

# Symbolic Code

Spring 2012

“*Say ye not a  
Confederacy*”



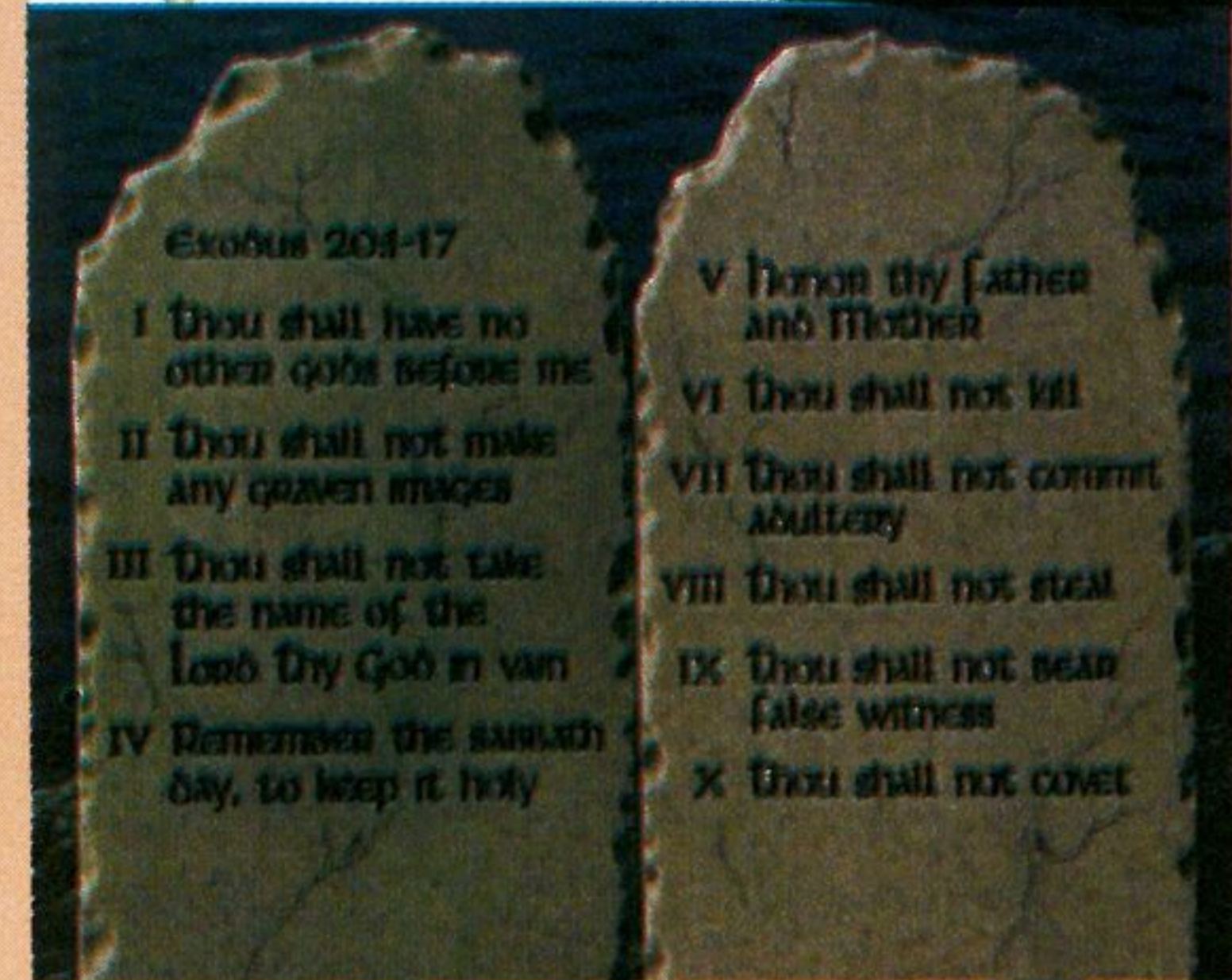
8 What Next?

16 Ministry of Love

18 10 Financial Principles

# Contents

---



- 3** Editorial
- 4** **The Latter-Day Assyrian Confederacy**  
What you need to know to survive it
- 8** **What Next?**  
Our world in turmoil
- 14** **Field Report**  
A look at the 2011 convocation in the Philippines
- 16** **Ministry of Love**  
Looking at a practical example of how it is done
- 18** **Ten Financial Principles**  
What we need to know to survive hard financial times
- 22** **The Hidden Dangers of Soy**  
Is Soy really bad for you?
- 26** **Who is leading in the work of Mt. Carmel?**  
Understanding why God is leading and not man
- 27** **Session Announcement**  
2012 Session date
- 28** **A Hurried Life**  
Overcoming daily challenges
- 30** **The Benefits of Sunflower**

## Symbolic Code

It is the mission of the Symbolic Code to declare the Gospel of Jesus for these last days. It will present important truths from different angles and on various topics. We hope that every article will be a blessing to you and help to strengthen your relationship with the Lord Jesus. If you are blessed by any of these articles, please let us know.

The Symbolic Code is a quarterly publication of :

Universal Publishing Association  
PO Box 119  
Mountain Dale, NY 12763

Email: [editors@shepherds-rodmessage.org](mailto:editors@shepherds-rodmessage.org)

Web: <http://www.shepherds-rodmessage.org/magazine>

The Symbolic Code is a free publication, available to Davidians. That everyone who thirsteth for the truth may find it, this magazine, as a Christian service, is mailed without charge. Send for it. It levies but one exaction, the soul's obligation to itself to prove all things and hold fast that which is good. The only strings attach to this free proffer are the golden strands of Eden and the crimson cords of Calvary—the ties that bind.

Those desiring to support this magazine please send contributions to the address above.

We need your help in order to have the Symbolic Code filled with contents that are relevant to you. So if you like writing, why not do so for the Symbolic Code.

We are interested in articles on:

- Christian living
- End time events
- News events
- Health
- Relationship (marriage, family, etc.)

All articles must be deeply spiritual, provocative, and unquestionably in accordance with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. For more information visit our website or write to us.

Artwork and photos in this publication are the property of their respective owners, and are used with permission.

Other items are © UPA

## Cast Out Every Idol

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Matthew 4:10.

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Ex. 20:3). . . . It is not alone in denying the existence of God or in bowing down to idols of wood and stone that this first commandment is broken. By many who profess to be followers of Christ, its principles are infringed, but the Lord of heaven does not acknowledge those as His children who are cherishing in their hearts anything that takes the place which God alone should hold. With many, the gratification of appetite holds sway, while with others dress and love of the world are given the first place in the heart. . . .

“God has given us many things in this life upon which to bestow our affections, but when we carry to excess that which in itself is lawful we become idolaters. . . . Anything that separates our affections from God and lessens our interest in eternal things is an idol. Those who use the precious time given them by God—time that has been purchased at an infinite cost—in embellishing their homes for display, in following the fashions and customs of the world, are not only robbing their own souls of spiritual food, but are failing to give God His due. The time thus spent in the gratification of selfish desires might be employed in obtaining a knowledge of the Word of God, in cultivating our talents, that we might render intelligent service to our Creator. . . . God will not share a divided heart. If the world absorbs our attention, He cannot reign supreme. If this diminishes our devotion for God, it is idolatry in His eyes. . . .”—*That I May Know Him*, p. 322.

We are admonished to, “Turn ye unto Him from whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted. For in that day every man shall cast away his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which your own hands have made unto you for a sin. Then shall the Assyrian fall with the sword, not of a mighty man; and the sword, not of a mean man, shall devour him . . .” *Isaiah 31:6-8*.

“Because of idolatry, the Assyrian was permitted to take God's ancient people and their pleasant land. . . . But, just as soon as all idols are cast aside,— yes, as soon as the great revival and reformation takes place in the hearts of the people,— then the Assyrian (the power that now rules them) shall certainly fall. . . . The great question each of us must now settle is this: Are we personally going to be among those who have cast aside every idol?” See *Timely Greetings*, Vol. 1 #24 & #33.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

# about the Assyrian Confederacy

**H**ave you ever wondered, how, and when we will know to proclaim, "Say ye not a confederacy?" Or, have you ever asked, what is the Assyrian Confederacy? Or, is it possible that the Confederacy is already here?

Perhaps of late these questions have taken center stage in your mind especially considering the dramatic events unfolding in the Middle East now more than ever, these questions need to be answered if we are to be ready to meet the trying days ahead.

We must hasten to point out, however, that although we have been given some clear markers that will help us to identify the Confederacy and the war, God has not given us the details of all the future events. That is to say, for example, He has told us that the greatest of all wars will be fought in the Holy Land. (Zech. 14: 1.2; 2 TG #41:18), but He has not told us the date or the precise actions and reactions that will mark the beginning of that dreadful war. We don't know what crisis, nation or nations, or the geo-political-military circumstances that will lead to the war. God obviously designed the message that way so that we have to walk by faith and not by sight. We have been told that these "prophecies are made to be understood only when they are being fulfilled or after fulfillment." (2 TG #42:27). This is best summarized in another reference where Inspiration answers similar questions about Ezekiel 9 and the Palestine situation:

"If it becomes necessary for us to know ahead of time the day and the hour of the purification of the church, the antitypical Passover, we will be told. Yes, we shall know at least as much in advance as Moses knew about the Passover in his day. He did not know months ahead the day and hour of the events that were then to take place, but he was instructed of his and of the people's duties and of what to expect from day to day. Neither did he know beforehand that they were to come up against the Red Sea, but as the cloud led them there, and

as the Egyptians followed close behind, he was then told what to do. Moreover, at the time they crossed the Sea he did not know that they were to spend forty years in the desert nor that the grown-ups among them were to perish while on their journey to the Promised Land.

"Thus must it be today, because 'the secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.' Deut. 29:29. God knows how to lead and how to save. I cannot therefore, give you light beyond what Inspiration makes known. I can only speak of the things that are revealed." 2 TG#41:3,4.

So, although we have not been given all the details, a loving Heavenly Father has given us enough to guide our feet through this upcoming period of distress, and has promised to lead us as He led the children of Israel, day by day, step by step. All we need to do, is walk with God daily, surrendering our all to Him and follow his Word.

## There Must Be a Confederacy

"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. Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us." Isaiah 8:9,10.

"The confederacy we are studying this afternoon commences before the Loud Cry and before the slaughter of Ezekiel 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. Put another way, the confederacy will commence after the sealing and perhaps just before the slaughter of Ezekiel 9." 13 SC #3,4:10.

According to this inspired reference, the Assyrian Confederacy is before Ezekiel 9, but after the sealing. We



will come back to this thought later. But note that “the confederacy is formed when the nations are girding themselves for war.” The war here referred to, of course, could only be the war in the Holy Land. After all, that is the context of this statement, and the message as a whole. So it means that the West—the United States and her allies, will form a international union in an effort to win the war in the Holy Land.

But what exactly is the Assyrian confederacy? We are not told the precise make-up of it, but we have an example of it in World War II. Nahum, chapters 1 and 2, as you may remember, intertwines WW II with the upcoming war, what the world would term World War III, but what God refers to as the continuation of WW II. (14 TR:53-54). Therefore, what happened in WW II was an example or backdrop of what will take place in the future war. Nahum 1:10, states: “For while they be folden together as thorns, and while they are drunken as drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.”

The confederacy here is likened to thorns folded together. Inspiration's comment on this passage is: “In light of these passages, it becomes clear from the outset that though 'Assyria' is armed and allied with other strong nations ('folden together as thorns') yet neither her armament nor her alliance will save her.” (14 TR:7,8).

Thus this confederacy involves the U.S. being allied with other strong nations, similar to that of WW II when Great Britain, the U.S., France, and other nations, united politically and militarily against Germany. During WW II, Western nations viewed Hitler's regime as a dire threat to democracy, freedom and civilization. So it was necessary, in their way of thinking, to preserve the civilization by allying together. That was a confederacy. Obviously the future confederacy will be similar, and could be in the form of a treaty, or the establishment of a new organizational alliance like NATO. But regardless of the structure of this confederacy, it will involve a political and military union to defeat the enemy—whoever that will be at the time—and win the war. Even the churches will support it thinking that it's a good thing. (13 SC #3:9,10). Those who do not go along with it, will be ostracized and eventually a decree will be issued against them. (12 SC#2:14).

It can be said that confederacies are formed all the time. True. In fact, Ellen White was shown that confederacies would increase in the last days. (*Evangelism*, p. 363). The Iraq-Kuwait war involved a large-scale confederacy. Then practically every major nation of the West was involved. But this was not the Assyrian Confederacy spoken of in the Scriptures. Why? Because the war was not in the Promised Land!

## The War Must Be Centered in the Holy Land

Another marker is that this war must be centered in the Holy Land, what is known as modern Palestine and Israel. All evidence from the Scriptures point to the Assyrian Confederacy war being focused on a world war in the land of Israel. Zechariah 14:1,2, mentions all nations fighting in Jerusalem. Inspiration termed this: "the greatest of all battles." (2 TG #41:18). Zephaniah 2:1-9, speaks of Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, all being rooted up and dissolved, and Moab and Ammom (modern-day Jordan) will be like Sodom and Gomorrah—that is, "they will go out of existence." (1 TG #22:27). Isaiah 14:25-31, says that Palestine will be dissolved and wasted.

There is though, another very important element that must be mentioned, and that is that the United States and her Allies—Assyria, must come, into the Holy Land. This is crucial. Of course, the very fact that Zechariah 14 states that "all nations" will be brought into "Jerusalem to battle," would be enough to show that the U.S. and her allies would be there. But God goes beyond this and states emphatically, that Modern Assyria will go into the Promised Land, and in a sense occupy it. Where is this evidence? Well, consider Isaiah 8:7-8:

"Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels and go over all his banks. And he shall pass through Judah; he shall reach even to the neck; and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Immanuel." Obviously, this land is the Holy Land.

The very fact, too, that Assyria is to fall in the land, means that she will have to be in it first. Again, Isaiah 14:25, states: "That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot.."

In a nutshell, this means that the United States and her allies, whether under the banner of the United Nations or not, will sooner or later send troops into the land of Israel and occupy it in one form or another. When this happens, it will be one of the clearest signs that we are on the verge of the fulfillment of prophecy. Troops may come into Palestine under the definition of a peace keeping mission, but, we can be sure, that it will end up as "the greatest of all wars." Such an event, along with the alliance of the nations of the West is the ulti-

mate proof of the Assyrian Confederacy. In fact, you may already be aware that, the Palestinian leadership and a number of prominent people, are calling for the United States to send peace keeping forces to quell the web of violence that has now gripped the region. Sending troops in, as with so many other so-called peace keeping missions, places the West in a real quagmire of the most unpredictable of circumstances. Especially considering that this is the most sensitive of regions with the ever present threat of it blowing up into a full-scale war, which is precisely what Inspiration says will happen.

For example, and this is only an example—nothing more. U.S. peace keepers come in. The U.S. which is considered pro-Israeli but anti-Arab, could make a mistake in judgment in trying to keep the peace, such as: some Palestinians could be unintentionally killed by U.S. troops. The Arab world would most likely view it as an attempt to side with Israel. Then they retaliate. That certainly could bring about a confederacy and a Middle East world war.

Or lets try another scenario. Maybe, the U.S. tries to broker a peace treaty between the Palestinians and Israelis but it doesn't work out to the liking of the Palestinians. U.S. troops are attacked and killed. The U.S. responds. Then the Arabic world supports the Palestinians and fights back. China, North Korea, Russia or all three, support the Arabs, then what would we have? Of course, a world war. In order to ensure winning this war, the U.S. is joined by other Western nations. That is, they form a confederacy. It would be an alliance against Communism, and as they would conclude, and a safeguard for civilization Such a scenario would leave no doubt that it is time for us to protest.

## There is to Be a Wicked Counselor

Someone termed, "a Wicked Counselor" makes Assyria drunk with the wine of spurious counsel. (Nahum 1:11). Speaking about Assyria, Inspiration says, "For having become drunken as a drunkard, and having received wicked counsel of one that has come out of her, she [Assyria] shall 'be devoured as stubble fully dry.'" (14 TR:8).

We do not now know the identity of this evil counselor. Will it be the United States President, Secretary of State, or some other leader? We just can't say, but we will

no doubt recognize him when the time comes.

### **Our Work Will Be Over**

We saw earlier that the Assyrian Confederacy is formed after the sealing but before the slaughter of Ezekiel 9. (13 SC #3:10). This would mean that our work must be completed and the sealing closed by the time the Confederacy is formed. So, first comes the end of the sealing, then the Confederacy, then the war. In other words, when the Confederacy and the war takes place,

filled, and the Kingdom established.

“Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him: you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children. ‘The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.’ James 5:11. His heart of love is touched by our sorrows and even by our utterances of them. Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up worlds. He rules over all

*When we as God's people, both collectively and individually, give ourselves fully to the Lord, and earnestly take every opportunity to share this great message, then, and only then, can our work be completed.*

then we will know that probation has closed for the church and our work completed in the church. Remember, we have also been told that our work is in two stages—The Elijah and the Jonah phases. (11 SC #8:11). The Elijah phase is our calling for a revival and reformation in the church. The Jonah phase is our opposing the Assyrian Confederacy.

How can we know that our work in the church is finished? God has not given us a clear answer to that question, but we do know that at some point there will be a sudden influx of believers—as if the 144,000 will be born in “one day.” (Isa. 66:8, 1 TG #49:8). So when this marvelous event comes to pass, we could say that our work is near completion. “Plainly, then, our efforts to reach the people with a ‘second birth’ shall not be in vain: Zion shall bring forth all her children, as it were, in one day. And that is why we cannot be driven to despair or to discouragement. We are assured that ‘revival and reformation’ will take place among all God’s people, that His word will not return unto Him void.” 1 TG #49:8.

Perhaps the greatest sign of all is determined by we, ourselves. By how we live our lives and share the truth. When we as God's people, both collectively and individually, give ourselves fully to the Lord, and earnestly take every opportunity to share this great message, then, and only then, can our work be completed, prophecy be ful-

the affairs of the universe. Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice. There is no chapter in our experience too dark for Him to read; there is no perplexity too difficult for Him to unravel. No calamity can befall the least of His children, no anxiety harass the soul, no joy cheer, no sincere prayer escape the lips, of which our heavenly Father is unobservant, or in which He takes no immediate interest. ‘He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.’ Psalm 147:3. The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son...

“If Christians would associate together, speaking to each other of the love of God and of the precious truths of redemption, their own hearts would be refreshed and they would refresh one another. We may be daily learning more of our heavenly Father, gaining a fresh experience of His grace; then we shall desire to speak of His love; and as we do this, our own hearts will be warmed and encouraged. If we thought and talked more of Jesus, and less of self, we should have far more of His presence... *Steps to Christ*, pp. 100-102.

**H**undreds of thousands crowded the streets of Cairo, Egypt, armed with smart phones, Facebook, Twitter, and Google, demanding that President Mubarak step down. For over two weeks men, women, and children, the rich and poor, professionals and blue collar workers alike flooded Tahrir square and the boulevards to the presidential palace and its media facility, determined to accomplish their goal-- Calling for a new and more democratic government. We are willing to die for this cause, many declared defiantly. And some did die when the government supporters were sent in to challenge the opposition crowd and the otherwise peaceful opposition became violent while the police and army looked on without intervention. But like the other ploys of Mubarak it didn't work. Yes, the Egyptian government did everything they could to resist the masses and derail the revolution train, but in the end, the train reached the station, the army sided with the people and Mubarak had to step down.

"No script was on offer," said Professor Ajami in Newsweek, "no revolution has ever followed a script—but the people of Egypt were willing to trade this tyranny for the uncertainty of what was to come. Now the world-weary could tell them that that their revolt may yet be betrayed, that they will break their chains

may ask. Could what happened impact the Middle East? And how could it affect us? Could it really be a step toward fulfilling prophecy. The answer is, yes and yes. Of course, no one can say for certain, but there is no doubt that the potential is there. And what affects the Middle East stands poised to change the world. There is a reason why almost every nations from Palestine to Iran and across the world are nervous, very nervous..

Could this be the trigger that will lead to the fulfillment to the greatest of all wars?

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

Just how this is to come about, the Rod states, I do not know; but I do know that the greatest of all wars is to be fought about the Holy Land. 2 TG #41:18.

Again, no one can say with complete confidence what will be the result of the current revolutions, but, the point is that the potential is there, and we will see that Egypt, plays a larger role in the stability of the Middle East than we have thought. Experts and governments

# *what* **Next?**

only to forge new ones, that the theocrats are destined to replace the autocrats. But grant the Egyptian people their right to swat away these warnings." Newsweek, February, 14, 2011.

Could what happened in Egypt be important? you

alike are realizing that these revolts have the greatest potential to change for the better or unsettle the Middle East since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. . .





### How Did Egypt Get Here?

Without understanding the sordid history of Egypt and the lands between the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, it is difficult to grasp the real import of the revolution. So we need to review some history, although very briefly.

As any Bible student knows, Egypt is an ancient nation, the land of the pharaohs and Joseph. It was the place where Israel was enslaved then delivered through ten plagues and crossed the Red Sea on dry ground. But the history of modern Egypt is far less dramatic and miraculous.

We start in 1914, when Great Britain declared war with the Ottoman Empire, of which Egypt was nominally a part. The result was that Egypt was declared a Protectorate over Egypt and deposed the ruling leadership and replaced it with a family member, naming him Sultan of Egypt.

The Ottoman Empire had fallen, but there were promises to keep. You see, during World War I, the British made three significant promises. The first was the Sykes-Picor agreement, a secret arrangement made with the French, that in the event of victory over the Turks, the two countries would apportion the lands between the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf. Second, Britain

promised King Hussein, the Shariff of Mecca (the great grandfather of the recent king Hussein of Jordan), that if he took up arms against the Turks, Britain would support Arab independence. The Third and famous promise, was a Jewish homeland. How these promises impacted the region and the how events unfolded would involve a long history study, but it can be summarized this way:

The British had already established control of the Middle East when they seized the Suez Canal. Now critical, yes critical to oil export to much of the world, including the United States. So on December 9, 1917, the British took Palestine and Syria. In the South, T.E. Lawrence, or Lawrence of Arabia as he had become known, a British officer, led a rebellion against the Turks and was successful. This and other events led to the fall of the Ottoman Empire in 1918. It is important to note that the victory was partially gained because the British, including Lawrence had promised to give lands to several powerful families in Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Arabia. But Lawrence and the Arabs did not know about the British and French arrangement to divide up the same land Lawrence had promised to the Arabs. So the Arabs, expecting their full chunk of the Middle East, were betrayed.

In April 1919, there were mass demonstrations that became anti-colonial uprisings in Egypt. This is known by Egyptians as the First Revolution. Eight hundred people were killed during the British suppression. Between 1920 and 1921, tense and failed attempts to work out a treaty with Britain ended in Egypt's disgust. As far as the rest of the Middle East, the League of Nations in 1920, placed Syria under the French, moving King Faisal from his throne in Syria and moved him to king of Iraq. Prince Abdullah, his brother, was made emir of Jordan. But the British ruled Palestine. Arabs felt betrayed and very angry that so-called Christian nations would practice such deception. Thus the seeds of animus against the West were planted and have in many respects come to fruition in our modern-day campaign of terrorism.

But the whole matter was made worse when the third promise was fulfilled with the Balfour declaration which declared that the British would view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people. Subsequently, thousands of Jews poured into Palestine dreaming of a homeland, to the further unnerving of the Arab world. It was clear the West favored a Jewish state with Jerusalem as their capital, and all their promises to establish a Palestinian one was all a sham. It was the Isaac-Ishmael scenario all over again. This all made suspicion and hatred of Christian nations hard to resist.

In Egypt, more demonstrations turned into protests which won independence from Great Britain in February 1922. This abolished the protectorate and established an independent Kingdom of Egypt. British influence, however, continued to dominate Egypt's political, fiscal, and administrative life, and retained control of the Suez canal. In 1928 the Muslim Brotherhood, a radical religious party emerged, now a powerful political and religious force in the country to this day.

In May of 1948, the British, unable to administrate the region and powerless to halt the carnage, pulled out of Palestine leaving it and the region in chaos. Also in 1948 the United Nations declared Israel a sovereign nation and the State of Israel was born. Causing 700,000 Palestinians in 1949 to flee their homes and migrate into Lebanon and Syria, East to Jordan, or South to Egypt, homeless and stateless, without passports and no right to work in these countries. But what they lacked in rights, they made up in torment to Israel and its western allies:

Britain, France and the U.S., with bombings, torture, and hijackings..

In 1949, after World War II, Britain withdraw all troops from Egypt, except the Suez Canal.

In 1952, Egypt became a republic, although not a true one, because autocracy remained in spite of a constitution, a parliament and presidents instead of kings.

Between 1948 and 1967, Egypt and the Arab world engaged in various losing conflicts with Israel, including the famous 1967 six-day war. This conflict saw the Egyptian, Syrian and Jordanian armed forces routed by the Israelis who snatched the West Bank and East Jerusalem out of Jordan's hands, the Golan Heights from Syria, then the Gaza strip and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt in only six days. It was a sharp, severe blow to the Arab world. The loved President Nasser, a popular autocrat was thoroughly humiliated and Egypt frustrated.

After Nasser's death, Vice President Anwar el-Sadat became President of Egypt in 1971. In October, 1973, Sadat declared war with Israel and had some initial successes. The United Nations, supported by calls from the United States and Russia, eventually stepped in and Egypt and Israel entered in to peace talks which eventually led to Egypt's regaining the entire Sinai Peninsula.

Sadat's popularity soared and with it came greater political freedom. He banned torture, fought corruption and excesses, and prosecuted those of the Nasser regime who had engaged in fraud and illegal activity. He ended many of the autocratic controls of the Nasser era. The result was a more prosperous Egypt with a wealthier more successful upper and middle class

But not even Sadat could avoid the violence of his day. In spite of his many achievements, not all were happy. The later part of his administration saw riots and protests against some of his policies. This discontent eventually festered and led to his death.

One such policy was his shift from a confrontational relationship with Israel to one of conciliatory and accommodation. The outcome was the historic Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel, facilitated and witnessed by U.S. President Jimmy Carter on September 17, 1978. The accords led to the signing of the March 26, 1979 peace treaty which recognized Israel's right to exist and Egypt's rights to retain the control of Sinai. It has been hailed as one of the great political accomplishments of modern history, and has earned the U.S. re-

spect and funding which turns out to be billions every year. Egypt was now viewed as a partner with the western powers and has since been extremely helpful in brokering talks and negotiations between the Arab world and Israel.

Albeit, Sadat was assassinated on October 6, 1981 by Islamic radicals. Then Vice President, Hosni Mubarak, assumed the reigns of power in Egypt until February of this year. Under Mubarak, the nation suffered. The Sadat political and economic gains were reversed and Mubarak became an autocrat. Rigged elections, torture, embezzlement, suppression, excesses, cronyism and worse, have been the order of the day until the revolution of 2011.

Through it all, Egypt remained the U.S.'s closest regional ally next to Israel and Saudi Arabia, and with it flowed billions of American dollars into its coffers, supporting a known dictator, and enabling him to rob and squeeze his people out of freedom, jobs, progress and the very life of their nation. Now he is gone and it is over, at least that is what the world hopes.

### **An Earthquake**

A CNN comentator said, Egypt could be an earthquake in the Arab world. Time will tell the full import of these words. But there is no doubt that up to now, they have proven to be true as the aftershocks that roll through the ancient lands of Scripture.

The government in the North African nation of Tunisia was forced out of office by mass protests. Seeing the turmoil in Tunisia, Jordan's King Abdullah II, sent his entire government packing to preempt the meltdown of his nation. Then mass protests rumbled into Algeria, Yemen and Iran, Bahrain, Iraq, and more could come. Unfortunately, many of the protests were not as peaceful

and relatively bloodless as the revolution in Egypt.

It would appear that the Middle East is awash with discontent, the populous want more democracy, more freedom, more say in how their countries are run. Democracy in the Middle East? A strange phenomenon, almost enigmatic and unprecedented. Most Arab nations of the Middle East have been ruled by autocratic, brutal governments who raped their countries and abused their people. Democracy is something that has been associated with the hated West, particularly the United States. Now it seems that these revolts are raising the hopes of millions for a new, better, more tolerant and democratic Arab world. Who could have guessed this all would take place now and in such a surprising way?

### **Theocracy or Chaos?**

No one seems to know what it means or what it portends. Those who know the Middle East best, are hopeful, but know that the unrest may not lead to democracy at all. Instead of more freedom, they fear that, like the revolution that overthrew the Shah regime in Iran in 1979, the revolutions could thrust very undemocratic religious radical hardliners into power. and sweep up the Middle East into a whirlwind of more anti-West sentiments, instability and violence.

The Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi of Iran's government was brutal and corrupt, in some ways, much like the Mubarak regime had been. He was supported as an ally of the U.S. like the Mubarak government for fear of a super radical religious regime in the waiting, it was the better of two evils the West thought. But a Tsunami of protest against the Shah's forced him out and the fundamental extremists Ayatollah Khomeini regime took over the country. Although the Ayatollah is no longer around, the party still rules Iran to this day. Ca sworn

Democracy is something that has been associated with the hated West, particularly the United States. Now it seems that these revolts are raising the hopes of millions for a new, better, more tolerant and democratic Arab world.

enemy of the America and her allies. In fact, Iran is considered today to be one of the greatest threat to the Middle East and to the U.S. It is a known fact that Iran has been sending weapons and funds across the border to Iraq, supporting terrorism against American and European efforts.

The current protests could topple corrupt secular leaders, but, like Iran, it could unwittingly install corrupt brutal fanatical ones, which in the end could be worse. An oppressive, religious autocracy, what we term a theocracy in more Arab countries could plunge the Arab world into complete instability and send the Middle East into a pit filled with viper's of radical Islamic fervor. Imagine having more Irans or more Hamas! It is so hard to have peace between Israel and the Palestinians, imagine doubling or tripling the scenario!

The other scenario others fear, is the possibility of Egypt and/or these nations to end up in a state of chaos, where there is a perpetual battle for power, such as what happened to Lebanon during the 1970's and 80's, Sudan and Somalia in Africa no real government so perpetual war and killing or genocide. A Middle East in utter chaos is anathema to Israel's existence and American interests. In some ways, the survival of West is very imperiled by an unstable Middle East.

Then we have the Suez Canal, the place through which much of the world's oil pass. A chaotic or theocratic Egypt could be a huge threat to our oil supply. If the Canal was to be blocked, would the United States, and Europe stand for it? How could they? Such a circumstance would require the rest of the world to do whatever was necessary to keep the Canal open. Even if it meant war! It would not be an option it would be priority number one or face an America with a super major oil shortage. The Suez may politically and economically be the most important canal in the world! Billions of gallons of oil pass through it every week. The West could not afford to have it overrun. Think of the impact of such a scenario!

### **Israel and Saudi Arabia**

At the close of a 60 minute interview with Wael Ghonim, a computer Google executive, Ghonim was asked, if you are an autocrat or if you were a dictator and you've watched what happened in Egypt over these last several weeks, would you be concerned?

You should freak out, Ghonim answered without hesitation. You should definitely freak out.

Perhaps, no two nations in the Middle East have more to be concerned about than Israel and Saudi Arabia. Why?

America has a long history of propping up questionable, less than honorable, even brutal regimes with monies and arms as long as they serve U.S. interests. There are numerous examples of this: The Shah of Iran, Sadaam Hussein of Iraq. We could mention a number of nations in Central and South America, and of course, Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. Mubarak is gone, but Israel and Saudi Arabia are hardly any different, and the world knows it. Neither nation can boast high marks on human rights.

As we saw in the history, Israel and Egypt have a peace accord that binds them to a kind of mutual respect since the 1979. A chaotic or theocratic Egypt is more than just disturbing; its very existence and the fragile co-existence with its Arab neighbors have always depended, to a large degree, on its reliance on U.S. support and Egypt's influence and persuasive abilities over other Arabic powers to keep things in check. If Egypt becomes theocratic or religiously radical, or sinks into chaos, Israel would be hard-press to survive without exceptional western help.

Israel's nervousness has been clearly expressed. In February, they closed four of their embassies out of fear of violence, and more could be on the way. A chaotic or hostile Egypt could destabilize the whole region. An unsteady region means a higher risk of war against Israel. War against Israel means it would more than likely involve the U.S. and Europe, it means the possibility of anti-democratic nations like Russia, China, or North Korea stepping into the fray. It could mean the possibility of more terrorism and war. In short, it could embroil the entire world in an unprecedented world conflagration centered in the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia is not a democratic government. It is ruled by a monarchy that is often brutal and oppressive. If the earthquake of revolution should rattle Saudi Arabia, it could cripple the country, dry up or dramatically curtail western oil supply, our economy, and our way of life.

Being the world's foremost provider of crude oil, any revolt or revolution in the country would affect our sup-

But prophecy tells us that even if the Middle East should find democracy, it will not last. Why? Because prophecy declares: . . . that the greatest of all wars is to be fought about the Holy Land.

ply of oil and raise prices dramatically. A significant shortage and consequent price raise, would impact our economy. We all know what high oil prices can do. No doubt we all remember what happened two years ago when oil prices soared to almost five dollars a gallon. Now imagine seven, eight, or even ten dollars a gallon!

In the end, what affects America affects the world. Hence the old saying, when America sneezes the rest of the world catches a cold. The 2008 mortgage collapse is evidence of this—we're hardly recovering from this disaster, now imagine what would happen if our oil supply should be drastically reduced. At what price would we heat our homes, drive our cars, transport of food, travel by plane? Food, airfare, bus fare, rents, everything would be affected. Such a scenario has the potential to send our economy back into a downward spiral into a depression.

#### **Democracy in the Middle East?**

Others are more hopeful and believe that since the movements are led by younger people, typically those under thirty, the result will be a more progressive, gentler, yes, democratic Middle East. They are convinced that the younger generation, like those in other parts of the world, are more reasonable and anxious to have freedom, jobs, wealth, Facebook, Twitter and Google! They know that to have all these things we need a democratic capitalist form of government. They want American style capitalism without American or European dominance, but with Arab independence. The West needs friendly democratic regimes, in the Arab world., even if it be less than perfect ones.

#### **Prophecy Speaks**

But prophecy tells us that even if the Middle East should find democracy, it will not last. Why? Because

prophecy declares: . . . that the greatest of all wars is to be fought about the Holy Land. If democracy and more tolerance comes to the Middle East, it would mean that God in His mercy has granted us more time to get ready and finish our work.

Who wants war, death, trouble, pain and anguish and economic disaster? No one does. And we are certainly not eager to see war and trouble! But God in His Word has declared that it will happen. We don't know if the current unrest will lead to the prophesied world war, but if it should, this is the time to get ready. No matter the outcome of the turmoil, the great confederacy and war will come. It could come as suddenly as the revolutions came. If it does not happen now, it would be because we are not ready. It would mean that we have not cast away our idols. One thing is certain, looking at current events, especially in the Middle East, we know that it could happen very soon. So get ready, get ready.

# FieldReport

## —Philippines

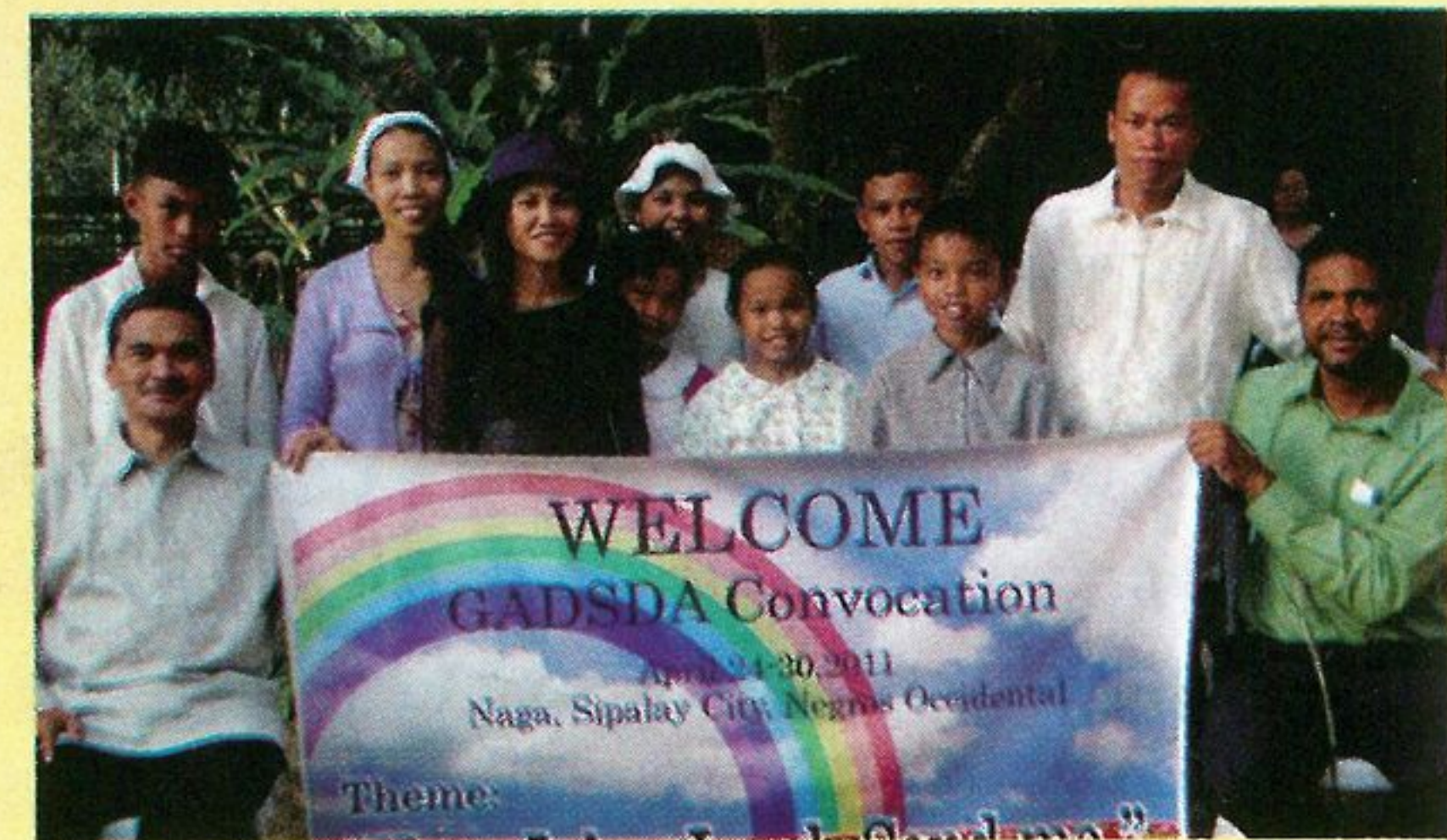
The Philippines is a country situated in Southeast Asia, in the western Pacific Ocean. Its neighbors include Taiwan to the north; Vietnam to its west; and Indonesia to its south.

The Philippines is an archipelago comprising 7,107 Islands. It is home to an estimated population of 94 million, which makes it the 12th most populous country on earth. The country is geographically divided into three areas: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Manila is its capital city.

The Philippines Division of the General Association of DSDA, held its bi-annual convocation on April 24th – May 1st 2011, on the beautiful Island of Negros, nestled within the Visayas group of Islands. Negros is the third largest Island of the Philippines.

Brothers Ricardo Rolan and Glenroy Matthews received warm welcomes as they arrived at the home of brother and sister Legaspi, the hosts of the 2011 convocation. The first Sabbath before the convocation was a delight as all those who had arrived early at our temporary lodging, sang, prayed and studied together under the make shift tent attached to brother and sister Legaspi's home. Their sweet fellowship together was an indication of what to expect during the convocation.

On Sunday everyone made their way to the site where they were to spend the next seven days for a spiri-





tual refreshing. After everyone settled in, the convocation officially started around sunset with worship. Brethren came from various areas and Islands: Cagayan, Bayugan, Trento, Mauswagon, Leyte, Luzon, Davao, Cebu and Negros. The theme: "Here I am Lord, send me."

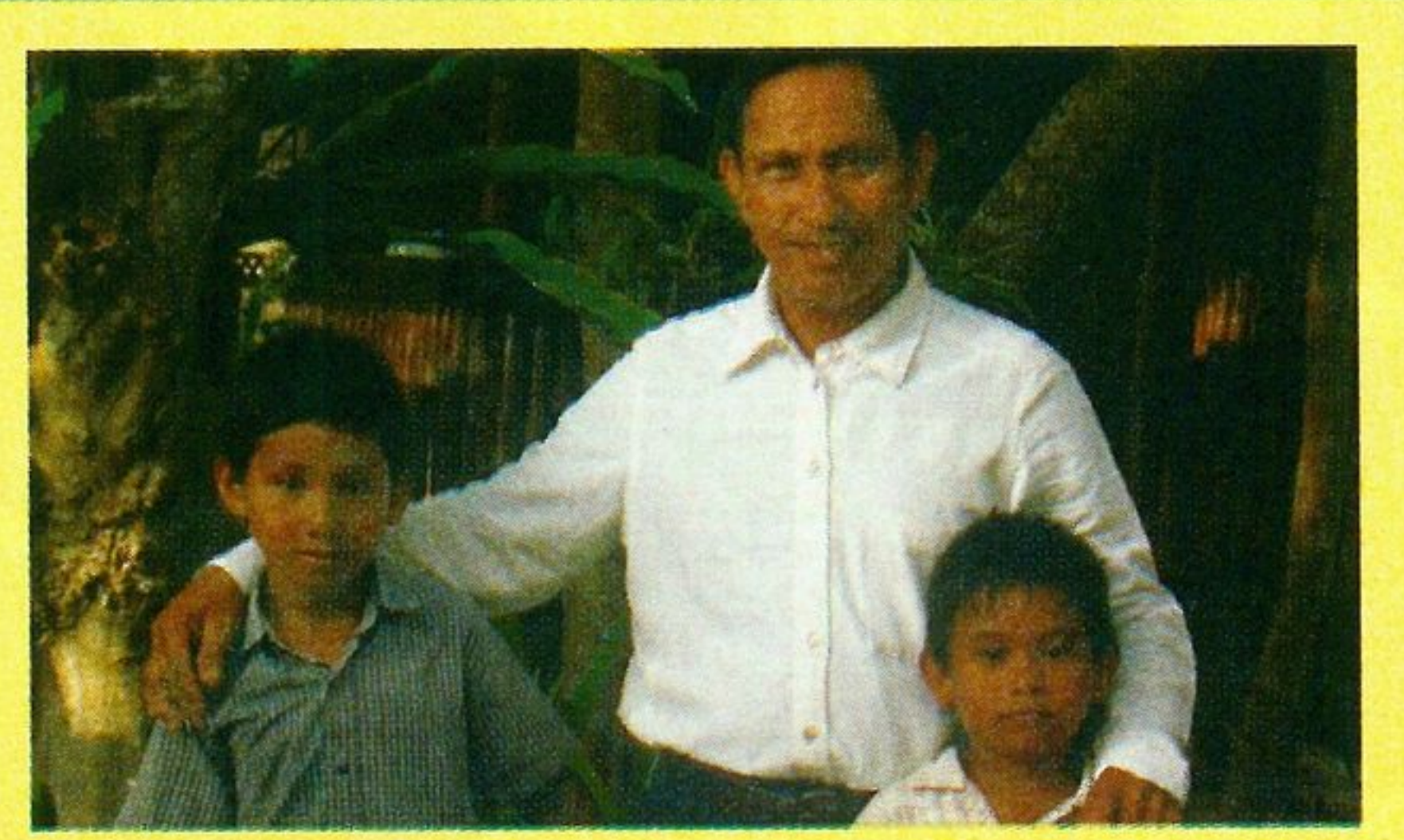
The program was well planned and organized with various programs for adults, youths and chil-

dren. Topics covered not only dealt with prophecy but included lively presentations on family life as well as health.

The brethren were graciously blessed with the presence of possibly the oldest Davidian couple in the country, brother and sister Panizales. Sister Panizales is 90 years old. In her presentation to the convocation she shared five principles that each must live by if he ever expects to live long and look young. Firstly, she stressed the need to put God first. Second, that we must pay a faithful double tithe. That we must not have enemies. That we must be contented with little. Lastly, that we must be faithful in our religious lives.

It is worth mentioning that this elderly couple traveled quite a distance from another Island to attend the meetings. They did not mind the hardship they experienced while traveling to the convocation. The thought of meeting and fellowshiping with believers from all across the Philippines buoyed their spirit.

At the end of the convocation, everyone could graciously say that they were blessed. Praise God.



In His life Christ has given an example of how we should treat one another. He went about "doing good," ministering to the suffering and teaching the ignorant. He did not come to this world to save the righteous; for there was none righteous. He came to save all who felt their need of a Saviour. For this end He worked untiringly, never thinking of Himself.

Christ labored unceasingly to save men from delusion. To this end His servants must work. God has given to every man a measure of light, and he is to let this light shine forth to others. No Christian lives to himself. He who is devoted to self-serving has not yet learned of the

to the needs of His children, wherever they may be; and His angels are waiting to see what testimony they can carry to the courts above regarding the help which those who are highly privileged have given to these suffering ones.

God never forsakes His children. Jacob obtained his birthright by fraud, and then fled to escape his brother's wrath. He knew that he had sinned. Sad and despondent, he lay down to sleep. But God had not forsaken him. That night he saw a ladder reaching from heaven to earth, the base of it planted firmly on the earth, and the topmost round reaching to the highest heaven. And con-

# MINISTRY OF Love

BY ELLEN G. WHITE

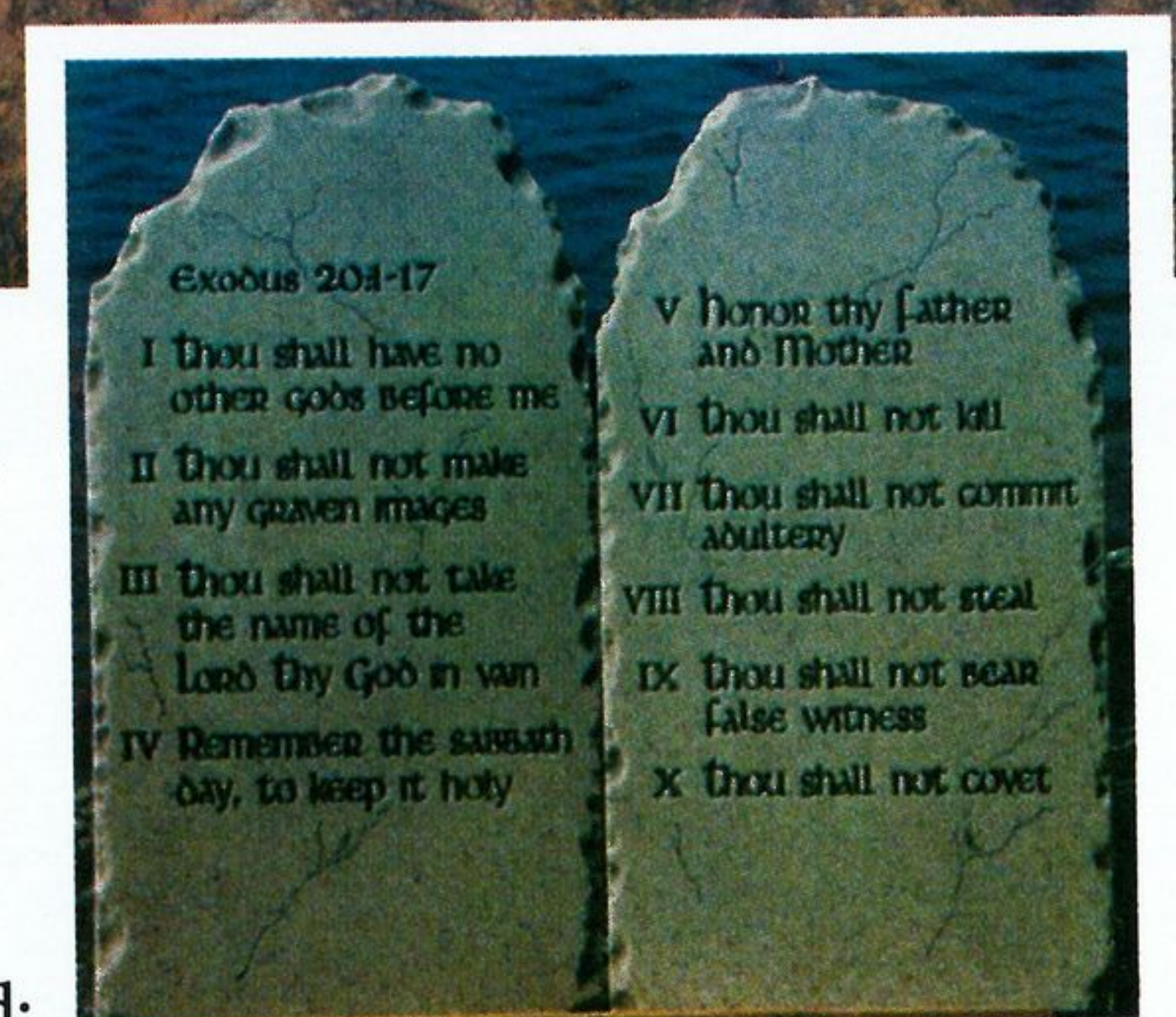
divine Teacher, though he may profess to be a Christian. It is one thing to passively assent to the truth, and another to apply the truth to the practical life. There are many hearers, but few doers.

God is measuring the temple and the worshipers therein. There are those who in the providence of God have been placed in positions where they have opportunity to do much good with the blessings they have received. Upon these He places the responsibility of ministering to those who have few blessings and little encouragement. "Freely ye have received," He says; "freely give." Human beings in their suffering are crying to God, and their prayers are just as surely ascending before Him as did the blood of Abel. God is not indifferent

tinually angels of shining brightness ascended and descended this ladder. Jacob understood the meaning of this dream, and he said:

"This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not."

There are in our Lord's discourses numerous places where He speaks of being personally injured by an injustice done to His followers. He is affected by all that be-





He is affected by all that befalls them; for He has identified Himself with them. He is never an indifferent spectator of the doings of men. He puts Himself in the place of His injured, oppressed children. His soul throbs with compassionate pain as the members of His body suffer; for He is the great sympathetic nerve of the church.

falls them; for He has identified Himself with them. He is never an indifferent spectator of the doings of men. He puts Himself in the place of His injured, oppressed children. His soul throbs with compassionate pain as the members of His body suffer; for He is the great sympathetic nerve of the church. All the suffering of the members is felt by Him. At the last great day He says to the selfish, "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to Me."

In the "new commandment" Christ has laid down the rule we are to follow in dealing with our fellow-men. "A new commandment I give unto you," He said, "That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another." If we do not obey this command, we shall not glorify our Redeemer. It should be our ambition to excel in all that is noble and good and unselfish. Never should we do anything that will mar our representation of God's character. We are to hold the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end. The friends of the truth are friends of one another. By the golden links of love they are bound with one another and with Christ. Each one is to labor earnestly for the highest good of his brother.

We need as never before to pray with heart and voice for the indwelling of the Spirit, that we may be used in God's service. We are to unite with our fellow-workers in the upbuilding of God's kingdom. We are never to be satisfied with present attainments, but are ever to press upward and onward, seeking greater fervency and purer zeal. Our greatest desire should be to be found faithful to the Master.

Do you wish your heart to overflow with the love of God? Then cultivate grateful thanksgiving for the unspeakable privilege of knowing the truth. Lose sight of

self by beholding Christ. Then you will be changed from glory to glory into His image. Bridle your disposition. Then peace and contentment will fill your soul.

God desires His church to be firmly united in the bonds of Christian unity. The want of harmony is the result of the development of the root of bitterness. Unless every fiber of this is eradicated, many will be defiled.

James wrote to his brethren: "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. 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."

The spirituality of many is being killed by their selfishness. Many cherish a spirit of self-sufficiency, which leads them to treat harshly the purchase of Christ's blood. Unless such are converted, they can never see the kingdom of heaven. God says: "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another." "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." "The Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, . . . to the end He may stablish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

*Signs of the Times, February 13, 1901.*

# Ten Financial Principles

By GEORGE FOOSHEE

Some people mash cans, crunch bottles or shred newspapers and magazines to further the cause of modern ecology. As owner and manager of a collection agency for 17 years, I believe in preserving the nation's natural and human resources too—particularly from a personal finance perspective.

There are ten financial principles found in God's Word to counsel and to help "recycle" many people, especially Christians, who have been all but mashed, crunched or shredded by the miseries of indebtedness and poor money management.

To put it plainly, I've seen firsthand the full spectrum of financial woes that can hopelessly trap people in a society victimized by the credit-card, "buy-now-pay-later" syndrome.

As a bill collector, my business is to try to collect accounts that creditors have been unsuccessful in collecting. Daily, I see people in deep financial trouble. Thousands in this country have got themselves into financial messes that can lead to more

serious consequences.

For years all of my personal financial counseling ended in failure. Then I discovered God's mighty Word and His ten financial principles. Financial counseling became a matter of revealing these principles and allowing financially troubled persons to choose whether to obey them or not. These principles reveal God's instructions to His children for conducting their financial affairs.

I believe that one of the major themes of the Bible is obedience to the Lord. These financial principles are real, and obedience to them demonstrates that Christians are trusting God in another area of their lives.

## God is Source

The first principle is that God is the source of everything. Philippians 4:19 says, "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Proverbs 8:20,21 adds, "I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: that I may cause

those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures."

And 2 Corinthians 9:8 says: "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." Whenever we need money or possessions, prayer is the answer. Look to the Lord, because He will provide it—according to His will.

## Giving Essential

The second principle is that of giving. Luke 6:38, a key verse, says, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." According to Deuteronomy 14: 23, one purpose of tithing was to teach the people of Israel to put God first in their lives.

I find there are a couple of ways I can put God first daily. One is to have a quiet time. If I am unwilling to meet the Lord each morning



when I get up, that means I'm putting somebody else or something else before the Lord.

For example, how many people have thought seriously about not taking the daily newspaper? The man who is unwilling to cancel a newspaper subscription, which is keeping him from reading the Word of God, may often be the same man who is having trouble making the payments on the TV set that is keeping him from doing the things that would help him grow closer to the Lord. So it can be a vicious cycle. And with TV commercials by the dozens exhorting him to buy, spend, charge and go, is it any wonder that thousands of people are so molded by the world?

Having a quiet time is one way a person can put God first. I believe another is to commit a tenth\* of his income right off the top to the Lord's work. [\*See: *Ans.* 4 p. 51, 52; *PP.* p. 527.1.] Proverbs 3:9,10 reads: "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst with new wine."

### **Live On Margin**

The third principle is that of living on a margin. Everyone ought to live on a margin—a physical margin, a spiritual margin, a time margin and a financial margin. Living on a margin simply means allowing room for things to happen.

There are really only three ways a person can arrive anyplace. He can arrive early, on time or late. I used to aim at arriving right on time, and I consistently arrived five minutes late. That's because I allowed no margin.

Those precious minutes add up. Think of the cumulative effort, on health alone, of continually spending 15 minutes hurrying to be five minutes late. I swim three times a week at the YMCA to stay in shape, and I try to eat right and keep my weight down, since I want to serve the Lord and therefore don't want to die of a heart attack. But 15 minutes of hurrying three times each day for 15 years adds up to nearly six months of 24-hour days when I'm under unnecessary tension, just hurrying to be late. And tension is a

leading cause of heart attacks. How ridiculous! But the Lord led me to operate on a time margin—planning to arrive early rather than hurrying to be late.

### **Bible Backs Saving**

The fourth financial principle concerns saving money—setting something aside for a rainy day. Proverbs 21:20 says, "There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up." And Proverbs 22:3 emphasizes, "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished."

For a simple example, if a couple with an income of \$12,000 a year would save \$1000 of it each of those years and let this money earn 6 percent interest, compounded annually, they would have \$24,672.56 at the end of a 15-year period.

If at the end of 15 years of saving faithfully, a son or daughter is ready for college or the family needs to move into a bigger house or wants to serve the Lord on a full-time basis, the couple can start to withdraw

their savings. They can withdraw \$2000 a year for 10 years and still have \$15,322.17, or slightly more than they set aside. Isn't this making your money work for you? God has a reason for the principle of saving money.

### **Keep Out of Debt**

The fifth principle is to keep out of unnecessary debt and thus avoid the debt trap. Borrowing for a house or car is one thing but taking on financial obligations one can't keep buying beyond the ability to pay is another. Psalm 37:21 says "the wicked borroweth, and payeth not again." The minute a person goes into debt, he loses a portion of his freedom. As Proverbs 22:7 says, "The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."

Suppose this same young couple with the \$12,000 annual income had decided that instead of saving \$1000 a year, they would go into debt for \$1000 to buy some furniture. And suppose they continue to increase their indebtedness by \$1000 during each of the 15 years, without paying back one cent. With 10 percent interest, compounded annually, on the increase in debt, the couple's debt would have been an astronomical \$34,949.74. The debt on \$1000 alone for that same period, without any repayment, would have been

\$4177.21.

Too many people think you can buy now and pay later. That isn't true. I've found that easy credit now makes people uneasy later. Usually a person pays more for the use of borrowed money than he gets in interest for saving it.

### **Secret of Contentment**

The sixth principle is being content with what one has. Hebrews 13:5 puts it succinctly: "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

One area where people often first become discontent involves the old automobile. Too many persons trade or sell their cars before they are used up. There's a big difference between fixing up the old junk heap to drive three more years and buying a new car. Many salesmen make the slick remark, "You just make that easy monthly payment." There is seldom anything easy about that monthly payment. It seems to get harder to make all the time. Second Corinthians 6:10 is so beautiful to apply here. It reads: "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

My friends in the automobile

business tell me that most cars are good for more miles than most people put on them. Just because a car has over 100,000 miles doesn't mean a person has to get rid of it. Look at some of the buses, trucks and cars still going strong, especially in countries outside North America. They are cars of the same age and mileage that other people junked years ago.

A worthwhile saying to remember on contentment is this: "Use it up, wear it out, make it do, do without."

### **Keep Records, Budget**

The seventh principle is that of keeping records and making a budget. God's Word says, "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding" (Prov. 23:23). "Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: and by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches" (24:3,4).

If someone were to tell me that he's going to run his business without keeping any records, I would say this is downright stupid. And it is even worse for one who really wants to be a good steward of the Lord's money.

I started my children on a three-category budget when they started school. Every week I distributed the

# I seldom see financially successful people who don't keep good records.

allowance \$1.50 - .50 cents each for depositing in separate calling card boxes designated "save," "church," "spend." The kids had a visual control system. If there was no money in there, they had no money to spend. Making a budget won't be that simple, but the idea is the same.

A man I know to whom I have given financial counsel thought he was doing great because he had to borrow only \$300 in the last eight months. When I asked him how he managed to get along so well, he admitted he had sold his week of vacation for \$500 and had some overtime pay.

I figured that the fellow was actually spending \$175 per month more than he was making during the eight-month period, despite the one-time windfall of getting rid of his vacation and working overtime. A year from now, at his present rate of overspending, he would owe \$2100 more, with interest adding to his debt totaling more than \$30 each month.

By keeping good records, having a plan and being honest with oneself, a person won't get into financial trouble. I seldom see financially successful people who don't keep good records.

It's the same with my own business cars. I cut all my salesmen back 15 percent and made a little budget. The salesmen follow a monthly plan and know what the limit is. They are staying within the budget without a reduction in sales. It's just a matter of being more efficient with what one has.

### **Don't Cosign**

The eighth principle is, don't

cosign. God says in Proverbs 27:13 to exercise extreme caution in cosigning. The advice infers that the world's poorest credit risk is the man who agrees to pay a stranger's debt. When a person cosigns a note, he is the one who is really borrowing the money. The reason a person needs a cosigner is because the lender is unwilling to lend that money to the person requesting the loan.

### **Work Hard**

The ninth principle is that of hard work. The Scriptures spell it out: "In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury [poverty]" (Prov. 14:23). "He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough" (28:19).

It is important to work. "In the beginning God created" (Gen. 1:1). Even God is at work. This is a principle throughout the Bible. Many times I find that people in financial trouble aren't really working hard. I have often discovered in counseling young men in real financial trouble that they are "tooling" around too much of the time and putting 2000 miles a month on the car. I advise them to take a second job. This increases their income and decreases their expenses and it keeps them from misusing or frittering away their time.

### **Seek Godly Counsel**

The last principle is that of seeking godly counsel. Psalm 1:1 declares, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly." A person needing finan-

cial advice should not go to someone who makes his living selling the very thing he's contemplating buying. "Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established" (Prov. 15:22).

Before buying a house, purchasing a car or just borrowing money, pray about it and seek the counsel of godly people. They can keep you from making a lot of mistakes. The reason so many persons don't seek counsel is that they don't want to be told by someone an intended action is unsound—they just like to do what they want anyway.

Above all, don't sign anything until you check the deal thoroughly first. Don't be hurried into any deal. The worst deal in the world is often the one in which a person is rushed into signing—capitulating to a relentless salesman's chance-of-a-lifetime-offer pressure tactics. The best offer in the world can wait.

These are the ten biblical financial principles: God is the source; give first; live on a margin; save money; keep out of debt; be content with what you have; keep records; don't cosign; work hard and seek godly counsel.

As one learns to follow these eternal principles in his personal finances, he will know the joy that comes from trusting and obeying God.

<http://www.backtothebible.org/10-financial-principles-that-are-biblical.htm>

[Brackets added]



# The Hidden Dangers of Soy

By Dianne Gregg

## Do you know the effects of eating soy foods?

If you don't eat dairy products because you are lactose intolerant, suffer from allergies, or you are a vegetarian or vegan, you probably think that the Western version of soy products are a good alternative.

There is plenty of research on the effects of eating soy foods regarding your health. It's touted to protect you against a wide array of illnesses such as:

- Heart disease
- Cancer
- Hot flashes for menopausal women
- Osteoporosis
- Memory Loss
- Kidney Disease
- Weight Gain

But, I also found plenty of research that contradicts the effects of eating soy products.

Soybeans contain phytochemicals called isoflavones that behave like the hormone estrogen known as phytoestrogen. The estrogen is known to increase the risk of breast cancer in women, especially in cancer survivors – not prevent it. Infants fed soy formula may be exposed to harm from the estrogen effects of isoflavones.

Be aware that much of the positive research is sponsored by industries with a vested interest such as: soy producers, processors, product manufacturers, and marketers all promote the benefits of their products.

You may be one of the enthusiasts of soy, but consider the effects of soy foods if you have not been feeling like yourself lately. Try removing soy from your diet to see if it makes a difference in the way you feel. Remember to read all the labels because over 60% of the foods on the grocery shelves contain some form of soy.

## Soy – breast cancer and heart health facts

When I started researching soy after developing a severe allergy, the soy industry were promoting that soy helps prevent cancer, reduces the risk of heart disease, and lowers cholesterol. After closer examination, these

claims appear doubtful at best, and soy may actually be a contributing factor to breast cancer.

## Soy products and cancer

The claim that soy foods prevent cancer is predicated on two suppositions: 1) that Asian populations consume large amounts of soy foods; 2) that Asian populations have low amounts of cancer. The average consumption in China is 9 gm – that is less than a tablespoon, and the average consumption in Japan is 30 gm, which is between two and three tablespoons. Yet, the book *The Simple Soy Bean and Your Health* recommends one cup, or 230 grams of soy products per day in an optimal diet to prevent cancer. This is far above the amount consumed in Asia. In addition, the soy products consumed in Asia are traditional products such as fermented tofu, miso, natto, and tempeh, while many of the soy products Americans consume consist of protein isolate. The fact of the matter is that soy is not the “health food” it's cracked up to be.

In addition, studies have shown that consumption of legumes especially soybeans is not strongly correlated with the prevention of any degenerative disease, including cancer. Some studies, in fact, link the actual consumption of soy foods with increased rates of cancer.

One reason that breast cancer may be so astronomically high in the U.S. is because of the consumption of unfermented soy foods in the form of hydrogenated margarines and shortenings. These trans-fats in our food supply contribute to breast cancer. Sally Fallon, President of Weston A. Price Foundation, and author of *Nourishing Traditions*, 2nd Edition, published by New Trends Publishing, reported this. With so many books on the market on how to prevent breast cancer, few of them mention the highly carcinogenic effects on breast tissue of these trans-fatty acids.

## Soy products and heart health

Let's examine some of the so-called benefits of soy

close up. Is soy good for your heart? The FDA “consumers branch” thought so in 1999, but the FDA scientists disagreed.

It approved wording for packaging claims that diets low in saturated fat and cholesterol with 25 grams of soy protein a day “may reduce” the risk of heart disease. The American Heart Association also supported soy as a heart helper.

However, during the next five years research told a different story. The AHA withdrew its support for soy and soy supplements in 2005, and the FDA may be ready to take another look at the research.

The American Heart Association advisory panel reviewed 22 studies and found that an average of 50 grams of “isolated soy protein with isoflavones mostly didn’t reduce cholesterol or at best reduced it by a modest 3 percent. This reduction is very small relative to the large amount of soy protein tested in these studies.”

Is taking soy as a health benefit really proven or significant? It’s clearly not proven, and even the most positive of the 41 research studies shows only a small decrease in cholesterol.

Does it not make more sense to skip the soy-based products and spend your shopping dollars on organic fruits, vegetables . . . and other healthy foods?

### **Is soy bad?**

Soy has become so popular because of the industry advertising. It started me off as a believer! There was considerable research done in 1966 about the harmful substances within the soybeans. And now, it’s claimed to be the “miracle” food.

Production of soybeans in the U.S. is 40 times more now than it was starting in the 20th century. First it’s made for animal feed and then manufactured into soy oil, vegetable oil, margarine, and shortening.

Why has the soy industry concentrated on finding alternative uses and new markets for soybeans? Because it’s cheap and very profitable. It’s disguised in everything from . . . baby formula, flour, and much more. It’s often marketed as low-fat, dairy free, or as a high protein meat substitute for vegetarians. The soy derivatives you need to look for are textured vegetable protein (TVP), partially hydrogenated soybean, soy protein isolate (SPI) hydrolyzed vegetable protein (HVP).

One of the dangerous substances in the soybean is

phytic acid, also called phytates. These acids block the body of essential minerals like calcium, magnesium, iron and especially zinc. But, you never hear about that.

When you start to read labels very carefully you will be amazed at the soy contents in snack foods, fast foods, and pre-packaged frozen meals. . . .

They say soy foods are a source of high-quality protein that provides health benefits that may help to prevent or treat certain chronic diseases. This is definitely not so for someone with a severe allergy to soy – like me. You may not be allergic to soy, but you could have a soy intolerance. Soy is bad so look for healthier alternatives. . . .

Soy is bad because they are not filled with bone-building and heart-healthy soy protein, or reduce overall calories and fat grams. If this was true, I would not have gained weight with my active lifestyle. And what about women who are in their forties that start gaining weight? I believe it’s because of all the soy products that they are consuming. And, they could possibly be developing thyroid disease and not know it. Don’t believe what you hear about women going through menopause. It didn’t reduce my “hot flashes”, lower my cholesterol, decrease my risk for heart disease, or osteoporosis. Is soy bad? It sure is! Soy nearly killed me! And I thought I was following a healthy diet.

When it comes to fad diets they claim soy foods help promote healthier eating habits with low carb diets. They say many soy foods are naturally low in fat and saturated fat, while being high in heart-healthy protein. The example they use is a soy veggie burger provides 12 grams of soy protein with 5 grams of fat, 1 gram of saturated fat and just 3 grams of net carbs. That soy veggie burger is what landed me in the hospital. . . my body said “enough already!” It took four days in the intensive care unit for me to get the “wake-up” call.

Everyone knows their own bodies. If you are not feeling like yourself lately, try to eliminate soy products – I bet you will start feeling like your old self again! Is soy bad? Let your body be the judge. . . listen to it.

### **Soy toxins can cause major problems**

Many people think soy products and soymilk are healthy substitutes. Unfermented soy is bad for you. It is difficult for your body to digest. If you experience cramping, nausea, or unusual weight gain did you ever

consider that it could be related to soy foods? Studies show that it can be contributing to serious health problems.

The difference between the Asian soy and the Western version is that it is fermented. The fermentation process destroys the toxins. The toxins in the soybean were meant to ward off insects to protect the soil. The acceptable forms of soy are Tempeh, miso, natto. Tofu in Asia comes from the pressed "curds" of the soybean and the toxins are removed. It's not the same tofu that is consumed here in the states. The Western version of soy products is unhealthy soy and can cause health problems.

Some toxins found in soybeans are: Anti-nutrients that prevent your body from absorbing the minerals such as calcium, magnesium, iron, and zinc that can make you more prone to osteoporosis. Enzyme inhibitors make it harder for the body to absorb protein. And, isoflavones that include phytoestrogens, a plant based compound that mimics female hormones and disrupts hormonal balance. It is not limited to women. It can also lower testosterone levels in men. Especially for bodybuilders who incorporate protein drinks in their diets. The goitrogens found in soybeans can cause gout and thyroid problems. Could this be why you are having unusual weight gain?

Read food labels very carefully because most processed foods today have some form of soy. You have to know what to look for.

Eat more whole foods, including lots of leafy greens, vegetables, fruits, and nuts.

### **What are the dangers of soy sprouts?**

By Josh Vogt, eHow Contributing Writer

1. Soy sprouts are often added to salads and sandwiches, blended into smoothies, baked into bread, or turned into soy flour and milk. They are valued for high protein content and contributions to heart health. However, despite the benefits, soy sprouts can also be the source of food allergies and weakened immune systems, especially among women. Discover the dangers soy sprouts pose and decide if consumption is worth the risk.

### **Allergies**

2. Soy sprouts are extremely reactive to the immune system, according to

Dr. Stuart Berger. Consumption of soy sprouts can trigger allergic symptoms, such as heightened adrenaline, itching in the throat, hives, and digestive discomfort. Most allergic reactions are mild, but can worsen with repeated exposure. At the highest risk are those people who already exhibit allergic reactions to milk and dairy. Children who are exposed to soy sprouts and other soy products at an early age can also develop allergies, and as such, infant exposure to soy should be avoided entirely, according to Dr. Joseph Mercola.

### **Women's Health**

3. Women are a high-risk demographic when it comes to soy sprouts, partly

because of soy's high estrogen content, which, according to Mercola, can alter a woman's chemical balance in negative ways. Soy sprouts also contain enzymes that block proper digestion, inhibit oxygen transference in the blood stream, and contribute to thyroid dysfunction, breast cancer, and cause kidney stones in women. The main way to avoid these unhealthy effects of soy sprouts is to make sure that soy intake is in a fermented form, such as miso. Proper cooking of soy sprouts before consumption can also downplay the unhealthy symptoms while heightening benefits like nutrient absorption and cancer prevention.

### **Illness**

4. In 1999, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) listed uncooked soy sprouts as a serious source of illnesses, especially among the elderly and children, or anyone with a weakened immune system. Soy sprouts can be exposed to high levels of bacteria during growth, and have been identified as containing E. Coli and Salmonella viruses. If not properly washed and prepared, this bacteria can be transferred to the human host. Contaminated sprouts can cause food poisoning, with symptoms of fever, stomach cramps, and diarrhea, sometimes severe enough to require hospitalization. Advisories are still in effect concerning proper care and consumption of soy sprouts, and the FDA has stepped up its monitoring of sprout facilities to ensure sanitary development and harvesting is enforced.



## **Soy – a miracle food or health threat?**

By Andreas Moritz as it appeared on Facebook.

Soy products have made it into the food industry big time. Soy has been praised as the miracle food that will save the world. However, in spite of impressive nutritional content, soy products are biologically useless to the body, for reasons explained below. Today, soy is contained in thousands of different food products, which has led to a massive escalation of disease in both developed and underdeveloped countries.

Given the fact that soybeans are grown on farms that use toxic pesticides and herbicides—and many are from genetically engineered plants—increasing evidence suggests soy is a major health hazard. With a few exceptions, such as miso, tempeh and other carefully fermented soy products, soy is not suitable for human consumption. Eating soy, soy milk, and regular tofu increases risks of serious health conditions.

In addition, soy is a common food allergen.

### **Numerous studies have found that soy products:**

- increase the risk of breast cancer in women, brain damage in both men and women, and abnormalities in infants
- contribute to thyroid disorders, especially in women
- promote kidney stones (because of excessively high levels of oxalates which combine with calcium in the kidneys)
- weaken the immune system
- cause severe, potentially fatal food allergies
- accelerates brain weight loss in aging users

### **Soy products contain:**

- Phytoestrogens (isoflavones) genistein and daidzein, which mimic and sometimes block the hormone estrogen
- Phytic acids, which reduce the absorption of many vitamins and minerals, including calcium, magnesium, iron, and zinc, thereby causing mineral deficiencies
- “Antinutrients” or enzyme inhibitors that inhibit enzymes needed for protein digestion and amino acid uptake
- Haemagglutinin, which causes red blood cells to clump together and inhibits oxygen uptake and growth
- Trypsin inhibitors that can cause pancreatic en-

largement and, eventually, cancer

Phytoestrogens are potent anti-thyroid agents which are present in vast quantities in soy. Infants exclusively fed on a soy-based formula have 13,000 to 22,000 times more estrogen compounds in their blood than babies fed a milk-based formula. This would be the estrogenic equivalent of at least five birth control pills per day. For this reason, premature development of girls (early puberty) has been linked to the use of soy formula, as has the underdevelopment of males. Infant soy formula and soy milk have been linked to autoimmune-thyroid disease, and now also to death.

In 2007, two parents were convicted of murder and given life sentences in prison for starving their 6-week-old baby to death by feeding it with soy milk and apple juice. Now, soy experts are again calling for clear and proper warning labels on all soy milk products—following this and several other babies’ hospitalizations or deaths under similar circumstances.

Only properly fermented soy products, such as miso and tempeh, provide soy nutrients that can easily be absorbed. To make soy products nutritious and healthy, they must be carefully fermented—according to the traditional preparation methods used in Japan.

Typically, soy must be fermented for at least two summers, ideally for 5-6 years, before it becomes beneficial for the body. In spite of the documented scientific evidence that shows soy to be carcinogenic and also cause DNA and chromosome damage, the multi-billion dollar soy industry has managed to turn this generally worthless food into one of the most widely used “nutritious foods” of all times. In a written statement, a spokesman for Protein Technologies said that they had “. . . teams of lawyers to crush dissenters, could buy scientists to give evidence, owned television channels and newspapers, could divert medical schools and could even influence governments . . .” We cannot expect that the powerful and wealthy soy industry is going to disappear any time soon, but we can still make the choice to avoid non-fermented soy products or foods that contain soy. Soy acts more like a drug, not a food, upsetting the body’s entire hormonal balance.

This is enough reason to avoid soy at any cost.

<http://hiddensoy.com/category/soy-health-dangers/>

# Who is leading in the work of Mt. Carmel Center God or Man?

By VICTOR HOUTEFF

**M**ost of us have had a struggle to loose ourselves from the bands laid upon us by the church's present leadership, and it seems no more than right that we have the assurance that the Lord is directing in all the movements at Mt. Carmel. May we know just how much of the work of Mt. Carmel is under the direction of the Lord?

A careful thinking-through of this matter can end only in the realization that as God has promised to take the reins in His own hands, then that is exactly what He of necessity must be doing. Hence, all the confusion and perplexity with attendant questioning criticizing, and doubting over the work are irrational, inexcusable, and damaging.

"Satan," says the Spirit of Prophecy, "has ability to suggest doubts and to devise objections to the pointed testimony that God sends, and many think it a virtue, a mark of intelligence in them, to be unbelieving, and to question and quibble. Those who desire to doubt will have plenty of room. God does not propose to remove all occasion for unbelief. He gives evidence, which must be carefully investigated with a humble mind and a teachable spirit, and all should decide from the weight of evidence."—*Testimonies, Vol. 3 p. 255.*

Moreover, no man can judge the work by his own wisdom or by the wisdom of other human beings, for, says the Spirit of Truth: "The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness. . . . Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning."—*Tes-*

*timonies to Ministers, p. 300.*

"It is not for you to be intimidated by outward appearances, however forbidding they may be. It is for you to carry forward the work as the Lord has said it should be carried."—*Testimonies, Vol. 9, p. 141.*

If each does well his part in the work that is given him to do, he will soon see that he has neither need nor capability to look after the Lord's duties, or after the work that is assigned to others. He will know that the greatest and the only right thing he can do is courageously to accept the high challenge of "the angel of the Lord" unto Joshua: "If thou wilt walk in My ways, and if thou wilt keep My charge, then thou shalt also judge My house, and shalt also keep My courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by." Zech. 3:7.

To Present-truth believers, one of the surest evidences that the Lord is leading in the work of Mt. Carmel, is that regardless of ceaseless opposition, paucity of laborers, and many other handicaps, the work is steadily moving onward with an irresistible power. It is, indeed, like the mustard seed.

Despite its humble, insignificant beginning, the criticism and the opposition against it, and the multiform obstacles and impediments which it has had to surmount, it is awakening multitudes throughout Laodicea. It has launched the ship of Reformation, and while many have already boarded it, others are rapidly approaching the decision to seek the safety it affords. They are restudying the Bible in the Divine Light of The Shepherd's Rod. The Three Angel's Messages have become to them as clear and sweet as a mountain stream. And those who never owned, and even those who never be-

lieved, the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy, are now purchasing all the volumes.

Certainly no one can thoughtfully say that such is the work of the Enemy, not without attributing authorship of the Bible to Satan. If the Bible is of the Lord, the message in the Rod cannot be of the Devil, for it is the Bible unfolded. Never without the power of God could it have so leavened the whole Denomination, for the All-Powerful One declares: "I the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day. Fury is not in Me: who would set the briers and thorns against Me in battle? I would go through them I would burn them together." Isa. 27:3, 4.

Those who only profess to believe, are here warned that the Lord knows their work, and that He has not left His workmen in the darkness concerning it. Exposing their secrets, He says: "Also, thou son of man, the chil-

dren of thy people still are talking against thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the Lord. And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as My people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not. And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them." Ezek. 33:30-33.

Taken from *Answerer 4*, pages 24-28

---

## Announcements

### Session

Session for this year will be held from Friday, July 27th through Sabbath, August 4th. Please remember this most important meeting in your daily prayers. We pray that each and every card-holding member plans to attend.

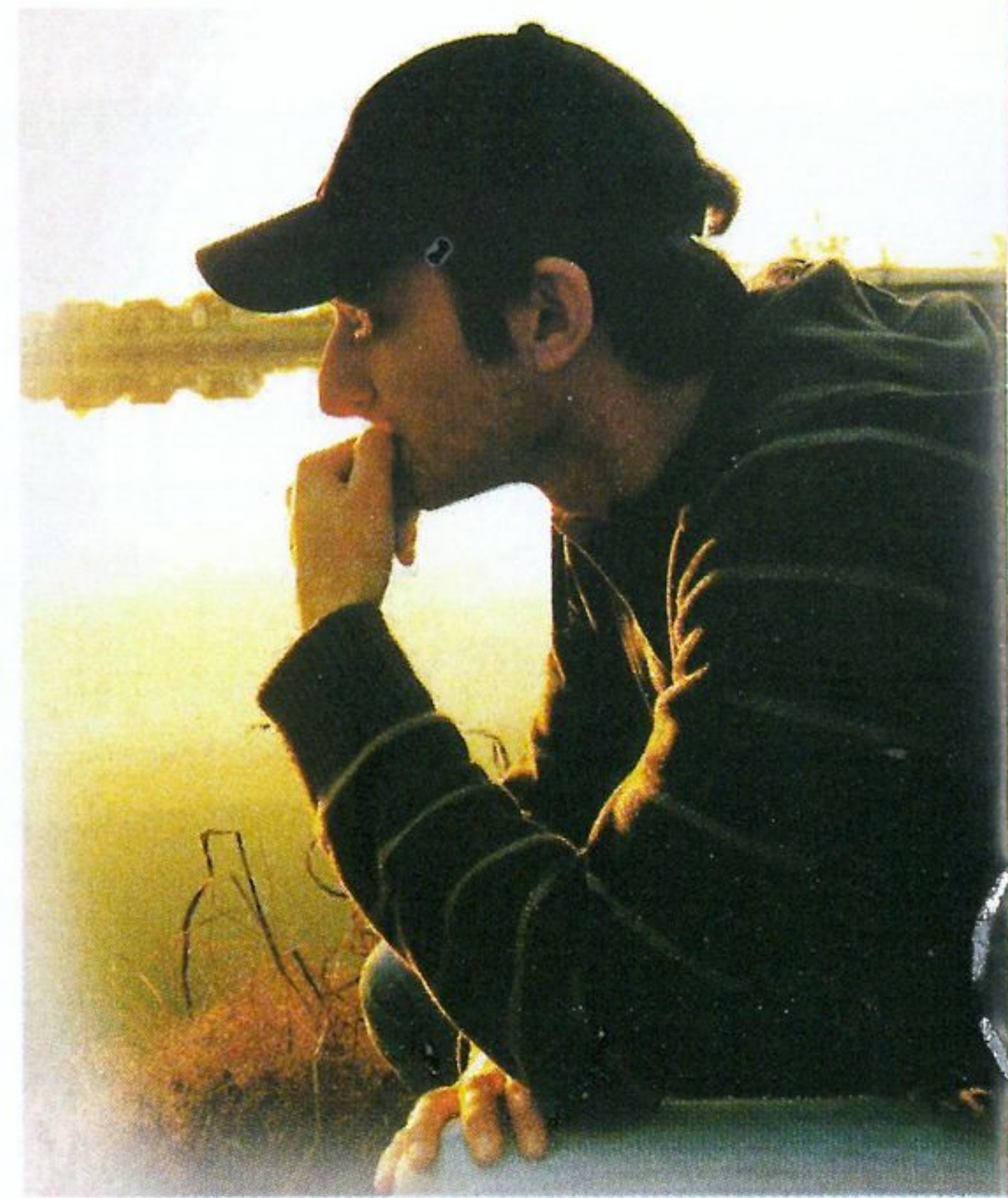
### Accommodations During Session

We will make all effort to house all attendees at Session; however, priority will be given to delegates and

card-holding members. If you are planning to attend and need accommodations, please contact the office (845) 434-5282. Also, if you are planning to attend and need letters of invitation for immigration purposes, please let us know at your earliest convenience.

We encourage all members and delegates to make the effort to familiarize yourselves with the 2011 - 2012 by-laws of the Association before coming to the Session. Doing so will help in the efficient running of the business meetings.

# A *Hurried* Life



**A**s the alarm goes off at a quarter to six Monday morning, I groan as I turn it off. Resting my head back on the pillow, I pray: “Lord, 15 more minutes please.” He knows the routine because I do this every morning. I close my eyes for what feels like a second, then open them quickly to the sound of a honking horn. I check the alarm - its six o'clock. I quickly jump out of bed and say a hurried “Thank you Jesus for waking me up” and I dash to the bathroom for the morning drill. I am in and out of the shower, barely having time to look in the mirror to criticize what's too big or too small, what doesn't belong, or what God forgot to give me more of. Clothes on, out the door, no time for breakfast. Need to be at work on time - one of my resolutions. Well there's always tomorrow I sigh, as I round the corner to my desk. It's 8:10, I'm late again.

“Thank you Jesus” as I sit down and begin. Emails, meetings, and that annoying co-worker who I just know is demon possessed, all great me to begin my day. Finally - it's lunch break. Something quick, because all I've had is the left-over chips and cookies from the desk - a snack? breakfast? It all depends on how you look at it. So the resolution for eating 80/20 has now gone out the window because the closest restaurant that you can get to without coming back late from lunch is the Subway shop next door. Sure they have salad, but their salad looks a little suspicious. And truly, can I really justify paying seven dollars for some lettuce when I can prepare a better salad at home? I choose the Vegemax for five bucks and run back to the office barely saying grace, congratulating myself on the money saved. There's a Staff meeting at 3:00 pm. and I pray that the Lord be with me as I try to answer the questions being thrown at me in the staff meeting which has gone on for two hours now instead of the scheduled one.

The day is now over and I'm exhausted. I hop on the train and get home too tired to make the salad I promised. I Pour a bowl of cereal. No Soy Milk. Find some chips and eat that instead. Lay in front of the television. It's 9:00 p.m., worship time. I sing a song, read a Psalm and bumble through prayer because I don't want to miss the end of CSI. I put on PJs and crash on the bed thinking “did I say my prayers?” as I drift off to sleep. Devotion? I'll do it tomorrow - quarter to six.

Sound familiar? These are the real challenges that face any Christian. These issues brought to mind can be especially challenging for the Davidian as he/she is held to a higher standard. There are a few points that hit home for me.

## **Waking up on time/Morning Devotion**

If the day doesn't start well, it usually snowballs from there. It's really important to start the day off right. The best way to do this is to wake up early and have devotion. Jesus spent hours alone in morning devotion with his Father which in turn gave him strength and wisdom to endure the trials of the day.

## **Morning Nutrition**

Spiritual nourishment is essential in the mornings, but physical nourishment must not be neglected. This is tough for many people because of the inadequate amount of time left for getting ready. Here is where getting up with enough time for morning devotion and eating well is key. If you are well nourished in the morning, then your mind is much more active and not as lethargic as it might have been without food. Proverbs 6:9 says “How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? When wilt thou arise out of they sleep?” Nothing like good old Solomon

to get you motivated!

### **Dress Reform (not just long skirts and stockings)**

It's important to note that dress reform encompasses more than shoes and skirts and jewelry. It's about how we present ourselves. We cannot leave the house disheveled because it shows people a false representation of a Christian. It also reflects the mental state. Our thoughts are hurried and our outfit looks hurried, and we end up looking completely unprepared! This can also affect the way you feel about yourself.

### **Eating In-Between Meals**

In the story, the person was hungry because they didn't eat in the morning and were forced to snack before lunch to keep the energy levels high. Not only that, it was junk food. Being prepared would entail leaving healthy foods such as raisins, almonds, or other fruits in the desk to be eaten in times of need. These foods supply natural energy and don't leave you feeling zapped of energy later on. Having regular meals is important. The eating cycle shouldn't be broken especially with unhealthy items.

### **Witnessing At Work/Patience With Difficult Personalities**

This one is tough. Only The Lord can help in certain situations. The best bet is to pray and never accidentally lose your Christianity in the form of profane language and/or physical altercations. Being well rested can give you a level head and morning devotion allows more room for the Holy Spirit to impart divine wisdom.

### **Going to Bed on Time**

This is probably the most important point and most likely why God considers the evening the beginning of the day. Going to bed on time will dictate the flow of the day's events. In the story, the person could never quite get up on time and as a result, never felt fully prepared. The deadly cycle can be broken by adhering to a reasonable bed time.

If this is your day, and it sounds a lot like mine, then let's try to cut bad habits with God's help and begin to live healthier more restful lives! What are some things you can change in your daily routine?

## **A BEAUTIFUL PRAYER**

**I asked God to take away my habit.**

**God said, No.**

**It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.**

**I asked God to grant me patience.**

**God said, No.**

**Patience is a byproduct of tribulations;**

**It isn't granted, it is learned.**

**I asked God to give me happiness.**

**God said, No.**

**I give you blessings; Happiness is up to you.**

**I asked God to spare me pain.**

**God said, No.**

**Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares**

**And brings you closer to me.**

**I asked God to make my spirit grow.**

**God said, No.**

**You must grow on your own!**

**But I will prune you to make you fruitful.**

**I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.**

**God said, No.**

**I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things,**

**I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me.**

**God said ... Ahhhh, finally you have the idea.**

*—Anonymous*

**A**t a recent interstate convocation held here at Mt. Carmel Center, we were presented during a health emphasis feature, with a huge and magnificent sunflower. It was grown right here on Mt. Carmel organically—that is grown without any chemicals whatsoever.

Measuring nearly two feet in diameter (though likely not the largest in the world), the mature sunflower was certainly a delight and an admiration to all beholders. More than this Bro. Stanford gave a short presentation on the significant health benefits of sunflower seeds, and then distributed some of these precious seeds to the eager crowd.

Interestingly, when the sunflower plant was about three feet tall, showing vigorous and admirable growth, it was almost decimated by a ground hog. That ground hog was later taken care of and the plant nursed back to robust health.

### **What Are The Benefits Of Sunflower Seeds?**

To mention just a few, sunflower seeds are nutritionally rich in vitamins and minerals. It is rich in vitamins A, D, E, and possess good quantities of calcium, potassium, selenium, iron and silicon. Sunflower seeds (often ground and made into tahini) also contain very healthy oils and omega 3 type oils. These nutrients are especially high and maximized when the seeds are used without heat or cooking. Eating an ounce or two of raw sunflower seeds will indeed help to keep the doctor away!!!!

Besides the rich health benefits of sunflower seeds and growing



them, do you know what Inspiration says about gardening? By way of encouragement to get your garden going here is Inspired counsel:

"Study in agricultural lines should be the A, B, and C of the education given in our schools. This is the very first work that should be entered upon. Our schools should not depend upon imported produce, for grain and vegetables, and the fruits so essential to our health. Our youth need an education in felling trees and tilling the soil as well as in literary lines...all should counsel together as to the very best methods of carrying on the work."—6T 179.

"Pure practical religion will be manifested in treating the earth as God's treasure house. The more intelligent a man becomes, the more should religious influence be radiating from him. And the Lord would have us treat the earth as a precious treasure, lent to us in trust."—TM, p. 244, 245.

"Angels of God are right around you. They will minister to the very earth, causing it to give forth its treasures. This is the instruction I

am trying to give to our people. I want them to understand what could be accomplished, they they would work the will of the Lord."—*The Upward Look*, p. 130.

And what of the kingdom? Will gardeners/agriculturists be needed? "The members of the Kingdom church, are, according to Isaiah, to be skilled in their respective trades and professions, As builders, engineers, carpenters, masons, mechanics, or whatever, they are to "build the old wastes, . . . raise up the former desolations, and . . . repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations." They are also to be animal husbandmen, vine-growers, expert agriculturists. ...

"Besides being skilled agronomists, artisans, and tradesmen, these governors of the Kingdom, as living embodiments of genuine Christianity, are to be expert international bankers, economist, personnel and traffic engineers, and provisioners, together handling "the forces" and "the riches of the Gentiles" See *Answerer* book #5, p. 23, 24. also Isa. 61:4.

Wonderful indeed brothers and sisters are the benefits and spiritual lessons derived from "treating the earth as God's treasure house." Consider also the excellent for our health in these days, when we are being poisoned wholesale by chemical fertilizers, pesticides, food additives, preservatives, GMO wickedness, and the like. Likewise precious are the many spiritual lessons to be harvested. For instances, was it by accident that our first parents were placed in a garden to live?

May we indeed appreciate these priceless lessons of the sunflower, turning to Jesus as the sunflower continually turns to face the sun.

"As the flower turns to the sun, that the bright beams may aid in perfecting its beauty and symmetry, so should we turn to the Sun of Righteousness that heaven's light may shine upon us, that our character may be developed into the likeness of Christ" *God's Amazing Grace*, p. 300; *Steps to Christ*, p. 67, 68.

Universal Publishing Association  
PO Box 119  
Mountain Dale, NY 12763

