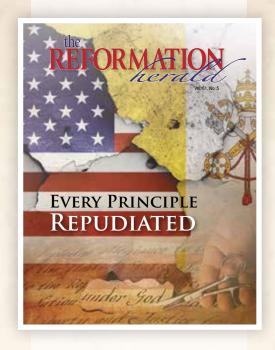




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#### Official Church Publication of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement

"The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold."—Education, p. 57.

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## EVERY PRINCIPLE REPUDIATED

ehold how the world is changing with such speed that even the media cannot keep up with it! The Word of God says: "Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph" (Exodus 1:8). The patriarch Joseph had laid a wise, prosperous foundation for the nation he was entrusted with overseeing—vet in later generations, the nation evidently chose to forget the legacy of this great man of God and the blessings he had brought them.

Let us consider also how the founding fathers of the United States were fully aware that freedom could be guaranteed only by preserving Biblical principles in the new society being formed. George Washington is often cited as having made an observation along these lines: "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." Another early American statesman, Andrew Jackson, continued with the concept of reverence for the Bible, saying: "That book Sir, is the Rock upon which our republic rests,"1, and Daniel Webster concluded: "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."2 Later, in 1885, a humble writer by the name of E. G. White was to pen

a declaration in anticipation of the changes currently occurring today. The insightful statement has so many details that it's impossible to believe that mere human logic and reasoning could be so marvelously adept in foreseeing such a complex,

unexpected future.

"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."3

Not long afterwards, when the fulfillment of the above prediction still seemed inconceivable, Theodore Roosevelt (U.S. President from 1901-1909) imagined the fate of society without Scripture by saying: "The teachings of the Bible are so interwoven and entwined with our whole civic and social life that it would be literally impossible for us to figure to ourselves what that life would be if these teaching were removed."4

If this great statesman would be alive to see that it is possible to live in this beautiful country without much "... teaching of the Bible" and without that close relationship with our civic and social life, he would indeed be able to "imagine life without this teaching" and understand why we have come to such point in our society as to cancel the culture to such a degree that "all our foundation" would be virtually lost!

In our daily encounters with people in today's world, we must pray to discern who is open to a full explanation of what is going on, who may be sufficiently enriched by a simple answer, and who, on the other hand, has no interest whatsoever. I invite the reader to consider the evidence and determine accordingly.

We are rapidly approaching the hour foreseen in 1899: "When Protestant churches shall unite with the secular power to sustain a false religion, for opposing which their ancestors endured the fiercest persecution, then will the papal sabbath be enforced by the combined authority of church and state. There will be a national apostasy, which will end only in national ruin."5

May the Lord guide and help us. @

#### Refrences

http://www.biblebelievers.com/Grady1.html

http://www.leaderu.com/orgs/cdf/onug/webster.html [Emphasis added.] \*\*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 451. [Emphasis

<sup>4</sup> https://www.goodreads.com/quotes <sup>5</sup> Evangelism, p. 235. [Emphasis added.]



he Constitution of the United States holds a special place in the prophetic developments soon to take place upon this earth. This four-page document, written on parchment, remains as the oldest written and codified national constitution in force today. Its principles form the basis of the character of this particular nation. When the United States "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." Every believer in the soon return of Jesus Christ, having an eye out looking for the signs of the times should have an interest in the United States Constitution. Regardless of their nationality, all should have an interest in the freedoms guaranteed by this document.

#### **FOUNDATIONS**

The Advent movement could

not have begun in any other nation in 1844. The freedom to preach the First, Second and Third Angels' messages of Revelation chapter 14 could occur only in a land which accepted no sovereign but the Creator. It was only the United States of America at that time which guaranteed the liberties that would allow for the free proclamation of the gospel. The Declaration of Independence, released July 4, 1776, declared that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." Rights given by the Creator could only be taken away by Him. In other nations, the rights of citizens were granted by governments and sovereigns. That which government gives, government can take away. Yet that which the Creator has given, no government could remove.

To ensure that these principles of Creator-given freedom would form the foundation for a limited

government on June 21, 1788, the Constitution of the United States was ratified. The first three words of the Constitution, "We the People," created a new dynamic where the government served the people, not the people serving the state or any sovereign. The people were sovereign, since the freedom of each person is granted to them by their Creator. "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."2

But still there was a temptation for these rights to be trampled on. Governments could arise that might disregard these freedoms. Additions were made to the constitution to ensure that this would not be the case. The first ten amendments to the Constitution are collectively termed the Bill of Rights. The first of these amendments codifies six freedoms:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

These six freedoms are classed in three sets of two: treedom of religion and its exercise; freedom of speech and the press; and freedom to assemble and directly petition the government. It is understood that the one cannot exist without the other. Freedom of religion includes the right to worship. Freedom of speech includes the right to publish that speech. Freedom to assemble includes citizen assembly to directly address those in positions of authority. And all six of these freedoms cannot exist without each other. Freedom of religion includes freedom to publish the teachings of that religion and gather to discuss the same teachings. Once one of these freedoms is withdrawn, they are all in danger. Without freedom of speech there will be no freedom of religion, and so on with all six of these freedoms.

The founders of the United States confirmed that the United States would be known by the principles established in this Constitution. John Adams, who served as the second president of the United States stated that "we are a nation of laws and not of men." Patrick Henry, who famously stated "give me liberty or give me death" when the assembly of Virginia was deciding if it would join in the call for independence, also stated that "liberty ought to be the direct end of your government." Such were the thoughts of those who would form the new nation.

#### **FAST FORWARD**

Over 233 years have passed since the United States Constitution was ratified (1787). During this time the nation has seen amazing prosperity and has also been rocked by crisis. It has endured a devastating civil war and suffered until the shackles of slavery could be removed. It has

fought in two world wars and stood up to the horrors of communism. It has expanded from the Atlantic to the Pacific Coast and opened the way for every person on the planet to be connected "online." It suffered a great depression and is currently in the midst of a massive pandemic. Through each point of its journey, both the highs and the lows, the Constitution has been the touchstone to guide officials. The oath of office taken by most government officials includes a pledge that they will defend the Constitution of the United States. The oath of the president makes the protection of the Constitution of paramount importance to the office: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."4

And yet this document is now under direct assault. The enemy of souls sees that freedom of expression must be repressed. Truth is a hinderance to his plans of deceiving humanity. Today we see a call to repress the freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution. The idea that the state is the source of rights is gaining hold. We live in a time when the truth is now called "hate speech."

An example of this is the Supreme Court ruling of June 2015 that legalized same-sex marriage. In this ruling the court made up a sweeping right that same-sex marriage is guaranteed by the Constitution. In his dissent to this decision, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Samuel Alito, warned: "Today's decision. . . . will be used to vilify Americans who are unwilling to assent to the new orthodoxy ... [It] will be exploited by those who are determined to stamp out every vestige of dissent. . . . Those who cling to old beliefs will be able to whisper their thoughts in the recesses of their homes, but if they repeat those views in public, they will risk being labeled as bigots and treated as such by governments, employers, and schools. . . . By imposing its own views on the entire country, the [court] majority

facilitates the marginalization of the many Americans who have traditional ideas."<sup>5</sup>

The founders of the nation could not have imagined that their words would ever be used in this way. On June 15, 2020, five years after the decision that marriage was not as Scripture defined it, between a man and a woman, the court went further, stating that the term "sex" needed to be redefined. The court decreed that in discrimination law. "sex" means more than biology. Sex is now interpreted to mean one's personal preference and identity. Women can claim to be men and men can claim to be women, and evervone is legally obligated to accept such obvious falsehoods as true and be punished if they do not.

Once again in dissent, Justice Alito warned that this decision ignored "briefs filed by a wide range of religious groups—Christian, Jewish, and Muslim-express deep concern that the position now adopted by the Court 'will trigger open conflict with faith-based employment practices of numerous churches, synagogues, mosques, and other religious institutions.' "6 Basically understood, the decision that "sex" was more than biology would force those who hold to Biblical definitions of male and female to hire or keep as employees individuals who deny these Biblical definitions.

Slowly but surely the principles of the Constitution as protecting a "protestant and republican government" are being redefined. We still have the freedom to speak out against these changes, but for how long? The way is being prepared for the testimony of the servant of the Lord to come to pass.

#### **REPUDIATED**

Pay attention to the prophetic warning. When the United States "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."

What does it mean to "repudiate"? Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines repudiate as "to cast away; to reject; to discard." As the social fabric is torn away and the signs in nature intensify the destruction to the planet, the fallen churches will seek to silence the little company speaking the truth. What stands in their way to silence us? Nothing but four parchment pages and the words written on them. That is all that stands between the free proclamation of the truth and its suppression.

Now let us look more carefully at the Testimony. Will the constitution itself be repudiated? No. The statement declares the enemies of truth will "repudiate every principle" of it. As a document the pages will remain, but the principles that make possible the freedoms granted by the Constitution will be cast aside and a new "safe space" will be created where error can reign supreme and the proclamation of truth can be suppressed.

The two examples given of Supreme Court decisions show how the seeds of error planted are producing a harvest that is growing. As Hosea warned Israel when they went into error, "they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind" (Hosea 8:7). What but societal chaos can result from these decisions that break the very principles of the Constitution?

Over 100 years ago, the warning was given and the signs began to appear of this societal chaos. The servant of the Lord wrote: "The signs of the times—the wars and rumors of wars, the strikes, murders, robberies and accidents-tell us that the end of all things is at hand. God's Word declares, 'As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.' (Matthew 24:37–39). How true a description this is of the condition of the world today. The daily

papers are full of notices of divorce and marriage after divorce—the marriage condemned in the words of the Saviour—full of accounts of amusements and games, of pugilistic contests in which human beings maim and disfigure one another to exhibit their brutal strength."8

And here we are. Society in chaos, supposedly Christian churches bowing to the chaos, and nothing but more social upheaval on the way. The prophecy given of the removal of constitutional rights was a warning to spur the people of God to action. Things are not going to simply turn around and go back to "normal" at this point! Can you not see the signs?

#### A WARNING THAT INVOLVES ACTION

"As the approach of the Roman armies was a sign to the disciples of the impending destruction of Jerusalem, so may this apostasy be a sign to us that the limit of God's forbearance is reached, that the measure of our nation's iniquity is full, and that the angel of mercy is about to take her flight, never to return. The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress which prophets have described as the time of Jacob's trouble. The cries of the faithful, persecuted ones ascend to heaven. And as the blood of Abel cried from the ground, there are voices also crying to God from martyrs' graves, from the sepulchers of the sea, from mountain caverns, from convent vaults: 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?'

"The Lord is doing His work. All heaven is astir. The Judge of all the earth is soon to arise and vindicate His insulted authority. The mark of deliverance will be set upon the men who keep God's commandments, who revere His law, and who refuse the mark of the beast or of his image.

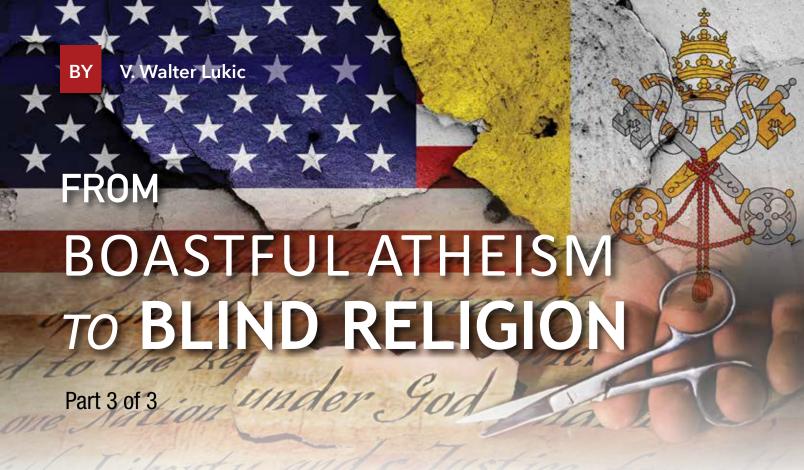
"God has revealed what is to take place in the last days, that His people may be prepared to stand against the tempest of opposition and wrath. Those who have been

warned of the events before them are not to sit in calm expectation of the coming storm, comforting themselves that the Lord will shelter His faithful ones in the day of trouble. We are to be as men waiting for their Lord, not in idle expectancy, but in earnest work, with unwavering faith. It is no time now to allow our minds to be engrossed with things of minor importance. While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that the Lord's people may not have mercy or justice. The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the undercurrent is tending. Its professions are mild and apparently Christian, but when it shall speak it will reveal the spirit of the dragon. It is our duty to do all in our power to avert the threatened danger. We should endeavor to disarm prejudice by placing ourselves in a proper light before the people. We should bring before them the real question at issue, thus interposing the most effectual **protest against** measures to restrict liberty of con**science**. We should search the Scriptures and be able to give the reason for our faith. Says the prophet: 'The wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." 9

Let us read these words as God intended them to be read. Let us understand that the time of the end is upon us. Let us hold on to our faith in the present truth as never before. Let us be prepared to say the words God gave His people to say at the appearing of our Lord and Saviour: "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation" (Isaiah 25:9). R

#### Refrences

- <sup>1</sup> Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 451.
- <sup>2</sup> The Constitution of the United States, Preamble.
- <sup>3</sup> Ibid., Amendment I.
- <sup>4</sup> Ibid., Article. II, Section. 1.
- <sup>5</sup> en.wikisource.org. <sup>6</sup> www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt.
- <sup>7</sup> Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 451. <sup>8</sup> Letters and Manuscripts, vol. 16, Letter 153, 1901. <sup>9</sup> Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 451, 452.



s we have pointed out in *The Reformation Herald*, vol. 61, No. 4, the primary, spiritually injurious effect of the French Revolution is foretold in Revelation 11:7, 8: "And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified."

Historical records provide an ample evidence that "the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit" (the French revolutionary forces inspired by rationalistic and atheistic Enlightenment philosophy), did indeed make war with the two witnesses (scriptural witness to Christ) during the French Revolution, that it did overcome them (for a time, by suppressing the Christian religion and by introducing blasphemous cults), and kill them in a city "which is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified." France, and particularly its capital, Paris, were noted in the

18th century as the fountainhead of the rationalistic Enlightenment philosophy.

"Immanuel Kant defines 'enlightenment' in his famous contribution to debate on the question in an essay entitled 'An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?' (1784), as humankind's release from its selfincurred immaturity; 'immaturity is the inability to use one's own understanding without the guidance of another.' . . . Kant identifies enlightenment with the process of undertaking to think for oneself, to employ and rely on one's own intellectual capacities in determining what to believe and how to act."

## THE FATHER OF MODERN DEMOCRACY

It is true that many ideas advocated by the Enlightenment philosophers were not objectionable but worthy of pondering. Many of their thoughts and proposals for social reform addressed the great social inequalities and evils, oppression of the poor and marginalized groups, and the vile, unjust, and superstitious practices of the dominant church. However, the fundamental problem of these thinkers consisted in their complete reliance on human reason for all social and moral reforms. Jean Jacque Rousseau (1712–1778) is often called the father of modern democracy. Rousseau argued that man is by nature good, and has only been corrupted by his social and political institutions. This view contradicts the biblical view of man's fallen nature. The salvation of mankind, for Rousseau, is not the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, but a return to nature.

The so-called French "philosophers" (e.g., Voltaire, D'Alembert, Diderot, Montesquieu) represented the intellectual leaders of the nation who seriously undermined every trust in divine, supernatural revelation. The so called Encyclopedists (Diderot and D'Alembert) and particularly Baron D'Holbach in his Parisian salon, openly promoted atheism and mocked the Christian religion. Even the Enlightenment philosophers who were considered "moderate," like Jean Jacques Rousseau, expressed in their works the ideas (like "general will" by Rousseau), that later served as an

inspiration for the various forms of tyranny and terror of a supposedly "enlightened group" that carried out the "general will" for the common good of the masses (e.g., adopted by Robespierre in the French Revolution). As we have seen before, the French Revolution, especially during the Reign of Terror, brutally implemented dechristianization of the entire nation, desacralized churches, burnt Bibles and Christian books, introduced blasphemous and immoral cults of Reason and of Supreme Being, and ruthlessly murdered, imprisoned, exiled to overseas penal colonies, or chained to galleys, thousands of its victims. The overwhelming evidence shows that our Lord was indeed crucified in that great city, the revolutionary populace of France.

## THE "DEADLY WOUND" - FIRST INFLICTED, THEN HEALED

The French Revolution also fulfilled another apocalyptic prophecy. The Revolution dealt a mortal blow to the head of the apostate church that opposed and persecuted the "two witnesses"—the scriptural witness of the Old and New Testaments and of the faithful people of God—during a long period of 1,260 years (Revelation 11:3). When Napoleon's general, Berthier, took Pope Pius VI captive in February of 1798, the Papacy lost the control over the Vatican City and the Papal States

(particularly from 1870) and consequently its power in temporal, political affairs. Figuratively speaking, the temporal, secular head of the Papacy received a deadly wound. Although the new Pope (Pius VII) was elected two years following the death of Pius VI, and notwithstanding the Concordat which the Pope Pius VII signed with Napoleon I in Paris July 15, 1801, the Papacy remained mortally wounded in its capacity to exercise major political influence. Napoleon I signed the Concordat with the Papacy not because he wished to empower the Papacy. He did it rather to make peace with the Roman Catholics in France and thus to consolidate his own hold on the power. Napoleon did not restore to the church the vast church lands and endowments seized during the revolution. Further, the emperor selected bishops and supervised church finances which demonstrated that the balance of church-state relations tilted firmly in his own favor.

The church-state affairs began to change when, on February 11, 1929, Mussolini, acting on behalf of the kingdom of Italy, signed another Concordat (the Lateran Treaty), this time with the Pope Pius IX. That Treaty recognized Vatican City as an independent state under the sovereignty of the Holy See and entitled the Roman Catholic Church to a monetary compensation for the loss of the Papal States in 1870. From the time of the Lateran Treaty onward,

it could indeed be said that the deadly wound inflicted to Papacy by the Revolutionary France has begun to heal.

It is remarkable to discover on the pages of the sacred Bible that the 18th century deadly combat between the humanist, atheistic, liberal France and the apostate Christian church was predicted with an amazing accuracy in the first century A.D.! Chapter 13 of Revelation portrays a dreadful monster with seven heads and ten crowned horns rising out of the sea. Then John, the author of Revelation, sees something unusual: One of the heads of that beast coming up out of the sea appears to be mortally wounded, but to John's surprise, that deadly wound was healed: "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast" (Revelation 13:3).

What follows next in the vision indicates that the resurrected head of the seven-headed sea beast will exert a major influence on the world affairs and on the lives of the inhabitants of this planet. That this power claims religious authority is obvious from the fact that it demands and receives worship: "And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?" (v. 4). The dragon in the apocalyptic prophecies represents primarily Satan and



derivatively spiritualistic and pantheistic demonic forces. The beast coming up out of the sea in Revelation 13 is none other than the apostate Christian church which received the deadly wound during the French Revolution, but which would begin to heal with the restoration of temporal power to the Papacy.

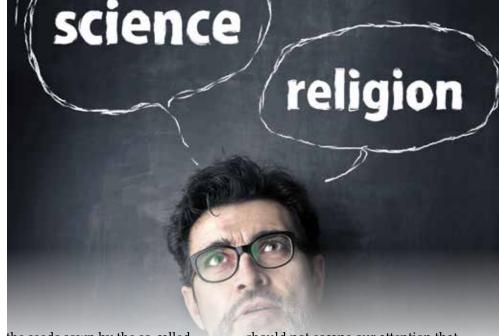
Of special interest to the students of the apocalyptic prophecies is the second part of Revelation 13 that introduces another beast coming up out of the earth that looks like a two-horn lamb but speaks like a dragon. That earth beast works in close cooperation with the first beast: "And he exerciseth 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" (Revelation 13:12).

Many Bible students have identified the second beast of Revelation 13 as the United States of America. The Bible clearly teaches that the religious body whose deadly wound was healed and the world's leading superpower, the United States, will create a political alliance and that the United States will lend their support to the Roman Church by enforcing her religious dogmas and compelling worship to that religious power.

## A BRIEF SURVEY OF THE PENDULUM MOTION SINCE THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Having identified the major players on the religious-political scene of the Bible apocalyptic prophecies for the end time (since 1798), we would like to briefly survey the movements, alliances, and conflicts from the French Revolution until today. We will also quickly observe the position and the role of God's people in the same period.

There is no question in our mind that the humanist, rationalist, and predominantly agnostic or atheistic forces rooted in the Enlightenment philosophy have been in ascendancy ever since the French Revolution. Without any further elaboration let us only point to the major events, movements, ideas, and ideologies which prove unquestionably that



the seeds sown by the so-called Enlightenment philosophers have resulted in an abundant harvest.

While a successful political revolution that would parallel the French Revolution did not materialize in Europe during the 19th century, revolutionary movements and ideas did not cease to plague Europe throughout that entire century. It was nothing short of miraculous that the political and social turmoil of the year 1848 did not result in more deposed monarchs and new revolutionary creations. An antimonarchial, anti-traditionalist, antireligious spirit was present everywhere.

That same spirit gave rise to the socialist and communist movements of the 19th century. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, the founders of the communism and dialectical materialism, adored the intellectual stars of the French Enlightenment and the heroes of the French Revolution. That same spirit and the same ideas were behind the Paris Commune of 1871 which Marx carefully studied as an object lesson for refining and perfecting the methodology for a successful revolutionary overthrow of bourgeois regimes. Well, it did not take long for Marx' and Engels' disciples to put their masters' ideas to work and succeed in their enterprise. The October Revolution of 1917 in Russia under leadership of Lenin and his associates is both a splendid and sordid example of the effectiveness of the Marxist ideas, depending on your worldview. It

should not escape our attention that the October Revolution shared the most salient features of the French Revolution (a group of "enlightened" revolutionaries seizing the power for the benefit of the masses and imposing the dictatorship of the oppressed class, the reign of terror resulting in a bloodbath and the wanton death of countless people who were deemed enemies of the revolution, war against Christianity and Christian moral values. . . .

Communist revolutions and regimes are in the living memory of the author of this article and presumably of some of its readers. They spread in the first half of the 20th century like mushrooms after rain, some unsuccessful, but most quite successful (China, the countries of the Central and South-Eastern Europe, North Korea, Cuba, Indochina, some in Africa and South America.) In the middle of the 20th century it appeared that more than half of the world population lived under the communist grip and that communism will rule the world. Communism and the communist bloc of countries presented the Western democracies (primarily the U.S. and the West European countries) with a formidable opponent. Christian churches and many faithful Christians suffered immensely under the yoke of communist and atheist dictators. To an unbiased observer it appeared that the pendulum was swinging further and further to the left—in the direction of the French Revolution.

### AN INTERESTING TURN OF EVENTS

Then, suddenly, from 1989 onward the communist regimes began to crumble, totter, and fall, one after another. The speed of their demise was of such a rate that the non-communist world was taken by surprise. Well, perhaps not all in the West were that much surprised. The primary cause for the downfall of communist regimes is certainly to be found in the inherent deficiencies of the political and economic system on which the communist regimes were built. But this was not the only cause for their collapse. For years, the United States Government and Vatican had done careful planning and worked behind the scene and in public forum to undermine communism in Central Europe (Poland). They found in each other a strategic partner that had a common foe—the Soviet Union and its communist satellites.2

Many of us have been the witnesses of this amazing political and social change and of a major strategic realignment on the world stage. The United States emerged from 1990s as the world's only superpower and that feat was accomplished through the aid of the Roman Church! Could a Bible prophecy receive a more accurate and reliable verification in history? The final act of the prophesied churchstate alliance and the supremacy of church over state has not yet taken place. This portion of the prophecy of Revelation 13 is still in the future, but not in the distant future. When the church and state will legislate worship on a particular day (Sunday) and take away religious freedom to worship God in accordance with one's conscience, then the pendulum will reach its final point—in the direction of the apostate church. But then, Jesus Christ will enter the battlefield to defend His people! "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." (Daniel 12:1).

#### THE ENLIGHTENMENT WORLD-VIEW IS ALIVE AND WELL

We should not live in delusion that the spirit and the ideology of the French Revolution are dead because communism suffered such a humiliating defeat end of the 20th century. Humanistic, rationalistic, and atheistic worldview that animated Enlightenment philosophers of the 18th century is alive and well in our time. That view was greatly strengthened by Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. As John Hallowell says,

"The popularity of Darwin's theory is to be accounted for, at least in part, by the fact that it suited the times in which it was formulated, it confirmed many individuals in believing what they already wanted to believe."

Darwin's ideas had a tremendous impact upon nearly every area of human thought, including sociology, political science, economics, psychology, history, and religion. Darwin systematized and popularized the theory of evolution as it pertained to the physical development of plants, animals, and human beings. But the application of Darwin's thought to the various disciplines mentioned above was due in large part to the work of Herbert Spencer (1820-1903). Spencer's influence, particularly in the United States, and even broader, cannot be overestimated.

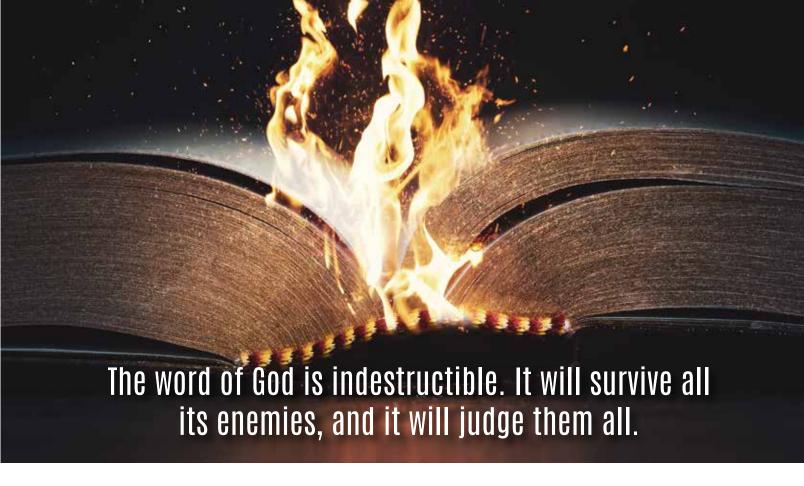
Academia, media and news agency, government officials, judiciary, popular culture and arts, almost any area of public discourse in our time appears to be under the strong influence of the same ideas that served as the guiding lights of the Enlightenment philosophers. Man—and not God, human reason—and not divine revelation, is the final arbiter and the highest court of appeal for any statement of fact and for any moral value. Never in the living memory have the United States been as polarized over the fundamental issues and moral values that are central to any free society, as they are now. The social

and moral agenda set by the liberal rationalistic and humanistic philosophers of the 18th century has almost been exhausted. There is hardly any social institution or societal convention that has not been redefined and restructured in the 20th and 21st centuries. In some areas, modern society has made progress; in most areas, however, it is in an open rebellion against God and His laws. The modern, traditionally Christian nations are in our time probably as dechristianized as was revolutionary France.

#### GOD AND HIS WORD WIN THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, BUT GOD DOES NOT WIN ALONE

The pendulum is still in motion, it has always moved back and forth—only the amplitude and the speed of motion changes from time to time. In the history that we have surveyed, we have discovered how the dark force has oscillated between blind religion to boastful atheism, and back. The church of Christ gradually apostatized and became a corrupt, oppressive, unjust institution. She ruled the Christian world for more than a millennium. but ultimately in the home of her "oldest daughter"-France, she nurtured her bitterest enemy-revolutionary France, which inflicted to her mother a deadly wound. How different could have been the history of France and of the Catholic Church in France if the leaders of the church and the state acted differently toward Protestant Reformation. By teaching the parishioners and citizens to denounce, arrest, torture, exile, and murder heretics (Huguenots, Albigenses), the church reaped a grim harvest. A bad lesson was learned too well. As Philip Schaff, the noted American church historian observed: "France rejected the Reformation—and reaped the Revolution."4

Scripture tells us that the wound will heal and that the church will reassert her dominance, with vengeance. With the help of the state on which she has always relied, the church will strike again against her



enemies, and it will strike hard. But before God would intervene with His judgments upon the enemies of His people, please note that disillusioned nations which the apostate church shall use for her ambitious goal of world dominance, will ultimately destroy the great prostitute (the "whore" depicted in Revelation chapter 17) and burn her with fire. Then the pendulum will stop because Satan will lose the cosmic war and his army shall be defeated.

"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. And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth" (Revelation 17:16-18).

God wins, Satan loses. That is the final score. But God does not win alone; His faithful people win also. Let us close this survey of the Bible prophecy and history with the prophetic words from Revela-

tion 11. When God's two witnesses were overcome and killed in that great city, the inhabitants of the city were joyful because the testimony of God's witnesses made them uncomfortable and tormented their conscience. "And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth" (Revelation 11:9, 10).

But, to their dismay, the murderous and idolatrous peoples saw that the two witnesses came back to life and continued their testimony. "And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them" (Revelation 11:11, 12).

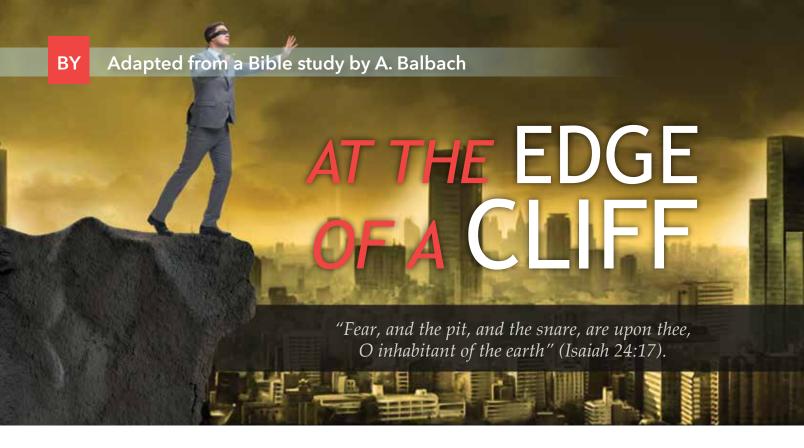
Following the notorious French Revolution and all its ideologues and henchmen who waged war against the word of God, that word truly returned back to life immediately after the revolution and became translated and spread, and taught as no other written document in the world.

The word of God is indestructible. It will survive all its enemies, and it will judge them all.

"The grass withers, the flower fades, because the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:7, 8, NKJV). R

#### Refrences

- <sup>1</sup> "Enlightenment": *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/enlightenment/
- <sup>2</sup> http://content.time.com/time/magazine/ article/0,9171,159069,00.html
- article/0,9171,139099,00.10111
  3 www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2015/09/24.
  4 Hallowell, John H. *Main Currents in the Modern Political Thought*. [New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1950, 1960], p. 303; quoted in Eidsmoe, John. The Christian Legal Advisor. [Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984], p. 64. 5 Schaff, Philip: *The Progress of Religious Freedom*, p.



saiah chapters 24, 25, and 26 describe the events that are to take place on the earth in these last days. The origin of the symbols employed in Isaiah 24:17 is explained in an interesting way by a Bible commentator as follows: "Fear is the term applied to the cords with feathers of all colors which, when fluttered in the air, scare beasts into the pitfall or birds into the snare."

A tentative application of these symbols draws our attention to three main evils which are on the increase: "Fear" is often connected with the sword. It is a symbol of wars. Examples: Isaiah 21:2-4; Jeremiah 6:25; 30:5; 48:42–46; 49:5, 24–29; Lamentations 3:46, 47; Amos 3:6. "The pit" is another word for death. Examples: Isaiah 38:18; 51:14; Ezekiel 28:8; 31:14, 16; 32:24, 25, 29, 30.

"The snare" is a difficult, terrible, unbearable situation, into which people are caught unexpectedly and from which they cannot escape. Examples: Jeremiah 50:24; Lamentations 3:47; Ezekiel 12:13; 17:20; Luke 21:35.

#### PROPHECY UNFOLDING

The fulfillment of Isaiah 24 is becoming more and more conspicu-

ous as the end is drawing nigh. Everything in the world shows that we are going from bad to worse.

The inhabitants of the earth want peace, but there will be no peace in the world before the coming of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, who declared: "Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: . . . For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: . . . All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:6–8).

Christ did not mean only sporadic local wars as have been witnessed throughout the history of humanity. He referred to international conflicts involving more and more nations. Evidence shows that He had in view the world wars, as well as the final battle, predicted for the time of the end. (See Joel 3:9–15).

This is the fearful event that Jesus had in mind when He spoke about "wars and rumours of wars" to be expected in the last days. John the Revelator had a vision of the great final conflict, which he described as, "spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty" (Revelation 16:14).

The great nations of the earth are playing an important role in the present situation in view of the great problems and dangers that are threatening the world. But not all are pulling in the same direction, because there is a conflict of interests. So it is evident that something very serious is going to happen.

"Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the relations that exist among the nations....

They recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis."<sup>2</sup>

So far, the predicted international conflict has been detained. Why? There is a reason why—a reason that affects each one of us individually and all of us as a people. God in His mercy is still holding back the winds of the coming strife, not because the nations are not ready to engage in mortal combat, but because God's chosen people are not ready to receive the seal of protection and deliverance. John the Revelator wrote: "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the

four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads" (Revelation 7:1–3).

The fierce winds of contention, which will bring international ruin, have not as yet been released for one specific reason: It is because the remnant of God's people have not all been sealed. During this waiting time something extraordinary is going to happen: The inhabitants of the world will be deceived by false rumors. It will be announced

everywhere that peace and safety—the world's greatest need—is just around the corner. Bible prophecy, however, warns us against this illusive desire and expectation. The apostle Paul writes: "The day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them" (1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3).

"Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old."<sup>3</sup>

## AFTER THE CLOSE OF PROBATION

In that terrible time, after the close of probation, many of God's people will find refuge in the mountains and under the cleft of the rocks. They will be under the protection of Christ and the holy angels. And they will have bread and water to survive until the coming of the Lord. Bible prophecy describes this fearful time as follows: "They

shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him" (Malachi 3:17).

"Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain" (Isaiah 26:20, 21).

Many things that Jesus predicted in Matthew 24 had already been foretold by Him through the Old Testament prophets. Concerning the promised deliverance, He said: "At that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book" (Daniel 12:1).

"Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. . . . And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption [deliverance] draweth nigh" (Luke 21:26, 28).

From what will God's remnant people be delivered? And how can they make sure that their names will remain in the book of life and that they will receive the seal of God?

#### YES, IT'S COMING

The greatest crisis that the world has ever known is about to come. Trouble—the worst that has ever existed in the world—will soon involve every nation. The hearts of men and women will be giving up for fear of what is ahead of them. Luke 21:26. At that time, which is not far off, the remnant people of God—all those whose names remain in the book of life—will be delivered. Here is a comprehensive picture of what is going to happen:

The day of wrath, often foretold by the prophets, will be ushered in before the coming of Christ. Job 20:28; Psalm 110:5; Isaiah 13:9; Zephaniah 1:15; Matthew 3:7; Romans 2:5; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; Revelation 6:17; 11:18; 14:10; 16:1, 19. The wrath of God will be unleashed in the seven last plagues, right after the close of probation. Revelation 16. Just as it happened before the Flood, the inhabitants of the world have again become so depraved that they have finally exhausted God's patience. And since they refused to listen to Him when He spoke to them in a "still small voice" (1 Kings 19:12) in His mercy, He will finally speak to them in His indignation through the instruments of His wrath, which will cause devastation everywhere. The remnant people of God will be protected from the effect of the plagues (Psalm 46:1, 2, 6-8), while the enemies of God will have no protection.

#### **WORLD DOMINATION**

At that time, two religio-political powers, represented by the first and second beasts of Revelation 13, will dominate the world. The position of the second beast will be an image (an imitation, a copy) of the intolerant course followed by the first beast in the past. These two powers will not grant liberty of religious conscience in areas where they think that their interests are at stake. To safeguard their cause, they will issue a decree (or a series of decrees) forcing men and women to obey their requirements in conflict with the law of God. Revelation 13:1–17.

Nearly the entire world will yield to the antibiblical demands of these two powers, who will be acting hand in hand. A faithful minority of true Christians, however, will be an exception. As they have decided to obey the Lord rather than human beings, they will be accused of displeasing God and provoking His anger.

## WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON FOR GOD'S FAITHFUL FEW?

In the days of king Ahab, Elijah the prophet and the little remnant of

faithful servants of God were held responsible for the severe drought and famine. And the prophets of Baal declared that it was necessary to eliminate them in order to appease the anger of the offended god (Baal) and bring the national calamity to a stop. This conclusion is suggested by the following passages: 1 Kings 17:1, 7; 18:1, 2, 13, 17, 18. In the near future, similar declarations will be made against the faithful few who keep the Ten Commandments through their love for Christ. The representatives of the nominal churches will be "riding" on the earthly governments. Revelation 13:5–8, 11–17; 17:5–7, 12–14. Those who keep the commandments of God will then be cruelly persecuted (Matthew 24:9; Revelation 12:17) by those who wish to put them out of existence. Multitudes will be brainwashed to believe that this wholesale destruction of human lives will please God and persuade Him to stop the plagues. God, however, will intervene in behalf of His people and deliver them.

"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it" (Jeremiah 30:7).

Christians in general know that there is a great tribulation before us, but many do not understand that this tribulation begins with the close of probation and ends with the coming of Christ, when the wicked inhabitants of the earth will be destroyed. Revelation 6:15-17.

The Bible teaches that once the door of probation is shut, those who are unsaved will remain unsaved. Matthew 25:1-12; Luke 13:23-27; Revelation 22:11. They will have no second chance. They will all perish if not under the seven last plagues or in the last international war (Armageddon), then at the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Luke 17:26-30; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Isaiah 24:1–6. The only few survivors that will be saved from the coming destruction are those who have made preparations for the coming of the Lord. Luke 21:36; John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:15–17; Isaiah 25:8, 9. These will then be translated (taken up from the earth) to be with Christ

in the kingdom of glory. Matthew 25:34; Romans 8:16–18; Revelation 7:13–17; 20:4; 21:1–4.

#### WHO ARE THESE?

The remnant people of God, who will have the seal of protection and deliverance, will be identified with the following characteristics:

- 1. They have the name of God (His character) written in their foreheads. Revelation 14:1 (compare Exodus 34:5-7).
- 2. They are partakers in the patience of the saints; they keep the commandments of God; they have the faith of Jesus; and they uphold the testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of Prophecy. Revelation 14:12; 12:17; 19:10.
- 3. They are not defiled by any connection with the fallen churches. Revelation 14:4; 18:1–5. They may have been connected with Babylon (either the mother or her daughters: Revelation 17:5) before they have heard the call, "Come out of her, My people." But they were free from any defilement when they received the seal of God.
- 4. There is no deception in their mouth. Revelation 14:5.
- 5. They follow Christ whithersoever He goeth. Revelation 14:4.
- 6. They are victorious over the antibiblical requirements of the two religio-political powers that will persecute those who conscientiously obey God rather than human beings when there is a conflict between a "Thus saith the Lord" and a "Thus saith the state." Revelation 15:2.
- 7. They are the only ones that can sing the song of victory (Revelation 14:3; 15:3), which is similar to the song that was sung by the people of Israel after they had been delivered from the Egyptians. Exodus 14:27-31; 15:1–19.
- 8. "These are the ones who came out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14, NKJV).

The robes of our character must be washed in the merits of Christ's blood now, while the door of probation is open, so that, at His coming, we "may be found of him in peace,

without spot, and blameless" (2 Peter 3:14).

#### WHERE SHOULD BE MY FO-CUS?

Now, while our Mediator is making intercession for us in the heavenly sanctuary (Hebrews 7:25; 8:1; 1 John 2:1, 2), it is our privilege and duty to find acceptance before God and get the needed preparation to stand in the time of trouble (the coming tribulation). Before it is too late, let us heed the invitation:

"Seek ve the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6, 7).

Now, while the door of mercy and opportunity is still open, and while we still have a chance to turn to Him wholeheartedly, God wants to save us from our sins so that we may be "preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23). If we think that the Lord will make us blameless at His coming, we will be disappointed. Matthew 7:21-23; 25:11, 12; Luke 13:24, 25. We are to be made blameless now (1 Corinthians 6:9-11), and "preserved" in the state of blamelessness throughout the coming time of trouble, so that, upon Christ's return, we "may be found" blameless and without spot (2 Peter 3:14; 1 Corinthians 1:7, 8).

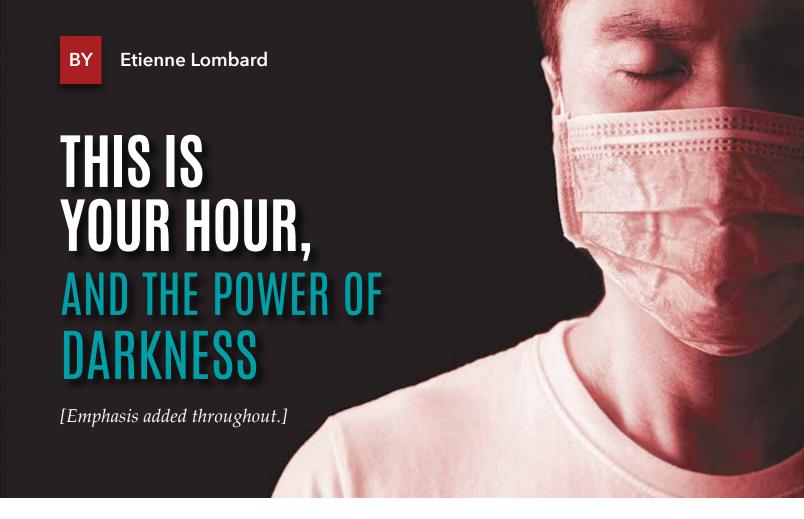
If we accept the provisions that the Lord has made for our salvation, then, and only then, can we claim His promise:

"Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth" (Revelation 3:10, NKJV).

"He who endures to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13, NKJV). R

#### References

- <sup>1</sup> Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown: *A Commentary on the Old and New Testaments*, vol. 2. [Emphasis added.] <sup>2</sup> *Prophets and Kings*, p. 537.
- <sup>3</sup> The Great Controversy, p. 614.



verything seemed to go according to plan. They were soon to be liberated from the Roman yoke. Crowds were flocking as soon as they heard who was coming. The prophecies were fulfilling. They saw a man, sitting on a colt, finally presenting Himself as a king. As Jesus was riding by, thousands would move into line with Him. The revolt was ready to unfold. He had even taken a decided action, going so far as to cast out of the temple those who were making money on their backs. The scribes and Pharisees were powerless. Even little children were shouting, "Hosanna to the son of David!" Nothing could stop their plan. Wouldn't the Passover be an ideal time to overthrow the system?

While the disciples had their own plans laid out in front of them, the Saviour had a different idea. He knew that the time of crisis was about to come. He knew that in an instant, everything He had worked for could collapse and be destroyed. While the disciples liked what they

were seeing, He knew that another plan was going to unfold.

#### A TIME OF CRISIS

It seems to me that we were in a similar situation a few months back. Our lives were in an upward routine, we saw progress in our churches, and we were rejoicing about the wonderful missionary campaigns we were planning. Who could predict that a few months later would find us in a time of crisis such as this one?

This is now the hour of the devil. "Then Jesus said unto the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and the elders, which were come to him, Be ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and staves? When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness" (Luke 22:52, 53).

"As the Son of God bowed in the attitude of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, the agony of His spirit

forced from His pores sweat like great drops of blood. It was here that the horror of great darkness surrounded Him. The sins of the world were upon Him. He was suffering in man's stead as a transgressor of His Father's law. Here was the scene of temptation. The divine light of God was receding from His vision, and He was passing into the hands of the powers of darkness. In His soul anguish He lay prostrate on the cold earth. He was realizing His Father's frown. He had taken the cup of suffering from the lips of guilty man, and proposed to drink it Himself, and in its place give to man the cup of blessing. The wrath that would have fallen upon man was now falling upon Christ. It was here that the mysterious cup trembled in His hand."1

## WORLD LEADERS AND THEIR AGENDA

We have seen the recent elections in the United States and how much passion surrounds these times of

# "Is it possible for those who have had great light to be judged with greater harshness than atheists who reject God? When the light and truth comes to the heart of many that have prejudices, it has no effect."

transition. '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' (Revelation 13:11, 12). Three additional supreme court justices have recently been appointed at the highest level of the United States court system. From these nine justices, seven are Roman Catholics, one was raised Roman Catholic and later became Episcopalian and one is of the Jewish faith. Episcopalians are a more liberal division of the Anglican church in the United States.

The first beast (Roman Catholic church) is being worshipped by the greatest nations of the earth. The second beast coming up out of the earth (the United States) is not any more a country that protests against papal rule.

#### **COUNTER REFORMATION**

Following the Council of Trent between 1545 and 1563, the Catholic Church was in the hands of newly established religious orders, above all the one known as the Society of Jesus—the Jesuits—founded in 1534 by the Basque noble Ignatius of Loyola, and officially established by the papacy in 1540. Unlike the Benedictine monks or the Franciscan and Dominican friars, the Jesuits swore special obedience to the pope and were specifically dedicated to the task of reconstructing church life and teaching in the aftermath of the Protestant Reformation. Thus, they came to be called the "shock troops of the Counter-Reformation." In pursuit of that mission they became

especially active in scholarship and education—and above all in the education of the nobility; through their pupils they sometimes wielded as great an influence in affairs of state as they did in affairs of the church.

On October 15, 2020, Pope Francis appealed to every sector of society across the globe to subscribe to and support the Global Compact on Education. The initiative "promotes the values of care for others, peace, justice, goodness, beauty, acceptance, and fraternity in order to build hope, solidarity and harmony everywhere." The Pope called for "a new cultural and development model that respects and protects human dignity, while creating a global interdependence to bring communities and peoples together to care for our common home and to foster peace."2

In the United States and many other countries in the world, there is a clear decline of Christianity. A lack of religious affiliation is quite prevalent among 18-to 29-year-olds; in fact, 35 percent are in this category compared to 13 percent among those age 50 and older. It's also higher among men than women (25 vs. 17 percent), and among college graduates vs. those without a degree (25 vs. 20 percent).<sup>3</sup>

The result of years of education in Jesuit-based universities and schools, is seen in the lack of faith that is found in the new generation.

"Romanism is now regarded by Protestants with far greater favor than in former years. In those countries where Catholicism is not in the ascendancy, and the papists are taking a conciliatory course in order to gain influence, there is an increasing indifference concerning the doctrines that separate the reformed

churches from the papal hierarchy; the opinion is gaining ground that, after all, we do not differ so widely upon vital points as has been supposed, and that a little concession on our part will bring us into a better understanding with Rome. The time was when Protestants placed a high value upon the liberty of conscience which had been so dearly purchased. They taught their children to abhor popery and held that to seek harmony with Rome would be disloyalty to God. But how widely different are the sentiments now expressed!"4

Ever since the papal encyclical, *Laudato Si*, was released, final events have occurred in rapid succession. The Pope took a position on ecology and received the support of the majority of governments. In fact, anyone that would suggest that a day of rest for our "common home" should not be enforced by governments is immediately discarded as promoting propaganda against the earth and the common good. A day of rest (on Sunday) is the Pope's solution to bringing peace and safety to this world.

Sunday observance has one major consequence seen in many places today: bringing atheism as the number one religion.

"Had the Sabbath always been sacredly observed, there could never have been an atheist or an idolater. The Sabbath institution, which originated in Eden, is as old as the world itself. It was observed by all the patriarchs, from creation down. . . . In order to obliterate God from the minds of men, Satan aimed to tear down this great memorial. If men could be led to forget their Creator, they would make no effort to resist the power of evil, and Satan would be sure of his prey."<sup>5</sup>

## RECENT EVENTS IN VIEW OF BIBLE PROPHECY

There is a clear acceleration of the actions that will bring about the end. The world is changing. Every country has been affected by the pandemic and by the decisions being taken in trying to control the spread of the virus. Now is an ideal time to test on a large scale the antilibertarian measures that will be widely used in the near future.

God had promised: "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26).

"Atheists, infidels, and apostates oppose and denounce God's law; but the results of their influence prove that the well-being of man is bound up with his obedience of the divine statutes. Those who will not read the lesson from the book of God are bidden to read it in the history of nations."6

Egypt is a symbol of atheism. God has allowed this current pandemic to develop as a reminder of the consequences that affect transgressors of His law.

"This is atheism, and the nation represented by Egypt would give voice to a similar denial of the claims of the living God and would manifest a like spirit of unbelief and defiance. 'The great city' is also compared, 'spiritually,' to Sodom. The corruption of Sodom in breaking the

law of God was especially manifested in licentiousness. And this sin was also to be a pre-eminent characteristic of the nation that should fulfill the specifications of this scripture."

Never before the rejection of God's moral law have been so strong. Licentiousness is defined by Merriam Webster dictionary as "lacking legal or moral restraints, especially: disregarding sexual restraints."

This is a time of great darkness and not many people see it. To the contrary, they say, we have never had so much light as now! Jesus accurately describes the condition of His time "they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch" (Matthew 15:14).

#### **DISINFORMATION AND FAKE NEWS**

On the contrary, some people are trying to stay updated on world events. Particularly in view of the pandemic and the development of a vaccine, we see lots of information that seems contradictory. Some political and religious lobbies push for vaccines while many videos from anarchists or conspiracy theorists plant doubts in people's minds. Where is the truth? Is it coming from governments that have lied to us in the past; or from anti-everything groups that publish makeshift pseudoscience videos? How can we discern facts over fiction?

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received **not the love** of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness"

(2 Thessalonians 2:8–12).

The love of truth will make the difference between those that will believe Satan's lies and those that don't. The whole world is in darkness and loves lies, fake news, and spreading rumors. As it says in 1 John 5:19, "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."

The enemy tries to distort the light and bring darkness instead. "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and



"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). There is a state of constant fear. People know that they are manipulated from both sides and instead of choosing the safe path of the truth found in the word of God, they prefer transferring videos that are also full of lies.

What should be the position of a child of God? "In their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God" (Revelation 14:5).

#### DANGER FOR THE CHURCH

The greatest danger for the church in our current stage is described in the words of the Apostle John: "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:17).

Is it possible for those who have had great light to be judged with greater harshness than atheists who reject God? When the light and truth comes to the heart of many that have prejudices, it has no effect.

"And whosoever shall not re**ceive you**, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city" (Matthew 10:14, 15).

The Lord has warned us of our need to prepare for the hostile times that are coming before us. "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ve therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; and ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. And the brother shall

deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men **for my name's sake**: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 10:16-22).

#### WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

As we see the day approaching and as we see the power of darkness surrounding us, our attitude must be a courageous one. Unflinchingly, we need to stand for the right. With renewed energy, we must meet the enemy on safe ground. "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:11–13).

We have been accused, at times, of being passive. Facing the surge of evil powers that surround the world, we need to fight against the flow. As Christians, what should our attitude be? Should we demonstrate in the street for social justice? Should we march en masse for our freedom and justice? Should we unite people into groups that may pressure governments? These were the hopes of the disciples when the tyrannical government was imposing them conditions that were against their values. They were hoping that Jesus would react and put an end to the abuses of their times. They could not understand Jesus's plan. When His own countrymen heard His plan, they refused to believe this was the best solution.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And

he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears" (Luke 4:18–21).

This simple idea had power to transform the whole world. The plan was not pointing fingers at those who were in the world. It was showing the professed people of God how they were the problem. They were the poor, brokenhearted, captives, blind and bruised.

"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see" (Revelation 3:17, 18).

Confronting the flow of Satan's snares was the meek Jesus. Was He passive? Certainly not. He was setting an example that would be passed down from generation to generation as an example of what our attitude should be in a time of chaos.

Our mission is not to denounce the mistakes of the world. Our mission is to call out sin by its right name among God's people. Read Isaiah 58 and see how darkness can be turned into light. May the Lord help us see what the real solution is to this world of oppression, misery and sin: a blameless people that can stand on the see of glass, a people that have been transformed by the blood of a seemingly weak person on a cross. R

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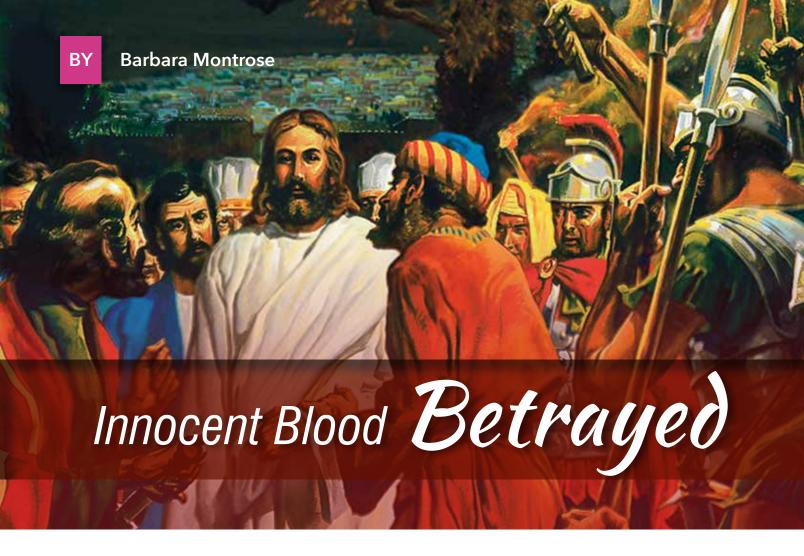
<sup>1</sup> God's Amazing Grace, p. 169.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-10/ pope-francis-global-compact-education-videomessage-relaunch.html

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3 https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/protestants-decline-religion-sharply-shifting-religious-landscape-poll/ story?id=54995663
4 The Great Controversy, p. 5636

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 336. <sup>6</sup> The Great Controversy, p. 285.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Ibid., p. 269.



ossibly the most emotionally agonizing sentiment a human being can ever experience is that of intense remorse. The pain of guilt is absolutely devastating, especially when there is no way to adequately make restitution. This may be the reason why so many in this world refuse to repent. They cannot even fathom that the guilt they feel could ever be wiped away, much less blotted out.

Let's look at the simple illustration of fabric. There are some stains that are so difficult or even impossible to remove from fabric—making it hard even to imagine a totally stain-free existence. This may be why we tend to assume the worst about our guilty condition as sinners in the sight of a holy God. His spotless purity is beyond our fathoming. Yet our merciful Redeemer freely offers the efficacy of His cleansing power to every sinner who humbles his/her heart to be washed in the blood of the Lamb

of God. We can truly rejoice in the provision of the supreme sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary, which is fully sufficient to atone for the sins of whomsoever seeks it.

## A MAN OF TALENT AND ABILITY

The treasurer of Jesus' fledgling company of apostles, Judas Iscariot, had been entrusted by God with talent and intelligence—and he had been granted the blessed opportunity of close association with the Son of man, who was the Creator Himself clothed in human garb.

Judas was surely confident of his own managerial abilities, particularly in comparison to those of the unlearned fishermen in the group. Like the others in the circle, this apostle was entrusted with divine power to heal the sick and cast out devils.

Judas actually viewed himself as the most capable of the apostles, one who could not be deceived or overreached, and his executive strengths were indeed highly respected by his peers. . . .

But a few disturbances were brewing in the mind of Judas. Christ, the Master, had repeatedly stated that His kingdom was not of this world. Such a remark was offensive to Judas, who was quite materialistic—even to the point of embezzling funds from the treasury (John 12:4–6). And the fact that Christ had no aspiration to allow the multitude to crown Him king brought further disappointment to this ambitious man.

Judas had been drawn to Christ at a time when multitudes were following the great Teacher. With the apostle's talents and abilities, the natural assumption would undoubtedly be that he would have a bright future of a prominent position in the new kingdom. But eventually a time of test arrived. . . .

#### RESENTMENT INDULGED

At a special dinner hosted by Simon of Bethany, an interesting incident occurred. Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, expressed her gratitude to Jesus for having forgiven her many sins. She generously poured out upon his feet a pound of fragrant, expensive ointment of spikenard and carefully wiped them with the hairs of her head.

The greed of Judas triggered fury in his heart with the jealous murmur, "To what purpose is this waste? For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor" (Matthew 26:8, 9). The reality was that the poor would have received no benefit, since the treasurer would have stolen it before it could go anywhere else.

But what happened next is of interest. Jesus actually had to give some words of reproof in the woman's defense: "Why trouble ye the woman? For she hath wrought a good work upon me. For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always. For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever

this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her. Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, and said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him" (Matthew 26:10–16).

The reproof with regard to the anointing apparently rankled in the bitter heart of Judas. Reproof is not easy for any of us to bear, yet how important it is to accept it in the right spirit. "Open rebuke is better than secret love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful" (Proverbs 27:5, 6).

Judas was soon to become the enemy who would deceitfully kiss the Master, partly because he had refused the faithful, mild wounds that came from humanity's Best Friend.

#### THE FATEFUL DECISION

Then the next step occurred. At the Last Supper, the Lord made a quiet appeal to the conscience of Judas by tenderly bathing his feet in advance of the other disciples. But the humble, self-sacrificing love of Christ turned out to be repulsive to the proud Judas.

As the Passover supper continued, Jesus foretold, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. . . . He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly. Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor. He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night" (John 13:21, 26-30).

Yes, Judas went out into the darkness . . . and the next we hear

about him refers to later that night: "Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said Hail, master; and kissed him" . . . "But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?" (Matthew 26:47–49; Luke 22:48).

Now, having steeled his cold heart against the gentle appeals of the Holy Spirit, Judas the betrayer was overwhelmed with an indescribably hopeless agony of guilt. We read that the following morning, "all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: and when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor. Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? See thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself" (Matthew 27:1-5).

The hardened apostate was driven to suicide through the unspeakably horrible guilt that plagued him for having betrayed the innocent blood of the spotless, holy Son of God.

#### KING SAUL

The first king of Israel—tall, handsome Saul, son of Kish—underwent a similar experience to that of Judas. Having grieved the Holy Spirit of God through continuous steps which fostered pride, bitter envy and murderous plotting, Saul became completely steeped in the gall of bitterness. Eventually, his deep remorse drove him to such despair until the aim he finally cherished most strongly was death. (1 Samuel 31:3, 4.)





But did Saul suffer regret because of how he had grieved the Lord? Was he sorry for his sins? Quite the contrary. The evidence indicates that he was saddened by the consequences of his wrongs, not that pain that these wrongs had inflicted on the heart of God.

Like Judas, Saul is another example of a man whom the Lord had entrusted with great power and influence with the potential to do good—yet whose selfishness spoiled his legacy to ruin.

## AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TODAY

The apostle Peter, writing to all believers, emphasizes the ladder by which we might be partakers of the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world through lust. He then urges us to build with all diligence a character established on this ladder of faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity. If we lack any of these qualities, he explains that it is because we have forgotten that we were purged from our old sins. We must never allow our appreciation of what Christ has done for us in forgiving our sins to fade! Immense, continual gratitude for His tremendous grace is what prevents us from ending up as casualties doomed as were Judas and king Saul.

The apostle states: "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth" (2 Peter 1:12).

What was the "present truth" in Peter's day? It was not merely "truth," it was "present truth"—that is, truth that was most timely for that hour in history. Likewise, we today need clear discernment and understanding to be established in the present truth for our times.

The pendulum swing from the belief in salvation by works, totally eclipsing the beauty of God's grace (the prevalent teaching in the Dark Ages before the Protestant Reformation) later shifted to the opposite extreme so common today—a presumptuous concept of cheap grace devoid of intelligent, willingly obedient cooperation with God through love for Him. In reality, genuine faith that works by love (Galatians 5:6) purifies the soul in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren (1 Peter 1:22) has power to move the world. As we truly "love one another with a pure heart fervently" as Jesus has loved us, He clearly declares, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). So, if I have

some lofty goal to do some great missionary work for the outside world, the results certainly will not be very effective if I am lacking in love for my own brethren inside the fold. Charity begins at home, and immediately follows in the house of God. Christ declares: "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in Heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in Heaven" (Matthew 10:32, 33).

#### **PRESENT TRUTH**

We have already touched upon the importance of present truth. In the current era in which we live, it is being unveiled primarily in the threefold angels' message in Revelation 14:6–12 and that other angel of Revelation 18:1–4. These messages have been presented for well over a century, and a vast number of souls are familiar with them. Many have never heard this truth, while others may have heard it but did not profess to follow it. Yet others have wholeheartedly accepted the present truth and allowed it to energize and motivate them to the very core of their existence. Still others, on the other hand, are lukewarm about it.

Let us then examine each of these 3 categories:

**Cold**: Some who are "cold" have never had a chance to hear the present truth. Others are cold because they have heard it, but unfortunately rejected it. (See Romans 10:15; Hebrews 3:15.)

**Hot**: Some are hot because the message is like a fire in their bones which moves them, or a spring of water that joyfully overflows. (See Jeremiah 20:9; Isaiah 58:11; John 7:38, 39.)

Lukewarm: These are quite confident of their theoretical knowledge of the truth—but they do not actually have a relationship with Jesus, so, somewhat to their surprise, He does not consider them to be followers of Him. (Matthew 7:21–23; Revelation 3:15–17.)

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PERSON ACCEPTS THE PRES-ENT TRUTH-OR, ON THE OTHER HAND, REJECTS IT?

Ezekiel chapter 18 reveals how important it is to continue our experience with the Lord. If we have started off well in our Christian walk, but then fall into a state of apostasy, we end up being lost.

"When the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, . . . all his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned' (Ezekiel 18:24).

On the other hand, if we have lived a wicked life, and later turn wholeheartedly to the Lord and are faithful to Him, His great mercy acknowledges that as well. If our probation would close at such a time, we are safe in His arms.

"As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God. Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth, our Advocate presents the cases of each successive generation, and closes with the living. Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected. When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book

of God's remembrance. The Lord declared to Moses, 'Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book' (Exodus 32:33). . . .

All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of Heaven; as they have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ, and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life. The Lord declares, by the prophet Isaiah: 'I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins' (Isaiah 43:25). Said Jesus: 'He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels." "1"

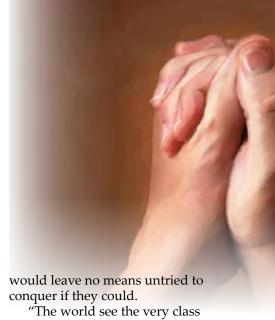
#### WHEN PROBATION CLOSES

The time is soon coming when the time of grace is closed, and the Voice from heaven will declare, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still" (Revelation 22:11).

Those whose sins have not been confessed and blotted out at this time will suffer a similar anguish as that experienced by Judas, and will lament, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved" (Jeremiah 8:20).

It is quite a tragedy indeed when a person rejects Heaven-sent truth. But what about those who have been entrusted as pastors of the flock yet they neglect their duty, causing people to be lost as a result? The blood of multiple souls will be on their hands.

At that hour, "the wicked are filled with regret, not because of their sinful neglect of God and their fellowmen, but because God has conquered. They lament that the result is what it is; but they do not repent of their wickedness. They



"The world see the very class whom they have mocked and derided, and desired to exterminate, pass unharmed through tempest and earthquake and pestilence. He who is to the transgressors of His law a devouring fire, is to His people a safe pavilion.

"The minister who has sacrificed truth to gain the favor of men, now discerns the character and influence of his teachings. It is apparent that an omniscient eye was following him as he stood in the desk, as he walked the streets, as he mingled with men in the various scenes of life. Every emotion of the soul, every line written, every word uttered, every act that led men to rest in a refuge of falsehood, has been scattering seed; and now, in the wretched, lost souls around him, he beholds the harvest.

"Ministers and people see that they have not sustained the right relation to God. They see that they have rebelled against the Author of all just and righteous law. The setting aside of the divine precepts gave rise to thousands of springs of evil, discord, hatred, iniquity, until the earth became one vast field of strife, one sink of corruption. This is the view that now appears to those who rejected truth and chose to cherish error. No language can express the longing which the disobedient and disloyal feel for that which they have lost forevereternal life. Men whom the world has worshiped for their talents and eloquence now see these things in their true light. They realize what

"The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger—a faith that will not faint, though severely tried. . . . All who will lay hold of God's promises, as [Jacob] did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded."

they have forfeited by transgression, and they fall at the feet of those whose fidelity they have despised and derided, and confess that God has loved them.

"The people see that they have been deluded. They eagerly accuse one another of having led them to destruction; but all unite in heaping their bitterest condemnation upon the ministers. Unfaithful pastors have prophesied smooth things; they have led their hearers to make void the law of God and to persecute those who would keep it holy. Now, in their despair, these teachers confess before the world their work of deception. The multitudes are filled with fury. 'We are lost!' they cry, 'and you are the cause of our ruin;' and they turn upon the false watchmen. The very ones that once admired them most, will pronounce the most dreadful curses upon them. The very hands that once crowned them with laurels will be raised for their destruction. The swords which were to slay God's people are now employed to destroy their enemies. Everywhere there is strife and bloodshed."2

After the betrayal of our Master, this is perhaps the most vivid example of innocent blood betrayed. Sincere souls who depend on their pastors for light will be rightly outraged when they realize they have been left in darkness by those who had been entrusted with sharing that light with them.

Those who have professed to be spiritual guardians of the flock are the first to fall under the judgments of God. His wrath will be poured out from Heaven in the

seven last plagues depicted in Revelation chapter 16, the fifth plague specifically falls "upon the seat of the beast" (Revelation 16:10), i.e., the religious power in Revelation

#### A POSITIVE CONTRAST

On the other hand, those who put their trust entirely in the Lord will have a different experience when the plagues fall. Please read the entire chapter of Psalm 91. It assures that to whomsoever will be faithful to God will have divine protection as the times of violence, pestilence and plague approach. Shall we not cherish such precious promises found in His holy Word?

"The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger—a faith that will not faint though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time. Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with

unyielding faith to the promises of God."3

#### THE DELIVERANCE GIVEN TO JACOB

"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Iacob's trouble: but he shall be saved out of it" (Jeremiah 30:7).

Remember Jacob's prayer, "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shown unto thy servant" (Genesis 32:10). Have you reached the point in your experience to acknowledge such reality? Or do you feel instead as if you're rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing?

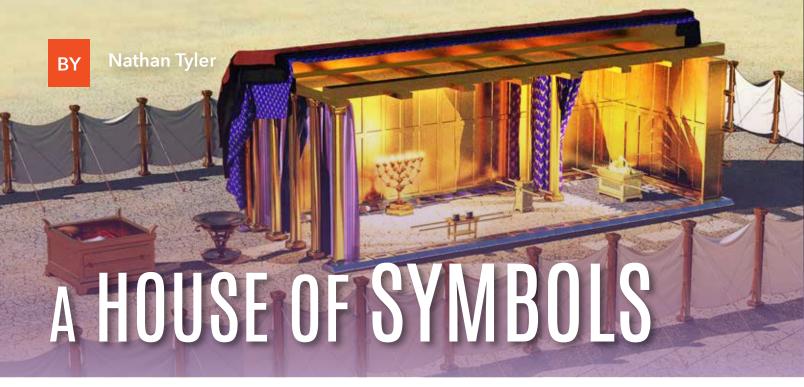
Are you ready to cling to Christ as if your very existence depended on it? It in fact does! Let us all remember Jacob's night of agony as he pleaded with the Lord, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me" (Genesis 32:26).

The experience of Jacob in his night of wrestling is an example for us in the last days. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.

... The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge" (Psalm 46:1–3, 11). Amen! R

#### References

<sup>1</sup> The Great Controversy, p. 483. <sup>2</sup> The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 4, pp. 471, 472. <sup>3</sup> The Great Controversy, p. 621.



ow would you reach a whole generation of busy, work-oriented people with the gospel message? What would you do to get the attention of people, accustomed to compelling imagery in popular entertainment and worship, long enough to teach them about deeper spiritual things? How would you ever get across such abstract concepts as justification, atonement for sin, or the judgment?

This was exactly the problem that Moses was called to face when he took the leadership of over two million people, marching out of Egypt toward Canaan. They had spent generations in slavery; now they were ignorant of God's will and prone to doubt and disobedience. They had a hard time understanding anything they couldn't see—a life spent being threatened with whips produced a cramped mind and a degraded dignity.

#### **FAITH UNDER SIEGE**

Right after sin, God instructed Adam to offer sacrifices as a token atonement for sin. He promised that the Messiah would be born among the family tree of believers. As Adam's descendants sacrificed a lamb, they showed faith in God's promise of deliverance from sin. When Abel obeyed God's instructions, he "offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous" (Hebrews 11:4). Abraham got a better idea of what this meant, when God said he must sacrifice his own son. And the promises to Abraham were God's way of explaining the gospel: "in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 22:18; compare with Galatians 3:8, 16). But when Jacob's sons settled in Egypt, the gospel picture, which had once been so clear, began to fade. A new Pharaoh came to power, and turned the Hebrews into slaves. Sabbathkeeping became difficult. To make matters worse, "on account of the superstitious veneration in which animals were held by the Egyptians, the Hebrews were not permitted, during their bondage, to present the sacrificial offerings. Thus their minds were not directed by this service to the great Sacrifice, and their faith was weakened."1

At the same time, the popular religion of Egypt was very senses-oriented. Everything they worshipped was something you could see. Impressive ceremonies led by their pagan priests held the common people in superstitious wonder. And if you just wanted to have a "good time," the deities of the day wouldn't condemn your immorality—in fact, the golden calf scene at Sinai was just an imitation of Egypt's cult festivals.

Under these circumstances, something drastic had to be done to impress upon the newly-freed Israelites a knowledge of God's character and of His plan to save them, not only from slavery, but from the bondage of sin.

#### A NEW PICTURE

It is no surprise, then, that when Moses went up into the mountain, God outlined a system that would teach His people in more detail than had ever been revealed before. The solution? "Let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them" (Exodus 25:8). This would be God's house in their camp, a house of symbols.

The sanctuary was to be at the heart of a new system of worship, which was rich in lessons about salvation and the Messiah to come. This system only built on the basic service, long forgotten or neglected, of offering a sacrificial lamb. But it added much more detail about the process of justification, and judgment, and blotting out of sin. We are still unraveling its myriad lessons today.

How do we know that the elements of the "tabernacle" represented a better, heavenly system? Moses was emphatically told to "make them after their **pattern**, which was shewed thee in the mount" (Exodus 25:40). And the apostle Paul notes

that the Levite priests "serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things" (Hebrews 8:5). This is just after he points out that Christ is our "high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true taber**nacle**, which the Lord pitched, and not man" (Hebrews 8:1, 2).

#### SYMBOL ELEMENTS

A brief outline of the meaning of the elements in the tabernacle services:

*The Tabernacle's Layout.* The layout of the tabernacle represents both time and place. The outer court, where the altar of sacrifice was, represents the earth, where Jesus was crucified. Passing into the tabernacle itself, we move from earth to heaven. There, two apartments represent two phases of Jesus' ministry as priest, the daily and yearly services mentioned below. These three (the court, the holy place, and the most holy place), and the services that were performed in each of them, form a prophetic timeline of Jesus' work of redemption, spanning from His nativity to the final destruction of sin.

*The Lamb.* When John the Baptist pointed out the Messiah standing in the crowd along the Jordan river, he declared, "Behold the Lamb of God, which beareth away the sin of the world" (John 1:29, margin). Jesus was the One who all the sacrifices (mainly lambs) pointed to. He is even called the passover lamb: "Christ our passover is sacrificed for us" (1 Corinthians 5:7).

*The Priesthood.* Since they "serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things" (Hebrews 8:5), the priesthood ordained in the time of Moses must also be symbolic. Indeed, when Jesus ascended to heaven, He did so as our "great high priest" (Hebrews 4:14). What does He do there? Just as earthly priests presented the blood of sacrifices and incense representing the prayers of the saints, "we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1), who "maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:27).

*The Daily Service.* The fact that there is a heavenly priesthood proves that Christ's work in the atonement was not finished at the cross, but that He still mediates for us today, pleading the merits of His sacrifice. This was represented by the daily sacrifice and the incense in the tabernacle.

The Yearly Service. Once a year, the high priest performed a special work of blotting out the sins of the people. This was figurative, since "it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins" (Hebrews 10:4). In the prophecy of Daniel, spanning 2,300 years, we find a prediction of the work of Christ in the most holy place, which was foretold by the Day of Atonement in the tabernacle service, and which began in 1844. We are now living in the time of the Day of Atonement.

#### THE BIG PICTURE

What was the purpose of all these representations? "Through the teachings of the sacrificial service, Christ was to be uplifted before all nations, and all who would look to Him should live. Christ was the foundation of the Jewish economy. The whole system of types and symbols was a compacted prophecy of the gospel, a presentation in which were bound up the promises of redemption."2

Through a diligent study of the sanctuary, we will come to understand that the ancient tabernacle and its services are a picture of the ministry of Christ for His church during the **Christian era**, right down to the close of time. This doesn't just relate to topics like the investigative judgment revealed in the book of Daniel but also to subjects like the seven churches in Revelation—represented long before their time by a golden candlestick in the tabernacle in the wilderness.

The services of Old Testament times are often called "a shadow" (see Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 8:5; 10:1). Some people might think that today it is not necessary to understand these shadows of heavenly things. But shadows are important. When light shines on any object, the shadow it casts makes that object more distinct. Studying the shadow of the cross today only makes the cross itself more vibrant to us.

#### CONCLUSION

Moses climbed down the mountain, carrying God's blueprint with him. It would be just what was needed: the Lord's plan to draw near and "dwell among" the people. He would teach them His character. He would help them understand the mission of the Messiah to come. But what did Moses find at the foot of Mt. Sinai? A people already seduced into idolatry—already reverting back to Egyptian cult worship, with its visible, tangible, enchanting, and

Yet today, is it any different? The conditions of society offer a striking similarity to the world in Moses' time. The basic problems of society are the same. And the instructions written down by Moses can help us, too—only in a different way.

Today we do not offer sacrifices. We do not keep the festivals, and we don't have a temple. These have met their fulfillment as "a shadow of things to come" (Colossians 2:17). But the truths taught in the "patterns of things in the heavens" (Hebrews 9:23) are still relevant today. What we need is to study the beautiful sanctuary message, presenting its symbols and parallels that make the gospel so plain.

How would you get the attention of the busy, work-oriented people of our modern world, long enough to reach them with the gospel? Let's take a page from the books of Moses, and make that Old Testament message come alive for this generation. R

#### For further study:

- Exodus, chapters 25-31

- Hebrews, chapters 8–10.
  The Desire of Ages, pp. 22–26.
  The Great Controversy, pp. 409–422.
  Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 343–358 (Appendix,

#### References:

- <sup>1</sup> Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 333, 334. <sup>2</sup> The Acts of the Apostles, p. 14. [Emphasis added.]



hen my son was little, he loved to hear bedtime stories almost every night. But the one that he enjoyed the most, was the story of David and Goliath. After so many days and months, at least for me, sharing the same story halfway asleep it became very boring, so one night I asked him: "Tell me, son, why do you love this story so much?" With a smile on his face, he said: "Because David always wins." The answer fell on me like a cold shower. Later on, I understood the well-intended providence of God—that through the mind and the language of a child, my attention would be called to this subject. As a result, I have taken serious time for prayer and meditation to restudy the subject, and the outcome has been phenomenal. That statement became a steppingstone for my faith till today. "Because David always wins." With such childlike faith in the goodness and love of God, we should go through the times ahead of us and accept the challenging tests of our faith, knowing that no matter what will happen: Jesus always wins.

#### DANGER ON THE HORIZON

It is human instinct that is making people feel the imminent approach of danger. With the many people I have spoken to in recent months, the majority of them recognize the significance of current events, fast moving the world towards unchartered waters. There has not been a single instance in human history where a planetary lockdown has been recorded—a time where all nations, governments and leaders of the world obeyed one voice and followed the same order, regardless of culture, race or intellectual exposure.

We recognize the curses of Goliath in the voice of those that want to rule the world in the darkest hour of humanity. With slow movements, approaching the prey, tyranny has begun to show its teeth. Behind the soft and humble public appearance, the beast specified in Revelation chapter 13, is preparing the ferocious, final, and deadly move. The "New Reset" scenario, the collapse of the economy at the expense of the working class, the manipulation and

deceit bring us back in time, where Goliath's infatuation and arrogance made the people of God to tremble.

In the morning when you wake up and turn on the news broadcast at the typical morning worship hour, you feel in the air you breathe the curses and abominable language of Goliath. Going to work the whole day you are haunted by the same voice of modern Goliath. Before going to bed you want to have the evening worship and you experience the same feeling, the curses of Goliath. Just try to imagine the despair of the people who are asking silently: "Lord, where are you?"

The dark premonitions of the new world order artisans with their "infinite" financial resources, the international political, economic and religious ramifications have one purpose only—total control. The fear of the future seems to benumb the mind, even of the most faithful ones who expect and believe in the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. The ten virgins depicted in the gospel according Matthew chapter 25 are asleep. Apparently, the world is abandoned in the hands



of modern Goliath, but contrary to what our mortal eyes can see, we should always remember that apparent defeat will produce the sweetest victory.

#### WHAT ARE WE ALL FACING?

At the present time, "We the People" are invited to receive a new digital identity—to be microchipped, being eventually perceived by the watchdog of the new world order, as useless consumers, polluting agents, crowding the world and consequently, a threat to the human species. For months we have been psychologically bombarded by the notorious voice of the modern Goliath—the "official voice" of technology, echoing from the top of the mountain the threat of death and extermination. Like in the time of ancient Israel, in the same manner the 2020 world shakes like a drunken man completely disoriented by the fear factor perpetuated by the propaganda machine.

We hear "officials" prophesying the second wave of the pandemic and more rigorous lockdowns. The well-known billionaire Bill Gates recently declared—with an impishly smug smirk on his face—"This will not be the last pandemic we face, so we . . . have to prepare for the next one, that, . . . you know I'd say, that will get attention this time."

Another nationally recognized figure is Dr. Anthony Fauci, who stated in a remarkably similar vein that: "Unfortunately we're right now in the middle of what's going to be referred to . . . as the mother of all outbreaks over the last hundred years. And we're not even close to being finished with it yet."<sup>2</sup>

#### **MODERN GOLIATHS**

Acting like "gods" in the name of promoting the common good, dancing to the "tune" of climate change and the revenge of mother nature, the modern Goliaths do not feel the fear of losing control of the world. While, WE THE PEOPLE, like those great armies of Israel at that historical time, are depressed, allowing our **courage** to **fail**, barely whisper to one another, "Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up" (1 Samuel 17:25). The challenge of the New Normal terrifies all the people on the planet. "Fear" is the keynote that the rulers of the world have used to impair the free thinking of individuals. Looking around, you can perceive sporadically the few voices speaking faith and walking against the current.

Goliath is back for the final confrontation. He desperately fights like the one that lost everything, knowing that his time is short. "For forty days the host of Israel had trembled before the haughty challenge of Goliath, the Philistine giant. Their hearts failed within them as they looked upon his massive form, measuring six cubits and a span, or ten and a half feet, in height."3 The **apparent silence** of God has seriously challenged the faith of the nation. But praise God, as always, He will send timely solutions. Exactly when the boldness of this New World Order system will elevate its shameful pretentions, God will intervene.

For forty days, Goliath was asking for a MAN, without the least anticipation that God Almighty would accept his provocation. "And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance" (1 Samuel 17:42). Goliath was completely taken by surprise. He could not believe his eyes what he saw. A "youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance."

Being intoxicated with self, Goliath was thinking that this was a joke for sure. Little was he realizing that few moments later, his infatuation and arrogance would be silenced forever. You see my beloved reader, God's solutions for us in extreme situations are always surprisingly simple.

When Samuel went to Jesse's house to anoint the man after God's own heart, the prophet was dazzled by the imposing appearance of the eldest son, "Eliab, and said, Surely the Lord's anointed is before him. But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: . . . for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:6, 7).

In Hebrew history, when Naaman the Syrian, a mighty general who was a leper, came to Elisha the prophet, he was on the verge of losing the benefit of healing by rejecting God's offer just because his expectation was not satisfied. "Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage" (2 Kings 5:11, 12).

So it will be today. The world will be surprised by the simplicity of God's solution for the crisis. In His infinite wisdom, He will deliver us "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

#### **GOD IS NOT MOCKED**

The crisis that confronts the world today will have the same ending, for at least one reason: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). [Emphasis added.] God does not endorse iniquity under any circumstance, and He knows the moves of the enemy. The evil of this world has always been humiliated and defeated by the simple and humble instruments that are in total opposition to human extravagance. God is not revealed by the magnificence of the worldly power or wisdom but by that inner beauty and modesty of Christ's character, hidden in His followers.

Today we have the tendency of looking to the coalitions of different forces, thinking of their potential and destructive power, making the same mistake as did the people of Israel. The protagonists of the Great Reset are fully deceived that the "New Normal" can be easily implemented by canceling the eternal, invincible Word of God, by making void His eternal Law and bringing to silence the voice of those who embrace the faith of Jesus Christ and keep the commandments of God. How little they know that God is not planning with them.

David's visit to the battlefield was perceived as an act of pride and selfishness by his own brothers. Before fighting Goliath, David meets the opposition of his brethren, and shortly afterwards even the opposition of the king. Looking to David and Goliath with the eyes of human reasoning, the army of Israel was set for failure.

Looking from the secular standpoint of view at the colossal power of Babylon the Great and comparing it with the humble remnant of God, genuine Christianity is doomed to extinction. But the word of the Lord is going to be fulfilled, no matter what. We have only to fix our attention to Jesus, the Master of our salvation. With the eyes of faith, we'll see the enemy as an atom fading out before the infinite God.

Now we are threatened with the second and third wave of pandemic. Our lives and the lives of our families are at stake. Famine and starvation will soon hit the land, but the mercy of God will not fail us. Don't forget: "Jesus always wins."

#### A PARALLEL IN REVELATION

In this story of Goliath and David, we can find a fascinating coherence of the future prophecy of Revelation 13 versus Revelation 14. Looking to the eschatological scenario of this story, we find the following interesting facts: Goliath may be the symbolic beast and the message of the beast that is described in Revelation 13, fulfilling the criteria of the challenger that comes first, followed by David in Revelation 14, the symbol of the lamb, in opposition to the character of the beast.

God's providence unveiled Goliath to forecast in prophetical language the intensity of the great cosmic conflict in between the government of Heaven and the new universal order proposed by God's archenemy: "choose you a man for you and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us" (1 Samuel 17:8, 9).

Goliath is symbol of the dragon, the symbol of the beast and the symbol of the false prophet, and ultimately the symbol of the new world order. In the Book of revelation, we find the same development. And David is the symbol of Jesus Christ the authority of the power displayed in Revelation 14. The result is identical. As David is going to destroy Goliath, so in like manner, Jesus will destroy the new world establishment set by the beast power found in Revelation 13.

In a voice of outrage, Goliath says: "... Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field" (1 Samuel 17:44). Consequently, David by Inspiration replies with the word of God in the same manner: "This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel" (1 Samuel 17:46). [Emphasis added.]

The two opposing statements are almost identical, and in reality, reflect the death penalty for those who refuse to obey the authority of the beast or the authority of God. Today humanity is in between these two threats, and our destiny is decided by our choice. There is no way out in the approaching conflict.

Soon we will be in the position of not being able "to buy or sell" (Revelation 13:17), but our God will not fail us. The Lord Jesus Christ will strengthen His people to stand against the Goliath of the 21st century. The 19th century German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer astutely observed: "All truth passes through three stages. First, it is **ridiculed**. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident."4

At first, the world and its leaders will **ridicule** the people of God that suffer intensely: "The wicked exult, and the jeering cry is heard: 'Where now is your faith? Why does not God deliver you out of our hands if you are indeed His people?' "5

After seeing the whole world submit, the establishment is unexpectedly surprised by a small and insignificant group of people unshaken in their conviction and determined to die or live for Christ. They burst out in fury, being controlled by the same hatred as that manifested by Nebuchadnezzar on the plain of Dura. In this hour of darkness, the truth will be ridiculed at the beginning and then violently opposed. The final step will be when the truth will be self-evident and universally accepted. Unfortunately for some, it will be too late to change the direction of the world. They see now clearly the vain aspirations of their infatuation.

The rich and the poor of the world will be terrified to see the Lord Jesus Christ coming in the cloud of heaven. Exactly when they are ready to celebrate the victory over the faithful ones, the time when they think to toast the champagne as a sign of their earthly glory, they will see Jesus.

Their words of mockery will freeze on their faces, trembling like a reed blown by the wind, and will drag their bodies on the ground seeking death as a better choice, seeking shelter under the rocks of the earth, praying to the mountains to fall on them and cover them from the face of the "One" that is infinitely greater than them. It will be too late for regrets and remorse. It will be too late to undo all the criminal acts and reverse the bloodshed that

cry against their conscience. Every second of their life before the King of the Universe is an unbearable torment for them. They know that it is too late. Indeed, as mentioned earlier, all truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.

Modern Goliath is hit by the Rock of Ages, straight on the "mark." The huge beast collapses as the wrath of God falls upon him with overwhelming power. The sword that was threatening the world, terrifying the multitudes is turned against him. The throne of the Rome is covered in darkness, the merchants are speechless, the kings and the rulers of the world explode in rage against the beast. They feel deceived. They see now the faces of those that they had so cruelly treated and despised, now with the shining faces shouting victory at the sight of Christ.

Goliath is dead. The plagues are falling unmingled with mercy. Jesus is always winning. The tears and the sorrow, the scourge and mockery are gone. The earth is shaking like a drunken man; the tectonic plates are moving from their places; the graves are opened. There is the resurrection of the saints.

#### TRUSTING IN THE GOD OF DAVID

The angels sing, the saints sing, the children sing, what a joy, what a moment! God is always winning and His winning is for us. If you don't know what to do with your

life, if you don't know what to choose for the future, take a minute and talk to Jesus. I think is the best thing we can do under the circumstances. He lives for you, my friend.

Goliath is the product of every generation in the history of humanity. David is God's response that He has in storage to call the attention of the world, letting them know that God is watching. I would say in conclusion that in every age there has been a fight between good and evil. Sometimes darkness seems to win for a while, but God will intervene and shift the poles of power and give victory to freedom.

This winter will be a challenging time for all. Locked down in the house without any perspective for the future, may resurrect our spiritual inclinations. It's the night and the power of darkness. But don't forget the blessing of the Lord in Micah 7:7-9: "Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me. I will bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness." R

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<sup>5</sup> The Great Controversy, p. 630. [Emphasis added.]

# NEWS SDARM WORLD

**Colombia** From November 3-6, 2020, the 14th reorganization session of the Colombian Union was held at the headquarters at the Eben-Ezer Camp in Barbosa. The theme was "Victorious in Christ" and the brethren were united in one mission and goal.



Brazil November 28, 2020, was a day of rejoicing for the São Paulo Field in the South Brazilian Union. That afternoon, nine souls publicly committed their lives to the Lord and joined the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement through baptism. The event was held in Pariquera-Açú, São Paulo, in the Ribeira Valley.



## Czech Republic On September 5,

On September 5, 2020, the brethren at our church in Liberec welcomed five young people into the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement family, the youngest of whom was 14 years old.



## Kenya Through the generous

Through the generous donation of one of our brethren overseas, follow-up missionary work is being done with Bibles and literature in the Maasai language.

## U.S.A.

In Roanoke, Virginia, on October 18, 2020, a group of eight young people made a covenant of baptism.







P.O. Box 7240 Roanoke, VA 24019-0240

MOVING? Please let us know.

# FACING Big Changes

hange is not always easy! We like to eat when it's lunchtime. We like to play when our chores are finished. We like for our friends always to be our friends and never hurt or disappoint us. We like our schoolwork to be not too hard. We like for a nice, sunny day not to be changed by a giant thunderstorm.

But what happens when there are big changes in life? Or worse yet, in the whole world? Things that are bigger than anybody can control?

We need to remember that God is greater than anything and everything that happens in this world. Sometimes things will not be easy for anyone. But nothing is too hard for the God who created the whole universe. In only six days, He's the One that made light, heaven, the sun, moon and stars, the earth with all its plants, the birds, fish, animals, and the first people. He's the same One that made you! He will soon make a perfect Earth with no more sadness, ugliness, pain, or death.

There's a nice hymn about some good news. It reminds us that the New Earth won't have bad changes:

"The home where changes never come, Not pain nor sorrow, toil nor care; Yes! 'tis a bright and blessed home; Who would not fain be resting there?" Then the poem tells us what this hope should make us decide to do:

"O wait! Meekly wait, and murmur not,
O wait! Meekly wait, and murmur not,
O wait! O wait! O wait! And murmur not!"

What does this mean? We should not complain and grumble if bad changes come. We need to trust our God. To all who trust in Him, He promises this new home with no bad changes! There the faithful ones will live forever!

-BHM

