

*inside:*

## The Finest New Wine

*Roy Davies*

26

## The Manifestation of Christ, Part 2

*Michael Fassbender*

04

## How the Holy Bible Changed my Life

*Andreas Mellas*

12

**FAITH**  **ON THE LINE**  
**DARE TO STAND**

FALL 2016





## Dear Supporters

This is not an Amazing Discoveries message. This is a Seventh-day Adventist message. This is the very reason for our existence. It is our prayer that the entire worldwide church will unite on these principles and rise to the challenge so that the latter rain can be poured out and people from the entire religious world take their stand. We at AD have committed to focus on this message even more firmly than heretofore, and to do all in our power to reach the world by every possible means – radio, television, internet, publications – and to do it in such a way that it is available to all.

We want to thank you for supporting this special proclamation by your prayers and by your means during the past years. Time is running out, great events are before us. In 2017, the evangelical world is geared to bury the hatchet on the principles of the Reformation. We believe that this will be a pivotal decision. The protestant world is following in the footsteps of ancient Israel who also claimed they have no King but Caesar. The world is in a position as it has never been in before and the next years, we believe, will see the fulfillment of the final events foretold. Soon our work will be ended, the last message of warning given.

Dear Supporter of AD,

We are living in very serious times and God is calling for people who will be as true to principle as the needle to the pole. We at AD believe that we are soon to experience the culmination of all that has been prophesied. *The great controversy is drawing to a close.* And soon everyone will have made a decision either for or against the principles of heaven. As Seventh-day Adventists, we have been called to give a special message of warning to the world which is not just a warning but a merciful invitation. We as a church have faced many challenges and Amazing Discoveries is just a tiny cog in the great Advent wheel. We believe, however, that we have a specific calling to present the three angels' messages in an unequivocal way exposing at the same time the numerous deceptions which are plaguing the world. We believe that this constitutes the loud cry message of Revelation 18 where there is not just a call out of Babylon but a reason given for why people should separate from a religious unity that negates the precepts of Christ in favor of the precepts of men. It is not a popular message but we are convinced that it is a saving message because over the years we have had the privilege, indeed the humbling privilege, of seeing the fruits of this message.

*Will you stay with us as we enter the final stretch?*

May the Lord be with all those who desire to see the work finished and our Lord return in glory. May He give us strength and courage, and above all, may He give us faithfulness now and in the coming year.

*When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason.—5T:136*

Walter J. Veith / President / November 7, 2016



**Our aim** is to urge men and women to stand for truth and resist error. We pray that in times of serious compromise our ministry will equip you with solid information on current end-time issues and trends, and encourage you to live a life apart from worldly influences.

# FAITH

ON THE LINE  
DARE TO STAND

FALL  
2016

In this issue:

*Faith on the Line* is published quarterly by Amazing Discoveries

## Managing Editor

Wendy Goubej

## Contributing Writers

Michael Fassbender, Andreas Mellas,  
Roy Davies, Joel Kratzke

## Copy Editor

Nicole Yip

## Contact

2013-248<sup>th</sup> Street  
Langley, BC V4W 2B7  
Canada

PO Box 3140  
Blaine WA  
98231-3140  
USA

## Telephone

604-856-9457  
Toll Free: 1-866-572-9457

## Web

[www.amazingdiscoveries.org](http://www.amazingdiscoveries.org)

## E-mail

[editor@amazingdiscoveries.org](mailto:editor@amazingdiscoveries.org)

## Subscription

\$25/yr for US and Canada  
\$30/yr for International

Copyright 2016 Amazing Discoveries.  
Articles reflect the opinion of their authors.  
Permission to quote excerpts is granted  
where credit is given.

**AD** Amazing  
Discoveries®



The Manifestation of Christ  
Part 2 ..... 04  
*Michael Fassbender*



How the Holy Bible has  
Changed my Life ..... 12  
*Andreas Mellas*



On a Personal Note ..... 21  
*Susan H Smith*



Winds of Doctrine Series  
Part 1 ..... 22  
*Joel Kratzke*



The Finest New Wine ..... 26  
*Roy Davies*



# The Manifestation

## Part 2 of 5

“I n the shell-structured chiasmic arrangement of the Book of Revelation, first the trustworthiness of the Word is established; for the word of God is the only carrier of information we should base our entire trust on. The first chiasmic ring encloses all other information revealed by the Lord Jesus in the last book of the Bible. After closing with the assurance of trustworthiness (Rev 1:3), the next chiasmic element commences with verse 4, wherein John introduces himself and sends regards from the Father, the seven Spirits and Jesus. Let us look at how Jesus is introduced: Jesus is...

- the faithful witness,
- the first begotten of the dead, and
- the prince of the kings of the earth (Rev 1:5)

Notice something? Before it is remembered that He was the first to rise from the dead (“first” here less in the chronological order than more in terms of significance and rank) John tells us that Jesus is the faithful witness. Indeed, the word “faithful” according to the Oxford English Dictionary, means “True to one’s word or stated belief; firm in adherence to a promise, undertaking,”

Question: What was the last promise you made to someone? Did you keep it? Promises are common. We make promises to others, and promises are made to us by others. “Yes, I promise I’ll do the dishes today.” “We promise we’ll give you a promotion in six months.” “Just wait for me. I’ll be there. I promise.” How often have you heard promises like these? The way we deal with promises tells a lot about us and our self-respect<sup>1</sup>:

*“It is impossible to follow through on every single [promise] you make in life, but how many you break and how you handle it when you do is key to understanding yourself. [...] A promise, as defined by Merriam-Webster Dictionary, is: ‘a declaration that one will do or refrain from doing something specified; or a legally binding declaration that gives the person to whom it is made a right to expect or to claim the performance or forbearance of a specified act.’*

*When we don’t keep a promise to someone, it communicates to that person that we don’t value him or her. [...] **Not keeping a promise is the same as disrespecting yourself.** Ultimately it can harm our self-image, self-esteem, and our life.” (Emphasis supplied)*

Keeping promises is the basis for stable families and societies; not keeping our promises, on the other hand, is the same as disrespecting others and, eventually, ourselves. Keeping promises is also the basis for God’s relationship with us.

*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)” Heb 10:23*

The reason we can have faith in the Lord Jesus is the faithfulness of Jesus.





# on of Jesus Christ

by Michael E Fassbender



## Seven Promises by the Faithful Witness

As we examine the deeper meaning of the letters to the churches in Revelation Chapter 2 to Chapter 3:22, we traditionally focus on the churches themselves; how they conduct spiritually and how their conduct is assessed by Jesus. Typologically, we apply Jesus' assessment to the history of the Christian dispensation yielding much valuable insight for the believer, especially as Laodicea is concerned. In this sense, we look for an answer to the question "What do we learn about the church? Let us now back up, reset our information filters of Biblical investigation and ask a slightly different question: "In Rev 2-3:22, what do we learn about *Jesus*?"

One notices a recurring pattern in those letters to the seven churches; in fact, all seven letters conclude with a similar statement: "to him that overcometh will I ..." or "He that overcometh shall..", which is followed by a reward or gift from Jesus Himself. We have here seven promises to believers that overcome. What promises are these? Let us take a closer look.

To him that overcometh/he that overcometh

(1) will I give to eat of the tree of life

(2) shall not be hurt of the second death

(3) will I give to eat of the hidden manna, a white stone, a new name

(4) to him will I give power over the nations

(5) I will not blot out his name out of the book of life

(6) will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God,

(7) will I grant to sit with me in my throne

We immediately realize that these are the seven ultimate promises that are closely related to the essence of the Christian faith. But there seems to be catch! The seven promises are not to everyone, but only to him/her who "*overcometh*". What does it mean to overcome? Scripture explains Scripture, and so we find that the author of Revelation himself expounds on the very secret of overcoming in his first apostolic letter:

*By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God **overcometh** the world: and this is the victory that **overcometh** the world, **even our faith**. Who is he that **overcometh** the world, but he that **believeth** that Jesus is the Son of God? (1 John 5:2-3, emphasis supplied)*

The logic here emerges as follows:

(1) The believer is born of God through believing that Jesus is the Son of God

(2) The love of God is expressed in keeping the commandments



(3) The power to overcome the world comes from the synthesis of (1) and (2), or in simple terms:

Overcoming means *keeping God's commandments and having faith in Jesus*

Faith in Jesus will be rewarded with the faithfulness of Jesus. Because Jesus is faithful, he will keep His promises.

Promise #1: (Revelation 2:7)

*To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

The great controversy between good and evil started in the paradise of God. Back then in Eden, our parents Adam and Eve forfeited the access to the tree of life:

*And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"— therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.*  
Genesis 3:22-24

Hence, promise #1 is about the restoration of the earth, it is about the new earth, about paradise, about living forever. Again, this promise is not given to all of man but to those who overcome.

Now, how does God give the assurance of a fulfilled promise prior to the actual event of fulfillment? In order to answer this important question, we go back to the testimony of the apostle Paul. We will notice something interesting. When writing his letters to Timothy and Titus, Paul prefaces his letters with the words:

*Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,*  
2 Timothy 1:1

and

*Paul, a servant of God, [...] In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;*  
Titus 1:1,2

Paul refers to the promise of eternal life, and it appears that he knew exactly what he was talking about, despite the fact

that eternal life had not occurred to him as yet. Why? Paul knew with certainty and conviction because he was in the privileged situation of having witnessed eternal life and paradise already:

*It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)*

*such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.*

2 Corinthians 12:1-5

God had given Paul a foretaste of fulfillment of His promise in "visions and revelation". We will now see that the same principle, i.e., fulfillment of a future promise revealed to a human in a vision, occurs in the last book of the Bible. The promise of restoration and access to the tree of life was made to the church in Revelation 2:7; the fulfillment of this promise, namely access to the tree of life, was shown to John in a vision. The content of this vision is set forth later in Revelation, towards the end of the book, at the beginning of Chapter 22:

*"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."*

Revelation 22:1-2

Ellen White explains that the tree of life provided the "fuel" for eternal life, which is part of the fantastic science of immortality:

*"The tree of life possessed the power to perpetuate life, and as long as they ate of it, they could not die. The lives of the antediluvians were protracted because of the life-giving power of this tree, which was transmitted to them from Adam and Eve."* 7BC 988.9

When the new earth is created, the curse "cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Gen 3:17", will be repealed; the dead in Christ will be formed out of dust again and will so be able to physically enter the gates of paradise on the new earth. Perpetual



life (or “healing”, Rev 22:2) will be sustained by the “super-fuel” that comes from the fruit and leaves of the tree of life. Strange enough, the admission to this tree of life is reserved to “legalists”:

*“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” Revelation 22:14*

First of all, it appears that the “constitution” of the new earth government will be God’s commandments, and for those who already keep them here there is good news, because they don’t have to change. Next, let’s look at the underlying word for “right” here, transliterated exousia from the Greek. It is used 103x in the NT, and the same word is translated as “power” (69x), “authority” (29x), “right” (2x), “liberty” (1x), “jurisdiction” (1x), “strength” (1x), so that we can deduce the following: Through the keeping of God’s law, the saints have “power”, “authority” and “jurisdiction” over the access to the tree of life; all legal terms, right?

Promise #2 holds that *“He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.”*

Why is the second death mentioned? After all, the saints already have access to the tree of life. Simple logic lets us conclude that there will be at least two groups of people: these who are saved from the second death and those that will experience the second death. The only source we can draw information from regarding the details of the second death is the Spirit of Prophecy:

*“Satan rushes into the midst of his followers and tries to stir up the multitude to action. But fire from God out of heaven is rained upon them, and the great men, and mighty men, the noble, the poor and miserable, are all consumed together. I saw that some were quickly destroyed, while others suffered longer. They were punished according to the deeds done in the body. Some were many days consuming, and just as long as there was a portion of them unconsumed, all the sense of suffering remained. Said the angel, “The worm of life shall not die; their fire shall not be*

*quenched as long as there is the least particle for it to prey upon.” {EW 294.1}*

There will be no escape for evildoers, and there will be no distinction in rank, position and social status. There will be no way around the final annihilation of those who used their power to rebel against God, to oppress and hurt their fellow men. During their temporal life those mighty and noble may

have been able to separate themselves out as elite to rule over others and exploit their resources. But at the time of the second death, all will be herded together just to be united in feeling the excruciating pain of a fire that is able to decompose their temporarily resurrected bodies and souls.

All those who did not respond to the Savior’s call to repent will be raised to life just to burn as bright torches with unquenchable fire; a fire that burns -fueled by the amount of their own accumulated sins- until they simply are no longer a part of God’s creation. There won’t be any eternal “hell-fire”, but Ellen White states that the wicked will stay alive and suffer until the last molecule of their bodies has disintegrated. They will experience their flesh and their existence slowly eaten up by the flames that no firefighter will be able to put out. Despite the indescribable pain of a heat that no physicist is able to quantify –a heat that will break down both matter and spirits-, it will be the humiliation, loathing and perdition of getting resurrected only to find destruction in God’s grand refuse incinerator that constitutes the ultimate punishment of the wicked. Any aspect about the phenomenon

of the second death is hard to understand for us, the ultimate fire annihilation of the wicked, while they remain fully conscious, is something the God of love has to do on behalf of His loved ones and His creation. It is God’s “strange work”:

*“For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.” Isaiah 28:21*

Getting “hurt of the second death”, is a matter so horrible that the fear of this ultimate disgraceful removal from the universe has to be taken completely out of the relationship with God for those that overcome. It is also important to know for all who love God that there will be no future existence for the wicked or for Satan and his angels. They will be



*He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*



given opportunity to look at the New Jerusalem to see what they missed, and then the unquenchable fire will consume them. Finally, there will be justice and there will be perfect peace. The fulfillment of promise #2 was given to John in a vision –to the testimony of the church and individual believers; we find it in Rev 21:4 and verse 8. Similar to Paul, this is indeed what John *experienced* in an “audiovisual” appearance (“And I saw... and I saw... and I heard”, Rev. 21:1-3):

*“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”*

## Transforming Grace and Universal Power

Promise #3: “To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it” Rev 2:17

*For him “that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations*

Hebrews 9:4 tells us that the hidden manna was located in the Ark of the Covenant. How was manna originally distributed to the Israelites in the desert and why was a portion of it kept in the Ark?

*“Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.”*  
Ex 16:4 (emphasis supplied)

We learn that manna was rationed in a specific way as a test of obedience. Jesus is the true, spiritual manna:

*“This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.”* John 6:58

It may surprise the reader that the “temporal” manna was also a test for the Israelites to keep the law. Jesus, the “spiritual” manna, is the fulfillment of the law. The interesting

lesson thus taught was that manna, sweet as honey, was also a symbol of God’s sweet grace in Christ. But it was not a cheap grace; it was a precious, powerful grace that had a tangible effect on the behavior and character of people; it caused them to change: towards the end of the chapter, after they learned the “manna” lesson, Moses concludes:

*“See, for that the Lord hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.”* <sup>30</sup> **So the people rested on the seventh day.** (Ex 16:29, emphasis supplied)

Manna was a symbol or a type of grace that leads to obedience. Likewise, the antitypical grace in Jesus Christ is a transforming grace that leads to a natural obedience to God’s law and so to a Christ-like character.

We have an astonishing analogy here: due to the mechanism through which it was dispensed to God’s people during their pilgrimage in the desert, manna lifted up the law –just as Christ lifts up the law. Manna was preserved as a token of the perpetual blessing that comes from the adherence to God’s law and His statutes and through the transforming grace of Christ. Consequently, manna was placed into the Ark, side by side along with the tables of God’s law. God’s character is the law, and God’s power of love is the transforming grace. The power of Christ’s grace is manifest in that it transforms our character, so that we are able to come into the physical presence of the Holy God and yet live.

*To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it*

The fulfillment of the promised hidden manna, the white stone and new name is attained when we are finally transformed into His image as to be able to live in the presence of God:

*“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. [...] And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”*  
Revelation 21:3.5



Joshua 5:12 mentions that manna ceased after they entered the Holy land. Likewise, the antitypical hidden manna will cease to be distributed to the saints as soon as they cross the border of the New Canaan where character building will be complete.

Promise #4 is for him *“that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations”* (Revelation 2:26). Jesus promised that the saints will have power over the nations. Ellen White writes that we are dealing here with a spiritual (rather than a temporal, political) power of the church in proclaiming the gospel:

*“Those who really love the Saviour cannot but hail with gladness the announcement founded upon the Word of God, that He in whom their hopes of eternal life are centered, is coming again, not to be insulted, despised, and rejected, as at His first advent, but in power and glory, to redeem His people. The gospel is to advance from conquest to conquest, from victory to victory. The greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, and they shall take the kingdom and possess the kingdom for ever and ever.”* {SD 366.3-4}

The result of this power is that nations and kings will be counted amongst the saved, and John could witness the fulfillment in his vision:

*“And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.”* Rev 21:24

More so; there is even a hint that the saints will participate in the government of the New Earth society, because they will receive enough light to be able to lead and reign:

*“And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.”* (Revelation 22:5)

This is the wonderful solace and encouragement to all who suffer under oppressive temporal kingdoms and under the emerging satanic one-world government of the beast and his image: the power will be taken away from Satan and given to the saints. Further mentioning we find in the book of Daniel:

*“These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.”* Daniel 7, 17.18

## Records of Characters Stored in the Heavenly Temple

Promise #5 *“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life”* Revelation 3:5

There is an intriguing depth in this promise. Let us pause here and consider the significance of genealogies in the Hebrew culture. In Thomas Hartwell Horne's work *“An introduction to the Critical Study and Knowledge of the Holy Scriptures”*, one can find -tucked away between seemingly more important historical minutiae- some detail on the handling of public records in the Hebrew civil system:

*“The Hebrews were very careful in preserving their Genealogies, or the history of the successions of families. [...] In proportion as the Hebrews increased in numbers during their residence in Egypt, it became an object of growing importance to preserve the genealogical tables of the whole nation [...] The charge of these genealogies was, most probably, confided [...] to the [...] scribes [...] at least in the time of the kings, we find that the scribes were generally taken from the tribe of Levi.[...] In later times the genealogical tables were kept in the temple.”*(emphasis supplied)

Typology leads us to conjecture that if the genealogy of the Hebrews was stored in the earthly temple, then the genealogy of the saints, the spiritually descendants of the Father, is kept in the heavenly temple. True spiritual descend in this context means inheritance

of character, and it is not farfetched to assume that a blue print of the character of the saints is securely stored in the heavenly temple. For all genealogies stored in the heavenly temple, for all true descendants of the Father, for all that are written in the Lamb's book of life, there is the assurance that they will be perfectly restored even if the mortal remains have long disintegrated into dust.

*He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life*





## Complete Restoration

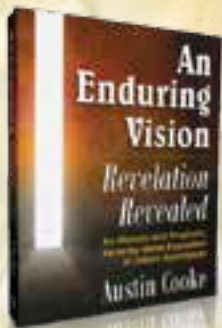
(9 DVD set)

by **Dan Wilson**

*Revelation 14 forms the key text for this investigation into where we've come from, where we're at today, and where we're going. God wants to completely restore us from brokenness back into His image. This is not just a one-time event, but a life-long process that will reap amazing changes in our lives if we only let God do the work He desires to do and is more than capable of performing. The responsibility is in the hands of God, our loving Restorer, but we have to be willing to give Him our consent since He generously gives us a choice.*

**\$90.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.



## An Enduring Vision: Revelation Revealed (Book)

by **Austin Cooke**

*The book of Revelation begins with a promise: "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near" (Rev. 1:3). God calls us to faithfully study His Word and understand the truths about where we have been, where we are, and where we are going so that we may stand firm in these last days. "An Enduring Vision: Revelation Revealed" is an in-depth, verse-by-verse exposition of the book of Revelation.*

**\$34.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.

The fulfillment of Christ's promise is for all that were transformed into His image:

*"And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."*  
Revelation 21:27

Meaning that the saints who took the hidden manna of transforming grace will have their characters preserved in the book of life, which may be located in the public registers of the heavenly sanctuary. No matter how anxiously Satan and his followers will try to destroy and blot out God's people from the face of the old earth, whether he is able to succeed in taking their temporal lives or not, all the details of the personalities and characters of each of God's children is out of his reach –safely and securely stored in the archives of the heavenly sanctuary.

Promise #6 has again to do with the temple and the New Jerusalem:

*"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem,"* Revelation 3:12

The fulfillment is here:

*"And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads."* Revelation 22:4

The Spirit of Prophecy mentions that no sinful being is able to see God's face:

*"I saw a throne, and on it sat the Father and the Son. I gazed on Jesus' countenance and admired His lovely person. The Father's person I could not behold, for a cloud of glorious light covered Him. I asked Jesus if His Father had a form like Himself. He said He had, but I could not behold it, for said He, "If you should once behold the glory of His person, you would cease to exist." Our Father Cares, pages 202,203.*

The highest privilege in the universe is to be able to see the face of God the Father, and the Redeemed will have this privilege:

*"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."* Matthew 5:8

Promise #7: *"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."* Revelation 3:21



To order visit:  
[amazingdiscoveries.org](http://amazingdiscoveries.org)  
or call **1-866-572-9457**



In this last promise, Jesus puts Himself forth as an example; the true believer follows Jesus wherever he goes. Through the victory on the cross, Jesus is able to impart the strength that is needed to overcome. In the vision, John saw God dwelling among His children. There will thus be no more separation between God and man. The fulfillment of the promise:

*“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. [...] 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”*

*Revelation 21:3.5.*

*“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”* *Revelation 21:7*

God’s ultimate goal is the restoration of the broken connection between God and man. To summarize all seven promises: Jesus promises His church and His children that He will restore eternal life; eliminate sin though the second death;

transform through His grace and give power to draw nations to God; preserve our beings, our characters and our lives in the book of life even if we suffer and die the temporal death. Jesus will further enable us to behold God’s face and make us heirs of everything that belongs to the Father. Jesus closes His testimony with:

*“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”* *Revelation 22:16-17*

Matthew Henry<sup>3</sup> expounds:

*“He is the faithful witness; he was from eternity a witness to all the counsels of God (Jn. 1:18), and he was in time a faithful witness to the revealed will of God, who has now*

*spoken to us by his Son; upon his testimony we may safely depend, for he is a faithful witness, cannot be deceived and cannot deceive us.”*

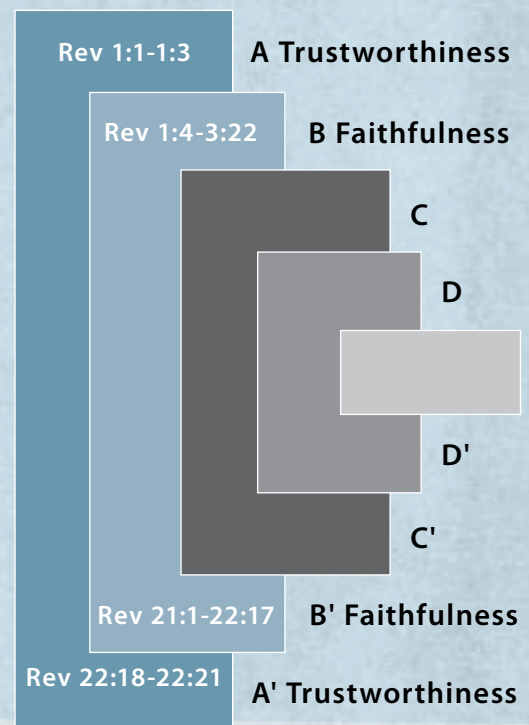
It is now apparent that the sections Revelation 1:4-3:22 and Rev 21:1-22:17 are closely related: in the former section we learn about the promises of the faithful witness, while the lower section shows the fulfillment of these promises to John in a vision as a testimony for the church and the individual believer. Faith of the believer meets the faithfulness of Jesus; promise meets fulfillment. This chiastic layer tells us more about Jesus; namely that Jesus is faithful (Fig.). We thus discovered the theme of the second chiastic ring: the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. **AID**

*To be continued in the next issue*

**Michael E Fassbender, Ph.D.**, is a nuclear scientist. Originally from Germany, he spent a three-year stint in South Africa. He now works for the U.S. Government and lives with his wife and two daughters in New Mexico, USA. Michael and his wife are members of the Texico Conference of Seventh-Day-Adventists

- 1 <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/lights-camera-happiness/201005/why-keeping-your-promise-is-good-you> (accessed 02/09/2016)
- 2 “An introduction to the Critical Study and Knowledge of the Holy Scriptures” by Thomas Hartwell Horne, Vol. 2, Chapter VI, page 79, free ebook available on <https://books.google.com>
- 3 Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible (Complete), biblestudytools.com

The Outer Chiastic Ring of Revelation







# HOW THE HOL ANDREAS MELLAS HAS

## THE FOOL HATH SAID IN HIS HEART, THERE IS NO GOD (PSALM 14:1)

When I was young, I was a fool. I was raised in a Greek Orthodox Christian home which was by profession only. We went to Church once or twice a year (and by the loving instigation of my dear grandmother, sometimes during the week), but I lived as if God did not exist the rest of the time.

Books were my windows of escape from the tense and sometimes hostile world around me. I read constantly, and voraciously. My dear mother tells the anecdote that when I was about five years of age, she saw me reading through the American People's Encyclopedia during my spare time. Comics were my first love. They developed an imagination which did not really help me mature and prepare me for real life. In fact they almost cost me my life, as I contemplated one day to jump off our seventh floor balcony with my "Superman" cape on but later considered the risk and decided to jump off the sofa instead. Comics also gave me false views of myself and a nagging fear of the dark. I had many fears at this time in my life because I did not know and realize that the "fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov. 9:10).

***"Canst thou by searching find out God?" (Job 11:7)***

As I grew older I began reading psychological and philosophical works which gave me a perverted knowledge of human nature and left me with an empty feeling inside. As I was struggling to cope with my parents divorce and my new living conditions, I began to search for meaning in these books but found instead dryness and impractical advice which

never seemed to change me but only inform me more and more of the hopelessness of my situation.

As I grew I discovered the world of martial arts which showed me the physical aspect of discipline and a new way to look at things which was

not really new but another wolf in sheep's clothing. Martial arts was teaching me to act humble even though I knew deep inside that I could physically pulverize anyone who tried to interfere with my humility. I was to discipline myself and devote my life to physically preparing for a fight that I would try to avoid at all costs. After all, as the teachers said, the discipline was for my character to become better not for the fighting. The only problem was that the fighting was a constant carrot on a stick which made it rather difficult to ignore. And I did not realize that ***"all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword" (Matt.26:52).***

I devoured martial arts books on technique, history, philosophy and chased the teachers and their ways. This left me with a way to express my anger and frustration at life but it was like a hamster running on an exercise wheel. I was running but going nowhere.

When I was sixteen and graduated from Secondary School, I moved to Greece with my father. At first, I felt like a stranger in a strange land. However the brief time there helped me get in touch with my cultural identity and showed me a slower pace of life in which there could be enjoyment just by sitting down and having a conversation with someone else.



# MY BIBLE CHANGED MY LIFE //

My conversations up until this time were either with books or video games. I also learned that food did not come from the grocery store but from the land which was farmed and worked on. These lessons helped expand my maturity but unfortunately at that time in my life, they fell on deaf ears. I returned to Canada with a longing for which I now began seeking for by other methods.

***“There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked”  
(Isaiah 48:22)***

My life of drinking in of the spirit of the world, the flesh, and the devil, now brought itself to its logical conclusion and natural direction. I had found the broad road that leadeth to destruction and began walking in it fast and loose. Alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, rock music and spiritualism now became my best friends. And with so-called friends like these, who needs enemies. I became absorbed in finding myself and was losing myself in the process. I drank in the spirits of intoxication both physically and spiritually and my mind became a cesspool of confusion, depression, and apathy.

I studied horoscopes to figure out who the stars say that I am and became imprisoned in lucky numbers and lucky days. Little did I know that I was formatting myself to have a good day or a bad day and not looking to God to go through the day, not realizing that every day is a gift from God and I should learn to say ***“This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24).*** Numerology, supposedly calculated my character but left me with nothing but my alleged tendencies. The New Age taught me that I will always have another chance to make it right whether in this life or in the next reincarnation, that all is one and one is all and we are all heading in the right direction, that the type of path was not the issue but how you walked in it. I wanted to believe these things because they were attractive to my natural impulses and allowed me to be free to live as I pleased and still

live on. But if we were all heading in the right direction: Why did I feel so miserable and empty? I tried meditation, out of body travel, and other such psychic phenomena but nothing changed inside of me. All was still empty and dark. I needed to learn that this life is the only opportunity to make things right with God. I needed to realize that Jesus Christ is the only ***“name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved”*** and that after this life there is not reincarnation but ***“it is appointed unto men ONCE to die; but after this the judgement” (Acts 4:12; Hebrews 9:27).***

I listened to hard rock music to channel my anger and rebellion emotionally but only found that after the music was over, I was still angry and rebellious. After a while the music became a temporary fix to escape the raw view of my sinfulness. I thought I was all alone. Without help or sympathy or anyone or anything. Little did I realize that the God of the Bible was working in my life to show me the vanity of all things without Him (Eccles. 1:2).

**O GOD, THE GOD  
OF THIS BOOK, IF  
YOU ARE REAL I  
NEED YOU**

I came to a point in my life where I wanted desperately to die. If this life is all there is and this world is all there is why prolong the agony any longer, I thought to myself. This world looked to me like a rotten apple of lying, betrayal, murder, violence and useless pain. The physical and spiritual drugs were taking effect and I considered taking my life. I made plans and just waited for the right time. As the Bible

rightly declares ***“the way of the wicked is as darkness; they know not at what they stumble” (Prov. 4:19).***

***“Thy Word is Truth” (John 17:17):***

Then, it happened. There was one Book that I had heard and known about but had not really read. I was taught by my dear grandmother (whose prayers and words when I was a child planted seeds which now began to bear fruition) that it was God’s Book and I believed it superficially in the back of



my mind when I was in my childlike innocence. I even carried it around with me in Greece using it as a talisman of sorts but never really reading it! I had gold “purified seven times” right next to me and I never opened the treasure box! I was impressed to go to one of the rooms during my break at the Hotel I was working in, pick up the Gideon Bible in the room and begin reading it. I began with the Gospel of Matthew and as I read the words of Jesus day after day, the Holy Spirit began to stir my heart. Never a man spoke like this Man. Never a man lived like this Man. Never a man died like this Man. Never a man rose again from the grave but this Man did. I now fell on my face before God in my living room and with tear filled eyes begged for help. I said “O God, the God of this Book, if you are real I need You...” I had cried out for help before but did not realize that when I was living in sin I was crying out to the devil who enjoyed watching me suffer. I realized that living life my way was not working.

After this prayer was prayed I felt a peace that I had never felt before. I asked God to send someone into my life to find Him with. After about three weeks a new worker was hired at the hotel I worked at. Just as I was losing hope, God sent me Elida, my beloved wife and together we began a journey of searching for God. Elida also was raised to believe that the Bible was God’s Word. She and I began reading the Holy Book together. We read a Psalm everyday and prayed at her suggestion and I found that my depression was lifting and my mind was becoming stronger and clearer. Also I was getting victory over drugs and alcohol. Indeed the Scripture was true for it declares

***“Thy Word have I hid in Mine heart that I might not sin against Thee”.***

As the Word of God grew in our study, reading, thinking, and praying, our character began to change for the better.

***“I will build My Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matt.16:18)***

My dear wife and I now thirsted to learn more about God and we began to study with anyone who offered to study the Bible with us. We had a rule however. If you cannot prove it

from the Bible- this study is over. As we studied with many groups and denominations we noticed that they would reach a point where they could not prove their doctrines and assertions from the Bible but had to use other books or writings or traditions to substantiate what they believed. And these books and traditions were not in harmony with the Bible. We continued to pray hoping God would continue to lead us.

One day Elida taped a program on television where the speaker (Garner Ted Armstrong of the, at that time, Church of God International) was telling people that the seventh day is the Sabbath and not Sunday. We watched the program together and I got so upset at this dear man that I ordered all of his free literature and tapes to study them and to prove him wrong! After all how could so many Sunday-keeping Christians be wrong all these years! At last after weeks of study and prayer comparing what he wrote with the Bible I found that he was absolutely right! How could so many people have been deceived? The

Bible is so clear that the Sabbath day is the seventh day which falls from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset, has never been changed by God and is for everyone (Gen. 1:31; 2:1-3; Luke 23:54; Exodus 20:8-11; Rom. 7:12; Mark 2:27, 28). We began studying with his church group and found most of what they said was Biblical as far as we knew at the time. We even arranged for baptism with this group after we would have a few months more of study.

***“Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12):***

Even though we had found a good church group and solid Bible study we still felt that something was missing. This Church group was absolutely right on the Sabbath and state of the dead issue (that the dead are unconscious until the resurrection and that the wicked will not burn forever in the



**NEVER A MAN  
ROSE AGAIN  
FROM THE GRAVE  
BUT THIS MAN  
DID**



end), there were some areas where I had my doubts. They kept the feast days which the Bible clearly says are a shadow (Col. 2:17). They believed that the lost tribes of Israel became people of Britain and the USA, which is not Biblical. Being a part of the true Israel (or the people of God) does not depend on our natural birth but on our spiritual birth (Rom. 3:9, 10, 29-31; 2:28, 29). They believed that the Holy Spirit is a force and not a Person as the Bible clearly describes Him (Matt 28:19; John 15:26, 27; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:30). And they believed in some kind of strange second chance theory where after the coming of Christ the glorified saints will teach the people on earth at this time about God and give them a chance to accept Jesus. This was not Biblical either (Heb. 9:27). But in spite of this we continued to study and pray and wait for God to enlighten us further.



The two areas we were convicted in were the seventh day Sabbath and by inference the con-

tinuing responsibility to keep God's Law through His grace and Jesus Christ's righteousness (Matt 5:17-20). Secondly we had discovered the fact that the Bible teaches that the dead are asleep and awaiting one of two resurrections and by inference that God's punishment of the wicked will not be eternal but they will be ashes after the lake of fire (Eccl. 9:5; Ps. 115:17; Acts 2:29-34; 1 Thess. 4:15-17; 1 Cor. 15: 51-55; Rev. 20:1-15; Mal. 4:1-3).

During this time I found a pamphlet advertising an evangelistic series at a church not far from our home. The titles of the messages looked very interesting and intriguing and so I suggested to my dear wife that we go and see what it was about. To our surprise after two nights of very dynamic Biblical preaching by Dr. Earl Cameron, the Seventh-day Sabbath was affirmed! Then a little time later the state of the dead was also taught! I was shocked. After all I thought that the Church of God International was the only Sabbath keeping Christian Church. As we studied with Pastor Cameron, I found him to be a very Christ-like and humble man who

always pointed to the Scripture as his basis. We now were faced with a decision. Which one was God's true Church? The Church of God international or the Seventh-day Adventist Church? Which Church was truly Biblical? We prayed and fasted and studied. After this it was clear. In the teachings of the SDA Church we could find nothing which contradicted the Bible. In the other Church, as explained above, there were quite a few things which were not Biblical.

We realized that we had sinned and fallen short of God's glory and that we now needed to confess our sins and find forgiveness in Jesus Christ who died for us and shed His precious blood that we might be made whole (Romans 3:23; 6:23; John 3:16; Matt. 11:28; Acts 2:38; 1John 1:9).

We cancelled our baptismal date with CGI and set a new date to be baptized into Christ through the SDA fellowship. What a day of rejoicing that was! We had found God's people through God's Holy Book by His grace and kindness! (Rev14:12; Rev.12:17; 19:10).

**I WANTED NOT TO  
LIVE BY BREAD  
ALONE BUT BY EV-  
ERY WORD THAT  
PROCEEDETH FROM  
THE MOUTH OF GOD**

***"I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12):***

After committing ourselves to Christ, the Bible became to me a great treasure. I could not wait for breaks at work or days off to drink in its sacred precepts and principles. I wanted not to live by bread alone but by every Word that proceedeth from the mouth of God. As I studied the Bible and prayed: my health got better, my mind got better, and my character began to grow and mature (2 Peter 3:18; Romans 10:17). The Bible became my guide to every issue in life. How to be a better husband and father (Eph. 5:25-31; 6:4). How to be a more hard-working, honest and dedicated employee (Eccl.9:10; Prov. 22:29). How to relate to people in my speech and dress and conduct (Eph. 4:25-32). How to



raise our child in a worldly environment (Deut. 6:4-7). How to live within our means and be good stewards of God's provisions and doctrines (Mal. 3:8-10). In all these areas and more the Holy Spirit and the Bible became my teachers and they were always accurate and clear.

As my life became more "Bibline" as CH Spurgeon called it, people in my family and my workplace started to ask questions. Some out of curiosity, some to scoff and to call us crazy and some who were really impressed with the way God had changed us and the peace and joy He now gave us in our marriage, home and personal lives. My workplace at the hotel now began to become a place of witness, Bible study and prayer. God would open people's hearts and lips to ask me about God without me initiating the conversation. I worked the overnight shift as a night manager and had so many precious opportunities given to me of God to tell people about His Word and His truth and to pray for them. This included guests and some of my fellow workers who during breaks would come and ask me for advice about their health, marriage, or home. Imagine, asking me a vile sinner for advice! Yet by God's grace He always gave me a word in due season from the Book of Books to soothe a weary soul. Many is the time I would be found bringing a poor troubled soul to God in prayer on our knees right in the front lobby at 2 or 3 AM. To God be the glory for using a sinner like me to lead others to Him and His Word.

***"Behold, I have put My Words in thy mouth" (Jer. 1:9):***

The more I read and studied the Bible the more there was a stirring in my heart to pray to God as to how to serve Him in His vineyard (Acts 9:6). I did not want to be pew-sitter just coming to Church and doing nothing for His kingdom. After praying that prayer I was asked to teach Sabbath-school class, do prayer meeting and preach, all with no one making even an inference to the matter. I had told no one of my prayer or my desire, but God knew. There was only one problem. I was a very shy person and to speak in front of people was always the worst thing for me since I was young. My worst day at Greek school occurred once a year when I would be selected to recite poetry before parents, teachers and students. I would become physically ill and beg to be released from the duty. Now God wanted me to teach and to preach before people?

## BEHOLD, I HAVE PUT MY WORDS IN THY MOUTH

I wrestled with God for a long time. I tried to run away like Jonah. I tried to bargain with God. But all to no avail. God wanted me to preach and teach and He would not change His mind! I went forward asking Him to give me the courage and power and wisdom I needed for this undeserved calling. "Who is sufficient for these things?" was my feeling on one side and "Woe unto me if preach not the Gospel of Jesus Christ" was my conviction on the other. As I prayed, studied, and prepared, God showed me that He was (and still is) in control and that it is by His grace that I could speak, and not by my ability. I realized that my greatest concern should not be what the people say or do about the message but about how God is glorified in the message. God would then do the rest.

As I prepared for the ministry, I began praying for and looking at which version of the Bible was best and most accurate for my usage in preaching and teaching. I had usually used the New King James before this but I began exploring other translations as well. I noticed that in Seminary every time we would translate the verses of the Greek New Testament into English, the translation which was always closest was the King James Version. I would translate the Greek on my own (being Greek and having a grasp of the language) and would always find as I compared translations that the King James was always the most faithful. I also began studying basic manuscriptology and discovered that there were two families of Manuscripts which had come down to us from antiquity. The Textus Receptus and the Vaticanus/Sinaiticus families. The Bible translations of the Reformation were based on the Textus Receptus. Each of these families of manuscript, when traced in history, demonstrate God's providence in preserving the Bible and also the devil's attempt to confuse the Word of God. This, of course, is my own

personal opinion and study and I do not force it upon anyone. I do humbly believe however, that we ought to be very careful with what we presume to take out of and add to the Holy Scriptures. The Bible gives us serious warnings on how God feels about subtractions and additions to His Word (Prov.30:6; Rev. 22:18, 19). When I looked at the average translation and compared it to the KJV, I noticed that

some verses were changed and missing. Things were added and subtracted. (Notice, for example, a very short list of the following: (Matt. 6:13 "For Thine is the kingdom..." missing; Acts 9:5 "it is hard for thee..."; 1 John 5:7 "There are three that bear record in heaven..." missing; Mark 16:9-20 notice







the margin on the new translations; John 8:2-11 notice again the margin in the newer versions; Also missing from Sinaiticus Luke 24:51 reference to Jesus ascension and Mark 1:1 in the original omits reference to Jesus as the Son of God –see [biblicalarchaeology.org](http://biblicalarchaeology.org): Article: What's Missing From Codex Sinaiticus: the oldest New Testament?).

Now I had read the explanations as to why they were taken out but they were not convincing enough, for the evidence presented was only based on two manuscripts (Sinaiticus and Vaticanus) and these two manuscripts became the basis for all scholarship after the KJV. For example, the verse in 1 John 5:7 which the current scholars say is missing from the

oldest manuscripts and not found in any manuscript before the 1600's or so is actually referred to by Tertullian in 200 AD Against Praxeas Ch. 25, Cyprian of Carthage in 250 AD, Priscillian and Athanasius in 350 AD, and Augustine in 398 AD as well as others. How do we account for this? As I began to investigate further, I found that the omissions were unfounded and was convicted to stay with the King

James Version. I am not a "King James Only" believer. I do not believe that the KJV is more inspired than the originals. In fact, if they would make a translation using the Receptus into modern English it would not bother me at all. I do believe however that the KJV is based on more reliable manuscripts and therefore is safer to use than the newer versions. My appeal to anyone is, not that we enter into debate, but that you study this prayerfully and let God lead you. And I feel deeply that if some scholars (and there are quite a few see list for further study at the end of article) have good strong evidence regarding the reliability of the Textus Receptus then they and we should be free to translate modern Bibles using this information. I do not persecute those who use modern translations, neither do I expect them to persecute me for believing what I believe. I strongly feel that I should be free to teach my views on these things when the Lord leads, just like others are free to do so as well. I do not use this issue as my main teaching nor do I preach whole sermons on it, but do feel that I should be free when necessary to speak about it without being insulted and mocked and criticized by people who wish to believe differently. They are free to hold their opinions as I should be.

This discovery has helped me see how Bible prophecy applies in our day and has encouraged me to believe in God's Word more strongly and have faith in Him as the Preserver and Protector of the Holy Scriptures.

"Purified Seven Times" (Psalm 12:6):

When people ask me how I know the Bible is true, I can honestly speak by the experiences God has given me.

What other Book can change a life so fundamentally, so completely, so miraculously as this Book? The Bible says **"O, Taste and see for the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8)**. In my life I studied many other religious books but none of them had the effect the Bible had. They had some good things informationally but only the Bible can transform the life. Jesus said **"The Words that I speak unto you they are Spirit and they are life"**. The Bible is the engrafted Word which when we receive it with meekness **"which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21)**. We are born again by the Word of God (1 Pet.1:23). We are made pure by **"obeying the truth through the Spirit" (1Pet. 22)**. What other Book can so this?

The Bible gives directions in every area of life. How to live in this world in such a way as to be in peace, joy and strength in spite of the heaviest burdens and problems and trials. The great Reformers and martyrs lived powerfully and were even able to go to their deaths with perfect peace even singing praises to God with the promises of this Book in their lips and in their hearts.

The Bible has been supernaturally preserved by God through fires, floods, wars and deaths. When the devil wanted to exterminate all the Christians in the first three centuries AD by martyrdom their blood became the seed of the Church and the Word of God was distributed to the world. When the devil saw that he could not completely exterminate the people of God, he strove to exterminate the Word of God from the people. New Bibles were printed, new manuscripts written and slight changes made to the Word of God using Greek and Roman philosophies. People added their opinions and biases to the teaching of the Word rather than allowing the Word to inform and correct their biases. But God still preserved His Word and his people. Through the Waldensians and





Albigensians the Bible was preserved in proper manuscript and witnessing form. During the Protestant Reformation, God's preserved Word came to Erasmus who translated the Manuscripts into the latin and largely corrected the previous latin version which was based on faulty manuscripts. The Bibles of the Reformation such as Martin Luther's German Bible, William Tyndales English Bible, The Coverdale Bible, the Matthew Bible, the Bishop's Bible, the Geneva Bible and the King James Bible were all instrumental in causing a revolution, revival and reformation of true Christianity. The slogan of humanism of "ad fontes" (returning to the sources) was used by God to return to the Source of primitive Christianity- His Holy Word.

The Bible is the only Book that Is accurate in history, prophecy, theology and practical life. It is always relevant, always true and always necessary to live a holy life before God and before man (2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Tim. 3:16).

In conclusion, after 20 years of preaching (4 as a lay preacher and 16 as a pastor) by God's grace and mercy, I still marvel at God's greatness and power and His working in my small life. It is still a miracle every time I teach and preach. It is still a miracle to see lives changed by the Spirit and the Word of the Living God. It is still a miracle to wake up everyday with His Word and allow His wisdom and guidance to lead my life. I am not worthy of the least of His mercies yet I am overfilled with love and gratitude to Him for this blessed Book that has changed my life. **"Great peace have they which love thy law and nothing shall offend them." (Ps 119:165)**

Soli Deo Gloria! **AD**

For further study on Textus Receptus (If you wish):

Burton, John William: The Revision Revised and other works (Available online: Search the Dean Burton Society).

Cloud, David: The Glorious History of the King James Bible

Fuller, David Otis: Which Bible? And True Or False?

Wilkinson, B.G.: Our Authorized Bible Vindicated, Answers to Objections and Truth Triumphant



**NEW**

## Ecclesiastes Series

(13 DVD set)

by **Andreas Mellas**

*Ecclesiastes investigates the meaning of life and the considerations a man has before death. There are many important life lessons that can be gleaned from this book. In this 13-part series with Pastor Andreas Mellas, we will dive into Ecclesiastes to look at the effects of vanity on Solomon's life. How is Solomon's experience with vanity important for us today?*

**\$135.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.



**NEW**

## Lessons From Noah's Ark (DVD)

by **Andreas Mellas**

*In this single sermon with pastor Andreas Mellas we will meticulously explore Genesis 6 to learn about Noah. Noah is a figure of faith, obedience, and illustrates what it means to work on our own salvation. Noah and his family is a great example of the true remnant church, overcoming doubt and criticism from every side.*

**\$14.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.



**NEW**

## To Follow God Fully

(DVD)

by **Andreas Mellas**

*Throughout the Bible we read many stories about how people fell from the grace of God. In this single sermon we will look to Numbers 13 and other texts to determine how God's chosen people lost what they believed was owed to them. We look at the character of Caleb and how he was a righteous man worth admiring. Let us use his life as an example of living completely for the Lord.*

**\$14.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.



**NEW**

## The Presumption of King Saul (DVD)

by **Andreas Mellas**

*In this lecture we will look into the life of King Saul. Presumption led to King Saul's rejection by God and to his loss of life. We can start our lives as perfect Christians, and live many years obeying and living in God's wisdom. But it doesn't matter how we start our lives, it matters how we end it. Let's heed Saul's story as a warning message for us today, and avoid the same presumption.*

**\$14.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.



To order visit: [amazingdiscoveries.org](http://amazingdiscoveries.org) or call 1-866-572-9457





### **Alone, Yet Not Alone** (DVD) **by Andreas Mellas**

*We all feel lonely sometimes, but does being lonely mean we're alone? God is always with us, watching us, giving us strength, and He always cares. Andreas Mellas reminds us that despite feeling lonely, Christ is our heavenly saviour, is always with us, and gives us strength to make our way through our lives. Going to God when we're lonely allows Him to work his fatherly love in us and causes us to trust and grow more in Him.*

**\$14.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.

### **Prelude to Prayer** (DVD) **by Andreas Mellas**

*Some people pray extremely earnestly when they desire something. Sometimes we may forget to prayerfully praise Him, and only go to God when we want something. Have we forgotten the right attitude of prayer? In this sermon with pastor Andreas Mellas we will look at how we can prepare to truly pray. Let us discover how we can study the Word of God like our pioneers did when the SDA movement began to help us prepare for true prayer.*

**\$14.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.

### **The Rechabites** (DVD) **by Andreas Mellas**

*Who were the Rechabites? In this sermon with Pastor Andreas Mellas we will look at the Rechabites as a lesson for the remnant church. We will look at the characteristics of the Rechabites and how this group is a type of the God's true people. Discover what we can learn from them for our spiritual lives today.*

**\$14.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.

### **Songs in the Night** (DVD) **by Andreas Mellas**

*If you watch or read the news, you will know that the world is a darkening place. There is so much sorrow and suffering worldwide, and it is difficult to stay positive and to trust in the Lord when everything seems to be falling apart. In this sermon featuring pastor Andreas Mellas, learn what true praise looks like and how we can effectively praise.*

**\$14.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.



### **A Holy Nation** (DVD) **by Andreas Mellas**

*We are supposed to be His Holy Nation, but do we really know what that means? Many churches seem to have confused and lost identities. In this sermon with Pastor Andreas Mellas, we search Scripture to learn what a Christ-like church looks like and how we can reflect the Biblical church. We will discover that the church is to reflect Christ.*

**\$14.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.

### **Seekers of the Heavenly Country** (DVD) **by Andreas Mellas**

*It seems that today many Christians prefer to be a world-savvy believer instead of a spiritual and pure Christian. We are part of this world, and some are forgetting that this world is not our true home. In this sermon with pastor Andreas Mellas we will remind ourselves what it means to be set apart from the world to be seekers of a heavenly country.*

**\$14.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.

### **Such As I Have, Give I Thee** (DVD) **by Andreas Mellas**

*Acts 3:6 says, "Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee." What did these words mean to Peter, and what do these words mean to you and I? In this lecture with pastor Mellas we will look into Acts 3 and investigate what it means to give everything that we have to Christ through spirit filled prayer, proclamation, and power.*

**\$14.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.

### **A Living Sacrifice** (DVD) **by Andreas Mellas**

*What does it mean to be a living sacrifice before God? In this single sermon with pastor Andreas Mellas we will study Romans 12 to learn the meaning behind being a living sacrifice, a living service, and a living sanctity for Christ. If we manage to give it all for God, there are blessings and rewards to be reaped. Can we surrender all to gain it all?*

**\$14.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.



To order visit: [amazingdiscoveries.org](http://amazingdiscoveries.org) or call 1-866-572-9457




# ON A PERSONAL NOTE

BY SUSAN

## DEAR PROFESSOR VEITH

I have been meaning to write to you for some time and tell you how much I have enjoyed your Total Onslaught Series. About a year ago, my sister and I received a package from a friend. Inside were the Creation Series, the Health series, and the Total Onslaught. I would never have imagined how much impact that box would have on my life. I also purchased the series, Rekindling the Reformation this spring and have enjoyed it as well.

For some time, I have been uneasy about the message that our SDA church is preaching, or maybe it would be more correct to say, not preaching. I could not tell you how long it has been since I heard a sermon about anything of any significance. Our sermons could be used in any church in the country and fit right in. So could our church for that matter. Our church school last year taught the children to say the fourth commandment like this... "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy." When we asked why they were not saying the whole thing, we were told, "We have children of other denominations here, we don't want to offend them." We are beginning to see a lot of praise songs, lots of clapping and many other little and not so little changes taking place. Last year we actually had a Halloween Party, of course it was called a Harvest Festival, but it was a Halloween party, complete with costumes and candy. Whenever I bring up anything about the fact that we as a church are not preaching our message anymore, I am told that it is not time yet, we don't want to stir things up. So now you can see why I am so excited about your series; it doesn't stop in 1844, as all of our Revelation Seminars do, but tells us what is going on today and is more concerned with truth and less with fitting in with everyone else.

Sincerely, Susan 

We need  
to be  
awakend





# Winds of Doctrine Series

## Part 1 by Joel Kratzke

### INTRODUCTION

It would be naïve to say that we don't face a challenging future as a church. It would only come from a lack of Biblical understanding to think that God's end-time organized people are going to go through the events leading up to the Mark of the Beast and the end of probation without Satan attacking the very fiber of the Church. The Apostle Paul warns concerning this in Acts 20:29-30 "For I know this; that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." And again in 1 Timothy 4:1 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;" So we should be prepared to defend the doctrine of the Bible in any case against any false teaching. This is the reason that I am writing this series, to give us all the chance to learn and know what the Bible says and does not say about some very, shall we say 'popular' topics. To be honest with you, I have no idea how long of a study this may become, but I would invite you to read along as we search the Bible for answers for our faith.

### DEFINING GOD?

There is great debate, and conflict that has arisen again over the issue of the Godhead, or as some have named it the Trinity. Is Jesus God? Is Jesus self-existent from eternity, with no beginning and no end or did the Saviour of mankind have a beginning? Is He not eternal? Is Jesus lower than God the Father? Is the Holy Spirit an individual person of the Godhead or is the Holy Spirit just the mind of God or the force of God? These are the points

of contention in the discussion of the Trinity, or the Godhead. Oh yes, there is one more. The accusation that the Seventh-Day Adventist Church holds the same doctrinal view concerning the Godhead as the Catholic Church. This has been spurred on by the unwise decision to use the term of 'trinity' to title the Godhead in our 28 fundamental beliefs. So let us address this error first and then go on to the Bible.

As stated in our beliefs: *"There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. God, who is love, is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation."* We do believe this, as this is what the Scriptures give evidence to. According to the International Catholic University in its study of the Trinity Doctrine, the Catholic Doctrine is that yes there are three co-eternal persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. But it is in the manner of the explanation of these three that we see the doctrine. From their course study online it states:

*"The Catholic Creeds teach us that there are two internal divine processions: the generation of the Son and the procession of the Holy Spirit (which, we shall see, is called 'spiration') . . . What does this mean? It means that from all eternity the Father generates the Son, and the Father along with the Son 'breathes forth' the Holy Spirit. Thus there are two internal divine processions which give rise to three divine Persons."*

*"It is a dogma of the Catholic faith that the second divine Person proceeds from the first divine Person by an act of generation and therefore is related to him as Son to Father. The Nicene Creed says that Jesus Christ is 'the only-begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all time.' The Athanasian Creed of the fifth-sixth century says:*




# Amazing Discoveries is Hiring

We have several openings available currently at Amazing Discoveries.

If you are interested in working with a dedicated group of people to proclaim the Three Angels' Messages in their fullness, if you are looking for a ministry, if you have skills in the following areas, please email

**hr@amazingdiscoveries.org** with resume and cover letter.

 **Financial Controller** **Customer Care  
Representative** **Technical Writer** **Programmer /  
Web Developer** **IT Technician** **Legal Aid** **Accounting** **Communications  
Specialist & Content  
Writer**

Check out our website under *join us* at

**www.amazingdiscoveries.org**

for more details about these service opportunities.

*Applicants must be able to work in Canada.*





*"The Son is not made or created, but he is generated by the Father alone."*

The most extensive declaration of the Roman Catholic Church's teaching on the Trinity was made at the Eleventh Synod of Toledo in Spain (675 AD). A portion of that statement may be helpful as well in understanding their definition of God.

"We confess and we believe that the holy and indescribable Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one only God in His nature, a single substance, a single nature, a single majesty and power."

Notice that they are of the "same substance" and that Jesus only has life because the father "generated" Him and the Holy Spirit's existence is wholly dependent on the Father and the Son, as we read here:

*"Since the Holy Spirit proceeds by an act of will of the Father and the Son, it should be clear that he does not proceed as a perfect image through generation. So the Holy Spirit is not a Son of God; only the second Person of the Trinity can be called "Son," as we have already explained. For St. John calls him "the only-begotten Son" of the Father. Appropriately, then, the fifth century Athanasian Creed says: "The Holy Spirit is not made nor created nor generated, but proceeds from the Father and the Son."*

Theologians have given a name to that type of proceeding, calling it "spiration," from the noun "spirit" which, of course, means "breath." . . .

"The term "spiration" designates the loving activity between the Father and the Son which results in the term of their love, namely, the Holy Spirit. So they say that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son through spiration. There are three distinct Persons but only one God. So there is only one divine nature or essence which is common to all three. They are co-equal in power, majesty, wisdom and everything else. The distinction between them is to be found in their origin. The Father has no origin. The Son proceeds from the Father by intellectual generation. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son as from one principle because of their intense mutual love. The Father loves the Son and the Son loves the Father so intensely that their mutual love terminates in the third Person of the Blessed Trinity. Accordingly, we are justified in referring to him as the love of God, the power of God, the Spirit of truth, a river of living water and the kiss of the Father and the Son.

It is a defined dogma of the Catholic Church that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and from the Son as from a single principle through a single spiration. You will find this in Lateran IV (D 428), Lyons II (D 460, 463), and Florence (D 691, 703, 704)."

Alright then, what is the summation of the Roman Catholic Doctrine? They do claim three persons of the Trinity but the manner of their nature is completely distinct from Adventist theology. We have no such belief in regards to the 'origins' of Jesus or the Holy Spirit. Here are the statements from the 28 Fundamental Beliefs:

*"God the eternal Father is the Creator, Source, Sustainer, and Sovereign of all creation. He is just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. The qualities and powers exhibited*



*in the Son and the Holy Spirit are also those of the Father.”*

*“God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the world is judged. Forever truly God, He became also truly human, Jesus the Christ. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived and experienced temptation as a human being, but perfectly exemplified the righteousness and love of God. By His miracles He manifested God’s power and was attested as God’s promised Messiah. He suffered and died voluntarily on the cross for our sins and in our place, was raised from the dead, and ascended to heaven to minister in the heavenly sanctuary in our behalf. He will come again in glory for the final deliverance of His people and the restoration of all things.”*

*“God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption. He is as much a person as are the Father and the Son. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He filled Christ’s life with power. He draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God. Sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children, He extends spiritual gifts to the church, empowers it to bear witness to Christ, and in harmony with the Scriptures leads it into all truth.”*

It should be clear by just the reading of the Seventh Day Adventist doctrine that these two doctrines, that of the Roman Catholic Church and that of the Seventh Day Adventist Church are not the same. Indeed they are dramatically different, especially in regards to the eternal and self-existent qualities of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. To claim that these two are the same disregards all evidence to the contrary.

So what is the Biblical evidence for our faith? First let us look at the name. You know, the name we are commissioned to baptize in found in Matthew 28:19-20.

*“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

*What is that name? Notice that it is a singular ‘name’ yet the Bible lists the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost*

*thereby indicating that the one ‘name’ includes all three persons of the Godhead. This is alluded to as well from the very beginning of Scripture as seen in Genesis 1:1 where it states “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” The word used for God here as in most of the Old Testament is the Hebrew word “elohiym” which is in the plural. This plurality was never understood by the Hebrew scholars, to this day in fact. Could it be that it is because they have rejected the teachings and the revelation received in the New Testament, where the Son of God and the Holy Ghost are manifest to us? Whatever the reason for their inability to explain the plural nature of the Godhead, we have the entirety of Scripture to help us understand to the best of our ability. Which, it must be stated, is far short of a complete and total understanding or defining of God.*

Here I would like us to take note of a very important rule of understanding Scripture. It is this, that there are ‘clear’ texts of scripture and there are ‘not so clear’ texts of Scripture. But those texts that are not so clear do not erase the clear lines of understanding of the clear texts. For example, 1 John 4:8,16 tell us that God IS love, so whatever we understand about God’s character must fall within the boundary of Love. Even ‘not so clear’ texts like Romans 9:13 “As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.” Which would seem to indicate some contradiction to the fact the God is Love, must still be understood to fall within the boundary of the clear fact that God is love. We may need to understand much more of Scripture to know how and where it falls within the realm of love, and it may take us some time and study to know where it fits but it does not erase the definite truth that God is love.

In the following article we will take a longer and more complete look at the name, and indeed the names, Scripture uses to indicate the Father, Jesus and the Holy Ghost. We will find a clearly defined boundary that we cannot deviate from. We may not have all of our questions about the Godhead answered, but that is not goal, frankly that is not possible, for God in all of His glory is beyond our understanding. We may understand that which He has revealed to us, particularly and most importantly His Character, but *to be able to ‘define’ God in terms of the nature of His being is not for us here to know. God is God, if we could define Him, He would cease to be God.* **AD**



# the Finest new

The first miracle of the Saviour's ministry was at a happy occasion – at a wedding. The person who was getting married was related to Jesus, and He was invited to attend. In the midst of this happy occasion the wine ran out. What was the family to do? Mary, the mother of Jesus, thought the Saviour could help out, so she notified Jesus of this predicament. "They have no wine." Then Jesus response was, "What have I to do with thee?" Mine hour is not yet come." Mary had great faith in her son, that He could do something miraculous about the crisis. Because of her filial relationship to Jesus, she was not to exercise any control in the timing of the events in the Saviour's life, but the words she spoke to the servant who stood by had wonderful counsel to us. "Whatever He sayeth unto you, do it." Would to God that every servant of God in the church would follow this counsel. What a difference it would make in the world if this counsel was obeyed.

When Jesus gave them instructions to fill the six water pots they obeyed, filling them to the brim. The servants knew this was a crisis of major importance to their boss, the governor of the feast and did their best to save

him this truly embarrassing situation. They promptly drew out this water miraculously changed to new wine and carried it to the ruler of the feast. After tasting this transformed water to wine, the governor called the bridegroom and asked this perplexing question: "Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine and

W H A T E V E R H E  
S A Y E T H U N T O  
Y O U , D O I T .




when men have well drunk, then that which is worse; but thou hast kept the good wine until now." What spiritual lessons can we derive from this first miracle performed by the Saviour at this wedding feast at Cana? Jesus revealed His compassion to this bridegroom and governor of the feast by avoiding the embarrassment of having not provided enough wine for this important occasion.





# Wine

BY ROY DAVIES




The good wine that Jesus provided for the feast was superior to the wine man made for the occasion. The Lord does things differently than the ways of men. He reserves the best for last. "Because iniquity shall abound. The love of many shall wax cold, but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." Matthew 24:12, 13. cp Rev. 3:15-16. "Better is the end than the beginning." Eccl. 7:8. Job, Moses, Joseph, Daniel, Enoch and Elijah are classic examples in their life experiences of this truth. In this harvest time God wants to bestow upon this final generation this refreshing gift – the Latter Rain. Acts 3:19-21, Rev. 14:15. The purpose of the Latter Rain is to give power to the Three Angel's Message that all the world will be given an

opportunity to receive the seal of the Living God and be prepared for the second coming of Jesus. Rev. 14:1-3; Rev. 7:1-4.

Another lesson this event teaches us is that this world's man-made wine will one day run dry, but there is still a miracle-working Saviour who can help. At the last supper Jesus met with His disciples and gave them this wonderful assurance that He would see them again and drink with them this new wine that would surpass any wine made by man. Matthew 26:29. This will be the finest wine prepared and served by the Master Himself, but even today He wants to serve you some good precious fine wine that can satisfy the deepest craving of the human heart eternally. John 3:16.

ONCE YOU  
TASTE AND  
SEE, I ASSURE  
YOU THAT YOU  
WILL NOT BE  
DISAPPOINTED



Once you taste and see, I assure you that you will not be disappointed. I've proved it. 





Randy Skeete is the Campus Evangelist for the Center for Adventist Ministries to Public University Students (C.A.M.P.U.S.). Elder Skeete also has a supportive ministry of international evangelism that has taken him to all the inhabited continents. He is a graduate of Oakwood College (now University) and of the Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He has frequently written for *Adventists Affirm*, and has also contributed to *Message* magazine.

# Randy Skeete



## **A Closer Look** (7 DVD Set)

**Randy Skeete**

*In this 7-part series with Pastor Randy Skeete, he proposes how we should strive to take a closer look into the inspired Word of God. Throughout this series we will go deep into scripture and take an investigative look into certain verses that will help us grow closer and mature in Christ.*

**\$72.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.

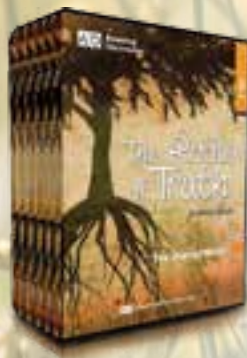


## **Living His Life** (6 DVD Set) **Randy Skeete**

*When God said, "Let us make man in our image," that standard for human life was to last forever. The entrance of sin did lower the standard of righteousness that God Himself set for humanity. This series, entitled *Living in Love*, is designed to restore the great standard of love and righteousness to its rightful position in the lives of His people.*

**\$60.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.



## **Roots of Truth** (6 DVD Set) **Randy Skeete**

*Much of the doctrinal diversity existing among Christian denominations may be traced to the methods of Bible study. The purpose of this series is to highlight a cardinal rule of Bible study, and that is to "begin at the beginning."*

**\$60.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.



## **In the Meantime** (DVD) **Randy Skeete**

*In this DVD, Randy Skeete shares the importance of spiritual eating to perpetuate eternal life. Christ says we are to have eternal life now, but we don't have access to the tree of life anymore, so in the meantime, how do we access the life in the tree of life because we must have that life.*

**\$14.00\*** USD

\*All prices subject to change without notice.



To order visit:  
[amazingdiscoveries.org](http://amazingdiscoveries.org)  
or call **1-866-572-9457**