

Treasure Uncovered!

Volume 2 Issue 1

Spring 1997

The official



Newsletter

♦ EDITORIAL

Makarios! Blessings from on High

Makarios!

Blessings on you! Such is the salutation of the world of light, the benediction of God offered to every individual on the planet. As we enter the new year of 1997, it would do well for us to reflect on the great sermon on the mount found in Matthew 5, preached by the Son of God at the beginning of His ministry. May we all, as we begin a new year, find renewed blessing and deep meaning in these familiar words.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Who are the poor in spirit? No, Jesus is not talking about the mentally deficient or the discouraged. "Poor" or "ptochos" means "abject poverty, bankrupt, nothing to offer". The poor in spirit are those about to be justified by God's wonderful redeeming grace, those who have realized their condition and their desperate need of a Saviour, those who realize that they can do nothing to achieve salvation in and of themselves. Without that realization, the unfolding of the rest of the beautiful plan of salvation is halted, for "the Lord can do nothing towards the recovery of man until <man is> convinced of his own weakness and stripped of all self-sufficiency." DA300 How many of us

have still not been fully convinced of our destitute state? How many still believe they're not so bad as some others? To those who see themselves as destitute without Christ, is given the promise: "theirs is the kingdom of heaven".

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted". Jesus is not talking about losing a loved one. "mourn" or "pentheho" means abject mourning and implies repentance. It is the logical step after "ptochos". "Confession will not be acceptable to God without sincere repentance and reformation. There must be decided changes in the life; everything offensive to God must be put away. This will be the result of genuine sorrow for sin, a spirit of confession in which there is no excuse for sin or attempt at self-justification..." (5T640,1) Have we experienced this cleansing or are we jealously guarding some cherished sins? Have we found out what displeases the Lord and put it away? We cannot freely experience salvation without this step.

Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." Here Jesus is speaking of humility—the Continued on page 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial

Wendy Penner
Dawn Jakovac
pg. 1 -3

Pilgrims' Progress
Updates from
Around the World
pg. 5

Treasure Seekers
Roman Skotnicki,
Ian Bain, &
Robert Armstrong
pg. 4

End Time Alert!
pg. 6

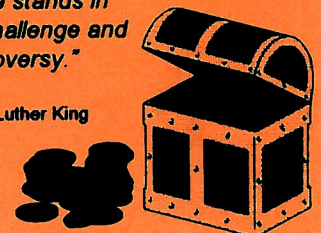
Treasured Truths
"Arise and Shine"
Sermon by Dr. Veith
pg. 7-9

Wanted: A Few Good
Men and Women...
pg. 10

TRUTH NUGGET:

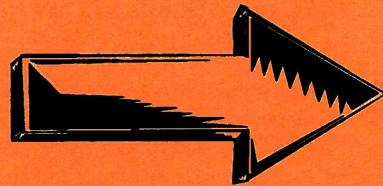
"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy."

Martin Luther King



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Makarios!
Continued from
page 1



**We're on the
Internet!
Yes, we're linked to
the web!
Send us an e-mail.**

**You'll find our e-mail
address on the front
page of our
newsletter along
with our regular
address, telephone
and fax numbers.**

**Write to us at
creation@axtonet.com**

**We'd love to hear
from you!**



fruit of true repentance. Meekness prepares for sanctification. Without this humbling of ourselves beneath the hand of God, we would be in a constant struggle of our wills against the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. When the Lord chastens and corrects us, our meekness will make it easier to bear. (Heb. 12:5,6)

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."

Here Jesus speaks of an absolute hunger. Jesus cannot fill those who are already full. (Luke 1:53) The only requirement to being filled is hunger. (Isaiah 55:1-3; John 7:37) Are we hungry for God? Are we thirsting for sanctification? Or are we satisfied with a seemingly clean exterior, an upright facade? Does our soul pant after God, as does the deer after the water? (Ps. 42:1) We cannot force ourselves to be hungry and thirsty after righteousness; it comes as a result of our God-guided repentance and humility. God can give us a hunger and a thirst, and then, as He promises, He can fill us with Himself.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." Jesus calls for mercy on a far bigger scale than most of us see mercy.

It is easy to feel mercy for the homeless and poverty-stricken. Even non-Christians feel mercy and compassion for the hungry children of Africa. Why even government officials send aid to impoverished countries. But true Christians are called to go beyond that. "The fruits of sanctification are compassion to one who has no claim to mercy." The poor and destitute definitely have a claim to mercy. But there are those whom we may think don't deserve mercy. They could be those in our church who have hurt us. Those who have attacked us publicly or otherwise. Those who spread evil gossip against us. Those who appear to be malicious and hurtful and unrepentant. God calls us to rise above them and to forgive. The ungodly cannot master such a thing as love to the unlovable. Nor can we force ourselves to love them. And even if we could, it would be a false love, built out of human duty rather than real compassion. True love only comes as a

result of God in us and His work of justification and sanctification. Mercy to the undeserving is holy. And only someone who has realized his condition, experienced the mercy of God in his own life, and subjected himself to God, can produce mercy to those who have no claim to it.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

The pure in heart are those with no evil thoughts, those with a clean, pure mind. Having put away everything offensive and surrendered to the cleansing fire of God, they are coming out purified. They are being made ready to live in the holy kingdom of heaven where nothing selfish or evil may enter in. Having given up their own right to being understood by their brothers, having loved even those whom they wished to hate, these rare individuals have received power from God to become true ambassadors of Christ. They have given up too much to go back. They long for complete union with Christ. And the promise is given that they shall see God. Not just physically in heaven. But "see" as in "understand" God. They will know Him for what He really is. They have walked with Him so closely that they have begun to assimilate His character. By beholding, they have become changed.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

Peace can only come from keeping God's law. "Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble." Ps 119:165. "Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea." Isaiah 48:18. These are they that understand the spirit of the law and the character of God, and carry it out. They are called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Blessed are those who are persecuted for doing nothing wrong! These are they who have fully developed the plan of

salvation in their lives. They have been brought from filthy wicked creatures to holy and royal members of God's kingdom. They have become completely new people, and nothing causes them to stumble.

Through these Beatitudes, God has outlined what He wants to develop in His church. He has shown us what is possible—not in our dreams, but in our real lives - if we are willing to pay the price. "We are to engage in no business, follow no pursuit, seek no pleasure that would hinder the outworkings of His righteousness in our character and life." Jesus calls us to be lights in our world that others may glorify God when they see our lives. Our light is the life and love of Christ in us. It is "habitual meekness, kindness, mercy, love, trials borne patiently, temptations resisted, and blessings gratefully received." Our mission is to show the world that there is a God on the throne whose character is worthy of praise and imitation.

How can we accomplish our mission if we have not allowed God to work out His character building plan in our lives? If you, like me, find yourself at the onset of 1997, still struggling with the great "I", having still not yet "resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin" (Heb 12:4), then perhaps now is a good time for us all to re-assess, re-organize, and re-commit our lives to Him.

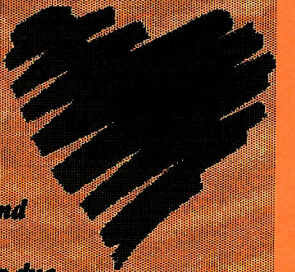
"In the road to death the whole race may go with all their worldliness, all their selfishness, pride, dishonesty, moral debasement. There is room for every man's opinions and doctrines, space to follow his inclinations, to do whatever his self-love may dictate. If you cling to any besetting sin, you will find the way too narrow for you to enter. Your own ways, evil habits and practices, must be given up if you would keep the way of the Lord. He who would serve Christ cannot...meet the world's standard. Heaven's path is too narrow for riches to ride in state, too narrow for the play of self-centered ambition, too steep and rugged for lovers of ease to climb."

Makarios!

Wendy

"Batter My Heart"

*Batter my heart, three-personed
God; for You
As yet but knock, breathe, shine,
and seek to mend;
That I may rise and stand,
o'erthrow me, and bend
Your face, to break, blow, burn, and
make me new.*

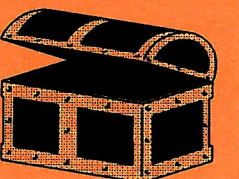


*I, like an usurped town, to another due,
Labour to admit You, but Oh, to no end!
Reason, Your viceroy in me, me should defend,
But is captived, and proves weak or untrue.
Yet dearly I love you, and would be loved fain.
But am betrothed unto Your enemy;
Divorce me, untie, or break that knot again,
Take me to You, imprison me, for I,
Except You enthrall me, never shall be free,
Not ever chaste, except you ravish me.*

John Donne, 1633

TURKISH DELIGHT

Want to read an amazing, inspiring story of the Holy Spirit at work? Read the story of Melek Koseoglu Jones, a Turkish tour guide who met up with a tour group of Seventh-day Adventists from South Africa. Read how the encounter changed her life. Among the passengers was Dr. Walter Veith. During the tour, he shared with her information about the creation of the universe and about Bible prophecy. At first she was very suspicious, thinking the Bible from which he was reading contained the writings of Nostradamus, and she didn't believe in that false prophet. Find out how this Muslim woman became a Christian in "Escape From Loneliness" published in the December 12, 1996 edition of the Adventist Review.



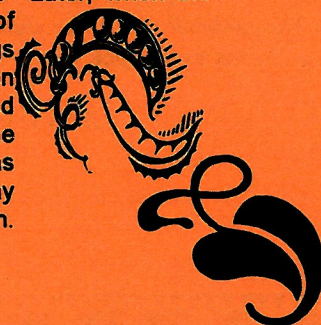
TREASURER SEEKERS

Three men came seeking God. Here are the tales of their travels...

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

God, the Creator, planted several seeds in Robert Armstrong. Robert has been a Christian for a long time. God was always there, nudging and nurturing Robert along a spiritual path. After a period of backsliding, Robert was baptized in 1992. God was ever-present, performing many miracles. He healed Robert from a hurtful childhood and helped him mend family relationships. Says Robert, "God planted the seed of forgiveness in me. He turned hate to love." God also took away Robert's desire to drink and stopped his downward spiral into alcoholism.

Then God planted another seed. Robert was hungry for truth, so when he received a brochure advertising the *Walter Veith Creation vs Evolution Seminar in January 1996*, he acted on it. He attended the meetings. So a seed was planted. Later, when the Amazing Discoveries group heard of the Leo Schreven Revelation meetings in January 1997, they sent an invitation to Robert. Again, he followed-up and attended the meetings. This time the seed germinated. Robert's spirit was moved and he joined the Seventh-day Adventist church by profession of faith.



IAN BAIN

The waitress served a whole lot more than just coffee! A new Christian, just three weeks young, she was on fire for God and "determined to take everyone into the Kingdom with her". During her break, she began witnessing to one of her customers who had seemed down. The customer's friend listened as well. And that's how at 50 years old, Ian Bain first heard about Jesus, his Saviour.

Ian has a big heart. One of his friends was very depressed and suicidal. He needed a friend to listen. So Ian met him at a coffee shop where a waitress chanced to overhear their conversation. Ian, a pretty staunch agnostic, atheist, left-wing humanist, listened to her speak to his friend. She told Ian she and her roommate would pray for him. She also gave him some pamphlets to read. He read the pamphlets and when he read about God on His throne; God, his judge



and his Saviour, Ian was convicted and accepted Christ into his heart.

The Holy Spirit has been very close to Ian ever since he began his Christian walk eight years ago. Eager to learn everything he could about his Saviour, Ian quit his job and took a one year Bible course at a college run by the People's Full Gospel Apostolic Church. He joined the Presbyterian church and immediately became involved in Tuesday and Thursday morning men's Bible study groups that cater to businessmen and executives in the downtown Vancouver area. He continued searching for truth, attending many other churches, including the Anglican church which he was attending when he heard about the *Dr. Walter Veith Creation vs Evolution Series*. He attended the meetings.

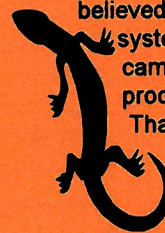
As a follow-up, the Amazing Discoveries Foundation, who had sponsored the Veith series, sent Ian a brochure advertising another series of meetings: the *It Is Written* sponsored

ROMAN SKOTNICKI

We never came from monkeys. Or any kind of slimy swamp creature. Roman Skotnicki has always believed this. Yet the world and almost the entire school system seems to think differently. So when a brochure came through the mail claiming there was scientific proof to verify creation, Roman was very interested. That is how he came to attend the *Dr. Veith Creation vs. Evolution meeting series* that led into studies of Bible Prophecy.

The Veith brochure caught Roman's attention because it detailed three of Roman's interests: science, Bible, and prophecy. Prior to the meetings, he'd been diligently studying his Bible for about two years. Coming from a devout Roman Catholic home, Roman had a hunger for God's word, but he didn't understand it fully. He was deeply impressed by the truth presented at the Veith meetings and at their close, asked to be baptized. He attended prayer and Bible study groups conducted by Pastor Don Anderson at Vancouver Central Church, and then, following a return trip to his native Poland, Roman was baptized here by Pastors Roman Pawalak and Don Anderson.

He takes God's commission to preach to all the world seriously. He helped out with Polish translation at the recent Revelation Seminar conducted at the Burnaby McPherson Centre. For Roman, evangelism is serious business - not money business!



Leo Schreven Revelation meetings. That was only one of the invitations Ian received. He also got a brochure in the mail, and he heard about the meetings on the radio. *God was making sure he heard about the series!* The only problem was, he couldn't attend. Shortly after becoming a Christian, God convicted Ian that he should return to his first career of social work. Now he works as a Drug and Alcohol Dependency Counsellor. He gets his referrals from the Corrections Branch. Most of the referrals are from multiple drunk driving offenses, and Ian works mostly evenings and Saturdays. (*Saturdays are in the prisons where drunk drivers spend the week-end in jail.*) Ian hadn't had his evenings free in over five years, but miraculously, God cleared his schedule for the entire month of January Ian was able to attend the meetings. He found truth. Because of belief in Christ and his love for God, his creator, judge, and saviour, Ian was baptized on February 8.

♦ PILGRIMS' PROGRESS

Amazing Compound Interest

The Amazing Discoveries Committee was extremely busy during the last months of 1996 mailing out invitations to a Revelation Seminar conducted by *It Is Written* evangelist, Leo Schreven. Brochures and personal invitations were sent to all the interest contacts from the January 1996 Dr. Veith Creation vs. Evolution Seminar. Over fifty interested people responded to the invitation and attended the January 1997 meetings at McPherson Centre in Burnaby. Interest built upon interest as the Word of God was presented each night. Several baptisms resulted. Look for stories in upcoming issues.



Teen Chooses Christ

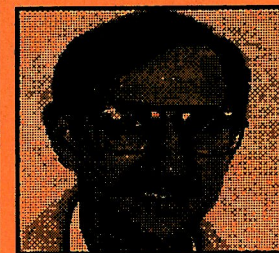
Josh Goubaj (16) is no stranger to evangelistic crusades. His parents and his sister's family were founding members of the Amazing Discoveries Organization. It is no surprise, then, that he names Dr. Walter Veith as one of the key individuals who helped lead him to the Lord. Josh was baptized on February 15, 1997, following personal Bible studies with Pastor Don Anderson during the past year. Says Josh, "Baptism means dying to your old self and becoming a new person in Christ. Outward things might seem easy to change, but to actually be a real Christian requires a heart decision."

Josh says that he was impressed by Dr. Walter Veith because he didn't just present information. His personal testimony and the way he lived his life, influenced Josh a lot. "He was a genuine Christian and he lived up to what he presented."



NEWS NUGGET

The Amazing Discoveries Organization is now part of ASI, the Adventist Laypersons Services and Industries Organization.



Where

In The World Is Dr. Veith??

Dr. Walter Veith has a busy speaking schedule both in Europe and in Canada in 1997. If you would like friends or relatives to hear him speak while visiting their neighbourhood, keep watch over the following appointments:

January 5-11
Delmenhorst, GERMANY

January 20 - February 1
Nurnberg, GERMANY

February 3-15
Praha, CZECH REPUBLIC

February 17-28
Koln, GERMANY

March 3-15
Offenburg, GERMANY

September 9-27
Kelowna Community Hall
1475 Water Street
Kelowna, BC CANADA

October 7 - November 1
Abbey Arts Centre
2329 Crescent Way
Abbotsford, BC CANADA

♦ ALERT!



Dr. Saleem A. Faraq has enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a church and government worker. He served for 18 years as a special advisor to Governors Reagan, Brown, and Deukmajian in California. He has served as *Health and Temperance Director* for the Eastern Africa Division, as well as Director of Health Services for the South Pacific. He's been a professor at Loma Linda University and served as consultant to the US State Department in South Korea and Liberia. He is currently VP for the *GC International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency*. He is also Chairman of the *Interdenominational AIDS Prevention Committee* in Zimbabwe, Africa. He brings with him a vast knowledge and experience of the world today.

World in Crisis!

Come hear
Dr. Saleem Faraq

April 11 & 12
at Vancouver Central
SDA Church

5350 Baillie St.
Vancouver, BC
(266-6727)

Sponsored by Amazing Discoveries

Friday, April 11:

RWANDA - A Country in Agony

7:00 pm

A firsthand report and slide presentation
by Dr. S. Faraq & Dr. R. Westermeyer

Sabbath, April 12:

Countdown to Dawn

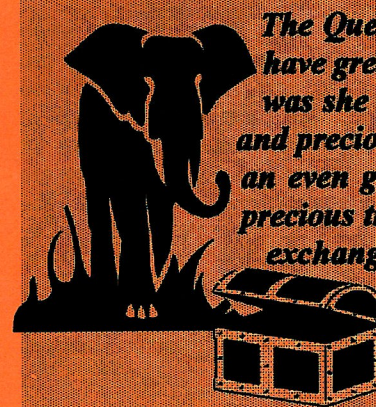
Potluck Lunch

11 am worship service
World events transpiring around us
confirm our faith in the prophecies.

Sabbath 2:30 pm:

The Deception of the Elect

Report on 3 U.N. Summit Conferences
What do they mean to us today?



The Queen of Sheba, after seeking out King Solomon who was reputed to have great wisdom, plyed him with many hard questions. So satisfied was she with all his answers that she gave him many gifts of spices and precious woods. Despite her riches, the Queen of Sheba received an even greater treasure from King Solomon. He shared with her precious truths of God, His law, His love, and His character. In the exchange, the Queen of Sheba came out the richer for having sought out God's wisdom...Are we sharing what treasure we've uncovered?

The following is a transcription of a sermon entitled **Rise and Shine** by Dr. Walter Veith. It was given at the Richmond SDA Church on December 30, 1995.

Here we are one year closer to the coming of the Lord. Last year I believed His coming was soon. Imagine how much more I feel about it now. He surely is coming soon! But things are mysteriously quiet "on the Western front". When things get quiet, I get a little bit nervous. I think that the Lord is going to come sooner than anyone of us can ever imagine. And I think that the Lord wants His people to be prepared in a way that they have never been prepared before since the inception of time. We are living in the end of time, and we are the only hope that a dying world has. Can you imagine the importance of that? We are the only the only hope that a dying world has!

I'm a Seventh-day Adventist. I assure you I'm not a Seventh-day Adventist because it's the easiest faith in the world. I'm a Seventh-day Adventist because it is the truth. I'm a Seventh-day Adventist because I believe the doctrines and the teachings of this church, because they tell me of the great signs of the soon coming of the Lord. And if I don't have the blessed hope within me that I will soon see my God coming in the clouds of heaven, then I have no reason to do what I do. When I look at the world around me, it really is in a chaotic state. What does the Lord expect of you and me in this time? And what is it that He wants us to do when we step out to bring the message of hope to the people? Isaiah 60:1-3 says "Arise, shine for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness (spiritual darkness) shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people, but the Lord will arise over you and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising."

What is it that we have that kings would even inquire after it? What is it that we can bring to a world in darkness that will give it hope and will make it want to live for the day when Christ will return?

Daniel 12:3 says that there will be a people of understanding and wisdom who will lead many to righteousness. What does it mean to have wisdom? Does it mean to be intelligent? Does it mean to have a university degree or to be highly educated? It means none of these things. Wisdom is available to every single child of God just for the asking.

**Is God fair? Does God really know what's going on?
Is God in control?
These are hard questions.**

The Bible defines wisdom and understanding in Psalm 119:99, 104: "I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation...Through Your precepts I get understanding." Obedience to God grants us wisdom. Wisdom is not to be equated with knowledge.

Now this wisdom that God has given us, this knowledge about His character and His precepts and how He wants us to live is a wisdom that we have a duty to impart to a dying world. That is why we are here.

There is a passage in the Bible

that discusses how to evangelize even the kings of this world. It contains messages pertaining to our time that we would do well to study in more detail. In 1Kings 10, we find Solomon grounded in the faith, full of zest for the Lord.

1 Kings 10:1 "Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, concerning the NAME of the Lord..." The name of the Lord stands for His character, His precepts - everything embodied about Him - everything that we understand about the Lord. "She came to test him with HARD questions." If we are the people that are to bring a message to the dying world, I can assure you that they will come to test us with HARD questions...very hard questions.

Did Solomon understand the name of the Lord? Did he understand why he was here on this planet? Did he know what his duty was to mankind and to those around him? In Ecclesiastes 12:13, he sums it up: "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil." Imagine that! Solomon was a good old-fashioned Seventh-day Adventist!

He says "Fear God". What does it mean to fear God? To be afraid of Him? Absolutely not! It is to revere Him, to understand Him, to see His beautiful character, to love Him. Do Adventists believe that as the remnant they stand on twin pillars, faith in Jesus and the commandments of God? "Fear God and keep His commandments." Do we believe that we are living in the time of judgment?

We are Laodicea - the nation of judgment. We are to bring the standard of judgment to the world, not forgetting

the faith of Jesus - *the atonement of Jesus* - Jesus being our only means of salvation. We need to bring a balanced religion based on faith and the consequence of that faith.

Do we really understand the character of God? I spend a lot of time with young people. I have a big crowd of young people that comes to my house every Friday night. Many of them are ex-Seventh-day Adventists. Among them is a Satanist priest who used to be a Seventh-day Adventist. They all have burning questions on their minds. Is God really fair? Does God really know what's going on? Is God in control? These are hard questions. Are we ready to face the world out there when they ask us these kind of questions? When little children are dying like flies around the world and people are pointing their fingers at God, can you stand in the breach and say God is in control? Can you protect His character?

When the Queen of Sheba came, she didn't come alone. She came with her whole retinue, with much gold and precious stones, with her servants, *"and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about ALL that was in her heart."* You have no idea how people long for the truth. How they long for fulfillment and just don't get it because the world supplies endless counterfeits. The queen of Sheba was a high official with all her regiment. We are advised in the Spirit of Prophecy that if we can reach the rich, the upper echelons, then we will definitely succeed in reaching the lower classes.

As Seventh-day Adventists, are we grounded in our doctrine? Titus 1:9 says: *"...holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict."* Titus 2:8 says: *"...sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you."*

I'm so saddened that today we want to make less prominent the differences between us and the world. Even the differences of our doctrines and the world. We have many things in common, but there are certain succinct differences which are very important in terms of present truth to a dying world. When people come and have hard questions, can we answer them? Do we really know our Bibles so that we can explain to them law and grace,

righteousness, justification, sanctification, faith and works, and the balance between the two? Can we speak to them about the investigative judgment? 1844? Can we answer so that they have no more argument? What about Colossians 2:16? Can we explain the difference between the ceremonial law and the moral law? Do we know the doctrines essential for our salvation at this time so that we can explain things and teach people the importance of the very truth for which we stand?

Verse 3: *"So Solomon answered ALL her questions; there was nothing so difficult for the king that he could not explain it to her."* Can we do that? Jeremiah 32:27 says: *"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh, is there anything too hard for me?"* That very God is the same God who

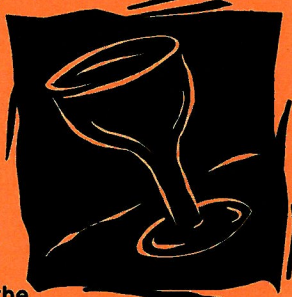
Solomon was a health-reforming Seventh-day Adventist ...and he understood that his lifestyle had to reflect his relationship with his Lord.

endowed Solomon with the wisdom to answer all the questions. You and I have the same Source. James 1:5 says: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."* Is that a lie or is that truth? We have no reason to fear anything or anybody, even if they are a queen or a king because God can give to the most simple of us all the heavenly wisdom required to answer all their questions. Of course we have to do our part. We can't just sit back and expect that when the time comes, everything will be given to us. We have to study, we have to know the doctrine, we have to know the truth for our time, if we want to be able to draw from this Source of power.

Is it enough to have all the knowledge and all the wisdom? In

verse 4 of 1 Kings, we read: *"And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built,..."* Are people going to look at the house we are building? Isaiah 58 calls us *"repairers of the breach"*. We are building a spiritual house, and we are the ones who are to repair the broken walls, the trodden down doctrines of the Bible. People will scrutinize our building. They will look at our house and say "Do these people really have the truth? They are so different. They are so peculiar." We too will be scrutinized. The house we are building will be looked at very carefully. In 1 Cor. 13:2 we read: *"And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing,"* This is not talking about sickly sentimental love that has no power in it other than the deceptive counterfeit for which it is being dished out today. It is talking about the kind of love that enabled Marie Durand, because of her love for her Lord and the doctrines she stood for, to remain in prison for 38 years rather than deny her Lord. It is talking about the kind of love the reformers and martyrs had for their Lord and the doctrines that caused them to choose death rather than to deny their Lord. Wisdom is a culmination of knowledge and this kind of love.

When the queen looked carefully at Solomon and the house he was building, something happened in her heart. Something changed. But it wasn't enough. She was looking for a way out. She looked further: 1 Kings 10:5 says she looked at *"the food on his table"*. Do you think Solomon understood the principles of health reform? Do you think he had any idea what was to be on his table? Was it going to be different from those of other kings? Proverbs 23:1 *"When you sit down to eat with a ruler, consider carefully what is before you; and put a knife to your throat if you are a man given to appetite. Do not desire his delicacies for they are deceptive food."* Solomon was a health-reforming Seventh-day Adventist. He knew the



commandments were important. He knew that an abiding faith in God was important. And he understood that his lifestyle had to reflect his relationship with his Lord. He knew his body was the temple of the living God. Do we always know these things? The queen of Sheba was watching carefully. She was watching his every move. In the same manner, you and I will be watched.

She also looked at *"the seating of his servants"*. Obviously there was something different in the seating of his servants to what it was out in the world at that time. The Bible tells us *"Do not be like the Gentile princes who lord it over their servants..."* Solomon was a humble king. Jesus Himself, King of kings and Lord of lords, came as a Servant of servants. How do we react to our fellow man?

She also looked at their apparel. There was something strange, something different about them compared to any other monarch that she had ever visited.

Even their clothing was different. Do we have dress reform in our church? It sounds so old-fashioned today, doesn't it? *"Carefulness in dress is an important consideration...We are strangers and pilgrims in this world. We are to wait, watch, pray, and work. The whole mind, the whole soul, the whole heart, and the whole strength are purchased by the blood of the Son of God. If our hearts are united with Christ's heart, we shall have a most intense desire to be clothed in His righteousness. Nothing will be put upon the person to attract attention or to create controversy. We should not be the first to follow fashion, but we should also not be the last."*

The queen also looked at his cupbearer. Do our cups contain the sweet wine of true doctrine? Is our cup running over with the water of life that we are offering, or is our cup half empty?

Then she looked at the *"entryway by which she went up to the house of the Lord"*. The Hebrew word used for *"entryway"* means *"burnt offering"*. If she saw the burnt offering, then she must have witnessed the sacrificial lamb and thought to herself, *"What does this mean?"* And she must have understood that it was the substitute for her sinfulness. What do we think when we enter into church? Do we take our church-going seriously? Are we there faithfully every week? Is our behaviour appropriate to the presence of the Lord of hosts?

Once she had received all the answers to her questions and seen the difference in his lifestyle, even in the fine detail, the marked difference spoke to her of the workings of a Higher Being on the soul. The Bible says *"there was no more spirit in her"*. All the spirit of resistance crumpled within her. Then she said in verse 6, *"It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom."*

Do you know how often it is that Adventists are scrutinized, how we are watched secretly? Is our lifestyle showing people what God can do for them? I have heard people often say *"There is more to this truth and to this gospel than I ever imagined. I will never be able to comprehend the fullness thereof."*

The Queen of Sheba says in vs. 9: *"Blessed be the Lord your God..."* May it be said of us and of our God. The Queen of Sheba was so pleased. She gave him so many gifts, so many spices that there never again came such abundance of spices...and *almug*

wood which the king used for steps for the house of the Lord (vs. 12).

When we have done what we can, when we have preached the gospel, and we have taught the world, will we feel that we have supported the house that we are building? Will we have added supports? "Now King Solomon gave the Queen of Sheba all she desired, whatever she asked..." (vs. 13) May it be said of us.

Speaking to the Pharisees, Jesus says in Matt. 12:42: *"The Queen of the South will rise up in the judgment*

with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon..." The queen of Sheba is saved. We will see her again.

May it be that we have learned a lesson from these words of God, and cherished them in our hearts. May we speak the message with boldness, and prepare ourselves by understanding the times in which we are living. May we learn about the special teachings, the present truth, so that we have all the answers for the questions people have in their hearts.



Arise, shine for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people, but the Lord will arise over you and His glory will be seen upon you.

Isaiah 60:1-3



***“All that is necessary for
the forces of evil to win
in the world is for
enough good men to do
nothing.”***

E. Burke

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