

**FROM BABYLON
THE GREAT
TO THE
ETERNAL GOSPEL**

MY JOURNEY

*“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying,
Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins,
and that ye receive not of her plagues.” Rev. 18:4.*

By
Pastor Raphael Perez

*“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, And a light unto my path.”
Psalm 119:105*

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CHAPTER ONE

“YOU ARE MY LAST HOPE”

I was born in the Dominican Republic—a Catholic country on the west side of the island that was first discovered by Columbus in 1492. Columbus was so happy to

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discover the island of my that he called *Isla Espanola* (Spanish Island) or “Hispaniola”

in English. My Catholic family traces its roots back to Spain. The first Perez was one of those very strong Roman Catholic “missionaries” who was sent to spread the Catholic faith among the natives of Hispaniola. They were so strong in their faith that they named the capitol of the western part of the island—*Santo Domingo*, meaning, “Holy Sunday.” This loyalty to the Catholic faith runs in my family. I not only have a second cousin, who has been a priest for over fifty years, but also an aunt, who has been a nun for that same length of time! Another family member was appointed to serve as a cardinal!

I was the youngest of 10 children—eight boys and two girls. My family lived away from any large town or city. We were very poor. We were so poor that I went barefoot until I was 13. Our house had a thatch roof and so we could collect only a little water from the rain falling off the roof. So instead, we had to get our water from the river which was two miles away! When I was seven years old, I was given the task of taking our donkey with empty



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containers to get water for the family twice a day. My older brothers would put me on the donkey, and friends at the river would help me fill the containers with water. I treated my donkey kindly, but once I got too close to a neighbor's donkey that didn't know me. Without warning he kicked me in the face. I thought I was dead! Unbelievably, I only lost my front tooth.

Since my mother always wanted one of her children to become a priest, my personal family was always visited



My Father & Mother

regularly by priests. Like Samuel searching among the eight sons of Jesse for “David,” they wondered who among my mother's eight sons would be their prize. My two oldest brothers were expected to be ones who would become priests, and they both were sent to the Catholic seminary. My oldest brother spent most of his youth there. But in God's providence, neither was ordained into the priesthood—both realizing that they had no deep interest in such an outcome—and so each decided to go in another direction. My other five brothers had no desire to be priests either. That left me. Since I was the youngest son in the family, my mother would often remind me that I was her “Last Hope.” Thus, as I grew up, it was expected that I would fulfill my mother's wish. In fact, there was no choice—I was going to be a priest! When I arrived to my teenage years, my parents sent me to the Catholic seminary. By that time, there were some priests who were already well acquainted with me (and all my family) because they use to be students with my two oldest brothers. One of them (now a Bishop) became a very close friend to me, and until today, he still believes that I should “come back home to the Mother Church.” I have tried to witness to him and other priests, by sharing the beautiful truth for this end time, but in their minds they think that I have gone crazy for not following

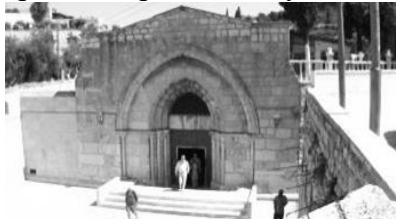
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my Mother's will, which they see as God's will. But I am getting ahead of the story.

One thing I should tell you. Being Catholic, we were not encouraged to read the Bible on our own. Rather, we were discouraged from doing it. Everyone was told that you would go crazy studying the Bible by yourself, especially the book of Revelation, unless you were under the guidance of a priest/counselor. And so I didn't know what the Bible taught at all. I thought that the horrific teaching of Purgatory was in the Bible. We were told that when you die, if you were good, you would go to Purgatory and there you would have to burn for your sins for hundreds of years. But if you were bad, then you would burn eternally in hell. This became a great burden to me in my mind. Would God burn my good Catholic mother for 500 years? This false teaching was used to persuade young men, like me, to become a priest. I was told that if I became a priest, I would be able to intercede for my mother so that her time in the consuming burning fire would be shortened. But I wondered, How much shortened? From 500 to 499 years? Even if God shortened the required time to only one year of burning, to me that would make our loving heavenly Father the biggest monster in the universe. When we don't understand the nature of our loving Heavenly Father, we will follow Him by fear.

They would say to me—"A priest is special. Mary will look at you as she looks at Jesus."

(Later I learned the truth that Jesus is our only Priest and that Mary is not alive in heaven, but resting unconsciously in her grave. Some think she rests in a place called "Mary's Tomb"



Mary's Tomb

at the foot of the Mt. of Olives.) Later, I was very much comforted when I learned what the Bible said: "And many of them that **sleep in the dust of the earth** shall awake, some to

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everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” Daniel 12:2.

“Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch **David, that he is both dead and buried**, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day. ...For David is not ascended into the heavens.” Acts 2:29, 34. If anyone should be in heaven, it would be David, whom the Bible calls “a man after God’s own heart.” 1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22.



Before I knew this truth, even when I was in the seminary, I would ask, “What if I get use to the fire in hell?” The students would laugh. But it was a big issue to me. Very big. A great weight was continually on my mind and heart. It was an ugly feeling. I wanted to love God, but how could I? I kept seeing pictures and movies of people burning in agony forever. This terrible threat made me horribly afraid of turning away from Catholicism because of the “Monster” that it had created in my mind and the minds of millions of others. The devil was portraying “god” to me as even worse than Satan. Satan at least kills someone. But this “God” will keep you burning in torment for eternity. Living with these doctrines caused great stress and mental fear. You went to mass, prayed the rosary, whatever, just to get a little relief. God was the heavenly Father, but at the same time, a “Monster.” Leaving that kind of faith and belief cannot be done without a big struggle. I kept wondering, “How good do you have to be to avoid Purgatory?” We were told that everyone goes to Purgatory. Only Mary, who was born “immaculate,” escaped.

“Catholic theology is just what we say it is,” said the priests. “You are not smart enough to ask any questions. If the church says a white handkerchief is black. It is black.”

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No one, including the clergy, can question the doctrines or



place the Bible above any teaching or creeds of the Roman church. And no one could study the Bible on their own without the church's guidance.

Many times I have had the opportunity to sit down with Roman Catholic priests and show them clearly the meaning of the whorish woman of Rev. 17. They see it and understand it because the words of the Bible describe exactly what you see in the Roman Catholic Church system! But on more than one occasion they have admitted that although they would easily come to the same conclusion as I did, they themselves could not, and would not, take a position independent of the interpretation of their Mother Church! They chose rather to stay in the system that they clearly saw was identified by God in His Word as the "Mother of harlots." Rev. 17:5.

Thoughts of hell and of purgatory were a continual burden on my mind with no escape in sight. But little did I know that help was soon to come from an unexpected source.

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“IT WAS A MIRACLE THAT I FOUND YOU”

I was 13, a young man, when I started to attend the Catholic seminary in the Dominican Republic (DR). They like to recruit young men, as young as possible, to brain wash them about how good it is to be a priest. They kept implanting in my mind, and many young men, the thought that God Himself was calling us to be priests.

I had been attending the seminary for several years when my father left the Dominican Republic to live in the state of New Jersey. In those days it was very easy for someone from the DR to leave the country and remain legally in the US. My mother stayed with me on the island while I continued to attend the seminary. Sometime in the 70's, before I graduated, my father wanted to bring us to the states to visit him and other family members. My mother was afraid to allow me to do that even with her. She dearly wanted me to be a priest and did everything she could to make sure that I would finish the seminary school in DR.

But our trip to America to visit my father and other relatives was part of an unforeseen bigger plan the Lord had for me. And this plan, unknown to me, involved my old friend, “Diego” [not his real name] with whom I had lost contact with for at least five years when he had moved to the US earlier. Diego was about seven or eight years older than me. (I always associated myself with older people.) We were close friends in DR, but after he moved to New York City, I never heard from him again. At that time, it was harder to keep in touch with someone in another country. A phone call to the Caribbean was very expensive, and there were no cell phones, internet, or social media. In those days, in the ‘70’s, we only had a literal

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book of phone numbers, a phone-book, which contained the White pages (for individuals) and the Yellow pages (for businesses). A phone book was only for the city you lived in. Not many immigrants were in this book. And so if lived in another city, let alone another country, you were almost impossible to find. But there was



one avenue of communication more ancient than the phone. It's called the "grapevine"—the inter-connections of family, relatives, and friends talking together.



It just so happened, that as my relatives talked among themselves and told other friends, eventually Diego heard that I was visiting somewhere in New Jersey, which was very close to New York City. When he heard that I was nearby, Boom!—an idea came to him! You see, God had been working in his life. Diego had grown up Catholic, too, like me, but when he came to the New York, he made some friends, who studied the Bible with him and taught him many amazing things about the gospel, Jesus, and Bible-prophecy. He had not forgotten me. And now, it was like he heard God saying: “Go and share the beautiful truths you’ve been learning with your friend, Raphael, before he goes back to DR and back to the Catholic Seminary.” Diego was so strongly impressed that God wanted him to find me that without knowing any address or phone number, and without waiting, he took off by faith, confident that God would lead him. This was part of the great miracle of how God put everything together in my life.

Diego knew that there was a Dominican club in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, where my father was living. He figured that somebody in that club would know where my parents were, or where someone in my family was, or maybe even where I was. So he took off from NY on Saturday afternoon on a bus to

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get to a train, and then took the train from NY to NJ arriving in Perth Amboy about 7:00 pm on a dark winter night. He wondered how he could find the Dominican Club. Perth Amboy is a dense neighborhood, and so Diego started looking, walking up and down the busy main streets of Perth Amboy....

Meanwhile

That same day, which happened to be a Saturday, I had been providentially invited by one of my cousins to come to the same Dominican club in Perth Amboy. "I want you to meet some of my friends," he said jokingly. "Maybe I'll be able to introduce you to a nice girl and you'll forget about this nonsense about becoming a priest."

That cousin was a very secular minded person, almost an atheist. So that day, after shopping in the afternoon, I took a long nap (very providential, too). Then, in the evening, I went to the club with my cousin. By 11:00 that night it was getting very hot and stuffy inside. The heater was set very high. The club was full of smoke from cigarettes. (In those days that was normal.) I have an allergy that is triggered by the heat and I could feel my skin crawling. So I told my cousin and some other friends, "Hey, I've got to go outside to get some fresh air."

And as I came out of the building onto the dark street, I could feel the cool fresh air. It felt so good. All of a sudden I noticed down the way across the street, a form of a person walking in the night through the shadows, coming toward me. I saw him looking at the top of the buildings, reading the signs, as if he was looking for something, some place. Something about his walk, the bounce in his step, seemed



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so familiar. Immediately my long-lost friend from DR came to my mind. I wondered, “Could that be Diego?” Then I noticed that he started looking at me, too, as I stood in front of the club. We both looked at each other from across the street. I started to cross to where he was on his side of the street, and as soon as I did, he started walking to my side. As we got closer and closer, we recognized each other for sure. With smiles and tears, we embraced in the middle of the street. People thought we were drunk.

I asked him, “What are you doing here, Diego? I haven’t seen you for a long time! C’mon let’s go inside the club. I’ll get you something to drink. Or to eat, have you eaten?” It was a chilly winter night, not freezing, but still it was a bit chilly.

He said, “No! It’s good to see you too, old buddy. I left this afternoon from New York City and I’ve been looking for you all night, going up and down these streets, but now I’ve finally found you. I have something very, very important to share with you tonight—things that are vital for you to know! God impressed me to find you and tell you these things. It’s urgent.” I noticed he had a little black bag with something inside. I thought he had something to drink in there like alcohol. But it turned out to be “the living water of life”—a Bible.



I said, “OK, we can talk inside the club.”

He said, “No, no, no. I can’t go inside the club. I came to speak to you without interruption and with no music blaring. I need your complete attention. And Raphael, just to find you now is one of the biggest miracles of my life! Now I know that without any address or phone, God has led me to you.”

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So when he refused to go in with me, I dashed back inside to tell my cousin that I had to talk to my friend who had come from NY just to see me. In a few minutes, I was back. I had not the slightest idea of what was about to happen. I thought that Diego was going to talk to me about what was going on in his life in NY, or maybe about some girl he met, or that he might even try to convince me that I should not be a priest. (I was a very normal young man. And I had quite a few people telling me that I was wasting my time to be a priest.)

He took me to stand underneath a street light and then turned to me. “What I am going to share with you,” he said, “will either change your life completely, or if you reject it ____.” He didn’t say, “You will be lost,” but he did say, “It would be very shameful for your life in the eyes of God.”

Then he reached into his bag and held out a Bible. He told me that from his study of the Word of God, he saw that he could no longer attend a Roman Catholic Church. He shared with me that he had discovered many truths in the Bible that I should know about. “If you really want to be a Catholic priest, I think there are some things you should know before you go back to the seminary. You should know what I’m about to share with you from the Bible.”

I said to him, “But how can you read the Bible by yourself?” (Remember, I was warned not to read the Bible alone, but only if you’re guided a priest.)

When I asked that question, he said to me, “No, that is one of the biggest deceptions of the RC Church to keep the people deceived—people like you and me. The Bible is like a letter from your loving Father. It can be understood under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, so we need to pray before we go on.” That thought (that I could understand the Bible on my own guided by the Holy Spirit) was so new, that I was not convinced right away. Nevertheless, after we prayed, I immediately

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started experiencing what he was telling me—something so sweet, so good, that I have no words to describe it! Because that night there was not one thing that he was presenting to me that I did not understand. I saw it! By the grace of God, I saw every point—every single point.

“One of the very first things you should know,” he said, “is that if you want to be a priest, a minister for God, the Bible says that you must be married to a wife.”

“It does?” That sounded too good to be true. “Show me that in the Bible. Where is it?”

So he turned in his Bible to this verse and read it to me:

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife.”
1 Timothy 3:2

And then he found this one:

“Ordain **elders** in every city, as I had appointed thee;
If any be blameless, **the husband of one wife....**” Titus 1:5,6.

When he read the passages above from Paul in the NT—I saw it very clearly. It said a bishop “must be.” It was not an option that God was giving to us. It said, “Must be.” By God’s grace, I understood it right away.

But then it occurred to me, “Maybe that’s because you have an Evangelical Bible. Maybe it’s in your Bible, but not in my Catholic Bible.” (See how ignorant I was about the Bible. My only concern at that point was to know if my Catholic Bible said the same thing, but I didn’t have that Bible with me that night.)

But he reassured me, “When you go home you will see that it’s there, too, and then you will see it even more clearly.”

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I was very happy to hear that God wanted me to get married, because I was a normal young man. “But if that is true,” I asked, “why have they been deceiving so many young people, so many priests? Why did the Catholic Church change that? Why don’t they practice what the Bible teaches?”

He knew about the history of the Catholic Church and its stand on matrimony and celibacy. He said that up to about 1000 AD, all the clergy, even the popes, were married and had wives and children, but then the Catholic Church under Pope Gregory VII made the rule that the priests should remain single and be celibate. This change didn’t come from the Bible, but they made the rule on their own authority. It was a time of plagues and many priests were dying. The church leaders wanted to avoid having the priests’ family becoming a burden to the church. They wanted to make sure that when a priest died, everything he owned would go to the church. In many cases this was not, and still is not practiced by the clergy, who often pass on huge sums and large properties that were given to them by poor and ignorant people, or by the government authorities, to their families.

(Later on, I read more about the subject myself and saw that it was indeed one of the many traditions that the Catholic Church brought into their organization, most of which came from paganism. With this rule forced on the clergy, no wonder that Satan has led so many young men into homosexuality, pedophilia, etc. And these crimes are more rampant in Latin America than here in North America, because in those strong Roman Catholic countries the fear of the church authorities is greater. It is normal for priests all over to have children. Not too long ago, while I was holding some meetings in Nicaragua, a bishop was caught abusing several children. The president of Nicaragua at that time, said to the press, “Don’t you even dare talk bad about my Bishop. He’s my bishop.”)

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Then I really wanted to ask Diego about the biggest burden on my heart, “How can you, as a young man, be so attracted to the Bible when it tells that God will burn good people, even His own children, in Purgatory, and wicked men and women forever in hell? The Catholic Church teaches you that it is good to be a Priest because you can shorten the time in the burning flames of Purgatory for your friends, for your family, and for yourself.



He looked at me and said, “I will give you 500 dollars even to find the word ‘purgatory’ in the Bible!”

I said, “Maybe not in your Bible.”

He said, “No, even in the Catholic Bible there is no such a thing in all the 66 books.” (I noticed that he did include the Apocrypha.) He assured me that there is no such thing as eternal hell. All those teachings were brought into the Catholic Church to help them manipulate the fearful minds of the people who did not know what was taught in the Bible. Thus, the Church could control their lives, and become more and more rich.

“God is a loving heavenly Father and would never punish someone to burn for eternity for what he did in a brief earthly life.” He showed me the truth in Rev. 20 and other verses that the wicked would suffer the penalty for their own sins and experience the “second death.” Fire from heaven will fall on them and burn them to ashes. I saw that there was no limbo, no purgatory, and no “eternally burning hell.”

[SEE APPENDIX A— THE TRUTH ABOUT HELL.]

God is so good. My friend Diego had been studying the Bible with some Spanish-speaking Adventist people in NY.

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But he did not talk to me about a church. He just shared with me the truths throughout the Bible that night. He was proving to me with the Scriptures that I must be married to a woman, that there was no Purgatory or eternal hell-fire, and that the RC church was, as he called it, “the biggest institution of deception, the most corrupt institution, that Satan has set up in this world.”

My friends who are reading this, I saw that the church was making a lot of money from its teachings that put the fear into the people. Many priests don't do this on purpose. They really believe that they have the power to shorten the punishment of their friends and relatives.

Diego even told me, “I'm going to show you tonight how even the pope is called the Anti-Christ in the Bible.”

I thought, “Man, this guy is saying something so tough,” it shook me up. For me to hear those things, and later on throughout the night, being able to read it with him from the Bible, it shocked me! I was so excited to see everything, but it shook me up so much, that for several days I could not eat or sleep well. I literally became sick.

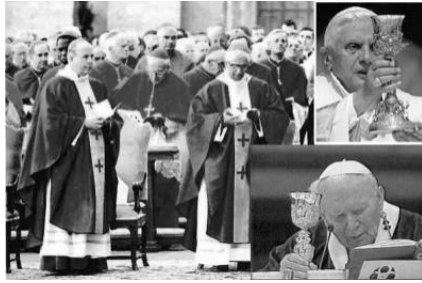
[SEE APPENDIX B— AN ERA OF SPIRITUAL DARKNESS.]

Then after that he took me to Rev. 17:1-5:

“And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast,

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full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads
and ten horns.



4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

Revelation 17:1-5

“I am going to show you tonight,” he told me, “that the Bible describes the Roman Catholic Church as the Mother of harlots, as the mother of all unclean things on the earth, and as the cage of every unclean and hateful bird. The church system for which you want to be a priest, is the biggest institution of deception—the most corrupt institution in the world—according to the Bible.” But he also careful to point out that God had many good people in that organization and that He in His mercy was calling them to come out of the fallen Church system. “Look here at Revelation 18:1-4:

“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with His glory. 2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. 3 For all nations

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have drunk of the wine of the wrath of **her fornication**, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of **her delicacies**. 4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, My people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”
Revelation 18:1-4.

There I was able to see a clear picture of the Roman Catholic Church as an institution (not the people in it) so clearly. **The colors of blue and scarlet! The golden cup!** I saw the picture, in my mind, of the priest holding the golden cup every place where the mass would be conducted. I saw it. I heard the call of my loving Father in Rev. 18:4, “Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and receive of her plagues.” I heard the call to come out of this den of lions. I saw that God did not want me to become a priest. Instead, I wanted to become a true minister for Christ and my loving Father in heaven.

[SEE APPENDIX C— THE LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE THREATENED.]

He explained to me how that our sins must be confessed only to God and not to a human being.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” **1 John 1:9.**

“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I

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acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight.” **Psalm 51:1-4.**

“I acknowledged my sin unto Thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.” **Psalm 32:5.**

Then he shared with me the truth about the Seventh-day Sabbath and how the change of the Sabbath came about, and how it was even predicted in Daniel 7:25! There was no internet at that time, but he brought with him a copy of the article in the Encyclopedia Britannica. “Look,” he said, “This is history, how the change of the Sabbath came about through Rome in 321 AD with Constantine and the Bishop of Rome.”

The Encyclopedia Britannica—“There is no evidence that in the earliest years of Christianity there was any formal observance of Sunday as a day of rest or any general cessation of work.” 1911 Edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, Article: “Sunday.”

This was another bombshell. I was shocked!

**[SEE APPENDIX D—
THE TRUE BIBLICAL SABBATH VS. SUNDAY.]**

He showed me how the apostles kept the Sabbath. Even Luke, who not only wrote the Gospel of Luke, but also the book of Acts, talked about the Sabbath being a commandment of God:

“And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and **rested the [Seventh-day]**

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sabbath day according to the commandment.

Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher.”

Luke 23:56—Luke 24:1.

And Luke was a Gentile! Not a Jew! And he wrote thirty years after the crucifixion!

The Second Coming, the State of the Dead, the prophecy of the Anti-Christ—all these new things he explained to me from the Bible as we lingered there under the street lamp. These were powerful truths that confronted me for the first time ever in my life. I didn't question them. My only question, I told him repeatedly throughout the night, was, “If I can find those Bible verses in my Catholic Bible, I will no longer be Catholic.”

Whenever I would say this, he would look at me and ask, “You're promising me, right?”

And I kept saying, “Yes, I promise you.”

He would shake his head. “I don't know how you're going to deal with your parents and your cousins, and your family? They are going to hate me; and disown you.”

I told him, “I can't even think about being a priest anymore. As a matter of fact,” I said, “Let me take all the gems of truth in your pamphlets. Give me all your magazines and booklets that you have.” He handed me a whole bunch of pamphlets and magazines dealing with the end-time prophecies that he had brought with him.

When I found out that Purgatory was an invention, that the Seventh-day (Saturday), not Sunday, was the true day of worship, and that God is not a “Monster” that was ready to burn us forever, it felt like a big burden, a huge weight had rolled off of me. “Please forgive me, God, for thinking of you as a Monster,” I prayed and then thanked Him for giving me the

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light just in time before I had gone back to the Catholic seminary. “And thank you for sending Diego to find me.”

Now it was about 4:00 am. I felt everything he had told me was true. He said, “Now go, and read it in your Catholic Bible at home.”

**[SEE APPENDIX E—
WHAT IS DEATH?]**

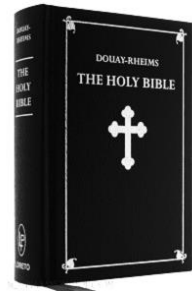
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WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, MY SON?

It was a good thing I had taken a nap before I went to the club that night, because Diego talked to me until the sun was just beginning to lighten the sky. I walked him back to the bus station. Afterwards, I felt like I was walking on the air with so much biblical truth being discovered in one night. So as the new day dawned, a new day was dawning for me spiritually as well. I was a new man. I experienced a “resurrection” on that Sunday morning, the first day of the week, before the sun rose.



As I aimed my way back to where I was staying, I was eager now to check out from my own Catholic Bible the hundreds of Bible verses that he had given me. The first thing I would do would be to make sure they were in my Catholic Bible—that was my only concern. I was desperate to know for sure about state of the dead, that a true minister should be married, and the many other things that I had learned from Diego. So as soon as I got to my room, my search began. And sure enough all those Bible texts that Diego showed to me from his Bible were there in my Catholic Bible as well! Many of them were even clearer than in his Evangelical Bible. I was rejoicing to know that there was no such thing as an eternal hell, no Purgatory, and that everything that Diego had shared was biblical truth.



I told my Mom what happened, kind of. She knew I went to the Dominican club, but I did not tell her the whole story. I was afraid to share with her my new discoveries. She saw me

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reading the Bible—the same Bible she gave me to read only under the guidance of the priest. For the first time in my life I was reading it by myself—under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. (I still have that dear Bible.) She said nothing. But now another burden was coming—How would I convey the blessed news, the beautiful truths, to her and my father, my brothers and sisters, and the rest of the family and my Catholic friends? I hoped that when they saw these truths they would immediately accept them. Little did I expect the reaction I received.

After I checked out my Catholic Bible and saw that all the truths were there, I reasoned, “Since all this is in my Catholic Bible, I am going to send a compilation of all these biblical truths to my counselors and friends in the seminary. Maybe they have not been exposed to all this truth and have never seen what I saw because no one ever shared with them. So I’ll just share with them the material that Diego gave to me.”

So, a few days after, I went to the copy store, and sent out five large manila envelopes to my closest friends in the seminary—packets filled with some excellent studies from magazines and other booklets, along with a nice letter asking them to study these things for themselves. I also prepared another nice packet and sent it to one my closest counselors that I had in Dominican Republic. I thought that they all would see the same thing that I was seeing. I even hoped that when they did, I would see the biggest revival in the whole world. I expected big things from these people because they were men who were so learned in the Bible, but I had forgotten that they were taught to place the church traditions and man-made teachings above the Bible.

To my surprise I never received a word of answer from them. Instead of responding to me, they only sent a letter to my Mom.

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They wrote, “We are sad to have received the letter and material that



This is me with my aunt nun and other relatives. I shared the message with her, but she insists that I should go “back home” to Catholicism. She loves me and of course, I love her, too. She was my baby sitter before she went to the convent.

Raphael sent to us. Our best advice to you is that maybe you should take your son to the closest psychiatric doctor to help with his mind. We think that your son may have gone crazy.” [In a sense, they were right. I knew I went crazy, crazy for the Lord and His end-time messages.] When

she read the letter, she looked up at me, shaking her head, “What have you done my son?”

I saw only opposition from all my friends, and priests, and parents, and friends—everybody. From the overwhelming experience of rejection I was going through, Somehow I felt that my case was surely mentioned somewhere in the Bible.

And indeed it was. I found it later in Matthew 10:16-25. In a strange way, it was comforting to know that God knew:

“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. 17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; 18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for My sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought

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how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. 20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. 21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. 22 And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. 23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come. 24 The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. 25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?" Matthew 10:16-25.

My cousins, friends, and family thought I was crazy, too. "Please," they told my mother, "Try to get him some medical help; as fast as possible."

I continued reading, studying, and sharing. Several times I went to the local priest to share these truths, hoping that he would see it, too. But he kept telling me, "Raphael, you are not the same person. If you think you found the truth and are happy, then follow it through." My Mom was very upset when she heard what he had said. My Mom was said to be more Catholic than the priests, even the pope.

But God in His mercy had sent Diego and the message of truth to me, because He knew I would heed His call to come out of Mother Babylon. When Diego shared Rev. 17 with me, I saw myself in Babylon and shivered. I saw that **if** I had

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remained in the Roman Catholic Church, one day I would have the golden cup in my hand full of abominations to give to the people instead of the Word of God.

“And the woman was **arrayed in purple and scarlet color**, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, **having a golden cup in her hand** full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication.” Rev. 17:4.

CHAPTER FOUR

“WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY?”

My friend, Diego, did not tell me about any church, but he did show me Luke 4:16:

“And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up: and, as His custom was, **He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day**, and stood up for to read.” Luke 4:16.

I wanted to be like Jesus! That is why I first wanted to be a priest. I thought they followed the example of Jesus. But now, when I read how Jesus went to the Synagogue on the Sabbath day, not Sunday, I wanted to find a synagogue to go to like Jesus did. I saw that I could not be a priest and follow Jesus at the same time.

The Sabbath question was so clear in my mind that I had to find a synagogue, preferably a Spanish synagogue, in New Jersey. I shared what I had discovered with my cousin. I asked if he knew of any in the Perth Amboy area, and invited him to come with me. He laughed and said, “No. I’m not going, but I’ll see if I can find one for you.”

Before the next Sabbath, on Tuesday, my cousin pointed out a building to me that said they meet on Saturday from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. He thought it must be a synagogue, because he was confused like most people, believing that Saturday was only for the Jews. The “Jewish” Sabbath was really made for all mankind by Jesus at Creation two thousand years before there was any Jew! It is still the Sabbath for all mankind. The command to keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy is part of the

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Ten Commandments and is just as valid today for all men on earth as the other nine. (I hope by this time that you have read Appendix A, B, and C in the back of this book.)

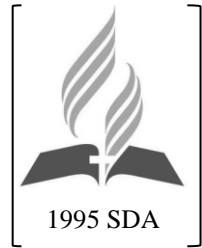
The “Spanish synagogue” that my cousin found for me was really a Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church, but neither he, nor I, knew this. Even when I arrived at that church that Saturday morning, I thought it was a Jewish synagogue.

All that week I was also reading the book, The Great Controversy, that



Old SDA Logo

my friend had given to me, but it did not mention any name of a church, just “Sabbath-keepers.” Even though I saw the sign outside,



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“Seventh-day Adventist Church”—and saw the sign with the globe and the three angels—I did not know it was a church. (Now as I write this, I wonder how or why they got rid of that symbol? It is so distinctive and clear! Instead, they made a logo that has nothing distinctive.)

By 9:15 am on Saturday morning, I was there at the door. I met an elder who was greeting the people that morning. “Is this a synagogue?” I asked.

He looked at me with surprise, and smiled, “What do you mean?”

I told him what had just happened to me the week before—how my friend shared with me some mighty truths, that I had been attending a Catholic Seminary, but now I wanted to be like Jesus and keep the Sabbath like He did.

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The greeter smiled and said, “This is not a synagogue, but you have come to the right place. Come on in!”

I attended their “Sabbath School,” and then their Divine Worship Service. Afterwards, the church members invited me to stay for the fellowship meal. I was happy to hear that. While we ate, the pastor and the elders of that church came to me and asked, “Would you be willing to share your testimony with us this afternoon at 3:00?” I was surprised at their interest and told them that I’d be happy to do that.

News travelled fast! Over 200 people came to hear about my recent experience! Even the President and the Spanish Coordinator in New Jersey Conference were there to hear my testimony! I continued to attend that “synagogue.” After a few months passed, the Conference leaders came to me again, and asked, “What would you think if we told you that we want to prepare you to be a true minister and send you to another seminary?”

I didn’t know what he was talking about. “What do you mean?” I asked.

“Yes, we have decided to help you to attend one of our institutions—another seminary in Puerto Rico. There, you can become a real priest, a real minister! We believe the Lord is leading in your life in that direction.”

I thought, “Oh, my, my! What will my parents think? My mother! She’ll have a heart attack!”



The seminary they were talking about was, of course, part of the Adventist University in Puerto Rico. I accepted their invitation, and after four years, was able to finish my pastoral training. Shortly after

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graduating from the Seminary, I was assigned to help a very spiritual pastor (one of the old school) in his evangelistic crusade. After working together for two weeks, he asked me if I would pray to if to see if it was God's will that I should marry his only daughter! This could be a much longer story, but all I will say is that if we are faithful to God, He will lead us to the right person for each of our lives. I was led to a jewel of a Christian wife, and by God's grace, Norma and I have been married for over 30 years and she has been my faithful helpmeet in the ministry.

CHAPTER FIVE

A SPEAR TO MY HEART

After I had finished my training at the SDA seminary in Puerto Rico, I went back to New Jersey and helped in an evangelistic effort for about three months. From there I went down to Florida where I was several times offered the opportunity to work as a pastor in a local church, but for a very strange reason that I didn't understand at that time, I could never accept. Instead of starting to do what I always wanted to do, I felt a huge, overwhelming fear to be a minister and started to run away from it. The position of being a minister seemed too sacred to me, and I was not worthy for it.

I practically spent the next ten years running away from God's calling—literally. During that time I worked for the Palm Beach County in Florida as a case worker for Family Services. But God is so merciful that, without me knowing it then, He was still preparing the way for me to become a self-supporting minister. During that time when I thought I was running away from God, and from the ministerial position, I got into real estate because I didn't want to be a burden to the church. I had a family with two children by that time.

But while I was doing counseling as a social worker in the state of Florida, and while I got involved in Real Estate, I would dedicate a month of every year, to do public evangelism with either the black conference or the white conference. Both conferences had a Spanish department which was overseen by a "Spanish Coordinator." Because they knew of my testimony, the Spanish leaders from both conferences were continually reminding me and asking me when I would join their conference and take the position of a minister. But I kept running away from the duty that I knew I had to do. I wanted to

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make sure that I didn't have any debts. After ten years, I was able to pay off my home. By then I was finally ready for the Lord to speak to me.

In 1990, one of my good friends, an independent-minded pastor from the SW Michigan area, who always asked, "How long are you going to run away from the ministry?" called and said, "There will be a very spiritual camp meeting in FL this weekend. I know that you will really like it. You need to go."

"Which conference is holding it?" I asked.

"Neither," he replied. "It will be held on a farm."

"A farm?"

"Yes. It will be very different from what you are used to, but it will be very spiritual. Do all you can to make it.

"Where?"

"It will be at Umatilla, FL. Two of the speakers will be Ron Spear and Colin Standish. Elder Spear use to work at the top for the Gen. Conference. Now he's retired."

"Okay, I'll try to be there."

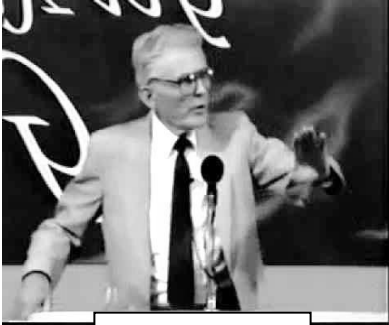
He gave me directions to get there and so, at the end of the week, I took my wife and two daughters and headed up to the camp meeting on this "farm." It was early afternoon on Friday when we arrived. We didn't know what to expect. And as we came up the long gravel road to the farm, there it was, a huge tent! There were some cars parked in order on the grass nearby. We parked beside them, and as we got out of our car, we heard some beautiful music coming from inside the tent that created a very spiritual atmosphere. (I remembered the last Conference camp meeting I had attended at Camp Kulaqua the year before.

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At the main 11:00 am service, instead of a sermon, they had a **magician** on the stage. I was so discouraged—I determined I would never go to a camp meeting again.) But here I was surrounded by beautiful music, and the contrast was shocking. As we walked in under the tent the atmosphere was heavenly and reverent. You could sense the true meaning of the Sabbath that was coming.

I found a seat on the front row. I always try to sit up front because I heard that more spiritual seeds will land on the front rows than in the back. My friend had told me: “I am sure that the messages you’ll hear will change your thoughts about the ministry completely.” And then he added: “You will hear Elder



Pastor Ron

Ron Spear, who always has a very important message.” And Ron Spear happened to be the first speaker. He was sitting on the front stage, a thin white-haired man. Then he got up and spoke energetically about “The Last Generation.”

“Jesus is about to finish His work in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary. He is looking for a last generation who, by faith in Jesus, will experience victory over every known sin, and reflect Christ’s character to a dark world,” he told us.

As I listened to his words, I felt a strongly agitated. For the first time in my life my body began to shake—uncontrollably! I tried to stop, but couldn’t. I tried to squeeze myself, but still I was shivering. The message was so convicting to me. I knew that I could not run away from the ministry any longer.

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Elder Spear also talked about the human nature of Christ—that it was like ours! It was the first time in my life that I heard that Jesus came in our fallen human nature—to be our Example, and to give us victory in our life. It was so clear! “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same.” “For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren....” Hebrews 2:14, 16-17.

This was directly the opposite of what I had been taught. Both in the Catholic seminary in Dominican Republic and at the Adventist Seminary in Puerto Rico, I had been taught that we were born in sin and could not overcome sin until Jesus came in the clouds. I would often ask my professors, “But what will we do during the time after probation closes and before Jesus comes? What if I sin between those times? Will I still be saved?” I asked this even at the Adventist seminary. There was one verse they always rested on. The answer was always the same—Phil. 4:19—that “God would supply all our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” But somehow that didn’t seem to me to be a right interpretation of that verse. If God could supply all our need then, why not now?

Stirring messages on Righteousness by Faith, The Three Angels Messages, and The Cleansing of the Sanctuary, continued to be presented that Sabbath morning on that farm.



Then on late Sabbath afternoon, the light around the tent grew dark. All of a sudden, a huge wind and storm came upon the campground. The winds blew the tent this way and that way and the poles that supported the tent toppled to the ground. The canvas roof came crashing down upon us. We were covered! Under the tent, there were overturned chairs, and

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songbooks and tapes, and people crawling upon the ground. While I tried to protect my family, I had to crawl with my hands and knees on the ground to find and lead them somehow out of the chaos and twisted fallen canvas. At the same time, Ron Spear was also crawling under the tent, and somehow, we met face to face! He looked up at me and said, “Young man, it appears to me that God is doing something in your life. Can we have a time to speak together later?” I said, “Yes, absolutely.” So there, on our hands and knees under the tarp, he quickly prayed with me and set aside a time to meet.

Later in the evening, we had the chance to talk together. I told him that I had been running away from the ministry for all those years. I also shared with him my testimony about what happened to me in NJ—how the Lord in a very providential way, brought me to this message.”

After he listened to my testimony, he said, “No doubt, the Lord has a ministry for you to do.”

When he said that, the Spirit directed his words like “a spear” to my heart. I felt that God was definitely telling me that now was the time to accept my calling to become a minister—I couldn’t run away from Him any longer. A woe was on me if I did.

Somehow, the winds and storm quickly blew over, the tent was reared back up again, and the meetings continued the next day. That beautiful camp meeting ended in the afternoon, and by late Sunday night we were arriving back home. As soon as we walked through the door to my home, the phone rang. The Caller ID identified the caller as the Spanish Coordinator from the South Eastern Conference. I thought, “Oh no, how did this man already find out that I was at the self-supporting camp meeting run by people he thinks are ‘offshoots’?” I knew that the camp meeting was not sponsored by either conference. And I knew that Ron Spear was being labeled as an “offshoot”

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speaker by the Conference. I thought he was calling me now because he had heard that I had gone to this independent camp meeting, and was upset with me. I picked up the phone. “Hello!”



“I need to meet with you and your wife tomorrow night,” he told me. “Will you be home?”

“Ahhh..., yes.”

“OK, great. I’ll meet you about seven o’clock.”

Then he had a prayer with me over the phone and hung up. I began to wonder what I should do. I told Norma, my wife, that I would not say anything about the camp meeting that we had just attended. But when the Spanish Coordinator came to my home on Monday evening, I found out that he didn’t know anything about the meeting at Umatilla. He had something else on his mind. He first prayed with Norma and me, and then he said,

“This coming week, you will be our pastor with the congregation at **West Palm Beach!**”

I always said that if the Lord wants me to full time ministry I would not have to send any application or resume begging for work. God is God, so why would I have to beg for work. And now the Spanish Coordinator just told me that I would be the pastor of a new congregation in the **West Palm Beach** area where I was living. He did not ask me for any application. He didn’t ask me for a resume. Since he had heard me preaching for several years at his and other Adventist churches, he knew about me. He just came to my home and told me and my wife that I was the pastor next Sabbath! He continued, “You are the man for this job. You are going to work under my supervision.” (Since the Spanish do not have their own Conference, in many

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conferences local pastors work directly under the Spanish Coordinator—meaning that they are hired and supervised directly by the Spanish Coordinator.)

This was providential if anything ever was. I couldn't believe his words when I was listening to him. There was no way that I could say that God was not calling me at that point. I then told him that God was speaking to me just that weekend! This man didn't know anything about the Umatilla meeting. He didn't know Ron Spear. He couldn't even speak English at that time. So there was no way that they could have talked with each other. Only God, my wife, and I knew it. So when he called me right after that on Sunday night, and gave me the call to be a pastor on Monday night, I knew that it was God who was calling me—that it was not a coincidence. It was too big to be a coincidence in my life. My friend finding me in NJ was a major providential event in my life, but this was just as big as that.

Then after we had prayer together, I told him in front of my wife that I would call him the next day. He went back to Miami, and both my wife and I discussed the offer, and agreed that I should accept. There was no argument about it. We also decided to tell him what happened at the camp meeting. The next day when I called him, I told him what happened that weekend with me at the camp meeting. His reply was a real surprise:



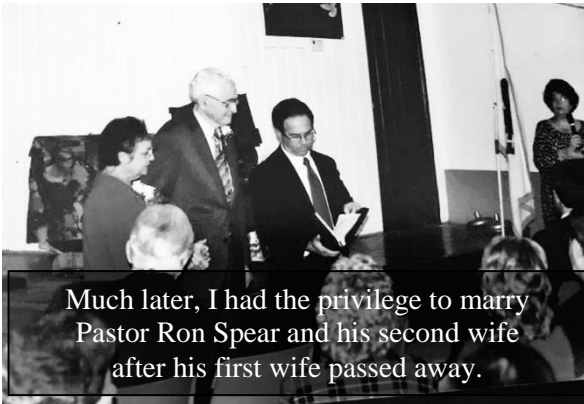
“You see how God works! He is good. I knew nothing about that, but God knew, and He is interested in you. Now I know that you hear the voice of God. I am glad to hear that the meetings were so powerful, and I'd like to invite that minister (Ron Spear) to come to my church (a large congregation of 500 members) in Miami, too. So what do you say? Are you willing to accept?” he asked?

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“Yes, I accept your wonderful invitation as from God. The woe of God would be on me if I refused. By God’s grace, I accept. Thank you very much,” I replied.

That same week, I resigned from all my worldly work. I deactivated my real estate license immediately, and since that time, **it is public record**, I have never renewed my real estate license. That was another miracle.

I knew that God was working and again I thought that there would be a great revival. A lot of people and families started to come to our new congregation in WPB. But there was no revival or reformation in the Conference churches. Time went on, and 18 months later the Spanish Coordinator’s interest began to wane. I did not understand fully what was taking place. The Spanish co-Ordinator never invited Ron Spear. “We must be careful who we invite.” he kept telling me. But I am getting ahead of the story. Let me go back a little bit.



Much later, I had the privilege to marry Pastor Ron Spear and his second wife after his first wife passed away.

CHAPTER SIX

“WHAT IS YOUR SHORT AND LONG TERM GOAL?”

When I became the pastor of the new WPB SDA church, we started with a small group of 25, but soon it grew to about 300 with all represented—Black, White, and Hispanic.

Not too long after I was assigned to this new congregation, I was invited to a Conference Worker’s meeting where this same Spanish Coordinator asked me a question in front of the other Spanish ministers, “Can you tell us what is your immediate and your long term goals as a minister.”

I replied, “I brought this book, Evangelism, with me, along with my Bible. Here is a statement that has impressed me so much. It’s on pages 130-131:

“We must take every justifiable means of bringing the light before the people. **Let the press be utilized, and let every advertising agency be employed that will call attention to the work.** This should not be regarded as nonessential. On every street corner you may see placards and notices calling attention to various things that are going on, some of them of the most objectionable character; and shall those who have the light of life be satisfied with feeble efforts to call the attention of the masses to the truth?

“Those who become interested have to meet sophistry and misrepresentation from popular ministers, and they know not how to answer these

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things. The truth presented by the living preacher should be **published in as compact a form as possible**, and circulated widely. **As far as practicable, let the important discourses given at our camp meetings be published in the newspapers.** Thus the truth which was placed before a limited number may find access to many minds. And where the truth has been misrepresented, the people will have an opportunity of knowing just what the minister said.

“Put your light on a candlestick that it may give light to all who are in the house. If the truth has been given to us, we are to make it so plain to others that the honest in heart may recognize it and rejoice in its bright rays.—*Evangelism, page 130.*”

I could relate to this quotation. It was very close in my own experience, because what my friend, Diego, brought to me years before was a whole bunch of pamphlets and papers detailing all these end-time prophecies and the Three Angels messages. So immediately I identified myself with this counsel in Evangelism. It reminded me of Revelation 14 where the angels are seen **flying in the midst of heaven!**

“And,” I said, “I want to see a radio program broadcast all across Florida through which the Three Angel’s Messages of Revelation 14 can be preached.”

[See Appendix F— **THREE ANGELS MESSAGES.]**

After reading the quotation and stating my goals, I looked around. Everyone was silent. I didn’t understand. I thought they would be excited. But it was just like in the Bible days when the disciples were huddled together “for fear of the Jews,” there was literally in 1990 a “fear of the Romans [papal Rome]”

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which I did not know existed until that moment. So nobody liked the quotation and my goals, except the Spanish Coordinator, who had arrived in this country not too long before. At this time he was still excited for the message.

Shortly afterward, I asked the Coordinator if he would be the speaker for the radio program over a secular radio stations, and that I would help to raise the funds to pay for it. He had a beautiful voice, perfect for radio. But he kept insisting, “No. Since God has put that in your heart, you should be the one to do it.”

So I went ahead and signed my first radio contract with a super-AM-station with 50,000 watts in Miami that reached most of Florida and parts of the Caribbean, including Cuba! A couple millionaires had set up that station especially to send messages from Florida to reach



communist Cuba. Our radio program still goes out today from that station by God’s grace! God has provided us over \$2,000.00/month just for that station alone for the past thirty years! Shortly after that, God opened up other doors on other stations, English and Spanish, going from Florida across the United States to California.

As this book is being prepared, the Lord has also provided the means for a national/international TV program called “The Voice of the Eternal Gospel,” on Christian Television



Network (CTN) which is aired weekly through five satellite TV stations covering about 80% of the globe, including the Vatican! One time recently when I went as a tourist to the

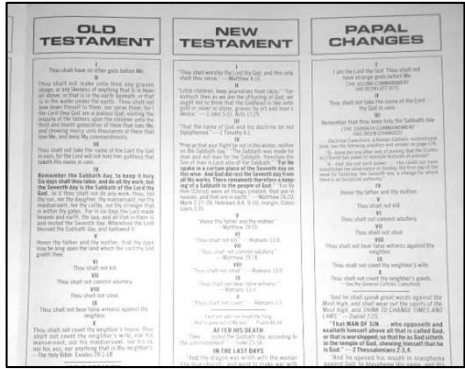
CHAPTER SIX

Vatican to get some visuals and documents to use on our TV program, we watched our own program in our motel room!

And then, while I was still connected with the Spanish Coordinator, I followed God’s counsel in the book, Evangelism, and went to the regular newspaper in my area, called the *Palm Beach Post*, and paid for a full page ad that contained a study called “The Law of God.” This was a reprint of a pamphlet that was being sold in all the Adventist Book Centers (ABC bookstores) in Florida. It compared the law of God—the Ten Commandments—as found in the Old Testament and New Testament with the Ten Commandments as taught in the Catholic Church. We bought it from the ABC in Miami. But when it was seen in the newspaper, it caused a big disturbance to say the least.

The leadership of my own dear church did not approve, to say the least, which was quickly made know to me. The Florida Catholic Diocese was enraged—against it! And they trembled.

By 11:00 am on the morning that the newspaper came out, we were getting phone calls from Conference leaders, and the newspapers. An hour later the TV and radio stations we calling us, wanting to do an interview. To me, it was like God trying to bring a true revival from the eastern part of Florida to the rest of North America. The following Sabbath, we had people from the media, even Catholic people, starting showing up for our church services. Whole Catholic families began to study with us, and some of them even got to be baptized into our church. That evening, the news on TV had a report about our newspaper message that shocked the world!



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But sadly, the leadership denied the message and repudiated the work that God was doing through our WPB, FL, church with the little pamphlet found in the Conference ABC store. In fact, the General Conference removed the pamphlet from all the ABC's in America. By God's providence however, before they did that shameful act, more than one news-reporter was able to confirm that what we had published was indeed, not our own work, but was something that had been published by the Gen. Conf. of SDA church for years. To many people, this was a revelation of the SDA church's new position that they had been hiding—that the SDA church was ecumenical and wanted to be identified with the mainline, fallen-Protestant, evangelical churches in America and the world.

In the very next day after the publication in the *Post*, the Director of the Dept. of Communication from the General Conference of SDA in Silver Spring, MD, called our office and asked, "Who gave you the authority to publish that article?" Of course, we answered to him and all other "authorities" of the SDA church who asked the same question, that God has commanded all of us to preach the truth of the law of God, and expose the deceptions of the Man of Sin.

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and **that man of sin be revealed** [meaning: 'exposed,' or 'make it known'] the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." 2Thess. 2:3,4.

"In the very time in which we live, the Lord has called His people and has given them a message to bear. He has called them **to expose the wickedness of the Man of Sin** who has made the Sunday Law a

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distinctive power, **who has thought to change times and laws**, and to oppress the people of God who stand firmly to honor Him by keeping the **only true Sabbath**, the Sabbath of Creation, as holy unto the Lord.” Evangelism, p. 233.

That same week, the Secretary of the Inter-American Division, who was a friend to the Spanish Coordinator in Florida under the black conference, called me from Miami, and asked: “What’s going on with you? It seems like you’re not good at following orders. By what authority do you do this?”

I said, “Why do you say that to me? What do you mean?”

“Well, what you’re publishing. You did not have our authority to do that,” he replied. “You were told to stop putting out those messages.”

I asked, “Do you know what article I put out in the paper?”

Then he replied, “I am not asking. I don’t know. I don’t want to know. The question is, ‘Why are you not following orders?’”

I said, “Let me tell you what we did. I put a sheet of paper called ‘*The Law of God*’ in the *Palm Beach Post*. The church sells these pamphlets right there in the ABC. That is not my message. If I’m buying it from the ABC, I thought it was for us to give to the public!”

I tried to read the quotation to him to prove that somebody must be doing this type of work. And the more I tried to do this, the more opposition I was getting. The only thing I got, instead of a Biblical answer, was more rejection.

“No, but you were told not to do this,” was his constant reply. “You didn’t ask permission. We are not giving you the

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authority to do that, and because we are not giving you the authority, **you have to stop**. Period. Tell me who gave you this authority to do that? Was it the Spanish coordinator? My question to you is, Did he give you that authority? Yes, or no! That's it."

I said to him, "No, no one but God gave us this authority. We did it because we can see in God's Word that we should do that."

So I saw that my "good" relationship with the leadership was coming to an end. All these phone calls and interrogations, smelled to me like Roman Catholicism—Controlling. At first, it was so shocking to me. I thought it was our duty to preach all these messages to the world as portrayed in Rev. 14:6-12, by the Three Angels flying in the midst of heaven. The warning about the Beast and the Image of the Beast, is to go to "every nation, kindred, tongue, and people" with a loud voice!

Why should I stop, when no one until the present day, dared to give me an explanation from the Bible, or from the Spirit of Prophecy?

Unfortunately, shortly after that, the Spanish Coordinator, who was so excited at the beginning, turned against me. But the very work they were fighting, has continued to grow in a much larger scale throughout the world by God's grace. The same message has been published, by God's enabling grace, in larger newspapers such as the USA Today, Washington Post, NY Times, Miami Herald, Washington Times, LA Times, **the Eternal Gospel Herald**, and many other papers throughout the United States of America, more than 200 times!

[Please, before you continue, see
APPENDIX G—
WHO AND WHAT IS THE CHURCH?]

CHAPTER SEVEN

WOUNDED IN THE HOUSE OF MY FRIENDS

“**A**nd one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.” Zechariah 13:6.

In 1992, I was summoned to the SouthEast Conference headquarters in Orlando, Florida. The President of the Conference wanted to see me. He had something important to tell me. When I stepped into his office I saw a 62 year-old man in much anguish. Even though he was happy for me to have a church in his Conference that went from a small group of 20-25 people to close to 300 people, white, black, and Hispanic people, all coming every Sabbath, he was deeply troubled.



In front of the two elders that I had brought to be witnesses, and the Spanish Coordinator who came with me that day, he said, “I got a letter,” pointing to a letter with its envelope on his desk. “The leader of the Southern Union has ordered me to stop you. We cannot afford to have this thing going on—we have been receiving complaints from Catholic priests and nuns, evangelical ministers, and our own ministers that you have been ‘stealing their sheep.’ We have to terminate you. You are being cut off from the ministry. This is a letter from the President of the Union. It is an order.”

When I heard that, I said to this nice man as I saw his troubled face, “How can anybody charge me that I am stealing their members? Are they private property?” I took out a pen

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from my shirt pocket, and holding it up, said, “This I can give to you, or sell it to you, or you could steal it from me, but is a pen the same as a church member? Don’t they have a mind of their own to make their own decisions? Don’t we consider all of us as the property of Jesus? Didn’t He say in John 10 that all of the sheep belong to Him? And all the others were thieves and robbers?”

The president actually agreed with me, but **he felt he had to follow orders**. And this “order” may have come from even higher up. (Later, I spoke to the Secretary of the Division, headquartered in Miami, who told me, “That letter did not come from the President of the Union. They received orders from the General Conference.”)

Shortly afterwards, all the church members in our WPB, FL church had a decision to make. If they stayed with me as their pastor, they would not only lose their positions in the church, but would also be disfellowshipped from the Seventh-day Adventist church. For many that would be like losing their salvation.

When I thought about my wife and I being disfellowshipped, I thought I was destroyed. When I was coming home from Orlando, I was crying. That night at my home, I was still weeping. Past midnight, I still couldn’t sleep. Then my wife, Norma, said, “If Elijah and John the Baptist had to do their work from the outside of the ‘church’ of their day because of the opposition of the leadership, what do you expect?—do you have to keep silent?” POW! Like a lightning bolt, Norma’s words both woke me up to the reality, and gave me peace in my heart. It was like a beam of light and hope from God’s throne. It reminded me of a similar time when my friend, Diego, showed to me the truth. Immediately, by God’s grace, I saw the light.

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I heard at that time that the late Marshal Grossboll (a present-truth Adventist minister at that time) had put together a study about “Who and What Constitutes the Church.” I called *Steps to Life*, a ministry run by Marshal and his brother, John, and asked if they could send me that material. It was to me—another huge discovery in my life. When the president said that I was disfellowshipped from the church, I felt crushed. But, Now I saw that the Conference is not the church! **The church is made up of believing men and women—souls—who are standing in the light of truth.** God is not going to come for those who misrepresent God in their buildings and walls of cement. Those who believe His word are His church. The church is “the pillar and ground of the truth.” 1 Timothy 3:15. It was another huge discovery in my life.

[See again APPENDIX F— WHO AND WHAT IS THE CHURCH?]

I wondered how I could convey that truth to the members of my congregation before they made their decisions whether to stay with the truth, or go with the organization. But, sadly, I found out that just like in Christ’s day, the majority decided that they would leave the truth and follow the church leaders.

Later that year, in 1992, the church leader under whom I first interned, became president of the Union in Puerto Rico. He was a good man. When he heard that I was having problems with the conference men in FL, and that I had been kicked out of the ministry, he flew to Miami and came to my house, and invited me to work under him in PR! Whether he was just trying to pull me out of Florida, I don’t know. He said, “I want you to come to Puerto Rico. I will give you a district [2 or 3 churches in an area], because I know you, and I know the passion that you have to share the end-time message to the people. You can come.”

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I thanked him for the invitation, but told him, “I appreciate your offer, but I have a work that God has given me over here in FL. I must continue this work, so I will stay here.”

I am sure that if I had gone there and continued to do the radio and newspaper work in Puerto Rico, he would have had the same pressure as the Spanish Coordinator and the South-East Conference President had had. He would have received a similar letter ordering me to stop me. He would have faced a similar decision—to keep his job with the General Conference, or defend the faith once given to the saints. Unfortunately, just like in Christ’s day and really, in every generation, many officials in the church chose to value the church structure and one’s employment as more important than the truth.

“The mighty shaking has commenced and will go on, and **all will be shaken out** who are not willing to take **a bold and unyielding stand for the truth** and to sacrifice for God and His cause.” *Early Writings, p. 50.*

The shaking is not in or out of a church structure. The shaking is in or out of truth. And the truth for today is the Firm Platform of the Three Angels’ Messages.

“I saw **a company** who stood well-guarded and firm, **giving no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body.** God looked upon them with approbation. I was shown three steps—the first, second, and third angels’ messages. Said my accompanying angel, ‘Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received.’ *Early Writings, pp.258, 259.*

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This is where the **true** Seventh-day Adventist church is standing—in the present truth with Jesus on the firm platform of the Three Angel’s Messages. I didn’t realize it, but the General Conference of SDA had already been shaken out of the present truth, having adopted a false God, a false Christ, and repudiated the work of Christ in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary, in their secret meetings with Walter Martin and Donald Barnhouse in 1955-56. I did not know that these three doctrines were in the first two statements of the 1872 SDA Statement of Principles that James and Ellen White lived with all their lives! I never knew the 1872 existed! I only knew of the 1980 SDA Fundamental Beliefs, but never read them closely or I would have seen that Catholic Trinity is in Belief #2. And ecumenicalism is written right into Beliefs #12-14.

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“YOU NEED TO GO ON A VACATION.”

And so we were all disfellowshipped—me with my entire congregation. Close to 200 people were disfellowshipped at that time from the South-East Conference of the SDA Church. Even those who were members of the Florida (white) Conference were disfellowshipped. No board meetings. No hearings. Just a charge and a decree from the top.

As that was happening, the Spanish Coordinator/VP of the Florida Conference church contacted me. He tried to bribe me to join his Conference by offering me a “real salary,” but first, he said, I had to sign a document stating I would not publish any more newspaper ads about the Sabbath vs. Sunday issue. And, I had to close the radio program. Remember, as a good former Roman Catholic I saw the SDA institution as God’s church. I was taught to respect the church leaders. (The truth about “Who and What is the Church?” was then unknown to me.) At that time, our West Palm Beach SDA church was worshipping in a building that was rented with the option to buy. This same Spanish Coordinator/VP of the Florida Conference came to me and the church board with the secret goal of getting control of the building. When he saw that we would not stop the work that God had entrusted us to do, and that we would not allow human authority to go above God’s authority, he took a different course—one that I never expected—a course that only the dark world would take I later discovered to my shock.

First, he had secret meetings with a couple of my board members—one of whom wanted to be the pastor of my church. They came up with an idea. These trusted board members

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“encouraged me” to go on a vacation to Puerto Rico because according to them, I was overworked and “very stressed.” They even offered to help me fund the trip (which I refused).



At the time I trusted and believed that these board members were my sincere brethren and friends. Since I had been working for more than a couple years without a break, and since my wife’s family was there, I decided to

take their advice, and go to Puerto Rico. While I was away, however, they had pre-arranged for that board member to come in and become the pastor of the congregation, which he tried to do. That was under the guidance of the VP of the Florida Conference at that time.

They even went to the owner of the building, saying that since I was no longer the minister, that she should break up the lease with me, and give it to them. Fortunately, the owner of the church building was a rich, but principled, Italian Catholic lady, who had previously kicked out the priests from her house to defend us. She did not go along with this plea from the Conference and the two board members either, and kicked them out. Instead, she started coming to our church every Sabbath and called me her “pastor.”

The majority of Adventists don’t know what some leaders of the Gen. Conf. are capable of doing. They don’t know. When someone is not walking under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, he’s guided by another spirit. I’ve seen it. How can someone try to break up legal documents? First, that’s against the secular law. The whole congregation knew about it. There was nothing sacred to these men. The man they tried to use to take over the church was one of my elders. The only thing I told this poor man is, “I didn’t know that you were so desperate to become a minister that you would even sell your soul for ‘mess of pottage.’ You could have been a pastor in Tampa or Orlando, where we had other independent congregations.” But

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no, he was willing to work underhandedly to stop the work of God and to see our church be dismantled. Later, he had to confront the hard reality that the Florida Conference was using him as a puppet to hurt God's cause in south Florida. He was never given any church to pastor, or any job by the Conference.

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RUMBLING OF THUNDER: “A LAW-SUIT IS COMING IN 30 DAYS”

For years, from 1992 to 1999, we worked without interruption of any kind from the Gen. Conf. of Silver Spring, MD. We put over one hundred full-page ads in major newspapers around the country. Hundreds of Spanish and English radio programs were broadcast throughout North America. We placed dozens of billboards in different cities in different states. Not to mention the thousands of copies of present-truth pamphlets and magazines that were given out. But in the autumn of 1998 the Catholic Church could not stand it any longer. The late Cardinal James Hickey wrote an open article and published it in *The Washington Times*, September 14, 1998, challenging not just the newspapers at large around the country, but the General Conference of SDA in Silver Spring, MD, that if the Eternal Gospel church in Florida was part of them, they would have to do something about it. Here is the entire article he wrote:

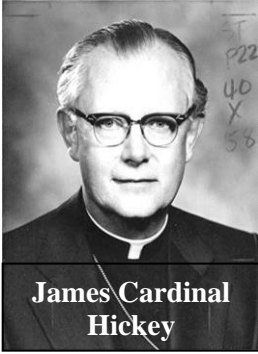


THE ATTACK ON SUNDAY CHURCH-GOING by **James Cardinal Hickey**: ‘Give me that old time religion,’ is the refrain of a once popular religious song. But some things about so-called religion wasn’t so good, especially its anti-Catholic bigotry. One of its worst features was on display in a two-page ad run by a group claiming to be Seventh-day Adventists and published in the *The Washington Times* on Friday, September 11, 1998. This ad was an attack on the Pope.

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It was a throwback to the bad old days when it was perfectly fine to hurl bigoted invective against the Roman Catholic Church and especially our Holy Father.

What “high crimes and misdemeanors” did the ad accuse



the Pope of committing? Simply this: He urged Catholics throughout the world to go to Church on Sunday, the day when the Lord rose from the dead. He wrote a thoughtful, and prayerful letter urging members of his Church to come together to listen to God’s Word, to share in the death and resurrection of the Lord and to receive Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ. He asked

us all to try to observe Sunday as a day of rest and as a precious time for families to be together.

In response, a group claiming affiliation with the Seventh-Day Adventists attacked all Christian denomination which observe Sunday as the Sabbath. But its special vitriol was reserved for Catholics. The ad warned hysterically that the Pope’s letter was an attempt to break down the separation of Church and state by imposing Sunday observances on all. It identified the Catholic Church as the “whore,” the “beast,” and “Babylon”—images in the Book of Revelation for those who have been unfaithful to Christ. The ad accused the Catholic Church of rewriting the third commandment solely on its own authority. This ad is indeed “old time religion: at its worst.

The Church, following the example of the apostles and the practice of the earliest Christian communities, instructs us to gather for worship on Sunday. Participating in Mass on Sunday is indeed a most serious obligation—one that cannot be legitimately set aside merely for the pursuit of leisure or business. But the Church, without compromising its teaching in the least, also instructs us to be tolerant and respectful of the divergent teachings and practices of other faiths—including the practice of the Seventh-Day Adventists to observe Saturday as the Sabbath.

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To say the least, this two-page advertisement was irresponsible. We have to ask who was responsible for giving vent to such blatant anti-Catholicism. And we have to challenge those who can do something about it.

he party most responsible for this piece of bigotry was the framers of this ad: a group which identifies itself as the Eternal Gospel Church of Laymen, Seventh-day Adventist. Was this unconscionable attack sanctioned by legitimate authority in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church? Or was it the work of a fringe group? Either way, the Seventh-Day Adventist Church has the obligation to speak publicly and offer an apology to Catholics and others who observe Sunday as their Sabbath. We respect Seventh-Day Adventists and all believers. But we do not deserve to be publicly attacked for what we believe.

There is another party responsible for this attack: *The Washington Times*. This is not the first time it has published advertising offensive to the Catholic community. On June 27, 1998, it ran this same objectionable ad. Several years ago, it published a number of scurrilous attacks on the schools and catechetical programs in human sexuality. My representatives met with officials of *The Washington Times* to ask them not to accept such irresponsible advertising. It seems clear that those appeals fell on deaf ears.

A newspaper that trumpets truth and values ought to respect these qualities in its own advertising policies. I presume it would not accept an ad from the KKK attacking African Americans. Yet it seems to have no qualms about accepting an ad that attacks Catholics.

Dear readers: If you feel as I do, I suggest that you send a letter or an e-mail to *The Washington Times* asking them to clean up their advertising. Letters are appropriately addressed to: [Address and e-mail given for the Advertising Director of the Washington Times.]

Thanks for your help and interest! See you in Church—on Sunday!

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[Please notice how the Cardinal put pressure both on the General Conference of SDA, and on the newspapers, too. But by God's grace, today we can still publish this message openly in those newspapers. Thank God for the freedom in America to preach the truth. Later, we saw that Cardinal Hickey did not really want that pure old time religion. After he died in 2004, it was revealed that he was a "hider" of known paedophile priests.]

About five months later, in 1999, late in the afternoon while I was doing some work at the office, a very big man was knocking at my door. It was a court deputy looking for me. The very first thing that he asked me was, "I am looking for Pastor Perez."

I told him, "I am Pastor Perez."

He looked at me up and down, wondering who could be suing this kind little man. Then he stuck out his arm and handed me a paper. "Please sign this paper for me," he said. As I signed the paper, he handed to me a big packet, and said, "I'm serving you with these papers. A church is suing you."

As I carried the big envelope back to my office, I said, "Oh, my Lord, Please help me. The Catholic Church finally came against me." After I read the open letter from James Hickey in the newspaper, I expected that the Catholic Church would sue me. But after I opened the envelope, I saw that it was not directly from the Catholic Church, but they were using my own brethren to do their dirty work.

The General Conference of SDA in Silver Spring, MD, had found a way to stop our work. They had trademarked the name "Seventh-day Adventist" under commercial law in 1981. They had successfully tested their strength with lawsuits against little

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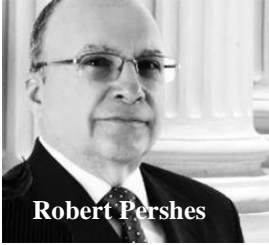
independent churches in Hawaii and other places using commercial law, and now they were suing me for using the term “Seventh-day Adventist” in the name, *The Eternal Gospel Seventh-day Adventist Church*, for our church in West Palm Beach, Florida.

That night when I arrived home, I did not want to communicate this very sad news to my wife and two daughters. Instead, I began to call some of the most experienced Present-truth ministers, trying to receive counsel in view of my situation. Everybody, including myself, was in agreement on one thing—that this was one more attack from Satan trying to stop the work that God had been doing through our ministry. After being counseled not only by ministers, but also by godly attorneys, I found myself with no other choice, but to hire a trademark attorney to represent us before the Federal Court. Even the judge told me that I was not allowed to represent myself in this trade-mark lawsuit.

For those of you who don’t know, a trademark attorney is a very specialized branch of the law. How would I find such a lawyer? In those days, we were still using the Yellow Pages. In our area, the list was very short. Norma and I (and other workers in our office) gathered together for prayer. We asked for a sign that we could find the attorney that God had prepared for us, and all agreed that that sign would be that he/she would say, “Come and see me,” without mentioning money. If they did that, we would know that he/she would be the one that God wanted us to use. Then, after our prayer, I myself started contacting all the trademark lawyers on the list with no positive result—they would all requested a big “retainer” from 12,000 to 20,000 dollars right up front. Finally, there was one more left. Before we called the last attorney on the list, we prayed to God again, “Help us as we make this last call.” After we prayed for the second time, we called the last attorney, Robert E. Pershes, Esq.. When the secretary handed the phone to him, he listened to my brief story and said, “Dear Pastor, why don’t you come to

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my office at 11:00 tomorrow morning. I want to sit down with you and hear more about your situation with your church.” When we heard that, we all thanked God! He found the man to help us.



Robert Pershes

So the next day we met with him and he explained why he was so interested. When he heard that I was a Seventh-day Adventist, he was very interested because he was also a Sabbath keeper—a Jew. And he had also experienced persecution in his Jewish world. Even when he gave me the appointment, I asked him about the retainer. He said, “No, no, no, I just want to hear more about your situation.” God had heard our prayer!

The next morning, what I thought would be a 15 to 20 minute visit, turned out to take three hours of his time with his associate. When noon time came and I was ready to leave, he took me out to lunch and ordered a vegan plate for me. He became our attorney. He said he was willing to take our case even to the Supreme Court. That was also providential!!

A month before the trial began, I receive a surprise visit from Kermit Netteburg, General Conference Communications Director, from Silver Spring, MD (not to be confused with another General Conference in Roanoke, VA, or a couple other

General Conferences elsewhere). He drove all the way by car and met me in my office at West Palm Beach, Florida. “I took off very early this morning, and I drove all the way to meet you. Here I am in your office to have a little talk with you. As



Kermit Netteburg

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you know, there is a law-suit trial coming in 30 days. But we can stop this. I have an offer: You pick out the Conference in the U.S. you'd like to work in, and we'll make sure you get a church there. But, please, please, promise to us that you will stop this."

I said, "But stop what? My brother, What do you mean? You are the ones bringing on the lawsuit. How can I stop it, when you and the Gen. Conf. are suing me?" (This has to be clear, it was not me bringing on the lawsuit. Many have been confused on this point. Even our good brother, Doug Batchelor, wrote to some Florida Bible workers, asking them to pray for "the conversion of my heart" that I would stop bringing this shameful lawsuit onto our church, even though, later on, he honorably apologized to those workers because he had not been given the right information.)

Then Br. Kermit said to me, "You can no longer be putting out those full-page ads, those billboards, those radio programs all across the country. (Obviously he and the Gen.Conf. of SDA leadership (in Silver Spring, MD) had forgotten that this message was to go "to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people" Rev. 14:6). You have to stop that. Don't you know that?"

Kermit was a sweet guy. He reminded me of one of those priests that I use to know at the Catholic seminary. Who was I that the Director of the Dept. of Communications for the General Conference should drive from Silver Spring, Maryland to West Palm Beach, FL, to talk to me, I thought. "Look what I've done for you," he said to me. "This is the first time I've seen you. Please...."

And then when I shared with him the book, The Great Controversy, and the quotes from Evangelism, using the secular newspaper to bring out this end-time message openly, he said,

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“Brother, That’s the problem you have. You are using the 19th century literature to do what you are doing.”

I said, “Brother, how can you say that? That must mean you think the Bible is outdated today. The Bible was written over 2000 years ago.”

When he left my office that afternoon, I knew that he was sad, because I could not be convinced (or bought).

He said: “Well, here is my card. I came to help you. Call me in the next couple days if you change your mind, so we can stop this law-suit” (which I later found out from a retired Gen. Conf. minister, cost the General Conference over six million dollars! And the payments were made using tithe money!)

“You can be a good evangelist, since you like evangelism,” he continued. “But if you don’t want my help, the trial is coming up in 30 days.”

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“THEY JUST PREPARED THEIR OWN COFFIN.”

Kermit was right. The trial came in 30 days! The General Conference legal team descended upon us, including a Roman Catholic attorney—Vincent Ramik! Vincent might be a very nice man, but the Second Angels Message announcing that Babylon is fallen, teaches us to look also at churches as systems and how they relate to the Ten Commandments. In Rev. 17, Babylon is the Mother of harlots. A woman in the Bible represents a church system. The



Vincent Ramik

Mother Babylon is the Roman Catholic Church System. It has daughters, who are the mainline fallen Protestant Churches. Can you imagine!—the General Conference of SDA from Silver Spring, MD, once the organization that was raised up by God to give organization to the proclamation of the Three Angels Messages, hiring a Roman Catholic attorney, Vincent L. Ramik, a member of the Beast system, to try to stop the Three Angels' Messages—God's work for this end-time! To me that was a SHOCK! Even the Jewish attorney that represented us was shocked.

Taking me to court and hiring a Catholic lawyer was going directly against the counsel of God, whom we worship! Paul said:

“Dare any of you, having a matter against another, **go to law before the unjust**, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest

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matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church. I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? **But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.** Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. **Why do ye not rather take wrong?** Why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? 1 Corinthians 6:1-7.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church itself prints a book that has this solemn counsel:

“When troubles arise in the church **we should not go for help to lawyers not of our faith.** God does not desire us to open church difficulties before those who do not fear Him. He would not have us depend for help on those who do not obey His requirements. Those who trust in such counselors show that **they have not faith in God.** By their lack of faith the Lord is greatly dishonored, and their course works great injury to themselves. In appealing to unbelievers to settle difficulties in the church they are biting and devouring one another, to be ‘consumed one of another’ (Galatians 5:15).

“These men cast aside the counsel God has given, and do the very things He has bidden them not to do. **They show that they have chosen the world as their judge, and in heaven their names are registered as one with unbelievers.** Christ is crucified afresh, and put to open shame. Let these men know that **God does not hear their prayers.** They insult His holy name, and **He will leave them to the buffetings**

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of Satan until they shall see their folly and seek the Lord by confession of their sin.

“Matters connected with the church are to be kept within its own borders. If a Christian is abused, he is to take it patiently; if defrauded, he is not to appeal to courts of justice. Rather let him suffer loss and wrong.

“God will deal with the unworthy church member who defrauds his brother or the cause of God; the Christian need not contend for his rights. God will deal with the one who violates these rights. ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord.’ Romans 12:19. An account is kept of all these matters, and for all the Lord declares that He will avenge. He will bring every work into judgment.” Selected Messages, vol. 3, pp. 299, 300.



The court room was packed with people who came to support us. The other side had no one. The



main argument our attorney presented to the court was that here in America we have the right to exercise the form of religion in which we believe, and that “Pastor Perez and his church believe that they should put out these messages openly as Seventh-day Adventists—a name given to them by God.” That argument was our defense.

But the argument from the GC was, “No, your honor, this court should not allow this group to practice what they believe because we have trademarked the name ‘*Seventh-day*

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Adventist.’ They are violating a registered trademark under commerce law.”

My Jewish attorney was stunned. At first I didn’t see what happened. I didn’t understand the implication. It was only later, in a court break, that our attorney called Ron Spear, Colin Standish, John Nicolici, John Grossboll and others together along with me, and said, “Do you understand what they Gen. Conf. attorney is saying in there?” Every, one looked at each other. None of us caught it.

He said, “They just prepared their own coffin. When the Sunday worship is enforced nationally, if any of these men from the GC will try to argue to any federal court in America that the Sunday law is not constitutional because it goes against what they believe God has told them should be practiced, the Catholic Church and the Protestant Churches will say, ‘Wait a minute, here is a court case which you had against Perez and the Eternal Gospel Church where you were begging the judge under oath that the court should not allow Perez and his supporters to practice what they believe. That’s a precedent.’ They won’t have a chance.”

When he said that, I understood. I could see that that would definitely be brought up, if they ever protested a Sunday law. That evening as I drove back to my home in West Palm Beach from Miami, I thought about what happened that day. “Wow, how subtle. Such a cunning way that Satan uses to destroy any escape for them if they ever want to protest against the Sunday Law. They will have no foundation to use that argument in the future.”

As the second day of the trial was ending, and before the trial proceeded further, the judge that afternoon, suddenly stood up from his chair, and gave an appeal. The judge, James Lawrence King, solemnly asked if each side could take some

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time to talk to each other and try to work things out and come to an agreement:

“I thought... that perhaps, perhaps, perhaps, perhaps some resolution of this matter might come about that would save me the agonizing responsibility, my job, which of course I accept and I will do as God gives me the intelligence to do and the insight to do what I have to do, but it would be so much preferable if there could be some sort of resolution of the issues between the parties....



“All I am saying is.... It is just a request. Nobody has to do it, but if you could, we could have the courtroom available and you could stay right here a few minutes. If anybody would prefer not to, that’s fine. I will never know....

“If you all would try to sit around here and in good faith try to work out something. If you can, that’s wonderful. If you can’t there’s no problem. There’s no harm or prejudice to either side in trying. If you resolve something all you have to do is tell me you have. If you haven’t, just tell Ms. Kramer that you haven’t and that’s fine. There’s no prejudice to anybody. You’ve got nothing to lose. Either side. Do I make myself clear? I think I do.”
[Remarks exactly as recorded in The Florida Trademark Trial Transcript, Day Two, March 14, 200, pp. 158-161.]

It was (what I considered) the last opportunity that God would give to the Gen. Conf. of SDA from Silver Spring, MD, to cease persecuting their brethren and repent. But the Gen. Conference of SDA decided to continue the battle under commercial trade-mark law, and would make no compromise.

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After the four-day court session ended, the judge allowed both sides fifteen days to submit any final documents to the court for consideration. One of the documents that were submitted by the Gen. Conference lawyers was “Document #72,” in which the church buildings owned and operated by the General Conference of SDA were actually described as “retail outlets” and church members were said to be “the church attending people (customers).” The church service itself was called the “plaintiff’s products or business...” (p. 6). The General Conference lawyers explained why they had to trademark the name Seventh-day Adventist because “reasonable consumers will mistake the source of their products” (p. 4). They told the court that to allow anyone to use the trademarked name “will bring confusion in the minds of those attending church services (customers)...” (p. 5); and would cause “injury to plaintiff’s business, reputation, and delusion of the distinctive Seventh-day Adventist name.” (p.12).

Judge James Lawrence King in the District Federal Court of Miami finally gave the verdict in favor of the General Conference. We were willing to make an appeal all the way to the Supreme Court in necessary, and so we next appealed to a higher Federal Court in Atlanta, GA. In July, 2000, the same year, 3 judges in Atlanta reviewed all the Testimony, Exhibits and Documents presented in the original trial. Very quickly, they came to a unanimous decision. After close examination of all the material they saw clearly that we were “Seventh-day Adventist believers.” They asked,

“Can Pastor Raphael Perez and the Eternal Gospel Church be identified as Roman Catholic? Or can they be Baptist? No, they are clearly Seventh-day Adventist believers.”

They gave both parties 21 days to come to an agreement. And we both agreed that we could and would call ourselves “Seventh-day Adventist believers” as the 3 judges suggested. The Gen. Conf. agreed to that there would no threat of lawsuit if

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we would use this name. But since God raised up the Seventh-day Adventist Church for one purpose—to give the Three Angels Messages—we feel in our hearts that we are the true Seventh-day Adventist church as long as we continue to do the work that God raised us up to do.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

“PRAY FOR ME.”

My mother fought me for many years, over twenty years. Obviously, she always had on her heart the hope that I would someday come back to the Catholicism. Even after I was already married, she used to tell me, “Well, you cannot be the priest that I wanted, but you at least can be a deacon in God’s church,” meaning the Catholic Church. I could not do that, but I decided that I would just give a good testimony to her as a Christian, and every time that she would give me a chance, I would talk to her about the Three Angel’s Messages, the Sanctuary—all this end-time truth that we have in the Bible. This I did for many years. And plus, some of my brothers use to put the radio program that I had for about 30 years very loud for her to hear, and she would get upset with me. But the Lord has a way to work things out in such a way sometimes that we don’t understand it.

My Mom ended up terminally ill with cancer. It was about 16 years ago, I was visiting her when she was about to die. Obviously I did not know when she was going to die. I had been invited to speak at a 5-day camp meeting put on by another ministry, starting the next day. As I visited with her, I said, “You know, I will decide to cancel my meetings this week because I want to stay with you.”

That day that I was with her, I noticed there was something different about her. She was no longer mentioning or telling me about Roman Catholicism. All she was saying was to pray with her that night. By the way, she had never asked me to pray with her throughout the years since I left the Roman Catholic Church, much less when I became a Seventh-day Adventist minister, which so upset her. She always thought that only a

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priest should be praying for her. But that evening she asked me, “Please, I want you to pray with me tonight.” And so after I prayed for her and with her, she asked me, “Can you please tell me, talk to me tonight about all about all those thing that you have been trying to share with me throughout all the years that I have been fighting with you. Please, I’m sorry, forgive me.”

I noticed that she started crying with tears, and of course, to me, this was such a joyous moment. I couldn’t believe what I was hearing. So I took advantage right away, and instead of a short visit, I spent with her about four hours that evening sharing with her about the truth of the Sabbath, and the truth of the only Mediator between God and us, being Jesus Christ. And to everything that I was sharing with her, she was saying, “Amen, Amen.” It was like God was answering my prayers for years that He would not allow my Mom to go to sleep without accepting our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as her only personal Saviour. She was such a devout Roman Catholic that she had an altar with idols—Mary, Peter, Paul, all those so-called saints—but that evening she was just paying attention to the Word of God coming from my mouth as I was reading to her. And before I left her house that evening, I said to her, “OK, Don’t worry, I can come back tomorrow and we can keep talking. Go to sleep. Now you must be tired.”

And she said, “No, no, no, no, no. Do me a favor. Go to your meetings. You must fulfill your responsibilities that the Lord has been giving you. And don’t worry; when you come back, I will wait for you and keep talking. We’re going to be talking much more.” It was like she was trying to make up with me, or with the Lord, for all the years that she was fighting.

Now let me tell you, those people who knew my Mom, would tell you that she was more Catholic than the pope. That’s what people use to tell me. She was that way (ignorantly of course) because that was the only thing she knew. Her younger sister was a nun, and she had other family members in the

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priesthood. She was very loyal member of the only faith that she knew—the Roman Catholic faith. But that evening things changed for the glory of God!

So I ended up going to the camp meetings that week which were out of the state. I was with my Mom on a Tuesday. The next day, I travelled to the Camp Meeting. The meetings began that night and went on through the week. Everything was going well, but on Sabbath as I was preaching, somebody passed me a note saying that it was very important for me to call back home because one of my sisters was looking for me. I knew right there that something was happening to my Mom. I called and my sister asked me to rush back as soon as possible to Florida because my Mom had been taken to the hospital in a coma.

That was early Sabbath afternoon about one o'clock. I made arrangements with the airline. They were so gracious with me. They put me on the first plane that arrived very early in the morning the next day. I got to the Palm Beach County Hospital about 6 am. As I approached the room, all the family members, and the physician, were there. Mom had had her eyes closed since she went into the coma. But when I entered her room, everybody saw something that they hadn't seen before for the last 24 hours in my Mom's face. For the first time she was able to open up her eyes. She made signs to me to get close to her. She held my hands. Then she opened up her hands and she wanted me to pray with her again. So I did pray with her again in front of everybody. And right after that I couldn't take it any longer; I walked out of the room. A few minutes later, the doctor came out. He said, "Your Mom just went; she passed away."

It was like our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ telling me, "I held your Mom alive till after you came to reassure you that your Mom died in My hands very close to Me and she has accepted Jesus as her personal Saviour! So that was, I would say, the biggest miracle I have seen of the many miracles in my

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ministry with the press, with newspapers, with radio, even with television lately; I have seen the mighty hands of God working.

I have two sisters with eight brothers, so we were ten. My two sisters, by God's grace, were able to come to the faith, too!

I also had the great privilege to baptize my oldest brother, who at one time also attended the Roman Catholic seminary not too long ago! After his baptism, he really liked to listen to our radio program every Sunday morning. But he was not the only miracle! His wife, who is the niece of a Cardinal in Latin America, was another miracle that God enabled me to see in my



Here is a picture of my brother's wife at her baptism, who is giving her testimony about how the Lord worked to get her to hear the truth.

life! This lady was so opposed to me and the ministry and to the message, that every Sunday morning she would run away from the house because she did not want to listen to the radio program that my brother put on. But then one Sunday morning, as soon as she walked out of the house, she heard like a voice saying, "Why do you have so much hatred against My message?" So trembling, she went back into her house. Back inside, she got to a hiding place

behind the door, listening to the message on the radio that day. She did this for a couple of weeks until she couldn't hide it any more, from her husband or from me, so she called me and asked what she should do. We began to study the Bible with her, and soon, she got baptized, too! And now they are both faithful members of our local Spanish church.

So I praise God that the Lord has given us the opportunity to baptize literally hundreds of people throughout the years.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Obviously these dear ones in my family are very special to me because even Jesus said, “A prophet is without honor in his own house.” But by God’s grace and glory, I have seen family members coming into the faith. Yes, the majority of them are still rejecting the message and thinking that I am the black sheep of the family, so to speak, but Praise God, the work must continue. Our faithfulness to this calling must continue up to the end because Jesus is coming soon. He is a God of miracles. His work is wonderful in our life.

CHAPTER TWELVE

CONCLUSION

Dear Reader, I hope and pray that this little book has been a blessing to you. As you have seen, our enemy has tried from the very beginning to destroy and stop what God has called us to do. More chapters could have been added. We may be surrounded by enemies, but, Praise the Lord, there are many angelic chariots of fire surrounding His people. In many locations, big institutions and individuals from outside and inside have tried to take over, hurt, destroy, and make us disappear. Satanic jealousy, envy, and hatred against us has been shown, and is still being seen, especially in people that pretend to be part of God's remnant. To all I want to appeal that there is no more time to play with our salvation, but that we should all come together to be "co-laborers" of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ.

Maranatha. Christ is coming.
Your pastor and your friend, Br. Raphael.



APPENDIX A—TRUTH ABOUT HELL

THE TRUTH ABOUT HELL

“Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” James 1:15.

1. WHAT question does Peter ask regarding the wicked?

“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, *what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*” 1 Peter 4: 17.

2. What does the Bible say is the wages of sin?

“For the wages of sin is *death*.” Romans 6: 23.

“The soul that sinneth, it shall *die*.” Ezekiel 18: 4.

Die: “To pass from physical life; to suffer a total and irreparable loss of action of the vital functions; to become dead; to expire; perish.”—Webster.

3. What will be the character of this death?

“Who shall be punished with *everlasting destruction* from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power.” 2 Thessalonians 1: 9.

Destroy: “ To unbuild; to break up the structure and organic existence of; to demolish; to spoil utterly; to bring to naught; to put an end to: to annihilate.”—Webster.

4. How complete will be the destruction of the wicked?

“Fear Him which is able to *destroy both soul and body in hell*.” Matthew 10: 28.

5. What does Christ say will befall those who do not repent?

“Except ye repent, *ye shall all likewise perish*.” Luke 13: 3.

Perish: “ To be destroyed; to pass away; to become nothing; to be lost; to waste away; to die.”—Webster.

APPENDIX A—TRUTH ABOUT HELL

6. How does the apostle Peter say they shall perish?

“But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and *shall utterly perish in their own corruption.*” 2 Peter 2:12.

7. To what are the wicked in their punishment compared?

“But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: *they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.*” Ps. 37: 20.

Consume: “To destroy; as by decomposition, dissipation, waste, or fire.”—Webster.

8. How does John the Baptist describe the destruction of the wicked?

“He that cometh after me is mightier than I,... whose fan is in His hand, and He will throughly purge His floor, and gather His wheat into the garner; but *He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.*” Matthew 3: 11, 12.

9. For whom does Christ say the fire which will finally destroy the wicked was originally prepared?

“Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, *prepared for the devil and his angels.*” Matthew 25:41.

NOTE.—This fire is called “everlasting” because of the character of the work it does; just as it is called “unquenchable” because it cannot be put out, and not because it will not go out when it has done its work.

10. What will be the result of this punishment?

“As the whirlwind passeth, *so is the wicked no more:* but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.” Proverbs 10: 25.

11. Will any part of the wicked be left?

“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall *burn them up,* saith

APPENDIX A—TRUTH ABOUT HELL

the Lord of hosts, that *it shall leave them neither root nor branch.*” Malachi 4: 1.

12. What will then be their condition?

“For as ye have drunk upon My holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and *they shall be as though they had not been.*” Obadiah 16.

13. Where will the place of the wicked then be?

“For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, *thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.*” Psalm 37: 10.

NOTE.— It would be difficult to keep the wicked in eternal torment without any place for them, even, in which to exist.

14. Where are both the righteous and the wicked to be recompensed?

“Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed *in the earth*: much more the wicked and the sinner.” Proverbs 11: 31.

15. Do the wicked go directly to their punishment at death, or wait till the Day of Judgment?

“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, *and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.*” 2 Peter 2: 9.

16. To what are the present heavens and earth reserved?

“But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, *reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*” 2 Pet. 3: 7.

NOTE.—Both the present heavens and earth and sinners await the fires of the last day.

17. What will be the result of the fires of the last day?

“Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein *the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat.*” “*The earth also, and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*” Verses 12, 10.

18. By what means does Christ say His kingdom is to be cleansed from sin and sinners?

“The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and *they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire.*” Matt. 13:41, 42.

NOTE.—Satan and the wicked now have this world as their “place.” In due time Christ will have it. He will cleanse it from sin and sinners, and restore it, that He may give it to the saints of the Most High for an everlasting possession. See Daniel 7:18, 22, 27.

19. When are the wicked dead to be raised to receive their final punishment?

“But the rest of the dead lived not again *until the thousand years were finished.*” Rev.20:5.

20. Whence will come the fire that will destroy them?

“And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: *and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*” Verse 9.

NOTE.— This is called God’s “strange act” and His “strange work”—the work of destruction. Isa. 28:21. But by this means God will once and forever cleanse the universe of sin and all its sad results. Death itself will then be at an end—cast into the lake of fire. Rev. 20: 14.

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21. To what will this fire reduce the wicked?

“And ye shall tread down the wicked; for *they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this*, saith the Lord of hosts.” Malachi 4: 3.

NOTE.—The wicked are to be utterly destroyed—consumed away into smoke, brought to ashes. Having inseparably allied themselves with sin, they have forfeited the right to life and an immortal existence, and chosen the way of death and destruction. By their choice they have proved themselves worthless. For this reason they are compared to chaff, briars, thorns, etc. Their destruction will consequently be no real loss. They will themselves have lost their opportunity to obtain eternal life; but by the way in which they used their probationary time they proved themselves unworthy of it. Their destruction will, in fact, be an act of love and mercy on the part of God; for to perpetuate their lives would only be to perpetuate sin, sorrow, suffering, and misery. Terrible, therefore, as this judgment will be, there will, in consequence of it, be nothing of value lost—nothing lost worth saving. The experiment of sin will be over, and God's original plan of peopling the earth with a race of holy, happy beings will be carried out. 2 Peter 3:13.

22. What is this final destruction of the wicked called?

“This is *the second death*.” Rev. 20: 14.

23. After the burning day, what will appear?

“Nevertheless we, according to His promise, *look for new heavens and a new earth*, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” 2 Peter 3: 13.

24. Where will the righteous then be found?

“Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun *in the kingdom of their Father*.” Matt. 13:43.

APPENDIX A—TRUTH ABOUT HELL

25. What promise of the Saviour will then be fulfilled?

“Blessed are the meek: *for they shall inherit the earth.*”

Matthew 5:5. See also Psalm 37:11, 29; Isaiah 65:17-25; Daniel 7:18.

26. What universal song of praise will then be sung?

“And *every creature* which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, *Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever.*” Rev. 5: 13.

AN ERA OF SPIRITUAL DARKNESS

The Great Controversy, pp.49-60,

(This very important book will be given free
to the reader upon request.)

The apostle Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians, foretold the great apostasy which would result in the establishment of the papal power. He

declared
Christ
“except
falling
man of
son of
opposeth
himself



that the day of
should not come,
there come a
away first, and that
sin be revealed, the
perdition; who
and exalteth
above all that is

called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” And furthermore, the apostle warns his brethren that “the mystery of iniquity doth already work.” 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, 7. Even at that early date he saw, creeping into the church, errors that would prepare the way for the development of the papacy.

Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, “the mystery of iniquity” carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost imperceptibly the customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church. The spirit of compromise and conformity was restrained for a time by the fierce persecutions which the church endured under paganism. But as persecution ceased, and Christianity entered the courts and palaces of kings, she laid aside the humble simplicity of Christ and His apostles for the pomp and pride of pagan priests and rulers; and in place of the

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requirements of God, she substituted human theories and traditions. The nominal conversion of Constantine, in the early part of the fourth century, caused great rejoicing; and the world, cloaked with a form of righteousness, walked into the church. Now the work of corruption rapidly progressed. Paganism, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror. Her spirit controlled the church. Her doctrines, ceremonies, and superstitions were incorporated into the faith and worship of the professed followers of Christ.

This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of “the man of sin” foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. That gigantic system of false religion is a masterpiece of Satan’s power—a monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will.

Satan once endeavored to form a compromise with



Christ. He came to the Son of God in the wilderness of temptation, and showing Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them, offered to give all

into His hands if He would but acknowledge the supremacy of the prince of darkness. Christ rebuked the presumptuous tempter and forced him to depart. But Satan meets with greater success in presenting the same temptations to man. **To secure worldly gains and honors, the church was led to seek the favor and support of the great men of earth;** and having thus rejected Christ, she was induced to yield allegiance to the representative of Satan—the bishop of Rome.

It is one of the leading doctrines of Romanism that the pope is the visible head of the universal church of Christ, invested with supreme authority over bishops and pastors in all parts of the world. More than this, the pope has been given the

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very titles of Deity. He has been styled “Lord God the Pope,” and has been declared infallible. He demands the homage of all men. The same claim urged by Satan in the wilderness of temptation is still urged by him through the Church of Rome, and vast numbers are ready to yield him homage.

But those who fear and reverence God meet this heaven-daring assumption as Christ met the solicitations of the wily foe: “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.” Luke 4:8. God has never given a hint in His word that He has appointed any man to be the head of the church. The doctrine of papal supremacy is directly opposed to the teachings of the Scriptures. The pope can have no power over Christ's church except by usurpation.

Romanists have persisted in bringing against Protestants the charge of heresy and willful separation from the true church. But these accusations apply rather to themselves. They are the ones who laid down the banner of Christ and departed from “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” Jude 3.

Satan well knew that the Holy Scriptures would enable men to discern his deceptions and withstand his power. It was by the word that even the Saviour of the world had resisted his attacks. At every assault, Christ presented the shield of eternal truth, saying, “It is written.” To every suggestion of the adversary, He opposed the wisdom and power of the word. In order for Satan to maintain his sway over men, and establish the authority of the papal usurper, he must keep them in ignorance of the Scriptures. The Bible would exalt God and place finite



men in their true position; therefore its sacred truths must be concealed and suppressed. This logic was adopted by the Roman Church. **For hundreds of years the circulation of the Bible was prohibited.** The people were forbidden to read it or to have it in their houses, and unprincipled priests and prelates interpreted its teachings to sustain their

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pretensions. Thus the pope came to be almost universally acknowledged as the vicegerent of God on earth, endowed with authority over church and state.

The detector of error having been removed, Satan worked according to his will. Prophecy had declared that the papacy was to “think to change times and laws.” Daniel 7:25. This work it was not slow to attempt. To afford converts from heathenism a substitute for the worship of idols, and thus to promote their nominal acceptance of Christianity, the adoration of images and relics was gradually introduced into the Christian worship. The decree of a general council finally established this system of idolatry. To complete the sacrilegious work, Rome presumed to expunge from the law of God the second commandment, forbidding image worship, and to divide the tenth commandment, in order to preserve the number.

The spirit of concession to paganism opened the way for a still further disregard of Heaven’s authority. Satan, working through unconsecrated leaders of the church, tampered with the fourth commandment also, and essayed to set aside the ancient Sabbath, the day which God had blessed and sanctified (Genesis 2:2, 3), and in its stead to exalt the festival observed by the heathen as “the venerable day of the sun.” This change was not at first attempted openly. In the first centuries the true Sabbath had been kept by all Christians. They were jealous for the honor of God, and, believing that His law is immutable, they zealously guarded the sacredness of its precepts. But with great subtlety Satan worked through his agents to bring about his object. That the attention of the people might be called to the Sunday, it was made a festival in honor of the resurrection of Christ. Religious services were held upon it; yet it was regarded as a day of recreation, the Sabbath being still sacredly observed.

To prepare the way for the work which he designed to accomplish, Satan had led the Jews, before the advent of Christ, to load down the Sabbath with the most rigorous exactions, making its observance a burden. Now, taking advantage of the false light in which he had thus caused it to be regarded, he cast contempt upon it as a Jewish institution. While Christians

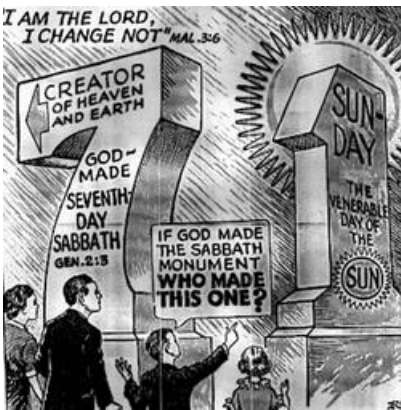
APPENDIX B—ERA OF SPIRITUAL DARKNESS

generally continued to observe the Sunday as a joyous festival, he led them, in order to show their hatred of Judaism, to make the Sabbath a fast, a day of sadness and gloom.

In the early part of the fourth century the emperor Constantine issued a decree making Sunday a public festival throughout the Roman Empire. The day of the sun was revered by his pagan subjects and was honored by Christians; it was the emperor's policy to unite the conflicting interests of heathenism and Christianity. He was urged to do this by the bishops of the church, who, inspired by ambition and thirst for power, perceived that if the same day was observed by both Christians and heathen, it would promote the nominal acceptance of Christianity by pagans and thus advance the power and glory of the church. But while many God-fearing Christians were gradually led to regard Sunday as possessing a degree of sacredness, they still held the true Sabbath as the holy of the Lord and observed it in obedience to the fourth commandment.

The archdeceiver had not completed his work. He was resolved to gather the Christian world under his banner and to exercise his power through his vicegerent, the proud pontiff who claimed to be the representative of Christ. Through half-converted pagans, ambitious prelates, and world-loving churchmen he accomplished his purpose. Vast councils were held from time to time, in which the dignitaries of the church were convened from all the world.

In nearly every council the Sabbath which God had instituted was pressed down a little lower, while the Sunday was correspondingly exalted. Thus the pagan festival came finally to be honored as a divine institution, while the Bible



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Sabbath was pronounced a relic of Judaism, and its observers were declared to be accursed.

The great apostate had succeeded in exalting himself “above all that is called God, or that is worshiped.” 2 Thessalonians 2:4. He had dared to change the only precept of the divine law that unmistakably points all mankind to the true and living God. In the fourth commandment, God is revealed as the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and is thereby distinguished from all false gods. It was as a memorial of the work of creation that the seventh day was sanctified as a rest day for man. It was designed to keep the living God ever before the minds of men as the source of being and the object of reverence and worship. Satan strives to turn men from their allegiance to God, and from rendering obedience to His law; therefore he directs his efforts especially against that commandment which points to God as the Creator.

Protestants now urge that the resurrection of Christ on Sunday made it the Christian Sabbath. But Scripture evidence is lacking. No such honor was given to the day by Christ or His apostles. The observance of Sunday as a Christian institution had its origin in that “mystery of lawlessness” (2 Thessalonians 2:7, R.V.) which, even in Paul’s day, had begun its work. Where and when did the Lord adopt this child of the papacy? What valid reason can be given for a change which the Scriptures do not sanction?

In the sixth century the papacy had become firmly



established. Its seat of power was fixed in the imperial city, and **the bishop of Rome was declared to be the head over the entire church.** Paganism had given place to the papacy. The dragon had given to the beast “his power, and his seat, and great authority.” Revelation 13:2. And now began the 1260 years of

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papal oppression foretold in the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation. Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5-7. (See Appendix.) Christians were forced to choose either to yield their integrity and accept the papal ceremonies and worship, or to wear away their lives in dungeons or suffer death by the rack, the fagot, or the headsman's ax. Now were fulfilled the words of Jesus: "Ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake." Luke 21:16, 17. Persecution opened upon the faithful with greater fury than ever before, and the world became a vast battlefield. For hundreds of years the church of Christ found refuge in seclusion and obscurity. Thus says the prophet: "The woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and three-score days." Revelation 12:6.

The accession of the Roman Church to power marked the beginning of the Dark Ages. As her power increased, the darkness deepened. Faith was transferred from Christ, the true foundation, to the pope of Rome. Instead of trusting in the Son of God for forgiveness of sins and for eternal salvation, the people looked to the pope, and to the priests and prelates to whom he delegated authority. They were taught that the pope was their earthly mediator and that none could approach God except through him; and, further, that he stood in the place of God to them and was therefore to be implicitly obeyed. A deviation from his requirements was sufficient cause for the severest punishment to be visited upon the bodies and souls of the offenders. Thus the minds of the people were turned away from God to fallible, erring, and cruel men, nay, more, to the prince of darkness himself, who exercised his power through them. Sin was disguised in a garb of sanctity. When the Scriptures are suppressed, and man comes to regard himself as supreme, we need look only for fraud, deception, and debasing iniquity. With the elevation of human laws and traditions was manifest the corruption that ever results from setting aside the law of God.

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Those were days of peril for the church of Christ. The faithful standard-bearers were few indeed. Though the truth was not left without witnesses, yet at times it seemed that error and superstition would wholly prevail, and true religion would be banished from the earth. The gospel was lost sight of, but the forms of religion were multiplied, and the people were burdened with rigorous exactions.

They were taught not only to look to the pope as their mediator, but to trust to works of their own to atone for sin. Long pilgrimages, acts of penance, the worship of relics, the erection of churches, shrines, and altars, the payment of large sums to the church—these and many similar acts were enjoined to appease the wrath of God or to secure His favor; as if God were like men, to be angered at trifles, or pacified by gifts or acts of penance!

Notwithstanding that vice prevailed, even among the leaders of the Roman Church, her influence seemed steadily to increase. About the close of the eighth century, papists put forth the claim that in the first ages of the church the bishops of Rome had possessed the same spiritual power which they now assumed. To establish this claim, some means must be employed to give it a show of authority; and this was readily suggested by the father of lies. Ancient writings were forged by monks. Decrees of councils before unheard of were discovered, establishing the universal supremacy of the pope from the earliest times. And a church that had rejected the truth greedily accepted these deceptions.

The few faithful builders upon the true foundation (1 Corinthians 3:10, 11) were perplexed and hindered as the rubbish of false doctrine obstructed the work. Like the builders upon the wall of Jerusalem in Nehemiah's day, some were ready to say: "The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build." Nehemiah 4:10. Wearied with the constant struggle against persecution, fraud, iniquity, and every other obstacle that Satan could devise to hinder their progress, some who had been faithful builders became disheartened; and for the sake of peace

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and security for their property and their lives, they turned away from the true foundation. Others, undaunted by the opposition of their enemies, fearlessly declared: “Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible” (verse 14); and they proceeded with the work, everyone with his sword girded by his side. Ephesians 6:17.

The same spirit of hatred and opposition to the truth has inspired the enemies of God in every age, and the same vigilance and fidelity have been required in His servants. The words of Christ to the first disciples are applicable to His followers to the close of time: “What I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.” Mark 13:37.

The darkness seemed to grow more dense. Image



worship became more general. **Candles were burned before images, and prayers were offered to them.**

The most absurd and superstitious customs prevailed. The minds of men were so completely controlled by superstition that reason itself seemed to have lost its sway. While priests and bishops were themselves pleasure-loving, sensual, and corrupt, it could only be expected that the people who looked to them for guidance

would be sunken in ignorance and vice.

Another step in papal assumption was taken, when, in the eleventh century, Pope Gregory VII proclaimed the perfection of the Roman Church. Among the propositions which he put forth was one declaring that the church had never erred, nor would it ever err, according to the Scriptures. But the Scripture proofs did not accompany the assertion. The proud pontiff also claimed the power to depose emperors, and declared that no sentence which he pronounced could be

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reversed by anyone, but that it was his prerogative to reverse the decisions of all others

A striking illustration of the tyrannical character of this advocate of infallibility was given in his **treatment of the German emperor, Henry IV.** For presuming to disregard the pope's authority, this monarch was declared to be excommunicated and dethroned. Terrified by the desertion and threats of his own princes, who were encouraged in rebellion against him by the papal mandate, Henry felt the necessity of making his peace with Rome. In company with his wife and a faithful servant he crossed the Alps in midwinter, that he might humble himself before the pope. Upon reaching the castle whither Gregory had withdrawn, **he was conducted, without his guards, into an outer court, and there, in the severe cold**



of winter, with uncovered head and naked feet, and in a miserable dress, he awaited the pope's permission to come into his presence. Not until he had continued three days fasting and making confession, did the pontiff

condescend to grant him pardon. Even then it was only upon condition that the emperor should await the sanction of the pope before resuming the insignia or exercising the power of royalty. And Gregory, elated with his triumph, boasted that it was his duty to pull down the pride of kings.

How striking the contrast between the overbearing pride of this haughty pontiff and the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who represents Himself as pleading at the door of the heart for admittance, that He may come in to bring pardon and peace, and who taught His disciples: "Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant." Matthew 20:27.

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The advancing centuries witnessed a constant increase of error in the doctrines put forth from Rome. Even before the establishment of the papacy the teachings of heathen philosophers had received attention and exerted an influence in the church. Many who professed conversion still clung to the tenets of their pagan philosophy, and not only continued its study themselves, but urged it upon others as a means of extending their influence among the heathen. Serious errors were thus introduced into the Christian faith. Prominent among these was the belief in man's natural immortality and his consciousness in death. This doctrine laid the foundation upon which Rome established the invocation of saints and the adoration of the Virgin Mary. From this sprang also the heresy of eternal torment for the finally impenitent, which was early incorporated into the papal faith.

Then the way was prepared for the introduction of still another invention of paganism, which Rome named **purgatory**, and employed to terrify the credulous and superstitious multitudes. By this heresy is affirmed the existence of a place of torment, in which the souls of such as have not merited eternal damnation are to suffer punishment for their sins, and from which, when freed from impurity, they are admitted to heaven.

Still another fabrication was needed to enable Rome to profit by the fears and the vices of her adherents. This was supplied by **the doctrine of indulgences**. Full remission of sins, past, present, and future, and release from all the pains and penalties incurred, were promised to all who would enlist in the pontiff's wars to extend his temporal dominion, to punish his enemies, or to exterminate those who dared deny his spiritual supremacy. The people were also taught that by **the payment of money to the church they might free themselves from sin**, and also release



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the souls of their deceased friends who were confined in the tormenting flames. By such means did Rome fill her coffers and sustain the magnificence, luxury, and vice of the pretended representatives of Him who had not where to lay His head.

The Scriptural ordinance of the Lord's Supper had been supplanted by the idolatrous sacrifice of the mass. Papal priests pretended, by their senseless mummery, to convert the simple bread and wine into the actual "body and blood of Christ."—Cardinal Wiseman, *The Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Eucharist, Proved From Scripture*, lecture 8, sec. 3, par. 26. With blasphemous presumption, they openly claimed the power of creating God, the Creator of all things. Christians were required, on pain of death, to avow their faith in this horrible, Heaven-insulting heresy. Multitudes who refused were given to the flames.

In the thirteenth century was established that most terrible of all the engines of the papacy—the Inquisition.

The prince of darkness wrought with the leaders of the papal



hierarchy. In their secret councils Satan and his angels controlled the minds of evil men, while unseen in the midst stood an angel of God, taking the fearful record of their iniquitous decrees and writing the history of deeds too horrible to appear to human

eyes. "Babylon the great" was "drunken with the blood of the saints." The **mangled forms of millions of martyrs** cried to God for vengeance upon that apostate power.

Popery had become the world's despot. Kings and emperors bowed to the decrees of the Roman pontiff. The destinies of men, both for time and for eternity, seemed under his control. For hundreds of years the doctrines of Rome had been extensively and implicitly received, its rites reverently performed, its festivals generally observed. Its clergy were

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honored and liberally sustained. Never since has the Roman Church attained to greater dignity, magnificence, or power.

But “the noon of the papacy was the midnight of the world.”—J.A. Wylie, *The History of Protestantism*, b. 1, ch. 4. The Holy Scriptures were almost unknown, not only to the people, but to the priests. Like the Pharisees of old, the papal leaders hated the light which would reveal their sins. God's law, the standard of righteousness, having been removed, they exercised power without limit, and practiced vice without restraint. Fraud, avarice, and profligacy prevailed. Men shrank from no crime by which they could gain wealth or position. The palaces of popes and prelates were scenes of the vilest debauchery. Some of the reigning pontiffs were guilty of crimes so revolting that secular rulers endeavored to depose these dignitaries of the church as monsters too vile to be tolerated. For centuries Europe had made no progress in learning, arts, or civilization. A moral and intellectual paralysis had fallen upon Christendom.

The condition of the world under the Roman power presented a fearful and striking fulfillment of the words of the prophet Hosea: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee:... seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” “There is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.” Hosea 4:6, 1, 2. Such were the results of banishing the word of God.

From: *The Great Controversy*, pp. 49-60.

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Sunday Laws are Coming! On Friday, June 15, 2007 in the Weekend Edition Opinion Journal page W-11 of the *Wall Street Journal* appeared an article by Mollie Ziegler Hemingway entitled: “The decline of the Sabbath in America: Less praying, more working and playing.” This article was circulated worldwide to over 2 million people promoting Sunday-keeping and Sunday closing laws as necessary for saving our culture. The Wall Street Journal’s editorial perspective is one sided. The *USA Today* endorsed Sunday observance in an article written by Gladys Edmunds on Oct. 24, 2007 entitled: “Better Take a Break, Or You’ll Break Down.”

Similar articles have appeared in daily newspapers across America and the rest of the world: *Associated Press*, July 15, 2008 “Sunday Shopping banned in Croatia,” Associated Press, May 27, 2008 “Louisiana Barber Ticketed for Working on Sunday,” Time Magazine, Dec. 17, 2008 “Sunday Shopping? France Says No,” *CBS News Sunday Morning*, Feb. 1, 2009, “A History of Sunday,” Associated Press, Dec. 5, 2008 “Auto Dealers to ask Legislature for Sunday Sales Ban.” These are just a few headlines from different publications who have recently been endorsing Sunday observance. We should welcome an intelligent, healthy discussion on issues that will affect both the morality and economy of our nation.

These are just a few examples of how the Sunday movement is gaining momentum around the world. Many more examples can be cited. History tells us that Sunday legislation, regardless of how sincere it may appear,

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always brings persecution to small minorities. Prophecy declares that such religious intolerance will again be revived to the point that “no man might buy or sell, save he that had the **MARK**, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” Rev. 13:17. From this prophetic insight we can see that church and state will unite and all of our most cherished liberties will be lost. God have mercy on us all when these days shall “come to pass” John 14:29.

Sabbath from the Biblical Perspective

Jesus — “And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read.” Luke 4:16.

Jesus declared — “The Sabbath was made for man.” Mark 2:27 The word for *man* in this verse is the Greek word “*anthropos*,” meaning all mankind, not just the Jews. See also Isa 56:2-6. “The Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath day.” Matthew 12:8. Many say Revelation 1:10 is used to designate Sunday as the Lord’s day: “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day.” The Greek word is *Kuriake* (Lord’s) *hemera* (day). So what is the Lord’s day? Jesus answers this question himself: “The Son of man is Lord (*Kurios*) even of the Sabbath day” (Matthew 12:8). All through scriptures the seventh-day Sabbath is the Lord’s “own day” (See Isaiah 58:13, Genesis 2:2-3, Exodus 20:8-11).

God commanded — “But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God.” Exodus 20:10.

Paul — “And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the Scriptures.” Acts 17:2, 3.

“And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.” Acts 18:4.

Paul declared — “There remaineth therefore a rest* [Greek: “*sabbatismos*” or “Sabbath-keeping”] to the people of God. For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as **God did from His**.” Hebrews 4:9, 10.

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When did God rest from His work?

“For He spake in a certain place of the seventh day...And God did rest the seventh day from all His works,” “and blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.” Hebrews 4:4.

Paul and the Gentiles — “And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. And the next Sabbath came almost the whole city together to hear the Word of God.” Acts 13:42, 44. The book of Acts records 84 Sabbaths on which the Apostle Paul and his associates held religious services (Acts 18:4, 11). Yet there is not ONE word in the entire Bible authorizing Sunday keeping in place of the Seventh-day Sabbath.

Disciples — “And that day was the preparation and the Sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulcher, and how His body was laid. And they returned and prepared spices and ointments; **and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment.**” (Luke 23:54–56). Notice that Luke, a non-Jewish biblical writer, approximately 37 years AFTER the resurrection of Christ, still called the Sabbath (the seventh day of the week) a Commandment of God.

“And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James...very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun... And entering into the sepulcher, they saw a young man... And he saith unto them, be not affrighted; Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: He is risen.” (Mark 16:1–6). It is well known that Sunday was the resurrection day. “**The Sabbath was past**” when the sun set on Saturday night. Thus, it is evident that the Sabbath is Saturday, the day before Sunday.

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“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill”. “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled” (Matt. 5:17, 18). Throughout the New Testament, there are no fewer than 59 references to the Sabbath.

Sabbath in the New Earth —“For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain; 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 66:22, 23). According to Colossians 2:14–17, the sacrifices with the 7 annual festivals, or ceremonial Sabbaths [plural] as registered in Leviticus 23 and other texts, were nailed [*abolished*] on the cross, as Christ's' life and work fulfilled the meaning of these annual Sabbaths. But not the Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment that is Eternal, because it was given to man at Creation, even before sin was introduced into this earth (Genesis. 2:2-3).

“Sunday in the Bible”—Millions of faithful Christians attend church each Sunday, the first day of the week. They do this thinking that somehow there was a change in the day of worship. Others keep Sunday because they are not conscious that God set apart the seventh-day as His holy day and not the first day of the week. It is true that there has been a change but by who? There are only 8 Bible texts in the New Testament that speak about the first day: (1) Matthew 28:1, (2) Mark 16:1-2, (3) Mark 16:9, (4) Luke 24:1, (5) John 20:1, (6) John 20:19, (7) Acts 20:7-8, (8) 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.

The first five texts simply mention that the women went to the sepulcher early in the morning of the resurrection (Sunday) and that Jesus had resurrected. The sixth text reveals that they were gathered together “for fear of the Jews” not

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knowing if they would also be crucified as was their Savior. They were hiding Sunday morning, they were not having a worship service nor is there any mention of any change of the Sabbath. The seventh text is Acts 20:7-8: “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together.”

This was a Saturday night meeting—the dark part of the first day of the week. Remember, according to Biblical time, the day begins at evening. “And the evening and the morning were the first day.” Gen. 1:5. In other words, at sunset (evening) is when the next day begins, not at midnight as we calculate today. The Bible registers the days from sunset to sunset. The Seventh-day (known to us as “Saturday”) begins Friday evening at sunset. The first day of the week actually begins at Saturday evening at sunset. Paul was meeting on the first day of the week during the dark part of the day, which was actually Saturday night. Remember, Acts 20:7-8 speaks about how “there were many lights.” Paul spent Sunday morning traveling to Assos. We do not see any change or command to keep Sunday holy.

The New World Translation says, “On *Saturday night*, in our assembling for the breaking of bread, Paul, who was to leave next day.” Acts 20:7. The last text that mentions Sunday is found in 1 Corinthians 16:1-2: “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.” This verse does not speak about a worship service in the church. Notice how the International Standard Versions translates the verse:

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“After the Sabbath ends, each of you should set aside and save something from your surplus in proportion to what you have, so that no collections will have to be made when I arrive.”

After the 7th-day Sabbath is over, the first day of the week is the best time to start saving your money so as not to spend it during the rest of the week. Paul told the church to do this so that when he came, which was always on the Seventh-day Sabbath (Acts 13:42, 44), the church wouldn't have to try to collect everything at once.

The argument is made that we should keep Sunday holy in honor of the resurrection of Jesus, yet this custom is based on man's tradition (Ezekiel 8:15, 16; Matthew 15:9, 14). However, the Bible commands us to commemorate His death, burial, and resurrection through baptism [by immersion, not by sprinkling]. Please read Romans 6:4, 5.

The Encyclopedia Britannica—“There is no evidence that in the earliest years of Christianity there was any formal observance of Sunday as a day of rest or any general cessation of work.” 1911 Edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, Article: “Sunday.”

Baptist: “Of course I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history as a religious day, as we learn from the Christian Fathers and other sources. But what a pity that it comes branded with the mark of Paganism, and christened with the name of the sun-god, then adopted as sanctified by the Papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism.” Dr. E.T. Hiscox, author of the Baptist Manuel, from a photostatic copy of a notarized statement by Dr. Hiscox.

Roman Catholic: “Question: Which is the Sabbath day? Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath day. Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? Answer: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church

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transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.” Peter Geiermann, *The Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, 1957 edition.

Roman Catholic: “Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act... And the act is a **MARK*** of her ecclesiastical authority in religious things.” H.F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons. Nov 11, 1895.

The Catholic Church claims to have changed the day of Worship from the Seventh-day Sabbath to Sunday. Clear evidence of this is provided by the famous Catholic theologian, **Thomas Aquinas**, who wrote in his book Summa Theologia, Vol. 3, Question #122, Article 4, Reply to Objection 4: “In the New Law the observance of the Lord’s Day took the place of the Sabbath, not by virtue of the precept, **but by the institution of the Church** and the **custom** of the Christian people.”



POPE BENEDICT WRITES ABOUT SUNDAY TO A CARDINAL [with my comments].

Pope Benedict (PB): To My Venerable Brother, Cardinal Francis Arinze: ...The Second Vatican Council teaches that “the Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery every seventh day, which day is appropriately called the ‘Lord’s Day’ or Sunday” (Sacrosanctum Concilium, n. 106).

RAPHAEL PEREZ: *While the Vatican teaches “every seventh day,” the Word of God teaches us to keep the Sabbath on*

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“THE seventh day.” Big difference. The Lord’s Day is the Seventh-day Sabbath as Jesus proved in Luke 4:16-18.

PB: Sunday remains the fertile foundation and at the same time the fundamental nucleus of the liturgical year which originated in Christ’s Resurrection, thanks to which the features of eternity were impressed on time. Thus, Sunday is, so to speak, a fragment of time imbued with eternity, for its dawn saw the Crucified and Risen Christ enter victorious into eternal life.

PEREZ: *All this false structure of time was made up by man. The Word of God teaches that the resurrection is memorialized by the ordinance of Baptism. See Romans 6:3-5.*

PB: With the event of the Resurrection, creation and redemption reach their fulfillment. On the “first day after Saturday,” the women and then the Disciples, meeting the Risen One, understood that this was “the day which the Lord has made” (Ps 118: 24), “His” day, the *Dies Domini*. In fact, this is what the liturgy sings: “O first and last day, radiant and shining with Christ's triumph.”

PEREZ: *Creation and Redemption have their fulfillment on the Seventh-day Sabbath. God and Jesus finished each event on the sixth day and Both rested on the Seventh-day—the flag of God’s power to do both. Genesis 2:-13; Exodus 20:8-11; Deut. 15:12-15. According to the fourth commandment, Sunday, the first day of the week, is a working day!*

PB: From the very outset, this has been a stable element in the perception of the mystery of Sunday: “The Word,” Origen affirms, “has moved the feast of the Sabbath to the day on which the light was produced and has given us as an image of true repose, Sunday, the day of salvation, the first day of the light in which the Saviour of the world, after completing all his work with men and after conquering death, crossed the threshold of Heaven, surpassing the creation of the six days and receiving the blessed Sabbath and rest in God” (*Comment on Psalm 91*).

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PEREZ: *How can Sunday be an image of true repose when Sunday is the first working day of the week? The word “sabbath” means “rest” and the true 7th-day Sabbath means resting by faith in God’s Word? “For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His.” Heb. 4:10. God rested on the 7th-day of Creation.*

PB: Inspired by knowledge of this, St Ignatius of Antioch asserted: “We are no longer keeping the Sabbath, but the Lord’s Day” (*Ad Magn.* 9, 1).

PEREZ: *Ignatius, in saying this, misinterpreted the Bible and flaunted his apostasy from the truth.*

PB: For the first Christians, participation in the Sunday celebrations was the natural expression of their belonging to Christ, of communion with His Mystical Body, in the joyful expectation of His glorious return. This belonging was expressed heroically in what happened to the martyrs of Abitene, who faced death exclaiming, “*Sine dominico non possumus:*” without gathering together on Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist, we cannot live. How much more necessary it is today to reaffirm the sacredness of the Lord’s Day and the need to take part in Sunday Mass!

PEREZ: *Here he joins Sunday with the Mass (transubstantiation)—where the wafer is changed into the actual flesh of Christ), another false doctrine. Jesus said, “But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” Matthew 15:9. The just shall live by faith, not by works. Habakkuk 2:4.*

PB: The cultural context in which we live, often marked by religious indifference and secularism that blot out the horizon of the transcendent, must not let us forget that the People of God, born from “Christ’s Passover, Sunday,” should return to it as to an inexhaustible source, in order to understand better and better the features of their own identity and the reasons for their existence.

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PEREZ: “Christ’s Passover” was really on **Friday**, the 14th day of the first Jewish month, the literal Passover day. Lev. 23:5. On that day Christ was crucified on the cross. He was the anti-typical Passover Lamb that would take away the sins of the world. John 1:29. **Sunday** was the 16th day of the first Jewish month. On that day Jesus was the Firstfruits (symbol of the Resurrection; 1 Cor. 15:20-23) and presented as predicted in Lev. 23:10,11: “on the morrow after **the Sabbath.**” **This Sabbath** (meaning rest) was Christ’s Sabbath.

Passover Friday	Sabbath Saturday	Firstfruits Sunday
6 th	7 th	1 st
Day of the Week	Day of the Week	Day of the Week
Calvary 14th Abib	The Sabbath 15th Abib	Resurrection 16th Abib

PB: The Second Vatican Council, after pointing out the origin of Sunday, continued: “On this day Christ’s faithful are bound to come together into one place. They should listen to the Word of God and take part in the Eucharist, thus calling to mind the Passion, Resurrection and Glory of the Lord Jesus and giving thanks to God who ‘has begotten them again, through the Resurrection of Christ from the dead, unto a living hope’” (Sacrosanctum Concilium, n. 106).

PEREZ: *These uninspired words of men are also known as, “sand.” Concerning the Catholic leaders, Jesus said, “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.” (Anti-Christ.) Matt. 5:19.*

PB: Sunday was not **chosen** by the Christian community but by the Apostles, and indeed by Christ Himself, who on that day, “the first day of the week,” rose and appeared to the disciples

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(cf. Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2), and appeared to them again “eight days later” (John 20:26). Sunday is the day on which the Risen Lord makes Himself present among His followers, invites them to His banquet and shares Himself with them so that they too, united and configured to Him, may worship God properly.

PEREZ: *Sunday was chosen by God through Moses 1500 years earlier as the day when Jesus would be presented to the Father as the Firstfruits. In Leviticus 23:10,11, God said that Jesus would be presented as the Firstfruits “on the morrow after the Sabbath.”*

PB: Therefore, as I encourage people to give ever greater importance to the “Lord’s Day,” I am eager to highlight the central place of the Eucharist as a fundamental pillar of Sunday and of all ecclesial life.

Indeed, at every Sunday Eucharistic celebration, **the sanctification** of the Christian people takes place as it will take place until the Sunday that never sets, the day of the definitive encounter of God with His creatures. ...May the “Day of the Lord” that could well be called “the lord of days” regain all its importance and be perceived and lived to the full in the celebration of the Eucharist, from which the Christian community grows authentically and on which it depends.

PEREZ: *The Lord’s Day is the 7th-day Sabbath! Luke 4:16-18, Mark 2:28; Exodus 20:8-12; Isaiah 58:12-14. “Moreover also I gave them My sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.” Ezekiel 20:12.*

From: LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI TO CARD. FRANCIS ARINZE ON THE OCCASION OF THE STUDY DAY IN HONOUR OF THE 43rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROMULGATION OF THE CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY, SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM—November 27, 2006.

**95 THESES
CONCERNING
THE TRUE BIBLICAL SABBATH VS. SUNDAY**

The original Biblical day of worship needs to be restored. It is the fourth commandment of the Decalogue found in Exodus 20:8-11. Which day is the true Sabbath? Many keep the first day of the week, or Sunday. What Bible authority have they for this?

Here are the facts about both days, as plainly stated in the Word of God.

1. After **working the first six** days of the week in creating this earth, **our Sovereign Creator rested on the Seventh day!** (Genesis 2:1.3.)
2. God created all things through Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:9). Thus, **Jesus rested on the 7th-day Sabbath, too.**
3. God's rest day is the Seventh day. The word *Sabbath* means "rest." Every Seventh day of the week (known today as Saturday) is God's rest, or Sabbath, day. (Exodus 20:8-11.) Therefore you cannot change God's rest day to a day on which He did not rest. **Hence the Seventh day is still God's Sabbath day.**
4. After He rested from His work on the seventh day, the Creator **blessed** and **sanctified** (set apart for holy use) **the Seventh day.** (Genesis 2:3; Exodus 20:11.)
5. He made the Seventh-day Sabbath in Eden before the fall. **Hence it is perfect**—not a type—not a "shadow of things to come." (Gen. 2:1-3; Col. 2:17.)

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6. It is a memorial of creation. Every time we rest upon the Seventh day, as God did at creation, we commemorate that grand event. (Ex. 20:11; 31:17; Heb. 4:10; Rev. 14:7.)

7. The Sabbath was a gift to Adam, the father of the human race, given to him by JESUS, the SECOND ADAM, who kept the Sabbath as our Example—an Example to be followed by all nations and peoples. **Thus, the Sabbath is a double gift to us.** (Mark 2:27; Genesis 2:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:45; Luke 4:16; 1 Peter 2:21; Acts 17:26,27; Rev. 14:6,7.)

8. It is not a Jewish institution, for it was made over 2,000 years before the first Jew lived. The Bible never calls it the Jewish Sabbath, but always **“the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.”** Is it yours? (Exodus 20:10; Isa. 58:13; Rev. 1:10.)

9. Evident reference is made to the Sabbath and the seven-day week all through the Old and New Testaments. (Genesis 2:1-3; 8:10,12; 29:27-28; Luke 23:56; 24:1; Heb. 4:4,10; Rev. 14:7; etc.)

10. Moses taught the Israelites who had been slaves for decades that they must keep the Sabbath if they were to be delivered from Egyptian bondage. (Exodus 5:4,5.)

11. The Sabbath was a part of God’s law before Sinai. As the manna fell from heaven for 40 years of wilderness wandering, **a wonderful miracle happened every Sabbath.** (See Exodus 16:4, 27-29.)

12. God placed the Sabbath in the heart of His moral law. (Exodus 20:1-17.) Why did He place it there if it was not like the other nine precepts, which all admit to be immutable?

13. Just think, God is commanding us NOT to work, but **TO REST**, to get to know Him on the day He blessed and made holy.

14. Breaking the Sabbath is a moral sin. (1John 3:4.) Jesus came to save us from our sins. (Matthew 1:21.) Sabbath breaking is still a sin. (Lev. 4:1,2; 1 John 3:4; Exodus 34:21; Romans 3:31; 6:23; 8:3,4; Rev. 22:14.)

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15. The 4th commandment is the only commandment that identifies who God is! “But the Seventh day is the Sabbath of **the LORD thy God** (God’s name): ...For in six days **the LORD made** (God’s title—Creator), **heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is** (God’s territory of rule), and rested the Seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.”(Exodus 20:8-11.) In the Sabbath commandment is the name, title, and territory of God—the Seal of living God! Will you receive the Seal of God in your forehead?

16. The Seventh-day Sabbath was commanded by the voice of the living God. (Deuteronomy 4:12,13.) This is not true for any other day.

17. God engraved it in the enduring stone, indicating its imperishable nature. (Deuteronomy 5:22.)

18. God wrote the Ten Commandments, including the fourth, with His own finger—a symbol of the Holy Spirit! (Exodus 31:18; Matthew 12:28; and Luke 11:20.)

19. Now the Holy Spirit wants to write God’s Law, including the Sabbath, on the fleshy tables of our NEW HEART and MIND according to the NEW COVENANT Promise! (Ezekiel 36:26,27; 2 Corinthians 3:3; Hebrews 10:15,16.)

20. It was sacredly preserved in the ark in the holy of holies. (Deuteronomy 10:1-5; Rev. 11:19.)

21. The Seventh-day Sabbath is a **flag of God’s power both to create and re-create His people.** (Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:15; Psalm 33:6,9; 2 Corinthians 5:17.)

22. It is the sign of the true God, by which we are to know Him from false gods. (Ezekiel 20:20.)

23. It is the **SIGN** that **GOD IS SANCTIFYING US AS HIS PEOPLE!** (Exodus 31:16,17; Ezekiel 20:12.)

24. In Jeremiah 17, God promised that Jerusalem should stand forever if the Jews would keep the Sabbath. The blessings of

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Sabbath-keeping goes with **TRUSTING IN THE LORD** found in the same chapter!

25. God sent His people into Babylonian captivity and destroyed Jerusalem for breaking the Sabbath. (Nehemiah 13:17, 18; Jeremiah 17:27.)

26. God has pronounced **a special blessing on all the Gentiles**, and upon all people who will keep the Sabbath! This prophecy refers wholly to the Christian dispensation. (Isaiah 56:2, 6, 7.)

27. The holy Sabbath has been trodden down for “many generations,” but Isaiah predicted that it is to be restored in the last days by people whom he called the “**REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH.**” (Isaiah 58:12-13.) This tract is a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy! Will you help to repair the “breach” in God’s law and be a part of the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy as well?

28. The Lord requires us to call the Sabbath “the holy of the Lord honourable” and “honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words.” (Isaiah 58:13.)

29. All the holy prophets kept the Seventh-day Sabbath.

30. When Jesus, the Son of God came, He kept the Seventh-day Sabbath all His life. (Luke 4:16; John 1:1-3; 15:10.) Thus He followed His Father’s and His own example at creation. **Shall we not be safe in following the example of both the Father and the Son?**

31. The Seventh-day Sabbath is the Lord’s Day. (See Revelation 1:10; Mark 2:28; Isaiah 58:13; Exodus 20:10.) **JESUS WAS IN THE SPIRIT ON THE LORD’S DAY!** Luke 4:16-18.

32. Jesus was Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28), that is, to love and protect it, as the husband is the lord of the wife, to love and cherish her (1 Peter 3:6.)

33. Jesus vindicated the Sabbath as a merciful institution designed for man’s good. (Mark 2:23-28.)

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34. So far from abolishing the Sabbath, Jesus carefully taught His disciples to do well upon the Sabbath, preaching, healing, and all that is “lawful.” (Matthew 5:17,18; 12:1-13.)

35. He instructed His apostles that the Sabbath should be prayerfully regarded when Jerusalem would be destroyed in 70 AD—**40 years after His resurrection.** (Matthew 24:20.)

36. The pious followers of Christ who had been with Jesus carefully kept the Seventh-day Sabbath “according to the commandment” after His crucifixion. (Luke 23:56.)

37. Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, called it the “Sabbath day” in 57 AD. (Acts 13:27.) Paul knew.

38. The Gentile converts asked Paul to preach the Word to them on the Sabbath. (Acts 13:42.) And Paul did, not on the first day, the day of the sun god, but on the Seventh-day Sabbath.

39. Luke, the inspired Gentile Christian historian, writing as late as AD 62, calls it the “Sabbath day.” (Acts 13:42,44; **Luke 23:56.**)

40. In the great Christian council, AD 51, in the presence of the apostles and thousands of disciples, James calls it the “Sabbath day.” (Acts 15:21.)

41. It was customary to hold prayer meetings upon the Seventh-day Sabbath. (Acts 16:13.)

42. Paul read the Scriptures in public meetings on the Sabbath. It was his custom to preach upon that day. (Acts 17:2-3.)

43. The Book of Acts alone gives a record of his holding **eighty-four meetings upon the Sabbath day!** (See Acts 13:14, 44; 16:13; 17:2; 18:4, 11.)

44. There was never any dispute between the Christians and the Jews about the Sabbath day. This is proof that the Christians (believing Jews) still observed the same day that the unbelieving Jews did.

45. In all their accusations against Paul, the unbelieving Jews

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never charged him with disregarding the Sabbath day. Why did they not, if he did not keep it? In fact, Paul said it was ESTABLISHED! (Romans 3:31.)

46. Paul himself expressly declared that he had kept the moral law. “Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended any thing at all.” Acts 25:8. How could this be true if he had not kept the Sabbath? (Acts 24:16.)

47. The Seventh-day Sabbath is mentioned in the New Testament fifty-nine times, and always with respect, bearing the same title it had in the Old Testament, “the Sabbath day.”

48. Not a word is said anywhere in the New Testament about the Seventh-day Sabbath's being abolished, done away, changed, or anything of the kind. Rather, it was just the opposite. (Romans 3:31; Hebrews 4:4, 10; 1 John 5:3; Revelation 14:7, 12.) It was the seven ceremonial sabbaths in the ceremonial law of the sanctuary service that were abolished at the cross when Jesus the Lamb of God was crucified. These sabbaths could occur on any day of the week and were not part of the Moral Law. (Colossians 2:14-17.)

49. God has never given permission to any man to work upon the Sabbath. Reader, by what authority do you use the Seventh day for common labor? (1 John 3:4.)

50. No Christian of the New Testament, either before or after the resurrection, ever did ordinary work upon the Seventh day. Find one case of that kind, and we will yield the question. Why should modern Christians do differently from Bible Christians?

51. There is no record that God has ever removed His blessing or sanctification from the Seventh day. This is impossible, since it is part of the Creation week. (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:5,6.)

52. God's last-day church is described as keeping the Seventh-day Sabbath and all Ten Commandments. (Rev. 14:7, 12.)

53. As the Sabbath was kept in Eden before the Fall of

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mankind, and all through history even till today, **so it will be OBSERVED ETERNALLY after God makes a NEW HEAVEN and NEW EARTH!** (Isaiah 66:22-23.)

54. Jesus was the Word of God made flesh. He kept the Sabbath holy. In fact, **Jesus was a living Ten Commandments.** He was the Lamb without spot and blemish. He wants His last day church to be just like Himself—without spot or wrinkle and keeping the true Bible Sabbath—before He comes the Second time. (John 1:14; Psalm 40:8; John 1:29; Luke 4:16-18; Ephesian 5:25-27.)

BIBLE FACTS CONCERNING THE FIRST DAY

55. GOD MADE THE WORLD IN SIX DAYS and RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY. The Sabbath means rest from labor. God could have created the world in five, four, three, two, or one day(s), but the next day would have been the Sabbath. Because God would need at least one day to create the world, **IT IS THUS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK TO EVER BE A SABBATH.**

56. God commands men to work upon the first day of the week. (Exodus 20:8-11.) Is it wrong to obey God?

57. By the express command of God, His holy people have used the first day of the week as a common working day for over 6,000 years. (Exodus 20:8-11.) The Creator Himself did this. (Genesis 1: 1-5.) If God worked to make the earth and light on the first day, which we call Sunday, can it be wicked for us to work on Sunday?

58. God Himself calls it a “working” day. (Ezekiel 46:1.)

59. Sunday has never been blessed or sanctified by God or Jesus.

60. God did not rest upon it. Neither did Jesus keep it.

61. No patriarch, prophet, apostle, or any of God’s people ever kept Sunday; only Jezebel and Baal worshippers. (1 Kings

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18:12; 19:18; Rev. 2:20-23.)

62. Jesus was a carpenter (Mark 6:3), and worked at His trade until He was thirty years old. He kept the Sabbath and worked six days in the week, as all admit. Hence He did many a hard day's work on Sunday.

63. The apostles worked upon it during the same time.

64. No law was ever given to enforce the keeping of it, hence it is no transgression to work upon it. "Where no law is, there is no transgression." Romans 4:15 (See also 1 John 3:4.)

65. The New Testament nowhere forbids work to be done on it. No penalty is provided for its violation.

66. No blessing is promised for its observance.

67. No regulation is given as to how it ought to be observed. Would this be so if the Lord wished us to keep it?

68. It is never called the Christian Sabbath. It is never called the Sabbath day at all.

69. We can know for sure that the Seventh-day Sabbath is Saturday by reading Luke 23:50-56; 24:1-3. Jesus was crucified on Friday the "preparation" day—the day to prepare for the holy Sabbath. On that day, the sixth day of the week, He cried, "It is finished." Christ's work for us was perfectly finished—just as it was at the end of the sixth day of Creation. Jesus then rested in the grave on the Sabbath day. On the first day of the week He rose again to resume His labors.

70. The Word of God never calls Sunday the Lord's Day.

71. The Word of God never calls Sunday a rest day.

72. No sacred title whatever is applied to it. Then why should we call it holy?

73. It is simply called the "first day of the week"—one of the six days of labor.

74. In fact, God call's on all mankind to REMEMBER the true Sabbath day, knowing that men would forget (Exodus

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20:8.) and that an evil force would “think” to change it. (Daniel 7:25.)

75. Jesus said, In vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.” (Matthew 15:9.) The keeping of Sunday is only a tradition of men. Therefore, Sunday worship is in vain.

76. In fact, Paul says that “The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” (Romans 8:7.) Do you have the carnal mind or the mind “filled with the Holy Spirit?” (Romans 8:8-14.)

77. Jesus never-mentioned Sunday in any way. He never took its name upon His lips, so far as the record shows.

78. After the death of the Testator, the covenant could not be changed. (Hebrews 9:15,16.) Jesus died on Friday. Sunday keeping is three days too late.

79. In fact, **IF** the Seventh-day Sabbath or any part of the Ten Commandments could have been changed, Jesus would not have had to die for us on the cross! (Matthew 1:21; 5:17,18.)

80. The Bible predicted that Jesus would rise “on the morrow after the Sabbath” 1500 years before it happened. (**Leviticus 23:10,11**; 1 Corinthians 15:20,23.)

81. Over 1500 years before it happened, the Bible predicted that the Holy Spirit would fall “on the morrow after the seventh Sabbath” ($7 \times 7 + 1 = 50$) fifty days after the resurrection. On this day the Holy Spirit would descend to write God’s law on the fleshy tables of the 120 clean hearts according to the New Covenant promise. (Leviticus 23:15,16; Acts 2:1; Hebrews 10:15,16..)

82. Sunday was the day the pagans worshipped the Sun. It was a pagan holy day. The word Sunday never occurs in the Bible at all.

83. Neither God, nor Christ, nor any inspired human, ever said one word in favor of Sunday as a holy day.

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84. The first day of the week is mentioned only eight times in all the New Testament. (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2, 9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2.) Six of these texts refer to the same specific first day of the week after Jesus rested in the grave on the Sabbath and rose again on the first day to resume His labors. It was a fulfillment of Leviticus 23:10.11.

85. Paul directed the saints to look over their secular affairs on the first day. (1Corinthians 16:2.)

86. In all the New Testament we have a record of only one religious meeting held upon that day, and even this was a night meeting ON SATURDAY NIGHT—THE EVENING OF THE FIRST DAY. (Genesis 1:5,8,13,19,23,31; Acts 20:5-12.)

87. There is no intimation that they ever held a meeting upon it before or after that. It was not their custom to meet on that day.

88. There was no requirement to break bread on that day. We have an account of only one instance in which it was done—in the night—after midnight. (Verses 7-11.) Jesus Himself celebrated it on Thursday evening (Luke 22), and the disciples did it every day (Acts 2:42-46.)

89. The Bible nowhere commands men to observe the first day of the week to commemorate the resurrection of Christ. This is a tradition of men, which contradicts the law of God. (Matthew 15:1-9.) IT IS BAPTISM BY IMMERSION THAT COMMEMORATES THE BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS. (Romans 6:3-5.)

90. Finally, the New Testament is totally silent with regard to any change of the Sabbath day or any sacredness for the first day.

91. The prophet Daniel points to the Little Horn power—a symbol of the Roman Catholic Church system—that would “think to change [God’s] times and laws.” (Daniel 7:25.) David said, “The law of the LORD is perfect.” (Psalm 19:7.) How can you think to change something that is perfect?

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92. Sunday was first enforced in 364 AD at the Council of Laodicea, bringing in the Dark Ages of enforced Sunday worship. Notice that Sunday keeping came over 4400 years after the ancient Biblical Sabbath!

93. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BOASTS THAT SUNDAY KEEPING IS THE MARK OF HER AUTHORITY:

“Question: Which is the Sabbath day? **Answer:** Saturday is the Sabbath day. **Question:** Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? **Answer:** We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.” Peter Geiermann, The Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, 1957 ed.

“Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act. ...And the act is a MARK of her ecclesiastical authority in religious things.” H.F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons, Nov. 1, 1895.

“The Catholic Church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday.” Catholic Mirror, September 23, 1893.

94. THOMAS AQUINAS agrees: “In the New Law the observance of the Lord’s Day took the place of the Sabbath, not by virtue of the precept, **but by the institution of the Church** and the **custom** of the Christian people.” Summa Theologia, Vol. 3, Quest. #122, Art. 4. Obj. 4.

95. We are warned not to worship the Beast or the Image of the Beast. (Rev. 14:9-11.) Worship is spiritual. This worship is something opposed to the Ten Commandments (Rev. 14:12.) Worship has to do with the first four commandments of God and has to do with the day of worship. (Rev. 14:7.) The Mark of the Beast will be enforced Sunday worship.

WHAT IS DEATH?

1. How was man made? Of what is he composed?

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” Genesis 2:7.

Note: Dust (the body) + the breath of life (the spirit) = a living soul.

2. Do other creatures besides man have the “breath of life”?

“And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.” Genesis 7:21,22.

3. What is the breath of life also called?

“All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils.” Job 27:3.

4. Are others besides man called “living souls”?

“And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man; and every living soul died in the sea.” Revelation 16:3.

5. When a man dies what becomes of his body and spirit (breath of life)?

“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.” Ecclesiastes 12:7.

6. Is there any consciousness in death?

“His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish. Psalm 146:4.

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7. **What are the dead able to do in the grave?**

“For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. 6 Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun. 10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.” Ecclesiastes 9:5,6,10.

8. **What did Jesus call death?**

“These things said He: and after that He saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that He had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.” John 11:11-14.

9. **Where do the dead sleep?**

“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” Daniel 12:2.

10. **How does the Bible describe David’s death?**

“So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.” 1 Kings 2:10.

11. **A thousand year later, where was David in Peter’s day?**

“Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.” Acts 2:29.

12. **Where does the Bible say, David, a man after God’s own heart, is not?**

“For David is not ascended into the heavens.” Acts 2:34.

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“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption.” Acts 13:36.

13. What does it take to make a dead soul come back to life?

“And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. 11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. Revelation 11:9-11.

Note: The spirit of life must rejoin the body in order for the soul to live again.

14. How does Jesus describe Himself? Revelation 1:18.

“I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.” Revelation 1:18.

15. Who will resurrect the dead?

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.” John 5:25.

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. John 5: 28,29.

16. When will the righteous hear His voice and be resurrected?

“For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall

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not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.” 1 Thessalonians 4:15,16.

17. Is the sleep of death, and the resurrection, scientifically explainable?

“Behold, I show you *a mystery*; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.” 1 Corinthians 15:51-54.

SATAN’S LIE: THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL

1. Who only has immortality?

“Now unto *the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God*, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.” 1 Timothy 1:17.

“Which in His times He shall show, who is *the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.*” 1 Timothy 6:15,16.

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2. Is man mortal or immortal?

“Shall *mortal man* be more just than God?” Job 4:17.

“Let not sin therefore reign in *your mortal body*, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.” Romans 6:12.

3. Where can we obtain immortality?

“For the wages of sin is death; but *the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” Romans 6:23.

4. When do we receive this gift of immortality?

“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, *at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.* 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, *and this mortal must put on immortality.* 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and *this mortal shall have put on immortality*, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.” 1 Corinthians 15:51-54.

5. In the Garden of Eden, what punishment did God decree for disobedience?

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 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.*” Genesis 2:16,17.

6. Where did the lie about the immortality of the soul originate?

“And the serpent said unto the woman, *Ye shall not surely die.*” Genesis 3:4.

Note: Satan tempts us to doubt God’s Word, and rely on our senses.

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7. What did Jesus say the Devil is the father of?

“He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. *When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.* John 8:44 last part.

8. Isn't there an undying spark of life in everyone?

“Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that *no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*” 1 John 3:15.

9. What does God think of the various forms of spiritualism?

“When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do *after the abominations of those nations.* 10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. 12 *For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD:* and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Deuteronomy 18:9-12.

10. What king went to communicate with the dead?

“Then said *Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit,* that I may go to her, and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.” 1 Samuel 28:7.

11. Why did he go?

“And when Saul inquired of the LORD, *the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.*” 1 Samuel 28:6.

Note: Saul went because God did not communicate with him by any means, including the prophet Samuel.

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12. Whom did Saul think he saw?

“And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. *And Saul perceived that it was Samuel*, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself. 15 And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do. 1 Samuel 28:14,15.

13. In what forms can Satan appear?

A. In Eden: “Now *the serpent* was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” Genesis 3:1:

B. Today: “And no marvel; *for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*” 2 Corinthians 11:14:

14. Was the figure that Saul perceived really the prophet Samuel?

“Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.” 2 Corinthians 11:15.

Note: The figure that Saul perceived was really an evil angel appearing in the form of Samuel.

15. Will spiritualism be prevalent in the last days?

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” Revelation 16:13,14.

APPENDIX E—WHAT IS DEATH?

16. What will become of all those who believe in some form of spiritualism?

“Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:

“16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. 17 Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. 18 And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.” Isaiah 28:15-18.

17. Instead of trying to contact the dead, with whom should we seek to make contact?

“And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? 20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:19, 20.

THE THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES

REVELATION 14:6-14; 18:1-4

FIRST ANGEL

14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having **the everlasting gospel** to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; **for the hour of his judgment is come:**

And worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

SECOND ANGEL

14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, **Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city**, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

THIRD ANGEL

14:9 And **the third angel** followed them, saying with a loud voice,

If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

14:12 **Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.**

APPENDIX F—THREE ANGELS MESSAGES

BLESSING

14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.

NOTE: **Babylon** = Roman Catholic Church system and her Daughters—the fallen Protestant church systems (not the people in them). Rev. 17:1-5; 18:4. **The Beast** = The Roman Catholic Church/State system. Rev. 13:1-10. **The Image of the Beast** = A union of Church and State in America, and then the rest of the World. Rev. 13:11-18. **The Mark of the Beast** = Enforced Sunday worship. Rev. 14:9, 12; 12:17; Exodus 20:8-11.

[THE FOLLOWING VERSES PREDICT A FINAL REVIVAL OF THE THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE SECOND ANGEL'S MESSAGE:]

And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. 2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, **Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen**, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. 3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. 4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.** REV. 18:1-4.

WHO AND WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Who is the Head of the Church?

“Christ is the Head of the church.” Ephesians 5:23.

“And He is the Head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence.” Colossians 1:18.

Where are we to get our orders?

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5,6.

“And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.” Isaiah 58:11.

How does Jesus give us directions?

“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy word.” Psalm 119:9.

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalm 119:105.

Who has promised to carry us through the trials?

“Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Matthew 11:28,29.

APPENDIX G—WHO AND WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.” 1 Peter 5:7.

Will a ship go through if men are at the head?

“Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Jeremiah 17:5,6.

“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.” Jeremiah 17:7,8.

“O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” Jeremiah 10:23.

Are men to control God’s church?

“But I would have you know, **that the head of every man is Christ**; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.’ 1 Corinthians 11:3.

“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as **Christ is the Head of the church**: and He is the Saviour of the body.” Ephesians 5:23

“But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.” Matthew 23:8-11.

What constitutes God’s church—“the ship”?

APPENDIX G—WHO AND WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

“And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:29.

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Rev. 14:12.

The church is God's fortress. His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world. Any betrayal of the church is treachery to Him who has bought mankind with the blood of His only-begotten Son. From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth. In every age the Lord has had His watchmen, who have borne a faithful testimony to the generation in which they lived. These sentinels gave the message of warning; and when they were called to lay off their armor, others took up the work. God brought these witnesses into covenant relation with Himself, uniting the church on earth with the church in heaven. He has sent forth His angels to minister to His church, and the gates of hell have not been able to prevail against His people.” The Acts of the Apostles, p.11.

Who will you be connected with if you are truly part of God's church?

“And [God] hath put all things under His [Jesus'] feet, and gave Him to be the Head over all things to *the church, which is His body*, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.” Ephesians 1:22,23.

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” 1 Cor. 12:13.

Is apostasy going through?

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For

APPENDIX G—WHO AND WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” Jude 3,4.

“Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return.” Jeremiah 8:5.

Do we struggle with a similar problem as Hus did, if we believe the church must go through?

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 7:15-21.

“The mind of Hus, at this stage of his career, would seem to have been the scene of a painful conflict. Although the church was seeking to overwhelm him by her thunderbolts, he had not renounced her authority. The Roman Church was still to him the spouse of Christ, and the pope was the representative and vicar of God. What Hus was warring against was the abuse of authority, not the principle itself. This brought on a terrible conflict between the convictions of his understanding and the claims of his conscience. If the authority was just and infallible, as he believed it to be, how came it that he felt compelled to disobey it? To obey, he saw, was to sin; but why should obedience to an infallible church lead to such an issue? This was the problem he could not solve; this was the doubt that tortured him hour by hour. The nearest approximation to a

APPENDIX G—WHO AND WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

solution which he was able to make was that it had happened again, as once before in the days of the Saviour, that the priests of the church had become wicked persons and were using their lawful authority for unlawful ends. This led him to adopt for his own guidance, and to preach to others for theirs, the maxim that the precepts of Scripture, conveyed through the understanding, are to rule the conscience; in other words, that God speaking in the Bible, and not the church speaking through the priesthood, is the one infallible guide.’ Wylie, b. 3, ch. 2.” The Great Controversy, p.102.

Is God’s church the national establishment or grand institutions?

“Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them” Matthew 18:20.

“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” 1 Timothy 3:15.

What is God seeking to do for His church ?

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” Ephesians 5:25-27.

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.” 1 John 3:2,3.

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should

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be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.” Revelation 19:7,8.

What is the mission of the church ?

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18-20.

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” Revelation 22:17.

Myself standing between my eldest brother and his wife
at her baptism



CHRIST’S SECOND COMING

What promise did Christ make concerning His coming?

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:1–3.

What follows the signs of Christ’s coming?

“And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.” Luke 21:27.

Will talking of world peace create a false security?

“There shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” 2 Peter 3:3, 4.

“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them... But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.” I Thess. 5:2–4.

At His ascension, how was Christ’s return promised?

“And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.” Acts 1:10, 11.

Will the inhabitants of the earth, as a whole, be prepared to meet Him?

“Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall

APPENDIX H—CHRIST’S SECOND COMING

see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him.” Revelation 1:7.

“And the kings of the earth, and the great men . . . said to the mountains and to the rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.” Revelation 6:15, 16.

Will Christ’s coming be a time of reward?

“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works.” Matthew 16:27. “And, behold, I come quickly: and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Revelation 22:12.

To whom is salvation promised at Christ’s appearing?

“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” Hebrews 9:28.

What influence has this hope on the life?

“We know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is; and every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.” 1 John 3:2, 3.

When will Paul receive his crown?

“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the right-eous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.” 2 Timothy 4:8.

Manner of Christ’s Coming

At His ascension, how did the angels say Christ would come again?

“When He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up: and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also

APPENDIX H—CHRIST’S SECOND COMING

said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.” Acts 1:9–11.

How did Christ say He would come?

“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels.” Matthew 16:27.

“Then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Matthew 24:30.

What warning has Christ given concerning false views?

“Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christ’s, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.” Matthew 24:23–26.

How visible will His coming be?

“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matthew 24:27.

What takes place at the sound of the trumpet?

“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.” 1 Thess. 4:16.

What separation will then take place?

“When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth His sheep from the goats.” Matthew 25:31, 32.

APPENDIX H—CHRIST’S SECOND COMING

What will He say to those on His right?

“Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” Matthew 25:34.

What will He say to those on the left?

“Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” Matthew 25:41.

What will the Lord be to His people at this time?

“The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.” Joel 3:16, see also Jeremiah 25:30, 31; Haggai 2:21; Hebrews 12:26; Psalm 91:5–10.

How does Paul speak of this coming?

“Unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” Hebrews 9:28.

What text definitely brings the millennium to view?

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them.... And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” Revelation 20:4.

What becomes of the living wicked when Christ comes?

“As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot;...the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.” Luke 17:26–30.

“THE ETERNAL GOSPEL”

by Ellen G. White

Text: John 3:1-16: There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: **so is every one that is born of the Spirit**. 9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? 10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? 11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. 12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? 13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. 14 **And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:** 15 That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 **For God so loved the world**, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but **have everlasting life**.

If there is nothing more in all the Scriptures which point out definitely **the way to heaven**, we have it here in these

APPENDIX I—THE ETERNAL GOSPEL

words. They tell us what conversion is. They tell us what we must do in order to be saved. And, my friends, I want to tell you that this strikes directly at the root of the surface work in the religious world. It strikes directly against the idea that you can become a child of God without any particular change. There is a **decided** change wrought **in us** if the truth of God has found a place in our hearts, for it has a sanctifying power upon life and upon character. When we see the fruits of righteousness in those who claim to have advanced truth, as we claim to have it, then there will be a course of action which testifies that we have learned of Christ.

When Christ, the Hope of Israel, was hung upon the cross and was lifted up as He told Nicodemus He would be, the disciples' hope died with Jesus. They could not explain the matter. They could not understand all that Christ had told them about it beforehand.

But after the Resurrection their hopes and faith were resurrected, and they went forth proclaiming Christ and Him crucified. They told how by wicked hands the Lord of life and glory had been taken and crucified, but He had risen from the dead. And thus with great boldness they spoke the words of life at which the people were much astonished.

The Pharisees and those who heard the disciples boldly proclaim Jesus as the Messiah interpreted it that they had been with Jesus and learned of Him. They talked just as Jesus talked. This settled it in their minds that they had learned of Jesus. How has it been with His disciples in all ages of the world? Why, they have learned of Jesus; they have been in His school; they have been His students and have learned the lessons of Christ in regard to the **living connection** that the soul has with God. That **living faith** is essential for our salvation that we should lay hold upon the merits of the blood of the crucified and risen Saviour, on Christ, our righteousness.

There seems to be a cloudy atmosphere that has gathered about the soul of man and that has shut in the mind. It is next to impossible to break through this **atmosphere of doubt** and

APPENDIX I—THE ETERNAL GOSPEL

unbelief. It is next to impossible to arouse his vital interests so that he may understand what he must do to be saved.

The Simplicity of Being Saved

He who will lay hold of Christ's righteousness need not wait one moment that he himself may blot out his own sins. He need not wait until he has made a suitable repentance before he may take hold upon Christ's righteousness. We do not understand the matter of salvation. It is just as **simple** as ABC. But we don't understand it.

Now, how is it that a man will repent? Is it anything of himself? No; because the natural heart is at enmity with God. Then how can the natural heart stir itself up to repentance when it has no power to do so? What is it that brings man to repentance? It is Jesus Christ. How does He bring man to repentance? There are **a thousand ways** that He may do this.



The God of heaven is working upon human minds all the time. An invitation is given in the Word of God, and it is not only given there, but it is given by all those who believe on Jesus Christ and

are revealing Christ in their characters. They **may not preach** a discourse; they may not come directly to a person and speak to him in regard to his condition of impenitence, yet such a one sees when brought into connection with any of the disciples of Jesus Christ that there is something there that he does not have. The Pharisees saw that there was something in the disciples that they could not interpret. They saw something wonderful and were settled in their minds that the disciples had been listening to Jesus and they had learned their lessons from Him.

There are the **impressions** that are going forth all the time. There is an atmosphere that surrounds the human soul and that atmosphere is a **heavenly atmosphere** or a hellish atmosphere. There are but two distinct lines. Either we are on Christ's side of the question or on the enemy's side. And if we are

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continually drawing rays of divine light from glory, angels of God are around about us and there is an atmosphere that surrounds the human soul. Our very attitude, our very words, witness genuine conversion to all who come within the sphere of our influence . “The Spirit and the bride say come, and let him that heareth say come, and let him that is athirst come.”

Now that we are branches of the Living Vine we will be nourished by the sap that flows from the Vine. It flows **all the time** to every branch, and every branch will bear fruit to the glory of God. “It is your Father’s good pleasure” “that ye bear much fruit.” Well then, what is our position? It must be a position of **living faith**.

You Can’t Reason It Out

“I want,” says one, “to reason out this matter.” Well, reason it out if you can. “The wind bloweth where it listeth,” and you hear the sound thereof, but you cannot explain it. And no more can you explain the things of God upon the human heart. **You cannot explain** this faith that lays right hold upon the merits of the blood of a crucified and risen Saviour to bring Christ’s righteousness into your life. Clothed with the righteousness of Christ and not your own righteousness, you will not depend upon what you can do or what you will do. Don’t you know you cannot do anything without Christ? “Without Me,” He says, “**ye can do nothing**” (John 15:5).

When you sit down at your table the food that you eat is an expression of Christ’s love. And the listening to the truth of God’s words from the desk is a message that is sent to proclaim unto us the words of life.

Who of you have been gathering all the doubts and questions that you could gather and heap up against this righteousness of Christ? Who has been doing this? What side are you on?

Have you been grasping the precious truths point after point as they have been presented? Or have you been thinking that you follow your own ideas and opinions and read and judge the Word of God by your opinions and theories? Or will you take your ideas and theories to the Word of God and let **the living oracles** reveal to you where the deficiencies and defects are in

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your ideas and theories? We cannot take a position that we will judge the Word of God because we believed thus and so. “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20).

If ever a people needed light, it is those who are living in the very closing days of this earth’s history. We want to know what saith the Scripture. We want to come to the living oracles of God. We want that living faith which grasps the arm of infinite power, and we want to rely with all our being upon Jesus Christ, our righteousness. And we may do it. Yes, we do it profitably to our own soul’s interest.



You may be **united** to the Living Vine. Every member of your whole being may be united to that Vine, and the sap and nourishment that come from the Vine will nourish the branch that is in the Vine, until

you are one with Christ as He was one with the Father. Thus His blessings will be imparted to you. But brethren, we have not had faith. We have dishonored God by unbelief long enough.

The Faith of the Paralytic

I will refer to the paralytic who had not used his limbs for many years. There he was. The priests, the rulers, and scribes examined his case and pronounced it **hopeless**. They told him that by his own sin he had brought himself into this condition, and there was no hope for him. But the word was brought to him that there was a man called Jesus who was doing mighty works. He was healing the sick, and He had even raised the dead. “But how can I go to Him?” he said.

“We will carry you to Jesus,” his friends replied, “right into His presence; we have heard He has come to such a place.”

And so they took the hopeless man and bore him to where they knew Jesus was. But the multitude surrounded the building so closely where Jesus was that there was no chance for them,

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not so much as to come at the door. What were they going to do? The paralytic suggested that they open the roof and take off the tiling and let him down through the roof.

And so he manifested his earnest faith. They did it, and he was brought right before Jesus, where He could look at him. And Jesus as He looked at him, pitied him, and He said, “Son, thy sins be **forgiven** thee” (Mark 2:5). Well, what a joy that was! Jesus knew just what that sin-sick soul needed. He knew that he had been tortured on account of his own conscience, so He said, “Thy sins be forgiven thee.” What a relief came to his mind! What hope filled his heart!

Then the feelings arose in the hearts of the Pharisees, “Who has this power to forgive sins? It is God alone that has this power.”

Then Jesus said to them, “That ye may know that the Son of



man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (He said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house” (Luke 5:24). What, take up his bed with his palsied arms! What, get upon his feet with his palsied limbs! What did he do?

Why, **he just did as he was bidden**. He did what the Lord told him to. The power of the will was set to move his palsied limbs and arms, and they responded, when they had not responded for a long time. This manifestation showed before the people that there was One in their midst that could **not only** forgive sins but that could heal the sick.

But that mighty evidence given to the Pharisees did not convert them. Men can so **encase** themselves in unbelief, doubt, and infidelity that the raising of the dead would not convict them. Because of their unbelief they would be in the same unbelieving position, unconvicted, unconverted. But all those who have hearts to receive the truth and ears to hear, glorify God. They exclaim, “We have never seen it on this wise before!”

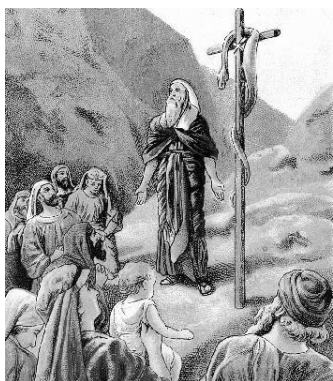
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The Response of the Impotent Man

There was the impotent man, and as Christ talked with him, he told the pitiful story of how, just as soon as he would go down into the water to be healed, somebody else would step in before him. Christ asked him, “Wilt thou be made whole?” (John 5:6). What a question! That was what he was there for, but Christ wanted to call forth the expression of desire in that man’s heart to be made whole. And when Christ bade him to rise, take up his bed and walk, he did just as Christ told him to do. He did not say, “Why, I have been here thirty years and have not taken a step during that time.” He did not stop to argue, but **did just as he was bidden**. He took up his bed and walked out and was healed from that time.

This is the faith that we need. But if you stop to explain everything and reason out every point, you will die in your sins, because you will never be satisfied.

The Brazen Serpent



Here is another case Christ presented before Nicodemus—the serpent that was lifted up in the wilderness—and declared, “Even so must the Son of man be lifted up” (John 3:14). And if He is lifted up, He will draw all men unto Him, “that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (verse 15). Now just look at that brazen serpent. The children of Israel had not realized that God had been keeping them by His angels sent to be their help and their protection. The people had not been destroyed by the serpents in their long travels through the wilderness. They had been an ungrateful people.

We are just so. We do not realize the **thousand dangers** that our heavenly Father has kept us from. We do not realize the great blessing that He has bestowed upon us in giving us food and raiment, in preserving our lives by sending the **guardian**

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angels to watch over us. Every day we should be thankful for this. We ought to have gratitude stirring in our hearts and come to God with a gratitude offering every day. We ought to gather around the family altar every day and praise Him for His watchcare over us. The children of Israel had **lost sight** that God was protecting them from the venomous beasts. But when He withdrew His hand their sting was upon them.

What then? Why, Christ Himself told Moses to set up a pole and make a brazen serpent and put it upon that pole and to raise it in the sight of the Israelites, that everyone who looked upon it might live. They had no great work to do. They were to **look** because God said it should be.

Now, suppose that they had stopped to reason it out and said, “Why, it cannot be that by looking at that brazen serpent we will be healed! There is no life in it!” But the **look of faith** did heal them just as God had told them it would. Those who looked lived. Those who stopped to argue and explain it, died.

What are we to do? Look and live. “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up” (John 3:14). The reason? That those who behold Him “should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

What kind of faith is that? Is it to believe simply, or is it a faith of admission? There are many here who have that kind of faith. You believe that Jesus was the Son of God; but do you have a personal faith in regard to your own salvation? Do you believe that Jesus is your Saviour? that He died on Calvary’s cross to redeem you? that He has offered you the gift of everlasting life if you believe on Him?

This is Righteousness by Faith

And what is it to believe? It is to **fully accept** that Jesus Christ died as our sacrifice; that He became the curse for us, took our sins upon Himself, and imputed unto us His own righteousness. Therefore we claim this righteousness of Christ, we believe it, and it is our righteousness. He is our Saviour. He saves us because He said He would. Are we going to go into all the explanations as to how He can save us? Do we have the goodness in ourselves that will make us better and cleanse us

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from the spots and stains of sin, enabling us then to come to God? We simply cannot do it.

Don't you know that when the young man came to Christ and asked Him what he should do that he might have life, Christ told him to keep the commandments. Said he, "I have done it." Now the Lord wanted to bring this lesson right home. "What lack I yet? I am perfectly whole" (Matthew 19:20). He **did not see** that there was a thing the matter with him or why he should not have eternal life. "I have done it," he said. Now Christ touches the plague spot of his heart. He says, "Come, follow



Me, and ye shall have life."

What did he do? **He turned away very sorrowful, for he had great possessions.**

Now he had not kept the commandments at all.

He should have accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour and taken hold of His righteousness. **Then**, as he had the righteousness of Christ, **he could keep the law of God.** The young ruler could not trample that law under his feet. He must respect it; he must love it. Then Christ would bring divine power to combine with man's efforts.

Christ took upon Himself humanity for us. He clothed His divinity, and divinity and humanity were combined. He showed that that law which Satan declared could not be kept, could be kept. Christ took humanity to stand here in our world, to show that Satan had lied. He took humanity upon Himself to demonstrate that with divinity and humanity **combined, man could** keep the law of Jehovah. Separate humanity from divinity, and you can try to work out your own righteousness from now till Christ comes, and it will be nothing but a failure.

By living faith, by earnest prayer to God, and depending upon Jesus' merits, we are clothed with His righteousness, and we are saved. "Oh, yes," **some say**, "we are saved in doing nothing. In fact, I am saved. I need not keep the law of God. I

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am saved by the righteousness of Jesus Christ.” Christ came to our world to bring all men back to allegiance to God. To take the position that you can break God’s law, for Christ has done it all, is a position of death, for you are as verily a transgressor as anyone.

Then what is it? It is to hear and to see that with the righteousness of Christ which you hold by faith, righteousness supplied by His efforts and His divine power, **you can** keep the commandments of God.

Not Saved in Indolence

Now we want that faith. But will man be saved in indolence? Can he be saved in doing nothing? Never, never! He must be a **colaborer** with Jesus Christ. He cannot save himself. “We are laborers together with God” (1 Corinthians 3:9). And how is it? All heaven is laboring to elevate the human race from the degradation of sin. All heaven is open to the inhabitants of earth. The angels of God are sent to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. “It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13).

And it is that **faith which works** that you want. How does it work? It works **by love**. What love? Why, the love flashing **from the cross** of Calvary. It is set up **midway** between earth and heaven, and salvation is gained by **looking** at this cross. The Father has accepted it, and the angelic host have come to that cross, and God Himself has bowed in acceptance of the sacrifice. It answers the demand of Heaven, and man can be saved through Jesus Christ, if we only have faith in Him. Man is reconciled to God, and God to man, through the full and perfect and entire sacrifice.

Now, brethren, we want faith; we want to educate the soul in faith; we want every step to be a step of faith. We want faith in this sacrifice that has been made for us. “Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other” (Psalm 85:10). Now, when we see **a ray of light** we want to lay hold upon it. The devil is working against this all the time. It is the faith that works by love that is witnessed by Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. It is the love that He has had for my soul.

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Christ has died for me. He has purchased me at an infinite cost, and He has atoned for everything that is offensive to Him. I must be a laborer with Him. I must take His yoke upon myself. I must wear the yoke of Christ. I must lift His burdens. I must teach others how to be lifted from the sinful state that I was in and to grasp by living faith the righteousness that is in Christ Jesus. That is the only way that the sinner can be saved.

You Cannot Save Yourself

Now you may cling to your righteousness, and you may think that you have tried to do about right, and that, after all, you will be saved in doing this. You cannot see that **Christ does it all**. “I must repent first,” some say. “I must go so far on my own without Christ, and then Christ meets me and accepts me.”

You cannot have a **thought** without Christ. You cannot have an inclination to come to Him unless He sets in motion influences and impresses His Spirit upon the human mind. And

if there is a man on the face of the earth who has any inclination toward God, it is because of the many influences that are set to work to bear upon his mind and heart. Those influences call for the allegiance to God and an appreciation of the great work that God has done for him.



Then don't let us ever say that we can repent of ourselves, and then Christ will pardon. No, indeed. It is the favor of God that pardons. It is the favor of God that leads us by His power to repentance. Therefore, it is all of Jesus Christ, everything of Him, and you want to just **give back** glory to God. Why don't you respond more when you meet together in your meetings? Why don't you have the quickening influence of the Spirit of God when the love of Jesus and His salvation are presented to you? It is because you do not see that Christ is first and last and best, and the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,

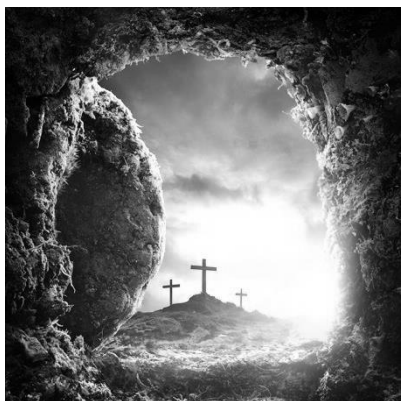
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the very Author and Finisher of our faith. You don't realize this, and therefore you remain in your sins. Why is this? It is because Satan is here wrestling and battling for the souls of men. He casts his hellish shadow right athwart our pathway, and all that you can see is the enemy and his power.

Look away from his power to the One that is mighty to save to the **utmost**. Why doesn't your faith **plow through the shadow** to where Christ is? He has led captivity captive and given gifts unto men. He will teach you that Satan claims every soul that does not join with Him as his property.

The Crucial Point in the Great Controversy

Satan is the author of death. What did Christ do after He



brought Satan **under** the dominion of death? The very last words of Christ while expiring on the cross were, "It is finished" (John 19:30). The devil saw that he had overdone himself. Christ by dying accomplished the death of Satan and brought immortality to light.

And after Christ came up from the Resurrection, what did He do? He **grasped His power** and held His scepter. He **opened** the graves and brought up the multitude of captives, testifying to everyone in our world and in creation that He had the power over death and that He rescued the captives of death.

Not all that believed in Jesus were brought to life at that time. It was only a specimen of what would be, that we may know that death and the grave are not to hold the captives, because Christ took them to heaven. And when He comes again with power and great glory, He will open the graves. The prison house **will be opened**, and the dead will come forth again to a glorious immortality.

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Here are the **trophies** which Christ took up with Him and presented to the universe of heaven and the worlds that God has created. Any affection that ever they had for Lucifer, who was the covering cherub, is now destroyed. God gave him a chance to work out his character. If He had not done this, there might have been those who felt the accusation he brought against God that He didn't give him a fair chance was justified.

The Prince of Life and the prince of darkness were in conflict. The Prince of Life prevailed, but at an infinite cost. His triumph is our salvation. He is our Substitute and Surety, and what He says to him that overcometh tells whether man has anything to do or not. How? "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne" (Revelation 3:21).

The Overcomer's Portion

Did not our Saviour have something to overcome? Did not He keep up the battle with the prince of darkness until He was a victor on every point? Then He left the work right in the hands of His followers. We have something to do. Have we not the overcomers' portion, to work out and gain the victory? Have we not to follow on **step by step** to know the Lord until we shall know **His goings forth are prepared as the morning**? Their light will shine forth until we come to the brighter light. You will grasp it and go on and gather brighter light from the oracles of God as you supplicate the God of heaven.

Jacob was ensnared. He defrauded his brother of his birthright. As he wrestled with Christ, his sins came up before him. And the angel wrestled with him and said, "Let Me go," and Jacob said, "I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me" (Genesis 32:26).

Will you do that? Will you wrestle with God at this meeting until you know that He reveals Himself to you? There are sins that afflict your souls; your sins grieve you. Will you say, "Now, Lord, I must have pardon written opposite my name," and wrestle and plead with God, laying hold upon the righteousness of Christ. "He must save; I believe in Him; I take Him at His word." Now, brethren, what shall we do?

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Jacob obtained the victory, and his name was changed that day. It was when he prevailed with God. I am so thankful that God has made a way that we may have full and free salvation. We need not look at the shadows that Satan casts on our path. He would **eclipse** heaven and Jesus and the light and power of heaven to us, and we keep talking of the power of Satan. But we need not talk of that. Isaiah presents it this way: “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). Does not that say that I and My Father are one?

God help us, brethren, to wake up and stir ourselves now to do as much as the paralytic did; to do as much as the impotent man did and as much as the one with the palsied arm did. **They did just as they were told.** God help us to believe on the Son of God and that He can save us to the utmost, and we shall have everlasting life.

But many of you act as though there wasn't enough animation in your souls to respond to the truth. Some of you act as though you thought Jesus were locked up in Joseph's new tomb. He is not there: He is risen from the dead, and we have a living Saviour today who is making intercession for us.

Then **talk** of His love, talk of His power, praise Him. If you have a voice to say anything, talk of God, talk of heaven, talk of eternal life. I have heard persons who in their homes would speak so loud that their neighbors could hear them, but they would get up in meeting and mumble over a few words that could not be heard. You want to show that you have been learning in the school of Christ and that you have been making progress. “With the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the **mouth** confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:10). How many believe the truths you have heard today? Do you want to go a few months before you will acknowledge there is light in it? Do you want to stop to reason it all out? You will die before that time.

Believe Because God Says It

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Believe it because it is the truth, because God says it, and lay hold upon the meritorious blood of a crucified and risen Saviour. He is your only hope, He is your righteousness, your Substitute and Surety, your all in all. When you realize that, you can bring to Him only an offering of **praise**. But when you are not willing to come to Christ and acknowledge that He does it all, when you feel that you must first take a few steps, and come so far, and then God will meet you; that is just exactly like Cain's offering. He did not know Jesus, and he did not know that the blood of Jesus could cleanse his sins and make his offering acceptable to God. There are more Cains than one, with tainted offerings and polluted sacrifices and without the blood of Jesus. You are to **come** to Jesus Christ at **every step**. With the blood of Jesus and its cleansing power, offer your petitions to God and pray to Him in earnest, and study your Bibles as never before.

The question is, "What is truth?" It is not how many years have I believed that makes it the truth. You must bring your creed to the Bible and let the light of the Bible define your creed and show where it comes short and where the difficulty is. The Bible is to be your standard, the living oracles of Jehovah are to be your guide. You are to dig for the truth as for hidden treasures. You are to find where the treasure is, and then you are to plow every inch of that field to get the jewels. You are to work the mines of truth for new gems, for new diamonds, and you will find them.

You know how it is with the papal power. The people have no right to interpret the Scriptures for themselves. They must have someone else interpret the Scriptures for them. Have you no mind? Have you no reason? Has not God given judgment to the common people just as well as He has to the priests and rulers? When Christ, the Lord of life and glory, came to our world, if they had known Him, they never would have crucified Him. God had told them to search the Scriptures: "In them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me" (John 5:39).

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God help us to be Bible students. Until you can see the reason for it yourself and a “thus saith the Lord” in the Scriptures, don’t trust any living man to interpret the Bible for



you. And when you can see this, you know it for yourself, and know it to be the truth of God. You will say, “I have read it, I have seen it, and my own heart takes hold upon it, and **it is the**

truth God has spoken to me from His Word.” Now this is what we are to be—individual Christians. We need to have an individual, personal experience. We need to be converted, as did the Jews. If you see a little light, you are not to stand back and say, “I will wait until my brethren have seen it.” If you do, you will go on in darkness.

God help us to have a knowledge of the truth, and if you have seen the truth of God, press right to the light and put up the bars behind you. Make not flesh your arm; but have a living experience for yourselves, and then your countenance will shine with the glory of God. You have walked with Him, and He has upheld you. You have wrestled with Him and pleaded with Him, and He has let His light shine upon you.

Talk Faith, Live Faith, Act Faith

Now, brethren, you have educated yourselves so much in doubts and questionings that you have to educate your souls in the line of faith. You have to **talk** faith, you have to **live** faith, you have to **act** faith, that you may have an increase of faith. **Exercising that living faith**, you will grow to strong men and women in Christ Jesus. God grant that this meeting that we are holding may be a meeting where the Sun of Righteousness may rise upon you and shine in your hearts with its clearest rays, making you all lights in the world.

You can be just what Christ said His disciples should be—“the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14). You should diffuse that light, hope, and faith to others. You are not to go groaning your way onward in His service, as though He were a hard taskmaster, laying upon you burdens that you cannot carry. This

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is not the case. He wants you to be **filled** with joy, to be filled with the blessing of God, to know **the length and breadth and height and depth** of the love of God, which passeth knowledge. When His name is mentioned He wants it to strike the keynote, and there will be a response in your hearts. Then you can offer up thanksgiving and glory and honor and praise to Him that sitteth on the throne and to the Lamb.

You should learn to sing **that song** here; and when you are changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, you will know



just where to strike the song of triumph with the heavenly angels and with the redeemed saints. We shall make heaven's **arches ring** with praise and glory.

Now, let the arches ring here. Let this place waken praise in your hearts. While you are upon this ground look at the lofty trees, the green velvet carpet, and let praise awaken in your hearts. Praise God that we are privileged to be in this world, as beautiful as it is. We are going to a better place. This earth is going to be purified, melted over, and made without sin.

Have we not everything to make us heavenly minded? Have we not everything to bring us right up from this earthliness and sensuality, this cheap and nonsensical talk, this jesting and joking, this false reporting, babbling, and evil surmising? Put it all away! It is a disgrace to the church! It enfeebles and weakens the church.

Let our conversation be holy. As God is holy in His sphere, let us be holy in ours. Let us rejoice in the precious Saviour, who has died to redeem us, and reflect glory back to God. **Let us join** with heaven in our praises here and unite with the songs of the heavenly angels in the city of our God.

From: Faith and Works, pp. 63-79, by Ellen G. White.