

Sabbath Remnant VOICE

Jul-Aug 2017

Striving to be among the remnant of her seed

The Laodicean Church-Part 2

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, September 23, 1873

In the case of the sin of Achan, God has shown how he regards sin among those who profess to be his commandment-keeping people. Those whom he has especially honored with witnessing the remarkable exhibitions of his power, as did ancient Israel, and that will venture to disregard his express directions, will be subjects of his wrath. God would teach his people that disobedience and sin are exceedingly offensive to him, and not to be lightly regarded. He shows us that when his people are found in sin, they should at once take decided measures to put the sin from them, that his frown should not rest upon all his people. But if those in responsible positions pass over the sins of the people, his frown will be upon them, and the people of God, as a body, will be held responsible for the sins that exist in their midst. God, in his dealings with his people in the past, shows the necessity of purifying the church from wrongs that exist among them. One sinner may diffuse darkness which will exclude the light of God from the entire congregation. When the people realize that darkness is settling upon them, and they do not know the cause, then they should earnestly seek God in great humility and self-abasement, until the wrongs which grieve God's Spirit are searched out and put away from among them.

If wrongs exist among the people, and the servants of God pass on indifferent to them, they virtually sustain and justify the sinner, and are guilty alike with the sinner, and will receive the displeasure of God just as surely as the sinner; for they will be made responsible for the sins of the guilty. Those men who have excused wrongs have been thought by the people to be very amiable, and of lovely disposition, simply because they shunned to discharge a plain and scriptural, duty. The task was not agreeable to their feelings; therefore they avoided it.

The spirit of hatred which has existed with some because the wrongs among God's people have been reprov'd, has brought blindness and a fearful deception upon their own souls, making it impossible for them to discriminate between right and wrong. They have put out their own spiritual eyesight. They may witness wrongs, but they do not feel as did Joshua, and humble their souls in humiliation because the burden of souls is felt by them.

The true people of God, who have the spirit of the work of the Lord and the salvation of souls at heart, will ever view sin in its real, sinful character. They will always be on the side of faithful and plain dealing with sins which easily beset the people of God. Especially in the closing work for the church, in the sealing time of the one hundred and forty-four thousand, who are to stand without fault before the throne of God, will they feel most deeply the

wrongs of God's professed people. This is forcibly set forth by the prophet's illustration of the last work under the figure of the men, each having a slaughter weapon in his hand. One man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side. "And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for the abominations that be done in the midst thereof."¹

Who are standing in the counsel of God at this time? Is it those who virtually excuse wrongs among the professed people of God, and murmur in their hearts, if not openly, against those who would reprove sin? Is it those who take their stand against them, and sympathize with those who commit wrong? No, indeed! These, unless they repent, and leave the work of Satan in oppressing those who have the burden of the work, and holding up the hands of sinners in Zion, will never receive the mark of God's sealing approval. They will fall in the general destruction of all the wicked, represented by the five men bearing slaughter weapons. Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those "that sigh and cry for all the abominations that are done"² in the church. Their love for purity and the honor and glory of God is such, and they have so clear a view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, that they are represented as being in an agony, even sighing and crying. Read Ezekiel, chapter nine.

But the general slaughter of all those who do not thus see the wide contrast between sin and righteousness, and do not feel as those do who stand in the counsel of God and receive the mark, is described in the order to the five men with slaughter weapons: "Go ye after him through the city, and smite; let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity; slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women; but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary."³

God said to Joshua (in the case of Achan's sins), "Neither will I be with you any more except ye destroy the accursed from among you."⁴ How does this instance compare with the course pursued by those who will not raise their voice against sin and wrong; but whose sympathies are ever found with those who trouble the camp of Israel with their sins? Said God to Joshua, "Thou canst not stand before thine enemies until ye take away the accursed thing from among you."⁵ He pronounced the punishment which should

1. Eze. 9:4

2. Eze. 9:4

3. Eze. 9:5,6

4. Josh. 7:12

5 Josh. 7:13

follow the transgression of his covenant.

Joshua then began a diligent search to find out the guilty one. He took Israel by their tribes, and then by their families, and next, individually. Achan was designated as the guilty one. But that the matter might be plain to all Israel, that there should be no occasion given them to murmur, and to say that the guiltless was made to suffer, Joshua used policy. He knew that Achan was the transgressor, and that he had concealed his sin, and provoked God against his people. Joshua discreetly induced Achan to make confession of his sin, that God's honor and justice should be vindicated before Israel. "And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done. Hide it not from me."⁶

"And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it. So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it. And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the Lord. And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and

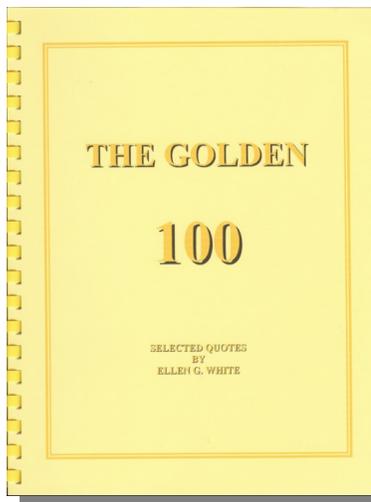
7. Josh. 7:20-25

6 Josh. 7:19

his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the Lord shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones."⁷

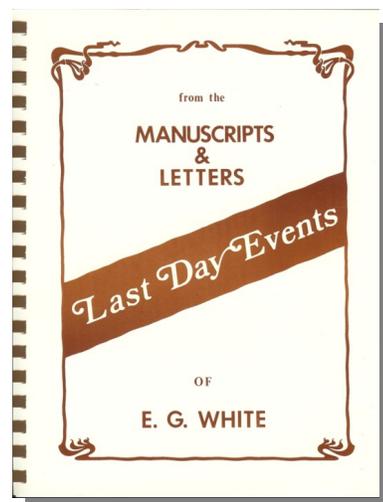
God said to Joshua, that not only had Achan taken the things which he had positively charged them not to take, lest they be accursed, but had stolen, and also had dissembled. The Lord said that Jericho and all its spoils should be consumed, except the gold and silver, which was to be reserved for the treasury of the Lord. The victory obtained in taking Jericho was not through warfare, or the exposure of the people. The Captain of the Lord's host had led the armies of Heaven. The battle was the Lord's. The children of Israel did not strike a blow. It was the Lord who fought the battle. The victory and glory were the Lord's. The spoils were his. He directed it all to be consumed, except the gold and silver which he reserved for his treasury. Achan understood well the reserve made, and that the treasures of gold and silver which he coveted were the Lord's. He stole from God's treasury for his own benefit.

There are many who profess to keep the commandments of God who are appropriating to their own use the means which the Lord has intrusted to them, and which should come into his treasury. They rob God in tithes and in offerings. They dissemble, and withhold from God to their own hurt. They bring leanness and poverty upon themselves, and darkness upon the church, because of their covetousness, and in



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

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dissembling, in robbing God in tithes and in offerings.

Those who work in the fear of God to rid the church of hindrances, and to correct grievous wrongs, that the people of God may see the necessity of abhorring sin, and that they may prosper in purity, and the name of God be glorified, will ever meet with resisting influences from the unconsecrated. Zephaniah describes the true state of this class, and the terrible judgments that will come upon them.

“And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees; that say in their heart, The Lord will not do good, neither will he do evil.”⁸ “The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord; the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord; and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord’s wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy; for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.”⁹

It is in time of conflict when the true colors should be flung to the breeze. It is then the standard-bearers need to be firm and let their true position be known. It is then the skill of every true soldier for the right is tested; shirks can never wear the laurels of victory. Those who are true and loyal will not conceal the fact, but will put heart and might in the work, and venture their all in the struggle, let the battle turn as it will. God is a sin-hating God. And those who will encourage the sinner, saying, It is well with thee, God will curse.

Confessions of sin made at the right time to relieve the people of God will be accepted of him. But there are those among us who will make confessions, as did Achan, too late to save themselves. God may prove them and give them another trial, for the sake of his people to evidence to them that they will not endure one test, one proving of God. They are not in harmony with right. They despise the straight testimony that reaches the heart, and they would rejoice to see every one silenced that gives reproof.

The people of Israel had been gradually losing their fear and reverence for God, until his word through Joshua had no weight with them. “In his days did Hiel the Beth-elite build Jericho: he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his first-born, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Joshua the son of Nun.”¹⁰

While Israel was apostatizing, Elijah was a true prophet of God. He remained loyal and true to God. His faithful soul was greatly distressed as he saw that unbelief and infidelity were fast separating the children of Israel from God. Elijah prayed that God would save his people. He entreated that the Lord would not wholly cast away his sinning people, but by his judgments, if necessary, arouse them to repentance, and not permit them to go on to still greater lengths in sin, and thus provoke him to destroy

them as a nation.

The message of the Lord came to Elijah to go to Ahab, with the denunciations of his judgments, because of the sins of Israel. Elijah traveled day and night until he reached the palace of Ahab. He solicited no admission, and waited not to be formally announced. All unexpectedly to Ahab, Elijah stands before the astonished king of Samaria in the coarse garments usually worn by the prophets. He made no apology for his abrupt appearance, without invitation. He raised his hands to heaven, and solemnly affirmed by the living God, who made the heavens and the earth, the judgments which would come upon Israel: “There shall be neither dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.”¹¹

This startling denunciation of God’s judgments because of the sins of Israel fell like a thunderbolt upon the apostate king. He seemed to be paralyzed with amazement and terror; and before he could recover from his astonishment, Elijah, without waiting to see the effect of his message, left as suddenly as he came. His work was to speak the word of woe from God, and he instantly withdrew. His word had locked up the treasures of heaven, and his word was the only key which could open them again.

The Lord knew that there was no safety for his servant among the children of Israel. He would not trust him with apostate Israel; but sent Elijah to find an asylum among a heathen nation. He directed him to a woman that was a widow, who was in such poverty that she could barely sustain life with the most meager fare. A heathen woman, living up to the best light she had, was in a more acceptable state with God than the widows of Israel who had been blessed with especial privileges, and great light, and who did not live according to the light which God had given them. As the Hebrews rejected light, they were left in darkness. God would not trust his servant among his people who had provoked his divine anger.

Now there is an opportunity for apostate Ahab and pagan Jezebel to test the power of their gods, and to prove the word of Elijah false. Jezebel’s prophets are numbered by hundreds. Against them all, stands Elijah, alone. His word has locked heaven. If Baal can give dew and rain, and cause the vegetation to flourish, if he can cause the brooks and streams of water to flow on as usual, independent of the treasures of heaven, in the showers of rain, then let the king of Israel worship him, and the people say he is God.

Elijah was a man subject to like passions as ourselves. His mission to Ahab, and the terrible denunciation to him of the judgments of God, required courage and faith. On his way to Samaria, the perpetually flowing streams, the hills covered with verdure, the forests of stately, flourishing trees, everything his eye rested upon, flourishing in beauty and glory, would naturally suggest unbelief. How can all these things in nature so flourishing be burned with drought? How can these streams that water the land, and that have never been known to cease their flow, become dry? But Elijah did not cherish unbelief. He went forth on his mission at the peril of his life. He fully believed that God would humble his apostate people, and through the visitation of his judgments

8. Zeph. 1:12

11. 1Kings:17:1

9. Zeph.1:14-18

10. 1Kings.16:34

would bring them to humiliation and repentance. He ventured everything in the mission before him.

When Ahab recovers in a degree from his astonishment at the words of Elijah, the prophet was gone. He made diligent inquiry for him; but no one had seen him or could give any information respecting him. Ahab informed Jezebel of the word of woe that Elijah had uttered in his presence, and her hatred against the prophet was expressed to the priests of Baal. They unite with her in denouncing and cursing the prophet of Jehovah. The news of the prophet's denunciations are spread all through the land, arousing the fears of some and the wrath of many.

After a few months, the earth, unrefreshed by dew or rain, becomes dry, and vegetation withers. The streams of water that have never been known to cease their flow, decrease, and the brooks of water dry up. Jezebel's prophets offer their sacrifices to their gods, and call upon them night and day to refresh the earth by dews and rain. But their incantations and deceptions formerly practiced to deceive the people do not answer the purpose now. The priests have done everything to appease the anger of their gods, and with a perseverance and zeal worthy of a better cause, have they lingered around their pagan altars, while the flames of sacrifice burn on all the high places, and the fearful cries and entreaties of the priests of Baal are heard night after night through doomed Samaria. But the clouds do not appear in the heavens to cut off the burning rays of the sun. The word of Elijah stands firm, and nothing that Baal's priests can do will change the word spoken by Elijah.

An entire year passes, and another has commenced, and yet there is no rain. The earth is parched, as though a fire had passed over it. The flourishing fields become as the scorched desert. The air becomes dry and suffocating, the dust storm blinds the eyes, and nearly stops the breath. The groves of Baal are leafless, and the forest trees give no shade, but appear as skeletons. Hunger and thirst are telling upon man and beast with fearful mortality.

All this evidence of God's justice and judgment does not awaken Israel to repentance. Jezebel is filled with insane madness. She will not bend or yield to the God of Heaven. Baal's prophets, Ahab, Jezebel, and nearly the whole of Israel, charge their calamity upon Elijah. Ahab had sent to every kingdom and nation in search of Elijah, and he required an oath of the kingdoms and nations of Israel, that they knew nothing in regard to the strange prophet. Elijah locked heaven with his word, and had taken the key with him, and he could not be found.

Jezebel then decided, as she could not make Elijah feel her murderous power, that she would be revenged by destroying the prophets of God in Israel. No one who professed to be a prophet of God should live. This determined, infuriated woman executed her work of madness in slaying the Lord's prophets. Baal's priests and nearly all of Israel were so far deluded that they thought if the prophets of God were slain the calamity under which they were suffering would cease.

But the second year passes, and the pitiless heavens give no rain. Drought and famine are doing their sad work, and yet the apostate Israelites do not humble their sinful, proud hearts before God. But they murmur and complain against the prophet of God who has brought this dreadful state of things upon them. Fathers and mothers see their children perish with no power to relieve them.

And yet they were in such terrible darkness that they could not see that the justice of God was awakened against them because of their sins; and that this terrible calamity was sent in mercy to them, to save them from fully denying and forsaking the God of their fathers.

It will cost Israel suffering and great affliction to bring them to that repentance necessary in order to recover their lost faith, and a clear sense of their responsibility to God. Their apostasy was more dreadful than drought or famine. Elijah waited and prayed in faith through the long years of drought and famine, that the hearts of Israel through their afflictions might be turned from their idolatry, to allegiance to God. Notwithstanding all their sufferings, they stood firm in their idolatry, and looked upon the prophet of God as the cause of their calamity. And if they could have had Elijah in their power they would have delivered him to Jezebel, that she might satisfy her revenge by taking his life. Because Elijah dared to utter the word of woe which God had bidden him, he has made himself the object of their hatred. They could not see God's hand in the judgments under which they were suffering because of their sins. They charged them to the man Elijah. They abhorred not the sins which had brought them under the chastening rod, but hated the faithful prophet, God's instrument, to denounce their sins and calamity. "And it came to pass after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go show thyself unto Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth."¹²

Elijah hesitated not to start on his perilous journey. He had been hated, and hunted from city to city by the mandate of the king, for three years, and the whole nation had given their oath that the prophet could not be found. And now Elijah, by the word of God, is to present himself before Ahab. Through the apostasy of all Israel, the governor of Ahab's house has proved faithful to God while his master is a worshiper of Baal. He had, at the risk of his own life, preserved the prophets of God, by hiding them by fifties in a cave, and feeding them. While the servant of Ahab is searching throughout the kingdom for springs and brooks of water, Elijah presents himself before him. Obadiah revered the prophet of God, and as Elijah sends him with a message to the king, he is greatly terrified. He sees danger and death to himself and also Elijah. He pleads earnestly that his life might not be sacrificed; but Elijah assures Obadiah with an oath that he will see Ahab that day. The prophet will not go to Ahab, but as one of God's messengers to command respect, he sends by Obadiah a message, "Behold, Elijah is here."¹³ If Ahab wants to see Elijah, he has now the opportunity to come to him. Elijah will not go to Ahab.

—Ellen G White

— *Continued in next issue*

12. 1Kings 18:1

13. 1Kings 18:8

**But seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness;
and all these things
shall be added unto you.
Matthew 6:33**

Editorial—Enoch, Moses, Elijah

These three men have a special place in the Bible. They are the three that we know have been translated to heaven and are living there now. What was it about all three men that made the Lord welcome them home early? Let's look at each one briefly in this editorial:

Each of them had very different lives. Enoch lived before the flood, and being 7th from Adam may well have been able to learn directly from him. The timeline suggests that he may have had approximately 240 years to talk with Adam. That means he would know about the Garden of Eden and many of the other events of Genesis, and could have learned first-hand by listening to and learning from Adam's experiences. We are told that Enoch would only stay in the cities for a short while before retiring back to the country to refresh his soul.

Moses is one of the most well-known figures in the Old Testament. His life is well documented, so we know about his child-

hood and many of the things the Lord did to prepare him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. But before the Lord could call Moses to lead His people, He had to help Moses forget much of what he had learned in Egypt growing up. Moses was laid to rest in the grave before he was translated to heaven, unlike Enoch and Elijah. Perhaps there is a lesson in that for all of us, as well.

Elijah's recorded experiences seem always rather dramatic. He stood alone on Mt. Carmel during great adversity, he led an Israelite king back home in a storm, he survived in a desert while being sustained by food brought to him by ravens. We are not told anything about his early life before he was called by the Lord, only that he was a Tishbite from Gilead. Despite his apparently humble beginnings, Sister White writes that Elijah stood many times before Kings and Queens. We may also be called to stand before courts, before leaders of different kinds, so, like Elijah, we should always be

ready to witness for God and uphold our faith no matter the circumstances.

Though the lives of these three men seem very different, there were also similarities in the trials they faced and in the ways they stood for God even while surrounded on all sides by wicked people. There is something we can learn from each of their lives, their characters and conduct, and their commitment to follow the Lord wherever He led them. Yes, they all lived a long time ago, but they faced temptations just like we do, and they each triumphed over them through their close relationship with the Lord. It is worth the time to study into each of their lives to see how we can follow their example and even learn from the mistakes they made of which they repented. After all, if we also make it to heaven, we will be able to meet each of these three fascinating men in person!

Children's Story—Paul's Victory

Paul Makvin is a very passionate child. He is kindhearted, intelligent, and interesting, and a bright scholar. He is gentleman-like in his manners; and he walks with a quick step and a decided air, that shows a boy of no common character. But with all these attractions, he is, as I said, a passionate child; and for this reason, he has not as many friends as he otherwise would have.

One day Paul became angry with his teacher, and spoke rudely to her. She took him up stairs and put him on a bed, and left him to his reflections. It was not long before he said to a lady in the room, "I will do that sum now."

"Miss Thompson did not say you could go down when you were ready to do the sum," the lady replied. She laid down her work, and went to the bed-side, and talked kindly and affectionately with the child. She saw that he was penitent, and asked him if he was sorry he had been rude to Miss Thompson.

"Yes," he replied, with a low voice, at the same time nodding his head, as if to make that compensate for his half whisper.

"Are you willing to tell her so?"

"Yes."

"Are you willing to tell her so before the

school?"

"I don't like to do that."

"But your sin was committed before the whole school; you not only did wrong, but you were very ungentlemanly. It requires a brave spirit to be willing to confess that you have done wrong and to apologize for it. I know it is hard to do it. The Bible tells us that 'he that ruleth his spirit is greater than he that taketh a city.' I want you to be a brave boy and gain a great victory."

"I don't like to do it, because Ellen will laugh if I do. She always laughs when I go down."

"But you must not mind her laughing. I know it is not pleasant, but the victory will be greater. Do you think you can do it?"

"Yes," he replied, and the lady kissed him and told him she thought Miss Thompson would be willing he should go down.

Paul said in a clear voice before the school, "I am sorry I was rude to you, Miss Thompson." And he was permitted to take his accustomed seat, and go on with his lessons.

I am sure Paul, by his apology, rose in the estimation of his teacher; and I know she loves him much; and I am equally sure that he rose in the estimation of the children, and what is of still more consequence, he acted

rightly, and did what was pleasing in the eyes of his Heavenly Father. It was a great victory. I suppose Paul will have many such battles to fight; for he is naturally hasty; but I trust he will so often conquer that his temper will be brought into obedience to his reason; and I hope that other children will be equally successful in their attempts to do right.

—*The Youth's Instructor, March 5, 1871*

**Enoch walked with
God, and yet
he did not live
in the midst
of any city,
polluted with
every kind of violence
and wickedness,
as did Lot
in Sodom.
Evangelism, p. 79**

Health Nugget—What Are Sweet Potatoes Good For?

Sweet Potatoes Supreme

Botanical name: *Ipomoea batatas*

Cultivation of sweet potatoes, which are native to Peru, dates back to 750 BCE. Discovered by Columbus, sweet potatoes, often (wrongly) called yams, belong to the Convolvulaceae, or morning glory plant family. Yams (from the African word “nyami”), which are from the *Dioscoreae* family, have only one embryonic seed leaf, while sweet potatoes have two. Another note for consumers: yams are usually more moist.

There are about 400 varieties of sweet potato, some more rare than others, differentiated by their skin and flesh color, ranging from cream, yellow, and orange to pink or purple. Oxidation turns them dark in spots after peeling, so it’s best to bake or steam immediately, or place in water until you do.

Baked sweet potatoes are a lovely alternative to plain white, especially with butter, salt, and pepper. Sweet potato chips and fries (cooked in coconut oil) are tasty snacks. Boiling isn’t recommended because of potentially lost nutrients.

It’s good to know that the health benefits of sweet potatoes may even surpass their reputation as a holiday favorite, having unique attributes not seen in other plant-based foods.

Health Benefits of Sweet Potatoes

The deep orange color is more than just different than white potatoes; it’s one of the indications of beta-carotene presence, shown by numerous studies to be especially rich in sweet potatoes. The vitamin A per serving even rivals that of green leafy vegetables (yams only have 3%!), providing 769% of the daily value per serving. In fact, the only food that has more vitamin A is three ounces of beef liver! The 65% daily value of vitamin C and 29% DV of vitamin B6 isn’t too bad, either.

Two key antioxidant enzymes in sweet potatoes are copper/zinc superoxide dismutase and catalase. One study showed purple sweet potatoes to have more than three times the antioxidant activity than that of one type of blueberry.

Especially in light of their high sugar

content, a surprising fact about sweet potatoes is their ability to help regulate blood sugar, even in type 2 diabetes patients. Research has verified that sweet potato extract can increase blood levels of adiponectin, a protein hormone produced by your fat cells, to regulate the way your body metabolize insulin, and even lower insulin levels when needed.

However, make sure you consume sweet potatoes in moderation, as some varieties are high in fructose. In fact, the American sweet potato has been literally bred for sweetness, with 6.5 grams of sugar per 100 grams.

Sweet Potatoes Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: 3.5 ounces
(100 grams), raw

	Amt. Per Serving	% Daily Value*
Calories	86	
Calories from Fat	0	
Total Fat	0 g	0%
Saturated Fat	0 g	0%
Trans Fat	0 g	0%
Cholesterol	0 mg	0%
Sodium	55 mg	2%
Total Carbohydrates	20 g	7%
Dietary Fiber	3 g	12%
Sugar	4 g	
Protein	2 g	
Vitamin A		284%
Vitamin C		2%
Calcium		3%
Iron		3%

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

Studies Done on Sweet Potatoes

Studies show that heat processing methods for sweet potatoes, such as steaming, baking, or boiling as opposed to raw, not only releases beta-carotenes, but also makes them more accessible to the body,¹ possibly because heat causes a disruption in the microstructure of the tissue.

Other studies have demonstrated that sweet potato extract has anti-obesity and anti-inflammatory potential, reducing inflammation in brain tissue and nerve tissue throughout the body.²

Anthocyanidins, responsible for the pigmentation of deeply-hued vegetables like purple sweet potatoes, contain flavonoid and antioxidant wound-healing properties. Studies have attributed anthocyanidins for suppressing stomach, colon, lung, and breast cancer cell growth. Because they also prevent platelets from sticking together, they prevent blood clots, which may in turn help fight heart disease.

Other polyphenols in purple sweet potatoes include cyanidins and peonidins, which studies indicate have strong counter effects on cancer cell growth. Interestingly, these anti-cancer compounds are more concentrated in the sweet potato itself than the skin,³ and may also lower the dangers posed by heavy metals and oxygen radicals, including mercury, cadmium, and arsenic.

Research in another study showed both benign and cancerous colorectal tumors to multiply in the presence of substances such as pyridine, (structurally related to benzene and ammonia) and dimethylhydrazine (a rocket propellant), but these toxins were inhibited by introducing purple sweet potato.⁴ The results “clearly demonstrated” that purple sweet potato has the capacity to reduce colorectal carcinogens.

Sweet Potatoes Fun Facts

Sweet potatoes were transported to Spain, probably by Columbus, in about 1500. Several varieties, including purple and red, were cultivated there by the mid-16th century. Other Spanish explorers carried the orange and purple-hued tubers to the Philippines and East Indies, and from there cultivation spread to India, China, and beyond, via Portuguese voyagers.

In 1740s, “sweet” potatoes became known as such in the American colonies to distinguish them from white “Irish” potatoes.

Summary

Don’t just serve deliciously honeyed or savory sweet potatoes on holidays; enjoy them regularly in a plethora of ways—sautéed, baked, steamed, or fried—because they’re good for you! Antioxidants take the bite out of free radicals roaming throughout your body looking for a place to cause

damage, but that's just one of the tremendous health benefits you get from sweet potatoes. Anthocyanidins, which give them deep pigments such as orange and purple, contain flavonoid and antioxidant clotting, wound-healing, and heavy metal cleansing properties.

Sweet potatoes come with super strong beta-carotenes, along with copper/zinc superoxide dismutase and catalase, adiponectin for balancing your insulin, impressive doses of vitamin A, plus good levels of vitamin C and vitamin B6. Studies have proven both orange and purple sweet potatoes to be cancer fighters, but purple sweet potatoes include cyanidins and

peonidins for extra protection.

Including three to five grams of (good) fat with every meal significantly increases your beta-carotene uptake from sweet potatoes, easily done by using one tablespoon of extra virgin olive oil.

References:

1.<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19908145>, Microstructure and in vitro beta carotene bioaccessibility of heat processed orange fleshed sweet potato, Sept. 2012

2.<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21861722>, Anti-obesity and antioxidative effects of purple sweet potato extract in 3T3-L1 adipocytes in vitro, Sept. 2012

3.<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16573384>, Cyanidin 3-glucoside and peonidin 3-glucoside inhibit tumor cell growth and induce apoptosis in vitro and suppress tumor growth in vivo, Sept. 2012

4.https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/jts/27/1/27_1_57/_article, Prevention by natural food anthocyanins, purple sweet potato color and red cabbage color, of 2-amino-1-methyl-6-phenylimidazo[4,5-b]pyridine (phip)-associated colorectal carcinogenesis in rats, Sept. 2012

<http://foodfacts.mercola.com/sweet-potatoes.html>

RECIPE—Yams With Orange Sauce

Ingredients:

4 large Yams, or Sweet Potatoes
1 Cup Orange Juice*
1 Cup Pineapple Juice drained
from unsweetened crushed
pineapple
3 T. Honey (optional)
1 t. grated Orange Rind
¼ t. Salt
Chopped pecans or toasted Coconut

Directions:

Bake yams at 350° F. for 1 hour or until tender. Cool and peel.
Slice into a casserole dish.
Combine remaining ingredients, except pecans, and pour over sliced yams.
Bake in a covered dish until thoroughly heated. Top with chopped pecans or toasted coconut.

*1 part orange juice concentrate to 2 parts water.

—Recipes From The Weimar Kitchen, 1992 Edition.

**Some few in every generation from Adam resisted his every
artifice and stood forth as noble representatives
of what it was in the power of man to do and to be
--Christ working with human efforts,
helping man in overcoming the power of Satan.**

**Enoch and Elijah are the correct representatives of what the race might be
through faith in Jesus Christ if they chose to be.
Satan was greatly disturbed because these noble, holy men stood untainted
amid the moral pollution surrounding them,
perfected righteous characters, and were accounted worthy
for translation to heaven.**

**As they had stood forth in moral power in noble uprightness, overcoming
Satan's temptations, he could not bring them under the dominion of death.
He triumphed that he had power to overcome Moses with his temptations,
and that he could mar his illustrious character
and lead him to the sin of taking glory to himself
before the people which belonged to God.**

3SM 146.5

King of the North—Part 13

The Loud Cry, Latter Rain Connection

There is a lot of discussion today about the identity of the king of the north in Daniel 11:40-45. Many have heard that the current idea of the papacy as the king of the north is the real pioneer position. But as we saw in part 1, this is not true. We have carefully examined the history of the Ottoman Empire and found every specification of the prophecy fulfilled. This leaves us with the conclusion that the time of trouble began sometime around the time when the Ottoman Empire, as the king of north, came to his end in 1922. We have also looked at the statements in the Spirit of Prophecy indicating that the time of trouble was beginning around 1904. The history of the 20th century is in complete agreement with our conclusions. In fact, if you don't put the beginning of the time of trouble at the beginning of the 20th century, you will be hard pressed to find anything in prophecy to explain the humanitarian catastrophe of the last century. This supposed lack of prophetic mention of the horrendous things that have happened in the last hundred years have left many young people with the feeling that the Adventist message is irrelevant to the modern world.

As you can see, correctly identifying the king of north is of vital importance in understanding where we are in history in relation to the close of probation. So why haven't we understood this before? Could it be that Satan has blinded our eyes? The answer is yes, and this is exactly what we were warned was going to happen.

"We want to understand the time in which we live. We do not half understand it. We do not half take it in. My heart trembles in me when I think of what a foe we have to meet, and how poorly we are prepared to meet him. **The trials of the children of Israel, and their attitude just before the first coming of Christ, have been presented before me again and again to illustrate the position of the people of God in their experience before the second coming of Christ—how the enemy sought every occasion to take control of the minds of the Jews, and today he is seeking to blind the minds of God's servants, that they may not be able to discern the precious truth.**" *Selected Messages Vol. 1 page 406*

"Satan is working that the history of the Jewish nation may be repeated in the experience of those who claim to believe present truth. The Jews had the Old Testament Scriptures, and supposed themselves conversant with them. But they made a woeful mistake. The prophecies that refer to the glorious second appearing of Christ in the clouds of heaven they regarded as referring to His first coming. **Because He did not come according to their expectations, they turned away from Him.** Satan knew just how to take these men in his net, and deceive and destroy them." *Selected Messages Vol. 2 page 111.*

"There was a present truth—truth at that time of special importance—in the days of Christ, of Paul, of Luther; there is a present truth for the church today. But truth is no more desired by the men of today than it was by the Jews in the time of Christ, or by papists in the days of Luther. **Therefore Satan, working now with tenfold greater power, succeeds as of old in blinding the eyes of men and darkening their understanding.**" *Signs of the Times, June 21, 1883.*

What was the attitude of the Jews that we were told would be repeated today?

"While the Jews desired the advent of the Messiah, they had no true conception of His mission... **They had studied the prophecies, but without spiritual insight.** Thus they overlooked those scriptures that point to the humiliation of Christ's first advent, and misapplied those that speak of the glory of His second coming. **Pride obscured their vision. They interpreted prophecy in accordance with their selfish desires.**" *The Desire of Ages, page 29-30.*

"The angels from Heaven behold with astonishment the indifference of the people, and their ignorance in regard to the advent of the Prince of Life. The proud Pharisees, claiming to be God's chosen people, in their hypocritical devotions, are proclaiming the law, and exalting traditions, while men of other nations are dealing in fables, and are worshiping false gods. All alike were ignorant of the great event which prophecy had foretold would transpire..."

"As there are none among the sons of men to herald the advent of the Messiah, angels must now do that work which it was the honored privilege of men to do. **But the**

angels, with the glad tidings of the birth of the Saviour, are sent to the humble shepherds, and not to the learned Jews, who profess to be the expounders of prophecy; for they have no heart to receive it." *Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 2, page 16-17.*

"The Jews had separated themselves so far from God by their wicked works, that angels could not communicate to them the tidings of the advent of the infant Redeemer. God chooses the wise men of the East to do his will." *Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 2, page 19*

"The Jewish nation followed their own standard, and, walking in the sparks of their own kindling, they perished in their delusion. They did not respond to the wonderful works of Christ, or appreciate the words of him who spake as never man spake. **They followed the imagination of their own hearts, and they were given up to be cursed by their own ambition, and to be destroyed with the falsehoods and delusions upon which they had built.**" *Sabbath-School Worker, January 1, 1895*

"Before his crucifixion, the Saviour explained to his disciples that he was to be put to death, and to rise again from the tomb; and angels were present to impress his words on minds and hearts. But the disciples were looking for temporal deliverance from the Roman yoke, and they could not tolerate the thought that he in whom all their hopes centered should suffer an ignominious death. **The words which they needed to remember were banished from their minds; and when the time of trial came, it found them unprepared.** The death of Jesus as fully destroyed their hopes as if he had not forewarned them. **So in the prophecies the future is opened before us as plainly as it was opened to the disciples by the words of Christ. The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed.** Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and **the time of trouble will find them unready.**" *Review and Herald June 7, 1906.*

We have seen clearly in the previous parts of this study the positive testimony that

the time of trouble began with the beginning of the 20th century. But Adventists have been taught all their lives that the time of trouble is in the future, after the Sunday law. How does the Sunday law fit into this?

“The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the **last act in the drama**. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself. He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity, and the earth shall disclose her blood and shall no more cover her slain.” *Testimonies Vol. 7, page 141*

“**The substitution of the false for the true is the last act in the drama.** When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal himself. When the laws of men are exalted above the laws of God, when the powers of this earth try to force men to keep the first day of the week, know that the time has come for God to work. He will arise in His majesty, and will shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity. The earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.” *Review and Herald April 23, 1901.*

If the Sunday law is the last act of the drama, occurring just prior to the close of probation and the pouring out of the plagues, and the time of trouble begins before the close of probation, how can the Sunday law be the beginning of the time of trouble? Many are waiting for the Sunday law to get ready because they think that the time of trouble is a future event. This thinking is a fatal mistake.

“It is in a crisis that character is revealed. When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, ‘Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,’ and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares; but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation. **So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will show whether there is any real faith in the promises of God.** It will show whether the soul is sustained by grace. **The great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul’s need to be supplied.**” *Christ’s Object Lessons page 412.*

The calamity is sudden and unlooked for. This is not the Sunday law, for it is expected and looked forward to by Adventists as the time they think they will receive the latter rain and be able to get ready. But the Sunday

law is the great final test, at which time all will be decided, there will be no time then to get ready. The preceding calamity, the crisis sudden and unlooked for is the “time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation” that precedes the Sunday law. This is a calamity no one expected to come so early and for which little preparation was made. This is the calamity that we call the 20th century, that historians call the greatest humanitarian disaster in the history of mankind. Just when the world thought they were on the verge of the millennium of temporal peace, the world plunged into the worst destruction ever seen in history.

“I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of ‘refreshing’ and the ‘latter rain’ to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God. Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father. Before this time the awfully solemn declaration has gone forth, ‘He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.’ I saw that none could share the ‘refreshing’ unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. Let all remember that God is holy and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence.” *Early Writings page 71.*

“I was shown God’s people waiting for some change to take place—a compelling power to take hold of them. But they will be disappointed, for they are wrong. They must act, they must take hold of the work themselves and earnestly cry to God for a true knowledge of themselves. The scenes which are passing before us are of sufficient magnitude to cause us to arouse and urge the truth home to the hearts of all who will listen. The harvest of the earth is nearly ripe.” *Testimonies Vol. 1 page 261*

“While the work of salvation is closing,

trouble will be coming on the earth, and the nations will be angry, yet held in check so as not to prevent the work of the third angel. At that time the ‘latter rain,’ or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come, to give power to the loud voice of the third angel, and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out.” *Maranatha page 259*

“As the members of the body of Christ approach the period of their last conflict, ‘the time of Jacob’s trouble,’ they will grow up into Christ, and will partake largely of his Spirit. As the third message swells to a loud cry, and as great power and glory attends the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of that glory. It is the latter rain which revives and strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble. Their faces will shine with the glory of that light which attends the third angel.” *Review and Herald May 27, 1862*

If the Sunday law occurs just prior to the close of probation, then the latter rain must fall before the Sunday law. This is exactly what we find in the Spirit of Prophecy. Remember how Early writings speaks of the “commencement of the time of trouble?” During this commencement of the time of trouble we find the loud cry and latter rain.

“I saw that God had children who do not see and keep the Sabbath. They have not rejected the light upon it. And at the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully. This enraged the churches and nominal Adventists, as they could not refute the Sabbath truth. And at this time God’s chosen all saw clearly that we had the truth, and they came out and endured the persecution with us. I saw the sword, famine, pestilence, and great confusion in the land. The wicked thought that we had brought the judgments upon them, and they rose up and took counsel to rid the earth of us, thinking that then the evil would be stayed.” *Early Writings page 33.*

“This view was given in 1847 (referring to the paragraph we just quoted) when there were but very few of the Advent brethren observing the Sabbath, and of these but few supposed that its observance was of sufficient importance to draw a line between the people of God and unbelievers. Now the fulfillment of that view is beginning to be seen. ‘The commencement of that time of trouble,’ here mentioned does **not refer to the time when the plagues shall begin to be poured out, but to a short period just before they are poured out, while Christ is in the sanctuary.** At that time, while the work of salvation is closing, trouble will be coming on the earth, and the nations will be

angry, yet held in check so as not to prevent the work of the third angel. **At that time the ‘latter rain,’ or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come, to give power to the loud voice of the third angel,** and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out.” *Early Writings, page 85 (parenthesis and emphasis added)*

This would mean that the time of the latter rain and the giving of the Loud Cry must start at the beginning of the time of trouble, not at the end of it. If the time of trouble began near the beginning of the 20th century, which we have clearly seen that it did, then the Loud Cry and latter rain must begin at that time too. Could this even be possible? Are we not to look to the future for these things?

The Sabbath has certainly been proclaimed more fully than ever before. If you open a modern dictionary it will tell you that the Sabbath is the 7th day of the week. This was not true 100 years ago. In those days they routinely used the word to refer to Sunday. But the truth has been proclaimed so fully that the world today knows that the word Sabbath refers to the 7th day or Saturday and, in most cases, no longer uses it to refer to Sunday.

“While the work of salvation is closing, trouble will be coming on the earth, and the nations will be angry, yet held in check so as not to prevent the work of the third angel. **At that time the ‘latter rain,’ or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come,** to give power to the loud voice of the third angel, and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out.” *Maranatha page 259*

“As the members of the body of Christ approach the period of **their last conflict, ‘the time of Jacob’s trouble,’** they will grow up into Christ, and will partake largely of his Spirit. As the third message swells to a loud cry, and as great power and glory attends the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of that glory. **It is the latter rain which revives and strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble.** Their faces will shine with the glory of that light which attends the third angel.” *Review and Herald, May 27, 1862.*

Let’s add the latter rain and loud cry and Sunday law to that chart of the three times of trouble we had in an earlier article.

If you take the statements in the Spirit of Prophecy regarding the latter rain and loud cry and do the same thing we did in part 9 with the time of trouble statements you find they follow a similar pattern.

➤ **1849**—“...the time of trouble, such

as never was, had not yet commenced.” (*Early Writings, page 36*)

- **“At that time** (commencement of the time of trouble) the **‘latter rain,’** or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, **will come,** to give power to the **loud voice** of the third angel...” (*Early Writings page 85, 86*)
- **1894**—“We are in the very shadow of the time of trouble which is fast approaching, a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.” *The Home Missionary, December 1, 1894*
- **1892**—“The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as [being something to be bestowed] in the future, **but it is the privilege of the church to have it now.** *Last Day Events (Non Conference Edition) page 61.*
- “The time of test is just upon us, for **the loud cry of the third angel has already begun...**” *Review and Herald Nov. 22, 1892.*
- **1897**—“We must not wait for the latter rain. **It is coming** upon all who will recognize and appropriate the dew and showers of grace that fall upon us.” *Manuscript Releases Vol. 2 page 18.*
- **It is the time of the latter rain,** when the Lord will give largely of His Spirit. *Testimonies to Ministers page 512.*
- **1904**—“We are **now entering upon the time of trouble** spoken of: [Daniel 12:1-4 quoted]” (*Manuscript Releases, Volume 13, page 394*)
- **1906**—“In the eighteenth chapter (of Revelation) is recorded the very last call to the churches. **This call is now to be given.**” (*Manuscript 75, Sept. 20, 1906, Upward Look page 277*)
- **1907**—“**The time of trouble has already begun.**” (*Manuscript Releases, Volume 21, page 101*)
- **1913**—“The message **for today** is... Revelation 18” (*Review and Herald, November 20, 1913*)
- **1914**—“We are standing on the threshold of the crisis of the ages.” (*Prophets & Kings, page 278*)

These are just a few of the statements on the latter rain and loud cry, but just from this it seems plain that Sister White was placing both events in the current context in the first decade of the 20th century. It is perfectly consistent with the king of the north coming to his end in 1922 and the commencement of the time of trouble sometime around that same time. This means that the time of the loud cry and latter rain has been here for an entire century! We are right at the tail end of things. Why didn’t we notice? Because we have been living in the time of trouble all our natural lives and the confusion and trouble seem normal to us. But what we live with on a daily basis would not have seemed normal at all to people living a century ago! But why haven’t we seen evidence of the latter rain during this time? Perhaps this is the reason.

“Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. They are making a terrible mistake. The work that God has begun in the human heart in giving his light and knowledge, must be continually going forward. Every individual must realize his own necessity. The heart must be emptied of every defilement, and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now. Then the human agent had only to ask for the blessing, and wait for the Lord to perfect the work concerning him. It is God who began the work, and he will finish his work, making man complete in Jesus Christ. But there must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. **Only those who are living up to the light they have, will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.**” *Review and Herald, March 2, 1897.*

What is the latter rain?

“Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the **words of my mouth. My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew,** as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass.” *Deuteronomy*

32:1-2.

We gather from this passage and others that the rain is the words of God, or His message. The latter rain is to come as a message to the people, accompanied by the Holy Spirit. So, what is this message?

“The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God. Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. **This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel’s message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure.**” *Testimonies to Ministers* page 91-92.

“**The whole earth is to be lightened with the glory of God’s truth.** The Lord will not close up the period of probation until the warning shall be more distinctly proclaimed. The trumpet must give a certain sound. The law of God is to be magnified, its claims must be presented in their true, sacred character, that the people may be brought to decide for or against the truth. Yet the work will be cut short in righteousness. **The message of Christ’s righteousness is to sound from one end of the world to the other. This is the glory of God which closes the work of the third angel...**” *Last Day Events* page 79, (Non Conference Edition) Letter 2C, 1892.

“In the closing work of God in the earth, the standard of His law will be again exalted... in the hour of greatest peril the God of Elijah will raise up human instrumentalities to bear a message that will not be silenced... ‘Fear God, and give glory to Him...’ Rev. 14:7-10. At the judgment this covenant will be brought forth, plainly written with the finger of God, and the world

will be arraigned before the bar of Infinite Justice to receive sentence... **And the message for today is: ‘Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen... Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.’** Revelation 18:2, 4, 5.” *Prophets and Kings* page 186-187.

“**God designs that the plan of redemption shall come to His people as the latter rain:** for they are fast losing their connection with God. They are trusting in man, and glorifying man, and their strength is proportionate to the strength of their dependence. Some matters have been opened before me which will be fulfilled ere long. We are to know more than we do at the present time. We are to comprehend the deep things of God... We need to study the Scriptures with humble, contrite hearts. Those who will devote their powers to the study of Gods Word, and **especially the prophecies referring to these last days, will be rewarded by the discovery of important truths.**” *Ms 75, 1899, pp. 4, 5* *Untitled Manuscript, May 11, 1899, Manuscript Releases* page 195.

So, the latter rain comes as a message. This message is the doctrine of Christ, the plan of salvation, righteousness by faith, the law of God, the Sabbath, a call to come out of Babylon, and a clearer understanding of the prophecies. This message is to be given at the beginning of the time of trouble, which we have proved began at the beginning of the 20th century. This means that while the Lord has been pouring out the latter rain, we have been waiting for the Sunday law to receive it and give the message!

“**The third angel’s message is swelling into a loud cry,** and you must not feel at liberty to neglect the present duty, and still entertain the idea that at some future time you will be the recipients of great blessing, when without any effort on your part a wonderful revival will take place. Today you are to give yourselves to God, that He may make of you vessels unto honor, and meet for His service.” *The Review and Herald, March 22, 1892.*

“Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus

provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. **They are making a terrible mistake.** The work that God has begun in the human heart in giving His light and knowledge must be continually going forward. Every individual must realize his own necessity. The heart must be emptied of every defilement and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now. Then the human agent had only to ask for the blessing, and wait for the Lord to perfect the work concerning him. It is God who began the work, and He will finish His work, making man complete in Jesus Christ. But there must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. **Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light.** Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. **It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.**” *Testimonies to Ministers* page 507

It is obvious that the latter rain, loud cry, and time of trouble began together right around the turn of the 20th century. But Adventists have been taught all their lives that these three events are future, after the Sunday Law. Could it be that we have been deceived by our leaders? Just as the Jews were deceived by their leaders? Not only is it possible, it has happened! What the whole thing boils down to is this. Do you believe the testimonies of God’s Spirit or don’t you?

“Satan is working that the history of the Jewish nation may be repeated in the experience of those who claim to believe present truth... Satan knew just how to take these men in his net, and deceive and destroy them.” *Selected Messages Vol. 2, page 111.*

Have we been deceived? What false methods of interpretation have been used to deceive us? How can we avoid being caught unprepared when probation closes? We will consider these questions in the next article.

---Rick and Virginia Markwell

When men are as devoted as Elijah was and possess the faith that he had, God will reveal Himself as He did then. When men plead with the Lord as did Jacob, the results that were seen then will again be seen. Power will come from God in answer to the prayer of faith. Gospel Workers 255.3

Letters-Kenya

Heb. 6:10-11

June 30, 2017

There is a world [soul] to be saved and such a work is to be done by our people.

God wants every one of us to be His helping hand; and if we yield ourselves to Him, He will teach us and work through us, that we may be able to impart to others the glory which enlightens the world with the message of His righteousness. **Rev. 14 & 18**

My brethren, after you have done all you can do in His work; we notice that the trials are fully made in these last days by the adversary regarding our plans as chief end to all efforts to get printed materials out that contain the last message of mercy to be given out as leaves in autumn. God Jehovah in His mighty can restrains the forces of evil that the last warning is given to the world. He impressed elder J__ to take a decided effort to accomplish His work in the region of E. Africa by stretching an extra benevolence offer. The work I planned had to go on; even though Satan always loves to bring the means under his control that the servants of God may lack! Praises to God who gives wisdom for other options to get His plans succeed. Now that everything seemed normal, established home churches ordained of God are prepared to instruct His children in this great work of passing out the messages of Present Truth on printed matter to the multi-ethnic race of E. Africa with the special truths for this time, and do a practical missionary work. Bro. N__ and S__ of K__ had invited me for a Crusade at W__ T__ for 2 weeks starting on 19th of June 2017. They

mainly wanted prints to help them in house to house call for the evening meeting at the venue.

I traveled to K__ on several occasions in a pursuit of my issue of theft and then buy ink and papers for printing the materials I wanted for my missionary work/trip. My budget was little bit big but I had to start with the funds which were available so that I can pack and send some parcels to the brethren who are eagerly waiting to receive them at home here and also K__, T__ and DRC. I also had to make some few prints in French for bro. V__ S__ living in L__ DRC. It is miraculous that bro. V__ through the online mission has accepted the present truth and ready to work with us. Bro. D__ J__ sent me this contact and I engaged him via the various online communications until he agreed to host me for evangelistic visit to several places in his country.

Nevertheless, the work home was imminent to have it done and in that every 3rd of June each year is taken here in U__ as a Christian public celebration day for the death of 37 persons burnt in the late 1800 under the orders of the king of B__ after accepting to become converts to the Christian missionaries! Over a million people converge as pilgrims at the site in N__ near K__ for mass. I had to get supply of printed messages ready in a short while to be passed during this season. K__ P__ and I used this opportunity to mobilize our brethren engage in the work of giving out tracts containing different lessons to the

people who came from different places of East Africa. The few booklets which I had reserved for the K__ trip were given out to bands of pilgrims who seemed broken and exhausted by long distances they traveled! They received our messages in prints humbly which I believed was a blessing to open their mind to our last saving message of mercy than the expected blessings from what has turned into a ritual of Catholic [Anglicans & Roman] church celebrations with false hopes of blessings from the dead saints. We did our work in faith and left the results with God; praying earnestly in faith and that the mystery of God's providence must bring its answer. Yet there is pending crusade in W__ T__ council which needed door to door canvassers in the neighboring villages so that many come to our meeting. On the travels I made to K__, I had to join my brethren for cause and there is a promising turn up which has made us fix baptism to be on Sunday 2nd July 2017.

I had made plans to travel to different areas in the region with much hopes of reviving and establishing our churches but I had to post bond in a bid get some more materials be printed out and resume my trip by July 2017.

Thanks for the continual support to crown our efforts so that wide areas of our interest and planning can be reached. God Jehovah blesses you.

Kind regards

NJ

Those who heed Moses and the prophets will require no greater light than God has given; but if men reject the light, and fail to appreciate the opportunities granted them, they would not hear if one from the dead should come to them with a message. They would not be convinced even by this evidence; for those who reject the law and the prophets so harden their hearts that they will reject all light. COL 265.3