

Sabbath Remnant VOICE

Nov-Dec 2015

Striving to be among the remnant of her seed

The Return of the Exiles—No. 13 The Journey to Jerusalem, under Ezra Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, February 13, 1908

The decree of Artaxerxes was made in the seventh year of his reign, B. C. 457. Once more the dispersed of Judah were given opportunity to work out the purpose of God in restoring Zion. In the raising up of Ezra as a leader, God's providence was manifest. Some discerned this, and gladly took advantage of the privilege of returning under circumstances so favorable.

A general place of meeting was designated, and at the appointed time those who were desirous of going to Jerusalem assembled for the long journey. "I gathered them together to the river that runneth to Ahava," says Ezra, "and there abode we in tents three days."¹

The number who responded to the call to leave Babylon, was disappointingly small. Ezra had expected that a large number would return. But many of those who had acquired houses and lands, had no desire to sacrifice these possessions. They loved ease and comfort rather than hardship and privation, and were well satisfied to remain. Their example proved a hindrance to many who might otherwise have chosen to cast in their lot with God's people, and advance by faith.

As Ezra looked over the company assembled, he was surprised to find "none of the sons of Levi."² Where were the members of the tribe that had been set apart for the sacred service of the temple? To the call, "Who is on the Lord's side?"³ the Levites should have been the first to respond. During the period of the captivity, and afterward, they had been granted many privileges. They had enjoyed fullest liberty to minister to the spiritual needs of their Jewish brethren in Babylon. Synagogues had been built, in which the priests conducted the worship of God, and instructed the people. The observance of the Sabbath, and the performance of sacred rights peculiar to the Jewish faith, had been freely allowed.

But with the passing of the years after the close of the captivity, conditions changed, and many new responsibilities rested upon the leaders in Israel. The temple at Jerusalem had been rebuilt and dedicated, and more priests were needed to carry on its services. There was pressing need of men of God to act as teachers of the people. And besides, the Jews remaining in Babylon were in danger of having their religious liberty restricted. Through the prophet Zechariah, as well as by their late experience in the troublous times of Esther and Mordecai, God had plainly warned his people to flee from Babylon. The time had come when it was perilous

to dwell longer in the midst of heathen influences. In view of these changed conditions, the priests in Babylon should have been quick to discern in the call, "Who is on the Lord's side?"⁴ a special call to them to return to Jerusalem.

The king and his princes had done more than their part in opening the way for every one who feared God to return. They had provided abundant means for carrying forward the work of God; but where were the men? The sons of Levi failed at a time when their presence was greatly needed at Jerusalem, and when the influence of their decision to return would have led many others to follow their example. Their strange indifference is a sad revelation of the attitude of the Israelites in Babylon toward God's purposes for his people.

Once again Ezra addressed the Levites in Babylon with the words, "Who is on the Lord's side?"⁵ To emphasize the importance of quick action, he chose nine "chief men,"⁶ and two "men of understanding,"⁷ as special messengers to return and persuade their brethren to accompany them to Jerusalem.

While the travelers tarried, these trusted messengers hastened back to "Iddo the chief,"⁸ and "his brethren the Nethinims,"⁸ with the plea, "Bring unto us ministers for the house of our God."⁸ This entreaty was heeded; a few halting souls made final decision to return. Ezra acknowledged with gratitude that "by the good hand of our God,"⁹ his messengers succeeded in returning to the camp quickly with about forty priests, and two hundred twenty Nethinims,—men upon whom he could depend as wise ministers and good teachers and helpers.

Those who expected to return with Ezra were now ready to start. Before them was a journey that would occupy several months. The men were taking with them their wives and children, and their substance, besides large treasures for the temple and its service. Ezra was aware that enemies lay in wait by the way to attack, plunder, and destroy him and his company; yet he had asked from the king no armed force for their protection.

Before setting out on the journey, he sought the protection of the Most High. "I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava," says Ezra, "that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to ask of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance."¹⁰ Earnest prayer was offered to God for his blessing upon the undertaking. Says Ezra: "I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken

4. Ex 2:26

1. Ezra 8:15

5. Ex 2:26

6. Ezra 8:16

7. Ezra 8:16

2. Ezra 8:15

8. Ezra 8:17

3. Ezra 2:26

9. Ezra 9:18

10. Ezra 8:21

unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.”¹¹

11. Ezra 8:22

Under ordinary circumstances, it would have been wholly right and proper for Ezra to accept the offer of an armed escort. But in this instance, he had expressed himself to King Artaxerxes so freely regarding his steadfast confidence in the protecting care of the God of Israel, that he was ashamed to ask the king for protection. He believed that in view of all that had been said regarding the true God, the faith of the king in the power of God would be strengthened if the Israelites, on their part, would exercise faith.

In this matter, Ezra and his companies discerned an opportunity to magnify the name of God before the heathen; and so they determined to put their trust wholly in him. They knew that if they kept the law of the Lord continually before them, and practised this law, they would be protected by the breastplate of righteousness. They realized that if they wilfully chose to violate even one precept of the Decalogue, they would be like a soldier without a breastplate,—unprotected from the assaults of Satan. “So we fasted,” said Ezra, “and besought our God for this: and he was entreated of us.”¹²

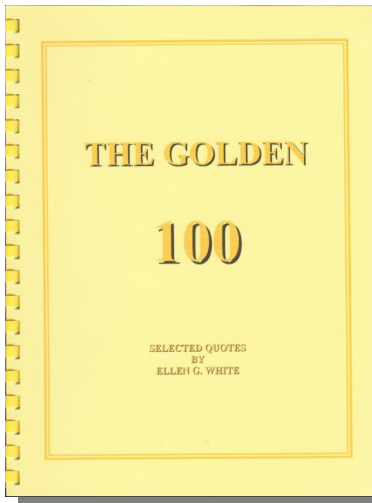
12. Ezra 8:23

By prayer and fasting, by self-examination and confession of sin, they sought to come into harmony with God and his holy law. They pleaded with the Lord to purge them from their sins. All harshness and impatience of spirit were put away. Self was crucified; the Lord God was exalted, and he alone. They knew that their strength was to be gained not in wealth, not in the

13. Ezra 8:24-25

power and influence of idolatrous men, but in the favor of God. Through conformity to his will, they hoped for success. They could not afford to lessen their influence over men, in behalf of the truth, by allowing unsanctified traits of character to obtain the mastery. Nor could they afford to create in the minds of their heathen friends a single doubt as to the sincerity of the profession of faith made by God’s commandment-keeping people. They well knew that if they succeeded in their important mission, it would be because they had complied with the requirements of God, thus making it possible for his blessing to accompany them. Under these peculiar circumstances, they asked for no guard of soldiers. The heathen must not be given occasion to ascribe to the strength of man the glory that belonged to God alone.

But the blessing of God does not take the place of prudence and forethought. As a special precaution in safeguarding the treasure, Ezra “separated twelve of the chief of the priests,”—proved men, wise men of opportunity, men of faithfulness and determined fidelity,—“and weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, even the offering of the house of our God, which the king, and his counselors, and his lords, and all Israel there present, had offered.”¹³ These men were solemnly charged to act as vigilant stewards over the treasure entrusted to their care. “Ye are holy unto the Lord,” Ezra declared; “the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a free-will offering unto the Lord God of your fathers. Watch ye, and keep them, until ye weigh them before the chief of the priests and the

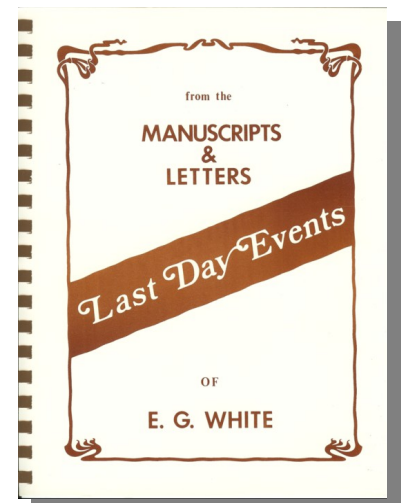


THE GOLDEN 100

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

LAST DAY EVENTS
(non-conference edition)

In this spiral bound book you will find over 200 pages of unpublished letters and manuscripts of E.G. White concerning the last days. **English & Spanish** versions available! Suggested donation of \$13.00 per copy.



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Levites, and chief of the fathers of Israel, at Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of the Lord.

“So took the priests and the Levites the weight of the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, to bring them to Jerusalem unto the house of our God.”¹⁴

14. Ezra 8:28-29

The care exercised by Ezra in providing for the transportation and safe-keeping of the Lord’s treasure, is an object-lesson worthy of thoughtful study. Only those whose trustworthiness had been proved, were chosen; and they were instructed plainly as to their responsibility before God. In the appointment of faithful officers to act as treasurers of the Lord’s goods, Ezra recognized the necessity and value of order and organization in connection with the work of God.

During the few days that the Israelites had tarried to seek the Lord for protection and guidance, every provision was completed for the long journey. “We departed from the river of Ahava,” Ezra writes, “on the twelfth day of the first month, to go unto Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way.”¹⁵ They were on the way about four months, reaching Jerusalem “on the first day of the fifth month,”¹⁶ in the seventh year of Artaxerxes. The multitude that accompanied Ezra—several thousand in

15. Ezra 8:31

16. Ezra 7:9

all, including women and children—necessitated a slow journey, but all were preserved in safety.

The Lord wrought for the returning Jews. Even their enemies were restrained from doing them harm. None were able to intercept them, and their journey was a prosperous one.

This experience is a lesson to all those who have set their faces toward the New Jerusalem. The Christian pilgrim is to make his journey one of trust in the keeping power of God. There will always be enemies, emissaries of Satan, on the alert to hurt and destroy every soul who is not on guard, and who has not provided himself with the Christian armor of righteousness and peace.

Fellow pilgrim, let strict faithfulness and determined fidelity characterize your every act. Let every step of the journey to the New Jerusalem be taken with eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith. Those who will keep the way of the Lord, in strict obedience, will have the guardianship of heavenly angels as they travel Zionward. All self-seeking, all dissension and strife, will be put away. Unity and harmony will prevail.

May we take these experiences in the history of Israel to heart, consecrate ourselves anew to God, and live to the honor and glory of his name.

—Ellen G White

Editorial-Comments on the New Year

For many of you reading this issue, it will be just before or after the new year has come. In considering what to share with our readers for this occasion, I found an article from Sister White that says it best: “This Day With God” page 82. I pray this coming year will be filled with blessings for each one of you—but most importantly, I pray it will be a year in which we all can say that we have done our best to share the gospel, to help others be prepared, and to prepare ourselves for our Lord’s soon return. We never know, this could be the year!

“It is as much the privilege of every individual member of the church to know from the Word God’s will in regard to his course of action as it is for the president of the conference or for any other man in office of trust. The Lord would be sought unto by all who would be instructed and enlightened and worked by the Holy Spirit. God is ready to commune with His people...

Every individual must seek by earnest prayer to know the Word of God for himself, and then to do it. Only in day by day putting his trust in God, and not in the arm of flesh, will any soul obtain the experience essential to answer the prayer of Christ, “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3). This is the lesson given to every soul who has commenced the new year. In all your temporal concerns, in all your cares and anxieties, wait upon the Lord. Put not your trust in princes, nor in the sons of man because they may be in positions of trust. The Lord has united your heart with Him. If you love Him, and are accepted in His service, bring all your burdens, both public and private, to the Lord and wait upon Him. You will then have an individual experience, a conviction of His presence and His readiness to hear your prayer for wisdom and for instruction that will give you assurance and confidence in the Lord’s willingness to succor you in your perplexities...

He would have you rejoice and praise Him every day for the privilege granted to you in the words of Christ: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28)... Spread out your case before the Lord, and whatever your anxieties and trials, your spirit will be braced for endurance. The way will be opened before you to disentangle yourself from embarrassment and difficulty. You need not go to the next town or to the ends of the earth to learn what course you shall pursue. Trust in God as your present Helper, who will overrule all things as One who knows best.”

—Manuscript 15, March 14, 1897, “Individual Experience Necessary.” This Day With God p.82

Story—The Brook Without a Blessing

“Well, good-by,” said the brook to the spring; “I am in a great hurry to get to the river. It’s a beautiful morning, and I shall run straight down the mountain. I have no time to go twisting and twirling about like my sister over there.”

“The shortest way is not always the best,” replied the spring. “If you take a straight line through everything, you will miss a great many pleasant places.”

“Never mind; I want to start to the river. If I reach it safely and quickly, it does not signify, what I miss.”

“Yes, it does. You’ll fall into the river without a blessing, and not a flower on the mountain will be sorry when you’re gone.”

The brook only laughed, and rippled away in the sunshine.

“Come and bathe my roots,” called a daisy, as he rippled past her like a thread of silver shining in the grass.

“What! Lose a precious minute, and make a curve in my course for the sake of a little flower like you? Nonsense!” cried the brook; “wait until the dew comes down to-night.”

So the poor daisy grew weaker and

weaker, and when the dew came, she was dead.

“Cool my leaves for me,” said a young birch tree. “I’ve been standing here in the sun for a long time.”

“I cannot possibly take all that time, jump over those great rocks,” replied the selfish brook. “There is my sister not far off; ask her to come round your way.”

But the sister brook had other leaves to cool, and she could not help all the thirsty trees.

Quickly down the mountain went the brook, only caring for his own will and pleasure, and the flowers and leaves called to him in vain.

“I must get to the river,” he said; “and I really have not any time to waste over my neighbors.”

His sister did what she could, and her course was very winding; for when a flower spoke to her, she turned aside to listen, and the grateful blossoms gathered dew-drops from her, and showered them over her as she passed by. The trees bent down to shade her from the sun when she came near to bathe their roots and cool their hot leaves; and she

flowed so quietly down into the river at last that her brother never knew she was there until the river spirit called her by her name.

“What have you done since you left the spring?” he asked.

And the little brook answered that she was sorry that she was so long on the way, but that there were many thirsty flowers, and she could not bear to hear them crying.

Then a beautiful sound came floating through the air like the very sweetest music, and the river spirit said,

“Listen! The voices of the flowers are singing your praises, little brook, because you waited and flowed for their sakes.

But there is not a voice to sing your praise,” he added, as he turned to her brother. “The grass is no greener, and the flowers are no fresher along your course. You have come down, into the river, but you are not welcome. You are hardhearted and selfish, a brook without a blessing.”

The Youth’s Instructor May 30, 1883

Story-Raining Gold

LITTLE Harry was looking out of the window, watching the rain as it pattered down on the green grass, and bent the flower heads, dancing away over the gravel, and making little pools wherever there was the least pretense of a basin. It is a pleasant thing to sit snug in your comfortable room and watch the rain; but Harry’s brain was busy with another thought.

“O Aunt Susan,” he said, his bright eyes sparkling, “how I wish it would rain gold coins instead of rain-drops! Wouldn’t we be rich?”

“What if it should rain gold instead of water-drops all summer?”

“Why we could have everything in the world we wished for, then. I would buy a little carriage and harness for Carlo, and Annie should have the paint-box she wants so much, and mother would not need to work a bit, and I would get her a sewing machine. Oh, how good it would be, auntie!”

“But what would you get to eat? Nothing can grow without water.”

“Oh! We could buy our food; we should have money enough.”

“Yes; but if it rained gold all over the world, no one would have any food to sell. All the fields would be parched. The grass would shrink and crumble to dust. The grain could not grow under golden rain. These beautiful and shady trees would soon wither and die. There would be no fruit or vegetables in any one’s garden. The little streams, and many of the wells that give refreshment to thousands, would all be dried up, and the men and animals would perish with thirst as well as hunger.”

“Robinson Crusoe thought little of the gold he found in the sea-chest washed ashore on his island, for he could buy nothing with it.”

“Besides, if gold were as plentiful as pebbles, we should value it no higher. Money is of no use except for what it brings us of the comforts of life. Someone has estimated that every good summer shower is really worth in money many hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of dollars. It produces what will bring that amount. We shall always find, dear Harry, the more we think about it, that our Creator has ordered everything a great deal more wisely and better for us than we could do for ourselves.”

The Youth’s Instructor August 15, 1870

Lentil Soup

Takes about 1 hour and 20 minutes to prepare if you chop vegetables while lentils are cooking; serves at least 6.

Ingredients:

1 1/2 cups lentils
8 cups of water
1 onion, chopped
3-4 cloves garlic
2-3 large potatoes
4-5 large carrots
1 10-ounce bag of chopped spinach,
or 1 large bunch
1/2 tablespoon dried parsley
cayenne pepper (start with 1/2 tsp)
salt (add to individual taste)
lemon juice

To make:

1. Place lentils and water in a large pot, bring to boil and turn to low heat; cover and cook for 30 minutes.
2. Add onion, garlic, potatoes and carrots and cook for 30 more minutes.
3. Add spinach and spices and cook for 10 more minutes (add spinach a little earlier if it is fresh).
4. Add salt and lemon juice to individual servings, to taste.

Notes: You can add 1/2 cup more lentils to make a thicker soup or 1/2 to 1 more cup of water to make it thinner.

Health Nugget-What is Pineapple Good For?

Pineapple: The “King of Fruits”

Botanical name: *Ananas comosus*

Reportedly the second favorite fruit in America right after another tropical fruit – bananas—the pineapple is unique among fruits. The drought-tolerant pineapple plant grows five to eight feet tall, and bears fruit with a tough, spiky exterior around 12 inches long. A pineapple fruit can weigh up to eight pounds. Both sweet and tart, its fiber-like pectin gives the pineapple its satisfying chewy texture.

Native to Paraguay, pineapples got their name from the Spanish word “piña,” meaning “pinecone.” Technically, it’s not one fruit, but 100-200 fruitlets fused together. Cultivation found its way northward to still-warm regions via roaming Indians, and was discovered by the same explorers who claimed the Americas back in 1492. The fruit became a favorite on ships as a hearty food source and as a protection from the sailor’s dread: scurvy. Today, the bulk of the world’s pineapples come from Southeast Asia, Thailand being the biggest producer.

Pineapple is great by itself and for so many recipes: shish kebabs, lettuce and fruit salads, stir fries, and salsa, to name a few. Prepare it by simply chopping off the top and bottom, and then placing on a flat surface to slice off the rind, top to bottom, all around. Then, just slice the fruit into “rings.”

When choosing a pineapple, it’s good to remember that the heavier they are relative to size, the better—as those are riper. The ripening process stops when they’re picked, so to make sure it’s not been too long; they should smell fragrant, not musty or fermented. While some people think they need to eat their pineapple almost immediately for optimal benefit, new studies show that cut and refrigerated pineapple are excellent for as long as nine days with only minor losses of phenolic phytonutrients. So for a rich, nutritious tasting experience, eat up!

Health Benefits of Pineapple

Of all the vitamins and minerals in pineapple, vitamin C beats them all with 131 percent of the daily value. Vitamin C has a reputation for suppressing coughs, colds, and

flu symptoms for a reason. A natural antioxidant, vitamin C is also needed for synthesizing collagen, which is the main structural protein in the body for healthy blood vessels, organs, skin, and tissue support, heavy metal absorption, and bone strength.

Most of the nutrients aren’t greatly diminished between fresh and canned pineapple, except for vitamin C, which is reduced from 131 percent of the daily value to 32 percent in canned. One cup of fresh pineapple chunks equals around 165 grams, while the same amount of canned pineapple contains 246 grams.

Pineapples provide three-quarters of the manganese needed for one day in a single serving, letting loose powerful free radical scavenging through the super healthy enzyme superoxide dismutase. What’s more, they come with folates, thiamin, biotin, pyridoxine, riboflavin, and minerals like copper and potassium, the latter of which offers what’s needed for healthy cell and body fluid maintenance, heart rate regulation, and blood pressure. Vitamin A and beta-carotenes provide additional antioxidants for immune system support and eyesight protection.

An enzyme called bromelain is able to break protein down into simpler substances to provide phytonutrients such as amino acids and peptides needed for digestion. Research indicates that because of the bromelain, when eating pineapples, it discourages arthritis inflammation, indigestion, clotting, bruising, and harmful bacteria—even cancer and parasites.

However, consume pineapples in moderation because they contain fructose, which may be harmful to your health in excessive amounts.

Pineapple Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: One cup of Pineapple chunks (165 grams)

Calories	82
Carbohydrates	2g
Sugar	16g
Fiber	2g
Protein	1g

Studies on Pineapple

Bromelain, obtained from pineapple, possesses powerful anti-cancer compounds. Numerous studies have been conducted, but

one in particular showed that cancer cells exposed to bromelain exhibited delayed growth, began breaking down, and then died.¹ In a breast cancer study, bromelain given to subjects in ever-increasing concentrations over a 24-hour period demonstrated ever-increasing cancer-minimizing effects.²

Another study explored the anti-inflammatory capabilities of bromelain found in pineapple extracts. Research showed significant anti-inflammatory activity in allergic airway disease. Scientists concluded that it might also be an effective treatment for asthma, whether brought on by genetic, allergic, infectious, environmental, or dietary causes.³

Pineapple Fun Facts

Grow your own pineapple plant at home by twisting the crown off a store-bought pineapple, drying it for two to three days, and planting it. However, while pineapple plants can produce fruit for as long as 50 years in the wild, it takes two years to yield one fruit.

Summary

Pineapples are good for you, no matter your age. Adults gain bone support, and children who eat it get what they need for bone development, just one of the great benefits of this tropical fruit.

A series of fruitlets housed in a tough, scaly rind with a spray of green spikes at the top, pineapples contain well over a daily serving of vitamin C, a great infection fighter and collagen synthesizer, as well as manganese, containing the enzyme superoxide dismutase. The bromelain in pineapples is a unique enzyme with cancer-fighting capabilities that breaks down food so their nutrients can be used by the body.

References:

1 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20848558>, Pineapple bromelain induces autophagy, facilitating apoptotic response in mammary carcinoma cells, Sept. 2012

2 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22191568>, Bromelain-induced apoptosis in GI-101A breast cancer cells, Sept. 2012

3 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22894886>, Bromelain limits airway inflammation in an ovalbumin-induced murine model of established asthma, Sept. 2012

The King of the North

Part 6—Tidings From The North And East

Many Adventists have heard that Uriah Smith was right on everything except the king of the north, or that you can't depend on *Thoughts on Daniel and Revelation* because Smith had some major errors. But this concept goes directly contrary to the inspired statements about his book.

“The Lord has shown me that this book will do a good work in enlightening those who become interested in the truth for this time. Those who embrace the truth now, who have not shared in the experiences of those who entered the work in the early history of the message, should study the instruction given in Daniel and the Revelation, becoming familiar with the truth it presents... **The great, essential questions which God would have presented to the people are found in Daniel and the Revelation. There is found solid, eternal truth for this time. Everyone needs the light and information it contains...** It is painful to think of the many cheap theories picked up and presented to the people by ignorant, unprepared teachers. Those who present their human tests and the nonsensical ideas they have concocted in their own minds, show the character of the goods in their treasure house. They have laid in store shoddy material. Their great desire is to make a sensation. The truth for this time has been brought out in many books. Let those who have been dealing in cheap sentiments and foolish tests, cease this work and study Daniel and the Revelation. They will then have something to talk about that will help the mind. As they receive the knowledge contained in this book, they will have in the treasure house of the mind a store from which they can continually draw as they communicate to others the great essential truths of God's Word. **The interest in Daniel and the Revelation is to continue as long as probationary time shall last. God used the author of this book as a channel through which to communicate light to direct minds to the truth.** Shall we not appreciate this light, which points us to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, our King?...Ms 174, 1899.” *Manuscript Releases, Vol. 1, page 61-65*

Could she have said this if Smith's entire exposition of Daniel 11 was so far off the mark as to be entirely in error?

In the incident between Uriah Smith and James White in 1878 that we discussed in an earlier article, Ellen White rebuked James for causing division among his brethren by disagreeing with Smith's position on Daniel 11. We are told that this was not because James was wrong but because unity was so important. Are we to conclude then that unity is so important that God would condone the teaching of a major prophetic error in order to preserve it? This concept seems entirely contrary to all the principles of Protestantism in general and Adventism in particular. For a people and a prophet so concerned with the concept of having and preaching the truth, regardless of consequences and in spite of the divisions the truth may cause, to condone the teaching of error for the sake of unity is preposterous. One must then conclude that Smith was right and that James White was in error. Or that the identity of the king of the north is a minor point of prophecy. But if the identity of the king of the north is a minor point, then it follows that the time of trouble is also a minor point because the time of trouble begins with the end of the king of the north. There is no one in their right mind who would contend that the “time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation,” is a minor point of prophecy.

But if Smith was indeed teaching the correct view, why didn't the Ottoman Empire fulfill verses 44-45 of Daniel 11? Why hasn't the time of trouble begun? Why

are we still here? This is a reasonable and logical question to ask, and deserves a reasonable and logical answer. But first we must answer the question, can we find history that fulfills verses 44-45? Or must we look to the future for this fulfillment?

Let's go back to verse 44 and continue laying the prophecy beside the history and see if it fits. Bear in mind that while we are examining what to us are historical events, these things were current or future to Smith “But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him:” *Daniel 11:44*

Who was north and east of the Ottoman empire? Take a look at a map and you will see that the country lying directly north of Turkey is Russia and the country directly east is Persia (now Iran). But what were the tidings that would trouble the king of the north from this direction?

From the dawn of the Russian Empire to it's end in 1917 there was conflict between these Russian and Ottoman empires. “The Russo-Turkish wars were a series of wars fought between the Russian Empire and the Ottoman Empire during the 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. It was one of the longest conflicts in European history.” *Wikipedia, History of the Russo-Turkish wars.*

But what of Persia on the east? Did disturbances come from the east as well? Yes they did. At the same time as it was fighting Turkey, Russia was also fighting Persia in the Russo-Persian wars, the last of which



Even the current borders of Turkey, Russia, & Iran show that as Russia invaded Iran (Persia) it was North & East of Turkey.

was fought in 1826-28. These wars were won by Russia.

“According to the terms of the treaty, the Khanates of Erivan and Nakhichevan passed to Russia. The Shah promised to pay an indemnity of 20,000,000 silver roubles and allowed his Armenian subjects to migrate to Russian territory without any hindrance. More importantly, the Shah granted the Russians the exclusive right to maintain a navy in the Caspian and agreed that Russian merchants were free to trade anywhere they wanted in Persia.

“In the short term, the treaty undermined the dominant position of the British Empire in Persia and marked a new stage in the Great Game between the empires. In the long term, the treaty ensured the dependence of the Caucasus on Russia, thus making possible the eventual emergence of the modern states of Armenia and Azerbaijan on the territories conquered from Persia during the war.” *Wikipedia, Russo-Persian War (1826–1828)*.

Again, if you look at a map of all these battles, you will see that a major share of them were fought on the north and on the east side of the Ottoman Empire. Russia was putting pressure on the empire from the north and east.

What is not generally known is that the Russian Empire was founded by the remnants of the royal family of the Byzantine empire, after they were driven out of Constantinople by the Ottomans in 1453. The word Czar is the Russian equivalent of Caesar and the governmental forms, procedures, and emblems of the Russian court were derived from the Byzantine. The Czars thought of themselves as ruling the third Rome and the state religion was Eastern Orthodox, whose seat is Constantinople.

Now, let's dig a little deeper. If you look up the word “tidings” in Strong's you find that it is #8052 and means “something heard, that is, an announcement:—bruit, doctrine, fame, mentioned, news, report, rumor, tidings.” Make note of that word “rumor.” This verse could have been translated, “rumors out of the north and out of the east shall trouble him.”

Now take a look at this passage:

“In the event, Peter (the great, of Russia) was never again to pursue his dreams of opening up a golden road to India, along which would flow unimagined wealth. He had already taken on more than one man could hope to achieve in a lifetime, and accomplished much of it. But long after his death in 1725 **a strange and persistent story began to circulate through Europe** about Peter's last will and testament. From his death bed, it was said, he had secretly

commanded his heirs and successors to pursue what he believed to be Russia's historical destiny—the domination of the world. Possession of India and Constantinople were the twin keys to this, and he urged them not to rest until both were firmly in Russian hands. **No one has ever seen this document, and most historians believe that it never existed. Yet such was the awe and fear surrounding Peter the Great that at times it came to be widely believed, and versions of its supposed text to be published.** It was, after all, just the sort of command that this restless and ambitious genius might have given to posterity. Russia's subsequent drive towards both India and Constantinople seemed, to many, confirmation enough, and until very recently there existed a strong belief in Russia's long-term aim of world domination.” Peter Hopkirk, *The Great Game, page 20*.

This “rumor” of Peter the Great's will actually had a lot to do with the tensions that lead to World War I and was so widely accepted that even Uriah Smith believed it to be valid and quoted from one of the published texts mentioned by Hopkirk.

“To take every possible means of gaining Constantinople and the Indies (for he who rules there will be sovereign of the world); excite war continually in Turkey and Persia; establish fortresses in the Black Sea; get control of the sea by degrees, and also of the Baltic, which is a double point, necessary to the realization of our project; accelerate as much as possible the decay of Persia; penetrate to the Persian Gulf; re-establish, if possible, by the way of Syria, the ancient commerce of the Levant; advance to the Indies, which are the great depot of the world. Once there, we can do without the gold of England.” *The Will of Peter the Great, quoted in Thoughts on Daniel, 1881 edition, page 364*.

Is it just a coincidence that a “strange and persistent” rumor about a supposed will that never existed, should hang on for more than one hundred years, and be a contributing factor to the Great War that brought the Ottoman Empire down? Or did the angel who was speaking to Daniel know precisely what was going to transpire more than two thousand years in the future? “Every word must have its fulfillment.”

There is another little known piece of history that also fits the picture of tidings out of the north and east. We read that in the 1860's:

“The Russian Tsarist Empire waged war against Circassia in the Northwest Caucasus for nearly a hundred years, trying to get Circassia's prominent position along the Black Sea coast. After a century of

insurgency and all-out war and continual failure to end the affair, the Tsar ordered the expulsion of most of the Muslim population of the North Caucasus. This event is remembered among Circassians as a national tragedy and is well-known among other Caucasian peoples and in Turkey as well.” *Wikipedia, Genocides in history*.

The Russians required the Moslem Circassians to leave Russia, any who refused were killed. In all, the Russians killed and deported about 1.5 million Moslems. The deported refugees poured into the Ottoman Empire from the north and east, bringing with them tales of murder and horror that troubled the moslem Turks.

The nations of Europe were not blind to what was going on and they feared Russia's expansionist ideas. They believed the will of Peter the Great to actually exist.

“Fringe territories were lost to Russia in the north. But more importantly the Empire began to fall behind technologically compared to the west. The outside world was still mostly unaware of the extent of the Empire's decline until the 1820s, when it became clear that the Ottoman armies had no way to put down the Russian-backed revolt in southern Greece. The great powers of Europe decided to intervene to give Greece its independence. Thus Greece became the first independent country created out of a section of the Ottoman Empire. Russian aspirations for a section of the empire and bases on Russia's southern flank provoked British fears over naval domination of the Mediterranean and control of the land route to India... When in 1853 Russia destroyed the entire Ottoman fleet at Sinop, Britain and France concluded that armed intervention on the side of the Ottomans was the only way to halt a massive Russian expansion, on the grounds that the Ottoman armies could do nothing to stop a Russian march on Constantinople. Even though Ottomans and Russians were on the opposing sides, the roots of the ensuing Crimean war lay in the rivalry between the British and the Russians. The war ended unfavorably for the Russians, with the Paris peace of 1856.” *Wikipedia, History of the Russo-Turkish wars*.

While this conflict was political in nature it also had religious undertones. The state religion in the Ottoman Empire was Islam. The Christians lived in isolated communities, they had no civil rights and very little civil protection. As long as they kept to themselves they were usually not bothered. But they could not proselytize nor hold government offices. These Christian communities were often divided by ethnic lines as much as by religious belief. The Greeks were Orthodox. The people of the Balkans, Catholic. The Armenians had their

own Christian church and there were other smaller groups of various Christian and ethnic backgrounds scattered throughout the empire.

The French claimed the right to protect and advance the interests of the Catholics in the empire. The Russians claimed the Orthodox as their protectorate. Both of these churches, and thus their protectorate countries, wanted to control the holy sites in Jerusalem. In 1853 the Sultan signed a treaty with France giving the French control of the holy sites. This is why the Christian shrines in Jerusalem are Catholic. Russia was furious and attacked the Turks from the north. England did not want the Russians gaining control of the eastern Mediterranean, they were afraid they might lose control of the Suez Canal. They joined the war on the side of Turkey. The war ended with a Russian defeat. But the peace treaty required the Sultan to extend equal rights to his Christian subjects. In 1877 the Russo-Turkish war was fought over the control of the Balkans and the mistreatment of Christians by the Turks.

The Canadian philosopher, George Grant “suggests that the succession of wars was a result of the Romanov Czars’ belief that ‘a forcible containment of the Islamic threat to their strategic security was absolutely crucial.’ He goes on to note that ‘none of these struggles ever resulted in much change in the balance of power in the middle East.’” *Wikipedia, History of the Russo-Turkish wars.*

During this time the Sultan began losing his hold on Europe. At its height in 1610 the empire extended to the gates of Vienna, Austria. But now the Balkans started gaining their freedom, again, partly through Russian influence. Greece, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Romania, Bulgaria, one after another they gained their independence. The empire was breaking up and the rest of Europe prepared for battle. Each power moved to get the best advantage for gaining their interests when the empire collapsed. Alliances were formed, military spending increased. The goal was to maintain a balance of power but each nation also wanted to be in the most advantageous position possible. The “sick man of the east” was dying and everybody wanted a part of his realm.

Germany came into dominance in the last half of the 19th century. She had her own dreams of trade routes and wealth in India. Germany became friends with the “sick man.” They offered to build the Baghdad railway for the bankrupt Turks. The Sultan, wishing to modernize his empire jumped at the chance. Austria-Hungary was afraid Russia was gaining too much influence in

the Balkans and began annexing the newly independent Balkan states to protect herself. She allied herself with the the German and Ottoman Empires to stave off Russian expansion. Thus was formed the nucleus of the Central Powers.

France feared the expansionist plans of her northern neighbor and also had her eye on the riches of the Middle East. She united with England. These two laid down the battle ax with Russia and the three became allies to fend off the threat of the Central powers. This formed the Triple Entente and the stage was laid for World War I.

Today we look at things in the past colored by events in the 20th century and tend to forget that the world looked much different before the world wars. Many things we know as historical facts would have been beyond the worst imaginations of the people living during the 19th century. Many of the issues which led up to World War I seem lost on the world today. The demise of the Ottoman empire seems unimportant. But the “Eastern Question” was a huge debate all over the world from 1840 to 1914. The question was, “Who gets what when the Ottoman Empire collapses?”

When we understand the political situation in the world in 1900, it all of sudden becomes clear why the Adventists’ prophecy seminars would focus so much on Turkey and the king of north prophecy of Daniel 11. The entire world was on the brink of the worst war in history and no one knew what would happen next. When Adventists preached on this topic it aroused widespread interest.

Is it any wonder that Ellen White wrote what she did in Testimonies Volume 9?

“The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place.” *Testimonies Vol. 9 page 14.* (Printed in 1909.)

It is clear that the Ottoman Empire was troubled by “tidings out of the north and out of the east” during the entire 19th and into the beginning of the 20th centuries. But what did the empire do in response? The prophecy says that “he went forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.” But how could a weak and collapsing empire “the sick man of east” do this? It is one of the strangest facts of history that this tottering and collapsing empire caused, in its final gasps for life, the biggest and most violent upheaval in Europe that had ever been seen to that time. The final demise of this empire changed the face of Europe forever. The world itself and the very psyche of humanity is still affected, whether

conscious of it or not, by the events of 1914 and afterward. In the words of one survivor of that time “Our world was one of law and order. There was always someone there to take us by the hand and show us the right path, teachers, priests, officers, rulers. We knew our place, and we knew the difference between right and wrong. We weren’t free, but we were free from fear. For us the order of things seemed to be fixed that way permanently, until the summer of 1914.” *14 Diaries of the Great War, Season 1, Episode 6.*

We will consider the events of 1914 in our next article.

—Rick and Virginia Markwell

No one of us can in our own strength represent the character of Christ; but if Jesus lives in the heart, the spirit dwelling in Him will be revealed in us; all our lack will be supplied. Who will seek at the beginning of this new year to obtain a new and genuine experience in the things of God? Make your wrongs right as far as possible. Confess your errors and sins one to another. Let all bitterness and wrath and malice be put away; let patience, long-suffering, kindness, and love become a part of your very being; then whatsoever things are pure and lovely and of good report will mature in your experience...
Lift Him Up 15.3

Letters—Uganda, Columbia, SA

Uganda

November 1, 2015
Heb 6:10-11

I have felt a special interest in the **SRA** movement and decisions that are being made at the different Conferences held regarding the things that should have been done years ago, and especially within the ten years past, when we first organized ourselves as SDRCs & SDRPA! God was really working for his people if they would come into working Gospel Order. The brethren assented to the light God had given as in *RH 10/12/1905*, but there were some connected with our young organization, who brought in elements of unbelief, so that the light that is being given cannot be acted upon. Our work for this time is a most solemn and important work to be organized. Let those who claim to believe the truth take into consideration the fact that unless the Holy Spirit is with them in the work which God has given them, they will lose a great blessing, and their efforts will be a failure!

It is not for men in any part of the world, in any line of his work, to depart from God's principles in any business transaction. There is to be no departure from his principles, no bringing in of worldly policy principles. No worldly customs or practices are to be brought in for his people who are to be representatives of Christ to follow. When, we keep the commandments of God, we are in touch with God, and he is connected with us. Let us *keep 'thou saith the lord'*.

I therefore, was compelled to make a simple program of traveling around among the churches which we are in agreement with to let them know of the developments we have reach on as God's elect in these last days. Many of them are not attending SRA World Conference online at LTBL Chat room due to varied reasons but with us! I started in M__ where we had a meeting for one week and thereafter I proceed to K__ to meet bro. B__ S__ who has stood with us in that region as our strong pillar there. It is unfortunate that some of our brethren are computer illiterate and that we need to travel to let them know how far we have reached in our order of organizing the last day movement holding the Present Truth. I encouraged them to join **SRA** (Sabbath Remnant Alliance) by sending a formal application filled and signed by representatives indicating their contacts to enable anyone reach them. I down loaded a copy which I could photocopy and leave

behind for a detailed document for study and comprehension. Praise God that pastor G__ has sent in his application awaiting approval. Unfortunately, malaria hit me and I took two weeks home! Sisters R__, J__ and I__ sent me a number of reference information on how to treat malaria using the natural means which helped me to gain strength without side effects. In a due course, I had to extend help to sis. M__ in K__ who was suffering from an diagnosed sickness after giving birth! When I explained to R__ in LTBL chat room, she sent me treatment information which we are doing and it is giving her a great deal of relief. Her muscles were not making unnecessary movement as she lay down on bed and now she is feeling less pain as she started on the use of the natural means. I have also told bro. K__ operating a herbal clinic in K__ to extract drugs from these plants and help the people over there. We have found much help in the use of herbs which is never in the Seventh-day Adventist church teaching here in U__. Use of natural means of treatment is a blessing to my family now. It has also helped my wife P__ who contracted malaria on her way back from K__ as she went to see her sister M__. P__ is gaining strength taking these extracted herbs 3 times a day. Hope she will be ok.

Thank you for all the support and help sent each time when need arises that is manifesting God's glory to many lives and without which it would be indeed very hard to accomplish this mission. It is my sincere prayers for continual support to enable us to finish the unfinished tasks.

God bless you.

J N

Uganda

December 2, 2015
Heb. 6:10-11

I believe that we are now upon the very borders of the eternal world, and standing in a more solemn time than ever before as Sabbath after Sabbath passes away. A final impression of the grace of Christ is being made upon the hearts and minds of the hearers we meet. Will my brethren take heed that no glory is given to men? Now is the time for God's people to take up the duties that lie next them pleading with God alone in secret prayer for their sanctity and blessings to acknowledge that Christ is doing great work upon human souls; and not "the *Bishop of Rome, Vicar of Christ,*

Successor to the Prince of the Apostles, Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church, Patriarch of the West, Primate of Italy, Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Roman province, Sovereign of the state of Vatican City and a Servant of the Servants of God" who visited Uganda on 27/11/2015 via Kenya. These are glorifying titles across media which portrayed him as a superior being probably next to God sending false impression to thousands to wait for blessings and forgiveness of sins across all walks of life! Many voices were heard singing praises as *His Holiness Pope Francis* in local languages welcome to Uganda! I saw thousands paying homage to a mere human being other than their God of heaven! By 9:17 am local time, on 28/11/2015 thousands had assembled at **Nakayanja site** an Anglican site—near Kampala where 23 Anglican converts were stubbed and burnt to ashes by one of the brutal kings of Buganda called Mwanga for having refused to listen to his orders about Jesus Christ! These hoped to meet Vicar of Christ—Pope! At this point, Pope Francis was welcomed by the Bishop of the church of Uganda his eminence Ntagali. The Pope and bishop of the Anglican church of Uganda prayed together spending 30 minutes with the people fighting to get a holy blessing! Those who missed getting a hand shake could be seen struggling to kiss his seat and footsteps! Pope Francis continued to the Catholic shrine at **Namugongo site** where another 22 catholic converts were brutally speared and burnt to ashes by the orders of king Mwanga of Buganda a then known monarchy of 1890s which was culminated by religious wars of the time where Catholics and Anglicans fought against Muslims. The Pope conducted a mass at Namugongo shrine with a reading taken by a police boss Andrew Kawesi from *Acts 1:7*. Ugandans called upon the Pope to pray for peace as to me it was a time and moment of beholding the unfolding fulfillment of prophecy! 2 Thess. 2:4 In Central African Republic (C.A.R) the Pope was seen visiting one of the biggest mosques with a warmest welcome! A *show of unity* was observed as protestant & Muslim believers waited for blessings from the Pope! I observed to see and watch what could not defeat the blink of an eye and I was encouraged to continue preparing for our meetings within the region to warn our people of errors in the minds of many which tend to greatly weaken the bible faith & doctrine; and cause doubts to apt to be

deceived, and fall a prey to seducers. If we have a true sense of the commission which Christ gave to his disciples, we would with reverence open the word of God, and listen for instruction from the Lord, asking for blessings from Heaven so as to realize that we must only render an account to God for the work coming forth from our efforts to the solemnity of presenting the truth to the people of God. In view of this in my mind I continued to pursue my cause.

I have had some problems which seemed to slow my operations to execute my part due to sickness and loss of my lovely ones but did continue to print out a few copies of the important messages of present truth. I had a few items listed as: God's Government Part 1 & 2; copies of Caught Unprepared 1 & 2 and SRA Constitution which I feel are very imperative for our people to know now! This was achieved because I requested for my support early enough to make early preparations for the K__ Campmeeting due on 6/12/2015 to close the year. I also got enough time to travel around and make a call upon our brethren over there to join us in the trip to Kenya. Many have promised to travel there with us and we kindly ask for your prayers.

Thank you for supporting us without which it would have been hard to do and write what I report to you.

God bless you.

J N

Colombia, South America

—Translated from Spanish

December 8, 2015

Dear Remnant brethren;

“Thou crownest the year With thy goodness and thy paths drop fatness.”
(Psalm 65:11)

“Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days; which ye will not believe, though it be told you.”
(Habakkuk 1:5)

Thanks to the Almighty God for His mercy in allowing us to remain in possession of our own minds amid all the craziness that has taken control of this world, and its attacks, insults and discouraging words, that would disconnect and separate us from sincere fidelity to Him.

Thanks to Almighty God for the life, gifts and talents He has given us to use for His glory and the benefit of mankind perishing in ignorance of His Holy and Eternal Law; and the resources allocated to us through His Remnant children.

Thanks to Almighty God for growing the

TV program, from one hour per week up through 2014, and this year extending it to two hours; one on Sabbath and one on Sunday and three rebroadcasts during the week.

And thanks to Almighty God and to His glory, nine (9) listeners of the program desired to join our congregation to learn more about the message and they asked to be baptized. On November 14, all (9) nine were happily moved by the Holy Spirit to be buried in the waters of baptism. Two more joined us on profession of faith. The Lord added a total of 11 souls to the church, free and willing to follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.

Thanks to Almighty God because we walked along roads full of violence and violent persons, and He saved and preserved our lives in peace until today.

Thanks to Almighty God that He implants within us projects that by His power, grace and mercy will be carried out and that will accomplish that for which He inspired our souls, to His glory and praise, and that thousands will rejoice with gratitude for His precious light.

Thanks to Almighty God for all the people that this year have called and written to us, some, happy about the light of the Word of God that has shown upon them; others were offended, and reproached and threatening us because the light contradicts their beliefs. We pray that the Holy Spirit will work with them until they surrender at the Saviour's feet.

Thanks to Almighty God for my Remnant brethren, without your support, your prayers and your goodwill, we would not have achieved all this that He has prospered in our hands and ministry in this little part of the world. **THANKS SO MUCH FOR THE HELP OF ALL THE BRETHREN.**

It's pleasing to express our gratitude to the Almighty for all the good things that He so abundantly provides us with, and causes us to realize that we have not lived or suffered in vain, that what is born will die, that those who have died in the faith and love of Christ will be resurrected and that of those who are resurrected, “He will see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied.” (Isaiah 53:11)

Now we must get ready to face the challenges of 2016 and our participation in the final conflict must be much more aggressive and decisive... The good thing about all this is how bad it is getting.

Our sufficiency is in Jesus... “God has the world in His hand. We have God on our side. All heaven is waiting and longing for our cooperation. The Lord is supreme. Why then should we fear? The Lord is almighty;

why should we tremble? In the past God has delivered His people, and He will be our helper if we will arise in His strength and go forward.” (TMK 342.3)

“Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”
(Mark 11: 24)

God bless you, guard you, guide you and prosper you in all things.

Lovingly,

J L G y familia

**Lift up Jesus,
you that teach
the people.
Lift Him up
in exhortations,
in sermons,
in songs,
in prayer.
Let all your efforts
be directed to
pointing souls,
confused,
bewildered,
and lost,
to
“the Lamb of God,
which taketh away
the sin
of the world.”
Bid them
look
and live.
Lift Him Up
page15.6**

Christian Service—Chapter 3 Continued

Self-complacent Class

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

Satanic Death Stupor

God's people must take warning and discern the signs of the times. The signs of Christ's coming are too plain to be doubted; and in view of these things everyone who professes the truth should be a living preacher. God calls upon all, both preachers and people, to awake. All heaven is astir. The scenes of earth's history are fast closing. We are amid the perils of the last days. Greater perils are before us, and yet we are not awake. This lack of activity and earnestness in the cause of God is dreadful. This death stupor is from Satan.—Testimonies, vol. 1, pp. 260, 261. {ChS 37.1}

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

Satan is now seeking to hold God's people in a state of inactivity, to keep them from acting their part in spreading the truth, that they may at last be weighed in the balance and found wanting.—Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 260. {ChS 37.3}

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

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

When I study the Scriptures, I am alarmed for the Israel of God in these last days. They are exhorted to flee from idolatry. I fear that they are asleep, and so conformed to the world that it would be difficult to discern between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not. The distance is widening between Christ and His people, and lessening between them and the world. The marks of distinction between Christ's professed people and the world have almost disappeared. Like ancient Israel, they follow after the abominations of the nations around them.—Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 277.

{ChS 38.2}

Spiritual Discernment Dimmed

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

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

A State of Spiritual Weakness

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

The Need of Heavenly Eyesalve

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

Fanaticism and Cold Formalism

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

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

Narrowed by Selfishness

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

Covetousness

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

be advanced, calls were made for freewill offerings, some clung selfishly to their earthly possessions. These covetous ones became separated from the company of believers.—Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 126. {ChS 40.4}

Not One in Twenty Prepared

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

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

Revival and Reformation Needed

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

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

The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place. When this

reformation begins, the spirit of prayer will actuate every believer, and will banish from the church the spirit of discord and strife.—Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 251. {ChS 42.1}

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

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

In visions of the night representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought... Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families, and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be lightened with the heavenly influence. Great blessings were received by the true and humble people of God.—Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 126. {ChS 42.4}

There is great necessity for a reformation among the people of God. The present state of the church leads to the inquiry, Is this a correct representation of Him who gave His life for us?—Testimonies, vol. 3, p. 474. {ChS 43.1}

—Chap 3 to be continued