

Future NEWS

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WATCH YOUR STEP!

Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.’ Prov. 4:26. “‘Make straight paths for your feet,” says the apostle, ‘lest that which is lame be turned out of the way.’ Heb. 12:13. The path that leads away from God, away from His holy, perfect standard of right, is always crooked and dangerous. Yet . . . many have been walking in this path of transgression. In many cases they did not start right in childhood and youth, and they have pursued crooked paths all the way along. Not only have they erred from the right way themselves but through the influence of their example others have been turned aside from the straight, plain path, and have made fatal mistakes. . . .

“We do not always realize the power of example. We are brought in contact with others. We meet persons who are erring, who do wrong in various ways; they may be disagreeable, quick, passionate, dictatorial. While dealing with these we must be patient, forbearing, kind, and gentle. Satan works through them to provoke and harass, so that we shall not exhibit a pleasant and lovable disposition. There are trials and perplexities for us all to encounter; for we are in a world of cares, anxieties, and disappointments. But these continual annoyances must be met in the spirit of Christ. Through grace we may rise superior to our surroundings, and keep our spirits calm and unruffled amid the frets and worries of everyday life. We shall thus represent Christ to the world. . . .

“Consecration to God must be a living, practical matter; not a theory to be talked about, but a principle interwoven with all our experience. We should let our light so shine before others that they, seeing our good works, shall glorify our Father who is in Heaven. We should show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. If the light of Heaven is in the soul, it will be reflected to all around us. I wish all could see this important subject in its true light. There would not then be such thoughtlessness of words and acts, such careless, indolent, irreligious living.” *Our High Calling*, 243.

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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.

Ministry Update

Dear Friends,

Kathy and I brought in New Year's Eve this year finishing a prophecy school in Germany. We then had a meeting in Southern California. After that we had local meetings here at home, and then attended the significant meeting in Oklahoma where we compared the genuine message of Daniel eleven verses forty through forty-five with a theological understanding of the same verses. Immediately after that we held the fateful prophecy school in Colombia, where I was briefly kidnapped. From there we attended a planning session in Virginia on how to take the message of Daniel eleven to non-Adventists. We then held a weekend meeting in Tennessee, followed by a weekend meeting in Virginia, while sandwiching in two Wednesday night prayer meetings in Tennessee before and after the Virginia meetings. We then were home for two Sabbaths, then left for a weekend meeting in Oregon, but before returning home, we traveled to Korea for a weekend meeting there. The following weekend I was in Chicago for Thursday through Sabbath and the next weekend, which was last Sabbath we were in Riverside, California. We solicit your prayers. Travel is wearying and it impacts the mental clarity needed to present and defend the precious message of the hour, but it is also a work that must be done. Jeff Pippenger

TRAVEL SCHEDULE FOR 2004

July 20-August 22	Romania and Germany
September 3-6	Arkansas
September 17	Texas
September 22-26	Christian Coalition, Washington D.C.
October 1	Northern California
October 8	Angwin
December	Germany

The Number Seven.

Seven is a number most complete;
Seven years compose the jubilee;
Seven days compose the Christian week;
Seven attributes the Deity.

Seven Orbs we say revolve the sun;
Seven colors do the rainbow grace;
Seven wonders in the world were done;
Seven legions were of Mary's race.

Seven lamps within the golden bowl;
Seven pipes did shine from every one;
Seven eyes to Joshua shown on stone;
Seven eyes with Zerubabel plumb.

Seven priests round Jericho compassed,
Seven trumpet of ram's horns to sound,
Seven days did bring a certain blast,
Seven brought the walls all to the ground.

Seven churches ancient Asia graced;
Seven candlesticks therein were placed;
Seven seals were once upon the book,
Seven were by Judah's lion broke.

Seven horns were seen upon the Lamb;
Seven were the heads the dragon bore;
Seven angels flew at God's command,
Seven phials of his wrath to pour.

Seven times with oil the sprinkling priests,
Sprinkled before the throne of God;
Seven times that finger, type of Christ,
Sprinkled the mercy seat with blood.

Signs of the Times, 130.

Reader's Response

Dear Jeff & Kathy Pippenger

How are you? Did you arrive to your house in safety? I am fine. May Our Lord's grace be filled with you and your home. I thank from the bottom of one's heart to you, for your visit and precious messages. We have learned really wonderful facts at this meeting. We realized and felt that where we are, and time is short. When I was learning about accomplishment of prophecy and repetition of history I was deeply impressed and I had conviction that our God is living God

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and His dominate the world. I felt that I need God's help, and it's time to study God's word, and search and meet God. I want be ready for latter rain so I want have clean soul, and I want have close friendship with Jesus. Praise the Lord for He has given to us prophecy. Many people moved, not only your lecture but your average looks. We are thankful you enjoy Korean food. If I can speak English well, I would have conversation with you. When I go to heaven I will invite you to my garden home. Thank for the disks that you've given to me. I copied that disk and sent to brother S. by e-mail. Thank again for those disks. If God give me a chance, so I can go to USA I want go to your house and your farm and also I want see many kind of fruit trees that you told me about. But I don't know to where God will lead me. If I can not see you in this earth, I will see you in heaven! May God bless your work and your home! I will send to you e-mail at next time. Please understand my very no good English. Good bye! In one hope. KHB—Korea

Hi Jeff!

Thanks so much to you and Bud for the article in June 2004 regarding the different translations of Bibles. I've been using the NIV and have found that I had to write in pencil what the true meaning to passages in Revelation and Daniel meant because the NIV translations are so different and are missing key words. I am convinced that I should get a KJV only (maybe the version with Mrs. Whites notes). Thanks. ET—Canada

Current Events

THE DRAGON

Church Leaders Ask for Cooperation with U.N. to Resolve Barrier Issue and Resume Peace Negotiations

U.S. Church leaders appealed to their government to support the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion on Israel's separation barrier. The court said earlier today that it is against international law for Israel to build its barrier in the occupied territories and that it should be dismantled. For nearly a year, the U.S. churches that work together through Churches for Middle East Peace have advocated for the United States government's intervention to stop Israel's building of the barrier beyond the 1967 "green line" on occupied land in the West Bank and in East Jerusalem.

"We are grateful that the humanitarian consequences for the Palestinian people of this massive barrier are no longer being ignored," was the response of Episcopal Bishop Barry Howe of the Diocese of West Missouri. Howe was part of a delegation of seven U.S. Episcopal bishops who viewed the barrier on a trip to Palestine and Israel in May. "The International Court opinion as well as that of the Israeli Supreme Court ruling on June 30 emphasizes the humanitarian dimension as well as that of the rule of law." Recognizing that the Israelis argue that they needed the barrier for protection from violent terrorist acts, Bishop Howe continued: "The security that Israel seeks, and deserves, will be found in resolving the conflict through a negotiated solution with all concerned and the establishment of a Palestinian state with peace and security for all in the region."

Franciscan Sister Florence Deacon, director of Franciscans International (an NGO at the United Nations in New York), noted that Franciscans have had custody of Christianity's traditional Holy Land shrines for 800 years. She appreciated the Court's emphasis on the role of the United Nations in negotiating a just and lasting peace in that land sacred to all the children of Abraham. "For the past 50 years, the United States has been a trusted friend of the state of Israel while also caring about the Palestinian people's welfare, and more recently their political rights. Our government needs to use these historic ties to push both sides toward serious negotiations without further delay." She urged the United States "to be a partner with the global community and work within the United Nations' system to bring security to both peoples. We cannot have two sets of standards for upholding international law."

Dennis Frado, director of the Lutheran Office for World Community at the United Nations, said, "All Members of the United Nations should respect today's advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice. This is a particularly important principle for all of the parties seeking an end to the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians." Referring to the Lutheran churches' historical involvement with Namibia, he said, "We recall the ICJ's opinion in 1971 that South Africa was illegally occupying Namibia. That dispute unfortunately continued to take too many lives and cause unnecessary hardships on both sides before it was resolved. The religious community is called to redouble our efforts for peace with justice in this region as well." *US Newswire*, July 9, 2004.

The International Court of "Justice"

The International Court of "Justice" ruled 14-1 last Friday in favor of the Palestinians that Israel's security fence is illegal, according to international "law." (And just how, you ask, did the non-state of "Palestine" sue a nation such as Israel before the ICJ? The UN General Assembly brought the case for them.) *The Federalist*, July 16, 2004.

"The third **wall** which the papacy will bring down in order to take control of the entire world is the symbolic '**wall of national sovereignty.**' The likely structure which will be used to control the world is the United Nations. Already within the laws which have already been developed by the United Nations, we find the legal principles designed to remove national sovereignty. This organization has already written and passed laws which supercede the national laws of individual countries. In fact, many of these countries — including the United States— have already signed these agreements, placing the laws of the individual nations in subjection to the laws of the world government. In order for the papacy to command the entire world, national sovereignty must be removed." *The Final Rise and Fall of the King of the North*, 37.

THE BEAST

Eastern patriarch, pope vow to seek unity

Sitting side by side, Pope John Paul II and the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christians made passionate appeals yesterday for unity between their churches, while acknowledging serious obstacles remain.

With Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople saying the joy of the occasion was clouded by "disappointment" over lack of unity, the pope assured him that Roman Catholics are irrevocably committed to mending the rupture between the Eastern and Western branches of Christianity.

These efforts "cannot be abandoned," said the pope, urging all Christians to intensify them.

"The road is certainly not easy or without obstacles," the 84-year-old John Paul declared, holding up well in the two-hour service despite his frail condition.

*The
Final
Rise
and Fall
of the
King of
the North
by
Jeff
Pippenger
Revised
Edition
\$7.00*

Both men insisted their presence on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica was not merely ceremonial but a genuine attempt to mend their split in the 11th century over the growing power of the papacy, with more recent tensions over the expansion of the Catholic Church's reach in the former Soviet Union.

Bartholomew, speaking in Italian like the pope, acknowledged it could still take some time to achieve the goal but said there is a "sincere desire to remove obstacles."

The patriarch, a gold and purple cape over his black robes, sat to the right of John Paul, who wore red vestments, at the flower-filled altar for a Mass on the feast day of St. Peter and St. Paul.

Vatican officials said the two men will sign a joint declaration later in the week. A top cardinal, Walter Kasper, suggested the churches might agree to resume theological talks interrupted three years ago and establish regular contacts.

At a meeting earlier in the day, the pope again expressed remorse over "painful episodes of history" that have darkened their relations.

"In particular, we cannot forget what happened in the month of April 1204," the pope said, referring to the sacking of Constantinople by Crusaders that contributed to the collapse of the Byzantine Empire about three centuries later.

"How can we not share, at a distance of eight centuries, the anger and the pain?" the pope said. *Associated Press*, June 30, 2004.

"Besides, it happened, as has often been seen at historic crises of the Papacy, that a Pope equal to the occasion filled the Papal throne. Of remarkable vigour, of dauntless spirit, and of sanguinary temper, Innocent III. but too truly guessed the character and divined the issue of the movement. He sounded the tocsin of persecution. Mail-clad abbots, lordly prelates, "who wielded by turns the crosier, the sceptre, and the sword;" barons and counts ambitious of enlarging their domains, and mobs eager to wreak their savage fanaticism on their neighbours, whose persons they hated and whose goods they coveted, assembled at the Pontiff's summons. Fire and sword speedily did the work of extermination. Where before had been seen smiling provinces,

flourishing cities, and a numerous, virtuous, and orderly population, there was now a blackened and silent desert. That nothing might be lacking to carry on this terrible work, Innocent III. set up the tribunal of the Inquisition. Behind the soldiers of the Cross marched the monks of St. Dominic and what escaped the sword of the one perished by the racks of the other. In one of those dismal tragedies not fewer than a hundred thousand persons are said to have been destroyed. Over wide areas not a living thing was left: all were given to the sword. Mounds of ruins and ashes alone marked the spot where cities and villages had formerly stood. But this violence recoiled in the end on the power which had employed it. It did not extinguish the movement: it but made it strike its roots deeper, to spring up again and again, and each time with greater vigour and over a wider area, till at last it was seen that Rome by these deeds was only preparing for Protestantism a more glorious triumph, and for herself a more signal overthrow." *The History of Protestantism*, 38.

"The papal authorities first ridiculed the reformers, and when this did not quench the spirit of investigation, they placed them behind prison walls, loaded them with chains, and when this did not silence them or make them recant, they finally brought them to the fagot and the sword. We should be very cautious lest we take the first steps in this road that leads to the Inquisition. The truth of God is progressive; it is always onward, going from strength to a greater strength, from light to a greater light. We have every reason to believe that the Lord will send us increased truth, for a great work is yet to be done. In our knowledge of truth, there is first a beginning in our understanding of it, then a progression, then completion; first the blade, then the ear, and after that the full corn in the ear. Much has been lost because our ministers and people have concluded that we have had all the truth essential for us as a people; but such a conclusion is erroneous and in harmony with the deceptions of Satan; for truth will be constantly unfolding." *Signs of the Times*, May 26, 1890.

THE FALSE PROPHET

The Issues: Faith-Based Charities

At the Rock Solid Youth Center in Winona, Minn., skateboarding, video games and rock climbing go hand in hand with prayer.

"It's huge for them as individuals to come here and see that God is cool," says Greg Moser, a Christian youth minister who opened Rock Solid two years ago, finding funds anywhere he could. This year he turned to a new source.

"Prior to this administration going to the faith-based communities and going public and saying that we could apply for a government grant, I didn't know we could," Moser says.

Moser is applying for money from the Department of Education, a direct result of a presidential executive order encouraging agencies to give more money to faith-based groups doing social work – what the president calls "leveling the playing field."

Having access to those funds allows Moser to "provide mentoring for kids one on one, that's supplied by the government to make a difference in kids' lives."

But Rev. Welton Gaddy of the Interfaith Alliance believes President Bush is crossing the church-state line.

"He's tilting the playing the field rather than leveling the playing field," says Gaddy. "The federal government has no business funding the advancement of faith or those who want to advance faith."

Religious programs have a history of using federal dollars for soup kitchens, homeless shelters and after-school programs, and both candidates agree that's a great idea. Where they differ is over when and where church and state should meet.

The president's initiative funneled more than \$1 billion to social programs run by religious groups last year – 15 percent more than they got the year before.

"Rather than fear faith programs, welcome them," President Bush has urged. "They're changing America. They do a better job than government can do."

Sen. John Kerry says he would "revise" the executive order, to keep the funds flowing but separate from religious work.

"I want to offer support for your efforts including financial support in a way that supports our constitution and civil rights laws," says Kerry.

There's always been federal money for faith-based charities' non-religious work. The question for the voters is: what degree of separation is necessary after the checks arrive. *cbsnews.com*, July 19, 2004.

"And let it be remembered, it is the boast of Rome that she never changes. The principles of Gregory VII and Innocent III are still the principles of the Roman Catholic Church. And had she but the power, she would put them in practice with as much vigor now as in past centuries. Protestants little know what they are doing when they propose to accept the aid of Rome in the work of Sunday exaltation. While they are bent upon the accomplishment of their purpose, Rome is aiming to re-establish her power, to recover her lost supremacy. Let the principle once be established in the United States that the church may employ or control the power of the state; that religious observances may be enforced by secular laws; in short, that the authority of church and state is to dominate the conscience, and the triumph of Rome in this country is assured." *Great Controversy*, 581.

In the early eighteen forties William Miller was regularly bad-mouthed by the press through the newspapers of the day. He was given no venue to defend himself or offered space in the papers for a rebuttal. These attacks on his message and character were widely printed until a man by the name of Joshua V. Himes became convicted of the truth in William Miller's message. Joshua Himes and William Miller met and agreed that there was needed a forum that the public might have an opportunity to see both sides of the discussion, not just the newspapers opinions. Thus, *Signs of the Times* was printed in a debate format. Each newspaper article, review, or correspondence was carefully copied in *Signs of the Times* then directly followed by an explanation from William Miller or another Bible scholar. In this manner, the public was allowed to discern for themselves whether William Miller was correct in his teachings, without the one sided bias that had previously been the standard. The article that follows is from *Signs of the Times* titled "A Lecture on the Signs of the Present Times" by William Miller. It was published on March 20, 1840 and only the second article ever written by William Miller. We hope you enjoy it as much as we have and perceive the parallels of our own day, only greatly magnified by the passing of time.

**A LECTURE ON THE SIGNS OF THE PRESENT
TIMES
BY WILLIAM MILLER**

But can ye not discern the signs of the times?

Matthew 16: 3

Our text is a question proposed by Christ to the Pharisees and Sadducees, at a time when they came to him, tempting him for a sign from heaven; and is a reproof upon them for their unbelief in the signs already given by the Old Testaments writers, which they professed to believe, and which were actually fulfilling before their eyes, yet disregarded. The Pharisees and Sadducees were two of the most learned and popular

sects among the Jews; many of them were scribes, lawyers, doctors, and teachers of the law; yet so perfectly blinded, that they could not or would not apply the most simple rules of interpretation to the law or prophets. They would apply the rules of common observation and common sense to the weather, but neither the one nor the other were used in understanding the Scriptures. They were well versed in the skill to tell the weather for the morrow, but had no skill in the promises, prophecies, and word of God. "When it is evening, ye say it will be fair weather, for the sky is red; and in the morning, it will be foul weather to-day, for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites! ye can discern the face of the sky, *but can ye not* (by the same simple rule) *discern the signs of the times?*"

All the signs given in the word of God concerning the first coming and person of the Messiah, were fulfilling before their eyes; yet they were demanding more and greater signs from heaven. Christ had, and was then performing miracles which no man on earth could perform, and they ascribed it to the power of Beelzebub. No evidence had or could be presented, which they were not ready to evade or deny; and yet they claimed all the learning, all the wisdom, and all the piety of that day. This was the character of those whom Christ calls hypocrites, and to whom he addresses the question, "But can ye not discern the signs of the times?" And happy would it have been for us, who live in this day of gospel light, when the gospel shines with greater effulgence than at any other period of time since the world began, if hypocrisy had died with the Pharisees and Sadducees; but it was not so. Any man, or common capacity of mind, who can divest himself of prejudice, or who will try to see the character of man as developed at the present day in matters of faith, will discover the same unbelief, the same disregard, the same taunting, tempting spirit, concerning the second coming of the Messiah, as the Pharisees and Sadducees manifested in their conduct and conversation with our blessed Redeemer. And the question may with equal propriety, and I fear with ten-fold force, be put to us at this day, if Christ was here, as then. And I have much reason to fear, that many may be found among our great, learned, teachers of diving things, who would receive from our divine Master the same reproof, were he as then a teacher among us. "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed, lest

he fall." I shall, then, in treating on this subject, use my text as a reproof to us.

1. I shall show a number of signs which the Jews had in that day, as evidences of Jesus being the true Messiah.

2. Show the signs that Jesus Christ, the prophets, and apostles have given us of his second coming, now fulfilling in this day in which we live.

Under my first head, the signs of Jesus being the true Messiah, were,

1. The universal peace at his birth. Of this Isaiah 2:3, 4, had prophesied 760 years before. "And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." This prophecy was accomplished at his birth. For the temple of Janus was shut the very year our Savior was born, which denoted universal peace; and this must have been known to the Jewish rulers. Also the doctrines of Jesus Christ taught that they should forgive and pray for their enemies, and learn war no more. "Peace on earth and good will to men," was sung by the heavenly band when they announced the birth of the Savior in the city of David.

2. The star that appeared and guided the wise men to the place of his nativity, prophesied of by Balaam, Numbers 24:17 "There shall come a star out of Jacob..."

3. A root out of Jesse. Isaiah 11:10, "In that day there shall be a root out of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek..." That he was a descendant of David was well known to the Jews, for they were very scrupulous in their genealogies, and from the fact that he was born in the city of David when his parents went up to be taxed where their names were enrolled.

4. Born of a virgin. Isaiah 12:14, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." This was evidently fulfilled.

5. At Bethlehem. Micah 5:2, "But thou Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." This was fulfilled, according to their own showing, to the wise men from the east.

6. Herod slaying all the children in Bethlehem, from two years old and under, prophesied of by Jeremiah 31:15, "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachael weeping for her children..." This must have been known in all Judea.

7. Land forsaken of both her kings. Isaiah 7:16, "For before the child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings." Herod and his successor both died before Jesus was of the common age to refuse the evil and choose the good.

8. Called out of Egypt. Hosea 11:1, "And called my son out of Egypt."

9. His forerunner, John. Isaiah 40:3, "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." All Judea and Jerusalem went into the wilderness to John, and of course must have seen this sign.

10. Coming suddenly to his temple. Malachi 3:1, "And the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple." For the fulfillment of this prophecy, read John 11:11-14, "Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said Where is he? Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went us into the temple and taught."

11. The gospel preached. Isaiah 61: 1, "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tiding unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captive, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound."

12. The covenant confirmed one week or seven years. Daniel 9:27, "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week," John preached three years and a half, and Christ three and a half.

13. The blind see. Isaiah 42:7, "To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison-house."

14. The lame walk. Isaiah 35:6, "Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing."

15. The deaf hear. Isaiah 35:5, "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped."

16. The dead are raised. Isaiah 26:19, "And the earth shall cast out the dead."

17. His humility when on trial. Isaiah 53:7, "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted; yet he opened not his mouth. He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth."

18. The manner and circumstances of his death. Psalm 22:13-18, "They gaped upon me with their mouths as a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out as water and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws, and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have compassed me; the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet; I may tell all my bones; they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture." This Psalm was indited more than 1000 years before Christ's crucifixion, and yet every word had an exact and literal accomplishment in that transaction, and the Jews saw it.

19. His resurrection. Psalm 16:10, "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thing Holy One to see corruption."

20. The pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the day of pentecost. Joel 2:28, "And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy; your old men shall see visions." The apostle told them that this scripture was fulfilled at the day of pentecost, and this transaction was well known to the Jews.

21. The fulfillment of the seventy weeks spoken of by Daniel 9:24-27, which I have shown in a former lecture, was accomplished to a day. And the Jews well understood it; for Caiaphas, being high priest that year; said to the Jews, "Ye know nothing at all, nor consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself, but being high priest that year he prophesied (or taught the prophecy in Daniel) that Jesus should die for that nation, and not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad." John 11:49-52.

This evidence was well understood among the rulers of the Jews; yet notwithstanding all this scripture was fulfilled before their faces, and all these signs were actually accomplished in the short space of thirty-five years, and a cloud of witnesses testifying to all these facts, and they themselves had to consent that notable miracles had been done, they believed not. Well may you say, dear hearer, that they deserved wrath, and God was just in destroying their nation and place. But how is it with us? Do we believe in that word which we blame them for rejecting? Are we clear of the sin of unbelief? The Jews were looking for a temporal king and kingdom. And are not we looking for a temporal millennium—one in which the Christians will have the rule of the world? Let us see to it that we do not stumble at the same stumbling-stone; possibly we may have carnal notions as well as they. Therefore, let us inquire, (second heading)

2. What signs are now fulfilling, which are given us by Christ, the prophets, or apostles, of his second coming and glorious reign? And,

1. Christ tells us, Matthew 14:14, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world as a witness, and then shall the end come." Is not this sign already accomplished? Bible translated into more than 200 different languages; missionaries sent among all the nations known to us on the globe, and reformation succeeding reformation in every town, nook or corner in this land. The gospel has now spread over the four quarters of the globe. It began in Asia. In the apostles' days, that quarter was full of light. From thence it went into Africa; and, for a number of centuries, Africa stretched out her hands unto God. Europe, too, has had a long visitation of gospel blessings; and now America, the last quarter of the globe, is reaping a harvest of souls for the last day. The gospel, like the sun, arose in the east, and will set in the west.

2. The pouring out of the Holy Spirit, and last reign of grace. Daniel tells us, after Bonaparte should come to his end, and none should help him, 11:1, "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth

for the children of thy people.” This I have shown, in a former lecture, is the same angel that stood upon the waters of the river, clothed in linen, Daniel 11:6; also the same angel that John saw, Revelation 10:1-6, standing, his right foot upon the sea and his left foot upon the earth, and in his hand a little book open. This angel told people, and nations, and tongues, and kings; meaning that the gospel must again be published as it had been in the apostolic days. And then would this angel lift his hand to heaven, and swear by him that liveth forever and ever, that time should be no longer. Again, James says, 5:7, 8, “Be patient, therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; establish your heart, for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” And now, can any man, who has any knowledge of the present times, deny that God has poured out his spirit, in a remarkable manner, for twenty years past? Has not the gospel been spread in as rapid and extensive a manner, as in the apostolic day? Has not opposition and persecution of the kings of the earth, of the woman that sitteth on many water, the sea, been in a great measure kept in check and powerless, by some invisible power, some mighty are, until the servants of God should be sealed, the latter rain of grace descend, and God’s purposes completed concerning this latter day? Here, the, we have a clear and visible sign, that the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

3. “Many running to and fro.” This is another important and evident sign of the end. Daniel 11:4, “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro.” Whether the prophet means to be understood, “many shall run to and fro” in a religious sense, or in a civil or temporal sense, or whether he means in both, is perfectly immaterial for my purpose. All must acknowledge that this text is remarkably fulfilled in this day, in either point of view. If it means missionaries of the cross, no man can dispute the fulfillment. See the heralds of salvation crossing and re-crossing on every part of the habitable globe. If it means common travelers, or the rapid means of travel, still our text holds good, and the fulfillment obvious. No man, unless he is willfully ignorant, can deny that this sign is not actually and literally fulfilled.

4. The great increase of knowledge given in the same text as above. “Even to the time of the end many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” View this in any point you please, whether theological or scientific, it is literally true; in this day of invention and improvement, knowledge increases. What of the fifty different moral societies, which have become general in the Christian world? Is there no increase of knowledge in our Bible societies, Sabbath schools, Tract societies, temperance societies, and a catalogue of others for moral reform? What can we say of all the inventions in the arts? What of all the improvements in science? In all this, is it not very evident that this sign is now fulfilling to the very letter?

5. The great increase of riches, and desire for laying up worldly treasures, as described by James 5:1-3, “Go to, now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you; your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten; your gold and silver is cankered, and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.” When, since the writer of this epistle was on earth, has there been such an increase of gold and silver, and treasures of this life, as at this day? Our rich men are laying up their gold, silver, and treasures in abundance. But, as though this individual exertion for riches would not completely fulfill our text, they have entered into all manner of companies and monopolies, to “heap treasure together.” When, in the history of the world, can there be shown so many banking institutions as now? When so much insurance capital as is heaped together at this day? Are not our rich men perfectly infatuated with stocks of all kinds? And monopoly is the order of the day; to grind down the poor, and heap treasure together for the last days. Can any man, who has any knowledge of these things, deny that this sign of the last days is no evidently accomplished? Go to, ye rich men, weep and howl, for your miseries are come upon you.

6. The unwillingness of men to hear sound doctrine, taught us by Paul, 2 Timothy 4:1-4, “I charge thee, therefore, before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom. For the time will come, when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

My brethren, need I say one word on this passage? There is none of you so blind, but you see that this

passage does actually describe the most fashionable preaching of the present day. How many thousands do run after that kind of preaching which is only relating fables, and the doctrine which gives all power to man?

7. Scoffers, saying, "Where is the promise of his coming?" as Peter informs us in 2 Peter 3:3, 4, "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, where is the promise of his coming? For, since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." A right understanding of this text would show us, at once, that many of us, who fancy we are in the highway to heaven, are belonging to this class of scoffers. First, they walk after their own lusts; that is, after their own carnal notions concerning the coming of Christ. They say all things will continue as they were from the creation; they must have a temporal millennium; man must be married and given in marriage; the world will not be burnt, and My Lord delayeth his coming, some say a thousand years, and some say 365,000 years, and all the moral change that takes place on our earth, will be performed by the agency of man. Therefore, many scoff and ridicule the idea, that Scripture tells of the second coming of Christ, the manner, object and time. And many are willingly ignorant; will not hear or read on this subject.

8. "Perilous times," as described in 2 Timothy 3:1-7, "This know, also, that, in the last days, perilous times shall come; for men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, having the form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away. For this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

What better description of domestic and public society could we expect from the most close observer of private characters, domestic circles, and public societies of our times, than is here given? One would conclude, had he found this in any other book but the Bible, that it was a modern writer, well acquainted with the human heart, and the generations now on the earth.

9. "Departing from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils, speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats." Thus Paul tells in 1 Timothy 4:1-3, "Now the spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith. . ." This, we must acknowledge, has been, and now is fulfilling. The whole, almost, of the Christian world have departed, or changed their faith within fifteen years; seducing spirits are evidently at work; hypocrites are multiplying among us; Roman Catholics, Shakers, Pilgrims, Fanny Wright, Owen, and other forbid to marry. Roman Catholics, and many others among us are teaching to abstain from meats and drinks, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

10. False teachers, making merchandise of the gospel. See 2 Peter 2:1-3. "But there were false prophets, also, among the people; even as their shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction; and many shall follow their pernicious ways, by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of; and through covetousness shall they, with feigned words, make merchandise of you, whose judgment of a long time- lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not." The apostle then goes on to show, that, as it was in the days of Noah and Lot, so it would be in the days of these false teachers; on generation would not pass off before the judgment would overtake them, who make merchandise of the gospel, and like Balaam, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.

11. Jude gives us a sign, 4-19 verses, inclusive, "How they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts; these be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit." Some preachers deny the agency of the Spirit in regeneration.

12. Christ gives a sign in Luke 21:25-28, "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and, upon the earth, distress of nation, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking for those things which are coming on the earth; for the powers of the heavens shall be shaken; and then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh."

13. Christ gives another sign in Matthew 24:23, 24, "Then, if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there, believe it not; for there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. There can be no doubt of this sign being fulfilled.

14. The fulfillment of the parable of the ten virgins—the midnight cry has gone forth from every quarter of God's moral vineyard, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh." The world has been, and are now, "trimming their lamps;" witness the Bible translated into all languages, the Bible societies sending bibles to every nation and family on earth, the Sabbath schools and Bible classes studying its sacred precepts.

15. The scattering of the holy people, and division of sects, as prophesied of by Daniel 11:7, "And when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished." This prophecy is now fulfilling in a remarkable manner. Not one sect, who profess holiness, but are divided and subdivided into contending schisms, and that, too, within twenty years.

16. The division of the political world, as prophesied of by John, Revelation 16: 12-16, "And I saw three unclean spirits, like frogs, come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet, for they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and the whole world, to gather them to the battle of the great day of God Almighty." and 19th verse, "And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell." That these spirits are political, is evident, from the fact that they come out of the mouth of the dragon, (kings) and beast, (Catholic) and false prophet, (Mahometan) and unclean, signifying they are not holy things. This prophecy is now accomplishing. What nation, within our knowledge, is not already divided into three political parties? None, which is in any way known to your speaker.

17. The church has fulfilled her 1260 years in the wilderness, spoken of in revelation 12:6, 14, "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed here there a thousand two hundred and threescore days." These days were evidently accomplished in 1798, since which time the Protestant church has enjoyed privileges even in the city of nations, the Roman Empire; and, according to Daniel, forty-five years will complete the whole plan of redemption.

18. The two witnesses prove that the 1260 years are ended; for it is evident that the Old and New Testament are not now hid nor kept from the common people, but have arisen from their dead state, and are now performing the office God designed they should, conveyed light to the world. They are not clothed in sackcloth, but, through the missionaries of the cross, and Bible societies, are testifying to the world of Christ and his second coming.

19. The civil power of anti-Christ is destroyed, and the 1260 years, in which she was to rule over kings, and tread the church under foot, was completed in 1798, when the French army took the Pope a prisoner, and erected Italy into a republic; since which time the Pope has exercised but little or no power over kings, or the Protestant church, and she is evidently sinking by the weight of her own corruptions.

20. It is very evident that the 6th trumpet has sounded, and the 391 years will be completed in 1839, when the 7th trumpet will begin to sound, and the mystery of God will be finished, and all he hath declared to his servants the prophets. If the fall of the Eastern empire at Constantinople was included in the sixth trumpet, which all the principal commentators, who I have consulted, agree in, and that trumpet was prepared to sound an hour, a day, and a month, and a year, which makes according to the reckoning of John's prophecy, 391 years and 15 days, then the sixth trumpet is almost finished. The whole appearance strengthens this exposition of the text; for the power of the Turks has diminished more rapidly within fifteen years, than any politician, however anxious he could have been for the even, could have anticipated.

21. The opening of the sixth seal, revealed in the sixth and seventh chapter of Revelation, was open in the French revolution, and carries us thru a sealing time unto the opening of the seventh seal, which ushers us before the judgment seat of God. No one can deny but that, since the revolution in France, a sealing time has passed; many have been born into the spiritual kingdom of Christ, more than has ever been known, in the same period of time, since the apostles' days. This seal, then, is evidently opened, and is a strong evidence that the book of life will soon be opened, and the dead will be judged out of the things written in the books.

22. The sixth vial was poured out about the year 1822, when the Ottoman power began to be dried up. This is an important sign that we are on the brink of the judgment day. Revelation 16:12, "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof were dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared." This preparation is for the last great battle, which will take place at the pouring of the seventh vial, in the year 1839 or 40. At the pouring out of the seventh vial, a voice from the throne will pronounce the word, *It is done*. The kingdom of the earth and governments of the world will be carried away, and their places not found. Every writer, of any not, will and have applied this vial to the Turkish government, and of course must acknowledge that this vial is poured out, for the power of the Turkish government is but little more than a name, and the strength of the Ottoman power dried up.

23. Another evidence is Daniel's resurrection at the end of the 1335 days. This evidence is very plain and evident, for Daniel 12:11-13 says, "And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days." This cannot be the Jewish sacrifice; for if so, then it must have been fulfilled about five hundred years past; and as no event took place then which would warrant us in so understanding it, I can see no rational objection to understand this daily sacrifice to mean Pagan rites and sacrifices, which was the original beast which the abomination of desolation was only an image, and, as I have shown in a former lecture, was to continue six hundred and sixty six years, and as Paul tells us, that when he was taken out of the way, the man of sin would be revealed, agreeing in language with Daniel. I think the proof is strong that from the taking away of Pagan worship, A.D. 508, to the end of the Papal civil power, would be 1290 years, which would end in the year 1798, and thus agree with all of John's numbers in Revelation. And then Daniel says, or the angel to Daniel, "Blessed is he that waiteth and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days." Thus add 1335 to 508, will bring us down to the year A.D. 1843. "But go thou thy way till the end be, for thou shalt rest and stand in thy lot at the end of days." And "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection." Then Daniel will stand in his lot, and Job will stand on the earth in the latter day.

24. Daniel's vision of 2300 days long. I have in some former lectures shown clearly that Daniel's vision concerning the four great monarchies which were or were to come, included the whole history of the world, so far as God saw fit to reveal it, down to the judgment day, and the coming of the Son of Man in the clouds. I then showed that the question was asked, how long should be this vision. The answer was given "2300 days. I then proved that days were to be counted years, by the command of God, by the example of Jacob, and by the fulfillment of a part of the vision. I then showed you when this vision began by the angel Gabriel's own declaration, who was commanded to instruct Daniel in the vision. According to this instruction I showed you that 490 years were accomplished of this vision, to a day, at the crucifixion of Christ, both events happening on the 12th day of the first month, 490 years apart. And then I inquired, that if 490 years of 2300 was fulfilled when our Savior was crucified, how much of the vision remained after his death. I answered, 1810 years. I then inquired, what year after his birth that would be; and the answer was, in the year 1843. I then begged the privilege, and do no, for any person to show me any failure of proof on this point, or where, possibly, according to Scripture, there may be a failure in the calculation I have made on this vision. I have not yet, by seventeen years' study, been able to discover where I might fail.

Lastly. Another sign of the last day you will find given by Paul, 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3, "For yourselves know perfectly, that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." Compare 2 Peter 2:17-22.

The doctrine of peace and safety, and that there is no punishment in the future state, had but few or no advocates, until very recently. I am not certain but the first preacher of this soul destroying doctrine is now living; and they now boast of their multitudes of followers and advocates. There have been, in past ages, a few who preached the doctrine of the restoration of all men, after a suitable punishment in hell; but to *modern Universalists* belongs the invention of preaching "peace and safety when sudden destruction cometh." If this sign is no fulfilled in the preaches of this order at this time, I ask, How can it be fulfilled? and what must the doctrine of those be who preach "peace and safety" to the wicked as this; and no other denomination on our globe ever have opposed the

doctrine of the coming of Christ, the judgment day, and future punishments, but the modern Universalist; and if this is the doctrine that Paul had reference to in our text, as, I am fully satisfied, every candid and religious man must and will allow, then we may reasonably suppose *sudden* destruction cometh upon them, and they shall not escape.”

Therefore, my dear reader, I shall now, with a few closing remarks, leave you to your own reflections.

The Jews had twenty-one signs in the Scriptures given them of the first coming and person of Jesus Christ; yet many rejected him as an imposter. You say, if you had lived in that day, you would have believed; and you in your hearts condemn them as a hardened race of unbelievers; and notwithstanding their great pretense to piety, you say they were justly denounced by our Savior as a generation of vipers and a band of hypocrites. But, my hearers, be careful your own hearts do not condemn you for your unbelief in the signs which the prophets, Christ, and the apostles have given you as tokens of his second coming and the judgment day. I have brought from the word of God twenty-five signs of his second coming, end of the world, and judgment day, and all apparently fulfilled within the age of man present, or fulfilling now before your eyes. And do you believe? Many of you profess to be pious; many of you say, Lord, Lord! But do you believe his word? Are you willing to risk your life, your character, your all, on his word? Or are you fearful and unbelieving? Now is the time to try men's souls. Now, if you wish to be sure, examine closely, and see whether your faith will stand in the day of trial which is coming; yes, has already come, in a thousand ways, to draw you from the gospel of Christ to another *new* gospel, which is not the gospel of God. “Can ye not discern the signs of the times?” Let me give you one rule by which you may know a false doctrine. They may have many good things in their creed, they may be very plausible in their arguments, and after all deceive you. But examine them closely, and you will find they will deny, ridicule, or try to do away some prominent doctrine of the Bible, such as the divinity of Christ, his second coming, office of the Holy Spirit, eternal punishment, doctrine of grace, election, conviction for sin, regeneration, repentance or faith. And when you hear or see them make light or scoff at anything of this kind in the word of God, go not after them, nor bid them God speed. “Can ye not discern the signs of the times?”

And to you, impenitent friend, God has at all times given you warning of his approaching judgments. If you repent, believe his word, and break off your sins by righteousness, he is faithful and just to forgive you your sins. Why not take warning by the past? Is there no example for you? Look at the antediluvian world, Sodom and Gomorrah, Nineveh, Babylon, Jerusalem, and the once enlightened Asia now worse than in heathenish darkness. Will God punish nations and not individuals? This cannot be, for nations are composed of individuals; and God is just, for he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness. “Can ye not discern the signs of the times?” Will God's word fail of being accomplished? Can you show a single instance? Why not listen, then, to the warning and admonitions, to the calls and invitations, to the examples and precepts contained therein? “Can ye not discern the signs of the times?” Will God cut off the unbelieving Pharisee for not discerning the signs of the times, and let you, with two-fold more light, go free? No: how can ye escape, if you neglect this great salvation? Watch, then, “The signs of the times.” I say, Watch. *Signs of the Times*, March 20, 1840.

“After He had given the signs of His coming, Christ said, ‘When ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.’ ‘Take ye heed, watch and pray.’ God has always given men warning of coming judgments. Those who had faith in His message for their time, and who acted out their faith, in obedience to His commandments, escaped the judgments that fell upon the disobedient and unbelieving. The word came to Noah, ‘Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before Me.’ Noah obeyed and was saved. The message came to Lot, ‘Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city.’ Gen. 7:1; 19:14. Lot placed himself under the guardianship of the heavenly messengers, and was saved. So Christ's disciples were given warning of the destruction of Jerusalem. Those who watched for the sign of the coming ruin, and fled from the city, escaped the destruction. So now we are given warning of Christ's second coming and of the destruction to fall upon the world. Those who heed the warning will be saved.

“Because we know not the exact time of His coming, we are commanded to watch. ‘Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when He cometh shall find watching.’ Luke 12:37. Those who watch for the Lord’s coming are not waiting in idle expectancy. The expectation of Christ’s coming is to make men fear the Lord, and fear His judgments upon transgression. It is to awaken them to the great sin of rejecting His offers of mercy. Those who are watching for the Lord are purifying their souls by obedience to the truth. With vigilant watching they combine earnest working. Because they know that the Lord is at the door, their zeal is quickened to co-operate with the divine intelligences in working for the salvation of souls. These are the faithful and wise servants who give to the Lord’s household ‘their portion of meat in due season.’ Luke 12:42. They are declaring the truth that is now specially applicable. As Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Moses each declared the truth for his time, so will Christ’s servants now give the special warning for their generation.

“But Christ brings to view another class: ‘If that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him.’ ‘The evil servant says in his heart, ‘My lord delayeth his coming.’ He does not say that Christ will not come. He does not scoff at the idea of His second coming. But in his heart and by his actions and words he declares that the Lord’s coming is delayed. He banishes from the minds of others the conviction that the Lord is coming quickly. His influence leads men to presumptuous, careless delay. They are confirmed in their worldliness and stupor. Earthly passions, corrupt thoughts, take possession of the mind. The evil servant eats and drinks with the drunken, unites with the world in pleasure seeking. He smites his fellow servants, accusing and condemning those who are faithful to their Master. He mingles with the world. Like grows with like in transgression. It is a fearful assimilation. With the world he is taken in the snare. ‘The lord of that servant shall come . . . in an hour that he is not aware of, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites.’

“‘If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.’ Rev. 3:3. The advent of Christ will surprise the false teachers. They are saying, ‘Peace and safety.’ Like the priests and teachers before the fall of Jerusalem, they look for the church to enjoy earthly prosperity and glory. The signs of the times they interpret as foreshadowing this. But what saith the word of Inspiration? ‘Sudden destruction cometh upon them.’ 1 Thess. 5:3. Upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth, upon all who make this world their home, the day of God will come as a snare. It comes to them as a prowling thief.

“The world, full of rioting, full of godless pleasure, is asleep, asleep in carnal security. Men are putting afar off the coming of the Lord. They laugh at warnings. The proud boast is made, ‘All things continue as they were from the beginning.’ ‘Tomorrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.’ 2 Peter 3:4; Isa. 56:12. We will go deeper into pleasure loving. But Christ says, ‘Behold, I come as a thief.’ Rev. 16:15. At the very time when the world is asking in scorn, ‘Where is the promise of His coming?’ the signs are fulfilling. While they cry, ‘Peace and safety,’ sudden destruction is coming. When the scorner, the rejecter of truth, has become presumptuous; when the routine of work in the various money-making lines is carried on without regard to principle; when the student is eagerly seeking knowledge of everything but his Bible, Christ comes as a thief.

“Everything in the world is in agitation. The signs of the times are ominous. Coming events cast their shadows before. The Spirit of God is withdrawing from the earth, and calamity follows calamity by sea and by land. There are tempests, earthquakes, fires, floods, murders of every grade. Who can read the future? Where is security? There is assurance in

nothing that is human or earthly. Rapidly are men ranging themselves under the banner they have chosen. Restlessly are they waiting and watching the movements of their leaders. There are those who are waiting and watching and working for our Lord's appearing. Another class are falling into line under the generalship of the first great apostate. Few believe with heart and soul that we have a hell to shun and a heaven to win.

"The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying, and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horse races, gambling hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agencies at work that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut.

"Solemnly there come to us down through the centuries the warning words of our Lord from the Mount of Olives: 'Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.' 'Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.'" *The Desire of Ages*, 636.

Sword, Famine, and Pestilence

SWORD AND FAMINE

Screams of Sudan's starving refugees

The 15-month long conflict in Sudan's western province of Darfur has produced what the United Nations is calling "the worst humanitarian crisis in the world".

A pro-government Arab militia, known as the Janjaweed, is accused of carrying out a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the black African population there. H.A. has been to one of the Darfur refugee camps.

It is very disturbing to be a me or a you and to see what is happening in Darfur. To see humanity stripped to its barest bones. To see people so traumatized that they stutter from their memories, or wail at night, and now so destitute that they simply have nothing. Not a blanket, not shelter, not water, not food, not basic health. Nothing. And the prospect of things getting worse. I spoke to so many displaced Darfurians that my notebook is jammed with endless identifying scribbles like woman in red headdress; starving child with crinkled face like old man; pathetic-looking child leaning against mother and next to them name after name.

Stories that relay horror piled on horror. And stories that are all very similar. Out of all of them, the first displaced woman I spoke to in Darfur sticks in my mind, though her name is lost to me. She sat on a small mat with her nine-month-old boy who was gaunt and famished. His name was Abdul Rahim. One morning, before dawn at 0400, Abdul's mother was sleeping in her village - Shattay - when they came. The Janjaweed. A word that carries tremendous fear. It is a play on the local, roughly spoken Arabic and translates as "evil men on horseback with guns". This was the dawn when the so-called evil ones set fire to her village. She heard chaos breaking out and ran with her children. Adam's mother walked for 10 days after their village was burnt. The Janjaweed were firing, killing men and, so she and others said, shooting and hurting children too. Her husband fled also. She does not know if he was killed. The next day, children in tow, she began her three-day journey to Kalma, in searing Saharan heat. On her way to the camp her seven-year-old child could not cope - and he died. She told this part of the story in a matter-of-fact sort of way. I suppose she knows that Abdul, her youngest, might die of hunger - and she has no house now, no shelter, no blanket. "How do you find it here?" someone asked her. She answered without hesitation and quietly. "It is better than dying," she said. Perhaps you have to have seen the horror of death in Darfur to make a statement like that.

For outsiders it is hard to see anything redeeming about life for the displaced people. In the past two weeks I have met families with no food at all in their shacks. It makes you want to scream to see it. I have seen a family's one bowl of rotting food crawling with insects. Seen a starving child being washed in water dirtied with his own blood. Seen stick-thin infants covered in excrement and throwing up their food because they are too weak to eat it. Starvation is a horror. It is a slow and painful way of dying. Mothers have to watch their children suffering terribly in the process. It makes you want to scream to see it. Except you cannot because it is not your trauma, it is someone else's and they do the screaming.

It happens at night. I say that because we kept hearing it. We stayed in a camp called Mornei for three nights, right next to a small tent. The tent served as a clinic for the worst cases of children with severe malnutrition. Some of the children who came into that tent daily looked barely alive. Strangely, if you looked at any one of them for long enough they would look back with large, penetrating, angry eyes. It was haunting. The tent stank. The temperature was over 40C (104F). When the sun went down there came a slight relief. But it was the minute drop of heat in the evenings that was killing the weakened children - their bodies too traumatized to cope with any change at all. And so, after going to bed, at two or three in morning the darkness and silence would be abruptly cut through with the sound of an awful scream of anguish as a mother mourned her child's passing away. That, at this awfully lonely hour, would start it all off. The donkeys would let rip tortured moans, the famished dogs would begin to howl. And if ever there was a reason or place for the imagination to start working, it was this. Terrifying thought process.

One night when the wailing began, the stories from the day began circling in my head and I realized that these must be the same screams heard in the villages at the moment of attack by the Janjaweed these were after all the same noises of catastrophe from the same people. I began to imagine the gut-wrenching fear that the mothers must have felt when - having heard for months of villages nearby being burned - their turn came. They are refugees, but they have found no safe refuge.

All the houses on fire, their neighbors screaming and running, their children scattering in the chaos, running past dead bodies on their way out of the village, not knowing if their husbands were alive or dead. Sleeping perhaps under a tree. Walking the next morning with no shelter, no family in the middle of a desert. Then ending up in the nearest town, only to find everyone else there half-starved. It is a terrifying thought process - made all the more real because, not a few hundred meters from where we slept, where the refugees sleep nightly, are the Janjaweed. The very men who are tormenting the civilians by driving them from their villages are right in the middle of the camps, patrolling them by day, terrorizing the women by night. If the women try to go out of the camps to get food they face the real prospect of being killed, beaten or raped. No-one has documented it precisely but probably thousands of women have been raped so far. Can you imagine how frightened these people are? They are refugees, but they have found no safe refuge.

There is a lot more to said about Darfur. But one of the most galling thoughts is this. These people do not have to be starving. There is not a major drought, there is a war. This situation has been brought about by men. The men involved are the Janjaweed militia and the Sudanese government which has admitted to backing the militia in parts of this war - though the government also says it cannot control them. It is not a war as we know it; it is the mass punishment of the people. Either way, the destruction of Darfur is a massive reprisal against a black Darfur rebel group - the Sudanese Liberation Movement (SLM) - which is fighting for greater representation for the region.

Fair enough, fight the rebel group - you might say. Governments cannot just ignore rebellions on their territory, and militias will be militias. For the sake of argument, let us be generous to the armies here - that is war. But why take it out on the mothers, the children, the old men, the civilians? That is the evil of what is happening in Darfur. These are the facts: children are starving to death because of a fight between a group of powerful, well-armed, dirty fighting men - who are grown-ups. And many more will die before this is over. *BBC News*, June 26, 2004.

PESTILENCE

HIV/AIDS Statistics July 2004

HIV/AIDS WORLDWIDE

- As of the end of 2003, an estimated 37.8 million people worldwide - 35.7 million adults and 2.1 million children younger than 15 years - were living with HIV/AIDS. Approximately two-thirds of these people (25.0 million) live in Sub-Saharan Africa; another 20 percent (7.4 million) live in Asia and the Pacific.
- Worldwide, approximately 11 of every 1000 adults aged 15 to 49 are HIV-infected. In Sub-Saharan Africa, about 7.5 percent of all adults in this age group are HIV-infected. Women account for nearly half of all people worldwide living with HIV/AIDS.
- An estimated 4.8 million new HIV infections occurred worldwide during 2003; that is, about 14,000 infections each day. More than 95 percent of these new infections occurred in developing countries.
- In 2003, approximately 1,700 children under the age of 15 years, and 6,000 young people aged 15 to 24 years became infected with HIV every day.
- More than 20 million people with HIV/AIDS have died since the first AIDS cases were identified in 1981.
- In 2003 alone, HIV/AIDS-associated illnesses caused the deaths of approximately 2.9 million people worldwide, including an estimated 490,000 children younger than 15 years.

HIV/AIDS IN THE UNITED STATES

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that 850,000 to 950,000 U.S. residents are living with HIV infection, one-quarter of whom are unaware of their infection.
- Approximately 40,000 new HIV infections occur each year in the United States, about 70 percent among men and 30 percent among women. Of these newly infected people, half are younger than 25 years of age.
- Of new infections among men in the United States, CDC estimates that approximately 60 percent of men were infected through homosexual sex, 25 percent through injection drug use, and 15 percent through heterosexual sex. Of newly infected men, approximately 50 percent are black, 30 percent are white, 20 percent are Hispanic, and a small percentage are members of other racial/ethnic groups.
- Of new infections among women in the United States, CDC estimates that approximately 75 percent of women were infected through heterosexual sex and 25 percent through injection drug use. Of newly infected women, approximately 64 percent are black, 18 percent are white, 18 percent are Hispanic, and a small percentage are members of other racial/ethnic groups.
- The estimated number of AIDS diagnoses through 2002 in the United States is 886,575. Adult and adolescent AIDS cases total 877,275, with 718,002 cases in males and 159,271 cases in females. Through the same time period, 9,300 AIDS cases were estimated in children under age 13.
- The estimated number of new adult/adolescent AIDS diagnoses in the United States was 43,225 in 1998, 41,134 in 1999, 42,239 in 2000, 41,227 in 2001, and 42,136 in 2002.
- The estimated number of new pediatric AIDS cases (cases among individuals younger than age 13) in the United States fell from 952 in 1992 to 92 in 2002.
- The estimated rate of adult/adolescent AIDS diagnoses in the United States in 2002 (per 100,000 population) was 76.4 among blacks, 26.0 among Hispanics, 11.2 among American Indians/Alaska Natives, 7.0 among whites, and 4.9 among Asians/Pacific Islanders.
- From 1985 to 2002, the proportion of adult/adolescent AIDS cases in the United States reported in women increased from 7 percent to 26 percent.
- As of the end of 2002, an estimated 384,906 people in the United States were living with AIDS.

- As of December 31, 2002, an estimated 501,669 people with AIDS in the United States had died.
- The estimated annual number of AIDS-related deaths in the United States fell approximately 14 percent from 1998 to 2002, from 19,005 deaths in 1998 to 16,371 deaths in 2002.
- Of the estimated 16,371 AIDS-related deaths in the United States in 2002, approximately 52 percent were among blacks, 28 percent among whites, 19 percent among Hispanics, and less than 1 percent among Asians/Pacific Islanders and American Indians/Alaska Natives.

US Department of Health and Human Services, July 2004.

The history which the great I AM has marked out in His word, uniting link after link in the prophetic chain, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, tells us where we are today in the procession of the ages, and what may be expected in the time to come. All that prophecy has foretold as coming to pass, until the present time, has been traced on the pages of history, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order.

“The final overthrow of all earthly dominions is plainly foretold in the word of truth. In the prophecy uttered when sentence from God was pronounced upon the last king of Israel is given the message:

“Thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: . . . exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him.’ Ezekiel 21:26, 27.

“The crown removed from Israel passed successively to the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. God says, ‘It shall be no more, until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him.’

“That time is at hand. Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Everything in our world is in agitation. Before our eyes is fulfilling the Saviour’s prophecy of the events to precede His coming: ‘Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. . . . Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.’ Matthew 24:6, 7.

“The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the strained, restless relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis.” *Education*, 179.

Healthy Living

This month we are adding a section on healthy living. If you have any articles or recipes that you might want to share with our readers please email them to calica4@hotmail.com and we will include them, as space permits, in the following issues.

All of the Living Organism is the Lord's

"In all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm. Dan. 1:20.

"Why did Daniel and his companions refuse to eat at the king's table? Why did they refuse his meats and wines? Because they had been taught that this class of food would not keep the mind or the physical structure in the very best condition of health to do God's service. These youth urged most earnestly that the one who had charge of their food should not compel them to partake of the king's luxuries, or drink of his wine. They begged him to try them ten days only, and then examine them, and decide by their physical appearance whether their abstemious diet would be to their disadvantage. When they came in for examination, the result was decidedly in their favor.

"It was otherwise with the youth who had eaten of the luxuries of the king's table, and drank of his wine. The clear sparkle of the eye was gone; the ruddy, healthful glow had disappeared from the countenance. The four Hebrew captives were thereafter permitted to have the diet they had chosen. What effect did it have upon mind and character? They had conscientiously refused the stimulus of flesh and of wine. They obeyed God's will in self-denial, and He showed His approval. He desired His servants to honor Him by their adherence to steadfast principle in all their habits of life. Their countenances would be a certificate of physical soundness and moral purity.

"And as for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.' These youth had the Lord as their educator. The golden links of the chain of heaven connected the finite with the infinite. They were partakers of the divine nature. They were very careful to keep themselves in touch with God. They prayed and studied and brought into their practical life strictly conscientious, humble minds. . . . The word of the Lord was their meat and their drink. 'And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers.'...

"When the children of faith shall with earnest prayer dedicate themselves to God without reserve, the Lord will honor their faith, and will bless them with a clear mind....

"The very flesh in which the soul tabernacles, and through which it works, is the Lord's. We have no right to neglect any part of the living machinery. Every portion of the living organism is the Lord's. The knowledge of our own physical organism should teach us that every member is to do God's service, as an instrument of righteousness." *Reflecting Christ*, 143.

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
1 Corinthians 6:19, 20.

USDA Probe Finds Holes in U.S. Mad Cow Testing

A government investigation on Tuesday gave the U.S. Department of Agriculture (news - web sites) poor marks in testing cattle for mad cow disease, saying the agency was neglecting to test the majority of cattle most at risk.

"The problems identified during our review, if not corrected, may ... reduce the credibility of any assertion regarding the prevalence of BSE (news - web sites) (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) in the United States," said the USDA's Office of Inspector General. A draft report was provided by the House of Representatives Government Reform Committee.

The report said the USDA was not testing adult cattle that died on the farm and had failed to test hundreds of cattle condemned due to possible central nervous system disorder — a symptom of mad cow disease and many other diseases.

"A process for obtaining samples from animals that died on the farm has not been developed," the report said.

"These animals comprise the largest component of the targeted high-risk population and the most difficult to identify, obtain and test," it added.

Ron DeHaven, head of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said 70 percent of its mad cow tests last month came from dead cattle arriving at the slaughter plant.

"Nothing in the report would cause us to change the focus of the program," DeHaven said in an interview. The USDA emphasized that the internal investigation took place months before the enhanced surveillance program started in June.

The report also said the USDA failed to test 518 of the 680 cattle condemned at slaughter for central nervous system symptoms between fiscal 2002 and 2004. Those symptoms indicate an animal could be suffering from one of several illnesses, including mad cow disease.

The USDA said it would not comment on past events, saying it has taken the necessary steps to ensure that another incident doesn't occur.

"We're not focusing on what didn't happen in the past, but rather ensuring that we get those samples in the future," DeHaven said.

In April, USDA admitted that it had violated its own regulations when federal inspectors in Texas failed to test a 12-year-old cow even though it was possibly exhibiting a central nervous system disorder.

Investigators said the department's failure to test most of the animals at highest risk raised questions about the credibility of the government's enhanced surveillance program for the brain-wasting disease.

As of Monday, the USDA had tested more than 15,000 cattle this year. It hopes to test more than 220,000 cattle by the end of 2005. Last year, USDA only tested about 20,000 cattle for the disease and only agreed to expand its testing after the first U.S. case of mad cow disease was discovered last December.

DeHaven said he was "very encouraged" by the large number and type of cattle already being tested under an expanded surveillance program that started in June.

USDA investigators recommended steps be taken to ensure that all high-risk animals, including those that test negative for rabies, those condemned for (central nervous) symptoms and those that die on the farm are sampled and tested.

The U.S. beef industry said it was working closely with USDA to ensure it has access to all at-risk cattle.

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman and other top USDA officials will testify in a joint hearing on Wednesday about the agency's handling of the BSE situation.

Japan, typically the top U.S. beef buyer, continues to ban U.S. beef and live cattle products due to the discovery of a single mad cow case in December. It has demanded all 35 million cattle slaughtered annually be tested before easing the ban. *Reuters*, July 13, 2004.

Fruit Soup

2 cans of fruit nectar (apricot, peach, or mango)
5 cans of fruit (apricots, fruit cocktail, pears, mandarin oranges, and pineapple)
Fresh peaches (diced)
Fresh nectarines (diced)
Fresh plums (diced)
Tapioca
Frozen or fresh berries
Bananas (sliced)

Combine all ingredients except berries and bananas. Add tapioca (4-6 Tablespoons) until the kernels are evenly distributed through liquid. Heat over medium/low heat, stirring frequently, until tapioca kernels are clear and the juice has thickened. Add berries and sliced bananas last. Heat a few minutes more. Serve immediately over waffles or toast smeared with your favorite nut butter. Easy to reheat and kids love it.

We have advertised a few of our books that are available through out the newsletter. We are compiling an updated version of our catalog with all of the cassettes, notes, videos, pamphlets, and books that we are currently offering. When completed, we will add it to our newsletter and website. As always, be sure to contact *Future News* about any ordering questions you might have. Our contact numbers are listed on page 2 of each newsletter.

*RX:
Charcoal*

by
Thrash &
Thrash

\$6.00

*Nutrition
for
Vegetarians*

by
Thrash &
Thrash

\$14.00

*God's Healing
Way*

by
Mary Ann
McNeilus

\$10.00

*The
Ministry of
Midwifery*

by
Patti
Barnes

\$14.95

Let Those Who are Dead Speak

“Walk in Christ's footsteps and hold fast that which you have received and heard, and put away any exposition of Scripture which means, ‘My Lord delayeth His coming.’ In such a day as ye think not the Son of man cometh, and then how will it be with you and those whose minds you have confused? Stop right where you are, for God has not given you this message to bear to the people. Those who receive your interpretation of Scripture regarding the sanctuary service are receiving error and following in false paths. The enemy will work the minds of those who are eager for something new, preparing them to receive false theories and false expositions of the Scripture.

“When men come in who would move one pin or pillar from the foundation which God has established by His Holy Spirit, let the aged men who were pioneers in our work speak plainly, and let those who are dead speak also by the reprinting of their articles in our periodicals. Gather up the rays of divine light that God has given as He has led His people on step by step in the way of truth. This truth will stand the test of time and trial.” *Manuscript Releases*, 760.