

# The Symbolic Code

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2004

*in  
Review*



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**“If we could only realize what God has prepared for them that love to study His Word and to walk in His ever-increasing Light, then we would make God’s business our chief interest; then we would no longer waste our energies striving for the material things of life. They will be added unto us while we diligently labor for the upbuilding of His Kingdom, for He Himself says: ‘The workman is worthy of his hire.’” 1TG.44:10**

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# 2004 In Review

Society today has access to seemingly limitless amounts of information. Technology continues to progress to where we can process data at incredible speeds and store vast amounts of information in a minuscule amount of space. With the help of satellite technology we can watch the news as it happens on the other side of the globe. Yet even with the overabundance and availability of information, it seems we often have a difficult time assimilating what we hear and separating truth from fiction.

Today we will be looking at some world events which when examined as a whole are consistent with what the Bible says will take place in the last days. As present truth believers we have been told of these coming events and we would like to take a moment to review some of the major developments that have taken place in previous months.

**Weapons Proliferation** - The war in Iraq, and the seemingly unsuccessful search for evidence of Saddam's weapons program, has brought the issue of weapons proliferation into the spotlight. While Coalition forces in Iraq have accomplished much, there are still many challenges to overcome. Insurgents remain a threat to the nation's stability and disagreement among religious and political leaders could be a stumbling block to further democratic reform.

The director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed El Baradei, estimated that there are currently more than 40 countries with peaceful nuclear programs that could modify their

technology to create nuclear weapons. Over the last year international attention has been primarily focused on the security threat posed by North Korea and Iran.

Inspiration has warned, "The confederacy that we are studying this afternoon commences before the Loud Cry and before the slaughter of Ezek. 9. 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. 13.SC, No. 3,4, p. 10.

The world has watched closely as Iran openly announced plans to resume its nuclear program and convert 40 tons of raw uranium into fuel for nuclear centrifuges; enough material to create 5 nuclear weapons. Iran has said that it will continue its nuclear program "at any price." Efforts by the IAEA and the EU to negotiate with Iran have failed to produce any real results.

Over the last year North Korea has continued to build its military arsenal. There is ongoing concern that N. Korea could attempt to sell or trade nuclear weapons, supplies and technology in order to meet its needs. A report released by the U.S. government estimates that N. Korea currently possesses as many as 8 nuclear weapons. N. Korea also possesses stockpiles of chemical weapons and ballistic missiles and is already a major supplier of ballistic missile-related equipment, components, materials, and technical expertise in the Middle East, South Asia, and North Africa. The sale of ballistic missile technology has provided N. Korea with a major



source of hard currency, giving it the ability to maintain its weapons program. Many fear that if the situation continues to deteriorate a N. Korean nuclear weapon could end up in the hands of terrorists.

**The Struggle for Jerusalem** - The Israeli plan to abandon its settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has left the Palestinian leadership deadlocked in a massive power struggle with various groups and factions battling for control. The question also remains as to who will lead the Palestinian authority now that Arafat is dead. Elections are scheduled for early January, however Mahjoud Abbas appears to be the front-runner. While Abbas has publicly called for an end to the violence he has also pledged to continue in Arafat's footsteps, making the prospects for peace in Israel seem grim.

Meanwhile Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, faces his own set of challenges. Sharon's controversial decision to dismantle Israeli settlements under the "Road Map" peace plan has drawn widespread criticism. Under pressure from the international community he agreed to the removal of all 21 settlements in Gaza and four of the 120 in the West Bank by the end of 2005. Sharon's plan to dismantle the settlements has angered settlers and conservatives and there has even been talk of civil war.

Over the last year Israel has waged an aggressive military campaign against terrorism. Their efforts have been highlighted by the assassination of Hamas founder and spiritual leader Ahmed Yassin and his replacement Abdel Aziz Rantisi earlier in 2004, and also by the construction of the controversial West Bank barrier wall.

Can there be real peace in the Middle East? Not yet, at least not until God establishes His Kingdom there. "Everyone knows that the war is not settled, and that peace has not come, that the war may break out red hot any day." *ITG..3:17.*

Isaiah 14:29 - "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." *12.SC.No.1, 22.*

**America's Challenge** - The ongoing struggle between secular and religious moral values in America has been brought to the forefront of national politics during the last year, in large part due to the recent elections. A majority of voters cited "moral values" as the "most important issue" in determining how they cast their ballot; more important than the economy, national security, or health care.

Perhaps one of the more interesting aspects of this election has been the mainstream media's reaction to President Bush's victory. The network anchors appeared noticeably stunned and even dumbfounded by the outcome, especially after early exit polls indicated a Democratic lead. The mainstream media's coverage of the



elections, as well as incidents such as Dan Rather's use of forged documents to try to prove Bush avoided National Guard service and the Halperin memo, have helped to expose a growing liberal bias in the media. Controversial moral topics such as same-sex marriage, embryonic stem cell research, religion in schools, the display of religious symbols on public property, and abortion have all taken center stage. Gay marriage became the focus of national attention after the mayor of San Francisco ordered clerks to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The incident in San Francisco caused several other cities and counties to follow their example and triggered numerous lawsuits challenging marriage laws around the country. In response to which, conservative lawmakers have pushed for the adoption of a Federal Marriage Amendment that defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman. In addition to suits challenging our marriage laws, liberal organizations such as the ACLU have waged an aggressive legal campaign against virtually any and every form of religious expression in public. Controversy over the Partial Birth Abortion Ban, excessive media attention to the Laci Peterson murder case, and the long-awaited passage of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, has caused many to reexamine the rights of the unborn.

**Rise of the European Superstate** - Over the last few years we have watched closely as the European Union has emerged as a growing world power. The value of the Euro has surpassed that of the dollar, and in May the EU welcomed 10 new members increasing its influence in the U.N. and expanding its potential for economic growth. Bulgaria and Romania are set to join the EU in January of 2007, and both

Croatia and Turkey are scheduled to begin negotiations next year.

The EU has begun to challenge the U.S. in an effort to increase its influence in international politics. The bitter debate over Iraq between the United States, Germany, and France has been seen by many as a foreshadow of what is to come. A battle in which the EU, led by France and Germany, is positioning itself to surpass the United States as the dominant world power.

**Global Government** - Often seen as the future embodiment of global government, the U.N. has been the subject of increased scrutiny. While the investigation into the Oil-for-Food scandal is at its height, the U.N. has been bombarded by accusations of corruption and mismanagement. The Oil-for-Food scandal is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. As evidence is uncovered, the more apparent it becomes that the U.N. lacks accountability.

It should come as no surprise that amidst the scandal the U.N. has announced plans for a massive overhaul. The huge reforms will be unlike any changes made since the organization was founded in 1945. Historically, government never downsizes voluntarily; it always increases its power and minimizes accountability to its citizens. Government reinvention is frequently an effort to avoid the consequences of failed policies in the past, or to justify a government's continued expansion by posing solutions to the problems it has created. Over the last decade, the United Nations has unabashedly pushed for what it calls "global governance." A recent thrust for support of the International Criminal Court is just one example of how the U.N. is positioning itself for global power. It has become very clear that they will use the



scandal and the ensuing "reforms" to advance closer to that goal.

Let us not forget what Inspiration says about global government. "Isaiah 8:9 - 'Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces; and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces.' God here is challenging a move toward a federation of nations. With World War I we began to hear serious proposals for the associating of nations into a single league. Today the proposal is revived, and efforts are being made toward forming a strong and workable union of nations. Indeed, not only is the idea of international federation growing more and more prevalent, but in the minds of many great men, there is the positive conviction that the successful continuance of their nation's way of life is utterly dependent upon the closest association and cooperation of all those nations which share their way of life." 13. SC.No.3,4, p. 6.

**The Rise of Islam** - The Muslim faith is becoming an increasingly volatile catalyst in today's international scene. With the continuing threat of terrorist attacks in the United States, it has become of paramount importance to understand the origin, nature, and agenda of Islam.

Many Americans believe that Islam is a religion of peace and that Christians and Muslims worship the same God. In public schools we teach our children a doctrine of tolerance, and in some schools students are even required to memorize passages of the Koran. While in comparison Islamic children are taught that America is the Infidel. We are the enemy. When the towers came crashing down on September

11, 2001 and thousands of innocent people were killed, Muslims all over the world danced in the streets and praised the hijackers. A survey taken in Saudi Arabia shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks reported that 95% of educated Saudi men between the ages of 25 and 41 backed bin Laden's cause. Islamic terrorists are referred to in the West as radicals and extremists, while in the Mideast they are heralded by fundamentalists as martyrs and heroes, and the families of suicide bombers are rewarded with monetary pensions. The disparity between the two perspectives is staggering.

To say that Islam is a peaceful religion requires turning a blind eye to the various conflicts in Northern Africa, including the growing humanitarian crisis in Darfur, the bloodshed in Chechnya, the Madrid railway bombing, and the ethnic conflicts in China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Pakistan and India--not to mention the ongoing violence throughout the Middle East. And why do we see this spirit of hatred against the Christian nations?

Where is the root of the problem? We find this startling statement in *ITG.22:26-27*. "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 saltpits, 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. Zeph. 2:10, 11 - 'This shall they have for their pride, because they have reproached and magnified themselves against the people of the Lord of hosts. The Lord will be terrible unto them: for He will famish all the gods of the earth; and men shall worship Him, every one from his place, even all the isles of the heathen.' "

**Russia** - This year Russian President, Vladimir Putin, announced plans to restructure the Russian political system, in the process of which he has dramatically increased his executive power while stifling the opposition.

Since Putin took power in 1999 he has established unrivaled dominance of both houses of parliament, reasserted control over the country's huge energy industry, forced the closure of the last independent national television network, strengthened Russia's ties to its former Communist allies, and employed what he calls "managed democracy". Putin has manipulated elections, silenced critics, and gradually tightened his grip on the nation. He is a former KGB officer and estimates are that one in every 4 of Putin's government has a background in the military or security services.

Democratic ideals, such as the freedom of speech, are rapidly eroding under Vladimir Putin's autocratic leadership. During the first U.S. presidential debate both candidates criticized Putin for the proposed reforms, but when the debate aired on Russian national television their comments were edited out. This latest incident is only a shadow of what is to come. Once thought

to be a growing capitalist ally, Russia is returning to its Soviet roots.

This change may eventually pave the way for a Communist form of government. It is interesting to note that Inspiration mentions Russia as one of the enemies of the king of the north. "In the time of the end, after having over-flown the previously mentioned countries, the king of the north is again seen in conflict, but not with the king of the south. He is drawn into this last conflict by what is reported to him from the east and from the north. Now that World War II developed from the directions specified by Inspiration,--Germany on the north and Japan on the east, besides Russia in the extreme north,--facts so fresh in our minds are bound to remove all doubt but that World War II is the one spoken of here in prophecy. And let us not forget that World War II has not actually ended, that it is yet to be finished. I say, in the face of these facts now known worldwide, it is difficult for one to deny what is here brought to light." 2 TG.No.7, p.8.

**The Rise of the Far East** - China has quickly become a global power. In recent years, China has bought, borrowed, or stolen technology, which has catapulted its military capabilities into the modern high-tech arena. In the last year China has announced plans to launch 100 surveillance satellites, and has unveiled its new class of ballistic missile submarines. These submarines will be China's first truly intercontinental strategic nuclear delivery system. The Chinese military is preparing for a war with the United States, a war which its commanders believe is inevitable. Over the last few years China has strengthened its ties with the Middle-East. It is already one of the biggest suppliers of



weapons and military technology to Arab nations. Very soon China and the 6-nation Gulf Cooperation Council will begin a first round of negotiations over setting up a free trade agreement. The GCC includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. A Free Trade Agreement between China and the GCC, which holds 45% of the world's oil reserves and accounts for 20% of oil production, would help shore up China's energy supplies. China is increasingly importing oil due to strong domestic demands, stemming from its fast growing economy.

### **Biotech and Global Pestilence -**

According to the National Institute of Health, infectious diseases remain the leading cause of death worldwide, and the third leading cause of death in the U.S. Diseases thought to be obsolete have once again become a global threat, and in recent years new pathogens have emerged, some of which carry antibiotic-resistant genes or mutations enabling them to move across different species.

World Health Organization officials recently warned that the avian influenza (also known as the Bird Flu) could become a global epidemic if a new virulent strain of the virus emerges that can jump readily from human to human. If that happens WHO officials estimate that it would spread rapidly and could kill anywhere from 2 to 50 million people.

In the last year there have been a number of developments in biotechnology. Perhaps the most controversial has been the growing field of embryonic stem cell research. One disappointing outcome of the election was the passage of Proposition 71 on the California ballot. The California Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative, as

it is called, will authorize the issuance of billions of dollars worth of bonds to fund embryonic stem cell research. Proposition 71 will cost California taxpayers \$6 billion dollars over a period of 30 years (\$3 billion to pay off the principle and another \$3 billion in interest).

Media attention has been primarily focused on embryonic stem cell research, even though experiments using embryonic cells have only produced limited results. Unlike embryonic stem cells, adult stem cells have been successfully used to restore sight, treat spinal cord injuries, diabetes, heart disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, cancer, and nearly 100 other disorders. Unfortunately the media often does not differentiate between the two and the medical miracles accomplished using adult stem cells are often attributed to embryonic research.

**Who Can Forget the Tsunami?** - On December 26, 2004 a massive 9.0 earthquake shook the Indian Ocean and caused a series of tsunamis in southern Asia. The tsunamis devastated the shores of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and other countries with waves of up to 15 m (50 feet) high, even reaching as far as Somalia on the east coast of Africa, 4,500 km (2,800 miles) west of the epicenter. It has been weeks since the disaster took place and the death toll continues to rise. Several hundred thousand people are dead or missing and millions have been left homeless. This tragic event serves as a wake-up call to all of us that the Lord's return is very near. "More and more, as the days go by, it is becoming apparent that God's judgments are in the world. In fire and flood and earthquake He is warning the inhabitants of this earth of His near



approach. The time is nearing when the great crisis in the history of the world will have come, when every movement in the government of God will be watched with intense interest and inexpressible apprehension. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another--fire and flood and earthquake, with war and bloodshed.." 9T:97.

**Assessing our Situation** - It is essential for us to really understand our situation as believers of this most wonderful message. If we really want to finish the work and be part of the 144,000 then I believe we need to have a deep heart searching revival and reformation. It is so easy to forget the awesome responsibility that we have before God as the only people in this world who have the privilege of receiving the most sacred truths entrusted to man. Yet many of us are not living up to the light of God's Word. A quick glance at Davidia will show strife, resentment, envy, suspicion, faultfinding, and evil-surmising. At the same time others are constantly trying to push their own doctrine, their own interpretation of the message of the Rod, spending so much time arguing, debating and promoting their own ideas to others. Please do not misunderstand my point, I fully believe that God is in control and He has faithful believers working for the salvation of souls. But for the most part and everything that we have seen throughout these heartrending years is only the natural consequence of the deep abandonment of all moral principles found in the word of God. At this moment it may be well for us to ponder these solemn words found in Inspiration:

"But gradually a change came. The believers began to look for defects in others. Dwelling upon mistakes, giving place to unkind criticism, they lost sight of the Saviour and His love. They became more strict in regard to outward ceremonies, more particular about the theory than the practice of the faith. In their zeal to condemn others, they overlooked their own errors. They lost the brotherly love that Christ had enjoined, and saddest of all, they were unconscious of their loss. They did not realize that happiness and joy were going out of their lives, and that having shut the love of God out of their hearts, they would soon walk in darkness....

"It is not the opposition of the world that most endangers the church of Christ. It is the evil cherished in the hearts of believers that works their most grievous disaster, and most surely retards the progress of God's cause. There is no surer way of weakening spirituality than by cherishing envy, suspicion, faultfinding, and evil surmising." *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 548, 549.

"What the world needs today is not preachers, but teachers who can teach with one hand and use the pick or the shovel with the other hand. Neither is the world in need of men 'angling' for Moses' and for Aaron's office, but it is in dire need of men who can take orders and successfully carry them through, men who dare face the giant, the lion, and the bear,--men who dare be heroes for God,' 'men wondered at,' men with unflinching faith and unlimited patience, believing that God Himself is steering the ship, and that therefore there can be no failure. The world certainly needs men like Noah, Moses, David, Ezra, Nehemiah, and a great number of Job's....



"Many honestly believe that they are doing God's work, or at least helping in it. But if they will examine their daily accomplishments, their motives, their aims and purposes, some will find that they are not working for God, but that they are either killing time, or working for self. Actually, now as in Moses' time there are occasions when one is at a loss to know whether saints or devils are busily engaged in God's great work. Stop, listen, think. Check up on yourselves. It will be well worth your time and your energy. Find out who you are, what you are, and where you are." / TG. 9, pp. 12, 13.

**Conclusion** - This is the question we have to ask ourselves: Do we trust God enough to expose and point out all of our sinful acts and self-centered ways and also to relinquish these areas to Him? This my brethren is what the sanctification process is all about. Yes my brethren, we must not lose the vision, not lose the focus and the aim. Our purpose in this world is to finish the work God has given us to do, which is to live a sanctified life and to help save others through our efforts of preaching and teaching the present truth. I ask myself the question: What does it mean to be a true Davidian? Here is the answer:

"We need not go into a land of wonderment, need not entertain the idea that we must have a mysterious feeling, exciting emotion, need not wallow in the dust or jump to the ceiling. No, we need not make fools of ourselves. All we need to do is be ourselves. Be calm, decent, respectable, heaven-like beings, endeavoring to do God's will on earth as it is done in heaven. We need not make a display of

ourselves, but we need to mind our God-given business and to keep our noses out of other people's business.

"Only when we have done all we can to comply with the requirements of the message for today, not of yesterday, shall we be sealed and stand with the Lamb on Mt. Zion." / TG.7:13.

The answer is simple, yet many of us have not reached that point of being completely sanctified and consecrated to the service of the Lord. Brethren, as we enter this new year let us conduct a review of our heritage as Davidians and the freedoms that we have. Let us confess our sins of presumption and ingratitude that have separated us from God and each other. And ask God, in His mercy and sovereignty, to help us bring back the original vision of this movement so we can finish the work and go home to be with the Lord. And whatever we do let us do it in love. May the Lord bless us all as we continue to march forward.

"No matter how high his profession, he whose heart is not imbued with love for God and for his fellow men is not a disciple of Christ. Though he should possess great faith, and even have power to work miracles, yet without love his faith would be worthless. He might display great liberality, but should he from some other motive than genuine love bestow all his goods to feed the poor, the act would not commend him to the favor of God. In his zeal he might even meet a martyr's death, yet if destitute of the gold of love he would be regarded by God as a deluded enthusiast or an ambitious hypocrite." 5T:168.2



# 3 Days and 3 Nights

## *in the Heart of the Earth*

The question as to how long Christ remained in the tomb, and the day on which He was buried and resurrected, has been as widely discussed as any other Biblical subject. A number of theories have been advanced and doubtless much valuable time has been wasted; however, confusion upon the subject has not lessened, but rather increased.

Some one has asked, "What has that to do with our salvation?" It may not have much to do with the salvation of some, but it seems that with others it has a great deal to do. A certain sister said: "I believe all the S\_\_\_\_\_ denomination teaches, but I cannot agree with the position Sister W\_\_\_\_\_ holds on the subject of Christ's burial and resurrection. I know that Christ was three days and three nights in the tomb, but Sister W\_\_\_\_\_ states He was buried on Friday evening and resurrected on Sunday morning. Therefore, I cannot believe in all her writings, for this reason I have not, and will not, become a member of your church."

The misunderstanding of this question has kept this sister from connecting with the church. Now, if that particular denomination has the truth for the world at this present time, and this sister's misunderstanding has kept her from accepting it, then we must concede that this widely discussed subject has something to do with the salvation of some people, to say the least.

Said Jesus: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall

be opened unto you: for everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Matt. 7:7,8.

There could be nothing more pleasing to God than for one of His children to ask in faith the way of truth. If there is any power in the words of Jesus, then surely he who desires to know the truth and is willing to obey it, though it may demand that he sell all and give to the poor, renounce the world and all its inducements, it would be impossible for that soul to remain in darkness. Let the searchers after truth make just such a vow to God and thus try out His power and never failing promises through the words of His Son. But though it be possible to deceive men, we can never impose upon God, for He knows what is in the heart.

One of the chief reasons why confusion arises among Bible students is because they do not entirely depend on the Biblical expression of the words. They think themselves wiser than the prophets who were inspired with the Spirit of God, and thus wish to correct the words and meaning of the Holy Bible! Hence finite mortals have attempted to rectify and correct the Infinite One, whose wisdom, power, and vision is unsearchable! Though they know their interpretation of a text is not altogether in harmony with the whole tenor of the book and law, they see no injury, and fear not God. And when the fact is revealed they refuse to exchange error for truth because it contradicts their false



theology. We invite the earnest attention of the reader upon this subject, and that he take notice of the wonderful harmony of the Scriptures and the great wisdom used in them.

The sister was asked: "Where is your evidence that Christ was three days and three nights in the tomb?" "My answer is," she said, "in Matthew 12:40, 'For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.'" Again she was asked, "On what day do you think Christ died?" She said, "John 19:31 has the answer: 'The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.'" Here she explained that it could not have been the preparation for the seventh-day Sabbath, for that Sabbath was an "High" day, so it was the preparation for the passover--Wednesday. Then she began to count, "Thursday (1), Friday (2), Saturday (3); Wednesday night (1) Thursday night (2), Friday night (3). Thus there are three days and three nights."

According to this sister's reasoning she thinks her explanation is unquestionably correct. But note that Christ died at the ninth hour, just three hours before the end of the day (Matt. 27:46-50) and was buried at sunset--12 o'clock. (Luke 23:52-56.)

If He was buried on Wednesday, He would have been three full days and four full nights in the tomb, for the Bible plainly declares: "In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn [daybreak] toward the first day of the

week [Sunday A.M.] came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre." (Matt. 28:1.) Again we quote from Mark 16:9, "Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene."

Let us examine the theory from another angle. Said Jesus: "Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified." (Matt. 26:2) "Then [after the two days] assembled together the chief priests...and consulted that they might take Jesus by subtlety, and kill him." (Verses 3, 4.) The time Christ said the words: "Ye know after two days is the feast of the passover," could not have been later than the beginning of Tuesday, if the feast of the passover was on Thursday. Then all that took place in connection with His judgment, crucifixion, death, and burial, has to be accomplished from late Tuesday morning to sunset Wednesday, which would have been impossible according to the Biblical time table as we shall endeavor to set forth.

Note the following Scriptures: "Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?" This was the preparation day for the feast of the Passover. "And He said, Go into the city to such a man, and say to him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the **passover** at thy house **with** my disciples. And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover. Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve. And as they **did eat**, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me." (Matt. 26:17-22). The



passover feast can only be observed after sunset at the beginning of the first day of unleavened bread: "In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's passover." (Lev. 23:5.) This is the last day of preparation for the passover. Therefore, Jesus was not yet in the hands of the priests on the preparation for the passover feast, and much less crucified. Furthermore, Matthew is altogether clear on the subject and leaves no room for argument: "And as they **did eat** [the passover] He said, Verily I way unto you, that one of you shall betray me." (Matt. 26:21.) How could Jesus eat the passover with the twelve had he been crucified and buried? We are ready to accept truth, but when theory is contradicted by the Scriptures, then we must not submit to erroneous conclusions, for, he who believes a lie is an abomination unto God.

Permit us to clear the controversy by facts that can stand the test. Let the reader bear in mind that the passover is a **seven-day affair**, or what is called the "passover week." We quote Lev. 23:4-8: "These are the feasts of the Lord, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their season. In the **fourteenth day** of the first month at even is the Lord's **Passover**. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the Lord: **Seven Days** ye must eat unleavened bread. In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord **seven days**: in the **seventh day** is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein."

Now mark, the seventh-day Sabbath is controlled by the weekly cycle, and the

passover by the monthly calendar. Therefore, in each passover week there is a seventh-day Sabbath, and it may fall on any one of the **seven** paschal days. Again, mark that the fourteenth day is called the "**Passover** " **day**, but the fifteenth is the **Passover** "**Feast.**" (See Num. 28:17; Joshua 5:11.) The seventh-day Sabbath is called, "The Sabbath." The sheaf offering was the first fruits of the harvest and it was to be offered before the Lord on the morrow **after** the Sabbath; that is, on the **first day** of the week, commonly called Sunday. (See Lev. 23:11.) The sheaf offering was a type of the resurrection--the first fruits. Said the apostle: "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept"--those whom He raised. (I Cor. 15:20; also Matt. 27:52,53.)

Thus Christ "led captivity captive" on the very day to which the type pointed.

**The Passover Preparation** - The passover is a feast of seven days; therefore, the preparation for the week required longer than a day. Quoting Ex. 12:3, 6, "In the tenth day of this month [the first] they shall take to them every man a lamb...And ye shall **keep it up** until the **fourteenth day** of the same month." The people were commanded to commence the preparation on the **tenth day** of the month On the **fourteenth day**, before sunset, all leaven was to be put out from their houses. Then the fifteenth day drew on, being the first day of unleavened bread, and the passover week commenced by killing the passover lamb. "Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses." (Verse 15.) Therefore, the fourteenth day was the last day of preparation, and the fifteenth, or the



first day of the feast, was a holy convocation, and they were to do no servile work therein. Matthew 26:17, has reference to the same day upon which Jesus ate the passover with the twelve. (See verses 20, 21.)

The only possible days for the passover week would be as follows: The fourteenth day of the first month that year was on Wednesday, and the day ended at sunset (even). The first day of the passover feast (15th day of the month) came on Thursday; the second, on Friday; the third, on Saturday (Sabbath); the fourth, on Sunday; the fifth, on Monday; the sixth, on Tuesday; the seventh and the last of the feast on Wednesday the 21st day of the month (Follow the chart on page 7).

**Time Table From Passover To the Resurrection** - The lamb could not be killed before the fourteenth day at even and be called "**The Passover Lamb**" according to the instruction given in the following Scriptures: "And the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill **It** [the lamb] in the evening." (Ex. 12:6) Suppose everything was ready and the lamb was killed as soon as the sun went down. It would take about fifteen minutes for it to die; then the pelt must be removed. In addition to this every part of it had to be dressed, washed, and placed back in the sacrifice and the opening sewed together, for there was not any part of it to be thrown away, save the waste. Therefore, the preparation for roasting the sacrifice would require not less than an hour. Thus we read: "Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with legs, and with the purtenance thereof." (Verse 9.)

The ancient method of roasting required more time than our modern way. A rod was drawn through the sacrifice, then it was placed over coals of fire, and kept continually turning about by means of the rod. This method of roasting would require about four hours. To eat the passover, ordain the Lord's supper, and the ordinance of humility, then sing a hymn, would have added another hour and a half. Afterwards they went to the mount of Olives. (See Mark 14:26.) The mount is about one half mile east of the third wall of the city. Therefore, it was some distance from the place where the passover was celebrated. Thus it would have taken them close to half an hour to get there on foot; after which Jesus took the three to the garden of Gethsemane.

There could not have been less than an hour and a half spent on the mount and in the garden while Jesus prayed; after which the apostles were told to take their rest in sleep; for Jesus went out to pray three times, and on returning, twice He found them sleeping, "and He cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me **One Hour?**" (Matt. 26:40.) We may suppose they spent at least an hour in sleeping, otherwise the words of the Master on His third return: "Take your rest" (Verse 45), would have been spoken in vain. After these experiences Judas arrived with the multitude and there was a little time spent in taking Jesus; and by the time they led Him to the priests it must have consumed not less than two hours. According to this computation of time, the total of hours spent from sunset Wednesday evening (beginning of the passover by killing the lamb) to the time



Jesus was led to the high priest could not have taken less than twelve hours.

The analysis of the foregoing time table, proves that when Jesus was led to Caiaphas, the high priest, it was about the twelfth hour, or shortly before daylight on Thursday morning; and after His trial before the high priest, "Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early." (John 18:28.) "And it was the **Preparation** of the passover, and about the **sixth** hour: and he [Pilate] saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!" (John 19:14.) As John states that it was **early** when they led Him from Caiaphas to the hall of judgment, and as he also states that it was about the **sixth** hour (either midnight, or midday according to ancient time), then it must have been shortly after midnight (about the sixth hour) when Pilate said to the Jews, "Behold your King," for John would not call midday, **early**. Therefore, after He had been judged by the Sanhedrin they called Pilate, and then went to the hall of judgment. This was done on the morning of the day following, after they had taken Jesus from the garden--**early Friday** morning.

Says John, "And it was the preparation of the passover." We have previously explained that the preparation for the passover lamb was not **one** day, but rather a four day affair.

Furthermore, Matthew plainly says: "They **made** ready the **Passover**. Now when even was come He [Christ] sat **down** with the twelve. And...they **did eat**." (Matt. 26:19-21.) Therefore, the passover preparation mentioned by John, **cannot** be the preparation for the passover lamb, but

rather the preparation for the passover Sabbath (the seventh-day), called the passover preparation because it was in the passover **week**, as it occurred only once a year. So then, that Friday is called "the **preparation** of the passover." Thus, the seventh-day Sabbath in the passover week was called a "**High Day**," because it was a Sabbath **within a Sabbath**--the highest day in the year.

According to time tabulation, the Jewish rulers tried Jesus from twelve o'clock Thursday morning, to about six o'clock Friday morning (ancient time). Nine hours later--at the third hour (Friday), Jesus was crucified. (See Mark 15:25.) After He had been on the cross for three hours the sun was darkened (at **six** o'clock--noon. See Mark 15:33.) Three hours later Jesus died and the sun again gave light. (See Matt. 27:45-50.) In the three remaining hours to sunset, every hasty preparation was made and the Saviour was placed in Joseph's new tomb just before the seventh-day Sabbath drew on. We quote Luke 23:53-56: "And he took it down and wrapped it in linen and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before laid. And that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with Him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how His body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment." Thus Jesus remained in the tomb from twelve o'clock Friday evening to twelve o'clock Sunday morning. This is also proven by Mark 16:9, "Now when Jesus had risen **early the first day of the week**" Therefore, a total of about thirty-six hours in the



tomb; and a grand total of eighty-four hours from the commencement of the passover to the resurrection.

Now mark that from the time the Jews laid hands on Christ (Thursday the 12th hour) to His resurrection (Sunday the 12th hour), there was exactly seventy-two hours or three days and three nights. Thus fulfilling the words of Jesus: "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matt. 12:40.) The idea that in the "heart of the earth" means in the grave, is man's supposition without Bible foundation. If the Saviour had in mind His experience in the grave, He would have said so. If His grave was in the center of the earth--about 4,000 miles beneath its surface (the heart of the earth) then one may suppose He meant the heart of the earth. Jesus used the expression to indicate that He was to be three days and three nights in the hands of sinners, and in the grave. Why are sinners called "The heart of the earth"? Because man was made of it according to Gen. 3:19, "For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

At this point we draw the reader's attention to the **chart** on page 7. Take notice of the infinite wisdom used to devise the picture of the great sacrifice (the Cross) for human beings, which is an evidence of boundless love Divine. Note first, that the hand on the clock dial made its round three times. Mark that each event was three hours apart (3x9 and 6x12), making the cross.

Now observe that the position of the cross as it is on the dial, does not show the

proper proportion. But if the reader will turn the diagram upside down as it were, which would show the way the ancient clock measured time--being regulated by sunset at twelve o'clock, the cross appears in its perfect form; thus we have another view of divine perfection.

The line across the dial between the hours of four and five, ten and eleven--marked north and south pole, gives the exact position of the globe as it travels on its yearly orbit. Now look to the upper right at the sun as it was then in its proper relation to the earth, as it darkened from the sixth to the ninth hour and we see the sun stood in accurate position over the hours that remained in darkness! Is not this picture perfect--beyond question? If so, could an intelligent being imagine that this all happened by accident? Does not this show unmistakable evidence that God had preordained it all, and that by His mighty power it has come to pass to teach His children His plan, and the salvation that is offered to them? Said Paul, "The works were finished from the foundation of the world." (Heb. 4:3) John also declares that the lamb was slain from the foundation of the world. (See Rev. 13:8.) Sinner, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!"

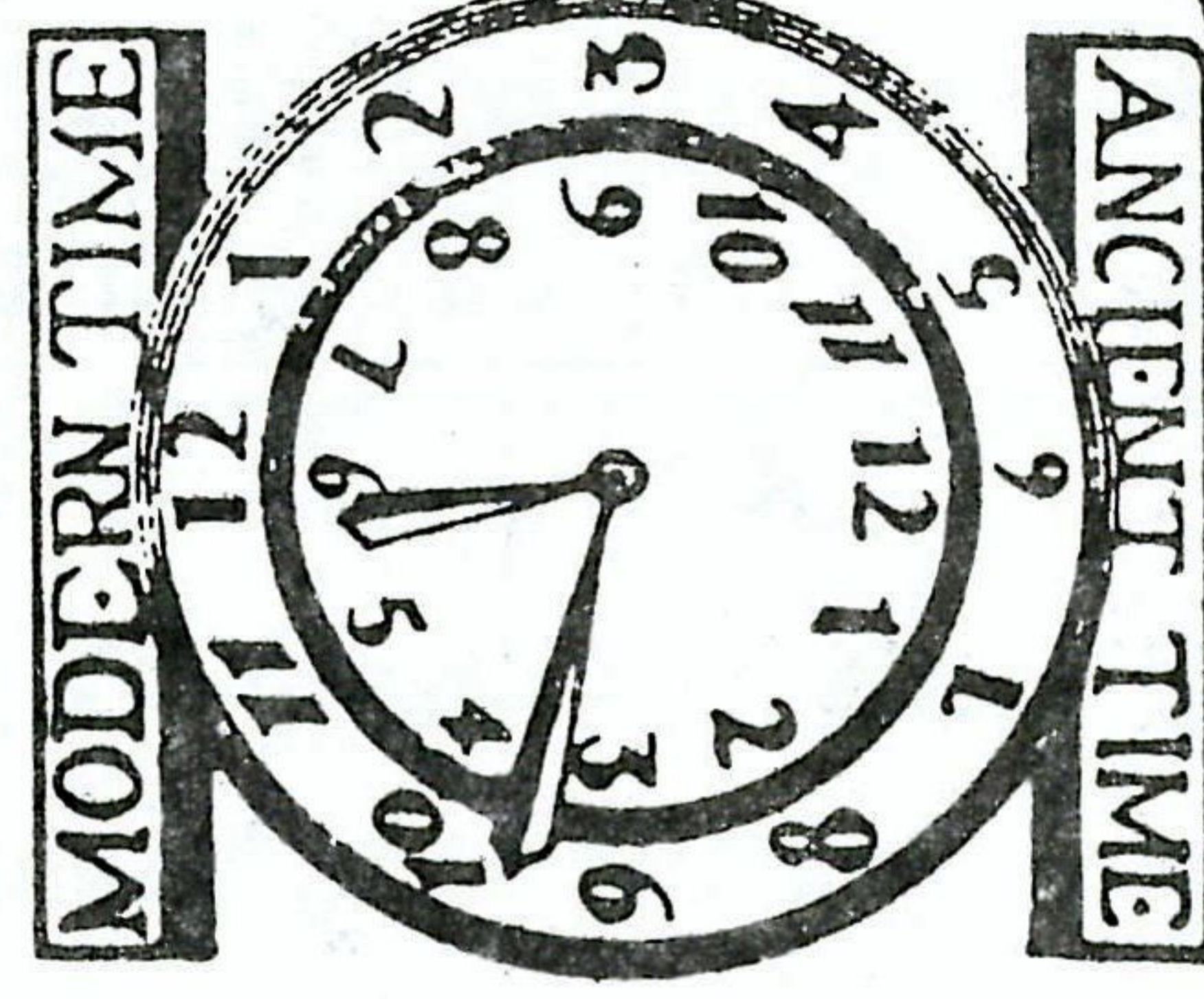
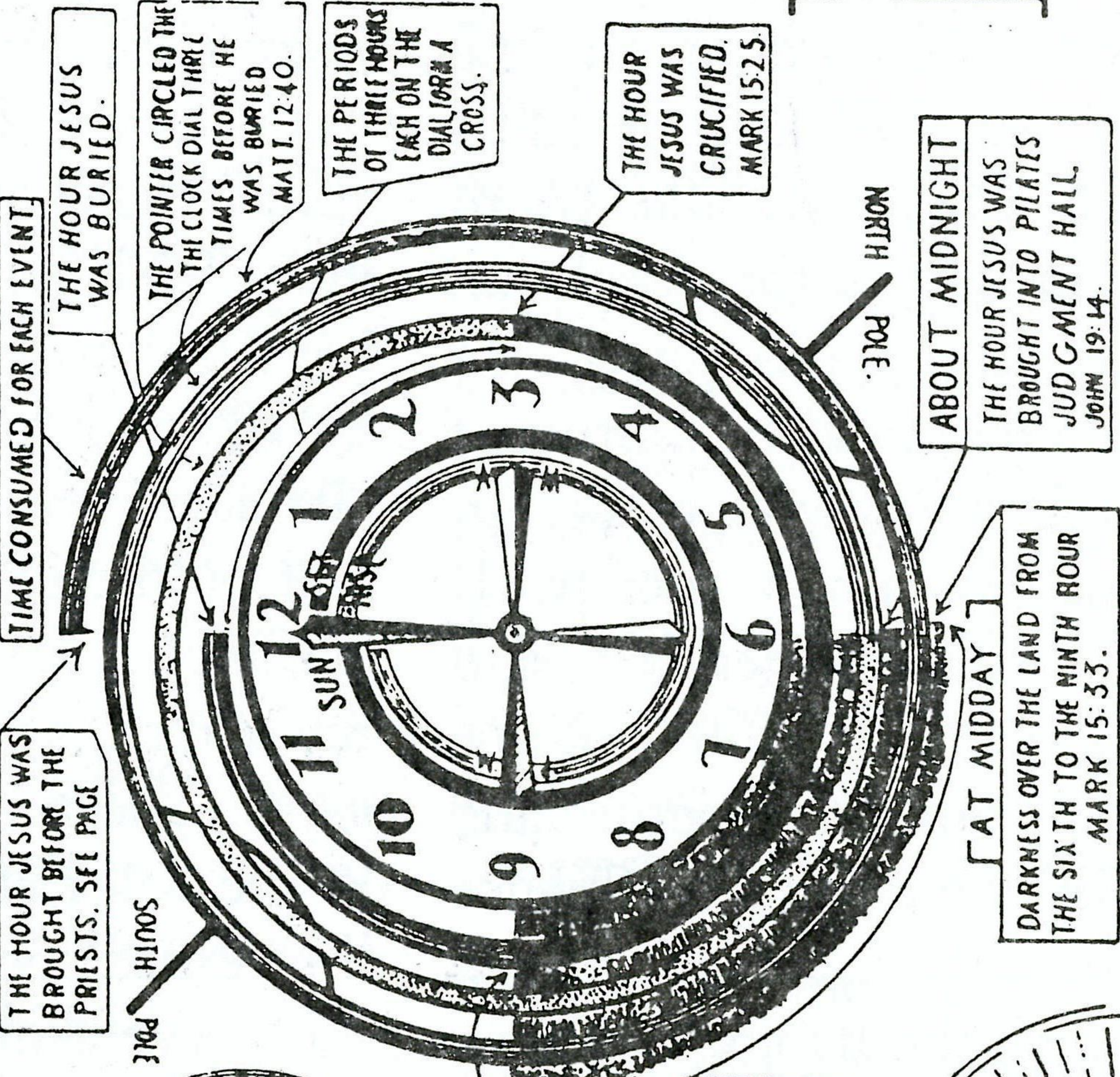
Though the passover lamb typified the crucifixion of Christ, it was not intended that He should be offered on the very day the lamb was killed. This fact is self evident, for the lamb was killed in the evening and Christ was crucified in the morning--three hours after sunrise,--and died three hours before the evening. --*The Shepherd's Rod, II, pp. 17-26.*



14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
LAST DAY OF PREPARATION THE LAMB WAS READY TO BE KILLED. EX. 12:3-6	JESUS ATE THE PASSOVER LAMB 22:7-14. LEV. 23:4-5. TAKEN TO THE PRIESTS	JESUS BROUGHT BEFORE PILATE. CRUCIFIED, DIED, AND WAS BURIED.	THE 7TH DAY SA BATH WITHIN A PASSOVER FEAST. A HIGH DAY	WAVE SHEAF OFFERING, TYPE OF THE RESURRECTION 11:23 10:11. MAT. 27:52 FOR 15:20	PASSOVER FEAST DAY	PASSOVER FEAST DAY	THE LAST DAY OF THE PASSOVER WEEK. LEV. 23:8. EX. 12:19
WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED

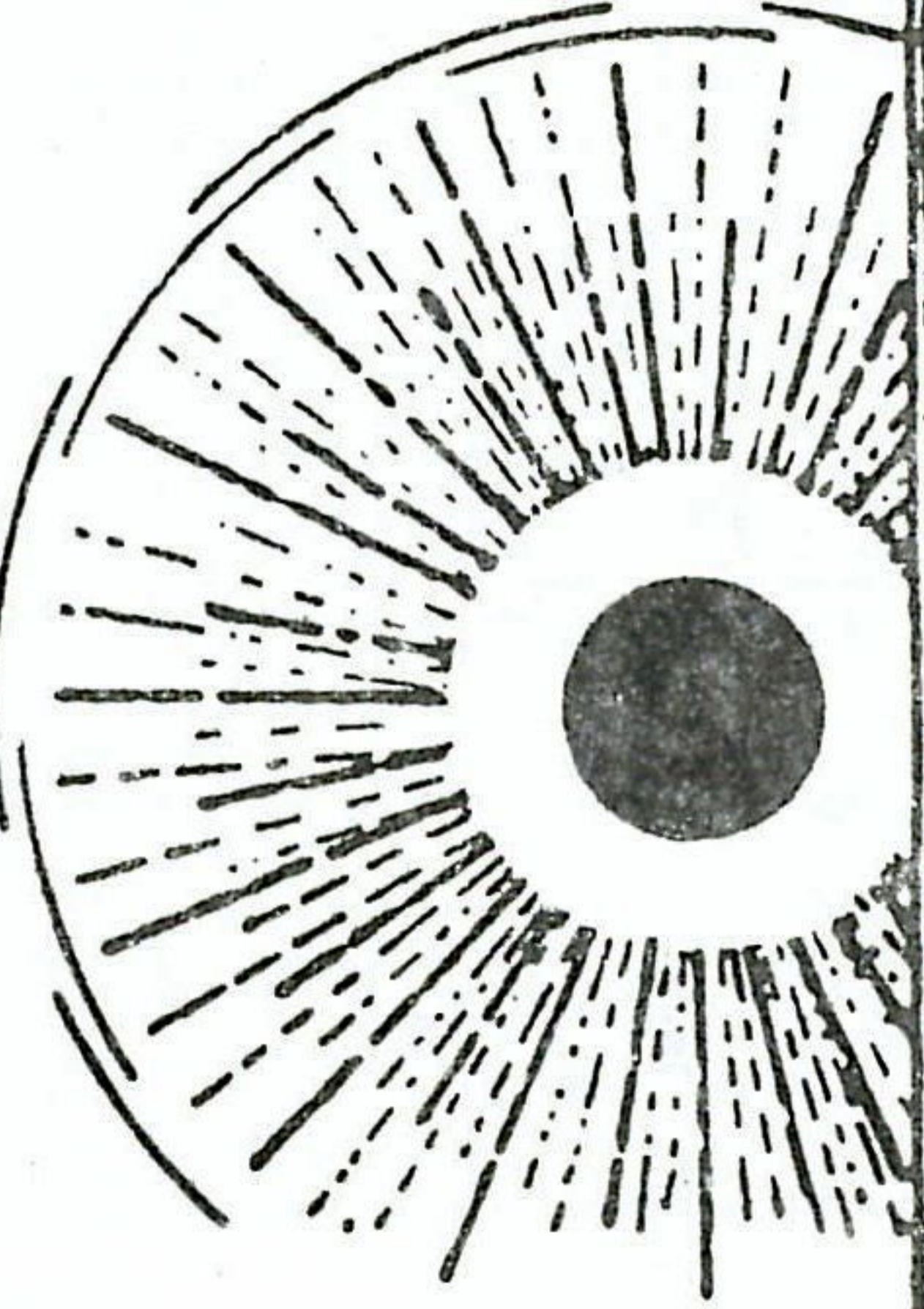
YE SHALL NUMBER FIFTY DAYS FROM THE SHEAF OFFERING SEVEN SABBATHS LEV. 23:15-16

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	A	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48	49
50						



THE HOUR JESUS DIED MAT. 27:46-50.

THE EARTH IS REPRESENTED BY THE CLOCK DIAL HAD IT DARKENED AT ANOTHER HOUR OF THE DAY IT WOULD HAVE AWARDED THE DIVINE PLAN FOR THE HOURS BETWEEN SIX AND NINE ONLY STAND IN DIRECT LINE WITH THE SUN.



PINTECOST FEEL ON SUNDAY AS AN EVIDENCE OF GODS METHOD OF WORKING. HE BEGAN WITH THE FIRST DAY

THE LETTER 'A' INDICATES THE DAY JESUS ASCENDED ON HIGH. ACTS 1:3,9.

3 DAYS AND 3 NIGHTS IN THE HEART OF THE EARTH

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# FAMILY MATTERS

## HOME: HEART OF ALL ACTIVITY

Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are "the issues of life"; and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation is the household. The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences.

The elevation or deterioration of the future of society will be determined by the manners and morals of the youth growing up around us. As the youth are educated, and as their characters are molded in their childhood to virtuous habits, self-control, and temperance, so will their influence be upon society. If they are left unenlightened and uncontrolled, and as the result become self-willed, intemperate in appetite and passion, so will be their future influence in molding society. The company which the young now keep, the habits they now form, and the principles they now adopt are the index to the state of society for years to come.

## The Sweetest Type of Heaven

Home should be made all that the word implies. It should be a little heaven upon earth, a place where the affections are cultivated instead of being studiously repressed. Our happiness depends upon

this cultivation of love, sympathy, and true courtesy to one another.

The sweetest type of heaven is a home where the Spirit of the Lord presides. If the will of God is fulfilled, the husband and wife will respect each other and cultivate love and confidence.

## Importance of the Home Atmosphere

The atmosphere surrounding the souls of fathers and mothers fills the whole house, and is felt in every department of the home.

To a large extent parents create the atmosphere of the home circle, and when there is disagreement between father and mother, the children partake of the same spirit. Make your home atmosphere fragrant with tender thoughtfulness. If you have become estranged and have failed to be Bible Christians, be converted; for the character you bear in probationary time will be the character you will have at the coming of Christ. If you would be a saint in heaven, you must first be a saint on earth. The traits of character you cherish in life will not be changed by death or by the resurrection. You will come up from the grave with the same disposition you manifested in your home and in society. Jesus does not change the character at His coming. The work of transformation must be done now. Our daily lives are determining our destiny.

## Creating a Pure Atmosphere

Every Christian home should have rules; and parents should, in their words and deportment toward each other, give to the children a precious, living example of



what they desire them to be. Purity in speech and true Christian courtesy should be constantly practiced. Teach the children and youth to respect themselves, to be true to God, true to principle; teach them to respect and obey the law of God. These principles will control their lives and will be carried out in their associations with others. They will create a pure atmosphere--one that will have an influence that will encourage weak souls in the upward path that leads to holiness and heaven. Let every lesson be of an elevating and enabling character, and the records made in the books of heaven will be such as you will not be ashamed to meet in the judgment.

Children who receive this kind of instruction will...be prepared to fill places of responsibility and, by precept and example, will be constantly aiding others to do right. Those whose moral sensibilities have not been blunted will appreciate right principles; they will put a just estimate upon their natural endowments and will make the best use of their physical, mental, and moral powers. Such souls are strongly fortified against temptation; they are surrounded by a wall not easily broken down.

God would have our families symbols of the family in heaven. Let parents and children bear this in mind every day, relating themselves to one another as members of the family of God. Then their lives will be of such a character as to give to the world an object lesson of what families who love God and keep His commandments may be. Christ will be glorified; His peace and grace and love

will pervade the family circle like precious perfume.

Much depends on the father and mother. They are to be firm and kind in their discipline, and they are to work most earnestly to have an orderly, correct household, that the heavenly angels may be attracted to it to impart peace and a fragrant influence.

### **Make Home Bright and Happy**

Never forget that you are to make the home bright and happy for yourselves and your children by cherishing the Saviour's attributes. If you bring Christ into the home, you will know good from evil. You will be able to help your children to be trees of righteousness, bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

Troubles may invade, but these are the lot of humanity. Let patience, gratitude, and love keep sunshine in the heart though the day may be ever so cloudy.

The home may be plain, but it can always be a place where cheerful words are spoken and kindly deeds are done, where courtesy and love are abiding guests.

Administer the rules of the home in wisdom and love, not with a rod of iron. Children will respond with willing obedience to the rule of love. Commend your children whenever you can. Make their lives as happy as possible....Keep the soil of the heart mellow by the manifestation of love and affection, thus preparing it for the seed of truth. Remember that the Lord gives the earth not only clouds and rain, but the beautiful, smiling sunshine, causing the



seed to germinate and the blossom to appear. Remember that children need not only reproof and correction, but encouragement and commendation, the pleasant sunshine of kind words.

You must not have strife in your household. "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." It is gentleness and peace that we want in our homes.

### **Tender Ties That Bind**

The family tie is the closest, the most tender and sacred, of any on earth. It was designed to be a blessing to mankind. And it is a blessing wherever the marriage covenant is entered into intelligently, in the fear of God, and with due consideration for its responsibilities.

Every home should be a place of love, a place where the angels of God abide, working with softening, subduing influence upon the hearts of parents and children.

Our homes must be made a Bethel, our hearts a shrine. Wherever the love of God is cherished in the soul, there will be peace, there will be light and joy. Spread out the word of God before your families in love, and ask, "What hath God spoken?"

### **Christ... Makes a Home Christian**

The home that is beautified by love, sympathy, and tenderness is a place that

angels love to visit, and where God is glorified. The influence of a carefully guarded Christian home in the years of childhood and youth is the surest safeguard against the corruptions of the world. In the atmosphere of such a home the children will learn to love both their earthly parents and their heavenly Father.

From their infancy the youth need to have a firm barrier built up between them and the world, that its corrupting influence may not affect them.

Every Christian family should illustrate to the world the power and excellence of Christian influence....Parents should realize their accountability to keep their homes free from every taint of moral evil.

Holiness to God is to pervade the home... Parents and children are to educate themselves to cooperate with God. They are to bring their habits and practices into harmony with God's plans.

The family relationship should be sanctifying in its influence. Christian homes, established and conducted in accordance with God's plan are a wonderful help in forming Christian character...Parents and children should unite in offering loving service to Him who alone can keep human love pure and noble.

The first work to be done in a Christian home is to see that the Spirit of Christ abides there, that every member of the household may be able to take his cross and follow where Jesus leads the way.

--*The Adventist Home*, pp. 15-20.



# ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Alzheimer's disease is classified as a degenerative disease of the nervous system. It is a gradual, progressive, general wasting away of the brain and other nervous tissues and functions. Even though in some cases the disease seems sudden, careful questioning of family members will reveal a history of a gradually developing condition leading to senility. Emotional disturbances, depression, anxiety and odd quirks of behavior characterize the early stages. Lapses of both memory and speaking ability are common. The intellectual functions progressively deteriorate, often over several years.

In 1906, Alois Alzheimer provided a classical description of the condition that bares his name. Although it can occur at any age, the disease is more common among older folk, affecting at least 3% of the population over the age of 65. One of the most common forms of generalized loss of brain function, Alzheimer's is distinguished from other problems of the brain common in the elderly, such as strokes, atherosclerosis and "normal aging."

During Alzheimer's Disease the brain shrinks and nerve tissue degenerates. Small bundles of material, called *senile plaques*, are scattered throughout the tissues. The more plaques, the worse the mental condition of the patient. Analysis

of the plaques reveal the presence of the metal aluminum at the core of the plaque and within many of its cells. There is some evidence that indicates that aluminum is a prime suspect in the cause of this disease.

As early as 1885, aluminum was proven toxic to the nervous system of animals, and in some animals the resulting symptoms resemble Alzheimer's. Some attempts to treat patients with Alzheimer's by decreasing the amount of aluminum in the body suggest that the disease's progression may be slowed in this way.

Damage from accumulation of toxic amounts of aluminum is not limited solely to the nervous system. Excess aluminum can also cause bone, kidney, red blood cell and parathyroid disease in susceptible individuals.

Aluminum is the third most common element in the earth's crust. "Normal" dietary intake of aluminum is about 3 mg. to 5 mg. daily, of which only a very small amount is absorbed. Healthy kidneys eliminate most of this amount. Some people, however, probably absorb aluminum more efficiently, and some are less able to eliminate it. These impossible-to-identify people are more likely to suffer from the ill effects of this metal.

Exposure to aluminum comes from many sources, most of them controllable. Dust,



water and even unprocessed foods contain aluminum that is difficult to avoid. On the other hand, one can avoid cosmetics, antiperspirants, medicines, food additives (aluminum-based baking powders for example), cans, cookware and other sources.

While Alzheimer's Disease was first described 100 years ago, it appears to have become common only in the past several decades. The widespread use of aluminum for everything from cans to pans that began in the 1950s could certainly be a problem. Indeed, your choice of cookware can result in the ingestion of various kinds of metals. Glass and porcelain are relatively non reactive with foods and add nothing to your dinner; while metal cookware does react with food. Aluminum has no recognized function in the body and those using aluminum cookware should perhaps use other forms of cooking utensils just to be on the safe side.

And, medical researchers are finding that other factors too, are involved in the premature degeneration of the brain that can result in Alzheimer's Disease. Consider the following:

- Research has shown that if one has a genetic vulnerability to Alzheimer's, eating a greasy diet (more than 40% of calories from fat) may increase the risk of getting the disease by 7 times.

"We suspect that the damage caused by a high-fat diet happens earlier in life and only shows up later as Alzheimer's," according to nutrition

researcher Grace Petot, of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Here is another reason why eating less fat is smart. --Presented at the World Alzheimer's Congress, July 2000.

- This information is in line with work done at our own Loma Linda University. Here researchers found that the frequency of Alzheimer's among vegetarians is less than one-half as much as in meat eaters. --*Neuroepidemiology*, 11:28-36, 1993.

- A research study (*Archives of Neurology*, Feb. 2003), on fats added to the growing evidence that the same type of diet that protects the heart, also benefits the brain. This study led by researcher Martha Clare Morris at Chicago's Rush Presbyterian, St. Luke's Medical Center involved over 800 Chicago residents 65 and older. The group was asked about their eating habits. Follow-up tests nearly 4 years later found that 131 participants had developed Alzheimer's

Participants who reported consuming large quantities of saturated fats as found in animal-based products including meat and butter, faced double the risk of having Alzheimer's compared with those who ate small amounts. That risk was found for those who ate an average 25 grams of saturated fats daily; one tablespoon of butter has about 7 grams.

Conversely, those consuming polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats



as found in vegetables and nuts, faced a **70% reduction in Alzheimer's risk.**

- Dharma Singh Khalsa, MD, reminds us that "because the brain is flesh and blood, just like your heart, it will respond to things that we can do for it." Dr. Khalsa, president and medical director of the Alzheimer's Prevention Foundation International, says Alzheimer's begins an average of 30 years before the onset of symptoms and a combination of regular **mental and physical exercise can reduce risk of developing the disease by as much as 70%.**

He recommends at least 30 minutes of aerobic exercise and weight training 3 to 4 times a week and "brain aerobic exercises" such as discussing current events or other topics you read about, enjoying music, art, or other hobbies; learning a new language or computer skills, shopping by memory, and volunteering.

- Other key factors that can extend the memory and reverse decline are stress management, a correct diet--plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts and other plant foods. And don't forget the healthy fats in olive oil, etc., while avoiding the saturated fats in meat and other animal products. Daily preventive supplements, such as a high-potency multivitamin and extra vitamin C, E, and C0Q10 are also in order. Dosages are higher for

those already experiencing memory loss.

- Regular physical exercise continues to be a factor in preventing this devastating disorder. In Hawaii, retired men from the ages of 71 to 93 who walked less than a quarter-mile a day were almost twice as likely to develop dementia, including Alzheimer's as those who walked more than 2 miles daily. Even a little walking helps a lot; among older women, those who walked 1 and a half hours a week did better on mental-function tests than those who did not walk at all. --*Journal of the American Medical Association, Sept. 22, 2004.*

- Don't forget a most important factor--the study of the Bible. "The mind occupied with commonplace matters only, becomes dwarfed and enfeebled. If never asked to comprehend grand and far-reaching truths, it after a time loses the power of growth. As a safeguard against this degeneracy, and a stimulus to development, nothing else can equal the study of God's Word. As a means of intellectual training, the Bible is more effective than any other book, or all other books combined. The greatness of its themes, the dignified simplicity of its utterances, the beauty of its imagery, quicken and uplift the thoughts as nothing else can.. **No other study can impart such mental power as does the effort to grasp the stupendous truths of revelation. The mind thus brought in contact with the thoughts of the**



**Infinite cannot but expand and strengthen.**" --*Ellen White, Education, p. 124.*

- Inspiration has more information on this vital subject: "The mind does not wear out nor break down so often on account of diligent employment and hard study, as on account of **eating improper food at improper times, and of careless inattention to the laws of health....**Irregular hours for eating and sleeping sap the brain forces. The apostle Paul declares that he who would be successful in reaching a high standard of godliness must be temperate in all things. **Eating, drinking, and dressing all have a direct bearing upon our spiritual advancement.**

"Health is a blessing which few appreciate....**Many eat at all hours, regardless of the laws of health.** Then gloom covers the mind. How can men be honored with divine enlightenment when they are so reckless in their habits, so inattentive to the light which God has given in regard to these things....Life is a holy trust, which God alone can enable us to keep, and to use to His glory. But He who formed the wonderful structure of the body will take special care to keep it in order if men do not work at cross-purposes with Him.

"Health, life, and happiness are the result of obedience to physical laws governing our bodies. If our will and way are in accordance with God's will and way; if we do the pleasure of our

Creator, He will keep the human organism in good condition, and restore the moral, mental, and physical powers, in order that He may work through us to His glory....If we cooperate with Him in this work, health and happiness, peace and usefulness, are the sure result.

"He did not die for us in order that we might become slaves to evil habits, but that we might become the sons and daughters of God, serving Him with every power of the being.

"My dear young friends, advance step by step, until all your habits shall be in harmony with the laws of life and health." --*Ellen White, Sons and Daughters of God, p. 172.*

My dear brothers and sisters, God has given us valuable information as to how to avoid and prevent the many devastating diseases and disorders that are wreaking havoc in our land. And He has promised to be with us every step of the way giving us the power and strength to obey. By His grace let us be determined to do our part!

**God is our refuge and strength,**

**A very present help in trouble.**

**Therefore we will not fear,  
Though the earth be removed,  
And though the mountains be  
carried into the midst of the  
sea. Psalms 46:1, 2.**



## Questions and Answers

**Q.** My parents were good SDAs, having lived up to their profession and died without having come in contact with the Davidian message. I feel that they will certainly be saved. Why cannot I do the same?

**A.** "Greater light shines upon us than shown upon our fathers. We cannot be accepted or honored of God in rendering the same service, or doing the same works, that our fathers did. In order to be accepted and blessed of God as they were, we must imitate their faithfulness and zeal,-- improve our light as they improved theirs,-- and do as they would have done had they lived in our day. We must walk in the light which shines upon us, otherwise that light will become darkness. God requires of us to exhibit to the world, in our character and works, that measure of the spirit of union and oneness which is in accordance with the sacred truths we profess and with the spirit of those prophecies that are fulfilling in these last days. The truth which has reached our understanding, and the light which has shown on the soul, will judge and condemn us, if we turn away and refuse to be led by them." --Ellen White, *Testimony for the Church, Vol. 1:262-263.*

**Q.** It gets pretty warm during the summer in our part of the country. Could we not take a little leeway, and dress for comfort instead of following the Davidian dress code?

**A.** "God is not asking us to put on anything that will roast our bodies. But He is asking us to put on something decent that will represent Him and His message of the

hour. Unless we do this, the world will not believe that He has sent us, and we ourselves will begin to doubt. Our manner of dress speaks louder than words." --V.T. Houteff, *1 TG.6:37.*

"...The wise will keep constantly in mind the realization that worldly dress and deportment cannot charm a true Christian...." *3 Answerer, p. 83.*

(Please review the *Advanced Christian Standards of Dress for Men, Women, Boys and Girls - 2 TG.38:13-26.*)

**Q.** Why did God create the poisonous plants? Also since marijuana is a plant created by God, what's wrong with utilizing it?

**A.** "The God of nature is perpetually at work. His infinite power works unseen, but manifestations appear in the effects which the work produces. The same God who guides the planets works in the fruit orchard and in the vegetable garden. **He never made a thorn, a thistle, or a tare. These are Satan's work,** the result of degeneration, introduced by him among the precious things: but it is through God's immediate agency that every bud bursts into blossom." *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6:186.*

"Not one noxious plant was placed in the Lord's great garden, but after Adam and Eve sinned, poisonous herbs sprang up. In the parable of the sower the question was asked the Master, 'Didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? How then hath it tares?' The Master answered, 'An enemy hath done this.' All tares are sown by the evil one. Every noxious herb is of his sowing,



and by his ingenious methods of amalgamation he has corrupted the earth with tares." --E.G. White., 7-A, B. C., Vol. 1:1086.

**Q. Did Christ have our sinful nature, and could He have sinned?**

**A.** "The Son of God was assaulted at every step by the powers of darkness. After His baptism He was driven of the Spirit into the wilderness, and suffered temptation for forty days. Letters have been coming in to me, affirming that Christ could not have had the same nature as man, for if He had, He would have fallen under similar temptations. If He did not have man's nature, He could not be our example. If He was not a partaker of our nature, He could not have been tempted as man has been. If it were not possible for Him to yield to temptation, He could not be our helper. It was a solemn reality that Christ came to fight the battles as man, in man's behalf. His temptation and victory tell us that humanity must copy the Pattern; man must become a partaker of the divine nature.

"In Christ, divinity and humanity were combined. Divinity was not degraded to humanity; divinity held its place, but humanity by being united to divinity withstood the fiercest test of temptation in the wilderness. The prince of this world came to Christ after His long fast, when He was an hungered, and suggested to Him to command the stones to become bread. But the plan of God, devised for the salvation of man, provided that Christ should know hunger, and poverty, and every phase of man's experience. **He withstood the temptation, through the power that man may command.** He laid hold on the throne of God, and there is not a man or

woman who may not have access to the same help through faith in God. Man may become a partaker of the divine nature; not a soul lives who may not summon the aid of Heaven in temptation and trial. Christ came to reveal the source of His power, that man might never rely on his unaided human capabilities.

"Those who would overcome must put to the tax every power of their being. They must agonize on their knees before God for divine power. Christ came to be our example, and to make known to us that we may be partakers of the divine nature. How?--By having escaped the corruptions that are in the world through lust. Satan did not gain the victory over Christ. He did not put his foot upon the soul of the Redeemer. He did not touch the head though he bruised the heel. Christ, by His own example, made it evident that man may stand in integrity. Men may have a power to resist evil--a power that neither earth, nor death, nor hell can master; a power that will place them where they may overcome as Christ overcame. Divinity and humanity may be combined in them. " --/Selected Messages, pp. 408-409.

"Clad in the vestments of humanity, the Son of God came down to the level of those He wished to save. In Him was no guile or sinfulness; He was ever pure and undefiled; yet **He took upon Him our sinful nature.** Clothing His divinity with humanity, that He might associate with fallen humanity, He sought to regain for man that which, by disobedience, Adam had lost for himself and for the world. In His own character He displayed to the world the character of God. --Ellen White, *The Review and Herald*, Dec. 15, 1896.



# NATURE'S PAGE

## SURVEY OF SKY LIST 500 MILLION OBJECTS

"He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names."  
*Psalms 147:4.*

Astronomers have completed the most thorough high-resolution digital survey of the heavens to date and released its 5 million images on the Internet.

The map of the sky took four years of observations and \$40 million to complete. It contains an estimated 500 million celestial objects, including stars, galaxies, asteroids and comets. The project's twin telescopes, in Arizona and Chili, mapped the sky in the infrared part of the electromagnetic spectrum. The University of Massachusetts, Amherst led the two Micron All-Sky Survey.  
--*Los Angeles Times, March 29, 2003.*

"And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good...." *Genesis 1:14-19.*

We indeed serve a great and awesome God. Consider this:

"Every shining star which God has placed in the heavens obeys His mandate, and gives its distinctive measure of light to make beautiful the heavens at night; so let every converted soul show the measure of light committed to him; and as it shines forth the light will increase and grow brighter. Give out your light,...pour forth your beams mirrored from heaven. O daughter of Zion, 'Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.' " *Ellen White, 7-A Bible Commentary, Vol.4:1153.*

"He made the night, marshaling the shining stars in the firmament. He calls them all by name. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork, showing man that this little world is but a jot in God's creation." --*Ellen White, 7-A Bible Commentary, Vol. 3:1154.*

"...It was the marvel of all the universe that Christ should humble Himself to save fallen man. That **He who had passed from star to star, from world to world, superintending all, by His providence** supplying the needs of every order of being in His **vast creation**--that He should consent to leave His glory and take upon Himself human nature, was a mystery which the sinless intelligences of other worlds desired to understand...." --*Ellen White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 69.*

"Let us choose to be taught by Him who created the heavens and the earth, by Him who set the stars in their order in the firmament and appointed the sun and the moon to do their work...." *Ministry of Healing, p. 449.*



# NEWS IN PERSPECTIVE

## FCC WON'T ACT ON 36 TV COMPLAINTS

Washington - Federal regulators recently denied 36 complaints of broadcast indecency in connection with TV shows including *Friends*, *The Simpsons* and *Gilmore Girls*.

The complaints to the Federal Communications Commission were filed by the *Parents Television Council*, a watchdog group that frequently complains about sex and violence on TV.

The FCC ruled that none of the segments were "patently offensive under contemporary community standards for the broadcast medium, and thus not indecent."

The *PTC* noted that certain programs contained sexually explicit segments or used indecent or profane language... --adapted from the *Los Angeles Times*, Jan. 25, 2005.

Comment: Children's programs, too are replete with violence while "prime time" programming glorifies violence and is overrun with sexual innuendoes. Even the commercials that sponsor the various news programs are offensive to many. Brothers and sisters, let us be reminded of how the Lord would have us react to this situation:

"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me." *Psalms 101:3*.

"The Lord trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth." *Psalms 11:5*.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, what-

soever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report: if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." *Philippians 4:8*.

"The apostle [Peter] sought to teach the believers how important it is to keep the mind from wandering to forbidden themes, or from spending its energies on trifling subjects. Those who would not fall a prey to Satan's devices, must guard well the avenues of the soul; they must avoid reading, seeing, or hearing that which will suggest impure thoughts. The mind must not be left to dwell at random upon every subject that the enemy of souls may suggest. The heart must be faithfully sentinelled, or evils without will awaken evils within, and the soul will wander in darkness. -*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 518.

"There is no influence in our land more powerful to poison the imagination, to destroy religious impressions, and to blunt the relish for the tranquil pleasures and sober realities of life than theatrical amusements. The love for these scenes increases with every indulgence as the desire for intoxicating drink strengthens with its use." -*The Adventist Home*, p. 516.

In an online article entitled *Television: A Blessing or Tool of the Devil?* the comment was made, "can there be any real doubt about this question?" Can anyone who loves God and studies his Bible really deny that much harm can result from watching TV? Unfortunately in this TV generation many folk in their fifties and younger, who profess to be Christians seem to be oblivious to this since it has always been around in their lifetime and they have already spent many, many hours absorbing its contents.



**Profanity** - The article points out that through the years television programs have become more vile and demonic. People's minds seem to be in neutral as they hear profanity and see things most unbecoming to Christians. This has become a habit for many, much like any other kind of addiction of the flesh, that one needs to turn from. Misusing God's holy name on TV is indeed common, even though this is a very serious sin: "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." Ex. 20:7.

If you call yourself a "Christian," how can you just sit back and allow these wicked people to blaspheme God's holy name in your house and not be angered to the point of turning from it? Have you forsaken your first love. (Rev. 2:4)? Even using euphemisms are not proper for a Christian.

**Loss of Time** - The habit of TV watching has a hypnotic, intoxicating effect even to the place of taking some or part of one's time from personal Bible study. This is a major problem.

**Ignorance of God's Word** - Perhaps TV is part of the reason why there is such general ignorance of God's Word. And false doctrine in Christian circles is increasing. Indeed, it seems the average professing Christian knows the TV stars and sport figures better than the characters of the Bible. They cannot remember where certain verses are in the Bible but they know the characters, times and channels of their favorite TV shows!

**What Are You Watching** - Many, even Christians are watching the innumerable detailed, graphic sexual scenes shown on

regular and cable TV. Or what about the various talk shows? there they are discussing the many perverted but common things that are of interest to the sinful nature, but that also spiritually defiles the viewers. Nor can the many violent, brutal beatings and murders that are seen so frequently on the tube be dismissed.

**TV is Sin Desensitizing** - TV viewers are indeed being slowly desensitized to the evils of the world as the world comes into their homes and mind via the TV. Indeed its not necessary to go out into the world--the world, with all of its evils is allowed to invade the precious home setting.

And what about parents who use the TV as a *baby-sitter*? It might hold the child's attention but it also exposes him/her to wicked words, sights and the world's deadly values that can lead them into sin and away from God. And of course, cartoons are filled with violence. Read Genesis 6:11-13 to learn how serious this is.

**Subtle Sin Defilement** - What are some of the subtle things that are happening to those who watch TV? They are being desensitized to the evils of divorce, sexual immorality, "living together," suicide, materialism, anger, violence, murder, rape, revenge, lying, cheating, stealing, hatred, homosexuality and more.

And chances are many are gradually becoming *lukewarm*, if they are still Christians at all.

Note: The divorce and promiscuity rates in our society have escalated, as TV portrays these evils as commonplace and normal.

**TV, The Lust-Generator** - Nor can the lust that this tool generates in viewers hearts be



discounted. Jesus said, "But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Matt. 5:28.

So many TV viewers are perhaps guilty here. Often women on TV seemingly dress to provoke lust in men's hearts. Such are no better than prostitutes, as far as leading people into sexual sin.

**Savage Wolves in Sheep's Clothing** - TV features many **savage wolves in sheep's clothing** openly teaching **heretical doctrines**: An eternally burning hell, the dead--whether righteous or wicked go straight to heaven, the false Sabbath, etc.

False teachers and their unscriptural teachings and deadly deceptions must be avoided. This alone is cause enough to spend less time watching even religious programs and more time directly studying the Bible and the *Spirit of Prophecy*, reading, rereading and pondering the precious eternal truths that God has given to us and then putting them into practice.

**TV Wastes Precious Time** - This should be reiterated... TV, among all of its other evils, is also a waste of precious time that could be spend serving God. Since we are all going to account for our time, among other things in the Judgment, we must take these spare time opportunities seriously and use them to bring forth good fruit. Time is a talent and God expect a return on this talent from His children.

**Entertainment and Sports** - The Bible simply does not show general entertainment as part of the life of a Christian. Neither does it state viewing sports as being exemplary or even normal for a Christian. Brothers and sisters, turn from your TV and

stop allowing the devil to use it in your life to your own spiritual harm...."No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." 2 Tim. 2:4.

"But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness." 2 Tim. 2:16.

**TV, the Enemy of Holiness** - As Christians, we are called to live holy lives, 2 Tim. 1:9. Indeed, this is an imperative in order to enter the Kingdom of God.

We are also to come out from the world, be separate and keep ourselves from it spiritual pollutants: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness: and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**" 2 Cor. 6:14-18.

**Can We Live Without TV?** - Is it possible to survive without watching TV in our day? Absolutely! Serious Christians have been doing this for a long time. You can too, but you must battle against the devil's subtle temptations of TV viewing. And we are battling for eternity! **May our Lord and Saviour be with you. Amen.**



# YOUNG WORLD

## THE YOUTH AS LABORERS

There are many Christian youth that can do a good work if they will learn lessons in the school of Christ from the great Teacher. Even though pastors, evangelists, and teachers should neglect the seeking of the lost, let not the children and youth neglect to be doers of the word....

Let young men and women, and children go to work in the name of Jesus. Let them unite together upon some plan and order of action. Cannot you form a band of workers, and have set times to pray together and ask the Lord to give you His grace, and put forth united action? You should consult with men who love and fear God, and who have experience in the work, that under the movings of the Spirit of God you may form plans and develop methods by which you may work in earnest and for certain results. The Lord will help those who will use their God-intrusted capabilities to His name's glory. Will our young men and young women who believe the truth become living missionaries?...

**WORK IN FAITH** - As you labor for others, the divine power of the Spirit will work upon their souls; for they have been purchased by the blood of the only-begotten Son of God. We can be successful in winning souls for whom Christ has died only as we shall depend on the grace and

power of God to do the work of convicting and converting the heart. While you are presenting to them the truth of God, unbelief and uncertainty will strive to hold the mind; but let the pledged word of God expel doubt from your hearts.

Take God at His word, and work in faith. Satan will come with his suggestions to make you distrust the word of your heavenly Father; but consider, "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Press your faith through the dark shadow of Satan, and lodge it upon the mercy seat, and let not one doubt be entertained. This is the only way in which you will gain an experience, and find the evidence so essential for your peace and confidence.

As your experience grows, you will have increased ardor of soul and warmer love for the service of God, because you have oneness of purpose with Jesus Christ. Your sympathies are begotten of the Holy Spirit. You wear the yoke with Christ, and are laborers together with God. -*Messages to Young People*, pp. 197-198.

## YOUNG PEOPLE AS SOUL WINNERS

Satan is a vigilant foe, intent upon his purpose of leading the youth to a course of action entirely contrary to that which God would approve. He well knows that there is no other class that can do as much good as young men and young women who are consecrated to God. The youth, if right, could sway a mighty influence. Preachers, or laymen advanced in years cannot have one-half the influence upon the young that the youth, devoted to God, can have upon their associates. They ought to feel that a responsibility rests upon them to do all they can to save their fellow mortals, even at a



sacrifice of their pleasure and natural desires. Time, and even means, if required, should be consecrated to God.

All who profess godliness should feel the danger of those who are out of Christ. Soon their probation will close. Those who might have exerted an influence to save souls, had they stood in the counsel of God, yet failed to do their duty through selfishness, indolence, or because they were ashamed of the cross of Christ, will not only lose their own souls, but will have the blood of poor sinners upon their garments. Such will be required to render an account for the good that they could have done had they been consecrated to God, but did not do because of their unfaithfulness.

Those who have really tasted the sweets of redeeming love will not, cannot, rest until all with whom they associate are made acquainted with the plan of salvation. The young should inquire, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? How can I honor and glorify Thy name upon the earth?" Souls are perishing all around us, and yet what burden do the youth bear to win souls to Christ?

**SOLICITUDE FOR OTHERS** - Those who attend school could have an influence for the Saviour; but who name the name of Christ? and who are seen pleading with tender earnestness with their companions to forsake the ways of sin and choose the path of holiness?

This is the course which the believing young should take, but they do not; it is more congenial to their feelings to unite with the sinner in sport and pleasure. The young have a wide sphere of usefulness, but they see it not. Oh that they would now exert

their powers of mind in seeking ways to approach perishing sinners, that they might make known to them the path of holiness, and by prayer and entreaty win even one soul to Christ!

What a noble enterprise! One soul to praise God through eternity! One soul to enjoy happiness and everlasting life! One gem in their crown to shine as a star forever and ever! But even more than one can be brought to turn from error to truth, from sin to holiness. Says the Lord by the prophet, "And they that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever." Then those who engage with Christ and angels in the work of saving perishing souls are rightly rewarded in the kingdom of heaven.

I saw that many souls might be saved if the young were where they ought to be, devoted to God and to the truth; but they generally occupy a position where constant labor must be bestowed upon them or they will become of the world themselves...

—*Ibid.* 204-205.

"With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come,—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin! How soon, in place of a possession here, with its blight of sin and pain, our children might receive their inheritance where 'the righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever'; where 'the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick,' and 'the voice of weeping shall be no more heard.'"

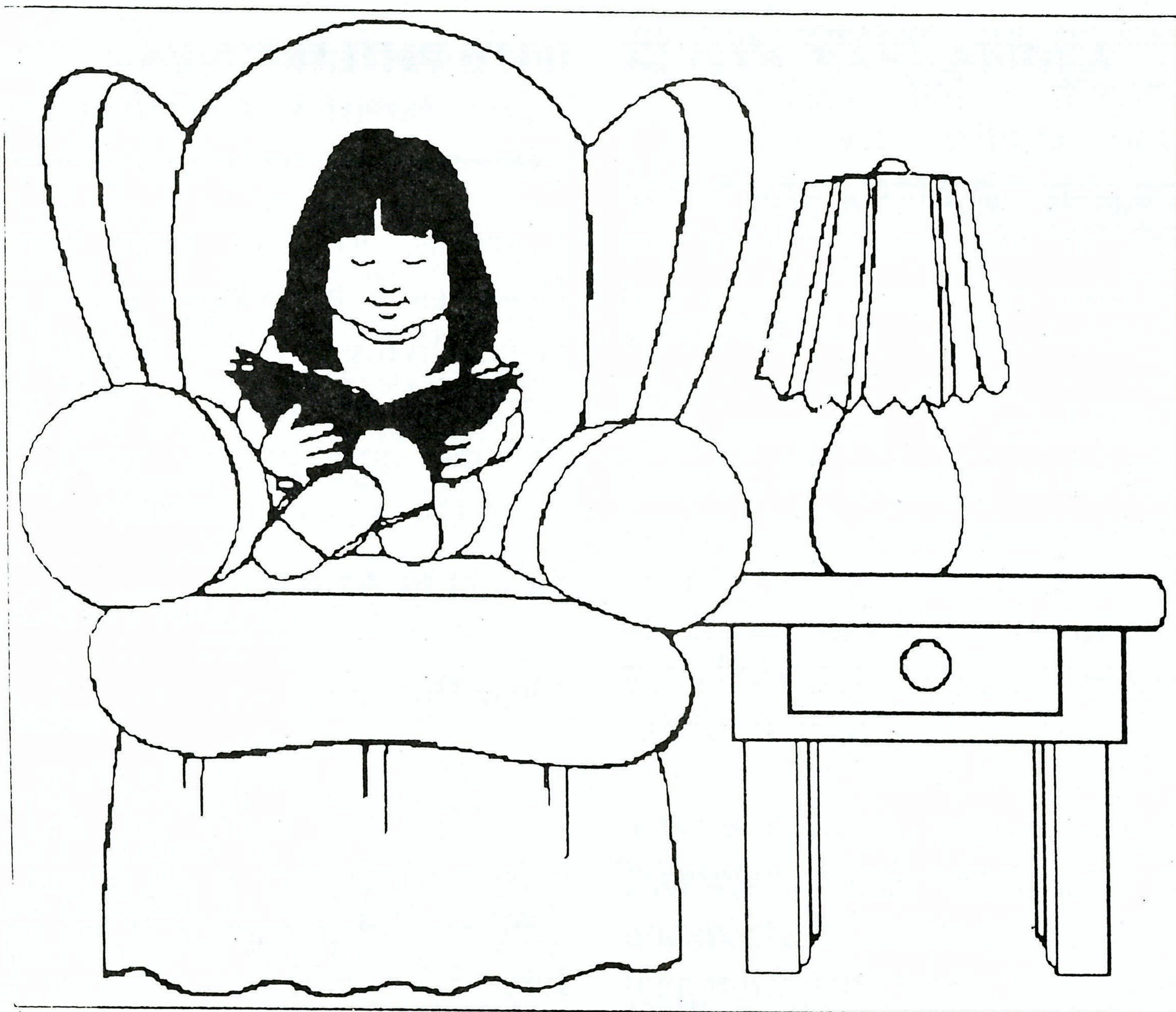
—*Counsels to Teachers, Parents, and Students*, p. 555.



# **KIDS' CORNER**

## **A Picture to Color and a Promise**

**2 Timothy 3:15 - "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."**



**Make the most of your time in God's Word.  
It's great that you have the opportunity to know God's Word.  
Our Bible verse tells you "why" with a promise:  
The holy scriptures are able to make you wise unto salvation.**

**"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,  
and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction,  
for instruction in righteousness:**

**That the man of God may be perfect,  
thoroughly furnished unto all good works."**

**2 Timothy 3:16, 17.**

Cortright Fellowship Homepage



# THE MAIL BAG

Dear Pastor:

I am very impressed and have been blessed after listening to your sermon, *The Eleventh Hour Call of Matthew 20*. I am a visitor here and am hoping to return to my country, Dominica, later this year. I am two years in the message and am kindly requesting a free copy of the cassette sermon entitled: *The 144,000*. I would appreciate greatly your kind understanding in this matter. May the Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless and keep you.

## FLORIDA, USA

Dear Brethren:

I am writing to you about an audio cassette tape on the *144,000*. I think it is the best sermon on this topic that I have ever heard. Could you please tell me who the speaker is on that tape? He also mentioned a tape on the "*great multitude*." What is the cost?

Is it possible for me to purchase these tapes and Bible study outlines? There are quite a few questions that I would like to find answers to if possible. Many thanks in anticipation.

## AUSTRALIA

Sir/Madam:

Blessings in Christ! I would like to thank God for this web site by which I came in contact with the message of the *Shepherd's*

*Rod*. Actually, I already received the charts and tapes that I requested.

I am an Adventist and believe that this message of the *Shepherd's Rod* is the Elijah message. I have been studying some of Br. Houteff's writings and believe his messages are inspired by God. Thank you very much and may God bless us abundantly more than we could ever ask.

## THE PHILIPPINES

Dear Sir:

I would love to have some of your cassettes. I have been given a set by my sister living in the Republic of South Africa. I am positive that many of my friends and sisters need this sacred message on your cassettes.

## SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Brethren:

I humbly am asking for more information on who you really are and what your mission/ministry is all about. I, together with my other friends (I am an Adventist) have been listening to your tapes which are so inspiring that one cannot quit listening to them and talking about them. Praise God the *Trumpeter* is there for our misled souls.

So, dear brothers and sisters, if possible when replying please send us your tapes because the ones we have been listening to are not ours, they are our friends.

## SOUTH AFRICA

To Whom It May Concern:



I am enjoying your ministry and am truly convinced it is God's message for this time. For some time I have really wondered how you make it financially. I don't have much, but I thought you could make use of my tithe.

## **ENGLAND**

Dear Sir/Madam:

I have come across your audio and reading material through a friend. These materials are very educative and spiritually inspiring. Could you kindly add my name to your mailing list and send me the materials. As you may be aware, one cannot read or view borrowed material for as long as one wants. I would be most grateful if my request will be favorably considered.

## **ZAMBIA, CENTRAL AFRICA**

Dear Sir/Madam:

After reading through your pamphlet entitled: *God's Answer to the New World Order*, I have decided to write to you for free tracts and tapes so that they can help me grow spiritually as we approach His coming. I would also like to share them with others who haven't heard this message. Your help will be highly appreciated. May our good Lord bless you abundantly.

## **ZAMBIA, CENTRAL AFRICA**

Dear Sir/Madam:

I would like to thank our God who has enabled me to write this letter. I thank Him too for enabling you to publish this

all important last message to the church-- it shows His great love for us.

I have gone through some tracts that I got from my brother and they have made me realize the condition of the church in detail and also my condition just as it is written in the Bible. I also wrote to you early last year and received some tracts--thank you.

## **KENYA, EAST AFRICA**

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Sympathy:**

Our sympathy is extended to Desiree Roberts, the secretary to the Council, as she has lost both of her parents in a short period of time. Her father passed away in August of 2004, and her mother in November, 2004. As this has been a hard time for her, we ask for your prayers in her behalf.

Also, one of our Bible workers in Zambia, Brother Stanley Mulenga, passed away unexpectedly in November, 2004. We know that those who knew him best will feel his loss the most but let us ever remember our brothers and sisters there in Zambia as well as the family he left behind.

We ask that you also remember Caesar Santiago in your prayers. His mother passed away in January, 2005 after a recent illness.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to one of our ministers in the work here, Bro. Joseph Seraphin. His younger brother passed away Jan 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Please keep



him and his wife, Delphina, in your prayers as we know what a difficult time this must be for them.

### **It's a Boy!**

Jeremy Reyes was born the 18<sup>th</sup> of August, weighing in at 7 lbs. 11 oz. and stretching a full 22 inches. His parents, Rene and Susie Reyes, will need our prayers that they may have wisdom and patience in bringing their little boy up for the Lord. Bro. Rene is one of our Bible workers in California.

### **DLI**

Yes, we are planning a DLI class here at Mountaindale! For those who are interested in being a part of the 2005 graduating class, please notify the Educational Director of your interest in attending. DLI is scheduled to begin June 6, 2005 and we will be offering a three month and five month program. If the five month program does not fit your schedule, we pray the three month program will. We look forward to seeing you here!

### **Symbolic Codes**

We are currently restructuring our Symbolic Code Committee as some of the previous committee members are no longer able to continue in their position with the Code Committee due to personal scheduling conflicts. We are asking for more field involvement from you. Please keep us notified of the things happening in your part of the vineyard and submit any articles that you would like to share with the world field. Your input is greatly appreciated. All articles submitted should be sent to the

office here at headquarters to the attention of the Symbolic Code Committee.

### **Prayer and Fasting!**

As we are nearing the end, the devil is working extra hard to deter the work of the 11<sup>th</sup> hour servants. Thus we are asking that for those who can, we set aside every Friday as a **prayer and fasting time** unto the Lord with a unified prayer at 12:00 noon EST. Let us all press together, pray, and encourage one another in the Lord as we are indeed on the borders of the Kingdom.

### **Speedy Recovery!**

We want to send our prayers for a speedy recovery for our dear sister, Bonnie Smith, who fell in January and fractured her left hip. This is the same leg she broke two years ago. May the Lord bring fast healing her way that she may continue her recovery and be able to discard her walker.

### **Courage Brethren....**

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

"Let the truth for this time be cordially received and become the basis of character, and it will produce steadfastness of purpose, which the allurements of pleasure, the fickleness of custom, the contempt of the world-loving and the heart's own clamors of self-indulgence are powerless to influence...." --Ellen White, *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 215.