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FAITH  **ON THE LINE**
DARE TO STAND

SPRING 2016

YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD."

MATTHEW 5:14

Today with over 1.5 billion Muslims in the world the Seventh-day Adventist church is facing its greatest challenge of knowing how to bring the three angels' messages to this people group. What makes this challenge even more difficult is the political view many in the church have adopted. They think of Muslims as the enemy, not worth saving. Yes friends you read it right, there is a large class of so called Seventh-Day Adventists that believe this.

Christian compassion does not discriminate against someone's nationality, race, or even their religious upbringing.

"Ye are the light of the world." Jesus said in Matthew 5:14. The world in this verse implies every living human being, and we should be absorbed with the burden of their salvation. Friend if you believe you are one of those who up to this point has cherished ill feelings for your Muslim neighbor or coworker, it is time for you to repent and be faithful to Christ's great commission of "Go ye into all the world." I hope and pray that you will do this and do it now. *by SHAHBAZ*

NEW FARSI MISSION PROJECT

Amazing Discoveries has started a new Farsi Mission Project spearheaded by Shahbaz. He will be working with farsi-speaking people in the United States, Canada and Europe - reaching out to them in person and via the web and satellite - bringing them the gospel and three angels' messages. Amazing Discoveries is excited about this new project targeting this people group especially since Islam has come to the forefront of the news recently. These sincere people need to know Jesus and the religion of love and brotherly kindness that the Bible teaches. Their god demands of them sacrifices and rituals that make their life burdensome and sometimes even cut it short. How much would they be thrilled to know the lovely Jesus who has sacrificed Himself for them, and who demands only the sacrifices of a broken heart - to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.

Please support this project as we reach out to these people yearning to learn of the love the Master whom we serve. We solicit your prayers for Shahbaz as he reaches out in love to the farsi and arabic speaking people. Please mark your donations "Farsi Project".



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.



S P R I N G
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Reached by this Chosen



In these latter days of the history of God's church, there is to be a revival of primitive godliness and this goal will be reached by this chosen generation. (G.C. 464, 1 Peter 2:9). The Apostle Peter predicted that God's church would be a pure church without spot and blameless (2 Peter 3:14). In the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples were the words: "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." This prayer will be answered when God's church comes together and earnestly prays for the Latter Rain and works in harmony with their prayers. All of Satan's forces will be powerless to defeat God's plan for His Remnant Church as they agonize for the Spirit and power of God to finish the work of warning the world to flee out of Babylon, and to not receive the Mark of the Beast and the plagues of God's wrath (Revelation 14:9-11).

This prayer experience will bring the Latter Rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the Loud Cry of the third angel (Revelation 18:1; EW 271).

Those who refuse to receive the Mark of the Beast will receive the Seal of God which secures their souls for eternity (5T:214).


Today we are preparing for the Seal of God or the Mark of the Beast. The mold is being set by our daily decisions to follow God or in choosing to follow our selfish desires (5T:216).

How we fare in the Sunday law test will determine our destiny.

God's ideal for His children is that they will reflect His image perfectly while living in this sinful world (Col 69). Enoch and Elijah did it even before the cross. That is why they were translated from earth to heaven. They were living in a world more wicked than we have today. The lives of these two saints are a standing rebuke to our generation living in the glorious light of the Cross of Christ. Jesus alluded to this fact when He spoke of John the Baptist's ministry. "He that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he"

Generation

by Roy Davies



(Matthew 11:11). On another occasion He said, "For verily I say unto you, that many prophets and righteous men have desired to see the things that you see, and have not seen them, and to hear the things that you hear and have not heard them" (Matthew 13:17). In point of privilege and responsibility we are more accountable than those that lived in Old Testament times. The church in those times may be likened to the light of the moon compared to the New Testament times that shine with the glory of the sun (Revelation 12:1; Malachi 4:2). They had the wisdom of Solomon to guide the church. We have the wisdom of the Son of God.

"Through the plan of redemption God has provided means for subduing every sinful trait and resisting every temptation however strong. The strongest temptation is no excuse to sin. However great the pressure brought to bear upon the soul, transgression is our own act. It is not in the power of earth or hell to compel anyone to sin. The will must consent, the heart must yield, or passion cannot overbear reason, nor iniquity triumph over righteousness.

If you will stand under the blood stained banner of Prince Emmanuel, faithfully doing His service, you need never yield to temptation; for One stands by your side who is able to keep you from falling. We need not retain one sinful propensity... (Ephesians 2:1-6)."

"As we partake of the Divine Nature, the hereditary and cultivated tendencies to do wrong are cut away from the character and we are made a living power for good. Ever learning of the Divine Teacher, daily partaking of His nature, we co-operate with God in overcoming Satan's temptations. God works and man works. Then we sit together with Christ in heavenly places. The mind rests with peace and assurance in Jesus (Maranatha, p. 225)." AD

***"How we fare in
the Sunday law test will
determine our destiny."***

SUNLIGHT DAMAGE

by Milton Teske, MD

FROM "SECRETS UNSEALED"/THIRD QUARTER 2014 / USED WITH PERMISSION

LAST NIGHT while watching the news I heard a report of a new scientific study out of Israel about the protective effect of sunscreens in the prevention of skin cancer. Mice with their hair shaved and their skin heavily protected with sunscreen and then exposed to ultraviolet light still developed the skin mutations that develop into melanomas.

It's summertime — the time we like to spend at the beach or out by the pool, or working in the garden, or hiking in the mountains — sunlight feels good, increases our serotonin levels, our melatonin levels and our vitamin D levels and gives us a healthy looking suntan.

But that ultraviolet sunlight can damage our skin. The short wavelength UVB releases its energy first damaging the epidermis, the surface layer of cells that make up your skin. The longer wavelength UVA penetrates deeper into the dermis of the skin and does its damage there. For a sunscreen to be effective it must protect against both UVB and UVA — they are both damaging.

But according to this latest study from Israel, even good coverage of the best sunscreens still does not prevent the development of the mutations leading to melanomas. And, who actually uses sunscreens as directed?

First, many sunscreens do not have a high enough SPF rating to give any reasonable protection. But even if you've got one with a high SPF rating, we find that most people only apply about 25% to 50% of the amount used in the actual

SPF testing, so they are not getting the SPF protection listed on the bottle. And, they are not consistently reapplying it during their exposure. And, now we find out that even with good coverage we will still get the mutations.

For several decades, we have been warned about the damaging effects of the sun on the skin and sunscreens are now extensively used by those in the sun. And what are the results of two decades of sunscreen use? Skin cancer has not decreased, it has significantly increased in spite of all the sunscreens. There is even some concern regarding one of the main sunscreen ingredients: PABA (para-amino-benzoic-acid) that it is itself carcinogenic.

★ AN ALTERNATIVE TO SUNSCREENS

There is an alternative line of thinking on this issue: Is it exposure or susceptibility? Is it the deterioration of the American diet and our subsequent increasing susceptibility to cancer that is leading to the increased cancers from our sunlight exposure? There is increasing evidence to say yes.

Every cell in your skin has a cell membrane made of phospholipids made out of fatty acid molecules, and the internal structures of every skin cell are made of these same phospholipid membranes: like the mitochondria, the endoplasmic reticulum, the Golgi bodies, the nuclear membrane. These various cellular structural membranes made of fatty acid molecules are highly susceptible to ultraviolet radiation damage. These membranes need to be protected.

What are we building our cellular membranes out of? Animal fat and refined vegetable oils make up most of the fat content of the American diet. These refined oils are totally depleted of the protective antioxidants found so abundantly in the whole plant foods. And, so this is the material our cells have to work with as they build our skin cells. Vitamin E as well as hundreds more protective antioxidants of various types are removed, and we build membranes with absolutely no protection against oxidative ionizing UV radiation.

So when hit by a photon of sunlight, a fatty acid molecule in the cell wall is oxidized into a highly reactive free radical which spreads its damage by a chain reaction from molecule to molecule. And, it can spread to a DNA molecule in the nucleus creating a mutation.

But, what if the only fat in your diet came from eating an avocado or a walnut or a sunflower seed? Every natural source of fatty acids in the plant world is full of vitamin E as well as hundreds of other protective molecules. So as cell membranes are built up, they are now fully saturated with these protective molecules. So now if a photon of sunlight hits a fatty acid molecule, the very next molecule this free radical bumps into is a vitamin E that acts just like a fire extinguisher totally stopping this destructive chain reaction so that no significant damage is done.

☀️ A TROPICAL FERN



For some reason (I am not sure why), scientists started researching the internally protective effects of a tropical fern called *Polypodium leucotomos*. In the phytochemicals of this fern, there are substances that inhibit matrix metalloproteinases. These are enzymes that breakdown elastin and collagen — important structural components of your skin. So inhibiting these enzymes has a protective effect against the sun's damage.

Extracts from this fern also inhibit ultraviolet light damage to the microfilaments — important structural components inside of the skin cells. They also prevent sunlight-induced mislocation of adhesion points between cells. They also stimulate the production of more elastin and collagen and a substance called TGF-beta that activates a number of important signaling pathways in these skin cells. These extracts also have a powerfully effective protective effect on

fibroblasts — the cells that make collagen and elastin as well as the extra cellular matrix of the skin. Thus, we find natural plant substances that can actually repair sun-damaged skin.

☀️ RED ORANGES

Then, somebody studied red oranges and found anthocyanins, flavanones, hydroxycinnamic acid and many other phytochemicals that had powerful sun protective effects. They inhibited the growth of human cancer cells and inhibited cell death from UVB rays. They had powerful anti-inflammatory effects and were shown to reduce sunburn damage.

And of course now you can buy these fern and red orange extracts as supplements. But, what about the thousands of other plant foods that are also full of all these and similar phytochemicals? Around six hundred to over a thousand phytochemicals are found in almost every fruit studied. We are just beginning to touch the edges of understanding what all these are in there for. But, it seems God has provided an overabundance of solutions to almost everything that a human cell could need. We were designed to live in the light and experience the benefits of serotonin, melatonin and vitamin D. (Sunlight actually stimulates healthy skin growth.) And, the diet our Creator gave us was designed to protect us from any damage from the UV rays.



Today, most foods are refined, depleted and full of toxic carcinogenic compounds and have none of the life-sustaining substances God intended for us to have, and so our cells are very vulnerable and susceptible to damage. The whole plant food diet provided for us from the beginning by our Creator is the best sun protection you can provide to your cells. If the only food you are eating comes the way God made it, you know that it is full of hundreds of different protective molecules, and the cells you are building will have the best resistance possible to the damaging effects of sunlight.

P.S. Do you know what's the best sunscreen? A long sleeved shirt and a broad brimmed hat! **AD**



The

“R”

**YOU
READING THIS
ARTICLE
REPENT!**

What was your gut feeling when you read the sentence above? Were you convicted? Did you have a feeling of disgust? Or felt nothing?

A couple of years ago, I received an e-mail from a sister. By now I have completely forgotten everything in the e-mail except for the last line – “You shall repent!” The reason that sentence sticks in my mind was that I had quite a strong feeling of disgust when I read it. My thought was: “There are so many nice things she could have written to her brothers and sisters in Christ. Why did she have to ask us to repent? After all, she was writing to Christians who have repented, right?” Today, by the grace of our merciful God, I understand why she said so.

John the Baptist started his ministry by saying: “Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 3:2) Our Lord Jesus Himself started His ministry by saying: “Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 4:17) After the Lord’s ascension to heaven, one of His closest disciples Peter was inspired to tell people who want to be

saved: “Repent...” (Acts 2:38) To His end-time church, the Lord says again: “... and repent.” (Revelation 3:19)

Now you might be thinking “I am a Christian. After all, I repented and then became a follower of Christ, did I not?” Have you repented completely? Let us see what our Lord has to say about this:

“We often sorrow because our evil deeds bring unpleasant consequences to ourselves; but this is not repentance. Real sorrow for sin is the result of the working of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit reveals the ingratitude of the heart that has slighted and grieved the Saviour, and brings us in contrition to the foot of the cross. By every sin Jesus is wounded afresh; and as we look upon Him whom we have pierced, we mourn for the sins that have brought anguish upon Him. Such mourning will lead to the renunciation of sin.” (DA 300.3)

Please think carefully: during the past 24 hours, have you sinned? What I am trying to ask is, during the 24 hours just passed, did you have any angry thoughts (Galatians 5:19-21); did you hate anyone in your heart (Matthew 5:21-24); did you eat too much (Philippians 3:18, 19); did you covet anything (Romans 7:7); did you say anything out of selfishness (James 3:6)? I hope you have noticed that what our Lord requires is not only pureness in words and action, but also pureness of heart. (Hebrews 8:10) You might be thinking “This is a hard saying; who can hear it?” (John 6:60) I pray that you who are

“By every sin Jesus is wounded afresh; and as we look upon Him whom we have pierced, we mourn for the sins that have brought anguish upon Him.”

reading this article would not leave the Lord as so many of His disciples did, for our loving God has given us clear promise and hope – “With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26)

You have admitted that you have sinned during the past 24 hours, probably more than once. You see the selfish desires and thoughts in your heart. I believe that you want to be freed from sin – total renunciation of sin. “What shall we do?” The answer is “Repent...” (Acts 2:37, 38) Naturally the next question is: How? The Lord has given us a clear answer: “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus...Him hath God exalted with his right hand... to give repentance to Israel...” (Acts 5:30, 31) It is the Lord Jesus who gives us repentance. So what can we do other than praying constantly for a repenting heart? Through Paul God says: “...not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?” (Romans 2:4) Not wisdom, not power,

Word

BY YI ZHANG

not justice, but the “goodness” of God leads us to repentance. Then, how do we know and experience the goodness of God?

Let us read again the word from the pen of Inspiration “Real sorrow for sin is the result of the working of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit reveals the ingratitude of the heart that has slighted and grieved the Saviour, and brings us in contrition to the foot of the cross. By every sin Jesus is wounded afresh; and as we look upon Him whom we have pierced, we mourn for the sins that have brought anguish upon Him. Such mourning will lead to the renunciation of sin.” (DA 300.3)

First of all, the work of repentance is the working of the Holy Spirit. He “reveals the ingratitude of the heart that has slighted and grieved the Saviour,

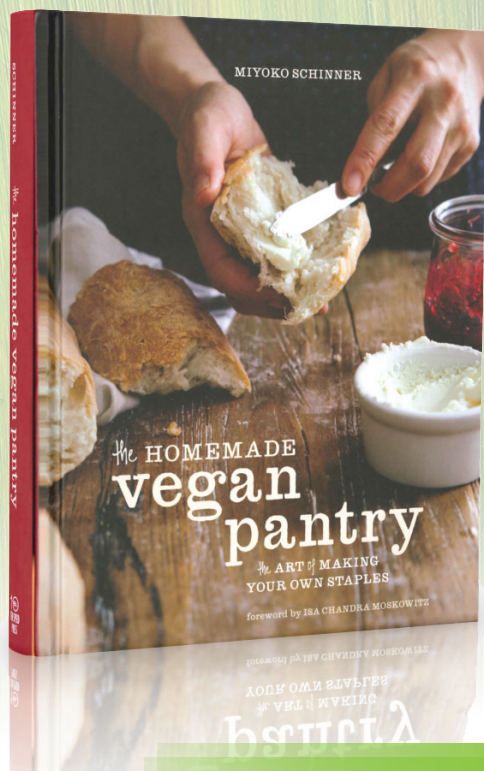
and brings us in contrition to the foot of the cross.” Do you know that the Lord died for you? You might think “Isn’t that the most fundamental fact known to every Christian?” But the Lord says: “Such mourning will lead to the renunciation of sin.” Remember the sins you committed during the past 24 hours? OK, ask yourself again: Do I know that the Lord died for me?

The Lords says “By every sin Jesus is wounded afresh; and as we look upon Him whom we have pierced, we mourn for the sins that have brought anguish upon Him. Such mourning will lead to the renunciation of sin.” To give you an example, think about the closest person of yours in the world – maybe your son or daughter, maybe your parent, maybe your lover, maybe your friend. Now imagine if someone will stab this

person every time you sin, would you sin as easily as you do now? I think you have seen my point – the relationship between us and our Lord must surpass our closest earthly relationship. Then as a result, we would be able to have full repentance and renunciation of sin. This is the reason why the Lord said: “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” (Matthew 10:37) He does not intend to compete for our love against our family and friends. But He knows that if we do not place Him always in the first place, we would not be able to be completely free from sin, whose penalty is eternal death and separation from our loved ones. Some people “suppose that in refusing to obey God they are insuring the peace and prosperity of the home; but this is a delusion. Those who sow selfishness will reap selfishness. In rejecting the love of Christ they reject that which alone can impart purity and steadfastness to human love. They will not only lose heaven, but will fail of the true enjoyment of that for which heaven was sacrificed.” (COL 225.1)

Now you may ask “How could I have such a close relationship with the Lord?” In other words, “How do I see and experience the goodness of the Lord?” “Jesus has said: ‘And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.’ (John 12:32) Christ must be revealed to the sinner as the Saviour dying for the sins of the world; and as we behold the Lamb of God





US\$ 22.99

**Schinner:
The Homemade
Vegan Pantry**

Everyone wants a fresher, healthier, more natural approach to eating and living. Now, vegans who are tired of buying over-processed, over-packaged products can finally stock their kitchens with delectable, wholesome, homemade staples and specialty foods. Studded with full-color photos, The Homemade Vegan Pantry celebrates hand-made foods that save you money and don't take a ton of time to make, from dairy-free goodies and meat substitutes such as vegan yogurt, butter, mayo, bacon, and cheese, to mustards, dressings, pancake mix, crackers, pasta sauces, pizza dough, cookies, and more. Miyoko Schinner's easy methods make "slow food" fast and full of flavor, for anyone who wants to enjoy the pleasures of making their own handcrafted food.

upon the cross of Calvary, the mystery of redemption begins to unfold to our minds and the goodness of God leads us to repentance. In dying for sinners, Christ manifested a love that is incomprehensible; and as the sinner beholds this love, it softens the heart, impresses the mind, and inspires contrition in the soul." (SC 26.4)

That's right! What we can do is to "behold the Lamb of God upon the cross of Calvary." So other than Bible study, praying, Christian fellowship and intentionally seeking God's refreshing from nature, is there any other way to "behold the Lamb of God"? Thanks be to the Lord that He has given us clear and practical answer: "It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit. If we would be saved at last, we must learn the lesson

of penitence and humiliation at the foot of the cross." (83.4) Your reaction might be similar to mine: "What? One hour each day to contemplate the life of Christ? That is way too much! I read the Bible and pray every single day. And I go to Bible studies three times a week. There's a lot of God's work waiting for me to be done..." One has said "Do not forget 'the Lord of the work' because of 'the work of the Lord.'" After all, this is the method appointed by

Jesus Himself, right?

In addition to contemplation, the Lord has another merciful revelation: "We cannot by searching find out God, but He has revealed Himself in His son, who is the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of His person. If we desire a knowledge of God we must be Christlike... Living a pure life through faith in Christ as a personal Saviour will bring to the believer a clearer, higher conception of God... The qualities that it is essential for all to possess in order to know God are those that mark the completeness of Christ's character – His love, His pa-

tience, His unselfishness. These attributes are cultivated by doing kind actions with a kindly heart." (TMK 9.2 & 9.5) This is also God's appointed way for us to know Him.

**"As we thus dwell
upon His great
sacrifice for us,
our confidence in
Him will be more
constant, our love
will be quickened,
and we shall be
more deeply
imbued with
His spirit."**

My dearest brother and sister, I pray that this article could help you get closer to our compassionate, merciful, loving, holy, just, faithful, tender, considerate, thoughtful, meek, kind, humble and good Lord Jesus Christ. Let us pick up the heavenly weapons so we can "cast down imaginations,

and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (2nd Corinthians 10:5) "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26) **AD**



Are All Muslims Dangerous?

BY SHAHBAZ

One question I am often confronted with whenever on the road is, “are all Muslims dangerous?” These days it seems everyone is confronted with that question. After all, in North America alone there are an estimated 12 million Muslims. People everywhere are filled with horror as they watch the news coverage of fanatical Muslims blowing themselves up at airports, on trains, and on the streets of major western cities like Paris. So, are all Muslims dangerous?

The answer to that question really depends on the Islamic thermometer of your Muslim coworker or neighbor. One way to determine if they have been radicalized is if they are or have become serious about their Islamic faith. Do they adhere to the letter of their law, the Koran? Fortunately the vast majority of Muslims are just nominal believers. That means they are not interested in the politics of Islam or its religious tenets. They accept their Islamic heritage by birth, but they choose to continue life just as if they were born outside of Islam. They are more interested in having a good time, and a good job than wearing explosives around their body and blowing themselves up.

So then as long as the majority of Muslims remain nominal we have very little to be concerned with. Or do we? The probability of all nominal Muslims simultaneously becoming radicalized is probably an impossibility. In fact today, many Muslims are questioning their own faith, wondering if they haven't been wrong about their religion due to the violence they are seeing being committed by the Islamic group called ISIS. I am sure that some nominal Muslims will probably have a change of heart and possibly become radicalized. But for the most part, the vast majority of Muslims will continue to be just nominal as always. But history has shown us that even a few radicalized people can

cause much grief and distress.

In one of his recent articles, evangelical pastor, Dr. Hormoz Shariat, also considered an authority on the subject, wrote; “Contrary to what many people believe, the main emphasis of ISIS online and around the world in Islamic Centers is not to promote itself; the main emphasis of ISIS is to call all Muslims to be serious in their Islamic faith.”

A Muslim who has become serious about their faith faces the biggest challenge of their life, and that is what to do with the “divine” directives which are written in the Koran calling all faithful and true Muslims to take up arms and fight what Islam considers to be “infidels”—to fight a “holy war”, a jihad against western ideology and practices, against what they consider to be apostate Christianity and Judaism. (An infidel in the Islamic definition is anyone who is not a practicing Muslim or opposed to Islam, its prophet, and its teachings.)

So, are all Muslims dangerous? For the most part no! Most Muslims, the great majority of them are not interested in war and bloodshed. That thought doesn't even cross their mind. In fact most Muslims believe Christians worship Allah, even though they think Christians have an imperfect view of Allah. But they are satisfied by it. Law enforcement agencies that keep tabs on extremists estimate that the number of rabid fundamentalists in Muslim countries is about 6% of a given Muslim population. Friends in closing I want to plead with you not to be in fear of your Muslim neighbors, and coworkers. What you and I should be doing is to pray and look for opportunities to reach out to these dear people and introduce them to our best Friend Jesus Christ. Remember that “perfect love casteth out fear.” **AD**

Solemn Prep

Daniel 8:14: *“And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.”*

Psalms 96:6 *“Honour and majesty are before Him: strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.”*

As presented in the Word of God, the plan of redemption is most beautiful. John 3:16 tells us how God was willing to give up everything for our salvation. Heaven is all about giving! “The greatness of the plan cannot be fully comprehended, nor could infinite Wisdom devise a plan that would surpass it.”¹ This is because God gave His own life. What more or greater thing could He do? He has devised the greatest plan to save humanity. Oh, how much He loves us though sinful and undeserving we are! In this study it is the earnest prayer of the author that we find courage and strength to enter into an experience that is most needed for these last days.

The prophet Isaiah declares that with our sins we cannot see or approach God. Isaiah 59:2 says, “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you that He will not hear.” Sin can never exist in the presence of God or where God reigns. And the glory of God, like a consuming fire that destroys sin, also destroys anything attached to it. Proverbs 6:27, 28 says, “Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?” We are preserved alive because Christ was made sin for us! (See 2 Corinthians 5:21.) To help us escape God’s wrath, separate from sin, and get ready to stand at the second coming of Jesus, **the sanctuary message is given. It reveals God’s love and desire to save the sinner without saving sin; to destroy sin without destroying the sinner.** How can a sinner become a righteous person, or gain victory over sin? This is the hardest work! But, God took this task upon Himself, having loved us with an everlasting love.

The first time we are introduced to the sanctuary is in Exodus 25:8, 9: “And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell



among them. According to all that I show thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.” Here God commanded Moses to make it exactly like the one He was going to show him. So, where is this original one? Hebrews 8:5 tells us that the earthly tabernacle serves as an “example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: “for, See, saith He, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount.” So, the original one is the heavenly. It existed before the earthly one and is in active service, for Hebrews 8:1, 2 and 9:24 say: “We have such a high priest,

Sanctuary

BY BEUNET MERIED, MEDICAL EVANGELIST



who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.” “For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.” At the death of Jesus the veil of the earthly temple “was rent in twain from the top to the bottom” (Matthew 27:51). Then the service of the earthly sanctuary came to an end. People no longer need to make animal sacrifices “for even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us” (1 Corinthians 5:7). The heavenly sanctuary is the true and active one, but the earthly was a shadow, figure, or a

“The sanctuary message... reveals God’s love and desire to save the sinner without saving sin; to destroy sin without destroying the sinner.”

pattern and was given to help God’s people receive practical lessons of their redemption story. In fact, an Israelite could learn the plan of redemption within one year: The whole service of the earthly sanctuary was completed yearly by the day of atonement.

The earthly sanctuary had three parts: the outer court, the holy place, and the most holy place. And the heavenly has the two: the holy place and the most holy place. As we shall see, this earth is the court of the heavenly sanctuary. Every Israelite had the privilege to come to the sanctuary and be made clean, freed from sin. “The ministration of the **earthly sanctuary** consisted of two divisions; the priests ministered **daily in the holy place**, while once a year the high priest performed a special work of atonement **in the most holy**, for the cleansing of the sanctuary.”² The two divisions are 1) the daily, and 2) the yearly. Now, let’s discuss the daily ministration and see if there is anything in heaven, in the perfect place, that needs to be cleansed.

In the court the repentant sinner’s sacrifice was offered. This was done as often as the sinner needed to confess and repent of his sins. “Without shedding of blood is no remission.” “The life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.” Hebrews 9:22; Leviticus 17:11. No one could be cleansed from sin unless he had a surety or substitute; someone who could make an atonement for his sins. So, the sinner brought an innocent lamb, without blemish or any defilement. The sinner was to “lay his hand upon the head of the sin offering, and slay it for a sin offering in the place where they kill the burnt offering” (Leviticus 4:33). Here the sinner is **figuratively** transferring his own sins upon the lamb to be slain. And he is the one to kill it, signifying that his own sins killed an innocent life. Then all the sins of the penitent were, through the blood, transferred to the sanctuary. The service resulted in the blessing of forgiveness. “The priest



shall make an atonement” for the sinner “for his sin that he hath committed, and it shall be forgiven him” (Leviticus 4:35).

John the Baptist pointed to Jesus and said, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Isaiah foretold about Jesus as the Lamb of God. (See Isaiah 53:5, 7.) The Lamb signified Jesus Who was sacrificed for the sins of the whole world. Paul declares: “. . . For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us” (1 Corinthians 5:7). It is not only the lamb but also the priest (and the high priest) that represent Jesus. Our Passover, Christ, was sacrificed on the cross of Calvary here on earth. So, the outer court represents the earth. There never was a court in heaven (see Rev. 11:2). **This earth, where the true sacrifice was offered on Calvary, is the court of the heavenly sanctuary.** All of us are sinners who caused the death of Christ on Calvary. And the blood of the Lamb is life for us. Jesus said, “I am the life” (John 14:6).

In the earthly service all the sins of the penitent ones were, through the blood of the lamb, transferred to the sanctuary. The sins polluted the sanctuary, thus making it necessary for its cleansing. Similarly, the heavenly sanctuary has become polluted: the sins of every penitent person, through the blood of Jesus, the true Lamb of God, are continually transferred to it.

“In Hebrews 9 the cleansing of both the earthly and the heavenly sanctuary is plainly taught: ‘Almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these [the blood of animals]; **but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these,**’ [Hebrews 9:22, 23.] **even the precious blood of Christ.**”³ The cleansing of both the earthly and the heavenly must be accomplished with blood. The former, with blood of animals, the latter with the blood of Jesus. The reason why it must be performed with blood is because “without shedding of blood is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22). The cleansing day is also called the day of atonement. It is done by the high priest in the most holy place of the sanctuary.

On the day of atonement of the earthly sanctuary, before the high priest enters the most holy, two goats were brought before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle, and lots were cast upon them, “one lot for the Lord, and the other lot for the scape-goat” (Leviticus 16:8, 21, 22). The goat upon which

the Lord’s lot fell was offered as a sin offering for the people. The priest would take his blood **into the most holy** and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. The blood was also sprinkled upon the altar of incense. On this day the people searched their hearts, investigated themselves and prepared their lives for the blotting out of their sins, **figuratively**. (See Leviticus 16:29-31.) “And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness; and the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited” (Leviticus 16:21, 22). It was done once a year, but brought the sinner to make the final decision (see Leviticus 23:29). In that day the people were judged according to the things they had done. That means it was a day of judgment, investigative judgment. Those who didn’t confess and repent were cut off from Israel, signifying that one day, when Jesus comes, those who will not be separate from sin will be cut off from the congregation of God’s people.

The goat that was sacrificed on the day of atonement, represents Jesus’ sacrifice for us. The live goat represents the devil, who will take the responsibility of all the sins of the penitent ones and will bear them into the wilderness for

1,000 years till he is thrown into the lake of fire. (Study Revelation 20.) “In like manner, when the work of atonement in the heavenly sanctuary has been completed, then in the presence of God and heavenly angels, and the host of the redeemed, the sins of God’s people will be placed upon Satan; he will be declared guilty of all the evil which he has caused them to commit. And as the scape-goat was sent away into a land not inhabited, so Satan will be banished to the desolate earth, an uninhabited and dreary wilderness.”⁴ This is the way the sanctuary is cleansed. All the sins are

removed from it.

This yearly ministration carries our mind forward to the closing events of the great controversy between Christ and Satan, the final purification of the universe from sin and sinners.⁵

And how can we tell when Christ’s final ministration or the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary began?

Daniel 8:14 says: “Unto two thousand and three hundred



days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” In Daniel 8:26, 27 it says: “And **the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true**: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for **many days**. And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days... and I was astonished at the vision, but **none understood it**.” The vision is true as the heavenly sanctuary is true and not figurative. In chapter 9:21-27, the angel Gabriel was sent to make him understand the vision. The only thing that Daniel did not understand from the previous chapters was Daniel 8:14, the cleansing of the sanctuary. The angel told him that the beginning of the 2300 days would be “from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem” (Daniel 9:25). Also, the 70 weeks of probation for the nation of Israel was an additional revelation to Daniel. Seventy weeks equals 490 days. History tells us in autumn 457 BC the decree was made to restore and to build Jerusalem. Many events were to be fulfilled in this 70 weeks. And, **all the events of Daniel 9:24-27 were fulfilled in 490 years**. The Bible teaches that a day in prophecy stands for a year (see Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6).⁶ The 70 weeks were cut off from the vision of the 2300 days. That means, the 2300 days began with the 70 weeks and must end in AD 1844. “Thus those who followed in the light of the prophetic word saw, that, instead of coming to the earth at the termination of the 2300 days in 1844, Christ then entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, to perform the closing work of atonement, preparatory to his coming.”⁷ The 2300 days, which is 2300 years in reality, brings us to autumn AD 1844. At that very time, the throne of God moved from the holy place to the most holy place. (For how the throne moves, study Daniel 7:9, 10; Ezekiel chapters 1 and 10; Psalm 68:24.) In AD 1844, Christ’s work in the holy place was completed, and His **final ministry**, as our high priest in the most holy place, began. This is the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary, the removal and blotting out of sins from the sanctuary. Daniel 7:9, 10 tells us that “... **the judgment was set, and the books were opened**,” right before God’s throne. This investigative judgment occurs with the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary, prior to Christ’s second coming and His final executive judgment pronounced upon sin and sinners. The Bible tells us that the throne of God is in the sanctuary and that God’s judgment occurs there. (See Jeremiah 17:12, Isaiah 6:1, Psalms 9:4, 7.)

The work being performed in the most holy of the heavenly sanctuary is to complete the ministration of Jesus as our high priest. So, as in that day when the children of Israel humbled their hearts and examined themselves, in our day of atonement we are called to humble our hearts before God, examine

ourselves, confess our sins and repent. When Christ leaves the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, the door of mercy will be closed forever. No prayers offered, no tears shed, or anything else can bring salvation. At that time, the seven last plagues will fall on those who have not humbled themselves before the Almighty God (study Revelation 15).

Dear reader, Jesus says: “Come unto Me” (Matthew 11:28). “Let us therefore come boldly unto the **throne of grace**, that we may obtain **mercy**, and find **grace** to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). This is the highest experience—to be before the merciful throne of God! Psalm 20:2 says, “Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion.” Our help comes from the sanctuary above. The Bible says: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). A great time of trouble is coming soon! Jesus, Who is the second person of the Godhead, is told to be our Helper and Defender in the time of trouble. He is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). Psalm 77:13 says: “Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?” Isaiah declares, “Open ye the gates, that the

**“Let us therefore come boldly
unto the throne of grace, that
we may obtain mercy, and find
grace to help in time of need”**

righteous nation which **keepeth the truth** may enter in.” May the Lord help us to find Jesus, Who is our Way, Truth, and Life, so we can enter the gates of heaven. At last, made free from sin, we can see God! (Remember Isaiah 59:1, 2?)

Finally, “In place of wrapping about us the garments of self-righteousness, we should be found daily humbling ourselves before God, confessing our own individual sins, seeking the pardon of our transgressions, and cooperating with Christ in the work of **preparing our souls** to reflect the divine image. Unless we enter the sanctuary above, and unite with Christ in working out our own salvation with fear and trembling, we shall be weighed in **the balances of the sanctuary**, and shall be pronounced wanting.”⁸ **AD**

1 Ellen G. White, *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* (Hagerstown, Md.: Review and Herald, 1957), 7-A: {5BC 1133.4}

2 Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan During the Christian Dispensation* (Oakland, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1888), p. 417.

3 *Ibid.*, p. 417.

4 *Ibid.*, p. 657.

5 See Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1917), p. 684.

6 *Ibid.*, p. 698.

7 Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy* (1888), p. 422.

8 Ellen G. White, *Seventh-day Adventist Commentary*, 7-A: 933.

The Manifestation

Part 1 of 5

“This book is the hardest one in the Bible to understand, I don’t think anyone completely understands it,” concludes Elaine Pagels,¹ one of the world’s leading Bible scholars. The hard-to-understand book Pagels means begins with the three Greek words Αποκαλυψις Ιησους Χριστος, transliterated, “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.” This book, by the way, is the only one in the Bible that promises a blessing to those who read it. Hardest to understand for an accomplished scholar and the only book that boldly promises a blessing to its readers? If this is true, how can we read it so that its blessings will be unlocked?

The first step to solving this riddle is to understand the literary structure of the book. Revelation is a prophetic book embracing the entire age of the Christian dispensation: starting in the time when Jesus revealed Himself to the Apostle John, down to the last age when the Lord returns and heaven and earth will be completely restored. Let us now postulate that if this book is indeed the Revelation of Jesus Christ, and if there is a blessing promised to the reader, then even a child should be able to understand it.

The “apokalypsis,” meaning the uncovering, unveiling or manifestation² of Jesus Christ is arranged in what scholars call a chiasmus or chiasm.³ These terms stem from the X-shaped Greek letter chi to denote a form of inverted parallelism. A chiasm can appear in poetry or prose and can include a single verse, an entire passage, or a more extended section. Chiasm is also referred to as ring structure, because the opening and closing of a chiasm can be viewed as completing a circle. Once one realizes that Revelation is arranged in chiastic text elements, there is certainly more than one way of drawing the lines exactly and thus defining the beginning and end for those elements.

Five Chiastic Rings

At a high level, there are four distinct elements that can be mirror-imaged onto each other, and a fifth segment that is

imaged onto itself. The fifth segment provides the imaging plane for the entire chiasm: A, B, C, D, E, D’, C’, B’, A’, with “E” providing the imaging plane here. Picture a mirror on a table with four wooden letters standing in single-file in front of the mirror. The letter D stands closest to the mirror, C stands in front of D, B in front of C and A stands in front of B, farthest from the mirror. The mirror is the letter E. Each of the first four letters has a corresponding image in the mirror. Each one of the chiastic rings can be assigned a theme, i.e., a simple topic that briefly describes what the segment is about. If we read through the entire book of Revelation and then discover what

those five themes are, we will get a surprising picture of the overall dual message of this book that not only reveals a most important message from Jesus Christ but truly manifests

The “apokalypsis,” meaning the uncovering, unveiling or manifestation of Jesus Christ is arranged in what scholars call a chiasmus or chiasm.



on of Jesus Christ

by Michael E Fassbender

saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Ring A':

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen (Revelation 22: 18-21).

What do these two elements **A** and **A'** tell us, the blessed readers, about the last book of the Bible? Here is an analogy. In the manufacturing business there is a QA/QC (quality assurance/quality control) unit, and the people who work in this unit make sure that manufacturing process procedures are meticulously followed, that every step is carefully documented and all the raw materials and ingredients have a defined, traceable source or origin. This is obviously important to sustain a reliable product with a consistently high quality to the benefit of customers and consumers.

Likewise, the words of Revelation have a defined origin and a well-traceable line of propagation and forwarding: handed down from God the Father to the Son Jesus Christ:

For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak (John 12:49).

From the Son, the Word is entrusted to the angel, then to John, and finally from John to the churches. It is then the responsibility of the churches and their members to pass the information on to all people on the earth. This line of information relay ensures that the Word of God is trustworthy, dependable, pure, and as such a true blessing to all who hear it and put it to practice: "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him" (Proverbs 30:5).

Jesus Christ Himself. It is interesting to note that John also uses a five-ring structure 4 in his Gospel (John 7:53 – 8:11).

Let's now look at Revelation Chapter 1 to identify theme **A/A'**. If we read Revelation 1:1-3 and then immediately skip to Revelation 22:18-21, there seems to be a seamless transition from Revelation 1:3 to Revelation 22:18, just as if all Scripture in-between did not exist. We can therefore assume the first chiastic ring to be opened by the "header" Revelation 1:1-3 (**A**) and closed by the "footer" Revelation 22:18-21 (**A'**). Likewise, the words of Revelation do have a defined origin and a well-traceable line of propagation and forwarding: handed down from God the Father to the Son Jesus Christ:

Ring A of the chiasm, Revelation 1-3:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he

Indeed, the blessing comes from the purity of God's Word, from God's reliability, His trustworthiness. For the true end-time church this means that even when everything else will break, the Word of God will stand out in its integrity. Regardless of how many lies and how much corruption prevails, God's Word can be trusted and will stand true and unaltered.

John received the message that "the time is at hand" (Revelation 1:3). Some people try to discredit Revelation because they argue that things haven't come to pass, even after 2000 years. What they fail to recognize is that the words of Revelation did not only come into effect in the 21st century; they already became relevant in the times of the Apostle John. Verse 11 states, "What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia." Those churches were present-day churches at that time, and the messages of John were simple, pastoral letters. Jesus cared for the contemporary churches; we have to bear this in mind. But we must not forget that Revelation is even more relevant in our times, roughly 2000 years after John recorded all the words and visions he received from the Lord.

God Himself has been the guard and protector of His Word. He signified it (Revelation 1:1), testifies of it (22:20) and will not let anyone go unpunished who attempts to tamper with it or alter it (Revelation 22:18,19). Why is this stern enforcement so important?

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus (Revelation 22:20).

The answer is, Jesus will come back. In the book of Revelation, Jesus Himself equips the Christian church with all the information it needs to escape deception and to prepare all those "that love his appearing." Since His church has to fight the battle of the great controversy between good and evil, the Book of Revelation provides us with the intelligence, the vital information, to win the spiritual war; it clearly identifies the Remnant Church on one side and the forces of evil, the dragon, Babylon and the beasts, on the other side. And all who look forward to the coming of Jesus Christ will join in with John to say, "Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" How many Christians close their prayers with these words?

I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. (Ecclesiastes 3:14).

Willing or not, ready or not, every human being on earth will be drawn into spiritual warfare, and God's truth, passed to His church through Revelation, will be the decisive foreknowledge or intelligence, that will help us to survive and win the great controversy.

This is exactly what will happen when Jesus comes. God will act with eternal consequences, and men will lose total control over things. The dominion will be taken away from men, because men will not let go of rebellion and sin. Men will finally be stopped and prevented from making any more changes; they won't be able to vote God out of office or start a military campaign against the hosts of heaven. Men will have no more power left; Satan will finally be exposed before the universe as a ridiculous thug and criminal, and Satan's New World Order, under the dictatorship of the Man of Sin, will be broken "as the breaking of the potters' vessel that is broken in pieces."

Wisdom and Understanding for God's Church

Now the reason the enlightened prince and the wise general conquer the enemy whenever they move and their achievements surpass those of ordinary men is foreknowledge.⁵

Willing or not, ready or not, every human being on earth will be drawn into spiritual warfare, and God's truth, passed to His church through Revelation, will be the decisive foreknowledge or intelligence, that will help us to survive and win the great controversy. God wants His church to spiritually grow beyond simply being a collection of ordinary men, women and children. Drawing from typology gives us insight. The coming of Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of the possession of Canaan (Strong's numbers and meanings in parentheses):

Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes (=H2706, prescribed task, portion) and unto the judgments (=H4941, act of deciding a case), which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers giveth you (Deuteronomy 4:1).

The underlying word for "statutes" (Strong's H2706) here can also mean "prescribed task" or "portion," and it is also used in other instances, like:

And the officers of the children of Israel, which Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten, and demanded, Wherefore have ye not fulfilled your task (H2706) in making brick both yesterday and to day, as heretofore? (Exodus 5:14)

Only the land of the priests bought he not; for the priests

had a portion (H2706) assigned them of Pharaoh, and did eat their portion which Pharaoh gave them: wherefore they sold not their lands (Genesis 47:22, emphasis supplied).

This leads us to conclude that prior to their entering into the Promised Land, God was teaching Israel to pay particular attention to two things for the simple purpose that they may live, that is, for staying alive. They were told to “hearken unto:”

- (1) their prescribed task & portion, and
- (2) to make the right decisions.

And then follows the same solemn admonition to keep God’s Word pure and trustworthy, and a penalty for transgressing:

*Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you. [...] Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is **your wisdom and your understanding** in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people (Deuteronomy 4:2.5.6, emphasis supplied).*

Our task or portion prescribed by God, our mission, our function and place in the end-time game defines our identity. God’s statutes and judgments together become our wisdom and our understanding in the sight of the nations. God’s goal for the Adventist church is that the nations should say, “Surely this great church is a wise and understanding people.” Have we attained this goal yet; are we there? If not, what is the problem?

*For what nation (what church) is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation (church) is there so great, that hath **statutes and judgments** so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? (Deuteronomy 4:7.8, emphasis supplied).*

In a typical sense, this great nation is the end-time Christian church; this is about you and me. Where is our wisdom? Do we just parrot what we hear from the world around us, or do we take advantage of the statutes and judgments God offered to us? And then Moses repeats in Deuteronomy 12:32, “What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.”

From Malachi 4:4, it is obvious that the law, statutes and judgments will play an important role just prior to the coming of Jesus, and the antitypical “Elijah” will be sent to proclaim it:

*Remember ye the **law** of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the **statutes and judgments**. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord” (emphasis supplied).*

Matthew Henry likens the Apostle John to the prophet Daniel. Now, Daniel and his friends caught the attention of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia. In Daniel 1:20, we read:

And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm (emphasis supplied).

In a typical sense, this great nation is the end-time Christian church; this is about you and me. Where is our wisdom? Do we just parrot what we hear from the world around us, or do we take advantage of the statutes and judgments God offered to us?

Here we have similar wording to Deuteronomy 4:6: God expects His children and ambassadors to outshine the rest of the world. That’s a high expectation! Where did Daniel get this understanding from? And where do we get it from? The Spirit of Prophecy explains:

Daniel and his associates had been trained by their parents to habits of strict temperance.[...]

*No power, no influence, could sway them from the **principles** they had learned in early life by a study of **the word and works of God** (PK 482, emphasis supplied).*

It was the pure Word of God, the statutes and judgments they had learned, that equipped Daniel and his friends so that they could be a blessing in the court of the world’s greatest monarch at that time. The experiences of Daniel and his friends have a typological application for the end-time church.

The Trustworthiness of God’s Word

The words in the book of Revelation are God’s own words, and Revelation contains direct information from On High. And again, the blessing of this book is this: The Book of Revelation assigns the prescribed task to the Christian church; the role we, as members of His church, play in the grand scheme of historical events. It also teaches God’s judgment, divine discernment, so that we understand what is going to

happen; so that we are always ahead of the end-time game. That's where God wants us to be and He promised to give us the tools to get there. That's the great reality of being part of the church, it makes us more significant than the richest and most powerful people on earth combined. And that's the great news we should pass to our children on their own journey through life.

Matthew Henry⁷ comments on Revelation 22:18-20:

He that adds to the word of God draws down upon himself all the plagues written in this book; and he who takes any thing away from it cuts himself off from all the promises and privileges of it. This sanction is like a flaming sword, to guard the canon of the scripture from profane hands. Such a fence as this God set about the law (Deuteronomy 4:2), and the whole Old Testament (Malachi 4:4), and now in the most solemn manner about the whole Bible, assuring us that it is a book of the most sacred nature, divine authority, and of the last importance, and therefore the peculiar care of the great God.

In this sense, it is no coincidence that inspiration determined the Book of Revelation to be the last book of the canon. The word of God is trustworthy. This is the message of the outer chiastic ring of Revelation, denoted **A, A'** (see Figure).

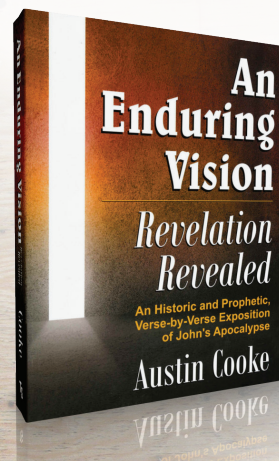
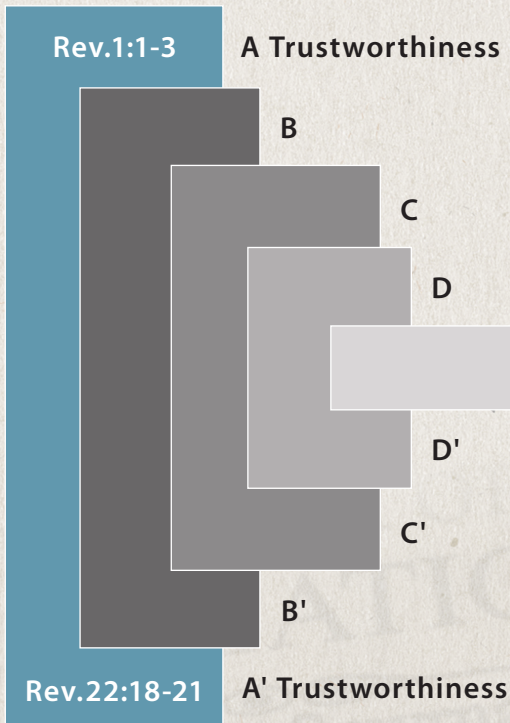
Like a shell, God's assurance of trustworthiness encloses the rest of the message of this book. God's statutes and judgments are our wisdom and understanding; like Daniel and his friends, this wisdom and understanding will enable us to surpass the wisdom of the astrologers of our time, so that we will be equipped for powerful witnessing. Is there a better preface or postlude to this important prophetic book? Now that God established the trustworthiness of His Word, we can read on and move to the next chiastic ring. **AD**

To be continued in future issues

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- 1 John Blake, CNN, "4 big myths of Book of Revelation", <http://religion.blogs.cnn.com/2012/03/31/four-big-myths-about-the-book-of-revelation/> (accessed 12/14/2015).
- 2 In Rom 8:19 (KJV) the underlying Greek word for manifestation is "apokalypsis" (Strong's G602), the exact same word as in Rev 1:1.
- 3 Literary Forms in the New Testament: A Handbook, page 178, By James L. Bailey, available on books.google.com (accessed 12/11/2015).
- 4 "Larger Chiastic Patterns in John", <http://nazaroo.blogspot.com/2015/02/the-internal-evidence-for-john-753-811.html> (accessed 12/16/2015).
- 5 Sun Tzu, The Art of War (New York: Oxford University Press, 1963), 144.
- 6 "Intelligence in War: It Can Be Decisive", https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/csi-publications/csi-studies/studies/vol50no2/html_files/Intelligence_War_2.htm (accessed 12/21/2015)
- 7 "Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible (Complete)", <http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/> (accessed 12/15/2015).

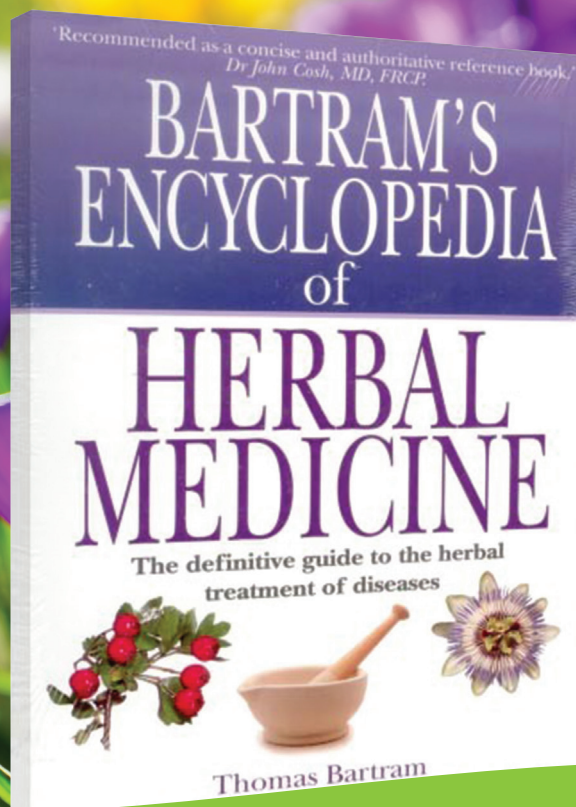
The Outer Chiastic Ring of Revelation



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Activated

Charcoal

Powder

Activated
Charcoal
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Report: W in the Czeo

From March 3-9, 2015 Walter Veith conducted an evangelistic campaign in Brno, a city in the district of Moravia near the center of the Czech Republic.

The evangelistic series was advertised throughout the city and to our surprise, more than 50% of the hall was filled up with young people attending the meeting. Approximately 350 young people attended every night and by the end of the series, we had numerous people asking for Bible studies.

The final outcome was 40 people presently engaged in Bible studies with local church and AD supporters. It was such a blessing to see so many interested to know the truth in this secular country. The Adventists that helped make these meetings possible were blessed and encouraged to see the response. The new fledgling AD branch in the Czech Republic has made an impact in that country, and God will continue to bless them as they work for the salvation of souls in the Czech and Slovak languages.

A Special Sabbath

On Sabbath, March 5, the six churches in the town of Frydek Mistek closed so that all the members could attend the rented hall where Walter Veith was to speak for the day to encourage the believers. The hall held 650 people but was filled beyond capacity with 100 extra chairs set out, overflow rooms filled, and people even sitting on the steps of the auditorium to hear the messages. In the end, the count came to almost 800 people. Walter Veith presented "From Crete to Malta"

and the message was received with gladness and solemnity.

The highlight of the day was when the coordinators asked who among the members was acquainted with and had been blessed by Walter Veith's ministry. About 75% of the audience stood, and when asked who out of those standing had been led by Walter's ministry to either become an SDA or renew their commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist church, more than 100 people poured onto the stage to give their testimony. These people had either been baptized through Pastor Veith's ministry or had renewed their faltering faith as a result of it. Many of these were young people. We were moved to tears at the sight of so many people who had heard the messages of Amazing Discoveries unbeknownst to us even though we had never put anything out in the Czech language. It was God who was using the messages to reach these people and inspiring volunteer translators to translate Walter's videos into the Czech language. We are so thankful for these dear people who have spent so many hours as missionaries to translate into the messages into their native language so others may hear.

God is looking for people in every nation today – people who are searching and crying out for light. Do not give up praying for miracles in these last days. The Lord is coming soon, and He will finish the work, for He is working in every nation, bringing people to find the truth through the internet, satellite, and through the sharing and witnessing of evangelistically-minded people like you. We thank you for your continuing support of our ministry. **AD**



Walter Veith Czech Republic



Joel Kratzke - available for evangelism in your area.

Please call for further
information.

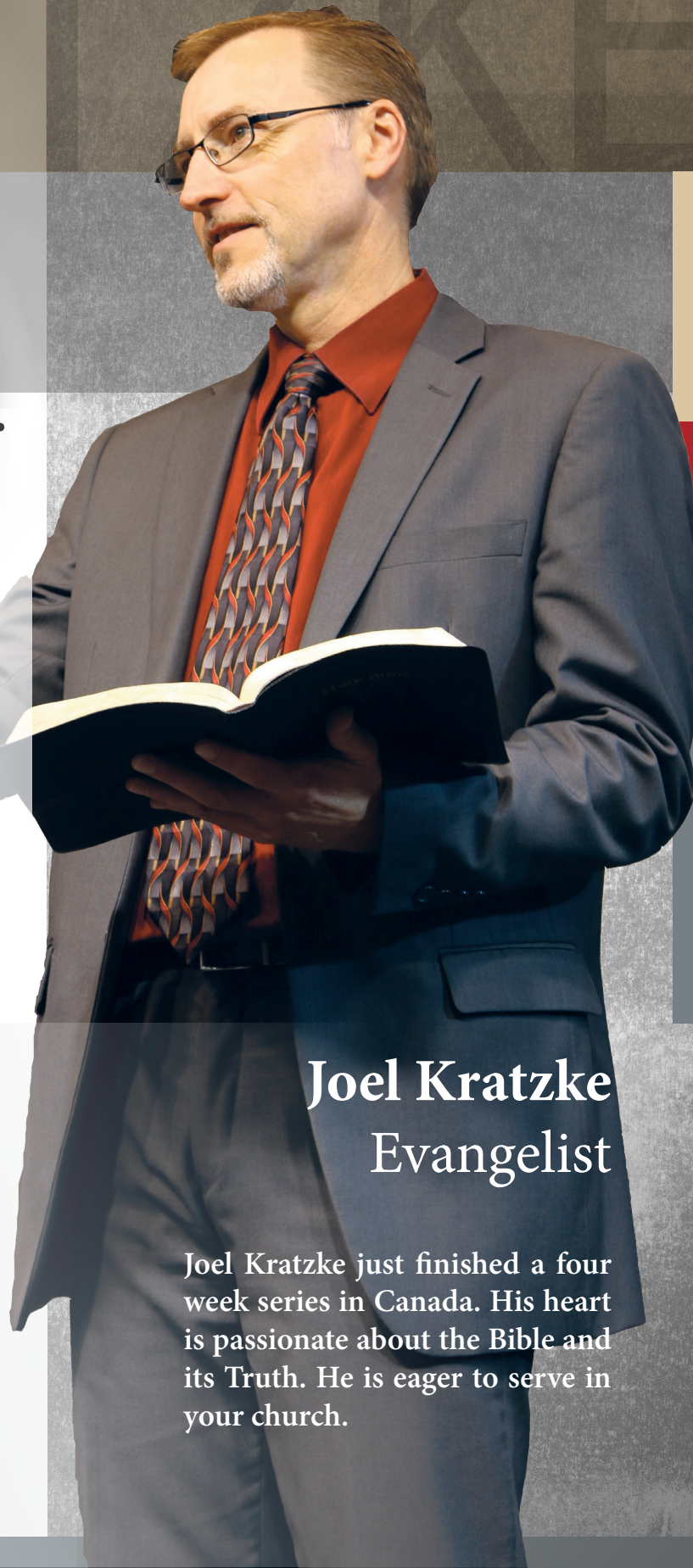
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Discoveries to book Joel Kratzke
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Joel Kratzke Evangelist

Joel Kratzke just finished a four
week series in Canada. His heart
is passionate about the Bible and
its Truth. He is eager to serve in
your church.