

Sabbath Remnant VOICE

Mar-Apr 2016

Striving to be among the remnant of her seed

The Return of the Exiles—No. 14 Part 2 A Revival And Reformation

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, February 27, 1908

Wherever Ezra labored, there sprang up a revival in the study of the Holy Scriptures. Teachers were appointed to instruct the people; the law of the Lord was exalted and made honorable. The books of the prophets were searched, and the prophecies foretelling the coming of the Messiah brought hope and comfort to many a sad and weary heart.

More than two thousand years have passed by since Ezra “prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it;”¹ yet this long lapse of time has not lessened the influence of his pious example. Throughout the centuries, the record of his life of consecration has been an inspiration to many who have determined to “seek the law of the Lord, and to do it.”² His steadfastness of purpose, his careful methods of study, his diligence in teaching the Holy Scriptures to the common people, his unwavering trust in God, his abhorrence of sin, his patience and kindly consideration in dealing with the erring,—these and other striking characteristics of his life have had an ennobling influence on the lives of many who have been impressed by the Holy Spirit to emulate his example. Ezra’s motives were high and holy; all that he did was actuated by an intense love for souls. And to the end of time, the compassion and tenderness that he ever revealed toward those who had sinned either wilfully or through ignorance, should be an object-lesson to all who seek to bring about reforms. God desires his servants to be as firm and unyielding as a rock, where right principles are involved; and yet, withal, they are to manifest the kindly sympathy and the forbearance revealed in the lives of Ezra and of Christ. Like Ezra, they are to teach transgressors the words of life, which contain principles that are the foundation of all right-doing.

In this age of the world, when Satan is seeking through manifold agencies to blind the eyes of the people against the binding claims of the law of God, there is need of Ezras,—of men who can cause many to “tremble at the commandment of our God.”³ There is need of true reformers who will point transgressors to the great Lawgiver, and teach them that the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul. There is need of men mighty in the Scriptures; men whose every word and act exalts the law of Jehovah; men who, in this time of apostasy and unbelief, labor to strengthen the faith of their fellow men in the law and the

prophets. Teachers are needed, O, so much! to inspire hearts with reverence and love for the Holy Scriptures, which have been given for the admonition of us upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Often has the cause of God languished because of a lack of reverence for the precepts of Holy Writ. Often has the name of God been brought into dishonor by those who, while professing to be Christians, have neglected the study of the Word, and have allowed grievous sins to come into their lives.

God calls for a revival and a reformation. The words of the Bible, and the Bible alone, should be echoed from the pulpits of our land. In the sermons of many pulpits of today there is not that divine manifestation which awakens the conscience and brings life to the soul. The hearers can not say, “Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures?”⁴ There are many who are crying out for the living God; many who are longing for the bread of life. Let the Word of God speak to the people. Let them hear the voice of him whose word can renew the soul unto everlasting life.

God’s servants are now to proclaim faithfully his Word in all lands, to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people; for the Lord has “set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”⁵ Today God is sending to his people the comforting message: “Fear not; for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.”⁶

“There shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.”⁷

“And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine

1. Ezra 7:10

2. Ezra 7:10

4. Luke 24:32

5. Isaiah 11:11,12

3. Ezra 10:3

6. Isaiah 43:5-7

7. Isaiah 11:16

anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

8. Isaiah 12:1-6

“And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people,

make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.”⁸

Return of the Exiles Concluded

Editorial—Personate or Impersonate?

“As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will **personate** Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour’s advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. 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 1:13-15.” GC 624.2

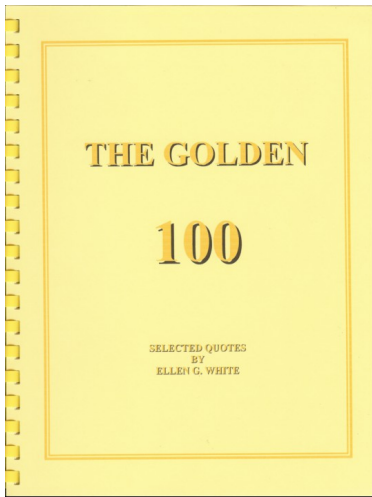
In doing this, Satan will be “**personating**” Christ. The word “**personate**” is a strange word to some of us. We are more familiar with the word “**impersonate**,” as that is what an actor does when he plays a role in a movie or a

stage play. Many times friends dress up as a character or object and everyone has fun playing this game of pretending. But everyone knows what is happening. The person dressed up is known and no trick is intended.

The dictionary defines “**PERSONATE**, v.t. To represent by a fictitious or assumed character so as to pass for the person represented.” 1828 Websters Dictionary. In easy language that means the person dressed up is trying to make everyone believe that they are actually the person they are dressed up as. They are intending to deceive, and are careful that no one will see the truth beneath their disguise. This is what Satan intends to do before the Lord comes. He will show himself in different parts of the world claiming to be Christ.

Many people around the world will fall for this clever trick and worship at his feet, not knowing that they are really worshipping Satan. Be aware of the difference in meaning between these two words. If you have access to the E.G. White CD-rom you can look up the word “**personate**” and you will find that Sister White uses it 41 times, and a few more for “personated” and “personates.” But she did not use the word “**impersonate**” even one time.

As you read through the Spirit of Prophecy, have a dictionary handy. The Noah Websters 1828 dictionary on the CD-rom is very helpful as it will give the meaning from the words used in the King James Bible and the English used in the time of Shakespeare. God bless and enlighten you as you study His word!

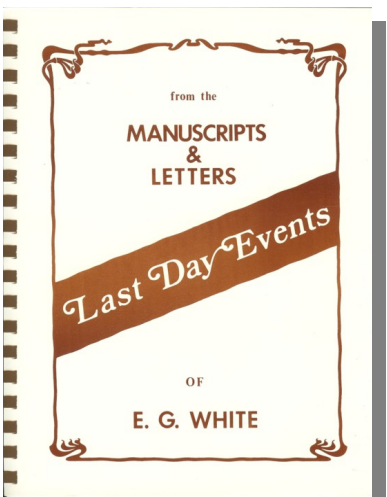


THE GOLDEN 100

The SRPA has a 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.

LAST DAY EVENTS
(non-conference edition)

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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Children's Story—*The Old Man In The Mountains*

FAR off in Switzerland there once stood a very small, old house, in a narrow valley, which was just wide enough for the house, and for the mountain-brook that ran close beside it. Like most of the houses in Switzerland, the roof of this one was kept on by heavy stones resting upon it.

Only two people lived in the house—an old man and his little boy, Tobi. All the rest of the family had died, and you can well imagine how very much attached the old man and his son were to each other. The old man's name was Mr. Limpking, but there was very little known about him by the people living in the village some three miles off; for he and Tobi had scarcely a neighbor nearer than that. The old man was very lame and small, and went half bent, for he was evidently in bad health, and perhaps could not live long. He had only lived in that little old house five or six years, and there was nobody who knew where he came from, nor, in fact, anything about him but his name. Still, for some reason or other which nobody could tell, he received a great many letters and newspapers, and was very fond of reading. Even in that gloomy old house he had some splendid books, which he had brought with him when he bought the property.

Sometimes he and little Tobi would go down to the village together, and when they did so, they always walked, for they had no horse and carriage, and the valley was so narrow where they lived that no carriage road went through it. Whenever Mr. Limpking and Tobi were seen going along the street by the children of the village, they always made a great deal of fun of the old man. Some of them even used to mimic him; and the children generally called him "Old Limpy," because he was so lame and half bent. They used to say to each other when they saw him, "Look yonder—there is Old Limpy again."

It was suspected by some of the people of the village that old Mr. Limpking had led a very peculiar life, and, indeed, that there was something very interesting in his early experience, if anybody could only find out what it was. But all the inquiries that they made of each other, and of the strangers that went through the village, proved fruitless. Nobody knew anything about the old man and his little son, Tobi, except that he still

received a great many letters, and sometimes the envelopes had the Government seal upon them. But the boys in the village did not care anything about this; they still made a great deal of fun of him, and there was not a child in the village who was not familiar with the nickname, "Old Limpy."

Autumn passed, then the cold winter, and then spring came on. It was as beautiful a spring as had ever been seen in Switzerland. The birds sang very sweetly, and the flowers were lovely. It was on one of the most beautiful mornings in May that little Tobi came down to the village, and stood before the door of the undertaker, and told him that his dear father was dead.

"Who is your father?" said the undertaker in a coarse voice.

"My father!" said he; "don't you know him? Why it is old Mr. Limpking, who lived in the little house in the narrow valley, about three miles from here."

"Oh! Indeed!" said he; "Old Limpy is dead. I am sorry for you, my son, for you now are left alone."

"Never mind," said Tobi; "the boy that is taught to pray is never left alone."

The funeral passed by, and nobody seemed to lament the death of old Mr. Limpking. But at the funeral there was a gentleman present who had never been seen in the valley before, and when the funeral was over, Tobi went away with him, and the little boy was not seen there again for many years.

Now, it is high time that I should tell you something about the early life of this queer-looking, lame old man. He had been very prosperous in business when he was young, and lived in Holland; but he once met with a very severe accident, which came quite near killing him. After he got out of his bed again, it was found that he was left in a very bad shape, for the surgeon could not succeed in bringing his body back to its former erect position. Not long after this, all his children died except Tobi, and last of all his wife died. Thus he was left completely alone, with the bare exception of his dear Tobi. Feeling sad beyond expression, he determined to make a journey to Switzerland, and took little Tobi with him. He was so pleased with the country that he resolved to buy a humble little cottage somewhere, and make it his home, for he

knew that he had not long to live. He had his agents in Holland attending to his business still, and his property increased every year, until the time of his death, when it amounted to an immense sum. The many letters that came to the post office for him were from his agents and friends far up in Holland, who wrote to him frequently concerning his business. The gentleman who appeared at the funeral was a brother of his wife, and, therefore Tobi's own uncle, who, by a good providence, had just then arrived in the village, and was going to make a long expected visit to Mr. Limpking. Of course he took Tobi home with him after the funeral was over.

Now, it so turned out that Mr. Limpking had made a very singular will, which was in the hands of the best lawyer in Amsterdam. The will read on this wise: "All my property, which, at the lowest calculation, is computed to be worth two hundred and eighty thousand dollars, is left in the hands of my brother-in-law, to be disposed of as follows: To establish an orphan asylum in Amsterdam, another one in the Hague, and another one in B—, Switzerland, and a fund for the support and education of the children of Swiss guides and other Swiss people who are killed in the mountains by avalanches or by other accidents, and leave children unprovided for, and the balance to belong to my son, Tobi."

The death of Mr. Limpking made a profound impression throughout Holland, for he was known there to have been one of the kindest men toward children that had ever lived in the country. The news spread to Switzerland, and by and by a paper reached the obscure, village near where he had lived, which told his whole history, the place of his death, and the singular disrespect which had been shown him by the old, and especially the young, of the village near where he died. "When it became known that he was so kind to children, and had left such a large amount of money for the taking care of poor children, you can imagine how these boys and girls felt who had for years called him nothing but "Old Limpy." They little thought that, when they mimicked him, and called him all manner of nicknames, and were even allowed to do so by their parents, with scarcely a word of reproof, they were making fun of one of the best friends of

children that had ever lived in Switzerland or in any other country.

The fact of his kind heart, now that he was dead, made such an impression upon many of the children, and even upon the older people, that it was never forgotten by them in after life. In fact, in the following

summer, a public meeting was held in the village, when all the children were dressed in white, and marched along the street, and bore a banner, on one side of which were inscribed these words, in gilt letters, "We repent," and on the other, "Forgive us our trespasses." All the people gathered into the

village, church, and addresses were made which expressed the general sorrow of the community at the death of one who was such a friend to all, and who yet had received in return nothing but the neglect and unfriendliness of man.

Review and Herald June 23, 1868

Health Nugget—What Is Squash Good For?

The Skinny on Squash

Botanical name: *Cucurbita morschata*

With names like buttercup, banana, turban, Hubbard, along with various crook-necked and green and white striped varieties, squash is technically a fruit, belonging to the pumpkin family. Squash varieties include butternut (pale orange and keyhole-shaped), acorn (green and squat), Hubbard (green and taller with tiny surface bumps), delicata (pale orange with thin, green horizontal stripes). When selecting, choose one that's heavier, which translates into more edible flesh. All thriving on long trailing vines, squashes have a creamy texture, a luscious, nutty flavor and aroma with just a hint of sweetness.

Baked or steamed in halves or chunks with a pat of butter and salt, skin intact (best in a pan with an inch of water to retain moisture) squash renders a lovely side dish or main attraction paired with a salad. With additions like honey, cinnamon, walnuts, dried fruits, fresh coconut, or orange juice, or with onions, carrots, or other vegetables, it's easy to see how this plant-based food could open a whole new vista of culinary opportunities. The tough skin is great for storage for up to a few months when stored in a cool, dark place. Once cut, refrigerate unused portion. Butternut squash can be a stand-in substitute for pumpkin in certain recipes.

Health Benefits of Squash

Some vegetables offer different nutrients than others. Some, however, have truly impressive amounts, which is the case with squash: 457% of the daily value per serving in vitamin A—more than pumpkin and possibly more than any other vegetable. Vitamin A is a powerful antioxidant, essential for good skin, vision, and mucous membranes. What's more, polyphenolic carotenoid/flavonoids

such as betacarotenes, cryptoxanthin-β, and lutein convert to vitamin A in the body for a "one-two punch" of protection. Research reveals that vitamin A may protect against the risk of lung and mouth cancers.

You get a 42% daily value in vitamin C in every cup of squash, providing infection protection, among other things. The potassium and manganese content in squash is good, too, with 17% and 18% daily values respectively, along with healthy amounts of vitamins E, B, B6 (pyridoxine), thiamin, niacin, folate, calcium and magnesium, riboflavin, niacin, thiamin, and pantothenic acid.

Although squash is considered by some to be a starch, not all starch are created equal. Fewer than 15% of the calories in winter squash come from fat, compared with almost 90% of the calories in walnuts, for instance. With winter squash, we have a fantastic anti-inflammatory food opportunity in which we can get a valuable amount of our anti-inflammatory omega-3s. This veggie is also cholesterol-free.

Squash Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: One cup of butternut squash (205grams)

Amount Per Serving	
Calories	82
Carbohydrates	22g
Sugar	4g
Fiber	4g
Protein	2g

Studies on Squash

Squash, which has a high level of carotenes per serving, has built-in anti-cancer benefits. While studies show carotenoid concentrations in blood are biomarkers of fruit and vegetable intake offering cancer protection, one study in particular explored a possible association between carotene presence and breast cancer. Researchers concluded that among six carotenes tested, only β-carotene

intake was significantly associated with reduced breast cancer risk.¹

Squash seeds provide lots of good-for-your-heart dietary fiber and unsaturated fatty acids, along with protein, minerals, and vitamins. Squash seeds also contain tryptophan, an amino acid that converts to gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), which is the main inhibitory neurotransmitter that concentrates (no pun intended) on motor decision speed.² The tryptophan in squash seeds also may be crucial in regulating the endocrine pancreas,³ which in turn regulates the blood glucose in the body.

To bake your own squash seeds, separate them from the squash, spread them out on a cookie sheet, and toast them lightly at 160-170°F for 15 to 20 minutes. The low temperature decreases damage to healthy oils like linoleic acid (polyunsaturated omega-6 fatty acid) and oleic acid—the same non-hydrogenated substance found in olive oil.

Squash Fun Facts

The word "squash" comes from the Narragansett Native American word askutasquash, which means "eaten raw or uncooked." Squash are one of the oldest known crops—10,000 years old according to some estimates, thought to have originated in Mexico, but they may have served as food and water containers for Indian tribes after being hollowed out and dried.

Summary

Beta-carotene is the star in squash, providing powerful antioxidants. The colorful hues in squash and other vegetables hint at this attribute, which is important for blocking and zapping harmful free radical activity. This nutrient turns into vitamin A in the body, which is another desirable benefit for healthy skin,

bones, vision, and immunity from disease and infection.

Bake squash with butter, salt, and pepper to get the true essence of this lovely garden offering. It also makes one of the most delicious soups; try it baked and processed with a softened Granny Smith apple, onion, and a large carrot - yum!

Other sources:

- <http://www.nutrition-and-you.com/butternut-squash.html>
- <http://www.whfoods.com/genpage.php?name=foodspice&dbid=63>

- <http://www.endocrineweb.com/endocrinology/overview-pancreas>
- <http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/mysteries/squash.html>
- <http://www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org/butternut-squash>
- Winter Squash Newsletter, <http://snap.nal.usda.gov/resource-library>, Vol. 1, Issue 7

References:

- 1 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22760559>, Dietary compared with blood

concentrations of carotenoids and breast cancer risk: a systematic review and meta-analysis of prospective studies, Sept. 2012
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<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20512136>, More GABA, less distraction: a neurochemical predictor of motor decision speed, Sept. 2012
3

plays a specific role in the regulation of endocrine pancreatic function, Effects of gamma aminobutyric acid (GABA) and muscimol on endocrine pancreatic function in man, Sept. 2012

RECIPE—Rice Pasta With Creamy Zucchini Pesto

Makes about 6 1-cup servings
8 ounces dry rice pasta
2 small zucchini or other summer squash
2 cups fresh basil
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon garlic granules
1 tablespoon tahini (ground sesame seeds)

Cook pasta according to package directions. Rinse and drain.

Meanwhile, cut zucchini into 1-inch chunks. Steam chunks over

boiling water for about 5 minutes, or until just tender when pierced with a sharp knife.

Place basil in a food processor fitted with a metal blade and finely chop. Add zucchini, salt, garlic, and tahini. Process in short pulses until everything is finely chopped. Combine with pasta and toss to mix.

Note: Any pasta can be used for this recipe but if you are allergic to gluten, rice pasta works well and will taste the same as regular pasta.

**Satan in heaven had hated Christ for His position in the courts of God.
He hated Him the more when he himself was dethroned.
He hated Him who pledged Himself to redeem a race of sinners.
From the manger to the cross he followed Him,
striving constantly to gain the mastery over Him.
He filled the hearts of the priests and rulers with hatred toward Him,
till at last the Saviour stood in Pilate's judgment hall in the hands of a lawless
mob, whose hearts were filled with the violence that Satan only can inspire.
His agents, disguised in the robes of priests and rulers,
joined hands with the lowest and most degraded,
in an effort to take the life of the Son of God.
How could the beings He had created, the beings
He loved so well that He left His heavenly home to come to this earth in their
behalf, sink to such depths of wickedness
that they would personate Satan in fighting against Him!**

18MR 94.5

Should We Read Uriah Smith?

Many of us have been told in the past that we should be careful about reading Uriah Smith because he had major errors. But is this true? Did Uriah Smith's books on Daniel and Revelation contain major errors that we should carefully avoid becoming tangled in?

It is true that Ellen White rebuked him for his rejection of the message in 1888. But he wrote his books on prophecy before that time and in the 1880's the two books, *Thoughts on Daniel* and *Thoughts on Revelation*, were bound together into one volume. Ellen White had a very high regard for this book and nowhere does she imply that there are major errors in it. But her statements about it indicate quite the contrary.

"In The Desire of Ages, Patriarchs and Prophets, The Great Controversy, and in Daniel and the Revelation, there is precious instruction. **These books must be regarded as of special importance, and every effort should be made to get them before the people**—Letter 229, 1903." *Colporteur Ministry* page 123.

"**I consider that that book [Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation] should go everywhere.** It has its place and will do a grand, good work."—E. G. WHITE Letter 253, 1889.

When urged that there should be changes made to the book, in particular dealing with the "daily" issue, she did not support the idea of any big changes being made.

"In some of our important books that have been in print for years, and which have brought many to a knowledge of the truth, there may be found matters of *minor importance that call for careful study and correction.* Let such matters be considered by those regularly appointed to have the oversight of our publications. **Let not these brethren, nor our canvassers, nor our ministers magnify these matters in such a way as to lessen the influence of these good soul-saving books.**"—E. G. WHITE *MS. 11, 1910.* (Published in *Preach the Word*, p. 7.) *Ellen G. White Biography*, Vol. 6, page 258.

The concept that we have all been introduced to, that there are major errors in Smith's book, and that we should be careful about reading it, goes directly contrary to this inspired statement.

"The less that is done unnecessarily to

change our publications, the better it will be." *MS 11, 1910, Ellen G. White Biography*, Vol. 6, page 258.

"Satan is working that the history of the Jewish nation may be repeated in the experience of those who claim to believe present truth... The very same Satan is at work to undermine the faith of the people of God at this time. There are persons ready to catch up every new idea. The prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation are misinterpreted. These persons do not consider that the truth has been set forth at the appointed time by the very men whom God was leading to do this special work. These men followed on step by step in the very fulfillment of prophecy, and those who have not had a personal experience in this work, are to take the Word of God and believe on 'their word' who have been led by the Lord in the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. **These messages, received and acted upon, are doing their work to prepare a people to stand in the great day of God.**" *Selected Messages Book 2, page 111.*

"The Lord has shown me that this book will do a good work in enlightening those who become interested in the truth for this time. Those who embrace the truth now, who have not shared in the experiences of those who entered the work in the early history of the message, should study the instruction given in Daniel and the Revelation, becoming familiar with the truth it presents... **The great, essential questions which God would have presented to the people are found in Daniel and the Revelation. There is found solid, eternal truth for this time. Everyone needs the light and information it contains...** It is painful to think of the many cheap theories picked up and presented to the people by ignorant, unprepared teachers. Those who present their human tests and the nonsensical ideas they have concocted in their own minds, show the character of the goods in their treasure house. They have laid in store shoddy material. Their great desire is to make a sensation. The truth for this time has been brought out in many books. Let those who have been dealing in cheap sentiments and foolish tests, cease this work and study Daniel and the Revelation. They will then have something to talk about that will help the mind. As they receive the knowledge

contained in this book, they will have in the treasure house of the mind a store from which they can continually draw as they communicate to others the great essential truths of God's Word. **The interest in Daniel and the Revelation is to continue as long as probationary time shall last. God used the author of this book as a channel through which to communicate light to direct minds to the truth.** Shall we not appreciate this light, which points us to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, our King? Ms 174, 1899." *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 1, page 61-65

There is a story told by elder Bourdeau about Ellen White's reaction when she first saw the book.

"Many years ago, when the late Elder Uriah Smith was writing *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*, while Elder James White and Ellen G. White were at my house in Enosburg, Vermont, they received by mail a roll of printed proof sheets on *Thoughts on Revelation* that Brother Smith had sent to them. Brother White read portions of these to the company, and expressed much pleasure and satisfaction because they were so concisely and clearly written. Then Sister White stated what she had been shown, as follows :

"*The Lord is inspiring Brother Smith—leading his mind by His Spirit, and an angel is guiding his hand in writing these Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation.*' I was present when these words were spoken. (Signed) 'A. C. BOURDEAU.'" *Ministry Magazine*, January 1945.

The details of this story may not have been completely accurate, as it was a memory written many years after the event, but it does follow in the tenor of the other statements of inspiration.

The idea that this book was authored solely by Smith and that it is his book is a misconception of how the book came into being. Smith edited it, but the ideas were not all his own. Arthur White tells us:

"The present well-known volume, *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*, was developed through the decades until it reached its present form. For many years, as mentioned earlier, there were two books, first *Thoughts on Revelation* and later *Thoughts on Daniel*.

"James White in 1862 caught the vision of a complete exposition on Revelation as he attended 'a large and flourishing Bible class conducted by Brother Uriah Smith' in

connection with the Battle Creek Sabbath school. Chapter by chapter they had studied Revelation and ‘passed through the entire book... all coming to the same conclusion on almost every point,’ and they were ‘confident that they had found a better harmony than they had before seen, and clearer light on some portions of the book.’—*Review and Herald*, June 3, 1862.

“Delighted with the results of their group study, the class decided to go through the book again, ‘taking one chapter for each lesson.’—*Ibid.*

“Here, thought James White, was an opportunity to develop helpful matter for Seventh-day Adventists generally, and he announced his intention from week to week to report the results of the investigation in the *Review* ‘by way of a few thoughts on one chapter each week.’ The co-ordination of the plans for study and writing are indicated by the James White comment that ‘should we be called away for a few weeks, the class propose to leave the book of Revelation, in our absence, for some other portion of the Scriptures, until we return.’ And he voiced his confident hope in his closing words: ‘Judging from past investigation of this book by the brethren and sisters of the Bible class, we hope in expressing our views to express theirs also, yet we choose to be alone responsible for what we may say.’—*Ibid.*

“Then follows the first installment – a three-column article reviewing the important points stressed in the study of May 17, appearing under the title ‘Thoughts on Revelation.’ Chapter one of Revelation was dealt with in this initial article of the series. First a few verses are quoted, and these are followed with appropriate comment and explanation—a form of treatment which was to be come very familiar in the following decades.

“The next five consecutive numbers of the *Review* carried articles dealing with the book, chapter by chapter, until as James White left for a trip, he inserted a two-line note: ‘Thoughts on the Revelation will not again appear till our return from the northern tour.’—*Ibid.*, July 15, 1862.

“After a lapse of two months the articles were resumed in the issue of September 9, with a presentation of Revelation 7. Then James White abruptly closed his work on the series with a brief article headed ‘Chapters VIII and IX,’ but commenting only on the first five verses of Revelation 8, covering the seventh seal and introducing the seven trumpets. Then the article was cut short by James White’s explanation that for lack of time to prepare an ‘exposition of the trumpets’ he must be excused for passing

over them and recommending ‘as the best light at present,’ the pamphlet entitled *The Sounding of the Seven Trumpets*, listed as for sale at the Review office. The pamphlet referred to was a sixty-eight-page reprint of Josiah Litch’s explanation of the seven trumpets, published by the Review and Herald office in 1859, previously appearing as article reprints. Five weeks later Elder White admitted the futility of his attempting to go on with the work, and announced that, since he was away from home much of the time, ‘Brother Smith has consented to conclude the book, commencing with Chapter X.’—*Ibid.*, Oct. 21, 1862.

“In the same style, but with more extended comment, Uriah Smith then picked up the work and treated Revelation 10 to 22, presenting an article in each number of the *Review*, save one, and closing the series on February 3, 1863, in issue Number 10 of Volume 21.

“Two years passed before the readers of the *Review* were informed of the intention of its editor, Uriah Smith, to prepare the manuscript for a book – *Thoughts on the Revelation*. In speaking of this, he set forth his purpose to build on the series of articles written by Elder White and himself, and called for suggestions from the people. Here is his statement:

“‘We have commenced to revise, and in a great measure rewrite, the ‘Thoughts on Revelation,’ published in *Review*, Volumes XX and XXI. We shall devote what time we can to this work, besides preparing matter for the *Review*, otherwise than writing. If any brethren have any suggestions to make on any part of the book, we hope to receive them at once.’—*Ibid.*, July 18, 1865.

“From time to time during 1865 and 1866, brief notes informed Seventh-day Adventists that Elder Smith was devoting what time he could to the promised work, but it was not until April, 1867, that the copy was put in the hands of the printer, and the completed book was listed for sale on June 13. As the finished volume was received by James White he reached for his pen, wrote a few words of commendation, and then stated:

‘These thoughts are not the fruit of one brain. In the time of the end the Revelation was to be unsealed and opened. And from, the open book, light has been shining. William Miller saw much. Others since have seen more... This ... is a book of thoughts, clothed in the author’s happy style, plain, yet critical and practical, coming down to the spiritual

wants of the common people, yet elevated and dignified. This standard work should be in the library of every believer.’ – *Ibid.*, July 16, 1867.

“Before the second edition was printed, Elder Smith revised the work, and in its new form several printings appeared.

“In 1872, five years after *Thoughts on the Revelation* was printed, a companion volume, *Thoughts on Daniel*, was issued and announced for sale on December 31, 1872. This, too, quite largely represented the joint study of able Bible students. After passing through several editions as single volumes, the two companion books in 1881 appeared as a combined work, *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*.

“Elder Smith prepared his manuscripts as a scholarly writer would, setting forth denominational views on the great lines of clearly understood prophecy presented in Daniel and Revelation. But when he undertook the verse-by-verse exposition of these two books, he ran into many texts of Scripture which dealt with matters regarding which we as a people had not given much if any study, and in such cases he often set forth the views of the best commentators available, and used freely both the lines of argument and the words of Josiah Litch, George Storrs, and others. Elder Smith demonstrated remarkably good judgment in the selection of matter from these writers.” *Arthur White, “Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation,” Ministry Magazine, January, 1945.*

According to the evidence this work, *Daniel and Revelation* was not Smith’s alone, but was actually the work of a large number of the pioneers. So to say that “Smith taught major errors in his book” is really to say that the pioneers of the SDA church also held and taught major errors. This concept of the book containing “major errors” is directly contrary to inspiration.

“Those who are preparing to enter the ministry, who desire to become successful students of the prophecies, will find Daniel and the Revelation an invaluable help. They need to understand this book. It speaks of past, present, and future, laying out the path so plainly that none need err therein. Those who will diligently study this book will have no relish for the cheap sentiments presented by those who have a burning desire to get out something new and strange to present to the flock of God. The rebuke of God is upon all such teachers. They need that one teach them what is meant by godliness and truth. **The great, essential questions which God would have presented to the people are found in Daniel and the Revelation. There is found solid, eternal truth for this time.**

Everyone needs the light and information it contains.” *Manuscript Releases, Vol. 1, page 61.*

“The students in our schools should carefully study Daniel and the Revelation, so that they shall not be left in darkness, and the day of Christ overtake them as a thief in the night. **I speak of this book because it is a means of educating those who need to understand the truth of the Word. This book should be highly appreciated.** It covers much of the ground we have been over in our experience. If the youth will study this book and learn for themselves what is truth, they will be saved from many perils.” *Manuscript Releases, Vol. 1, page 63*

“Especially should the book Daniel and the Revelation be brought before people as the very book for this time. **This book contains the message which all need to read and understand.** Translated into many different languages, it will be a power to enlighten the world.” *Manuscript Releases, Vol. 1 page 60*

— Rick and Virginia Markwell

**One effort more,
and then
Satan’s last device
is employed.
He hears the
unceasing cry
for Christ to come,
for Christ to deliver
them.
This last strategy
is to personate
Christ,
and make them
think their
prayers are
answered.
Ms 16, 1884.
LDE 165.1**

Letters—Uganda, Kenya

Dear Brother,

On the issue of work, we are getting new invitations every other week, as I write now we have gotten one from some Elders and youth leaders from the SDA Church. We shall be meeting them this Sabbath, and our plea is that you will join us by your every prayer that the Lord’s work brings fruit from this Meeting.

On the very past Sabbath—12th March—one of our neighbors by name E__ came over to check on us in the evening, and found us having a lesson on who will be admitted into God’s Kingdom. After listening to the sermon he requested me to invite him and his family every time we have Bible readings. We solicit your every prayers that his coming will bring new trophies into the Kingdom of God—that is his whole family.

Lastly we pray that the Lord continues to shower you with His blessings and protection. Remember me to all the believers over there.

With Christian love.

JM

Kenya

March 1

Heb. 6:10-11

We are living in the closing work of these perilous times, when “truth that has fallen in our generation makes great impressions upon hearts of hearers. The great, grand work of preparing a people to stand in the day of the Lord is to be accomplished by personal effort as we depend on the living oracle of life. The cause of present truth can be greatly extended by seeking to hold upon God’s people in a state of activity, to keep them acting their part in spreading the truth, that they may at last be weighed in the balance to be imbued with his own Spirit.”

We have just gone through the electoral times which we all thought would result in rough times of war but we thank God that winds were withheld and now we have resumed our normal works. The last 2 months of January and Feb, 2016, have been a blessing to our

movement in that a big number of new souls at one baptism joined with us to usher in a new year’s harvest. 17 souls were baptized in a simple crusade conducted at B__ K__ in January and while we were in the election time, we made a follow up to strengthen our new babes in faith and some more 7 souls were baptized in Feb by bro. K__ of K__ at the same place. As we have been locked up fearing to make long travels for witnessing, the mighty Lord was doing his work! Probably this was as a result of the silent messenger left behind as we physically gave out tracts and few booklets bearing the message of Present Truth among these communities. We believed that in times of trial; printed matter will do a great deal of witness as many will be in hideout for fear of suffering and death. “God will work a work in our day that but few anticipate” 5T 82 Praise God!

Bro. B__ is left to pastor this newly established church giving them the end time prophecies which many see being fulfilled in our day. We have agreed to hold a camp meeting there to project all lesson “caught unprepared” and “sanctuary of our body the Third temple” in which we are to invite all churches within the region. We pray for help to have many messages of present truth be printed out to enable us go to other areas so that our work becomes simpler to all who know how to read as they may search for themselves to comprehend what is being fulfilled.

Thank you for your continual support in that without it would be indeed hard for us to accomplish what I report now. God bless you.

JN

March 22

Heb. 6:10-11

“God has called His church in this day, as He called ancient Israel, to stand as a light in the earth. By the mighty cleaver of truth, the messages of the first, second, and third angels, He has separated them from the churches and from the world to bring them into a sacred nearness to Himself. He has made them the depositories of His law and has committed to them the great truths of prophecy for this time.” 5T 455

I very much appreciate your prayers for my sister in law M__ who has been very

sick and nearly at the gates of the grave suffering from the kidney problem! It has been by God's mercy that she is still alive. I visited her on 10th March 2016 and found her in a bed ridden condition. My biggest interest was to help her learn better ways of living a simple health life style which I believed could help her reduce medical expenses by using natural remedies to prolong her life. I had learned a lot of information from Rose's lessons about the functionalities of the body systems and good healthful living from Women's Ministry which are instructed online every Wednesday evening at LTBL chat room that my wife Petwa and I loved to help her learn.

We spent 2 days with her and managed to leave some practical lessons which my wife Petwa got involved in preparing meals and extracting herbs that we liked to encourage her to continue using for the rest of her life. I encouraged her that any health food nourishment is a medicine which should be fed into the body system; reach the peak of repair in the body's cells and the system will re-nourish all life. The system is self managing so long as all the elements/foods required for life are present to induce growth to transforming soul, mind and body as a result of well nourished repaired systems.

I let her understand that emotions play a huge role, influencing hormonal balance which in turn influences how well our immune system responds to body ill feelings. We outlined the daily need of practicing the simple facts of good nutritional food, fresh air, exercise, drinking clean water and trusting in our God for healing to sustain life. These facts are medicines which are slow to work, but the benefits are usually long term. A real healing process can be observed all around

in life systems repaired with nourishment that are within our reach and obtained— these are usually from a diverse range of naturally occurring plants as given by the almighty God in the beginning. Gen. 1:29 Scientific doctors only observe your own body's response to what you eat & the environment; how this affects your mood, digestion and energy build up. Where is the tension, are you tired of not sleeping & resting well?

I told her that one has to understand the importance of food medicine and observe how healing cycles unfold through good functionalities of the body systems in relationship to nutrition and other health rules. Therefore herbal medicine is designed to work in harmony with body processes, in much the same way as food does. I encouraged her to change and stick to good eating habits so that her soul may be transformed and finally be repaired to normal life cycle.

How one chooses to handle the balance in our body behavior is ultimately up to us. We can choose to ignore the early warnings, or we can listen to the subtle signals and make the changes that need to be made in order to promote long term health.

This discussion with M__ became a big lesson for all the family members and inspired me to have a health retreat in B__-K__ where our newly established church is a few kilometers to go. I then let bro. B__ start on with the organization scheduling for the Easter season 2016.

This discussion also gave us opportunity to pass on the message of present truth to the family members of M__ who are members of the main SDA church. I told them why we separated from the SDA church organization was

that the church had left original pillars of our faith as advocated by our pioneers and that the church has become Babylon! There is another beast in the midst of SDA church organization similar to Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church of Rome called the President of "General Conference" another Beast! These world church leaders have taken away the authority and glory of Christ as the head of the church thus exalting themselves above any human beings to a level of the Almighty father. We decided to separate and start a simple home church in order to be part of God's people who keep the commandment of God and having the faith of Jesus.

By God's mercy came back home safely to lessen on a very busy schedule of organizing soft copies of messages of present truth which I want to print out for K__ - B__ regions where we had just established a Sabbath school and probably as I prepare for the K__ camp meeting next month.

'As God called the children of Israel out of Egypt that they might keep His Sabbath, so He calls His people out of Babylon that they may not worship the beast nor his image. The man of sin, who thought to change times and laws, has exalted himself above God by presenting this spurious Sabbath to the world; the Christian world has accepted this child of the papacy, and cradled and nourished it, thus defying God by removing His memorial and setting up a rival sabbath.'"2MR 228 [No.97-161](1987)

We thank you for standing with us enable us do our part in passing out the message of Present Truth to the world. We pray that you continue praying for my sister in law [M__] who is still very weak. God bless you.

J N

**As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ.
The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes.
Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come.
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... The shout of triumph rings out upon the air, "Christ has come! Christ has come!"
The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him... 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...
Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures, and who have received the love of the truth, will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive.**

The Faith I Live By 346.3

Universal Guilt During the Time of the End

There is coming, rapidly and surely, an almost universal guilt upon the inhabitants of the great cities because of the steady increase of determined wickedness. God has given life to man, in order that through a knowledge of the Word and by practicing its principles, the human agent may become one with God, obedient to the divine will. But Satan has been working constantly by many devisings to bring man into disfavor with God.

In the antediluvian world, human agencies brought in all manner of devisings and ingenious practices to make of no effect the law of Jehovah. They cast aside his authority, because it interfered with their schemes. As in the days before the flood, so now the time is right upon us when the Lord God must reveal his omnipotent power. Even many of those who claim to believe the truth do not practise the truth. They have the Word, but they do not live in accordance with its precepts. Their business affairs are not conducted in harmony with its teachings. In the plans devised by men who desire to execute their own purposes, is revealed the masterly hand of the enemy. Satan is not asleep; he is wide awake, to make of no effect the sure word of prophecy. With skill and deceptive power he is working to counterwork the expressed will of God, made plain in his Word. For years Satan has been gaining control of human minds, through subtle sophistries that he has devised to take the place of the truth. In this time of peril, right-doers, in the fear of God, will glorify his name by repeating the words of David, "It is time for thee, O Lord, to work; for they have made void thy law."

Through his prophet Zephaniah the Lord specifies the judgments that he will bring upon evil-doers—

"I will utterly consume all things from off the land, saith the Lord. I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumblingblocks with the wicked; and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the Lord. I will also stretch out mine hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off the remnant of

Baal from this place... and them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship and that swear by the Lord, and that swear by Malcham; and them that are turned back from the Lord; and those that have not sought the Lord, nor inquired for him. Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord: for the day of the Lord is at hand: for the Lord hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.

"And it shall come to pass in the day of the Lord's sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel. In the same day also will I punish all those that leap on the threshold, which fill their master's houses with violence and deceit.

"And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord, that there shall be the noise of a cry from the fish gate, and an howling from the second, and a great crashing from the hills. Howl, ye inhabitants of Maktesh, for all the merchant people are cut down; all they that bear silver are cut off. And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The Lord will not do good, neither will he do evil. Therefore their goods shall become a booty, and their houses a desolation: they shall also build houses, but not inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof.

"The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for

he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

"Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger come upon you.

"Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness; it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger... Woe unto the inhabitants of the seacoast, the nation of the Cherethites! the word of the Lord is against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant."

In many places there exist conditions that make these words of warning applicable in this our day. Should not the terrible earthquake that has caused almost complete destruction of San Francisco, one of the largest cities of America, awaken a most earnest interest to seek the Lord while he may be found? Let not our ministers, in their discourses, dwell upon commonplace matters. Now is a time when there should be a humbling of the heart before God. Let us seek him while he is to be found on the pardoning side, and not on the judgment side. Wake up, my brethren and sisters. You have no time to lose. Call upon the Lord while he may be found.

"Wait ye upon me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy..."

"The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid."

In this our day, some whose tongues are deceitful have been presenting as truth many things that they themselves have originated,—as if the law of truth were in their heart and coming from their lips. But the Lord will surely punish every deceitful, lying tongue that has caused his people to err and to turn from the righteousness of Christ.

Christian Service

Chapter Four World Conditions Facing the Christian Worker

The World Drama

The world is a theater; the actors, its inhabitants, are preparing to act their part in the last great drama. With the great masses of mankind, there is no unity, except as men confederate to accomplish their selfish purposes. God is looking on. His purposes in regard to His rebellious subjects will be fulfilled. The world has not been given into the hands of men, though God is permitting the elements of confusion and disorder to bear sway for a season. A power from beneath is working to bring about the last great scenes in the drama,—Satan coming as Christ, and working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are binding themselves together in secret societies. Those who are yielding to the passion for confederation are working out the plans of the enemy. The cause will be followed by the effect.—Testimonies, vol. 8, pp. 27, 28. {ChS 50.1}

Last Act of the Drama

Never did this message apply with greater force than it applies today. More and more the world is setting at naught the claims of God. Men have become bold in transgression. The wickedness of the inhabitants of the world has almost filled up the measure of their iniquity. This earth has almost reached the place where God will permit the destroyer to work his will upon it. The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself. He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity, and the earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.—Testimonies, vol. 7, p. 141. {ChS 50.2}

The Crisis of the Ages

We are standing on the threshold of the

crisis of the ages. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another,—fire, and flood, and earthquake, with war and bloodshed. We are not to be surprised at this time by events both great and decisive; for the angel of mercy cannot remain much longer to shelter the impenitent.—Prophets and Kings, p. 278. {ChS 51.1}

The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horse races, gambling hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agencies at work that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied, and entranced until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy forever shut.—Southern Watchman, Oct. 3, 1905. {ChS 51.2}

Transgression has almost reached its limit. Confusion fills the world, and a great terror is soon to come upon human beings. The end is very near. We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise.—Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 28. {ChS 51.3}

In this time of prevailing iniquity we may know that the last great crisis is at hand. When the defiance of God's law is almost universal, when His people are oppressed and afflicted by their fellow men, the Lord will interpose.—Christ's Object Lessons, p. 178. {ChS 51.4}

We are standing upon the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange, eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven. Everything in our world is in agitation. There are wars, and rumors of wars. The nations are angry, and the time of the dead has come, that they should be judged. Events are changing to bring about the day of God which hasteth greatly. Only a moment of time, as it were, yet remains. But while already nation is rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, there is not now a general engagement. As yet the four winds are held until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth

“Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. The Lord hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the King of Israel, even the Lord, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more. In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack. The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden. Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame.

“At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the Lord.”

—*Review and Herald, October 11, 1906*
—*Ellen G. White*

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.... And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”
Matthew 24:4,5,11

will marshal their forces for the last great battle.—Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 14. {ChS 51.5}

Restraining Spirit of God Being Withdrawn

The restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land, follow each other in quick succession. Science seeks to explain all these. The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause. Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed; but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there shall be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.—Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 408. {ChS 52.1}

The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude. The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.—Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 11. {ChS 52.2}

The time is at hand when there will be sorrow in the world that no human balm can heal. The Spirit of God is being withdrawn. Disasters by sea and by land follow one another in quick succession. How frequently we hear of earthquakes and tornadoes, of destruction by fire and flood, with great loss of life and property! Apparently these calamities are capricious outbreaks of disorganized, unregulated forces of nature, wholly beyond the control of man; but in them all, God's purpose may be read. They are among the agencies by which He seeks to arouse men and women

to a sense of their danger.—Prophets and Kings, p. 277. {ChS 52.3}

The World a Pesthouse

Men in their blindness boast of wonderful progress and enlightenment; but the heavenly watchers see the earth filled with corruption and violence. Because of sin the atmosphere of our world has become as the atmosphere of a pesthouse.—Testimonies, vol. 6, pp. 10, 11. {ChS 53.1}

An Epidemic of Crime

We are living in the midst of an "epidemic of crime," at which thoughtful, God-fearing men everywhere stand aghast. The corruption that prevails, it is beyond the power of the human pen to describe. Every day brings fresh revelations of political strife, bribery, and fraud. Every day brings its heart-sickening record of violence and lawlessness, of indifference to human suffering, of brutal, fiendish destruction of human life. Every day testifies to the increase of insanity, murder, and suicide. Who can doubt that satanic agencies are at work among men with increasing activity to distract and corrupt the mind, and defile and destroy the body?—Ministry of Healing, pp. 142, 143. {ChS 53.2}

The spirit of anarchy is permeating all nations, and the outbreaks that from time to time excite the horror of the world are but indications of the pent-up fires of passion and lawlessness that, having once escaped control, will fill the earth with woe and desolation. The picture which Inspiration has given of the antediluvian world, represents too truly the condition to which modern society is fast hastening. Even now, in the present century, and in professedly Christian lands, there are crimes daily perpetrated, as black and terrible as those for which the old-world sinners were destroyed. Before the flood, God sent Noah to warn the world, that the people might be led to repentance, and thus escape the threatened destruction. As

the time of Christ's second appearing draws near, the Lord sends His servants with a warning to the world to prepare for that great event. Multitudes have been living in transgression of God's law, and now He in mercy calls them to obey its sacred precepts. All who will put away their sins by repentance toward God and faith in Christ, are offered pardon.—Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 102. {ChS 53.3}

The condition of things in the world shows that troublous times are right upon us. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the near future. Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. Men have become infatuated with vice, and every species of evil prevails.—Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 11. {ChS 54.1}

The Archdeceiver at Work

At the present time, when the end of all things earthly is rapidly approaching, Satan is putting forth desperate efforts to ensnare the world. He is devising many plans to occupy minds, and to divert attention from the truths essential to salvation. In every city his agencies are busily organizing into parties those who are opposed to the law of God. The archdeceiver is at work to introduce elements of confusion and rebellion, and men are being fired with a zeal that is not according to knowledge.—The Acts of the Apostles, p. 219. {ChS 54.2}

Satan is a diligent Bible student. He knows that his time is short, and he seeks at every point to counterwork the work of the Lord upon this earth.—Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 16. {ChS 54.3}

Satan is now seeking to hold God's people in a state of inactivity, to keep them from acting their part in spreading the truth, that they may at last be weighed in the balance and found wanting.—Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 260. {ChS 54.4}

—Chapter Four to be continued

Satan will take the field and personate Christ. He will misrepresent, misapply, and pervert everything he possibly can.

TM 411 (1898). {LDE 162.3}

A power from beneath is working to bring about the last great scenes in the drama—Satan coming as Christ, and working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are binding themselves together in secret societies.

—8T 28 (1904)