

The Return of the Exiles—No. 4, The Adversaries of Judah and Benjamin

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, April 25, 1907

From the time the foundation-stone of the second temple was laid, Satan brought to bear upon the builders many influences that greatly hindered the rapid prosecution of the work. The enemy did not have far to go in order to find men through whom to carry out his evil designs. Close by the Israelites, a few miles northward, dwelt the Samaritans.

More than a century before the beginning of the Babylonish captivity, the Assyrian kings had devastated Samaria and Galilee, and had taken into captivity many thousands of Israelites belonging to the ten tribes. The conquering kings repopulated Samaria with colonies of heathen peoples from widely separated parts of the Assyrian realm. These heathen intermarried with the Israelites who had been allowed to remain in the land; and thus originated a mixed race known as the Samaritans.

In later years, the Samaritans claimed to worship the true God; but in heart and practise they were idolaters. It is true, they held that their idols were only to remind them of the living God, the ruler of the universe; nevertheless the people were led to reverence their graven images.

These idolatrous Samaritans were “the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin.”¹ About the time of the laying of the corner-stone, they “heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the Lord God of Israel.”² Coming “to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers,”³ they expressed their desire to join them in its erection. “Let us build with you,” they proposed, “for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither.”⁴ This privilege was refused them. “Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God,”⁵ the leaders of the Israelites declared; “but we ourselves together will build unto the Lord God of Israel, as King Cyrus of Persia hath commanded us.”⁶

In the light of the circumstances surrounding the remnant people of God in the days of Zerubbabel, this decision reveals the character of the leaders of Israel at that time. Only a feeble remnant had chosen to return from Babylon; and now, as they undertake a work seemingly beyond their strength, their nearest neighbors come with an offer to help. The Samaritans refer to their worship of the true God, and express a desire to share in the privileges and blessings

7. Ezra 4:2

connected with the temple service. “We seek your God, as ye do,” they declared. “Let us build with you.”⁷

Had the Jewish leaders accepted this offer of assistance, they would have opened a door for the entrance of idolatry. They discerned the insincerity of the Samaritans. They realized that all the help that could be gained through an alliance with men, would be as nothing in comparison with the prosperity that would accompany strict obedience to the plain commands of Jehovah.

Regarding their relations with surrounding peoples, the Lord had declared to ancient Israel through Moses: “Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor show mercy unto them: neither shalt thou make marriages with them;... for they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.”⁸

“Thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: but because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations... Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them.”⁹

The result that would follow a breaking of their covenant with God, and an entrance into covenant relation with surrounding nations, was plainly foretold through Moses: “The Lord shall scatter you among the nations,” he declared, “and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the Lord shall lead you. And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.”¹⁰ Precious assurance! Then follows the promise

8. Deut 7:2,4

1. Ezra 4:1

2. Ezra 4:1

3. Ezra 4:2

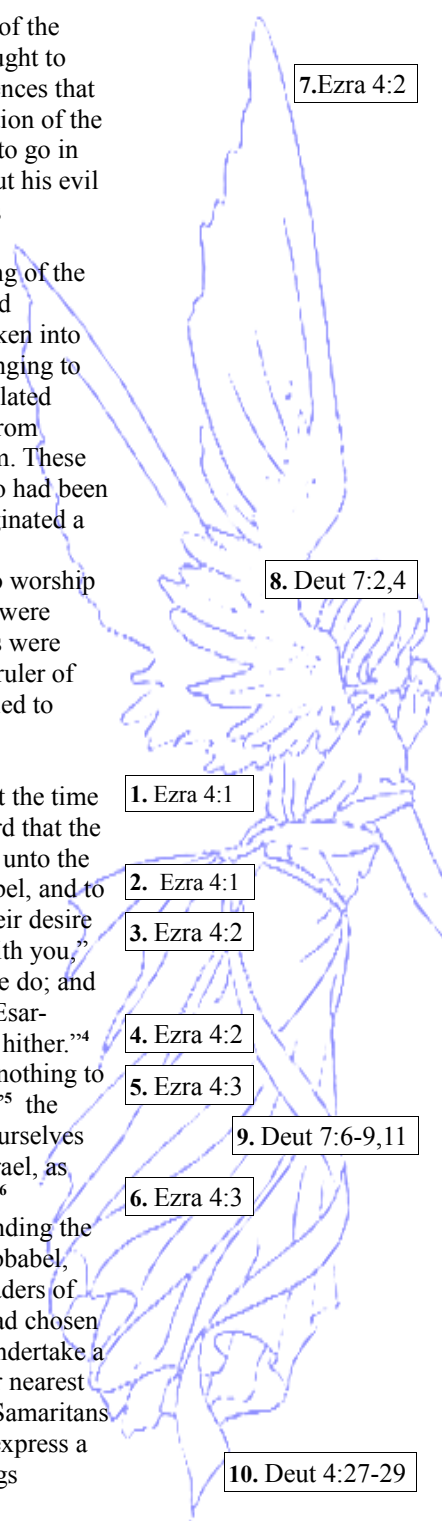
4. Ezra 4:2

5. Ezra 4:3

9. Deut 7:6-9,11

6. Ezra 4:3

10. Deut 4:27-29



to the penitent, that God would not forsake them, nor forget the covenant that he had made with their fathers.

Zerubbabel and his associates were familiar with these scriptures. Their fathers had lost sight of the sacred relationship that should ever exist between God and his chosen people. Forgetting their solemn covenant with the Lord of hosts, they had entered into covenant relation with heathen nations. The prophecies of Moses were literally fulfilled. The chosen nation was scattered among heathen nations. And only a remnant, “few in number,”¹¹ had repented and turned to God. Only a few had renewed their covenant with him, and had returned to restore that which had been destroyed because of the disobedience of their fathers. And now, having solemnly rededicated themselves to the Lord at the ancient altar set up before the ruins of his temple, should they, at the very beginning of their work, enter into a covenant with a people who worshiped idols?

11. Deut 4:27

“Thou shalt make no covenant with them.”¹² God’s servants in responsibility realized that the line of demarcation between his people and the people of the world is ever to be kept unmistakably distinct. They refused to be guided by the counsel of those who for years had known the requirements of God’s law, but who had refused to yield to its claims.

12. Deut 7:2

The principles set forth in Deuteronomy for the instruction of Israel, are to be followed by God’s people to the end of time. Our prosperity is dependent on the continuance of our covenant

13. Ezra 4:1

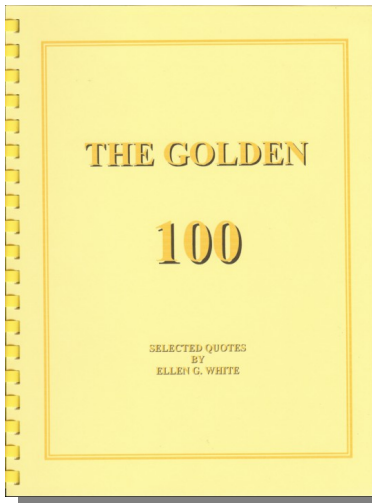
relationship with God. In no instance can we afford to compromise principle by entering into covenant with those who fear not God.

There is constant danger that professed Christians will come to think that in order to have influence with worldlings, they must conform to the world to a certain extent. But although the propositions of Satan may appear to afford great advantages, as did the offer of the Samaritans to assist in the construction of the temple, they always end in spiritual ruin. God’s people must guard against every subtle influence that is seeking entrance by means of flattering inducements from the enemies of his truth.

We are pilgrims and strangers in this world, traveling a path beset with dangers from those who have rejected the only One who can save them. Ingenious subterfuges and scientific problems will be held out before us, to tempt us to swerve from our allegiance, but we are not to heed them. Every one must seek God for himself.

It is not always open and avowed enemies that are most to be feared. We shall have enemies who come, like “the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin,”¹³ with smooth words and fair speeches, and who would deceive if possible the very elect. It is thus that Satan often works; and again, when it suits his purpose, he goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Let every soul be on the alert. The adversary is on your track. Vigilantly watch lest some carefully concealed and masterly snare take you unawares. Let

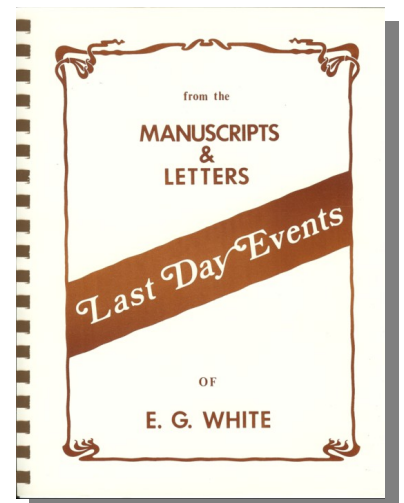


THE GOLDEN 100

The SDRPA has a new book available entitled “The Golden 100.” It consists of 100 selected quotes by Ellen G. White. Its focus is on the apostasy in the SDA church and defining our position as the Remnant people of God. It is spiral bound, is about thirty pages, and is formatted with a 16 point font, so it will make a handy reference for mission workers in the field. We are asking a suggested donation of \$7.50 for each copy.

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In this spiral bound book you will find over 200 pages of unpublished letters and manuscripts of E.G. White concerning the last days. **English & Spanish** versions available! Suggested donation of \$13.00 per copy.



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the careless and indifferent beware lest the day of the Lord come upon them as a thief in the night. Many will wander from the path of humility, and, casting aside the yoke of Christ, will walk in strange paths. Blinded and bewildered, they will leave the narrow path that leads to the city of God.

A man can not be a happy Christian unless he is a watchful Christian. He who overcomes must watch; for with worldly entanglements, error, and superstition, Satan strives to win Christ's followers from him. It is not enough that we avoid glaring errors and perilous, inconsistent moves. We are to keep close to the side of Christ, walking in the path of self-denial and sacrifice. We are in an enemy's country. He who was cast out of heaven has come down with great power. With every conceivable artifice and device he is seeking to take souls captive. Unless we are constantly on guard, we shall fall an easy prey to his deceptions.

In the closing scenes of this earth's history, when intensity is taking possession of every earthly element, the Lord requires of us a vigilance that knows no relaxation. But we are not left to struggle alone. Amid the dangers increasing on every hand,

14. 1John 5:5

those who walk humbly before God, distrustful of their own wisdom, will have angels as their helpers and protectors. In times of special peril they will know the power of God's keeping care. Those who do not realize their danger because they do not watch, will pay, with the loss of their souls, the penalty of their presumption and their wilful ignorance of Satan's devices.

Let us trust fully, humbly, unselfishly, in God. We are his children, and he deals with us as such. When we draw near to him, and renew our covenant with him, he mercifully preserves us from the assaults of the enemy. Never will he betray one who trusts in him as a child trusts in its parents. He sees the humble, trusting souls drawing near to him, and in pity and love he draws near to them, and lifts up for them a standard against the enemy. Touch them not, he says; for they are mine. I have graven them upon the palms of my hands. He teaches them to exercise unquestioning faith in his power to work in their behalf. With assurance they say, "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."¹⁴

Editorial—End Times

To our dear brothers and sisters in the faith. It has been more than 100 years since Sister White wrote the article on the front page. It is a familiar history lesson from over 2,000 years ago, but we would do well to keep it fresh in our memory. There is an old saying that "history repeats itself."

The Israelites who returned to rebuild the temple were only a few in number. Neighbors offered to help in the rebuilding, but this small group of Israelites remembered the instruction the Lord had given them, and refused the help, even though it might have been nice to have. They made the Lord their help, and He blessed them for it. Our God is the same today. Sometimes our group of believers seems very small, but we have a God who has promised that "He is able." With that promise we can work for Him with all our might, and our efforts will be rewarded.

By the signs happening all around us today, we can know with certainty that the return of our dear Saviour is very near. We are told that a time of great trouble is approaching, and that during this dark time our greatest concern will be that our sins are all forgiven, that our hearts are pure and right with God. We can prepare for this time now by performing two very

important tasks. We must daily examine our own lives and bring our hearts in complete surrender to our Lord, keeping them open to our Father's direction, and we must also proclaim this last message of mercy to the world.

The mission of this magazine is to help our brothers and sisters with these tasks. We strive as we can to encourage those who share this same burden of spreading God's truth around the world. The more voices join with ours, the more of us who faithfully perform these tasks each day, the sooner we all will see our Lord returning to take us home.

NOTE:

The SDRPA Phone 877 SDR-PA44 (877 737-7244) is for leaving a message and someone will get back with you. Please leave your name and your number so we can return your call. Speak slowly so we will be able to understand the numbers and return your call.

*the fig tree; When his
branch is yet tender, and
putteth forth leaves,
ye know that
summer [is] nigh:
So likewise ye, when ye
shall see all these things,
know that it is near,
[even] at the doors.
Verily I say unto you,
This generation shall not
pass, till all these things
be fulfilled.
Heaven and earth shall
pass away,
but my words shall not
pass away."*
Matthew 24:32-35

"Now learn a parable of

Children's Story—*The Escapes of Rafaravy*— Matthew 10:23.

Part 3 (Concluded)

It will be remembered that Rafaravy was on her way to the port of Tamatave, where she expected to meet Mr. Johns, the missionary. She was accompanied by her friends, Sarah and her husband, and had got safely on her way as far as the capital. Here, she and Sarah remained concealed in the house of a friend, while Sarah's husband went on to Tamatave to ask advice of Mr. Johns.

While she was thus waiting for some word of counsel from the good missionary, fifteen or twenty men came one day to the house where she was staying, for the purpose of searching it. They were not searching for Rafaravy, but for something else which they suspected might be concealed in the house. They tried to push open the door of her room; but she held it firmly in its place, and the moon went away. Slipping from her place of confinement, she immediately escaped from the house, climbed over a wall, and succeeded in reaching the house of a friend in safety.

The men who had been searching the house soon returned, and went into the very room where Rafaravy had been concealed; but she had gone. The God that she worshiped and trusted had delivered her out of their hands.

At the end of a fortnight from the time that Sarah's husband set out for Tamatave, there came a messenger from Mr. Johns. He

sent them money to buy food, and directions for their journey. He told them to take courage and come to him, for he hoped to find them a passage on a ship that would take them away from the land of such fierce persecutions.

So, with many prayers and tears, they parted with their kind Christian friends in the capital, and set out in the night, on their journey to Tamatave, which was two hundred miles distant. Day after day they traveled on, till their feet became so swollen that they could scarcely move. One dark night the rain poured down in torrents, but these poor women could find no shelter, and so lay upon the cold ground all night. Sometimes they got lost in the night, and had to lie down and wait till morning.

Before they reached the end of their journey, their little stock of food was all gone; and as they had no money to buy any more, they were nearly starved. Yet they sweetly comforted each other as they talked of the dear Saviour and of Heaven. They remembered that He too, had not where to lay his head. When they went up the hill, they thought of Christian climbing the "Hill of Difficulty," as described in "Pilgrim's Progress." Once they came to a deep river and could find no way to cross over, but upon a narrow plank. This made them think of Christian and Hopeful when they asked the "shining ones" if there was no way to the

"Celestial City" but through the river.

Again they came to a large river in which there were a great many crocodiles. It was not safe to swim across this river, and so there was a little boat kept there to take people over. Now Rafaravy and her friend did not like to ask the boatman to take them across the stream, because the queen had made a law that every one who crossed this stream should be closely questioned; and they would not have told a lie even to save themselves from being taken back and put to death. Yet there was no other way to get across, and so they ventured to ask a passage in the boat. It so happened that the boatman had just taken over some soldiers, and, thinking that these two women belonged to the same party, they asked them no questions. And thus the Lord delivered them again from their enemies.

At length, after eight weary days and nights of fear, anxiety, pain, and suffering, they reached Tamatave. Here they met Mr. Johns at the house of a friend who secreted them. There they read, and prayed, and rejoiced, together. They had some narrow escapes from their enemies even here; but Mr. Johns finally got them on board a ship, in which they sailed to England, where they could enjoy their religion unmolested.

Phebe A. Miner.

Youth's Instructor February 15, 1871

Had not Jacob previously repented of his sin in obtaining the birthright by fraud, God would not have heard his prayer and mercifully preserved his life. So, in the time of trouble, if the people of God had unconfessed sins to appear before them while tortured with fear and anguish, they would be overwhelmed; despair would cut off their faith, and they could not have confidence to plead with God for deliverance. But while they have a deep sense of their unworthiness, they have no concealed wrongs to reveal. Their sins have gone beforehand to judgment and have been blotted out, and they cannot bring them to remembrance. GC 620.1

RECIPE—RAW VEGAN PECAN PIE

Serves 8 to 10

For the crust

3/4 cup raw pecans
3/4 cup raw walnuts
1/4 teaspoon sea salt
1/4 cup shredded coconut
1 cup pitted Medjool dates, packed

For the pie filling

1 1/4 cup Medjool dates, tightly packed, pitted,
and soaked in warm water for at least an hour
1/2 cup plus 3/4 cup raw pecans, divided
1/4 cup melted coconut oil
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
Big pinch sea salt

To make the crust:

Place the walnuts and pecans, sea salt, and coconut in a food processor and grind roughly. Add the dates and process until the mixture is thoroughly broken down and sticks together when you squeeze a bit in the palm of your hand. Press mixture evenly onto the bottom and sides of a pie plate (alternately, you can press it into a 9" springform pan).

To make the filling:

Drain the dates, reserving the soak liquid. Transfer the dates to a high speed blender or powerful food processor. Add the 1/2 cup pecans, coconut oil, vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt, and about 1/4 cup of the date-soaking water. Blend until the mixture is totally smooth. Pour the filling into the crust. Smooth the top over with an inverted spatula. Place in the fridge for at least four hours to set. Decorate the top with the 3/4 cup pecans, and continue to chill till ready to serve.

Author Notes: An easy, forgiving, and absolutely delicious vegan spin on pecan pie. Creamy medjool dates and coconut oil perfectly approximate the flavor and texture - Gena Hamshaw

By Gena Hamshaw

As posted on WWW.Food52.com/Recipes

**Though God's people will be surrounded by enemies
who are bent upon their destruction,
yet the anguish which they suffer is not
a dread of persecution
for the truth's sake;
they fear that every sin has not been repented of,
and that through some fault in themselves
they will fail to realize
the fulfillment of the Saviour's promise:
I "will keep thee from the hour of temptation,
which shall come upon all the world." Revelation 3:10.
If they could have the assurance of pardon
they would not shrink
from torture or death;
but should they prove unworthy,
and lose their lives
because of their own defects of character,
then God's holy name would be reproached.
Great Controversy 619.1**

Health Nugget—Kale

The super-foods series

Here's why kale is called the 'beef' of a plant-based diet

by Willow Tohi

(NaturalNews)

While there's no official definition of the term super-food, the generally implied idea is a fruit or vegetable that is particularly nutritious and beneficial to your overall health and wellness, with high phytonutrient content. By that definition, kale should have a spot in the top ten. If you want to be healthy, there's no avoiding the leafy green vegetables, and kale is one of the most nourishing. It is a good source of calcium, magnesium, vitamin A, vitamin C, fiber, iron, folic acid, amino acids, antioxidant flavonoids, and lutein. It is easy to prepare, versatile, and delicious.

Conversely, environmentalists cite meat production as one of the top ten contributors to climate change. There are 7 billion people on the planet and 55 billion large animals that are raised for food each year making lots of waste and stretching resources. Which is why the famous author of *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, Michael Pollan, suggested "Meatless Mondays" in the first place. He says, "By departing even modestly from the Western diet, we could reduce our chances of getting coronary heart disease by 80%, type 2 diabetes by 90%, and colon cancer by 70%."

So eating meat sparingly, as a side-dish, is good for your body, your pocketbook, and the environment.

Some comparisons between beef and kale:

Organicauthority.com's Jill Ettinger had these reasons to try kale:

1. Sustainability. Kale grows to maturity in 2 months. Meat cattle mature between 18 - 24 months of age. One pound of beef takes 2400 gallons of water and 16 pounds of grain.

2. Anti-inflammatory. The consumption of animal proteins is a major cause of autoimmune disease, heart disease and arthritis. The nutrients in kale make it anti-inflammatory. It is so nutrient-dense it can actually reverse some of these conditions.

3. Iron. Per calorie, kale has more iron than beef.

4. Fiber. Needed daily, few Americans get enough. Ongoing fiber deficiency is linked to many diseases, including digestive disorders, cancers, and heart disease. Most Americans get their protein from animal sources, which provide no fiber. Kale provides about 5% of the RDI per serving, along with two grams of protein.

5. Calcium. Despite high consumption of beef and dairy products in this country, we still have some of the highest rates of bone loss and bone health problems (such as osteoporosis) in the world. Kale has a more bio-available form of calcium than dairy, and contains more calcium per calorie than milk. It also has magnesium, which is necessary to use calcium.

6. Omegas. Mainstream meat products do not have the essential fatty acids we need for good health. Each serving of kale has more than 120mg of omega-3 fatty acids and more than 90mg of omega-6 fatty acids.

7. Immunity. Kale is a rich source of vitamins and minerals that nourish and support the liver, aid digestion and help to naturally detox the body. Factory farm meats and dairy products only lend to the scary and growing problem of Superbugs

and resistant bacteria.

Tips for adding kale to your diet

Kale is considered a winter crop, even though it is available year round. The cold makes it sweeter; if it wilts or turns brown it may become bitter. It is easy to grow yourself. There are several varieties of kale: the most common is green (curly-leaf) kale, dinosaur kale and red Russian. The smoother leafed varieties are milder in taste.

Store kale for a week in the crisper, but remember that it gets stronger as it is stored. To store longer, wash, dry, mince or chop (pitch tough stems), and freeze. It thaws quickly and can be used like raw kale.

Eat kale raw, in a salad, use it as a wrap, or juice it or add it to a smoothie. Kale can be blanched, boiled, braised, sauteed, steamed or stir-fried. People prepare it in a similar manner to chard or collards: season with brown rice or umeboshi vinegar, soy sauce, tamari or sesame oil, to name a few. Substitute for spinach or cabbage in recipes.

If taste is an issue: mince finely and add to recipes, like parsley. Stir into bean, egg, pasta, potato, tuna, vegetable salads or soups, stews and sauces. Sprinkle on pizza; stir into scrambled eggs, lasagna, burritos or quesadillas; the list is endless. It will add color and nutrition to most anything.

Sources:

<http://www.organicauthority.com>

<http://mothering.com/praise-kale>

<http://www.organicauthority.com>

<http://www.meatlessmonday.com/food-rules-in-perfect-portions/>

***There is to be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.
Our work is to study to weed out of all our discourses everything that savors of
retaliation and defiance and making a drive against churches and individuals,
because this is not Christ's way and method.
Counsels to Writers and Editors page 64.2***

The Pillars of Our Faith

Second Angel's Message

The solemn messages that have been given in their order in the Revelation are to occupy the first place in the minds of God's people.

Nothing else is to be allowed to engross our attention."¹

As we continue to discuss the Pillars of Our Faith, we would like to remind you that we are not the ones who have chosen these pillars, we have taken them from the pen of inspiration.²

In our last issue we discussed who the angels are that are proclaiming the messages of Revelation 14. We also discussed briefly the First Angel's Message. We will now cover briefly the Second Angel's message.

“And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”³

“And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city...”

We need to understand who this applies to before we can understand the full meaning of this verse.

“The term ‘Babylon’ is derived from ‘Babel,’ and signifies confusion. It is employed in Scripture to designate the various forms of false or apostate religion... Babylon is said to be ‘the mother of harlots.’ By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world. The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt. Since this message follows the warning of the judgment, it must be given in the last days; therefore it cannot refer to the Roman Church alone, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries. Furthermore, in the eighteenth chapter of the Revelation the people of God are called upon to come out of Babylon. According to this scripture, many of God's people must still be in Babylon. And in what religious bodies are the greater part of the followers of Christ now to be found? Without doubt, in the various churches professing the Protestant faith... Many of the Protestant churches are following Rome's example of iniquitous connection with ‘the kings of the earth’—the state churches, by their relation to secular governments; and other denominations, by seeking the favor of the world. And the term *Babylon*—confusion—may be appropriately applied to these bodies, all professing to derive their doctrines from the Bible, yet divided into almost innumerable sects, with widely conflicting creeds and theories.”⁴

5. GC 606-607;
see also 4SP 424

1. 8T 302

2. CW 30

6. TM 61

7. TM 117

8. PP 124

3. Rev 14:8

9. 4SP 357

“In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from heaven.”⁵

“The fallen denominational churches are Babylon. Babylon has been fostering poisonous doctrines, the wine of error.”⁶ “The churches, represented by Babylon, are represented as having fallen from their spiritual state to become a persecuting power against those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”⁷

“The existing confusion of conflicting creeds and sects is fitly represented by the term ‘Babylon,’ which prophecy (Rev 14:8; 18:2) applies to the world-loving churches of the last days.”⁸

“If we turn from the testimony of God's word, and accept false doctrines because our fathers taught them, we fall under the condemnation pronounced upon Babylon; we are drinking of the wine of her abominations.”⁹

“...because she made all nations...”

Another point we need to consider is, who are the nations? Have the countries of the United States, Mexico, Germany, etc, accepted being the depositories of God's message of salvation? No. “Nations” are the denominations who profess to be giving God's message to the world. Therefore the nations referred to in the verse, refers to the churches that have accepted the responsibility of giving this message. Countries we have mentioned and others in the world have an important part to play in these last days, but they are not what this verse is referring to. The denominations are drinking from the wine of Babylon, thus not following their duty in giving God's message to the world. Please read the following quote to see why we say this: “God has a controversy with the churches of today. They are fulfilling the prophecy of John. ‘All nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’ They have divorced themselves from God by refusing to receive His sign. They have not the spirit of God's true commandment-keeping people. And the people of the world, in giving their sanction to a false sabbath, and in trampling under their feet the Sabbath of the Lord, have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”¹⁰

“...Drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

The next point that needs to be understood is:

“What is that wine?—“her false doctrines.”¹¹

“The fallen denominational churches are

10. 7BC 979

11. 7BC 985

4. GC 381-383
see also 4SP 232

Babylon. Babylon has been fostering poisonous doctrines, the wine of error. This wine of error is made up of false doctrines...¹²

“This cup of intoxication which she presents to the world represents the false doctrines that she has accepted as the result of her unlawful connection with the great ones of the earth.”¹³

A question that some ask is, “Is the Seventh-day Adventist denomination Babylon? Or is she only a harlot?” We believe the question should be, “Is there a difference between the two names, harlot and Babylon?” We praise the Lord for the Spirit of Prophecy which gives us the answer: “Babylon is said to be a harlot, and the prophet beheld her drunken with the blood of saints and martyrs. The Babylon thus described represents Rome, that apostate church which has so cruelly persecuted the followers of Christ. But Babylon the harlot is the mother of daughters who follow her example of corruption.”¹⁴

We see here, as well as reading other statements, that ALL denominations, including the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, have become Babylon. By their fruits ye shall know them.¹⁵

This message is one of the pillars of our faith. We cannot take a neutral position on this message.¹⁶ We should study and know for ourselves what this pillar means, being faithful students of God’s word.¹⁷ We are being tested on these points of our faith. We need to be united on ALL the pillars to fulfill Christ’s prayer in John 17. May we be faithful.

12. TM 61
see also
6T 317;
4SP 235;
3SM 405;
2SM 118

13. GC 388

18. EW 237

19. EW 238

14. 4SP 233 20. 2 Thess 2:12

15. see Mt 7:16-20

16. see
3T 281

17. see
Acts 17:11;
2 Tim 2:15

21. Rev 18:4;
GC 390;
EW 261;
4SP 240

22. Rev 3:20-21

WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE SECOND ANGEL?

“...But the beloved of God, who were oppressed, accepted the message, ‘Babylon is fallen,’ and left the churches.”¹⁸

“...and a large company who had the living testimony left these fallen churches.”¹⁹

“Revelation 18 points to the time when, as the result of rejecting the threefold warning of Revelation 14:6-12, the church will have fully reached the condition foretold by the second angel, and the people of God still in Babylon will be called upon to separate from her communion. This message is the last that will ever be given to the world; and it will accomplish its work. When those that ‘believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness,’²⁰ shall be left to receive strong delusion and to believe a lie, then the light of truth will shine upon all whose hearts are open to receive it, and all the children of the Lord that remain in Babylon will heed the call: ‘Come out of her, My people.’”²¹

May we follow God’s word and come out of Babylon. God’s people will come out of Babylon because Christ is not there²² and we want to follow Christ.

Gary Cain

MISSION REPORTS Kenya

Kenya Sept 2013

Heb. 6:10-11.

Our earnest efforts have been to persevere and resist the attacks of Satan which he employs trying to turn us out of the right way. In our life business, great work is to be performed for those who are willing to be purified, willing to be peculiar and manifesting zeal in good works. We must realize to be living in solemn times and that the chaff among us must be removed to harmonize in a much better according to the spirit of Christ. If some are constantly leaning to the world systems so that they can have quite reasonable influence among God’s people; then it is perfectly natural for them to prefer the guidance rendered in the Bible and SOP to agree with their own conscience and make things happen.

We have also held our camp meeting starting from 26/08/2013 to 01/09/2013. It was a successful meeting with five souls added to the flock of Christ. I was one of

the speakers in this meeting and I taught about the Gospel church and Gospel order. I gave them a sample of the English version of church constitution and promised to send them a Luganda version when ready in 2 week’s time. We resolved that after receiving the Luganda version which all people understand better; we shall then meet in the first Sunday of October 2013 for adopting it. We also held a short meeting to discuss the fate surrounding the advance of the work worldwide. I briefed them about the good work in Kenya where we have held a series of meetings to bring us into a united force of believers who are to accomplish God’s work as in Matthew 24:14.

I did substitute the regional conference which was going to take place in the month of September 2013 due to number issues which seemed important to consider: We thought to know the fate surrounding our brethren against issue of the usage of the name. I

felt unreal to call our brethren from the neighboring countries to agree over name while we may take another twist to painfully adopt another name!

We have severe shortage of foodstuff across the country which came as a result of almost no harvest in season past! However, Kenneth and I contributed some funds to buy maize, beans and some fruits which we used to enable finish the Camp meeting. Where things became hard, we sent women and children to the bush to pick some herbs to make vegetable as in Gen. 1:29.

We also heeded the tough bill passed where at least 3 people gathered for a meeting must seek permission from the Inspector General of Police sighting that we had not fully accomplished registration process which we had started earlier on in 2008.

We also wanted to get cheap accommodation in school premises in that the second term holiday was short and therefore postponed to December where

the Holiday will be long.

Therefore, I embarked on translating the Church constitution into Luganda version and finished it within a week. Soon I will send it to those churches wanting it. Thank you for all the support which you send each month to enables us accomplish what seem to be difficult in these last days. God bless you.

J.W.

Report from Kenya

Heb. 6:10-11.

I so much appreciate your faithful support and prayers that through such commitment that God provides abundant means for successful warfare on this universe! Rom. 8:37 The Bible and SOP is to be the armory where we may equip ourselves for the struggles while still on earth.

The experience in true ministry will find opportunities to speak upon the many things pertaining to the future immortal life. This experience thus gained will be of greatest value to those whom God is fitting for the work in the ministry. It is by the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit of God that workers, both men and women, are prepared to become pastors to the flock of God.

We have many things to do and say about the principles in the oracles of God while establishing our position before the world! The Gospel dispersion is very clear while dealing with this command '*Go and make disciples*' with no head other than Christ represented by the Holy Ghost and this is the genesis of our establishment. When we go out to obey the Gospel command; we acquire a living experience in the things of God to determine how to literally establish a Church. "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ" Eph 4:7 This is where the true living experience portrayed in a church I hope to blossom after our effort with Christ as a corner stone.

However, some churches had already been established in Kenya with the above concept but now coming up with a document concept to describe them to world

was the greatest challenge! We could discuss unity of churches but now how to do it; until we could come to appreciate slowly the deep things of God's word; and go on from strength to strength with a Constitution from SDRPA Website. Occasionally, we portrayed our unity by the rotational Camp meetings in every quarter of the year at different places which included Ematsuli, Kisumu, Kiisi, Nairobi and sometimes cross to other countries like Tanzania and Uganda!

On several occasions I traveled across to those places to present my lessons on Unity and Gospel Order. Until in 2012, when we devised a method that each country within the region should send in a speaker for the camp meeting to present the different lessons. This gave us great encouragement to think and share about the wide range of ministries which God has rest upon the church and therefore a Constitution was necessary to put clear certain positions!

In April 2013 I sent copies of e-mailed constitutions, but it looked hard document until it raised some disagreement amongst us as a new document! They had a simple one which they were using but it only contained elements of a country constitution! I told brethren in Kenya that there is no way we can come up with secondary copy of document as Country Constitution without a local church constitution! My point was picked by majority members in the Kiisi Camp meeting. Therefore we gave idea time as I came back from Kenya to get these two documents downloaded to be formatted to A4 paper page set into a booklet form. SDRPA sent to me some funds to have these copies printed out.

After sending these copies, I decided not to attend that meeting while they were fixing certain phrases of their interest. I also wanted to see the leading of the Holy Spirit without my influence. On 15th June 2013, I requested Elder Bob while at the online service to offer a special prayer for that particular meeting and the next day was the appointed date of the meeting. TM pg 24 When I rang

bro. N__ of ___ – Kenya immediately after the meeting; told me that the brethren had accepted a local church constitution and those who were in this meeting at Kisumu on the interim oversight committee just came to formalize and adopt the document. Praise God.

We are now ready to establish and have roots planted in different places as in SOP MH pg 194-5.

God bless you all.

J.W.

Letters to the Editor

From Illinois

First, my prayer is that; this letter finds you all in good spiritual and physical health, in Jesus' holy name, amen.

I have read an article concerning the name "Seventh-day Remnant" in the April-June 2013 Seventh-day Remnant Voice. And I say we should go with option #3 and abandon the SDR name, because God knows who are His, the Remnant that hear his voice will follow Him, and besides our work is not to fight each other over a name, but to spread the Gospel and 3 Angels' message to all who would listen in this dark world we live in we are the fight God has put in this world to shine before men that they many see the path Jesus has made before us in a dark world full of evil. Please, brethren, don't let the Devil hinder our work and its goals over a name thing, because we are very, very, very, close to the end and the enemy of souls is using everything he has right now at his disposal—focus on Jesus. We all remember the story of Jesus walking on the water? Matthew 14:25-31.

Also remember what our Christian character should be! Galatians 5:22-26.

Fight the good fight and push forward Brethren, Let's not waste time...!

Don't let the Devil deceive us in small matters that have empty meaning to corrupt the true church of God to get us to fight amongst each other.

Praise God and rebuke Satan and his fiery darts!!!

M.G.

The Pillars of Our Faith

The Third Angel's Message

The solemn messages that have been given in their order in the Revelation are to occupy the first place in the minds of God's people.

Nothing else is to be allowed to engross our attention."¹

In continuing our study on the "Pillars of our Faith" we will now study the Third Angel's message.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE

It is a message that covers all three messages, blended into one message. "The third angel's message, embracing the messages of the first and second angels, is the message for this time."²

"The third angel is represented as flying in the midst of heaven, symbolizing the work of those who proclaim the first, second, and third angel's messages; all are linked together."³

Brothers and sisters we do not have the option to pick and choose which angel we want to follow. They are linked together. "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."⁴

In our last study we discussed the Second Angel's Message. As we continue with the Third Angel's Message let us remember that these messages are the messages for our time.

Let us now briefly go through the symbols of the Third Angel's Message. "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice..."⁵

"The third angel's message was to be given, the minds of believers were to be directed to the heavenly sanctuary, where Christ had entered to make atonement of His people. The Sabbath reform was to be carried forward. The breach in the law of God must be made up. The message must be proclaimed with a loud voice, that all the inhabitants of earth might receive the warning."⁶

"The third angel's message will go forth, not in whispered tones, but with a loud voice."⁷

"...If any man worship the beast..."⁸

"...we must study the characteristics of the beast itself—the papacy."⁹

"...and his image."¹⁰

"But what is the 'image to the beast'? and how is it to be formed? The image is made by the two-horned beast, and is an image to the beast. It is also called an image of the beast. Then to learn what the image is like and how it is to be formed we must study the characteristics of the beast itself—the papacy."¹¹

"The 'image to the beast' represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas."¹²

"...and receive the mark in his forehead, or in his hand."¹³

"Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of

14. 7BC 976 the beast."¹⁴

"...and yet you still cling to the false sabbath, refusing to keep holy the Sabbath which God calls 'My holy day,' you receive the mark of the beast."¹⁵

So we can say that "In his forehead or in his hand" would signify the thought and action process of those who keep the false Sabbath, thereby receiving the mark of the beast.

"The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."¹⁶

Some may ask, can a loving God truly have the wrath of which is spoken of in the above text? Yes! The Bible is clear that there are consequences for those who refuse to follow Him. "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;"¹⁷ and also "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God."¹⁸ In Rev 16 we are given the account of the seven last plagues and to whom they fall upon. In Rev 19:20 we see what happens to the beast and the false prophet. In Rev 20:9-15 we also find who will be cast into the lake of fire, which is the second death. "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."¹⁹ "The fearful threatenings of the third angel are to be realized, and all the wicked are to drink of the wrath of God."²⁰

Brethren, those who teach that "God does not kill" cannot teach the Third Angel's Message. This teaching destroys at least one of the Pillars of our Faith. For the Third Angel tells us of the justice of God. Being that the Three Angel's Messages are one message, this belief effects their understanding of all three angels' messages. (If you would like a booklet or video on "Errors that Attack the Pillars of our Faith," please contact us).

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."²¹

(quoting this verse then) "This is the law and the gospel."²²

"And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."²³

1. 8T 302

2. 8T 197, (see also 7BC 980)

3. 3SM 405, (see also 6T 17; CWE 26; 2SM 117; 7BC 985; GC 450)

4. Mark 10:9

5. Rev 14:9

6. EV 695 (see also 7BC 980)

7. 5T 252

8. Rev 14:9

9. GC 443, (see also GC 439; 4SP 278)

10. Rev 14:9

11. GC 443

12. GC 445 (see also 4SP 278; GC 444,449; 3SM 385)

13. Rev 14:9

15. 7BC 980 (4SP 279; GC 605; TM 133)

16. Rev. 14:10-11

17. Ex 20:5

18. Rev 15:1

19. Rev20:15 (see also Col 3:6; Eph 5:6; Rom 1:18; Ps 75:8)

20. EW 274

21. Rev14:12

22. 2SM 385

23. Ex 20:6

WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE THIRD ANGEL?

"I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, 'Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention.'"²⁴

"...the third angel's message, which shows the way into the most holy place."²⁵

"The third angel's message must do its work of separating from the churches a people who will take their stand on the platform of eternal truth."²⁶

"The third angel's message calls for the presentation of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment..."²⁷

WHAT DOES GOD SAY THE POSITION OF HIS PEOPLE SHOULD BE?

"The peculiar work of the third angel has not been seen in its importance. God meant that His people should be far in advance of the position which they occupy today. But now, when the time has come for them to spring into action, they have the preparation to make."²⁸

"Let the light of the glorious angel which unites with the third angel shine upon me; give me a part in the work; let me sound the proclamation; let me be a colaborer with Jesus Christ. Thus seeking God, let me tell you, He is fitting you up all the time, giving you His grace."²⁹

Brothers and sisters we have a responsibility as God's people to study and understand the Three Angels' Messages and to share them with others. This is our work.

WHAT DOES THIS "GLORIOUS ANGEL" SAY THAT UNITES IT WITH THE THIRD ANGEL?

"And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities."³⁰

"When Jesus began His public ministry, He cleansed the Temple from its sacrilegious profanation. Among the last acts of His ministry was the second cleansing of the Temple. So in the last work for the warning of the world, two distinct calls are made to the churches. The second angel's message is, 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine

31. Rev 14:8

24. EW118

25. EW 260

26. 6T 61

27. EV 184

28. 5T 714

29. UL 283

35. Kress Collection
124 (July 4, 1900)

36. Rom 12:1

37. 1 Cor 10:31

30. Rev 18:1-5

38. 1T 469

of the wrath of her fornication"³¹ And in the loud cry of the third angel's message a voice is heard from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities'"³²

After quoting Rev. 18:1-2, 4, we are told: "In this scripture the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel, (Rev. 14:8) is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844... Of Babylon at this time it is declared, 'Her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.' (Rev. 18:5) She has filled up the measure of her guilt, and destruction is about to fall upon her. But God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of his judgments, these faithful ones must be called out, that they 'partake not of her sins, and receive not of her plagues.' Hence the movement symbolized by the angel coming down from Heaven, lightening the earth with his glory, and crying mightily with a strong voice, announcing the sins of Babylon. In connection with his message the call is heard, 'Come out of her, my people.' As these warnings join the third angel's message, it swells to a loud cry."³³

WHEN IS THIS MESSAGE TO BE GIVEN?

"All are to hear the last message of warning. The prophecies in the book of Revelation, chapters 12 to 18, are being fulfilled. In the eighteenth chapter is recorded the very last call to the churches. This call is now to be given."³⁴

"The message of the angel following the third is now to be given to all parts of the world. It is to be harvest message, and the whole earth will be lighted with the glory of God. The Lord has this one more call of mercy to the world, but the perversity of men diverts the work from its true bearing, and the light has to struggle amid the darkness of men who themselves competent to do a work which God has not appointed them to do."³⁵

THE RIGHT ARM OF THE MESSAGE

Together with the Three Angels' Messages God in mercy foresaw the necessity of giving the health that would, "...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God."³⁶

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."³⁷

It is the duty of every God sent medical missionary and pastor to give the full separation message, united with the health message. God has given us direct instruction for this. When we look back in history during the late 1800s and early 1900s we find that the separation of these two messages were a hindrance to God's work. Surely we do not want to repeat that history today.

"One important part of the work of the ministry is to faithfully present to the people the health reform as it stands connected with the third angel's message as part and parcel of the same work."³⁸

"The health reform, I was shown, is a part of third angel's message and is just as closely connected with

it as are the arm and hand with the human body.”³⁹

“Again and again I have been instructed that the medical missionary work is to bear the same relation to the work of the third angel’s message that the arm and hand bear to the body. Under the direction of the divine Head they are to work unitedly in preparing the way for the coming of Christ. The right arm of the body of truth is to be constantly active, constantly at work, and God will strengthen it. But it is not to be made the body. At the same time the body is not to say to the arm: ‘I have no need of thee.’ The body has need of the arm in order to do active, aggressive work. Both have their appointed work, and each will suffer great loss if worked independently of the other.”⁴⁰

“Medical missionary work is in no case to be divorced from the gospel ministry. The Lord has specified that the two shall be as closely connected as the arm is with the body. Without this union neither part of the work is complete. The medical missionary work is the gospel in illustration. But God did not

39. 1T 486
(see also
3T 62, 161;
8T 166)

41. 6T 240-241
(see also
6T 288-293;
Chs 132-140)

40. 6T 288

design that the medical missionary work should eclipse the work of the third angel’s message. The arm is not to become the body. The third angel’s message is the gospel message for these last days, and in no case is it to be overshadowed by other interests and made to appear an unessential consideration. When in our institutions anything is placed above the third angel’s message, the gospel is not there the great leading power.”⁴¹

It is my prayer that these messages, ALL INCLUSIVE, will also do a work in each of our lives, that we may have victory over all our sins, that we live by the Spirit and not by the flesh, that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ will not be in vain for any of us. Praise God for this message! We do not need to receive the mark, number or name of the beast, but have the seal of God.

Gary Cain

**Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us,
we should seek to become perfect in Christ.**

Not even by a thought could our Saviour be brought to yield to the power of temptation. Satan finds in human hearts some point where he can gain a foothold; some sinful desire is cherished, by means of which his temptations assert their power. But Christ declared of Himself: “The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me.” John 14:30. Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept His Father’s commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble.

**It is in this life that we are to separate sin from us,
through faith in the atoning blood of Christ. Our precious Saviour invites us to join ourselves to Him, to unite our weakness to His strength, our ignorance to His wisdom, our unworthiness to His merits. God’s providence is the school in which we are to learn the meekness and lowliness of Jesus. The Lord is ever setting before us, not the way we would choose, which seems easier and pleasanter to us, but the true aims of life. It rests with us to co-operate with the agencies which Heaven employs in the work of conforming our characters to the divine model. None can neglect or defer this work but at the most fearful peril to their souls.**

Great Controversy Page 623