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FATH **ON THE LINE**
DARE TO STAND

Summer 2018

Dear Reader,

I hope this issue finds you on the road to heaven. We have much to be thankful to the Lord for here at Amazing Discoveries. He has been with us throughout our move to the country and we are praising Him for His leading. Each day we see His blessings and kindness bestowed on us, and despite trials and misunderstandings that Satan uses to discourage, we cling to the promises of God, and the assurance that He will surround those that strive to be faithful to Him.

***"In all ages, angels have been near to Christ's faithful followers. The vast confederacy of evil is arrayed against all who would overcome; but Christ would have us look to the things which are not seen, to the armies of heaven encamped about all who love God, to deliver them. From what dangers, seen and unseen, we have been preserved through the interposition of the angels, we shall never know, until in the light of eternity, we see the providences of God. Then we shall know that the whole family of heaven was interested in the family here below, and that messengers from the throne of God attended our steps from day to day."* DA 240**

For the past year I've been re-reading the entire *Conflict of the Ages* series. It has been such a blessing! I come away each time feeling like I have been digging in a treasure chest of precious truth and it always encourages me. As a matter of fact, now that I am older, I find so many

of the accounts in the Bible much more meaningful as I compare them with the experiences of my own life. I realize that the Bible characters had the same struggles we do today. The circumstances may be different but the issues at stake are always the same.

They all struggled with the same trials with which we are beset – fear, doubt, lack of faith, opposition, being misunderstood, loss of friends/loved ones, pain, rejection, persecution, and the list goes on. I'm currently in the book *Desire of Ages* and have been looking at the early portion of Christ's ministry and the opposition He experienced from those around Him and all that Jesus had to suffer and endure in order to gain the victory for us.

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

FAITH ON THE LINE DARE TO STAND

Summer
2018

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G O D ' S E D U C A T I O N A L P L A N F O R T H E L A S T D A Y S

P A R T V

E D E N E D U C A T I O N I N T H E R E A L W O R L D

B Y
J U D Y
K J A E R

As far back as most of us can remember, children have gone to school, but until the 19th century, in America “education was a private matter, either handled by parents, churches, or communities that joined together and paid a teacher to educate their children.”¹ The system that predates all others is “the Creator’s plan, the plan of the Eden school.”²

For the Hebrews, “The home and the school were one,”³ yet after 3,000 years, God directed Samuel to start schools. These schools were not for children, but for young men called by God to teach the people His ways.⁴ A thousand years later, the Jews had schools, but God used the Eden School plan for His Son.



We are admonished not to send children to public school, and we have read that all schools among us will soon be closed. What options will we have when that happens, other than God’s ancient plan? If that time seems far off, the speed at which prophecy is fulfilling may prove otherwise.

“Jesus followed the divine plan of education.”⁵

“The schools of His time, with their magnifying of things small and their belittling of things great, He did not seek.”⁶

School keeps children out of the home roughly eight hours a day.⁷ A good night’s sleep takes another eight hours or more. That leaves eight out of 24 hours with a parent. Five days a week, strangers get equal time with parents to form children’s characters.

What if, right now, there were no safe schools for our children, and our only hope was the Eden School plan? As loyal angels helped in the model school, those qualified by their connection with God may help parents now. Would you need help teaching the Bible?

“It does not seem possible to us now that any should have to stand alone, but if God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when we shall be brought before councils and before thousands for His name’s sake, and each one will have to give the reason of his faith. Then will come the

1 <http://education.uslegal.com/compulsory-education/>

2 Education, p.30

3 Fundamentals of Christian Education, p.95

4 Education, p.46

5 Education, p.77

6 Education, p.77

7 varies with travel time and extracurricular activities

8 Last Day Events, p.209

9 Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p.23

10 Great Controversy, p.599

11 Great Controversy, p.599

12 Review and Herald, November 25, 1884, quoting William Miller

13 Revelation 13:17

14 Spirit of Prophecy, vol.3, p.418

severest criticism upon every position that has been taken for the truth. We need, then, to study the Word of God, that we may know why we believe the doctrines we advocate.”⁸

Opening God's word with prayer is an excellent way for parents and children to prepare together for that time, knowing that:

- 1) *“The Bible was written for the common people as well as for scholars, and is within the comprehension of all.”⁹*
- 2) *“The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed.”¹⁰*
- 3) *“Christ has given the promise: ‘If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine.’ John 7:17.”¹¹*
- 4) *“Scripture must be its own expositor, since it is a rule of itself.”¹²*

The Eden School garden is an appropriate model for the time when God's people will not be able to buy or sell.¹³ We will need to work the soil for our food. Country living provides space for vegetables, berries, fruit, even flowers, but wherever we are now, we can start by growing sprouts on a kitchen counter.

We can learn to read God's lesson book of *Nature* now, along with *Useful Work* and the *Experiences of Life*, and start sharing what we learn from them. God has put spiritual lessons in those books for us, and if we ask Him, He will teach them to us. The principle is,

“As in the natural, so in the spiritual world.”¹⁴

Here is an example. In the garden, thinning out seedlings and controlling weeds helps cultivated plants take root and grow. So in teaching, thinning and weeding the curriculum gives the essential subjects room to take root and grow.

“This is not a time for students to be gathering up a mass of knowledge that they cannot take with them to the school above. Let us carefully weed out from our course of

*The home and the school
were one.*





Teach fundamentals. Teach that which is practical..

study all that can be spared, that we may have room in the minds of the students in which to plant the seeds of righteousness. This instruction will bear fruit unto eternal life."¹⁵

"All unnecessary matters should be weeded from the courses of study, and only such studies placed before the student as will be of real value to him."¹⁶

What shall we teach, then?

"Teach fundamentals. Teach that which is practical."¹⁷

"If you are faithful in teaching the common branches, many of your students could go directly into the work as canvassers, colporteurs, and evangelists. We need not feel that all workers must have an advanced education."¹⁸

Teaching is not mysterious, and it is not that hard if we will prayerfully put our minds to it. Our attempts may bring up character issues and relationship problems that we need to address. God can solve them as we humbly confess our faults and pray.

A schoolteacher with ten to thirty children, only some of whom are paying attention, cannot be expected to do a better job teaching our children than we can, if we will ask God for wisdom.

We are blessed with knowledge of future events. May we avail ourselves of our opportunities to get our families ready, for

"The end is very near. We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise."¹⁹ **AD**

Judy Kjaer is the wife of Kim Kjaer.



¹⁵ Fundamentals of Christian Education, p.525

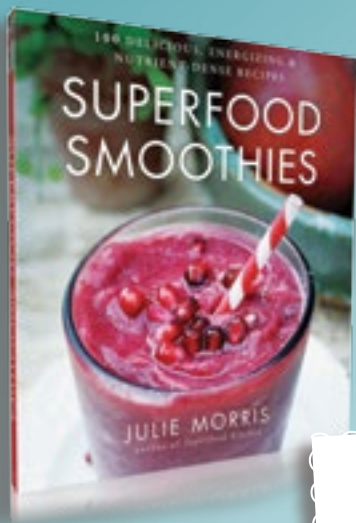
¹⁶ Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p.444

¹⁷ Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p.205

¹⁸ Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p.213

¹⁹ Testimonies, vol. 8, p.28





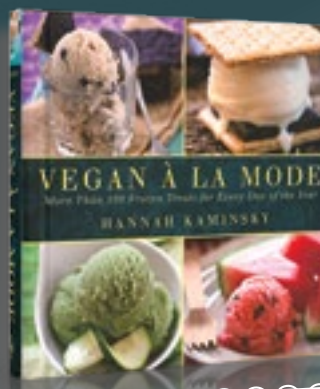
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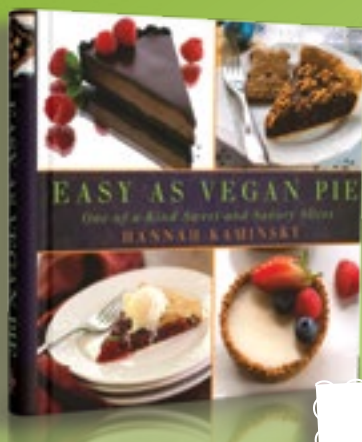
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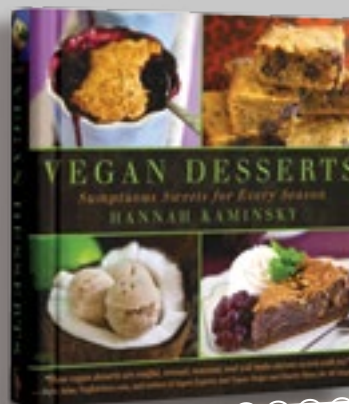
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My heart is touched when I read how severely He suffered throughout His ministry on a daily basis, and I realize more keenly how much more difficult it was for Him than it is for us. ***"No child of humanity will ever be called to live a holy life amid so fierce a conflict with temptation as was our Saviour."***

DA 71 But the same temptations that Jesus had to face, we have to face in a smaller sphere. ***"Never does one leave the ranks of evil for the service of God without encountering the assaults of Satan. The enticements which Christ resisted were those that we find it so difficult to withstand. They were urged upon Him in as much greater degree as His character is superior to ours. With the terrible weight of the sins of the world upon Him, Christ withstood the test upon appetite, upon the love of the world, and upon that love of display which leads to presumption. These were the temptations that overcame Adam and Eve, and that so readily overcome us."*** DA 116, 117 His trials and temptations were deeper and stronger than anything we

ever have to face and yet how easily we lose our footing in comparison with what He had to endure. And it is so because we are unable to meet the trials and temptations we face in our own strength. Without Jesus' sustaining power and hand, we would never be able to get through the trials we face. ***"Jesus gained the victory through***



submission and faith in God...We cannot save ourselves from the tempter's power; he has conquered humanity, and when we try to stand in our own strength, we shall become a prey to his devices; but 'the name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it and is

safe.' Prov 18:10 ***Satan trembles and flees before the weakest soul who finds refuge in that mighty name."***
DA 130, 131

As I have been looking into Christ's life, I am struck by how much He was hated, rejected and opposed. His enemies continuously made His life sorrowful and His days difficult. He had to face this on a daily basis, and how tiring and wearing it must have been. Every effort on His part to bring salvation, or any goodly thoughts and feelings, were rejected or misinterpreted. He would leave one conflict only to be greeted by another. And each time the Pharisees rejected Him, they made themselves more difficult to reach.

Two examples in particular describe the conflict Jesus faced against those that purposely rejected Him. The healing of the man by the pool of Bethesda was the first real encounter Jesus had with the Pharisees. Jesus chose the worst case to do His miracle and, knowing that it was the Sabbath day and what the Pharisees would think of a man carrying his bed, He still commanded



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the man to take up his bed and walk. Jesus performed this miracle and gave this command with the express intention to confront the false ideas of Sabbath keeping that the Pharisees harboured. ***“He had come to free the Sabbath from those burdensome requirements that had made it a curse instead of a blessing. For this reason He had chosen the Sabbath upon which to perform the act of healing at Bethesda. He could have healed the sick man as well on any other day of the week; or He might simply have cured him, without bidding him bear away his bed. But this would not have given Him the opportunity He desired.”*** DA 206

This act incited the fury of His adversaries and brought Him into direct confrontation with them. They were so infuriated that they desired to kill Him. (John 5:16) Jesus used the opportunity to counter their false beliefs. ***“These adversaries of Christ had no arguments with which to meet the truths He brought home to their consciences. They could only cite their customs and traditions, and these seemed weak and vapid when compared with the arguments Jesus had drawn from the word of God and the unceasing round of nature. Had the rabbis felt any desire to receive light, they would have been convinced that Jesus spoke the truth. But they evaded the points He made concerning the Sabbath, and sought to stir up anger against Him because He claimed to be equal with God. The fury of the rulers knew no bounds.”*** DA 208

“The Jews had the Scriptures in their possession, and supposed that in their mere outward knowledge of the word they had eternal life. But Jesus said, ‘Ye have not His word abiding in you.’ (John 5:38) Having rejected Christ in His word, they rejected Him in person. ‘Ye will not come to Me,’ He said, ‘that ye might have life.’ John 5:40 When Christ came in a manner contrary to their expectations, they would not receive Him; and in order to justify themselves, they tried to prove Him a deceiver. When once they had set their feet in this path, it was easy for Satan to strengthen their opposition to Christ. The very words that should have been received as evidence of His divinity were interpreted against Him. Thus they turned the truth of God into a lie, and the more directly the Saviour spoke to them in His words of mercy, the more determined they were in resisting the light. ... Jesus knew that the priests and rabbis were determined to take His life; yet He clearly explained to them His unity with the Father, and His relation to the world. They saw that their opposition to Him was without excuse, yet their murderous hatred was not quenched.... they resisted His appeals, and locked themselves in darkness.” DA 212, 213

Here we see the progressive nature of rebellion – having once rejected Christ in His word, the next step to reject Him in person was all the more easier. And having rejected Him once, it was easier and easier to reject Him yet again. Instead of acknowledging the truth of His words, they twisted them to

suit their cherished perceptions. Their flawed ideas were the standard by which they interpreted His words and intentions. It was their own choice to resist His appeals and their darkness was of their own making. The next step was to malign His character amongst the people and the entire country.

“They were determined to take His life. They sent messengers all over the country to warn the people against Jesus as an imposter. Spies were sent to watch Him, and report what He said and did.” DA 213

This sort of settling in of hatred, rebellion, and maligning is not uncommon even today. Surprisingly, it is possible for people who are very religious, who claim to love God and who attend church regularly and even teach and preach in church, to have this kind of maligning and murderous hatred in their hearts.

The next example of the opposition Christ experienced is seen in His visit to His hometown of Nazareth. Jesus came home and saw all His neighbours and friends – people of His community where He'd lived and worked for 30 years – and He attended church on Sabbath morning. He was asked to read, and reading Isaiah declared that this Scripture was fulfilled. At first, they were thrilled by the words He read, but suddenly their false beliefs were again confronted with the truth and their pride was offended, and their fears aroused. They immediately downplayed the message because they could not believe the Messenger was of God. Although they had ample evidence of His spotless life, they would not believe that He was the Promised One.

“Unbelief, having once been cherished, continued to control the men of Nazareth. So it controlled the Sanhedrin and the nation. With priests and people, the first rejection of the demonstration of the Holy Spirit’s power was the beginning of the end. In order to prove that their first resistance was right, they continued ever after to cavil at the words of Christ. Their rejection of the Spirit, culminated in the cross of Calvary, in the destruction of their city, in the scattering of the nation to the winds of heaven.... Such was their spiritual blindness that it was impossible to reveal to them the truths relating to His kingdom. They clung to their creed... Truth was unpopular in Christ’s day. It is unpopular in our day. It has been unpopular ever since Satan first gave man a disrelish for it by presenting fables that lead to self-exaltation.... The Jewish leaders were filled with spiritual pride. Their desire for the glorification of self manifested itself even in the service of the sanctuary. They loved the highest seats in the synagogue. They loved greetings in the marketplace, and were gratified with the sound of their titles on the lips of men.” DA 241, 242

Their minds had been darkened by selfish prejudice, and there was nothing Christ could do for them. There was no way to reconcile them to Himself.

This is such an important truth to understand. So many in today’s Christian circles feel that conflict is un-Christlike and that reconciliation must take place in all situations. And yet Christ’s life was

full of conflict and He was extremely unreconciled with the leaders of Israel. In fact, it was an impossibility to reconcile with them at all, for they did not want it.

The fact is that unity can only be based on truth, and without truth, unity is not possible and should not even be sought. Today’s ecumenical movement is the classic example of striving for unity even when there is no consensus on truth. Although Jesus always spoke courteously, He nonetheless identified the problem in the hearts of the Pharisees. He did not shirk from the confrontation – but planned it when He healed the man by the pool of Bethesda and expected it when He announced the fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah in the church. He could have said nothing, and just sat down, and the people would have been impressed with His reading. Some might argue that He could have kept the door open for His ministry in Nazareth if He had not said anything. But Jesus was not there to be loved or to receive honor. (John 5:41)

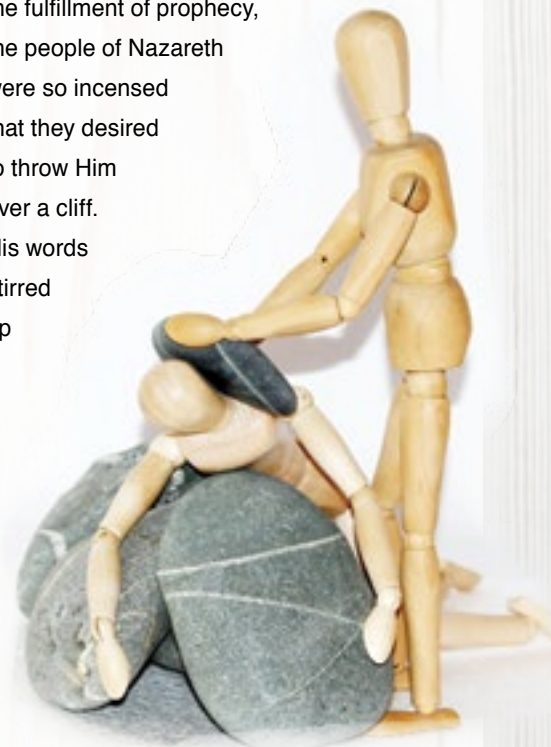
The truth is that God was the best Leader there ever was, and yet Lucifer decided to rebel. God was the best parent ever found on earth, and yet Adam and Eve sinned. The reality of conflict can be so difficult to accept that many shirk from it, saying that if one is a true Christian there would be no such thing as “irreconcilable differences.” But even God has an irreconcilable difference with Satan. As much as He would have liked to have Lucifer reinstated to His position by the throne, to embrace him as His friend, and to have peace and happiness in heaven, it was not possible due to Lucifer’s choices. And this sad

reality has repeated itself countless times throughout the history of mankind.

God’s people have been hated and opposed for 6000 years, and the sincere efforts of God’s people to live in peace have not always been successful. There is an irreconcilable difference – an enmity that cannot be quenched – between Satan’s host and those who follow God. This plays out on a large scale as well as on a smaller, personal scale.

Satan’s tactics and opposition are unchanged. In fact, I have come to the conclusion that it is a part of the Christian’s walk to be opposed and maligned. The servants of God have always been opposed, hated, maligned, and even put to death. If we have experienced any trials in life, we can know we are not alone, for the Bible is full of accounts of those that went before us. In fact, Jesus cautioned us: ***“Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.” Luke 6:26***

After Jesus spoke in the synagogue of the fulfillment of prophecy, the people of Nazareth were so incensed that they desired to throw Him over a cliff. His words stirred up



the worst passions of their proud hearts. His own people – those that He had grown up with – were willing to put Him to death. Christ could do nothing for them. As much as He wanted to heal their sick, it was not possible.

“And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country. And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country. But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.” Luke 4:23-27

Christ had to leave the people of Nazareth, just as He had to leave the leaders of Israel. And thus, He counsels His people: ***“And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.” Luke 9:5***

“The servants whom God had chosen for a special work were not allowed to labor for a hardhearted and unbelieving people. But those who had hearts to feel and faith to believe were especially favored with evidences of His power through the prophets. Spirit of Prophecy confirms this in these words: “...In the days of Elijah, Israel had

departed from God. They clung to their sins, and rejected the warnings of the spirit through the Lord’s messengers. Thus they cut themselves off from the channel by which God’s blessing could come to them. The Lord passed by the homes of Israel, and found a refuge for His servant in a heathen land, with a woman who did not belong to the chosen people. But this woman was favored because she had followed the light she had received, and her heart was open to the greater light that God sent her through His prophets.

“It was for the same reason that in Elisha’s time the lepers of Israel were passed by. But Naaman, a heathen nobleman, had been faithful to his convictions of right, and had felt his great need of help. He was in a condition to receive the gifts of God’s grace. He was not only cleansed from his leprosy, but blessed with a knowledge of the true God.

“Our standing before God depends, not upon the amount of light we have received, but upon the use we make of what we have. Thus even the heathen who choose the right as far as they can distinguish it are in a more favorable condition than are those who have had great light, and profess to serve God, but who disregard the light, and by their daily life contradict their profession.” DA 238, 239

So, dear Reader, if you find yourself opposed, maligned, rejected, despite all your efforts to reconcile, do not despair. You are in good company. If you have done your very best to bring peace to the areas of conflict in your life, but it doesn’t seem to be working, pray and

leave it to God. If it can be repaired, God will surely do it, but if it cannot, accept that in this world we will have tribulation. Understand that as long as the enemy of our souls roams up and down this world seeking whom he may devour, we will have conflict between those that choose to follow Christ and those who are doing satan’s bidding. There can be no reconciliation without the Spirit of God and His truth.

In the same way when truth is being compromised in the world we are living in today, we are faced with the same situation and the same choice. On whose side do we wish to be – the side that is maligned and opposed? Or the side that receives a measure of peace until the day of retribution?



The Godhead and the One True God Movement in the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Part 1

ALPHA OF HERESIES (APOSTASY)

The Alpha of heresies or apostasy is a descriptive definition of Dr. John Harvey Kellogg's subversive and pantheistic teachings regarding the nature and personality of God. At the time when Dr. Kellogg wrote his book *The Living Temple* few could decipher in his theories a blatant and satanic attack into the heart of God's remnant movement. Satan sought to carry his deceptions right into God's church and thereby lower the perception of who God is. The enemy had found in Dr. Kellogg a ready instrument for his devising, and for the first time in the history of God's church Satan had tried to usher in eastern spiritual philosophy, and by it he had hoped to paralyze God's remnant movement. Amidst this emergency Mrs. White was directed to meet the issues agitated by the book *The Living Temple* head-on. She was to expose the error for what it truly was. Concerning Dr. Kellogg's book Mrs. White wrote:

*"The Living Temple contains the alpha of these theories. I knew that the omega would follow in a little while; and I trembled for our people. I knew that I must warn our brethren and sisters not to enter into controversy over the presence and **personality of God**....Few can discern the result of entertaining the sophistries advocated by some at this time. But the Lord has lifted the curtain,*

*and has shown me the result that would follow. The spiritualistic theories regarding the personality of God, followed to their logical conclusion, sweep away the whole Christian economy."*¹

"The alpha of these theories" was the teachings of pantheism found in the book *The Living Temple*, however Mrs. White warns us of a coming storm called the "omega," which, if accepted will cause God's people to "enter into controversy over the presence and personality of God." While many through the years have speculated what exactly is the nature of the omega heresy, Mrs. White clearly tells us it will bring into question the presence and personality of God. So then, both the alpha and omega of heresies attack God's very nature. By this attack Satan is trying to undermine the faith of God's people and consequent believers who should believe the Three Angels' Messages. Pay close attention to the following statement from Ellen White.

"There is a strain of spiritualism coming in among our people, and it will undermine the faith of those who give place to it, leading them to give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Errors will be presented in a pleasing and flattering manner. The enemy desires to divert the minds of our brethren and sisters from the

*work of preparing a people to stand in these last days. I am instructed to warn our brethren and sisters not to discuss the **nature of our God**. Many of the curious who attempted to open the ark of the testament, to see what was inside, were punished for their presumption. We are not to say that the Lord God of heaven is in a leaf, or in a tree; for He is not there. He sits upon His throne in the heavens.”²*

Please note how Ellen White in the preceding statement describes the coming and already arrived “strain of spiritualism” in God’s church. She tells us, firstly, it will “undermine the faith of those who give place to it,” secondly, it will lead “them to give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.” Thirdly “errors will be presented in a pleasing and flattering manner.” And finally it will “divert the minds of our brethren and sisters from the work of preparing a people to stand in these last days.” And the fountainhead of all this mayhem will be brought about by a presumptuous discussion about “the nature of our God,” which deals with the pantheistic teaching of the alpha of heresies. So then, in both preceding statements from Ellen White warns us not to enter into “controversy” or “discuss” the “presence and personality” and “the nature of our God.” Those who do will be “punished for their presumption.”

The Apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:9 clearly shows us how, in the last days shortly before the return of Christ, Satan will work in spiritualism “after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.” But God has beforehand warned us of this.

*“Satan himself is converted, after the **modern order of things**. He will appear in the **character of an angel of light**. Through the agency of **spiritualism**, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many **undeniable wonders** will be performed. And as the **spirits** will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power.”³*

We’ve been warned not to get into controversy or discussion over the nature of God, His presence and personality. It is clear by getting into such controversy we will be guilty of the sin of those who tried to look into the Ark and were punished for their presumption. This is exactly what the One True God Movement is doing. These individuals would have us believe that Christ, at some point in eternity past, had a beginning; that He was birthed by the Father and His oneness with the faith is due to their sharing the same essence; and that He is a lesser God since He had a starting point and the Father did not. They also teach that the Holy Spirit is not really the Third Person of the Godhead, that there is not Third Person. They teach that the Father alone is God, Jesus is His only begotten Son and the Holy Spirit is Their spirit or presence. They try to hash a theological explanation of who God is. But how can man understand God? His best efforts are futile. God is eternal! His ways are not our ways nor His thoughts our thoughts. Charles Wesley correctly said, “You show me a worm that understands man, and I will show you a man that understands God.” Pay attention to the following inspired statement from the Spirit of Prophecy.

“The most humbling lesson that man has to learn is the nothingness of human wisdom, and the folly of trying, by his own unaided efforts, to find out God. He may exert his intellectual powers to the utmost, he may have what the world calls a superior education, yet he may still be ignorant in God’s eyes.”⁴

THE ONE TRUE GOD MOVEMENT

From the onset it is my heartfelt desire to remind the reader that the subject we are studying deals with the nature and person of God. Therefore we should tread softly with our shoes off our feet for the ground we are treading is Holy ground. May God have mercy on us all.

The problem with the One True God Movement is that its proponents are trying to explain things about God that

¹ Selected Messages Book 1, 203, 204


² Manuscript Releases, Vol. 4, 57

³ The Great Controversy 588

⁴ Selected Messages Vol. 1, 249



are not necessarily revealed in the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy. They would have us believe that their beliefs regarding the nature of God is supported by the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. But are they? Here are the major points supported by the adherents of the One True God Movement.

- 
- 1.) Jesus is the literal Son of God, literally born of God in eternity past.
 - 2.) Jesus's dying on the cross is proof that He is not really eternal God in the same sense as the Father is eternal God. They argue, just as Jesus was born of God in the beginning so God could take His life from Him as it happened on the cross. They believe if Jesus was eternal God He could not have been able to die on the cross.
 - 3.) There is no Third Person of the Godhood. The Holy Spirit is only the mind or spirit of Christ and nothing more.

The One True God Movement by their title insinuate that there is only "One true God" which is the Father and since Jesus was born of God sometime in eternity past He cannot be that "One True God," that He is in some way a lesser God than the Father. They believe that Christ derived His life from the Father at some point in eternity past, and that truly the only Self-Existing One is the Father. But what does inspiration have to say about this?

*"Jesus declared, I am the resurrection, and the life." In Christ is **life, original, unborrowed, underived**. "He that hath the Son hath life." 1 John 5:12. "The **divinity of Christ is the believer's assurance of eternal life**."*⁵

*"All Created things live by the will and power of God. They are recipients of **the life of the Son of God**. However able and talented, however large their capacities, they are **replenished with life** from the **Source of all life**. He is the spring, the fountain, of life. Only He who alone hath immortality, dwelling in light and life, could say, 'I have power to lay down my life, and I have power to take it again.'"*⁶

So then if in Christ is life, "original," "unborrowed," "underived" then it is safe for us to conclude with all assurance that Christ is as much the Self-Existing God as is the Father for Mrs. White clearly tells us that Jesus Christ is the Source of all life. Amen! Let's read a few more quotes from Ellen White.

*"In Him was life; and the life was the light of men" John 1:4. It is not physical life that is here specified, but immortality, the **life which is exclusively the property of God**. The Word, who **was with God, and who was God**, had this life. Physical life is something which each individual receives. It is not eternal or immortal; for God, the Life giver, takes it again. **Man has no control over his life. But the life of Christ was unborrowed. No one can take this life from Him.** "I lay it down of myself" John 10:18, He said. "In Him **was life, original, unborrowed, underived**. This life is not inherent in man. He can possess it only through Christ. He cannot earn it; it is given him as a free gift if he will believe in Christ as His personal Saviour..."*⁷

*"From Jesus is our life derived. In Him is **life that is original, unborrowed, underived life**. In Him is the fountain of life. In us there is a streamlet from the fountain of life. Our life is something that we receive, something that the Giver takes back again to Himself."*⁸

*"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Revelation 1:18. ...These are wonderfully solemn and significant statements. It was the Source of all mercy and pardon, peace and grace, the **self-existent, eternal, unchangeable One**, who visited His exiled servant on the isle that is called Patmos."*⁹

*"The Word existed as a divine being, even as the eternal Son of God, in union and oneness with His Father. From everlasting He was the Mediator of the covenant, the One in whom all nations of the earth, both Jews and Gentiles, if they accepted Him, were to be blessed."*¹⁰

THE HOLY SPIRIT

I want to emphasize this all-encompassing truth that when we speak regarding the nature and work of the Holy Spirit we should take great care not to presume or conclude beyond what Scripture has revealed. Remember we are walking on hallowed ground. Is the Holy Spirit an individual person separate just as the Father and Son are? Is it necessary or even possible for us to know for certain all there is to know about the



Third Person of the Godhead? Here is one of my favorite passages about the Holy Spirit from Ellen White.

"It is not essential for us to be able to define just what the Holy Spirit is. Christ tells us that the Spirit is the Comforter, 'the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father.' It is plainly declared regarding the Holy Spirit that, in His work of guiding men into all truth, 'He shall not speak of Himself.'" John 15:26, 16:13.

"The nature of the Holy Spirit is a mystery. Men cannot explain it, because the Lord has not revealed it to them. Men having fanciful views may bring together passages of Scripture and put a human construction on them, but the acceptance of these views will not strengthen the church. Regarding such mysteries, which are too deep for human understanding, silence is golden." Acts of the Apostles 51-52

Let's evaluate the above statement from Ellen White:

1.) "It is not essential for us to be able to define just what the Holy Spirit is." This is exactly why we are in such a mess to begin with, we are trying to explain who the Holy Spirit is.

5 The Desire of Ages 530

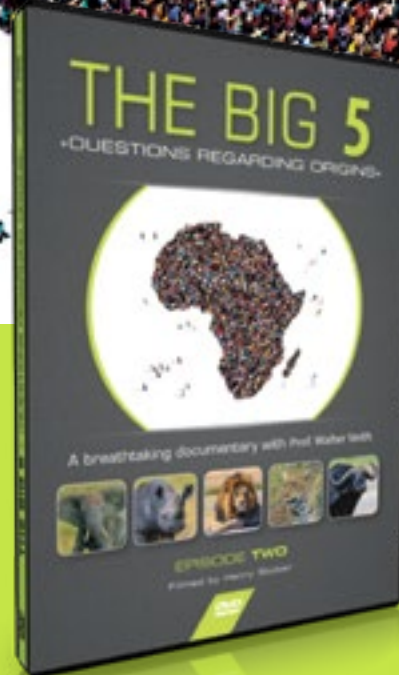
6 Mind Character and Personality 28

7 Selected Messages 296

8 Review and Herald August 6, 1914

9 Bible Commentary Vol. 7, 955

10 Review and Herald, April 5, 1906



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Walter Veith & Henry Stober, DVD

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2.) "The Holy Spirit shall not speak of Himself."

The adherents of the One True God Movement say that the Holy Spirit is just the mind of Christ, that the Holy Spirit is in fact Christ Himself.

But how can that be? We just read from Ellen White that the *Holy Spirit will not speak of Himself; Jesus taught about the Holy Spirit saying, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."* John 16:13

Again Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you **another Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." *John 14:15-17* So then if the Holy Spirit does not speak of Himself, what is His job then? "guiding men into all truth." *Acts of the Apostles 51-52* And if the Holy Spirit is indeed Christ Himself, it makes no sense for Christ to say He will not speak of Himself, since it is only by a knowledge of Christ that sinners can be saved.




3.) "The Nature of the Holy Spirit is a mystery."

So when the adherents of the One True God movement try to explain the nature of the Holy Spirit they are meddling with the unknown, those things which have not been revealed and that is presumptuous. "*The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*" Deuteronomy 29:29



4.) "Men cannot explain it, because the Lord has not revealed it to them."

"The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law." Deuteronomy 29:29



5.) "The acceptance of these views will not strengthen the church."

Our church is more divided now than at any other time in the past.



6.) "Regarding such mysteries, which are too deep for human understanding silence is golden."

We should not get into controversy over truths that deal with the nature and person of the Godhead, for such mysteries "are too deep for human understanding."

"The office of the Holy Spirit is distinctly specified in the words of Christ: 'When He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgement.' John 16:8. It is the Holy Spirit that convicts of sin." Acts of the Apostles 51-52

The office of the Holy Spirit is clearly made plain in the Bible, but His person and nature is a mystery. And after reading such statements why is it that some insist on trying to explain exactly the nature of the Holy Spirit. As far as the work and office of the Holy Spirit are concerned, much has been revealed to us. But that is not the case regarding His person.

If the Spirit of God is indeed just His Spirit and mind then we can safely conclude that there is no Third Person of the Godhead. But is that in fact what Scripture teaches us?

Let's look at some examples of what the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy say regarding the Person of the Holy Spirit.

"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him." Acts 5:30-32

How can the Holy Spirit be a witness of the life, sufferings, death and resurrection of Christ if the Holy Spirit is just the mind of Christ?

"The Holy Spirit is Christ's representative, but divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof. Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally. Therefore it was for their interest that He should go to the Father, and send the Spirit to be His successor on earth. No one could then have any advantage because of his location or his personal contact with Christ. By the Spirit the Savior would be accessible

to all. In this sense He would be nearer to them than if He had not ascended on high."¹¹

"Of the Spirit Jesus said, 'He shall glorify Me.'

The Savior came to glorify the Father by the demonstration of His love; so the Spirit was to glorify Christ by revealing His grace to the world."¹²

"I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. If I bear witness of myself, my witness is true." John 5:30-31

In the preceding statements it can clearly be seen that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are definitely three distinct individualities or personalities. Christ represents the Father, and the Holy Spirit represents Christ. If the Holy Spirit is simply Christ's own presence and essence then the statements we just read are nothing but conjectures. Note, how the Spirit of Prophecy describes it, *"The Holy Spirit is Christ's representative, but divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof. Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally. Therefore it was for their interest that He should go to the Father, and send the Spirit to be His successor on earth."*¹¹ So then if the Holy Spirit is the very essence of Christ Himself as the One True God Movement teaches then why did Christ have to go to heaven in order for the Spirit to be sent? And how can Christ be His own "representative" and "successor" if we believe the teaching that the Holy Spirit is just Christ's own presence? It just makes no sense.



*"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for **he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak:** and he will shew you things to come. **He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.**" John 16:13-14*

Again, we see the clear distinction that John makes between the Holy Spirit and Christ. The Holy Spirit will not speak of Himself, He will hear and He will speak but not of Himself. He will glorify Christ for He shall receive of Him and shall show it unto us Jesus said.

*"The Holy Spirit is the comforter, in Christ's name. **He personifies Christ, yet is a distinct personality.**"¹³*

Wow! It couldn't get any clearer! And here are more statements from Ellen White that help us understand who the Holy Spirit is.

*"The Holy Spirit **is a person**, for He beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God."¹⁴*

*"We need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who **is as much a person** 'as God's a person', is walking through these grounds, that the Lord God is our keeper, and helper."¹⁵*

*"The Holy Spirit must also **be a divine person**, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God."¹⁶*

"Christ, our Mediator, and the Holy Spirit are constantly interacting in man's behalf, but the Spirit pleads not for us as does Christ, who presents His blood, shed from the foundation of the world; the Spirit works upon our hearts, drawing our prayers and penitence, praise and thanksgiving. The gratitude which flows from our lips is the result of the Spirit's striking the cord of the soul in holy memories, awakening the music of the heart."¹⁷

Clearly the Holy Spirit is not Jesus and Jesus is not the Holy Spirit. They have different work and functions in the eternal scope and the plan of salvation. It's also crystal clear that the Holy Spirit is an individual with His own personality and that He is divine just as the Father and the Son are divine yet shrouded in infinite mystery.

AD

...to be continued in the next issue.

Shahbaz, Brother Shahbaz is speaker/evangelist for Amazing Discoveries. His focus is to minister to Farsi-speaking people but he witnesses wherever he is able.

¹¹ Desire of Ages 669

¹² Desire of Ages 671

¹³ Manuscript Releases Vol. 20, 324

¹⁴ Evangelism 616

¹⁵ Manuscript Release Vol. 7, 299

¹⁶ Manuscript 20, 1906

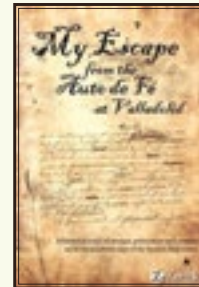
¹⁷ Selected Messages 344

My Escape from the Auto de Fe' at Valladolid

*October 1559 * Don Fernando de la Mina*

A story founded on historic fact, retold by Pastor Timms.

Excerpt



Zeezok Publishing

Introduction

In the afternoon of November 24, 1602, an attorney sat in the oak—panelled dining room of a merchant prince's London house, and there, in the presence of the heir and his friends, the attorney read the following will:

London, September 14th, 1601: I, Fernando de la Mina, Embroiderer by Appointment to Her Majesty, at the sign of 'The Golden Cross' on Cornhill in the City of London, do hereby bequeath to my son, Fernando de la Mina, my business and all my possessions together with the accompanying sealed document.

This sealed document was handed to the heir who, when he had read its startling superscription, placed it carefully inside his doublet in reserve for private reading. In the evening when his company had departed and young Fernando sat alone by his bedroom fireside, he once more read the superscription of the bequeathed document and read as follows: "A faithful record of my Providential Escape from the Torture and Fire of the Inquisition at Valladolid in the year of Our Lord 1559." With very few deletions and modernisings, this ancient manuscript read as follows.

Chapter 1 - My Arrest at Simancas

I, **Don Fernando De La Mina, a nobleman of Spain**, was born on April 16, 1534, near Simancas-an ancient city which lies ten miles to the south of Valladolid, the capital of Spain. My mother gave her life for me when I was born and my father gave his life for his King and Country at the glorious victory of San Quentin. Thus, at the age of twenty-three years, I became the head of our ancient family and the owner of the Castillete de la Mina and the fourteen surrounding farms that constituted our family estate. Thereupon, early in September 1557, while the King was fighting in France, I was presented at the Regent Joanna's Court at El Escorial and there took the Oath of Allegiance to my Sovereign Lord, King Phillip the Second, whom may God rest. From that time until my twenty-fifth birthday I devoted my attention to our estate and the days passed pleasantly and profitably until the evening of April 16, 1559 (my twenty-fifth birthday), when a sudden catastrophe overwhelmed me in anxiety, poverty, and privation. I was at home that evening entertaining my friends at a supper party when, without a word of warning, four officers of the Holy Inquisition entered the hall and peremptorily forbade us to move from our seats until they had searched the Castillete for evidence of heresy.

Unwelcome visitations such as this were common enough in those days. It was no unusual occurrence for the homes of wealthy folk to be suddenly searched for heretical books. The servants, too, were often terrorized or bribed to betray their master's religious views and practices; and such betrayals of trust frequently involved their master's arrest, the confiscation of his property, torture, and death.

The reformed religious doctrines were then fast filtering into Spain from England, the Netherlands, and Germany. The dark ages of Medievalism were passing away, and the dawn of a New Truth was breaking

upon the world-a Truth that challenged the time-long teaching and authority of the Church of Rome.

In consequence of the rapid spread of this new Lutheran teaching, the prelates of Spain became alarmed, and their alarm spurred them to violent acts of oppression. By means of the prison, the thumbscrew and the rack, they sought to prevent the people from learning and accepting the Reformed Christian Doctrines. They instituted priestly questionings at the enforced Confessional and sent their secret spies, disguised as servants, into the house-holds of suspected folk. Tribunals were set up in every district to hunt out and arraign heretics. The unfortunate suspects were arrested and tortured, their property confiscated and their family names made infamous, and finally, if they remained staunch and unrelenting, they were publicly brought to trial at the Auto de Fé (the

Act of Faith!) and there forced either to recant their heresy, or perish in the flames!

I searched my mind, in vain, to discover the reason for this untimely and unwelcome visit of the search officers of the Holy Inquisition. Had any of my neighbors or acquaintances denounced me to the Holy Office, thought I? Surely not, for I had not an enemy in the world, save, perhaps, Father Lorenzo, a very distant relative of mine. Did the Holy Office covet my estate and seek a reason to confiscate it? Perhaps!



Valladolid, Spain

But I had no fear, for I knew that the only evidence of my sympathy with the Reformed Faith were just a few books that lay discreetly hidden in the wall-recess behind my bed. Just a few Lutheran books in Latin and the four Gospels in Greek. These had been given to me on my previous birthday by the Dofia Rosa de Riello-your mother, an orphan like myself and to whom I was then betrothed. The Riello estates joined mine, and your mother and I had fondly hoped that our marriage in the following May would prove a happy and

a blessed union of body, soul, and estate. Our mutual love was sincere and beautiful. Our religious beliefs were similarly liberated and enlightened by the new learning and by the Gospels, which revealed the open Way to God and exposed the superstitions of the Roman Church and the pretensions of its misguided priesthood.

The searchers of the Holy Office quickly distributed themselves in the hall, and there they thoroughly ransacked every coffer and receptacle. Then they passed into my little cabinet (my workroom) that led into the patio, i.e., the large open courtyard in the center of the Castillete. But, failing to discover any heretical documents among my private papers, they then proceeded to the servants' quarters at the further end of the courtyard and from thence went up the stairs and round the gallery to the many sleeping chambers. But I, fearing nothing from the search, refused to allow the intrusion to interrupt our gaiety and I confidently encouraged my friends in cheerful

conversation-and the wine and the laughter went merrily round!

But alas! How foolishly I had underestimated the vigilance of the searching officers! In less than twenty minutes, the Captain returned to the supper room carrying the incriminating books!

Our merriment immediately subsided. My companions, one by one, rose contemptuously from the table. The taint of heresy was upon me! I was discovered to be a traitor to my Church and Country!

One by one my erstwhile friends departed coldly and unceremoniously, and I was left alone "despised and rejected"-a prisoner in the hands of the dread Inquisition. And, within half an hour of the arrival of the search party, I left my ancestral home-never again to enter its hospitable walls.

Chapter 2 - Torture and Escape

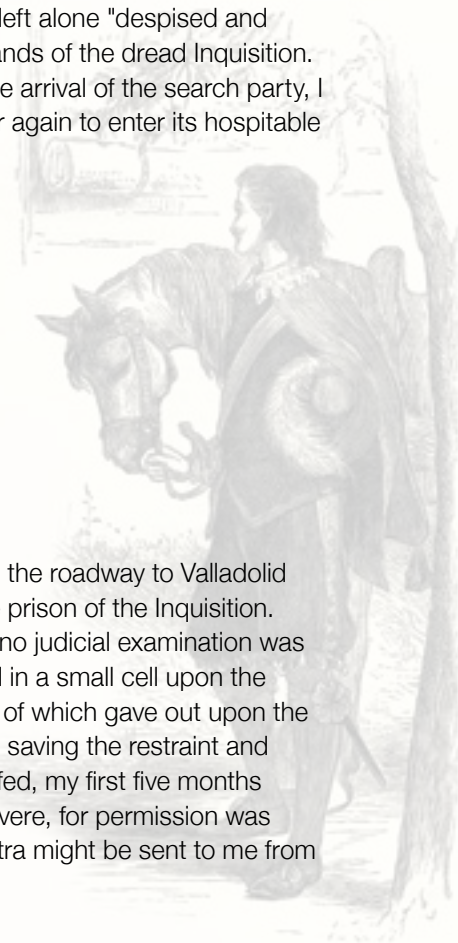
At the captain's command, I at once left the banqueting hall and walked out from the Castillete with the officer along the familiar chestnut avenue toward the stables. But as we drew near to the angle of the farmhouse road I turned and took, what proved to be, my last farewell of the beloved home of my childhood-that stately Castillete de la Mina that had been our family possession ever since the proud day when Queen Isabella transferred it from Abn Eber, the vanquished Moor, and bestowed it on my great, great-grandfather as a rich reward for his generous and valiant service to the State. "Oh, my son, if ever it shall be within your power to recover possession of our family estate, I pray you spare no labor or expense. Nevertheless I urge you not to compromise with your conscience-no! Not even for such a tempting earthly joy as the Castillete de la Mina, near the city of Simancas!"

"Your Excellency," said the Captain as he courteously stepped aside, so that I might precede him into the stables-"Your Excellency will please instruct the stableman to ride upon one of my own horses" and dressed as I was in gala costume-the irony of it!-I was

escorted as a prisoner along the roadway to Valladolid and there incarcerated in the prison of the Inquisition. No question was asked me, no judicial examination was made. I was, at once, placed in a small cell upon the first floor, the grated window of which gave out upon the dismal courtyard below. But, saving the restraint and loneliness under which I chafed, my first five months of imprisonment were not severe, for permission was granted that my food and extra might be sent to me from the Castillete de la Mina.

On the fourth or fifth of September, however, I was awakened at midnight and arraigned before the dread Tribunal in the vault of the prison!

Numbed with the cold and frozen with the horror of the scene, I shuddered with weakness and fear as I peered into the cruel eyes of the unknown Inquisitors, who glared upon me through the holes in their hooded masks. Three times they repeated their question before I understood its true significance.



Valladolid, Spain, 1574
creative commons



"From whom," they demanded, "from whom did you receive the heretical books?"

There was but one answer to that question-it was silence, and a terrible retribution was dealt out upon me for that silence.

My son, do you remember how, as a little boy, you often inquired of me concerning the ugly swelled bones that disfigure my ankles and wrists and which always pain me so in damp weather? Oh, God! That priestly men professing gentleness and love and charity could ever be so pitiless and brutal in their lust of wealth and power!

That night they tortured me upon the rack with ever-increasing severity until, at last, all sense of suffering was providentially withheld from me in a merciful unconsciousness. Twice again they tortured me, and twice again a saving insensibility was providentially interposed.

The memory of those excruciating hours haunted me throughout the rest of my life!

For three weeks I lay upon my bed in constant pain, unable to stand or raise my arms, and it was not until the end of September that I was able to dress myself.

Early in the afternoon of Saturday, October 7, I was visited by the jailer, who treated me with gross indignity. He commanded me to descend into the courtyard and there assist the prison carpenters to complete the seven coffins that were required for the bodies of heretics who had recently died in jail, in order that their remains might

be placed in them and burned tomorrow at the Auto de Fé! These coffins were painted with flames and devils in red and yellow, and it was my odious task-I, a nobleman of Spain!-it was my odious task to paint those hellish symbols on those coffins!

Now, my son, you may or you may not believe in special interventions of Providence. For my part, I believe in Almighty God, and I believe Him to be able and willing, at His own chosen time, so to control and direct the administration of His own irrevocable laws that the powers of nature shall work for the special well-being of His children. Listen!

No sooner had I descended into the courtyard and commenced my loathsome task than a great heat and a lowering darkness descended upon us, and a terrific thunderstorm, such as you never experience in Britain's favored land, broke over the city. The lightning flashed and crackled like brittle steel, and the earth swayed and shook under the savage roll of thunder. The carpenters, mad with fright, fled into the cellars. The keeper of the gate rushed into his lodge and stood there, blinded and gibbering as if he were struck with sudden madness!

In that moment of blackness and horror I crept to the gate, unbolted it, and passed, unobserved, through the little wicket into the narrow street outside. Swiftly I sped on in the darkness towards the river and there, spurred by fear and heedless of the danger, I leapt across the stream from stone to stone, just in time before the oncoming storm-flood began to sweep down in a wild, roaring torrent from the surrounding hills. **AD**

to be continued in the following issue!

LEADERSHIP AND END-TIME PROPHECY

By Walter Veith

The Old Testament is replete with stories that hold great lessons for us who are living near to the culmination of all things. The successes and failures of the great people of God are faithfully recorded so that we may not lose courage when we face similar circumstances.

The book of Judges is packed with narratives which have a distinct eschatological flavour. In the time of the judges, Israel had a theocratic system of government where God directly exercised supreme authority over both religious and political affairs. The will of God was communicated to the nation through the judges and the people were spared the restrictions and regulations imposed by the other rulers of the nations around them. It is indeed strange that the nation of Israel clamoured for a king and that in the time when Samuel, a man of impeccable character, was judge in Israel. This was a direct rejection of the governance of God and a type of the rebellion in heaven. Nevertheless, God accommodated their wish because even this action would, through divine providence, eventually inoculate humanity against the evil of such a choice. The Lord comforted Samuel with these words:

1 Samuel 8:7 And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

The time is fast approaching when this world will have filled up the measure of its cup and the God of heaven will intervene and set up a kingdom which will never be removed. Once again God will be the Supreme Ruler and those who have drunk the cup of salvation and have made the character of God their study and have hungered and thirsted for this righteousness will once again find solace under the shadow of His wings.

In the light of this, what system of governance should we strive for in the church? Should we not as far as possible emulate the system of governance which God instituted and which the Israelites rejected? Did not Jesus point the way when He said:

Matthew 20:25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

Matthew 20:26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

Matthew 20:27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

Ellen White writes:

The organization of the church at Jerusalem was to serve as a model for the organization of churches in every other place where messengers of truth should win converts to the gospel. Those to whom was given the responsibility of the general oversight of the church were not to lord it over God's heritage, but, as wise shepherds, were to "feed the flock of God, ... being ensamples to the flock" (1 Peter 5:2, 3); and the deacons were to be "men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom." These men were to take their position unitedly on the side of right and to maintain it with firmness and decision. Thus they would have a uniting influence upon the entire flock. {AA 91.1}

Later in the history of the early church, when in various parts of the world many groups of believers had been formed into churches, the organization of the church was further perfected, so that order and harmonious action might be maintained. Every member was exhorted to act well his part. Each was to make a wise use of the talents entrusted to him. Some were endowed by the Holy Spirit with special gifts—"first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." 1 Corinthians 12:28. But all these classes of workers were to labor in harmony. {AA 91.2}

One of the stories in the book of Judges that bears amazing parallels to the time we are living in is the story of Deborah and Barak and their conflict with Jabin the Canaanite king and his general Sisera. Now there is danger of drawing too close a parallel, but nevertheless the eschatological flavour of the narrative cannot be denied.

Judges 4:1 And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, when Ehud was dead.

Judges 4:2 And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host was Sisera, which dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles.

Judges 4:3 And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD: for he had nine hundred chariots of

iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel.

Judges 4:4 And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.

The name Jabin means one who is "intelligent or discerning" and Sisera means "horse" and "swift". The enemies of God and His people are thus worldly-wise and have the military power to back them up. The chariots of iron at the king's disposal were equipped with sharp scythe-like swords attached to their axles so that any adversary in their path would be cut asunder like wheat before the harvester.


Deborah means "bee", a pollinator, and she was married to Lapidthoth which means "lamp" and "enlightened", whilst Barak means "thunder" and "lightning". The prophetess is the disseminator of truth and she is married, typologically, to the source of light and enlightenment. The general, Barak, has at his disposal the weapons of God, namely, thunder and lightning as opposed to worldly strength represented by horses and chariots.



*Judges 4:5 And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel **came up** to her for judgment.*

*Judges 4:6 And **she sent and called Barak** the son of Abinoam out of Kedeshnaphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun?*

Judges 4:7 And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand.



Barak was the son of Abinoam, which means "father of pleasantness", and he lived in Kedesh which was a city of refuge. When approaching the prophets of old or Jerusalem, the path was always "up". The reference to the river Kishon introduces the eschatological final judgement which was also prefigured by Elijah who executed the prophets of Baal at the same river.

1 Kings 18:40 And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

The story continues:

Judges 4:8 And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go.

Judges 4:9 And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour; for the LORD shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh.

The words "If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go" are full of meaning. If we draw a parallel to our beloved church today, then Deborah would be the equivalent of Ellen Gould White and Barak would equate with those that stand in the forefront and have to fight the battles of the Lord. "Ellen" means light and mercy, "Gould" is gold (refined in the fire) and "White" stands for righteousness. Can we afford today to fight the battles of the Lord if we are not equipped with the testimonies that place the conflict we are in within the context of the Great Controversy? Can we stand if we do not take this knowledge with us?

Judges 4:10 And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and he went up with ten thousand men at his feet: and Deborah went up with him.

Judges 4:11 Now Heber the Kenite, which was of the children of Hobab the father in law of Moses, had severed himself from the Kenites, and pitched his tent unto the plain of Zaanaim, which is by Kedesh.

Another important role player in this narrative is Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite who was related to the father in law of Moses. Jael, which means "Ibex" (a sure-footed mountain goat) is married to Heber whose name means "alliance". Jael is the one that recognises Sisera and slays him by driving a tent peg through his temple whilst he is seeking refuge in her tent. She is the woman that receives the glory and is honoured in the song of Deborah for her courageous deed.

Judges 5:24 Blessed above women shall Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite be, blessed shall she be above women in the tent.

Who can this woman represent? Her husband had "severed himself from the Kenites", he had separated himself from worldly influences. Can she represent the church, which is honoured for her deed? It is not the individual that fights the battles of the Lord that receives the glory. He or she is only doing their duty. It is the church that is the "church militant" that will eventually be the "church triumphant". The battle is the Lord's but she is the queen decked in the gold of Ophir, His bride, that stands by His side. In the Biblical narrative the armies of heaven fight the final battle but Christ does not bypass his bride in this final victory as is evident in the song of Deborah:

Judges 5:19 The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they took no gain of money.

Judges 5:20 **They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.**

Judges 5:21 The river of Kishon swept them away, that ancient river, the river Kishon. O my soul, thou hast trodden down strength.

Judges 5:22 Then were the horsehoofs broken by the means of the pransings, the pransings of their mighty ones.

Judges 5:23 Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; **because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.**

Judges 5:24 Blessed above women shall Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite be, blessed shall she be above women in the tent.

Judges 5:25 He asked water, and she gave him milk; she brought forth butter in a lordly dish.

Judges 5:26 She put her hand to the nail, and her right hand to the workmen's hammer; and with the hammer she smote Sisera, she smote off his head, when she had pierced and stricken through his temples.

Judges 5:27 At her feet he bowed, he fell, he lay down: at her feet he bowed, he fell: where he bowed, there he fell down dead.

It is evident that not all the Israelites shared the same commitment to the call of Deborah as did Barak and many refused to come to the help of the Lord. Sadly, this may be repeated in our time as there are those within our ranks who deem the testimonies outdated.

The church militant faces the same adversaries today as it did in the time of the judges and the outcome will be the same as it was then. There exists in the world today a worldly wise king and he has armies under the command of a general that seeks to destroy the last vestige of Protestantism that remains in the world today. When this power attempts to enter even the tents of God's beloved he will meet his end as verily as did Sisera.

Daniel 11:45 And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

The Ellen White writes:

During ages of spiritual darkness the church of God has been as a city set on a hill. From age to age, through successive generations, the pure doctrines of heaven have been unfolding within its borders. Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard. It is the theater of His grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts. {AA 12.1}

Many today cherish a spirit of independence and believe that God does not require them to have denominational ties, but it is within the church that the final drama will unfold.

Some have advanced the thought that, as we near the close of time, every child of God will act independently of any religious organization. But I have been instructed by the Lord that in this work there is no such thing as every man's being independent.¹ {LDE 47.2}

The Redeemer of the world does not sanction experience and exercise in religious matters independent of his organized and acknowledged church. Many have an idea that they are responsible to Christ alone for their light and experience, independent of his recognized followers on earth. But in the history of the conversion of Saul, important principles are given us, which we should ever bear in mind. He was brought directly into the presence of Christ. He was one whom Christ intended for a most important work, one who was to be "a chosen vessel" unto him; yet he did not personally impart to him the lessons of truth. He arrested his course and convicted him; but when asked by him, "What wilt thou have me to do?" the Saviour placed him in connection with his church, and let them direct him what to do. {LP 31.1}

Revelation 22:17 makes it quite clear that Christ and His church act in unison, the Spirit and the bride work together.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Do we need an organized Church:?

Oh, how Satan would rejoice if he could succeed in his efforts to get in among this people and disorganize the work at a time when thorough organization is essential and will be the greatest power to keep out spurious uprisings and to refute claims not endorsed by the Word of God! We want to hold the lines evenly, that there shall be no breaking down of the system of organization and order that has been built up by wise, careful labor. License must not be given to disorderly elements that desire to control the work at this time. {LDE 47.1}

In his article Beheading Christ, Keith Drury makes an interesting point regarding Christ and His choice of bride. Many are willing to choose Christ, but they are not willing to choose His bride. Drury writes:

I have decided to submit to Christ's tastes in bride-picking. If He wants the church as His bride I will accept her too. Jesus Christ, the head of the body is easy to love. The body of Christ is harder to love. But I have chosen to love her for one single reason—Christ loves her and considers her beautiful. Perhaps he sees possibilities in her I don't see? Perhaps that's how He sees me too?²

The idea that one church and one church alone should be the representative of God in these times is offensive to many and the idea that the Spirit of Prophecy should be an integral part of that church is even more offensive, not only to people outside the church but even to many within. Many attempt to marginalize the Spirit of Prophecy and to make it "of no effect" but I am convinced that it will yet prove to be the unifying factor that will bring the church into harmony before the final battle will be fought. Instead of marginalizing or relegating the testimonies to the scrap heap of 19th century thinking, they should be made more prominent as we move closer to the end.

As the end draws near, and the work of giving the last warning to the world extends, it becomes more important for those who accept present truth to have a clear understanding of the nature and influence of the Testimonies, which God in His providence has linked with the work of the third angel's message from its very rise.³

In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the testimonies of His Spirit. There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will, and the course that He would have them pursue.⁴

What is it that binds us together? Is it not the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus? Is the testimony of Jesus not an integral part of remnant theology? The testimonies are the guiding light through the labyrinth of error. We dare not be without them and like Barak we should proclaim:

"If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go."

The song of Deborah and Barak prefigures the song of Moses and the Lamb which will be sung by those that will be gathered on the sea of glass:

Revelation 15:2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

Revelation 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

When the song of Moses was sung, the prophetess Miriam led the children of Israel in this song of praise. Is it too far-fetched to assume that a prophetess will lead the women (the church) in the antitypical song of victory over the antitypical Pharaoh and his generals?

Exodus 15:20 And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

Exodus 15:21 And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

Now is not the time to haul down our colours. Shall ridicule or contempt stand in our way? Considering every wind of doctrine blowing through the corridors of Adventism, there is no other unifying factor that can bring us together other than faith in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

When they were scattered by persecution, they went forth filled with missionary zeal. They realized the responsibility of their mission. They knew that they held in their hands the bread of life for a famishing world; and they were constrained by the love of Christ to break this bread to all who were in need. The Acts of the Apostles, 106. { Ch S 159.1}

God means that testing truth shall be brought to the front, and become a subject of examination

and discussion, even if it is through the contempt placed upon it. The minds of the people must be agitated. Every controversy, every reproach, every slander, will be God's means of provoking inquiry, and awakening minds that otherwise would slumber.

Testimonies for the Church 5:453. { Ch S 159.2}

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

True leadership will be in harmony with the principles of the Spirit of Prophecy and will bind us together as one in the one church of God in these last days. We are to be Seventh-Day Adventists first in mind and soul and action. We are to be of one accord as were the disciples at Pentecost so that the refreshing showers of the latter rain may fill the earth with their glory. **AD**

1 (from manuscript, read before the delegates at the general conference session, Washington, D.C., May 30, 1909) 9T 257, 258 (1909).

2 <http://euangelion.topcities.com>

3 Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 654. (1889) {Ev 255.2}

4 Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 661. (1889) {Ev 255.3}





Excerpt

THOU HAST MAGNIFIED THY WORD

Above All Thy Name

*Dedicated to all who love and long for the precious, preserved Words of Truth:
"ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

Forward

Can you say with confidence that your faith is based on the infallible word of God? Were the Scriptures compiled by a messy group of councils and revised by a multitude of scribes? Is it true that there are errors and contradictions in the Bible and its manuscripts? Are there any corrupted copies of Scripture? Do you know for certain that the version of Scripture you read is a copy of God's preserved Word?

The facts and history of the preservation of Scripture are the foundation of our faith upon which depends our eternal destiny. Without His Word, the human race would have no knowledge of God. We must have full assurance that we are indeed reading the true and pure word of God.

The Bible's power, feared by its enemies, precious to those who love its precepts, is the power to transform those who submit to its claims. The written words of Scripture have had a greater influence on this world than any other literary work the planet has ever seen. They have changed the course of nations, and altered history in ways that will

only be comprehended in eternity. The Bible is the revelation of God's love for the human race. It contains the treasures of eternal riches. "In His Word, God has committed to men the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience." ¹ Though every power of hell and demons has been arrayed against this book, "in a most wonderful manner it was preserved uncorrupted through all the ages of darkness. It [bears] not the stamp of man, but the impress of God."² "The Bible, and the Bible alone, is to be our creed ... all who bow to this Holy Word will be in harmony. Our own views and ideas must not control our efforts. Man is fallible, but God's Word is infallible. Instead of wrangling with one another, let men exalt the Lord. Let us meet all opposition as did our Master, saying, 'It is written.' Let us lift up the banner on which is inscribed, The Bible our rule of faith and discipline."³

Introduction⁴

We may be told that which is absolutely true, the essential truth of God; yet if we doubt it, and as long as we doubt it, we never can know it. Therefore, doubt is only the open door to ignorance.

Further, we may be told that which is completely false, an outright lie; yet though we believe it, however implicitly, we never can know it. This is for the simple reason that it is not true. It is impossible to know what is not true.

Therefore there are just two things which are essential to knowledge - **Truth** and **Faith**.

Truth and faith are the two essentials to knowledge: and the first of these in order is truth. This is because however implicitly we may believe that which is not true, we never can know it. Therefore, since that which is believed must be true in order to be known, it follows that truth is the first essential to knowledge. And since even the sincerest truth, when told, cannot be known without our believing it, it follows that the second essential to knowledge is faith. Truth and faith, therefore, working together—the truth believed—is the way to knowledge.

This can be illustrated by an experience familiar to almost all. It is the truth that **A** is **A**. We believed this truth, and thus, and thus only, we know that **A** is **A**. If we had not believed that truth when we were told it, we would not now know that **A**, **B**, **C**, **D**, etc., are what they are; and

had we never believed this, we never could have known it. If we had asked for proof as a basis for belief, we never could have had it, and so never could have believed, and so never could have known this fundamental thing in all literary knowledge. We could have had no proof, apart from itself, that **A** or any other letter of the alphabet is what it is.

There is proof of this, but the proof is in the letter itself; and by believing it, by receiving it for what it is we obtain the knowledge; and in this knowledge and by experience we obtain the proof. For in each of the

This illustration does not stop here. The first two letters of the Greek alphabet are Alpha and Beta. Dropping the "a" from Beta, these two Greek letters give us our word Alpha-bet. This word "Alphabet" signifies all the letters of the English language. How is this, when the word itself is derived from only the first two letters of the Greek language? It comes in a very simple way. When we in our language wish to ask whether a person knows, or we wish to say that a person does not know, the alphabet, we most commonly do not ask: "Does he know the alphabet?" nor, "Does he know the **A B C D E F**

*Therefore there are just two things
which are essential to knowledge:
Truth and Faith.*

letters of the alphabet there is a value which responded to our belief: a value which has never failed and which never will fail us. We know that each of the letters is what it is: and all the philologists, philosophers, and scientists in all the world could not convince us that any letter of the alphabet is other than it simply is. And yet the means by which we know this is simple belief of a simple, and simply-told, truth.

G H I J K L M N, and so on through to "**Z**," but we ask, "Does he know the **ABC**'s?" or we say, "He does not know his **ABC**'s." The Greeks did the same: When they wished to express the same thought, they did not say,

¹ E.G. White, *The Faith I Live By* (1958), p. 13.2.

² E.G. White, *The Great Controversy* (1911), p. 69.2.

³ E.G. White, "A Missionary Appeal," *Review and Herald*, December 15, 1885, p. 770.

⁴ Adapted from A. T. Jones, *The Place of the Bible in Education*, Ch. III, *The Essentials to Knowledge* (Oakland, CA: Pacific Press, 1903), p. 17-22.

"Does he know the Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Epsilon," and so on to "Omega?" but simply, "Does he know the Alpha Beta?" or, "He does not know the Alpha Beta." And this Greek abbreviation of the whole list of the letters of that language into only "Alpha Beta" comes down to us with the dropping of the "a" from Beta; and so becomes our word "Alphabet," the abbreviation of the whole list of the letters of our language.

In common English there is a concise way of saying that a person knows little or nothing of a subject, in the expression, "He does not know the ABC of it." The Greeks had the same, "He does not know the Alpha Beta of it." On the other hand, there is a concise way of saying that a person is thoroughly informed, or knows all of a subject, in the expression, "He knows that subject from **A** to **Z**." The Greeks had the same, "He knows that subject from Alpha to Omega" - he knows all there is to be known of it. And this is the basis and the thought in the expression of Christ in the book of Revelation several times, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."

Jesus is the Alphabet of God. As the expression "Alpha and Omega" signifies the whole alphabet, and embraces all there is in the Greek language; and "**A** to **Z**" signifies the whole alphabet, and all that there is in the English language; so Jesus Christ, the Alphabet of God, embraces all that there is of the language or knowledge of God. As in the twenty-four letters of the Greek

Alphabet from Alpha to Omega there are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge in the world of that language; and as in the twenty-six letters of the English alphabet there are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that there are in the world of the English language; so in Jesus Christ, the Alphabet of God, there are "hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge⁵ that there are in the universe of the language of God.



And this Alphabet of God is learned in precisely the same way and with precisely the same faculty as is the alphabet of Greek, or English, or any other language. The Alphabet of God is the truth. We believe that truth and this is how we know that He is what He is. There is proof of this, but the proof is in Himself. By believing this Alphabet, by receiving Him for what He is, we obtain the knowledge; and in this knowledge and by experience of it we have the constant living proof. For in this Alphabet of God, in each letter, yea, in each jot and tittle, there is a value that responds

to our faith: a value that never has failed, that never will fail, and that never can fail, to respond to any man's belief of that Alphabet. And to him who thus knows the Alphabet of God, all the philosophers and all the scientists and all the unbelievers in all the world can not prove to him that any part of this Alphabet is not what He is. Indeed, anyone attempting to prove any such thing only thereby reveals the fact that he does not yet know the true Alphabet: he does not yet know his **ABC's**.

It is only as a little child that we learn—anyone can learn—the alphabet of the English language. Though a man were a thousand years old, and fully possessed of all his faculties, and yet did not know the ABC's—the alphabet of English—he would have to become as a little child in order to learn it, in order to receive the knowledge that A is A: he would simply have to believe it as does the little child, and by believing that each letter is what it is, when he is told, he would know. And if he should refuse to believe this, by this very refusal—by his unbelief itself—he would condemn himself, to the everlasting loss of all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that are hid in the world of English.

So also it is with the Alphabet of the language and knowledge of God. It is only by believing this Alphabet that any person can ever know Him. If any one refuses to believe, he cannot know. And whoever does not believe is by this very unbelief condemned to the everlasting loss of all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge of God: all of which lie hidden in the

⁵ 2 Colossians 2:3



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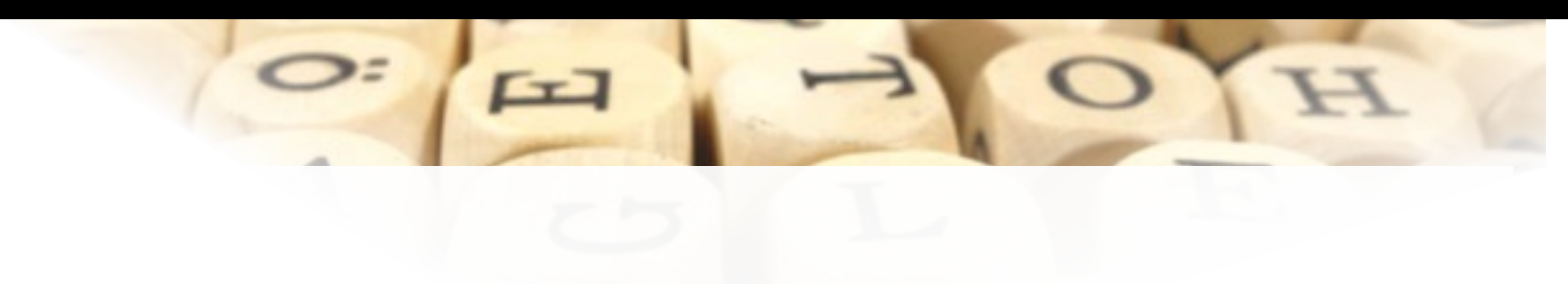
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FROM ALDERGROVE, LANGLEY



Alphabet of God. For as it is by various combinations of the contents of the alphabet that words are formed, and words express thought; so the manifold combinations of the contents of the Alphabet of God form the word of God, and the word of God expresses the thought of God.

Therefore Jesus Christ announced the eternal principle of true learning when He declared, "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in nowise enter therein."⁶ The little child receives the kingdom of God by simply believing the simple statement of the Word of the kingdom. This is how every one receives, and how every one must receive, the kingdom of English or of any other language. It is how every one must receive the kingdom of God. To receive the kingdom of God, and to know the Alphabet of God, is as easy as to know the **ABC's**. Therefore to learn, not as a philosopher, but as a little child, is the true way to knowledge. The truth and faith, working together-the truth believed-is forever the true way to knowledge.

A Conspiracy of Silence

The Bible makes the claim to absolute truthfulness and infallibility.⁷ It then provides the internal evidence to verify that claim. Complete harmony through sixty-six books, by about forty different writers, spanning one and a half millennia, would be impossible if the author were not the Holy Spirit. Thus the Bible is a miraculous combination of the human and the divine, just as "God was manifest in the flesh."⁸

Scripture says:

2 Peter 1 :21 "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Psalms 119:160 "Thy word is true from the beginning ... "

Proverbs 30:5 "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him."

John 17:17 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

In order for Scripture to make the claim of truthfulness, it must also contain the promise of preservation. For food to be safe and nourishing, it must be preserved from spoilage and contamination. It would not be enough for the food manufacturer to claim that the food was uncontaminated when it left the factory without making provision for its preservation by canning or refrigeration, all the way to the point of consumption by the customer. It is not enough for God to originate a truthful presentation of Scripture, thousands of years ago, without His ability to protect and preserve that Scripture from corruption, destruction, or contamination. If there were a pure Scripture at one time, it really does not matter unless we have the ability to access that Scripture in its pure, true, and uncorrupted form, in a language that we can understand, without it having been lost, destroyed, or tampered with; and having full assurance that we are indeed reading the true and pure word of God.

Scripture says that it endures forever and is even preserved in heaven:

1 Peter 1 :25 "But the word of the Lord endureth for ever ... "

Psalms 119:89 "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."

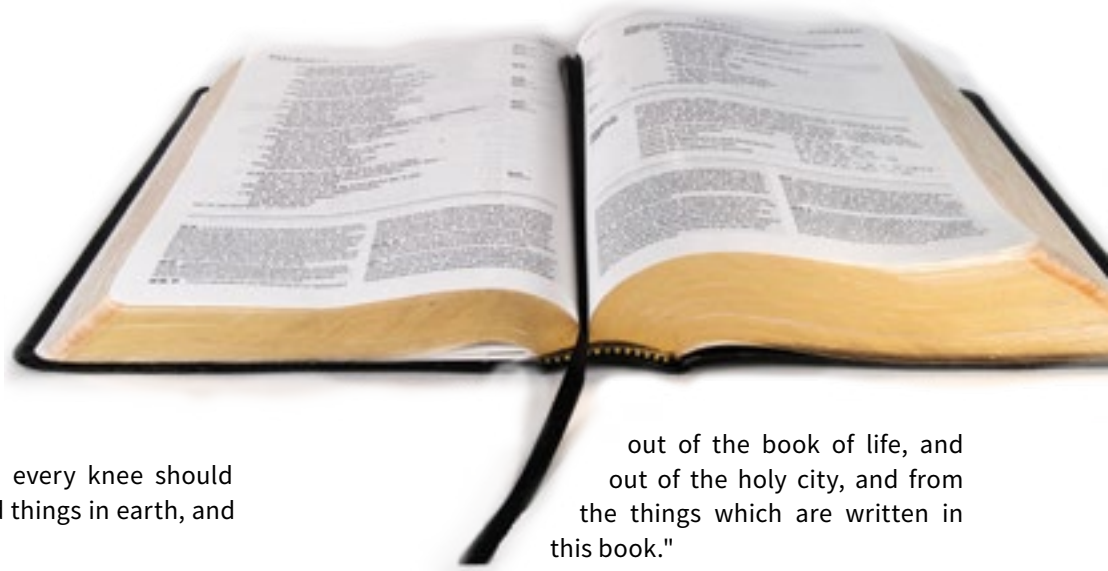
The one name exalted above every name is the name of Jesus:

⁶ Luke 18:17

⁷ 1 Kings 8:56

⁸ 1 Timothy 3:16

⁹ Psalm 138:2



Philippians 2:9-11

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

"And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

In all the universe, only God's Word is exalted above the name of Jesus: "for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."⁹

How much reverence should we have for a Word that is exalted above the name of God? The very truthfulness of God himself is staked on the truthfulness of His Word.

Isaiah 66:2 "but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word."

Not only has God promised that His Word is true, but also that He would preserve it from the time it was written, through all eternity.

Psalms 12:6-7 "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. "Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."

So serious is God about the preservation of His Word, that He gives severe warnings against attempts to tamper with Scripture.

Revelation 22:18-19 "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."

Deuteronomy 4:2 "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."

Deuteronomy 12:32 "What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it."

Proverbs 30:5-6 "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

"Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."

Though God promised to preserve His Word, the stern facts of history and the unyielding testimony of Scripture prove that attempts have been made to pervert God's Word.

Jeremiah 23:35-36 "What hath the LORD answered? and, What hath the LORD spoken?....ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God."

Thus, to fulfill the promise of preservation, the Scripture must contain a way to distinguish between the genuine and the counterfeit. With demonstrable and rather serious differences in so many current versions of the Bible, how can we be certain what is God's true and preserved Word? To this question we will now turn.

Comparing the King James Version in Job 19:26 with the *American Standard Version*¹⁰ illustrates the problem of someone perverting the Word of the living God.

KJV Job 19:26 "yet **in my flesh** shall I see God:"

ASV Job 19:26 "then **without my flesh** shall I see God;"¹¹

Simple logic demands that two opposite statements cannot both be true. One of these two statements cannot be true. Therefore one must be false. The one that is false cannot be God's pure, true, unperverted Word.

To begin the process of discovering clues to reveal the genuine and unmask the counterfeit, let us consider Luke 4:4. In meeting the temptations of Satan in the wilderness, Jesus quotes from the Old Testament passage found in Deuteronomy 8:3.

KJV Luke 4:4 "And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, **but by every word of God.**"

Here the Bible testifies that every word is not only important but also necessary to our life. However, the bold words are missing in the NASS, NIV, ASV, CEV, ERV, ESV, GNB, GS, MSG, Mott, RV, RSV, NWT, TNIV, etc.¹¹

Jesus' statement really would not make any sense without the phrase "but by every word of God." Is He making some ridiculously obvious statement that man has to have water and air and fruit and vegetables in order to live-not just bread? Or is He making a spiritual application, comparing the necessity of physical bread to the necessity of eating the Bread of Life? The entire statement must be included in order for the declaration not to seem ridiculous.

Both the Old and New Testaments testify to the fact that there are those who intentionally corrupt the word of God. We have already read Jeremiah's testimony; let us read what Paul says:

KJV 2 Corinthians 2:17 "For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ."

Scripture clearly declares that many were corrupting the word of God, even in Paul's day. We also have extra-biblical evidence that these changes were occurring by the second century: Irenaeus states, "Wherefore also

Marcion and his followers have betaken themselves to mutilating the Scriptures, not acknowledging some books at all; and, curtailing the Gospel according to Luke and the Epistles of Paul, they assert that these are alone authentic, which they have themselves thus shortened."¹³

If there were individuals and/or organizations that were intentionally corrupting the word of God,¹⁴

they would most certainly not want it widely known that this is what they were doing, for surely people who value God's Word would no longer trust or tolerate their activities. Therefore they would probably try to hide the fact that the Bible predicted their activities by modifying this verse. Indeed this appears to be the case:

NKJV¹⁵ 2 Corinthians 2:17 "For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ."¹⁶



¹⁰ Also BBE, CJB, ERV, JPS.

¹¹ American Standard Version (New York: Thomas Nelson & Sons, 1901), p. 452.

¹² For the full names of each version, see Appendix Abbreviations.

¹³ Philip Schaff, DD, Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 1 (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons '1905') p. 434, 435.

¹⁴ Later it will be more fully demonstrated that there are such individuals and organizations that explicitly tell us their own published writings that they are intentionally changing God's Word and why.

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The name of Jesus is the most exalted name in the Universe: "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...

"And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord..."
Philippians 2:9-11

Yet, in all the Universe, there is one thing that is exalted above the name of Jesus: "for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." Psalm 138:2. How much reverence should we have for a Word that is exalted above the name of God? The very truthfulness of God himself is staked on the truthfulness of his Word.

Compare:

KJV Job 19:26 "yet in my flesh shall I see God:"

ASV Job 19:26 "then without my flesh shall I see God;"

Simple logic demands that two opposite statements cannot both be true. Therefore one must be false. The one that is false cannot be God's pure, true, unperverted Word. Though God promised to preserve his word, the stern facts of history and the unyielding testimony of Scripture prove that attempts have been made to pervert God's Word: "ye have perverted the words of the living God." Jeremiah 23:36 Thus, to fulfill the promise of preservation, the Scripture must contain a way to distinguish between the genuine from the counterfeit: "ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32



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Now peddling and corrupting God's Word are most certainly not the same thing. Is it wrong to sell Bibles? If it is, then the modern Bibles are self-condemned, because it is only the modern Bibles which are copyrighted. A copyright means that no one is legally allowed to duplicate or reprint significant portions without obtaining permission and paying appropriate royalties. Copyrights also mean that the copyright owner owns the words—they are his intellectual property. Does any human being have the right to lay claim to ownership of the words of God? Should people be restricted from making copies of Scripture and distributing it freely? Historically, in U.S. patent law, patents were not allowed to be taken on life, because life is not manmade.¹⁷ If a human copyrights the words, then by definition, they are not the words of God.¹⁸

Under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the prophet Amos predicted that, one day, there would be "a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD."¹⁹

Since "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God,"²⁰ could it be that in this day of the proliferation of Bibles that people are no longer hearing the words of God? Souls are starving for the bread of life in the midst of plenty.

Some readers may find it difficult to accept that there have been intentional attempts to change God's Word. In an age when the media has indoctrinated our society with the idea that it would be lunacy to believe in a conspiracy, some might be tempted to think that such an assertion might be dangerously close to the "c" word. Yet, the Bible tells us otherwise:

Ezekiel 22:25 "There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the

treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof."

Conspiracy theories will not here be introduced—only documented first hand evidence of a "conspiracy of silence." "In June [Hort] joined the mysterious company of the 'Apostles' He remained always a grateful and loyal member of the secret Club, which has now become famous for the number of distinguished men who have belonged to it. In his time the Club was in a manner reinvigorated, and he was mainly responsible for the wording of the oath which binds the members to a conspiracy of silence."²¹



15 Also NIV, NASB, CEV, ERV, ESV, GNB, NWT, RSV, etc.

16 New King James Version, Red Letter ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1983), p. 1177

17 This began to change in 1980 in *Diamond v. Chakrabarty* with the first patent of a genetically modified organism—and the implications are rather serious, but, that is for another story.

18 The words of the King James Bible are not copyrighted. Anyone may copy, duplicate, and distribute freely the King James Version. While some publishers do place a copyright notice on

their King James Bibles, this copyright is only on the format, footnotes, and supplemental materials, not on the Words of God.

19 Amos 8:11

20 Romans 10:17

21 A. F. Hort, *Life and Letters of Fenton John Anthony Hort*, Vol. 1 (London: MacMillan and Co., 1896), p. 170, 171: emphasis supplied.

Here we are told, by his son, that the famous Bible translator, Fenton John Anthony Hort, belonged to a secret club whose members were bound by an oath to a conspiracy of silence-an oath Hort himself was responsible for writing.

Is it any wonder that another famous Biblical textual scholar of the day said, "All this ... I frankly avow, to me, looks very much indeed like what, in the language of lawyers, is called 'Conspiracy.'"¹²²

So, here at the outset, are provided a couple of examples demonstrating that, if nothing else, Satan is conspiring against God's Word.

KJV Psalm 22:16 "For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet."

In a most amazing way, Scripture prophesies specific details of the way in which Jesus would die, and the subsequent verses even describe the soldiers casting lots for His vesture.

"In the sufferings of Christ upon the cross prophecy was fulfilled. Centuries before the crucifixion, the Saviour had foretold the treatment He was to receive. He said, 'Dogs have compassed Me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed Me: they pierced My hands and My feet. I may tell all My bones: they look and stare upon Me. They part My garments among them, and cast lots upon My vesture.' Psalm 22:16-18."²³

Yet, the Good News Bible removes the prophecy of His crucifixion by saying: "they tear at my hands and feet."²⁴

The *New English Bible* says, "they hacked off my hands and feet,"²⁵ which directly contradicts another prophecy that not a bone of His body would be broken.²⁶

In **KJV Zechariah 13:6** the Bible prophesies that He would be killed by His own people or friends,²⁷ and predicts His manner of death by crucifixion. "And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends."

But the *Good News Bible*, again, brazenly removes the prophecy about Christ's crucifixion by putting the wounds in the chest, instead of the hands:

"Then if someone asks him, 'What are those wounds on your chest?' he will answer, 'I got them at a friend's house.'"²⁸

The *Living Bible* takes the brazen to the preposterous: "What are these scars on your chest? 'These are the scars I received when I was in a brawl with my friend.'"²⁹

The Moffat translation goes from preposterous to blasphemous, by putting the scars back on the hands, but claiming they came from a prostitute: "When he is asked, 'Then what are these scars on your hands?' He will answer 'I got these in my harlot's house.'"³⁰

The Message changes the blasphemous into clumsy comedy: "And if someone says, 'And so where did you get that black eye?' they'll say, 'I ran into a door at a friend's house.'"³¹

This is not Bible translation. This is first degree adulteration-high treason against the government of God. Surely Satan laughs



at such mockery of our Savior and mutilation of his Word. Simple logic demands that these widely varying versions cannot all be true. Therefore some must be false. The ones that are false cannot be God's pure, true, and unperverted Word.

Because God promised to preserve the truth and purity of his Word, and yet told us that many would "corrupt the word of God," it becomes imperative to understand how to recognize the genuine from the counterfeit. In order to do that we need to know the pattern of the problem, the extent of the problem, the history of the problem, those causing the problem, and their connections. Once we know who is changing God's Word, the intention becomes clear as well as the pattern the changes will follow. In this manner the mystery can be unraveled, the truth discovered, and the conspiracy of silence broken. Satan's deceptions will be unmasked.

"It is the duty of every faithful servant of God, to firmly and decidedly withstand these perverters of the faith, and to fearlessly expose their errors by the word of truth."³² **AD**

This article is excerpted from the book "Above All Thy Name", available through Amazing Discoveries.

- 22 John William Burgan, B.D., *The Revision Revised* (London: William Clowes and Sons' 1883) ' p. 398.
- 23 E. G. White, *The Desire of Ages* (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press, 1898), p. 746.1.
- 24 *Good News Bible* (New York: American Bible Society, 1976), p. 607.
- 25 *The New English Bible* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970), p. 626.
- 26 Psalm 34:20; John 19:36
- 27 "Even the manner of His death had been shadowed forth. As the brazen serpent had been uplifted in the wilderness, so was the coming Redeemer to be lifted up, 'that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' John 3:16 'One shall say unto Him, What are these wounds in Thine hands? Then He shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of My friends' Zechariah 13:6." E.G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles* (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press, 1911), p. 226.3-4.
- 28 *Good News Bible* (1976), p. 1036.
- 29 *The Living Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1978), p. 728.
- 30 James Moffatt, D.D., D.Litt, MA (Oxon.), *The Bible: A New Translation* (New York Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1935), p. 1035.
- 31 Eugene H. Peterson, M.A., *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language, Version 2.0* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress Publishing Group, 2002), p. 1729. 26
- 32 E. G. White, *Sketches from the Life of Paul* (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press, 1883), p. 192.2.

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