

IAUA End Time Ministry

Preparing for the End of Time



Four Angels' Message

Eliau

Preface

"IAUA End Time Ministry" presents this book "*Four Angels' Message*" as part of the preparation of God's people for the End of Time. This book investigates the content and the prophetic importance of the Four Angels' Message.

God loves us and wants us to be prepared for the end of time. He has revealed what will happen in the end of time. The final judgment of the world is coming soon. The end of the world is preceded by a final message from the Bible. The final message is the Four Angels' Message that will give light to the whole world.

This book is for those who have learned the love of God for us and have a passionate love of God in their heart. Otherwise, the information in this book will seem pointless and legalistic.

¹⁵ **If ye love me, keep my commandments.** John 14:15

My purpose is to share my studies of the Bible and research into information about the Four Angels' Message with seekers of truth. This book is a study guide to encourage your own study and research into understanding the Four Angels' Message of God. The material in this book is an expansion of a chapter in the book "*Preparing for the End of Time*".

This book is not a detailed scholarly presentation. My goal is to present the subject completely but simply and briefly. It is not my intent to try to convince you of my understanding. It is my purpose to point you to truth in the Bible and other information about understanding the Four Angels' Message. You will need to investigate and verify this information for yourself.

The Internet is a valuable tool for research. The information in this book is available for online reading with many research links and additional material under ongoing development at the web site:

www.FourAngelsMessage.info

This book, color covers, color illustrations, and other ministry books are available for free PDF download from the website. Information on obtaining additional print copies of this book and other ministry books is also available on the website.

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Preface

All Bible quotations are from the King James Version. I added the emphasis of underlining in Bible quotes and in EGW quotes.

Preachers, teachers and students of the Bible take note. You will read ideas in this book you may find controversial and disturbing. Hold tightly to the teachings of the Bible and let the Bible interpret itself. Do not cling to the traditions and teachings of men, even if you have taught them yourself. Open your heart and mind and pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

About the Ministry

IAUA End Time Ministry is a personal, independent ministry. This ministry is my personal effort to follow the will of God. The purpose of the ministry is to witness to God's truth through Internet web sites, email newsletters, printed books, and personal contact with those who show an interest in deeper additional truth.

This ministry agrees with the fundamental teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. I believe there is a fundamental teaching missing from the denomination doctrine. I also believe the denomination is teaching an error, which contradicts its own fundamental teachings.

This ministry is not a part of the SDA denomination and is not recognized or approved by the SDA denomination. I am part of a loose association of individuals seeking to further the knowledge and understanding of God. I do not follow the teachings of any other leader or ministry. I follow only the Bible.

Wherever possible, this ministry avoids entering into any controversy or confrontation on the truth I believe from the Bible. I only present these topics when an interest is shown in the subject of a deeper understanding of God's Law. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to draw others to greater truth. God also appoints prophets to do the work of calling His people to reformation and revival. I do not step out ahead of God's leading.

About the Author

Eliau is the pen name of Frank T. Clark. I use a pen name because this book is not about me. I am not seeking to promote myself. The pen name is a transliteration of the original Hebrew for Elijah. I am an ultraconservative, lifetime, fifth-generation, Seventh-day

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Adventist believer. No religion has the whole truth or is the exclusive source of truth. Each individual accepts truth as they study the Bible to understand for themselves.

I describe myself as an ultraconservative because I go beyond adhering to only the current teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. I believe errors have crept into the teachings of the denomination. I seek a return to the truth revealed to the early Adventist church there is "New Light" in God's Law we must seek. I seek a continued growth beyond the current complacent (Laodicean) attitude of the church to return to the primitive godliness of the Messiah, the disciples, and the apostles.

A few years ago, I was awakened to the renewed realization this world is going to end soon. While renewing my study of the Bible I was led to see "Present Truth", I was not originally taught to see. These truths are critical to "Preparing for the End of Time".

It is my purpose to point you to truth in the Bible which is often overlooked. It is my intent and expectation you will study the Bible about this for yourself. It is my prayer the Holy Spirit will guide you.

¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth... He will show you things to come.

John 16:13 (FTCABE)

About the Cover

The intended color scheme of this book's cover is from God's sanctuary and is described in numerous places.

¹ And of the blue, and purple, and scarlet, they made cloths of service, to do service in the holy place, and made the holy garments for Aaron; as the LORD commanded Moses.

² And he made the ephod of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen.

Exodus 39:1-2

The background is royal blue, which represents God's law. Gold represents the riches of God's truth, purple represents the royalty of the King of Kings, and scarlet represents the blood of the Lamb. Linen is white, which represents purity.

Letter from the Author

Dear Brothers and Sisters of IAUA our Heavenly Father,

It is with great joy, I present to you this Bible Study on the topics of present truth for the last generation. I hope this study draws you, as deeply as the Holy Spirit has drawn me, to a renewed interest in the Bible and Present Truth.

My spiritual journey wandered for years in circles and cycles because I thought I knew the Bible. In reality, I only studied what the church taught me to study. I was complacent, like the Laodicean church, as described by the Messiah in Revelation 3:14-22. I felt a half-hearted desire for more but was comfortable with the daily activities of life.

God knew my condition and by the work of the Holy Spirit impressed on my mind the nearness of the end of time. I had this realization from childhood but after years of hearing the same old tired prodding, I became callous to the warning of the Three Angels' Message. I believe the same is true of many in the church today. When I began to study more and meditate on the nearness of the end of time, a greater concern energized me about being prepared for the end of time.

While talking with others about the nearness of the end of time, I received a pair of small books, which deeply challenged my complacency about my knowledge of the Bible. I read things, which I had never heard before. The Holy Spirit opened my eyes to a vast amount of Bible truth of which I had been woefully ignorant. I hope this book will do the same for you.

With astonishing swiftness, my life began to change completely. As I began to dig deeper and deeper into the Bible, my whole outlook on life began to change. The things I had once enjoyed began to lose my interest. Bible study became my primary interest. Within a year, my job laid me off and I felt God moving in a powerful way to change my life.

While looking for work I threw myself even deeper into hours of daily study of the Bible and research of the new truths I was learning. It would be almost two years before God would allow me to return to the work force in serving His purposes and not the ways of the world.

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I hope this book will encourage you to a deeper study of the Bible. I believe the topics of this book are a valuable study guide to lead you to topics of importance, which we often overlook. The first book, "*Preparing for the End of Time*", is an introduction to a series of books, which covers the complete subject area of my studies on "Present Truth". This sixth book, "*Four Angels' Message*", expands on the most important of one of these subjects. As God leads and time allows I will prepare other books expanding on these topics.

It is important to remind you, our belief in our precious Savior is what saves us. When this belief converts us, we will begin to grow into all truth. This belief leads us to study more of His Word. As we learn more about Him, His Love for us draws us closer to Him. When the love of God fills our hearts, we will become passionate about learning everything He tells us. The expression of our love is to follow the guidance He gives us.

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:15

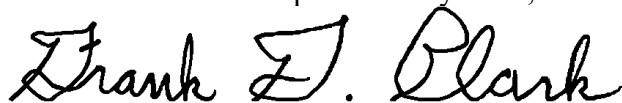
We obey the guidance found in His Law of Love because we trust Him to know what is best for us. Obedience does not save us. Obedience sanctifies us as we prepare for a place in His kingdom of Love.

¹² Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Philippians 2:12

Obedience and study is our work of salvation. Please, open your heart and pray for the work of the Holy Spirit. Let this book guide you to study deeply into His Word and learn more about His guidance for our lives. What I say may sometimes sound harsh but I pray you may sense a spirit, which is learning to be gentle, under the molding of the Holy Spirit.

With all the love God places in my heart,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank T. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with large, connected letters.

Frank T. Clark

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Introduction

The world is full of confusing sensations, experiences, and contrasts. There is a dichotomy or mutually exclusive and contradictory mismatch between good and bad, pain and pleasure, life and death. The Bible has the only logical and consistent explanation for where humanity came from, how we got here, and where we are going. It is true, the Bible is difficult to understand. The Bible itself warns us that we must study carefully to understand.

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

We will find the truth when we seek with all our heart.

²⁹ But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Deuteronomy 4:29

The Bible warns us there is a devil who is a thief, which opposes us and seeks to steal, kill, and destroy. God wants to give us an eternal abundant life.

¹⁰ The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

The devil is a liar who deceives and hides the truth from those who are not diligent.

⁴⁴ Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

John 8:44

There is a special prophetic message of warning for the end of time. This message is found in the last book of the New Testament.

Four Angels' Message

This message is to the whole world. The message is given in four parts at four different stages. There are four messengers symbolized as angels. The message of the Four Angels begins with the message from the Three Angels of Revelation 14. The addition of the message from the Fourth Angel of Revelation 18 completes the final message to the world before probation closes for all mankind.

The beginning message of the Three Angels is a prophecy of a great revival and reformation, which begins the time of the end. The prophetic fulfillment began as an outgrowth of the Great Awakening of the first half of the nineteenth Century, which climaxed with the Millerite Revival of 1831-1844. This revival ended with the Great Disappointment of October 22, 1844, which was believed to be the Day of Atonement in that year.

Step by step God led His people who would be faithful to His truth forward out of the Great Apostasy of the Dark Ages. The message of the first angel led to the Great Awakening. After the Great Disappointment, the message of the second angel began to lead a remnant to abandon the apostasies of the Dark Ages. The message of the third angel warns us and prepares us for the coming persecution and tribulation of the final conflict. The message of each of the four angels builds on the message of the previous angel. The message of the fourth angel specifically refers back to the message of the second angel, which was not completely followed. This message leads His people out of the final errors of apostasy to a complete restoration of all truth.

End Time Present Truth

Present Truth for the 21st century is not the same as it was in the 19th century or even the 20th century. Truth is progressive. All the truth of God is far greater than we see and so much has been lost to apostasy through the Dark Ages. Our Savior warns us of the error and calls us to obedience.

¹⁷ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

¹⁸ For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

¹⁹ Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least

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commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:17-19

We must depend primarily on the Word of God as our source for truth. Do not depend on the pastor or the church leaders as the source for truth. We can look to our pastors and leaders for teaching and guidance but we must never let them become a substitute for following the Word of God. Heed the warning of God.

⁵ Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

⁶ For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

⁷ Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

⁸ For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

¹⁰ I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Our Savior contradicts the lie of this world and says that we can be perfect.

⁴⁸ Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 5:48

The Bible calls for a renewing of our mind and a turning away from the ways of the world.

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² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:2

The perfect truth is there, it is coming, and it will replace error.

¹⁰ But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

1 Corinthians 13:10

The devil tempts us to abandonment to sinful and destructive pleasures and desires.

⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Galatians 6:7-8

Do not accept human traditions. Do not accept false teachings. Learn the truth for yourself.

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

A Message from Four Angels

The Four Angels of Revelation have a final message to the world! This message is followed by the voice of God Himself!

First Angel

⁶ And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
⁷ Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Revelation 14:6-7

Second Angel

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

Revelation 14:8

Third Angel

⁹ And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

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

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

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

Revelation 14:9-12

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Fourth Angel

¹ And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

² And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

³ For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

Revelation 18:1-3

The Voice of God

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

⁵ For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

⁶ Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

⁷ How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

⁸ Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

⁹ And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

¹⁰ Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

Revelation 18:4-10

A Message From Four Angels

The message continues on in great detail concerning the destruction of Babylon.

Pictorial Symbolism

I have created a graphical illustration of the Four Angels. This picture appears on the back cover of the book. The picture is designed to portray many symbolic meanings.

This is a description of these symbolic meanings. The obvious part of the picture is the symbolic four angels or messengers, with trumpets giving a message to the world.

The star located on the earth is intended to mark the location of the Mount of Olives in Israel. God has chosen this spot.

¹³ For IAUA hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation.

¹⁴ This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it.

Psalms 132:13-14

This is the spot from where our Messiah left the earth to return to heaven.

⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

¹⁰ And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

¹¹ Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

¹² Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

Acts 1:9-12

This is the spot where our Messiah will return and stand when we come back to the earth after the Sabbath Millennium.

⁴ And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the

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mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

Zechariah 14:4

This great valley created where the Mount of Olives once stood is the site of the New Jerusalem which will be our heavenly home.

² And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:2

The 24 stars represent the 24 elders who are currently part of the investigative judgment. This is the jury of our peers. There are two witnesses from each of the 12 tribes.

¹⁵ One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

Deuteronomy 19:15

The elders are explicitly described several times in Revelation. This verse mentions the judgment of the dead.

¹⁶ And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

¹⁷ Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

¹⁸ And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Revelation 11:16-18

This verse mentions the connection between the thrones and judgment.

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God,

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and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Revelation 20:4

This Old Testament prophetic verse also describes thrones associated with judgment.

⁵ For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

Psalms 122:5

This verse from Daniel describes the thrones and a scene of judgment.

⁹ I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

Daniel 7:9

The colors of the symbolic garment of the angels are from God's sanctuary which is described in numerous places.

¹ And of the blue, and purple, and scarlet, they made cloths of service, to do service in the holy place, and made the holy garments for Aaron; as the LORD commanded Moses.

² And he made the ephod of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen.

Exodus 39:1-2

The background of the picture is a rainbow sunburst of the sanctuary colors.

The relative size of the angels is also symbolic. The first and third angels are described as "saying with a loud voice". However, the second angel is shown in a smaller size because it is described as only "saying". The fourth angel is shown larger because it is described as "he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying". I believe this is prophetic of how strongly the message is presented. The phrase "Loud Cry", which was often used by the Adventist pioneers, comes from Revelation 18:2, the voice of the Fourth Angel.

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The first angel is purple, which represents the royalty of the King of Kings. This is appropriate to the message to "Fear God". This message has been properly spread as part of the Three Angel's Message.

The smaller second angel is gold, which represents the riches of God's truth. The smaller size is appropriate because truth has not all been followed. The errors of Babylon have not all been identified and forsaken. Therefore this angel is shown in a smaller size. This message has not been properly spread as part of the Three Angel's Message.

The third angel is scarlet, which represents the blood of the Lamb. This is appropriate to the message of the persecution to come with the Mark of the Beast. This message has been properly spread as part of the Three Angel's Message.

The larger fourth angel is royal blue, which represents God's law. This is appropriate to the repeat of the message of the second angel. All of God's Law is to be identified and followed. The voice of God calls His people to come out of the remaining practices of Babylon. The larger size of the symbolic angel represents the final Loud Cry.

The Fourth Angel's Message

The Fourth Angel's Message is an outgrowth of the Third Elijah Message for the end of time. The Fourth Angel's Message is a message of great power and light to the world.

¹ And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

² And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

³ For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

Revelation 18:1-3

The strong and mighty voice of the fourth angel is followed by the voice of God Himself.

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

The light of the angel is a new light on old truths. The power of the angel is to spread this truth to the whole world. The light is the complete restoration of God's law. God's law as it was known and practiced by the Messiah. God's law as it was known and practiced by the disciples and apostles.

The last part of the law, missing after the great apostasy of the Dark Ages, is the statutes of God. The restoration of the complete law leads to the perfecting of the saints and the establishment of God's kingdom on earth. This event is sometimes called the Latter Rain and is a second manifestation of the Holy Spirit as it occurred at Pentecost ten days after the Messiah ascended to heaven.

Warning

This is a message of warning to ancient Israel which can be applied to modern Israel, the church of God.

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¹⁰ Ye shall fall by the sword; I will judge you in the border of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

¹¹ This city shall not be your caldron, neither shall ye be the flesh in the midst thereof; but I will judge you in the border of Israel:

¹² And ye shall know that I am the LORD: for ye have not walked in my statutes, neither executed my judgments, but have done after the manners of the heathen that are round about you. Ezekiel 11:10-12

The "manners of the heathen" especially speaks to me of the observance of the Catholic holidays.

¹³ But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them. Ezekiel 20:13

Promise

This is the promise to ancient Israel, which can be applied to modern Israel, the church of God.

¹⁷ Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.

¹⁸ And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence.

¹⁹ And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

²⁰ That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. Ezekiel 11:17-20

The "land of Israel" speaks to me of the final Promised Land, the New Earth.

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¹⁹ I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them;

²⁰ And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.
Ezekiel 20:19-20

Babylon Is Fallen

The message of the Fourth Angel repeats and enlarges the message of the Second Angel and cries mightily with a strong voice, adding to the Three Angels' Message. Babylon has fallen to the final foul depths. I think it is significant the wording has changed. The second angel refers to Babylon, the great city. The fourth angel refers to Babylon the great. The moral, political, and economic aspects seem to refer to something more than just Rome. It sounds like the "image" to the beast, the United States, and the protestant daughter churches. The rest of the chapter is similar.

There is a distinctive nature to the general messages of the four angels (Revelation 14:6-7, Revelation 14:8, Revelation 14:9-12, Revelation 18:1-3). These messages are of a general nature presented from heaven to the world. There are other specific angels with different actions and specific messages but they are presented from different specific places to different specific people. A deeper understanding of all the angels of Revelation is a separate subject of the study of prophecy.

Reformation and Revival

All messages are about reformation and revival. The Third Elijah Message and the Fourth Angel's Message are also a message about reformation and revival. There are three basic types of messages.

1. Genuine Reformation

A reformation is primarily the restoration of God's Truth. A reformation is needed when elements of God's Truths have been completely forgotten or lost by the majority. A genuine reformation message is mostly presented to those who are already believers and doers of God's Truth. There are always the exact same elements of a true revival found during a reformation.

2. True Revival

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A revival is primarily a call to return to faith and obedience. A true revival presents all the elements of God's Truth to remind believers and to call unbelievers. Zeal for God's Truth is preached and a call to repentance for those who have fallen away.

There may be minor elements of reformation during a revival. Usually these are personal reformations of disobedience when ignoring known truths.

A revival results in personal changes. A revival results in greater faith and obedience. A renewed commitment to serious Bible study, prayer, and witnessing is an absolute requirement for true revival.

3. False Revival

A false revival is Satan's counterfeit. A false revival is similar to a real revival but contains elements of deception. In a false revival, only some of God's Truth will be presented. A false revival will also tend to emphasize some truths out of proportion to cover up the fact some are left out. A false revival will tend to emphasize emotional display to cover up the lack of true repentance and obedience. False and superficial Bible study, prayer, and witnessing are the result of false revival, if they even happen at all.

A false revival may also try to look like a reformation. "Mysteries" and "knowledge" from the Bible, often associated with prophecy, are presented as "Messages" and "New Light". These things are important and valuable but are poor substitutes for a lack of truth about God's law, salvation, justification, sanctification, and righteousness.

A false revival often manipulates people to do what the leaders want them to do instead of inspiring them by the Word of God to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in their lives. A cookie cutter approach, pressuring everyone to the same set of actions, is a clear sign a revival is not being led by the Holy Spirit. God clearly demonstrates, He has different plans for different people. The Holy Spirit is observed to support a wide variety of actions by those who are led to follow the spirit.

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The Third Elijah Message of Malachi 4 leads to the shaking of the church. The 144k will be sealed by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and will go forward with the Loud Cry and the Fourth Angel's Message. Then the end will come.

In this chapter a verse by verse and phrase by phrase investigation of Malachi chapter 4 is carefully made to determine the depths of its meaning. I am making some changes in the words, but not the meaning. I am also amplifying the focus of the concepts. By bringing together various translations and *Strong's Concise Hebrew Dictionary* definitions, we reach a more understandable message without some of the archaic words and forms.

In this opening quote of the message, I am emphasizing the reference to the Sacred Name of God and the three occurrences of the name, which I have transliterated to IAUA. This is my understanding, which is supported by years of study and evidence which is documented in the book "*Sacred Name IAUA*".

¹ For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith IAUA of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

² But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

³ And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith IAUA of hosts.

⁴ Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of IAUA:

⁶ And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Malachi 4:1-6

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The following is a verse by verse breakdown. I am making a personal paraphrase of each verse. Each phrase of the verse is examined in detail.

The Judgment of the Wicked

Watch! Beware! The day is coming, like a burning furnace. All the proud and all who do wickedly, will be stubble. The day which is coming will burn them up, says IAUA of all creation. It will not leave a root or branch of them.

There is a day of judgment coming which will be complete and final. All traces of sin on the earth will be burned. All people will be destroyed, who do not belong in the kingdom of God. This should attract our attention. This opening statement emphasizes the importance of this message. This is also the context for the time of this message. Those who are facing their last decision at the end of time are being presented with the final issues. This is the final warning and call for the separating of good and evil.

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

Revelation 18:4

The reference to the stubble of grass is traced back to the words of God. The people are specifically identified as grass.

⁶ The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field:

⁷ The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

⁸ The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Isaiah 40:6-8

Stubble is what is left when the grass is cut off. Those who disobey are cut off.

²⁹ Ye shall have one law for him that sinneth through ignorance, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them.

³⁰ But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be

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born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

³¹ Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.

Numbers 15:29-31

There are two classes of wicked people specifically identified as dried grass stubble to be burned. The group identified as evildoers we can easily understand. The group identified as the proud is a little more subtle. *Strong's Concise Hebrew Dictionary* gives the synonyms arrogant, insolent, and presumptuous. The sense is, these are people who may have looked like good people on the outside.

¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

II Thessalonians 2:10

In their hearts they were too proud to yield to God. They did not come out of the remaining practices of the whore of Babylon. They did enough to look good and be acceptable to their peer group but were not willing to follow all the way.

⁴ These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

Revelation 14:4

The prophet records these words directly from the mouth of God. This entire chapter is no thought inspiration recorded by the prophet with his own words. These words are the direct verbal inspiration of God. God gives His personal witness the destruction will be complete. The phrase "Lord of hosts", which I have paraphrased "IAUA of all creation", emphasizes His position as Head of all the righteous, as the destruction of all traces of the wicked and their wicked works occurs.

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The Hope of the Faithful

Arising to you who fear My name is the great light of righteousness, with healing in His wings. You will go out and leap for joy as calves released from the stall.

The identifying characteristic of the faithful righteous in this verse is a fear of the name of God. I find it instructive to see this particular characteristic emphasized. Whenever I see this idea mentioned in the Bible, I cannot help but wonder. What does this mean for those who refuse to use His personal name and do not even want to know it?

⁶ Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak: behold, it is I.

Isaiah 52:6

The great light of righteousness is not the sun. In Hebrew, the sun is always referred to as the great light. The great light of this verse is something more powerful and eternal. The physical light of the earth is the sun but the spiritual light of the earth is something quite different. The parallel with another end time verse is clear to the deep student of the Bible.

¹ And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

Revelation 18:1

The reference to healing wings may seem odd but the deep student of the Bible will note the Hebrew word translated wings is the same word translated borders in this powerful verse.

³⁸ Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue:

Numbers 15:38

The deep student of the Bible also knows the fringe or tassel appears in this verse translated as hem. Now we see the complete circle of the thought of healing in His wings. The great light of

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righteousness is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as well as the coming of our Savior to give healing to those who follow Him all the way.

³⁶ And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.
Matthew 14:36

In the final phrase of the verse, we recognize our arrival in heaven and our leaving the Holy City after the Re-Creation will be an outburst of joy. We will go out and leap for joy as calves released from the chains of their stalls. We will be free from the chains of sin and restored to the perfect home God originally designed for us.

¹ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Revelation 21:1

Can you see the face of Adam when he is restored to being with His Savior, restored to the beautiful Garden of Eden, and the Tree of Life, which will be the Central Park of the Holy City?

² In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:2

We all long for this day, when all shall be restored.

The Triumph of Righteousness

You will tread down the wicked. They will be ashes under the soles of your feet, in the day I will do this, says IAUA of all creation.

This is a solemn and fearful promise of God. There will be a day when the wicked and everything tainted with evil will be nothing but ashes under our feet. IAUA of all the righteous creation promises and warns. He will do this.

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³ And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

Revelation 22:3

The Statutes and judgments

Remember! the "Law of Moses", my servant, which I commanded to him in Horeb for all Israel, statutes and judgments.

The deep student of the Bible notices the parallel important meaning of the first word of this verse. God has previously called us in His own words and His own voice to remember something equally important.

⁸ Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Exodus 20:8

Don't you think the "Law of Moses" has the same kind of importance? Does "remember" only mean to recall or does it mean to follow and obey? He has also provided, in His own words, with the same commandment to remember, a specific method to be a constant reminder of obedience to ALL His commandments. It is also a powerful visible witness to our commitment to obey.

³⁹ And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring:

⁴⁰ That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God.

Numbers 15:39-40

This special message is given to those in these last days who are ready and willing to follow the Lamb wherever He leads them. God does not hesitate to call it the "Law of Moses" but reminds us Moses is His servant and it is His commandment given for all of us. This command specifically applies to a special group at the end of time who are also called His servants and who are not ashamed to be called the children of Israel.

³ Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

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⁴ And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Revelation 7:3-4

The "Law of Moses" is called statutes and judgments. Many are looking for an excuse to ignore the "Law of Moses", the statutes, also known as the Torah. They sometimes use the excuse the statutes and the law (Torah) did not exist until Moses. They need to consider carefully the testimony of God.

⁵ Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws (Torah).

Genesis 26:5

The law was not recorded until Moses but God says even Abraham knew the law.

The Coming of Elijah

Watch! I will send you Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and terrible day of IAUA.

God has specified the message. Now He specifies there will be a prophet to proclaim this message. Like John the Baptist, someone who will come in the spirit and power of Elijah.

¹⁷ And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Luke 1:17

Again, we are reminded, this will occur just before the great and terrible day of IAUA.

³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

Joel 2:31

The disciples were aware of this prophecy by the words of the scribes. They were puzzled by the appearance of Elijah at the transfiguration, when the Messiah had already come.

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¹⁰ And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?

Matthew 17:10

The Messiah acknowledged a third Elijah prophet would come in the future, before His Second Coming, and restore all of God's truth, which had not yet been lost in the Dark Ages to follow.

¹¹ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.

Matthew 17:11

The Messiah also specified John the Baptist was the Second Elijah who had preceded His own appearance in His First Coming.

¹² But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.

¹³ Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.

Matthew 17:12-13

The Results of the Message

He will restore the obedient heart of the patriarch fathers to the righteous children of Israel. He will return the heart's desire of the children to the desire for righteousness held by their fathers. Because, I am coming and I will smite the earth and all the wicked which remain with utter destruction.

The Third Elijah Message will restore the first love, which has been left behind.

⁴ Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Revelation 2:4

The message will restore the love from a heart of obedience.

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:15

The love of the patriarchs for the Law of God will be restored to the hearts of the true children of Israel

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¹⁶⁵ Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Psalms 119:165

The loss of the understanding of all of God's Law has caused the love of His Law to be lost. The heart of the true follower of God will be awakened, restored, and joined with the heart of the patriarch fathers.

¹¹ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.

Matthew 17:11

Misleading Presentations

I am saddened when I hear presentations on the subject of "The Elijah Message", which are misleading. I am always a little excited when I hear the topic is to be presented. I know the presentations will not truly cover the topic as my study of the Bible shows it to be. The presentations are often excellent and cover some very valuable teachings. However, they are not a presentation on the true meaning and purpose of the Third Elijah Message.

The first shortcoming of these presentations usually begins with a concentration on verse six to the exclusion of verse four. Verse four is sometimes mentioned but after the phrase "Law of Moses" is read, the meaning quickly shifts to the "Law of God" and becomes limited to only the Ten Commandments. The word statutes, is often ignored.

The next shortcoming is an interpretation of the sixth verse as referring only to families, fathers, and their children. The entire content of the Third Elijah Message is usually wrapped up in less than fifteen minutes and the rest of the presentations are completely given over to the discussion of the family as the only purpose of this important message from God.

While the presentations and concepts about the family are excellent and valuable, they do not address the true concept of the Third Elijah Message from what I read in the Bible. The words of the Bible are misrepresented and the presentation veered completely away from the message God has for us to understand.

A deeper understanding of verse six is the restoration of the heart of obedience of the patriarch fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to

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the modern children of Israel who are grafted into the vine. Consider these words of God to Isaac concerning his father Abraham.

⁴ And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

⁵ Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

Genesis 26:4-5

A proper focus of the message is on the meaning and importance of verse four. This leads us to a message of reformation and a coming out of the apostasies of Babylon.

Present Truth Focus

I believe the Third Elijah Message is critical to preparing for the end of time. I believe it is the call to the 144,000 for their final preparation before the sealing begins at Pentecost. I believe it is a call to return to obedience to all of the Law of God, including the part called by God Himself, the Law of Moses. The statutes and judgments are explicitly mentioned as the part of the Law of God, which needs to be remembered.

The Messiah knew there would be a falling away and a prophesied restoration of all things.

¹¹ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.

Matthew 17:11

Peter also knew there would be a falling away and a restoration of all things.

²¹ Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Acts 3:21

Daniel prophesied about the falling away where the Law of God would be changed.

²⁵ And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change

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times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Daniel 7:25

Paul spoke explicitly about the falling away where the Law of God would be broken down.

³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

II Thessalonians 2:3

Those called of God at this time will build the wasted places of truth and understanding. They will restore the foundations of truth, which have been trampled by Babylon. They will repair the breach, which has been made by the enemy of souls, in the practice and understanding of God's Law.

¹² And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

Isaiah 58:12

They will clear the paths of righteousness and they will walk in them. They will follow wherever the Lamb leads them here on earth, long before they reach heaven.

⁴ These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

Revelation 14:4

This is the special message from God of "Present Truth" in Malachi 4:4 for these last days. This forgotten prophecy is what we need to focus upon as we prepare for the end of time. This message will result in a reformation and a revival of the church. This message will shake the church to its foundations. Most in the church will never accept the Law of Moses. God can tell them to remember it but they will refuse.

The Shaking

You may be asking yourself, "Why is the Third Elijah Message not mentioned in the writings of Ellen White?" There are a couple of reasons for this but it is important to know the message is there by a different name. This is actually a name well known to Adventists. It is known as, "The Shaking".

There are a great many battles being fought in the search for God's Truth. The Seventh-day Adventist denomination has backslidden on the subject of God's Law. Many are openly declaring the Law of Moses is nailed to the cross. Most reject any suggestion of an interest in what they scornfully call the "Jewish feasts".

Quietly, thousands of Seventh-day Adventists are learning and practicing the feasts (yearly Sabbaths) and the Law of Moses. Soon there will be 144,000. Those who are learning are quietly sharing with those who are interested in learning more truth.

Unfortunately, some who know the 21st century present truth and seek to share it with the brethren are disruptive and militant, presenting truth with critical voices and the proverbial baseball bat. This does not follow the example of our Savior and does not present a good example for God's cause. Some use exaggeration and extreme methods, which is not helpful either. Some may even present shaky and poorly researched concepts. Nevertheless, God has many different people and many different methods. His cause will prevail.

The Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) has taken the lead in spreading the error which states the Law of Moses is nailed to the cross. Their worldwide reach and the power of their presence is heavily felt. Their goal of spreading the undiluted Three Angels Message has been very successful, though the message is not undiluted. The error of rejecting the Law of Moses, contradicts the word of God.

⁴ Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

Malachi 4:4

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3ABN recognizes this discrepancy is part of the final shaking as evidenced by their own statements in a special "Today Live" program titled "Feast-keeping and the Final Crisis". This program was played an unusual three times in the live slot in less than a year (so far). A transcript of the program is available on this web site:

<http://www.iaua.name/Archives/TLA010526.html>

I agree with 3ABN, the controversy over this error is the subject of the final shaking. Unfortunately, I am concerned 3ABN is on the wrong side of God's Truth. Ellen White did not claim to know the exact issues which caused the shaking. She clearly and often spoke on the topic of the coming shaking. These are some quotes from Ellen White on the topic of "The Shaking".

Ellen White Statements

The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion. Satan, clothed in angel robes, will deceive, if possible, the very elect. There will be gods many and lords many. Every wind of doctrine will be blowing. Those who have rendered supreme homage to "science falsely so called" will not be the leaders then. Those who have trusted to intellect, genius, or talent will not then stand at the head of rank and file. They did not keep pace with the light. Those who have proved themselves unfaithful will not then be entrusted with the flock. In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them. The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view. There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal. They have not had the light which has been shining in a concentrated blaze upon you. But it may be under a rough and uninviting exterior the pure brightness of a genuine Christian character will be revealed. In the day time we look toward heaven but do not see the stars. They are there, fixed in the firmament, but the eye cannot distinguish them. In the night we behold their genuine luster. {5T 80.1}

The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. Those who

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have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat. All who assume the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will appear in the shame of their own nakedness. {5T 81.1}

The shaking is described as having already begun and is growing to a greater force. Since this was already true in 1901 (after 1888), it is much more true today. Notice the importance of obedience.

We are in the shaking time, the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. The Lord will not excuse those who know the truth if they do not in word and deed obey His commands. If we make no effort to win souls to Christ, we shall be held responsible for the work we might have done, but did not do because of our spiritual indolence. Those who belong to the Lord's kingdom must work earnestly for the saving of souls. They must do their part to bind up the law and seal it among the disciples. {RH, January 22, 1901 par. 9} {6T 331.2}

The shaking will reach a peak as the sealing begins.

Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads-- it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved--just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already; the judgments of God are now upon the land, to give us warning, that we may know what is coming (MS 173, 1902). {4BC 1161.6}

The shaking will purify the church.

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Just as long as God has a church, he will have those who will cry aloud and spare not, who will be his instruments to reprove selfishness and sins, and will not shun to declare the whole counsel of God, whether men will hear or forbear. I saw that individuals would rise up against the plain testimonies. It does not suit their natural feelings. They would choose to have smooth things spoken unto them, and have peace cried in their ears. I view the church in a more dangerous condition than they ever have been. Experimental religion is known but by a few. The shaking must soon take place to purify the church.
{2SG 284.1}

Many have expressed a concern because there are so many in the church who do not see the truth of the Elijah Message. It is important to remember we are judged only by the light we have received.

Many who have not had the privileges that we have had will go into heaven before those who have had great light and who have not walked in it. Many have lived up to the best light they have had and will be judged accordingly.--Letter 36, 1895.
{LDE 216.3}

The time will come when the light will be given and a decision will be required.

All must wait for the appointed time, until the warning shall have gone to all parts of the world, until sufficient light and evidence have been given to every soul. Some will have less light than others, but each one will be judged according to the light received.--Ms 77, 1899. {LDE 217.1}

We have been given great light in regard to God's law. This law is the standard of character. To it man is now required to conform, and by it he will be judged in the last great day. In that day men will be dealt with according to the light they have received.--RH Jan. 1, 1901. {LDE 217.2}

She again mentioned the Law of God as part of the light.

Those who have had great light and have disregarded it stand in a worse position than those who have not been given so many advantages. They exalt themselves but not the Lord. The punishment inflicted on human beings will in every case be

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proportionate to the dishonor they have brought on God.--8MR 168 (1901). {LDE 217.3}

Everyone is to have sufficient light to make his decision intelligently.--GC 605 (1911). {LDE 217.4}

We also need to remember there is no excuse for willful blindness.

None will be condemned for not heeding light and knowledge that they never had, and they could not obtain. But many refuse to obey the truth that is presented to them by Christ's ambassadors, because they wish to conform to the world's standard, and the truth that has reached their understanding, the light that has shone in the soul, will condemn them in the judgment.--5BC 1145 (1884). {LDE 217.5}

Those who have an opportunity to hear the truth and yet take no pains to hear or understand it, thinking that if they do not hear they will not be accountable, will be judged guilty before God the same as if they had heard and rejected. There will be no excuse for those who choose to go in error when they might understand what is truth. In His sufferings and death Jesus has made atonement for all sins of ignorance, but there is no provision made for willful blindness. {LDE 218.1}

We shall not be held accountable for the light that has not reached our perception, but for that which we have resisted and refused. A man could not apprehend the truth which had never been presented to him, and therefore could not be condemned for light he had never had.--5BC 1145 (1893). {LDE 218.2}

We are standing at the threshold of Final Events! The foot of the 144,000 is lifting to step over. Judgment will begin at the church. Are you looking to heaven or is your head in the sand? Now is the time! Tomorrow may be too late.

Ellen White Vision

There is a sequence of prophetic events here. This is important to guide us in knowing the present truth for the present time. The

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Laodicean Message will grow into the Third Elijah Message and lead to the shaking of the church.

The message to the church of the Laodiceans is a startling denunciation, and is applicable to the people of God at the present time. {3T 252.1} {RH, September 16, 1873 par. 1}

Consider Ellen's powerful vision of "The Future" from the Review and Herald December 31, 1857 concerning a future shaking which has already begun and will soon reach a peak. Given a new title, "The Shaking", it was placed in the book Spiritual Gifts. Volume 1 (1858). It also appears in Volume 1 of the Testimonies to the Church after 1868, and in Early Writings in 1882.

Nov. 20th, I was shown the people of God, and saw them mightily shaken. I saw some with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale, and marked with deep anxiety which expressed their internal struggle. There was firmness and great earnestness expressed in their countenances, while large drops of perspiration rose upon their foreheads, and fell. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God's approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look settled upon them. {RH, December 31, 1857 par. 1} {1SG 183.1} {EW 269.1} {1T 179.3}

Evil angels crowded around them, pressing their darkness upon them, to shut out Jesus from their view, that their eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded them, and they distrust God, and next murmur against him. Their only safety was in keeping their eyes directed upward. Angels were having the charge over the people of God, and as the poisonous atmosphere from these evil angels was pressed around these anxious ones, the angels, which had the charge over them, were continually wafting their wings over them, to scatter the thick darkness that surrounded them. {RH, December 31, 1857 par. 2} {1SG 183.2} {EW 269.2} {1T 180.1}

Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left them, and went to the aid of

The Shaking

those earnest, praying ones. I saw the angels of God hasten to the assistance of every one who were struggling with all their energies to resist those evil angels, and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But the angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them. {RH, December 31, 1857 par. 3} {1SG 184.1} {EW 270.1} {1T 180.2}

As these praying ones continued their earnest cries, at times a ray of light from Jesus came to them, and encouraged their hearts, and lighted up their countenances. {RH, December 31, 1857 par. 4} {1SG 184.2}

I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen. I was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. It will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver of the testimony, and it will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. This straight testimony, some will not bear. They will rise up against it, and this will cause a shaking among God's people. {RH, December 31, 1857 par. 5} {1SG 184.3} {EW 270.2} {1T 181.1}

I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the Church hangs, has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance, and all that truly receive it, will obey it, and be purified. {RH, December 31, 1857 par. 6} {1SG 185.1} {EW 270.3} {1T 181.2}

Said the angel, "List ye!" Soon I heard a voice that sounded like many musical instruments, all sounding in perfect strains, sweet and harmonious. It surpassed any music I had ever heard. It seemed to be so full of mercy, compassion, and elevating, holy joy. It thrilled through my whole being. Said the angel, "Look ye!" My attention was then turned to the company I had seen before, who were mightily shaken. I was shown those whom I had before seen weeping, and praying with agony of spirit. I saw that the company of guardian angels around them had doubled, and they were clothed with an armor from their head to their feet. They moved in exact

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order, firm like a company of soldiers. Their countenances expressed the severe conflict which they had endured, the agonizing struggle they had passed through. Yet their features, marked with severe internal anguish, shone now with the light and glory of heaven. They had obtained the victory, and it called forth from them the deepest gratitude, and holy, sacred joy. {RH, December 31, 1857 par. 7} {1SG 185.2} {EW 270.4} {1T 181.3}

The numbers of this company had lessened. Some had been shaken out, and left by the way. The careless and indifferent who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to agonize, persevere, and plead for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their numbers were immediately made up by others taking hold of the truth, and coming into the ranks. Still the evil angels pressed around them, but they could have no power over them. {RH, December 31, 1857 par. 8} {1SG 186.1} {EW 271.1} {1T 182.1}

I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth in great power. It had effect. I saw those who had been bound; some wives had been bound by their husbands, and some children had been bound by their parents. The honest who had been held or prevented from hearing the truth, now eagerly laid hold of the truth spoken. All fear of their relatives was gone. The truth alone was exalted to them. It was dearer and more precious than life. They had been hungering and thirsting for truth. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, "It is the latter rain. The refreshing from the presence of the Lord. The loud cry of the Third Angel. {RH, December 31, 1857 par. 9} {1SG 186.2} {EW 271.2} {1T 182.2}

The Shaking will be followed by the Loud Cry, which is associated with the Latter Rain, a future event.

The Loud Cry

You may be asking yourself, "Why is the Fourth Angel's Message not mentioned in the writings of Ellen White?" The message is there but by a different name. This is actually a name well known to Adventists. It is known as, "The Loud Cry".

The previous chapter ended with a reference to the final Loud Cry as a future event. Some have questioned my use of this reference. Some have responded, "She said the Loud Cry started the Adventist message." I need only to point to the writings of Ellen White to clear up this point. I read every one of the 188 references to "loud cry" in "The Complete Published Writings" and I did not find any evidence of this. She did refer to the "Midnight Cry" from a vision.

... I turned to look for the Advent people in the world, but could not find them, when a voice said to me, "Look again, and look a little higher." At this I raised my eyes, and saw a straight and narrow path, cast up high above the world. On this path the Advent people were traveling to the city, which was at the farther end of the path. They had a bright light set up behind them at the beginning of the path, which an angel told me was the midnight cry. This light shone all along the path and gave light for their feet so that they might not stumble... {EW 14.1}

Ellen White Statements

She used the term "Loud Cry" in reference to a future event associated with the third angel as is shown in this quote. While part of this quote seems to have an application to past events, take careful note of the close association with the plagues which are a final event in the future. Also note, while the third angel's message has been given as a warning, the actual mark of the beast, enforced by civil law, has not yet occurred. The Laodicean church does not want to be called "nominal Adventists" so they will claim this quote is about the past.

I saw that God has honest children among the nominal Adventists and the fallen churches, and before the plagues

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shall be poured out, ministers and people will be called out from these churches and will gladly receive the truth. Satan knows this; and before the loud cry of the third angel is given, he raises an excitement in these religious bodies, that those who have rejected the truth may think that God is with them. He hopes to deceive the honest and lead them to think that God is still working for the churches. But the light will shine, and all who are honest will leave the fallen churches, and take their stand with the remnant. {EW 261.1}

She sometimes does not distinguish between the work of the third angel and the fourth angel. She associates the two together which I believe was valid for her time. We are beginning to see events more clearly than was possible in her time. Notice the important emphasis on knowledge of the truth.

The Loud Cry

As foretold in the eighteenth of Revelation, the third angel's message is to be proclaimed with great power by those who give the final warning against the beast and his image: "I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird... {8T 118.1}

This is the message given by God to be sounded forth in the loud cry of the third angel. {8T 118.2}

Those whose faith and zeal are proportionate to their knowledge of the truth will reveal their loyalty to God by communicating the truth, in all its saving, sanctifying power, to those with whom they associate. Their lives of holiness and unselfish service will be in conformity with the vital principles of the kingdom of heaven. {8T 118.3}

Ellen White Vision

Please read Ellen's powerful vision of "The Shaking" from the Review and Herald {RH, December 31, 1857 par. 1}, also found in

The Loud Cry

Spiritual Gifts. Volume 1 (1858) {1SG 183.1}, and Early Writings 1882 {EW 269.1}. The vision ends with a description of "The Loud Cry".

I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth in great power. It had effect. I saw those who had been bound; some wives had been bound by their husbands, and some children had been bound by their parents. The honest who had been held or prevented from hearing the truth, now eagerly laid hold of the truth spoken. All fear of their relatives was gone. The truth alone was exalted to them. It was dearer and more precious than life. They had been hungering and thirsting for truth. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, "It is the latter rain. The refreshing from the presence of the Lord. The loud cry of the Third Angel." {RH, December 31, 1857 par. 9} {EW 271.2} {1T 182.2}

Great power was with these chosen ones. Said the angel, "Look ye!" My attention was turned to the wicked, or unbelievers. They were all astir. The zeal and power with the people of God had aroused and enraged them. Confusion, confusion, was on every side. I saw measures taken against this company, who were having the power and light of God. Darkness thickened around them, yet there they stood, approved of God, and trusting in him. I saw them perplexed. Next I heard them crying unto God earnestly. Through the day and night their cry ceased not. I heard these words, "Thy will, O God, be done! If it can glorify thy name, make a way of escape for thy people! Deliver us from the heathen round about us! They have appointed us unto death; but thine arm can bring salvation." These are all the words I can bring to mind. They seemed to have a deep sense of their unworthiness, and manifested entire submission to the will of God. Yet every one, without an exception, was earnestly pleading, and wrestling like Jacob for deliverance. {RH, December 31, 1857 par. 10}

Soon after they had commenced their earnest cry, the angels, in sympathy would have gone to their deliverance. But a tall, commanding angel suffered them not. Said he, "The will of God is not yet fulfilled. They must drink of the cup. They must

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be baptized with the baptism." {RH, December 31, 1857 par. 11}

Soon I heard the voice of God, which shook the heavens and the earth. There was a mighty earthquake. Buildings were shaken down, and fell on every side. I then heard a triumphant shout of victory, loud, musical, and clear. I looked upon this company who, as short time before were in such distress and bondage. Their captivity was turned. A glorious light shone upon them. How beautiful they then looked. All weariness and marks of care were gone. Health and beauty were seen in every countenance. Their enemies, the heathen round them, fell like dead men. They could not endure the light that shone upon the delivered, holy ones. This light and glory remained upon them, until Jesus was seen in the clouds of heaven, and the faithful, tried company was changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, from glory to glory. And the graves were opened and the saints came forth, clothed with immortality, crying victory over death and the grave, and together with the living saints, were caught up to meet their Lord in the air; while the rich, musical shouts of Glory, and Victory, were upon every immortal tongue, and proceeding from every sanctified, holy lip. E. G. W. {RH, December 31, 1857 par. 12}

Will you hear, recognize, and obey the messages leading to the Loud Cry?

Present Truth Message

The message of Present Truth is unique for every generation suited to the problems of that generation. Modern Present Truth is focused on the restoration of all truth after the Great Apostasy. Present Truth is progressive and continues advancing until all the errors of the apostasy are refuted. Present Truth for the 21st century is not the same as it was in the 19th century or even the 20th century. Truth is progressive. All the truth of God is far greater than we see and much has been lost to apostasy through the Dark Ages.

12 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.

II Peter 1:12

The Word of God is our primary source of the present truth for all generations. The light of God's Word is always guiding us into all truth.

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

Proverbs contains one of the many indications we have that truth is increasing. This growth is seen in individuals and can be expected in every generation during periods of enlightenment. This is particularly true in the period of the Reformation which still continues. I suspect this was still true in some way for a small group during the period of the Dark Ages.

18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Proverbs 4:18

It is important to note the prophetic aspects of this familiar chapter. We know in part but the perfect will come and do away without our partial, childish understanding.

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a

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child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

¹² For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

I Corinthians 13:9-12

Truth and Knowledge

There is great value in truth and there are great dangers of knowledge. Paul spoke at length of these things in counsel to Timothy.

¹ Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.

² And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

³ If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

⁴ He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

⁵ Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain.

⁷ For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

⁸ And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

¹¹ But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after

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righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

¹² **Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.**

¹³ **I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;**

¹⁴ **That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:**

¹⁵ **Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;**

¹⁶ **Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.**

¹⁷ **Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;**

¹⁸ **That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;**

¹⁹ **Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.**

²⁰ **O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:**

²¹ **Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.**

Timothy 6:1-21

Paul also expressed the dangers of knowledge in these words to the Corinthians.

¹ **Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.**

² **And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.**

I Corinthians 8:1-2

Four Angels' Message

Ellen White Counsel

Ellen White also counsels us to always be seeking greater truth. She warns of special truths in every age. We should never ignore the past and we should not limit ourselves to the past.

If it was necessary for God's ancient people to often call to mind his dealings with them in mercy and judgment, in counsel and reproof, it is equally important that we contemplate the truths delivered to us in his word,--truth which, if heeded, will lead us to humility and submission, and obedience to God. We are to be sanctified through the truth. The word of God presents special truths for every age. The dealings of God with his people in the past should receive our careful attention. We should learn the lessons which they are designed to teach us. But we are not to rest content with them. God is leading out his people step by step. Truth is progressive. The earnest seeker will be constantly receiving light from Heaven. What is truth? should ever be our inquiry. {ST, May 26, 1881 par. 16} {2BC 1000.8}

We are to continue to grow but we must never run over those around us.

Our work is clearly aggressive. Our warfare is to be directed against error and sin, not against one another. God requires us to be a strength to one another, to heal, not to destroy. We are to be constantly receiving light; and we are not to spurn the message nor the messengers by whom God shall send light to His people. {15MR 297.3} {1888 1121.3} {PC 151.2}

She repeats, truth is progressive. We must move forward and not rest content with the past and where we are.

The great principle so nobly advocated by Robinson and Roger Williams, that truth is progressive, that Christians should stand ready to accept all the light which may shine from God's holy word, was lost sight of by their descendants. The Protestant churches of America,--and those of Europe as well,--so highly favored in receiving the blessings of the Reformation, failed to press forward in the path of reform. Though a few faithful men arose, from time to time, to

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proclaim new truth and expose long-cherished error, the majority, like the Jews in Christ's day or the papists in the time of Luther, were content to believe as their fathers had believed and to live as they had lived. Therefore religion again degenerated into formalism; and errors and superstitions which would have been cast aside had the church continued to walk in the light of God's word, were retained and cherished. Thus the spirit inspired by the Reformation gradually died out, until there was almost as great need of reform in the Protestant churches as in the Roman Church in the time of Luther. There was the same worldliness and spiritual stupor, a similar reverence for the opinions of men, and substitution of human theories for the teachings of God's word. {GC 297.2}

Growth in truth depends on sanctification, which depends on obedience to truth.

Obedience to the law of God is sanctification. There are many who have erroneous ideas in regard to this work in the soul, but Jesus prayed that His disciples might be sanctified through the truth, and added, "Thy word is truth." Sanctification is not an instantaneous but a progressive work, as obedience is continuous. Just as long as Satan urges his temptations upon us, the battle for self-conquest will have to be fought over and over again; but by obedience, the truth will sanctify the soul. Those who are loyal to the truth will, through the merits of Christ, overcome all weakness of character which has led them to be molded by every varying circumstance of life. {TDG 148.2} {ST, May 19, 1890 par. 2}

Light and truth depend on willingly seeking and following.

Those who walk in the light will progress; they will grow up to the full stature of men and women in Christ Jesus. This is the result of sanctification through the truth, and this is what God requires of all. Truth is progressive; and those who are preparing for the last great day will go forward in accordance with the accumulated light which shines upon them from the prophecies and from the lessons of Christ and the apostles. No one will be condemned in the day of Judgment because of a lack of knowledge which he never had an opportunity to

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obtain. The light which never shone upon him will never be his darkness. The truth which God's messengers have presented by pen and by voice, the treasures of the word of God which they have opened to the people, the light which has penetrated the darkened chambers of the mind, will, if rejected, be witnesses against them in the last great day. The testimony which will come with condemning power upon the sinner, and which will close his mouth before God and testify of his guilt, is the fact that he saw the light, but for various reasons in harmony with the carnal heart, would not receive it. He would not receive the truth that was given to save him. The greater the light, the greater the obligations. {RH, January 5, 1886 par. 6}

Truth leads to obedience and sanctification.

If it was necessary for God's ancient people to often call to mind his dealings with them in mercy and judgment, in counsel and reproof, it is equally important that we contemplate the truths delivered to us in his word,—truth which, if heeded, will lead us to humility and submission, and obedience to God. We are to be sanctified through the truth. The word of God presents special truths for every age. The dealings of God with his people in the past should receive our careful attention. We should learn the lessons which they are designed to teach us. But we are not to rest content with them. God is leading out his people step by step. Truth is progressive. The earnest seeker will be constantly receiving light from Heaven. What is truth? should ever be our inquiry. {ST, May 26, 1881 par. 16}

We are in danger of repeating the apostasy of the papacy, if we do not heed the message we receive in our search for truth.

The papal authorities first ridiculed the reformers, and when this did not quench the spirit of investigation, they placed them behind prison walls, loaded them with chains, and when this did not silence them or make them recant, they finally brought them to the fagot and the sword. We should be very cautious lest we take the first steps in this road that leads to the Inquisition. The truth of God is progressive; it is always onward, going from strength to a greater strength, from light

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to a greater light. We have every reason to believe that the Lord will send us increased truth, for a great work is yet to be done. In our knowledge of truth, there is first a beginning in our understanding of it, then a progression, then completion; first the blade, then the ear, and after that the full corn in the ear. Much has been lost because our ministers and people have concluded that we have had all the truth essential for us as a people; but such a conclusion is erroneous and in harmony with the deceptions of Satan; for truth will be constantly unfolding. {ST, May 26, 1890 par. 2}

The greatest care should be exercised lest we do despite to the Spirit of God by treating with indifference and scorn the messenger, and the messages, God sends to his people, and so reject light because our hearts are not in harmony with God. When Christianity is truly received, it will always transform the heart and mould the character. Let those who have been accounted worthy to be expositors of God's word, who have been intrusted with the care of the flock of God, like humble, wise men, open their Bibles with grateful hearts and study its precious utterances. The messenger of God should not only search the Scriptures, but he should also urge the people to study the word of truth. As the miner seeks for gold in the rocks and the mountains, so men should dig in the mine of truth, that they may find out what God has revealed concerning the salvation of man. {ST, May 26, 1890 par. 3}

Present Truth is needed at this time.

The understanding of those who trifle with the plain testimonies of God's Word, and refuse to believe because it is inconvenient or unpopular to do so, will become darkened; truth will appear to them as error, and error will be accepted as truth. There are so many teachers who confuse the mind, and lead men away from the path of obedience, that we need to watch, and pray much for divine guidance. Those who transgress God's law will have much to say about charity; and when the truth is spoken, they talk of the liberality of God's Word and the license given in it. But love for Christ and for the

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souls for whom he died, will lead the servant of God to make faithful warnings and appeals. {SW, June 23, 1908 par. 6}

Those who walk in the light will progress. They will grow up to the full stature of men and women in Christ Jesus. This is the result of sanctification through the truth. Truth is progressive: and those who are preparing for the last great day will go forward, in accordance with the accumulated light which shines upon them from the prophecies and from the lessons of Christ and his apostles. {SW, June 23, 1908 par. 7}

Truth has always been known but greater truth is continually revealed as time progresses.

In every age the gospel ministry has tended to the same end. But every minute specification is not revealed in the Word of God. He desires us to use our reason and experience, by their help adopting methods and plans which, under the existing circumstances, are for the benefit of the church and the schools and the other institutions which have been established. "By their fruits ye shall know them." If erroneous opinions are entertained, search the Scriptures with hearts which are humbled before God. Pray to the Lord, believing that He hears, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. If we will only believe, we shall receive the help we need. {1888 133.1}

The message "Go forward" is still to be heard and respected. The varying circumstances taking place in our world call for labor which will meet these peculiar developments. The Lord has need of men who are spiritually sharp and clear-sighted, men worked by the Holy Spirit, who are certainly receiving manna fresh from heaven. Upon the minds of such, God's Word flashes light, revealing to them more than ever before the safe path. The Holy Spirit works upon mind and heart. The time has come when through God's messengers the scroll is being unrolled to the world. Instructors in our schools should never be bound about by being told that they are to teach only what has been taught hitherto. Away with these restrictions. There is a God to give the message His people shall speak. Let not any minister feel under bonds or be gauged by men's

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measurement. The gospel must be fulfilled in accordance with the messages God sends. That which God gives His servants to speak today would not perhaps have been present truth twenty years ago, but it is God's message for this time. {1888 133.2}

We have great light but more is to come.

This is our work. The light that we have upon the third angel's message is the true light. The mark of the beast is exactly what it has been proclaimed to be. Not all in regard to this matter is yet understood, and will not be understood until the unrolling of the scroll; but a most solemn work is to be accomplished in our world. The Lord's command to His servants is, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." Isaiah 58:1. A message that will arouse the churches is to be proclaimed. Every effort is to be made to give the light, not only to our people, but to the world. I have been instructed that the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation should be printed in small books, with the necessary explanations, and should be sent all over the world. Our own people need to have the light placed before them in clearer lines. {CH 520.3}

Present Truth

This chapter addresses the question, "What are the issues of Present Truth?" This is a summary of some of the items of present truth, which are God's message for this time. This ministry seeks to promote understanding on areas of Biblical confusion and disagreement which are important to the present time. Issues and controversies in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination will be addressed.

¹² 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.

II Peter 1:12

The intended audience of this chapter is the serious students of the Bible pursuing the ideal goal of "Sola Scriptura". "Sola Scriptura" is Latin for "Scripture Only" which means the Bible alone is the rule of faith. This was the goal of the Reformation which was not completely followed as evidenced by the failure of almost all Protestant denominations to forsake the Catholic Sunday worship and obey the 4th commandment. This goal is not completely followed by the Seventh-day Adventist denomination as evidenced by failure to forsake the Catholic/pagan holy days and follow God's Sacred Calendar as described in the Law of Moses.

⁴ Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

Malachi 4:4

Issues of doctrine are exclusively determined by our best understanding of the Bible alone. Doctrine is matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith. There is no place for compromise of core doctrinal values but there is always a place for patience and tolerance. There are also issues of prophetic interpretation which are based on Biblical principles. There is a wider range of understandings on these issues and a need for greater toleration and some compromise.

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I offer my own commentary and understanding on these topics. I always base my belief on the Bible even though my basis may not be fully explained to your understanding. I also offer commentary, guidance, and advice from the writings of Ellen G. White. She is not the source for doctrine though I have never found her to contradict the Bible.

There are stages of spiritual growth beginning with the most basic. Growth must continue through Bible study to increase our knowledge of God and His law. Reading the texts presented in this study is only the beginning of your study. You must meditate on these texts to ingrain their full meaning into your own understanding. Read the entire chapter containing these texts for the full context in which they are given.

⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Hosea 4:6

There are errors and deceptions being taught within and without the denomination. There are important truths which need to be discovered being taught within and without the denomination. The guidance of the Holy Spirit is needed to discern and separate truth from error. When we move beyond the safe little box of the doctrines of the denomination, we open ourselves to more truth, we also open ourselves to a deluge of errors against which we must guard.

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

II Timothy 2:15

There is also a need to recognize what is primary and important and what is secondary and less important. In this time of impending crisis we need to put more focus on what is critical.

²³ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Matthew 23:23

The Bible

You are not a believer in the God of the Bible unless you believe in the Bible. You are not a believer in the Messiah of the Bible unless you believe in the Bible. Only the religion of the Bible offers a Savior, who can save you from eternal death. It does not matter what denominational label you use.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

You are not a believer unless you believe in God, in His Son, in the Holy Spirit, and in the Bible, which is God's written communication to us through His servants who recorded His Words.

¹⁶ For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

¹⁷ For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

¹⁸ And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

¹⁹ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

²⁰ Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

²¹ For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

II Peter 1:16-21

Scoffers will reject the Bible with criticisms and excuses about the accuracy of its contents and its sources. When you believe in an all-powerful God, then you believe He is able to sufficiently preserve His Word. The age of the original words and the various translations from one language to another as well as the deceptions

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of the enemy do make the meaning difficult to discern. However, we are led to understanding by the continuing power of the Holy Spirit. Our Savior has promised us we will know the truth.

³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

Explicitly, He has promised we will have all truth through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

John 16:13

Explicitly, we have been told we will receive this truth through study of the Bible.

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

II Timothy 2:15

Are you studying the Bible for Present Truth to increase your knowledge of God and to remember His law?

Law vs Love

There is a wide ranging controversy between all types of Christians concerning the need to obey all the Law of God or depend only on the Love of God. This is at the heart of Satan's lies and deception. Satan does not believe in God's Love and rejects the Law of God.

Satan makes a mockery of God's Love when he deceives Christians to believe obedience to all of God's Law is replaced by God's Love. Most recognize the value of the Ten Commandments as a moral guideline. The Fourth Commandment is widely ignored and ridiculed but many of the others are also scorned or ignored.

There are many who claim to love Jesus. They are often ignorant of the words of Jesus whom they claim to love.

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:15

Many believers consciously or sub-consciously place the word "Ten" before the word Commandments. Be aware! The Greek word "entole" (G1785) translated "commandments" refers to the Law of Moses.

<http://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G1785&t=KJV>

The same Greek word is used in the Septuagint to translate the Old Testament Hebrew word "mitsvah" (H4687) which is translated to commandments in this fascinating study text.

⁵ Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

Genesis 26:5

Most people recognize the Hebrew word "mitsvah" means the Law of Moses. Here is an interesting question to ponder. If the Law did not exist until Moses, how did Abraham keep it?

There are some who are committed to obey all the Ten Commandments. At least, this is their claim. There is often a disregard for the seventh commandment which is kept hidden. There is also a disregard for the statutes against pre-marital sexual intercourse such as found in Deuteronomy 22:13-29.

Their unfaithfulness in the flesh is symbolic of their idolatry and unfaithfulness to God. Their lusts and desires for worldly goods, pleasures, power, and control often betray their true hearts.

Satan makes a mockery of God's Law when he deceives those who believe in obedience to all of God's Law to forget God's Love in dealing with His erring children.

² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

I John 5:2-3

We must speak out against sin, as I am doing in this study. However, we must also avoid the temptation of Satan to step beyond a loving concern for a person's soul. Personal criticism, judgment,

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and especially sarcastic, mean-spirited comparisons to evil things is not appropriate.

With prayerful and humble submission to the guidance of the Holy Spirit we seek a balance of showing the love of God and a faithfulness to all of His law.

⁹ Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

¹⁰ And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.

Deuteronomy 7:9-10

We must follow carefully our Savior's guidance in dealing with issues of sin.

¹⁵ Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

¹⁶ But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

¹⁷ And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

Matthew 18:15-17

When the sin is not grievous it is sometimes best to be a faithful witness in your own life and pray for the erring individual rather than confront them. Study carefully this advice.

¹⁵ And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

¹⁶ If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

¹⁷ All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.
I John 5:15-17

Present Truth

A personal witness and loving general appeal to the highest standards is often appropriate instead of a personal criticism and judgment of an erring individual or group.

Do you practice the Love of God and obey all of His Law of Love to guide us?

Laodicean vs Legalistic

There are two extremes of Christian practice associated with the conflict of God's Law vs God's Love.

² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

I John 5:2

We need to remind ourselves about an important issue. Unity of the faith and love among the brethren means a deep understanding and recognition of the progress of the walk in faith.

³⁵ By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 13:35

After we are saved, we begin a journey on a path leading to the kingdom of God and complete obedience to Him and faith in His Word. Paul compared this to a race which we must all run and can all win.

¹ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Hebrews 12:1

Ellen White described this path in her first vision.

I seemed to be rising higher and higher, far above the dark world. I turned to look for the Advent people in the world, but could not find them, when a voice said to me, "Look again, and look a little higher." At this I raised my eyes, and saw a straight and narrow path, cast up high above the world. On this path the Advent people were traveling to the city, which was at the farther end of the path. They had a bright light set

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up behind them at the beginning of the path, which an angel told me was the midnight cry. This light shone all along the path and gave light for their feet so that they might not stumble. {EW 14.1} {CET 57.2} {LS 64.2} {ExV 10.1} {WLF 14.2} {DS, January 24, 1846 par. 1} {RH, July 21, 1851 par. 2}

This path has a beginning and an end. None of us have reached the end. The path begins when we accept the Messiah into our lives and believe in Him.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

²⁰ For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

²¹ But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

John 3:16-21

The essence of love and unity among the brethren is to recognize it is a long path. Some are near the beginning. Some are farther along. Some will, at times, run or sprint. Others will usually be seen walking. Some are occasionally resting.

Those with the love of God in their hearts will not compare themselves with others and pass judgment on themselves or others. It is of no importance who is ahead or behind and who is moving faster, slower, or resting. We will seek to help and encourage each other.

As long as we are moving forward on this path, we are progressing. If we deny the light which is still ahead of us and cease to follow, we lose. If we stop and rest too long, there is a danger. Continuing the quote from Ellen White.

If they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus, who was just before them, leading them to the city, they were safe. But soon some grew weary, and said the city was a great way off, and they expected to have entered it before. Then Jesus would encourage them by raising His glorious right arm, and from His arm came a light which waved over the Advent band, and they shouted, "Alleluia!" Others rashly denied the light behind them and said that it was not God that had led them out so far. The light behind them went out, leaving their feet in perfect darkness, and they stumbled and lost sight of the mark and of Jesus, and fell off the path down into the dark and wicked world below. {EW 14.1} {CET 57.3} {LS 64.3} {ExV 10.1} {WLF 14.2} {DS, January 24, 1846 par. 1} {RH, July 21, 1851 par. 2}

The Laodicean says, "I am already saved, I have arrived, and I need to travel no farther."

¹⁷ 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

The true believer recognizes they are already saved from sin and free to obey the God who loves them and whom they love.

²¹ He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.
John 14:21

The legalist says, "I must keep all of God's Law in order to be saved." Even worse, they believe this is what they must teach others and coerce them into law-keeping also instead of obedience from love.

Visualize this interesting problem. You are a true believer on the path to the Holy City. The Laodicean camp is in the distance on your left. The Legalist camp is in the distance on your right. The Laodicean looks at the Legalist camp and sees you in front of the Legalist camp and calls you a Legalist. The Legalist looks at the Laodicean camp and sees you in front of the Laodicean camp and

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calls you Laodicean. Our Savior holds up His right arm with the light to show the way forward. Keep your eyes fixed on Him.

Are you progressing and encouraging others to progress on the path to the Holy City?

Conflict Resolution

It may not be clear to you the path I am taking in laying the groundwork for the progress of the Bible Study. As stated, the purpose of the Bible Study is to study 'Present Truth'. I define 'Present Truth' as the answer to the current issues and conflicts over God's Word.

God is always guiding us forward into a greater depth and understanding of truth. He is restoring an understanding of the truth which existed among His people at the time of the First Coming as exemplified by His disciples at the Pentecost sealing.

Satan is constantly at work spreading lies and deceptions against God's truth. Therefore, we have the 'Great Controversy'. Controversy produces conflicts in the understanding of truth. The work God has given me is to resolve these conflicts. First, I had to resolve these conflicts in my own understanding. Second, I am working to help others. This is an ongoing process.

In order to resolve these conflicts we need tools to assist us in this process. The first tool we need is knowledge. We need to know what the conflict is. We need to have a deep understanding of the issues involved in the dispute. The Bible describes the guidance we receive from God on the importance of knowledge.

⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Hosea 4:6

The way to increase our knowledge is to study the truth. Our focus is on studying the truth and not the error. We need to study the error only enough to see where it diverges from truth. The Bible encourages us in our study and its purpose to divide truth from error.

Present Truth

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

II Timothy 2:15

The Bible is our most important tool and our most valuable resource for knowledge. Careful study of the Bible provides the guidance we need to discern truth. We must study the entire Bible and not just certain verses which can be used to mislead. We need to carefully compare verses in the Bible to build our understanding piece by piece. We must move beyond the milk of the gospel being spoon-fed by the teachers and leaders.

⁹ Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

¹⁰ For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

Isaiah 28:9-10

The Holy Spirit is our teacher and a valuable ally to guide us to an understanding of all truth.

²⁶ But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 14:26

We need to be in constant prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit who will lead us to all truth.

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

John 16:13

We can look to others to assist us in our study but we must be wary of those who may lead us astray and trust in the Holy Spirit to seal the truth.

¹⁵ And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.

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¹⁶ Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.

Isaiah 8:15-16

God commands us to gather together in a holy convocation to worship and study His Word together. This protects us from becoming extreme or confused in our isolation.

³ Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

Leviticus 23:3

This proverb expresses the benefit of mutual counsel as found in clear, well-defined thoughts. Two minds, acting on each other, when guided by the Holy Spirit, become more acute. This is a “sharpening” process.

¹⁷ Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Proverbs 27:17

This also expresses the pleasure and the advantage of conversation. One man is limited because poring over a book in a corner alone will not be of full benefit without interaction with others. Wise and profitable discourse sharpens men's wits; and those that have ever so much knowledge may by interaction have something added to them. However, we must beware to never trust completely in man.

⁵ Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

Jeremiah 17:5

Good men's graces are sharpened by converse with those that are good, but bad men's lusts and passions can also be sharpened by converse with those that are bad. We must evaluate the integrity of our teachers and study partners by examining their actions in the light of God's Word.

²⁰ To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Isaiah 8:20

Present Truth

It is wise to keep disagreements and investigations small to avoid exciting undue interest and conflict.

There are questions about which it is far better to have as little notoriety given as possible, in either case,—for, or against. And our brethren would be wise in not bringing questions of this character to the front, to obtain decisions from the Conference in regard to them. They can be understood and adjusted in a more private way. There are many things that should be conducted in a silent, unobserved way, which would have altogether a better influence upon all minds. {1888 471.2}

It is important to be careful to spend time on issues which really matter and do not be distracted by issues of small value.

Let not side issues take the mind and the affections. We want to make the most of our present opportunities. We want to work while it is day for the night cometh when no man can work. There are many men of influence who are to have a knowledge of the truth, and we must be sure not to hedge up the way. The knowledge of truth is ever increasing. It is not a new truth that opens to the mind; it is not a new principle but a new discovery or a forcible application or revival of that which existed before. The Lord is prepared to present His light to our minds as fast as we will receive it. Open the door and let Jesus in. {1888 497.2}

Are you working to resolve conflicts in the understanding of truth?

God vs Atheism

The most important basic issue of Present Truth and for all time is to recognize and emphasize the existence of God and an understanding of His nature as He reveals it to us. The first verse of the Bible contains depths of meaning we must carefully consider.

¹ In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

Even by looking at just the first three words in the English Bible, "In the beginning", we learn there was a beginning for us and our world. The atheist, who wishes to deny God and His claim on our

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lives, tries to claim our world has existed for untold millions of years and deny its creator. This is the first issue of basic conflict which has existed for millennia.

The fourth word in the English Bible is "God". This sets the tone and basis for all our understanding and the rest of the Bible. We are already committed believers but we must never forget the power of Satan's work to deceive us into denying the existence of God.

During thousands of years of Earth's history, man created his own gods. In the last few centuries a new twist has resulted in the widespread domination of atheism, which denies the existence of any higher authority than man himself. The side effects of this delusion permeate so many concepts, even believers in the existence of God are foolishly misled to forget the awesome power, absolute knowledge, and surrounding presence of God.

¹⁰ Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

Isaiah 43:10

God has revealed Himself to us through personal revelation and His written Word. This is the first issue which must be understood and agreed.

⁷ Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

Amos 3:7

Bible vs Humanism

In this study we will take God's Word as the ultimate infallible method He uses to communicate with us. Humanism looks to the words and philosophies of men instead of primarily looking to the Word of God. We will take the Bible literally at exactly what it says without attempting to twist it to say what we want to believe. The apostle Peter wrote about the words of the apostle Paul and addressed this very issue.

¹⁶ As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other

scriptures, unto their own destruction.

II Peter 3:16

There is a problem we face in understanding God's Word. It was written thousands of years ago in dead languages which no longer exist as they did in antiquity. We use translations of the original text which are not perfect. This requires us to exert care and effort in our study. We are comforted to know the power of God has created and preserved the Bible for our use.

¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

II Timothy 3:16

Our Savior has made a promise we can trust.

³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

Our Savior has promised the Holy Spirit to be our guide. A proper and careful study will be guided by the Holy Spirit and will see the truth in spite of any translation shortcoming.

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

John 16:13

Beware of the false teaching which says some translations are good and some are bad. Some may be better for specific purposes. Some may be more accurate in certain cases. None are perfect but all are the Word of God. Part of recognizing the power of God is to respect His Word in all forms.

¹¹ So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Isaiah 55:11

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Creation vs Evolution

We cannot leave the subject of the power of God without addressing the truth of Creation vs the error of Evolution. The Bible is very clear. God in the persons of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit created everything. The message of Genesis chapter 1 is repeated, with expanded detail, in John chapter 1.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² The same was in the beginning with God.

³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

⁴ In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 1:1-5

God created the entire observable universe in six literal days of approximately 24 hours duration.

¹⁶ And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

Genesis 1:16

Do you recognize the power of God to plan everything in advance and demonstrate His power by the patterns of history and prophecy?

Godhead vs Trinity

There are a large number of individuals who will make a major issue about disagreeing with the Adventist doctrine of the Trinity. There is a great deal of confusion on this subject. The typical argument usually tries to make the Holy Spirit a force instead of a person. They think they have the support of the pioneers and Ellen White. The issue is based on a misunderstanding.

The disagreement of the pioneers was not about the number three. The pioneers rejected the teaching of the Trinity because the usual interpretation would blur the distinction between the Father and Son. Some would deny the divinity of the Son and others would deny the Father was separate from the Son. The discussions on this topic lead

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some to believe the pioneers dismissed the Holy Spirit as a person because the focus was on the nature of the Father and Son.

The use of the word 'Trinity' is the only substantial problem I see in this dispute with Adventist doctrine. The word 'Trinity', is a word originated and used by the Roman Catholic Church to describe their doctrine. I am committed to Biblical truth. I am not committed to whatever the Roman Catholic Church doctrine states. The word 'Trinity' is not found in the KJV Bible nor is there any similar word or meaning in the Greek. I find the word Godhead three times in the KJV which does not have the associations with Catholic doctrine.

²⁹ Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

Acts 17:29

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Romans 1:20

⁸ Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

⁹ For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Colossians 2:8-9

The Greek words mean simply 'divinity'. These statements of Ellen White should make the position of the pioneers clear. This statement supports this disputed text.

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Matthew 28:19

The rite of baptism is administered in the name of the Father, and of Son, and of the Holy Ghost. These three great powers of heaven pledge themselves to be the efficiency of all who submit to this ordinance, and who faithfully keep the vow they then make... {6MR 27.1}

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This quote from Ellen White written in November 1905 is valuable insight into her own beliefs, the teaching of the Bible, and the belief of the denomination she represented. It illustrates the disagreement of Ellen White with the doctrines and ideas of Trinity and Pantheism.

I am instructed to say, The sentiments of those who are searching for advanced scientific ideas are not to be trusted. Such representations as the following are made: "The Father is as the light invisible; the Son is as the light embodied; the Spirit is the light shed abroad." "The Father is like the dew, invisible vapor; the Son is like the dew gathered in beautiful form; the Spirit is like the dew fallen to the seat of life." Another representation: "The Father is like the invisible vapor; the Son is like the leaden cloud; the Spirit is rain fallen and working in refreshing power. {SpTB07 62.2}

All these spiritualistic representations are simply nothingness. They are imperfect, untrue. They weaken and diminish the Majesty which no earthly likeness can be compared to. God can not be compared with the things His hands have made. These are mere earthly things, suffering under the curse of God because of the sins of man. The Father can not be described by the things of earth. The Father is all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, and is invisible to mortal sight. {SpTB07 62.3}

The Son is all the fulness of the Godhead manifested. The Word of God declares Him to be "the express image of His person." "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Here is shown the personality of the Father. {SpTB07 63.1}

The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fulness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit-- those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these

powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ. . . . {SpTB07 63.2}

We also find she makes these statements, which clearly establish a belief in the person of the Holy Spirit.

When trials overshadow the soul, remember the words of Christ, remember that He is an unseen presence in the person of the Holy Spirit, and He will be the peace and comfort given you, manifesting to you that He is with you, the Sun of Righteousness, chasing away your darkness... --Letter 124, 1897. {DG 185.2}

When God's people search the Scriptures with a desire to know what is truth, Jesus is present in the person of His representative, the Holy Spirit, reviving the hearts of the humble and contrite ones. (John 15:23, 10-11 quoted.)--Ms. 158, 1898. {12MR 145.2}

The prince of the power of evil can only be held in check by the power of God in the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit. {SpTA10 37.1}

Do you recognize the attempts of Satan to mislead and misdirect?

Ten? Commandments

There is no teaching against the Bible more dangerous in these last days than the currently common teaching which says the limit of God's love and the detailed guidance He provides in His Law is the Ten Commandments. The devil fights us each step of the way to keep us from all truth. The weekly Sabbath truth of the Fourth Commandment is extremely critical and must rightly be upheld. Satan is thrilled when we stop here and ignore the guidance God provides in the rest of His Law.

I am deeply saddened because the powerful work of 3ABN in spreading the gospel to the world is tainted with this heresy. Numerous episodes on 3ABN spread the lie of Satan which says the "Law of Moses" is nailed to the cross. While upholding the Ten Commandments on its special Ten Commandments Weekend it simultaneously teaches the "Law of Moses" is nailed to the cross. Millions of books about the Ten Commandments are distributed for

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free which openly proclaim the "Law of Moses" is nailed to the cross.

What does God say?

⁴ Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

Malachi 4:4

It is interesting to note the parallel command to remember in this scripture.

⁸ Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Exodus 20:8

I have examined every occurrence of the word remember in the Old Testament and the Hebrew word translated remember. These two verses appear to be the only place God has commanded that we should specifically remember something. If I overlooked another one, please let me know. I would love to examine and study it. Does this mean anything to you? It means a lot to me!

I know these are strong words. It saddens me deeply to say them. They are the truth which I must speak. I am happy to be working for this ministry which does so much to spread much of the truth. I agonize before God asking how I can bear the constant reminders of the wrong which is being performed in the name of serving God.

I am reminded by the Holy Spirit how the Bible records so much evil performed by His chosen people, the children of Israel, even in the courts of the temple. Surely there were some among the priests who agonized over the evil. I am also reminded of some other words of God to Ezekiel.

⁶ He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations.

Ezekiel 8:6

God took special notice of those who agonized over the abominations. This prophecy shows them as those who were sealed from the destruction.

⁴ And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

Ezekiel 9:4

What happened to those who were not marked with the seal of God? This judgment began with those who were the leaders who stood in service before God.

⁶ Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.

Ezekiel 9:6

There is one last verse where God also speaks about remembering the commandments.

³⁹ And it shall be unto you for a fringe (tassel), that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments[H4687] of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring:

⁴⁰ That ye may remember, and do all my commandments[H4687], and be holy unto your God.

⁴¹ I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD your God.

Numbers 15:39-41

The Hebrew word used here [H4687] is the word usually translated commandments. This word is mitzvah which is universally recognized as applying to all the Law of Moses given by God. Verse 40 explicitly emphasizes "all". Many people subconsciously (sometimes verbally) put the word "Ten" before the word commandments when this is not what the Bible says.

Did you know it appears the concept of only Ten Commandments exists only three times in the Bible? If I overlooked another one, please let me know. I would love to examine and study it. Take careful note of the Hebrew word [H1697] and the different ways it is translated.

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²⁷ And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words[H1697]: for after the tenor of these words[H1697] I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel.

²⁸ And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words[H1697] of the covenant, the ten commandments[H1697].

Exodus 34:27-28

¹² And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words[H1697], but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice.

¹³ And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments[H1697]; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.

¹⁴ And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go over to possess it.

Deuteronomy 4:12-14

¹ At that time the LORD said unto me, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first, and come up unto me into the mount, and make thee an ark of wood.

² And I will write on the tables the words[H1697] that were in the first tables which thou brakest, and thou shalt put them in the ark.

³ And I made an ark of shittim wood, and hewed two tables of stone like unto the first, and went up into the mount, having the two tables in mine hand.

⁴ And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments[H1697], which the LORD spake [H1696] unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly: and the LORD gave them unto me.

Deuteronomy 10:1-4

The Hebrew word [H1697], used here actually means speech, or word, or saying. The translation "commandment" is somewhat inaccurate. The identical (except for vowel points added in the 7th century) Hebrew word [H1696] is speak. Therefore the phrase "Ten Commandments" is a translation error resulting in a deliberate

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deception of the idea there are only ten commandments we need to obey.

Those who teach against the "Law of Moses" attach great significance to this verse:

²⁶ Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.

Deuteronomy 31:26

They interpret this to mean it was put in a pocket outside of the ark and thus they claim it reduces its status in comparison to the tables inside the ark. The construction of the ark is clearly detailed and describes no pocket. The tablets very well may have been in the center of the ark and the writings placed to the side. Does this reduce their importance? What does God say?

It is true God's Ten Statements are a beautiful summary of the principles of His Law. There is also a beautiful simpler summary mentioned by the Messiah, the principle of Love for God and Love for your neighbor. God reminds us there is a broad range of guidance in all His Law.

⁴ Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

Malachi 4:4

Is it your desire to follow all the commandments of God? Do you have excuses to limit your responsibility to only ten?

Holy Days vs Holidays

The conflict between the observance of God's Holy Days and the observance of worldly, pagan, and Catholic holidays is the most significant issue of present truth today. This issue is second only to the conflict between the weekly Sabbath observance and Sunday observance. The reason the weekly Sabbath is more important is primarily because it occurs every week whereas the yearly Sabbaths occur only seven times a year.

In the same way that the weekly Sabbath tends to become the most emphasized part of the Ten Commandments, because it is the direct worship of God most directly violated by Catholic tradition,

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the yearly Sabbaths tend to become the most emphasized part of the Law of Moses. These are the direct worship of God most directly violated by Catholic tradition.

The term yearly Sabbaths is more accurate than the commonly used term "feasts". The unique characteristic of the yearly Sabbaths is God commands these are days of holy convocation and no work. This is why I find it clearer to refer to them as yearly Sabbaths rather than feasts. The yearly Sabbaths are primarily observed in the same fashion as the weekly Sabbath. On the weekly Sabbath, we specifically remember the creation of which it is a memorial. On the yearly Sabbaths, we remember the past events for which they are memorials and the future events to which they point.

Law of Moses

Even those who claim to believe in the Law of Moses will accept only the observance of the yearly Sabbaths. Many ignore other guidance/requirements God provides for us. The most visible of these is the wearing of the tassels discussed in the next section. It looks like they will accept something they can do privately, but not something, which publicly marks them as believers.

A person, who chooses to follow all the statutes, including the wearing of the tassels, attracts the focus of many critics. Even the most devoted followers and teachers of the Third Elijah Message have warned me of the danger of prejudice against the truth of the message caused by the wearing of the tassels.

There are many general issues of appearance beyond wearing the tassels. Since I began wearing the tassels, I have been made increasingly aware there are many who are highly opposed to anything Jewish. The reaction I have faced to the observance of Passover and the yearly Sabbaths is nothing compared to the reaction toward the wearing of the tassels. Those who believe in the observance of the yearly Sabbaths have reacted the most negatively.

I can almost hear Satan cackle to himself. "The Sunday-keepers ignore just one little commandment". "The feast-keepers ignore just one little statute". How does the Messiah feel when we choose to dismiss one of His requirements? Unfortunately, this is not the only little requirement people ignore. What did our Savior say about the small requirements?

¹⁹ Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:19

I would paraphrase this as:

Whoever intentionally ignores the smallest part of the Law of Moses and teaches this to others, will be unwelcome in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever obeys and teaches the Law of Moses, will be most welcome in the kingdom of heaven.

Remember! Keeping the law of the Messiah does not save you. Belief in the Messiah saves you. Ignoring the law of the Messiah means you do not practice what you believe.

The Messiah was an Israelite. The Messiah observed and obeyed all scripture. He was our perfect example.

²¹ For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

I Peter 2:21

He is our example in all things.

¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

John 13:15

Did the Messiah command something, which is too difficult?

⁴⁸ Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 5:48

Tassels

Shortly after I began studying the statutes as a source of God's commands for His people, I learned the truth about the tassels or fringes as they are called in the KJV version of the Bible. The statute is given in two places.

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³⁷ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

³⁸ Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue:

³⁹ And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them ; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring:

⁴⁰ That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God.

⁴¹ I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD your God.

Numbers 15:37-41

¹² Thou shalt make thee fringes upon the four quarters of thy vesture, wherewith thou coverest thyself.

Deuteronomy 22:12

I was under immediate conviction of the validity and importance of this statute. God has provided His perfect way to show our religious devotion. We are to look upon the tzitzit and remember His law.

This statute is still not honored by most who believe in the statutes. It is interesting you don't even find this mentioned in most discussions or books about the statutes. I suspect traces of anti-Semitism still exist.

The word translated as fringes in Numbers is tsiytsith.

fringe, tassel, lock

Strong's Concise Hebrew Dictionary #06734

The word translated as ribband in Numbers is pathiyl.

cord, thread (twisted)

Strong's Concise Hebrew Dictionary #06616

The word translated as fringes in Deuteronomy is gēdil.

twisted threads, tassels

Strong's Concise Hebrew Dictionary #01434

Present Truth

This practice did not disappear in the Renewed Testament but it is hidden in translation. The translation of border or hem from the Greek is kraspedon.

- 1) the extremity or prominent part of a thing, edge, skirt, margin
- a) the fringe of a garment
- b) in the NT a little appendage hanging down from the edge of the mantle or cloak, made of twisted wool
- c) a tassel, tuft: the Jews had such appendages attached to their mantles to remind them of the law

Strong's Concise Hebrew Dictionary #2899

The Renewed Testament clearly indicates the Messiah obeyed all of Moses law and wore the tzitzit.

²⁰ And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment:

Matthew 9:20

³⁶ And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

Matthew 14:36

⁵⁶ And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.

Mark 6:56

⁴⁴ Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanchd.

Luke 8:44

The Messiah spoke against the practice of making the tassels long and showy.

⁵ But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

Matthew 23:5

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Beards, Shaving, Tattoos, and Piercings

I have not been outspoken on the issue of beards on men. I prefer to witness by example and concentrate on other issues of obedience, which need to be addressed first. It is easy to become judgmental, and unnecessarily critical on this and other issues. I struggle to share truth in love. Sometimes what I say may sound harsh but I pray you may sense a spirit, which is learning to be gentle under the molding of the Holy Spirit.

Let us examine some of the specific statutes in question.

²⁷ Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt thou mar the corners of thy beard.

²⁸ Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:27-28

⁵ They shall not make baldness upon their head, neither shall they shave off the corner of their beard, nor make any cuttings in their flesh.

Leviticus 21:5

¹ Ye are the children of the LORD your God: ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead.

Deuteronomy 14:1

In all the presentations of the statutes I have heard it is interesting I have never heard mention of the beard as well as the tassels. It seems some will follow God enough to accept the private practice of the yearly Sabbaths but to change our daily appearance is asking too much.

There is general agreement on avoiding tattoos and piercings, but I believe it needs to refer to specific Biblical guidance for proper support. It is easy to make the excuse this statute does not apply today. There is the implication this is only wrong when done "for the dead".

Each person must seek God's guidance in their own heart and in their own lives on this subject. This my personal witness to my own understanding of applying the principles of God to my appearance. I am not telling you what you should do. I do encourage you to study

Present Truth

all the guidance God has provided for us in His word and seek His guidance on what He expects from you.

It is appropriate to trim, comb, and arrange the hair/beard for neatness and attractiveness. Excessively long hair on men or excessively short on women is against the natural distinction of the sexes as created by God. Paul gave some difficult teachings in this chapter but here is a statement to consider.

¹⁴ Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

¹⁵ But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

I Corinthians 11:14-15

Shaving, plucking, or coloring the hair is too extreme an action to change our appearance and is telling God you do not approve of how He made you and you know better. These practices are also at the basis of applying makeup and chemicals on the skin to alter appearance as well as the extreme of cosmetic surgery. It is true, sin has marred our bodies, but our true need is a pure heart not perfect-looking skin. We should not seek to look like those who do not follow God's Law. We need to seek a higher purpose to focus on a pure heart.

⁷ But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

I Samuel 16:7

Adornment and Display

We need to look beyond just obedience to God's guidance in His Law. We need to consider the principles in His guidance. A principle behind these statutes is the defiling of the image of God as created in man and women. An excessive altering of the appearance for purposes of adornment or display is a denial of the natural beauty as created by God. Excessive concern with our outward appearance becomes a god of our idolatry. Those who believe in evolution see

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no problem with this because they deny God, the perfection of His plan, or His specific purposes in His creation.

The result of sin means we must wear clothes. There are many verses describing the principles of modesty.

²⁶ Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon.

Exodus 20:26

Simple and modest dress in gender specific and appropriate clothing is to be desired rather than elaborate and costly dress to attract attention to the appearance.

Have you ever pondered why women are criticized for wearing a necklace but men will adorn themselves with ties?

¹⁵ And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

Luke 16:15

I have never understood the purpose of putting a thin showy jacket over a shirt when it is not even cold. Is this adornment or utility? When I was a child, I followed the customs I was taught but I always wondered about this. When I became mature and thought carefully about these practices, I put away childish things.

I do not wear showy or expensive silver or gold watches or watch bands. I do not usually wear a watch at all, but if I did, it would be simple and inexpensive such as with a leather or plastic strap. Even better, I would just put it in my pocket. Why does it need to be displayed at all?

I desire for my appearance to testify of my belief in God as the Creator and a simple acceptance of the way He made me.

Jewish Tradition

Closely associated with the Tzitzit in Jewish practice are the Kippah, Tefillin, and the Mezuzah. I have received comments inquiring and joking about my adopting those practices. It is important to note, these practices are not statutes. These practices are part of the "oral" tradition of the Mishnah and the Talmud. The wearing of the Kippah was apparently not even adopted until about the 2nd century.

Present Truth

I am a student, follower, and teacher of God's Law. I am an Israelite and a Hebrew by practice and belief. I am not Jewish which I define as a mixture of religion and cultural tradition. I do not promote Judaism as a religion. I am not a Messianic, which is a confused mixture of Jewish tradition, Judaism, and Christian religion. I do not wear a kippah because it is a Jewish tradition. I do wear tassels because they are a command of God.

¹⁹ Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:19

There are many assumptions based on Jewish tradition. The most dangerous and damaging of the erroneous assumptions is that "feast-keepers" are interested in the restoration of the animal sacrifices or the importance of rebuilding the earthly Jerusalem temple in Israel. A true student of the Bible recognizes the end of animal sacrificial practice and the transfer of focus back to the heavenly temple. The corrupt idea of resuming animal sacrifices in a rebuilt earthly temple is a crossover from Messianic thinking, which is still deeply bound, in Jewish tradition.

It is true some modern believers of the Third Elijah Message are lead astray by these ideas. This sometimes occurs when they find rejection among those who follow only part of God's Law. Some turn to Messianic groups who share a belief in all of God's Law. They do not recognize the danger of failing to reject Jewish tradition, which results in accepting apostate Jewish ideas after having rejected apostate Roman Catholic ideas. This is sometimes called, in a humorous way, "Jumping out of the frying pan into the fire". Unfortunately, it is very serious when our only desire is to practice obedience to God's Law based only on the Bible record.

It is my desire to practice a primitive godliness from the Bible without the burden of cultural baggage.

Unity and Disagreement

This chapter addresses these questions, "How do we achieve unity and agreement?", "How do we handle disagreement?" Issues and controversies in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination result in a lack of unity and disagreement.

¹ Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalms 133:1

It is a beautiful thing to keep peace in the house of God and find unity in the spirit of truth.

³ Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3

I am becoming increasingly concerned over the conflict within our denomination over the Law of Moses, the feasts, and the statutes. I have spent much time in studying the issues to seek to learn how to resolve this conflict in my own life.

This conflict is not new. It started even in the early church. A careful study of Acts 15 and Galatians is important for you to understand the issues. This is a summary of the issues.

The initial disagreement was over a statute, which was specific to the eating of the Passover lamb. Circumcision was required of anyone, even adults, who ate of the sacrificial lamb.

⁴³ And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof:

⁴⁴ But every man's servant that is bought for money, when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof.

⁴⁵ A foreigner and an hired servant shall not eat thereof.

⁴⁶ In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.

⁴⁷ All the congregation of Israel shall keep it.

⁴⁸ And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that

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is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof.

⁴⁹ One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you.

Exodus 12:43-49

According to the Jewish tradition, because of this statute, those who were converted to God as adults were required to be circumcised to be saved. Notice the subtle switch from the topic of eating the Passover Lamb to the topic of being saved.

¹ And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

² When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

Acts 15:1-2

It is important to note, since the Passover lamb was no longer sacrificed, the statute no longer applied. Adults are no longer circumcised. There is a statute, which says the children of believing parents are to be circumcised on the eighth day after birth. I believe this still applies.

³ And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.

Leviticus 12:3

There were other specific times when God ordered the circumcision of adults. The practice of circumcision caused a conflict even for Moses and his wife.

²⁴ And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him.

²⁵ Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me.

²⁶ So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision.

Exodus 4:24-26

Unity and Disagreement

It is also interesting to note the question in Acts was taken to the church elders for discussion and guidance. Even there it was only by the power of the Holy Spirit the issue was resolved. This is the same counsel I find in the Spirit of Prophecy concerning dissension in the church. Failure to follow this counsel led to serious public contention, which was not resolved even by the General Conference of 1888.

It is a difficult thing to resolve conflicts where the truth of God's Word is in question. It is possible that even the "elders of the church" may be wrong after coming out of millennia of apostasy and error. This is one of many quotes to be considered. The entire chapter needs to be carefully studied for insight and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

While Jesus made it plain that He was under no obligation to pay the tribute, He entered into no controversy with the Jews in regard to the matter; for they would have misinterpreted His words, and turned them against Him. Lest He should give offense by withholding the tribute, He did that which He could not justly be required to do. This lesson would be of great value to His disciples. Marked changes were soon to take place in their relation to the temple service, and Christ taught them not to place themselves needlessly in antagonism to established order. So far as possible, they were to avoid giving occasion for misinterpretation of their faith. While Christians are not to sacrifice one principle of truth, they should avoid controversy whenever it is possible to do so. {DA 434.4}

The initial dispute over circumcision of adults in the early church was expanded to include all the statutes. Apparently, the statutes were not emphasized in the initial teaching of the Gospel. This is consistent with understanding growth comes in stages.

⁵ But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.

Acts 15:5

The council recognized the guidance of the Holy Spirit, which showed the circumcision of adults ended with the sacrificing of the symbolic Passover Lamb. The Passover Lamb was symbolic of the

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Son of God who was the true Lamb of God. After the true sacrifice of the Lamb of God, the purpose of the animal sacrifices was completed.

The council directed the early presentation of critical statutes, which continues even today.

²⁰ But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

Acts 15:20

The council recognized the full teaching of the statutes was available on an ongoing basis. As the laws recorded by Moses were learned, they would be followed.

²¹ For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

Acts 15:21

The Christian walk is a continuing growth into all truth. Those who are farther along in their walk must not be critical of those who have not advanced as far. Those who are indeed farther along in their walk will carefully nurture the growth and strengthening of the foundational faith of their brethren. They will not do the work of Satan to destroy and tear down the church with dissension and discord.

The Spirit of Prophecy clearly describes that even the Savior avoided non-critical issues in His presentations to avoid exciting dissension. Consider carefully the words of the Savior.

¹² I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

John 16:12

I believe the Seventh-day Adventist denomination follows the Word of God closer than any other. God has blessed the denomination greatly with the Spirit of Prophecy. The denomination is not perfect. None of us are perfect but God accepts us as we are. There is no better place for us to be in the body of Christ. As long as the denomination carries the name Seventh-day Adventist it cannot turn its back on the weekly Sabbath. The weekly Sabbath is

Unity and Disagreement

clearly identified by Revelation and the Spirit of Prophecy as a testing truth for the end of time.

The Spirit of Prophecy points to the importance of the statutes but it appears this is not yet a testing truth for this time. Those who know and understand do well to follow their conscience but they need to beware of how they present this truth to others. Criticism, judgment, and argument do not serve the cause of God.

God will provide Himself a prophet to call out a reformation and revival in the denomination and in the world.

⁴ Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

⁵ And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Malachi 4:4-6

Search your heart. The Savior says: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone." Has the Holy Spirit called you to be a prophet of God? Has Satan recruited you to be an agent of dissension?

Unity in Truth

I have been hearing a lot of talk lately from different people about how important unity is in the denomination. Some of these people are in leadership positions. What they say is on the surface very true.

³³ For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

I Corinthians 14:33

The problem is that many times the context of their remarks sounds suspiciously like:

"You should not be disagreeing with me because that causes confusion and a lack of unity."

When we carefully examine the words of the Savior we find an important distinction. His powerful prayer for us all in John Chapter 17 dwells on this subject. Please read and reread this chapter with

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prayer and meditation. As I read it now, contemplating this subject, I am filled with awe, pain, and tears. We are to be one in the Word and in Truth. Not according to any man's way but God's way only.

¹¹ And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

John 17:11

¹⁷ Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

John 17:17

Paul also spoke eloquently in Ephesians chapter 4 on the importance of unity emphasizing that we are united on truth.

¹ I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

² With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

³ Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

⁴ There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

⁵ One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

⁶ One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

⁷ But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

⁸ Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

⁹ (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

¹⁰ He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the

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measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

¹⁴ **That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;**

¹⁵ **But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:**

Ephesians 4:1-15

A related topic is when people start talking about a lack of love in the church. This usually comes from people who are not in charge and are often having problems. What they say is on the surface very true. Love, tolerance and acceptance in the church is very important.

³⁴ **A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.**

John 13:34

The problem is that many times the context of the remarks sounds suspiciously like:

"You should love and accept me and my bad behavior no matter what I do."

We must not accept obvious bad behavior. Paul spoke some very harsh and difficult words.

⁹ **I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:**

¹⁰ **Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.**

¹¹ **But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.**

¹² **For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?**

I Corinthians 5:9-12

But there must be a balance. Remember, Love sinners, hate sin.

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² With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Ephesians 4:2

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Ephesians 4:15

These are such difficult topics that I shrink from approaching them but my observation is that the need is so great that I must. There is so much that needs to be said and I don't have all the answers. This much should get you to thinking and more importantly praying, reading, and studying.

Have you found the right balance in your life?

Control

This is a newsletter reader's comments on this topic:

“I do observe that those in the organizational structure of many different denominations (especially SDA) often quote (or misquote) about the importance of "Unity"; the underlying motive seems to be the wish to control and fear if they cannot control. However, it also is a reaction to things that seem out-of-control, such as loss of members, others involved in ministries (that God is blessing) outside of denomination structure, or "sin". So, the motive for stressing "unity" seems to be a mixed and complicated one, with sometimes seemingly "good" motives, other times not.

“I come back to what I understand to be the foundation of our walk with God in the very beginning of time. God's original plan was for us to each have a personal walk with Him. With sin, which walk first changed to became that the heads of each family were to have an altar of prayer (with the lamb, etc. as offering). Still personal in small family groups or clans or tribes. Some of this is still evident today in some tribes. Then, as sin abounded, it became more organized, but still led by God, in His directions to the Israelites to build a sanctuary patterned after the one in Heaven. You can take this analogy the rest of the way as I know you have studied much about it from this point onward.

“I also come back to what I was taught from an early age in terms of some of the foundations of the SDA denomination and the constitution of this country: The idea of personal choice, personal

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accountability, free-will (through the sacrifice of Yeshua--I use the name Jesus, but here use the name you prefer and believe in). The organization or organizations (be they sacred or secular) are or have been used by God to a point, but in the end times (today), they become (and are) enmeshed with sin to the point of confusion. Only those who have come back to the original, God-designed, heart and personal walk with God (the way it was in Eden) will truly hear Him say "Come Out of her my people." Even if a denomination structure is led by God and not fully caught up in Babylon, I personally must come back to the original design. Praise God if I am able to participate in a denomination body or organization that still has light in it. But even with that blessing, I must have my walk with Him strong enough to not participate in darkness (within the organization) and to not rely upon anybody or structure to do what must occur inside my own heart walk with God. I must know truth for myself.

“On the issue of "sin" and how to respond to "sinners" or "love" sinners: when I read the New Testament in its historical and cultural context, it seems to me that most organized churches err in many directions and are severely lacking in their ability to both love "sinners" and also in knowing how to hold people accountable in God's way. I have gained much in this area by studying the chapter "Helping the tempted" in the book Ministry of Healing by EGW. It also seems to me that at times outside groups (such as 12-step groups) have a more practical understanding of some issues in this area than any church organization. (But there is darkness and confusion in those groups also). Once again, I can only read what is described in the Bible, EGW, etc. and by God's grace be to others what He calls me to be in drawing them to Him. I wish with all my heart that the church body would truly model God's love as well as accountability in this area. But, they often do not. I am grateful for when God is able to use me in this area. That is enough, to be humble in that and used by Him, and to avoid judging or criticizing those who either don't love sinners or who err by doing more harm than good in what they think is accountability or judgment. (the sad truth is, that most church members--be they conservative or liberal--do not want to reach the lost). I have often felt negative about the wrongs the organized body of Christ has done in this area. So, in this I must personally pray to keep that personal walk with God, pray for

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those who do more harm than good, and pray to not be resentful about what I see in the organization.”

The issue of attempts at unity resulting in actions to exercise control is an important observation. In the previous section I addressed these subjects with quotes from the Bible. In this section I highlight this excellent quote in the words of Ellen White.

Testimonies for the Church Volume Six (1901)

Present Truth with Gentleness

The truth should be presented with divine tact, gentleness, and tenderness. It should come from a heart that has been softened and made sympathetic. We need to have close communion with God, lest self rise up, as it did in Jehu, and we pour forth a torrent of words that are unbefitting, that are not as dew or as the still showers that revive the withering plants. Let our words be gentle as we seek to win souls. God will be wisdom to him who seeks for wisdom from a divine source. We are to seek opportunities on every hand, we are to watch unto prayer, and be ready always to give a reason for the hope that is in us, with meekness and fear. Lest we shall impress unfavorably one soul for whom Christ died we should keep our hearts uplifted to God, so that when the opportunity presents itself, we may have the right word to speak at the right time. If you thus undertake work for God, the Spirit of God will be your helper. The Holy Spirit will apply the word spoken in love for the soul. The truth will have quickening power when spoken under the influence of the grace of Christ. {6T 400.1}

God's plan is first to get at the heart. Speak the truth, and let Him carry forward the reformatory power and principle. Make no reference to what opponents say, but let the truth alone be advanced. The truth can cut to the quick. Plainly unfold the word in all its impressiveness. {6T 400.2}

As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. Some who are now ready to take up weapons of warfare will in times of real peril make it manifest that they have not built upon the solid rock; they will yield to temptation. Those who have had great light and precious

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privileges, but have not improved them, will, under one pretext or another, go out from us. Not having received the love of the truth, they will be taken in the delusions of the enemy; they will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and will depart from the faith. But, on the other hand, when the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the true Shepherd's voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd. The people of God will draw together and present to the enemy a united front. In view of the common peril, strife for supremacy will cease; there will be no disputing as to who shall be accounted greatest. No one of the true believers will say: "I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas." The testimony of one and all will be: "I cleave unto Christ; I rejoice in Him as my personal Saviour." {6T 400.3}

Thus will the truth be brought into practical life, and thus will be answered the prayer of Christ, uttered just before His humiliation and death: "That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me." John 17:21. The love of Christ, the love of our brethren, will testify to the world that we have been with Jesus and learned of Him. Then will the message of the third angel swell to a loud cry, and the whole earth will be lightened with the glory of the Lord. {6T 401.1}

Our convictions need daily to be reinforced by humble, sincere prayer and reading of the word. While we each have an individuality, while we each should hold our convictions firmly, we must hold them as God's truth and in the strength which God imparts. If we do not, they will be wrung from our grasp. {6T 401.2}

Stay with the Ship

I have done research and reading about splinter groups from the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. I have seen how the current controversies cause people to leave the denomination sometimes to form their own groups. It is tempting to break away from the

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denomination when personal beliefs diverge from what is taught by many leaders in the denomination.

In my thoughts about this topic I am impressed by this quote from EGW.

Dear Brother M: I had an impressive dream last night. I thought that you were on a strong vessel, sailing on very rough waters. Sometimes the waves beat over the top, and you were drenched with water. You said: "I shall get off; this vessel is going down." "No," said one who appeared to be the captain, "this vessel sails into the harbor. She will never go down." But you answered: "I shall be washed overboard. As I am neither captain or mate, who cares? I shall take my chances on that vessel you see yonder." Said the captain: "I shall not let you go there, for I know that vessel will strike the rocks before she reaches the harbor." You straightened yourself up, and said with great positiveness: "This vessel will become a wreck; I can see it just as plain as can be." The captain looked upon you with piercing eye, and said firmly: "I shall not permit you to lose your life by taking that boat. The timbers of her framework are worm-eaten, and she is a deceptive craft. If you had more knowledge you could discern between the spurious and the genuine, the holy and that appointed to utter ruin." {5T 571.3}

These similar words are also valuable to consider.

You seemed to be sitting in a boat in a shadow, and Elder Canright was turning the light down lower and lower. {1888 33.2}

And then someone said, "We have had enough of this. All this is as the shadow of night; it is the work of Satan." {1888 33.3}

Next he started up uneasy, groaning, and seemed to be like a man paralyzed, and declared he would leave the boat. He saw one that was sailing faster, and all on board apparently were happy. [There was] music and singing. He said, "I am going into that boat. I think this boat will go to pieces." {1888 33.4}

The Captain stood firmly and said, "I know every piece of timber in the ship, and it will outride every storm. But that

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boat has worm-eaten and decaying timbers. It will not endure the tempest." {1888 33.5}

I thought he said, "I am going on that boat if I perish with it." {1888 34.1}

There is a strong tendency of people who learn of the new light on God's Law to pull away from the denomination because so much is preached against new light. I too have been greatly troubled by this but it is very clear to me that this is a mistake.

I remind myself that after very careful study it is clear that nothing in the fundamental beliefs of the denomination is against the new light on God's Law. Yes, there are many books from lofty General Conference offices and personnel which do speak against the new light on God's Law.

In the final analysis, the belief in the weekly Sabbath is inextricably tied to the yearly Sabbaths. As long as the organization has the name Seventh-day Adventist they can never turn their back on the weekly Sabbath. I believe that this was a direct leading of God to bind the denomination to this belief.

It is sad to note that there are many trying to slyly change the organization. Have you noticed that the "Seventh-day Adventist Book and Bible" has become the "Adventist Book Center". "Seventh-day Adventist World Services" has become "Adventist Disaster Relief". There are many other examples of this trend. Do you think this is a coincidence?

The day may come (the shaking?) when the organization will disappear or change so much that it will not be possible to work within the organization. Until then I will do my best to stay with the ship without sacrificing one word of the truth.

While studying this subject the words of Paul while in the storm at sea seemed appropriate.

³¹ Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.

Acts 27:31

Are you going to stay with the ship?

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Controversy

Recent discussions, events, and research for newsletter topics have made clear to me there are some serious issues to be addressed on the subjects of controversy, confrontation, and unity. Unity has different types of concerns in the denomination and in the body of Messiah which is the True Church.

⁵ So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Romans 12:5

"Unity" in the body is love and acceptance of different understandings at different levels of development, without confrontation and arguments leading to controversy, with healthy discussion and investigation.

The denomination tends to see "Unity" as everyone having the same belief and not questioning the official position. Unfortunately, the denomination tends to be concerned about preserving the organization, its control, and its authority a little bit more than preserving Biblical truth. But God has reminded us, because He is the Authority who sets all other authorities in their place, we must respect their purpose.

¹ Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

² To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

³ For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

⁴ But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

Titus 3:1-4

It is extremely important that those who disagree with what the denomination is teaching be very careful to maintain a proper attitude.

God accepts us as he accepts others, and as he accepts the denomination. None of us are perfect. The example of the Messiah is to show the love of God. Patience, understanding and tolerance

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are what we should manifest. I am not talking about tolerance of sin. I am talking about tolerance of ignorance and misunderstanding.

³⁰ And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Acts 17:30

When an individual has been taught a lie for many years by people they respect, who were also taught a lie, it will take a long time for them to understand and accept the truth. We need to have patience and love for others who struggle as we have also struggled.

¹² And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; ¹³ Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

¹⁴ And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

I Timothy 1:12-15

We need to show the love of God to those who are ignoring His law. We are to avoid controversy, attacks, and criticism. We are not to confront those who are teaching error in an attitude of criticism.

But gradually a change came. The believers began to look for defects in others. Dwelling upon mistakes, giving place to unkind criticism, they lost sight of the Saviour and His love. They became more strict in regard to outward ceremonies, more particular about the theory than the practice of the faith. In their zeal to condemn others, they overlooked their own errors. They lost the brotherly love that Christ had enjoined, and, saddest of all, they were unconscious of their loss. They did not realize that happiness and joy were going out of their lives and that, having shut the love of God out of their hearts, they would soon walk in darkness. {AA 548.1}

I have often felt the sting of criticism, individually and as part of a group, which said, I am not a "Happy Christian". I make these

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observations. Mirth is not happiness. Frivolity is not joy. Apathy is not peace. Seriousness is not sadness. Concern is not sorrow. Repugnance is not insecurity.

As a witness for Christ, John entered into no controversy, no wearisome contention. He declared what he knew, what he had seen and heard. He had been intimately associated with Christ, had listened to His teachings, had witnessed His mighty miracles. Few could see the beauties of Christ's character as John saw them. For him the darkness had passed away; on him the true light was shining. His testimony in regard to the Saviour's life and death was clear and forcible. Out of the abundance of a heart overflowing with love for the Saviour he spoke; and no power could stay his words. {AA 555.2}

Consider carefully the reminders that the Messiah avoided controversy.

From the time when the parents of Jesus found Him in the temple, His course of action was a mystery to them. He would not enter into controversy, yet His example was a constant lesson. {DA 89.6}

Though Jesus recognized Satan from the beginning, He was not provoked to enter into controversy with him. Strengthened with the memory of the voice from heaven, He rested in His Father's love. He would not parley with temptation. {DA 119.3}

While Jesus made it plain that He was under no obligation to pay the tribute, He entered into no controversy with the Jews in regard to the matter; for they would have misinterpreted His words, and turned them against Him. Lest He should give offense by withholding the tribute, He did that which He could not justly be required to do. This lesson would be of great value to His disciples. Marked changes were soon to take place in their relation to the temple service, and Christ taught them not to place themselves needlessly in antagonism to established order. So far as possible, they were to avoid giving occasion for misinterpretation of their faith. While Christians are not to

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sacrifice one principle of truth, they should avoid controversy whenever it is possible to do so. {DA 434.4}

We need to lean very heavily on the guidance of the Holy Spirit to know when to speak and when to remain silent. Our own personal practice and example is the best witness. The time and place for action and the results are in God's hands not yours or mine.

Paul was also misunderstood as Peter himself acknowledged. Today those who don't want to do all of what God says still try to make it look like Paul disagreed with God. Silly isn't it? It would be funny if the results were not so disastrous. God is in charge and He has everything under control. Follow Him and He will judge the results.

Be patient and kind to each other and to those in the denomination who see things differently. Never forget how patient and kind He is to us in our weakness.

We must always be charitable and understanding in our discussion of difficult issues to be sure we have and demonstrate the love and compassion of our Savior. We may share what we believe but understanding and conviction comes from the Holy Spirit. We make a great mistake when we take upon ourselves the work of the Holy Spirit and try to convict others of what we see as truth.

Reasonable

An interesting problem arises when there is a disagreement about what is reasonable. This is an excerpt from an email exchange at the end of a long and painstaking discussion of the "Chosen People". This discussion, which often degenerated into confrontation, illustrates these points. We join the conversation with a statement made to me.

...

I think these are reasonable questions to ask and do not believe that I have asked them in a confrontational manner.

I responded:

These are reasonable questions, if asked at the beginning of a discussion. It is confrontational because you continue the same questions or variants long after the discussion is past. I have

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answered these questions already. These questions are stated in a derogatory and misleading way to attempt to force my compliance to your understanding.

I understand your position but I do not agree. If your questions are honest, you do not understand mine. You clearly disagree. It is long past time to accept each other with our understanding. Or you can choose to do as some have done and condemn me as deluded. In that case, you do something which God does not do.

¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 3:17

¹¹ She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

John 8:11

I accept you as my brother in the love of the Messiah. I do not condemn your understanding but I do not agree. Your future is in the hands of the Holy Spirit and you. I do not set myself up to take the place of the Holy Spirit to lead you to truth. I am certainly not egotistical enough to expect you to share my understanding.

One LAST time, I will give a reworded answer to match your reworded questions. I will speak of underlying principles. If you do not see how it applies to your question, it is beyond my control or concern. Enough is enough.

There are three distinct concepts. 1. The Law of God as recorded by Moses which does not change, though it can increase in specific guidance adapted to our deteriorating condition and increasing sin. 2. The people of God who can choose to obey or disobey. 3. The Everlasting covenant which is based on obedience and also adapts. When individuals or groups obey they remain within the full extent of the covenant. When they do not obey through long term, deep seated apostasy, they reject the covenant and are no longer under its terms.

You claim the Jewish people receive the full benefit of the covenant without obedience to its precepts and in spite of rejecting the author of the covenant. Ridiculous.

Enough!

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Does Satan tempt you to dispute and controversy? Is your motivation to share truth in love with those who are ready and willing to listen?

Focus on Truth

This world is filled with so much disagreement, deception, and discord. Unfortunately, the denomination is often the same way to a somewhat lesser extent. When and where will we find peace and unity? The subject of "Unity in Truth" is a subject of considerable concern to me. I am surrounded by so much controversy, it can be discouraging. There is so much deception, confusion, apathy, and ignorance.

How will we find unity? I believe it will be by focusing on truth. I find myself returning to this subject with these additional instructive quotes on how and when we will find unity in truth.

Jesus prayed that his followers might be one; but we are not to sacrifice the truth in order to secure this union, for we are to be sanctified through the truth. Here is the foundation of all true peace. Human wisdom would change all this, pronouncing this basis too narrow. Men would try to effect unity through concession to popular opinion, through compromise with the world, a sacrifice of vital godliness. But truth is God's basis for the unity of his people. {RH, April 12, 1892 par. 19} {OHC 329.3}

"Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth." How can the truth be laid out before our people that they will every one arouse from the lethargy which has been upon them, and come to a realization of the times in which we are living? How shall we present the need of greater zeal and more determined earnestness in searching the Scriptures, so that they may dig in the mines of truth and bring forth the treasures of God's word? It is not safe for us as reformers to repeat the history of the Reformers in every particular; for after those to whom God gave light advanced to a certain knowledge, many of them ceased to be reformers. We must not for a moment think that

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there is no more light and truth to be given us, and become careless, and let the sanctifying power of the truth leak out of our hearts by our attitude of satisfaction in what we have already attained. We are not to fold our hands in complacency, and say, "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing." {RH, August 7, 1894 par. 1}

It is a fact that we have the truth, and we must hold with tenacity to the positions that cannot be shaken; but we must not look with suspicion upon any new light which God may send, and say, Really, we cannot see that we need any more light than the old truth which we have hitherto received, and in which we are settled. While we hold to this position, the testimony of the True Witness applies to our cases its rebuke, "And knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Those who feel rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing, are in a condition of blindness as to their true condition before God, and they know it not. But the True Witness declares, "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 eye-salve, that thou mayest see." {RH, August 7, 1894 par. 2}

We must not for a moment think that there is no more light, no more truth to be given us. We are in danger of becoming careless, by our indifference losing the sanctifying power of truth, and composing ourselves with the thought, "I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing." [REV. 3:17.] While we must hold fast to the truths which we have already received, we must not look with suspicion upon any new light that God may send. {GW92 390.1} {GW 310.4}

It has been shown me that there is a fault with us, of honoring the human, flattering men, accepting their ideas, their judgment, as the voice of God, and advocating their cause. Many have such confidence in those whom they have been accustomed to regard as leaders, that they seem incapable of discerning when these persons are in error, and they are ready

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to cling to and defend erroneous positions, because others do so. This spirit is displeasing to God, and is dangerous to all who indulge in it; for if leading men allow themselves to be controlled by prejudice, evil surmisings, or envy, those who look to them for an example are led astray. Brethren, trust not in man; look to God; trust in his infallible wisdom. Shun as a sin the practice, so common even among Seventh-day Adventists, of becoming the echo of any man, whatever his position. Listen to the voice of the True Shepherd, and you will never be led astray. {GW92 390.2}

Jesus prayed for his disciples, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us." [JOHN 17:21.] Just before, he said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." [JOHN 17:17.] And he had given them the promise, "When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth." [JOHN 16:13.] Through the Holy Spirit, Christ will open more clearly to those who will believe on him that which he has inspired holy men to write concerning the truth. And it is thus that the unity for which Christ prayed is to be effected. We are to receive sanctification through obedience to the word and the Spirit of truth. {GW92 391.1}

We cannot surrender the truth in order to accomplish this union; for the very means by which it is to be gained is sanctification through the truth. Human wisdom would change all this, thinking this basis of union too narrow. Men would effect a union through conformity to popular opinions, through a compromise with the world. But truth is God's basis for the unity of his people. {GW92 391.2}

Is there a love and powerful desire for the sanctifying and unifying power of all truth in your heart?

Disagreement

Disagreement is a somewhat never-ending constant when you keep all of God's Law and witness to your belief. These are some

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comments from the LinkedIn discussion introduced with the question:

Is the Seventh-day Adventist denomination no longer a movement, but simply a denomination that is stuck in its ways?

There has been extensive editing to shorten and focus the presentation.

jesse roquios • To the question Frank started, I think so.

Try asking any pastor any topic that is not within the fundamental belief, most probably you will get a sermon but doesn't really answer your question, e.g. the feasts.

I had a very interesting session with one of our younger pastors here where we discussed the feasts and why we don't observe it. The usual answer of we are under the new covenant and not under the law was the response. I pointed out that communion service actually originated from Christ's observance of the passover.

Why we join in celebrating christmas every 25th of December when we don't believe on it to the extent that we have christmas cantatas, is another aspect I think that has been taken for granted.

My observation is instead of spreading the gospel. not only us but other denominations as well, the idea of indoctrination is practiced believing that what we believe in(our doctrine) is the truth. The idea of conversion has taken over the spirit of witnessing.

Frank T. Clark • Jesse, It is interesting to compare the similarity of responses when you ask SDA pastors about the feasts and the response of a typical Sunday pastor when you ask them about the Sabbath.

It is also amusing to hear SDA pastors criticize Sunday pastors for picking and choosing which commandments they ignore. Then you realize SDA pastors pick and choose which of God's statutes they ignore (Leviticus 23).

(Now I am going to really get in trouble.)

Then you hear a feast-keeping SDA pastor explaining why they don't observe God's command to wear tassels (Numbers 15:37-41) or why they shave (Leviticus 21:5).

When you truly love God and submit to everything He asks us to do you no longer need to offer explanations or excuses. Then we will really have a movement!

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Daniel Murray • Having studied and considered the position on feast days, I have come to the conclusion that they are not to be kept post the death of Christ.

My reasoning for this is simple: God has promised to write His law in our hearts and minds, and in so doing we will obey His law. There's a process that we need to go through to allow the law to be written there, which is essentially the putting away of sin. But the simple fact is that God's law will be in our hearts.

So here's the thing. Why does Paul go to great lengths to explain salvation by grace alone? If we are saved by faith, what can keeping the feasts do for us that the power of Christ can't?

The outward attempts of righteousness were condemned by Christ, yet here people are saying those same events should be kept today. This makes no sense in the overall plan of redemption. Christ has redeemed us from the power of sin; victory is there for us if only we believe in the power of Christ. Any outward works of righteousness that do not lead to the righteousness of Christ being imputed to us are, in my opinion, exactly that - works of our own righteousness.

And we all know that our righteousness is as filthy rags.

I'm not saying the feasts aren't important to understand; they are. But when we accept the love God has for us and realise that He expects nothing more of us than to allow His Spirit into our hearts so that He can create a clean heart and a right spirit within us (which inevitably involves the writing of God's law in our heart), all other acts are of no effect. Why be judged in meat and drink and in new moons and sabbaths when all such things do not in any way present us more favourably to God?

Robin Willison • Just to continue the previous line of thought, as Frank says, people who believe the 10 Commandments have been done away with think they are a burden and we have been set free from trying to bear a burden to be saved by the blood of Christ. The same argument is made about the feast days. The argument is that they are a burden and we have been set free from that burden by the blood of Christ who fulfilled all OT requirements.

I think that the difference with which we perceive the laws of the OT is over how we see the Law of God in general. If any law is a

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burdensome restriction it is because our carnal nature does not want to be restricted by doing what we are told. On the other side, if we truly love our Lord we want to glorify Him in every way. Then we see the 10 commandments not as burdensome restrictions but as promises, as God telling us the dimensions of what it means to love God with all our heart and soul and mind and how to love our neighbour as ourselves. We will also see that the OT feast days are not a burdensome restriction but are designed to keep the plan of salvation ever fresh in our minds and what our Lord has done for us. Each one has a special application to God's last people as Christ became our Passover Lamb, the Holy Spirit was poured out on Pentecost etc. Then we will desire to know more about how Christians can keep these days in order to learn more about the sacrifice made for us and God's plan for the final cessation of sin in the universe.

We don't observe feast days to develop merit before God. Daniel says 'when we accept the love God has for us and realise that He expects nothing more of us than to allow His Spirit into our hearts.' When we have done this, we want to learn as much about Him as He has revealed to us and as the Holy Spirit wants to lead us into, and He has much to teach us through the feast days as He also wants to teach us through the weekly sabbath which is listed in the list of feast days in Leviticus 23.

Patrick Stevenson • Good comment Daniel. I have no problem with those who wish to observe/celebrate the feast days God gave to Israel so that as a nation they would be a continual witness and gospel pedagogue to the other nations of earth. Certainly more biblically consistent than Christmas and Easter, which are adaptations of Pagan feasts. I would have a problem with someone attempting to "guilt" others into the practice of these things. I believe you are correct to observe that Christ has fully become the end of those shadows and is the reality of them. But if you want to organize your life around them for the pedagogical value of it, go for it! ((:

Frank T. Clark • Daniel, I hesitate to respond to your questions after reading Patrick's comment "I would have a problem with someone attempting to "guilt" others into the practice of these

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things." I hope my attempts to share my great love for our Savior are not perceived as "guilt".

¹⁵ **If ye love me, keep my commandments.**

John 14:15

"Why does Paul go to great lengths to explain salvation by grace alone?"

Because salvation is by the grace of God alone. What do you do after you are already saved? You follow in obedience to cooperate with the working out of His salvation in your life.

¹² **Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**

Philippians 2:12

"If we are saved by faith, what can keeping the feasts do for us that the power of Christ can't?"

It can transform us.

² **And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

Romans+12:2

"But when we accept the love God has for us and realise that He expects nothing more of us than to allow His Spirit into our hearts so that He can create a clean heart and a right spirit within us (which inevitably involves the writing of God's law in our heart), all other acts are of no effect."

This was not a question but my response is this, my act of obedience in response to His love has the effect of transforming my heart and soul. I already quoted the verse in John 14:15 of what our Savior also expects when we allow His Spirit into our hearts.

Jesse, Robin, Do you notice any similarity of Daniel's comment about the feasts to a typical Sunday pastor's comments about the Sabbath? Its all about grace and not the law...

I apologize if I have offended anyone or caused them to feel "guilt" because my love for our Savior has led me to complete obedience to His Law and a willingness to witness to His transforming power by the guidance of His Law of Love.

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Daniel Murray • Ah, but Frank, you've missed the fundamental issue. Not once did I say it was all grace and no law. Rather, it's all grace and all law; God's laws written in our hearts! And if they are written in our hearts we will obey them because they become natural to the converted.

Keeping the feasts is in no way related to this! And none of the verses that you have quoted prove what you are saying anymore than they disprove what I am saying.

Be very careful about 'pushing' feast days onto people - this is not supported by scriptural evidence nor is it Seventh-Day Adventist in nature.

Strong words, perhaps, but someone needs to state this for the record.

Patrick Stevenson • I haven't noticed anyone on this discussion "guitling" anyone. My comment re anyone attempting to drive others to keep the feast day by arguments of guilt were hypothetical. The huge difference between the SDA pastor who argues for the seventh-day Sabbath, but not for the feast days is that the feast days were all a "shadow" of things to come, ie the life, ministry, sacrificial death, resurrection and heavenly ministry of Christ. The 7th day Sabbath is without fail invoked as a celebration of the past mighty acts of deliverance by God, starting with creation when Christ the creator brought forth the created order from "chaos" (rough equivalent of the Hebrew of Genesis). The feasts pointed forward to things to come, the 7th day sabbath celebrates the mighty acts of God in the past. (Of course, in celebrating what God has done in the past we also look forward to what He will do in the future...like writing His law on our hearts!)

F. Pietravalle • Robin, here is something from the pen of inspiration, that supports your statement:

The great sin of God's ancient people was their disregard of the commandments of the Lord, and especially their disregard of the day that God had sanctified and blessed. Because of their disregard of his commandments and ordinances, the Lord removed his defense from them, and permitted their enemies to afflict them and scatter them. Has the Lord changed? Did his holy commandments need to

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be amended? -- Not at all. He says, "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that has gone out of my lips." Has, then, the Majesty of heaven, the Governor of the universe, no law?-- Only Satan's sophistry could induce men to entertain such a thought. {ST, October 2, 1893 par. 6}

Frank T. Clark • Daniel, We will have to agree to disagree because I believe it is supported by scriptural evidence and I am first a follower of the Bible and only secondly a Seventh-day Adventist. Strong words, perhaps, but someone needs to state this for the record.

Patrick, I am glad to hear your comment about "guilt" was hypothetical. I know I have a tendency to sound critical and though I try hard to not to be I don't know if I am successful. Though I do know there are some who are clearly far more critical than I and are easy to recognize as going too far.

jesse roquios • Yes Frank, I pointed that matter that it is the same reasoning the protestants are using for not keeping the Sabbath.

Yes salvation is by grace through faith, not keeping the sabbath or the feasts or doing good works or paying tithes faithfully. But, because of your faith you will keep the commandments do good works, pay tithes you will have grace----salvation, as simple as that I think.

Daniel Murray • Frank, there is no such thing as agreeing to disagree. There is only one truth - and in reality we should get together to study the Bible together in the presence of the Holy Spirit. We don't have that opportunity, so I think it best I drop out of this conversation. Not defeated, but hopefully having stated clearly that the readers of this page must look deeper into the Word of God than simply take your word on things. And that's not meant in a disrespectful way - the same applies to all erring mortals, myself included!

But there is only one truth, and the Spirit will teach us that truth. We must first be willing to lay aside all preconceived notions and study the Word as a child. Only then will we see the truth as it is in Christ. This is promised in the Bible, so I am confident that the Spirit

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will teach me if I am genuinely willing to learn. He will teach us all if we are genuinely willing to learn.

I don't believe in the new theology of the SDA organisation, I believe in the original doctrines that founded God's Church for the end of time. We do not need to be SDA to be saved, Revelation 14:12 "Here is the patience of the saints, here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." If we are faithful we will be saved, regardless of the 'church' we grew up in.

The Bible can be no clearer on the character of those who will be saved. My sincere hope is that we are all saved. Is keeping the feast days a salvation issue? You decide. For me, I will be saved if I fully submit my life to Christ. Not that it is about being saved, but about loving Christ.

jesse roquios • Daniel, hope you reconsider not to drop out of this discussion. You have very good points which deserve consideration. Let the Holy Spirit work on your witnessing.

Frank T. Clark • Daniel, Agreeing to disagree means that we will accept each other as brothers, the children of God and continue to discuss issues and study, as you mentioned, with the understanding that we do not agree on this issue. We can continue to discuss details of this issue if it is possible to do so without discord or set the issue aside as one that requires the ongoing teaching of the Spirit to reconcile, as you also mentioned.

I agree strongly with your statement we should take the word of no man but investigate the Word:

"... having stated clearly that the readers of this page must look deeper into the Word of God than simply take your word on things."

I have witnessed to my understanding of the Word with some quotes from the Word. You have witnessed to your belief also. I agree strongly the Spirit will draw all true students and followers into agreement on the Word. It will take some time but the Word promises there will be 144k who are in agreement and shortly thereafter there will be a great multitude, then the end will come.

This is agreeing to disagree. I hope you will reconsider whether there is any such thing. We agree about the purpose and end result. We disagree about our current position but continue to work together. I love this quote which puts it all into perspective.

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"We have many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn. God and heaven alone are infallible. Those who think that they will never have to give up a cherished view, never have occasion to change an opinion, will be disappointed. As long as we hold to our own ideas and opinions with determined persistency, we cannot have the unity for which Christ prayed." {RH, July 26, 1892 par. 7}

Part of an incredible article entitled "Search the Scriptures".

In any of this discussion it is instructive to substitute the word feasts with the word Sabbath.

Do you believe the Spirit will lead us through disagreement?

Agreement

I have expressed many concerns about the unity of the denomination. I have expressed concerns about identifying all truth. I express concerns about disagreement. How do we reach agreement? How do we agree to disagree? How do we show love and unity in the denomination when there are major disagreements over truth?

This subject reached an intense peak recently in a conversation between my son and me. He was feeling a great deal of stress because we have a fundamental disagreement over the applicability of practicing the Law of Moses. I did not immediately understand the reason why he was distressed.

It was finally resolved that there were at least two things bothering him. The first was being troubled that two students of the Bible disagree on what is truth. The second was that he felt I was pressuring him into seeing my point of view. You can see how this directly relates to the two questions posed earlier.

I explained to him that I had long ago accepted the fact that we disagree. Instead of avoiding the subject of the disagreement completely, it was my intent that we could freely discuss related issues in a spirit of sharing and inquiry rather than one person trying to convince the other of a particular viewpoint.

I am increasingly coming to realize that God has a big heart, which embraces all His children even though they have widely divergent ideas about what is truth. God is very patient with his

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children and gives them the time and space for them to grow. Some will never reach a truth that others believe but each is true to their best understanding. In time the Holy Spirit will lead us all to truth. None of us have all the truth.

Some may never reach all the truth before their time on earth is over. God knows each heart and He will save those who believe in Him and followed the truth as far as He led them. God knows His own and we do not. We can never judge and we should never try.

My sons concern was that we both can't be right. This is true. The time will come when all will agree on the truth. That time is not now. We will continue to study the plan of salvation throughout eternity so it is no surprise there will be some things we will never see clearly here on earth. I believe we will come to agreement on major points but it will probably be only a short time before the end of time.

We are in the time of the end but we are not at the end of time yet. I believe the end of time begins with the Time of Trouble. The beginning of this event is given a clear description.

¹ 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.

² 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,

³ Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

⁴ And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Revelation 7:1-4

I believe the sealing occurs at a Pentecost fulfillment as it did for the apostles.

¹ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

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³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

Acts 2:1-3

I believe Revelation tells us very clearly the Time of Trouble is held until this event. I have detailed more about these events in several of my books.

<http://www.SacredCalendar.info/Spring.html#Pentecost>

<http://www.ThirdElijahMessage.info/PropheticContext.html#Pentecost>

I suspect the final events will only last a year, maybe two or three. Then we will be delivered.

Do you have patience, understanding, and love for those with whom we have not yet reached agreement?

A Brief History of Eternity

In this chapter I will outline a brief history of eternity highlighting the primary points and issues the Bible describes. While the Bible is most clear and detailed about the history of the Great Controversy here on earth, there are glimpses into actions behind the scenes. The prophetic ministry of Ellen White also reveals a deeper understanding of important details.

I do not claim any revelation from God beyond the enlightenment provided in the Bible to all who will study deeply.

¹⁵ **Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**
2 Timothy 2:15

Our study and understanding will be guided by the Holy Spirit.

¹³ **When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth... He will show you things to come.**
John 16:13 (FTCABE)

This chapter is a summary of a great deal of information presented in my books from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Every detail is based on the Bible though I may not highlight the direct link to the Bible. Study for yourself with the intent to prove or disprove what is said. My focus is specifically on God's appointed times of worship, which are at the center of the controversy.

Eternity Past

The Godhead counseled together with the plan to create universes of beings to participate with them in happiness and joy. These beings would be given the ability to freely choose whether they would be loyal to the Godhead and each other by practicing a life of selflessness. This is the only way they could share completely in the joy and happiness of the Godhead.

The Godhead knew this freedom of choice would result in one who would turn to selfishness and focus inwardly on himself rather than outwardly on others. This one would direct others to focus on him and his ideas rather than on the Godhead. They saw that the rebellion of one would be spread to others and all would need to be

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shown the error of the evil way. Rejecting the source of life would mean death. The plan was immediately expanded to include the solution to this problem.

The Godhead demonstrates their true love by a completely selfless sacrifice for others. Because only the Godhead could see all truth and know the hearts of all, they devised several ways to clearly demonstrate to all the truth of their plan in a way that everyone who embraced truth would know and none but the rebellious could question. These would become the centerpiece of a broad plan to resolve the rebellion and maintain the freedom of choice.

The Godhead created markers in time for major events of the rebellion and its solution. These markers would be in place from the beginning, before the problem occurred, and last throughout eternity as memorials to the truth. The observance of these days of appointed time from the beginning would demonstrate a pattern everyone would see and know the truth when the events of the rebellion would occur.

Patterns of truth within deeper and increasingly complex patterns and relationships were created which would fascinate and entrance the minds of all intelligences. There would be a level of complexity which all could recognize could only come from the absolute knowledge and power of the Godhead. The full meaning of all the patterns would be known only to the Godhead until the time when events would unfold and the Godhead would reveal the depth of meaning.

The patterns of time were defined and set. Days were defined and grouped into weeks. Months were defined and grouped into years. Signals and counters were defined and grouped into layers of repeating patterns which all could observe and see unfolding throughout the defined limit of the rebellion and its final conclusion. All who were selfless and loyal to truth would be forever convinced and would rejoice. All who were selfish and rebellious would see the truth but reject and deny the Godhead, resulting in their own destruction.

Heaven Past

Angel messengers were created to serve in the courts of God's domain to facilitate the communication and administration of the

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entire universe created by the Godhead. Assembly periods were defined when all created beings would join together in the celebration of God and all He provided them. A most glorious angel was created and designated as the leader of all the angels in the courts of heaven. He was called Lucifer and would lead the angels in their chorus of praise to their creator.

As God had foreseen, a great mystery happened. Lucifer became proud of his exalted position and began to covet all the glory, which was directed to God. He wanted to be exalted above his own creator. God knew the sin, which festered in the heart of Lucifer. He sought to guide him and warn him of the danger of his course of action. Lucifer believed himself more worthy than God and fell victim to his own intelligence granted him by God.

Believing his thoughts hidden from God, Lucifer began to make subtle accusations against God. He sought to change the minds of the other angels and divert their loyalty from God to Lucifer as he flattered them with the very freedom God had given them. The worship intended for God was diverted to Lucifer and the appointed times for worship to God were despised by Lucifer.

God knew it would take thousands of years of heartache and pain caused by Lucifer and his course of sin for the results of sin to become so clear that none who would choose to be loyal would ever be fooled again. Many would be lost to their God but all the rest would be safe forever.

Earth Past

When the earth was created, a test of loyalty to God was set up just outside the Garden of Eden. With lies and seduction Satan caused the human pair to fail the test of loyalty. Satan began a campaign to destroy faith in God and lead mankind to worship him by perverting God's design to selfish intentions.

He lured the children of Adam to forsake God's appointed times and the worship of God. They began to worship self and selfish interests without realizing they were following the evil course of Lucifer who became Satan, the accuser of God and man. Thus Satan became their focus of worship and they became pawns in his battle against God.

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Earth Present

After six thousand years of the pain and heartache of sin, the human race has become so degraded the light of truth can barely be seen. The lies and corruptions of God's plan and God's appointed times have become so deeply ingrained that very few can discern the truth. The many layers of apostasy are so deeply woven very few can see the truth. Many times those who would see one part of the truth would be trapped in error with other parts of truth.

God has always preserved a few who follow His will though they were often confused and erring. God has promised the time will come when all truth would be restored. He has promised a final great prophet who would lead the believers to all truth guided by the power of the Holy Spirit. Satan has attempted to hide and destroy God's truth with lies and deceit but God has kept the truth available to those who would seek it with all their heart and soul.

Earth Future

Soon the last acts of the rebellion will be concluded. Those who remain loyal to God will be lined up on one side and the greater number who reject God on the other. The great prophet and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit will lay the issues bare and all will make their final choices. Then the end of the reign of sin will come.

Heaven Future

During the thousand years of rest for the weary earth, the righteous will live in heaven with their God. The final marker of the many patterns of God will be complete. The entire universe will watch as the terrible record of six thousand years of sin is reviewed and all see the truth of what really happened without the lies and distortions of Satan.

The earth and the universe is cleansed of the blight of rebellion and sin. All who agree on God's love will agree on His justice.

New Earth

In the restored new Earth, with all of the righteous of Adam's race, God's original plan will be restored. Worship to God alone will

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occur on all His appointed times in a new appointed place at the very site of victory over the rebellion.

Eternity Future

Throughout the endless ages of eternity all of God's universes will study the lessons learned from the destruction of the rebellion. All will continue the worship of the Godhead at the weekly, yearly, and other times defined from the beginning. All will experience peace, which will never be threatened again. Been there, done that, won't get fooled again.

Conclusion

God is fair and just and has prepared a final message to the world to prepare those who will follow His guidance. I have confidence God has revealed His truth and has not left us with uncertainty.

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. John 16:13

There are many convincing deceptions which will lead us astray.

²⁴ For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Matthew 24:24

Only by careful study can we separate the deceptions from the truth.

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

God has provided in His own words specific guidance to the truth for this very time in history when the Law of Moses is being nailed to the cross.

⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. Galatians 6:7-8

Will you follow the words of God or the teachings of men?

⁴ Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Malachi 4:4

You won't hear this message being preached in the church. This message has waited silently for two thousand years. This message is now being proclaimed. This is the time of the end. The end of time

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will soon be here. The Lord is coming. Are you ready? God has promised a great prophet just before the end.

⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

⁶ And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. Malachi 4:5-6

The final messages of the Three Angels will culminate in the message of the Fourth Angel with a final outpouring of truth as the last generation makes its final decision to receive salvation or damnation.

¹ And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. Revelation 18:1

Do you have a love for the truth?

¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. II Thesalonians 2:10

I love this quote and I echo its sentiment:

I recommend to you, dear reader, the Word of God as the rule of your faith and practice. By that Word we are to be judged. God has, in that Word, promised to give visions in the "*last days*"; not for a new rule of faith, but for the comfort of His people, and to correct those who err from Bible truth. Thus God dealt with Peter when He was about to send him to preach to the Gentiles. (Acts 10.) {EW 78.1} {ExV 64.3}

To those who may circulate this little work, I would say that it is designed for the sincere only and not for those who would ridicule the things of the Spirit of God. {EW 78.2} {ExV 64.4}

