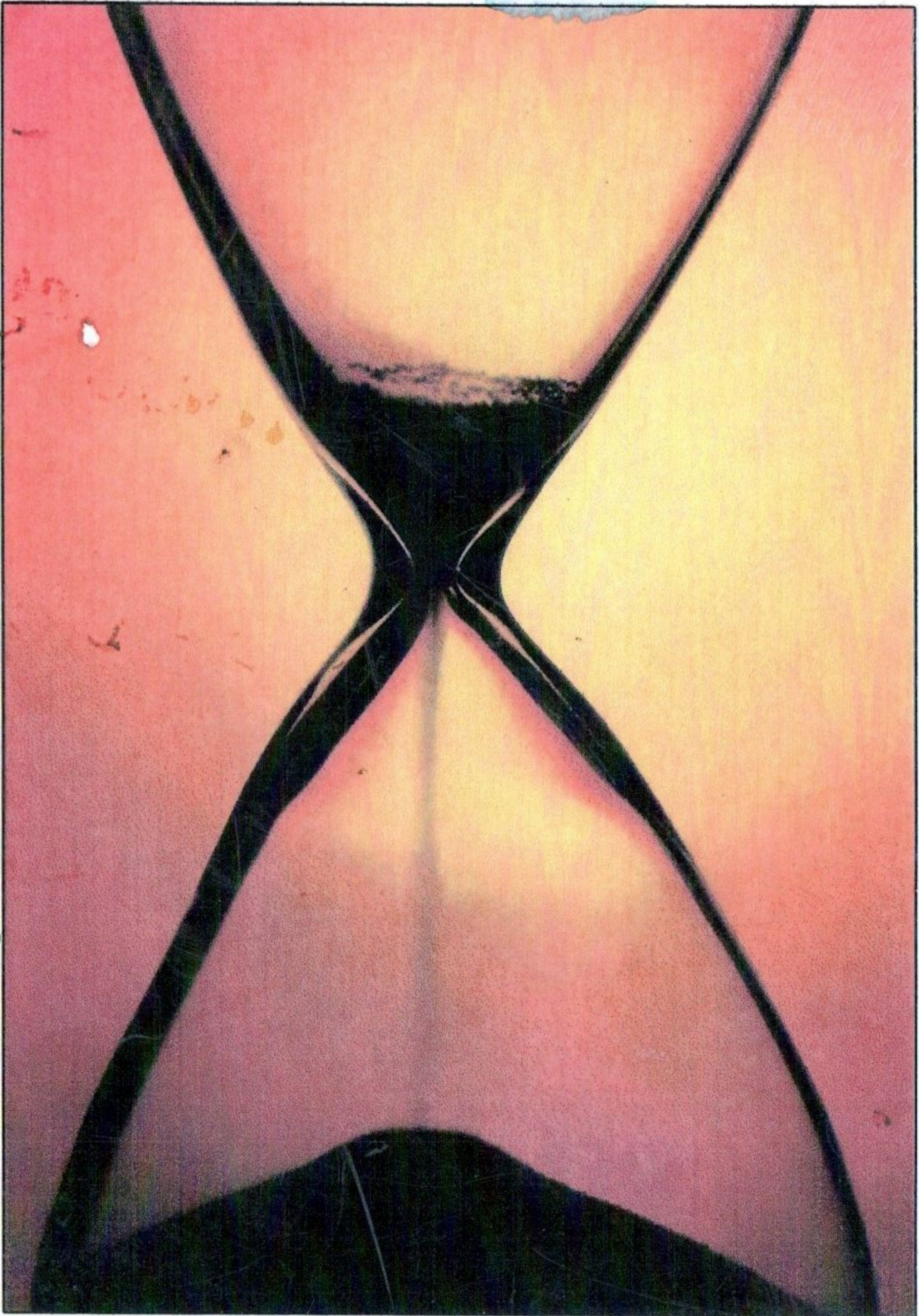


The Symbolic Code

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TIME IS RUNNING OUT

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IT MAY BE SOONER THAN WE THINK

We know from our study of prophecy, that one day in the near future we will have to oppose what the Bible terms, "*The Assyrian Confederacy.*" This massive international alliance made up primarily of Western powers (modern Assyria), is formed while the nations are girding themselves for an unprecedented war in the Holy Land. It is the war Inspiration terms, "*the greatest of all battles.*"¹ We are told that we are not only to refuse to participate in this alliance, but to actually oppose it.² Such turn of events will lead the nations to view God's faithful people as traitors, enemies of the state or the like, and eventually proscribe and seek to kill them. Inspiration put it this way: "*But there will yet be a decree before the fifth trumpet ends, that if men dare to disobey, they must face the threatened penalty of death. Those, however, who have been sealed when the decree comes will seek death and death will flee from them.*"³

*"A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob's trouble. Then all the saints cried out with anguish of spirit, and were delivered by the voice of God. The 144,000 triumphed."*⁴

How could all of this come about?

That is, considering things as they are right now, how will the nations, the church, and the world, come to the point of wanting to execute anyone for simply opposing their plans? To come to such a position certainly would require dramatic changes in how we now carry out "justice," especially since the West prides herself on her hallmarks of civility, liberty, tolerance, and freedom of speech.

Prior to September 11, 2001, it was a little more difficult to imagine. But since then the United States and the world has changed. Changed? Oh yes, dramatically—even if it is not yet obvious. Why? There are numerous reasons. Terrorism and terrorists are now top priority for the U.S. and other Western nations. But one of the most significant is that on October 26, 2001, barely a month after the September 11 disaster, President Bush signed the United States of America Patriot Act (USAPA) into law. This law gave government, domestic law enforcement, and international intelligence agencies, broad and sweeping new powers to halt terrorism. The problem is that the new clout has essentially eliminated the checks and balances that previously gave courts the opportunity to ensure that government and enforcement authorities

did not abuse the rights and freedoms that lead to intolerance and persecution. But now, with the passing of this Act, freedom and tolerance has suffered a mighty blow. Most of these safeguards had been put into place after previous misuse of surveillance powers by these very same agencies; including the revelation in 1974 that the FBI and foreign intelligence had spied on over 10,000 U.S. citizens, presumably without their explicit knowledge and consent—one of the most noted being, Martin Luther King.

The major concern is that although the object of the bill supposedly targets terrorists, they are instead aimed at nonviolent, domestic “crimes.” Does that raise any flags? Some sources argue that the USAPA was not necessary since the previous laws gave sufficient leverage to detect and halt a terrorist attack. But if this is true, you may ask, why didn’t authorities block the September 11, disaster? Because, the Government compromised the very civil liberties the USAPA claims to be defending, and that is why they did not detect and stop the planning of America’s worst terrorist assault. So then USAPA on the surface may appear to be protecting the pillars of human rights while below chopping the very legs from under them. We are told by Inspiration that the U.S. Constitution was divinely inspired, so anything that

undermines these God-given rights should immediately become suspect and concern us. This is especially true for us who are aware of the prophecies—knowing that one day soon we will be brought before the authorities to answer for our faith, and that it is possible that some, if not all of us, could end up incarcerated and a death decree issued to take our lives. In other words, we cannot afford to take USAPA lightly.

Watch Out Internet Users

The government may this very moment be spying on you. That’s right, this very moment. It is possible that your e-mails are being read by the government. You could be, right now, a potential terrorist suspect, or viewed as an accomplice, material witness, or maybe you have been placed on a list of questionable persons, and you know nothing about it. For all we know, this article may have been, or is already in the hands of a U.S. intelligence agency. Of course, we cannot know with certainty, but it is possible—very possible. But if not now, it no doubt will be one day in the not too distant future. This is most true if you use a computer to type your letters and/send e-mails. How?

Much of the USAPA is aimed at Internet users just like you. Officials can now spy on us via words or terms entered into search engines by merely

telling a judge anywhere in the U.S., that their spying could lead to relevant information that could lead to a terrorist act or to an ongoing investigation. Remember, the person spied on does not have to be a target of the investigation, and the government is not obligated to report to the court or inform the person (s) spied on. Keep in mind, too, that this is not in the future, but now! Right now. The Act has been passed! And there's more.

The FBI and CIA can now go from phone to phone, computer to computer without demonstrating that you are a suspect or target of an order. They can now serve a single wiretap, or pen/trap (orders by a court under a very low standard) on any person or entity nationwide, regardless of whether that person or entity is named in the court order. The government need not report to a court. In fact, they do not even have to report where they served the order or what information they received. Doesn't this sound like a ripe pick for abuse? Or maybe an avenue to classify ordinary people as terrorists!

What about Internet service providers (ISPs). The USAPA makes two changes to increase how much information the government may obtain about users from their providers or others who handle or store their online communications. It allows ISPs to

voluntarily hand certain information to law enforcement with no need for a court order or subpoena. Even more jarring is the fact that the government may seek with a simple subpoena (no court review required) to include records of session, times, durations, temporarily assigned network, addresses, means and source of payments, including credit card or bank account numbers. In short it means, that the rights of the Constitution disallows such activities unless a court order can be obtained with clear evidence to justify these actions. But now, under this anti-terrorist law, all the government has to say is: we think that this person(s) is a terrorist, or has information that could lead to a terrorist act, or could help us to locate a terrorist, or halt an act of terrorism—and it will be granted even without a court order in many cases, and without the individual's knowledge.

Are You A Terrorist?

We surely would not consider ourselves terrorists, right? But the USAPA embraces a new or expanded definition of terrorism, which could potentially brand us—ordinary you and me as terrorists. To say the least, it is vague and exposes anyone who disagrees with the government or the status quo, to being charged as a terrorist. There are many, but let us

look at the general definition: "*An act calculated to influence or affect the conduct of government by intimidation or coercion or to retaliate against the government conduct. . . causes medical care problem, physical injury, public health or safety, or affects computer system used by or for a government entity in furtherance of the administration of justice, national defense, or national security.*" Material support for terrorists now includes "expert advice or assistance."

What Does This Mean For Us

We can be certain as time progresses that laws, acts, or decrees, will become more severe. But even as it is now, under the USAPA, we can see that protesting against a world alliance is already dangerous business, putting us under suspicion as terrorists or aiding one. Even this article, or a Bible study on the Confederacy, under the USAPA could be viewed as a possible terrorist act.

Well, it's true that they may not come after us just this moment, but consider this scenario. Suppose there should be another or more significant terrorist attacks—let's say it harms or kills thousands of citizens, as much or more than in September 11. Let us also say that they discover that there are domestic links—people right here in the U.S. who

either committed the crime or aided the terrorists. Can you imagine the cry of the American people? If September 11 created such deep emotions, what if another such disaster should take place? Make no mistake about it, we do not, and should not ever sympathize with any such crimes—not in the least. Surely we cannot rejoice over the loss of lives and souls. But, it is very possible that more terrorist acts may take place somewhere in the near future. So, now let us say that law enforcement has trouble locating the perpetrators. Then what would be the logical recourse of the officials? Well, of course, they will have to search anyone or anything of a "suspicious" nature. So people like us who have different or unpopular beliefs—like America is going to fall, could be very easily termed a suspected terrorist under the USAPA because we performed *an act calculated to influence the conduct of government by intimidation or coercion or to retaliate against government conduct.*" Our computers and phones would be tapped, correspondence read, and dwellings searched, all based on the slightest suspicion, and in most cases without our knowledge. If there are several attacks, then it may be necessary to detain us or anyone with even the slightest suspicion of violating the USAPA. Think about it? It's not so far away anymore.

If the laws can apply to us now, what about the time of the Assyrian Confederacy? It would be much worse. The Confederacy is the time of the world's "greatest of all battles" and centered in the most volatile area of the earth, the Holy Land. All our interests and way of life would be at stake. The general public will no doubt view us enemies of the state—traitors. Terrorists everywhere will threaten the U.S. and her allies. Wide-spread suspicion alongside unprecedented patriotism will pervade the world. The War will be viewed as a good thing, and here we come saying, "Say ye not a confederacy. . . God is with us," not you! The Government is wrong—God is going to set up His kingdom there, and we are serving Him not you!"

If you're still having trouble visualizing this scenario. Imagine if just after the September 11 bombing, 144,000 persons protested the bombing of Afghanistan, saying that America would fall and God was not in it, under the USAPA, we would all be immediate suspects, and very, very unpopular.

Do you remember that immediately following the attack, that hundreds of people were either physically harmed, killed, or had their possessions destroyed by irate citizens simply because they looked like they were of Arab descent. Now these victims were not protesting or

anything of that nature. In fact, many of them agreed with the bombing by America. Then too, the government questioned and detained thousands of persons and up to now some of them have not as yet been released.

What about us who will be protesting against the confederacy? How will they view us when we start saying to the world, "*Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand for God is with us. For the Lord spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people saying, Say ye not, a confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, a confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid.*"⁸

Now remember, that all these events, including the Assyrian Confederacy "*commences before the Loud Cry and before the slaughter of Ezekiel Nine. It is not the image of the Beast, for this association precedes the image of the Beast, and the confederacy is formed when the nations are girding themselves for war. Put another way, the confederacy will commence after the sealing and perhaps just before the slaughter of Ezekiel Nine.*" So here, friends, we are not talking about the time of the Mark of the Beast, this is before. Yes, it will be even worse during

the time of the Loud Cry. But it will start with the 144,000 before Ezekiel Nine. The point is that USAPA is driving us at break-neck speed toward the time when we will have to stand up to the world with only our relationship with God, His Word, and our faith.

What Should We Do?

What should we do? God's answer is: "God's people take a strong and independent attitude because they believe that God is with them. Most human beings are somewhat like Peter. We have great faith until we meet face to face a trial. When the trial here prophesied comes, though, God's people must know that God is with them, and they must firmly stand on His side. Through this we are made to understand the real reason for the certain failure of the nations in their attempt to obviate the fulfilment of their fears. God is not with them. It becomes distinctly apparent therefore, that it is the pressing duty of every God-fearing country and individual sincerely to seek God's will and be with Him. If we are to survive and prosper . . . God alone is to be revered; God alone is to be feared and dreaded. If there were not possibility for fear at the fulfilment of this

chapter, there would be no need for this reassurance and instruction. It is indicative of the fact that God's people will see themselves as absolutely helpless to all others. Then they will receive deliverance from God, and will behold it.

*"If God's people are approaching the time when they must either confederate or sacrifice their lives, they must be developing that faith which will cause them to believe that 'in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.'"*⁹

*"Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning. And rend your heart and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God, for his is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil."*¹⁰

The United States of America Patriot Act, has brought us a giant leap closer to the time of our great test. It is one more milestone that tells us that it is closer than we think.

1.2 TG 41:18
2.3 SC 3:8
3.12 SC 2:14

4. Early Writings, p. 37
5.12 TR 54
6. USAPA Sec. 805-806

7. 2 TG 41: 18
8. Isa 8: 10, 12

9.13 SC 3:8,9
10. Joel 2: 12, 13

CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

TAKING HOLD OF CHRIST

E.J. Waggoner

Now how do we get hold of Christ? How do we get the benefit of that righteous life of His?—It is in the act of death. At what point is it that we touch Christ, and make the connection? At what point in the ministry of Christ is it that He touches us, and affects the union?—It is at the lowest possible point where man can be touched, and that is death. In all points He is made like His brethren, so He takes the very lowest of these,—the point of death,—and there it is, when we are actually dead, that we step into Christ.

The ceremony of baptism is simply the symbol of Christ's death and resurrection. Says Paul, in Galatians 3:27, 'For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ.' In Romans he says: 'As many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into His death.' But if we died with Christ, we are bound and certain to live again; for Christ is alive. Here we can forcibly apply the words of Peter in Acts 2:24: 'Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it.' It was utterly impossible

that death should hold Christ. Therefore if we die with Him, and in our death are united with Him, we shall also live with Him. The great thought around which the whole Bible clusters, is death and resurrection with Christ. If we die with Him, we shall live again. We die with Him,—when? Now! When we acknowledge our life forfeited, and give up all claims to that life, and everything that is connected with it, that very moment we die with Christ. Now what is this giving up of our life? Life stands for everything that a man has. It stands for everything that pertains to life. What is it, then, that pertains to the life that we naturally have in ourselves? It is sin! It is the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. It is envy, malice, evil speaking, evil thinking,—all these things make up the natural life, because we see that every man that has the natural life, has these things. They are a part of his life. They enter into the life of every man on earth.

When we come to that place where we see that we have those things, and are ready to give them up, and pay the forfeit, then it is that we can die with

Christ, and take His sinless life in their stead. In yielding up that life of ours, we give up all these things, and when they are all given up, then we are dead with Christ. But just as surely as we give them up and die with Christ, just so surely must we be raised again, for Christ is risen, and we then walk in newness of life. That new life,—that Knowing this, “that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we might not serve sin.”

Here is the secret of all missionary effort. When a man comes to the point, where in very deed he reckons that he has no life of his own, and he gives up the forfeited life which he did have in his possession, and the death has been pronounced upon every man, and that sentence will be executed. Every man must die, because that all men have sinned.

But there is given to every man a choice as to when he will die. Christ died for all men. We can acknowledge His death, and die in Him, and thus get His life; or on the other hand we may, if we wish, refuse to acknowledge Him, and die in ourselves. But die we must. Death has passed upon all men, and all men must die. The life of every man is forfeited, of ourselves we have no life at all.

The Scripture plainly says, ‘He that hath not the Son of God hath not life.’ 1

John 5:12. Now seeing that we are in that condition, when death claims her forfeit, what are we going to do? Don’t you see that we are left lifeless. If I owe a thousand dollars, and I have just exactly a thousand dollars in my possession, when I pay that debt, I am left penniless, am I not? So it is with this life of ours. We all have a life here in our possession, but it does not belong to us. It is forfeited to the law. It does not belong to us at all. When the law exacts that forfeit, and that life of ours is gone, then there is nothing left to us but eternal death.

But Christ, the Son of God, has so much life in Himself, that He can give life to every man and still have as much life left. He was not under any obligation to come to earth and go through the experience that He did. He had glory in heaven; He had the adoration of all the angels; He had riches and power: but he left them all, and even empties Himself of His glory and His honor; came to earth as a poor man, took upon Himself the form of a servant, and was made in all things like unto those whom He came to save.

He worked out righteousness here in the flesh. What did He do it for? For Himself? No, He did not have any need of it. He had riches to begin with. He had everything that He could have when He was in heaven. But here on earth, as

a man, He worked out righteousness and eternal redemption that He might give them to us. That is the sole reason that brought Him into the world. He has all that righteousness He wrought out here, and He will and does give it to men. So He paid the penalty of the law,—for Himself? No! He had no sin, consequently the law had no claim upon Him.

In the second letter to the Corinthians, chapter five, and verse twenty-one, the apostle Paul says: 'For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.' So it was that He suffered the penalty, not for Himself, but for us. When we by faith lay hold on Christ, and become united with Him, so that we are identified with Him, then we have that life which He has to bestow.

But pay the penalty, suffer the forfeit, we must; for the law will exact the forfeit. But as I said before, we have the choice as to whether we will wait, and let the law take the forfeit from us, at a time when we will have nothing left after it is gone, or whether we will give over the forfeited life, life he lives in the flesh he lives by faith in the Son of God; then Christ is his life, and his life is "hid with Christ in God." He has been raised to newness of life by faith in the operation of God. What can that man fear of what man can do to him? What will he fear of what man will say of him? He will say to himself, It is not I, but Christ that liveth in me.

Excerpts from: *Bible Studies on the Book of Romans*, pp. 39 -40

News in Perspective

The Devil Made Me Do it

You may have read or heard about the case where a mother did the unthinkable, recently drowning her five children in a bathtub. In the trial of Andrea Yates for the murder of her children, Time Magazine reported: "it is the job of prosecutors to prove that no matter how deep her psychosis, she knew right from wrong. As the testimony is making clear, in the throes of her illness she lived for months with confused thoughts not only about right and wrong but also about good and evil—because she believed she was the devil. Through bouts of postpartum psychosis, the images and catchwords of the Bible became ways for Andrea to express her mental darkness. . . she earmarked pages in her Bible about a mother's obligation to raise her children or face the consequences, and about the death penalty being the only way to get rid of demons inside. She came to believe that she had failed so badly to measure up to her own extreme ideals of motherhood (she thought the kids should say their ABCs by age 2) that, as she later told the jail psychiatrist, 'the kids were destined to perish in the fires of hell. . . I was so stupid. Could I have killed just one fulfill the prophecy? Could I have offered Mary [her youngest]?'"

The trial was scheduled to have begun the week of March 11.

It is obvious to most, if not nearly all Christians, that this case is another of example of demon influence or possession at work. You may have noticed that such cases are being becoming more frequent. More and more crimes are committed, claiming, the Devil made me do it. This is just more evidence that spiritualism is on the rise and it becoming more rampant as we have been told by Inspiration.

"Spiritualism is about to take the world captive. There are many who think that Spiritualism is upheld through trickery and imposture, but this is far from the truth. Superhuman power is working in a variety of ways, and few have any idea as to what will be the manifestations of spiritualism in the future." Evangelism p. 602.

So next time you hear someone on the news say they committed a crime because the Devil made me do it—they just might be telling the truth.

KIDS' CORNER

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. King Solomon was the son of -----, 11 Chron. 1:1
2. Jacob dwelt in the land of -----, where his father was a stranger.
Gen. 37:1
3. Behold I come quickly (says the Lord), and my ----- is with me.
Rev. 22:12
4. Job was from the land of -----, Job. 1:1
5. The rams in Daniel's vision represents ----- and -----,
Dan. 8:20
6. Lo-Loammi' means -----
-- Hosea 1:9
7. The crown placed on Jesus' head at his crucifixion was made of -----
Matt.27:29

CHART STUDY

- (1) Read Zech. 6:1-8 carefully, then color the chart below according to the description given.
- (2) Beside the color of its horses, in what way is the last chariot different from the others?
- (3) What does the two brass mountains represent? Dan. 9:16,20
- (4) What is the meaning of the North country? Ez. 26:7
- (5) What does the horses symbolize? Zech.. 10:3, Zech. 14:20, Joel 2:4,5
- (6) What is the meaning of the South Country? Gen.20:1, 5T 217, 2T 124, 1T 608,609.





THE SOUTH COUNTRY

THE NORTH COUNTRY

ZECH. 6: 1-8.
 THE CHURCH TO,
 AND BACK FROM,
 THE WILDERNESS.

HER PROPHETIC HISTORY
 BY UNMISTAKABLE SYMBOLS.

CIRCLE THE WORDS LISTED BELOW

J	P	A	T	I	E	N	C	E	U	B	E	W	R
H	E	A	L	T	H	A	C	I	M	L	J	O	Y
F	S	F	T	H	E	G	P	F	V	E	Q	R	C
T	T	R	U	T	H	P	R	O	D	S	C	S	H
E	S	N	I	S	J	G	O	D	E	S	H	H	R
P	H	O	L	Y	A	C	P	G	S	I	R	I	I
H	A	C	D	B	C	H	H	D	A	N	I	P	S
E	V	M	Q	L	O	V	E	H	M	G	S	A	T
N	P	B	T	C	B	R	T	R	U	S	T	C	I
P	R	A	I	S	E	C	W	U	E	S	S	X	A
S	A	B	B	A	T	H	H	Y	T	L	N	Y	N
G	Y	L	I	A	B	R	A	H	A	M	Z	J	W
A	Z	I	B	T	E	S	T	I	M	O	N	Y	U
F	X	R	L	J	O	K	M	A	T	T	H	E	W
P	H	G	E	N	E	S	I	S	L	B	O	M	K
C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R	A	N	G	E	L

- | | | | | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| Jesus | trust | Matthew | joy | Christian | blessings |
| love | patience | Abraham | praise | Sabbath | Micah |
| church | holy | Jacob | Christ | worship | truth |
| prophet | health | Samuel | bible | Stephen | angel |
| Genesis | character | Ruth | God | Testimony | Jonah |

WHO HELPED MOMMY?

READ THE FOLLOWING STORY CAREFULLY, THEN SAY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED FROM IT.

Christy watched mommy clean the Guinea pig's cage. "It's time to get ready for Sabbath". Christy clapped her hands, and bunny hopped on her toes. "I help you mommy". "This job's too big for you," mommy said. You must help by playing quietly with your toys. Christy hung her head and walked quietly to her room. She wanted to help, but not by playing quietly with her toys. She wanted to help clean the guinea pig's cage..

After a while she heard mommy talking on the phone. Christy peeked into the bedroom where the guinea pigs stayed. She saw an empty, clean cage, but no guinea pigs. A big stiff box stood beside the cage. She heard a scritch-scratch sound coming from the box. There were the guinea pigs."I help mommy put the guinea pigs back", Christy said to herself. She reached for them. They wriggled away and scurried around in the box.

Christy giggled and reached for them again. She grabbed one by it's shaggy hair. It felt soft and warm like the kitten next door. Christy squeezed it tighter to lift it out of the box. Sharp teeth slashed into her finger. Fiery pain shot up her arm.

Christy screamed and dropped the guinea pig. Mommy came running. "Honey, what happened?" Mommy examined the wounded finger. "Did you bother the guinea pigs?" I help put them back, but mean guinea pig bite me." Christy scowled at the animal and held her finger.

Tears slid under her chin. Mommy hugged Christy and cleaned her finger. She held a cloth tightly around it for a while. When she let go, blood flowed in a steady stream. Mommy held the finger another minute. When she let go blood still flowed in a steady stream. Christy watched what mommy did. She helped by holding her finger too, very tight. They both let go. The steady stream of blood flowed again from the very deep wound.

Christy, let's talk to Jesus and ask him to help us. They bowed their heads and mommy prayed. "dear Jesus, please make Christy's finger stop bleeding. We don't want to go to the hospital. Christy nodded her head and said Amen. Mommy and Christy moved the cloth and waited. No blood flowed. Not even a trickle. The gash was clean. Christy smiled at mommy. She loved Jesus. She knew He had helped her and mommy.

⚙️ YOUNG WORLD ⚙️

THE WAY OF WISDOM

The youth often urge that they need something to enliven and divert the mind. The Christian's hope is just what is needed. Religion will prove to the believer a comforter, a sure guide to the Fountain of true happiness. The young should study the word of God, giving themselves to meditation and prayer. They will find that their spare moments cannot be better employed. Wisdom's ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

Paul writing to Titus, exhorts the youth to sobriety: "Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing incorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you."

I entreat the youth for their soul's sake, to heed the instruction of the apostle. All these gracious instructions, warnings, and reproofs will be either a savor of life unto life or of death unto death.

The young are naturally inclined to feel that not much responsibility, care taking, or burden-bearing is expected of them. But upon everyone rests the obligation to reach the Bible standard. The light that shines forth in privileges and opportunities, in the ministry of the

word, in councils, warnings, and reproofs, will perfect character, or will condemn the careless. This light is to be cherished by the young as well as by those who are older. Who will not take their stand for God, determined to give His service the first place in their lives? Who will be burden bearers?

"Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth" Jesus desires the service of those who have the dew of youth upon them. He wants them to be heirs of immortality. They may grow up into noble manhood and womanhood, notwithstanding the moral pollution that abounds, that corrupts so many of the youth at an early age. They may be free in Christ; the children of light, not of darkness.

God calls upon every young man and woman to renounce every evil habit, to be diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. They need not remain in indolence, making no effort to overcome wrong habits or to improve the conduct. The sincerity of their prayers will be proved by the vigor of the effort they make to obey God's commands. At every step they may renounce evil habits and associations, believing that the Lord, by the power of his Spirit, will give them strength to overcome.

Messages to Young People. pp.368-369.

PROMISES TO THE YOUNG

The youth who follow Christ have a warfare before them; they have a daily cross to bear in coming out of the world and imitating the life of Christ. But there are many precious promises on record for those who seek the Savior early. Wisdom calls to the sons of men, "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me." Prov.8:17.

"Wherefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as He which has called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation." 1 Pet.1:13-15.

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:11-14.

Messages to Young People p. 378

**Remember now thy Creator
in the days of thy youth,
while the evil days come not,
nor the years draw nigh,
when thou shalt say,
I have no pleasure in them.**

**Let us hear the conclusion
of the whole matter: Fear God,
and keep his commandments:
for this is the whole duty of man.
*Ecclesiastes 12:1, 13***

NATURE'S PAGE

THE WORLD'S MOST TERRIBLE SNAKE.

Since for most people, all snakes inspire fear and horror, or at the very least, repugnancy, how do you determine the world's most terrible snake? Considering too that all snakes are carnivores and killers and many of them poisonous, this is a solid question indeed – how do you decide the world's most horrible snake?

Many snakes are easily capable of killing a human. The python is not only capable of killing him, but even swallowing him whole. Certainly, we would agree that this is a terrible snake. Yes, but the python does not qualify here for this infamous title.

The puff adder that yearly kills more people and animals in Africa than any other snake must be a terrible snake indeed. How? Its venom is deadly, but ironically, not the most deadly. What is more interesting, is that the puff adder is a slow, lethargic, non-aggressive snake. It has one fatal habit that makes it such a big killer. It likes to lie concealed in the warm, dust paths used by people and animals. Its disguise is almost perfect – so effective that when it is stepped upon—voila! It bites in self-defense. And we repeat, its venom is deadly enough to make it the biggest snake killer in Africa. They are abundant in Africa. However, this terrible snake does not qualify for the title.

Cobras kill over 10,000 people in India yearly. The king cobra is the world's largest poisonous snake. It can grow to a length of 18 feet. It can be aggressive, and more importantly, packs enough poison to kill, drop for drop, hundreds of men. But the king cobra, which strikes comparatively slow, must yield this title to another snake swifter, more ferocious and terrible than itself.

In Australia, nearly all the snakes are poisonous. Some very poisonous and even aggressive. These deadly vipers must also take the background.

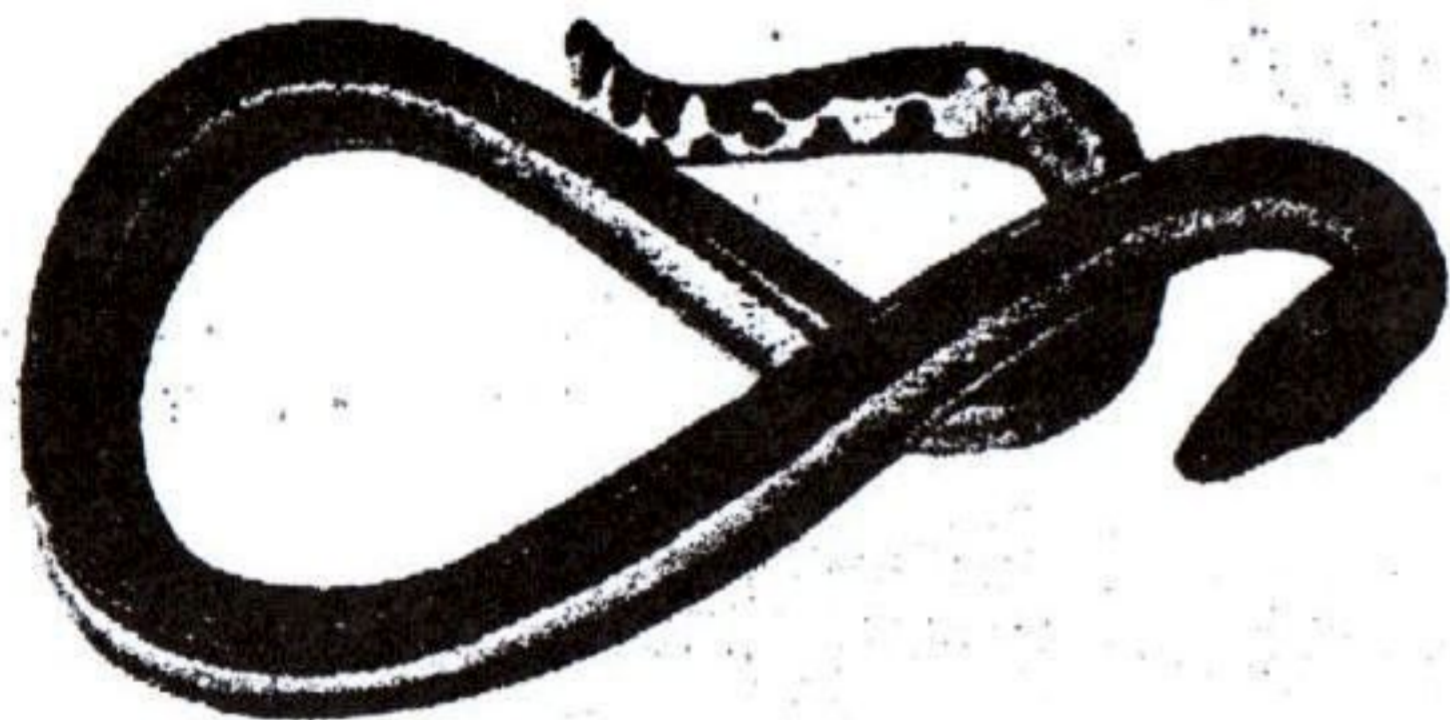
What about sea snakes! They indeed pack perhaps the most potent venoms found in the entire snake kingdom. Since, however, they are not aggressive, and almost never strike humans, mercifully, the colorful and elegant snakes readily step aside.

The snakes of North and South Americas do not qualify. Rattle snakes, coral snakes,

cotton mouth, bushmasters, and the whole lot, bad as they potentially are, pale by comparison even with the cobras and adders. They, too, do not qualify.

Another point to consider, is that it is possible to survive, the bite of many poisonous snakes. With or without anti-venom. Sometimes putting a tourniquet, making a cut on the bite and sucking and spitting out the blood is a procedure that eliminates much of the deadly venom and saves lives. Putting mud or clay, or better yet charcoal, can be very

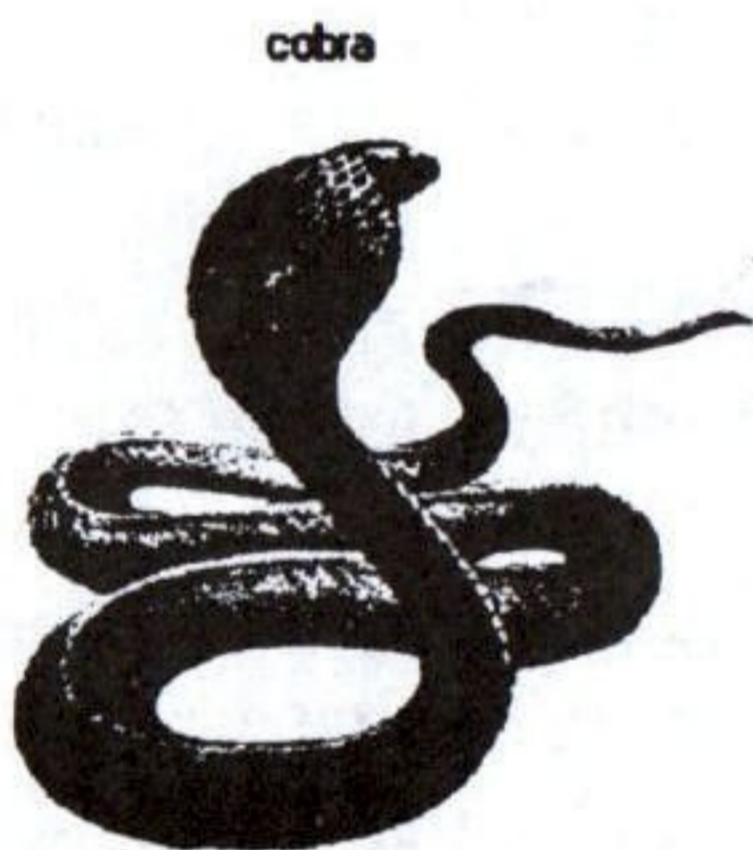
effective at absorbing and removing murderous venom from poisonous snake bites. But there is ONE TERRIBLE snake, against whose bite, all these and other measures are IN VAIN.



**The yellow-bellied sea snake
--exceedingly poisonous**

The world's most terrible snake has a bite that is ALWAYS fatal. It's poison is a dangerous, fast-traveling, neurotoxin. Its venom paralyzes the nerves controlling the muscles of respiration and the heart. In seconds these begin to fail

and the pain is excruciating as can be seen in the frozen expressions of agony and contorted body of its dead victims.



The world's most terrible snake unites these following characteristics to make it a most terrible creature indeed.

- To begin with the head is shaped like a coffin, and when angry and hissing, the eyes are eerie to look at – they are described as intelligent death.
- The mouth is black, the reason for part of its name
- Extreme alertness
- Aggressiveness, ferociously aggressive if disturbed.
- Can grow to a length of 14 feet – 14 feet of lightning death.
- It can run and strike with about 40% of its body off the ground – straight at your head. No other snake can do this.
- Deadly venom – enough to kill hundreds – no one bitten lives
- Extreme speed – the fastest snake in the world snake that makes it so formidable and deadly.

As if all these combined qualities were not enough, the mamba has another feature,

unique among snakes. It can JUMP. Witnesses have seen it chase a rat which jumped into the river. The mamba promptly curled into a ball and then jumped into the river and caught it.

But there is still more to the mamba which feeds on birds and small mammals. When mating or living together, they travel and hunt with their mates – and oh yes, **ATTACK WITH THEIR MATES**. One mamba is terrible enough, can you imagine two chasing you?

Why did God make such a terrible and deadly snake? Actually, we may need to wait to see Him personally for a detailed answer. Snakes do perform a very vital role in the ecological niche. They feed on rats and like rodents and keep their population from becoming plagues that could destroy agriculture. But there is more.

The black mamba, *D. polylepis*, is the largest poisonous snake in Africa, reaching a length of 4.27 m (14 ft). Because they may be found on low-lying branches, can move vigorously and rapidly, can crawl or strike with the head held high, and possess an extremely potent venom, mambas are the most feared snakes in Africa” *The Grolier Encyclopedia*

The things the natural world reflect and teach us about the spiritual world. Terrible as the black mamba is, in the spiritual world, there is a spiritual being, a fallen angel that is much more terrible. The bible describes him as “that old serpent” which deceiveth [spiritually poisons] the whole world. Millions upon millions lie in their graves today, forever lost, because they were bitten by him. In fact, all death is attributable to him. In our own strength we are no match for him, but unlike the case of the black mamba for which there is no antidote. Thank God we may find in Jesus’ blood a most effective antidote.

And if you agree that the black mamba is indeed the world’s most terrible serpent, then you are only just beginning to understand the intense venom and evilness of Lucifer – “that old serpent.”



The infamously deadly black mamba

THE GOSPEL OF HEALTH

Wash Your Cans!

A stock clerk was sent to clean up a storeroom in Maui, Hawaii. When he got back, he was complaining that the storeroom was filthy and that he had noticed dried mouse or rat droppings in some areas.

A couple of days later, he started to feel like he was coming down with a stomach flu, complained of sore joints and headaches, and began to vomit. He went to bed and never really got up again. Within two days he was severely ill and weak. His blood sugar count was down to 66, and his face and eyeballs were yellow. He was rushed to the emergency at Pali-Momi, where he was diagnosed to be suffering from massive organ failure. He died shortly before midnight.

No one would have made the connection between his job and his death, had it not been for a doctor who specifically asked if he had been in a warehouse or exposed to dried rat or mouse droppings at any time. They said there is a virus (much like the Hanta virus) that lives in dried rat and mouse droppings. Once dried, these droppings are like dust and can easily be breathed in or ingested if a person does not

wear protective gear or fails to wash their face and hands thoroughly. An autopsy was performed on the clerk and verified the doctor's suspicions.

An investigation of soda cans by the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta discovered that the tops of soda cans can be encrusted with dried rat's urine, which is so toxic it can be lethal. Canned drinks and other foodstuffs are stored in warehouses and containers that are usually infested with rodents, and then they get transported to retail outlets without being properly cleaned.

This is why it is important to always carefully rinse off the tops of canned sodas or foods, and to wipe off pasta packaging, cereal boxes, and so on.

Almost everything you buy in a supermarket was stored in a warehouse at one time or another, and stores themselves often have rodents. Most of us remember to wash vegetable and fruits but never think of boxes and cans. The ugly truth is, even the most modern, upper-class, super store has rats and mice. And their warehouse

most assuredly does!

Whenever you buy and canned soft drink, wash your cans! Please make sure that you wash the tops with running water and soap or, if that is not available, drink with a straw.

Taken from the Internet

Those Pesty Allergies

Coughing, sneezing, with runny eyes, nose and an itchy throat? Chances are you have an upper respiratory allergy or allergic rhinitis—especially if it is spring or autumn, the time when most respiratory allergies flare up. What is technically called “allergic rhinitis” refers to irritations of the nose that are caused by allergens. Allergic rhinitis is often used interchangeably with the term “hay fever,” which refers to allergies that are caused by pollen. Hay fever sufferers, of which there are multitudes, generally suffer the most during spring, summer, and autumn when pollen production is at peak levels. During the fall, the mold spores produced by wet fallen leaves can also be irritating to hay fever sufferers.

The symptoms of allergic rhinitis and hay fever are the same. They

include sneezing, watery nasal discharge, itchy soft palate, postnasal drip, occasional coughing, laryngitis, and teary eyes. Also, swollen nasal passages can lead to congestion that blocks the sinuses and keeps the mucus from draining, leading to a sinus headache.

Year-round allergies are not necessarily the results of coming into contact with pollen. Air conditioners can circulate mold spores through the air. Forced heating systems also circulate mold and house dust. Allergic rhinitis sufferers may also be allergic to fur, feathers of animals, and the feathers in pillows and upholstery.

What Causes Allergies?

According to conventional medicine, there is no known cause of allergies, and focus on hereditary and psychological factors. But from a natural point of view, there are definite causes for allergies. Of course, they vary from person to person and from circumstance to circumstance.

It certainly is true that familial or hereditary factors have a part in the development of respiratory allergies. Like your eye color and height, the tendency to become allergic can be an inherited

characteristic. Yet, although you may be born with genetic predisposition to become allergic, you will not automatically become allergic to specific allergens—other factors must also be present for allergic sensitivity to be developed. The degree and length of exposure to the allergen or allergens and other lifestyle habits such as diet, determine whether one acquires allergies.

The roots of an allergy is in the immune system which gets out of control or overreacts to specific allergens or substances. It more or less works like this: the body produces particular antibodies or specialized proteins by cells called lymphocytes—a type of white blood cell. These antibodies vary because each is designed to recognize and attack various antigens, with patterns that distinguish one type of enemy such as bacteria or viruses. In other words, each antibody is specific for one allergenic substance. For example, you have an allergy to pollen, or ragweed, your body actually manufactures a specific antibody for each specific type of pollen or ragweed.

So, what is an allergy? Allergic reactions result from the body recognizing a common substance,

such as pollen, ragweed, cat hair, dust, feathers, fur, etc (and the list is almost infinite), as an enemy. To protect itself; the body overproduces these specific antibodies and pour them into the blood stream with the large scale production of these antibodies, a chemical called histamine is produced. Normally, histamine stays inside the cells and is not a harmful substance. However, when released outside of the cells, and circulated through the body, it causes blood vessels to constrict and others to dilate. When the blood vessels dilate, the fluid from the blood vessels leaks into the tissues. Histamine is released in the nasal cavity (nose) or sinuses, then watery eyes, runny noses, and stuffy sinuses are the result. That is, a rhinitis allergy. If the histamine is released in the skin, then it may cause inflammation, swelling, tenderness, itching, heat or any number of problems. If in the lungs, it could affect breathing, or cause the over production of mucous. In other words, whatever area of the body histamine is released it would create discomfort. Actually, it is the body's attempt to heal itself. God designed it that way. In case of the ingestion or breathing in of a harsh or potentially fatal chemical, it could save your life. It also helps us in

dispelling infected mucous from the lungs and upper respiratory organs in case of colds or flu. But, in common substances like dust, pollen or ragweed or cat's hair, it is most unsettling and an annoyance.

So what is an allergy? It is the immune system run amok— out of control. But something caused it to go out of control. That's where hereditary, lifestyle, and dietary factors come into play. The immune system lacked something or was affected by something, that caused it to malfunction.

What To Do?

In many cases it's nearly impossible to determine what may have caused your allergy. It could be that you inherited a hereditary

weakness, or something happened in the womb—perhaps the lack of a nutrient in the mother's diet was passed on to you. Stress, poor diet, lack of fresh air, an infection, illness, or a host of other possibilities. But if you do have an allergy, you can naturally do something about it.

The following is a partial list of what can be done to slow, or in some cases prevent or reverse an allergy, particularly, upper respiratory or rhinitis allergies.

It would not be necessary to take all these herbs. A combination of between two to four should be fine. However, Vitamin C should be taken regardless of the amount of herbs used.

Astragalus, a sweet-tasting root, can be cooked in soups or with grains, or made into a tea. It can also be taken in capsule form.

Damiana is a herb that can be taken in tea or capsules.

Ginkgo, can be taken as capsules or tea.

Peppermint is one of the most known and best herbs in the world. Use it in any form.

Parsley can be taken in food, juice or in capsules.

Garlic can also be taken in food, juice or in capsules.

Vitamin C is essential and acts like a natural antihistamine. Typical dosages during the allergy season are, between 3 - 6,000 mg daily.

Slippery Elm Bark can be taken in powdered/tea form or in capsules.

Licorice can also be helpful. This herb can be taken in any form. However, those with high blood pressure should avoid taking it.

Scullycap is a popular for sleep, but it can also be effective against allergies.

Angelica can be taken internally as capsules, tea, or drops can be placed in steamers or hot water then inhaled for relieve of stuffiness.

Diet should consist largely of fruits and vegetables either raw or lightly

steamed, with smaller amounts of whole grains, seeds and nuts. (See

the Entering Wedge, p. for more on 80-20% diet). Diet should also be relatively free from dyes, preservatives and other additives. Vegetable juices with carrot, celery, onions and parsley, are excellent.

Other helps: Exercise is very helpful, especially in the open air. Hot compresses to the sinuses is also a good to aid relieve of congestion. Keep the bowels free. We know, nobody likes enemas,

but they can help! Did you know that copious of amounts of water is very helpful with allergies and all pulmonary troubles. For some, drinking ten to 15 glasses of water daily is sufficient.

Hope you have a better allergy season.

Parts of the article on allergies were taken from The Natural Way of Healing Asthma and Allergies, by Gary McClain, Ph.D.

FIELD HIGHLIGHT

GREAT THINGS HAPPENING IN MEXICO

The country of Mexico is a large, geographically beautiful mountainous one. It is a very important neighbor of the USA, with teeming millions of Mexicans and other Latin-Americans living here in North America. Spanish is the official language of Mexico, second only to English in North America.

What is the largest city in the world? Well, yes, surprisingly it is Mexico city, not New York or Los Angeles, though these latter two are much grander and strategically more important.

What is happening in Mexico? There is a lot of missionary work going on in the church as well as the building project at the camp to train more workers to go out into the field. There are brethren in Guadalajara, in Colima, in Vera Cruz, in Michoacan also in Morelos and other places. Praise the Lord. But Mexico is a very large catholic country with

powerful Jesuit influences (they don't have to hide so much there). In fact, in all the Adventist churches in the country, our S.D.A. ministers' sermons are given them to preach on Sabbath. So maybe the Jesuits are not idle.

Bro. Ignacio Molina is the full-time Bible worker in Mexico. Bros. Stanford, Reyes and Prado's visit has always helped greatly with the work especially with the D.L.I. classes as well as plans and methods for the work. The camp project is an inspiring success story. It has advanced further than expected. The brethren are very grateful for the help of California and New York and fellow workers in Mexico who are giving to carry forward this important training center project. To God be the glory.

The work in Mexico has been progressing so well that the enemy of God and man will do anything to hinder

the work. One tactic he uses is the Waco headquarters issue. We were informed that one of its chief advocates, Bro. Norman Archer, planned to visit the same brethren Bro. Stanford worked with after he left. Bro. Archer was invited to visit and make his presentation for Waco while Br. Stanford was still there. This was very fortunate, for he was so very convincing in his presentation that only those intimately familiar with the facts could detect the many half-truths and even over misrepresentations. That report will, however, soon be available to all.

Please pray for the brethren in Mexico. They are struggling manfully to carry the sealing message forward. One of the greatest challenges is **TRANSPORTATION COST**. Believe it or not traveling in Mexico is more expensive than in the USA. While the distance to be traveled are equally great, they pay up to three times as much in tolls and gasoline is more expensive. Ironically, Mexico sells gasoline to the United States yet it costs more in

Mexico. But the Lord's work must go forward. The camp is also only about 50% finished, so we are also trusting in the Lord and the USA brethren to continue helping. These challenges we must overcome in God's name. Additionally, we plan to have D.L.I. classes this year around September. Please keep praying for us.

A wedding? Like the Sabbath, marriage is a divine institution created in paradise for man's benefit. Brother Ignacio Gutierrez Molina and Noemi Lozano Cordoba are now happily united as man and wife. "What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

Finally, may we all, along with our beloved brethren worldwide, strive diligently by God's grace to be present at that great wedding feast—the marriage supper of the Lamb, having our wedding garments all ready, and the oil in our vessels with our lamps, that we may not be shut out like the foolish virgins.

SEEK YE THE KINGDOM Vol. 2, *Timely Greetings*, No. 35, pp.10,11.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." This promise held good in David's time, and it will hold good now. By personal experience David knew God's faithfulness: Having done all that was to be done in serving God, he was confident that when the bear and the lion came to devour his lambs, God would deliver him if he did all he could to spare them. Moreover, believing that God had promised the kingdom to him, and having been anointed to be king over God's people, David doubted nothing. Recognizing his duty, he fearlessly went after the giant Goliath who was defying God and His kingdom, and he was confident the giant could not harm him."

FAMILY MATTERS

SO YOU THINK YOU WANT TO GET MARRIED?

Those who do conclude themselves led to elect marriage, and who are determined to move in fear to the glory of God, will necessarily marry "only in the Lord": they will not take to themselves either unbelievers or unconverted worldly, careless, unconsecrated believers. The wise will keep constantly in mind the realization that worldly dress and deportment cannot charm a true Christian and therefore cannot possibly bring a happy, abiding, true Christian union.

They will set their affections only upon one who is an earnest, zealous, industrious spiritual-minded adherent to present truth.

An equally important requisite to the success of this most excellent yet most difficult of life's undertakings is that neither one enter into it prematurely, without having made the full necessary preparation. Accordingly, no God fearing Christian young man can morally permit himself to contemplate marriage unless he be one who, having early in life determined in life what trade or profession he be best fitted for, has set his goal, and has either reached it or is well on the way to reaching it, has built and furnished himself a house or has the means to do so, or at least has furnished or is able to furnish one.

Attempting to assume the complex, heavy, and trying responsibility of conducting a home in God's order, without having fully made the all-essential preparations here mentioned, one can little expect to develop the physical, mental and spiritual powers to which a Christian is divinely intended to attain. Neglecting this, he will make life a drudgery and a curse, and will by the woeful bargain become a mere cumberer of the ground rather than a blessing to the earth. Instead of being nobly independent of others, he will be ignobly dependent on them; instead of being an uplifting influence to society, he will be a degrading one; instead of affording his children reasonable security of opportunity, giving them the care and training that every human being deserves, he will father a brood of unfortunates, doomed in all probability to the low destiny of misfits.

Every devout Christian young man will avoid such a tragedy by fully preparing for this greatest experience in life venturing upon it. He will remember that before the Lord brought man into existence, he first made the earth man's home, and then furnished it with light, air, food, and water, with shrub, tree, and grass, with bird, beast, and cattle. And knowing this, he will follow suit.

Besides meeting all these indispensable qualifications, the prospective husband who cherishes matrimonial success, will not take the step of marriage before he has qualified himself to do the home duties of the wife in the event she fall sick, become otherwise incapacitated or be taken away, or they devolve upon him for some other unexpected reason.

On the other hand, no God fearing Christian young woman can morally contemplate marriage unless she has acquired the domestic skills and can shoulder every duty of the home. If she can keep the house clean and neat and orderly; if she can proficiently cook, launder, and sew; if she can care for the sick and administer first aid; if she can intelligently care for children; if she can raise a thrifty garden to supply her table with fresh vegetables (for cut, days before use, they lose most of the vitamins through oxidation); if she can do all these then she is worthy of the respect

owing a good wife; she has acquired the cement of a strong, enduring union. Even so, though, respecting and respected as she must be, she also must have some trade or profession so that should the husband take sick or become disabled or be taken away she can head the home and care for its needs and meet its problems.

At what age is one prepared to marry? There is no set age, but both will reckon well with the fact that seldom is any young man's mental, moral and professional equipment adequate to the responsibilities of marriage before he has arrived at the age of twenty-four—the day of man's full growth and development, and that the young woman is seldom thus prepared before she has reached the age of twenty- the day of woman's full growth and development.

Answerer Book No. 3, pp. 83-86

The Cloud and Fire

As of old when the hosts of Israel
Were compelled in the wilderness
to dwell,
Trusting they in their God
to lead the way
To the light of perfect day

To and fro as a ship
without sail.
Not a compass to guide them
through the vale,
But the sign of their God
was ever near,
Thus their fainting hearts to cheer.

All the days of their wand'rings
they were fed
To the land of the promise
they were led;
By the land of the Lord,
In guidance sure,
They were brought to Canaan's shore

So the sign of the fire by night,
And the sign of the cloud by day,
Hov'ring o'er, just before,
As they journey on their way,
Shall a guide and a leader be,
Till the wilderness be past,
For the Lord our God
In His own good time
Shall lead to the light at last.

-C.A. Miles-

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SESSION

First Announcement—Our 2002 Session will be held at Mt. Carmel Center, Mountain Dale from July 26th through August 11, 2002.

Prayer for the Session—“Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.” This unbelief, that shut them out from deeper sympathy with Christ and the carelessness with which they regarded the sacred work committed to them, had caused their failure in the conflict with the powers of darkness. DA 430-431

So that God may once again bless His work and those who promote His cause, we are proposing a period of voluntary prayer and fasting (July 19–July 25) prior to Session 2002. Those who cannot attend session may send up their petition on behalf of the decisions that will be made so that God can be glorified.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are looking for one or two persons to conduct a Vacation Bible School (VBS), like program for our children during the Session period. The ages are four (4) through teen. You will be responsible for the formulation of activities and progress for each day of the week including Sabbath. However, due to the increased number of children on Sabbath you will be given voluntary assistance from some of the parents of the children or any one else that offers their assistance. We will provide all the materials upon approval of proposed

activities and program plus a stipend of \$75.00 a week.

Please notify the office if you are interested in this position.

SPANISH BOOKS AVAILABLE

We are thrilled to announce that the Shepherd's Rod volumes 1 & 2 have been translated into Spanish. Plans are being made for the printing of the book. To speed up the process, we need all interested parties to notify us of how many copies you're interested in purchasing. The more persons ordering the less we can offer. We will inform you of the selling price as soon as possible.

HELP !!!

Our new chapel is still in the “rough” and our goal is to have it finished by Session. Anyone interested in assisting us toward this goal would be greatly appreciated. We will provide room and board and assistance with travel for those willing to volunteer. Please contact the office if you are interested.

IT'S A GIRL

A new addition to the home of Neftali & Divine Garay. It is Rebekah Abigail Garay. She was born on February 20th 2002 and weighed in at 6 lbs and 12.6 oz. and was 19 inches long. Congratulations to the Garay family. May God give you the wisdom to raise her for His kingdom.

TESTIMONY GEM

Never Delay--You Never Know

Africa certainly is one of the most fascinating and beautiful of continents on the globe. It is the home of lions, giraffes, hyenas, elephants, cheetahs, leopards, and flushed with countless fauna, birds and critters of all types. Africa is also a land of contrasts. There are the lush verdant forests, dense jungles, and the sometimes dry prairies. There are majestic, breathtaking mountain peaks, low, flat valleys. There are wide rivers and dry plains. Abject poverty covers much of the continent, yet there is the affluence.

This was the land where the huge jet landed in February of 1999, carrying two workers destined for a three and a half month missionary journey that would eventually take them across the vast lands of the great continent.

This testimony gem, however, is not about the entire trip, but an account of one incident along the way, in the beautiful country of Tanzania, at the eastern portion of the continent. The two workers had just crossed over from Zambia. After spending several days with Bro. Abihudi, a retired SDA Pastor and his wife, who, praise God, had accepted the message, they headed down the mountainside on their way to their next destination on the other side of Tanzania. By the way, the story of how the Abihudis came to accept the present

truth, and the wonderful time that these two workers had with them is a wonderful, wonderful, testimony of itself, but will have to tell that story another time. This quarter's testimony gem is actually about the what happened after they left the Abihudis and boarded an open-backed truck on their way to a place called, Usa River.

The truck bounced and rocked over the rough, hilly dirt road, then halted to pick up a stately, older man. Someone helped him aboard, and we were on our way once again. Later on into the trip, someone let him sit in the front to make his traveling easier over the bumpy byway.

At last they reached Usa River. We all crawled out, unloaded our several bags, and stood around waiting for another vehicle. It was then it happened.

"Where are you going?" the old man asked one of the workers standing by himself.

"To Mwanza," the worker replied.

"Who do you know in Mwanza?" The old man then paused and answered his own question. "I guess you're doing the work of the Lord."

The worker looked curiously at the man, agreed, then went on to explain that he and his partner were going to visit a certain pastor.

“I know him,” the man replied with excitement. “I live close to him. When you reach Mwanza you must come to my house. I want you to come to my house and give me the real message. I want to learn present truth. It’s time to stop feeding on milk— I need meat!”

Needless to say, the worker was stunned and wondered at the man but knew God was working something out. But what?

A day or so travel by bus, they arrived in Mwanza. It so happened that the pastor they sought was not there and never did show up until long after the workers had left. (We don’t think that it was planned). So, through a chain of providential circumstances, they wound up having to stay at the old man’s house where they spent a week in Bible study and delightful fellowship him and his family. And yes, this dear brother embraced the message. In fact, when we were not studying, he spent a good part of the day listening to the cassette studies.

As it turned out, this same old man was a retired SDA pastor who had held a very high position in the East African Union Conference. “I don’t see anything wrong with this message,” he would say, and affirm that he believed the message.

After, leaving Mwanza, the brothers moved across beautiful Victoria Lake, and on to Uganda, Ethiopia, Ghana, then home. A short time after returning, they learned that the Pastor in Mwanza had passed away. That was sad indeed. But, there was much comfort when they remembered, that he died believing the message, and because God worked it out that we went all across Tanzania just to give this dear soul the very last opportunity to accept the message of truth.

So, dear brethren, do not delay when you have a chance to give the truth, you never know, that chance could be their last.

GEMS NEEDED

Do you have a testimony about how you or someone else came in contact with the message? Perhaps you had a special experience while studying with a person or group. Why not share with us. We want to hear from you. Really! Chances are it could be published? Don’t worry that it may not be great in your eyes, it could be of great encouragement to someone else. So send it in your testimony or experience today by writing the office, attention Symbolic Code Dept.

MAIL BAG

I've heard the study of the Shepherds Rod message, and my interest was aroused. Bro. Houteff's teachings is so clear and timely perfect. It is my desire to read more literature and books in regards to this revival and reformation. I wish you could send me a Shepherd's Rod book or any available material urgently. I wish to share this timely message with fellow brethren.

I hope my request will be considered favorably.

Thank you.

Philippines

You sent me a tape a long time ago on The Harvest of Matt:13. I have played it over and over and enjoyed it each time. Jesus is coming soon and we must be ready. I have been a Seventh-day Adventist since 1962. I live 17 miles from our church in Live Oak. The members are mainly Spanish— lovely people and other dear black people, and a few Caucasians. The service is bilingual. We need our own church as we rent from the Nazarine church. Property has been given us, now we are praying for money to build. Please pray for us. Please send a new tape.

Thanks, with love.

Florida

I would ask for audio or video tapes, or books for study. I listened to a tape on Zech.4, and that moved me very much.. I really felt that I should write to you asking for books. Please send me books and

videos on the new world order. I will be very grateful if you will send these materials.

God bless. Bye.

Zambia

I have written to kindly ask you to send free tapes and tracts, which you earlier published in your good pamphlet entitled, "unexpected reaping". I am an elder in the seventh- day Adventist church, and your forwarding these materials will not only benefit me and my family, but the entire church at large, as well as my neighbors, and the community. When I read through the titles of the tracts in the pamphlet, they all appear to be very essential to me, but if you cannot afford to send everything, kindly send me; (a) God's four thrones, why?, (b) the judgement and the harvest, etc. Your assistance in this matter will be highly appreciated.

Zambia

Greetings in the name of the Lord. This is the first time I am writing to you. I have been studying the Shepherd's Rod message for the pass two years. I believe in the message, it brought me closer to God than I ever was. I am asking if it is possible that you send me some cassettes and more reading booklets so I can carry forward the message to the church of God.

Trinidad

I've just discovered this website, and basically am looking into what you are about. I am a Seventh day Adventist living in Charlotte NC and wondered if there

were any Davidian Adventist in the area. I don't know if you know, but it wouldn't hurt to ask. Thanks.

USA

I greet you in the Name of Christ. First I would like to thank you for the great work you are doing in presenting the precious truths as they truthfully are in the Scripture. I thank you because through the tapes I've listened to I've been greatly challenged as an Adventist. I would like you to please send me tapes, especially the one on the 144,000. I will not limit you on the number of tapes, but encourage you to send me many. These tapes will greatly bless the youths in our congregation who have really relaxed on religious matters. The assistance you will render me will be highly appreciated. May the Almighty God bless you and give you the strength and power to continue with this great work.

South Africa

I am a baptized seventh day Adventist member. I have had an opportunity to listen to some of your tapes, which was lent to me by a friend. I must say that the messages on these tapes are both reviving and wonderful. I was enlightened. I therefore request that I be issued with, if possible, the whole set or volumes, in whatever form; audio or video tapes, or printed material. I hope to share these messages with my church, my friends and my neighbors etc. May God continue to bless you with more strength, and grant you more of his wisdom and revelation until our King of Kings, Jesus, comes the second time to take us home.

I am hereby applying for prophetic

materials. I am a Seventh day Adventist. I am also a senior prophetic band chairman at my church. I have viewed most of your tapes through people who have them; example Matt:20 etc. Unfortunately these tapes are borrowed tapes. My wish therefore is to have my own set of tapes. A friend advised me to write to your good office so that you can send me whatever is available. As you know we are living in the last days when we need these materials. May God bless you.

Central Africa

I am hereby writing, requesting help. I became acquainted with the Adventist teachings in 1997 through literature study. I came to know about you in 1998, but could not write to you because I thought that your literature will mislead me, but I now realize that your literature and teachings lead me to more light. I should be the most happy person if my request for more materials is considered.

Zambia

I have gone through your message through cassette, entitled 144,000 of Revelation 7. I wish to have more of your inspiring messages in cassettes, such as the great multitude, who they are, the third angels message, that disengage my mind from the things of this life, because I am advanced in age and also am physically blind and wish to make heaven. I will patiently wait to hear from you.

Nigeria

I recently heard a portion of one of your tapes and was told that I can receive them directly from you. Will you please send the following tapes; the 144,000, the great multitude, the great image, the great paradox of the ages. Please let me know

if you have a list of other tapes which are available. Thank you very much.

USA

HAVE A QUESTION?

Question: *Why are there so many different interpretations of the Bible? What is the cause of so much doctrinal confusion?*

There are many reasons: Wanting to hold on to traditions, prejudice, preconceived opinions, poor scholarship, and more. But let us focus on three primary ones.

The most common cause of doctrinal confusion among Bible students lies in their so very frequently failing to view a subject in full perspective from the writer's point of view,—a failing which results in their seeing it from some foreign standpoint so narrowing their view that instead of gaining the writer's idea on the subject, they gain a false idea on it. And if the idea be to their liking, they magnify and zealously promote it as truth, whereas if it be not to their liking, they vigorously oppose it, and then lay it to the responsibility of the writer!

In other words, instead of viewing the content of a passage in the light of all that is revealed on the subject, a procedure which would insure the verses' reflecting the author's thought, some Bible students, losing sight of the Inspired

author's point of view, magnify out of all due proportion the importance of these statements, thus placing upon it constructions which, though perhaps plausible enough when taken alone, are manifestly strained, warped, and untenable when viewed in the light of all other scriptures bearing on the subject. Such wresting, needless to say, is unfair to the author, perilous to the one affected, and criminal of the wrester.

A second reason is, we are placing the opinions of men above God's. That is, we are failing to give proper place to the Spirit of Prophecy. Rather than study the Bible in the light of Inspired interpreters, we rest our conclusions on the discordant suppositions of learned men, so-called, "higher criticism."

In other words, a large class of professing Christians are really saying in their hearts: As long as we believe that there is a God and a Christ, belong to a church, lead honest lives, and do an occasional good deed as opportunity affords, we are on the way to the Holy City. And sad to say, this loose and fatally delusive hope is even in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

Sadly, too, though the denomination was founded by the gift of prophecy, its present-day members—ministers and laity alike—are at continual variance among themselves over the prophetic gift, just as they are over other matters in the Scriptures. And among those who do hold that the writings of Mrs. White are inspired, the great majority are as ignorant of and as disobedient to them, as are those who profess no faith at all in them.

“The church” she says, relative to this condition, “has turned back from following Christ her Leader, and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. *Doubt* and even *disbelief* of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches *everywhere*. Satan would have it thus. Ministers who preach self would have it thus. The testimonies are unread and unappreciated.” (1)

Yet both classes in the church insist that they are good Seventh-day

Adventists! O what exceeding irony that such dreadful inconsistencies in sacred matters have overshadowed the minds of rational beings! Yea, what tragedy! Especially when the condition need never have been: for in ample protection against it.

Without controversy, therefore, the Divine will is that we have all Truth and only Truth. And it must be remembered that “no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”(2)

Editors

1. Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, 217.

2. 2 Pet. 1:20, 21.

Sources drawn from: V.T. Houteff, *The Judgement and The Harvest*, p. 91, 95, *Why Perish*, pp. 15,16, *The Answerer book Three*, p. 29.

**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**



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