

Future NEWS

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“The enemy is on the track of every one of us, and if we would resist temptations which assail us from without and from within, we need to make sure we are on the Lord’s side, that His truth is in our hearts, that it keeps watch in our souls, ready to sound an alarm and summon us to action against every enemy. Without this defense amid unseen foes we shall be like the willow bending to blast, driven of the wind and tossed. But if Christ abides in the soul we may be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. The mind can be expanded and ennobled and should be made to dwell upon heavenly things. Our powers must be cultivated to the uttermost, else we shall fail of meeting God’s standard. Unless . . . [the mind] flows in a heavenward direction it becomes an easy prey to the temptation of Satan to engage in worldly projects and enterprises that have no special connection with God. . . . All zeal and devotion and restless energy and feverish desire are brought into this work, and the devil stands by and laughs to see human effort wrestling so perseveringly for an object that it will never gain, which eludes its grasp.

“It is essential that you feel the power of the truth as well as to believe it. It should have a steady, abiding influence upon the mind. But dreamlike projects are favored and bar the way to deep and thorough heavenly principles. The things of this life have the precedence of the interest pertaining to the future, immortal life. The common and earthly deaden the sense of the eternal.

“There is one safeguard against Satan’s deceptions and snares—that is the truth as it is in Jesus. The truth planted in the heart, nourished by watchfulness and prayer, nourished by the grace of Christ, will give us discernment. The truth must abide in the heart, be felt in its power in spite of all the alluring enchantments of Satan, and your experience and mine must be that the truth can purify, guide, and bless the soul.” *Upward Look*, 349.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The ministry of *Future for America* is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified within the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The end-time fulfillment of Bible prophecy is no longer future—for it is taking place before our eyes. The historic, prophetic understanding of Seventh-day Adventism is now present truth. We are the final generation. Our emphasis on the prophetic word includes all the counsel of God's Word. To know what lies ahead is useless if we do not possess the experience to stand during these solemn times. Through obedience to God's law, and faith in the promises of God's Word, we are to receive that experience.

Coupled with the prophetic message, *Future for America* emphasizes all aspects of the medical missionary work. The "entering wedge"—medical missionary work—must be practiced by those who are to finish God's work in these final hours.

During this time period, country living becomes more essential with each passing moment. *Future for America* upholds and promotes this end-time truth. God's people must prepare for the coming storm, and that preparation includes the experience of learning how to survive in a simple fashion, away from the great centers of population.

Future for America intends to print and distribute truth-filled literature, while helping to establish lay-printing operations in parts of the Lord's vineyard where faithful brethren do not have the means to raise up a printing operation with their own resources.

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This publication is sent out free of charge. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Another year is almost gone. Time keeps moving faster and faster, while it becomes less and less. Our recent trips to Colombia and London were a great blessing from my perspective, though both contained their own struggles and shakings for all of those involved. We thank you for the spiritual and financial support that allowed us serve in this capacity. We have an invitation to Chile that may take place in the next few months and we would probably visit Venezuela and or Colombia on the same trip. We have an invitation to Europe next summer, as well as an invitation to Malaysia. We solicit your prayers that only the Lord's will be accomplished in these human plans that appear to be developing.

The evangelistic series in the Dalaguete, Philippines begins January 19 until February 1. We solicit your prayers for these meetings. Through your financial support the budget for this meeting has been met and we have now began to look for funding for the next series in the April, 2003 time frame. The budget for the series is six thousand dollars, but this amount does not cover the air fare of the gospel and health speakers, nor does it include any funds for literature to hand out at the meetings. Some time the speakers cover their own airfare and there is a certain amount of literature within the six thousand dollar budget, but we attempt to bolster that amount for these meetings when we can.

While in London I heard an update to one of our past meetings in the Philippines. Brother Russell and Errol from London were the speakers at one series about two years ago. At one of our series the following year the brothers from London learned from two men who gave testimony that at the series where Brother Russell had been speaking the previous year, they had visited one evening carrying pistols with the purpose of murdering Brother Russell for what he was saying about the papacy. Russell never even knew it happened until a year later when the two men confessed to their attempt. They obviously never accomplished their plans.

At a different series one road where the buses brought the people to the meetings passed by a cliff. From the cliff the Catholic brethren would throw large stones on the buses as they passed in order to discourage people from attending the Adventist meetings. The Catholics were persistent enough in their efforts, and the boulders were so deadly, that the buses ceased to pick up people from that area. There is a spiritual-war taking place, which we sometimes miss in our day-to-day activities. That war though, is almost always witnessed when a message of present truth is being presented.

We had made no headway on our website, but I am trusting that time will come available in the near future and we can begin to build the site.

A nurtured vision of heavenly reality is the substance of courage. *WORLD*, March 16, 2002.

Dear Sir Jeff Pippenger,

A pleasant day to you and to your family. How are you now? I hope you're in a good condition.

This is Brother RG working in South Cebu District with Pastor P. I am happy that you consider me as one of your laymen here. Pastor P assigned me five churches to maintain. My evangelism program is in the town of Ronda. Right now I have a evangelism program, radio program, nurturing program, jail ministry, Organizing program, discipleship training, health program, moral values, Bible studies, house to house visitation, hospital ministry and others.

Every day using my bike, (not motor bike) I go to my prospect to meet my appointments, climbing up to the mountain looking for lost souls. Every Sabbath, I transfer from one church to another to meet their spiritual needs. Every Sundays and Mondays I spend my days with my family. Next day until Friday I'm in Ronda and some other neighboring places for Bible studies in the jail, public market, police station. Saturday evening is the radio program at 8 o'clock. I lecture about health on the air. My sponsor is a catholic friend.

My children are still studying in East Visayan Academy and my wife is in Lagtang, Jalisay multi-grade school as a substitute. Please pray for us. Best regards to your family circle. May God abundantly bless you all. In Christ Service RG

Editor's note: RG is one of the Bible workers that *Future for America* supports.

Dear Brother,

I began to read *The Times of The Gentiles* in the November newsletter only to discover it will be continued. Then I saw it was begun in the past. I looked back in the September and October issues but couldn't find the beginning. I certainly would like the beginning so I'll have continuity. Is it possible to get the first part(s)? Thank you very much for all the good material you publish. In Christ,
A

Dear A,

The Hiram Edson article was taken from a series of articles printed in the *Review and Herald* years ago. In the newsletter you refer to, I answered a question about Edson's presentation. The question had been raised because I had previously made the point (on an audio presentation), that in Brother Edson's article, he concludes that the "glorious land" of Daniel 11:41 is the USA. I placed the article by Edson in the newsletter to allow everyone to see the passage I had been citing. The series can be found on the *Words of the Pioneers* CD Rom. The phone number for information about that CD is: 909-824-1361. Jeff.

Dear Brother Jeffery Pippenger,

I am really impressed by your book *The Final Rise and Fall of the King of the North*. But, one thing I want to ask you. When talking about the "glorious land" as the United States of the America, you quote *Signs of the Time*, June 12, 1893. But Sister White didn't mention Jeremiah 3:18, 19 there. Can you help me to understand why in your book you said that Ellen White used this Bible text? I would appreciate the answer. Thank you. May God be with you as you doing His work. CT—Malaysia

Brother CT,

I have referred to Sister White commenting on Jeremiah 3:18, 19 in the *Signs of the Time*, June 12, 1893 for quite some time now. You are correct. Jeremiah 3:18, 19, is not in the *Signs* article. There was no intended deception on my part and I can only guess how the mistake was originally made during the production of the book. I stand corrected and when we reprint the book we will make the correction. It is curious that the book has been in circulation for so many years now and you are the first to evidently check that particular references. It is our responsibility to test all things. Jeff

Dear Jeff .Pippenger,

I listened to the tape titled, *Daniel 11:40* and it included more then I have ever learned. I need your printed papers so I can read about it. Also include the tape titled *Daniel 11:41*, which is the next tape. I want to understand it. I desperately need to wake up, as you said. I'm going to take time to study instead handing warning to the people. I have a bum leg so I'll study instead, which I really need to do. I'm 78 years old and I want to understand. Do I need a history book?

If you can tell me the steps to understand Bible prophecy please give me that information. I want to know how to do it. Thanks much AS

Dear *Future for America*,

The series on *The Final Rise and Fall of the King of the North* was a very educational experience on understanding prophecy and how to go about learning how the prophetic pattern ties together throughout the Bible.

I have got Uriah Smith's book on Daniel and the Revelation but would definitely appreciate any help you could give me on what other source books etc. I should obtain to help me in my education on learning how to better understand Bible prophecy. Time is so very short and there is so much to learn. Thank you for the expedient filling of my last order. Thanks for any help you can give me on other source material. May God continue to bless you. Sincerely yours DB

Dear Brother Jeff,

I have enjoyed your presentations from the first time I heard you on North Hill, Puyallup, Washington years ago. I have appreciated your steady searching for more truth and understanding of the prophecies. I pray that God will continue to bless you.

I listen to your tapes as I go for my daily walk, often reviewing them to help me remember the key points. A friend and I plan to start a daytime study group on Daniel and Revelation. We are searching for helps that go deeper than the usual studies for non-believers.

Do you have anything in print that would work well for this? If not, can you recommend something? We are hoping for something that covers the last part of Daniel clearly. May God Bless you all as you spread the good news of Jesus' soon return! GH—WA

Dear AS, DB, and GH,

Unfortunately, I have nothing specific to recommend. My council would be to get access to the writings of the pioneers and consider what and why they reached their conclusions on prophecy. They did not understand everything correctly or as fully as can be recognized today, but I am convinced that one of the weaknesses of our prophetic understanding today is our general lack of understanding of the very basic foundations of our historical prophetic positions. For pioneer materials I would, once again, refer you to *Words of the Pioneers* CD Rom, at 909-824-1361.

I have hoped that sometime in the near future we would locate a place where we could have a seminar on Daniel and Revelation. We would go through both books from an aspect of the present truth message for our time, as opposed to presenting them in a way to reach non-Adventist. If we ever accomplish that, I hope to record the presentations and use them in some type of study guide. At this point this idea is simply an idea. Locating a place centrally located for everyone in the US, and finding the facilities at the right price would take some time and effort. But before we could begin that type of planning we would have to determine if there is enough willingness by those on our mailing list to attend and support a meeting like this.

We have had several requests to hold this type of gathering in the US, but even those who have expressed a desire to attend such a meeting, would still have the obstacle of matching their personal schedule to the ultimate choice of time and place. A perfect time and place might be very difficult.

But more to your question, I do know brethren around the world who are being blessed by current and relevant insight into end-time Bible prophecy. One consistent tool that they seem to be using in their search for light is “a desire to dig for truth as if it is buried treasure”. Their “desire for truth” is also accompanied with a willingness to accept and incorporate that truth when it is revealed. I am certain if our heart is willing and we are surrendered to the Lord in all things—that He will guide us individually into the present truth message for this time. I am also certain He will accomplish this for us, in spite of the limitations we may have in terms of available study materials. May the Lord bless you as you seek for a clearer prophetic understanding of the truth for this time. Jeff

P.S. Just to follow up the one thought.

Dear Reader, Would you be interested in attending a prophecy school held somewhere in the US? If so, Drop us a note so we can gauge how much, if any, interest there is in such an endeavor? Include the best time for you to be away for a one-week period.

Dear Brother Jeff,

Thought we'd simply send a greeting to you with our enclosed donation and thank you for the always enjoyable and edifying, audio-tapes and *Future News*. We are blessed with every inspired precept. With the cumulative effects of your Bible prophecy messages plus our other end time educating endeavors, M and I are progressing to a point at which we are not so uncomfortable in presenting prophetic truths to the spiritually unlearned.

Our prayer is that, whatever shall be our lot in this world, we shall all remain faithful with complete freedom from doubt, trusting in His every precious biblical promise; and that through all of the melee which is just before us, you and we shall perform that which is His will for us to do.

With love in Christ, R&M—TN

Dear Jeff and Kathy,

Your ministry continues to be a rich blessing to us. It is refreshing to us to find the very few ministries that are teaching an encouraging the study of Daniel and Revelation. (Especially Daniel 11:40-45) In our study and also listening to your presentation it helps us to put things together, and it is more and more clear in our minds as time goes on what God intended for us to learn in these verses. Time is so very short! He is waiting for His beautiful character to be perfectly reproduced in us! What a high calling! The Lord is coming-We hear the footsteps of an approaching God- Your brother and sister in Christ M&GP—OR

Dear Friends,

I just want to share this statement:

“So you are not to look to yourself, not to let the mind dwell upon self, but look to Christ. Let the mind dwell upon His love, upon the beauty, the perfection, of His character. Christ in His self-denial, Christ in His humiliation, Christ in His purity and holiness, Christ in His matchless love—this is the subject for the soul’s contemplation. It is by loving Him, copying Him, depending wholly upon Him, that you are to be transformed into His likeness.” *Step to Christ*, 70–71.

CTSH

Hi Kathy and Jeff,

Thank you, for all the materials you have sent! 9/11—Have you looked at *Testimonies*, volume 9, 11 lately? Check out the whole chapter. Enclosed is a donation, use it as needed. God Bless you and my prayers are with you. Your Sister in Christ. JM—CA

Glad to know you are back! How are things going in England? I was interested due to the letters I have received from one who opposes the message of Daniel 11 over there. I wanted to say your presentation sent out on tape 8 of the series, *What Shall Befall thy People*, really makes the case for “glorious land” being the USA as immovable as the Rock of Gibraltar! There is only one problem and it isn’t your fault. The people that reject your position won’t listen to it! The people that accept the stand, listen to it- and say AMEN. But that is always the way, isn’t it? In a newsletter you replied to my inquiry regarding “repetition”. Let me say this to you.

When John the Baptist preached, if you went down to Jordan to hear him, what was his sermon? “Repent! for the kingdom of God is at hand!” And if you went next day, what would he say? “Repent! for the kingdom of God is at hand!” And two weeks later, what would be his message? “Repent!” THEN, Jesus begins to preach; what is the title of His first sermon? “Repent! for the kingdom of God is at hand!”

So brother, God sanctions repetition; you will not find any prophet in the entire Bible who did not have a repetitious message. The same is true for the Spirit of Prophecy! That’s because God’s cry to fallen man is the same—“Repent! for the kingdom of God is at hand!”

What is your message? “Repent! for the kingdom of God is at hand!” Basically that is it, isn’t it? Brother—the guys that have the ‘new and marvelous’ things to preach every time you hear them, are not getting their messages from the Holy Spirit. They are preaching to tickle ears. If your message is repetitious, don’t question what the Holy Spirit is saying. “Repent! for the kingdom of God is at hand!” is our message for today and always, those who reject it will be lost by their own choice—for always! Grace to you from our Lord! “Cheer up ye pilgrims; be joyful and sing!! Jesus is coming again!” “Truth is Truth” PT—Canada

Dear Jeff,

After reading the very first letter on page 18 of your November newsletter from Sister VS I too shared the same concern you had and the following quote came to my mind. You may already be familiar with it but in case you are not I thought you might be interested. Please pass this quote on to Sister VS.

“We cannot with safety vote for political parties; for we do not know whom we are voting for. We cannot with safety take part in any political schemes. We cannot labor to please men who will use their influence to repress religious liberty, and to set in operation oppressive measures to lead or compel their fellow men to keep Sunday as the Sabbath. The first day of the week is not a day to be revered. It is a spurious sabbath, and the members of the Lord’s family cannot participate with the men who exalt this day, and violate the law of God by trampling upon His Sabbath. The people of God are not to vote to place such men in office; for when they do this, they are partakers with them of the sins which they commit while in office.” *The Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 475.

In the Spirit of Christian Fellowship, PN
Future for America,

Keep up the great work you are doing for the Lord in His Vineyard. Don’t give an inch. You are in our prayers. May Jesus without measure Bless you, show you what His will is, give you the strength to do His will, and be with you always. Enjoying the series on Daniel 10–12. Keep it up. In Jesus M&J

I thank you dear Kathy and Jeff for praying for me, and my loved ones. It’s distressing to look into the future. We truly must, “Be not afraid for I am with you”. Praise to our wonderful Creator. HR

Dear Pastor Lin,

The following is the email I received from PN.

Dear Jeff,

In your June newsletter there is an article by David Lin, *The Two Adams*. In that article he identifies what he calls three errors. The last two are errors but in the first one he mentions that Jesus' human nature was different than ours—concerns me. About a year ago this very question split our church. There are those who are saying that Jesus nature was just like ours physically, mentally and spiritually and even go so far to say that He had a carnal mind. Scripture says, The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be, Romans 8:7. This was never the case with Jesus!

Jesus was fully human. In *Selected Messages*, book 3, 130 we read, “We have reason, conscience, memory, will, affections—all the attributes a human being can possess.”

And in *Manuscript Releases*, volume 16, 181 we read, “He [Jesus] had reason, conscience, memory, will, and affections of the human soul which was united with His divine nature.”

But there were some very important differences. Other statements from the same reference in *Manuscript Releases*, volume 16, 181–183, are: 1. Christ's perfect humanity is the same that man may have through connection with Christ. 2. He had not taken on Him even the nature of the angels, but humanity, perfectly identical with our own nature, except without the taint of sin. 3. His finite nature was pure and spotless, 4. We must not become in our ideas common and earthly, and in our perverted ideas we must not think that the liability of Christ to yield to Satan's temptations degraded His humanity and He possessed the same sinful, corrupt propensities as man. 5. Christ took our nature, fallen but not corrupted.

Fallen: dropped, descended; degraded; decreased; ruined.

Degraded: reduced in rank; deprived of an office or dignity; lowered; sunk; reduced in estimation or value.

Ruined: demolished; destroyed; subverted; reduced to poverty; undone.

Corrupt: depraved; tainted with wickedness, debased; rendered impure; infected with errors or mistakes.

Compare the above statements with the following statements from the Spirit of Prophecy: 1. Adam failed to bear the test. And because he revolted against God's law, all his descendants have been sinners. *Manuscript Releases*, volume 9, 229.

2. Children received from Adam an inheritance of disobedience, of guilt and death. *Manuscript Releases*, volume 13, 143.

3. Adam disobeyed, and entailed (to fix unalienably) sin upon his posterity. *Manuscript Releases*, volume 6, 3.

4. The inheritance of children is that of sin. *The Great Controversy*, 475

5. We may have the peace which passeth understanding; but it will cost us battles with the powers of darkness, struggles severe against selfishness and inbred (innate; natural) sin. *Signs of the Times*, March 17, 1887.

6. Let every human being be warned from the ground of making Christ altogether human, such an one as ourselves: for it cannot be. *Manuscript Releases*, volume 13, 19.

I realize that the above quote is from a controversial letter but it is still a part of the Spirit of Prophecy and in harmony with all of what she wrote and with scripture. Truth is truth!

John 3:6: That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. We are born of the flesh and Jesus was born of the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:3: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Psalms 58:3: The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

Isaiah 48:8: Yea, thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time that thine ear was not opened: for I knew that thou wouldest deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor from the womb.

1 John 5:17: All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

Romans 5:19: For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners.

In many places sister White speaks of "natural" and "cultivated" tendencies to evil or wrong. Is she repeating herself or are they two different things?

Natural: derived from nature (birth), as opposed to habitual; pertaining to nature; produced or effected by nature, or by the laws of growth, formation or motion impressed on bodies or beings by divine power. In this sense, natural is opposed to artificial (cultivated) or acquired (gained, obtained, or received from art, labor, or other means, in distinction from those things which are bestowed by nature. It implies title, or some permanence of possession).

Cultivate: to advance the growth of.

Acknowledging and accepting the fact that the human nature of Christ did have some differences does not give any one the liberty to conclude therefore that overcoming is not possible. To come to this conclusion is to twist and pervert the rest of what inspiration says about overcoming. All of inspiration harmonizes perfectly and if we do not see the harmony there is something wrong with our understanding and not with inspiration!

There has been much controversy over the human nature of Christ and no one has all the answers. This is a subject that we will study throughout eternity and never exhaust it. When studying this topic it is of vital importance to define the terms properly and use the correct definition in the right context. There is more than one definition to the word nature.

In a nutshell the word nature can mean: 1. by birth, 2. the physical realm, and 3. the temperament or spiritual realm. There are also some who do not define the terms sinful, sinfulness, sinless, sinlessness, propensity and passion correctly. The 1828 Noah Webster dictionary is the best dictionary to use in studying the Spirit of Prophecy, for it is the dictionary contemporary to Sister White's day. If David Lin has some insights that I am overlooking please pass them on to me. God bless you. I look forward to your newsletter and tape every month. Your sister in Christ, PN

Sister PN:

Let me know what you think of Pastor Lin's response. I think he may not have received my first attempts to get him to answer because he was on the move. He recently changed his email address and I tried again. This is his response. Jeff

Dear Jeff

Yes, I see PN's point. I have also thought that though Jesus waited four thousand years to take human nature after it had degenerated below Adam's original level of vitality, still we cannot say that He took human nature at its worst. By that I mean the offspring of the most degenerate of mankind. That would take in the mentally retarded children.

When God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother, she was apparently deficient in physical stamina as compared to Adam, but she was not a descendant of a line of thieves and murderers. Somehow, the body she gave to her man child was average in physical strength and vitality, and if we can compare her fetus with that of Elizabeth's child who was blessed with the presence of the Holy Spirit before his birth, we should expect that Mary's child was also blessed with the best prenatal influences we can imagine, without passing the reasonable boundaries of Hebrews 2:14: "the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same"—ruling out anything that smacks of the Immaculate Conception. That was what I meant when I listed the error that Jesus human nature was different from ours. I didn't have enough space to elaborate, because I was limited to one page. David Lin

Dear Jeff,

Thank you for forwarding Pastor Lin's response on to me. I have read it several times. If I understand correctly what he is saying, I think there was more than one area where he missed my point. The Bible says, "There is none righteous, no, not one:" Romans 3:10. This includes the ancestors of Jesus. David was an adulterer and even though he truly repented of his sin the result of his sin weakened him spiritually.

Pastor Lin compares the experience of Mary the mother of Jesus with Elizabeth the mother of John and says, "if we can compare her fetus with that of Elizabeth's child who was blessed with the presence of the Holy Spirit before his birth, we should expect that Mary's child was also blessed with the best prenatal influences we can imagine."

The Holy Spirit's role in the child of Mary was more than a prenatal influence! Mary had asked the angel before she conceived of the child she was to bear, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. Luke 1:34-35.

And Sister White commenting on this verse and specifically the phrase "that holy thing" says, "These words are not addressed to any human being, except to the Son of the Infinite God. Never, in any way, leave the slightest impression upon human minds that a taint of, or inclination to corruption rested upon Christ, or that He in any way yielded to corruption." *Manuscript Releases*, volume 13, 19.

"The humanity of Christ is called 'that holy thing.' The inspired record says of Christ, 'He did no sin,' he 'knew no sin,' and 'in him was no sin.' He was 'holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners.' *Signs of the Times*, January 16, 1896.

Now compare what is said of us: Romans 5:19, For as by one man's disobedience many *were* made sinners.

"When God created man, he . . . was perfect in his being, and in harmony with God. . . . But through disobedience to God, his powers were perverted, his affections misplaced, his high and holy purposes were lowered, and selfishness took the place of love." *Signs of the Times*, October 6, 1890.

“He [Adam] was furnished with a holy nature, sinless, pure, undefiled; but he fell because he listened to the suggestions of the enemy; and his posterity became depraved. By one man’s disobedience many were made sinners. *Manuscript Releases*, volume 8, 39–40.

Posterity: Descendants; children, children’s children, &c. indefinitely; the race that proceeds from a progenitor. The whole human race are the posterity of Adam.

Depraved: Corrupt; wicked; destitute of holiness or good principles.

“Selfishness is the essence of depravity, and because human beings have yielded to its power, the opposite of allegiance to God is seen in the world today. Every single one of Adam’s posterity are born with a corrupt, wicked heart destitute of holiness and their allegiance was given to Satan when Adam transgressed.” *Review and Herald*, June 25, 1908.

“When man sinned, all heaven was filled with sorrow; for through yielding to temptation, man became the enemy of God, a partaker of the Satanic nature. The image of God in which he had been created was marred and distorted. The character of man was out of harmony with the character of God; for through sin man became carnal, and the carnal heart is enmity against God, is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. *Signs of the Times*, February 13, 1893.

Can any of these texts be applied to Jesus who is called “that holy thing” of whom the inspired record says, “He did no sin,” he “knew no sin,” and “in him was no sin.” He was “holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners.”

He was different from us because “In purity and holiness, connected with God, and beloved by God, He began where the first Adam began.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 8, 39.

Jesus began His humanity in purity and holiness, connected with God. He maintained His purity and holiness and His allegiance to God throughout His life on this earth as a man. He did all this to make it possible for us to receive His divine nature, and thereby return our loyalty and allegiance to God. It is only as we yield our will to God that Jesus will give us a new heart or a new nature. A heart in which the law of God, the law of love, is written thereon. It is then, and only then, that we can render true obedience to God.

As I mentioned in my last email, the issue of the nature of Christ is a topic that has divided our church. Since I last wrote to you my husband and I have tried to discuss this topic with a Seventh-day Adventist lay pastor. He believes that we are not sinners until we choose to sin. I asked him if we are born with a converted heart and he told me that the Bible is silent on that and we are counseled not to speculate on issues in which we have not been informed. I sent him some very informative texts from scripture to show him that the Bible is not silent on that issue. He is still very reluctant to discuss the nature of Christ but my husband and I asked him if it was conceivably possible for a child to come into this world and not sin. He said that it is possible but it has never happened! It has never happened because it is not possible! By one man’s disobedience (Adam’s transgression) many (Adam’s posterity) were made sinners.

I hope that this background will help Pastor Lin understand why it is so important to give the reason for our faith precisely and not in a general way. This is especially true when we are discussing such a controversial topic. May God bless you and keep you. PN

Dear PN,

I agree with you on this subject, but I do not understand Pastor Lin's response in quite the same light as you. I believe he would say Amen to what you have stated. He pointed out that he "didn't have enough space to elaborate, because I was limited to one page." I have had those limitations in writing articles before and you are forced to be selective about what you say, and limited in how much you can say about the points you do choose to include in your article. I believe he was pointing towards the false teaching of the Immaculate Conception. In terms of the Immaculate Conception, (that teaches when Mary was conceived in her mother's womb, a miracle was performed that allowed Mary to have the nature of Adam before he fell; and therefore, her child Jesus also had the nature of Adam before he fell), Pastor Lin was identifying that Jesus had taken the human nature of Adam after he fell. In dealing with that falsehood he was stating that Christ had the same human nature as you and I. I recognize he did not take the subject of the human nature of Christ to the level where we carefully define the components of Human nature and then isolate which of the fallen components Christ did or did not possess—but I believe he was being accurate to his subject. I do not understand him as arguing against the truth that there are differences between our nature and Christ's nature. I do think the topic of this discussion is valuable for God's people at the end of time.

I believe that there was a specific doctrine symbolically identified that was of supreme importance to God's people at the beginning of Adventism. This truth was especially pointed out by the fact that Sister White saw this truth "illuminated". I am referring to the times she saw the Sabbath commandment illuminated above the other commandments. The Sabbath is the truth that was of especial importance at the beginning of our work, and of course, it always will be. Yet there is a passage when Sister White is describing God's people at the very end of time and there is once again a specific doctrine that is portrayed in a holy light.

"Those who commune with God walk in the light of the Sun of Righteousness. They do not dishonor their Redeemer by corrupting their way before God. Heavenly light shines upon them. As they near the close of this earth's history, their knowledge of Christ, and of the prophecies relating to him, greatly increases. They are of infinite worth in God's sight; for they are in unity with his Son. To them the word of God is of surpassing beauty and loveliness. They see its importance. Truth is unfolded to them. **The doctrine of the incarnation is invested with a soft radiance.** They see that the Scripture is the key that unlocks all mysteries and solves all difficulties. **Those who have been unwilling to receive the light and walk in the light will be unable to understand the mystery of godliness, but those who have not hesitated to take up the cross and follow Jesus, will see light in God's light.**" *Southern Watchman*, April 4, 1905.

Jeff

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE

NUMBER FOURTEEN OF A TWENTY-FIVE PART SERIES. BY ALONZO T. JONES, 1895.

You will remember the point that was made in one of Brother Prescott's lessons, when he called attention to the book of Ruth.

Who was the redeemer in the book of Ruth? The nearest of kin. Boaz could not come in as redeemer until it was found that the one who was nearer than he could not perform the office of redeemer. The redeemer must be not only one who was near of kin, but he must be the nearest among those who were near, and therefore Boaz could not step into the place of redeemer until, by another's stepping out of the place, he became really the nearest. Now that is the precise point that is made in the second chapter of Hebrews.

In Ruth, you remember Naomi's husband had died, the inheritance had fallen into the hands of others, and when she came back from Moab, it had to be redeemed. No one but the nearest of kin could do it. This is the story also in the second of Hebrews. Here is the man Adam, who had an inheritance—the earth—and he lost it and he himself was brought into bondage. In the gospel in Leviticus it is preached that if one had lost his inheritance, himself and his inheritance could be redeemed, but only the nearest of kin could redeem. Leviticus 25:25, 26, 47–49. Upon earth here is a man, Adam, who lost his inheritance and himself, and you and I were in it all, and we need a redeemer. But only he who is nearest in blood relationship can perform the office of redeemer. Jesus Christ is nearer than a brother, nearer than anyone. He is a brother, but he is nearest among the brethren, nearest of kin, actually. Not only one with us but He is one of us and one with us by being one of us.

And the one lesson that we are studying still and the leading thought is how entirely Jesus is ourselves. We found in the preceding lesson that He is altogether ourselves. In all points of temptation, wherever we are tempted, He was ourselves right there; in all the points in which it is possible for me to be tempted, He, as I, stood right there, against all the knowledge and ingenuity of Satan to tempt me, Jesus, myself, stood right there and met it. Against all the power of Satan put forth in the temptation upon me, Jesus stood as myself and overcame. So also with you and so with the other man, and thus comprehending the whole human race, He stands in every point wherever anyone of the human race can be tempted as in Himself or from Himself.

In all this, He is ourselves and in Him we are complete against the power of temptation. In Him we are overcomers, because He, as we, overcame. "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

And in noticing the other evening how he became one of us, we found that it was by birth from the flesh. He is "the seed of David according to the flesh." He took not the nature of angels but the nature of the seed of Abraham, and His genealogy goes to Adam.

Now every man is tempted, you know, "when he is drawn away of His own lust and enticed." James 1:14. That is the definition of "temptation." There is not a single drawing toward sin, there is not a single tendency to sin, in you and me that was not in Adam when he stepped out of the garden. All the iniquity and all the sin that have come into the world came from that, and came from him as he was there. It did not all appear in him; it did not all manifest itself in him in open action, but it has manifested itself in open action in those who have come from him.

Thus all the tendencies to sin that have appeared or that are in me came to me from Adam, and all that are in you came from Adam, and all that are in the other man came from Adam. So all the tendencies to sin that are in the human race came from Adam. But Jesus Christ felt in these temptations; He was tempted upon all these points in the flesh which he derived from David, from Abraham, and from Adam. In his genealogy are a number of characters set forth as they were lived in the men, and they were not righteous. Manasseh is there, who did worse than any other king ever in Judah and caused Judah to do worse than the heathen. Solomon is there with the description of his character in the Bible just as it is. David is there. Rahab is there. Judah is there. Jacob is there. All are there just as they were.

Now Jesus came according to the flesh at the end of that line of mankind. And there is such a thing as heredity. You and I have traits of character or cut of feature that have come to us from away back—perhaps not from our own father, perhaps not from a grandfather, but from a great-grandfather away back in the years. And this is referred to in the law of God: “Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.”

That “like produces like” is a good law, a righteous law. It is a law of God, and though the law be transgressed, it still does the same. Transgression of the law does not change the law, whether it be moral or physical. The law works when it is transgressed, through the evil that is incurred, just as it would have worked in righteousness always if no evil had ever been incurred. If man had remained righteous always, as God made him, his descent would have been in the right line. When the law was transgressed, the descent followed on the wrong line, and the law worked in the crooked way, by its being perverted.

It is a good law which says that everything shall have a tendency to go toward the center of the earth. We could not get along in the world without that law. It is that which holds us upon the earth and enables us to walk and move about upon it. And yet if there be a break between us and the earth, if our feet slip out from under us or if we be on a high station, a pinnacle, and it breaks and the straight connection with the earth is broken between us and it, why, the law works and it brings us down with a terrible jolt, you know. Well, the same law that enables us to live and move and walk around upon the earth as comfortably as we do, which works so beneficially while we act in harmony with it, that law continues to work when we get out of harmony with it and it works as directly as before—but it hurts.

Now that is simply an illustration of this law of human nature. If man had remained where God put him and as He put him, the law would have worked directly and easily; since man has got out of harmony with it, it still works directly, but it hurts. Now that law of heredity reached from Adam to the flesh of Jesus Christ as certainly as it reaches from Adam to the flesh of any of the rest of us, for He was one of us. In Him there were things that reached Him from Adam; in Him there were things that reached Him from David, from Manasseh, from the genealogy away back from the beginning until His birth.

Thus in the flesh of Jesus Christ—not in Himself, but in His flesh—our flesh which He took in the human nature—there were just the same tendencies to sin that are in you and me. And when He was tempted, it was the “drawing away of these desires that were in the flesh.” These tendencies to sin that were in His flesh drew upon Him and sought to entice Him, to consent to the wrong. But by the love of God and by His trust in God, he received the power and the strength and the grace to say, “No,” to all of it and put it all under foot. And thus being in the likeness of sinful flesh He condemned sin in the flesh.

All the tendencies to sin that are in me were in Him, and not one of them was ever allowed to appear in Him. All the tendencies to sin that are in you were in Him, and not one of them was ever allowed to appear—every one was put under foot and kept there. All the tendencies to sin that are in the other man were in Him, and not one of them was ever allowed to appear. That is simply saying that all the tendencies to sin that are in human flesh were in His human flesh, and not one of them was ever allowed to appear; He conquered them all. And in Him we all have victory over them all.

Many of these tendencies to sin that are in us have appeared in action, and have become sins committed, have become sins in the open. There is a difference between a tendency to sin and the open appearing of that sin in the actions. There are tendencies to sin in us that have not yet appeared, but multitudes have appeared. Now all the tendencies that have not appeared, He conquered. What of the sins that have actually appeared? “The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6) “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree.” 1 Peter 2:24. Thus it is plain that all the tendencies to sin that are in us and have not appeared and all the sins which have appeared were laid upon Him. It is terrible. It is true. But, O, joy! In that terrible truth lies the completeness of our salvation.

Note another view: Those sins which we have committed, we ourselves felt the guilt of them and were conscious of condemnation because of them. These were all imputed to Him. They were all laid upon Him. Now a question: Did He feel the guilt of the sins that were imputed to Him? Was He conscious of the condemnation of the sins—our sins—that were laid upon Him? He never was conscious of sins that He committed, for He did not commit any. That is true. But our sins were laid upon Him and we were guilty. Did He realize the guilt of these sins? Was He conscious of condemnation because of these sins?

We will look at that in such a way that every soul in the house shall say, "Yes." I will say that another way: We will look at it in such a way that every soul in the house will either say "Yes" or may say "Yes" if he will, because there may be some in the house who have not had the experience that I will bring for the illustration, but many have it, and then they can say, "Yes." All others who have had the experience will say "Yes" at once.

God imputes righteousness, the righteousness of Christ, unto the believing sinner. Here is a man who has never known anything in his life but sin, never anything but the guilt of sin, never anything but the condemnation of sin. That man believes on Jesus Christ, and God imputes to that man the righteousness of Christ. Then that man who never committed a particle of righteousness in his life is conscious of righteousness. Something has entered his life that was never there before. He is conscious of it, and he is conscious of the joy of it and the freedom of it.

Now God imputed our sins to Jesus Christ as certainly as He imputes His righteousness to us. But when he imputes righteousness to us who are nothing but sinners, we realize it and are conscious of it and conscious of the joy of it. Therefore, when He imputed our sins to Jesus, He was conscious of the guilt of them and the condemnation of them, just as certainly as the believing sinner is conscious of the righteousness of Christ and the peace and joy of it that is imputed to him—that is, that is laid upon him.

In all this also, Jesus was precisely ourselves. Or in all points He was truly made like unto us. In all points of temptation He was ourselves. He was one of us in the flesh; He was ourselves, and thus He was ourselves in temptation. And in points in guilt and condemnation He was precisely ourselves, because it was our sins, our guilt and our condemnation that were laid upon Him.

Now another thing upon what we have said: "our sins"—how many of them? All were laid upon Him, and He carried the guilt and the condemnation of them all, and also answered for them, paid for them, atoned for them. Then in Him we are free from every sin that we have ever committed. That is the truth. Let us be glad of it and praise God with everlasting joy.

He took all the sins which we have committed; He answered for them and took them away from us forever and all the tendencies to sin which have not appeared in actual sins—these he put forever under foot. Thus He sweeps the whole board and we are free and complete in Him.

O, He is a complete Saviour. He is a Saviour from sins committed and the Conqueror of the tendencies to commit sins. In Him we have the victory. We are no more responsible for these tendencies being in us that we are responsible for the sun shining, but every man on earth is responsible for these things appearing in open action in Him, because Jesus Christ has made provision against their ever appearing in open action. Before we learned of Christ, many of them had appeared in open action. The Lord hath laid upon Him all these and He has taken them away. Since we learned of Christ, these tendencies which have not appeared He condemned as sin in the flesh. And shall He who believes in Jesus allow that which Christ condemned in the flesh to rule over Him in the flesh? This is the victory that belongs to the believer in Jesus.

It is true that, although a man may have all this in Jesus, He cannot profit by it without himself being a believer in Jesus. Take the man who does not believe in Jesus at all tonight. Has not Christ made all the provision for him that He has for Elijah, who is in heaven tonight? And if this man wants to have Christ for his Saviour, if he wants provision made for all his sins and salvation from all of them, does Christ have to do anything now in order to provide for this man's sins or to save him from them? No. That is all done.

He made all that provision for every man when He was in the flesh and every man who believes in Him receives this without there being any need of any part of it being done over again. He "made one sacrifice for sins forever." And having by Himself purged us from our sins, He sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high. Thus it is all in Him and every believer in Him possesses it all in Him and in Him is complete. It is in Him and that is the blessedness of it. "In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the godhead bodily." And God gives His eternal Spirit and us eternal life—eternity in which to live—in order that that eternal Spirit may reveal to us and make known to us the eternal depths of the salvation that we have in Him whose goings forth have been from the days of eternity.

Now let us look at it in another way. Turn to Romans 5:12:

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

Now, leaving out the verses in parenthesis for the moment and reading them afterward, read the eighteenth verse:

Therefore, as by the offense of one [that man that sinned] judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [that Man that did not sin] the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience [that man that sinned] many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one [that Man that did not sin] shall many be made righteous.

For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

Adam, then, was the figure of Him that was to come. That one to come is Christ. Adam was the figure of Him. Wherein was Adam the figure of Him? In his righteousness? No. For he did not keep it. In his sin? No. For Christ did not sin. Wherein, then, was Adam the figure of Christ? In this: That all that were in the world were included in Adam, and all that are in the world are included in Christ. In other words: Adam in his sin reached all the world; Jesus Christ, the second Adam, in His righteousness touches all humanity. That is where Adam is the figure of Him that was to come. So read on:

But not as the offense, so also is the free gift: for if through the offense of one many be dead, much more the grace of God and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

There are two men, then, whom we are studying: That one man by whom sin entered; that one man by whom righteousness entered. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation but the free gift is of many offenses unto justification. For if by one man's offense death reigned by one [that is, by the first Adam]; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ [the second Adam].

Read another text in connection with this before we touch the particular study of it. 1 Corinthians 15:45–49:

So it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."

The first Adam touched all of us; what he did included all of us. If he had remained true to God, that would have included all of us. And when he fell away from God, that included us and took us also. Whatever he should have done embraced us, and what he did made us what we are.

Now here is another Adam. Does He touch as many as the first Adam did? That is the question. That is what we are studying now. Does the second Adam touch as many as did the first Adam? And the answer is that it is certainly true that what the second Adam did embraces all that were embraced in what the first Adam did. What he should have done, what he could have done, would embrace all.

Suppose Christ had yielded to temptation and had sinned. Would that have meant anything to us? It would have meant everything to us. The first Adam's sin meant all this to us; sin on the part of the second Adam would have meant all this to us. The first Adam's righteousness would have meant all to us and the second Adam's righteousness means all to as many as believe. That is correct in a certain sense, but not in the sense in which we are studying it now. We are now studying from the side of the Adams. We will look at it from our side presently.

The question is, Does the second Adam's righteousness embrace as many as does the first Adam's sin? Look closely. Without our consent at all, without our having anything to do with it, we were all included in the first Adam; we were there. All the human race were in the first Adam. What that first Adam—what that first man, did meant us; it involved us. That which the first Adam did brought us into sin, and the end of sin is death, and that touches every one of us and involves every one of us.

Jesus Christ, the second man, took our sinful nature. He touched us "in all points." He became we and died the death. And so in Him and by that every man that has ever lived upon the earth and was involved in the first Adam is involve in this and will live again. There will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and of the unjust. Every soul shall live again by the second Adam from the death that came by the first Adam.

"Well," says one, "we are involved in other sins besides that one." Not without our choice. When God said, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed," He set every man free to choose which master he would serve, and since that, every man that has sinned in this world has done it because he chose to.

"If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not."—not them who had no chance to believe; the god of this world blinds no man until he has shut his eyes of faith. When he shuts his eyes of faith, then Satan will see that they are kept shut as long as possible. I read the text again: "If our gospel,"—the everlasting gospel, the gospel of Jesus Christ which is Christ in you the hope of glory, from the days of the first Adam's sin until now—"if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost." It is hid to them "in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds." And why did he blind the minds? Because they "believe not."

Abraham, a heathen, born a heathen, as all the rest of us are, and raised a heathen, grew up in a family of heathens, worshiping idols and the heavenly hosts. He turned from it all unto God and opened his eyes of faith and used them, and Satan never had a chance to blind his eyes. And Abraham, a heathen, thus turning from among heathens unto God and finding God in Jesus Christ in the fullness of hope—that is one reason why God has set him before all the world. He is an example of what every heathen on this earth may find. He is a God-set-forth example of how every heathen is without excuse if he does not find God in Jesus Christ, by the everlasting gospel. Abraham is set before all nations in witness of the fact that every heathen is responsible in his own way if he does not find what Abraham found.

Therefore, just as far as the first Adam reaches man, so far the second Adam reaches man. The first Adam brought man under the condemnation of sin, even unto death; the second Adam's righteousness undoes that and makes every man live again. As soon as Adam sinned, God gave him a second chance and set him free to choose which master he would have. Since that time every man is free to choose which way he will go; therefore he is responsible for his own individual sins. And when Jesus Christ has set us all free from the sin and the death which came upon us from the first Adam, that freedom is for every man, and every man can have it for the choosing.

The Lord will not compel any one to take it. He compels no one to sin and He compels no one to be righteous. Everyone sins upon his own choice. The Scriptures demonstrate it. And every one can be made perfectly righteous at his choice. And the Scriptures demonstrate this. No man will die the second death who has not chosen sin rather than righteousness, death rather than life. In Jesus Christ there is furnished in completeness all that man needs or ever can have in righteousness, and all there is for any man to do is to choose Christ and then it is his.

So then as the first Adam was We, the second Adam is We. In all points He is as weak as are we. Read two texts: He says of us, "Without me ye can do nothing." Of Himself He says: "Of mine own self I can do nothing."

These two texts are all we want now. They tell the whole story. To be without Christ is to be without God, and there the man can do nothing. He is utterly helpless of himself and in himself. That is where the man is who is without God. Jesus Christ says: "Of mine own self I can do nothing." Then that shows that the Lord Jesus put Himself in this world, in the flesh, in His human nature, precisely where the man is in this world who is without God. He put Himself precisely where lost man is. He left out His divine self and became we. And there, helpless as we are without God, He ran the risk of getting back to where God is and bringing us with him. It was a fearful risk, but, glory to God, He won. The thing was accomplished, and in Him we are saved.

When He stood where we are, He said, "I will put my trust in Him" and that trust was never disappointed. In response to that trust the Father dwelt in Him and with Him and kept Him from sinning. Who was He? We. And thus the Lord Jesus has brought to every man in this world divine faith. That is the faith of the Lord Jesus. That is saving faith. Faith is not something that comes from ourselves with which we believe upon Him, but it is that something with which He believed—the faith which He exercised, which He brings to us, and which becomes ours and works in us—the gift of God.

That is what the word means, "Here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." They keep the faith of Jesus because it is that divine faith which Jesus exercised Himself.

He being we brought to us that divine faith which saves the soul—that divine faith by which we can say with Him, "I will put my trust in Him." And in so putting our trust in Him, that trust today will never be disappointed anymore than it was then. God responded then to the trust and dwelt with Him. God will respond today to that trust in us and will dwell with us.

God dwelt with Him and He was ourselves. Therefore His name is Emmanuel, God with us. Not God with Him. God was with Him before the world was; He could have remained there and not come here at all and still God could have remained with Him and His name could have been God with Him. He could have come into this world as He was in heaven and His name could still have been God with Him. But that never could have been God with us. But what we needed was God with us. God with Him does not help us, unless He is we. But that is the blessedness of it. He who was one of God became one of us; He who was God became we, in order that God with Him should be God with us. O, that is His name! That is His name! Rejoice in that name forevermore—God with us! *1895 General Conference Bulletin*.
A. T. Jones.

There is a great many things that can be followed up on from Jones' sermon. I would like to touch upon one of those. Jones addresses the faith of Jesus:

"And thus the Lord Jesus has brought to every man in this world divine faith. That is the faith of the Lord Jesus. That is saving faith. Faith is not something that comes from ourselves with which we believe upon Him, but it is that something with which He believed—the faith which He exercised, which He brings to us, and which becomes ours and works in us—the gift of God. That is what the word means, 'Here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.' They keep the faith of Jesus because it is that divine faith which Jesus exercised Himself.

“He being we brought to us that divine faith which saves the soul—that divine faith by which we can say with Him, ‘I will put my trust in Him.’ And in so putting our trust in Him, that trust today will never be disappointed anymore than it was then. God responded then to the trust and dwelt with Him. God will respond today to that trust in us and will dwell with us.”

We know that faith comes by hearing the word of God, and one of the characteristics of the remnant is that they have this divine faith, which Jones was speaking of. Part of this truth that I believe is largely missed in Adventism today is, where and how, the divine faith of Jesus is established, sustained and brought to perfection:

“Ministers should present **the sure word of prophecy** as the foundation of the faith of Seventh-day Adventists.” *Evangelism*, 196.

“The Word of God, just as it reads, is the ground of our faith. That Word is **the sure word of prophecy**, and it demands implicit faith from all who claim to believe it. It is authoritative, containing in itself the proof of its divine origin.” *Signs of the Times*, June 2, 1898.

“Beginning at Moses, the very Alpha of Bible history, Christ expounded in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Had He first made Himself known to them, their hearts would have been satisfied. In the fullness of their joy they would have hungered for nothing more. But it was necessary for them to understand the witness borne to Him by the types and prophecies of the Old Testament. Upon these their faith must be established. Christ performed no miracle to convince them, but it was His first work to explain the Scriptures. They had looked upon His death as the destruction of all their hopes. Now He showed from **the prophets that this was the very strongest evidence for their faith**. . . .

“It is the voice of Christ that speaks through patriarchs and prophets, from the days of Adam even to the closing scenes of time. The Saviour is revealed in the Old Testament as clearly as in the New. It is the light from the prophetic past that brings out the life of Christ and the teachings of the New Testament with clearness and beauty. The miracles of Christ are a proof of His divinity; but **a stronger proof that He is the world’s Redeemer is found in comparing the prophecies of the Old Testament with the history of the New.**” *The Desire of Ages*, 798–799.

BIBLICAL VALUES AND CULTURE

Our culture—including our unparalleled tradition of freedom—has declined and will continue to decline in direct proportion to our rejection of biblical values. *The Conservative Chronicle*, July 10, 2002.

John Adams advised: “Statesmen. . . may plan and speculate for Liberty, but it is Religion and Morality alone, which can establish the Principles upon which Freedom can securely stand. . . . The only foundation of a free Constitution, is pure Virtue, and if this cannot be inspired into our People, in a great Measure, than they have it now, They may change their Rulers, and the forms of Government, but they will not obtain a lasting Liberty.” *The Federalist Digest*, November 20, 2002.

Quote: Francis Bacon, British philosopher and politician—“If we do not maintain justice, Justice will not maintain us.”

GLOBAL REGIME INSTITUTIONS UP AND OPERATING

Their dream is to limit US sovereignty and transfer control of US wealth and power to a global elite that intends to rule the world in the interests not of nations, but of mankind. The institutions of that global regime are already up and operating.

The UN Security Council is its Senate; the General Assembly its lower house. Its Supreme Court is to consist of the World Trade Organization for trade, the ICC for war crimes and the World Court for disputes between nations. The foreign-aid dispensers are the African, Asian and Latin American Development banks, and the World Bank. The IMF is its Federal Reserve—and its model is the European Union.

The vehicle the globalists hope to ride is free trade. As the European Coal and Steel Community led to the European Economic Community—to the European Community—to the European Union of today—and the Euroland of tomorrow, they hope NAFTA will lead to a hemispheric free-trade zone, then a global zone with a single currency. Out of this will arise a regime that will slowly expand its power until national sovereignty is ancient history. *The Conservative Chronicle*, July 10, 2002.

And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Revelation 13:15–17.

“Now, just now, is our time to work in foreign countries. As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example. Our people are not half awake to do all in their power, with the facilities within their reach, to extend the message of warning.” *Testimonies*, volume 6, 18.

THE UN'S ANTI-SABBATH ANTI-SEMITISM

Anti-Semitism has proved to be the most durable and successful ideology of the ideology-besotted 20th century. It is [now] a stronger force in world affairs than it has been since it went into a remarkably brief eclipse after the liberation of the Nazi extermination camps in 1945. The UN, supposedly an embodiment of lessons learned from the war that ended in 1945, is now the instrument for lending spurious legitimacy to the anti-Semites' war against the Jewish state founded by survivors of that war. Anti-Semitism has no prescription for the improvement of society beyond the elimination of part of society. Today many people say that the Arabs and their European echoes would be mollified if Israel would change its behavior. People who say that do not understand the centrality of anti-Semitism in the current crisis. Anti-Semitism is not directed against the behavior of the Jews, but against the existence of the Jews.

Who could have imagined that more than a half-century after the Holocaust, Europe's Jews would again be harassed and hunted. But this time, instead of Aryan storm troopers animated by Mein Kampf, the assailants are Arab immigrants waving the Koran. In place of “Sieg heil!,” they're shouting “Jihad!” *The Conservative Chronicle*, May 15, 2002.

Editor's note: Will Old World Islam and Catholicism find common ground for unification in their hatred of Jews in particular, and all Sabbath-keepers in general? And will New World apostate Protestantism and Catholicism find common ground for unification in Sunday worship, and hatred of Sabbath-keepers also? What happens in the Old World will also happen in the New.

“Romanism in the Old World and apostate Protestantism in the New will pursue a similar course toward those who honor all the divine precepts.” *The Great Controversy*, 615.

MUSLIMS HATE JEWS

At the end of the Eid al-Adha holiday in Mecca's Grand Mosque, Sheikh Osama Abdullah Khayyat addressed the assembled worshippers. On orders from the Saudi regime, the sheikh eschewed politics—but not gratuitous anti-Semitism. Among many Moslem clerics, Jew hatred is second nature. A Saudi Ministry of Islamic Affairs officer, speaking on a popular TV show, called the Jews "brother of apes and pigs." The World Trade Center attack was the product of a "Jewish-Zionist" conspiracy and the US should "get rid of the Jews." Anti-Zionism and anti-Americanism go hand-in-hand. *The Conservative Chronicle*, March 6, 2002.

"If Satan could by any means spread the impression that Seventh-day Adventists are the off scouring of all things, he would be glad to do it." *Testimonies*, volume 5, 645.

ARAB HOPE, WESTERN FEAR

The cause of terrorism is not despair, but rather hope. And today, from the Muslim suburbs of Paris to the salons of Cairo to the grubby streets of the West Bank, the Arab Muslims live in hope. Peace cannot be negotiated with them until their hope has been turned to despair, and their despair to reason. So long as the Arab masses live in hope of triumphant Islam, the West will live in fear of terror. *The Conservative Chronicle*, May 15, 2002.

MOSLEMS AND THE "NEW ROME"

The [Moslems] see America as "ruthless, aggressive, conceited, arrogant, easily provoked, biased." In short, Arabs and Moslems see us as the new Rome—a ruthless and godless empire—not as a Godly republic or a shining city on a hill. *The Conservative Chronicle*, March 13, 2002.

481—Number of hate crimes against Muslims in the US in 2001.

28—Number of hate crimes against Muslims in the US in 2000. *Time*, December 9, 2002.

BUSH THREATENS IRAQ

President Bush asserted during Monday's Veterans Day observances: "We will not permit a dictator who has used weapons of mass destruction to threaten America with chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. This great nation will not live at the mercy of any foreign plot or power. The dictator of Iraq will fully disarm, or the US will lead a coalition and disarm him." *The Federalist Digest*, 15 November 2002.

Quote: President George W. Bush—On Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein: "After all, this is the guy who tried to kill my dad." *CNN*.

Quote: Pat Robertson—"I wish the Jews in America would wake up . . . Adolf Hitler was bad, but what the Muslims want to do the Jews is worse." *Time*, November 25, 2002.

Quote: "Delighted." Amrozi, chief suspect in the Bali bombing, describing to a national police chief, how he felt after seeing the explosion. *Time*, November 25, 2002.

US STUDENTS LEANING TO THE LEFT

Today's college freshmen are more liberal than any freshmen since the early 1970's. A University of Southern California study pointed to growing popularity of left-wing ideas. The poll found that 57.9% support gay marriage, 32.2% oppose capital punishment, and over 33% support marijuana legalization. About 30% defined themselves as on the "left," 50% considered themselves "middle of the road," and about 20% said they were on the "right." A record 15.8% of freshmen said they have no religious preference, up slightly from last year and more than double the figure in 1966. The survey's founder called the results "a broad-based trend toward greater liberalism on almost every issue we look at." *WORLD*, February 9, 2002.

DOWNSIDE OF US RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

The US is the most religious of the Western democracies. There are more churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques per capita in the US than in any other nation on Earth: one for about every 865 people.

Pollster George Gallup Jr. says, "People are reaching out in all directions in their attempt to escape from the seen world to the unseen world. There is a deep desire for spiritual moorings—a hunger for God."

The US is also the most religiously diverse, now with more Buddhists than Presbyterians, and nearly as many Muslims as Jews. Meanwhile, more than 3 in 4 Americans believe all religions have at least some elements of truth—even though few say they know much about religions other than their own. And nearly 70% think spiritual experiences are the most important part of religion. If one's religion is more about individual identity than doctrine or creed, it's a lot easier to be tolerant. Gallup says that the high degree of religious tolerance reflects, in part, "not only a lack of knowledge of other religions but an ignorance of one's own faith." In some polls, he says, "you have Christians saying, 'Yes, Jesus is the only way.' and also, 'Yes, there are many paths to God.' It's not that Americans don't believe anything; they believe everything." *U.S. News & World Report*, May 6, 2002.

"They rejected the great principle which was the very foundation of the Reformation—that the word of God is the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice; and for that unerring guide they substituted the changeable, uncertain standard of their own feelings and impressions. By this act of setting aside the great detector of error and falsehood the way was opened for Satan to control minds as best pleased himself." *The Great Controversy*, 186.

US CONSERVATIVES STRENGTHEN

Going into the election, Democrats controlled both the House and the Senate in 18 states, while the GOP [Republicans] controlled the House and the Senate in 17 states, and 14 were divided. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, the White House party has lost an average of over 350 state legislature seats in midterms since 1938. Republicans broke this trend, gaining over 200 seats, putting the GOP at least 550 seats above the historic average. Now, for the first time since 1952, the GOP holds a majority of state legislative seats around the country. Republicans control both houses in 21 states, Democrats control both in 17 states, and the number of states with divided legislatures is down to 11. And as final note, voter turnout increased from 37.6% in the 1998 midterm to 39.3% in 2002. *The Federalist Digest*, November 15, 2002.

THE NEW REPUBLICANS

PBS's Bill Moyers summed up last week's election results: "Way back in the 1950's when I first tasted politics and journalism, Republicans briefly controlled the White House and Congress. They were a reasonable lot. . . . That brand of Republican is gone. And for the first time in the memory of anyone alive, the entire federal government—the Congress, the Executive, the Judiciary—is united behind a right-wing agenda for which George W. Bush believes he now has a mandate. . . . [I]f you like God in government, get ready for the Rapture." *The Federalist Chronicle*, November 13, 2002.

Editor's note: Considering the profoundly religious character of the New Republicans it is easy to see that they will be very willing to enact Sunday laws when the demand arises.

"Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected." *The Great Controversy*, 592.

CHURCH STATE SEPARATION?

House majority whip, Tom Delay stated that the “faith-based initiatives” would be a way of “standing up and rebuking this notion of separation of church and state that has been imposed upon us over the last 40 or 50 years. You see, I don’t believe there is a separation of church and state. I think the Constitution is very clear. We have the right and the freedom to exercise our religion, no matter what it is, anywhere we choose to do it. We have opportunity to once again get back into the public arena. *American United for Separation of Church and State* press release, July 11, 2001.

Quote: “I believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute—where no Catholic prelate would tell the president (should he be Catholic) how to act and no Protestant minister would tell his parishioners for whom to vote—where no church or church school is granted any public funds or political preference—and where no man is denied public office merely because his religion differs from the president who might appoint him or the people who might elect him. I believe in an America that is officially neither Catholic, Protestant, nor Jewish—where no public official either requests or accepts instructions on public policy from the pope, the National Council of Churches, or any other ecclesiastical source—where no religious body seeks to impose its will directly or indirectly upon the general populace or the public acts of its officials—and where religious liberty is so indivisible that an act against one church is treated as an act against all.”—John F. Kennedy, in an address to the *Ministerial Association of Greater Houston*, September 12, 1960. Quoted in *Liberty Magazine*, July/August, 2002.

Love to read your Comments in *Future News* . Did you happen to see the comment made in the Sabbath School quarterly on 666? I totally disagree. (It was Friday’s comments.) IC

Dear Jeff Pippenger,

Praise God that he has people like you who study and can help explain things in the Bible. Thank you for your tape ministry and for sending your tapes the last several months. Please respond to this quarters conference lesson quarterly, June 6. This is what I heard one of the Maxwell’s preach about 4 years ago at an Arizona Camp meeting. I will not go back to another conference camp meeting because of that and the other sermons, youth programs, etc. May God bless you and your ministry and keep you all faithful until he returns. A Sister in Christ BCG

P.S. Please read June 6 lesson on the Mark and number of the beast. If you get a chance could you please respond to me if it is correct or not?

Dear IC and BCG,

The mark of the beast is the mark of the beast’s authority. The beast is Catholicism. The mark of her authority is Sunday sacredness in the place of Sabbath sacredness. 666 is one of the characteristics that identifies the beast of Catholicism, whose human representative is the “man of sin”, the antichrist, the pope of Rome. This is a foundational understanding of Adventism. We have been warned that some would become confused on this subject. Jeff

“The enemy’s last great conflict will be a most determined one. It will be the last battle between the powers of darkness and the powers of light. Every true child of God will fight bravely on the side of Christ. Those who in this great crisis allow themselves to be more on the side of the world than of God, will eventually place themselves wholly on the side of the world. Those who become confused in their understanding of the word, who fail to see the meaning of antichrist, will surely place themselves on the side of antichrist. There is no time now for us to assimilate with the world. Daniel is standing in his lot and in his place. The prophecies of Daniel and of John are to be understood. They interpret each other. They give to the world truths which every one should understand. These prophecies are to be witness in the world. By their fulfillment in these last days, they will explain themselves.” *The Kress Collection*, 105.

FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF THE *EGW COMMENTS*

Dear Readers. We ran across this beautiful article and thought you would be blessed by it too:

"D.M. Canright said the following about Ellen G. White, ten years before he suddenly turned against her and wrote articles attacking her as a vicious person: 'As to the Christian character of Sister White, I beg leave to say that I think I know something about it. I have been acquainted with Sister White for eighteen years, more than half the history of our people. I have been in their family time and again, sometimes weeks at a time. They have been in our house and family many times. I have traveled with them almost everywhere; have been with them in private and in public, in meeting and out of meeting, and have had the very best chances to know something of the life, character, and spirit of Brother and Sister White. . . .

"I know Sister White to be an unassuming, modest, kind-hearted, noble woman. These traits in her character are not simply put on and cultivated, but they spring gracefully and easily from her natural disposition. She is not self-conceited, self-righteous, and self-important, as fanatics always are. I have frequently come in contact with fanatical persons, and I have always found them to be full of pretensions, full of pride, ready to give their opinion, boastful of their holiness, etc. But I have ever found Sister White the reverse of all this. Any one, the poorest and the humblest, can go to her freely for advice and comfort without being repulsed. She is ever looking after the needy, the destitute, and the suffering, providing for them, and pleading their cause. I have never formed an acquaintance with any persons who so constantly have the fear of God before them. Nothing is undertaken without earnest prayer to God. She studies God's Word carefully and constantly.

"I have heard Sister White speak hundreds of times, have read all her testimonies through and through, most of them many times, and I have never been able to find one immoral sentence in the whole of them, or anything that is not strictly pure and Christian; nothing that leads away from the Bible, or from Christ; but there I find the most earnest appeals to obey God, to love Jesus, to believe the Scriptures, and to search them constantly. I have received great spiritual benefit times without number, from the testimonies. Indeed, I never read them without feeling reprov'd lack of faith in God, lack of devotion, and lack of earnestness in saving souls. If I have any judgment, any spiritual discernment, I pronounce the testimonies to be of the same Spirit and of the same tenor as the Scriptures. . . .

"One thing I have remarked, and that is, that the most bitter opponents of the visions of Sister White admit that she is a Christian. How they can now make this admission is more than I know. They try to fix it up by saying that she is deceived. They are not able to put their finger upon a single stain in all her life, nor an immoral sentence in all her writings. They have to admit that much of her writings are excellent, and whoever would live out all she says would be a good Christian, sure of Heaven. This is passing strange if she is a tool of the devil, inspired by Satan, or if her writings are immoral or the vagaries of her own mind.' —Written by the man who later turned on Ellen White as her most fervent enemy: Dudley Marvin Canright, *Review and Herald*, April 26, 1877. The following statement tells of Canright at her funeral in 1915, twenty-eight years after he first declared her to be of the devil:

"Even the bitterest critic—one who had left the movement and turned to write many attacks upon the work of his former associated, and especially upon the Spirit of Prophecy in the church-paid tribute to a noble Christian life. He came to Mrs. White's funeral. His brother . . . told us of D.M. Canright's emotion as they walked together past the casket, with others of the congregation, at the close of the funeral service. They came back to their pew, and stood while the great congregation was still filing past. "Then, . . . my brother (D.M.Canright) suggested that we go down again, to take one more look. We joined the passing throng, and again stood by the bier. My brother rested his hand upon the side of the casket, and with tears rolling down his cheeks, he said brokenly, 'There is a noble Christian women gone!'"—W.A. Spicer, quoted in *Spirit of Prophecy Treasure Chest*, page 186."

If you would like to subscribe to the *EGW Comments* Sabbath school quarterly you may telephone them at 530-533-8111 or email them at: egwcomments@JPS.net