments, and saw that they were very undesirable.

Another person arose, and began to state his grievance against a fellow laborer. His garments were of another pattern, and they, too, were undesirable. Still another and another, arose, and uttered words of accusation and condemnation regarding the course of others. Everyone had some trouble to speak of, some fault to find with someone else. All were presenting the defects of Christians who are trying to do something in our world; and they declared repeatedly that certain ones were neglecting this or that or the other thing, and so on.

There was no real order, no polite courtesy, in the meeting. In their anxiety to make other hear, speakers crowded in while others were still talking. Voices were raised, in an effort to make all hear above the din of confusion...

After many had spoken, One of authority appeared, and repeated the words: "Judge not, that ye be not judged" Matt. 7:1. Christ Himself was present. An expression of painfulness came over His countenance as one after another would come forward, with uncouth dress, to expatiate upon the faults of various members of the church.

Finally the heavenly Visitant arose. So intent were those present on criticizing their brethren, that it was with reluctance that they gave Him opportunity to speak. He declared that the spirit of criticism, of judging one another, was a source of weakness in the church today. Things are spoken that should never find utterance. Everyone who by word of mouth places an obstruction in the way of a fellow Christian has an account to settle with God.

With earnest solemnity the Speaker declared: "The church is made of many minds, each of whom has an individuality. I gave My life in order that men and women, by divine grace might blend in revealing a perfect pattern of My character, while at the same time retaining their individuality. No one has the right to destroy or submerge the individuality of any other human mind, by uttering words of criticism and faultfinding and condemnation." *-The Upward Look, p. 216.*

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,... 1 Peter 2:1

LET'S STUDY THE MESSAGE!

-Victor T. Houteff

We who have studied the message contained in *The Shepherd's Rod* are just as deeply convinced that it is the "message of the True Witness" "to the Laodiceans," which finds God's people in a "sad deception," as we are of the Sabbath or any other truth ever known to the church. And indeed we should be, for it has opened to our understanding chapter after chapter of the Scriptures, the meaning of which we hitherto had not the faintest idea, but which we now understand as plainly as we do any plain Bible truth. Through the message, we now see that the prophecies of these chapters (Isaiah's, Ezekiel's, Hosea's, Joel's, Micah's, Zechariah's Daniel's, The Revelation's, etc.) focus on this time, and shine out in wondrous beauty. It has multiplied to us the proof that the Seventh-day Adventist denomination is the church of God, thus strengthening more than ever, if possible, our determination to stay in it regardless of its condition. And as a consequence, it has established us more solidly than ever in the Third Angel's Message, causing us to have greater love for the brethren. Then, finally, it has driven us to study the Bible and the *Spirit of Prophecy* as never before.

Without reading for oneself the publications of the *ROD*, one cannot know the wonderful change they make in the lives of all who truly accept them, nor

can one appreciate the wonders of the prophecies which they reveal, many of which, heretofore, men have never even attempted to explain. No human wisdom could possibly unlock these mysteries of God which have been hidden for ages from the wise and prudent. Those who have not for themselves made "a thorough investigation" of the message which the *ROD* contains, and which has come "in the name of the Lord," the *Spirit of Prophecy* counsels them not to say: "I am satisfied with my position. I have set my stakes, and I will not be moved away from my position, whatever may come. I will not listen to the message of this messenger; for I know that it can not be truth." -*Testimonies on Sabbath-School Work*, p. 65.

Clearly, those who by word or action contend that they know more about *The Shepherd's Rod* than do we who have carefully studied it, are not only stultifying their own intelligence, but also insulting ours. Moreover, in judging and condemning without hearing, they are violating the laws of common justice, and are despising the counsel of the Lord and placing themselves above His Throne!

...the Devil is causing every wind of doctrine to blow in every direction....He effectively discourages and frightens all who have the disposition to investigate any purported light on the Scriptures, thereby preparing them to reject the very message of Truth whenever God may send it.... - *Tract 7:68-71*.

THE SHEPHERD'S ROD: WHAT IS IT?

Victor T. Houteff

The primary purpose of *The Shepherd's Rod* is to unlock the long-concealed mystery concerning the ever-challenging and much discussed subject of the 144,000 (Rev. 14:1), with the central object in view of bringing about among God's people that "thorough reformation" foretold by the Spirit of Prophecy (*Test. Vol. 8:251*).

These truths, Divinely revealed, are of supreme importance to the church just now because of the trying, sifting circumstances through which God's people are soon to pass. Being vital concerns to salvation, they call for decided action from ministry and laity alike to separate themselves from all worldliness and to anchor themselves on the solid Rock by obedience to all the truth known to the church, if they would escape the forth-coming ruin that is to take every sinner.

Its dominant doctrinal concern being the truth of the 144,000, and a correct understanding of it being a life-and-death matter to all, the *ROD* unfolds it from several different angles, each urging the Denomination to prepare for the glorious deliverance of the saints and against the inglorious destruction of the sinners as foretokened by the marking and the slaying recorded in Ezekial 9.

No new denomination is advocated; on the contrary, such is unmitigatedly opposed. And finally, irrefutable proof is brought forth that the Seventh-day Adventist Denomination has been the instrumentality of God since 1844 to carry on His work on earth, and that the *ROD* adds "power and force" "to the third message." -*Early Writings*, p. 277.

Purporting to be the antitype of the first exodus, *The Shepherd's Rod* takes its name from Moses' rod, the instrument through which the Lord manifested His power in the deliverance of the children of Israel. *The Shepherd's Rod*, the only Rod that has ever spoken, is predicted and recommended in Mic.6:9: "Hear ye the *ROD*, and [Him] Who hath appointed it."

In compliance with the Lord's command, we should now with open ears hear the *ROD's* message—

THE SEALING OF THE FIRSTFRUITS—THE 144,000

"And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea. Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an 144,000 of all the tribes of the children of Israel.... Rev. 7:2-4. -1 SRp. 5, 6. (Read entire article).

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