

DARE TO STAND

Someone once asked me what it would be like to have a friend as my judge in court. I thought about it, and the answer was simple.

I could trust that my friend would have an open mind. He'd listen to the entire story; he'd hear what I was trying to say and believe me. If the prosecuting side wouldn't listen or didn't want to give me a fair hearing, he would come to my defense.

He'd look for grounds to get me off the hook—reasons why I could be excused. And if I was found guilty, he would plead for mercy, and seek to find ways to pay my debt if I couldn't pay it. And all this he would do gladly and earnestly out of love.

What is God like to you? Are you afraid of Him? Satan has misrepresented God and so many of us have listened.

"It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character of love. It has been misunderstood and misapprehended. Satan blinds the minds of men so that they look upon God with fear - they think of Him as severe and unforgiving. Satan led men to conceive of God as a being whose chief attribute is stern justice - one who is a severe judge, a harsh exacting creditor. He pictured the Creator as a Being who is watching with jealous eye to discern the errors and mistakes of men, that He may visit judgments upon them." (SC11).

God is our Judge and Jesus is our Advocate. Satan, the accuser, stands before the throne accusing us of our many sins. The devil's accusations may be right, but God is on our side. And so, although we have broken His law and justice dictates that we be condemned, the judge wants to save you.

This is why if we accept Jesus as our Saviour and Advocate, His righteousness covers our sins and transfers our punishment—death—onto Jesus. He chose to experience death and separation from His Father in our place, so that we would not have to suffer our deserved penalty of eternal death and separation from God.

An earthly friend might sacrifice himself for another friend (Rom 5:7), but God did all this "while we were yet sinners" (Rom 5:8). In other words, while we were yet enemies, He was already our Friend. What wondrous love is this?

Are you poor? Do you feel condemned? Do you need someone to defend you?

"For he shall stand at the right hand of the poor, to save him from those that condemn his soul." (Psalm 109:31)

Do not fear. You do have Someone on your side: the best and kindest Judge and Advocate in the universe. Have you accepted Him as your Advocate and righteous Judge?

Wendy

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.

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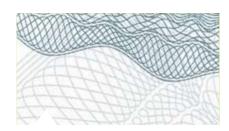
in this issue:







WATCH AND PRAY...... 12



OUR CREDENTIALS 22
David Lin





INTHE NEWS......2

THE CURE FOR SIN 30 WD Frazee











· New York

· London ·

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For Such a Time

As This

by Daniel Pel

Bible book that has really inspired me is the book of Acts with the incredible story of the apostolic movement.

Chapter after chapter unfolds as the fresh gospel message makes its way through the world despite countless challenges and stark opposition. A chain of miracles empowered dedicated, Spirit-filled men and women as they moved forward in faith.

Looking at the church today, we do not witness the same power and consecration.

And yet, I believe that in many ways the book of Acts is an unfinished book. Surely there is a record of God's movement today. Surely His church is still being observed and followed by unseen eyes. But what needs to happen for us, as God's movement today, to continue the story of Acts and write the final chapters, which are to be just as glorious, if not more glorious, than the first? Without doubt the final chapters will contain another outpouring of God's spirit of which you and I can take part.

What an awesome thought that our names could be in the book of Acts, that is, the full edition. We will one day have access to this edition and maybe in chapter 5,345 there will be a story about you! I know that I am allowing my imagination to run now, but one thing is certain, God wants you and me to experience



something similar to what the early disciples experienced. What was it that allowed them to turn the world upside down?

In order to find out, let us journey back to the Mount of Olives. Here the disciples are gathered around Jesus, their master and close friend. It was the last time they would speak to Him face to face. Last words were exchanged, and last words are often important words, and certainly here as Jesus gave His final instructions to this impetuous group of men.

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, which He said you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. Acts 1:4-5.

Jesus gave His disciples clear instruction to go to Jerusalem and wait. I have not met many people that enjoy waiting. Our



Our society today
has an aversion to
waiting. Everything
has to happen now.

Tokyo

society today has an aversion to waiting. Everything has to happen now. And yet Jesus knew that during this waiting time, important things were going to happen. It would be a time of heart searching. It would be a time of confession and repentance as the disciples would move into unity no longer desiring to be the greatest, but with a passion to serve one another. In hindsight we can look beyond the Mount of Olives and know that this happened

and resulted in the promise Jesus said would come, a baptism with the Holy Spirit. But the disciples were not sure at first. They had an-

Jesus knew that during this waiting time important things were going to happen.

other plan and believed they knew what was to happen next. "Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" Acts 1:6

Catch the audacity in the words of the disciples. Jesus had just commanded them to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit, but they had a better idea. According to them it was time for Jesus to establish His earthly

kingdom. It was as if they were looking at the world of Jesus through a different pair of glasses. They have not yet fully understood. And yet soon they would. But all would depend upon whether they would pursue their own plans and purposes or surrender to the plan and purpose Jesus had for them.

And he said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.' Acts 1:7-8

Times and seasons are in the authority of the Father. The words for "times" and "seasons" in Greek are "Kairos" and "Chronos." I guess we get our English word "Chronology" from the Greek word "chronos." Chronology is a word not just dealing with time but with a specific order of

events. It seems that Jesus is telling us that not only is God ultimately sovereign over time, but that He also has a divine plan and purpose that is to unfold in the way He has prepared it to. We can see how this happened to the disciples. They surrendered their plans and purposes and entered into the "time and season" that God had prepared for them. The book of Acts is the result! The question is if

we are still, figuratively speaking, on the Mount of Olives. Are we still telling God what He should do and when He should do it instead of entering into the experience He has already prepared for us?

I have heard people giving very specific prophecies about end-time events that are not clearly

revealed in Scripture, and that enter a world of speculation. It is like putting God in a diagram and schedule, but He is far too big for that. We certainly have prophecies and revelations regarding future times and seasons, but we must never forget that they are in

When obscure, man-made time prophecies are upheld as a test of fellowship or a condition for salvation, we are on dangerous ground.

the authority of the Father and that we need to tread carefully removing our shoes so to speak as we are standing on holy ground. When obscure, man-made time prophecies are upheld as a test of fellowship or a condition for salvation, we are on dangerous ground. There are enough clear directions given to us through Scripture. We need not move into the realm of speculation. Instead we can step into God's plan for us and fulfill prophecy as He has foretold it. But in order to trust God's plan and purpose for our lives we must first be confident that He indeed has our lives in His hand.

Let us probe a little deeper into God's sovereignty over times and seasons.

God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is he

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by Daniel Pel

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worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings. Acts 17:24-26

In the previous passage, Paul is addressing the people of Athens. He tells them that God is the Creator and that He is unique and different from all the idols and gods they worship. Then he distinguishes God from all other gods as the one that is in control of time. "He has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings." In other words, God determines when we are born, when we exist, and where! It is all in God's sovereign hands for a specific reason. What is that reason? "So that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us." Acts 17:27

To grope is to search in the dark by feeling your way around. If God can be found this way, He is not far away!

You might think that your circumstances have always been against you, but God knew that however dark those circumstances would get, they would cause you to grope after Him.

Contemplate this text for a moment. He knew when and where you would be born and gave you all you would need to find and encounter Him. You might think that your circumstances have always been against you, but God knew that however dark those circumstances would get, they would cause you to grope after Him. When you carefully trace your life, I am sure you will find the finger-prints of God all over it. Is it not a mind-blowing awareness







to actually fathom that God planned our lives and that He has always had His eye on us? Could it be that He has brought us into existence for a specific purpose at a specific time?

There is an incredible story tucked away in the Old Testament that confirms God's ways and reveals His purposes. It's the story of a young man that was called by God to be a prophet among the Jews. Jeremiah was called at a time of national apostasy in the land. The majority of God's chosen people had abandoned the truths that had been passed down to them from generation to genera-

God appointed when you would be born and brought you into existence to be a witness for Him. Are you ready to fill the plan God has for you?

tion. God saw this coming because an attribute of God's being is that He knows the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10). Knowing that the people needed special direction and guidance at such a time as this, God thought about Jeremiah. Jeremiah existed in the mind of God before he was born! Listen to the words of God as He speaks to Jeremiah:

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.' Jeremiah 1:4-5

see Jeremiah shaking on his feet as these words echo through his mind. Jeremiah has come to the crossroads in his life. I am sure that as a young man he had plans for his future. As a responsible citizen he most likely had sketched out the main direction of his course in life. Now everything changes! His own plans collide head-on with God's revelation.

Wow! What a Revelation! In my mind's eye, I can

And yet Jeremiah, young and inexperienced, nervous and timid, places his life in the hands of his Maker.

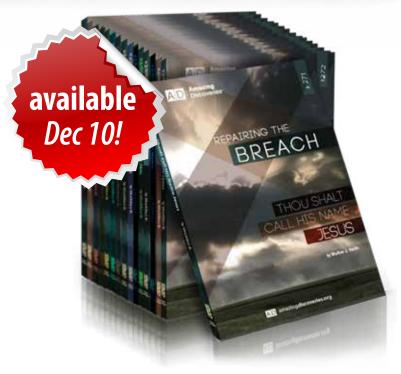
As the words continue to echo through his mind, I can imagine that an overwhelming awareness of God's love must have come upon him. What a God! He knew me before I was born. He thought about me before I even existed. He planned the course of my life and then gently and skillfully knitted me together in my mother's womb. How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! (Psalm 139:14-17)

The rest of the story of Jeremiah as a mighty prophet was only possible because this young man surrendered to God's plan for his life. The rest of the book of Acts was only possible because the disciples surrendered their plans and embraced the last words of Jesus on the Mount of Olives. How about you? Do you realize that you are not an accident or coincidence due to an explosion billions of years ago, but that God thought of you? Then He determined the time of your existence and the place of your dwelling. We often question if God has a purpose and plan for our lives. The Biblical evidence is overwhelming! Of course He does because this is rooted in who He is. Our lives gravitate to Him and we find our ultimate identity and life-calling in Him. The question is if we have surrendered our lives to Him and embraced His purpose for us. Doing this will result in the greatest joy and fulfillment that this life can give. It does involve a risk, but true love does not exist without a risk.



REPAIRING THE BREACH

by Walter J. Veith



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The story that best illustrates this is that of Esther. Through providential leading, she, as a Jew, became the wife of the Persian King and thus queen of the Persian Empire. As time went by, circumstances threatened the Jewish Nation and it seemed that God's people were destined to destruction by a decree issued by Haman, a high-ranking Persian and enemy of the Jews. It looked like there was no way around this one! Then Mordecai, Esther's uncle, sent a message to Esther and told her that this was her chance to speak up for her people.

And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: 'Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's



palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?' Esther 4:13-14

Esther had a decision to make: to acknowledge that God had led her up to this occasion, or to deny God's hand in appointing her to help the

Are you ready to step into the "season" God has for you?

Jews. You see, Mordecai was totally right. The Jews would not be destroyed because Jesus was prophesied to come. If Esther did not step up, someone else would be used to save the nation. But what a privilege for Esther to play her part! It was a risk, but the risk was worth it all. Maybe you are here "for such a time as this." In all of earth's history, Bible prophecy reveals that we are living close to the end of time. Soon the promise of Christ's second return will take place. God appointed when you would be born and brought you into existence to be a witness for Him. Are you ready to step into the "season" God has for you? May you experience what you were made for and not miss a thing!

Daniel Pel is an evangelist with Amazing Discoveries. He lives in Norway with his wife Sylvia. Together they travel around the world giving revival talks and evangelistic presentations. His next public presentation will be held in January 2013 in White Rock, BC. Visit amazingdiscoveries.org for frequent updates and announcements.



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A letter from LG:

Thank you so much for all the work you do to build up the Lord's cause! For years, we have enjoyed your faith on the Line magazine and appreciated its health/doctrine/current events emphasis. We were so happy when you launched your satellite station! Now the world can hear the present-truth message by your evangelists and guest speakers. We can appreciate the difficulties in finding programming that is doctrinally sound and uplifting. We think you are doing a marvelous job and appreciate the variety of programs you're presenting.

The health message is excellent in educating us about the dangers of GMO, providing us with scientific reasons for a plant-based diet and teaching us how to cook vegan/raw, etc. It is exciting to think of these programs being available to anyone who cruises the 'free-to-air' world!

Children (and some of those not-so-young!) enjoy the Moody Classics and their shows for children. We like the Reformation series and full-length documentaries have been eye-opening and challenging. My personal favourite is Pastor DuPlessis - he brings archaeology to life!

continued on p. 19



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Humanzee:

By Joshua Joscelyn

ccording to many evolutionary proponents, the humanzee is more than just a creature. This hypothetical mixture of human and chimpanzee genes is a great hope to validate the ideological premise that humans and chimpanzees share a common ancestor. This premise is in defiance of God's Holy Word, which holds that humans were created in the image of God, and given dominion over animals including the chimpanzee.

To evolutionists, finding some way to prove that this is a possibility—that humans and apes can interbreed—is the pathway to legitimacy. However, history is littered with their failed attempts to prove such ridiculous claims.

Ivanov's Experiment

In the 1920s, atheism found a perfect candidate to prove that humans and apes were related through crossbreeding. In the May 2009 issue of Acts and Facts, a biologist named Ilya Ivanov was described as a world-class specialist in the process of artificial insemination. If anyone could produce a hybrid offspring, he would surely be the one. And so, funded by the Soviet Union, Ivanov set out on his experiments.

As the story goes, the atheistic and evolutionary agenda was to pair up genes of Asians with orangutans, Caucasians with chimpanzees, and gorillas with Africans, as these human "species" were more closely related to their ape counterparts than these three ape species were to one another! This racist plan failed miserably, and not one offspring formed. The facts demonstrated that crossbreeding humans with apes was not a viable experiment. But in the evolutionary mindset, trivial things such as facts should never get in the way of "science."

Fact or Fantasy?

Oliver the Ape

Indeed, hope springs eternal. And in the 1960s and 70s, the belief in the elusive humanzee received another shot in the arm. His name was Oliver. Oliver was an odd creature who seemed to be a chimpanzee, but who exhibited odd characteristics such as walking upright and a lack of facial hair.³ He did look somewhat more like a human—not that chimps don't already look similar to humans on some level. But evolutionists claimed that he was a hybrid—the offspring of a human-chimpanzee relationship. Some even claimed he had 47 chromosomes, instead of 46 like a human, or 48 like a chimp.

Scientists claimed that Oliver the Ape was the offspring of a human-chimpanzee relationship.

However, in spite of the level of hype evolutionists and atheists were able to drum up, real science eventually got to work and demonstrated that Oliver was simply an odd chimpanzee with 48 chromosomes as would be expected of any chimp. Even though he acted and looked different, he was still an ape.

Oliver had failed the evolutionists. Yet evolutionists and atheists today still parrot the idea that a humanzee is a very real possibility, because they refuse to allow science to influence their views of reality.

In fact, many even claim that Oliver is still evidence enough of a relationship between

What is it?
A chimpanzee?
A human?
A hybrid of the two?

humans and apes. They claim that he is a mutant, whose similar appearance proves relation—even though no law of logic would support this idea. Similarities do not prove a relationship. But for atheists and evolutionists, the humanzee is not something to let go of, no matter how hard science tugs. For the humanzee is not a chimp named Oliver, or a test-tube baby from Ilya Ivanov's lab.

The humanzee does not exist. The humanzee is the twisted, unproven, unfounded fantasy of a deluded, evolutionary heart, blind to the reality of God's Word and science.

- 1. Jerry Bergman. "Human-ape hybridization: A Failed Attempt to Prove Darwinism." Acts and Facts (May 2009), pp. 12-13.
- 2. Ibid.
- "The Story of Oliver." Primarily Primates. http://www. primarilyprimates.org/videos/ppvid_Oliver.htm (accessed May 20, 2009).
- 4 Ihid

Joshua Joscelyn writes on a variety of topics, including Creation, politics, history, and Biblical issues. He has worked with various Creation ministries and currently resides in Milton, FL, with his wife, Felicia, where he enjoys reading, studying, and ministering in street and prison evangelism.

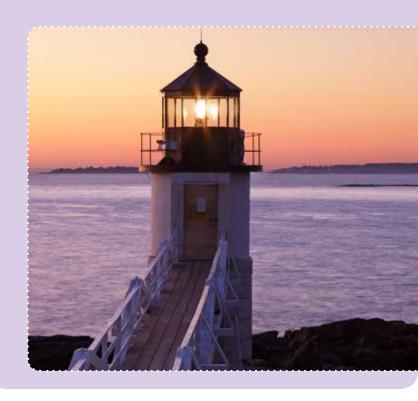


harles Spurgeon once said, "We may be certain that whatever God has made prominent in His Word, He intended to be conspicuous in our lives. If He has said much about prayer, it is because He knows we have much need of it. So deep are our necessities that until we are in heaven we must not cease to pray. . . A prayerless soul is a Christless soul."1

Is Spurgeon right?

Right before He was to be betrayed and crucified, Jesus counseled His disciples about prayer, saying, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41).

Christ was preparing them for the trials they were about to face. Why was it so





Watch and **Pray**

important for His disciples to watch and pray? That they enter not into tempta-

tion. Jesus knew that in their minds, His disciples wanted to serve Him. But their flesh was just too weak.

When the devil tempts someone, he is working to make them disobey God (James 1:14-15). Is temptation sin? No, Christ was tempted just like us, but He never committed sin (Hebrews 4:15).

In Matthew 26:41, we see our Lord

prayer to wrestle with temptation in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus pleading with His Christ Himself used beloved disciples to watch and pray so that they might have the strength to resist the devil's attempts to pull them from their allegiance to Him. Jesus knew how weak the flesh is. But He also knew the strength that

> earnest prayer provides to keep a person faithful to God. Christ Himself used prayer to wrestle with temptation in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Notice Christ's counsel to His disciples who would be living in the days just before His return: "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall

come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36).

The Greek word "be accounted worthy" may also be rendered "have strength" or "prevail." We see here that the very counsel Christ gave Peter, James, and John in the Garden of Gethsemane—before their great trial of watching Him being taken, falsely accused, and

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass.

crucified—is the same counsel He gives His followers living just before He returns the second time!

According to Luke 21:36, why is it so important for Christ's disciples to watch and pray today? So that we might have the strength to escape all the things that will come to pass before Christ returns.

Until Christ returns, the devil will do everything in his power to tempt us away from God in disobedience. Satan wants us to fall just like the disciples fell when Christ was betrayed and crucified. It is therefore crucial that we be watching and praying like Jesus did in the garden before His betrayal and crucifixion.

In Christ, through prayer, we can have strength to face the kind of trials the faithful followers of Christ will meet before He returns:



Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold (Matthew 24:9-13)

In Testimonies we read these validating words:

Those who will be true to God and to duty will be menaced, denounced, and proscribed. They will 'be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends...Their only hope is in the mercy of God; their only defense will be prayer' (vol. 5, 472-473).

Tempted to Desert and Deny

What specific temptations were the disciples tempted with before Christ's betrayal and crucifixion? Notice Christ's words in Matthew 26:31-35:

Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be **offended** because of Me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock **shall be scattered** abroad....

Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be

offended because of Thee, yet will I never be offended. Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny Me thrice. Peter said unto Him, Though I should die with Thee, yet will I not deny Thee. Likewise also said all the disciples. (emphasis added)

Jesus warned the disciples they would face temptation of desertion and denial.

Jesus warned the disciples they would face temptation of desertion and denial. Let's see what happened:

Then all the disciples for sook him, and fled (Matthew 26:56). **Desertion!**

Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. But he denied before them all, saying, I

know not what thou sayest ... (Matthew 26: 69-75). **Denial!**

Notice Christ's words about denial in Matthew 10:32-33: Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him

whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

And, consider the Word of the Lord abut desertion found in 2 Chronicles 15:2:

The LORD is with you, while ye be with Him; and if ye seek Him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, He will forsake you.

Falling Asleep to God's Truth

2 Chronicles 24:20 tells us that when we forsake God's law, we forsake Him:

Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? Because ye have forsaken the LORD, He hath also forsaken you.

What is the destiny-deciding issue the entire world will be facing just prior to Christ's return? It will have everything to do with people's response to the law of God.

Scripture tells us that when the disciples were told to watch and pray, they fell asleep. Because they were asleep, they were unaware of the situation around them, and they were unable to contribute to a solution.

I believe that before Christ's return, the devil will be working to keep God's people asleep and unaware long enough that

when they awake, they will be in the midst of a trial much too big for them to handle.

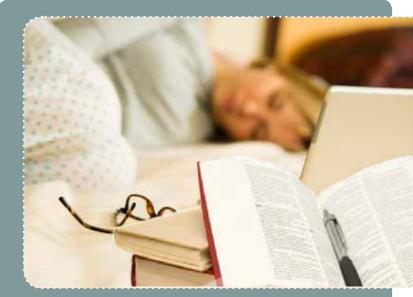
How does the enemy keep God's people sleeping spiritually until the crisis hits?

When this happens, many

Christians will desert their Saviour and deny His holy name, just like the disciples did before the crucifixion.

How does the enemy keep God's people sleeping spiritually until the crisis hits? Notice Luke 21:34-35:

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged (weighed down) with surfeiting (dissipation), and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it



come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

The Bible clearly says that before Christ's return, there is a time of trouble coming for the people of God like we cannot imagine (Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21). Mount of Blessing puts it this way:

We are now standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. A crisis is before us, such as the world has never witnessed (121). Friends, the Lord has

communicated these alarming facts to us through His Word, not to scare us, but to give us the chance to prepare. He says to us in Proverbs 1:33 NKJV, "whoever listens to Me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil." But we must constantly watch for God's leading through personal study and application of His Word. This

discipline involves a momentby-moment decision to keep our minds focused on Him through prayer.

Watch and pray! Watch and pray! These things will keep us from desertion and denial in the most critical of times in earth's history.

I love this statement found in the Seventh Day Adventist Bible Commentary:

The soul that loves God, loves to draw strength from Him by

constant communion with Him.

When it becomes the habit of the soul to converse with God, the power of the evil one is broken; for

Satan cannot abide near the soul that draws nigh unto God. (emphasis added, vol. 7, p. 937)

The Story of Thor

My dog Thor is a Rottweiler. He loves me and is very good at "watching and listening" to do what pleases me. If we get sleepy spiritually, we start to neglect earnest study of God's Word. However, Thor begins to deny and desert me when his senses draw his attention away to a piece of dead deer flesh rotting away in the woods. He becomes so engrossed with getting a hunk of that dead flesh into his tummy, that he doesn't even hear me calling him back.

I think the same thing can happen very easily to any one of us. We may love to watch for the Master's guidance and talk to

Him, but if we get sleepy spiritually, we start to neglect earnest study of God's Word and time conversing with Him. From there, it's very easy for our senses to be captivated by useless, careless, profitless activity, or the anxieties of life, or even the

And, if we stay in that condition, we will become just like the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane! We become so spiritually distracted and blind to what's really happening around us that the day of trial that Revelation 3:10 speaks of will come upon us unexpectedly.

abuse of our health.

The Power of Prayer

Now please understand this: **Watching and prayer doesn't change God. It changes us.** And marvelous things happen as God's people enter into the practice of persistent communion with the Most High.

Elijah prayed and called fire down from heaven. For us, prayer may not bring literal fire down from heaven, but it can bring us into a position to receive the spiritual fire of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:3-4).

Daniel prayed and was saved from the lions. We may never be cast into a literal lion's den, but prayer can keep us out of the angry jaws of Satan's temptations (Luke 22:31-32; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9).

Watching and prayer doesn't change God.

Paul and Silas prayed and prison walls were shaken (Acts 16:25-26). We may not ever be cast into a literal prison,

but earnest prayer can break down the prison walls of sin that have ensnared so many hurting people today (Proverbs 5:22; Isaiah 61:1; Luke 21:36).

John Wesley prayed and a great revival saved most of England.

Wesley stated, "I have so much to do that I must spend several hours in prayer before I am able to do it." ²

It changes us.

As we consider these examples, it may be easy for us to think of some type of physical deliverance as God's way of answering prayer. However, think with me. Jesus, our perfect Example, before His betrayal and crucifixion was found offering up "prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears" to His heavenly Father "who



was able to save Him from death." And Christ was heard! (Hebrews 5:7). To top it off, what was the climax of His prayers in the Garden? "Not My will, but Thine be done." (Luke 22:42).

Jesus was watching and praying when the mob came and took Him to be crucified. Prayer didn't keep Him from being taken and killed – BUT – it strengthened Him to endure the most crucial and powerful temptation of all time – the temptation to save Himself, to desert and deny us, and to leave us to die in our sins!

Praise God He was strengthened by communion with His Father to endure the shameful trial and make a way of escape for us from the deadly grasp of sin!

This brings us to a very important lesson – please remember this – watching and prayer does not always move God's arm to physically deliver us from the trials we face – but He always strengthens us to face the trial bravely and remain faithful when tempted to give up the faith and disobey Him! 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Peter 2:9.

Something else I've been thinking about - to all

Watching and prayer does not always move God's arm to physically deliver us from the trials we face.

outward human understanding, if one of us had witnessed Christ's struggle in the garden that night, we might have said, "If He is so broken up when all He is doing is praying, what will He do when He faces a real crisis? Why can't He approach this ordeal with the calm

confidence of His three sleeping friends?" Yet when the test came, Jesus walked to the cross with calmness and courage! His three friends fell apart to deny and desert their Master and Friend!

Please consider this again, the very same counsel Jesus gave His disciples on that eventful betrayal night, He gives to us who live in the dark hours of earth's history prior to His Second Coming. Watch and pray! I want to be habitually watching and praying. I long to hear Jesus say to me, "Well done thou good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of the Lord." **How about you?**

Jesus paid an infinite price to purchase our ticket to heaven—what a waste it would be to fall asleep and miss the flight. ■

We were not able to determine the author of this article, but appreciated its message so much that we wanted to share it with our readers. If you know who may have written it, please contact AD with this information, so we can give proper attribution.

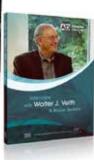


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^{1.} Charles Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening*, Zondervan Publishing House, 1955, p. 4.

^{2.} E.M. Bounds, *The Necessity of Prayer*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1993, p. 47.



Are You Drinking **Enough** Water?

ater is everywhere, but not all of us drink as much as we should. The body is made up of 75% water and so is the earth's surface. Water is necessary to carry nutrients to cells and take toxins away for excretion. In fact, every avenue of excretion—including urine, sweat, breath and feces— altogether removes 2.5 L of water from your system. Since you lose 2.5 L of water each day over a period of 24 hours, it makes sense that you should at least be putting this same amount back into your body.

Since you lose 2.5 L of water over 24 hours, you should put this same amount back into your body.

Why is Water So Important Anyway?

Water is vital for healthy cell functioning. The body is an intelligent, complex system, and if you don't give it the amount of water it requires, it has to conserve water and distribute it to parts of the body that need it more. Eventually, if the body still isn't getting enough water, the brain decides to cut off

less necessary parts so that it saves enough water for the vital organs, such as the brain, which takes first priority.

The following example of the kidneys explains one scenario of what could happen when your body goes into water or 'crisis' management mode because it doesn't have enough water.

A Kidney Crisis

Your kidneys need a lot of water as their job is to filter your blood of extra fluids and remove wastes such as urine.

The kidneys are able to conserve a lot of water, but if they become too dry,

this makes it easier for germs to move up the urethra and ureter, pass into the kidney, and eventually get into the blood. Kidney failure is often a result of a build-up of uric acid or other waste products like urea in the blood.

Kidney stones form because the kidneys are not getting enough water. When the body is dehydrated, the brain tells the kidney to cut back on its urine production because it needs to save water for other bodily functions. As a result, the kidney has to pull back all the fluid it can and leave only the absolute minimum to

get rid of waste products like urea

and uric acid. This, as you have probably experienced, is why your urine is sometimes a very strong yellow and burns when you pee—the kidneys have had to make the urine more concentrated to save water. A general rule of thumb is that the more water you intake, the more output you will have. Dark-colored or strongsmelling urine indicates you need to drink more water.

When you have a concentrated solution—similar to when you have evaporated water in a container—crystals of salt appear. The same process occurs inside your kidneys. Crystals or stones eventually form that try to pass down your ureter but often get stuck because they have jagged edges and are too large to pass through.

Your kidney will eventually swell with backed-up urine. When this happens, the kidneys can't filter properly, causing you to go into kidney failure where the doctor may have to remove one of your kidneys.

Sometimes the kidney stone blocks the urine's path from filtering out through the urethra, and so the urine gets put back into the blood where it can kill you if it reaches a certain

> level. High concentrations of uric acid in the blood can lead to a type of arthritis known as gout. All this because you failed to drink water!

Is Water Your Number One Choice for Energy?

Apart from keeping your organs healthy, water also provides you with energy at the cellular level. The cell is a complex factory that performs numerous functions, such as letting materials pass in and out, transporting raw materials to the proper production plant in the cell, storing the raw materials, sending them out to be used in the right part of the body, and releasing waste toxins.

A river of water surrounds the cell—called the mem-

brane—which allows materials to be quickly sent to other parts of the cell where they are processed and packaged before transmitted to the parts of the body where they are needed. In this way, another of water's functions in the body is to act as a transport vehicle.

Water provides you

with more energy at

the cellular level.

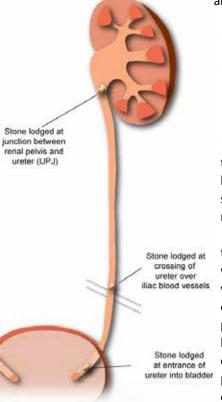
Water is found both outside and

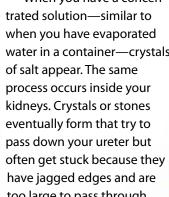
nucleus

inside the cell. Water from outside the cell frequently flows across the cell membrane and into the cell. Millions of pumps (called cation pumps) in the cell membrane pump out harmful materials like acid and pump in helpful materials like glucose and sodium. These pumps act like pumps in a hydroelectric dam. When water flows into a hydroelectric dam, the

movement of water across the pumps turns

the generators. In the same way, the movement of water across the cell membrane turns the cation pumps or generators in the cell. This power or 'voltage' is then converted and stored as packages of energy called ATP







Human kidney stone - 30 mm

(adenosine triphosphate)—a chemical source of energy the body uses to do its work.

Drink First, then Eat



As we have seen, the body's main source of energy derives from the movement of water across the cell membrane. The other energy your body gets comes from the foods you eat, which only makes up about 25%. Many people who are weak or tired choose to eat food to feel more energized. While they will gain some energy from eating, they will also gain unwanted pounds because with food comes calories—something you don't get with only drinking water (any excess water simply passes out of the body through urine).

While you may gain some energy from eating, you will also gain unwanted pounds.

While food is also important for energy, if you overeat in proportion to the amount of activity you are doing, your body will store up this excess food in the form of body fat. So next time you're feeling tired and tempted to eat to gain energy,

try drinking water before munching down on a sandwich. You may find you aren't as hungry afterwards. You should actually wait 20 minutes before eating so the water in your stomach does not interfere with digestion. Much weight gain could be prevented with this correct order of consumption.

Don't think that drinking substitutes like tea, alcohol, juice, pop, or coffee will do the trick either. While these beverages contain water, they also act as drying agents that deplete the water they are dissolved in and take out more from your body's reserves. This is why you end up feeling thirstier after drinking a can of pop or juice—the water doesn't stay in the body long enough.

The Older You Get, the Less Thirsty You Feel

The **hypothalamus** is the thirst center in the brain that tells you if you are thirsty. The cells in the hypothalamus read the

Drinking water should not be a response to thirst but a constant activity.

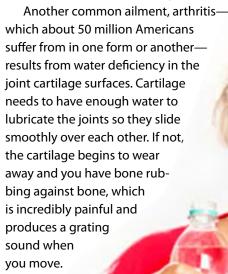
level of sodium in your body, and when you're dehydrated, the level of sodium is high. These cells then produce a special hormone called **histamine** that drives you to seek water. As you get older, however, the cells near the thirst center lose their sensitivity, and that's why the older you get, the less thirsty you feel. This does not mean you should drink less water though. Instead, you should drink water on principle, knowing your body needs it even if you can't feel it.

Drinking water should not b a response to thirst but a constant activity.

Signs of Dehydration

Apart from having a dry mouth (which some say is the last sign), there are other indications of

dehydration. These include dyspepsia (upset stomach), rheumatoid arthritis, heart pain, migraines, and low back pain to name a few. Let's look at a couple of these in further detail. Migraines are largely found to be a result of dehydration brought about by improper body temperature. Perhaps your bed covers are too warm so you cannot sleep, or maybe you're in too warm of an environment without adequate water intake.





Arthritis results

deficiency in the

joint cartilage

surfaces.

from water

F. Batmanghelidj, M.D., claims these pains should be treated with water—not medication. Medication may relieve some symptoms, but it can also cause more harm by killing off some of the above signs of chronic dehydration, which he believes is the root problem of all physical diseases. It is best to drink lots of water (2.5 L per day or 8 oz. glasses of water) as a preventative measure so that these signs do not reach an irreversible condition that the sudden intake of water cannot restore.

Drink Up!

Now that you know how essential water is for your body, make sure to fill it up with the right amount it needs. Get in the habit of drinking water daily and often so you can start benefiting from its many effects, including:

- prevention of chronic diseases like arthritis and back pain
- sense of well-being as water helps fight against sicknesses and flushes toxins
- more productivity at work since the brain is 85% water and needs a proper amount to operate properly
- healthier, younger looking skin because it's adequately hydrated
- more energy
- staying regular as water helps with digestion and constipation
 - + much more!

Ellen White writes:

In health and in sickness, pure water is one of Heaven's choicest blessings. Its proper use promotes health. It is the beverage which God provided to quench the thirst of animals and man. Drunk freely, it helps to supply the necessities of the system, and assists nature to resist disease. (CD, 419.1)

With all these benefits of drinking water, why would you delay? We are incredibly blessed to live in a part of the world that has access to clean, fresh drinking water, so let's not neglect this amazing and natural resource God has given us! Drink up!

Sources:

Batmanghelidj, Fereydoon. How to Deal with Back Pain & Rheumatoid Joint Pain. (Falls Church, VA, Global Health Solutions, 1991).

---. Your Body's Many Cries for Water. 2nd ed. (Vienna, VA, Global Health Solutions, 1995).

Kelly, Don. Water Everywhere. Videos. Dr. Don Kelly is a medical professor from the United Kingdom. He has practiced for over 30 years.

continued from p. 10

I am grateful for the different approach to looking at Scriptures and the depth of research that is presented rather than the traditional stuff we hear all the time from the pulpit. God bless you. ~BF

Love your effort to reach the lost for Jesus.~JH

The message is so much clearer and easy to understand than any I have heard in all my years in the Word. I have heard things I never heard before. ~MA

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IN THE NEWS

The Corn is Dying All Over America

Source: Hawai'i Daily News, July 9, 2012

All over America the corn is dying. If drought conditions persist in the middle part of the country, wheat and soybeans will be next. Weeks of intense heat com-

bined with extraordinarily dry conditions have brought many U.S. corn farmers to the brink of total disaster. If there is not significant rainfall soon, many farmers will be financially ruined. This period of time is par-

ticularly important for corn because this is when pollination is supposed to happen. But the unprecedented heat and the extremely dry conditions are playing havoc with that process. With each passing day things get even worse.

We have seen the price of a bushel of corn soar 41 percent since June 14th.

That is an astounding rise. You may not eat much corn directly, but it is important to realize that corn or corn syrup is just about in everything these days. Just look

at your food labels. In the United States today, approximately 75 percent of all processed foods contain corn. So a huge rise in the price of corn is going to be felt all over the supermarket. Corn

is also widely used to feed livestock, and if this crisis continues we are going to see a significant rise in meat and dairy prices as well. Food prices in America have already been rising at a steady pace, and so this is definitely not welcome news.



Read More: http://world.hawaiinewsdaily.com/2012/07/the-corn-is-dying-all-over-america/

Archbishop of Canterbury, Pope Benedict to 'Bury Hatchet' Over Anglican Shift? Source: Huffington Post, May 17, 2012

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and head of the Catholic Church Pope Benedict XVI will come together in prayer this coming Saturday in a symbolic gesture of solidarity and unity after years of tension over Anglicans shifting to the Roman Catholic Church.

Tensions between the Anglican and Catholic churches were heightened in 2009 when the Vatican launched a controversial program to allow disaffected Anglicans to join the Catholic Church.

The churches have divergent perspectives with regard to the ordination of women, homosexual bishops, and same-sex marriage. The Catholic Church has maintained a traditionalist stance on gender and homosexuality. Meanwhile, homosexual and female priests have been ordained in the Anglican



Communion, which has been undergoing intense internal debate on those issues, leaving some of the church's 77 million members worldwide distressed.

With discontent Anglicans requesting to join the Catholic Church, the Vatican launched a structure of an "ordinariate" to allow priests and Anglican followers to enter into full communion. The structures, which have allowed former Anglicans to convert to Catholicism while maintaining some of their Angli-

can traditions, such as allowing married priests to remain under the pope's offer, have since been created in both the U.S. and Britain. Debate over female and homosexual ordination has been most intense in those two countries.

Read More: http://www.christianpost.com/news/archbishop-of-canterbury-pope-benedict-to-bury-hatchet-over-anglican-shift-71067/#YX846R0Qe8CZr7Ui.99

Chapter 3 of China letters by David Lin

ur Gredentials

David Lin's letters and articles

The messages God sends to

His people to turn them away

from worldly corruptions are

not appreciated by those who

would live in self-indulgence.

appeared in various Adventist periodicals at a time when Desmond Ford's teachings were the center of attention in the Adventist Church.

eventh-Day Adventists have a peculiar heritage. It inspires faith and courage, and calls for unreserved devotion. We belong to a succession of true nobility appointed of God to speak in His name.

Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that he should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. 1 Peter 2:9 The privilege of being God's chosen

> people once belonged to the Jewish nation. Said the inspired apostle, "What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because

that unto them were committed the oracles of God." Roman 3:1-2

What a high and holy privilege it is to be entrusted with the oracles of God! But as in the case of the priesthood, "no man taketh this honour unto himself." Hebrews 5:4. The honour of being the custodians of God's world cannot be assumed by anyone on his own initiative. Since antiquity many individuals have presumed to be spokesmen for God, but in the end they proved to be false prophets.

True and False Prophets

We can differentiate false prophets from the true by the nature of the messages they bear. The false prophet gains a popular following and is accepted by the world. On the other hand, the true prophet receives little worldly recognition. When Jehoshaphat went to battle, Ahab "gathered the prophets together, about 400 men," who gave him a favourable reply. Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there not here

a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might inquire of him?" Ahab replied, "There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the LORD, but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil." 1 Kings 22:5-8

This incitement is an example of a popular majority versus an

unpopular minority. But the "oracle of God" was entrusted to the latter. And Micaiah was hated because he pronounced God's judgments against the wicked.

The same situation prevails today. The messages God sends to His are delivered to do all these abominations." Jeremiah 7:10

people to turn them away from worldly corruptions are not appreciated by those who would live in self-indulgence. They hate the modern Micaiah, and want to hear flattering words which give them a false sense of acceptance and freedom, so that they can say, "We

An Unbroken Succession

There has always been an unbroken line of chosen instruments entrusted with the oracles of God. When the Jews rejected their Redeemer and failed to fulfill God's purpose, He chose men from among the Gentiles to proclaim the message of salvation. Said Paul to the recalcitrant Jews: "It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you,

What a high and holy privilege it is to be entrusted with the oracles of God! and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles." Acts 13: 46

This instance was the first marked transfer of the divine credentials from a line of Jewish prophets and apostles to the Gentile succession.

The church of God is now an edifice built not as a racial entity, but on an ecumenical basis, with the apostles as the foundation and Christ the cornerstone. Said Christ to Peter, "Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven... and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:18-19

The true church of God remained in the wilderness for 42 months, after which she emerged from seclusion to reconquer the world in the new evangelical upsurge.

Here Christ announced the divine purpose to transfer the privilege of administering the oracles of God to the ecumenical church of which Peter was a representative. Ever since Creation, these oracles have laid down the conditions by which sinners are either admitted to or excluded from the kingdom of heaven.

The Church in the Wilderness

The Papacy has laid claim to the apostolic succession. But we note that the "keys of the kingdom" have unlocked the treasure house of prophecy to reveal that the true apostolic succession belongs to the people represented by the woman in Revelation 12, while the Papacy is symbolized by the dragon which attempts to destroy her. This symbolism, with the prophecies of Daniel 7 and 2 Thessalonians 2, all conspire to identify the Papacy as the antichrist, and whoever accepts this truth cannot consistently regard the Papacy as a valid part of God's church, despite the fact that she is counted as a part of Christendom from the historian's viewpoint. Our doctrinal understanding on this subject should keep our thinking straight and govern all our dealings with that power.

Thus the first transfer of trusteeship, as we may call it, is recorded in the New Testament as a historical event. A second transfer of this responsibility five centuries later, this time from the apostolic church to the church in the wilderness, is depicted as a prophetic event. The emergence of Balaam in Pergamos and of Jezebel in Thyatira, as opposed to "as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan" (Revelation 2:14, 20, 24) clearly indicates a process of differentiation during the Middle Ages which separated the chaff from the wheat.

The true church of God remained in the wilderness for 42 months, after which she emerged from seclusion to reconquer the world in the new evangelical upsurge.

The Remnant of Her Seed

Revelation 12 speaks of a "remnant" of the seed of the woman preserved in the wilderness. This appellative implies that it is the last body of saints to be victims of Satan's attacks. And since we recognize that the church in the wilderness comprised the Waldenses, the Albigenses,

Huss and Jerome, Wycliffe, Luther, the Wesleys, and others, then we are faced with the task of identifying their "remnant"—the modern successors

of this line of depositaries of

God's holy oracles.
To aid us in our task, Inspiration has provided dependable clues to convince every honest inquirer that God is personally leading this great movement to its victorious climax.

(1) The first and most substantial clue is Reveltion 10. Here the Millerite awakening, culminating in the Disappointment of 1844, is depicted in fascinating detail. The seven thunders represent that critical but obscure text which Miller misunderstood and thus became for all a test. In Scripture, thunder often is a figure for God's voice. See Job 37:4-5; 2 Samuel 22:14; Psalm 29:3-4. And seven signifies completion. Hence seven thunders symbolize a complete revelation.

When God's voice spoke from heaven in answer to Jesus' petition (see John 12:28), men standing by said it thundered and knew not its significance. Jesus said, "This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes." John 12:30. Yet the men for whom God's message was meant heard only a non intelligible rumbling. Likewise, the text Miller misunderstood was nonetheless a message to him from God. In the gospel narrative, John understood God's voice and wrote it for our benefit. He also understood the seven thunders of Revelation 10. but when he was about to write, he was arrested with the words, "Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not." Revelation 10:4

Here we see a deliberate act of Providence temporarily to cover up the truth—withholding a full revelation—with the purpose of bringing about a great disappointment. We see in it a parallel to the blindness of the disciples when Jesus told them of His coming humiliation and crucifixion. "They understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken." Luke 18:34. This blindness of the disciples resulted in a crushing disappointment which was soon followed by a thrilling manifestation of God's glory and the commission to "Go... and teach all nations." And we note that both the disappointment and the subsequent rejoicing were exclusively the experience of the chosen few. The risen Saviour was manifest only to a select group which had undergone the sifting process of

God has a special purpose in His providence. It pleased Him to bring His chosen people through the valley of blasted hopes and then make them to see new light in the sure word of prophecy.

a great disappointment and defection.

Eighteen centuries later, the Millerite disappointment was a close reenactment of that first one.

God has a special purpose in His providence. It pleased Him to bring His chosen people through the valley of blasted hopes and then make them to see new light in the sure word of prophecy. As Isaiah 53 and other prophecies of Christ's sufferings were to the mourning disciples, so were Revelation 10 and concurring prophecies to the faithful few after 1844. In both cases, "open He their understanding that they might understand the Scriptures." Luke 24:45. In these Scriptures, the anchor of our faith is now securely moored.

Revelation 10 is our strongest mooring place because it accords with the Millerite experience in every significant detail—from the "little open book" to the command to "prophesy again" after a sweet and bitter experience. By way of human reasoning, the Advent movement, initiated by a man who is still regarded by many as fanatical, should have petered out, and no one would think of taking up the work where he left off. But the

observation of Gamaliel is applicable here: "If this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it: lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." Acts 5:38-39. Ever since the Seventh-Day Adventist church was organized, many men aided by evil angels have sought to overthrow it, but they were fighting against God. He has devoted a whole chapter in Revelation to identify us as His people. No other event in history comes near to a fulfillment of this chapter, which stands between the fall of the Ottoman Empire depicted in Revelation 9 and the events of the seventh trumpet in Revelation 11.

Our succession to William Miller cannot in truth be denied. We have not the least cause for shame, but every reason to take pride. We should vigorously publicize The Great Disappointment as the God-given credentials of our great Advent movement.

Revelation 10 is the "open door" into which the wise virgins are admitted. It is also the "shut door" which keeps out the foolish virgins. This sifting process has continued to this day. All who see in the Millerite movement a fulfillment of Revelation 10 are admitted to the wedding banguet, while all who deny that Miller was led of God remain in outer darkness. Now it is a historical fact that all the Protestant bodies who tripped and fell over the Millerite stone of stumbling have made no progress in their understanding of the prophecies of Revelation since 1844. Their knowledge of Bible prophecy remains within pre-Millerite confines. He who has the key of David has shut the door in their faces, and no man can open it.

It is a remarkable fact that Ellen White makes a prophetic application of the parable of the ten virgins, but does not attempt to explain what the figure of the "dinner" (Matthew 22:4) of the wedding represents in reality. But we who are removed from the Midnight Cry by 137 years are now in a position to observe that this banquet is symbolic of the spiritual feast

of good things provided through the writings of the gift of prophecy. He who promises to "come in and sup with" us has brought to everyone who opens the door a veritable banquet of spiritual delicacies. All who with humble hearts step into the "open door" of the sanctuary truths which follow in the wake of the Millerite movement are thereby ushered into Christ's festal chamber and treated to the nourishment of the "testimony of Jesus," which is designed to build up His remnant church and to strengthen His people for the last great conflict with the prince of darkness.

The contrast between those who enter the open door and those shut out is like the pillar of fire which came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. "It was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these." Exodus 14:20. "Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given." Matthew 13:11

God takes us into His confidence by the vision of Revelation 10, even as in the case of Sodom He confided in Abraham His friend. Leading to mastery of prophecy, Revelation 10 is a strategic door; they who balk here will never understand all that comes after 1844.

(2) Our second clue is found in Revelation 3:14-21. Again we see a close description of the Advent people. We recognize our own features delineated in this letter. Christ introduces Himself as "the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the beginning of the creation of God." He says to us, "You keep the Sabbath to commemorate the creation of God. Now I am the Lord of the Sabbath, the Author of all creation. I am also the One speaking to you through the gift of prophecy." The voluminous "Testimonies" are a magnified projection of Christ's letter to the Laodiceans.

And now, as we near the grand finale, we see the fulfillment of the prophecies of the great shaking —whole congregations spued out of His mouth!

The keynote of these testimonies is, "I know thy works... As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." And now, as we near the grand finale, we see the fulfillment of the prophecies of the great shaking—whole congregations spued out of His mouth!

(3) The third clue furnished to identify the remnant church is found in Revelation 12:17, "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." God foresaw that we would live in a veritable Babel of conflicting

continued on p.29



In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers.

To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the Word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention.

The most solemn truths ever entrusted to mortals have been given us to proclaim to the world. The proclamation of these truths is to be our work. The world is to be warned, and God's people are to be true to the trust committed to them....

Christ says of His people: "Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). It is not a small matter that the counsels and plans of God have been so clearly opened to us. It is a wonderful privilege to be able to understand the will of God as revealed in the sure word of prophecy. This places on us a heavy responsibility. God expects us to impart to others the knowledge that He has given us. It is His purpose that divine and human instrumentalities shall unite in the proclamation of the warning message.

So far as his opportunities extend, everyone who has received the light of truth is under the same responsibility as was the prophet of Israel to whom came the word: "Son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word of my mouth, and warn them from me" (Ezekiel 33:7)....

In clear, distinct rays light has come to us, showing us that the great day of the Lord is near at hand, "even at the doors." Let us read and understand before it is too late.

We are to be consecrated channels, through which the heavenly life is to flow to others. The Holy Spirit is to animate and pervade the whole church, purifying and cementing hearts. Upon us is laid a sacred charge. The commission has been given us: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19, RSV). . . . You are dedicated to the work of making known the gospel of salvation.

—Testimonies vol. 9 np. 19-21





I will arise and go to Jesus
He will embrace me in His arms
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.

These lines come from the hymn, "Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy."

We often think of charms as something magical—like good luck charms or charm bracelets, worn to avert evil or misfortune. There is another sense of this word though, which is how Joseph Hart uses it when he wrote the hymn in

In the arms of Jesus, the Saviour, there are 10 000 qualities that fascinate Hart, that excite his love and admiration.

Can we say the same thing? Are we moved in 10 000 ways to sing God's praise? Can we count 10 000 reasons to praise our Saviour?

He offers us
10 000 chances,
10 000 charms,
10 000 reasons
to fall in love
with Him.

10 000 is a big number. It sounds like an exaggeration. But I don't think Joseph Hart was exaggerating when he wrote this hymn. It came after his own conversion experience, incited from his doubt about whether he was really saved, and whether he was allowed to live however he wanted simply because he had already professed with his mouth that Jesus was Lord.

He wrote these ideas in a book called *The Unreason-ableness of Religion* that he later repented of when he understood that good works and faith need to be aligned to call oneself a Christian. When he fully and truly comprehended God's saving grace, he wrote "Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy," in which he talks about the charms that drew Him and continued to draw him to Jesus.

Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify; True belief and true repentance, Every grace that brings you nigh.

The prophet Jeremiah also recorded His reasons for praise in the book of Lamentations. Amidst the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 A.D., he offered his laments about what was occurring to Judah and Jerusalem. Yet even among these cries of woe lies hope. Lamentations 3:22-23 says,

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.



1759. Charm can also mean "Any quality, attribute, trait, feature, etc., which exerts a fascinating or attractive influence, exciting love or admiration."

God's great love, compassion, and faithfulness are a few of His many charms. Even when we sin, we never exhaust God's capacity to forgive us. His compassions are new each morning even though our sin is old. How many times do we make the same mistakes, whether it be telling lies to get what we



want, seeking praise from man for doing good works, or holding onto bitterness because we feel it is our right when we've been wronged?

Peter, a disciple of Jesus, was infamous for making mistakes. Three times he denied knowing who Jesus was because he was ashamed to be associated with Him. Jesus still took Peter back even when he renounced Him. Jesus gave him a second chance, and He does the same for us. God relentlessly pursues His children like a shepherd looking for his lost sheep. He offers us 10 000 chances, 10 000 charms, 10 000 reasons to fall in love with Him.

His forgiveness is a charm. So is His protection and provision. David, the writer of Psalms, sings about these charms in the oft-quoted 23rd Psalm:

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:

Jesus walks beside us in dark valleys, on nights where our soul seems far from God.

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Jesus walks beside us in dark valleys, on nights where our soul seems far from God. He never leaves our side throughout the many storms we encounter. He's with us through a family member's debilitating disease, the pain of a broken marriage, and seasons where waves of doubt threaten to sink us with every step. Just like Jesus reached out His arm to Peter on the Sea of Galilee when Peter had walked on water and started to sink, so Jesus reaches out His arms to us when we go under. He catches us and promises to never let us go. (Matthew 14:22-33, Hebrews 13:5)

There are countless other charms found in Jesus—wisdom, comfort, peace, strength, shelter. Do you personally know these

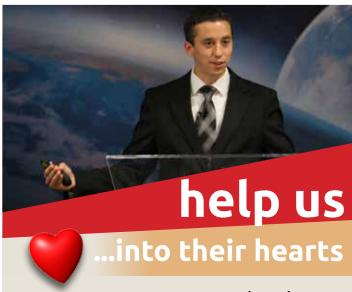
charms? They aren't withheld from anyone, no matter how great your sin. Jesus is greater and He longs to wrap His arms around you. He longs

to lavish on you His 10 000 charms, to attract your heart to His, to excite your love and admiration. He is more than deserving of it. He died for you, He loves you, and He longs for you to know Him.



1. "Charm," n. 3a. Oxford English Dictonary.

Charlene Kwiatkowski is an associate editor at the Amazing Discoveries.



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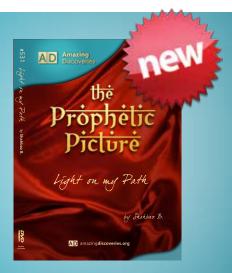
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beliefs and practices, and that many of His children would be perplexed to know which body of professing Christians is the true remnant church. Therefore God gave us two clear and simple signs: The remnant "Keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." On

It is not for any person or group of people to arrogate the role of trustees of the oracles of God.

But can any one refuse this appointment when the Lord makes it?

the one hand they recognize God's authority by keeping His commandments; on the other hand God recognizes their sonship by speaking to them through the prophetic gift. "For the testimony of

Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Revelation 19:10

This reciprocal recognition is the unmistakable sign that the Seventh-Day Adventist church is God's true church in modern times. Behold how sound and dependable are the tokens of God's grace! See how the sure word of prophecy gives firmest grounds for our faith!

It is not for any person or group of people to arrogate the role of trustees of the oracles of God. But can anyone refuse this appointment when the Lord makes it? Said He to Gideon: "Go in this thy might... have not I sent thee?" Judges 6:14

To assign a human mortal to a mission on earth below, is the very highest honour that heaven can bestow. Like Esther and Mordecai in an hour of national crisis, who knows we are not come to the kingdom for just such a time as this?

In every time of crisis God has always had His Micaiahs to oppose popular prophets who preach smooth and pleasant things to the people. Thus did Elijah in his day. And in the first century God sent John to rebuke iniquity in high places. Then came the two witnesses who preached in sackcloth as the "woman" was nourished in the wilderness. Today the oracles of God have been committed to the "remnant of her seed"—the

Seventh-Day Adventist world communion. Here history witnesses the third transfer of this sacred trusteeship, of which we bear unmistakable credentials.

In the Book it is written
of us; God has pledged to
perform His word. His angel directs

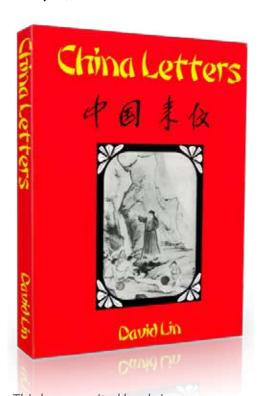
the movement to prepare the way of the Lord. God make us worthy to fill the place of John and Elijah's vacancy! They were men of like passions as we, but they prayed and preached so differently.

God calls for a million Elijahs to meet the crisis of our age. They have passed from the stage of action but there must be action on this stage! God calls for a million Elijahs to meet the crisis of our age. Where is the God of Elijah? He's very close at hand—at the touch of the prophet's mantle Jordan's waters become dry land.

To confirm His gospel message, God works signs and mighty wonders; for to all His faithful servants He gives not His spirit by measure. The voice crying in the wilderness shall not have cried in vain; it must resound through the centuries to waken the millions of our day.

Our work is to hold up the torch once held by the hands of John and cry with passionate voice, "Behold the lamb of God!"

January 14, 1982



This long awaited book is a collection of David Lin's articles and letters. They are deeply rooted in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, and are a joyous affirmation of the Seventh-day Adventist faith. It is available at amazingdiscoveries.org

for \$15.00.

The Cure

W.D. Frazee

W.D. Frazee was a gospel medical evangelist. He founded a faith ministry known as Wildwood Medical Missionary Institute in 1942. He was a teacher and lecturer who taught medical missionary and Bible classes.

t is Friday afternoon, and everyone scurries about getting ready for Sabbath. Just now Mother is mopping the kitchen floor. She is nearly finished when Mary comes in with muddy feet and runs across the floor. What will Mother do now? Some more mopping—if she wants a clean kitchen.

Just as she gets almost through again, Johnny bursts in with muddy feet too! Now what will Mother have to do? Some more mopping. When will she get through? That depends on how long the family will keep tracking in mud.

The stream of sin that defiles the sanctuary comes from God's people.

Remember that the thing which keeps Jesus in the sanctuary and delays the finishing of His work in the Most Holy Place is not the iniquity of infidels and pagans. The stream of sin that defiles the sanctu-

ary comes from God's people. If we really want Jesus to come, we will confess every past sin so that He can pardon, and then we will learn from Him how to quit our habitual lawbreaking.

Somebody may say, "That will never be in this world!" Then the sanctuary will have to stay open—unless you have found some other way to deal with the sin problem. But thank God, His plan will succeed. There will come a time when the sanctuary is cleansed and when Christ will demonstrate to all the universe that He has "put away sin by the sacrifice of himself" (Hebrews 9:26).

The Epistle to the Hebrews contrasts the earthy sanctuary with the heavenly, showing the weakness of the first and the effectual power of the second. Chapter 9 closes with a glorious climax: what the high priest did in type once a year, Jesus does in reality once and for all. He puts an end to sin, thus making it possible for Him to "appear the second time without sin" (Hebrews 9:28).

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins (Hebrews 10:1-2).

Notice that if those animal sacrifices could have taken away sin, if they could have perfected the worshipers, then they would "have ceased to be offered." In other words, their continual repetition showed their inefficacy.

It is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins (Hebrews 10:4).

God intended that in looking at a bleeding bullock or dying lamb, the sinner should behold the suffering of the promised Messiah. But many saw in it only the death of an animal, and some even came to look upon those sacrifices as the way to pay for their transgressions.

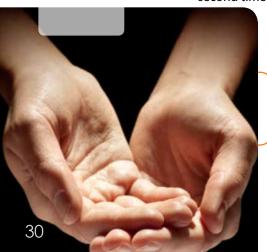
If a man wanted to sin badly enough, he would be willing to lose a lamb or a bullock, wouldn't he? So the stream of sin continued, and the rivers of blood flowed on.

You are acquainted with a great organization that calls itself

People get the idea that sin is not so terrible after all.

The Church. In its confessionals a man can kneel down before another man, recite his sins, and hear the words "I absolve you." Then the priest gives him a penance to perform. But this cheapens the concept of sin.

People get the idea that sin is not so terrible after all. But there is a Protestant version, not much better. Multitudes, who day after day and week



for Sin

after week transgress knowingly, ask God to forgive them but then keep right on sinning. What is the matter? If the sacrifice of the cross and Christ's ministry in animals. I know that You don't require the blood of bulls and goats. That isn't what You want, Father."

...if they only offer a repeated program of sinning and repenting, is the new covenant really better than the old?

the heavenly sanctuary cannot take away sin, if they only offer a repeated program of sinning and repenting, is the new covenant really better than the old?

Let us read on and find how Jesus solves the sin problem:

When he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

When Jesus came into the world, He said, "Father, I know that You don't desire all these sacrifices of Someone
may ask,
"Why, then,
was it done?"
Notice that
God didn't require it. The
people required it. They
needed it to help them
understand something.

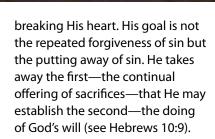
But do you think that God took any pleasure in the death of a lamb? No! Every time a bullock was slain, every time a lamb died, God saw his own Son dying upon the cross of Calvary. Could that bring Him any pleasure? Of course not! It broke His heart. So when Jesus came into the world, He said, "Father, I know that You don't want those sacrifices to continue. They must come to an end."

And what plan did Jesus have to terminate the sacrificial system with all its pain and suffering? What did He say? "Father, I know that You don't want all these sacrifices, but I have come to do Your will."

I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart (Psalm 40:8).

In other words, God doesn't want the payoff when we break the law. He wants us to keep the law. He is not looking for some sacrifice so that people can continue breaking the law, whether it is the bringing of a lamb or the doing of some penance or a careless prayer at night.

Christ longs for His children to get to the place where they do not keep on



In our human flesh He demonstrated that the law could be kept, and He used the same power available to us. Then this body in which He had fully manifested God's will He offered on Calvary as a complete atonement, providing abundant salvation for you and me. "By one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14).

What the blood of beasts could never do, the blood of Jesus will accomplish for all who yield themselves. And how? Let me make it simple and very practical. We must sense the pain that sin brings to God. ■



... our voices



Walter Veith

our times

Francois DuPlessis fell in love with archaeology in Lebanon 1966 when he saw an ancient Phoenician sarcophagus. His passion for Biblical research continues today. He has traveled extensively to important archaeological sites in the Middle East and his research has appeared on several TV stations.



Mark Cleminson

deceptions

Naturopathic Doctor
Jeanie Davis promotes raw
foods as a recommended
diet for health and longevity.
She and her husband Rudy
hold public health seminars
across the country teaching
the health principles of God's
creation diet. They also run a
health center in Baie-St-Anne,
New Brunswick.



Professor Walter J. Veith has traveled widely throughout North America and the world presenting his seminars to large enthusiastic crowds. The information presented is based on his in-depth research in the areas of evolution/Creation, health and diet, and Bible prophecy.



Francois DuPlessis

archaeology

Mark Cleminson is a lay speaker who desires to expose deceptions in the spiritual world, sharing his messages in Seventh-day Adventist and secular meetings. A history buff, Mark is an avid supporter of the Spirit of Prophecy and the impact it has on the living faith of Adventist believers. Mark and his wife, Diana, live in New England.



Dr. Jeanie Davis

nutrition

Rudy Davis is a blood analyst and professional body cleanse specialist with a creative streak. Rudy and his wife, Jeanie, hold public health seminars across the country bringing the principles

of health reform to many people

Dr. Rudy Davis

who would otherwise never enter a church.



health



Pastor Victor Gill

A Pastor Victor Gill has officially retired from 20 years of pastoring in various churches across Canada from Newfoundland to BC and years of evangelism across Canada, India, and the Ukraine. However, he continues to minister through evangelism and revival both at home and abroad.



prophecy



Daniel Pel

▲ Born in New Zealand, Daniel has spent most of his life in Europe and travels extensively to present relevant and engaging topics from the Scriptures. Daniel is a keen student of the Bible and specializes in apocalyptic prophecies.



Dan Gabbert

After 25 years of full-time ministry and a Master's degree in Christian Counseling, Dan is currently practicing Biblical Response Therapy® with his wife as mental/spiritual health coaches for the Black Hills Health and Education Center in South Dakota.

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