

FUTURE NEWS

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“GATHER YOURSELVES TOGETHER, YEA, GATHER TOGETHER,
O NATION NOT DESIRED” ZEPHANIAH 2:1

The False Theory of Sanctification

Exalted Standard of Themselves *The Signs of the Times, October 23, 1879*

“The false theory of sanctification had threatened not only the unity and harmony of families, but the peace and prosperity of the church. Upon this subject I had a special testimony to bear.

“This false sanctification is most dangerous and deceptive in its influence upon all who accept it. A peculiar atmosphere surrounds them, an influence which, when brought in contact with others, if not discerned, is breathed in unconsciously by the receiver. This atmosphere is charged with poison which is death to spirituality. There are no snares of Satan more hard to be discerned and defined, and souls be rescued from, than this delusion.

“Those who accept this bogus sanctification do not hesitate to draw away from the body and set themselves up as criteria. They claim that the Lord is leading them, and do not seek counsel of the church, but move out independently, deceived in themselves and deceiving others. The poison of this so-called sanctification is inhaled, and the atmosphere, apparently so balmy, is intoxicating and destructive to those who are charmed with it. Each individual will have an independence of his own, claiming to be taught of God; therefore no one must get in their way or interfere with their course of action. This is as Satan would have it. The voice of the church, God's delegated power upon earth, is set aside and despised. These professedly sanctified ones are filled with vain conceit, and with presumption move on in their own wisdom, exhorting others to come up to the exalted standard of themselves. They disregard the teachings and prayer of Christ that his disciples may be one as he was one with the Father, ‘that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.’ The unity and oneness of the church was to be the living epistle, known and read of all men. The world was to see in their harmony and love for each other the life of Christ exemplified.

“Individuals who will strike out upon some new light and some new truth, independent of the body, are pursuing a course directly contrary to the word of God. If they have any influence over others, it is to disaffect them and lead them away from the watchcare, counsel, and strength of the body. And the very ones who claim sanctification, have in their

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MISSION STATEMENT

The ministry of Future for America is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified by the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The end-time fulfillment of Bible prophecy is no longer future—for it is taking place before our eyes. The historic, prophetic understanding of Seventh-day Adventism is now present truth. We are the final generation. Our emphasis is on the prophetic word including all the counsel of God's Word. To know what lies ahead is useless if we do not possess the experience to stand during these solemn times. Through obedience to God's law, and faith in the promises of God's Word, we are to receive that experience.

Coupled with the prophetic message, **Future for America** emphasizes all aspects of the medical missionary work. The "entering wedge"—medical missionary work—must be practiced by those who are to finish God's work in these final hours.

During this time period, country living becomes more essential with each passing moment. **Future for America** upholds and promotes this end-time truth. God's people must prepare for the coming storm, and that preparation includes the experience of learning how to survive in a simple fashion, away from the great centers of population.

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hearts insubordination, pride, envy, jealousy, and evil surmising of their brethren. They sit as judges upon the life and character of their brethren. These are the fruits generally to be found growing upon the tree of false sanctification. This class have graduated. They suppose they have come to the knowledge of the truth. If they attend camp-meetings, they will think they are so far ahead of the servants of God who labor in the meetings that they cannot learn anything, therefore the word or message of instruction God gives his servants for the people is not for them. They will generally be found drawing one or two away, holding them in conversation, imparting to them the great light they suppose they have; and thus some are deprived of hearing the message of God to the people. These self-deceived men are drawing away souls from the body, scattering from Christ, and bringing in dissension and division. Individual experience is set above the authority of the church, and their example leads others whom they deceive to regard lightly the voice of counsel and admonition of the church. This course has worked the ruin of very many souls in every age of the world. As children in the family of God we need the wisdom and experience of matured Christians to direct, to encourage, and to defend us in times of danger, and to lead on to constant growth in grace, and to seek daily attainments in the knowledge of the truth and true holiness.

“In the ministry of Christ and his apostles, those who were converted to the truth were brought into church relationship; and every stray, lost sheep that was found, was brought to the fold of the church, that under the direction of the Master, through the undershepherds, they might go in and out and find pasture. God has instituted his church and delegated to

it his authority and power. He has given it the inspired oracles, provided it with pastors and teachers to carry forward his work on the earth when he should leave it. At a later date, when the church was weakened by its individual members being led into errors, and spiritual life was chilled and palsied by backslidings, the inspired apostle exclaimed, ‘I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy.’ ‘But I fear lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.’ Nothing is so demoralizing, so enfeebling to the church, as to have her individual members obtain a burden upon this false sanctification, which leads them away from the simplicity of the gospel of Christ. Satan always leads this class away from the church, and leads them to regard the church far behind them in spirituality and experience. The power and glory of God is revealed in his church. Here God gives the blessings of his grace. Here he reveals the mysteries of his will.”

SPRING 2016 STUDENT UPDATES

Hi, I am from British Columbia, Canada. I have never been a studious person and I still do not know how I passed high school. I can literally count the books on my hand that I have read through. So, when I first arrived at *School of the Prophets*, I was not excited about it because it reminded me of the secular education. However, this school is not only for being a student, it is for becoming a teacher of the Word of God.

Since I have taken a deeper interest in prophecy, I can honestly say that from the time I came to know this present-day message, I have been grappling with much of it. It is not just a superficial surface reading, but a real study of scripture with scripture.



I can truly say that my stay here at SOTP is a great blessing. I feel like a child learning afresh the concepts of prophetic understanding and see myself as nothing. More questions seem to arise daily, and the good Lord answers them as the studies develop line upon line.

I feel ashamed to even call myself an Adventist all these years and not even know about our Adventist history in understanding the pillars of their faith. What amazes me even more is how it is possible for the good Lord to want to use such a person as I to advance His cause. Yet I am reminded of the disciples—it was not the educated but the humble meek learners that Jesus could use in His days on the earth.

It is a humbling experience to be here, and very needful in my life in the removing of old understandings and replacing them with deeper and more precious precepts in order to prepare me for the Lord's soon return. I have been seeing a greater need in being on my knees in prayer for the Lord's presence and a deeper draft of the Word of God. This does not mean that the enemy is not working in trying to keep us ignorant or preoccupied with other things in life. It does require me to keep making proper decisions in my daily life because it is very easy for me to get caught up with the cares of the world.

Having said this, I do very much appreciate the fact that there is a nice balance of study and manual labour here. I really enjoy helping where I can, and I know it is appreciated. Personally, I feel as though I have been spoiled here with the company of wonderful people, the delicious food, warmer weather than at home, and even some conveniences that I do not have at home. The greatest blessing is the spiritual manna. This is an education that I would recommend for many. May the Lord bless. — H.T.

Hi, my name is Alison Thoms, and I am from British Columbia, Canada. It is an answer to prayer to finally be here. The reasons I had for

wanting to come here have been met, and I have received an even greater blessing since I have been here. Some of the blessings that God has given me are rich rewards in learning truths that come from His prophetic Word. The different teachers that have shared the truth in each class have given me a better understanding of the topic at hand, and they have helped me develop the desire to ask more questions.

Instead of sitting at home and watching the class on line, I get to sit in the front row and watch it in reality. The only difference is that I cannot press the pause button—I cannot pause Brother Jeff, rewind, and write my notes down! On the other hand, I can ask many questions and get a first hand understanding of which I lack.

Some of the other blessings that God has given me have been equally wonderful as being in class. The hands-on work on campus is a rich reward. I love working in the garden. It is a joy to learn gardening in a greenhouse, watching week after week the little seeds that we planted spring to life. It is also good for the mental faculties to sit in a garden bed and weed it, while breathing in the sweet fresh air and listening to the song birds praising God for the sunshine. All things I love!

Soon spring will be here, and the surrounding beauty will come alive again for another year. To God I am grateful and very thankful that He has opened the door and made it possible to be here, at the *School of the Prophets*. — A.T.

My name is Koheleth, and I am from the United Kingdom. I have been at the *School of the Prophets* for three weeks. I enjoy the Bible studies and the gardening. The living quarters are very good, and the food is great. Both the physical and spiritual work has been an all-around blessing!—K.B.

Hi, we are from Bolivia. We came to the United States with an aim, and it seems to be in harmony with what is emphasized here: they do not teach attendees to be students, but to be teachers.



That is what we want to be. We want to learn in order to start a similar project as SOTP for South America and teach students in the Spanish speaking world.

When we are traveling to prophecy seminars through Bolivia and surrounding countries, often times we are asked what school we can recommend for young people. Like everywhere, there are several independent Adventist institutions in our country that offer a curriculum from basic Bible knowledge to health topics, but basically no prophecy. No present truth.

As more groups are calling for studies, one problem is becoming bigger: it is increasingly difficult to assist them on a regular, time-effective basis. Our ministry has been present in many countries of Latin America but only with a handful speakers—five altogether. Of those five, four are in Brazil and speak Portuguese. Only one is working full-time in the ministry. You understand that this does not bring us and the message very far.

Lord willing, we may be able to start a school this year. This is what we hope. Then, we could teach effectively what needs to be taught to our generation, and eventually the Lord's work could come to more people.

We are glad to be here and in need of your prayers.
— S.B. & M.B.

Greetings from Canada. Being at the *School of the Prophets* has been a tremendous blessing. I have enjoyed interacting with brethren in the message from all over the world, and have appreciated the opportunity to learn practical skills in addition to the prophetic message. The school offers many opportunities for growth. I would encourage anyone seeking a better understanding of present truth and the various aspects of true education to attend. — T.M.

Hi, I am from Germany, and to attend the *School of Prophets* for a trimester has been in my

mind for a long time. I thank God that I can finally attend with my husband. It makes a difference to be present in the morning classes, rather than to watch the videos on the internet. I enjoy the schedule of working half a day physically and the other half having classes. It is a blessing to be out in the garden to sow seeds to watch the plants grow to harvest and finally eat the crops. In the afternoon classes, we learn about our foundations, Millerite history, health, and gardening. The time goes by really fast and I struggle to catch up with all that we learn. But, all in all we have had a blessed time so far.
— S.B.

I am from Germany. A big struggle at *School of the Prophets* is organizing your time. You have a lot of extra jobs to do and a lot of homework, which is not necessarily bad. The class in the morning is definitely better than following the class over the internet. I had a hard time following the class at home, but being a part of the class now is really cool.

The last weeks, I was fixing the structure of the new school building, which was quite a new experience for me. —Anonymous

Hi, I am from Canada. It seems like it was only yesterday when I arrived at SOTP and time is rapidly speeding on by. I have been learning so much in all areas, like planting seedlings in the garden, baking bread in the kitchen, making shampoo in class... the list goes on. Each and everyday I thank God for the opportunity to learn and grow.

While I was in the greenhouse the other day, I noticed that a lettuce plant had fallen over. It had a lot of beautiful greens on it, but it was lying limp on the ground. It was no longer able to stand up tall, and the result was withering away its leaves (no good for food). God reminded me of how important it is for me to stand up for the truth, no matter what the cost might be. Because in the end, if I do not stand for the truth, then I will not be of any value and I will have nothing to share with the people (manna from heaven).



One of the most blessed experiences I have had so far is entering into the sacred hours of Sabbath with a feeling of being prepared. Although I was born and raised an Adventist, I have never had a more beautiful experience. Starting my week on Sunday has been the greatest blessing. A full Friday to prepare for the Sabbath has truly made the sacred hours a much greater blessing than I have ever imagined possible. It reminded me that doing things God's way is truly the best way. It is so hard for me to even express in words the blessing of experiencing this kind of rest. We are so accustomed to following the world around us (like resting on the first day of the week) that we miss out on the blessings God wants us to experience. If only we lived the way that He would have us live, what a rich experience we could have.

There is much more I could say, but all in all I am just overflowing with thankfulness and praises to God. I feel like these are all just little glimpses into the portals of heaven, and I look forward to the day when Jesus will take His faithful children home. — T.B.

Hello, I am from the Netherlands. What can I say after three weeks?

It has been a great blessing for me to be here. To see that the Lord works worldwide to spread the truth. In our practical labor we are currently doing a variety of things, including setting up a new school building and working in the garden or other areas of the property. There is so much work that needs to be done and too few people to do it.

It surprises me that most of the students so far are non-American people. We are working with a student group that consist of 90% non-American people. I would like to encourage American people to join the school. This school is for everybody of course, but especially for you!

The first three weeks at SOTP have really been a blessing. First, you are confronted with yourself, which is a good thing. Second, the physical labor is a blessing. Third, to work and study together as a group of students from all over the world is a blessing. — A.H.

Hi, I am from Brooklyn, New York. I have been at SOTP for about a month now. I realize this is a Christ-filled experience. He who seeks will find many lessons brought forth to them as an individual. Character reformation is a must, and this experience will definitely help. — C.G.

MEXICO UPDATE

Greetings to everyone,

Recently, Noel was able to travel with one of his brothers to another state, to the city of Zacatecas, the distance being about a day of travel by bus. He spent 4 days studying with the brethren there. The work this time was primarily to establish about 10 new people who are testing the message. There were evening meetings, attended by the 10 new people and about 5 seasoned brethren, making a total of about 15 adults. Also, Noel had some morning meetings specifically to fortify the brethren who have already been in the message for awhile. That group was about 4 to 6 adults. They were all grateful for Noel's visit.

Our work here in the state of Nayarit (pronounced nigh-ar-eet), where Noel's family lives, has been with Noel's family and two small groups of interested people. At his parent's church all are open to let Noel do the sermon and Sabbath afternoon study whenever we go there, but a certain few have been showing more zeal to learn. In the other group two men and one woman show exceptional interest above the others.



Since we arrived over a month ago, Noel has been doing studies nearly every evening with a group of people, usually between 5 and 10 people each time. Sometimes we meet in the church and sometimes at Noel's parent's house. So far we have not encountered any opposition, which is refreshing, and we continue to pray that the Lord will hold back the shaking and give the brethren more of a chance to be firmly grounded on a solid foundation of knowledge before it comes.

Feliz Sabado, Heather and Noel del Rosal

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF SAMSON - PART 3

By N. Nyoni

Introduction

The burden of this third installment is the narrative of Judges 15. The experiences of Samson in this chapter illustrate the dynamics of the image and mark of the beast crises at the end of the world. The treachery of the foolish virgins, the trying ordeal of the wise virgins, the worldwide promulgation of Papal falsehoods, and the final end of the beast and the false prophet of Bible prophecy are clearly portrayed in this passage of Scripture. It therefore makes for a passage worthy of consideration by the people who stand on the very threshold of the fulfillment of these events.

Samson's Wheat Harvest Visitation — The Sunday Law Testing Time

But it came to pass within a while after, in the time of wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a kid; and he said, I will go in to my wife into the chamber. But her father would not suffer him to go in. And her father said, I verily thought that thou hadst utterly hated her; therefore I gave her to thy companion: is not her younger sister fairer than she? take her, I pray thee, instead of her. Judges 15:1.

“The time of wheat harvest” symbolizes the climax of the everlasting gospel—when the wheat and tares

of Christ's parable are separated for eternity. The everlasting gospel is defined as the divine work of a threefold prophetic testing message in developing, and thereafter demonstrating, two classes of professed worshippers. In the case of Adventism, the third of its three tests is the Sunday Law. This crisis will be of such a nature as to sever the last tie which has ever linked the righteous and wicked Adventists together in the previous hours of probation. Adventism's third test is also the time for the third angel's message to be given with greatest power. Accordingly, the “wheat harvest” will commence at the Sunday Law under the ministration of the third angel of Revelation 14:

“I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, ‘Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention.’”
Early Writings, 118.

Wheat harvest was also the time of Pentecost, which is to be perfectly fulfilled at the Sunday Law (Exodus 34:22; *Testimonies*, volume 5, 214). In light of this, Samson's purpose to visit his Gentile wife at such a time symbolizes the visitation of the eleventh hour workers which is inaugurated at the Sunday Law in the United States. As the Nazarite desired to confirm/renew his covenant experience with his wife, so will Christ intend to enter into an everlasting covenant relationship with the eleventh hour workers in the time of their visitation. The Protestants of the United States will be the first to be confronted with this covenant testing process; for the Sunday Law crisis will begin with them (*Testimonies*, volume 6, 18; 395.). For this reason, Samson's wife represents Apostate Protestantism. According to the story, Samson's wife fully divorced herself from him by clasp hands with her father and with Samson's companion in order to orchestrate an unlawful marriage arrangement. This is an illustration of the coming together of the spiritual aspects of the threefold union of modern



Babylon at the U.S. Sunday Law. Inspiration states that this action will fully disconnect/divorce the nation from the principles of righteousness:

“By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 451.

The father of the woman hindered Samson from receiving his wife and presented the younger sister as worthy to take her stead. In like manner, the man of sin (the Papacy)—the parent of the Protestant churches—will bolt the hearts of the majority of them through an erroneous theology that they may not receive the truth. Through the same Roman errors, the contrast of the two classes of eleventh hour workers (the two daughters) will be made manifest. As Samson’s wife was given to another, Apostate Protestantism will by and large espouse the false sabbath and forsake the True:

“Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them, and Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism. Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; **and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded.** Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.” *The Great Controversy*, 588.

Although prophecy portrays Protestant America as being the first nation to make the law of God void by a national act, it also represents the nations of the world as falling into the same delusion. This will be the time for the “marvelous working of Satan.” These points are represented in the following verses of the passage of consideration.

Fox-tail Firebrands — Deceiving the Nations to Set Up an Image to the Beast

And Samson said concerning them, Now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure. And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took firebrands, and turned tail to tail, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails. And when he had set the brands on fire, he let them go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shocks, and also the standing corn, with the vineyards and olives. Judges 15:3–5.

In response to the concerted efforts of father, daughter, and companion to break Samson’s covenant, the Philistines were to be visited with judgment. It was established in the previous installment that the judgments sent against the Philistines represent the Day of the Lord, which begins at the Sunday Law. And in the illustration of Judges 15, the tails of “three hundred foxes” burning up the Philistine’s “standing corn, with the vineyards and olives” were employed as a symbol of the Day of the Lord. In the prophetic Scriptures, foxes represent false prophets:

Thus saith the Lord God; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! O Israel, **thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts.** Ezekiel 13:3, 4.

They are also a symbol of state/civil power as evidenced by Christ’s representation of King Herod:

The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee. And he



said unto them, Go ye, **and tell that fox**, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected. Luke 13:31, 32.

The foregoing points thus shed light on the meaning of Samson's foxes and their destructive work. The false prophet of end-time Bible prophecy is the United States (Revelation 13:11–15; 19:19, 20), and inspiration clearly identifies a special exercising of its civil authority in the enforcement of Sunday observance throughout the world. Hence, the foxes of Judges 15 are depicting the role of the United States in deceiving and coercing the entire world to accept the religion of Rome. They are pointing to the time when the United States (and Satan) will bring fire down out of heaven in the sight of men to deceive them by marvelous manifestations of satanic power. The tails which were used as firebrands to burn up the fields of the Philistines represent false teachings, convoluted prophetic arguments and false miracles by which the world is to be deceived into setting up an image of the beast and receiving the mark of the beast. This is noted in inspiration in the following words:

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, **so that he maketh fire come down from heaven** on the earth in the sight of men, **And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles** which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, **that they should make an image to the beast**, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, **and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed**. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Revelation 13:11–17.

“The miracle-working power manifested through spiritualism will exert its influence against those who choose to obey God rather than men. **Communications from the spirits will declare that God has sent them to convince the rejecters of Sunday of their error**, affirming that the laws of the land should be obeyed as the law of God. They will lament the great wickedness in the world and second the testimony of religious teachers that the degraded state of morals is caused by the desecration of Sunday. **Great will be the indignation excited against all who refuse to accept their testimony.**” *The Great Controversy*, 590.

Fearful is the crisis to which the world is to be led; for the prophetic narrative represents the majority of the world as yielding to the deception and thereby accepting the mark of the beast. None but those who are firmly established in the truth will possess the spiritual fortitude to resist those delusions that will sweep the rest of the world onto the side of apostasy. That which would sustain the spiritual life of the nations will be consumed by the fires of popular errors and the power of spiritualism. This is typified by the Philistine's loss of their standing corn, vineyards, and olives to the flames of the foxes. These three plants are sources of corn, wine, and oil; they represent the threefold message of Revelation 14 which alone can keep men from worshipping the beast and his image (Revelation 14:6–12). Therefore, the Papacy will employ Apostate Protestantism to destroy the effect of the truth by spiritualism. This is what was spoken of by the prophet Joel concerning the Day of the Lord:

The field is wasted, the land mourneth; **for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the**



oil languisheth. Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished. The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men...**Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.** Joel 1:10–12, 15.

Thus will the majority of the people of the world be brought to worship the Papacy and acknowledge it as supreme authority. And, far too late to repent, will Protestantism and the nations of the earth realize their mistake in adopting the cause of Rome. But, prophecy still foretells a subsequent withdrawal of their support from the apostate church, thus bringing an end to her tyrannical rule. This truth is prefigured in the fate of Samson's wife and father-in-law in the story of consideration.

Father and Daughter Burnt Up — The Final End of the Beast and False Prophet

Then the Philistines said, Who hath done this? And they answered, Samson, the son in law of the Timnite, because he had taken his wife, and given her to his companion. And the Philistines came up, and burnt her and her father with fire. Judges 15:6.

The consternation manifested by the Philistines when their source of nourishment had been destroyed well represents the dismay of the nations upon realizing the truthfulness of their unfavorable position when it is too late to reverse it. This truth is illustrated in various lines of prophetic history. And in every instance, the state power is deceived by the cunning of a malicious woman. Potiphar was deceived by his wife, Ahab by Jezebel, Haman by Zeresh, and Herod by Herodias. In all of these histories, the male figures realized the true purpose of their companions when it had already been accomplished. Similarly, the state powers of the

earth will be deceived by the religious bodies that constitute Babylon to annihilate the gospel and its faithful adherents. And this purpose they will realize too late to draw back. But, notwithstanding the reality of their hopeless situation, these state powers, represented by the ten kings of Revelation 17, shall turn against the Papacy and bring that apostate system to its end:

And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. Revelation 17:16, 17.

But in the judgment here foretold, the Papacy will not be alone. Judges 15 reveals the fact that both the father and the daughter were burned with fire. In this way, the prophetic word is bringing to view the final abolition of the political and spiritual aspects of both the beast (the Papacy) and the false prophet (the United States) by the time of Christ's Second Advent. This is outlined in Revelation 19 as follows:

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war...And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. Revelation 19:11, 20.

But, despite the loss of favor and the withdrawal of support that the nations of the earth will effect against the Papal church, they will still have to face the wrath of an offended God for their apostasy. This is also represented in the fifteenth chapter of Judges as follows.



The Great Slaughter — The Seven Last Plagues

And Samson said unto them, Though ye have done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease. And he smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter: and he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock Etam. Judges 15:7, 8.

The vengeance of Samson on the Philistines prefigures the divine vengeance which is to come upon the nations of the earth in the Day of the Lord. The “great slaughter” wherewith he smote the Philistines is a major characteristic of the Day of the Lord. Prophecy locates the pouring out of God’s “indignation” “upon all nations” at the seven last plagues, with the effect of great destruction coming upon them:

Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it. **For the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations**, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter. Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree. For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment. The sword of the Lord is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the Lord hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, **and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea**. And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with

blood, and their dust made fat with fatness. **For it is the day of the Lord’s vengeance**, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion. Isaiah 34:1–8.

“Then I was shown that the seven last plagues will be poured out, after Jesus leaves the Sanctuary. Said the angel — It is the wrath of God and the Lamb that causes the destruction or death of the wicked.” *The Review and Herald*, November 1, 1850.

The manifestation of the power of God in the seven last plagues will be followed by the Second Coming of Christ, thus marking the end of the reform movement of the 144,000. But, God’s word is governed by the principle of repeat and enlarge (Ecclesiastes 1:9, 10; 1 Corinthians 10:11). In the following verses, Judges 15 takes up another line of prophecy which complements the understanding of the final crises that transpire in the reform movement of the 144,000.

Confrontation at Lehi — The Binding Off in the Midnight Cry Testing Time

Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi. And the men of Judah said, Why are ye come up against us? And they answered, To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us. Then three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock Etam, and said to Samson, Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers over us? what is this that thou hast done unto us? And he said unto them, As they did unto me, so have I done unto them. And they said unto him, We are come down to bind thee, that we may deliver thee into the hand of the Philistines. And Samson said unto them, Swear unto me, that ye will not fall upon me yourselves. And they spake unto him, saying, No; but we will bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hand: but surely we will not kill thee. And they bound him with two new cords, and brought him up from the rock. Judges 15:9–13.



“Lehi” is Hebrew Strong’s H3896 whose root is H3895 which means “cheek”:

H3895 lekh-ee

From an unused root meaning to be soft; **the cheek** (from its fleshiness); hence the jaw bone: - cheek (bone), jaw (bone). *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*.

The cheek in the Bible is a symbol connected with the trial and persecution of Christ in advance of Him being lifted up on the cross:

I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. Isaiah 50:6.

“I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair.’ Do you understand that it was the Lord our Saviour who went through these scenes of humiliation? Hear ye, and understand, and let every soul take in the situation. Christ suffered all this that is written of Him.” *Paulson Collection*, 122.

The cross is a symbol of the Sunday Law, therefore the “scenes of humiliation” which led to the cross prefigure the crisis that leads to the Sunday Law—the Midnight Cry crisis. For this reason, Lehi represents the Midnight Cry testing time. As the Philistines came up against Samson at Lehi, so will there be a coming together of the enemies of God to war against the wise virgins of Adventism in the history of the Midnight Cry. And as the men of Judah betrayed their kinsman to preserve their lives, the foolish virgins will betray the wise virgins into the hand of their enemies to save themselves from the persecution and humiliation of the foregoing crisis:

“I saw the nominal church and nominal Adventists, like Judas, would betray us to the Catholics to obtain their influence to come against the truth. The saints then will be an obscure people, little known to the Catholics; but the churches and nominal Adventists who know of our faith and customs (for they hated us on account of the Sabbath, for they could not refute

it) will betray the saints and report them to the Catholics as those who disregard the institutions of the people; that is, that they keep the Sabbath and disregard Sunday.” *Spalding and Magan*, 1.

The fact that these Jews were “three thousand” in number sheds lights on the time period in which their perfidy is fulfilled in the final generation. In the time of the Exodus, the Hebrews involved themselves in the golden calf image apostasy (Exodus 32). This departure from God typifies the falling away of the majority of Adventists during the image of the beast crisis. Three thousand rebels were found unfaithful in the former crisis. Those rebels are a symbol of the Adventists who will fail the image of the beast test and will unite with their enemies to persecute the faithful. The same lesson is taught by the “three thousand men of Judah” in Judges 15 with the added information of a work of treachery accomplished by unfaithful Adventists.

And Samson said unto them, Swear unto me, that ye will not fall upon me yourselves. And they spake unto him, saying, No; but we will bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hand: but surely we will not kill thee. And they bound him with two new cords, and brought him up from the rock. Judges 15:9–13.

The traitorous men of Judah bound Samson to betray him into the hand of his enemies. In like manner, the perfidy and opposition of the foolish virgins of Adventism will contribute to preparing the wise virgins for their work during the Sunday Law crisis. This binding-off was represented by the last four days of Samson’s marriage feast in the previous installment, and the binding of Samson in Judges 15 presents a second witness. Prophecy identifies a key event that will mark this binding-off period.

With the Jawbone of an Ass — Islam’s Role in the Binding Off

And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and the cords that



were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands. And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith. And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men. Judges 15:14–16.

This portion of the line of Judges 15 marks a restraint and a loosing, represented by the binding and the loosing of the bands of Samson. This is a characteristic feature of the binding-off periods which have recently been coming to light. When Samson was loosed through an activity of the Holy Spirit, his ministry of divine justice was empowered by the jawbone of an ass with which he slew a thousand men. Thus is prefigured an attack of radical Islam against the United States which will bring it to its ruin at the Sunday Law. By reason of the binding and the loosing of Samson, this attack will take place at the binding-off of the Sunday Law. And the empowerment of Samson by the jawbone typifies the empowerment of the ministry of the wise virgins of Adventism by the fulfillment of the predicted strike of radical Islam. Moreover, since prophecy represents all of the binding-off periods as similar in structure, it can be expected that the binding-off of the Midnight Cry will also have connected with it the fulfillment of a predicted attack on the United States at the hands of radical Islam.

And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand, and called that place Ramathlehi. Judges 15:17.

The speaking of various prophetic symbols represents experiences that transpire at the Sunday Law. The classic example of this is Revelation 13:11 which identifies the speaking of the United States as a dragon. This prophecy will be fulfilled when the United States enforces Sunday observance by a national act (*The Great Controversy*, 442). A second

witness to the speaking is derived from Habakkuk 2:1–3. In outlining the vision of Habakkuk's tables, the testimony they predicted was represented as tarrying prior to its fulfillment. But the divine promise given was that the vision would speak at the time appointed. The primary fulfillment of this passage was October 22, 1844 when the prediction of the coming of the judgment hour on the 1843 chart was fulfilled. October 22, 1844 typifies the Sunday Law—the shut door for the virgins of Adventism at the end of the world. This is the perfect fulfillment of the time appointed when the vision will speak. Therefore, Samson's speaking can also be placed at the Sunday Law. The name he gave to the place of conflict at the end of his speaking is "Ramathlehi," which means "height of the cheek." This represents the Sunday Law when the Midnight Cry (image of the beast crisis) will have reached its height. It is with this understanding that the final few verses of Judges 15 can be correctly understood.

And He was Sore Athirst — Anguish and Revival in the Storm of Persecution

And he was sore athirst, and called on the Lord, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised? But God clave an hollow place that was in the jaw, and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived: wherefore he called the name thereof Enhakkore, which is in Lehi unto this day. And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years. Judges 15:18–20.

Samson's thirst at the end of his encounter with the Philistines symbolizes the state of the wise virgins at the binding-off period of the Sunday Law. By reason of the crisis which shall result in the United States and in the world when the Islam prediction is fulfilled, the wise virgins will be objects of universal execration. Their mental situation at that time is summarized in the following passage of the Spirit of Prophecy:



“In this time of persecution the faith of the Lord’s servants will be tried. They have faithfully given the warning, looking to God and to His word alone. God’s Spirit, moving upon their hearts, has constrained them to speak. Stimulated with holy zeal, and with the divine impulse strong upon them, they entered upon the performance of their duties without coldly calculating the consequences of speaking to the people the word which the Lord had given them. They have not consulted their temporal interests, nor sought to preserve their reputation or their lives. Yet when the storm of opposition and reproach bursts upon them, some, overwhelmed with consternation, will be ready to exclaim: ‘Had we foreseen the consequences of our words, we would have held our peace.’ They are hedged in with difficulties. Satan assails them with fierce temptations. The work which they have undertaken seems far beyond their ability to accomplish. They are threatened with destruction. **The enthusiasm which animated them is gone**; yet they cannot turn back. Then, feeling their utter helplessness, they flee to the Mighty One for strength. They remember that the words which they have spoken were not theirs, but His who bade them give the warning. God put the truth into their hearts, and they could not forbear to proclaim it.” *The Great Controversy*, 608.

Betrayed by their own people (3000 men of Judah), surrounded by the enemies of truth (Philistines) and labeled as the troublers of the people, the wise virgins will be left in a state of weariness and dejection. But though ‘the enthusiasm which animated them’ will diminish at the binding off, they will like the thirsty Samson, appeal to the Lord for deliverance. And in response to their plea, the Lord will revive their energies and prepare them to give a message during the Sunday Law testing time. As He clave a hollow in the jaw to provide refreshing water for his servant, so will the fulfillment of Islam’s third major strike on the United States confirm to the wise virgins the divine authenticity of their mission and open the floodgates of Heaven for the full outpouring of the

latter rain and swell the third angel’s message into the Loud Cry.

“As the opposition rises to a fiercer height, the servants of God are again perplexed; for it seems to them that they have brought the crisis. **But conscience and the word of God assure them that their course is right**; and although the trials continue, they are strengthened to bear them. The contest grows closer and sharper, **but their faith and courage rise with the emergency**. Their testimony is: ‘We dare not tamper with God’s word, dividing His holy law; calling one portion essential and another nonessential, to gain the favor of the world. The Lord whom we serve is able to deliver us. Christ has conquered the powers of earth; and shall we be afraid of a world already conquered?’” *The Great Controversy*, 610.

Closing Remarks

“There are only two classes in the world today, and only two classes will be recognized in the Judgment, — those who violate God’s law, and those who keep His law. Two great opposing powers are revealed in the last great battle. On one side stands the Creator of heaven and earth. All on His side bear His signet. They are obedient to His commands. On the other side stands the Prince of darkness, with those who have chosen apostasy and rebellion.” *The Review and Herald*, May 7, 1901.

The two classes within the present truth movement are approaching their final separation. God’s work on behalf of this people is soon to draw to a close. Consequently, those in the movement who desire salvation must make speed to come up to the present requirements of God. They are to study the prophetic lines with an earnestness never seen before and live their lives in accordance with the truths they profess to believe. May the Lord aid his people to prepare for the close of probation.



THE THIRD WOE

By R. Grandison

Not by Power or Might

The Holy Scriptures introduces an associative group of woes in Revelation chapters nine and eleven; in and between Revelation 9:12 and Revelation 11:14. This specific grouping of woes is strikingly similar to the specific and associative grouping of angels recorded in Revelation 14: 6 – 11, commonly referred to as the Three Angels Message. God has many admirable qualities among which is His consistency and simplicity. Thus one always knows their expectations, blessings or cursings, because He never changes: Therefore, **“for I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed”** (Malachi 3:6). Henceforth as one searches the Scriptures and investigates truth human intellect and opinions must be set aside, because it is written **“Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, saith the Lord of hosts”** (Zechariah 4:6).

God’s Spirit moved upon the great **deep** and **waters** to commence the creation of this earth (Genesis 1:2). On day four He set the Solar System in place with mathematical precision that should guarantee the survival of the living organisms He intended to occupy the earth forever (Genesis 1:14 – 30).

First, with mathematical precision: There are nine planets. For example, Uranus is negative 415°F, Neptune 318 times larger than the Earth, surface temperature of the Sun is 9,941°F, and the Earth’s revolution around the Sun sets at 66,660 mph. During the Earth’s 12 month cycle around the Sun it ranges in distance from the Sun between a minimum of 91 million to a maximum of 152 million miles. In conclusion this mathematical precision which God created and set in its course is incontrovertible! Without it life on this planet would be impossible.

Second, the Spirit of God is described in several different forms: as One who moves, fire, word, likeness of a dove (Genesis 1:2; Matthew 4:1; Acts 22:3-4; Luke 3:22). With mathematical precision,

the Holy Spirit leads to the truth, or results that are true. Truth is unpopular and it often leads where one does not want to go; or where truth leads, usually it is hard to accept, because it puts preconceived ideas and human logic on the dung heap. Mathematical precision has four simple rules: Addition, multiplication, subtraction and division all bound together with reasoning.

So, **“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord”** (Isaiah 1:18): This statement naturally raises the following thought, then how is correct reasoning, or truth established? All correct reasoning must have these two major elements: (1) **“at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established”** (Deuteronomy 19:15; Matthew 18:16). (2) **“For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little”** (Isaiah 28:10). Consequently, it is reasonable to say in order to arrive at a conclusion with mathematical precision the equation would look something like this: Reason (precept **plus** 2 or 3 witnesses) **equals** conclusion.

The Two Major Elements of Reason

At creation God introduced two great laws: Natural Law and the Moral Law. The former evidenced in the creation of the solar system with mathematical precision and the latter as pertinent to the first marriage and the Sabbath. Later He repeated the full scope of the moral law to man through Moses at Sinai. As for natural law everything else falls under its domain. From the laws of physics, chemistry, mathematics to the “...necessary and obligatory rules of human conduct which have been established by the author of human nature as essential to the divine purposes in the universe and have been promulgated by God...through...reason.” *Black’s Law Dictionary*, 6th edition, 1026.

Therefore, we are under obligation to render obedience to both the moral and natural laws: “Men and women cannot violate natural law...and not violate the law of God... He proclaims His law



so distinctly, and makes it so prominent, that it is like a city set on a hill... To make plain natural law, and urge the obedience of it, is the work that accompanies the third angel's message, to prepare a people for the coming of the Lord." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 69.

Accordingly, a close examination of the two major elements of reason (Isaiah 1:18); and based upon Isaiah 28:10 **precept upon precept, line upon line** and that a **matter is established** at the testimony of **two or three witnesses** (Deuteronomy 19:15; Matthew 18:16) correlates with mathematical precision as follows. The former is deductive in which syllogism or parallel reasoning has its root and the latter inductive.

In deductive reasoning – precept upon precept – the starting point is the precept, law or principle. (Precept, law, principle, premises, rule, hypothesis are synonyms and can all be used interchangeably. Also if the starting point, in any of the foregoing –precept, premises, or hypothesis, is incorrect, invariably, the conclusion must be incorrect.) Thus a deduction is made based precisely on the law, precept or principle which leads to a direct or connecting conclusion. This also includes the line upon line portion as well because according to *Strong's Concordance* (H6957) this phrase means a "rule, connecting together." A further subdivision of deductive reasoning is syllogism or parallel reasoning: This is where there are two different premises which lead to the same conclusion.

The next major element of **reason** is inductive: At the testimony of **two or three witnesses** is a truth established. This type of reasoning is employed predominantly in figuring out the relationships between geometric shapes. Precisely in this form of reasoning a pattern is established, and from that pattern a conclusion is made. Intrinsic to a pattern is to "duplicate:" That is "a copy exactly like the original...in two copies, especially in two identical copies...to double; make two fold." *Webster's Universal Unabridged Dictionary*, Barnes and Noble Books 1996. Essentially, a pattern

is a duplicate which cannot be established with one element, it must be established with two or more! Conclusively, it is inductive reasoning, with mathematical certainty, when the Scriptures say a **matter is established by two or three witnesses**.

The Application to the Third Woe in the Context of Isaiah 1:18

In making the application of Isaiah 28:10, Deuteronomy 19:15 and Matthew 18:16; succinctly, this application to the third woe will utilize inductive reasoning (Deuteronomy 19:15 and Matthew 18:16). In this example the correct application must invariably establish a "pattern." Revelation 7:1 introduces a specific group of "**four angels**" and this group of angels is reintroduced in Revelation 9:14. Henceforth, from Revelation 8:1 to Revelation 15:1 there are several different groupings of angels which are distinguished from each other, because of the distinct pattern they establish: Seven angels with trumpets, seven angels with vials and three angels with messages.

It follows, by applying inductive reasoning to the three woes mentioned in Revelation 9 and 11 a distinctive pattern is established. Revelation 9:7 applies to the first woe, and Revelation 9:17 applies to the second woe. These two distinct examples without a doubt applies to the same people – the Saracens and Turks (Islam) – as explained in Daniel and the Revelation. Although a description of horses and locusts is not given in Revelation 9:14 regarding the third woe, it is undeniable that this group of Woes is bound together because of the pattern it establishes in the first two woes. Therefore, since the first and second woe is Islam by the rule of inductive reasoning; the third woe must be Islam with mathematical certainty.

Conclusion

As a result, the universe is bound together with the reasoning of God's wisdom established in His word. He has structured His word with mathematical precision: At creation God numbered the days and



man named the days of the week. Similarly, God established the rule of correct reasoning (Isaiah 28:10, Deuteronomy 19:15 and Matthew 18:16) and man has applied names to them: inductive and deductive reasoning, respectively.

READERS RESPONSE

A friend sent us an email including the following letter written by Sister White in 1907. She found this letter at www.egwwritings.org. The website contains both the published and unpublished writings of Sister White in multiple languages with an easy to use interface. It may prove to be a rich blessing in your daily studies. We appreciate the many emails that come to us from readers like you. We are encouraged when you share truths that have made an impact in your studies. (The bolded the portions of Sister White's letter are supplied by the sender and do not appear in the original.)

Email:

Attached is a letter from Sister White regarding the experience of Ezra in his effort to do God's will. His lineage was that of the priesthood and therefore his history is of special significance for the priests who are being called today. May we all be blessed with the knowledge that went beyond intellect, a knowledge that brought to Ezra "a sanctifying power to his soul!"—P.N.

Letter 100, March 13, 1907

M. N. Campbell, 12 Graves Avenue, Battle Creek, Michigan

Dear Brother:

I have had the privilege of reading your letter to W. C. White, and I was much interested in its contents.

For some time I have been writing on the subjects of Old Testament history. I have now nearly completed the book of Ezra. I have been encouraged as I have studied **the experiences of this remarkable man**. I am now writing on **the seventh chapter**, which deals with the time when the king's decree went forth, that permitted Ezra to go up from Babylon and take with him the help he needed for the work to be accomplished in Jerusalem. **Please read this chapter.**

"This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the Lord his God upon him. And there went up some of the children of Israel, and of the singers, and of the priests and of the Levites, and the porters, ... And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. For upon the first day of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to **the good hand of his God upon him. For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.**"

Ezra was of the sons of Aaron, a priest, whom God chose to be an instrument of good unto Israel, that he might put honor upon the priesthood, the glory of which had been greatly eclipsed during the captivity. **Ezra was a man of great piety and holy zeal.** He was also a man **of learning** and **a ready scribe in the law of Moses. These qualifications made him an eminent man.**



Ezra was impressed by the Spirit of God to search the historical and poetical books of the Bible, and by this means he became familiar with the sense and understanding of the law. During the captivity the knowledge of God's will had to some extent been lost. **Ezra** gathered all the copies of the law that he could find. He published copies of these among God's people and **became a teacher of the law and the prophecies** in the schools of the prophets. **The pure Word, thus diligently taught by Ezra, gave knowledge that was invaluable at that time.**

Ezra was a man of piety and holy zeal, because the truth was a sanctifying power in his soul. With earnestness he prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord. Some of the prophecies were about to be fulfilled; he would search diligently for the light that had been obscured. He sought this knowledge that he might educate the people how to bring into their practical life the principles of the Word of God. He made it his business to inquire into the matter diligently, that he might exert an influence in accordance with the expressed will of God, binding heart and mind and will in obedience to that Word. He felt that for himself he must do the will of the Lord; for only as he brought his own mind into harmony with truth could he be taught how to labor, how to come into harmony with the Word of God. He made it a rule to yield his mind and will and sentiments to the mind and will of God, thus bringing into his life sanctifying principles that molded the minds of the youth who learned of him, and of all who associated with him, desirous of being taught the laws of heaven.

That which Ezra knew he desired to teach others, and thus he became a mouthpiece for God, educating those about him in the holy principles that govern in heaven. **To live according to the commandments of God—that was the rule of his life, his purpose. He first learned, and then he taught.** He learned to conduct his own life according to truth and righteousness; then he set

himself to teach Israel the statutes and judgments of God. That which he had learned of truth he communicated to others, that the same saving influence might work in their lives. Teaching thus he educated his fellow men in the knowledge of truth that would live through eternal ages.

Ezra's life, like the life of Christ, sowed the seeds of truth in a revelation of the pure principles that can save the soul. Far happier would professing Christians be today if they would in the same way reflect the light of heaven upon the pathway of others, teaching in the life the statutes and judgments that rule in the heavenly courts. **As Ezra labored to communicate what he had learned, his capabilities for labor increased and developed. He became the Lord's witness to the world of what Bible truth is, revealed in the daily life of the receiver.**

Ezra's example, in words and deeds, carried with it a weight of influence; for the Spirit of God was with him. He took pains with his studies. He diligently prepared his heart to do the work that he believed was appointed him. He searched out the words that had been written concerning the duties of God's denominated people, and he found a solemn pledge that man had given that he would obey the words of God and the pledge of God's blessing to the obedient. **He searched for all those statements in history which relate to the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai, and for those that referred to the law written in books, and which were to be carefully preserved as the commands of God.**

The laws contained in books were not a new revelation, but the former laws repeated and commented upon. Before Moses was separated from the children of Israel, and went at the command of God to die in the land of Moab, **the laws that were formerly given were repeated and enlarged upon. Some methods of enforcing them were given; some precepts were explained, and the reason given for them.** Upon



several occasions the judgments of God had fallen on transgressors, and commands that had been transgressed were repeated to give force to the requirements of God. Transgressors were to know assuredly that disobedience would surely bring the punishment of God. **In this his last work for the people of God, Moses was as truly recording the mandates of heaven as when he received the ten commandments written on tables of stone, when God's presence was visibly manifested, and Mt. Horeb trembled and cast forth fire and smoke. The commandments written in books were the words of God to the people as truly as were the words He spoke with an audible voice from Mt. Sinai.**

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

Email:

Greetings to You All,

I pray I find you well. I write this email to you based on a few thoughts from God's word that I was considering yesterday. I initially had thought of sharing this in a presentation with the group of believers here, but then I thought to forward the thoughts to the ministry of *Future for America* first for consideration before making such a move. This is because your ministry has been blessed with people of experience and men of discernment and judgment who can counsel on such things. After all, the Spirit of Prophecy says this is what we must do (seek out brethren of experience); for in the multitude of counsellors there is safety. Part of this

understanding is derived from the "Testimony of Two Rivers" in the *Time of the End* magazine with a few additional thoughts derived from the recent FFA Prophecy School. The thoughts are as follows:

The vision given to Isaiah represents the condition of God's people in the last days. **They are privileged to see by faith the work that is going forward in the heavenly sanctuary.** "And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament." **As they look by faith into the holy of holies, and see the work of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary,** they perceive that they are a people of unclean lips,—a people whose lips have often spoken vanity, and whose talents have not been sanctified and employed to the glory of God. Well may they despair as they contrast their own weakness and unworthiness with the purity and loveliness of the glorious character of Christ. But if they, like Isaiah, will receive the impression the Lord designs shall be made upon the heart, if they will humble their souls before God, there is hope for them. The bow of promise is above the throne, and the work done for Isaiah will be performed in them. God will respond to the petitions coming from the contrite heart. *The Review and Herald*, December 22, 1896.

"And when I saw Him," John writes, "I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not." John was strengthened to live in the presence of his glorified Lord. **Then before his wondering vision were opened the glories of heaven. He was permitted to see the throne of God** and, looking beyond the conflicts of earth, to behold the white-robed throng of the redeemed. He heard the music of the heavenly angels and the triumphant songs of those who had overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. In the revelation given to him there was unfolded scene after scene of thrilling interest in the experience of the people of God, and the history of the church foretold to the very close of time. **In figures and symbols, subjects**



of vast importance were presented to John, which he was to record, that the people of God living in his age and in future ages might have an intelligent understanding of the perils and conflicts before them.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 582.

In the past teachers have declared Daniel and the Revelation to be sealed books, and the people have turned from them. The veil whose apparent mystery has kept many from lifting it, **God’s own hand has withdrawn from these portions of His Word.** The very name “Revelation” contradicts the statement that it is a sealed book. Revelation means that something of importance is revealed. The truths of this book are addressed to those living in these last days. **We are standing with the veil removed in the holy place of sacred things.** We are not to stand without, **we are to enter; not with careless, irreverent thoughts, not with impetuous footsteps, but with reverence and godly fear.** We are nearing the time when the prophecies of the book of Revelation are to be fulfilled. *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 18, 22.

When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience. **They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that heart and mind will be impressed in regard to the character all must develop in order to realize the blessedness which is to be the reward of the pure in heart.** The Lord will bless all who will seek humbly and meekly to understand that which is revealed in the Revelation. This book contains so much that is large with immortality and full of glory that all who read and search it earnestly receive the blessing to those “that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 18, 24.

“Blessed *are* they that **do his commandments**, that they may have **right to the tree of life**, and may enter in through **the gates into the city.**” Revelation 22:14.

Blessed *are* **the pure in heart**: for they shall see God.

In Daniel 8, God’s beloved prophet is standing at 9/11 (because of Shushan the palace among other arguments) and he is shown the vision of prophetic history. But when you get to verses 13-16, Daniel is permitted to see the appearance of Christ which we term the “march” vision or experience. We usually define this vision or experience as the appearance of Christ in the Most Holy Place in connection with the 2300 days of Daniel 8:14, identifying His work of cleansing the sanctuary. So what I want to point out, is the Man that appears to Daniel (who is Christ) is located between the banks of the Ulai river:

“Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain *saint* which spake, How long *shall be* the vision *concerning* the daily *sacrifice*, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. And it came to pass, when I, *even* I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the **appearance** (march) of a man. And I heard a man’s voice **between the banks of Ulai**, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this *man* to understand the [march] vision.” Daniel 8:13-16.

If Christ is between the banks of the Ulai, it means He is situated on the Ulai river when He appears to Daniel, with a bank on either side. In the vision given to Daniel by the Hidekkel, Christ is in a similar location, but additional information is given which I believe is a key to unlock certain truths:

“Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood **other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river.** And *one* said to **the man clothed in linen**, which *was* upon the

waters of the river, How long *shall it be* to the end of these wonders? And I heard **the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river**, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that *it shall be* for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these *things* shall be finished.” Daniel 12:5-7.

In connection with the 1260 days, Daniel also sees Christ, but this time, he sees Him as the Man clothed with linen. He is again situated between the banks of the river, but Daniel tells us that on either side of Him are “other two.” I believe these other two are angels. Therefore, there is an angel on one side of the bank of the river and an angel on the other side of the bank of the river with Christ in between. This sounds like the arrangement of the Most Holy Place which came to light in the recent prophecy school. One angel is at 9/11, and the other is at the Sunday Law. And in between (at the Midnight Cry) is the ark of the testament with all the other furnishings and articles of the sanctuary connected with it. I am suggesting that Christ appears between the banks of these two rivers, between two angels, at the Midnight Cry. And this sounds consistent with what is already taught concerning the binding off of God’s people. They have the *marah* experience in response to the *mareh* vision at the Midnight Cry. And that Christ is identified as Palmoni in Daniel 8 and the Man clothed in linen in Daniel 12, I believe, also shows that Christ is going to appear to His people in all His different aspects and in all His glory, and this humbles them in the dust. We already mark Christ as Palmoni at the Midnight Cry, and the Man clothed in linen as the third angel or Sealing Angel (who is Christ) which does the work of binding and sealing the Priests and Levites in the history of Midnight and the Midnight Cry. So I thought I saw some consistency in this application. With that in place, let me turn your attention to the book of Revelation in chapter 22:

“And he shewed me a **pure river of water of life**, clear as crystal, **proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb**. In the midst of the street of it, **and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life**, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for **the healing of the nations**. And there shall be no more curse: **but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads**. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.” Revelation 22:1-5.

Here we see the banks of the crystal river of the water of life. Connecting Daniel 8 and 12 and Revelation 22 line upon line, the two banks of this river are 9/11 and the Sunday Law. Between the banks of this river is the throne of God and of the Lamb; thus the throne of God is placed at the Midnight Cry right where the Ark of the Covenant is. On either side of the river is the tree of life and inspiration has the following comment on this scenery:

“Jesus raised His mighty glorious arm, laid hold of the pearly gate and swung it back on its glittering hinges, and said to us, You have washed your robes in My blood, stood stiffly for My truth, enter in. **We all marched in and felt we had a perfect right in the City**. Here we saw the tree of life and the throne of God. Out of the throne came a pure river of water, and on either side of the river was the tree of life. **On one side of the river was a trunk of a tree, and a trunk on the other side of the river, both of pure transparent gold**. At first I thought I saw two trees. I looked again and saw **they were united at the top in one tree**.—So it was the tree of life, on either side of the river of life.” *The Review and Herald*, July 21, 1851.

At 9/11 and at the Sunday Law (the banks of the river), there is a trunk of the tree of life. Both are



of pure gold, but they unite at the top in one tree. It is at the Midnight Cry that they are united in one tree, and there is found the perpetual fruit of the tree and the leaves which are for the healing of the nations. Sister White applies the leaves of the tree of life to the messages of God's word and at the Midnight Cry, the message given to bind off Adventism is also given to plow the eleventh hour workers (the nations) that they may be healed:

“Must we wait until we are translated before we eat of the leaves of the tree of life? **He who receives into his heart the words of Christ knows what it means to eat the leaves of the tree of life....**

The knowledge that comes from God is the bread of life. **It is the leaves of the tree of life which are for the healing of the nations.** The current of spiritual life thrills the soul as the words of Christ are believed and practiced. Thus it is that we are made one with Christ. The experience that was weak and feeble becomes strong. It is eternal life to us if we hold the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end. All truth is to be received as the life of Jesus. Truth cleanses us from all impurity, and prepares the soul for Christ's presence. Christ is formed within, the hope of glory....” *The Upward Look*, 224.

I found it interesting that similar to the tree of life, the two cherubim on either side of the Ark of the Covenant were also of gold. And as the trunks united at the top in one tree, the wings of the cherubim touched at top to cover the mercy seat:

“Two lovely cherubs, one on each end of the ark, stood with their wings outstretched above it, **and touching each other above the head of Jesus as He stood before the mercy seat.** Their faces were turned toward each other, and they looked downward to the ark, representing all the angelic host looking with interest at the law of God. Between the cherubim was a golden censer, and as the prayers of the saints, offered in faith, came up to Jesus, and He presented them to His father, a cloud of fragrance arose from the incense, looking like smoke of most beautiful colors.

Above the place where Jesus stood, before the ark, was exceedingly bright glory that I could not look upon; it appeared like the throne of God. As the incense ascended to the Father, the excellent glory came from the throne to Jesus, and from Him it was shed upon those whose prayers had come up like sweet incense. Light poured upon Jesus in rich abundance and overshadowed the mercy seat, and the train of glory filled the temple. I could not long look upon the surpassing brightness. No language can describe it. I was overwhelmed and turned from the majesty and glory of the scene.” *Early Writings*, 252.

“And thou shalt make two cherubims *of gold, of beaten work* shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: *even* of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof.” Exodus 25:18, 19.

“**And the cherubims shall stretch forth *their* wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings,** and their faces *shall look* one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be.” Exodus **25:20**.

I'll be honest in saying I really have no idea what many of these things mean, but I just found it interesting that the joining of the two trunks (which sounds like the joining of the two sticks) between the banks of the crystal river (at the Midnight Cry) is similar to the touching of the two wings of the covering cherubs. And the verse that references the touching of the two wings is Exodus **25:20** (2520). The 2520 time prophecy teaches the joining of the two sticks into one stick, and this begins at the Midnight Cry. I'm not saying this is the correct application of the trunks joining or the wings touching, but I'm saying I found some very interesting connections there. Then Revelation 22 goes on to say *there will be no more curse* which again is a reference to the 2520. So it seems to identify the lifting of the curse at the Midnight Cry (I do not deny the progression

of these events), that God may bring together His people into one. Revelation 22 also says “the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it.” Though this is speaking of the Heavenly kingdom, I believe it’s also identifying that the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the church triumphant prophetically at the Midnight Cry in fulfillment of the following promise of Christ:

“At that day ye shall know that I *am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. **He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them**, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, **and will manifest myself to him**. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, **he will keep my words**: and my Father will love him, **and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him**.” John 14:20-23.

The church triumphant at the Midnight Cry will comprise those who have the commandments of God (which are in the Ark of the Covenant) and who keep those commandments. And the promise “and will manifest Myself to him” is the “mareh” experience—the appearance of Christ in the Most Holy Place at the Midnight Cry. Christ goes on further to say “We will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” Thus, the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the church triumphant, and according to Revelation 22, his servants (the Priests and the Levites) shall serve Him from that point onwards. And Revelation 22 confirms some of the foregoing thoughts by stating that “they shall see His face, and His name shall be in their foreheads.” God’s faithful people will have the “mareh” and “marah” experience (they shall see His face prophetically) and will be prepared for the Seal of God in their foreheads at the Midnight Cry (though the stamp will be impressed at the Sunday Law).

Now returning to Daniel 8 and 12. The *Time of the End* magazine identifies the testimony of the two

rivers as the testimony of the Ulai and Hiddekel. It states that it is a twofold story of the everlasting gospel—the blending of celestial glory with the persecutions of the past. These rivers in Daniel are connected to two symbolic water bodies in Revelation. The Ulai, emphasizing the work of Christ in the Most Holy place of cleansing the sanctuary, prophetically leads those who follow Him by faith to the crystal river of life. The Hiddekel on the other hand, emphasizing the final rise and fall of the king of the north, and the work of Christ in scattering the power of the holy people (Adventism), symbolically leads those who don’t follow Christ to the lake of fire. The former is identifying the church triumphant, the wheat, that are led between the banks of Ulai (between 9/11 and the Sunday Law) to the throne of God and they see Him and serve him forever from the Midnight Cry onwards. The latter is identifying the tares which are led between the banks of the Hiddekel (between 9/11 and the Sunday Law) to the throne of God at the Midnight Cry to be condemned, scattered and cast into the lake of fire or the fires of destruction with characters prepared for the Mark of the Beast (the king of the north)—they are lost for eternity:

“And I saw **a great white throne**, and him that sat on it, **from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away**; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**” Revelation 20:11-15.

Though I know this literally takes place after the 1,000 years, I am applying this prophetically to the spiritual death of the tares between 9/11 and the Sunday Law. Much more can be said concerning this, but I'll conclude it here for now. I put a number of thoughts in the mix because it is possible that I made wrong applications. Thus, since they are in there, I may be duly corrected. Please do give me your feedback as *Future for America*, as I will personally need to know whether this is Biblically sound or not. God Bless—N.N.

Beyond Finite Comprehension

“There are some that may think they are fully capable with their finite judgment to take the Word of God, and to state what are the words of inspiration, and what are not the words of inspiration. I want to warn you off that ground, my brethren in the ministry. ‘Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.’ There is no finite man that lives, I care not who he is or whatever is his position, that God has authorized to pick and choose in His Word.

“It is true that the apostle has said that there are some things that are hard to be understood in the Scriptures. So there are. And if it were not that there are subjects that are difficult and hard to be understood, well might the skeptic who now pleads that God has given a revelation that cannot be understood—well might he, I say—have something else to plead. God's infinity is so much higher than we are, that it is impossible for man to comprehend the mystery of godliness.

“Angels of God looked with amazement upon Christ, who took upon Himself the form of man and humbly united His divinity with humanity in order that He might minister to fallen man. It is a marvel among the heavenly angels. God has told us that He did do it, and we are to accept the Word of God just as it reads.

“And although we may try to reason in regard to our Creator, how long He has had existence, where evil first entered into our world, and all these things, we may reason about them until we fall down faint and exhausted with the research when there is yet an infinity beyond. We cannot grasp it, so what man is there that dares to take that Bible and say this part is inspired and that part is not inspired? I would have both my arms taken off at my shoulders before I would ever make the statement or set my judgment upon the Word of God as to what is inspired and what is not inspired.

“How would finite man know anything about that matter? He is to take the Word of God as it reads, and then to appreciate it as it is, and to bring it into the life and to weave it into the character. There is everything plainly revealed in God's Word which concerns the salvation of men, and if we will take that Word and comprehend it to the very best of our ability, God will help us in its comprehension.

“Human minds without the special assistance of the Spirit of God will see many things in the Bible very difficult to be understood, because they lack a divine enlightenment. It is not that men should come to the Word of God by setting up their own way, or their own will or their own ideas, but it is to come with a meek and humble and holy spirit.

“Never attempt to search the Scriptures unless you are ready to listen, unless you are ready to be a learner, unless you are ready to listen to the Word of God as though His voice were speaking directly to you from the living oracles. Never let mortal man sit in judgment upon the Word of God or pass sentence as to how much of this is inspired and how much is not inspired, and that this is more inspired than some other portions. God warns him off that ground. God has not given him any such work to do.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 7, 919.