

Sabbath Remnant VOICE

Sept-Oct 2015

Striving to be among the remnant of her seed

The Return of the Exiles—No. 12 Part 2

Ezra, The Priest The Scribe

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, February 6, 1908

The results of Ezra's timely effort to revive an interest in the study of Holy Writ, were given permanency by his painstaking, life-long work of preserving and multiplying copies of the Old Testament Scriptures. During the captivity, the knowledge of God's will had to some extent been lost. Ezra gathered all the copies of the law that he could find, and had many copies of these made and distributed. The pure Word, thus diligently multiplied and placed in the hands of many people, gave knowledge that was of inestimable value.

As Ezra strove to promulgate the truths he had learned, his capabilities for labor increased and developed. He became a man of piety and zeal, because the truth was a sanctifying power in his soul. He was the Lord's witness to the world of what Bible truth is when revealed in the daily life of the receiver. His life, like the life of Christ, sowed the seeds of truth, by a revelation of the pure principles that can save the soul. Far happier would professed Christians be today if they would in the same way reflect the light of heaven upon the pathway of others, teaching in the life the statutes and judgments that rule in the heavenly courts.

Shall we let the example of Ezra teach us the use we should make of our knowledge of the Scriptures? The life of this servant of God should be an inspiration to us to serve the Lord with heart and mind and strength. We each have an appointed work to do, and this can be accomplished only by consecrated effort. We need first to set ourselves to know the requirements of God, and then to practise them. Then we can sow seeds of truth that will bear fruit unto eternal life.

Ezra's faith that God would do a mighty work for his people, led him to make known to King Artaxerxes his desire to return to Jerusalem that he might revive an interest in the study of God's Word, and assist his brethren in restoring and building up the holy city. Ezra declared that his entire trust was in the God of Israel, who was abundantly able to protect and care for his people. The king was deeply impressed. He well understood that the Israelites who wished to return, were going to Jerusalem in order that they might serve the living God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth; yet so great was the king's confidence in the integrity of Ezra, that he showed him marked favor. Artaxerxes not only granted him his request, but bestowed rich gifts for the temple service, made him a special representative of the Medo-Persian kingdom, and conferred on him

extensive powers to carry out the purposes that were in his heart.

This decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus for the restoring and building of Jerusalem, is the third issued since the close of the seventy years' captivity. It is remarkable for the expressions it contains regarding the God of heaven; for the recognition it gives to the attainments of Ezra; and for the liberality of the grants made to the remnant people of God. Artaxerxes refers to Ezra as "the priest, the scribe, even a scribe of the words of the commandments of the Lord, and of his statutes to Israel;"¹ "a scribe of the law of the God of heaven."² The king united with his counselors in offering freely "unto the God of Israel, whose habitation is in Jerusalem,"³ and in addition to the bestowal of rich gifts, he made provision for meeting many heavy expenses by ordering that they be paid "out of the king's treasure-house."⁴

The king's special anxiety was to assist in carrying out the commands of the God of heaven. "Thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counselors," he declared to Ezra, "to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand." And he further decreed: "Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the God of heaven: for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?"⁵

Artaxerxes arranged for the restoration of the members of the priesthood to their ancient rites and privileges. In giving permission to the Israelites to return, he made particular mention of the priests and Levites, and he added: "We certify you, that, touching any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, nethinims, or ministers of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them."⁶ He also arranged for the appointment of civil officers to govern the people justly, in accordance with the Jewish code of laws. "Thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God that is in thine hand," he decreed, "set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know them not. And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment."⁷

Thus, "according to the good hand of his God upon him,"⁸ Ezra persuaded the king to make abundant provision for the return of all of the people of Israel, and

1. Ezra 7:11

2. Ezra 7:12

3. Ezra 7:15

4. Ezra 7:15

5. Ezra 7:23

6. Ezra 7:24

7. Ezra 7:25,26

8. Ezra 7:9

of the priests and Levites, in the Medo-Persian realm, who were minded “of their own free will to go up to Jerusalem.” What rejoicing this decree must have brought to those who had been uniting with Ezra in a study of God’s purpose concerning his people! The sentiment of the hearts of many is expressed in the words of praise uttered by the servant of the Lord in devout thanksgiving to God for his wonderful

9. Ezra 7:27,28

providences. “Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers,” Ezra exclaimed, “which hath put such a thing as this in the king’s heart, to beautify the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem; and hath extended mercy unto me before the king, and his counselors, and before all the king’s mighty princes.”
(Part 2 Concluded)

—Ellen G White

Editorial—Are We Really Getting Ready?

“So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, [even] at the doors.” Matt. 24:33

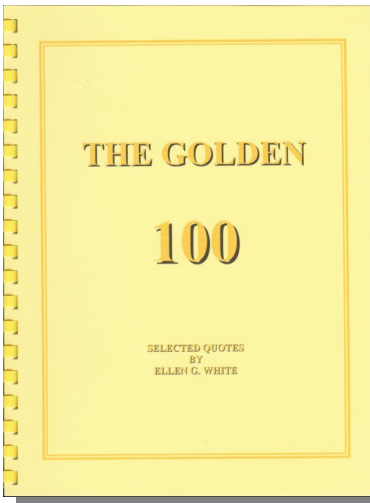
Those who study the Bible will know what these words refer to, and that the signs foretold are happening all around us now. Even people who may never have picked up a Bible are aware that something is going to happen soon, even if they do not know exactly what to expect. Some are scared, preparing for an apocalypse by storing away food and other provisions for survival; some do nothing and hope it won’t happen in their lifetime, and others are indifferent either way. Where are we in this scenario? Are we running scared, are we ignoring the signs by burying ourselves in worldly cares, or are we preparing ourselves for our Lord’s return? Do we have faces full of dread and uncertainty about the future, or are our faces full of faith and trust in our heavenly Father?

Instructions were written down over 100 years ago telling us how we should prepare. We need to move away from the large cities and instead live out in the country where we can grow our own fresh foods and have access to free-flowing water to take care of our basic needs. But physical needs are only part of it—of far greater importance are our spiritual needs. We need to be searching our hearts for any sin or wrongdoing that we have not repented of, and to make ourselves right with God. Remaining pure and steadfast no matter what happens at the end, especially when Christ leaves the most holy place in preparation to come and take us home, is going to be the greatest test any of us will ever face.

But in order to remain pure we must first have the mind of Christ. He forgave those who nailed Him to the cross, He loved and prayed for His enemies, He withstood every temptation because He trusted and relied upon His heavenly Father for everything. His life was our example, the standard to which we must all adhere. Not only in our words and actions alone, but also in our thoughts.

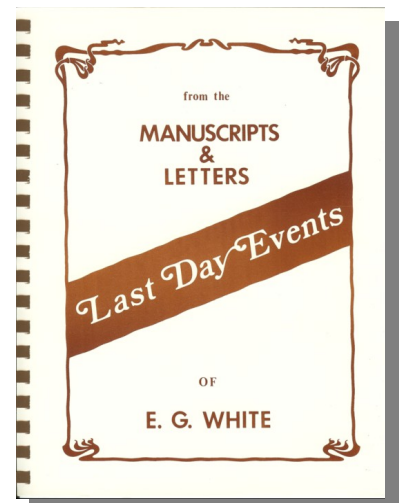
During a prayer meeting a few years ago a man give a testimony about his late wife. She was a Christian, and as she neared the end of her life her mind deteriorated until she lost the ability to control what she said. Despite this, everything that came out of her mouth was still pure, because she had kept her thoughts pure, fixed on Christ and on heavenly things throughout her life.

Let us take encouragement from this woman, let us have the mind of Christ and be able to give glory to God and to encourage others with testimonies of our own. Let us, through much prayer and diligent soul-searching, make every preparation to meet our God and Saviour. We have been given the necessary instructions, and also promises that help from on high will accompany us every step of the way. Let us not be fearful or indifferent like the rest of the world, but instead show ourselves to be children of a Heavenly Father and to go forward with rejoicing because our redemption draweth nigh!



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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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 starches 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 butternut squash (205grams)

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?tname=foodspic>
<http://www.endocrineweb.com/endocrinology/overview-pancreas>
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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
² <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

Story—How Lucie Helped

Lucie was a little girl five years old. Her real name was Lucinda, but no one ever called her that. Her papa died when she was a baby, and ever since that time she had been living with her mamma on Grandpa Nichol's farm.

Grandpa's house stood on a hill, with tall trees growing all around it. Down in the hollow back of the house was a pond where grandma kept her ducks and lily-white geese. Lucie liked to watch them swimming gracefully around the pond, and she would often carry them bread crumbs in her apron. On one side of the house was a large orchard of old gnarled apple, peach, pear, and cherry trees. Here grandpa kept two little brindle calves. On the other side was an arbor, covered with a tangled mass of grape-vines. It was a pleasant home, and Lucie liked it well.

One morning she woke up very early; for she had been told that her cousins were coming from town that day, and she wanted to watch her grandma do the baking. On the kitchen table stood loaves of snowy white bread ready to be put in the huge brick oven, and grandma was busy cutting out wonderful little boys and girls and birds from cookie dough. Lucie clapped her hands when she saw them, and said, "O grandma, are you making them for me?"

"Yes, dear," grandma replied; "for you and your cousins Harry and Minnie."

Lucy was eager to help in getting ready for the company, so her mamma told her she might take her little broom and sweep off the porches and steps. This took some time, for

the porches were long and wide. Lucy was a kind, helpful little girl, and was willing to do everything she could, and some things that she couldn't do. She thought she wouldn't trouble her mamma to tell her any more things to do, so she looked around to find something. She swept the walk from the house to the gate as clean as a parlor floor. Then she saw the plants standing in the sitting-room window.

"Mamma forgot to water 'em," thought Lucie; "I guess I'll do it for her." So she ran to the woodshed, and filled the watering pot with water. It was almost more than she could do to get it to the sitting-room and lift it up off the floor to water the plants. She could not do it very well, and got more water and dirt on the floor than on the plants. There stood in the window a beautiful geranium with yellow and green leaves. Lucie thought because they were part yellow that they were dead, and picked them all off, as she had seen her mother do to the dead leaves on other plants. Then she went to a plant that stood in a chair, and begun to water it, but it was up so high that the water all went on the chair and the pretty carpet.

Her mamma came in just then, and looked very sorry when she saw what Lucie had been doing. She did not scold her, for she knew that the willing little hands had tried to do the best they could. She kissed the flushed face, and told her next time to come and ask when she wanted to do anything; then she sent her out to give the chickens their breakfast.

Lucie ran gaily to the hen-park, happy in

thinking that she had helped her mother. It seemed as if the sun shone a great deal brighter and the grass was greener than when she first got up. Perhaps some other little girls might feel happier and things might look prettier, if, instead of thinking of themselves and their play, they would try to help their mothers in every way they could; but they should remember always to ask when they want to do anything, lest, like Lucie, they hinder more than they help.

The Youth's Instructor June 6, 1883

The man
who rejects the word of the Lord,
who endeavors to establish his
own way and will,
tears to pieces the messenger and
message which God sends in order
to discover to him his sin.
His own inclinations have
influenced his conduct, and he has
built himself up in a wrong way.
The divine rule is, "Whether
therefore ye eat, or drink, or
whatsoever ye do, do all to the
glory of God."
But he would not do this. As a man
thinketh, so is he.

From within, out of the heart,
proceed evil thoughts inspired by
Satan. He begins to quibble at
technicalities and manners.
The spirit of Satan links him up
with the enemy to bear a word of
criticism on less important themes.
The truth becomes of less and still
less value to him. He becomes an
accuser of his brethren, etc.,
and changes leaders.
The outside world has a greater
weight with him than has the flood
of light that God has poured in
upon the world in messages
that he has given, and
which he once rejoiced in.
{TM 408.3}

Recipe—Potato Burrito

Ingredients:

2 med. onions (diced)
1 or 2 garlic cloves (minced fine)
1 T. olive oil
3 c. potatoes (cooked, diced)
4 to 6 c. spinach (fresh)
2 c. tomatoes (diced)
salt—to taste
6 whole-wheat flour tortillas
1 to 2 c. re-fried beans

Guacamole:

2 lg. avocados (ripe)
1 lemon (juice only)
1 med. tomato (diced)
sprinkle garlic powder
to taste salt

Directions:

Over medium heat saute onions and garlic in olive oil.

When onions are clear, add potatoes, spinach, tomatoes, salt; set filling aside.

On one tortilla, spread small amount of re-fried beans; add small amount of filling. Roll tortilla; garnish with guacamole.

Guacamole:

Mash avocados with fork (may use food processor).

Add lemon juice, tomato, and seasonings: mix well.

Yield: 6 burritos.

The Micheff sisters

The King of the North

Part 5—The Whirlwind From The North

It comes as a surprise to many that there was once a time when the Adventists were united in their belief that the king of the north was the Ottoman Empire. Adventist teaching today, if it is mentioned at all, is that this prophecy refers to the Papacy and that the pioneers believed so, too. We saw in the first parts of our study on this topic that the history of Adventism has been obscured on this point. But why would the Adventist pioneers think in those days that the Ottoman Empire had any significance when it was of little consequence to the world? It turns out that more has been obscured than the history of Adventist teaching on the king of the north. The very history of the Ottoman Empire and the politics of Europe during the 19th century have been forgotten for too long. It's time we took a closer look at our history.

It has been claimed that one of the problems with the old view of Adventism on the king of the north was that they did not compare scripture with scripture on Daniel 11, but simply compared the chapter with history and pointed to its fulfillment. It is thought that we should be identifying symbols in this prophecy.

William Miller gave us fourteen principles for the interpretation of prophecy.

Number 11 reads "How to know when a word is used figuratively. If it makes good sense as it stands, and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, then it must be understood literally, if not, figuratively."

Number 13 reads, "To know whether we have the true historical event for the fulfillment of a prophecy: If you find every word of the prophecy (after the figures are understood) is literally fulfilled, then you may know that your history is the true event. But if one word lacks a fulfillment, then you must look for another event, or wait its future development. For God takes care that history and prophecy doth agree, so that the true believing children of God may never be ashamed." *Views of the Prophetic Chronology, Selected from the Manuscripts of William Miller With a Memoir of His Life by Joshua V. Himes, 1841, page 22 (parenthesis supplied by Miller).*

Sister White tells us "The truths most plainly revealed in the Bible have been involved in doubt and darkness by learned men, who, with a pretense of great wisdom, teach that the Scriptures have a mystical, a secret, spiritual meaning not apparent in the language employed. These men are false teachers. It was to such a class that Jesus declared, 'Ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God.' The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed. Christ has given the promise, 'If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine.' If men would but take the Bible as it reads, if there were no false teachers to

mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad, and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error." *Review and Herald, June 28, 1906.*

The vision of Daniel 10-12 is unique, as it gives the history in plain language instead of in symbols. There is no controversy on the first portion of this vision. Its meaning is too plain and it is literally fulfilled in Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Because of this we haven't chosen to go over this portion of the prophecy but are focusing our attention on the last six verses of Daniel 11. It has been suggested that these verses should not be understood to be referring to literal nations but that they have a spiritual application. However, the prophecy has been talking about literal nations up to verse 39 and there is nothing in either verse 39 or 40 to indicate any kind of change. It only makes sense that the last six verses be just as literal as the first thirty-nine. So let's take a look at the prophecy and the history and see if we can find in history events that literally fulfill every word.

"And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over." *Daniel 11:40.*

We understand the time of the end to begin in the year 1798. In our last study we established that the king of the south is the king or nation of Egypt. "Him" refers to the willful king, the king who was the protector of the Papacy. It is

interesting to note in this connection that it was the conversion of the French king in 496 that was the beginning of the end of paganism in Europe. It was France that opened the way for the beginning of the 1260 years. It was France who supported the Papacy during the 1260 years, and it was France who took the Papacy down in 1798. What better description of France during this period could we find than that given us of the willful king in Daniel 11:36-39?

We also established that there was a war fought between Egypt and France in the year 1798 that exactly fits the description in verse 40. But now we see another power, the king of the north, entering the picture. Who is this king of the north? It can't be the Papacy here because they had just received their deadly wound and could not be described as attacking anybody "like a whirlwind." It has been claimed by some that this king of the north is the same power as "him." But this doesn't work. If France just conquered Egypt and is now united with the king of the south, France cannot then come "like a whirlwind" because he would be fighting with himself. We must look elsewhere to define this power.

We first meet the king of the north at the beginning of chapter 11. Speaking of Alexander, the angel says, "And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those. And the king of the south shall be strong, and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion. And in

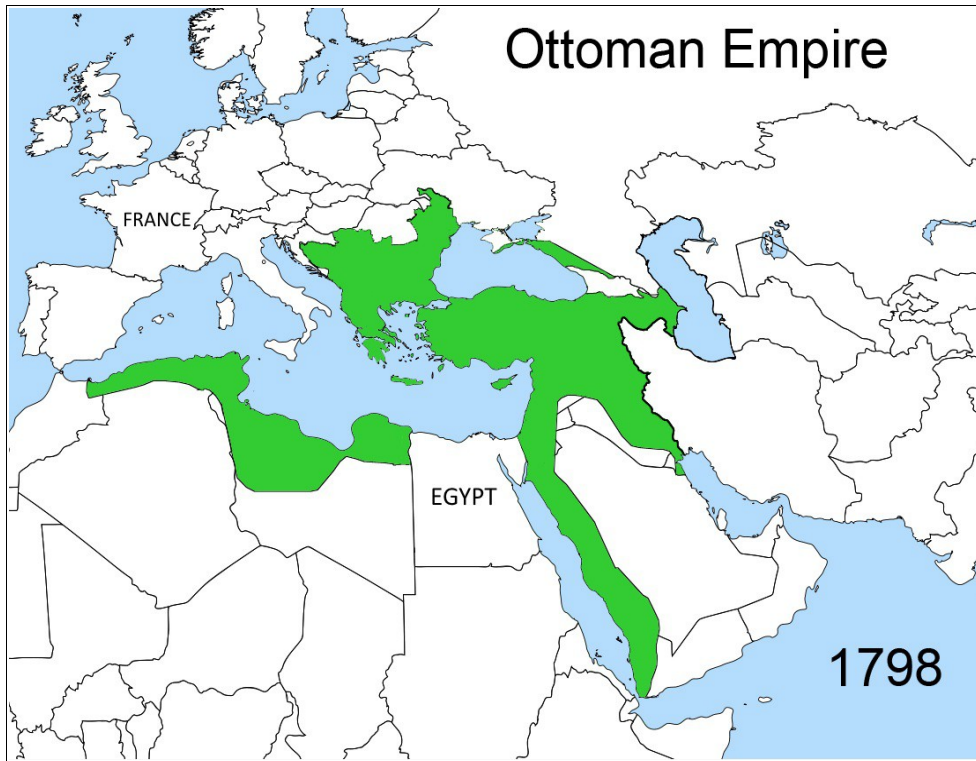
The four divisions of Alexander's Empire to his four generals, very soon reduced to two divisions, when Lysimachus conquered Cassander; then Seleucus conquered Lysimachus.



the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times." *Daniel 11:4-6*

There is no controversy that here the king of the north was the northern division of Alexander's empire. This king controlled what is now roughly Syria and Turkey. The king that controlled this area is always the king of the north until we reach verse 40. Does it make sense that the king of the north should be from somewhere else in verse 40? It is very obvious that neither France, nor the papacy, ever controlled this region.

When we look at history we find that there was a power who came against Napoleon after he conquered Egypt. Amazingly, this power ruled the same region once controlled by the Seleucid Empire, the king of the north in the earlier portions of the prophecy.



On February 27, 1799, Napoleon marched from Egypt, heading toward Syria. He met with little resistance until he reached St. Jean D'Acre. There the Turks, aided by Sir Sidney Smith and a force of British sailors, dug in and fought back. Napoleon laid siege to the city.

"Napoleon had been engaged for ten days in an almost incessant assault upon the works of Acre, when the approach of the great Turkish army was announced. It consisted of about thirty thousand troops, twelve thousand of whom were the fiercest and best-trained horsemen in the world. Napoleon had but eight thousand effective men with which to encounter the well trained army of Europeans and Turks within the walls of Acre and the numerous host rushing to its rescue. He acted with his usual promptitude... Kleber was sent forward with an advance guard of three thousand men. Napoleon followed soon after with

three thousand more.

"As Kleber, with his little band, defiled from the narrow valley at the foot of Mount Tabor, he entered upon an extended plain. It was early in the morning of the 16th of April. The unclouded sun was just rising over the hills of Palestine and revealed to his view the whole embattled Turkish host spread out before him. The eye was dazzled with the magnificent spectacle, as proud banners and plumes, and gaudy turbans and glittering steel, and all the barbaric martial pomp of the East, were reflected by the rays of the brilliant morning. Twelve thousand horsemen, decorated with the most gorgeous trappings of military show, and mounted on the fleetest Arabian chargers, were prancing and curveting in all directions... The French, too proud and self-confident to retreat before any superiority in numbers, had barely time to form themselves into one of Napoleon's impregnable squares, when the whole cavalcade of horsemen, with gleaming sabers and hideous yells, and *like the sweep of the wind*, came rushing down upon them. Every man in the French squares knew that his life

depended upon his immobility, and each one stood, shoulder to shoulder with his comrades." *John Stevens C. Abbott, The life of Napoleon Bonaparte, page 102-103 (Emphasis Supplied).*

There is a striking similarity between the secular historian's description of this skirmish and the description in Daniel. "Come against him like a whirlwind," "like the sweep of the wind." We immediately recognize the twelve thousand horsemen as the horses of the prophecy, but what of the chariots?

When you examine the siege guns of the time period, there is a striking similarity in appearance between them and the chariots of Bible times. What is interesting here is that Napoleon sent his siege guns by ship up to the battle, because it was too hard transporting them through the sand. But the British fleet captured the ships carrying Napoleon's guns. They gave the guns to the

Turks at St. Jean D'Acre, who in turn used them against Napoleon himself.

The Turks have never been known as a seafaring people, but the prophecy points out "many ships" as being one of the marks of this conflict. As unusual as it seems, Russia, the avowed enemy of Turkey, united with them in defense against Napoleon. The Russian fleet was sent with the small Turkish fleet to the harbor of St. Jean D'Acre and they were joined there by two British squadrons. The total number of ships reaching more than thirty. When you consider that most sea battles of the time only involved from ten to twenty ships, this was a large number of ships. The British fleet that destroyed Napoleon's fleet at the battle of the Nile, just prior to this, only numbered thirteen ships.

With all these forces arrayed against him, Napoleon met his first land defeat.

The Turks certainly did "come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships." *Daniel 11:40*

"And he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over." *Daniel 11:40.*

As we saw earlier, most of the Millerites thought this referred to France under Napoleon. But Smith took a different view. Recognizing the consistencies in the Millerite's views, he says in his book:

"To whom do the words 'he shall overflow and pass over' refer? To France or to the king of the north? The application of the remainder of this chapter depends upon the answer to this question." *Uriah Smith, Thoughts on Daniel 1883 edition, page 353.*

But can we establish with any degree of certainty which power this is referring to? Remember that principle we quoted earlier from William Miller? Every word must find its fulfillment. We cannot find adequate fulfillment in the subsequent history of Napoleon for this phrase to apply to France. "Some considerations certainly favor the idea that there is, in the latter part of verse 40, a transfer of the burden of the prophecy from the French power to the king of the north. The king of the north is introduced just before as coming forth like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and many ships. The collision between this power and the French we have already noticed. The king of the north with the aid of his allies, gained the day in this contest; and the French, foiled in their efforts, were driven back into Egypt. Now it would seem to be the more natural application to refer the 'overflowing and passing over' to that power which emerged in triumph from that struggle; and that power was Turkey. We will only add that one who is familiar with the Hebrew assures us that the construction of this verse is such as to make it necessary to refer the overflowing and passing over to the king of north, these words expressing the result of that movement which is just before likened to the fury of the whirlwind." *Uriah Smith, Thoughts on Daniel, 1883 edition, page 354.*

But what of the "Countries" he should enter into? According to Strong's concordance this word could also mean regions. The Ottoman Turks entered the regions they had formerly controlled, overflowed and passed over the ground as they followed Napoleon's defeated army into Egypt.

“He shall enter also into the glorious land,”
Daniel 11:41.

What is the “glorious land”? William Miller and several of the early pioneers thought that this phrase referred to Italy. But this is not consistent with the first part of the chapter. We first find this phrase used in verse 16.

“But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him: and he shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hand shall be consumed.”
Daniel 11:16.

This verse is referring to Rome when it conquered Palestine in 63 BC and broke down Jerusalem’s walls. If this is Palestine in verse 16 and there is no indication of a change in location, then it must be Palestine again in verse 41.

The Turks followed the French down through Palestine and attacked Napoleon in Egypt. Here Napoleon was victorious at Aboukir but seeing that he wouldn’t be able create a path to India and because his armies in Europe were not doing well, he abandoned his troops in Egypt and returned to France. There he proclaimed himself Emperor and started the conquest of Europe. The Turks, with the English, then recaptured Egypt and brought it under their control again.

“And many countries shall be overthrown.”
Daniel 11:41. The word “countries” is supplied by the translators. It originally read “and many shall be overthrown.” Both Napoleon and the Turks lost many men in these battles and when Napoleon retreated back into Egypt he had 1800 wounded, 600 dead to the plague, and 1200 dead to the enemy. He lost one third of his army in the invasion of Syria. But at the battle of Abukir 10,000 Turks were drowned and more were captured or killed. Certainly “many were overthrown” no matter which way you look at.

“But these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.” *Daniel 11:41.*

This is interesting. The land east of the Jordan, what is now the country of Jordan, was anciently inhabited by the descendants of Lot and Esau. The land of Edom was in the desert regions



east and south of Israel. Many of the descendants of these nations spread out into Saudi Arabia.

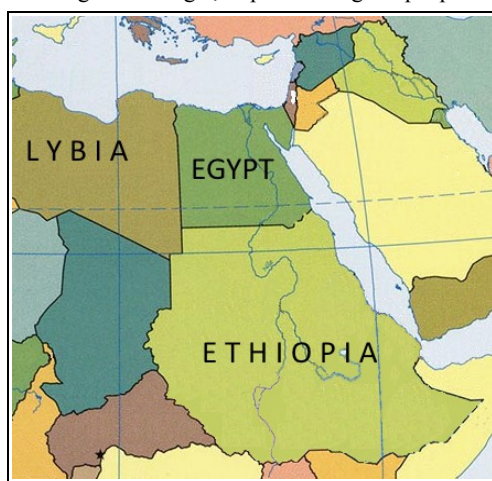
Among those Adventists who still have faith in Uriah Smith it is now popular to believe that the king of the north is the religion of Islam rather than a specific country. But if this is true, it does not fit this description. The lands east of Jordan could never be considered to escape out of the hand of Islam. Jordan itself is an Islamic nation. Islam is the official religion in the country. The same is true of Saudi Arabia. Identifying this power as Islam simply will not fit the prophecy here. But the Ottoman Empire, while sharing the same religion, was never able to completely subdue the region east and south of the Jordan river. In fact they were forced to pay annual tribute to the tribes living in this region to assure safe passage of the caravans to Mecca. The Ottoman Empire controlled the coasts of Arabia but never controlled the interior. Also the battles with Napoleon all occurred west of the Jordan, and when the Turks reconquered these lands, all the area east of the Jordan was ignored by them.

He stretched out his hand “also upon the countries,” or regions that had once been his and ruthlessly brought them back under his control. The Turks tortured and beheaded any French soldiers they found and any who sympathized with the French. The land of Egypt did not escape either. It appears that Egypt would want to escape but did not. We find an interesting passage in a book written in the early 19th century by Richard Robert Madden.

“Read of the atrocities attributed by Sir Robert Wilson to the French, and you will imagine that the only object of our interference was the domestic happiness of the invaded people. Yet, strange to say, the Arabs speak of the French with respect, and of their expulsion with regret.” *Travels in Turkey, Egypt, Nubia and Palestine in 1824, 1825, 1826 & 1827 page 173.*

“But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt.”

After Napoleon left Egypt, the remaining French forces were driven out, or captured by the Turks and English. One of the young Turkish officers who helped drive out the French, was an Albanian named Mohamed Ali Pasha. After he gained control of Egypt, it remained an Ottoman province. The Pasha extorted every bit of wealth from the country. He levied high taxes on the people and used every means to extort money, both legal and illegal, impoverishing the people



and making them dependent on him. He then sent some of this money as tribute to Constantinople or used it for conquering the neighboring regions. Thus the Sultan, through the Pasha had access to “the treasures of gold and silver” and “all the precious things of Egypt.”

“And the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.” These are regions lying west and south of Egypt. Lybia was early conquered by the Ottoman Empire along with all the Mediterranean coast of northern Africa. The region of Lybia became almost entirely independent in 1711 when an Ottoman cavalry officer, Ahmed Karamanli, took over the area and established his own dynasty, although still nominally under the control of the Ottoman Empire. The region was virtually autonomous until 1814, when the Sultan re-established direct control over the area. This was after the Sultan had regained control of Egypt. The prophecy indicates that Lybia would be at his steps after he conquered Egypt and the Ottoman Empire regained control of the region after driving Napoleon out.

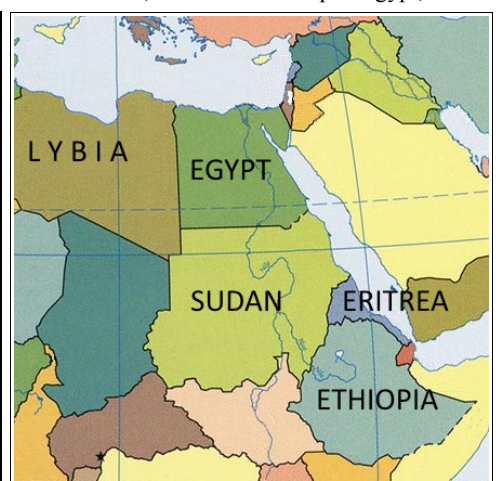
The country of Ethiopia today lies south and east of the Sudan and was never part of the Ottoman Empire or even bordering it. So on the surface this word does not seem to fit.

However, take a look at this comment, “The Egyptian priest Manetho (c. 300 BC) listed Egypt’s Kushite (25th) dynasty, calling it the ‘Aethiopian dynasty.’ Moreover, when the Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek (c. 200 BC), the Hebrew appellation ‘Kush, Kushite’ became in Greek ‘Aethiopia, Aethiopians,’ appearing as ‘Ethiopia, Ethiopians’ in the English King James Version.” *Wikipedia, Aethiopia (Classical Greek term) (parenthesis supplied by Wikipedia).*

“Greek and Roman historians of a later era, such as Diodorus Siculus and Strabo, confirmed much of Herodotus’ account of several distinct nations within the vast region of ‘Ethiopia’ south of the Sahara desert, such as the Troglodytae and Ichyophagi, described as living all along the African Red Sea coast (in modern Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti and Somaliland), as well as several other peoples farther west. These authors also described second-hand stories of the mountainous part of Ethiopia where the Nile was said to rise.”

Wikipedia, Aethiopia (Classical Greek term) (parenthesis supplied by Wikipedia).

So the term anciently referred to the region directly south of and bordering Egypt. This area is now Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia. Egypt, under



Satan—Selections From Ellen White

—Rick and Virginia Markwell

Submitted by a brother from Zambia

GC 508 All who are not decided followers of Christ are servants of Satan.

GC 597 Many are the ways by which Satan works through human influence to bind his captives. He secures multitudes to himself by attaching them by the silken cords of affection to those who are enemies of the cross of Christ. Whatever this attachment may be, parental, filial, conjugal, or social, the effect is the same; the opposers of truth exert their power to control the conscience, and the souls held under their sway have not sufficient courage or independence to obey their own convictions of duty.

2SM 159 It has been the continued endeavor of the enemy to introduce into the church persons who assent to much that is truth, but who are not converted. Professed Christians who are false to their trust are channels through whom Satan works. He can use unconverted church members to advance his own ideas...

2SM 165 By a momentary act, you may place yourself in the power of Satan, but it will require more than a momentary act of will to break his fetters.

7A 206 Double-minded men and woman are Satan's best allies. Whatever favorable opinion they may have of themselves, they are dissemblers.

7A 322 When professed Christians decide to retain their disagreeable traits of character, Satan places his yoke on them...

1 RH 323 Satan trembles when the voice of God speaks through His instruments, giving cautions and warnings and rebuking sin.

1 RH 330 At the present day, Satan gains power over God's people, by means of those false brethren who, while at heart are friends of the world, exert an influence in the church. They are the most efficient workers that the great deceiver can employ. They are constantly seeking to lessen the enmity between the church of Christ and His deadliest foe. They supply the connecting link whereby he can unite the church and the world. Here lies our present danger—a danger against which we must constantly guard.

1 RH 374 The greatest calamity that can come upon any people is to be blindfolded by Satan so that they cannot discern his

devices. He frequently works in disguise, clothing himself in the garments of righteousness, so that those who have not spiritual discernment know not that it is he. Often before those in responsible positions awake, Satan obtains a foothold and doubt, unbelief and infidelity are leavening the camp...

1 RH 390 There are betrayers, accusers, traitors in the camp... They are false brethren, meddling, and indiscreet, stumbling blocks to others. They are doing a work for Satan far more successfully than if they were not connected with the church.

1 RH 393 It is Satan's constant aim to exalt himself and his inventions, and to dishonor God. He is not satisfied unless he has the supremacy... He is a rebel against God and Christ, and is determined to war against them and those who are loyal to them. He hates them all with a bitterness that is impossible to describe; and plots against the lives of those whom he cannot deceive by his devices. (1/29/1884)

1 RH 451, 452 The work of the enemy is not abrupt, it is not sudden and startling; it is a secret undermining of the strongholds of principle. It commences in small things—the neglect to be true to God and to rely upon Him wholly, and the disposition to concede to the demands of the world for the sake of gaining numbers on the church books. (8/12/1884)

1 RH 501 The children of light know not how much they lose by being ignorant of Satan's devices. Prayers are hindered, faith is paralyzed, and a dead formality is the result. (1/27/1885)

1 RH 511 It is Satan's settled purpose to cut off all communications between God and His people, that he may practice his deceptive wiles with no voice to warn them of their danger. (4/7/1885)

2 RH 120 Satan would keep our minds absorbed with the things of this life, that we may lose sight of the higher life; but we cannot afford to yield to his devices.

2 RH 149 That which individuals need is practical godliness. This is the only antidote for the snares of the devil.

2 RH 236 We are to be in harmony with God, but at enmity with Satan. There is too much fellowshiping with the prince of darkness.

2 RH 359 It is Satan's studied effort to make of none effect saving, testing truth through the lives of those who preach the truth to others and in their daily lives deny what they preach.

the direction of the Sultan, captured northern Sudan in 1820. Thus the "Lybians and the Ethiopians" were "at his steps" during this time, just as the prophecy says they would be.

Up until this point everything in Daniel 11:40-45 fits the Ottoman Empire perfectly. But the next two verses were either in the process of fulfillment, or still future when Smith was writing. He predicted that the Sultan would move his government from Constantinople to Jerusalem and come his end. It was also predicted by Adventists of this period that when this happened Europe would erupt into the worst war in history. They believed that this war would be the battle of Armageddon with Christ coming shortly after. It seems obvious that this did not happen. The Ottoman Empire ended quietly in 1922 and Christ has not returned yet.

So, did the prophecy fail? Have we identified the wrong power? Was Smith completely wrong on this one? The Ottoman empire seems to have little significance in world history after it started to decline in the 15th century. They accepted European protection in 1840 and became "the sick man of the east," a term coined by the Russian ambassador, which became a popular phrase to describe the Ottoman empire in the 19th century. A sick and dying man kept alive by the powers of Europe who were afraid of what would happen if he died. But the fact is that this power had an enormous impact on the world and its demise was one of the major causes of the two most destructive wars in this world's history.

We will take a look at these questions and the history of the next two verses in our next study.

We need a constant sense of the ennobling power of pure thoughts. The only security for any soul is right thinking.

As a man "thinketh in his heart, so is he.

The power of self-restraint strengthens by exercise. That which at first seems difficult, by constant repetition grows easy, until right thoughts and actions become habitual. If we will, we may turn away from all that is cheap and inferior, and rise to a higher standard; we may be respected by men, and beloved of God.

The Ministry of Healing, page 491 (1905)

2 RH 386 Satan is ever seeking to bring about a state of things in which righteousness may be termed unrighteousness and unrighteousness, righteousness... His work has been accepted as the work of God.

2 RH 426 Satan deals more guardedly with men than he did with the world's Redeemer in the wilderness of temptation... He does not approach men with a demand for homage by outward worship... All he wants of men, is to fall under the influence of his deceptive power, to love the world, to love rank, position, and money, and to place his affections on the things of this world.

2 RH 462 Satan and his agents are working to destroy the church of Christ and it is necessary that every soul should be alert.

2 RH 476 Satan's most effective agents... are those whose names are on the church records, but fail of a record in the Lamb's book of life. There are many who are blind leaders of the blind, and leaders and those who are led will come to destruction at last.

2 RH 533 ...it is Satan's special object to crowd it (God's work) out of sight and mind, that he may make his specious devices effectual in the destruction of those for whom Christ died. It is his purpose to cause the discoveries of men to be exalted above the wisdom of God... Satan has succeeded in making the world believe that the words and achievements of men are of great consequence.

3 RH 9 Satan has his specious devices through which he purposes to crowd false brethren into the church...

3 RH 83 Satan has many devices whereby he holds us back from rendering prompt and unquestioning obedience to God... How many at times have been deeply stirred, and yet because duty demanded a sacrifice, they have tampered with their conscience and have not made the decision God sought to have them make... They have debated in their minds, saying, "Shall I obey the voice of God that bids me shake off the lethargy of the world, and escape from the world as did Lot from Sodom, or shall I listen to the voice of the world that cries peace and safety to my soul? Shall I wait for a more convenient season?" All the sophistry of Satan is bound up in that one word, "Wait."

3 RH 130 Parents are to devote their time to teaching children to be useful, how to be a blessing to others. Where this is neglected, Satan early takes the children into his school, and teaches them his hellish arts. Jesus spoke of the synagogue of Satan. He has a religion that he teaches, and those who learn in his school soon reveal the fact that

he is their teacher.

3 RH 211 Satan seeks continually to lead unstable souls to unite with him in thinking evil and speaking evil of those who will not be turned from the truth.

3 RH 256 Satan well knows that the combined strength of satanic agencies with that of evil men is but weakness when opposed to a band of faithful, united servants of the great King, though in number they may be few.

3 RH 441 Satan will seek earnestly to intercept every ray of light coming from the throne of God, and will place his own darkness for light. It is he who prompts the keen criticism, the satanic accusing.

4 RH 530 Satan has artfully devised many ways of keeping men and women under his influence. He leads them to weaken their organs by... perverted appetite and by indulgence in worldly pleasure... liquor, tobacco, the theater... and many other evils are numbing man's sensibilities and causing multitudes to turn a deaf ear to God's... entreaties.

1 ST 299 Every person who cherishes a known error, in faith or practice, is under the power of sorcery, and is practicing sorcery on others. Satan employs him to mislead other souls...

1 ST 321 No stronger evidence can be given of Satan's delusive power than that many who are thus led by him deceive themselves with the belief that they are in the service of God... He (Satan)... exerts a wizard-like power upon the minds of all who do not implicitly trust and obey God. It is this moral infatuation, which steals their hearts against the influence of the Holy Spirit...

1 ST 425 The mind left to itself, uncultivated, is generally low, sensual, and corrupt. Satan improves his opportunities and educates idle minds.

1 ST 437 ...but whatever tends to draw the mind from the love of Jesus, whether it be the deceitful heart within or an ensnaring world without, is of Satan, and will bring darkness and death.

1 ST 469 Satan cannot control minds unless they are yielded to him. But those who depart from the right are in serious danger. They separate themselves from God and the watchcare of His angels; and the prince of darkness... begins to present to them his deceptions... If they see the snare, and try to free themselves... it is not an easy matter... Those who have tempted the devil to tempt them cannot free themselves ... without making a desperate effort. But when they begin to work for themselves, angels of God, whom they have grieved, come to their rescue...

1 ST 313 Satan will make strong efforts

to sweep from the earth those who uphold purity and piety.

1 ST 344 It is Satan's studied plan to clothe sin with garments of light to hide its deformity, and make it attractive. And ministers and people professing righteousness unite with the adversary of souls to help him in his plans.

1 ST 415 Satan uses some professed Christians to lead souls from the simplicity of the gospel.

2 ST 59 Many have forgotten the past record of our old adversary; soon they will cease to regard him as an enemy at all, but will look upon him as a friend, one who is doing a good work; under his specious, bewitching influence they will obey the worst impulses of the human heart and yet believe that God is leading them.

2 ST 59 There is another who claims to be the prince of this world; and very few have any idea of his activity and subtlety... The ruin of souls is his delight and his only employment. But his step is noiseless, his movements stealthy, and his batteries masked... One of his most successful devices, is to keep men ignorant of his devices; for they will not be on their guard against an enemy of whose existence they are ignorant...

2 ST 420 An enchanting power has been at work, stealing away the senses of man, deadening all his powers, so he may not be able to respond to high and holy things... The sorcerer, Satan, has been putting his spell upon men... A beguiling infatuation controls the reason and men do not love the Saviour, and so refuse to do His will...

—E K- Zambia

**“As a man thinketh in his heart,
so is he.**

**The thoughts and feelings
cherished give direction to the
conduct, and thus
determine the character.**

**A strong, well-balanced
character is built up by
faithfulness in all the smaller as
well as the greater acts of life.**

**A man is measured, not by the
power put forth in some one great
effort, but by the zeal and
integrity which he brings to the
daily round of cares and
responsibilities.**

{ST, June 30, 1881 par. 3}

Letters—Uganda and Australia

Uganda

We had an excellent meeting which started on 23 Aug, 2015, for one week. Many live testimonies were borne. This camp meeting is always conducted once a year to bring together brethren within the region to share Christian experiences and to plan how best to press forward for the cause of Christ. A number of separated home churches were represented as they heard that we would discuss the issue of unity in K___. A cross section of ministers presented different lessons to impress upon the people the present truth message, I was one of them. I told the brethren that we must have simplicity of faith and perfect trust in Unity of believers as in John 17 for church under SRA church organization. SRA meant 'Sabbath Remnant Alliance.' I felt urged by the Spirit of God to speak plainly that our setbacks as a "Remnant Church" of the last days were the variant views, positions which are extreme and others being at lax! As I got time to speak, the brethren would see the "straight chain of Present Truth" message with harmonious connections, link after link of scriptures and SOP uniting into a great whole body of Christ. From our very first efforts, it was evident that the Lord had been preparing His people to take a more decided stand as a united body and take a participatory role in this sacred work. The works of the Lord are to be onward and we agreed to let our variances be closed up; take our position on the Lord's side, and move on till victory crowns our efforts.

I mainly took up lessons on the 'Sanctuary message' which I planned to project and make a difference in the Camp meeting by substituting a campfire with projected lessons! I mainly occupied the late evening time and thereafter we would close with prayer before sleep. I hired a PA system and a generator that proved of great value when conducting meetings because even if people would not come to the venue physically, they would hear the message from where there were, covering a distance of about 4 square Km! Bro. J__ and L__ helped with the funds to hire the PA system, generator, and buying fuel. This meeting went on well as I felt the Holy Spirit impressing many to accept unity. We believed that your prayers and support helped us accomplish that which we wouldn't have been able to manage by ourselves! Many felt the need to have all our

churches united for the edification separated movement church in these last days.

"Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men... And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."

Unfortunately, I contracted malaria from there which kept me down for about 2 weeks. I used local herbs to treat the fever which went down slowly but steadily. R__ and I__ helped to give direction on how to administer these herbs. Also many prayers from the brethren in the D__ were offered to help me get better fast as the work that awaits us here in Africa looks big. Praise God that your prayers were answered and I got up strongly to join our brethren in M__ district who were doing tract evangelism. Bro N__ and K__ were working in this area and on 22nd Sept, 2015, I joined them to make a united front in this canvassing work. This area has a majority people who are of a higher class and therefore the message of present truth on tracts proved to do better. I saw the work was very much appealing to get many tracts be given out on door to door system as we send others to do the follow up work. This work is from an inspiration of working together as a united church and calling upon brethren from others places to join others in their local villages. Our aim is to be as economical when doing this work and using a simpler method as God impresses each one of us. Bro. ___ is now left with a task of organizing a bible class to explain in great detail our message of present truth to about 10 people who stood with us until they are ready for a baptism class.

Thanks for your prayers and support for Christ's cause in Africa [Uganda] without which less would be achieved.

God bless you

JN

Australia

Dear Editor,

I felt I must write and tell you how much my house-mate and I are uplifted by "The Sabbath Remnant Voice Magazine." I think I may have mentioned before how much we enjoy your Editorials, and the reports from our brethren in other parts of the world—mostly from Africa, it seems.

I would now like to add to that your "Health Nuggets," which I particularly enjoy, having been somewhat of a "nutrition freak" for about 50 -55 years. As such, I have seen many ideas come and go, and many ideas completely changed. In fact, very recently I was on-line, Googling the latest nutritional information. At least, I thought it was "the latest," although I was a little puzzled by some of the statements that were made.

When I investigated further, I found that some of the claims were from 5 and 6 years ago. That wasn't much good to me. So much more research has been carried out since then.

So now you can see why I value your "Health Nuggets" so much—little gems like the "What Is Cabbage Good For" series, Sweet Potatoes, and, of course, your recipes! Please DO keep them coming.

With appreciation and thanks,

Sr L

Evil thoughts destroy the soul.

**The converting power of God
changes the heart,
refining and purifying
the thoughts.**

**Unless a determined effort is made
to keep the thoughts
centered on Christ,
grace cannot reveal itself in the life.**

**The mind must engage in the
spiritual warfare.**

**Every thought must be brought into
captivity to the obedience of Christ.**

**All the habits must be
brought under God's control.**

1MCP 235.3

Christian Service—Chapter 3 Continued

A Self-complacent Class

There was presented before me a class who are conscious that they possess generous impulses, devotional feelings, and a love of doing good; yet at the same time they are doing nothing. They possess a self-complacent feeling, flattering themselves that if they had an opportunity, or were circumstanced more favorably, they could and would do a great and good work; but they are waiting the opportunity. They despise the narrow mind of the poor niggard who grudges the small pittance to the needy. They see that he lives for self, that he will not be called from himself to do good to others, to bless them with the talents of influence and of means which have been committed to him to use, not to abuse, nor to permit to rust, or lie buried in the earth. Those who give themselves up to their stinginess and selfishness, are accountable for their niggardly acts, and are responsible for the talents they abuse. But more responsible are those who have generous impulses, and are naturally quick to discern spiritual things, if they remain inactive, waiting an opportunity they suppose has not come, yet contrasting their readiness to do with the willingness of the niggard, and reflecting that their condition is more favorable than that of their mean-souled neighbors. Such deceive themselves. The mere possession of qualities which are not used, only increases their responsibility; and if they keep their Master's talents unimproved, or hoarded, their condition is no better than that of their neighbors for whom their souls feel such contempt. To them it will be said, "Ye knew your Master's will, yet did it not.—Testimonies, vol. 2, pp. 250, 251. {ChS 36.3}

Satanic Death Stupor

God's people must take warning and discern the signs of the times. The signs of Christ's coming are too plain to be doubted; and in view of these things everyone who professes the truth should be a living preacher. God calls upon all, both preachers and people, to awake. All heaven is astir. The scenes of earth's history are fast closing. We are amid the perils of the last days. Greater perils are before us, and yet we are not awake. This lack of activity and earnestness in the cause of God is dreadful. This death stupor is from Satan.—

Testimonies, vol. 1, pp. 260, 261 {ChS 37.1}

Unbelief, like the pall of death, is surrounding our churches, because they do not exercise the talents God has given them, by imparting the light to those who know not the precious truth. The Lord calls for the pardoned souls, those who rejoice in the light, to make known the truth to others.—General Conference Bulletin, 1893, p. 133. {ChS 37.2}

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 37.3}

Men are in peril. Multitudes are perishing. But how few of the professed followers of Christ are burdened for these souls. The destiny of a world hangs in the balance; but this hardly moves even those who claim to believe the most far-reaching truth ever given to mortals. There is a lack of that love which led Christ to leave His heavenly home and take man's nature, that humanity might touch humanity, and draw humanity to divinity. There is a stupor, a paralysis, upon the people of God, which prevents them from understanding the duty of the hour.—Christ's Object Lessons, p. 303. {ChS 37.4}

Satan uses the listless, sleepy indolence of professed Christians to strengthen his forces and win souls to his side. Many who think that though they are doing no actual work for Christ, they are yet on His side, are enabling the enemy to pre-occupy ground and gain advantages. By their failure to be diligent workers for the Master, by leaving duties undone and words unspoken, they have allowed Satan to gain control of souls who might have been won for Christ.—Christ's Object Lessons, p. 280. {ChS 38.1}

When I study the Scriptures, I am alarmed for the Israel of God in these last days. They are exhorted to flee from idolatry. I fear that they are asleep, and so conformed to the world that it would be difficult to discern between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not. The distance is widening between Christ and His people, and lessening between them and the world. The marks of distinction between Christ's professed people and the world have almost disappeared. Like ancient Israel, they follow after the abominations of the nations

around them.—Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 277. {ChS 38.2}

Spiritual Discernment Dimmed

And not only in the world do we see the result of the church's neglect to work in Christ's lines. By this neglect a condition of things has been brought into the church that has eclipsed the high and holy interests of the work of God. A spirit of criticism and bitterness has come into the church, and the spiritual discernment of many has been dimmed. Because of this the cause of Christ has suffered great loss.—Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 297. {ChS 38.3}

I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people. The Lord has not closed heaven to us, but our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God. Pride, covetousness, and love of the world have lived in the heart without fear of banishment or condemnation. Grievous and presumptuous sins have dwelt among us. And yet the general opinion is that the church is flourishing, and that peace and spiritual prosperity are in all her borders. The church has turned back from following Christ her leader, and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God is leavening our churches everywhere. Satan would have it thus.—Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 217. {ChS 38.4}

A State of Spiritual Weakness

Accumulated light has shone upon God's people, but many have neglected to follow the light, and for this reason they are in a state of great spiritual weakness. It is not for lack of knowledge that God's people are now perishing. They will not be condemned because they do not know the way, the truth, and the life. The truth that has reached their understanding, the light which has shone on the soul, but which has been neglected or refused, will condemn them. Those who never had the light to reject, will not be in condemnation. What more could have been done for God's vineyard than has been done? Light, precious light, shines upon God's people; but it will not save them, unless they consent to be saved by it, fully live up to it, and transmit it to others in darkness.—Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 123. {ChS 39.1}

The Need of Heavenly Eyesalve

The churches need to have their eyes anointed with the heavenly eyesalve, that they may see the many opportunities all about them to minister for God. Repeatedly God has called upon His people to go out into the highways and hedges, and compel men to come in, that His house may be full, yet even within the shadow of our own doors are families in which we have not shown sufficient interest to lead them to think that we cared for their souls. It is this work lying nearest us that the Lord now calls upon the church to undertake. We are not to stand, saying, "Who is my neighbor? We are to remember that our neighbor is the one who need our sympathy and help. Our neighbor is every soul who is wounded and bruised by the adversary. Our neighbor is every one who is the property of God. In Christ the distinctions made by the Jews as to who was their neighbor are swept away. There are no territorial lines, no artificial distinctions, no caste, no aristocracy.—Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 294. {ChS 39.2}

Fanaticism and Cold Formalism

Satan is now working with all his insinuating, deceiving power, to lead men away from the work of the third angel's message, which is to be proclaimed with mighty power. When the enemy sees that the Lord is blessing His people, and preparing them to discern his delusions, he will work with his masterly power to bring in fanaticism on one hand and cold formalism on the other, that he may gather in a harvest of souls. Now is the time to watch unceasingly. Watch for the first step of advance that Satan may make among us.—Review and Herald, Jan. 24, 1893. {ChS 40.1}

There are moral icebergs in our churches. There are plenty of formalists who can make an imposing display, but cannot shine as lights in the world.—Review and Herald, March 24, 1891. {ChS 40.2}

Narrowed by Selfishness

The reason why God's people are not more spiritual minded, and have no more faith, I have been shown, is because they are narrowed up with selfishness... It is not the abundance of your meetings that God accepts. It is not the numerous prayers, but the right-doing, doing the right thing, and at the right time.—Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 36. {ChS 40.3}

Covetousness

Yet some refused to be converted. They were not willing to walk in God's way, and when, in order that the work of God might be advanced, calls were made for freewill

offerings, some clung selfishly to their earthly possessions. These covetous ones became separated from the company of believers.—Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 126. - {ChS 40.4}

Not One in Twenty Prepared

It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner. They are professedly serving God, but they are more earnestly serving mammon. This half-and-half work is a constant denying of Christ, rather than a confessing of Christ. So many have brought into the church their own unsubdued spirit, unrefined; their spiritual taste is perverted by their own immoral, debasing corruptions, symbolizing the world in spirit, in heart, in purpose, confirming themselves in lustful practices, and are full of deception through and through in their professed Christian life. Living as sinners, claiming to be Christians! Those who claim to be Christians and will confess Christ should come out from among them and touch not the unclean thing, and be separate... {ChS 41.1}

I lay down my pen and lift up my soul in prayer, that the Lord would breathe upon His backslidden people, who are as dry bones, that they may live. The end is near, stealing upon us so stealthily, so imperceptibly, so noiselessly, like the muffled tread of the thief in the night, to surprise the sleepers off guard and unready. May the Lord grant to bring His Holy Spirit upon hearts that are now at ease, that they may no longer sleep as do others, but watch and be sober.—General Conference Bulletin, 1893, pp. 132, 133. {ChS 41.2}

Revival and Reformation Needed

Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by diligently studying the word of God, and striving to conform their lives to its precepts... God calls for a revival and a reformation.—Prophets and Kings, p. 626. {ChS 41.3}

A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work.—Review and Herald, March 22, 1887. {ChS 41.4}

The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place. When this reformation begins, the spirit of prayer will actuate every believer, and will banish from

the church the spirit of discord and strife.—Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 251. {ChS 42.1}

A revival and a reformation must take place under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from the spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.—Review and Herald, Feb. 25, 1902. {ChS 42.2}

Do not the Scriptures call for a more pure and holy work than we have yet seen?... God calls upon those who are willing to be controlled by the Holy Spirit to lead out in a work of thorough reformation. I see a crisis before us, and the Lord calls for His laborers to come into line. Every soul should now stand in a position of deeper, truer consecration to God than during the years that have passed... I have been deeply impressed by scenes that have recently passed before me in the night season. There seemed to be a great movement—a work of revival—going forward in many places. Our people were moving into line, responding to God's call.—General Conference Bulletin, May 29, 1913, p. 34. {ChS 42.3}

—to be continued

The season of temptation,
under which, it may be,
one falls into grievous sin,
does not create the evil
that is revealed
but only develops or
makes manifest that
which was hidden and
latent in the heart.

As a man
"thinketh in his heart,
so is he;"
for out of the heart
"are the issues of life"
(Proverbs 23:7; 4:23)—
MB 60 (1896). 658
2MCP 657.4