

Future NEWS

Volume 8, No. 2

February 2004

A SAFE GUIDE

The apostle was well qualified to speak of the purposes of God concerning the human race; for during the earthly ministry of Christ he had seen and heard much that pertained to the kingdom of God. “We have not followed cunningly devised fables,” he reminded the believers, “when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor 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. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount.”

Yet convincing as was this evidence of the certainty of the believers’ hope, there was another still more convincing in the witness of prophecy, through which the faith of all might be confirmed and securely anchored. “We have also,” Peter declared, “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 daystar arise in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. 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.”

While exalting the “sure word of prophecy” as a safe guide in times of peril, the apostle solemnly warned the church against the torch of false prophecy, which would be uplifted by “false teachers,” who would privily bring in “damnable heresies, even denying the Lord.” These false teachers, arising in the church and accounted true by many of their brethren in the faith, the apostle compared to “wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever.” “The latter end is worse with them,” he declared, “than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.”

Looking down through the ages to the close of time, Peter was inspired to outline conditions that would exist in the world just prior to the second coming of Christ. “There shall come in the last days scoffers,” he wrote, “walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” But “when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them.” 1 Thessalonians 5:3. Not all, however, would be ensnared by the enemy’s devices. As the end of all things earthly should approach, there would be faithful ones able to discern the signs of the times. While a large number of professing believers would deny their faith by their works, there would be a remnant who would endure to the end. *Acts of the Apostles*, 534–535.

Future for America produces and mails out a monthly newsletter and audio presentation in English and Spanish. For information you may contact the following brethren who are affiliated with this work:

Future News

PO Box 7

Bonnerdale, AR 71933

Telephone: 888-278-7744

Circulation Manager—Kathy Pippenger

Editor & Speaker—Jeff Pippenger

JeffPippenger@msn.com

Contributing Editor—Pat Rampy

Patrick.Rampy@juno.com

Contributing Editor—Dean Ferrell

Seventhseal@firstVA.com

Spanish Department—Al & Lupe Perez

Futuro de America

PO Box 353

Glenwood, AR 71943

Telephone: 870-356-7049

aperez77@alltel.net

Future News—Canada

Phyllis Vallieres

RR 3, 2552 Cooper Road

Madoc, Ontario, K0K 2K0, Canada

Telephone: 613-473-5332

FAX 613-473-5630

phyllisv@primus.ca

Future for America—Great Britain

Russell & Charmaine Williams

29 Lascelles Close

Leytonstone, London

Telephone: 208-279-6903

judicium@aol.com

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

Future for America intends to print and distribute truth-filled literature, while helping to establish lay-printing operations in parts of the Lord's vineyard where faithful brethren do not have the means to raise up a printing operation with their own resources.

Future for America is a self-supporting 501-C3 non-profit corporation; funded by readers like you. The cost of this newsletter and audio-tape reaching a home is approximately \$3.50.

This publication is sent out free of charge. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

MINISTRY UPDATE

In our recent trip to London and Frankfurt we came to understand the conclusion of our current study on the three woes in a different perspective than we thought possible. When we first began the study we believed the study was important—we now believe it to be one of the most important understandings of end-time prophecy. We are going to attempt to send out the mailings where we address this information on audio cassette in a very short space of time. What you will hear on the tapes will be one of two things. It will either be new prophetic light or error.

It is our desire that you will prayerfully “test” this information. It is directly related to the last six verses of Daniel eleven. If you are new on our mailing list, we would suggest that you order one of the four following items: either *The Final Rise and Fall of the King of the North* book, or audio presentation, or video presentation, or the *Time of the End* magazine. These studies will help identify the last six verses of Daniel eleven, before we refer to them at the conclusion of our study on the three woes.

Dear Kathy,

Would you please send me two copies of the revised edition of *The Final Rise and Fall of the King of the North*? I am enclosing the cost. Hope all of you at *Future for America* are well. I appreciate all the work you and Jeff are doing to get the final warning message to the world. I remember you in my prayers. Your Friend, R.E.—NC

Dear *Future For America*:

The purpose of this letter is to request special prayer for my son, JL, (age 9) and I. I am a single Seventh-day Adventist of 25 years. I am seeking a place for my son and I to go where we can be of service to the Lord. We are desperately seeking the assembling of other SDA's. We have been living in Grants, NM for the past seven years, distributing literature on the reservations, Albuquerque, Grants, and Gallup area. I feel J. and I need to move on, however, am not sure of which direction to go in. We have no family to speak of, limited income, and a minority race. As you can see we have three strikes against us starting out. I own a small RV that we have traveled to Colorado in where we met some very nice Historic Seventh-day Adventists. I learned some wonderful truths there.

At this time I feel very alone and spiritually empty. We live in a predominantly Catholic state and community, and I feel we have done all we can in this area. We have no church family here, as there is only one small Conference church (20 Members). We worship in our home. I am praying we can move somewhere where we can have the association of other sincere Christian people away from the City. If you could present this request to the Lord for us in any weekly prayer sessions you have, I would be greatly appreciative. Sincerely B and JJ—NM.

Dear Brother Pippenger, Wife & Staff,

Thank you for your Daniel tapes. They make me study & think. Listening to them several times is helpful indeed. Grudgingly I loan them to others, but on the other hand it's a joyful experience to share with my dear brethren & sisters for Jesus sake. Your *Future News* is excellent source of information for me. Just must share some of my small allotment of \$ with you. Maybe some day it will be more. Please find enclosed \$. I wish it was much more. May God bless you as you forge ahead. Your Sister in Christ SW

Hello Jeff,

I have been reading your information on the last days on your Daniel eleven study and have really been blessed by it. It's the best and clearest information I've seen on it yet. You certainly did you research on it well and effectively brought out information in an understandable way. Thank you so much for doing this.

My husband and I are great friend with the W's, who you have spoken with many times on the phone. He's the one who turned us onto your newsletter and tapes. He loaned us his copy of *The Overflowing Scourge* which we really got and awakening out of, and I'd like to get a copy of those, as well as get a list of all your audio tapes. Your newsletters have been so enlightening.

It's fascinating how far you are traveling now to teach this information and the reception you are getting. If only our own people here in the US would be as open. Are you going to be at home for a while, or are you still traveling? We live in Arkansas and travel the country teaching the Health Message in vegan/raw cooking schools as part of our ministry. Our income comes from our regular job, which takes us around the country promoting our products to colleges and Universities for their vegetarian line. We have *SoyGood soymilks* and a textured soy protein product, and they are being received very well by the worldly colleges. Our own colleges don't use that much soymilk. Isn't that ironic?

What do you teach on the health message? Do you promote it as the right arm of the Gospel and as the entering wedge to allow people to accept other spiritual things? It's not being promoted from the pulpits anymore and we are gathering sources who are teaching it. I understand that DN had a sermon toady on 3ABN totally on the health message, which surprised me. But I was wondering if this is a part of your ministry's teaching?

Do you have any time in the near future to travel in the US to do weekend talks? I have a special group of friends in Montana who are meeting in a home church and are hungering and thirsting for truth and specifically asked for information on Daniel eleven. I gave them your information. Do you have tapes on your Daniel eleven study? Thank you so much for your diligent work. I believe that the Lord is truly at the door with his hand on the doorknob, so to speak, and that we are living in the last seconds of time. Stay faithful and keep preaching the truth. You never know where the seeds you sow may land and when they will be fertilized by the Holy Spirit. In Heaven we will find out the results of our work. God Bless You Richly, N—TN

Dear Jeff and Kathy,

We must learn to trust in the Lord more and more as time moves on. We have much to be thankful for, blessings everyday. It was neat to read our letter in your recent letter. Still have not heard any news regarding Glacier Point. Sounds like you (Jeff) are going to be busy for the next few months. We pray for the work that many souls be won for the kingdom. Pray for both of us. Friends in Christ, E and V—MI

Dear People at *Future For America*,

We endorse the work that you do, and we know that our Father in heaven cares for you. My daughter is in need of your prayers. This is not an impossible request and our heavenly Father is perfectly able, but we need His help in finding the right place they can afford, in the country, and close enough to the place of work. Moving has never been as full of anxiety as it is in this day and age. We consider it a miracle to find the right place in this tight housing market. We know that the prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Sincerely, WB

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27.



Dear Jeff:

There should be no doubts about Spirit of Prophecy's remarks about the time of the end. That word in Daniel 8:17; 11:35; 11:40 and 12:9 is in Hebrew *eth*, which is used in many places for "time". I checked its Greek translation in the Septuagint, and in these texts it is consistently rendered *kairos*, which is the word for "season", or a span of time, not a point in time. So it is quite reasonable to say that it began in 1798, and also in 1843 and 1844. Because it is as a span of time beginning in 1798 reaching to the advent of Christ.

Another Greek word is *hora* meaning "hour," which is a point in time. *Chronos* is a point in time, used in Matthew 2:7,16; Luke 1:57; 20:9; Acts 1:6,7; 7:17. David Lin

HOW MUCH SAFER ARE WE?

[US Homeland Security Director, Tom] Ridge, who last spring said he would reassess each region's [security] needs on the basis of risk, now admits, "I'm not sure we're ever going to come up with a formula." Whether he does or not, the only real test of his efforts is likely to be another terror attack. *Newsweek*, September 15, 2003.

ALLAH OR JESUS? BY RICK MATHES

Last month I attended my annual training session that's required for maintaining my state prison security clearance. During the training session there was a presentation by three speakers representing the Roman Catholic, Protestant and Muslim faiths who explained their belief systems.

I was particularly interested in what the Islamic Imam had to say. The Imam gave a great presentation of the basics of Islam, complete with a video. After the presentations, time was provided for questions and answers.

When it was my turn, I directed my question to the Imam and asked: "Please, correct me if I'm wrong, but I understand that most Imams and clerics of Islam have declared a holy jihad [Holy war] against the infidels of the world. And, that by killing an infidel, which is a command to all Muslims, they are assured of a place in heaven. If that's the case, can you give me the definition of an infidel?"

There was no disagreement with my statements and without hesitation he replied, "Non-believers!"

I responded, "So, let me make sure I have this straight. All followers of Allah have been commanded to kill everyone who is not of your faith so they can go to Heaven. Is that correct?"

The expression on his face changed from one of authority and command to that of a little boy who had just gotten caught with his hand in the cookie jar. He sheepishly replied, "Yes."

I then stated, "Well, sir, I have a real problem trying to imagine Pope John Paul commanding all Catholics to kill those of your faith or Pat Robertson or Dr. Stanley ordering Protestants to do the same in order to go to Heaven!" The Imam was speechless.

I continued, "I also have problem with being your friend when you and your brother clerics are telling your followers to kill me. Let me ask you a question. Would you rather have your Allah who tells you to kill me in order to go to Heaven or my Jesus who tells me to love you because I am going to Heaven and He wants you to be with me?" You could have heard a pin drop as the Imam hung his head in shame.

Chuck Colson once told me something that has sustained me these 20 years of prison ministry. He said to me, "Rick, remember that the truth will prevail." And it will!

Mathes, is a prison ministry leader.

Editor's comment: The interaction between Rick Mathes and the Imam is informative in two ways. It illustrates the dark foundation of Islam, while illustrating that the religion of Mathes' is also without foundation—for he no longer remembers who and what the antichrist of Bible prophecy is!

"... Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power. . ."
The Great Controversy, 588.

JUDGE WILLIAM YOUNG, SENTENCES THE SHOE BOMBER

US District Court Judge William Young made the following statement in sentencing "shoe bomber" Richard Reid to prison. January 30, 2003, United States vs. Reid. Judge Young:

Mr. Richard C. Reid, hearken now to the sentence the Court imposes upon you.

On counts 1, 5 and 6 the Court sentences you to life in prison in the custody of the United States Attorney General.

On counts 2, 3, 4 and 7, the Court sentences you to 20 years in prison on each count, the sentence on each count to run consecutive with the other. That's 80 years.

On count 8 the Court sentences you to the mandatory 30 years consecutive to the 80 years just imposed.

The Court imposes upon you each of the eight counts a fine of \$250,000 for the aggregate fine of \$2 million.

The Court accepts the government's recommendation with respect to restitution and orders restitution in the amount of \$298.17 to Andre Bousquet and \$5,784 to American Airlines.

The Court imposes upon you the \$800 special assessment. The Court imposes upon you five years supervised release simply because the law requires it. But the life sentences are real life sentences so I need go no further. This is the sentence that is provided for by our statutes. It is a fair and just sentence. It is a righteous sentence. Let me explain this to you.

We are not afraid of any of your terrorist coconspirators, Mr. Reid. We are Americans. We have been through the fire before. There is all too much war talk here. And I say that to everyone with the utmost respect. Here in this court, where we deal with individuals as individuals, and care for individuals as individuals, as human beings we reach out for justice, you are not an enemy combatant.

You are a terrorist. You are not a soldier in any war. You are a terrorist. To give you that reference, to call you a soldier gives you far too much stature. Whether it is the officers of government who do it or your attorney who does it, or that happens to be your view, you are a terrorist.

And we do not negotiate with terrorists. We do not sign documents with terrorists. We hunt them down one by one and bring them to justice.

So war talk is way out of line in this court. You are a big fellow. But you are not that big. You're no warrior. I know warriors. You are a terrorist. A species of criminal guilty of multiple attempted murders. In a very real sense Trooper Santiago had it right when you first were taken off that plane and into custody and you wondered where the press and where the TV crews were and he said you're no big deal. You're no big deal.

What your counsel, what your able counsel and what the equally able United States attorneys have grappled with and what I have as honestly as I know how tried to grapple with, is why you did something so horrific.

What was it that led you here to this courtroom today? I have listened respectfully to what you have to say. And I ask you to search your heart and ask yourself what sort of unfathomable hate led you to do what you are guilty and admit you are guilty of doing. And I have an answer for you. It may not satisfy you. But as I search this entire record it comes as close to understanding as I know. It seems to me you hate the one thing that is most precious. You hate our freedom, our individual freedom. Our individual freedom to live as we choose, to come and go as we choose, and to believe or not believe as we individually choose.

Here, in this society, the very winds carry freedom. They carry it everywhere from sea to shining sea. It is because we prize individual freedom so much that you are here in this beautiful courtroom. So that everyone can see, truly see that justice is administered fairly, individually, and discretely. It is for freedom's sake that your lawyers are striving so vigorously on your behalf and have filed appeals, will go on in their, representation of you before other judges. We are about it. Because we all know that the way we treat you, Mr. Reid, is the measure of our own liberties. Make no mistake though It is yet true that we will bear any burden, pay any price, to preserve our freedoms.

Look around this courtroom. Mark it well. The world is not going to long remember what you or I say here. Day after tomorrow it will be forgotten. But this, however, will long endure. Here in this courtroom and courtrooms all across America, the American people will gather to see that justice, individual justice, justice, not war, individual justice is in fact being done.

The very President of the United States through his officers will have to come into courtrooms and lay out evidence on which specific matters can be judged, and juries of citizens will gather to sit and judge that evidence democratically, to mold and shape and refine our sense of justice.

See that flag Mr. Reid? That's the flag of the United States of America. That flag will fly there long after this is all forgotten. That flag stands for freedom. You know it always will. Custody Officer, Stand him down.

EMPIRE FOR LIBERTY

And we believe that freedom—the freedom we prize—is not for us alone, it is the right and the capacity of all mankind.—President George W. Bush

"America's search for the security against terrorism and rogue states goes hand in hand with liberating their oppressed peoples. From the Evil Empire to an Empire for Liberty is a giant step, a contrast as great as the appalling images of the wasted twentieth century and the brightening dawn of the twenty-first. But America has the musculature and the will to take giant steps, as it has shown in the past. . . . The empire for liberty is the dynamic of change." *www.federalist.com* , December 11, 2003.

USA PATRIOT ACT: LIBERTY FOR SECURITY

More than one wise man has said that people who will sacrifice liberty for security deserve neither. Whether we ever become victims of terrorism is a matter of chance. Whether the federal government will abuse its power is a certainty, proven by the historical record.

In Iraq, the American occupational authority is virtually a dictatorship and can do anything it wants to anybody. But has it been able to stop terrorists? No.

People who ask you to trade freedom for security are con-artists. They will take your freedom away, but they don't provide you the promised security.

The FBI and CIA have plenty of authority without the *Patriot Act* if we insist that those agencies be operated intelligently and with integrity. This country survived for more than 200 years and through plenty of wars without the *Patriot Act*.

If we are spared another [9/11 style] attack, it won't be FBI agents snooping around libraries in American cities who will deserve the credit. It will be field agents overseas doing old-fashioned spy work who will deserve the credit.

You really should write your congressional representative and senators and urge them to repeal the *Patriot Act*. Legislation passed in a hurry and under emotional duress is almost always bad and dangerous. *Conservative Chronicle*, September 3, 2003.

Without liberty, law loses its nature and its name, and becomes oppression. Without law, liberty also loses its nature and its name, and becomes licentiousness.—James Wilson

Dear Jeff:

You are perhaps aware of Sam Bacchiocchi's idea that Islam is also part of antichrist. I have written an article to show that Islam was used of God to fulfill the prophecy that when the saints were slain by the little horn, "they shall be holpen with a little help." Daniel 11:34. This help came in the form of the locusts that came with the fifth trumpet. The opening of the abyss that emitted the locusts fulfills the prophecy of the earth opening her mouth to swallow the rivers of water that came out of the mouth of the dragon in Revelation 12.

The term "crusade" first referred to the armed forces sent by the pope to kill the saints who had fled to the wilderness. Then when the Turks appeared at the borders of the "Holy Roman empire," the pope had to order the European kingdoms to send crusaders against them. In this way, the saints were "holpen with a little help." We look forward to hear of your recent evangelistic efforts abroad. DL—CA

Dear Jeff: I thought this quote might help as you explain to people how God used Moslems to punish the early papal church, and also the final apostate Protestant church in this country.

“The Lord often employs his bitterest enemies to punish the unfaithfulness of his professed people. The wicked may triumph for a time as they see Israel suffering chastisement; but let them be assured that the wrath of God will ere long fall with crushing weight upon themselves. However the sinner may now rejoice in the rewards of unrighteousness, the blind eyes will yet see, the hard heart one day fell, that a life of rebellion against God has been a terrible mistake.” *Signs of the Times*, January 12, 1882.

God Bless! Pat

Dear Jeff,

My friend Bob has a saying, “When God works in your life, it isn’t even subtle.”

We have a friend, BB, who did some painting for us when we first built. He dropped in the other day, first time in probably ten years, just to visit. My wife asked him to clean windows for us (that’s what he does now), so he did our windows that afternoon. She asked him if he still paints, and he said, “Yes”. He came back several days later to paint. He brought a bag of books with him, to show me what he had bought at camp meeting. Two of the books were A.T. Jones: *Ecclesiastical Empires* and *Great Nations of Today*. I’ve been reading the latter, and there is stuff there you must read.

Jones says that in 1892, having to do with the Columbian Exposition (Chicago World’s Fair) (some quotations)—

“Accordingly, when, in 1892, the Supreme Court of the United States especially declared in a decision that “this is a Christian nation,” the *National Reform* combination instantly and gladly seized upon it, and made use of it in every possible way, for the furtherance of their aims. They declared, with glee, ‘This is a Christian nation.’ That means Christian government, Christian laws, Christian institutions, Christian practices, Christian citizenship.” Page 186–187.

Accordingly, when, by the Supreme Court declaration, February 29, 1892, that “this is a Christian nation,” the national government was brought so entirely into accord with their will, they exclaimed at once: “This decision is vital to the Sunday question in all its aspects. . . . And this important decision rests upon the fundamental principle that religion is imbedded in the organic structure of the American government—a religion that recognizes, and is bound to maintain, Sunday as a day for rest and worship.” Page 186–187. For, July 10, 1892, in the regular proceedings of the United States Senate, the Fourth Commandment was read from the Bible, as giving the “reasons” for the legislation under consideration, with respect to the Chicago World’s Fair: “for the closing of the Exposition on the Sabbath day.” The proposed legislation was that day adopted. But, for fear that the Exposition would be really closed on the Sabbath, instead of on Sunday; two days afterward that which had been adopted was amended, so that the words, “Exposition on the Sabbath day,” were stricken out; and, in their place, were inserted the words, “the mechanical portion of the Exposition on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday.”

And this was done expressly, in the words of the legislation, that in the application of the fourth commandment to the closing of the Exposition on the Sabbath, this amendment was to explain and decide that the management of the Exposition should not close it “on the last day of the week, in conformity with that observance which is made by the Israelites and the Seventh-day Baptists;” but “should close it on the first day of the week generally known as the Christian Sabbath.” The legislation passed into law by the approval of the House of Representatives and the executive of the nation.

Thus as in the work and establishment of that false theocracy of the fourth century, Sunday was by legislation, and by law, substituted for the Sabbath of the Lord: so in the work and establishment of this false theocracy of the nineteenth century, there has been by legislation and by law, the substitution of Sunday for the Sabbath of the Lord. That, in the fourth century, and in the Roman State, was the making of the Beast. This, in the nineteenth century, and in this American State, is, step by step, and point by point, precisely like that of the fourth century: the very repetition of it: and, therefore, nothing else than the making of the Image of the Beast. Page. 188–189.

Comments: If you had asked me yesterday whether this law was actually passed, I would have said, “No”. I am sure God sent this book to me at this time to set me straight. We have both branches of the legislature, the executive, and the judicial departments concurring in rebelling against the law of God and by their own authority only, defining the American sabbath. This history is new to me. Plan: I hope to be able to get photocopies of both the legislation and the court decision; but as of this moment I have no idea how to proceed, except to ask JS at the Religious Liberty Department of GC to give me instructions (unless the White Estate perhaps has copies).

Further Comment: Jones is as usual absolutely watertight in his arguments; but in the early stages of the book he absolutely proves that Turkey will play a national part in the Seventh trumpet fulfillment. I think he is nearly right: the force he identified as national Turkey for controlling the Islamic lands—is Islam itself. I’ve been reading history lately, and have come to the opinion that our forebears may have been right in their interpretation that Turkey was to be a major player at the end time—except they were looking at the political side, whereas it is the religious side (Islam) which is mentioned strongly in prophecy.

I’ve sent you several chapters of Jones, *Great Nations of Today*. They contain the information that the Moslem people were never an empire until the Turks organized them so. At first they were a religious movement dedicated to destruction of the Christians and other unbelievers. Thus they truly earned their name Apollyon, Abaddon. It has always been religion that united them to destruction, not politics. It is so today in Iraq: the common people of Iraq are not so much Iraqis as they are Moslems. The two empires at the end are the beast (Rome) and the lamb-like beast (USA), but there are so many prophecies about the destroyers at the end, specially Joel, which do not fit either beast. My problem is that I don’t know what the brethren were teaching about Turkey in the 1930s-1950s. I’ve asked D where to find out what they were preaching, and D says Louis Were mentions their false doctrines. Well, I’ve read Louis Were, all the books we have, and don’t remember his giving any detailed account of what the others were teaching. Of course, they say the memory is the first thing to go. I’ll keep my eyes open and make notes as I read (I’m reading Hitti, *History of Arabia*); but I would really like to get a definitive exposition of the Turkey position of SDA in 1950. Courage, brother. CT—CA

Dear Jeff,

Thank you for your ministry. We are unable to tell you how you have strengthened our faith in the message. In Sabbath school adult class, Dr. N said that we, as a denomination, are ashamed of 1844. We told the world Jesus was coming then, and He didn’t, and we are ashamed of our early error. In the context of Jonah, that immediately let me see why we do not hear Revelation 9:15 preached: we are ashamed that what we predicted didn’t happen.

I had the opportunity to teach several weeks ago and I word-searched the CD for Jonah. I found 122 references, read them all and wrote a short reminder of the applications Spirit of Prophecy made of the Jonah story. It was amazing how many real-life situations she found were worthy of a mention in that respect, and the most important was that our people can find strength in realizing that the Bible prophecies were correct, the calculations of time were correct, and the fulfillment took place on time. It was only our failure to identify the correct fulfillment, which was at fault.

Uriah Smith and others recognized that “an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year” were not the mundane way to identify a future date, and applied the year-day principle. Miller did not focus on this prophecy for intense study, and it was left to Josiah Litch to pin down the historical date (August 11, 1840) and publish it. Desmond Ford criticized his work, saying that Litch had not included the adjustment to the Gregorian calendar in fixing the date. I have not pursued Ford’s criticism but it seems correct.

Regardless, the histories I consulted (encyclopedias and the few histories of Turkey available in the Paradise, CA library) did not even mention 1840 as a significant date. As I wrote to you then, I was sure the prophecy was true, that the biblical date was correct, that I thought the problem was that Litch and Smith were looking at a political fall of Turkey but that the fall was rather a religious one. I now can refine what I think.

Islam was in shambles in 1840. A couple of centuries earlier the Saracens were the major worry of the European kingdoms, and Smith says that in 1830 the Four Powers of Europe were sure that unless Turkey was kept as a weak power in the mideast, Russia and Western Europe would have to meet in war over the hegemony of the Balkan states (Hungary, Romania, Greece, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Moldavia, Poland, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Montenegro—have I left any out?). So the Four Powers set about supporting Turkey to postpone the trouble to our day.

Turkey had come into world prominence in mid-fifteenth-century by confederating the various Moslem powers to war against Europe. Earlier Moslem incursions across northern Africa, high into Gaul, and through the Balkans; these had all been individual victorious armies, not coordinated in their assault on Christendom. But now Othman with his warring Turks had gained such military prominence that all Islam coordinated their efforts to destroy Christianity.

Muhammad died in the sixth century. The religion he had founded looked for a new prophet but none developed, and the leadership fell to Muhammad’s widow. He had married a widow with a son, and that son, (who was not of Muhammad’s blood line), had become the hope of Moslems. But Mohammad’s uncle, Abu Bekr, had inherited the military power, and his son, Ali, was another contender for leadership. That contention remains today: the Sunni Moslems look to the widow’s line for spiritual guidance; the Shi’a Moslems look to Ali’s line. It’s similar to the Catholic question, can the pope be other than Italian?

The religious leader of Islam has the title, Caliph (ka-leef’). In 1840 there were four Caliphs: Mecca, Constantinople, Aleppo, Damascus. None had the authority to dominate the others and carry leadership against the Christians, and the military center was in Turkey. Eighty years later the leadership of Islam was no longer in Turkey, but in Mecca, in the Saud family. In our generation we have seen the decline of the Saudis and the rise of the Imams of Iran.

I believe the “fall of Turkey” of Uriah Smith was the decline from power of the Turkish Caliph and the rise of the Saudis. I’m not sure enough of any of this to publish. What did you find out in London? I got started on this when I read a book by A. T. Jones, *Great Nations of Today*. If you haven’t seen it, it’s probably worth acquiring. Your friend in Christ, CT—CA

Brother CT:

My work in the library in London was cut short because of a holiday that closed the library the following day. I had only one day to look. What I found though was the evidence that, what is recorded by Uriah Smith and others, such as James White—is accurate. It is similar to your conclusions above, but it includes the understanding of the pioneers as well. That understanding being that the Turkish power surrendered its sovereignty to the European powers on August 11, 1840. It wasn’t simply a change of spiritual power. Jeff.

“The Spider and the Bug”

There was once a spider that lived in a cornfield. He was a big spider and he had spun a beautiful web between the corn stalks. He got fat eating all the bugs that would get caught in his web. He liked his home and planned to stay there for the rest of his life.

One day the spider caught a little bug in his web, and just as the spider was about to eat him, the bug said, “If you let me go I will tell you something important that will save your life.”

The spider paused for a moment and listened because he was amused. “You better get out of this cornfield,” the little bug said, “The harvest is coming!”

The spider smiled and said, “What is this harvest you are talking about? I think you are just telling me a story.” But the little bug said, “Oh no, it is true. The owner of this field is coming to harvest it soon. All the stalks will be knocked down and the corn will be gathered up. You will be killed by the giant machines if you stay here.”

The spider said, “I don’t believe in harvests and giant machines that knock down corn stalks. How can you prove this?” The little bug continued, “Just look at the corn. See how it is planted in rows?”

It proves this field was created by an intelligent designer.” The spider laughed and mockingly said, “This field has evolved and has nothing to do with a creator. Corn always grows that way.” The bug went on to explain, “Oh no. This field belongs to the owner who planted it, and the harvest is coming soon.” The spider grinned and said to the little bug, “I don’t believe you,” and then the spider ate the little bug for lunch.

A few days later, the spider was laughing about the story the little bug had told him. He thought to himself, “A harvest! What a silly idea. I have lived here all of my life and nothing has ever disturbed me. I have been here since these stalks were just a foot off the ground, and I’ll be here for the rest of my life, because nothing is ever going to change in this field. Life is good, and I have it made.”

The next day was a beautiful sunny day in the cornfield. The sky above was clear and there was no wind at all. That afternoon as the spider was about to take a nap, he noticed some thick dusty clouds moving toward him. He could hear the roar of a great engine and he said to himself, “I wonder what that could be?” THE END

“Be ye therefore ready also, for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.”

POPE CALLS FOR NEW WORLD ORDER

In *The Times* (a daily, quality, broadsheet newspaper here in the UK), on Friday, January 4th, 2003, an article in the *Europe* section read as follows, POPE CALLS FOR NEW WORLD ORDER ROME: The Pope, appearing in remarkably better form than he had for most of last year, yesterday called in his new year homily for a new international order to save the world from catastrophe and “the lust for vengeance”. This would be achieved, the pontiff said, by promoting human dignity and reducing the gap between rich and poor. The new order should make use of the experience of United Nations, social development and the extraordinary results of scientific and technical progress for the good of all, the Pope said.

WILL THE VATICAN ACHIEVE ITS PLAN FOR A NEW WORLD ORDER?

In the 1992, the May/June issue of *News Watch* magazine ran a report on the interview between the much talked about former Jesuit professor, Malachi Martin, and talk show host, J.P. McCarthy. Martin said the Vatican believes the pope has the “moral authority” to help the world solve its problems. Martin also said that in the not too far distant future we will see an omni-national trading system designed to bring the world’s failing economy under control; and the pope, whoever he may be, will act as head of a supervisory agency which will oversee the movements and decisions of this new economic system.

As of March 1995, Europe had forged a free-trade zone of 19 nations with 380 million consumers. We have the World Trade Organization (WTO) and NAFTA and GATT in today’s world. We also have seen the *International Monetary Fund* (IMF) created with Michel Camdessus, a Roman Catholic, as managing director.

The *National Catholic Register* (NCR), of July 1997, reported that Camdessus believes in the redistribution of wealth and views the spiritual values of a nation as key to its economic health. It is no accident that the pope holds and espouses the same concepts. The NCR further quotes Camdessus as saying he believes the *International Monetary Fund* can make or break struggling nations. He is quoted as saying:

"We are here to help build the new heaven and the new earth, as it says in the book of Revelation. I am called to act in such a way that by making better this world here I prepare, in a better way, for the new earth."

This man believes that, as head of the IMF, he can make life better for countries; and, in that capacity, he is doing God's will. Unfortunately, the IMF, WTO, and other organizations are doing the pope's bidding. Only ten years ago the NCR, of March 13, 1988, reported on Pope John Paul II's encyclical, *Populorum Progressio*.

Dealing with social concerns, the encyclical stated:

"World peace is inconceivable unless the world's leaders come to recognize that interdependence in itself demands the abandonment of the politics of blocs, the sacrifice of all forms of economic, military or political imperialism and the transformation of mutual distrust into collaboration." In other words: a one-world government. The encyclical goes on to say this:

"It is necessary to state once more the characteristic principle of Christian social doctrine: the goods of this world are originally meant for all . . . private property, in fact, is under a social mortgage . . . the universal destination of goods."

In the NCR of November 20, 1997, under the headline, *Vatican Calls for the Broader Debt Reduction for Poorest Countries*, it says: "In his 1994 letter on preparing for the year 2000, the pope said the Jubilee year would be an appropriate time to give thought, among other things, to reducing substantially, if not canceling outright, the international debt which seriously threatens the future of many nations."

Let us remember that the one-world economic system will be able to control nations for the New World Order. The technology is already available. The *Burroughs Corporation* provides the hardware for the *Society of Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications*, representing 1,000 banks on five continents. Revelation 13:17 speaks of a time when no man can buy or sell unless he has the mark, the name, or the number of the beast power.

In February 22–28, 1998, the NCR reported:

"The World Bank and the world's major religions are to establish joint working groups on development issues, it was announced today at the end of a high-level, two-day dialogue at Lambeth Palace, the Archbishop of Canterbury's London headquarters." In summary, we can say that it doesn't take much faith anymore to believe Bible prophecy.

Priest John A. Perricone, the founder of *Christi Fideles, Saving America's Soul*, says that October 17, 1993, was the beginning of the campaign to "Make America Catholic," with Catholic values. Pope Leo XII compared the proper relation between Church and State to "the union of the soul and the body in man."

In this forum, America was pictured in a crisis and in dire need of the only solution: Catholic action, which is social, political, and moral. It was pointed out that Rome owns America by right of discovery by a Catholic, Christopher Columbus.

Let us trace this campaign to 1998. Consider the following:

"The facts: A new Catholic organization seeks to restore Catholic values in a post-Christian society.

"The impact: The mission of the Catholic Campaign for America (CCA) is nothing if not ambitious; the group has set out not to just influence laws on Capitol Hill but to change the very hearts and minds of America. The executive director of CCA [which has its headquarters in Washington, D.C.] is Thomas Wykes. He said. 'We have an obligation to persuade, and the American people have not been persuaded effectively enough yet.' The goal of CCA is to restore Catholic values to society by galvanizing Catholic citizens, increasing the Catholic electorate's influence in public policy, and focusing attention on Catholic moral and doctrinal teaching. Those leading out say the Catholic moment is now and the country is ready for just this kind of bold initiative."—Mary DeTurris, *National Catholic Register*, May 1, 1994.

"The Catholic Campaign for America has a full head of steam. With a membership that has doubled in one year's time and an ambitious plan designed to get Church teachings out of the pews and into the public eye. It is fast becoming a force to be reckoned with. 'Both parties in 1996 should be made aware of the Catholic vote,' said Thomas Wykes, executive director."—*National Catholic Register*; "Public Catholicism," March 26, 1995.

"Ten major markets to get Catholic Radio in a \$58.2 million dollar deal that will bring Catholic Radio 24 hours a day by this fall: The goal is to reach the widest possible audience with radio that is based upon Catholic principles said Joseph Fessio, SJ, of Ignatius Press."—*National Catholic Register*, May 3, 1998.

This is just part of the Catholic Campaign for America, to convince the hearers that Rome has changed. She is now presenting a fair and benign face to the world.

"In a formal papal Bull the pope urges repentance for [the year 2000] Jubilee. 'The Church should kneel before God and implore his forgiveness' He urged 'a new culture of international solidarity' in which 'wealthy nations and the private sector accept an economic model that serves everyone. A panel of Vatican theologians is working on a list of sins to be unveiled by 2000, which include the Crusades, the Inquisition, forced evangelization of the New World and the Church's failure to speak out strongly against slavery and the Jewish Holocaust during the Nazi era.' Statement by Vatican City, quoted in *Dallas Morning News*, November 28, 1998.

The papal Bull is in exact fulfillment of a prophecy Ellen White made many years ago.

"The Roman Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christ-like garments; but she is unchanged." *The Great Controversy*, 571.

Rome tells the world she has changed. As a proof of this, the Archbishop of Taurin noted that the pope has spoken out on the Middle East peace process and war in the former Yugoslavia, as well as other world trouble spots. What many do not realize is that while appearing to bring peace she has had her hand in much of the trouble to begin with, and is playing a double role.

NO SPLIT ALLEGIANCE

But this isn't about "rights" and "representation," and it's not even about "assimilation." It's about allegiance—and we know there is no such thing as a split allegiance. There can be no true dual citizenship; a citizen can serve only one country. *www.federalist.com*, December 11, 2003.

"The Roman Catholic Church, with all its ramifications throughout the world, forms one vast organization under the control, and designed to serve the interests, of the papal see. Its millions of communicants, in every country on the globe, are instructed to hold themselves as bound in allegiance to the pope. Whatever their nationality or their government, they are to regard the authority of the church as above all other. Though they may take the oath pledging their loyalty to the state, yet back of this lies the vow of obedience to Rome, absolving them from every pledge inimical to her interests. History testifies of her artful and persistent efforts to insinuate herself into the affairs of nations; and having gained a foothold, to further her own aims, even at the ruin of princes and people." *The Great Controversy*, 580.

I.M.F. REPORT SAYS US DEFICITS THREATEN WORLD ECONOMY

With its rising budget deficit and ballooning trade imbalance, the US is running up a foreign debt of such record-breaking proportions that it threatens the financial stability of the global economy, according to a report made public today by the International Monetary Fund.

In nearly 60 pages of carefully worded analysis, the report sounded a loud alarm about the shaky fiscal foundation of the US, questioning the wisdom of the Bush administration's tax cuts and warning that large budget deficits posed "significant risks" not just for the US but for the rest of the world.

The report warned that the net financial obligations of the US to the rest of the world could equal 40 percent of its total economy within a few years—"an unprecedented level of external debt for a large industrial country" that it said could play havoc with the value of the dollar and international exchange rates.

The dangers, according to the report, are that the US's voracious appetite for borrowing could push up global interest rates and thus slow down global investment and economic growth.

White House officials dismissed the report as alarmist, saying President Bush had already vowed to reduce the budget deficit by half over the next five years. The deficit reached \$374 billion last year, a record in dollar terms but not as a share of the total economy, and it is expected to exceed \$400 billion this year.

Administration officials have made it clear they are not worried about the US's burgeoning external debt or the declining value of the dollar, which has lost nearly one-fifth of its value against the euro in 18 months and which hit new lows earlier this week.

Though the *International Monetary Fund* has repeatedly criticized the US on its budget and trade deficits in the last few years, this report was unusually lengthy and pointed.

Fund officials said the new report reflected the views of the authors and not the institution as a whole, whose largest shareholder is in fact the US. But fund officials also seemed intent on getting American attention.

"It's encouraging that these are issues at play in the presidential campaign now under way," said Charles Collins, deputy director of the IMF's Western Hemisphere Department and a principle author of the report. "We're trying to contribute to persuading public opinion that this is an important issue that has to be dealt with."

Fund officials warned that the long-term fiscal outlook was far grimmer, predicting that under-financing of Social Security and Medicare would lead to shortages as high as \$47 trillion over the next several decades, or nearly 500 percent of the current gross domestic product in the coming decades. *New York Times*, January 7, 2004.

"JUST WAR," US APOCALYPTIC VISIONS, AND CHRISTIAN OPPOSITION

In the past, US national interest and a general assumption that an action had moral justification was enough. Now, to justify pre-emptive action, old religious formulas concerning "just war" have been broadly adopted. It is curious that they largely derive from Roman Catholic doctrine affirmed by Augustine and Thomas Aquinas. We may be witnessing in this shift of national mood a change of the lamblike beast of Revelation toward its second, more domineering, phase.

What some may see as a "culture war" is revealing itself as a struggle on all fronts for the national religious identity. Politically active Christian groups have gone beyond the shared Christian revulsion at declining morality, and have resorted to civil disobedience to "reclaim America for Christianity," and also to continuing efforts to cross accepted constitutional lines and re-impose religion in the schools and in the judiciary.

The Christian mainstream political thinking right now, "We do not believe in the separation of church and state," is a view that dismisses the intent of the First Amendment, what Thomas Jefferson called the "wall of separation between church and state." They have conjured up from history a nation established consciously and structurally to advance and protect the Christian faith, but it is a misleading history, made dangerous by its broad appeal, and by the quick way that all who question it are accused of being un-Christian and, by extension, un-American. Christians who deplore the rush to tear down the First Amendment wall are already being marginalized as not quite Christian. And we are well on the way to legally defining this as a Christian state. The implications are sobering.

What happens when the aims of the American apocalyptic conflict with the Bible, even as they fulfill the Apocalypse itself? Today, we witness calls for formal designation as a Christian nation, open intentions to move over the constitutional wall, real liberties and rights rapidly disappearing before an emergency that has a distinctly religious cast, suspicion of non-mainstream activist religion, and alarms and calamities threatening on every hand.

Adventists have long defined our special calling by invoking “present truth.” Surely the process of the past few decades, so abruptly transformed by the events of September 11, puts us squarely into an apocalyptic fulfillment. Revelation 13 describes what we already see developing. How will we respond?

As with our world today, it is self-evident that Israel, even in apostasy, was very religious. After all, there were several hundred priests there that day [on Mt. Carmel with Elijah]. And as in other times of spiritual confusion, the people had so blended true and false religion that they could not tell the difference.

We will have to be very attentive to God’s Word indeed to remain immune to the taunts of fellow Christians caught up in the passionate fires of national fulfillment. *Adventist Review*, January 23, 2003.

Editor’s Note: It doesn’t take a rocket-scientist to see that Seventh-day Adventists will soon be suspiciously viewed as a “non-mainstream activist religion” by other Christians who “could not tell the difference.” How will we respond?

“When we reach the standard that the Lord would have us reach, worldlings will regard Seventh-day Adventists as odd, singular, strait-laced extremists. We are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 289.

THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DOWNSIDE

Up until the 20th century, the greatest catastrophes were natural disasters—famine, floods, and earthquakes. In the last century, more people died in war or were murdered by totalitarian regimes. In the 21st century, the risk is the perversion of knowledge. We cannot go on any longer avoiding the fact that the downside of science and technology, especially from bio-error or bio-terror from both microbiology and genetics, can kill us all. Just what are we going to do? *U.S. News & World Report*, September 1, 2003.

Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth. Luke 21:26.

QUESTIONABLE DOCTRINES

In November it was announced that Andrews University Press, part of the church-owned school, has republished, after a 40-year hiatus, the book “Seventh-day Adventists Answer Questions on Doctrine.” Adventist scholars call the book a “positive and aggressive statement of Adventist beliefs.” *Adventist News Network*, December 30, 2003.

Editor’s Note: This book was originally the product of our church wanting to be like the “mainstream” Evangelical Protestant churches in the 1950’s, so that Seventh-day Adventists would not be labeled as a “sect.” If there hasn’t been some theological adjustments made regarding at least the humanity of Christ in this re-issued edition, it could well be called “Questionable Doctrines.”

“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. **Books of a new order would be written.** A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 204.

It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by the dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy course; who at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who, at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly; so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat.—Theodore Roosevelt

SEEKING TO OPEN THE WORD OF GOD

Text: “Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God; even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints; to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Whereunto I also labor, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.” Colosians 1:25–29.

In this scripture, instruction is given as to the position of those who are seeking to open the word of God to others. This work cannot be done negligently. It cannot be undertaken in mere human strength. The work of the ministry has been carried forward altogether too much in our own human wisdom. We have seemed to think that an understanding of the theory of the truth was sufficient for the work. When we have talked to the people, we have gone over the ground to them, and explained all the lines of truth, and yet we have not brought into it the divine power of the truth to transform the life and character. When the work of God is done mechanically, it cannot be effective in converting souls. Though we have the truth, though our position be so well taken that our enemies cannot controvert it, this is not all that is necessary. There must be a power with our work beyond the mere knowledge of the theory of the truth. We must have divine energy to accompany our human effort.

Paul speaks of the riches of the glory of the mystery that is to be made known to the Gentiles. There are many mysteries in the word of God that we do not comprehend, and many of us are content to stop our investigation when we have just began to receive a little knowledge concerning Christ. When there begins to be a little unfolding of the divine purposes to the mind, and we begin to obtain a slight knowledge of the character of God, we become satisfied, and think that we have received about all the light that there is for us in the word of God. **But the truth of God is infinite.** With painstaking effort, we should work in the mines of truth, discovering the precious jewels that have been hidden. **It is the minister’s privilege to have a constant supply of fresh truth for the people. He should be in such a position that he can bring from the treasure-house of God not the same thing over and over, but new beauty and new truth.**

The Spirit of God will rest upon the diligent searcher for truth. He who desires the truth in his heart, who longs for the working of its power upon the life and character, will be sure to have it. Says the Saviour, “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.” When ministers themselves taste and see that the Lord is good, when their minds are filled with thoughts of heaven, then the eternal realities of the unseen world will open to their understanding, and they will be able to present the truth of God, and it will make an impression upon human minds.

Those who seek for more and still more of the Spirit of God, will not be disappointed. They will hold daily communion with God, and divine power will surely attend their efforts as they present the truth. As certainly as the truth is presented in the Spirit of Christ, it will reach the hearts of the people. Brethren, we should not go into the desk unless we have previously devoted some time to wrestling with God in prayer. **We should not be satisfied to use the set discourses that we have preached over and over for the last ten, fifteen, or twenty years.** We should draw fresh, new matter from the store-house of God's word. We are desirous that the angels of God may stand by our side when we are in the sacred desk, that God may impress the mind; that there may be glorious unfoldings of the truth; that it may be presented in the demonstration of the Spirit; that it may be meat in due season to the flock of God. It is the special grace of God that makes the sermon effectual. The minister's words will have very little influence upon the people, unless divine enlightenment accompanies them to the hearts of the hearers. We need much more of the Spirit of God than we have had in the past. Brethren, how long are you going to continue to labor without receiving the holy unction from on high?

If you search the Scriptures with a meek and teachable spirit, your efforts will be richly rewarded. "The natural man receiveth not of the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." The Bible should be studied with prayer. We should pray as did David, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." No man can have insight into the word of God without the illumination of the Holy Spirit. If we will but come into the right position before God, his light will shine upon us in rich, clear rays. This was the experience of the early disciples. The Scriptures declare that "when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as a rushing, mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." God is willing to give us a similar blessing, when we seek for it as earnestly.

The Lord did not lock the reservoir of heaven after pouring his Spirit upon the early disciples. We, also, may receive of the fullness of his blessing. Heaven is full of the treasures of his grace, and those who come to God in faith may claim all that he has promised. If we do not have his power it is because of our spiritual lethargy, our indifference, our indolence. Let us come out of this formality and deadness.

There is a great work to be done for this time, and we do not half realize what the Lord is willing to do for his people. We talk about the first angel's message, and the second angel's message, and we think we have some understanding of the third angel's message; but we should not be satisfied with our present knowledge. Our petitions, mingled with faith and contrition, should go up to God, for an understanding of the mysteries that God would make known to his saints. We should have a realization that unless taught by the Holy Spirit, we shall not rightly comprehend **the Bible; for it is a sealed book even to the learned, who are wise in their own conceit.** Jesus meant just what he said when he directed his disciples to "search the Scriptures." Searching means to compare scripture with scripture, and spiritual things with spiritual. We should not be satisfied with a superficial knowledge. **We should search for the hidden treasure concealed beneath the surface, as the merchant-man seeks for goodly pearls.** Light, great light, will reward the diligent searcher for truth.

There are many who have not taxed their mental powers, and who have no experience in putting to the stretch their utmost ability to find out what is truth. It is not possible that the Holy Spirit shall fall upon you unless you feel your need, and are more desirous for its descent than you now are. You should realize that you are living upon the very borders of the eternal world, that Christ is coming very soon, and that all heaven is interested in the work that is in progress in fitting up a people for his coming. **If ever there was a people that needed to heed the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodicean church to be zealous and to repent before God, it is the people who have had opened up before them the stupendous truths for this time, and who have not lived up to their high privileges and responsibilities. We have lost much in not living up to the light of the solemn truths which we profess to believe.**

Isaiah had a wonderful view of God's glory. He saw the manifestation of God's power, and after beholding his majesty, a message came to him to go and do a certain work. He felt wholly unworthy for the work. What made him esteem himself unworthy? Did he think himself unworthy before he had a view of God's glory?— No; he imagined himself in a righteous state before God; but when the glory of the Lord of hosts was revealed to him, when he beheld the inexpressible majesty of God, he said, "I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphim unto me, having a living coal in his hands, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar, and he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged." This is the work that as individuals we need to have done for us. We want the living coal from off the altar placed upon our lips. We want to hear the word spoken, "Thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged."

If you are content to think and to preach in one narrow channel, you will not advance in understanding, nor know the depth and grandeur of the truth. **If you desire to understand the mysteries of God, you must search the Scriptures.** There is nothing that will develop the intellect like wrestling with the great problems of truth revealed in God's word. You may keep your mind in constant meditation and prayer, even when your hands are busy. The truth of God is a treasure that is of more value than everything else in the world. Its priceless value is illustrated by the parable of Christ, concerning the man who found a treasure in a field, and he went and bought that field, that he might plow every part of it, and search out all the treasure that it contained. **The blessed Bible, the field that contains the treasure, the garden of God, is open to you. Search the Scriptures; dig in the mines of truth until the precious jewels that have been hidden there for ages shall be brought out, and you can present them to the people.**

In the time of the Saviour, the Jews had so covered over the precious jewels of truth with the rubbish of tradition and fable, that it was impossible to distinguish the true from the false. The Saviour came to clear away the rubbish of superstition and long-cherished errors, and to set the jewels of God's word in the frame-work of truth. **What would the Saviour do if he should come to us now as he did to the Jews? He would have to do a similar work in clearing away the rubbish of tradition and ceremony.** The Jews were greatly disturbed when he did this work. They had lost sight of the original truth of God, but Christ brought it again to view. It is our work to free the precious truths of God from superstition and error. What a work is committed to us in the gospel! An angel's pen could not portray all the glory of the revealed plan of redemption.

The Bible tells how Christ bore our sins, and carried our sorrows. Here is revealed how mercy and truth have met together at the cross of Calvary, how righteousness and peace have kissed each other, how the righteousness of Christ may be imparted to fallen man. There infinite wisdom, infinite justice, infinite mercy, and infinite love were displayed. Depths, heights, lengths, and breadths of love and wisdom, all passing knowledge, are made known in the plan of salvation.

When the scribes and Pharisees saw that Christ did not reverence their forms and traditions, they accused him of contempt for the law and the prophets. But Christ did not show the least contempt for the old truths. Because he did not work in the same narrow forms that they did, they said, "He is come to destroy the law." But there fell upon their astonished ears the words of Christ, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Christ was the originator of the law; and the blindness of the Pharisees is an illustration of how people who claim great light and knowledge can misunderstand and misrepresent the work of God. Glorious truths have been buried out of sight, and have been made lusterless and unattractive by error and superstition. Jesus reveals the light of God, and brings forth the beautiful radiance of the truth in all its divine glory. The minds of the honest are filled with admiration. Their hearts are attracted in holy affections toward him who brought forth the jewels of truth and displayed them to their understanding.

The Jews understood some portion of the truth, and taught some part of the word of God; but they did not comprehend the far-reaching nature of the law of God. Christ swept away the rubbish of tradition, and displayed the real kernel and heart of the purposes of God. When he did this, they became exasperated beyond control. They circulated false reports from one town to another that Christ was destroying the work of God. But while Jesus did away with the old forms, he re-instated the old truths, placing them in the frame-work of truth. He matched and joined them together, making a complete and symmetrical system of truth. This was the work our Saviour did; and now what shall we do? Shall we not work in harmony with Christ? Shall we be ruled by hearsay? Shall we let our own imaginings hide from us the light of God? We are to read attentively, to hear understandingly, and to teach others also the things we have learned. We must be constantly hungering for the bread of life, constantly seeking for the living water and the snow of Lebanon, that we may be able to lead the people to the living, cooling waters of the Fountain of truth. *Review and Herald*, June 4, 1889.

"The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude. The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones." *Testimonies*, volume 9, 11.