

Sabbath Remnant VOICE

Mar-Apr 2018

Striving to be among the remnant of her seed

The Temptation Of Christ—Part 3

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, August 18, 1874

Jesus did not condescend to explain to his enemy how he was the Son of God, and in what manner, as such, he was to act. In an insulting, taunting manner Satan referred to the present weakness and the unfavorable appearance of Christ in contrast with his own strength and glory. He taunted Christ that he was a poor representative of the angels, much more of their exalted Commander, the acknowledged King in the royal courts. His present appearance indicated that he was forsaken of God and man. He said if Christ was indeed the Son of God, the monarch of Heaven, he had power equal with God, and he could give him evidence by working a miracle, and changing the stone just at his feet into bread, and relieve his hunger. Satan promised that, if Christ would do this, he would at once yield his claims of superiority, and that the contest between himself and Christ should there be forever ended.

Christ did not appear to notice the reviling taunts of Satan. He was not provoked to give him proofs of his power. He meekly bore his insults without retaliation. The words spoken from Heaven at his baptism were very precious, evidencing to him that his Father approved the steps he was taking in the plan of salvation as man's substitute and surety. The opening heavens, and descent of the heavenly dove, were assurances that his Father would unite his power in Heaven with that of his Son upon the earth, to rescue man from the control of Satan, and that God accepted the effort of Christ to link earth to Heaven, and finite man to the infinite.

These tokens, received from his Father, were inexpressibly precious to the Son of God through all his severe sufferings, and terrible conflict with the rebel chief. And while enduring the test of God in the wilderness, and through his entire ministry, he had nothing to do in convincing Satan of his own power, and of his being the Saviour of the World. Satan had sufficient evidence of his exalted station. His unwillingness to ascribe to Jesus the honor due to him, and manifest submission as a subordinate, ripened into rebellion against God, and shut him out of Heaven.

It was not any part of the mission of Christ to exercise his divine power for his own benefit, to relieve himself from suffering. This he had volunteered to take upon himself. He had condescended to take man's nature, and he was to suffer the inconveniences, and ills, and afflictions, of the human family. He was not to perform miracles on his own account. He came to save others. The object of his mission was to bring

blessings, and hope, and life, to the afflicted and oppressed. He was to bear the burdens and griefs of suffering humanity.

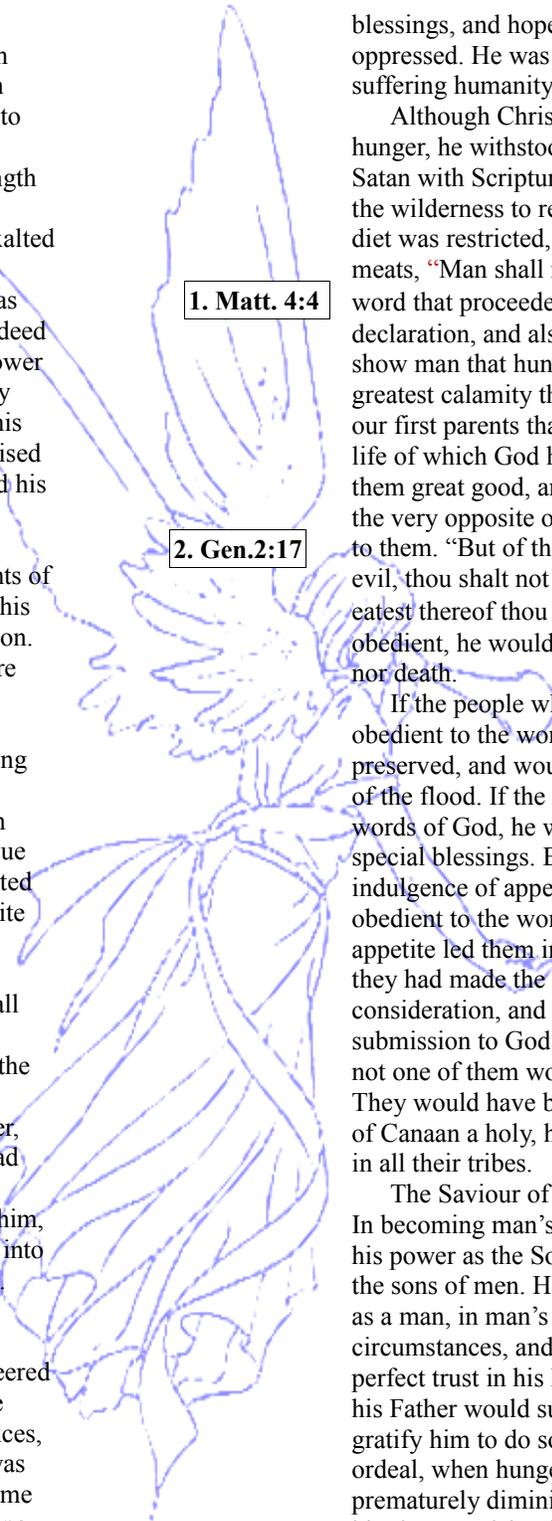
Although Christ was suffering the keenest pangs of hunger, he withstood the temptations. He repulsed Satan with Scripture, the same he had given Moses in the wilderness to repeat to rebellious Israel when their diet was restricted, and they were clamoring for flesh-meats, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."¹ In this declaration, and also by his example, Christ would show man that hunger for temporal food was not the greatest calamity that could befall him. Satan flattered our first parents that eating of the fruit of the tree of life of which God had forbidden them would bring to them great good, and would insure them against death, the very opposite of the truth which God had declared to them. "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."² If Adam had been obedient, he would never have known want, sorrow, nor death.

If the people who lived before the flood had been obedient to the word of God, they would have been preserved, and would not have perished by the waters of the flood. If the Israelites had been obedient to the words of God, he would have bestowed upon them special blessings. But they fell in consequence of the indulgence of appetite and passion. They would not be obedient to the words of God. Indulgence of perverted appetite led them into numerous and grievous sins. If they had made the requirements of God their first consideration, and their physical wants secondary, in submission to God's choice of proper food for them, not one of them would have fallen in the wilderness. They would have been established in the goodly land of Canaan a holy, healthy people, with not a feeble one in all their tribes.

The Saviour of the world became sin for the race. In becoming man's substitute, Christ did not manifest his power as the Son of God. He ranked himself among the sons of men. He was to bear the trial of temptation as a man, in man's behalf, under the most trying circumstances, and leave an example of faith and perfect trust in his Heavenly Father. Christ knew that his Father would supply him food when it would gratify him to do so. He would not in this severe ordeal, when hunger pressed him beyond measure, prematurely diminish one particle of the trial allotted to him by exercising his divine power.

1. Matt. 4:4

2. Gen.2:17



Fallen man, when brought into straightened places, could not have the power to work miracles on his own behalf, to save himself from pain or anguish, or to give himself victory over his enemies. It was the purpose of God to test and prove the race, and give them an opportunity to develop character by bringing them frequently into trying positions to test their faith and confidence in his love and power. The life of Christ was a perfect pattern. He was ever, by his example and precept, teaching man that God was his dependence, and that in God should be his faith and firm trust.

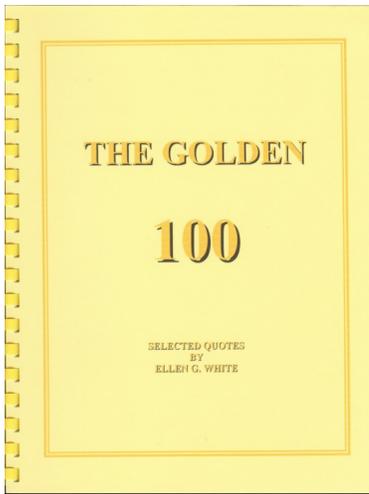
Christ knew that Satan was a liar from the beginning, and it required strong self-control to listen to the propositions of this insulting deceiver, and not instantly rebuke his bold assumptions. Satan expected to provoke the Son of God to engage in controversy with him; and he hoped that thus, in his extreme weakness and agony of spirit, he could obtain advantage, over him. He designed to pervert the words of Christ and claim advantage, and call to his aid his fallen angels to use their utmost power to prevail against and overcome him.

The Saviour of the world had no controversy with Satan, who was expelled from Heaven because he was no longer worthy of a place there. He who could influence the angels of God against their Supreme Ruler, and against his Son, their loved commander, and enlist their sympathy for himself, was capable of any deception. Four thousand years he had been warring against the government of God, and had lost none of his skill or power to tempt and deceive.

Because man fallen could not overcome Satan with his human strength, Christ came from the royal courts of Heaven to help him with his human and divine strength combined. Christ knew that Adam in Eden, with his superior advantages, might have withstood the temptations of Satan, and conquered him. He also knew that it was not possible for man, out of Eden, separated from the light and love of God since the fall, to resist the temptations of Satan in his own strength. In order to bring hope to man, and save him from complete ruin, he humbled himself to take man's nature, that, with his divine power combined with the human, he might reach man where he is. He obtains for the fallen sons and daughters of Adam that strength which it is impossible for them to gain for themselves, that in his name they may overcome the temptations of Satan.

The exalted Son of God in assuming humanity draws himself nearer to man by standing as the sinner's substitute. He identifies himself with the sufferings and afflictions of men. He was tempted in all points as a man is tempted, that he might know how to succor those who should be tempted. Christ overcame on the sinner's behalf.

Jacob, in the night vision, saw earth connected with Heaven by a ladder reaching to the throne of God. He saw the angels of God, clothed with garments of heavenly brightness, passing down from Heaven and up to Heaven upon this shining ladder. The bottom of this ladder rested upon the earth, while the top of it reached to the highest Heavens, and rested upon the

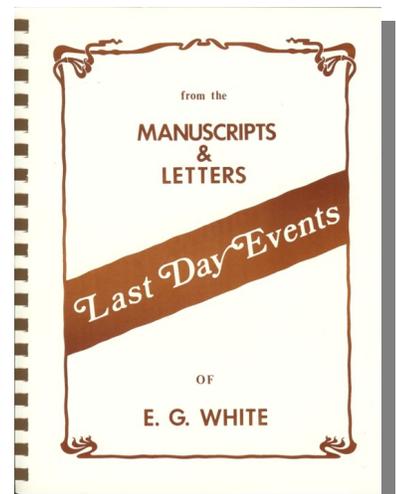


THE GOLDEN 100

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.

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throne of Jehovah. The brightness from the throne of God beamed down upon this ladder, and reflected a light of inexpressible glory upon the earth.

3. Matt. 4: 6,7

This ladder represented Christ who had opened the communication between earth and Heaven. In Christ's humiliation he descended to the very depth of human woe in sympathy and pity for fallen man, which was represented to Jacob by one end of the ladder resting upon the earth, while the top of the ladder, reaching unto Heaven, represents the divine power of Christ, who grasps the Infinite, and thus links earth to Heaven, and finite man to the infinite God. Through Christ the communication is opened between God and man. Angels may pass from Heaven to earth with messages of love to fallen man, and to minister unto those who shall be heirs of salvation. It is through Christ alone that the heavenly messengers minister to men.

Adam and Eve in Eden were placed under most favorable circumstances. It was their privilege to hold communion with God and angels. They were without the condemnation of sin. The light of God and angels was with them, and around about them. The Author of their existence was their teacher. But they fell beneath the power and temptations of the artful foe. Four thousand years had Satan been at work against the government of God, and he had obtained strength and experience from determined practice. Fallen men had not the advantages of Adam in Eden. They had been separating from God for four thousand years. The wisdom to understand, and power to resist, the temptations of Satan had become less and less, until Satan seemed to reign triumphant in the earth. Appetite and passion, the love of the world and presumptuous sins, were the great branches of evil out of which every species of crime, violence, and corruption grew.

Satan was defeated in his object to overcome Christ upon the point of appetite; and here in the wilderness Christ achieved a victory in behalf of the race upon the point of appetite, making it possible for man in all future time in his name to overcome the strength of appetite on his own behalf. Satan was not willing to cease efforts until he had tried every means to obtain victory over the world's Redeemer. He knew that with himself all was at stake, whether he or Christ should be victor in the contest. And, in order to awe Christ with his superior strength, he carried him to Jerusalem and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and continued to beset him with temptations.

He again demanded of Christ, if he was indeed the Son of God, to give him evidence by casting himself from the dizzy height upon which he had placed him. He urged Christ to show his confidence in the preserving care of his Father by casting himself down from the temple. In Satan's first temptation upon the point of appetite, he had tried to insinuate doubts in regard to God's love and care for Christ as his Son, by presenting his surroundings and his hunger as evidence that he was not in favor with God. He was unsuccessful in this. He next tried to take advantage of the faith and perfect trust Christ had shown in his Heavenly Father to urge him to presumption. "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down; for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee; and in their hands

they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." Jesus promptly answered, "It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."³

The sin of presumption lies close beside the virtue of perfect faith and confidence in God. Satan flattered himself that he could take advantage of the humanity of Christ to urge him over the line of trust to presumption. Upon this point many souls are wrecked. Satan tried to deceive Christ through flattery. He admitted that Christ was right in the wilderness in his faith and confidence that God was his Father, under the most trying circumstances. He then urged Christ to give him one more proof of his entire dependence upon God, one more evidence of his faith that he was the Son of God, by casting himself from the temple. He told Christ that if he was indeed the Son of God he had nothing to fear; for angels were at hand to uphold him. Satan gave evidence that he understood the Scriptures by the use he made of them.

The Redeemer of the world wavered not from his integrity and showed that he had perfect faith in his Father's promised care. He would not put the faithfulness and love of his Father to a needless trial, although he was in the hands of the enemy, and placed in a position of extreme difficulty and peril. He would not, at Satan's suggestion, tempt God by presumptuously experimenting on his providence. Satan had brought in scripture which seemed appropriate for the occasion, hoping to accomplish his designs by making the application to our Saviour at this special time.

Christ knew that God could indeed bear him up if he had required him to throw himself from the temple. But to do this unbidden, and to experiment upon his Father's protecting care and love, because dared by Satan to do so, would not show his strength of faith. Satan was well aware that if Christ could be prevailed upon, unbidden by his Father, to fling himself from the temple to prove his claim to his Heavenly Father's protecting care, he would in the very act show the weakness of his human nature.

Christ came off victor in the second temptation. He manifested perfect confidence and trust in his Father during his severe conflict with the powerful foe. Our Redeemer, in the victory here gained, has left man a perfect pattern, showing him that his only safety is in firm trust and unwavering confidence in God in all trials and perils. He refused to presume upon the mercy of his Father by placing himself in peril that would make it necessary for his Heavenly Father to display his power to save him from danger. This would be forcing providence on his own account: and he would not then leave for his people a perfect example of faith and firm trust in God.

Satan's object in tempting Christ was to lead him to daring presumption, and to show human weakness that would not make him a perfect pattern for his people. Satan thought that should Christ fail to bear the test of his temptations, there could be no redemption for the race, and his power over them would be complete.

(To be Continued.)

Editorial—Here I Raise My Ebenezer

When you sing the lyrics “Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I’ve come,” from the hymn “O Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” do you know what those words mean? What is an Ebenezer, and why should we raise it in acknowledgment of God’s help?

To learn this, we need to look to Old Testament history. Whenever the Israelites came through tough times and there was a lesson to be learned, God directed them to set up stones for a marking place of where the event happened, and it was given a name. We read in 1 Samuel chapters 4-7 that one of these places was called “Ebenezer.” After God had given Israel a great victory over

their enemies, Samuel took up a stone and raised it in memorial of God’s help, and “called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.” Whenever the Israelites looked at the stone or repeated its name, they would remember how God had helped them.

This is what the songwriter is referring to, and reminding us to do in our own lives. How many times has God helped us through our own tough experiences? How many blessings has He bestowed upon us? Have you ever stopped to dwell on the amount of blessings there might be in just one single day? Take note of all the things that happen in your life, big and small, the good and even

the “bad” things. Remember that the Bible says, “In everything give thanks.” Don’t we say to children sometimes “what part of ‘all’ do you not understand?” We as adults need to remind ourselves of the same thing sometimes, too.

In keeping track of the Lord’s leading in our life, in remembering the lessons He has taught us and the blessings He has given us, we will be raising our own “Ebenezer.” Every time we look at it we will remember God’s help in our life, and our faith will increase and we will be encouraged to continue to walk confidently with our hand firmly in the Lord’s hand. Hither by His help have we come so far.

Story—The Way That May And Alice “Made Up”

For several mornings, Mrs. Morton had noticed that something went wrong with her little May. She seemed happy as usual at the breakfast-table; but, when school time drew near, she became restless. She got her hat and cape long before the hour, and stationed herself at the window looking up the street as if waiting for the time; yet, when it came, she went reluctantly, as if she had no heart to go.

“Why don’t you start, May, if you are all ready?” said her mother, one morning, when this performance had been repeated so many times as to awaken her curiosity.

“I don’t want to go yet,” was the reply. “Perhaps Alice Barnes will call for me.” But, when there were only ten minutes left, May hastened away alone with a troubled face. She came home at noon sadder than she went.

“What does grieve the little girl?” asked her mother, as she came into her room looking the picture of despair.

“O mother!” said May, crying outright at a kind word, “you don’t know!”

“Yes; but I want to,” said Mrs. Morton. “Perhaps I can help you.”

“No, ma’am,” said May; “nobody can help me. Alice Barnes and I—we’ve always been such friends! and now she’s mad with me.”

“What makes you think so?” asked her mother.

“Oh, I know so! She always used to call for me mornings, and we were always together at recess, and everywhere. I

wouldn’t believe it for the longest while; but it is a whole week since she called for me, and she keeps away from me all the time.”

“Now I know what Alice has done, dear, can you think of anything you did?”

“Why, mother! No, indeed! I don’t need to think. I haven’t done a thing. I thought too much of Alice.” May cried again at the bare idea.

“There, don’t cry. Perhaps you haven’t; but you must not be discouraged till you have asked her why she keeps away. Very likely there is some little thing that you never thought of.”

“I don’t want to ask her, mother. It is her fault, and she ought to come to me.”

“Ah! then,” replied Mrs. Morton, “I fear that your pride is stronger than your love to Alice.” She was brushing May’s hair as she spoke; and she stooped to kiss her forehead with a loving, motherly kiss, and then went to see about dinner. They were not alone again till school time came. But it seems that May knew her mother was right; for she went straight up to Alice when she saw her on the sidewalk after school, and said,

“Alice Barnes, what makes you mad with me?”

“I shouldn’t think you’d ask me, May Morton,” replied Alice, “when you’ve said such unkind things about me.”

“No such a thing!” said May indignantly.

“May Morton,” said Alice, looking as solemn as her round, rosy face would let her, “didn’t I hear you, with my own ears, telling

Bessy Potter that I was the most mischievous little thing you ever saw?”

“When?” demanded May, feeling strange and helpless as if she were in a nightmare.

“Last week, Thursday, in your seat,” said Alice, “just before the bell rang for school to begin.”

May looked blank for a minute, and then she burst into a laugh. Alice turned angrily away, but May caught her by the arm, and, choking down her laughter as fast as possible, she said, “Alice, don’t you know I named my new canary bird Alice, after you? I was telling Bessy Potter about her, and how she tore her paper to pieces, and scattered her seed all over the floor.”

Alice stared, and drew a long breath. May’s eyes twinkled again; and both little girls forgot their grievances in a peal of hearty laughter, ending in an affectionate shake and hug.

“There, Alice,” said May afterward, “if ever we get put out again, let’s speak about it the very first thing. Perhaps it will be something as funny as this.”

I have told this story for the sake of other children, large and small. Many a pleasant day is spoiled, and many unkind and painful feelings are caused, by little mistakes which a few frank words would set right. True love is not too proud to speak first. It is pride that prevents; and, if we could see pride in all its selfish ugliness, we should make haste to tread it under foot. Child at Home.

—The Youth’s Instructor July 15, 18

Health Nugget—9 Benefits of Cucumbers

Cucumbers belong to the same plant family as squash, pumpkin, and watermelon (the Cucurbitaceae family). Like watermelon, cucumbers are made up of mostly (95 %) water, which means eating them on a hot summer day can help you stay hydrated.

However, there's reason to eat cucumbers all year long. With vitamin K, B vitamins, copper, potassium, vitamin C, and manganese, cucumbers can help you to avoid nutrient deficiencies that are widespread among those eating a typical American diet. Plus, cucumbers contain unique polyphenols and other compounds that may help reduce your risk of chronic diseases and much, much more.

9 Reasons to Eat Cucumbers

1. Protect Your Brain

Cucumbers contain an anti-inflammatory flavonol called fisetin that appears to play an important role in brain health. In addition to improving your memory and protecting your nerve cells from age-related decline,¹ fisetin has been found to prevent progressive memory and learning impairments in mice with Alzheimer's disease.²

2. Reduce Your Risk of Cancer

Cucumbers contain polyphenols called lignans (pinoresinol, lariciresinol, and secoisolariciresinol), which may help to lower your risk of breast, uterine, ovarian, and prostate cancers.³ They also contain phytonutrients called cucurbitacins, which also have anti-cancer properties. According to the George Mateljan Foundation:⁴

"Scientists have already determined that several different signaling pathways (for example, the JAK-STAT and MAPK pathways) required for cancer cell development and survival can be blocked by activity of cucurbitacins."

3. Fight Inflammation

Cucumbers may help to "cool" the inflammatory response in your body, and animal studies suggest that cucumber extract helps reduce unwanted inflammation, in part by inhibiting the activity of pro-inflammatory enzymes (including cyclo-oxygenase 2, or COX-2).⁵

4. Antioxidant Properties

Cucumbers contain numerous antioxidants, including the well-known vitamin C and beta-carotene. They also contain antioxidant flavonoids, such as

quercetin, apigenin, luteolin, and kaempferol,⁶ which provide additional benefits.

For instance, quercetin is an antioxidant that many believe prevents histamine release—making quercetin-rich foods "natural antihistamines." Kaempferol, meanwhile, may help fight cancer and lower your risk of chronic diseases including heart disease.

5. Freshen Your Breath

Placing a cucumber slice on the roof of your mouth may help to rid your mouth of odor-causing bacteria. According to the principles of Ayurveda, eating cucumbers may also help to release excess heat in your stomach, which is said to be a primary cause of bad breath.⁷

6. Manage Stress

Cucumbers contain multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress.

7. Support Your Digestive Health

Cucumbers are rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Adding cucumbers to your juice or salad can help you meet the ideal of amount of fiber your body needs — 50 grams per 1,000 calories consumed. If you struggle with acid reflux, you should know that drinking water can help suppress acute symptoms of acid reflux by temporarily raising stomach pH; it's possible that water-rich cucumbers may have a similar effect.

Cucumber skins contain insoluble fiber, which helps add bulk to your stool. This helps food to *move through your digestive tract more quickly* for healthy elimination.

8. Maintain a Healthy Weight

Cucumbers are very low in calories, yet they make a filling snack (one cup of sliced cucumber contains just 16 calories).⁸ The soluble fiber in cucumbers dissolves into a gel-like texture in your gut, helping to *slow down* your digestion. This helps you to feel full longer and is one reason why fiber-rich foods may help with weight control.

9. Support Heart Health

Cucumbers contain potassium, which is associated with lower blood pressure levels. A proper balance of potassium both inside and outside your cells is crucial for your body to function properly.

As an electrolyte, potassium is a positive charged ion that must maintain a certain concentration (about 30 times higher inside than outside your cells) in order to carry out its functions, which includes interacting with sodium to help control nerve impulse transmission, muscle contraction, and heart function.

Cucumbers Make a Great Base for Vegetable Juice

There are many ways to enjoy cucumbers, such as fermented or raw in vinegar-based salads. If you're looking for something different, cucumbers make an ideal base for your vegetable juice due to their mild flavor and high water content. In fact, a simple juice of cucumber and celery is ideal for those new to juicing.

From there you can work your way up to red leaf lettuce, romaine lettuce, spinach, and escarole, along with parsley and cilantro. Juicing is actually an ideal way to consume cucumbers.

When you drink fresh-made green juice, it is almost like receiving an intravenous infusion of vitamins, minerals, and enzymes because they go straight into your system without having to be broken down. When your body has an abundance of the nutrients it needs, and your pH is optimally balanced, you will feel energized and your immune system will get a boost.

Organic Cucumbers Are Worth It

If you're wondering whether you should choose organic cucumbers over conventionally grown varieties, I'd suggest organic. Cucumbers were ranked the 12th most contaminated food and the second in cancer risk due to their pesticide content, according to the Environmental Working Group (EWG).

Further, cucumbers are often waxed after harvest to withstand the long journey to market unscarred and to protect against the many hands that touch it. While the wax is supposed to be food-grade and safe, there are different types used.⁹

- Carnauba wax (from the carnauba palm tree)
- Beeswax
- Shellac (from the lac beetle)
- Petroleum-based waxes

The natural waxes are far preferable to the petroleum-based waxes, which may contain solvent residues or wood rosin. Produce coated with wax is not labeled as

such, but organic produce will not contain petroleum-based wax coatings (although it may contain carnauba wax or insect shellac).

The other potential issue is that wax seals in pesticide residues and debris, making them even more difficult to remove with just water. To reach the contaminants buried beneath the surface of your vegetables and fruits, you need a cleanser that also removes the wax, which is what my fruit and vegetable wash does. You could also peel the cucumber, but that is one of the most nutrient-dense parts of the cucumber (the other is the seeds), so it's better to consume it if you can.

What Else Are Cucumbers Good For?

Flavonoids and tannins in cucumbers have been found to have both free-radical scavenging and pain-relieving effects, while it has a number of traditional folk uses as well. As written in the *Journal of Young Pharmacists*:¹⁰ “Traditionally, this plant is used for headaches; the seeds are cooling and diuretic, the fruit juice of this plant is used as a nutritive and as a demulcent in anti-acne lotions.”

As the fourth-most widely cultivated “vegetable” in the world (cucumbers are technically a fruit), cucumbers are widely available, but seek to get them from a local farmer’s market if you can. Even better, cucumbers are very easy to grow, even if you only have access to a patio. They thrive in containers (provided they have somewhere to climb on) and produce ample produce from a small number of plants, so you could try your hand at growing them yourself.

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—Mercola.com

Recipe Cucumber Salad

- 1 Cup fresh Lemon juice
- ½ Cup Honey
- ½ tsp. Salt
- 4 Cups sliced Cucumbers
- ½ Cup thinly sliced sweet Onion
- 2 Tbs. Finely minced Parsley

Mix together first three ingredients.

Pour over salad items and toss. Refrigerate for a few hours stirring occasionally.

— *Country Kitchen Collection*
by-Phil and Eileen Brewer-1992

There is more encouragement to us in the least blessing which we receive ourselves than in reading biographical works relating to the faith and experience of noted men of God.

The things we ourselves have experienced of the blessings of God through His gracious promises we may hang in memory’s halls, and whether rich or poor, learned or illiterate, we may look and may consider these tokens of God’s love.

Every token of God’s care and goodness and mercy should be hung as imperishable mementos in memory’s halls. God would have His love, His promises, written upon the tablets of the mind.

Guard the precious revealings of God that not a letter shall become obliterated or dimmed.

When Israel obtained special victories after leaving Egypt, memorials were preserved of these victories.

Moses and Joshua were commanded of God to do this, to build up remembrances.

When the Israelites had won a special victory over the Philistines, Samuel set up a commemorative stone and called it Ebenezer, saying,

“Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.”

Can we not, in view of the past, look on new trials and increased perplexities—even afflictions, privations, and bereavements—and not be dismayed, but look upon the past and say, “Hitherto hath the Lord helped us. I will commit the keeping of my soul unto Him as unto a faithful Creator.

He will keep that which I have committed to His trust against that day.”

Our High Calling page 135

The Government of God Democracy, Dictatorship, or Republic—Part 3

Part 3—The Council

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?” *Job 1:6-8.*

“Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.” *Job 2:1-3.*

So far we have considered the various forms of government and have reduced them down to two. One form is the dictatorship, where authority is derived from arbitrary power and the dictator is supreme, be that dictator a single individual, a group of individuals, or the majority of the citizens. The second form is the true republic.

In a true republic the law is supreme, all are subject to it, and there are certain rights granted to it's citizens that cannot be taken away without just cause. We saw in our last study that in God's government law is supreme above all and the entire focus of redemption and salvation has been to remedy that broken law. We have firmly established that God's government meets the first aspect of a republic. But there is more to a true republic than the supremacy of law. A republic is governed by representatives of the citizens. The question to be answered now is whether or not God's government is representative or dictatorial in form. God's government is constitutional, but is it a constitutional dictatorship?

In answering this question, let's consider first those two horns on the lamb in

Revelation 13. We know these two horns are the principles of Protestantism and Republicanism. The lamb is a representation of Jesus. This symbol in Revelation is lamb like, meaning it resembles Jesus and we saw in part 1 that the Spirit of Prophecy calls these principles pure and right. If this beast resembles the lamb by abiding by two principles that are pure, it would follow that the principle of republicanism is one of the principles of the lamb's government.

Remember the story of Job and how the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord?

In this story the veil is pulled aside from heaven and we catch a brief glimpse into the inner workings of God's government. Who were these “sons of God,” who presented themselves before God at certain times and what were they doing? We know from the story that this meeting of the “sons of God” occurred on a regular and frequent basis.

There is an interesting passage in Luke that gives us a clue as to who the sons of God might be. “Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.” *Luke 3:38.*

There are other passages which refer to all of God's followers as “sons of God.” But it would not be reasonable to think that this meeting in heaven took place with the followers of God on this earth. The passage in Luke indicates that there is a special designation and distinction that belonged to Adam alone as the son of God. He was the first created being on this planet.

The Spirit of Prophecy calls these sons of God angels. “The Scriptures declare that upon one occasion, when the angels of God came to present themselves before the Lord, Satan came also among them (Job 1:6), not to bow before the Eternal King, but to further his own malicious designs against the righteous.” *Darkness Before Dawn, page 5.*

But further on in Job it indicates that there is a distinction between these sons of God and the angels. We read of creation in Job 38, “The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.” *Job 38:7.*

The morning stars would be the angels, for we read in *Revelation 1:20* “The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches.”

If the morning stars are the angels, who are these sons of God? Inspiration tells us

that there are more worlds which have not fallen into sin as this one has.

“The Lord has given me a view of other worlds. Wings were given me, and an angel attended me from the city to a place that was bright and glorious. The grass of the place was living green, and the birds there warbled a sweet song. The inhabitants of the place were of all sizes; they were noble, majestic, and lovely. They bore the express image of Jesus, and their countenances beamed with holy joy, expressive of the freedom and happiness of the place. I asked one of them why they were so much more lovely than those on the earth. The reply was, ‘We have lived in strict obedience to the commandments of God, and have not fallen by disobedience, like those on the earth.’ Then I saw two trees, one looked much like the tree of life in the city. The fruit of both looked beautiful, but of one they could not eat. They had power to eat of both, but were forbidden to eat of one. Then my attending angel said to me, ‘None in this place have tasted of the forbidden tree; but if they should eat, they would fall.’” *Early Writings, page 39.*

Just as on this earth, before the fall, Satan has access to these unfallen beings only at the forbidden tree, which is present on each planet.

“Here he will be confined, to wander up and down over the broken surface of the earth and see the effects of his rebellion against God's law. For a thousand years he can enjoy the fruit of the curse which he has caused. Limited alone to the earth, he will not have the privilege of ranging to other planets, to tempt and annoy those who have not fallen.” *Early Writings, page 290.*

“While we rejoice that there are worlds which have never fallen, these worlds render praise and honor and glory to Jesus Christ for the plan of redemption to save the fallen sons of Adam, as well as to confirm themselves in their position and character of purity. The arm that raised the human family from the ruin which Satan has brought upon the race through his temptations, is the arm which has preserved the inhabitants of other worlds from sin. Every world throughout immensity engages the care and support of the Father and the Son; and this care is constantly exercised for fallen humanity. Christ is mediating in behalf of man, and the order of unseen worlds also is preserved by His

mediatorial work. Are not these themes of sufficient magnitude and importance to engage our thoughts, and call forth our gratitude and adoration to God?" *Messages to Young People*, page 254.

Let's put these pieces together now. First, we know that each planet was created with a tree of life and a tree of knowledge. Second, we know that Satan has access to each planet at the tree of knowledge. Third, we know that Adam, the first created being on this planet, was given dominion over it and was made king of this world. Fourth, the Bible calls Adam the son of God, and distinguishes this designation from that of the angels of God. Fifth, there are other sons of God who come before Him on a regular basis for a meeting of some kind.

If the other created worlds follow a similar pattern to this one, as it appears they do, then the first created being on each one would have the dominion of that planet and be designated the son of God. From Job we see that these sons of God gather together periodically before Him in heaven. It would appear that they form a sort of regular representative council to which Satan comes and presents himself with them.

Why would Satan even be permitted into this heavenly council after being cast out of heaven? Satan was cast out of heaven and His angels with him. The only way he could gain access again was to become the representative of a planet. "Adam and Eve were placed on trial and failed... Satan deceived Eve, and she disobeyed God. The holy pair, not resisting temptation, were brought under Satan's jurisdiction. The enemy gained supremacy over the human race, bringing in death, the penalty of disobedience." *Christ Triumphant*, page 289.

When Adam fell, he yielded his dominion of this earth to Satan and Satan became the representative of this planet at the council, where he used his place there to accuse the followers of God on earth. This is portrayed in the story of Job and that of Joshua the high priest.

"In the presence of the unfallen worlds, in the presence of the universe of heaven, in the presence of the angry adversary who has painted them in robes of blackness and moral defilement, urging that they be given into his hands, Jesus answered Satan's malignant charge whereby he accused them before God day and night. To those who stood before Him, earnestly watching the controversy and marking the determination of Satan to destroy the righteous, Jesus spoke, saying, 'Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.' Manuscript 27, 1894." *Christ Triumphant*,

page 186.

"Mighty issues for the world were at stake in the conflict between the Prince of light and the leader of the kingdom of darkness. After tempting man to sin, Satan claimed the earth as his, and styled himself the prince of this world. Having conformed to his own nature the father and mother of our race, he thought to establish here his empire. He declared that men had chosen him as their sovereign. Through his control of men, he held dominion over the world. Christ had come to disprove Satan's claim. As the Son of man, Christ would stand loyal to God. Thus it would be shown that Satan had not gained complete control of the human race, and that his claim to the world was false. All who desired deliverance from his power would be set free. The dominion that Adam had lost through sin would be recovered." *Desire of Ages*, page 114.

By His death on the cross, Christ won the victory and Satan was again cast out of the heavenly councils. This is the conflict John is talking about in Revelation 12.

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." *Revelation 12:7-9*

While we have always understood this passage to be referring to the war in heaven before the creation of the world, the Adventist pioneers did not understand it thus.

Speaking of Revelation 12, Uriah Smith says, "It is held by some that this war took place when Satan, then an angel of light and glory, rebelled in Heaven; and that the 'casting out' of which John speaks, was his expulsion from Heaven at that time. But we are unable to harmonize this view with the testimony before us... Again, there seem to be a number of instances in which Satan is spoken of as defeated or cast down. One was his first rejection from Heaven; another when Christ overcame him at his first advent; and there will be another in the future when he is cast into the bottomless pit, and shut up for a thousand years. And on each successive occasion, we behold a regularly increasing limitation of his power. He falls a degree lower in every succeeding combat." *Thoughts on Revelation, 1881 Edition*, page 256-257

Remember that *Thoughts on Revelation* was not the result of Smith's private study and interpretation of Revelation. It was the result of the studies of the Sabbath School class in Battle Creek, while led by Uriah

Smith, this class included other prominent SDA leaders, including James White. Smith merely edited their conclusions into book form. So this bears the weight of the opinion of the leaders of the Adventist work at that time and is of greater weight than if it was merely Smith's private opinion.

Years later, Stephen Haskell expanded on this concept in his book *The Seer of Patmos*. "Our little planet became the center of interest among the angels, and the beings of unfallen worlds. According to the government of heaven, representatives from each world meet in council at the gate of heaven as the men of earth, for centuries after Adam was driven from the Garden, brought their offerings to the gate of Paradise. Among the sons of God who gathered there, Satan came also. Satan was a son of God by creation, and likewise, because of the earth over which he had usurped power, and bore sway. As a representative of the earth, he claimed the right to meet at the gate. There, in the midst of the heavenly assembly, he stood an accuser of the brethren. The case of Job and that of Joshua are examples of the complaints which he brought against the government of God. Over and over again, angels had listened to the accusations made against the men of earth. When Christ was living here as a man, the heavenly host watched the deep-laid plots for His overthrow; they saw the jealousy among Jewish rulers, the cruelty of the Romans; and as the cross was approached, the pain which pierced them was akin to that of their suffering Master... When from the depths of anguish, the dying Son of man exclaimed, 'It is finished,' in spite of the sympathy which could scarcely bear restraint, a shout of victory rang through heaven. Christ's 'ear caught the distant music and the shouts of victory in the heavenly courts. He knew that the death knell of Satan's empire had sounded, and the name of Christ would be heralded from world to world throughout the universe.' 'And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ; for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.' Wonderful triumph! One loses much of the force of Christ's life, unless he sees the actual triumph at the cross... This was a dark hour for the disciples, who stood blinded by grief beside a sealed sepulcher; but angels, who knew the power of eternal life, witnessing the exaltation of the Son of God and the final casting out of Satan, sang halleluiahs. No longer would Satan, 'the prince of this world,' be admitted to their councils. No longer could he accuse the brethren in their presence. 'Rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them.' This was at the time of the crucifixion;

and while joy rang through heaven, and the strains echoed and re-echoed again at His ascension, the world was not yet free from the wiles of the devil. Having been cast to the earth, he put forth redoubled efforts to overthrow the truth, as it was heralded by followers of the Man of Nazareth.” *Seer of Patmos, pages 219-221*

Yet, these leaders of God’s church were not without inspired testimony as a foundation for these opinions. In the *Desire of Ages*, this very idea is confirmed. “There is the throne, and around it the rainbow of promise. There are cherubim and seraphim. **The commanders of the angel hosts, the sons of God, the representatives of the unfallen worlds, are assembled.** The heavenly council before which Lucifer had accused God and His Son, the representatives of those sinless realms over which Satan had thought to establish his dominion,—all are there to welcome the Redeemer. They are eager to celebrate His triumph and to glorify their King.” *Desire of Ages, page 834.*

So, when Adam fell, Satan took over the representation of this world in the council. But Christ fought with him and by His death won this world back. Now Christ, the second Adam, represents this world in the heavenly councils. What an awesome thought! The ruler of the universe is the human representative in the governing councils of heaven! Satan is cast out and can no longer accuse. It was all legally right and done with order and perfection.

Could it be that it was not God who arbitrarily cast out Satan from heaven? Could it have been the decision of the council of representatives?

“When Christ ascended and laid open before the heavenly intelligences the scene of the conflict and the fierce attacks that Lucifer made against Him to prevent Him from accomplishing His work on the earth, all the prevarications and accusations of him who had been an exalted angel were seen in their true light. It was seen that his professedly spotless character was deceptive. His deeply laid scheme to exalt himself to supremacy was now fully discerned... **When the issue was finally settled, every unfallen being expressed indignation at the rebellion. With one voice they extolled God as righteous, merciful, self-denying, just. His law had been vindicated.**” *Christ Triumphant, page 291.*

“**In the councils of heaven it was decided that principles must be acted upon that would not at once destroy Satan’s power;** for it was God’s purpose to place things upon an eternal basis of security. Time must be given for Satan to develop the principles which were the foundation of his government. The heavenly universe must see

worked out the principles which Satan declared were superior to God’s principles. God’s order must be contrasted with Satan’s order. The corrupting principles of Satan’s rule must be revealed. The principles of righteousness expressed in God’s law must be demonstrated as unchangeable, perfect, eternal.” *Review and Herald, September 7, 1897.*

God is the executive, the presiding officer, if you will, of the council. He carries out the decisions made by the representative council. He does not make the decisions and act on His own. It was the council that accepted Christ’s sacrifice and ratified His taking His place in their midst as the representative of this earth. At each point in the plan of salvation the council has been involved in the decisions. God is often spoken of as having made these decisions Himself, but we think this is because He is all knowing and knows beforehand what decision will be made. But he doesn’t tell the council this, He lays before them enough evidence for them to make the correct decision and then let’s them decide. In this way the liberty and rights of all are protected.

“This work of opposition to the law of God had its beginning in the courts of heaven, with Lucifer, the covering cherub. Satan determined to be first in the councils of heaven, and equal with God.” *Review and Herald, January 28, 1909*

“We must remember that though they have lost their first state, the fallen angels are wise above the wisdom of earth; for they have been in the councils of heaven.” *Pamphlet 20, page 3.*

“It is only by a clear discernment of spiritual things that the original apostasy can be understood... **Christ, as commander of heaven, was appointed to put down the rebellion.** Satan and all his sympathizers were cast out of heaven.” *Review and Herald, May 30, 1899.*

“In the councils of heaven God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him.’” *Youth Instructor, July 20, 1899.*

“In the councils of heaven, hope was furnished for the fallen race. Jesus Christ offered his life as a ransom for the lost, as the price by which he might purchase the right to re-create the sinner, and form again the image of God in the soul.” *Signs of the Times, December 12, 1895.*

“In the councils of heaven it was determined that Christ should die for the sins of the whole world. He laid aside his royal crown, his royal robe, clothed his divinity with humanity, that he might touch humanity, and yet he was not received by the world.”

Signs of the Times, April 16, 1894.

“The One appointed in the councils of heaven came to this earth as man’s instructor. The rich benevolence of God gave Him to our world, and to meet the necessities of human nature He took humanity upon Himself. To the astonishment of the heavenly host, the eternal Word came to this world as a helpless babe. Fully prepared, He left the royal courts and mysteriously allied Himself with fallen human beings. ‘The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us’ (John 1:14).” *Lift Him Up, page 166.*

“In the councils of heaven it was decided that the mother of the Redeemer should be a pure, pious virgin, though poor as far as earthly riches were concerned.” *Upward Look, page 94.*

“‘Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven’ [Matthew 5:17-19]. This is the judgment pronounced in the councils of heaven” *Manuscript Releases, Vol. 21, page 195.*

“As he shows by his unselfishness that he loves his neighbor as himself, the Lord says of him in the councils of heaven: ‘He is My faithful steward. I can trust him to handle My goods.’” *Signs of the Times, December 15, 1909.*

“The councils of heaven are looking upon you who claim to have accepted Christ as your personal Saviour, to see you make known the salvation of God to those who sit in darkness.” *Review and Herald, February 12, 1895.*

“The direction of Christ to Moses was, ‘Make all things according to the pattern shown to thee in the mount.’ Did you ever think of it in this connection? Well, God has a pattern for his work, and it is for you and me to follow that pattern. Only when we do this, will our work be acceptable to God.” *General Conference Bulletin, February 4, 1895.*

It may have been at the point where Satan was cast out the second time and banned forever from the heavenly council that all the angels were issued the golden ID cards to present at the gate in order to enter the city. We know about these cards from inspiration:

“There is perfect order and harmony in the holy city. All the angels that are commissioned to visit the earth hold a golden card, which they present to the angels at the gates of the city as they pass in and out.” *Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White, page 97.*

If the council appointed Christ, accepted His sacrifice, and cast Satan out, then it must have been the council who made the decision to issue these ID cards in order to keep Satan

and his angels out of the heavenly courts.

It was this defeat and being cast out from the council and unable to accuse the people of God directly that infuriated Satan. This is why he attacked the church of Christ on earth like he had never attacked it before. This is the reason why such fierce persecution has raged since Christ's first advent. Satan was "wroth with the woman," determined to wipe out God's people from the earth. This is what Satan is consolidating his forces for. He plans to wipe out Christ's followers on earth and then to do battle with heaven and take the throne of God by force. This battle, the third and final battle in the great controversy, will be the battle of Armageddon and ends, of course, with the destruction of Satan and his forces in the lake of fire.

But getting back to this representative council. How often does it meet? It appears from Job that they meet on a regular basis and fairly frequently. Isaiah gives us a clue. "And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD." *Isaiah 66:23*. Could it be that the meeting during the new moon is a business meeting? It is possible and in keeping with the perfect order of heaven.

If it is indeed true that the universe is governed by a representative council, and there is every reason to believe that it is, what awesome respect God has for His created intelligences! He does not expect His creation to follow His arbitrary rule, He does not rule by force of power, although He certainly could. He expects His creatures to take part and use the brains and the reasoning power that He gave them. He doesn't say "Come now, and I will tell you what to do." He says, "Come now, and let us reason together." *Isaiah 1:8*.

If God's government was based on the arbitrary rule of a supreme dictator, He would have made His creatures robots and unable to resist His authority. But He did not do this.

"God placed man under law, as an indispensable condition of his very existence. He was a subject of the divine government, and there can be no government without law. God might have created man without the power to transgress His law; He might have withheld the hand of Adam from touching the forbidden fruit; but in that case man would have been, not a free moral agent, but a mere automaton. Without freedom of choice, his obedience would not have been voluntary, but forced. There could have been no development of character. Such a course would have been contrary to God's plan in dealing with the inhabitants of other worlds. It would have been unworthy of man as an

intelligent being, and would have sustained Satan's charge of God's arbitrary rule." *Patriarchs and Prophets, Page 49*.

One of the great principles of true republican government is rule by the consent of the governed. This principle is embodied in the government of God. His created beings yield willing, intelligent, and unforced, consent to His government. They understand and acknowledge freely how fair and equitable is the government of heaven.

So, we see the government of God is a republic made up of representatives of all created beings. Founded on law as the supreme authority, and governing by the consent of the governed. The rights and opinions of each being, protected and of value in the councils of heaven. What perfection! What fairness! What equality! What value does this give to the lowest of His creatures!

God is all knowing, all powerful, above all, He could have created an arbitrary government based on His power, but He did not. He has granted to His creatures the rights of self rule and a republican theocracy.

"The government of the kingdom of Christ is like no earthly government. It is a representation of the characters of those who compose the kingdom." *Maranatha, page 370*.

What a future He has planned for man. To bring him in as part of His government to take the place of Satan and his angels, who fell from the council.

We read in *Daniel 7:27* "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him."

The words kingdom and dominion in this verse both mean to rule. This would mean that the redeemed man is destined to take part in the ruling council of heaven.

"It was God's purpose to repopulate heaven with the human family if they would show themselves obedient to His every word. Adam was to be tested, to see whether he would be obedient, as the loyal angels, or disobedient. If he stood the test, his instruction to his children would have been only of loyalty. His mind and thoughts would have been as the mind and thoughts of God." *Christ Triumphant, page 26*.

This was God's purpose in the beginning and He is still planning to fulfill it through redemption. Those who are redeemed of the human family will one day take the place of the fallen angels in the councils of heaven.

"I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir." *Isaiah 13:12*.

As we catch a glimpse of the beauty and perfection of this order, we are lead to exclaim with the Psalmist "Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works. All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone." *Psalms 86:8-10*.

But there was a third part of true republican government that we talked about, and that was the jury trial system. The right to be judged by your peers, by those subject to similar conditions as yours, those who understand your situation. Are we being judged by an arbitrary, all powerful, and vengeful judge? Or by a jury of our peers? We will consider this in part 4.

—Rick and Virginia Markwell

If, after accepting the truth, you are sad and gloomy, cast down by discouragement, you give evidence that you do not enjoy the peace of God; you are misrepresenting Him by giving others a false impression regarding the religion of Christ. How can you rise above this depression and unbelief? "In everything give thanks" for the keeping power of God through Jesus Christ, and the peace of God will rest upon you. If you believe that Jesus will do just as He has said He would, the peace that passeth all understanding will rest upon you. At the moment when you are offering your prayer for help, you may not feel all the joy and blessing that you would like to feel, but if you believe that Christ will hear and answer your petition, the peace of Christ will come. If you rely upon His word, the promise will be fulfilled, as surely as the throne of God exists.
—6MR 50.2

Letters—Uganda

Christian Service Chap 9- Continued

Dear brethren,

Heb. 6:10-11

The cause of 'Present Truth' can be greatly extended by personal efforts of faithful men and women who will not shirk the responsibility of God by making Christ their daily and hourly companion. Everything that can be done to reach the people must be done to them in the way that will win their confidence and trust in God. One thing which must be done is that the truth is not to be withheld from thirsty souls but be brought forward to them in a simplest method which will imbue Christ in their minds. All modes of conveying the message to the souls should be employed so that all can be reached in every part of the world. Printery and social media can be an ordinary work force in reinforcing these efforts.

God has important lessons for His people to learn in every situation and had these lessons been learned before as seen in their daily condition, His cause would not be where it is today. God has His appointed agencies for the enlargement of His circle of influence,—*Titus 2:1*—and for the increasing of the number of workers who will be missionary ministers indeed,—laborers for the saving of the souls of their fellow men. These compose the Remnant Christian church that will ever meditate advancements before the world; it will ever be educating workers for further conquests of Christ by a simple influence of the Holy Spirit than college influence. It should ever be moving on and on, that the truth may extend to all parts of the globe. *Important Testimony (1903) pg. 7*

In the first quarter of the year is our time to start implementing the designs of our plan for the cause Present Truth, making many appointments/meetings to reach out to churches and to individuals which have been all successful with 2 crusades and baptism to signal good start of 2018. It is now my routine that I travel to every church we are in agreement with to encourage and remind them of our great responsibility we have to bear. I was made to know and understand the intensity of my duty which lies before me as we meet with different brethren around the region to recite how to push on unitedly.

I have had a very precious blessing to receive funds for printing of booklets and tracts that has made our efforts simpler in handling the different lessons delivered at all levels and better establishment of church members as references are easily traced from

our prints. I made prints in English that were consumed in these meetings conducted in B__ and B__ crusades and those in French language were sent bro. V__ S__ of DRC. V__ has even decided to move to G__ city which is near Uganda than L__ where we can visit him easily. Requests were put across in meeting asking me to have some of these messages translated into our local L__ language and I directed them to LTBL website where I had some post of few booklets in L__ posted in 2010. I further promised to download them from LTBL website and fix them into our paper format for printing. I had translated them in year 2009 – 2010 and kept my copies on a DVD which got spoilt. I had to visit LTBL website to download booklets in L__ language which will be soon printed out in the next quarter. This has made me busy to get some booklets for printing out. I have also resumed the work to translate more booklets on this wise so that every demand is answered to get the work go on. I believe this would help those who don't understand English.

My mind has been in painful exercise and trouble during the time when elder J__ got an illness and I was compelled to keep my knees down to offer my earnest prayers to loving father in heaven and has been relieved from suffering. Thank God for answering our prayers that he is now stable improving each other day dawning. I believe it has been a time for me to learn of mighty working of God when strange illness attack our dear one like sister J__ eye problem and S__ with long running bleeding. It is by His mercies that doctors were able to handle otherwise the cause may not have been ascertained! It has been my duty to pray for all in my daily morning and evening prayers. It is to His glory that they are all improving and doing better.

Thank you for supporting the cause of Present Truth in which we are all involved each doing his part and without which it would be indeed very difficult wonders being wrought among His people. It is always my continual prayer and request to stands with us so that each can do his part in this great Gospel commission.

— N. J.

**In every thing give thanks:
for this is the will of God in
Christ Jesus concerning you.
1 Thess. 5:18**

We are living in an age when there is to be no spiritual idleness. Every soul is to be charged with the heavenly current of life.—*Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 169. {ChS 85.4}*

Crowd all the good works you possibly can into this life. —*Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 488. {ChS 85.5}*

Jesus would have all who profess His name become earnest workers. It is necessary that every individual member build upon the rock Christ Jesus. A storm is arising that will wrench and test the spiritual foundation of every one to the utmost. Therefore avoid the sandbed; hunt for the rock. Dig deep; lay your foundation sure. Build, oh, build for eternity! Build with tears, with heartfelt prayers. Let every one of you, from henceforth, make your life beautiful by good works. Calebs are the men most needed in these last days.—*Testimonies, vol. 5, pp. 129, 130. {ChS 85.6}*

The Divine Measurement

There is a measurement of character constantly going on. The angels of God are estimating your moral value, -86-and ascertaining your needs, and bearing your case to God. —*Review and Herald, April 2, 1889. {ChS 85.7}*

We shall individually be held responsible for doing one jot less than we have ability to do. The Lord measures with exactness every possibility for service. The unused capabilities are as much brought into account as are those that are improved. For all that we might become through the right use of our talents God holds us responsible. We shall be judged according to what we ought to have done, but did not accomplish because we did not use our powers to glorify God. Even if we do not lose our souls, we shall realize in eternity the result of our unused talents. For all the knowledge and ability that we might have gained and did not, there will be an eternal loss.—*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 363. {ChS 86.1}*

What Might Have Been

If every soldier of Christ had done his duty, if every watchman on the walls of Zion had given the trumpet a certain sound, the world might ere this have heard the message of warning. But the work is years behind. While men have slept, Satan has stolen a march upon us.—*Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 29.*

{ChS 86.2}

Let us now take up the work appointed us, and proclaim the message that is to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger. If every Seventh-day Adventist had done the work laid upon him, the number of believers would now be much larger than it is. In all the cities of America there would be those who had been led to heed the message to obey the law of God.—Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 25. {ChS 86.3}

Had the purpose of God been carried out by His people in giving to the world the message of mercy, Christ would, ere this, have come to the earth, and the saints would have received their welcome into the city of God.—Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 450. {ChS 86.4}

Heaven's Register

The world needs missionaries, consecrated home missionaries, and no one will be registered in the books of -87- heaven as a Christian who has not a missionary spirit. —Review and Herald, Aug. 23, 1892. {ChS 86.5}

If the church members do not individually take hold of this work, then they show that they have no living connection with God. Their names are registered as slothful servants.—Testimonies, vol. 5, pp. 462, 463. {ChS 87.1}

In every religious movement there are some who, while they cannot deny that the cause is God's, still hold themselves aloof, refusing to make any effort to help. It were well for such ones to remember the record kept on high, —that book in which there are no omissions, no mistakes, and out of which they will be judged. There every neglected opportunity to do service for God is recorded; and there, too, every deed of faith and love is held in everlasting remembrance.—Prophets and Kings, p. 639. {ChS 87.2}

On the morning of Oct. 23, 1879, about two o'clock, the Spirit of the Lord rested upon me, and I beheld scenes in the coming judgment. . . . Ten thousand times ten thousand were assembled before a large throne, upon which was seated a person of majestic appearance. Several books were before Him, and upon the covers of each was written in letters of gold, which seemed like a burning flame of fire, "Ledger of Heaven." One of these books containing the names of those who claim to believe the truth, was then opened. Immediately I lost sight of the countless millions about the throne, and only those who were professedly children of the light and of the truth engaged my attention. . . . {ChS 87.3}

Another book was opened, wherein were

recorded the sins of those who profess the truth. Under the general heading of selfishness came every other sin. . . . One class were registered as cumberers of the ground. As the piercing eye of the Judge rested upon these, their sins of neglect were distinctly revealed. With pale, quivering lips they acknowledged that they had been traitors to their holy trust. They had had warnings and privileges but they had not heeded nor improved them. They could now see that they had presumed too much upon the mercy of God. True, they had not such confessions to make as had the vile and basely corrupt; but, like the fig tree, they were cursed -88- because they bore no fruit, because they had not put to use the talents intrusted to them. This class had made self supreme, laboring only for selfish interests. They were not rich toward God, not having responded to His claims upon them. Although professing to be servants of Christ, they brought no souls to Him. Had the cause of God been dependent on their efforts, it would have languished; for they not only withheld the means lent them of God, but they withheld themselves. . . . They had allowed others to do the work in the Master's vineyard, and to bear the heaviest responsibilities, while they were selfishly serving their own temporal interests. . . . {ChS 87.4}

Said the Judge, "All will be justified by their faith, and judged by their works." How vividly then appeared their neglect, and how wise the arrangement of God in giving to every man a work to do to promote the cause and save his fellow men. Each was to demonstrate a living faith in his family and in his neighborhood, by showing kindness to the poor, sympathizing with the afflicted, engaging in missionary labor, and by aiding the cause of God with his means. But, like Meroz, the curse of God rested upon them for what they had not done. They had loved that work which would bring the greatest profit in this life; and opposite their names in the ledger devoted to good works there was a mournful blank.—Testimonies, vol. 4, pp. 384-386. {ChS 88.1}

More Required of Us Than of Our Fathers

Greater light shines upon us than shone upon our fathers. We cannot be accepted or honored of God in rendering the same service, or doing the same works, that our fathers did. In order to be accepted and blessed of God as they were, we must imitate their faithfulness and zeal,—improve our light as they improved theirs, and do as they would have done had they lived in our day.

We must walk in the light which shines upon us, otherwise that light will become darkness.—Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 262. {ChS 88.2}

An Appeal to the Slothful Church

It is a mystery that there are not hundreds at work where now there is but one. The heavenly universe is -89- astonished at the apathy, the coldness, the listlessness of those who profess to be sons and daughters of God. In the truth there is a living power.—Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 42. {ChS 88.3}

—to be continued

Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson, 1758

- 1. Come Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise, Teach me ever to adore Thee, May I still The goodness prove, While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love.**
- 2. Here I raise my Ebenezer; Hither by Thy help I've come; And I hope by Thy good pleasure Safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God; He to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.**
- 3. O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be! Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, Bind me closer still to Thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, O take and seal it; Seal it for Thy courts above.**