

Ye Are Complete in Him

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F A I T H **ON THE LINE**
DARE TO STAND

WINTER 2017

ANOTHER

year has come to an end and we have experienced events which should awaken us all from our slumbers. Never before have we seen such a dramatic fulfillment of prophetic events as we have witnessed during this last year. Since the visit of Pope Francis to the USA last year we have seen the ratification of the Paris Agreement on the Environment by the UN. This agreement in a large measure is the recognition of the Papal encyclical on the environment which also contains the call for Sunday sacredness and the Eucharist celebration. We have witnessed the dramatic events surrounding the US elections and the promises of Donald Trump to end the separation of church and state, an event long foretold and so little believed. Moreover, we have seen the signing of the "Unity of Religions Agreement" and the evangelical push for reunification with Rome with many evangelic leaders from the US making the trip to Rome to show their solidarity with that power.

With the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation before us in 2017 and the promise to "bury the hatchet" with Rome, we are experiencing another fulfillment of prophecy and the Lord must be crying out as in the days of Isaiah:

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed. Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate. Isaiah 6:8-11



If ever there was a time for the loud cry to go to the world, it is now. Who will go for the Lord? Who will warn before the cities be wasted? We fervently believe that Amazing Discoveries has an important role to play in this prophetic call and we are willing to go and we hope that all the AD supporters will join us in this important mission.

With the coming new year, we at Amazing Discoveries are looking forward to enhancing and improving our evangelistic projects with more outreach goals and targets. In 2017, I will record a series on location in Europe on the subject of the reformation to be aired not only on AD.tv but also on secular TV stations. The series will take an in-depth look at

the issues that started the reformation and how they are still valid today. I will continue this reformation theme with several presentations in March and October 2017 to be held in Germany and Montenegro on the subject. In addition, he will be recording a new Genesis Conflict series for secular television, allowing us to have more material available for channels such as Novus, Joy TV, Zoomer TV, and if funds allow and God opens doors, Global TV. The costs for airtime on secular TV stations is enormous and support from our friends and supporters will be vital. Enmity will of course continue with further episodes in 2017. In addition, I work will involve a new style of presentations, including documentaries and programming featuring new speakers in new formats and settings to attract newer audiences.

The production department at AD is gearing up for these new presentations and new speakers with an overhaul of our studio this winter, and the purchase of cameras to replace our aging ones. The costs associated with the overhaul will be \$300,000 USD. These are just some of AD's plans with more to be announced soon.

We want to express our sincere appreciation for all the moral and financial support we have received during this past year. Only in heaven will we see the results but from what we are witnessing from all over the world we can truly say that the Lord is moving among the nations and many are waking up to the truth. Please pray for us at AD that we may remain consecrated vessels and that we may remain focused as we know that the enemy is a roaring lion seeking to destroy all opposed to his will.

Walter J. Veith / President

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "WJ Veith". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light blue background.

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

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Ye are Complete in Him !

BY ERIC WILSON

"According as He hath chosen us in Him, before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love ... wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved!" Ephesians 1:4-6

"For God so loved this world, that He gave His Only-Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life." John 3:16. This message is for the world, for "whosoever" means that any and all who comply with the condition may share the Blessing (ref: Galatians 3:14).

All who look unto Jesus, believing in Him as their personal Saviour, shall "not perish, but have everlasting Life." Every provision has been made that we may have the everlasting reward. Christ is our sacrifice, our Substitute, our Surety, our Divine intercessor; He is made unto us Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption. *"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures (shadows) of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the Presence of God for us." Hebrews 9:24*

"Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool where is the house that ye build unto Me? and where is the place of My Rest (Hebrews 4:1-3)? For all those things hath Mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD But to this Man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and that trembleth at My Word!" Isaiah 66:1-2

"And He shall be for a Sanctuary ... but for a Stone of stumbling and as a Rock of offence to both the houses of Israel ... " Isaiah 8:14

"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden ... and I will give you Rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I Am meek and lowly of heart: and ye shall find Rest unto your souls !" Matthew 11:28-29

The intercession of Christ in our behalf is that of presenting His Divine merits (worthiness) in the offering of Himself to the Father as our Substitute and Surety (guarantee of perfection, His completed work); for He ascended up on high to make an atonement for our transgressions. *"If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He is the propitiation (atonement) for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." I John 2:2.*

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." I John 4:10. "Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them !" Hebrews 7:24-25

From these Scriptures it is evident that it is not God's will that you should be distrustful, and torture your soul with the fear that God will not accept you because you are sinful and unworthy. *"Draw nigh to God. and He will draw nigh to you." James 4:8. Present your case before Him, pleading the merits of the blood shed for you upon Calvary's cross.*

"For in that He died, He died unto sin once; but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God (as Divine) Like-wise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" Romans 6:10-11

Satan will accuse you of being a great sinner, and you must admit this, but you can say: I know I am a sinner, and that is the reason I need a Saviour. Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And *"the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."* *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and He is Just to forgive us (give in exchange for) our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* I John 1:7-9.

I have no merit or goodness whereby I may claim salvation, but I present before God the all-atoning blood of the spotless

Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is my only plea. The name of Jesus gives me access to the Father. His ear, His heart, is open to my faintest pleading, and He supplies my deepest necessities.

"For He (God the Father) hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him . . . !" II Corinthians 5:21-6:2

It is the righteousness of Christ that makes the penitent sinner acceptable to God and works his justification. However sinful has been his life, if he believes in Jesus as his (your) personal Saviour, he stands before God in the spotless robes of Christ's imputed righteousness.

The sinner so recently dead in trespasses and sins is quickened by faith in Christ. *"And faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God !" Romans 10:17.* He sees by faith that Jesus is his Saviour, and alive forevermore, able to save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by Him.

In the atonement made for him the believer sees such breadth, and length, and height, and depth of efficiency, sees such completeness of salvation (deliverance, rescue, freedom, healing and restoration), purchased at such infinite cost, that his soul is filled with praise and thanksgiving. He sees as in a glass the glory of the Lord (ref: James 1 :21-25), and is changed into the same image as by the Spirit of the Lord.

"Written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the Living God; not in tables of stone, but in the fleshy (soft) tables of the heart . . . !" II Corinthians 3:3

He sees the robe of Christ's righteousness, woven in the loom of heaven, wrought by His obedience, and imputed to the repenting soul through faith in His name (Matthew 1:21).

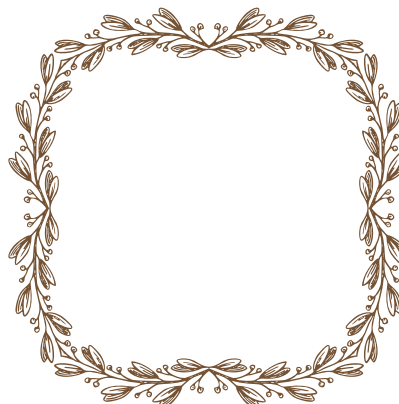
When the sinner has a view of the matchless charms of Jesus, sin no longer looks attractive to him; for he beholds the Chiefest among ten thousand, the One altogether lovely. He realizes by a personal experience the power of the gospel (the Glad Tidings), whose vastness of design is equaled only by its preciousness of purpose.

We have a Living Saviour. He is not in Joseph's new tomb; He is risen from the dead, and has ascended on high as a Substitute and Surety for every believing soul. *"Therefore being justified (declared innocent, righteous and holy) by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1

"To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be Just, and the Justifier of him which believeth in Jesus . . . !" Romans 3:26

"To declare, I say . . . the Glad Tidings of God, which He had promised before by His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord (and Sovereign King), which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; but declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of Holiness, by the resurrection of the dead!" Romans 1 : 1-4 AD

Raised in a Seventh-day Adventist Christian home, **Eric Wilson** began training in the martial arts at the age of fourteen, just after his parent's separation. Searching for purpose and a meaning to life, Eric began the journey on a path which promised confidence, assurance, and control; yet little did he realize the darkness into which that first step would lead him.





The Manifestation *of* Jesus Christ

by Michael E Fassbender

Part 3 of 5



As he came riding up the hill with his servants, he approached the dusty place and saw the landlord beating the sheaves of the wheat harvest. After loosening the grain from the husks, the sheaves were tossed up in the air with a winnowing fork. The slight summer breeze would then carry the chaff away, “that no place was found for it”. It was a toilsome and laborious process, but it had to be done. Was it not the only way of separating and purifying the precious grain, which would then be collected and stored in the barn?

The king stepped down from his mount, most probably a donkey rather than sightly horse, for he came in a peaceful mission, and horses were typically deployed in military campaigns¹. “No, I don’t want it for free. I’d like to pay the full price for it”. He made it clear that he did not want to worship God on a lot which did not even belong to him. The current owner of this desirable piece of real estate, a threshing floor, was a man named Araunah, and he was a Jebusite. The Jebusites were the previous rulers of Jerusalem, before it had been taken by the incumbent king, David, the son of Jesse.

King David had been instructed by the Lord to set up an altar in the threshing floor of Araunah (or Ornan), supposedly a former king of the Hittites (or Jebusites). Araunah’s threshing floor was located on Mount Moriah, the very place where Abraham was instructed to sacrifice his son, centuries earlier. This same place would later become the location of Solomon’s magnificent temple, the earthly sanctuary of the Creator God, the house of the visible presence of the Lord. Abraham built an altar for the Lord, and now it was David’s turn to erect a place of worship for Yahweh. Mount Moriah has as such been the place where God meets man. What has threshing wheat have do to with the presence of God? Why did David have to buy a threshing floor anyway? After

all, David had already repented (2. Sam 24:10) from his ambitious endeavor to number the people of Israel. God had ordered the destroying angel to stop the plague that was going to wipe out David’s “sheep” (Verse 16). Didn’t this case of the king’s transgression have to be closed here?



The Book of Revelation, in its grand overarching message to God’s church expressed via a unique chiasitic structure, conveys to us that God’s word, the logos, Jesus Christ, is trustworthy (Part 1 of this series). Jesus is also faithful, for He that is the first begotten of the dead, is the faithful witness, who keeps His promises for sure (Part 2). If we want to know why the Lord permitted Abraham’s Holy ground to become a lowly threshing floor before David was to build an altar on it again, we need to find out about the distinct message of the third chiasitic ring of the Book of Revelation. The upper portion of this ring starts with Revelation Chapter 4 and closes with Chapter 9:21; the corresponding image starts with Chapter 15 and ends with chapter 20, verse 15.

THE DIVINE COURT OF LAW

Revelation 3:22 transitions to Revelation 4:1 from Jesus' letter dictation to John's next vision. In this vision, John beholds God the Father is on His throne, and He is worshipped by His heavenly church, the 24 elders and some of His highest angels (compare Ezekiel 1:5-10). This chiastic ring opens

Let's remind ourselves of the nature of chiasm and look for mirror images: in this third chiastic layer, Revelation 20:11-15 and Revelation 4 - 6 seem to be related; in fact, Revelation 20: 11-15 seems to be a brief summary of chapters 4 - 6:11. If that applies, then it is clear that Jesus is the Judge, the only judge in the universe who is capable of executing righteous judgment, and the book with seven seals (Revelation 5:1) is, consequently, equal to the book of life (Revelation 20:12). In Chapter 5:7, Jesus takes the book out of the Father's right hand:

"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son" John 5:22

But Revelation 20:12 mentions other "books" that "were opened", and these books seem to contain the information on the works of the dead. These other books comprise - in legal language- the bill of indictment and do thus take the position of a prosecuting entity (compare to the "scroll of lamentation", Ezekiel 2:9.10.). These indictments are the formal charges of transgression of God's eternal law. Where do we find the defendants in God's court of law? When Jesus opens the first four seals of the Book of life, horses and horsemen are introduced. In Zechariah 1:8, 6:1-8, horses and horsemen represent groups of people ² (horses) and their leaders (horsemen). Remember, horses were used when leaders rode to war ¹.

Now let us back up and consider that - in the Old Testament sacrificial service- removal of sin was achieved in two steps: (1) sin was first transferred from the sinner to the sanctuary via the lamb that was sacrificed; (2) on the Day of Atonement, the accumulated sin of Israel was removed via scapegoat transference. In the antitypical system, sin is transferred to the Heavenly Sanctuary through the acceptance of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, and after the closing of the 2300 years (Daniel 8:14), Jesus the High Priest commenced His ministry of atonement to remove the sins of all who called upon Him for forgiveness. In fact, when Jesus received the book from the Father, His ministry of investigative judgement began. This happened in 1844. Now that Jesus the High Priest conducts the investigative judgment, first the names of the dead (Rev 20:12), who sometime during their lives accepted the sacrifice of the Lamb, are either retained in or removed from the book of life.

with a view into the heavenly throne room, and it ends with a similar throne scene (Revelation 20:11-15). The latter throne scene exhibits strong resemblance to the judgment scene in Daniel 7:9-10. If the throne room is also the judgment hall or the heavenly courtroom, who is the judge, where is the prosecutor, who is the defense counsel, and where do we find the defendants?



THE FOUR CAVALRYMEN

All people who ever lived can be divided into five groups:

Those that accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord. They dedicated their lives to the advancement of the gospel and were led by the Holy Spirit to develop a Christ-like character.

There are those that called Jesus “Lord, Lord” (Matthew 7:22), but failed to respond to the Holy Spirit for character development. Unfortunately, they eventually fell for Satan’s deception and -unknowingly- worked for the cause of Satan.

This is an interesting group: those that probably never knew Jesus by name, but would still respond to the Holy Spirit who talked to them through their consciousness (Romans 2:14.15).

Those that -at one point in their lives- knew the Lord but went openly apostate and intentionally worked against God. An example of this kind is Lucifer himself (Isaiah 14)

Others, and this may even be the majority of mankind, never knew God and never made any decision to accept salvation. Since people of this group were never touched by the Holy Spirit nor accepted the sacrifice of the Lamb, their names don’t show up in the book of life in the first place. Consequently, the Judge does not have to adjudicate, i.e., does not have to legally deal with, these cases.

In John’s vision, four cavalrymen on their warhorses enter the battlefield of the spiritual war between light and darkness. As we will see, two of the riders represent the King of Light, the Conqueror and Judge, and two the Prince of Darkness, the liar and murderer. No question, the “Conqueror” on the white horse (verse 2) is the Lord Jesus, and the horse he rides represent the true believers. The chiasmic mirror image (Revelation 19:11-16) confirms this assumption, and it is obvious that defendant class (1) is represented by the white horse. Surely, their names are written in the book of life. A unique arrangement of the heavenly court is the fact

that the Judge is also present as Counsel! This “conflict of interest” is due to the promise (see part 2 of this series) of Jesus that:

“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.” Revelation 3:5

During the investigative judgment, Jesus confesses the

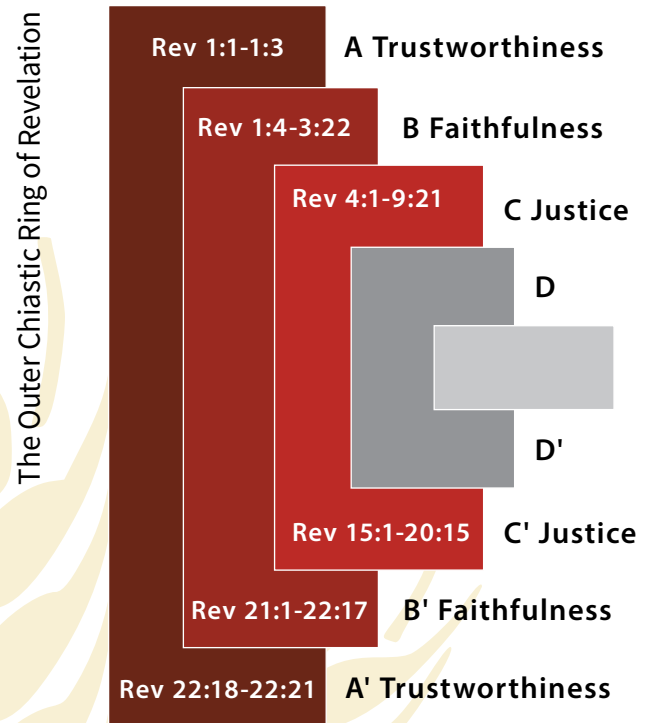


FIGURE: In order to understand the message of the Book of Revelation better, we need to recognize that this book is arranged in a chiasm of five segments.

names of the overcomers on the white horse before his Father, the presiding Chief Justice of the universe, the Ancient of Days, and their names will remain written in the book of life. The blueprints of their characters remain in the records of the heavenly temple.

And another horse “went out” that was red. We find a parallel reference to a red horse in Zechariah 1:8, where the rider was indeed sent by the Lord to patrol the earth and get back with a report. This rider says *“behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest.”* Here the horseman on the red horse seems to respond to God’s call and report peace, but this was a false report, because in Ez 13:3,10, we learn that *“there was no peace”*. How does the red rider act in Revelation 6:4? *“And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.”*

To John, who certainly was familiar with Zechariah’s prophecy, the red horse that was required to serve as God’s watchman, must have appeared as an apostate messenger. Talking peace in the original prophecy, although there was no peace, and then acting war in Revelation: what does this tell us about the character of this horseman and his followers who were sent out by the Lord as messengers? Hypocrisy. Living a lie. These were the “Christians” who talked gentleness but acted violence. These were the ones who instigated wars in the name of the Lord, bullied their families and were the source of dissent and strife in their churches. The red horse will claim work for the Lord, but they will be found unworthy:

“And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Matthew 7:23.

Next, John sees a black horse, and the horseman has a pair

of balances in his hand, which signifies fair judgment. We remember that the Babylonian king Belshazzar was weighed in a balance and found wanting (Daniel 5:27). We can assume that the third horseman is Jesus the Judge who “doth judge in righteousness” (Revelation 19:11). He carefully weighs the precious produce the “black horse” people brought forth during their lives, although they may never have had a chance to meet Jesus. Why are their names worthy to remain in the Book of Life?

“..and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine. (Rev. 6:6)”

Because they are associated (or connected) with oil and wine. Both are symbols of the Holy Spirit: 2 Cor. 1:21 (oil);



Ephesians 5:8 (wine). These were the ones that were led by the Holy Spirit through their conscience as Paul mentions in Romans 2:14-16. They may have been part of the wrong system or born or thrown into unfortunate circumstances, but they will still be counted among God’s people, because they responded to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit. This shows us how important the ministry of the Holy Spirit is and the power He has. It also shows us the very difficult task

of the Judge to consider all evidence and circumstances to rule a truly righteous verdict in front of the unfallen worlds of the universe.

The last horseman, the one on the pale horse, is “death”. Undoubtedly, this horseman is Satan, and the people represented by the pale horse were spiritually dead; they openly opposed the Christian faith and worked to destroy God’s work and His church. Even the spiritually dead, the enemies of God, once had a chance to respond to the calling of the Holy Spirit. But they rejected Him, sinned against the Holy Spirit and thereby lost the connection with God for all eternity.

We now see that the dead of all four groups of people, who ever had any connection with God during their lifetime, have come before the Judge, and they are either found worthy or wanting. When Jesus opens the fifth seal, the martyrs receive attention. Martyrs are certainly part of the “white horse” group, but because they are God’s special heroes, they are given special commemoration in the Grand Judgment Hall of God. Symbolically, they cry out for judgment, and it is important to note that this is really symbolic language; it is to express the yearning of the living, who still suffer from the oppression of sin and Satan, for final justice.

THE SEVENTH SEAL

When the dead have been judged and their names are either written in the Book of Life or blotted out from it, the investigative judgment moves on to the living on earth, shortly before the return of the Lord:

For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? Revelation 6:7

There will be two kinds of people: those who will not endure the physical presence of Jesus the King, and those who are found worthy in the investigative judgment. The worthy ones will be sealed so that they are able to meet Jesus in His glory. Note the stark difference in the fate of the lost (Revelation 6:16) and the saved (Revelation 7:17). But prior to the return of Jesus, far-reaching geopolitical and geo-military events

will transpire. The opening of the seventh seal runs parallel with intense prayers of the saints (Revelation 8:4), and the seven angels prepare themselves to sound the trumpets. Who is responsible for the trumpet plagues? The sounding of the trumpets appears more like a warning rather than an intervention from the side of God’s government. The limited nature of the trumpet plagues (affecting one third of everything) indicates that Satan and his earthly collaborators might have something to do with the trumpet plagues. Satan has power over one third of the heavenly hosts (Revelation 12:4). Note that during the trumpet plagues, people still have the possibility of repentance (verses 20, 21), although the majority will not take advantage of it.

If Satan was planning a cataclysmic “Third World War”, what purpose does he have in mind? In the year 1871, 33rd degree Freemason Albert Pike wrote a letter to his friend Giuseppe Mazzini, in which he laid out the plot for the creation of the New World Order³. Three world wars were part of this plan. Two of them are already history. The third one is still outstanding:

“The Third World War must be fomented by taking advantage of the differences caused by the “agentur” of the “Illuminati” between the political Zionists and the leaders of Islamic World. The war must be conducted in such a way that Islam (the Moslem Arabic World) and political Zionism (the State of Israel) mutually destroy each other. [...] Then everywhere, the citizens, [...] will receive the true light through the universal manifestation of the pure doctrine of Lucifer, brought finally out in the public view. [...]”³

If we look up the news to see what currently is going on in the world, especially in Europe and the Middle East, does Pike’s blueprint from 1871, Satan’s final strike against God’s people, composed shortly after the Lord commenced His ministry of investigative judgment in 1844, sound like a remote possibility? If so, what is the “pure doctrine of Lucifer”?

Ellen White writes (13 years after Pike’s letter, in the year 1884):

“As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will attempt to personate Christ. [...] In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. [Revelation 1:13-15.] The glory that

*surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air, "Christ has come! Christ has come!" [...] In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, **and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed.** He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. ..." {4SP 442.1}*

Satan will arrive in person (Revelation 9:1) and, in cooperation with his chief demon "Abaddon, Apollyon" (=the destroyer, verse 11), after slaughtering 33% of earth's population (verse 18), Satan, the old serpent, that psychopathic monster, will impose his totalitarian New World Order on the reduced population of planet earth; he will continue with his deception and will claim that God's law has changed. As the final implementation of the satanic rule will culminate in the introduction of universal sun worship, Satan will enforce a universal Sunday law, which Ellen White equals to "the mark of the beast" (see GC 449.1). What a comfort it is that the Righteous Judge will still be in control, and that He, even when the Sunday law is implemented, will execute justice!

SEPARATING THE WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF

Satan will not succeed in the destruction of God's people. The seven angels who were given the seven trumpets (Revelation 8:2) to issue the warnings sound are now given seven bowls to execute the judgments on those who have the mark of the beast:

"And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image." Revelation 16:2

As it was with the plagues of Egypt, God's wrath will be poured out on the supporters of the last totalitarian world-wide police state in order to halt the oppression of God's

people. Satan will grow even more furious and will engage his deceptive propaganda forces (Revelation 16:13, 14) to instigate a final military strike against God's Sabbath keeping people. For those that keep their garments (verse 15) and have the victory over the beast and his image (Revelation 15:2), there is nothing to fear. The final battle between God and His people and Satan and his followers will be fought in "a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." (Verse 16). Let us now set aside what popular Christian theology or the Hollywood movies would like us to believe, the word "Armageddon" is made up of three Hebrew words presented below⁴:

1. Aremah – [Strong's H6194]: a heap, a pile, a heap of sheaves.
2. Gayê – [H1516]: a valley, a steep valley, a narrow gorge.
3. Don – from diyn [H1777 or den H1778]: meaning to judge, contend, plead, judgment.

"Don" is essentially the same word as shâphaṭ [H8199], as in Jeho-shaphat (Yahweh Judges). When all these elements are combined, the word is found to mean: "A heap of sheaves in a valley for judgment." John is the only one who uses this peculiar Hebraistic term. It is informative to see how he uses it elsewhere in his writings: John 5:2; John 19:13; John 19:17, John 19:20; John 20:16; Revelation 9:11. John chose a Hebrew "non-word" to express God's judgment in symbolic fashion as a threshing harvest⁵.

How did John the Baptist announce the ministry of Jesus (Matthew 3:12)? As the one who will clean His threshing floor, and will gather wheat into the barn and burn up the chaff. Important facts are mentioned at least twice in Scripture: Luke 3:17. Jesus Himself is the one who will take the winnowing fan (or fork) and separate the wheat from the chaff on the threshing floor in the valley of judgment (Armageddon).

After this act of true justice, God the Father on His throne will announce: It is done (Revelation 16:17). What follows is a detailed narrative of the judgement of end-time Babylon, which is an alliance of the beast, the false prophet, and the dragon: the unholy trinity (Revelation 16:19 - 20:10). Revelation 19:1 and 2 is the response to the yearning for justice that was symbolically uttered by the martyrs in Revelation 6:10: Finally, justice is served.



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DAVID'S HIDDEN AGENDA

King David paid Ornan six hundred shekels of gold for his threshing floor. David had commanded the people to be numbered. For this sin God required of David that he “should go up, and set up an altar unto the LORD in the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.” (1 Chronicles 21:18). Why was it a sin to count the people? Satan is called out as the source ¹ of this counting idea himself (Verse 1). In the Old Testament, Satan is mentioned as a source of evil in exactly three instances: (1) in the book of Job, (2) in the book of Zechariah, and then here in 1 Chr 21:1. God must have been very angry about David’s decision of a census; and we ask ourselves the questions: it was just a head count, what’s wrong with that?

I remember, in the year 1987, the West German Federal Government ordered an exhaustive federal census in Germany. It turned out to be a rather controversial action; people protested and some even refused to comply, and were fined. Opponents argued that this intrusive census was just a tool of a police state.

Ellen White gives us some clues as to David’s hidden agenda in the census:

“With a view to extending his conquests among foreign nations, David determined to increase his army by requiring military service from all who were of proper age. To effect this, it became necessary to take a census of the population.” EGW (PP 747)

Back in the times when military service was still compulsory in Germany, every young man had to go through a census when he turned 18 of age. One received a letter from the local government to update any personal information, and that information was forwarded to the armed forces administration. Later, one was summoned for a physical exam. After that, the registered male citizen was placed under what was called “defense surveillance”, under which everyone -by law- was required to notify the government of any status change in the personal life. One had to formally file for approval whenever a foreign trip was planned. Failure to report anything in a timely manner was punishable with a

steep fine. Compulsory military census means restriction in personal freedom, and that is contrary to the principle of the government of God:

*“Though the people of Israel were proud of their national greatness, they did not look with favor upon David's plan for so **greatly extending the military service**. The proposed enrollment caused much dissatisfaction; consequently it was thought necessary to employ **the military officers** in place of the priests and magistrates, who had formerly taken the census. **The object of the undertaking was directly contrary to the principles of a theocracy.**”* (PP 747)

Here we see where David’s plan was going: the people were dissatisfied, and they had to be policed and intimidated in order to squelch a possible riot. The government had to be changed from a theocracy into a military administration; into an administration of force:

“The desire for self-exaltation had brought strife into the heavenly courts. Lucifer desired God's power, but not His character. He sought the highest place, and every being actuated by his spirit will do the same. The kingdom of Satan is a kingdom of force; every individual regards every other as an obstacle in the way of his own advancement, or a steppingstone on which to climb to a higher place” DA 435.2

Whenever surveillance (registration, census) and force are introduced, any government will assume the character of Satan. God’s judgment had the form of a pestilence that was sent to Israel. After David’s repentance, he asked the Lord a question that seemingly remained unanswered: “Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? (2 Samuel 24:17)” Were they really innocent victims of God’s wrath?

The taking of the census had caused disaffection among the people; yet they had themselves cherished the same sins that prompted David's action. As the Lord through Absalom's sin visited judgment upon David, so through David's error He punished the sins of Israel. PP 748.3

The “sword of the Lord” (1 Chronicles 21) is a type for the seven last plagues. God’s seven bowls of judgment are

a response to Satan's totalitarian dictatorship, which climaxes in the introduction of the "mark of the beast". Like it was the case during David's transgression of the census, the "sheep" that follow the apostate political leaders of end-time Babylon will not be held guiltless. Satan will stir the worshippers of the image of the beast against God's people, and then comes "Armageddon", the universal threshing floor, "A heap of sheaves in the valley of judgment." (Dan 2:35). "Threshing" represents the separation of good and evil; final judgment occurs upon the heap of sheaves in the valley after the good grain is separated out. Armageddon is an ultimate event of God's judgment and final justice. In this sense, David represented a dual type during the "census" transgression: on one hand he was the type of a political leader deceived and led by Satan ⁶ (1 Chronicles 21:1). On the other hand, David was a type of all those people who can approach the destroying angel at the threshing floor "Armageddon" in confidence, because they repented and are clothed with the righteousness of Christ (Revelation 16:15).

The holy ground, where Abraham was about to offer his son was a type for planet earth: It was on planet earth where God's son was sacrificed. After the sacrifice of the lamb, the earth will turn into a place of universal justice, Armageddon. God's threshing floor, where the king has to execute the toilsome task of separating the wheat from the chaff, like Araunah the Jebusite in the type. In the type, the threshing floor would later become the location of the temple. When universal justice has been done, the earth will likewise be filled with God's presence, where God will dwell with men (Revelation 21:3).

ULTIMATE JUSTICE

The third chiastic layer gives us a deep insight into the work of the Justice Center of the universe. God is Justice. Jesus is Justice (Fig.), and David expressed the wish to be judged by God and not by man (2 Samuel 24:14). Let us follow David's

~
*When universal justice has
 been done, the earth will
 likewise be filled with
 God's presence,
 where God will dwell
 with men.*
 ~

choice, and let the Righteous Judge be our judge, because He has offered to be our legal Counsel before the Father, too. In this world, we suffer injustice and unfairness; but how small, how insignificant is the injustice of men if we consider the justice that Jesus has been working for us in the Heavenly Sanctuary, and the Justice that He will bring back to earth when He returns. That is the kind of Justice that brought peace of mind and heart to the Psalmist:

"Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning. If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children. When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end." Psalm 73:12-17


.....to be continued in Part 4 **AD**

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- 1 <http://www.gotquestions.org/king-ride-donkey.html> (accessed 04/30/2016)
- 2 Robert Hauser, Give Glory to Him: The Sanctuary in the Book of Revelation (Angwin, CA: Robert W. Hauser, 1983).
- 3 <http://www.threeworldwars.com/albert-pike2.htm> (accessed 04/29/2016)
- 4 <http://professorjt2012.wordpress.com/2014/05/29/armageddon/> (accessed 05/01/2016)
- 5 "The Revelation of Jesus Christ-Comfort Or Confusion?" The Blessing of By L. Ralph Rohr, pages 311/312
- 6 Why is there an apparent contradiction between 1 Chronicles 21:1 and 2 Samuel 24:1?

The book of Samuel was written during the Babylonian captivity. The books of Chronicles were written later during the Persian period prior to the rebuilding of the Temple. (<http://socrates58.blogspot.com/2006/11/supposed-contradiction-between-2.html>)

2 Chronicles was completed c. 1040 BC; 1 Chronicles was completed 460 BC; inspiration is progressive: authors of 1 Chronicles may have had more light and information after 580 years. (http://amazingbibletimeline.com/bible_questions/q1_bible_who_wrote/)



TRIALS THAT
ARE BORNE
WELL,
BRING US
INTO CLOSE
FELLOWSHIP
WITH CHRIST.



TRIALS

Robert Wieland once said, “If you are a member of the human race you are automatically at war.... In a conflict.”

Malachi 3:3 tells us –“And he shall sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.”

This would indicate to me that there awaits every child of God a sifting and a cleansing process that might not be a pleasant experience. However, if endured, the end result would be to the glory and honor of God. Isn't that what we are living for?

We are told that God's people will soon be tested by fiery trials. This is God's agent for refining His people and this is the process by which He will sift the Church of God. It is what we do with the trials that come our way that will indicate whether that trial has done its intended work or whether we need another “dose”.

When trials are met faithfully they may not have to be met again, but when we fail to endure one, it makes it all the harder to meet the next one. Fretting, murmuring and complaining does not help us to bear trials but only dishonors our God and misrepresents Him.

Do you need an antivirus for enduring trials? You will find one in Philippians 4:8 “Finally, Brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things.”

When we, at last, enter into our heavenly home, we will realize that the greatest trials that we had here on earth were small and insignificant to us. Heaven will be cheap enough! This is what we must remember and look forward to.

There must be a fitting up for the seal of God and for heaven. Trials help to purge away our unrighteousness and to see what we truly are. There is not one of us that hasn't undiscovered traits of character that needs to come to light so that we can overcome them. Trials help us to see and correct these defects. We have never been promised exemption from trials. Anyone who is associated with the work of the Lord should expect to meet trials.

The Bible records the lives of the people of God that help us to realize that they were not exempt from some severe trials. Let us look at a few examples : Abraham's trials were more severe than Adam's trials. Think of being instructed to offer up your promised son, Isaac, as a burnt offering to the Lord!! We are told that when the instructions came from the Lord to do so, he did not question the wisdom of God, but prepared for the task although he was greatly troubled by it. God was using this experience in his life as a pruning knife. Abraham knew that the promises of God were sure and that somehow, God would bring good out of a seemingly impossible situation. We know the end of the story. Both Abraham and Isaac were strengthened by the experience. Our trials can do the same for us if we endure them in faith.

Acts of the Apostle, page 261 tells us that “trials that are borne well, bring us into close fellowship with Christ.” We should all be seeking this close fellowship with Christ, whatever the cost.

If we were asked whether or not we wanted to develop precious spiritual graces, we would all answer, “Yes, of course!” But how many of us would be so ready to answer, “Yes, of course!” If we knew that it would be trials that would develop these graces in us? According to Christ Object Lessons, page 61, this is what helps to develop those

special graces that are to be found in the people of God. Hard and bitter trials are a blessing when endured in faith and help to build strong characters that humble and purify the soul. (Mount of Blessings, pages 10 and 117).

When we review the life of Joseph we learn a lot of lessons. His greatest trials came from his own family members. Being sold to the Ishmaelites by his brothers was a terrible blow to his ego. But Joseph did not allow the misery inflicted by this act to separate him from the Lord. Instead it drove him closer to the God of his father, Jacob. The Spirit of Prophecy also verifies in 8 Vol. of the Testimonies, page 12, that trials hardest to bear come from family and friends. We are admonished not to dwell on our trials and difficulties as they tend to discourage and depress us.

Joseph was also unjustly imprisoned because of lies told to Potiphar by his wife. This injustice turned out to Joseph's benefit when the Lord took him to the Palace where he became the governor for all of Egypt. What would have been the ending of the story of Joseph had he not stood firm but grumbled and complained about the treatment he received by others? It will be interesting to find this out when we meet Joseph someday.

When we think of the trials that Moses endured, I marvel that he didn't break down sooner than he did in striking the rock. The Children of Israel accused and condemned him for bringing them out of Egypt and slavery in spite of the fact that the Lord performed so many, many miracles to show them that He was with them every step of the way. They blamed Moses for the trials they encountered on their way and proposed that they return again to Egypt and the slavery that they had experienced. Because of Israel's lack of trust in God and His promise of a better life, they experienced repeatedly the same trials over and over again. We, too, will

return and experience the same trials over again if we, in faith, do not learn to trust the Lord to carry us through the ones that face us.

1
GOD'S LOVE FOR ME IS
UNCHANGING

2
GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME
IS CHRIST-LIKENESS

3
GOD'S WORD IS MY
FINAL ANSWER

4
GOD'S GRACE IS
SUFFICIENT FOR ME

Many of the trials that confront us are of our own making. Instead of talking about and bemoaning the fact that we are encountering difficulties, we should be praising God for the blessings that He bestowed upon us. When we meet our trials with courage, meekness, and patience, others will see that our trust in God is secure and it will win them to the foot of the cross of Christ.

God has promised us the grace to endure each trial that comes our way. Do we believe Him? Do we trust in Him to carry us through?

James E. Foust wrote: "Here, then is a great truth. In the pain, the agony, and the heroic endeavors of life, we pass through a refiner's fire, and the significant and the unimportant in our lives can melt away like dross and make our faith bright, intact, and strong."

Ebony Speak Life said, "We all have trials and tribulations. However, the lens we choose to look at them through can change the view."

Someone else has said: "Sometimes, we must hurt in order to grow.

We must fail in order to know. We must lose in order to gain. Because some lessons in life are best learned through pain."

Ruth Parks Greene said: "I've dreamed many a dream that never came true, I've seen them vanish at dawn."

Some Bible promises that we can cling to when trials beset us are:

Isaiah 40: 29: "He giveth power to the faint and to them that have no might He increases strength."

Matthew 5: 10 – 12: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

When I face trials always remember:

1. God's love for me is unchanging.
2. God's purpose for me is Christ-like-ness.
3. God's word is my final answer.
4. God's grace is sufficient for me.

Every test, every trial, every heartache that's been significant I can turn it over and see how God has turned it to good, no matter what!

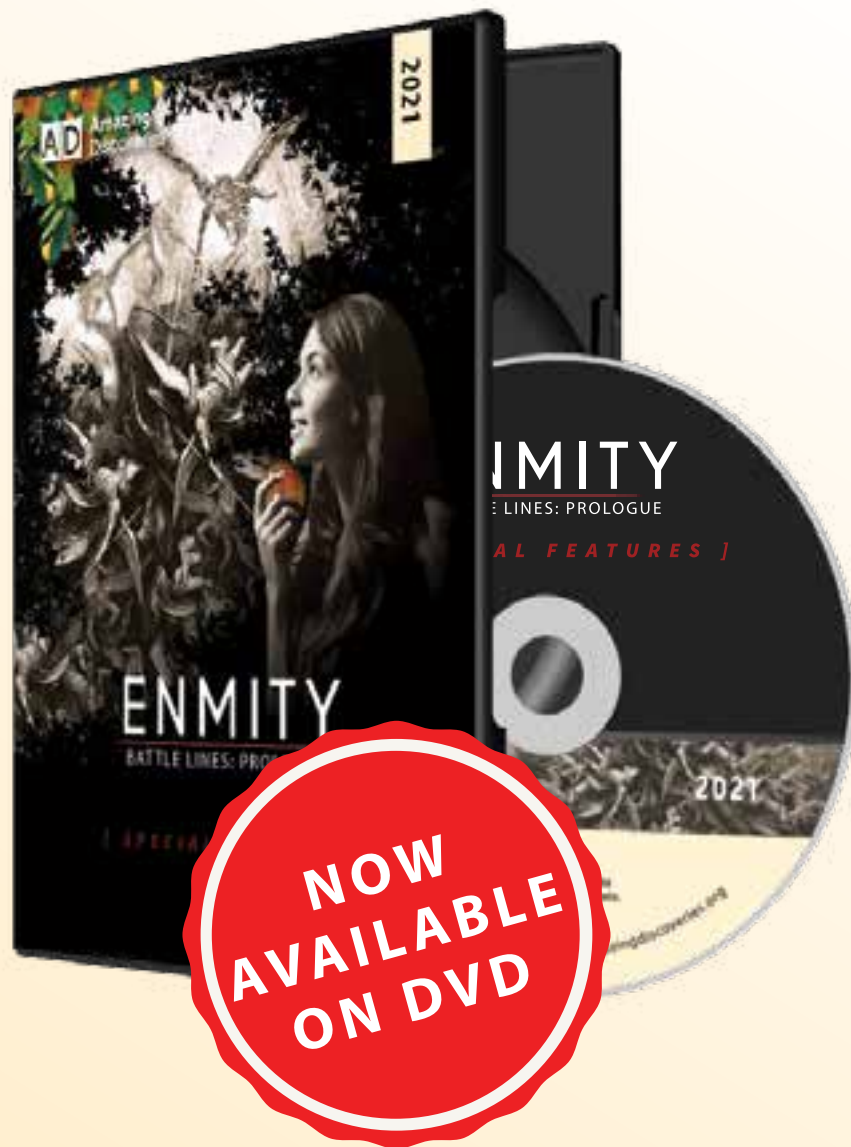
Matthew 5:12: Rejoice, and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

Psalms 23 is also a good one that can be claimed. There are many more that could be cited. Let us make God our strength and might as we face the trials of this life. **AD**

Nettie Gill, is married to Victor Gill. For 20 years, they have been involved in evangelism and revival ministry, both in Canada and abroad, traveling to Ukraine, Germany, and India on frequent evangelism and mission trips.

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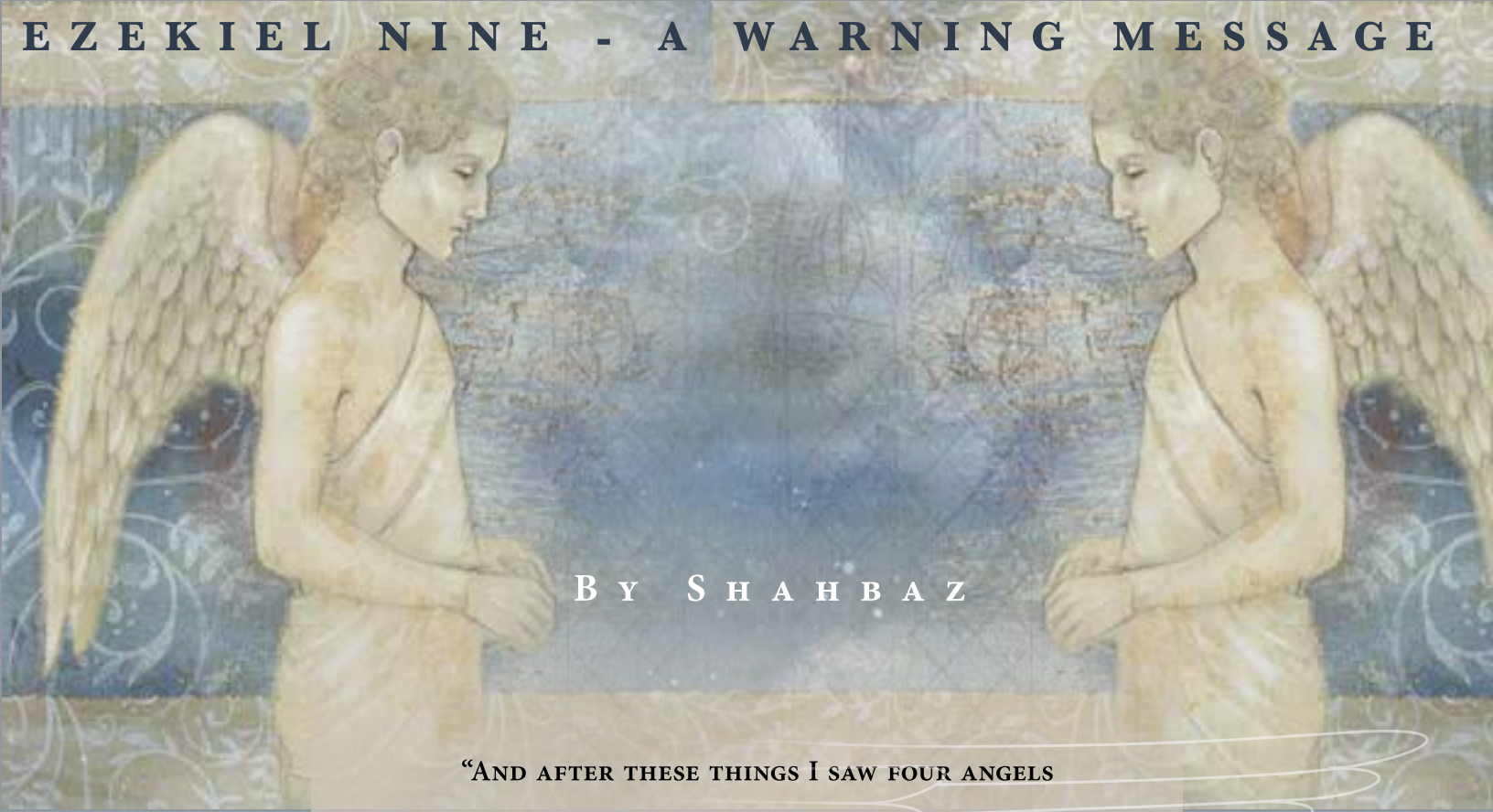
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REVELATION SEVEN & EZEKIEL NINE - A WARNING MESSAGE

BY SHAHBAZ

An illustration of two angels with large, feathered wings, standing in a landscape with a body of water and distant structures. They are facing each other, looking down at their hands. The background is a mix of blue and brown tones with some faint, circular patterns.

“AND AFTER THESE THINGS I SAW FOUR ANGELS
STANDING ON THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH,
HOLDING THE FOUR WINDS OF THE EARTH, THAT
THE WIND SHOULD NOT BLOW ON THE EARTH,
NOR ON THE SEA, NOR ON ANY TREE. AND I SAW
ANOTHER ANGEL ASCENDING FROM THE EAST,
HAVING THE SEAL OF THE LIVING GOD: AND HE
CRIED WITH A LOUD VOICE TO THE FOUR ANGELS,
TO WHOM IT WAS GIVEN TO HURT THE EARTH
AND THE SEA, SAYING, HURT NOT THE EARTH,
NEITHER THE SEA, NOR THE TREES, TILL WE HAVE
SEALED THE SERVANTS OF OUR GOD IN
THEIR FOREHEADS.” REVELATION 7:1-3

With the recent turbulent events shaking the very fabric of our world, humanity is facing its greatest challenge in history. Permanent solutions are not an option for a world entrenched in the hopeless cycle of strife and immortality.

With the threat of an impending war between east and west, the devastation caused by terrorist groups around the globe, and the mass exodus of refugees and the chaos it has created, it is enough to make me wonder if the four angels of Revelation 7 haven't already begun the work of loosening the four winds. We cannot ignore the enormity of our problems. The increase of strife and bloodshed has had its devastating effect on our world. Natural disasters not only have increased in frequency, but they are also more devastating in their power. How can we be sure and check the progress of the four angels of Revelation 7? Is there a reference point in history we can safely turn to for answers? Indeed we do, and it is all about the turbulent year in 1848.

The events of 1848 that plunged Europe into a state of anarchy and an almost complete ruin, though mild in comparison to what is happening today, is exactly the point of reference in history where we must look for valuable insights. In 1848 several revolutions had simultaneously exploded throughout Europe. In Hungary, Germany, France, Austria, Spain and other countries in Europe, some sixteen different ethnic groups rebelled against monarchical and imperial governments. Blood stained the cobble stone streets of many major cities across Europe. The tumult was exceptional, and yet by 1849 most of the rebellions of 1848 had failed to produce the intended results hoped for by the people. Historian A.J.P. Taylor once called 1848 a moment when "history reached a turning point and failed to turn." The turbulent events of 1848 had suddenly and mysteriously come to a screeching halt, and no one understood why.

Indeed 1848 was a turbulent year and to the serious Bible student at the time, the world appeared to be on the threshold of eternity. Never before in history had the world observed simultaneous uprisings in so many countries, by so many people groups. That which restrained human passion was for a time loosed. Not only were the events of 1848 unparalleled, but the way events came to a sudden and abrupt stop is also puzzling. A mysterious hand had intervened and no amount of human passion and fury could have resisted it. What was the cause of this sudden interruption in 1848? To answer this question we must go to the inspired writings of Mrs. E. G. White for an important clue.

About one year after the events which shook Europe, in January of 1849, Mrs. White in vision was shown an astonishing revelation which sheds light on what happened in 1848. *I saw four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and were on their way to accomplish it. Jesus was clothed with priestly garments. He gazed in pity on the remnant, then raised His hands, and with a voice of deep pity cried, 'My blood, Father, My blood, My blood, My blood!' Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from God, who sat upon the great white throne, and was shed all about Jesus. Then I saw an angel with a commission from Jesus, swiftly flying to the four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and waving something up and down in his hand, and crying with a loud voice, "Hold! Hold! Hold! Hold! until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads."*

I asked my accompanying angel the meaning of what I heard, and what the four angels were about to do. He said to me that it was God that restrained the powers, and that He gave His angels charge over things on the earth; that the four angels had power from God to hold the four winds, and that they were about to let them go; but while their hands were loosening, and the four winds were about to blow, the merciful eye of Jesus gazed on the remnant that were not sealed, and He raised His hands to the Father and pleaded with Him that He had spilled His blood for them. Then another angel was commissioned to fly swiftly to the four angels and bid them hold, until the servants of God were sealed with the seal of the living God in their foreheads. Early Writings 38

It appears that the events of 1848 were the effects of the four angels for a time loosening the four winds, and when Jesus sent another angel to stop them there is a sudden and complete interruption, the storm is abated, and once again there is calm. Just as the Sovereign of the universe had power to calm the sea of Galilee, He has power to calm the fury of the storm that rips through the passions of humanity.

Now for the parallels in our own time. In 2011 the world saw a series of uprisings and protests across the Arabian World, called the “Arab Spring”. The uprisings originated in Tunisia, after a man set himself on fire in protest at his treatment by police. The Arab Spring movement quickly spread into Egypt, Syria, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Jordan, and Bahrain. Although these movements were quickly crushed, it helped propel Syria into an all out civil war that has left hundreds of thousands dead and sent millions of refugees across into the western hemisphere. It is estimated that half of the population of Syria has left their homeland to find refuge in other countries. The Syrian conflict has also resulted in the greater awakening of fundamentalist Islam, with the group ISIS committing atrocities unheard of in modern history, and terror attacks that are sweeping across the region and spilling into our own borders and that of Europe.

The world is becoming a more dangerous place and, according to authors of the Tenth Annual Global Peace Index, there are now just ten countries which can be considered completely free from conflict and war. Wow! This truly is astonishing, if you do the math. That means only 5.3% of all the nations in the world are experiencing calm while the other 94.7% are engaged in some kind of conflict or war.

With the battle against terrorism and the Islamic State (ISIS) and country after country exploding into chaos, no wonder so many people are living in a constant state of fear. Yemen is caught in a horrific war with Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations in the region. The Iraqis, Iranians, and other coalition factions are fighting ISIS in Iraq and Syria. For the last 37 years religious fundamentalism in Iran has thrown the region into a perpetual arms race that threatens the world with WWII. The revival of war between the Turkish government and the Kurdish separatists in Turkey, and the most recent failed coup attempt in that country has further helped destabilize the region. The entire region is engulfed in an

inferno of hate and religious bigotry that is quickly spreading into other parts of the world. In the US the presidential race took an ugly ferocious turn and helped further polarize the nation, resulting in protests and riots across many cities in America. With so much devastation and senseless loss of innocent lives, we are on the verge of a total breaking point. Nations are angry, threat of war looms, and a seriously trou-

bled world economy which will soon crumble will bring the current global economic system we all grew up with to its death and cause instant poverty and devastation for millions and millions of people around the globe. Natural disasters with unparalleled force and intensity are occurring with more frequency than ever before. Emerging diseases are spreading and bringing death and destruction in their path.

Clearly we can see a parallel occurrence of 1848 European mayhem, and yet what is happening now is overwhelmingly more intense and horrific in nature. If what is happen-

ing in our world today is the beginning of the four winds being let go then what will it be like when the angels will have fully released the four winds? I shudder to think. Friends, we are standing at the precipice of eternity and my question to you is: are you ready for it? Have you done all you can to receive the seal of God? While there is yet a little time afforded us and while Jesus is still in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary let us plead for mercy, and let us do all we can to help spread the three angels' messages to the inhabitants of our world.

In 1848 the angels were ordered to hold, hold, hold, hold the four winds until the servants of God are sealed with the seal of the living God in their foreheads. Will God once more hold back the winds of strife as He did in 1848? Friends, Jesus is all merciful, but how much longer will He wait? Can God be trifled with? Read the book Early Writings, pages 32 to 41, and see the urgency of that message and do all you can to receive the pure garment of Jesus' character, and to

**THAT MEANS
ONLY 5.3 %
OF ALL THE
NATIONS IN
THE WORLD
ARE EXPERIENCING
CALM WHILE
THE OTHER
94.7 % ARE
ENGAGED IN
SOME KIND
OF CONFLICT
OR WAR.**

help as many as you possibly can to receive the same. While there is yet a little time left, we should be found at work and not sleeping. Be warned the sand in the hourglass is almost gone! But there is more to this.

Just about now you may be asking yourself what is the relationship between Revelation 7 and Ezekiel 9? Allow me to answer that question for you. While Revelation 7 is a warning message to the whole world, Ezekiel 9 is a message of warning to the people of God in the last days. Remember the four angels were told not to release the four winds until *the servants of God are sealed with the seal of the living God in their foreheads*. In 1849 the world was spared a great and horrific trial. Not for the sake of the world was this done, but so God can finish the work of sealing His dear people. At the same time we find in Ezekiel 9 a most horrific description of judgment against God's people who have been nominal and sin-loving. What makes this prophecy stand out even more is its sealing message, and that is precisely the glue that binds these two prophecies together. *He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand. And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar. And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man*





**Two Sacrifices:
One Destiny**
(Book)
by Shahbaz

In the 1960s, the Shahbaz and his twin brother were born into the Imperial Government of Iran, which afforded its citizens more freedom in those days. Even as a small child, he would ask the questions:

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clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side; And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house. (Ezekiel 9:1-6)

So Revelation 7 and Ezekiel 9 both have a sealing message in them. Obviously the sealing message in both prophecies binds these prophecies together; in some ways they are synonymous. The four angels in Revelation 7 were to hold the four winds until the angel places the seal of God upon the foreheads of His people. And in Ezekiel 9, the six angels with slaughtering weapons represented by six men can begin their work of slaughter only after the angel with the writer's inkhorn has finished his work of setting a mark (seal) upon the foreheads of God's people. So In Revelation 7 we have four angels that have power to loose the winds of strife and cause havoc but cannot do so until God's people are sealed upon their foreheads. In a parallel fashion in Ezekiel 9 we have six other angels mentioned who have power to destroy nominal sin-loving believers in the church but cannot do so until God's true and faithful who sigh and cry for all the abominations that be done have received the mark or seal of God. If what is happening in the world today is the result of the four winds being slowly loosed, then can it be possible that the sealing process of God's people is reaching its final stages? If this is so, than I am afraid that soon horrific scenes will pass before our eyes, and we have but a short time to prepare and make things right.

We are admonished by the pen of inspiration, *Study the 9th chapter of Ezekiel. These words will be literally fulfilled. Letter 106, 1909* This prophecy will be literally fulfilled. A day is coming when God will have to stand and punish the nominal believers who would not repent and turn away from their cherished sins. May God help us not to be in that number. Amen! [AD](#)

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



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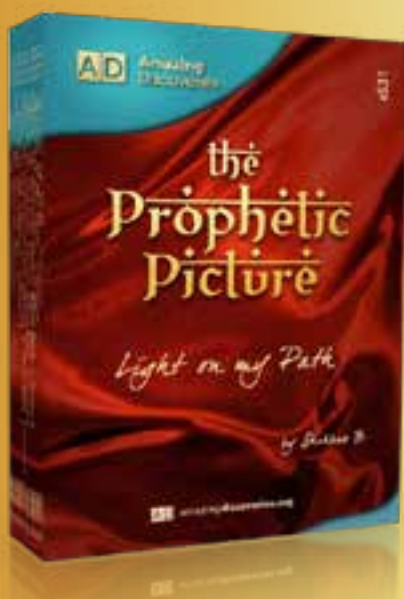


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GOD'S EDUCATIONAL PLAN FOR THE LAST DAYS



PART 1

THE PLAN THROUGH BIBLE HISTORY

BY JUDY KJAER

The Garden of Eden was a school as well as a garden home. It was the demonstration school for a system of education God designed so well, it would never become outdated. Succeeding generations would pattern homes and schools after that model, while they increased and settled the earth.

*"The system of education instituted at the beginning of the world was to be a model for man throughout all after time. As an illustration of its principles a model school was established in Eden, the home of our first parents."*¹

We are blessed with an intriguing description of the model school: *"The Garden of Eden was the schoolroom, nature was the lesson book, the Creator Himself was the instructor, and the parents of the human family were the students."*² "Often they were visited by His messengers, the holy angels, and from them received counsel and instruction."³

Prominent elements were:

The garden schoolroom
Nature the lesson book
God the teacher, holy angel assistants
Adam and Eve the students

The Eden School was perfect, and it remained in operation until a rival teacher lured the students into a counterfeit system that mixed good and evil. Man lost his home in paradise, but God did not abandon His plan to educate His children. The model system survived the fall. *"Under changed conditions, true education is still conformed to the Creator's plan, the plan of the Eden school."*⁴

Since sin cast its shadow over the earth, *"even the child, as he comes in contact with nature, will see cause for perplexity. He cannot but recognize the working of antagonistic forces. It is here that nature needs an interpreter."*⁵

Interpreted in the light of God's Word, Nature is still the foundational lesson book for children, and even the very young are benefited by contact with it. *"So far as possible, let the child from his earliest years be placed where this wonderful lesson book shall be open before him.... In no other way can the foundation of a true education be so firmly and surely laid."*⁶

If we ask God to show us the lessons He has written on rocks, leaves, snowflakes and feathers, we can learn to read Nature as a book and interpret it for our children. Walks in the woods, picnics, bird watching, camping trips, and the family garden will provide abundant learning opportunities.

If this is a new way of thinking for us, we can claim the promise, *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."*⁷ Prayer and the principle *"as in the natural, so in the spiritual world"*⁸ can open our eyes to a

God's Educational Plan

wealth of lessons we never saw before in God's great book of Nature.

Children tell us what interests them by the questions they ask. We do not have all the answers, but if we join children in their quest for knowledge, we can help them develop their learning skills and share in their joy of discovery. This is a rewarding way for parents to exercise the natural teaching gifts God has given them.

Providence places imperfect people together in families, and our interactions often reveal faults we did not know we had. God permits this so we can overcome by His power, and parents and children can help each other develop characters for heaven.

Bible history traces man's successes and failures to carry out God's educational plan. After giving the Ten Commandments the second time, God told the Hebrews, *"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."*⁹

God's law in the hearts of Hebrew parents qualified them to teach their children. Instruction was not confined to school time; it took place at all times, in the house or outdoors. *"The home and the school were one. In the*

*place of stranger lips, the loving hearts of the father and mother were to give instruction to their children."*¹⁰

Parents tried to focus young minds on *"whatsoever things are true, whatsoever*

under Eli the priest, David developed leadership skills while herding his father's sheep, and Daniel learned faith and faithfulness at home before his removal to Babylon.

*"Wherever in Israel God's plan of education was carried into effect, its results testified of its Author."*¹²

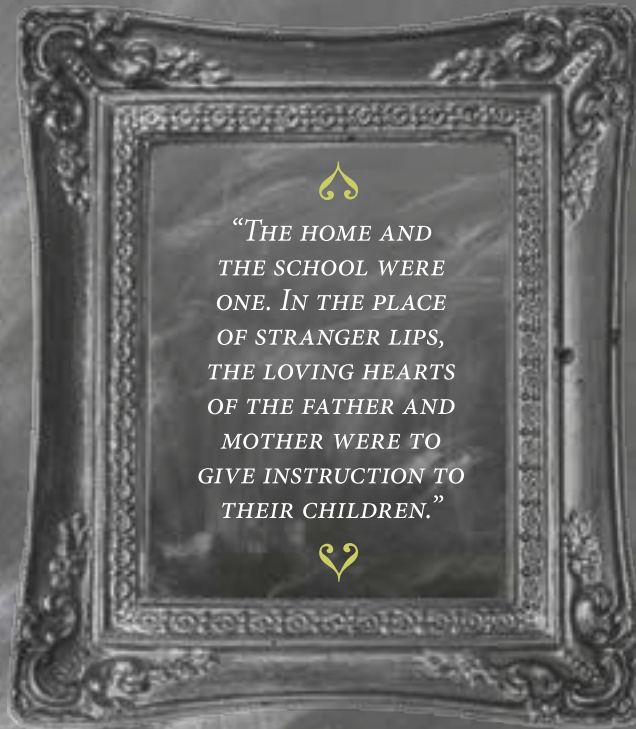
Sadly, Israel did not always follow the Eden plan. Parents became indifferent to their responsibility and neglected to teach their children.

God lamented, *"O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!"*¹³

In mercy, God had Samuel establish Schools of the Prophets, training centers for consecrated individuals who would go out and teach the people. Teachers in these schools were knowledgeable men who enjoyed close communion with God and a special endowment of His Spirit. Students supported themselves by tilling the soil or other practical skills they had learned at home. *"Many*

*among the religious teachers supported themselves by manual labor."*¹⁴

In these schools, Scripture was the essential study. The object was to learn God's will, and the teaching was practical. *"A spirit of devotion was cherished. Not only were students taught the duty of prayer, but they were taught*



*things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report."*¹¹

Following God's plan under less than ideal conditions, Jochebed laid the foundation for Moses' lifework, Hannah prepared Samuel to serve God

for the Last

*how to pray, how to approach their Creator, how to exercise faith in Him, and how to understand and obey the teachings of His Spirit."*¹⁵

In the fullness of prophetic time, God sent forth His Son, and "Jesus followed the divine plan of education."¹⁶ The Jews had religious schools, but "Christ ... sought neither the schools of the prophets nor the learning received from the rabbinical teachers; He needed not the education gained in these schools; for God was His instructor."¹⁷ "Jesus secured His education in the home."¹⁸

The same learning resources Jesus used are within our reach today. "His education was gained directly from the Heaven-appointed sources; from useful work, from the study of the Scriptures and of nature, and from the experiences of life—God's lesson books, full of instruction to all who bring to them the willing hand, the seeing eye, and the understanding heart"¹⁹.

All four lesson books were used in Eden's model school. Useful work consisted of tending the garden, Scripture was the spoken Word of God, nature was present everywhere, and the experiences of life were not forgotten.

Three of God's lesson books are free of cost, so anyone can use them. Each of us can find useful work to do and some aspect of nature to observe, and we all have experiences in life. In North America, Bibles are plentiful, and they are available in many languages, though there is still a work for Christians to do in distributing them worldwide. As we take the opportunities God gives us, we will find that His four lesson books are most instructive.

Not only did Jesus follow God's plan in His own education, He became the Master Teacher. "It was by personal contact and association that Jesus trained His disciples. Sometimes He taught them, sitting among them on the mountainside; sometimes beside the sea, or walking with them by the way, He revealed the mysteries of the kingdom of God."²⁰

Jesus' lessons from nature, useful work, and the experiences of life fill whole Bible chapters and are the subject of *Christ's Object Lessons* by Ellen White. We can use these resources to acquaint ourselves with the way Jesus taught, and copy His methods. **AD**

Part 2 of this study will focus on education in the time of the end.

Judy Kjaer, is the wife of Kim Kjaer.

- 1 White, *Education*, p. 20
- 2 *Education*, p. 20
- 3 *Education*, p. 21
- 4 *Education*, p. 30
- 5 *Education*, p. 101
- 6 *Education*, p. 100-101
- 7 James 1:5
- 8 White, *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 284
- 9 Deuteronomy 6:6,7
- 10 White, *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 95
- 11 Philippians 4:8
- 12 *Education*, p. 45
- 13 Deuteronomy 5:29
- 14 White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 593
- 15 *Fundamentals*, p. 97
- 16 *Education*, p. 77
- 17 *Fundamentals*, p. 400
- 18 White, *Child Guidance*, p. 19
- 19 *Fundamentals*, p. 400
- 20 White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 152



WINDS OF DOCTRINE SERIES

Part 2 DEFINING GOD *by Joel Kratzke*

What's in a name? Identity is, and in Scripture character too is wrapped up in a name. Jacob who was the "supplanter", the "one who takes the heel" can attest to the character aspect of a name. This is true also of God and the names by which He give us to know Him. Not only is His identity revealed to us but also His character. It is by this way we will begin our study into the Godhead, by looking at the "name" God gives us for Himself.

Let's begin in a perfect place, in the beginning. Genesis 1:1 states "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." As we noted in our last article, the word for God in the Hebrew here is 'Elohiym' which means – God, the Supreme God or Divinity – so God is Divine, and the Supreme God. Of course we know that the Bible states that there are gods a plenty but they

are not really gods at all for there is only one God, creator, redeemer, sustainer and deliverer. To this identity of 'Divinity' is added another name in Genesis 2:4, "These are the genera-

'ELOHIYM' **GOD, THE SUPREME GOD OR DIVINITY**

tions of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens."

Now the word Lord is added, which is the Hebrew word "Jehovah" which has the meaning – self-existent one, or Eternal. So not only does the name of God give Him the Identity of Supreme God, but also the characteristic (not character) of being self-existent, meaning that He is life, His life has always been, it has never been derived or originated at any time, He has always been.

The 'LORD God', Jehovah Elohiym, the Self-existent Divine Supreme God; quite a name don't you think? Whenever we see the name Jehovah, we know that this is the self-existent God, a God without beginning and without end. Our question then is for this part of our study this:

Does the Bible EVER use the name Jehovah to describe Jesus? If it does it gives us a VERY CLEAR concept of

God that no matter what else is said in Scripture we cannot, dare not, go beyond!

Our first text will come from Isaiah 8:13-14, it states:

Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

This is a Messianic prophecy. Jesus was the stone of stumbling and the rock of offence to both the houses of Israel. The New Testament fulfillment is found in Luke 20:17-18, speaking of Jesus. Then we must understand that in the passage from Isaiah that when the Bible states that the 'Lord', the self-existent one, will be a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence that it is referring to Jesus as the self-existent one. Which means that Jesus has had no beginning. This point is definite, there is no confusion. There are other texts that support this truth as we see in Psalm 90:1-2:

A Prayer of Moses the man of God. LORD, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou [art] God.

Here again the 'Lord', the self-existent one, has formed the earth and is from everlasting to everlasting and is God. We all can agree that the New Testament is clear as to the fact the Jesus is the creator of the earth. This is written in John 1:1-14, and Colossians 1:16, in which the latter states that Jesus is the creator of "all things", not just our world. But follow me to another passage in Scripture:

Psalm 93:2 - The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, [wherewith] he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved. Thy throne [is] established of old: thou [art] from everlasting.

'JEHOVAH' **SELF** **EXISTENT** **ONE**

Now let us ask ourselves a question. Is this passage speaking of God the Father and His throne or is it speaking of Jesus? Most of us would agree that Psalm 93 is speaking of God the Father or God, the one true God, and as indicated in the passage again He is the self-existent one [Lord]. So if we then attribute this to God, and He is from everlasting and to everlasting then He has no beginning and no ending. We must then recognize that as we diligently search the Scriptures, my friends, we also see this attribute, this being "from everlasting to everlasting" given to Jesus as well.

In Micah 5:2 we read, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, [though] thou be little among the thousands of Judah, [yet] out of thee shall he come forth unto me [that is] to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth [have been] from of old, from everlasting." So if God, the Father is eternal in the past and eternal into the future then so is Jesus eternal in the past, which means there was no time in which He did not exist, as self-existent.

So then to my brothers and sisters who argue that Jesus had a beginning at some point long, long ago, I respectfully say, not so! Not according to the Bible. Not according to His name. Not according to the attributes given Him in Scripture. So please, whatever you believe about Jesus, you must include these very clear texts and not go beyond them. Jesus is the self-existent God, He has had no beginning, not by procession, not by birth, not by creation and to say that He has had a beginning is to contradict the Bible. Please do not go there. In addition, once you make Jesus in any way less than God, He ceases to be God. This is the plan of Satan, to make Jesus less than who He truly is, and I plead with you all, repent. Repent of ever promoting the false accusations and divisive work of the adversary.

The issue is an important one, this issue of whether or not Jesus is God. I know that many believe that Jesus is God, but not in His own right. That everything that He is He was given by the Father, but this cannot be so. Jesus is from everlasting to everlasting even as God the Father is from everlasting to everlasting, so what do we do with the texts that mention Jesus receiving power and authority and a throne from the Father? We will want to explore those texts and the Holy Spirit in our next article. Until then, may God be with you always.

... to be continued [AD](#)

Joel Kratzke, delivered from the life of a bartender and an alcoholic, brought through the confusion of modern day Pentecostalism, convicted to make a stand for the Truth of the Word of God, called into the ministry with a burden to reach others that need to hear the Truth, a graduate of AFCE, Pastor Joel Kratzke brings a unique perspective as he presents the Three Angels Messages to people across the United States and Canada. Joel lives in MN with his wife Valerie and their two children Victoria and Jeremiah.



A Second and

Edwin de Kock

A Voice from the Past

Fifty-five years ago at Ladysmith, Natal, I met a distant relative with vivid memories from her childhood about a godly Seventh-day Adventist teacher in the 1920s or the 1930s. Apart from his normal subjects, he taught Bible, which was a feature of all the schools in the old South Africa. One day he talked about Martin Luther and said to his class: "Children, one day there will be another and greater Reformation than in his time." She did not belong to our Church but never forgot his words.

A Hundred Years of Religious Conflict and War

On 31 October 1517 Martin Luther (1483-1546) nailed his 95 theses against indulgences to the church door at Wittenberg, Germany, and—without planning it—kindled the Reformation of the sixteenth century. At first he hoped that the Church of Rome would accept his Protestant message of righteousness by faith and turn away from all its false doctrines and corruptions. But it did not. Quite soon he realized that Catholicism, headed by the man at the Vatican, was not going to change in any meaningful way.

When Luther received the papal bull of excommunication that kicked him out of his ancestral Church, he declared: "*I despise and attack it, as impious, false. . . . It is Christ Himself who is condemned therein. . . . I rejoice in having to bear such ills for the best of causes. Already I feel greater liberty in my heart; for at last I know that the pope is anti-christ, and that his throne is that of Satan himself.*" D'Aubigné, b. 6. Ch. 9."¹

Immediately after his magnificent stand for the truth and his refusal to recant at Worms, before the emperor, the princes, and other dignitaries of the Holy Roman Empire, a stake awaited him. On his way home, however, his supporters kidnapped and spirited him away to the Wartburg castle, where he translated much of the Bible into German. Heaven protected him there, but other Protestants were not so fortunate. Many of them were burned or slaughtered.

With a shock he recognized the Church in which he had grown up as the Babylon of the Apocalypse. Soon he trumpeted forth the message of Rev. 18:4: "*Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.*"

Within a few years, Protestantism spread like wildfire through northwestern Europe. Other Reformers proclaimed a message similar to that of Luther, especially from Geneva, Switzerland. Country after country, adopted the Reformed religion.

To the papacy it eventually became plain that murdering individuals could not extinguish Protestantism. Therefore, a century after 1517, when Luther lifted the hammer to nail his document to that door, the Catholics marshaled entire armies to destroy it in what became the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), the most destructive conflict that ever ravaged modern Europe.

But at that time the Lord raised up a mighty warrior to save his people: Gustavus Adolphus (1594-1632), the King of Sweden. During his brief reign of eleven years (1611-1632), he transformed his country into a great power. A military genius, he inflicted great defeats on the Catholic armies and thwarted the design of the Roman Church to destroy the Protestant Reformation. He personally led his armies from the age of 16 until he fell in battle in 1632, while leading a charge.²

Greater Reformation

The Counter Reformation

Rome, however, did not give up. What she could not achieve by force of arms, she sought to gain through theological subtlety. The Catholic Church proceeded to cleanse itself of its most obvious corruptions through a Counter-Reformation, inaugurated at the multi-session Council of Trent (1545-1563). It also had at its disposal a powerful new tool, the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits, created by Ignacio de Loyola (1491-1556) and approved by the Vatican in 1540. The basic purpose of this order was and is to defend the pope.

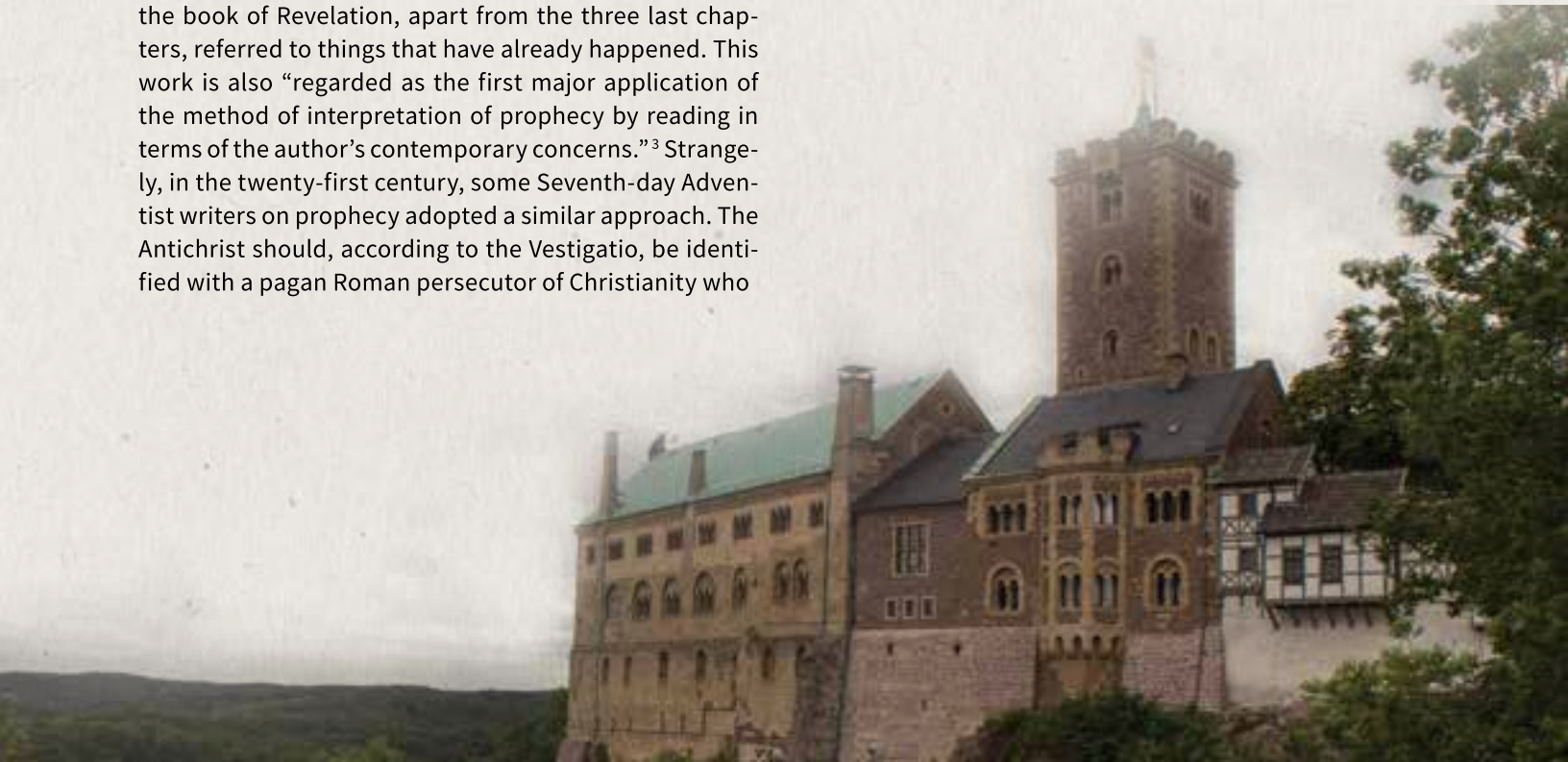
The Achilles heel of the papacy is prophetic Historicism. This interprets the predictions of the Bible by comparing them with the events of history, which the Protestants effectively used to show that the pope is the Antichrist. But in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, three Jesuit scholars tried to blunt the effectiveness of Historicism by deflecting attention away from the Roman pontiff, through two alternative methods of prophetic interpretation.

Luis del Alcázar (1554-1613), a Spanish Catholic theologian, wrote *Vestigatio arcane sensus in Apocalypsi* (An Investigation into the Hidden Sense of the Apocalypse), a book of 900 pages. This tome was published in 1614, a year after his death. He maintained that everything in the book of Revelation, apart from the three last chapters, referred to things that have already happened. This work is also “regarded as the first major application of the method of interpretation of prophecy by reading in terms of the author’s contemporary concerns.”³ Strangely, in the twenty-first century, some Seventh-day Adventist writers on prophecy adopted a similar approach. The Antichrist should, according to the *Vestigatio*, be identified with a pagan Roman persecutor of Christianity who

lived a long time ago. He could therefore not be the pope. Because it points back to the past, this approach to prophecy is known as Preterism. As pointed out in my book, *The Truth About 666 and the Story of the Great Apostasy* (2011, 2013), del Alcázar was also indebted to the allegorical method used by Origen, partly under the influence of pagan Neoplatonism, to whom prophetic Idealism is traceable.

A fellow Spanish Jesuit Francisco Ribera (1537-1591), also wrote an anti-Historicist book to deflect the finger of accusation that Protestants were pointing at the pope. It bears the title *In Sacrum Beati Ioannis Apostoli, & Evangelistiae Apocalypsis Commentarij* (1590), this work on the book of Revelation is likewise of great length (500 pages). It appeared a year before its author died. Unlike Luis del Alcázar, Ribera mostly did not point back into the past but to the Future. He proposed that only the first few chapters of the Apocalypse applied to ancient pagan Rome but projected the rest to a brief period immediately before the Second Coming. This, he insisted, would not be a symbolic 3½ years, 42 months, 1,260 days, based on the Historicist idea that in prophecy a day is equal to a year of calendar time (Numbers 14:34, Ezekiel 4:6). No, he maintained, it would be a literal 3½ years.⁴

Cardinal Archbishop Roberto Francesco Romolo Bellarmino (1542-1621), was another Jesuit Futurist.



The Older Protestant Response

For more than two hundred years, Lutheran and other Reformers either ignored or refuted these Jesuitical attempts to undermine Historicism. Especially one writer did so magnificently a little more than four centuries ago.

He was Andreas Helwig (1572-1643), a prominent intellectual and “professional teacher of Latin, Greek, and Hebrew for twenty-seven years.” During his life, he was amongst other things the author of an etymological Greek Dictionary, rector at Berlin (1611-1614) and professor of poetry at the University of Rostock (1614-1616). Froom stated that Helwig’s specialty in language and his conspicuous ability in Greek and Latin won him the standing of royal crown poet.⁵

His masterpiece was *Antichristus Romanus* (the Roman Antichrist), which appeared in three editions: 1600, 1612, and 1630. This work called attention to *Vicarius Filii Dei* (The vicar of the Son of God), a very old pontifical title, which has a numerical value of 666. He was the first Historicist prophetic interpreter who did so.

In later life, he became the rector of the gymnasium at Stralsund, where he also continued his scholarly work. Eventually he produced a final, definitive edition of his book. It appeared during 1630, with a striking subtitle. In English this reads: *The Roman Antichrist, Revealed by His Own Name: Made Public and Subjected to the Glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Highest and Only High Priest of the Church, Whose Honor and Seat This Vaunted VICARIVS FILII DEI Claims for Himself and Imposes upon the Entire World the Judgment of the Holy Catholic Church, by Master Andreas Helwig, Rector of the Stralsund Gymnasium.*

This last edition was almost never published, being completed during the Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648). Dated 25 June 1630 at Stralsund, it was dedicated to the great Swedish monarch, Gustavus Adolphus. At the very time when Helwig was putting the finishing touches to his book, this mighty warrior was playing a crucial role in the Thirty Years’ War, ensuring the survival of Protestantism against the Catholic armies marshaled to blot it out.

What makes Helwig’s *Dedication* so fascinating is that just two years earlier, in 1628, Stralsund—“the last remaining Protestant bastion in Pomerania”—was saved in the nick of time from Wallenstein’s army, by Gustavus

Adolphus together with Christian IV, the Danish King. We need hardly doubt that Helwig, by not falling into his enemies’ hands, as a notorious heretic escaped a most unpleasant fate. He owed his very life to the Swedish king. It is pleasant to imagine Gustavus Adolphus in late 1630 sparing a little time to read the dedication and sad to know that only two years later he would fall in battle at Lützen on 6 November 1632.

But the Catholic armies and the accompanying Inquisition overspreading so much German, Protestant territory may also have contrived to destroy nearly all the copies of the 1630 edition. A few, however, did survive. One of them came into the possession of Carl Frederik Muhrbeck, whose identity is obscure. In 1772, he gave it to the Västerås City Library, Sweden. There it lay silently since then, for 235 years—from before the American Revolution. Fortunately Helwig’s editions have now also acquired digital immortality and are no longer confined to a few locations.

And Yet the Counter Reformation Was Eventually Victorious

Just before and while William Miller, a Historicist, was studying out his interpretation of Biblical prophecy, in 1826 Samuel Roffey Maitland (1792-1866), wrote a seventy-two-page pamphlet entitled *Enquiry into the Grounds on which the Prophetic Period of Daniel and St. John Has Been Supposed to Consist of 1260 Years*. In it, he emphatically rejected the year-day principle, without which the traditional Protestant interpretation would collapse. He was a librarian to the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace, where he found a copy of Ribera’s book and even had it reprinted.

Maitland in turn influenced J. H. Todd at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. By 1838 the latter was openly teaching the same anti-historicist teaching. Several other Futurists also had connections with that college, including W. Burgh (afterward De Burgh) and J. N. Darby. The latter was an early leader in a movement which started near Dublin and later in England became known as the Plymouth Brethren. Darby studied at Trinity College and after becoming an Anglican priest accepted the dispensational Futurism which is now so widely spread in evangelical Protestantism.

BOOKS BY Edwin de Kock

Simultaneously with these developments in prophetic interpretation, the Oxford Movement arose within the Anglican Church and was aided by Futurism in its increasing orientation towards Roman Catholicism. The Oxford Movement was significant, not only for causing some of its leaders to defect from the Church of England to the Church of Rome. It also promoted Anglo-Catholicism among those who did not, as well as ecumenism.

These developments are dealt with in greater detail by two of my publications, the interrelated Use and Abuse of Prophecy: History, Methodology, and Myth (2007) and A More Sure Word of Prophecy (2015).

Catholic Futurism is the theological ancestor of Protestant Dispensationalism. Together with Preterism and Idealism, these alternative methods of prophetic interpretation—largely the result of Jesuit thinking—have almost completely eliminated Historicism. This is a striking example of what Ellen G. White has so aptly called “false prophecy . . . kindled from the hellish torch of Satan” (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 409, 410).

Nowadays liberal Protestants are usually Preterists. On the other hand, Southern Baptists and other more conservative Protestants, have mostly—in the form of Dispensationalism—accepted Ribera’s interpretation. They no longer believe that the Roman pontiff is the Antichrist of Bible prophecy. Like Evangelicals who favor ecumenism, they have, eschatologically speaking, been totally vanquished by the Vatican. This, alas, is also true of the Lutheran Church. The Catholic Counter Reformation, which since the sixteenth and seventeenth century has never flagged, has been spectacularly successful.

To be continued ... **AD**

Edwin de Kock, international lecturer, writer, and has published in three of the thirteen languages he is acquainted with. His fascination with prophecy and history began in his native South Africa more than fifty years ago. He has qualifications in theology, literature, education, and speech. He was a professional educator for more than thirty-five years, in South Africa, South Korea, and the United States, especially as a college teacher. He finished this career as a writing professor at the University of Texas, Pan American, from 1996 to 2000.

1 The Great Controversy, 126

2 Wikipedia, s.v. “Gustavus Adolphus

3 Wikipedia, s.v. “Luis del Alcázar”

4 Wikipedia, s.v. “Francisco Ribera

5 LeRoy Edwin Froom, *Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, vol. II, pp. 605–606, 608



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