

Bringing It Back

**A Message
to Our Denominational Leaders
on All Levels**

**How you can help bring
our Advent Movement back
to a knowledge of, and obedience to,
the historic beliefs and standards
given us by the God of heaven.**

Here is how it can be done!



Harvestime Books

HB-973

Bringing it Back

by Vance Ferrell

Published by Harvestime Books

Altamont, TN 37301 USA

Printed in the United States of America

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About the cover: The mighty snow-capped mountains symbolize to us the power and purity of our Creator and Redeemer. As He has been the guide and protector of His children throughout all past ages, so He will help His people today as (in humble submission) they rededicate their lives, put away sin, and seek to fulfill His will for their lives.

“I will up lift my mine eyes unto [above, Hebrew] the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.”—*Psalm 121:1-2.*

“Now that you have finished reading this book, **you know that, within these pages, I have not spoken one word against our beloved church** which God founded over 150 years ago or against our faithful leaders who are deeply concerned about what the liberals are doing to change our beliefs and lower church standards. **My only objective is to bring the church back to its former strength in God.**” —*Page 121*

Additional copies: *This book is urgently needed to help strengthen our God-given church. For additional copies at 21 cents each in small boxful quantities, write to Harvestime Books, Box 300, Altamont, TN 37301*

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FROM THE AUTHOR

What are my credentials for addressing these words of encouragement to our church leaders?

In the late 1950s, after completing seven years of training in an Adventist college and our Seminary, and receiving three theological degrees, *I was a salaried pastor of a church in our denomination when today's church leaders, who are now 50 years old, were entering kindergarten.* I can understand that it is difficult to receive counsel from younger men; but, hopefully, you will value mine. It is from an old-timer who is a third generation Seventh-day Adventist.

It was amid much prayer that this small book was penned. It is my heartfelt desire that, after reading it, you will share in this concern to see our denomination brought back to its historic positions, strengthened with an influx of more solid members, and placed on a better financial base through increased donations. The solutions are solidly Scriptural and briefly explained in these few pages. —*vf*

TO OUR LEADERS

To our leaders on all levels in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. With all due respect, I greet you. **This small book contains important principles which are able to help you in your work to strengthen our church.** Here you will find principles which are able to restore confidence, alleviate mounting problems, reduce a steady loss of our most faithful members, and reverse an ever worsening financial base.

If thoughtfully considered and carefully pursued,

the following principles can greatly help you in your own portion of the Lord's work. Yet, if adopted on a wider scale, these principles, to the degree to which they are applied, are able to turn our church around and enable it to fulfill the mission God originally assigned it.

Thankful for this opportunity to speak with you, the respected leaders of our denomination, I thank you for giving this brief message your careful attention.

— PART ONE —

**HOW TO BRING
OUR CHURCH BACK**

OUR PRESENT CRISIS

Where can we go, where can we look, for answers to our present church crisis? Upon careful examination, we find that ***the underlying problems now confronting us can be found in the history of the Israelites!*** Indeed, it will come as a startling fact that our basic problem and its solution—can be found in the Old Testament.

The Israelites, back then, may not have had the innumerable problems that our denomination is experiencing today; however **the underlying causes, which led to their collapse back then, are identical to those eroding the foundations of our church at the present time.**

Unfortunately, there are liberals in our churches, colleges, and universities—men and women who are only partly converted—who are teaching church mem-

bers and students that it is no longer necessary to obey God's commandments.

We have many good leaders who are perplexed at the extent of our problems and how to solve them. Some despair of ever finding solutions to the mounting difficulties. —*But, thank God, His Written Word explains both the problems—and the solutions—in remarkable detail. Scripture reveals how the leaders of our church today—our leaders on all levels—can bring the church back to God* in repentance and heartfelt obedience to His holy law.

So you can see why this brief message is important. *Please, I urge you, please consider it carefully.*

In God's books, we find a door of hope. We can open and enter through that door. In doing so, it is the heartfelt belief of many that, as you—the leaders in modern Israel—do so, our church can be returned to its historic purity.

Truly it may be said of you: *“Thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14).*

The Old Testament repeatedly reveals how the church recovered from apostasy, not only how it got into it. It was a pattern which repeatedly occurred down through the centuries. —***We can use that pattern of recovery today, to bring our church back to reverence for God and obedience to His Inspired Writings!***

I know this is what you want!

“And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. *Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not*

lust after evil things, as they also lusted . . .

“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: **and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.**”—1 Corinthians 10:4-6, 11.

*In those “examples” we find a pattern for success, a pattern that succeeded! **Just as with God’s help, godly leaders in ancient times repeatedly brought the church back to God, so it can be done again today!***

Respected leaders, on all levels in our work, I tell you it can be done! Take courage in the fact. *With God’s help, you can have a part in doing it!* The answers are found in God’s Word.

You may not think that your position of leadership in the church may be very large. You may only be a Sabbath School teacher, Sabbath School Superintendent, church missionary leader, youth leader, or head elder. You may only be a local pastor or district leader.

Or you may command one of the highest executive positions in one of our conferences, unions, publishing houses, hospitals, or General Conference.

But, whatever your office, there are people who are looking to you for daily guidance and leadership. They want to follow where you lead. And, I assure you,—that **where you step, many are going to follow.**

What a fearful responsibility to be a leader in the church today! In the sight of God, you are leading others—men, women and children—*either upward or downward.* There is no level ground.

Satan is ever at work, trying to drag people

lower. If (by your example, words, and actions) you are not constantly leading your flock upward,—then you, with them, are gradually drifting downward into lethargy and increasing worldliness.

It is a solemn fact that, **on whatever level it may be, your position of leadership in the church is written down in Heaven's books.** You bear an important responsibility in the sight of God. It is a responsibility which should cause you to tremble, lest you neglect the work with which you have been charged.

But, amid the problems that you daily face, take courage! There are answers in this little book which can help you fulfill God's plan as you try to help strengthen His church.

PROBLEMS IN THE ANCIENT CHURCH

Let us briefly examine what happened in God's ancient church. We need to better understand the cause of the hindrances. Apostasy repeatedly developed in the divided kingdoms of ancient Judah and Israel, not only during the times of Moses and the Judges.

Significantly, the cause has always been the same. We are told:

“The apostasy of Israel had developed gradually. From generation to generation, **Satan had made repeated attempts to cause the chosen nation to forget the commandments . . .** that they had promised to keep forever. Deuteronomy 6:1. He knew that if he could only lead Israel to forget God, and to ‘walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them,’ they would ‘surely per-

ish.’ Deuteronomy 8:19.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 296.

There you have it. *The cause is always the same.* Satan did not leave on an extended vacation when the Adventist Church came into existence. He is alive and well on Planet Earth. *And his special target today is the commandment-keeping people of Revelation 12:17 and 14:12.* There is no other denomination anywhere in the world that he is as intent on ruining.

—Yet **keeping God’s law is not complicated. It is just trusting in Jesus and, in His strength, obeying those commands!** We must do more than just “have faith in Jesus.” Because we love Him, we must determine anew each day that, in His strength, we will live clean, godly lives that are in accordance with His Written Word.

It is a love of sin, a dislike for obeying the words of God, that is the basis of all apostasy!

If Satan can lead the Advent people to forsake God and His law,—his objective will be fulfilled. The world will then be his; for the voice of Sabbath-keepers will no longer be heard, calling men and women to obedience to God’s holy law.

By the definition given in Revelation 12:17, *no longer will they be the remnant.* By the definition given in Revelation 14:12, *no longer will they be giving the Third Angel’s Message!*

“From the time of Jeroboam’s death to Elijah’s appearance before Ahab, the people of Israel suffered a steady spiritual decline. Ruled by men who did not fear Jehovah and who encouraged strange forms of worship, the larger number of the people rapidly lost sight of their duty to serve the living

God and adopted many of the practices of idolatry.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 109.

The introduction of strange, un-Biblical forms of entertainment and worship were gradually ruining Israel. How closely we must examine what is being taking place in the Seventh-day Adventist Church today.

Fortunately, when a widespread church crisis occurred in God’s ancient church, He would always prompt some to warn of the increasing apostasy.

“Through faithful messengers the Lord sent repeated warnings to the apostate king and the people, but in vain were these words of reproof. In vain did the inspired messengers assert Jehovah’s right to be the only God in Israel; in vain did they exalt the laws that He had entrusted to them.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 116.

Through the pleadings of faithful believers, God pled with His ancient church, which He loved dearly. Yet many refused to repent and return to Him in humility of heart. *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 279-281, explains this in some detail.

PERSONAL REPENTANCE AND PRAYER

From what we learn in Scripture, the FIRST STEP as a leader in bringing the church back to obedience to God’s Word is heartfelt prayer—by YOU, personally, alone with God.

Moses is an outstanding example of a godly leader. Repeatedly, he was confronted by people who were bent on rebellion against obedience to God. **Yet, each time he was confronted by an outbreak of apostasy, Moses immediately took that first step.**

When a problem arose, the great church leader

got down on his knees—sometimes on his face—and prayed! *He cried to God for help! This was always the first step in solving unrest and apostasy in the church—always!* So it will ever be in the lives of the leaders of God's church on earth.

On one occasion, during a full-blown apostasy, the following incident occurred:

“They went so far as to appoint a captain to lead them back to the land of their suffering and bondage . . . *In humiliation and distress ‘Moses and Aaron fell on their faces* before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel,’ not knowing what to do to turn them from their rash and passionate purpose.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 389.

When Moses, their godly leader, repeatedly encountered obstacles of any kind, **the first thing he did was to plead with God for guidance and help.** *That is why God could use him so well.* On another occasion:

“Moses had not suspected this deep-laid plot, and when its terrible significance burst upon him, he fell upon his face in silent appeal to God. *He arose sorrowful indeed, but calm and strong. Divine guidance had been granted him.*”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 398.

When confronted by every puzzling question, our leaders, today, will be guided by the Lord as to what they should do, if they will do this too. *They will be strengthened to stand for the right, though the heavens fall!* Keep in mind that Moses did not have the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy to turn to, as we do now. It is our first work, *today*, to plead with God for help—and to open those Inspired books

and seek counsel from Heaven.

Regardless of how high or lowly may be your position in the denomination, when in earnest humiliation and prayer before God, you confess and forsake your own sins and rededicate your life before Him anew,—**He will impress you with what you must begin doing** to change conditions in the church within your own territory!

Your heavenly Father will, generally, not reveal to you all that is farther down the path; but, as you take the first steps into the darkness, **He will, through providential guidances, open the way before you!**

It is as if you are walking in the darkness with only a small flashlight to light the path before you through the woods. At each step, you will see a little farther.

This is the experience of all who have ever been used of God to do important things in His work; and He will do it for you also as you come before Him, amid deepest humiliation of soul, that you may know His will—that you may do it.

In accordance with Christ's words in Luke 20:18, we are told that, "unless you are broken, you are worthless." **Our church is in a crisis; and God is calling you just now to clearly stand for the right in the midst of that crisis!** You must teach and urge right principles, you must warn of impending dangers, you must seek to lead the people back to God in repentance and the forsaking of worldliness and sin.

You dare not choose the easier course. It is not safe at this time in history to be a timeserver. But, **by pleading daily with God for guidance and help,**

you can fulfill your part in His plan for the church.

In Isaiah 6, when God called Isaiah to a similar work, he felt overwhelmed with a sense of his personal inadequacy. *But God strengthened him, step by step, as he moved forward.* **Did Isaiah fully succeed? Although many refused to abandon their cherished sins, Isaiah obeyed the call of Heaven—and that was what counted!** Right where you are, in your sphere of influence, God is today calling you to help bring the church back to its historic beliefs, standards, and practices. **Even if you do not succeed, by your efforts to bring those around you back to God, you are doing what He wants you to do.**

But as you yield yourself in deepest humility of soul, dedicating yourself anew to Him and putting away your own sins—God will renew your heart *and strengthen you with a resolve to move forward in the doing of His will!*

Individually, and with your spouse, open the Inspired Books—the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Share the messages with your children. The messages are plain and abundant. They are so encouraging. Read them morning and evening—*and you will understand!* **Only as you read God's Word can you be aware of the extent of the crisis within our church and its cause. Only then can you understand what you must do to meet it.**

As you continue praying, *you will recognize your duty* at this time in history,—and you will be strengthened to fulfill the will of God for your life.

My friend, is this not what you want—with all your heart! You want to please God, you want to

live with Him forever!

The almost overmastering temptation to remain silent amid the increasing deluge of worldliness entering the church—must be resisted. You must make your decision to be a man, a woman, of God who will stand as a rock for the right. The situation in our church today demands it. God requires it.

When called, *how eagerly* Isaiah responded, “*Here am I; send me!*” Oh, how God values men and women who are willing to obey Him fully! who are willing to do what He tells them to do!

I want to be like Isaiah! I believe you want to be like him too!

And what was the work given to Isaiah?

First, he was to speak against what was being done wrong:

“The prophet’s duty was plain; he was to lift his voice in protest against the prevailing evils.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 308.

Second, he was to teach the people how to live right:

“Throughout his lifetime he must be a patient, courageous teacher.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 309.

And what would be the result of his work?

“The divine purpose finally accomplished, the full fruitage of his efforts, and of the labors of all God’s faithful messengers, would appear. A remnant should be saved. That this might be brought about, the messages of warning and entreaty were to be delivered to the rebellious nation.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 309.

So it will be today. *Working together, leaders and*

members will be able to bring our denomination back to obedience through the enabling grace of Christ, obedience to God's requirements. God's Word explains the steps which must be taken in order to do it.

But even if we do not appear to succeed to the degree that we would prefer,—you and I will have done our duty in this matter, just as Isaiah did!

In the process of trying to stem the tide of evil, we will have helped many people and saved our own souls!

CALLING THE CHURCH TO REPENTANCE

Earnest prayer to God for ourselves leads to earnest prayer for others and a deep concern to also help them to return to obedience to God's Word. So this was the *NEXT STEP* followed by the leaders in the ancient church, in bringing the people back to obedience to God and His Word. *The call to repentance must be sounded!*

But it must be based on a continual study of God's Inspired Writings. They alone can guide you in giving *the right call and in the right way.*

“As Elijah saw Israel going deeper and deeper into idolatry, his soul was distressed and his indignation aroused. God had done great things for His people. He had delivered them from bondage and given them ‘the lands of the heathen . . . that they might observe His statutes, and keep His laws.’ Psalm 105:44, 45. But the beneficent designs of Jehovah were now well-nigh forgotten. **Unbelief was fast separating the chosen nation from the Source of their strength.** Viewing this

apostasy from his mountain retreat, *Elijah was overwhelmed with sorrow.*—*Prophets and Kings, 119-120.*

“The word of faith and power was upon his lips, and his whole life was devoted to the work of reform. His was the voice of one crying in the wilderness to rebuke sin and press back the tide of evil.”—*Prophets and Kings, 119.*

Elijah’s work began with earnest prayer for God’s church in his time. —But some today may object that only a prophet is to reprove sin! Others declare that no one today should reprove any sin! *But that is not the teaching of God’s Word.*

“If wrongs are apparent among His people, *and if the servants of God pass on indifferent to them,* they virtually sustain and justify the sinner, and are alike guilty and will just as surely receive the displeasure of God; for they will be made responsible for the sins of the guilty.”—*3 Testimonies, 265-266.*

—*Oh, my friend, what a solemn responsibility!*
Continuing with the quote:

“In vision I have been pointed to many instances where the displeasure of God has been incurred *by a neglect on the part of His servants to deal with the wrongs and sins existing among them.* Those who have excused these wrongs have been thought by the people to be very amiable and lovely in disposition, simply because they shunned to discharge a plain Scriptural duty. The task was not agreeable to their feelings; therefore they avoided it . . .

“The true people of God, who have the spirit of the work of the Lord and the salvation of souls

at heart, will ever view sin in its real, sinful character. They will always be on the side of faithful and plain dealing with sins which easily beset the people of God. ***Especially in the closing work for the church***, in the sealing time of the one hundred and forty-four thousand who are to stand without fault before the throne of God, will **they feel most deeply** the wrongs of God's professed people."—*3 Testimonies* 266.

God is warning us that we must rouse ourselves and take action at this time in history. We have earnest work to do.

"The crisis is fast approaching. The rapidly swelling figures show that the time for God's visitation has about come. Although loath to punish, nevertheless He will punish, and that speedily. ***Those who walk in the light will see signs of the approaching peril; but they are not to sit in quiet, unconcerned expectancy of the ruin,*** comforting themselves with the belief that God will shelter His people in the day of visitation. Far from it. ***They should realize that it is their duty to labor diligently to save others, looking with strong faith to God for help.*** 'The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.'

"The leaven of godliness has not entirely lost its power. **At the time when the danger and depression of the church are greatest, the little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church because its members are doing after the manner of the world.**

“The earnest prayers of this faithful few will not be in vain. When the Lord comes forth as an avenger, He will also come as a protector of all those who have preserved the faith in its purity and kept themselves unspotted from the world. It is at this time that God has promised to avenge His own elect which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them.”—*5 Testimonies*, 210.

Here are three short quotations about God’s people in this hour of earth’s history:

“The people of God are sighing and crying for the abominations done in the land. **With tears they warn the wicked of their danger in trampling upon the divine law.**”—*5 Testimonies*, 474.

“The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, *will be left without the seal of God.*”—*5 Testimonies*, 211.

“The day of God’s vengeance is just upon us. *The seal of God will be placed upon the foreheads of those only who sigh and cry for the abominations done in the land.* Those who link in sympathy with the world are eating and drinking with the drunken and will surely be destroyed with the workers of iniquity. ‘The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.’ [Ps 34:16]”—*5 Testimonies*, 212.

Those are very solemn passages. And they are written for us today, as the final crisis draws near.

In the day of Judgment, when the record books of heaven are opened, none of us want the following

comment to be written after our names:

“His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.”—*Isaiah 56:10-11*.

I am ashamed to tell you that sometimes there are bad people in the church. The men in the above passage are called “watchmen” and “shepherds”; so they must be church leaders. We have here a picture of influential people, on one level or another, who—while refusing to speak up when wrongdoing is being done—instead focus their attention on only two things: *how they can avoid doing what their position requires them to do and what they can get for themselves*. —*That is what the Bible verse says!* It also says that they chose not to understand the real needs of the church. Read the words in Isaiah 56:10-11 again. We dare not let that be our experience today!

So this call for repentance—a call for the people to return to God—is, after personal prayer and the study of God’s Word, the next step that God would have you, as a leader, take in seeking to bring the church back to Him!

You will not come to ruin if you do this! We are always blessed when we obey God and fulfill His will for our lives. In this work, God will help you. He will strengthen you.

“*Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.*”—*Isaiah 58:1*.

We are told that Isaiah 58—the entire chapter—contains a special message for our church today. In greater detail, it helps explain the Laodicean message of Revelation 3:14-21:

“My brethren, you need to study more carefully the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. This chapter marks out the only course that we can follow with safety . . . The prophet receives this word from the Lord—a message startling in its clearness and force: ‘Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.’

“Though they are called the people of God, the house of Jacob, though they profess to be linked with God in obedience and fellowship, they are far from Him. Wonderful privileges and promises have been given to them, *but they have betrayed their trust. With no words of flattery must the message be given them. ‘Shew My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.’ Show them where they are making a mistake. Set their danger before them. Tell them of the sins they are committing,* while at the same time they pride themselves on their righteousness.

“Apparently seeking God, they are forgetting Him, forgetting that He is a God of love and compassion, long suffering and goodness, dealing justly and loving mercy. Worldly policy has come into their business and religious life. *Their hearts are not purified through the truth.* God looks on their outward ceremonies of humility as a solemn mockery. He regards all religious sham as an insult to Himself.”—*4 Bible Commentary, 1149.*

My brethren, I realize that this is difficult, but it is God's message to you right now. The needed changes can only be done successfully amid much personal prayer. Regardless of what may be the level of leadership you hold in the church, **in humility of heart, you *MUST* take hold of the work God requires of you—and you *must* do it resolutely.**

It is an intriguing fact that **the most important men of God in the Old Testament—were the ones who reproved wrongdoing; they did not only teach righteousness!** Men such as *Enoch, Noah, Moses, and Elijah*. They did this because they had a deep concern for the souls of men. ***They were not content to let men think that they could continue in sin and still be saved!***

God's shepherds today must not let men and women live under that same fatal delusion.

ACTIVELY WORKING TO PUT AWAY SIN

The NEXT STEP, in bringing the church back to obedience to God, is to actively work to *put away wrongdoing*. There are things being done in our churches, schools, hospitals, publishing houses, and executive offices which need to be changed.

There are wrong practices which need to be stopped—and Biblical ones which need to be started. There are workers who need to be removed. There are faithful pastors and workers in the lower ranks who need to be given more authority. Admittedly, this can be difficult to undertake. But earnest prayer and resolute purpose will bring divine help.

It is also the work of our leaders to present God's Word to the people and, in all due love and

kindness, help them return to obedience to it. Show them the importance of having their own daily study of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, alone and with their families. Explain the life and death importance of obeying those books!

What are the sins which must be put away? Everything which violates the Ten Commandments. The Seventh-day Adventist Church was called out from the world and the other denominations, to keep the Ten Commandments and to proclaim them. That is our reason for existence! It is the Third Angel's Message!

It is true that some members or workers may reject such a call for purity of heart and life—and leave the church. That is unfortunate; but we tried to help them before they left.

Our denominational objective should not just be to make the church large—by filling it with half-converted people who are uninterested in their own souls or the souls of others! There is a danger that, in an urgent desire for increased numbers in our churches and schools, we permit those who attend to go down to their graves unwarned.

—It was not God's plan that our church become a social club for liberals. Far from it. We were given a message to be fulfilled in our own lives and to be taken to the world. **The great truths which God gave us were to be our lifework and our message to the world, all based on obedience to the laws of God through the enabling grace of Jesus Christ.**

I understand that an attempt by our leaders to warn against sin is a difficult one. At an earlier time, while pastoring an Adventist church (as a de-

nominationally paid minister) and recognizing the need to do it, among other urgent presentations I gave a sermon on the dangers of meat eating, both as given in the Bible and from a health standpoint. It was not denunciatory; yet it was clearly given. My congregation fully accepted it. They loved their pastor and they recognized what I had to say was right and what they needed. Afterward, my aged head elder who had been a life-long Adventist, commented, "*Never before you came did I ever hear a sermon reproving sin!*"

It is not easy for pastors and church workers to withstand the downward trend toward worldliness in our church. In fact, it seems so much simpler to just drift along with the current and please people. **Yet being men pleasers is not the work which the God of heaven has given us as ministers and workers in the cause. In love, we must tell those within the sphere of our influence the truth about the dangers which confront them.** We must sound the warnings. We must call them back from the brink!

Not to do so is to not fulfill the ministry of reconciliation which God has entrusted into our hands. **To remain silent is to betray the best interests of our flock. To pretend that the apostasy is not increasing is to betray the best interests of the entire church!**

Those who are **truly loyal to the church** are those who are loyal to the foundation principles upon which it is based. **Genuine loyalty to the church is loyalty to the God which brought the church into existence.**

It is important that you understand **the three underlying errors** which exist in our church today and urgently need correcting:

The first is the error that we can continue sinning, all kinds of sins, till death or the Second Advent—and still be saved! ***People are deluding themselves when they imagine they can keep their cherished sins and not be lost.*** It is living in a fool's paradise to think it is unnecessary to obey the law of God or most anything else in the Bible.

But every chapter from Genesis to Revelation shows this to be a deadly error, one which will destroy those who adhere to it.

The second is the error that God's Inspired Writings should not be the primary authority in the church. There are times when policy books and the decisions of church councils are placed as a higher authority than the clear statements of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.

That is the fundamental error which, over a matter of centuries, resulted in the development of the Roman Catholic Church. "Tradition," which by definition consists of the decisions of bishops and councils, is considered by Rome to be of higher authority than Scripture.

The little horn of Daniel 7, with the big mouth, represents the man-centered church of Rome. It became man-centered when the words of man were placed as a higher authority than the words of God.

The third is the error that the Spirit of Prophecy is unnecessary in the lives of the Advent people.

Yet there are important truths in those books which God's professed people urgently need today. *They need them in order that they may be protected from deception. That is why God gave us those books!* The current errors we are confronted with

are disproved in the Bible;—yet they are usually dealt with more clearly—often with razor-sharp precision—in the Spirit of Prophecy.

RESTORING GOD'S WORD AS THE AUTHORITY

Thus the NEXT STEP, in God's ancient church, was the restoration of God's Word to its proper position—as the supreme authority and arbiter in all decisions which are made. God's Word is above man's word. In our church today, the 'inspired writings, the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, should be the test of all church teaching, all standards, and all practices.

In every instance, God's ancient church began slipping into error and apostasy when the Inspired Writings were set aside for the opinions of men.

“Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; ***Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper.***”—2 Chronicles 20:20.

More on this later.

GATHERING AND INSTRUCTING THE PEOPLE

The NEXT STEP is to *gather* the people and instruct them in the *teachings* of God's Inspired Books. Our people can never have success in changing their own lives, raising their children correctly, managing churches, teaching in schools, or giving the message to the world—if they do not know and do not practice the Bible-Spirit of Prophecy writings—

the *precious heritage* which God gave to us!

We must sound the call. We must gather the people and explain to them the importance of studying and obeying God's Written Word. We must patiently teach them what is in the Inspired Books. This must include teaching them the basics of our historic beliefs, so they can share them with others.

Each one of us must take hold of this good work. **We must encourage them to begin studying on their own.** We must unite with them in seeking repentance and forgiveness for the lost years in which this was not done. We must lead them to the throne of grace and plead with God for strength to put away sin and obey what is written. Both large and small study groups can be used for this purpose.

Joel 2 tells us of such a gathering to plead with God and seek repentance for years of neglect:

“Therefore also now, saith the Lord, *turn ye even to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:* And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God . .

“*Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children . .*

“*Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not Thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?*

“*Then will the Lord be jealous for His land,*

and pity His people. Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto His people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen.”—*Joel 2:12-13, 15-16, 17-19.*

Elsewhere we are told:

“ **Gather the people together, men, and women, and children**, and thy stranger that is within thy gates’ [*cf. Joshua 8:35*], **the spiritual leaders of Israel had been instructed**, ‘that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: and that their children, which have not known anything, may hear, and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.’ Deuteronomy 31:12, 13.

“Had this counsel been heeded through the centuries that followed, how different would have been Israel’s history! Only as a reverence for God’s Holy Word was cherished in the hearts of the people, could they hope to fulfill the divine purpose. It was regard for the law of God that gave Israel strength during the reign of David and the earlier years of Solomon’s rule; it was through faith in the living word that reformation was wrought in the days of Elijah and of Josiah. And it was to these same Scriptures of truth, Israel’s richest heritage, that Jeremiah appealed in his efforts toward reform.”—*Prophets and Kings, 465-466.*

The experience of Joshua, Moses successor, reveals the importance of calling such gatherings and the wonderful results, when church leaders do

this. You can read about it in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 521-522. It will provide you with additional guidance.

Their aged leader, Joshua, pled with them to put away their sins and remain true to God. Commenting on his words to the people, we are told:

“Satan deceives many with the plausible theory that God’s love for His people is so great that He will excuse sin in them; he represents that while the threatenings of God’s Word are to serve a certain purpose in His moral government, they are never to be literally fulfilled. But in all His dealings with His creatures God has maintained the principles of righteousness by revealing sin in its true character—by demonstrating that its sure result is misery and death.

“The unconditional pardon of sin never has been, and never will be. Such pardon would show the abandonment of the principles of righteousness, which are the very foundation of the government of God. *It would fill the unfallen universe with consternation.* God has faithfully pointed out the results of sin, and if these warnings were not true, how could we be sure that His promises would be fulfilled? That so-called benevolence which would set aside justice is not benevolence but weakness.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 522.

Such gatherings, to plead with God for forgiveness and to learn from His sacred books, will bring hallowed results:

“The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”—*Psalms* 34:18.

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”—*Psalm 51:17*.

“He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.”—*Psalm 147:3*.

Later on, we will consider how important such gatherings were—and **how the church was repeatedly turned around when the people were gathered together by their leaders, so they could be taught right principles and covenant together to keep them.**

THE NINE POINTS

Let us now, briefly, review the NINE POINTS which brought success to God's ancient church, most of which we have already touched on:

1 - Godly men in God's ancient church recognized apostasy when it developed; they did not ignore it. The people were forsaking the Lord and seeking after other gods. False teachings and worldly customs were entering the church. At the same time, the nation was increasingly threatened by religions and powers outside the church. The godly leaders saw what was happening. They understood.

2 - A person of great influence—usually (but not always) a leader in the church—**would fall on his knees in personal repentance and heart sorrow for what was taking place.**

3 - Most earnestly, he would plead with God—that the church might somehow be brought back to obedience.

4 - We are frequently told of how, as part of his pleadings for help, this leader would read the

promises and warnings in God's Inspired Writings. This would enable him to better grasp the seriousness of the situation and the need for swift action and Divine help—*before utter disaster occurred!*

5 - This person would sound a call for repentance and the putting away of sin.

6 - He would not just wait for others to take action. He himself would set to work and teach and promote reforms in the government and remove the idols.

7 - He would restore God's Word to its rightful position as the primary authority in the church.

8 - He would gather the people together for solemn services, where they could plead for forgiveness and rededicate their lives. At those meetings, God's Word would be read to the assembly, carefully explained to them, and studied by them. They would enter into a covenant, solemnly promising to henceforth obey God and His Word. —**What a godly way to conduct our camp meetings today!** Instruction in God's Word and calls to obey it will result in earnest prayer services and genuine revivals. This is what God is waiting for us to do!

9 - Not content to stop there, the leader would send out throughout the land, what back then were called, "**teaching priests**" to instruct the people in God's Word and holy law. Frequently, he would appoint special judges (mediators) to help resolve future disputes and protect the people.

—*THESE are the nine points. Each time, when the people responded by returning to God in heartfelt repentance and obedience, God provided the entire church with guidance and protection from its enemies.* Astounding victories were gained! *This*

happened time and time again in God's ancient church,

As you are aware, several of these instances occurred during the *forty years in the wilderness*, as the Israelites rebelled and then, through repentance, were brought back to God.

Later, this process of apostasy and repentance was repeated *thirteen times under the judges*: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson, and Samuel.

In later centuries, using the very same principles, a number of church leaders repeatedly brought the people back to God.

In every instance, the reformation came about because of the words and actions of some kind of leader! Nearly always it was an appointed leader; but sometimes someone who, under the hand of God, rose up to warn them about the crisis.

In our time, the God of heaven wants to use each one of you—leaders on one level or another in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination—to bring our people back to the historic beliefs and standards that God gave us through the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy over a hundred years ago.

This matter is urgent! The crisis is very real. ***Worlds sink into insignificance compared with the urgency of the present crisis within our church!***

Later, in this book, we will discuss what may happen if our people do not return.

The angels are waiting for your cooperation. *Who knows but what you may never hear another appeal!* None can know what is ahead or how many more years each of us has.

In a later chapter, we will consider what **six leaders did in the ancient church**, as each one followed several of the nine points,—and **brought a great majority of the church back to God!** In each instance, **God used church leaders to turn the church around—before it went into hopeless apostasy!** Those six leaders were *Asa, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, Josiah, Ezra, and Nehemiah.*

But first, it is urgent that we consider the TWO EXCEPTIONS: These were the two extended periods of time when **men of God arose and called for repentance and revival—and those in charge refused to consider what they had to say.** —They, instead, denounced the whistle-blowers as “critics” and “troublemakers.” *Each time, this brought the church past the crisis stage—to its downfall.*

The two calls for reformation failed when men *who were not leaders* pled for reform while the men in charge were worldly liberals who stubbornly refused to make the needed changes in their own lives and in the church.

But, by trusting in God and obeying His Word, that need not happen today. **How urgent it is that we make the necessary changes!**

Fortunately, we have the assurance that the church will not fall. More on that later.

HOW REFORMATION FAILED IN THE NORTHERN KINGDOM

The first of these two exceptions occurred because the call to repent was repeatedly ignored in the northern kingdom of Israel. This made the doom of the nation inevitable. **Because of this, the kingdom was finally broken without remedy.**

“Some of the leaders in Israel felt keenly their loss of prestige and wished that this might be regained. *But **instead of turning away** from those practices which had brought weakness to the kingdom, they continued in iniquity, flattering themselves that when occasion arose, they would attain to the political power they desired *by allying themselves with the heathen . .**

“Through the man of God that had appeared before the altar at Bethel, through Elijah and Elisha, through Amos and Hosea, **the Lord had repeatedly set before the ten tribes the evils of disobedience. But notwithstanding reproof and entreaty, Israel had sunk lower and still lower in apostasy.** ‘Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer,’ the Lord declared; ‘My people are bent to backsliding from Me.’ Hosea 4:16; 11:7.”
—*Prophets and Kings, 280-281.*

Instead of repenting when they were warned to do so, **they turned on the whistle-blowers** as the cause of all their problems!

“By far the greater number of those who heard these invitations refused to profit by them. *So contrary to the evil desires of the impenitent* were the words of God’s messengers, that the idolatrous priest at Bethel sent to the ruler in Israel, saying, ‘*Amos hath conspired against thee* in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words.’ Amos 7:10.”—*Prophets and Kings, 284.*

“The destruction that befell the northern kingdom was a direct judgment from Heaven.”—*Prophets and Kings, 291.*

In every age, **God never rejects, never forsakes**

His commandment-keeping people. Write that sentence on the walls of your home and read it every so often. How thankful we can be that, through the enabling strength of Christ's grace, we can obey God's Word and receive the eight promises in Revelation made to overcomers!

Each of His children is precious in God's sight. It is true there are always both pure wheat and worldly tares in the church. **But whenever the tares are permitted to gain control of the church, it then comes in serious danger of total moral collapse.** Rebellion against obedience to God's holy law is the result.

We have briefly reviewed the causes of the fall of Israel, the northern kingdom. Its 20th king, Hoshea, died when Shalmaneser V, king of the Assyrians captured Samaria and carried all the people captive in 723 B.C.

HOW REFORMATION EVENTUALLY FAILED IN JUDAH

Next, we turn our attention (one hundred years later) **to the causes of the fall of the southern kingdom, Judah,** which—after *repeated warnings* to return to God—was conquered by the Babylonians under King Nebuchadnezzar in 605, 597, and 586 B.C.

This second example, in which the call of church members for repentance and reform was rejected, occurred during the ministry of another layman: *Jeremiah*—the last prophet to the southern kingdom before its fall. **It is a tragic story of ever-increasing worldliness and repeated refusals to**

repent, as the church continued to sink lower and still lower.

“Thus the prophet *stood firmly* for the sound principles of right living so clearly outlined in the book of the law. But the conditions prevailing in the land of Judah were such that ***only by the most decided measures could a change for the better be brought about***; therefore he labored most earnestly in behalf of the impenitent . . .

“But by the great mass of the people the call to repentance and reformation was unheeded. Since the death of good King Josiah, those who ruled the nation had been proving untrue to their trust and had been leading many astray.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 412.

Here was a people who, in spite of their deepening apostasy, believed that, *because they were in the church and attended church services, God could never reject them!*

“Only by the most thorough heart reformation could the impending doom be averted. In vain would be the *trust* they might place in the temple and its services. ***Rites and ceremonies could not atone for sin. Notwithstanding their claim to be the chosen people of God, reformation of heart and of the life practice alone could save them*** from the inevitable result of continued transgression.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 413-414.

“A refusal to heed the invitation of mercy that God was now offering *would bring upon the impenitent nation the judgments* that had befallen the northern kingdom of Israel over a century before.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 415.

How urgent it is that we labor earnestly to bring our people fully back to God while there is yet time! It is not too late to initiate the changes which must take place! The steps to reformation, which we must undertake, are Scriptural; they are right. They are not complicated. The basic steps to be entered upon, and the primary changes to be made, are clearly presented in this book.

“During the days of Jeremiah, the inhabitants of Judah were prone to believe *that a strict observance of the divinely appointed services of the temple would preserve them* from a just punishment for their wicked course.

“What a lesson is this to men holding positions of responsibility today in the church of God! ***What a solemn warning to deal faithfully with wrongs that bring dishonor to the cause of truth!*** Let none who claim to be the depositaries of God’s law flatter themselves that the regard they may outwardly show toward the commandments will preserve them from the exercise of divine justice. *Let none refuse to be reproved for evil, nor charge the servants of God with being too zealous* in endeavoring to cleanse the camp from evil-doing.

“A sin-hating God calls upon those who claim to keep His law to *depart from all iniquity*. ***A neglect to repent and to render willing obedience will bring upon men and women today as serious consequences as came upon ancient Israel.*** *There is a limit beyond which the judgments of Jehovah can no longer be delayed.* ***The desolation of Jerusalem in the days of Jeremiah is a solemn warning to modern Israel, that***

the counsels and admonitions given them through chosen instrumentalities cannot be disregarded with impunity.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 416-417.

In every age of church history, God will not tolerate those who have covenanted to be keepers of His laws—and then later break them and encourage others to break them! He will spew them out of His mouth. See Revelation 3:16-18.

It was not worldliness and sin in the church which church leaders in Jeremiah's time feared. That which filled them with terror were efforts to remove it.

What was the response of the people to these tearful pleadings, by Jeremiah, to remove from the church false doctrines and worldly standards? The paragraph, immediately after the one quoted above, tells us:

“Jeremiah's message to priests and people aroused the antagonism of many. *With boisterous denunciation they cried out, 'Why hast thou prophesied in the name of the Lord, saying, This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate without an inhabitant? And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the Lord.'* Jeremiah 26:9.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 417.

This was an insult to the God of heaven! **Instead of repenting**, people and priests *reviled those who, under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, were trying to save them from disaster!*

Those repeated rejections, by the leaders in the southern kingdom of Judah, ultimately *sealed its doom.*

The lesson of what happened to them is an ex-

ample of what could happen to us today. We dare not let that occur!

“The spirit of opposition to reproof, that led to the persecution and imprisonment of Jeremiah, **exists today**. Many refuse to heed repeated warnings, **preferring rather** to listen to false teachers who flatter their vanity and overlook their evil-doing. In the day of trouble such will have no sure refuge, no help from heaven.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 437.

Both in the fall of the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom, the four identifying marks were these: An ever-deepening intensity of worldliness gripped the church. The call to return to God came from laymen, not from leaders. There was an unrelenting refusal to repent. Those pleading for obedience to God’s Word were blamed for the increasing problems.

Thankfully, God has something better for our church today, as we cooperate with Him. Fortunately, many of our godly leaders are deeply concerned about this growing problem. Our members must cooperate with them in removing the liberal element from authority in our church.

Let us now turn our attention to far brighter pictures, events which brought outstanding success—in which none of the above four points were present.

WE WILL NOW examine the six leaders in the ancient church who, step by step, went through several of the nine points. —And in each instance, the result was that a great majority of the church repented and returned to God! Each time, God used church leaders to turn the church around—

before it could go into hopeless apostasy!

HOW KING ASA BROUGHT THE CHURCH BACK TO GOD

The first of the six was King Asa of Judah.

Recognizing that under its previous rulers, Rehoboam and Abijah, the southern kingdom had seriously declined in spirituality, **Asa determined that decided changes must be made.**

“During the greater part of this time of apostasy in Israel, Asa was ruling in the kingdom of Judah. For many years **‘Asa did that which was good and right** in the eyes of the Lord his God: for **he took away the altars of the strange gods**, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves: **and commanded Judah to seek the Lord God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment.** Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the sun images: and the kingdom was quiet before him.’ 2 Chronicles 14:2-5.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 110.

King Asa had done all he could to prepare the nation for any crisis. And when the enemies of God’s people attacked them, *the church was ready!* It was not the size of the army nor its strong battlements. *Asa’s strength* was due to the fact that he had brought his people back to the worship of the true God and *the keeping of His commandments!* You can read about it in *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 110-111.

Will God help His church today, as its leaders take hold of the noble work of confronting the *terrible apostasy* that is creeping into our midst? **Yes, He will!** If our leaders will, as it were, **cast out** the

idols, **raise** the standards, and **teach** our people that (through the enabling grace of Christ) they must faithfully obey the Ten Commandments,—our leaders will be able *to meet and overcome* every challenge from worldlings, both from within and without the church.

The God of heaven approved of Asa's diligence in seeking to bring the church back to its **historic standards**.

“As the victorious armies of Judah and Benjamin were returning to Jerusalem, ‘the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded: and he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; **The Lord is with you, while ye be with Him; and if ye seek Him, He will be found of you; but if ye forsake Him, He will forsake you.**’ ‘Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: *for your work shall be rewarded.*’ 2 Chronicles 15:1, 2, 7.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 112.

Do not forget the words: “*If ye forsake Him, He will forsake you.*” Let none flatter themselves that this warning cannot apply to God's church today.

Very thankful that God approved of his efforts to turn the church around, **Asa determined to carry the reformation even further**.

You can read about it in *Prophets and Kings*, p. 112. After putting away still more idols, **Asa gathered all the people together** to Jerusalem; and, we are told, **they “entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul.** And He was found of them: and the Lord gave them rest round about.”

What a thrilling series of events! And all because the leaders in the church, under Asa's direc-

tion, *put away the idols out of the land and, through earnest prayer and careful instruction at special meetings, brought the church members back to the true God!* Oh, how this is needed today!

Such a gathering of the people together, and entering into a covenant to henceforth obey God,—*occurred several times in the Old Testament church.* We read about it during the time of the patriarchs, in Solomon's time, and repeatedly in the southern kingdom of Judah.

This obviously was a very important step in bringing the church back to obedience to God's Word,—and therefore is something we must do today!

As a result of Asa's reform, the church grew in numbers because it was growing spiritually and keeping God's commandments. This is the secret of true, solid "church growth." A great increase in numbers also occurred when Rehoboam instituted reforms (*see Prophets and Kings, pp. 92-93*).

Our plan of action should be to teach the truth, live the truth, share the truth, and let "church growth" take care of itself.

HOW JEHOSHAPHAT SUCCEEDED

The second of the six church leaders who followed, step by step, through many of the points for reforming the church—was King Jehoshaphat of Judah.

Upon taking the leadership, **Jehoshaphat was deeply concerned as he saw many of the people slipping away from God.**

“In his efforts to rule wisely, **Jehoshaphat endeavored to persuade his subjects to take a firm stand against idolatrous practices** . . . *Because of his integrity*, the Lord was with him, and ‘stablished the kingdom in his hand.’ 2 Chronicles 17:3-5.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 190-191.

Because of your integrity today, leaders of modern Israel, God will also give you success in bringing the people back to Him! You have God’s promise of abundant help if you will take hold of this good work.

But Jehoshaphat did not stop there. As did many other godly Old Testament leaders, **Jehoshaphat determined to instruct the people in the teachings of God’s Word.** With this in mind, he appointed **“teaching priests”** (not to tell jokes and entertain the people as is sometimes done today on Sabbath morning) **to open the Scriptures and teach the people what is written in those sacred pages!**

“Throughout the kingdom **the people were in need of instruction in the law of God.** *In an understanding of this law lay their safety;* by conforming their lives to its requirements they would become loyal both to God and to man. Knowing this, **Jehoshaphat took steps to ensure to his people thorough instruction in the Holy Scriptures.**

“The *princes* [division, union, and conference presidents] in charge of the *different portions* of his realm were directed to arrange for the faithful ministry of *teaching priests* [ministers]. By royal appointment these instructors, working under the direct supervision of the princes, **‘went about**

throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people.' 2 Chronicles 17:7-9. And as many endeavored to understand God's requirements and to put away sin, a revival was effected.

"To this **wise provision** for the spiritual needs of his subjects, Jehoshaphat **owed much of his prosperity as a ruler. In obedience to God's law there is great gain.** In conformity to the divine requirements there is a transforming power that brings peace and good will among men."—*Prophets and Kings*, 191-192.

As if this was not enough, good king **Jehoshaphat next set up faithful judges** to hear the problems of the people and deal with them (*Prophets and Kings*, 197-198). This was another wise decision *and should be done today in our own church.* It is Biblical; and Jehoshaphat made it clear that the judges must base all their decisions *on the Word of God alone.* Our church members today do not always receive a fair hearing, when new theology pastors are transferred to their churches; and they plead for help from leadership. Unfortunately, ignoring their concerns only adds to the number of faithful believers who leave the church.

The thrilling story is told, in *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 198-200, of how God protected His church when it was attacked by its enemies! *What a glorious reward* this was, after years of building up the church by its leaders!

Jehoshaphat and the people were given the promise of Divine protection,—and were specifically told that it was given because of their adherence to God's Inspired Word!

“ ‘Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: *fear not, nor be dismayed*; tomorrow go out against them: *for the Lord will be with you*’ . . . Early in the morning they rose and went into the wilderness of Tekoa. As they advanced to the battle, Jehoshaphat said, ‘Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; *Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper.*’ ‘And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness.’ 2 Chronicles 20:14-21. These singers went before the army, lifting their voices in praise to God for the promise of victory.”—*Prophets and Kings, 201.*

And then we are told:

“God was the strength of Judah in this crisis, and He is the strength of His people today. **We are not to trust in princes, or to set men in the place of God.** We are to remember that human beings are fallible and erring, and that He who has all power is our strong tower of defense. **In every emergency we are to feel that the battle is His.** His resources are limitless, and apparent impossibilities will make the victory all the greater.”—*Prophets and Kings, 202.*

What a most wonderful story! What encouragement it brings to each one of us! Hear the divinely inspired words: “**Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper**” (2 Chronicles 20:20). Those words should guide our homes and our church today. Write

them on your doorposts. Teach them to your children. Live them all the days of your life.

HOW HEZEKIAH TURNED THE CHURCH AROUND

The *third* of the six, who followed several of the nine steps—and brought the church back to God, was *King Hezekiah* of Judah.

One hundred and thirty-three years had elapsed between the death of King Jehoshaphat and the beginning of Hezekiah's reign. ***The spirituality of the nation had greatly eroded and many erroneous theories and false gods had captured the attention of the people.*** During those years, six out of seven rulers (the exception occurring during part of Uzziah's reign) had led the people into *deepening* apostasy.

The situation had become so bad by the time of Ahaz, that the faithful were shut out from going to church! That was the *darkest* hour of Judah's apostasy, as the faithful were pushed out of church! But the *promise was given* that, when the church doors were closed to them—the Lord Himself would be their sanctuary! A sweet promise indeed!

“But in Judah there dwelt some who *maintained* their allegiance to Jehovah, steadfastly refusing to be led into idolatry. It was to these that Isaiah and Micah and their associates *looked in hope* as they surveyed the ruin wrought during the last years of Ahaz. ***Their sanctuary was closed, but the faithful ones were assured: ‘God is with us.’ ‘Sanctify the Lord of hosts Himself; and let Him be your fear,*** and let Him be your dread. *And He shall be for a sanctuary.’*

Isaiah 8:10, 13-14.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 330.

Woe be to anyone, today, who pushes the faithful and their families out of the church, when they plead for a return to historic beliefs and standards.

Fortunately, after the death of Ahaz, a godly church leader, Hezekiah, rose to power! **As soon as he took charge,—HE HIT THE GROUND RUNNING, determined to do whatever it took to bring the people back to God!**

My brethren—the leaders of our denomination today—**I urge you to closely consider the details of the pattern for church reformation as demonstrated in the life of good king Hezekiah!** These details are found in *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 331-339. Space is lacking in this book to consider it all.

Summarizing, here are several key points. Mark them well: As soon as he came to the throne, Hezekiah *immediately set to work. Gathering the faithful priests, he discussed the deepening apostasy; then he united with them in making a covenant with the Lord—to bring the entire church back to God!* The Temple services were cleaned up and *conducted properly. The priests were instructed to sanctify themselves and the Temple. We are told that “it was time for quick action.”* And Hezekiah obeyed. *He acted quickly.*

As a result, this deep apostasy was totally reversed by the prompt and decided action of Hezekiah and associate leaders in the church who cooperated with his efforts!

—My brethren, **it can be done!** It can be done! And **you** are the ones in a position to do it!

“God had indeed prepared the hearts of *the chief men* of Judah **to lead out** in a decided

reformatory movement, *that the tide of apostasy might be stayed . . .*

“These and other like messages revealing the willingness of God to forgive and accept those who turned to Him with full purpose of heart, had brought hope to many a fainting soul in the dark years when the temple doors remained closed; and now, *as the leaders began to institute a reform, a multitude of the people, weary of the thralldom of sin, were ready to respond . . .*

“*‘If thou turn to the Lord thy God,’* Moses had said, *‘and shalt be obedient* unto His voice; (for the Lord thy God is a merciful God;) *He will not forsake thee,* neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which He swore unto them.’ Deuteronomy 4:30, 31.”—*Prophets and Kings, 333-334.*

Did you hear those words? “*As the leaders began to institute a reform, a multitude of the people, weary of the thralldom of sin, were ready to respond.*” That is a *powerful promise* for our leaders today!

If you will, kindly but resolutely, take hold of the work to be done,—*a large number of the people will follow your lead!* They are weary of the worldly living into which they have drifted.

I call, this day, upon the leaders of our people: Consider these promises and cry unto the Lord to help you fulfill them! I assure you that *God will give you success as you undertake this task.* What if some of the tares become angry and leave the church? *They are the ones* who have steadily hindered the work and caused many of the problems.

Yet Hezekiah did not stop there. He determined to gather the people together and instruct them in the law of God! You can read about it in *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 335-337. I am sure the liberals in our church today would *gnash their teeth* if our leaders began calling our people together *and started teaching them God's law!* But it is God to whom our allegiance is owed, not the liberals.

Our godly leaders today are deeply concerned over the deepening immorality caused by the liberals in our church.

What an increase in morality would result *if our families and young people were taught Biblical principles—instead of the liberals giving them celebration drums and bands, theatrical performances, rock concerts, clown performances, magic shows and (in our colleges) movies, video games, free condoms, lectures by Catholic priests, pool tables, and intercollegiate sports.*

We must not let the liberals take over. They are the ones flooding our church with all this worldliness and immorality.

Unfortunately, the messengers whom Hezekiah sent to the Northern Kingdom, to call the people to return to God—were met with scoffing and rejection. *Yes, it is true. In every age of history when church leaders seek to bring the people back to God, there will be some who will reject the opportunity. Yet their departure only makes those who remain the stronger.*

We are told that the last vestige of idolatrous shrines were thrown out of Jerusalem *and the gathered thousands spent day after day learning more about God and entering into a covenant to*

obey Him.

And what was the result? **“A great gladness took possession of the worshipping multitude.”** So it shall ever be when, in repentance and humility of heart, God’s people return to Him and study His Word together, perhaps in groups. There is no happiness in sin. Let us get rid of the hateful thing.

“A great gladness took possession of the worshipping multitude [cf. 2 Chronicles 30:13] . . . As the great meeting drew to a close, **it was evident that God had wrought marvelously in the conversion of backsliding Judah** and in stemming the tide of idolatry which threatened to sweep all before it. **The solemn warnings of the prophets had not been uttered in vain!** **‘There was great joy in Jerusalem:** for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there was not the like in Jerusalem. Verse 26.

“The time had come for the return of the worshipers to their homes. ‘The priests the Levites arose and blessed the people: and their voice was heard, and their prayer came up to His holy dwelling place, even unto heaven.’ Verse 27. **God had accepted those who with broken hearts had confessed their sins and with resolute purpose had turned to Him for forgiveness and help.**”—*Prophets and Kings*, 337-338.

Oh, we all have such *little* faith! **There is a way to reform the church! It can be done!** There is a way to bring our church back to God! **The blueprint for doing this is given in God’s holy Word!** It is repeatedly told to us in the Old Testament.

Do not think it is impossible, in this day and age, to obey God in this matter. **Let not Satan tempt you**

with the doubt that God will abandon you when you seek to encourage others to return to obedience to His Word. We must do what is right, regardless of the consequences. **Loyalty to God and His Word must be first in our lives.**

Additional reforms were made by the people under Hezekiah, which you can read about in *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 338-339.

HOW JOSIAH RESTORED THE CHURCH TO GOD

The fourth of the six, who followed several of the nine steps—and brought the church back to full allegiance to God, was King Josiah of Judah, the third monarch after Hezekiah. Josiah ascended the throne 47 years after Hezekiah's death.

You will want to read, for yourself, the way he did this. It is found in *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 392-406.

Very briefly, this is what took place: **Josiah called for the Temple to be repaired.** When he did, Hilkiah (the high priest) found a major portion of *the book of Deuteronomy*, which had been missing ever since the reign of Hezekiah's son, the wicked king Manasseh. When it was read to him, **Josiah learned of the terrible warnings in Deuteronomy against the church, if at a later time the people ever forsook God and His law!**

Those warnings in Deuteronomy are also for us right now! Anyone who thinks that the warnings and pleadings of Scripture have no relevance to us today—are living in a fool's paradise.

“See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil, in that **I command thee**

this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments . . .

But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear . . . I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish . . . I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that **I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life**, that both thou and thy seed may live; that thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey His voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto Him, for He is [the source of] thy life.”—*Deuteronomy 30:15-20*.

Utterly shocked,—Josiah set to work to bring the nation back to God and obedience to His holy law. Gathering all the people to a “great convocation,” the king himself read the book of the law to them. Then everyone entered into a solemn covenant to be true to the Lord their God.

So once again a major reformation occurred when the people gathered to be taught from God’s Word and made a covenant to obey Him. It is urgent that ongoing instruction in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy be given to our people, week after week and month after month, in our church services and mid-week meetings. Our people are hungry for God’s Word! Let us give it to them. In so doing, we fulfill an important part of our ministry.

Josiah, the other leaders, and the people—immediately set to work to eliminate idolatry throughout Judah. They even removed it from the land of Israel, which by that time had been desolated by the Assyrian captivity!

When Josiah died, we are told that all the people deeply mourned. Why? Because he had brought them

back to God! **Godly leaders are valued, while they live, and deeply mourned, when they die.** There is little mourning when apostate leaders pass away. All that is remembered are the scandals, financial losses, and sliding standards which occurred while they were in office.

HOW REFORMATION SUCCEEDED UNDER EZRA AND NEHEMIAH

The fifth and sixth of the church leaders who successfully brought the people back to God in a time of crisis and apostasy were Ezra and Nehemiah. On several occasions, when those godly leaders learned of an apostasy, **they immediately prayed earnestly** to God; **and then presented the facts to the people and prayed with them.** Each time this happened, a great reformation was the result. You can read about some of these varied experiences in *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 618-627, 629-640, 646-652, 661-668, and 673-678.

Here were men whom God could use!

“More than two thousand years have passed since Ezra ‘prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it’ (Ezra 7:10), yet the lapse of time has not lessened the influence of his pious example . . .

“In this age of the world, when Satan is seeking, through manifold agencies, to blind the eyes of men and women to the binding claims of the law of God, there is need of men who can cause many to ‘tremble at the commandment of our God.’ Ezra 10:3. There is need of true reformers, who will point transgressors

to the great Lawgiver and teach them that 'the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.' Psalm 19:7. There is need of men mighty in the Scriptures, men whose every word and act exalts the statutes of Jehovah, men who seek to strengthen faith. Teachers are needed, oh, so much, who will inspire hearts with reverence and love for the Scriptures.

"The widespread iniquity prevalent today may in a great degree be attributed to a failure to study and obey the Scriptures, for when the Word of God is set aside, its power to restrain the evil passions of the natural heart is rejected. Men sow to the flesh and of the flesh reap corruption.

"With the setting aside of the Bible has come a turning away from God's law. **The doctrine that men are released from obedience to the divine precepts, has weakened the force of moral obligation** and opened the floodgates of iniquity upon the world . .

"Between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah will come the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error. Upon this battle we are now entering—a battle not between rival churches contending for the supremacy, but between the religion of the Bible and the religions of fable and tradition . .

"Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by diligently studying the Word of God and striving to conform their lives to its precepts. The tremendous issues of eternity demand of us something besides an imaginary religion, a religion of

words and forms, where truth is kept in the outer court. **God calls for a revival and a reformation.**”—*Prophets and Kings*, 623-626.

As I conclude this portion of this book, it is with sadness that I must tell you this: Today, there are faithful believers who are leaving the church; *and, unfortunately*, some among our number are saying, “Good riddance.”

Brethren, this should not be. Those precious souls are needed in the church and should be in the church. Because of their integrity to our historic beliefs and standards, they are the pillars of the church which make it solid. **Yet they are steadily being pushed out by new theology pastors, not by our many good pastors and leaders.** This is an ongoing tragedy,

As new theology pastors are eventually transferred from one church to another, they set their sights on getting rid of the members in the church who are the most loyal to the beliefs of our Advent forefathers.

The cream is leaving! The situation is remarkably similar to the flight of the Huguenots from France between A.D. 1525 to 1775, as described in *Great Controversy*, 278-279. As the best of France departed, **all that eventually remained was a desolate wasteland of people who were ignorant of basic Christianity and rapidly became more and more worldly. Because of their slothfulness, they provided little revenue for government operations. That is what is gradually taking place in our denomination today!**

We have many good leaders on all levels who lament what is taking place. They must individually speak up and take action. In doing so, they will make contact with one another—and, unitedly,

they can work to draw our church back from the precipice it is gradually moving toward.

— PART TWO —

**PREPARING
FOR THE END**

How solemn is this life! We are so frail and so much in need of God's help at this time in history. Yet our church is gradually drifting far from Him!

We have just read God's plan for how to bring our entire church back to Him. Will it be done? Will our important leaders, on every level, take hold of the good work? Will they be true to their calling? Will they plead with God and resolutely set to work to make the needed changes?

Oh, how our present situation must grieve our heavenly Father! He is looking to us to initiate the needed changes; and He will cooperate with our efforts. But He is not going to set the church aright, apart from our earnest efforts.

We dare not, at this point, conclude this book. Instead, ***we need to briefly discuss how PRAYER, WARNINGS, CHANGES, and INSTRUCTION—which so dramatically altered the course of our church, over 24 centuries ago, can once again do it!***

**WHAT PRAYERS
NEED TO BE OFFERED?**

First, there are PRAYERS which must be offered. We must plead with God to awaken His

people before it is too late! The Advent people have been entrusted with a special commission from the King of kings. A solemn responsibility rests upon us.

The Lord called our church into existence in order to sound to all the world the message that all men on earth must obey the law of God, by the enabling grace of Christ.

Yet, more and more frequently, our people are being taught that keystone error of modern Protestantism—that a mere profession of Christ, and “faith alone,” will save every church member, regardless of his day-to-day conduct! That error was invented in Protestant seminaries to avoid obedience to the Fourth Commandment. By declaring that Christians did not need to obey any of them, it became easier to sidestep the Sabbath Commandment.

We must pray that God will send faithful men and women who will reprove sin, regardless of what it personally costs them. **We must pray** that they will not fear to give their messages. **We must pray** that our precious people will respond to the messages—and unite in prayer, earnest prayer, for their own souls—*before it is too late!* **We must pray that we ourselves will arise and set to work before it is forever too late! Eternity is almost upon us!**

WHAT WARNINGS NEED TO BE GIVEN?

Next, there are WARNINGS which must be given. Our people must be told that they will be lost, unless they repent and forsake their cherished sins! Membership on church rolls will not save them! God is no respecter of persons nor of ink marks on

church records. A personal, surrendered, obedient relationship with Jesus Christ is what counts.

This is an individual matter. Genuine, daily conversion is required. *Heart-rending pleadings for forgiveness* and a determination to change are needed.

Through the enabling strength which Christ alone can impart, *the secret sins which are being indulged must be abandoned.*

Our people urgently need to be told that they must study the Word of God—the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy—as though their lives depend on it. For, indeed, their eternal welfare does. Not because there is salvation in reading the words; but, through the power of God, doing so with a submissive attitude leads to the bringing of those concepts into the very fabric of one's being; it makes that person self-controlled and spiritually mature.

They must be told that they dare not place confidence in the words of any man, if those words contradict in the slightest the Written Word of God.

They must be told that the Spirit of Prophecy was given to our people, to protect them from deception and help prepare them for heaven! God did not have that lady go through all that suffering so that those books could be ignored today! On every page are truths of purest value, of highest accuracy, and eternal consequence.

Our people must be told that the atonement was not finished at the cross; but that Christ is pleading His blood on behalf of His people today in the Sanctuary above. They must be told that Christ took the nature of Abraham's descendants—our nature—and in that nature never once sinned. He thus gave us an example of how we may walk in His steps

and, through faith in His atoning merits, *fully obey* His Father's law.

They must be told that we—Seventh-day Adventists who know so much, have so much light, and have access to the Spirit of Prophecy writings—**are going to be judged far more heavily than the world around us.** When the books of the Judgment are opened to our names, the questions will concern the public example and teachings we gave to our children, friends, fellow church members, the world around us, plus the secret activities which we never told others about.

“Judgment,” we are told, “begins at the house of God.”

Our people must be told that trusting their soul's salvation to the deceptive errors that (1) all a person need do is “only believe and he will be saved” and that (2) “in this life we cannot put away our sins,”—is sheer madness! These are fascinating errors which will destroy all who cling to them.

We should also warn our people to get out of the cities before it is too late and they cannot get out! The time is coming when the judgments of God are going to fall on those cities.

We should warn our people to stop drinking coffee, which damages their hearts, **and stop eating meat** which is filling them with life-shortening disease.

We should warn our people about the dangers of chemical poisons; and we should teach them how to use hydrotherapy and natural remedies.

We should warn other leaders that, unless they awaken to the realities of the situation and earnestly seek to reverse the direction in which the church is

going, they themselves will be in danger of ultimately being lost.

Before concluding this chapter, it should be mentioned that some people declare that no one should reprove the larger sins of the church unless, in accordance with Matthew 18, that person first personally goes to each of those who are committing a sin and then, only after taking someone else back with him and talking to each of those people a second time, may he reprove the sin publicly.

But this concept is a misunderstanding of the meaning of Matthew 18:15-17. That passage only applies to the most private sins, personal offenses.

In contrast, **when sins are publicly known—though they may only be known by a small congregation—1 Timothy 5:20 is applicable, not Matthew 18.** Read this clear instruction:

“Her husband seemed to feel unreconciled to my bringing out her faults before the church and stated that if Sister White had followed the directions of our Lord in Matthew 18:15-17 he should not have felt hurt: ‘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. 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. 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.’

“My husband [James White] then stated that he should understand that **these words of our Lord had reference to cases of personal tres-**

pass, and could not be applied in the case of this sister. She had not trespassed against Sister White. But **that which had been reproved publicly was public wrongs which threatened the prosperity of the church and the cause.** Here, said my husband, is a text applicable to the case: **1 Timothy 5:20: 'Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.'** —*2 Testimonies*, 15 (Read the entire passage: pp. 14-16).

WHAT CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE?

Then there are CHANGES which need to be made, changes which demand our attention. It is unfortunate that gradually, with the passing of the years, **lowered standards have crept in and unwise policies have replaced principles given us by the God of heaven.** *I very respectfully bring several to your attention.* We cannot achieve genuine success, in bringing our people back to God, unless a number of corrective measures are put in place.

Steady, Biblical leadership on the part of our leaders is so much valued by the members. We look to you for solid leadership in protecting our historic beliefs and helping the members maintain a high spiritual connection with God.

Genuine success cannot be achieved unless modernist pastors in our ranks are stopped from teaching new theology errors to our members and encouraging them to lower their standards.

When those members who are most dedicated to our historic beliefs and standards protest, the liberal pastors remove them from their church offices,

and harass them until they either yield to his positions or leave the church. This is a tragedy which should not be permitted to continue. These liberal pastors seem determined to silence or eliminate genuine Adventists.

There is an urgent need for our conference presidents to carefully listen to church members when they express concerns about modernist pastors.

When these members contact the conference president, and he is not alert to recognize that their pastor is teaching doctrinal error and lowering church standards, the conference leader is likely to side with the liberal pastor. When that occurs, there are faithful members who give up trying—and drop their membership.

More faithful believers leave the denomination, year after year, from this one cause than any other. And they take their wallets and purses with them. **These are our most valuable members,** the ones who know our beliefs the best and who have been the most active in church work, in giving Bible studies, and in donating large amounts to support the work of the denomination.

The financial loss to the denomination from the loss of those faithful members is far greater than the financial losses and lawsuits caused by the activities of liberal pastors, executives, and accountants in our church.

Yet all the while, our modernist colleges and universities keep graduating more young ministers who have been trained in new theology skepticism.

We have here a three-step program for disas-

ter. Unless it is stopped, this interlocked school-conference-pastor connection ensures that the downward course of the church will continue:

(1) **Our colleges and universities are permitted to hire liberal teachers** who educate our youth in modernist teachings. (2) **Our conference presidents hire the graduates as pastors. Those pastors then coerce church members into accepting their liberal views.** (3) Members who refuse to be turned from their allegiance to the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy leave, when the impression is given that the conference office favors the pastor. **All over the world, this is the most frequent cause of church members forsaking the denomination** and meeting together in little groups or in home churches.

The most faithful church members—the ones who give the most in tithes and offerings, the ones who carry on the most Bible studies, the ones who bring the most interests to evangelistic meetings—are being forced out by new theology pastors. **The members who remain** tend to be those who have less interest in the church, who need more exciting entertainment in order to hold their interest, and who feel far less obligation to support the church with tithes and offerings. **Gradually, as a result, our churches keep becoming more and more worldly.**

It is urgent that new theology pastors and teachers be discharged! The church members know who they are! It is important that we carefully listen to them.

Our publishing houses should not print books, quarterlies, and church papers which downgrade our historic doctrinal teachings, instill doubt in our standards, or weaken confidence in the Spirit

of Prophecy writings.

WHAT INSTRUCTION NEEDS TO BE GIVEN?

You will recall that a key element used by leaders in returning God's ancient church to Him—was instruction. **If careful, godly instruction was ever needed by our people,—it is today!**

Our people need to be taught why our church was brought into existence, the changes they must make, and why they must take hold of the work and sound the message everywhere.

The massive crisis of the National Sunday Law, predicted in the Bible and the *Great Controversy*, is gradually drawing nearer! **Oh, my friends, there is a crucial need in our church for an instructional program to teach our people what they need to know at this time in history!** They need to be prepared for what is coming! They need to make right decisions, so they can do the work God would have them do right now!

There are truths to be learned. There are errors which need to be guarded against. The urgent question is where can our people go in order to obtain the needed instruction, *totally free from error?*

Here is an instructional program for group and personal study, which is entirely free from error:

A Basic Great Controversy Study Program

Reading through key chapters in the book, *Great Controversy*, alone or in a study group, is an outstanding way to grasp the heart of our historic be-

liefs and prepare for the crisis which is fast coming on the earth. Even if you have read it before, read it again. Share the information with others.

Here is a brief overview of such a study program. (The chapter numbers are those in the 1888 and 1911 editions.)

INTRODUCTION

GC, Chapter 29 - The Origin of Evil. An immense overview of the entire great controversy between Christ and Satan, spanning far more than 6,000 years! (For a slightly different presentation, read **Patriarchs and Prophets [PP], Chapters 1 and 3.**)

GC, Chapter 2 - Persecution in the First Centuries. How God's people maintain their integrity in a time of heavy persecution.

GC, Chapter 3 - The Apostasy. The primary errors which crept into the church during the Dark Ages include placing the words of man above the Word of God.

GC, Chapter 4 - The Waldenses. More information on how to live a Christian life, raise your children right, and do missionary work in a time of great compromise and persecution.

THE SANCTUARY MESSAGE

You need basic instruction in the Sanctuary Message. It is vital that you learn this truth in order to explain it to others and avoid various errors which are being taught. The *most accurate* information on this subject, available anywhere, is to found in the following chapters:

PP, Chapter 30 - The Tabernacle and Its Services. Basic information about the earthly sanctuary, its construction, and its services.

GC, Chapter 23 - What Is the Sanctuary? The best single chapter on the services within the heavenly Sanctuary. (**GC, Chapters 18-22**, provides helpful background material on events between 1816 and 1844.)

GC, Chapter 24 - In the Holy of Holies. Additional information on why the Sanctuary Message is so important to God's people, on a personal level.

GC, Chapter 28 - The Investigative Judgment. The important truth about the Investigative Judgment, which is in progress right now in heaven.

PREPARATION FOR THE FINAL CRISIS

Our people need to understand the final crisis, its causes and events. This information is urgently needed, so they can prepare for what is soon to come upon the earth! Unfortunately, this information is not being given to them in our churches!

GC, Chapter 25 - God's Law Immutable. The truth about the Mark of the Beast, Seal of God, and other important facts in Revelation 13 and 14.

GC, Chapter 26 - A Work of Reform. Additional information on the importance of the Bible Sabbath. (For more about the Sabbath in these last days, read **PK, chapter 14**.)

GC, Chapter 27 - Modern Revivals. The importance of obedience to God's law. The importance of sanctification and healthful living. (For more about the law of God, read **PP, Chapters 27 and 29**.)

GC, Chapter 35 - Aims of the Papacy. Facts you should know about Rome's objectives in the final crisis.

GC, Chapter 36 - The Impending Conflict. As God's people prepare to enter the final crisis.

GC, Chapter 37 - The Scriptures a Safeguard.

Extremely important: We are urged to be on our guard and only trust that which is in the Inspired Writings, not the words of any man! Only those who do this will successfully go through the final crisis.

GC, Chapter 38 - The Final Warning. The giving of the Loud Cry message to all the world and the intense persecution God's people will experience in the Small Time of Trouble.

GC, Chapter 39 - The Time of Trouble. Events from the General Close of Probation on down through the Plagues, the Great Time of Trouble, and Jacob's Trouble.

GC, Chapter 40 - God's People Delivered. God's people delivered from the power of their enemies by the Voice of God, the Special Resurrection, and the Second Coming of Christ for His people. The wicked die and the redeemed are taken to heaven.

GC, Chapter 41 - Desolation of the Earth. Events on earth and in heaven during the millennium.

GC, Chapter 42 - The Controversy Ended. Events from the close of the millennium onward. Christ's return, the wicked are raised, preparation for the battle, the death of the wicked, and eternity beyond.

SPECIAL SATANIC ERRORS

GC, Chapter 30 - Enmity between Man and Satan. How we are shielded from the attacks of Satan by the protecting grace of Christ.

GC, Chapter 31 - Agency of Evil Spirits. The ministry of good angels and the evil activities of evil angels.

GC, Chapter 32 - Snares of Satan. Opening Satan's toolbox and learning the ways he is constantly

trying to attack and destroy us.

GC, Chapter 33 - The First Great Deception.

The truth about the state of the dead and conditional immortality. The error of natural immortality and eternal hellfire.

GC, Chapter 34 - Spiritualism. The dangerous error that we can make contact with dead people.

PP, Chapter 67 - Ancient and Modern Sorcery.

Additional vital information about the dangers of spiritualism.

PP, Chapter 9 - The Literal Week. The truth about another satanic error: Evolutionary theory undermines God's creatorship, the Bible Sabbath, and the Bible.

Other Study Programs

Here are additional study programs which it would be well for our people to participate in. They will build character, improve health, and greatly help our families.

THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION

A prayerful reading through the following books is an outstanding way to draw closer to Christ and avoid many deceptions: *Steps to Christ*, *Mount of Blessing*, *Desire of Ages*, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *Prophets and Kings*, and *Christ's Object Lessons*.

BASIC STUDIES IN HEALTHFUL LIVING

You will find these books to be especially helpful: *Ministry of Healing* and *Counsels on Diet and Foods*.

STUDY GROUPS FOR OUR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

We should actively encourage the formation of various instructional classes, perhaps using *Adventist Home* or another Spirit of Prophecy book, in our lo-

cal churches and at camp meetings, for teenagers and young adults. Women should hold classes for mothers and use the book, *Child Guidance*. Excellent study books for our youth also include *Messages to Young People*.

INSTRUCTIONAL ARTICLES

An article containing pleadings to repent and explanations about how to put away sin (and warnings if it is not done) should be included in every division and union church periodical, as well as in the *Review*. Special Spirit of Prophecy instruction and warnings to ministers and church officers should be in each issue of *Ministry* magazine. Instruction in how to do missionary work should be regularly included. Our church publications should be designed to raise the standards of our people, clarify historic beliefs, and teach them how to work for souls.

How thankful we can be that God has given us such invaluable information to help us live godly lives!

There is yet another—very crucial—reason why we must urge our people to return to full obedience to God’s law. If they do not return now, in the coming crisis many of them will go out from us, join the opposition—and be lost! Oh, my friends, we must not let this happen; for they are precious souls for whom Christ died!

WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

In view of what we have discovered about the history of God’s church in Old Testament times, we have cause for very deep concern. Many of us have been thinking that the future of our denomination could include nothing but ongoing success. In-

deed, we are frequently given the impression that the church will keep increasing in strength and numbers until the Second Advent!

But what we have learned indicates that, because of the subtle influence of liberals in our midst, our church is headed for troublous times. Indeed, the astonishing increase of worldliness in our ranks is quite obvious. If the Old Testament patterns hold true to form today, our denomination could be rejected as one of the churches which have gone before.

What are the facts about this?

First, it should be noted that **the reason God deals with His church in every age in only one way—is because that is the way He is.** What He does is a reflection of His character. He always expects obedience. He always provides enabling strength to those trying to obey. After a period of test and trial, He always rejects those who stubbornly refuse to repent. There is no other way God will ever deal with a church.

What is the future of our church going to be?

We are here dealing with an “if” situation. ***It will entirely be a matter of obedience or disobedience.*** Obey and live is what God tells us. If we obey, one thing will happen to us. ***If we disobey, something else will eventually happen.*** The outcome is conditional. Jesus explained this in one of His parables:

“He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, **these three years I come seeking fruit** on this fig tree, and find none: **cut it down; why cumber-**

eth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it. And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.”—*Luke 13:6-9.*

Just as the vinedresser demanded figs from the tree, so **Christ requires obedience from His people.** But think not that this is an unreasonable requirement. **By His enabling grace, Jesus provides all the strength needed to produce that obedience.** He does it all; and we, in our infinite weakness, cooperate. Yet, without our decision to humbly submit to His will and determination to yield full obedience to His Written Word, He will not provide the enabling strength to obey. **He matches our willingness and effort with empowering grace.**

Because God’s character does not change, His commands and promises do not change. Either we choose to come into line with His Inspired Writings or we are headed for trouble.

God will provide all the help we need, if we are trying to fulfill His will. But if we are neglectful and gradually harden our hearts to obedience to His holy Word, then His Holy Spirit can only plead with us as we stubbornly descend from one level of rebellion to another.

We have come to a time when some of our pastors and leaders are declaring that it is impossible to obey God’s commands until Christ returns at the Second Coming! Such a theology is highly resistant to the deep movings of the Holy Spirit. It is dangerous, in the extreme, for anyone to believe that error!

In every age of past history, when an increas-

ing majority of those in a church refuse to yield obedience to God's commandments, it drifts into hopeless apostasy and is rejected by Him.

These are indeed solemn thoughts. ***This book has been written in order to provide our leaders and members with the Biblical plan for turning our church around***, for bringing it back to obedience to God's Inspired Books as the supreme authority in our church. —***We want everyone in the church to be saved, and no one lost!***

But what will be the future of our church, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, if the great majority of our people ultimately choose not to humbly repent and return to that obedience?

In past ages, when a church went into apostasy, it was eventually rejected and God raised up a new church.

However, in these last days, the situation is somewhat different: We live at the end of time; and a special term comes into focus: ***the "remnant."***

It is true that the liberals among us declare that all the Sundaykeeping churches are part of this so-called "*remnant.*" But they are in error on that point, as on so many others.

The concept of exactly who constitutes the remnant is clearly explained in the Bible:

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."—*Revelation 12:17.*

We are here given an accurate definition. **The remnant only consists of those who keep God's com-**

mandments and have a heartfelt testimony about their faith in Christ their Saviour. The parallel passage is found in the next two chapters:

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that **keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.**”—*Revelation 14:12.*

They keep God’s commandments by faith in Christ. ***It is their faith in Christ which alone enables them to keep those commandments!*** The two go together.

But, now, we are confronted with the possibility that our church may go into apostasy and be rejected by Heaven. This is a terrible thought, but will it happen?

Will the church eventually become Babylon?

Prior to our time, many churches have fallen and become daughters of Babylon. **What is Babylon?** How do we define it?

The papacy is Babylon because it brought Sunday sacredness into the church of Christ. The Protestant churches have fallen into Babylon because they also cling to Sundaykeeping.

The special teaching of Babylon is the substitution of **Sunday sacredness** in place of the true Bible Sabbath on the seventh day.

Will our church become Babylon? No, because of this last-day remnant principle. —The remnant will go through to the end and will not go into apostasy.

How can I be so sure? *Because they are the remnant!* By the Revelation 12:17 definition, the remnant are the commandment-keeping people of God. **Because the remnant are commandment-keepers, they cannot become part of Babylon!** Babylon, by

definition, consists of the churches which do not keep all of God's commandments.

At the present time, does our church appear as if it is about to fall? It surely does. And this was predicted. We were told that our church "may appear as about to fall." With deepest sorrow, we must admit that the apostasy in our midst is rapidly accelerating. Every year it gets dramatically worse!

So, in reality, the "true church" is the commandment-keeping people of God, whether or not they are enrolled on the books of our denomination. The other people in it are not actually part of this true church. So when the church is purified, only the commandment-keepers will remain.

Here is how the Spirit of Prophecy defines God's true church:

"God has a church upon the earth who are His chosen people, who keep His commandments."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 61.

"God has a church on earth who are lifting up the downtrodden law, and presenting to the world the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 50.

"From the beginning, **faithful souls have constituted the church** on earth. In every age the Lord has had His watchmen, who have borne a faithful testimony to the generation in which they lived. These sentinels gave the message of warning; and when they were called to lay off their armor, others took up the work. God brought these witnesses into covenant relation with Himself, uniting the church on earth with the church in heaven."—*Acts of the Apostles*, 11.

“God is leading out a people. **He has a chosen people, a church on the earth, whom He has made the depositaries of His law.** He has committed to them sacred trust and eternal truth to be given to the world.”—*2 Selected Messages, 66.*

What about that phrase, “The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall”? The entire phrase is quoted nearly ten times in various Spirit of Prophecy compilations.

But in only one place are we given the context of the statement. It is in **2 Selected Messages, 380, where we learn that the statement is speaking about the time of the National Sunday Law crisis.** At that time, although *most of the believers and leaders* in our church may apostatize under threat of imprisonment and death if they do not obey the Sunday Law, yet the faithful—the remnant—will continue keeping God’s commandments. They will continue on through to the very end and be translated.

The true church consists of the faithful ones who will give the loud cry and go through the final crisis, trusting in God. But that should not be surprising—for the “loud cry” is the Three Angels’ Message; and it is a call to come out of Babylon and keep God’s commandments by faith in Christ’s enabling grace. Only commandment-keepers will give that message! They are the remnant of Revelation 12:17.

They will be all that is left of the Adventist Church after the passing of the National Sunday Law. The rest of the church members, at that time, will all be gone. Where did they go to? Under the threat of imprisonment and death, if they refuse to be faithful in cherishing the Sabbath that God

gave us, they will have joined the Sundaykeepers.

So now we can understand the phrase:

“The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall.”

Here is a major portion of that complete statement. It helps explain the future of our church:

“There are many doctrines current in our world. There is many a religion current that numbers its thousands and tens of thousands, **but there is but one that bears the superscription and the stamp of God.** There is a religion of man and a religion of God. We must have our souls riveted to the eternal Rock. Everything in God’s world, both men and doctrines and nature itself, is fulfilling God’s sure word of prophecy and accomplishing His grand and closing work in this world’s history.

“We are to be ready and waiting for the orders of God. Nations will be stirred to their very center. Support will be withdrawn from those who proclaim God’s only standard of righteousness, the only sure test of character. And all who will not bow to the decree of the national councils and obey the national laws to exalt the sabbath instituted by the man of sin, to the disregard of God’s holy day, will feel, not the oppressive power of popery alone, but of the Protestant world, the image of the beast.

“Satan will work his miracles to deceive; he will set up his power as supreme. **The church may appear as about to fall: but it does not fall.** It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but

nevertheless it must take place. None but those who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths. We must be divested of our self-righteousness and arrayed in the righteousness of Christ.

“The remnant that purify their souls by obeying the truth gather strength from the trying process . . . We want faith now, living faith. We want to have a living testimony that shall cut to the heart of the sinner. There is too much sermonizing and too little ministering. We want the holy unction. We need the spirit and fervor of the truth. **Many of the ministers are half paralyzed by their own defects of character. They need the converting power of God.**

“That which God required of Adam before his fall was perfect obedience to His law. **God requires now what He required of Adam, perfect obedience,** righteousness without a flaw, without shortcoming in His sight. **God help us to render to Him all His law requires.** We cannot do this without that faith that brings Christ’s righteousness into daily practice.”—*2 Selected Messages, 379-381.*

Just now, we plead with the entire church. *Please, if you have not already done so, just now, return to the true God and to obedience—through the enabling grace of Christ—to His moral and health laws!*

“God’s plan is not to send messengers who will *please and flatter* sinners; He delivers no messages of peace to *lull the unsanctified into car-*

nal security. Instead, He lays heavy burdens upon the conscience of the wrongdoer and pierces his soul with sharp arrows of conviction.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 435.

The church will appear as about to fall because of its present increasing apostasy. It will appear as about to fall because, when the National Sunday Law strikes,—a great majority of Advent believers will join the ranks of the enemies and keep Sunday holy. But it will not fall. The faithful “remnant . . . which keep the commandments of God” will go through to the end (*Rev 12:17*).

Here are several quotations which show the desolating intensity of the coming crisis which Seventh-day Adventists will be confronted with:

“Our land is in jeopardy. The time is drawing on when its legislators shall so abjure the principles of Protestantism as to give countenance to Romish apostasy. The people for whom God has so marvelously wrought, strengthening them to throw off the galling yoke of popery, will, by **a national act**, give vigor to the corrupt faith of Rome, and thus arouse the tyranny which only waits for a touch to start again into cruelty and despotism.”—*Signs*, July 4, 1899.

Religious liberty will come to an end.

“The law of God, through the agency of Satan, is to be made void. In our land of boasted freedom, **religious liberty will come to an end**. The contest will be decided over the Sabbath question, which will agitate the whole world.”—*Evangelism*, 236.

The tyranny and oppression of Rome will be

revived.

“Protestants will throw their whole influence and strength on the side of the Papacy; by a national act enforcing the false sabbath, they will give life and vigor to the corrupt faith of Rome, **reviving her tyranny and oppression** of conscience.”—*Maranatha*, 179.

Men will be compelled to obey.

“A great crisis awaits the people of God. Very soon our nation will attempt to enforce upon all the observance of the first day of the week as a sacred day. In doing this, **they will not scruple to compel men** against the voice of their own conscience to observe the day the nation declares to be the Sabbath.”—*Last Day Events*, 144 (*Review Extra*, December 11, 1888).

God’s people will be hated and opposed. The faithful will fight the battle against great national powers.

“**Seventh-day Adventists will fight the battle over the seventh-day Sabbath.** The authorities in the United States and in other countries will rise up in their pride and power and make laws to restrict religious liberty.”—*Last Day Events*, 144.

“Soon the Sunday Laws will be enforced, and **men in positions of trust will be embittered** against the little handful of God’s commandment-keeping people.”—*4 Manuscript Releases*, 279.

The no-buy-sell decree will go into effect.

“**Hoarded wealth will soon be worthless. When the decree shall go forth that none shall buy or sell** except they have the mark of the beast, very much means will be of no avail. God calls for

us now to do all in our power to send forth the warning to the world.”—*Last Day Events*, 148.

The no-buy-sell restriction will apply to commandment keepers.

“The work must not stop for want of means. More means must be invested in it. Brethren in America, in the name of my Master I bid you wake up! You that are placing your talents of means in a napkin, and hiding them in the earth, who are building houses and adding land to land, God calls upon you, ‘Sell that ye have, and give alms.’ **There is a time coming when commandment keepers can neither buy nor sell.** Make haste to dig out your buried talents. If God has entrusted you with money, show yourselves faithful to your trust; unwrap your napkin, and send your talents to the exchangers, that when Christ shall come, He may receive His own with interest.”—*Counsels on Stewardship*, 40.

Satan says, “**‘For fear of wanting food and clothing they will join with the world in transgressing God’s law. The earth will be wholly under my dominion.’**”—*Prophets and Kings*, 184.

In addition to the no-buy-sell proviso, there will be the threat of punishment and death, which will cause many of our people to yield the faith.

“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 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.”—5 *Testimonies*, 81.

“Wonderful events are soon to open before the world. The end of all things is at hand. The time of trouble is about to come upon the people of God. Then it is that ***the decree will go forth forbidding those who keep the Sabbath of the Lord to buy or sell, and threatening them with punishment, and even death***, if they do not observe the first day of the week as the Sabbath.”—*Review*, November 19, 1908.

How thankful we can be that God has promised that the remnant will go through to the end! Everyone who is willing, by faith in Christ, to obey God’s commandments can be among that number. Some will be faithful Adventist church members who will remain true to God to the end. Others will be faithful believers who had earlier been forced out of the denomination by modernist pastors. Still others will be those who unite with the remnant during the loud cry of the Third Angel.

“The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place . . . The remnant that purify their souls by obeying the truth gather strength from the trying process.”—2 *Selected Messages*, 380.

The U.S. National Sunday Law will very soon be followed by identical national enactments in every other nation on the globe.

In considering the future of our denomination,

*one other question remains: **Will the Adventist Church structure, the organization, go through the beginning of that sudden, immense crisis?** Will our church, as a distinct organizational structure, continue to exist and function after the final crisis begins, with the enactment of the U.S. Sunday Law?*

*This we cannot know at this time. Frankly, **the answer to this question will depend on the positions taken by our church leaders, on various levels, when the crisis suddenly breaks upon us!***

***There are several possible outcomes, based on how our leaders respond to the crisis.** This is due to the fact that it is our leaders who exercise legal control over our church.*

***The first possibility** is that *our church leaders and pastors, on all levels, will prove true to God.* Those who have been tolerating and abetting modernism and increasing apostasy will dramatically return to God and stand in defense of full obedience to God's holy law. *If this happens, our various denominational headquarters will, apart from government interference, continue to be controlled by men faithful to God.**

***The second possibility** is that *those of our leaders, who have been so willing to compromise in the present time of peace, will quickly go over to the enemies' side, when the crisis comes and they are threatened with imprisonment. In that case, they are very likely to attempt to retain control of the denomination.* Satan would especially triumph if they would do that! This has happened before.*

When the communists took over the nation of China on October 1, 1949, every leader in the China

Division of SDA immediately declared himself to be an atheist communist! I have this in a written statement by a faithful lower-level church leader who wrote it after fleeing and going into hiding.

As a result, the Adventist Church structure in China (with all its churches, headquarters, and publishing house) continued on for a time as a distinct entity—yet in a total state of apostasy. Later still, all its buildings were converted by the government to other purposes; and the name, “Seventh-day Adventist,” disappeared.

In China, it was the threat of imprisonment and death which produced such a dramatic change-over by the Adventist leaders. A similar experience is likely to soon be duplicated in America and overseas, as other nations enact their own Sunday laws.

“As Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, issued a decree that all who would not bow down and worship this image should be killed, so **a proclamation will be made that all who will not reverence the Sunday institution will be punished with imprisonment and death** . . . Let all read carefully the thirteenth chapter of Revelation, for it concerns every human agent, great and small.”—*14 Manuscript Releases, 91 (1896)*.

The third possibility is that, *regardless to what extent our leaders apostatize, the various governments will confiscate all Adventist Church property and the structure will apparently cease to exist.*

However, Satan would probably exult more—and cause much more confusion in the ranks of Adventist believers everywhere—if, when the final crisis suddenly hits, our denominational leaders followed the

pattern done in China in 1949.

It would clearly be to Satan's advantage to prompt men to maintain the Adventist structure, but officially switch to Sundaykeeping, knowing that it would encourage still more church members to abandon the Sabbath in that fearful time.

After Herbert W. Armstrong's death in 1986, Joseph W. Tkach became Pastor General. Within a few years, while still retaining the church name (Worldwide Church of God), the leadership repudiated commandment keeping as legalism. A very large number of the church members readily accepted this change and, with their leaders, switched from Sabbathkeeping to Sundaykeeping. If the leaders had abandoned their positions at the head of the WWCG, when they left its historic beliefs, most of the members would probably be Sabbathkeepers today. But it is an innate craving of worldly leaders to try to retain their positions of influence, even when they are no longer qualified for their positions. By the early 1990s, WWCG leaders refused to print Armstrong's earlier books promoting the Bible Sabbath—or (because they controlled the copyrights) let a breakaway Sabbathkeeping group print them.

The fourth possibility is that *leaders in charge of some of our church entities will stand true* while those in charge of others will, with government approval, institute full Sundaykeeping in their respective institutions or conference territories.

However, ultimately, even the faithful leaders of conferences, local churches, etc., will probably have to flee for safety to country locations; there to work individually and in little groups.

The core problem here is this: **When the National Sunday Law is enacted, or shortly thereafter, it will be illegal to be a genuine Seventh-day Adventist;** that is, a person who worships God on the holy Sabbath and refuses to worship on the venerable day of the sun.

Does the Spirit of Prophecy discuss our denominational structure after the National Sunday Law goes into effect, in our nation or overseas? Not to our knowledge. But it does provide hints. A careful study of last-day events reveals that there is little comment about our official Adventist entities after the enactment of the National Sunday Law.

Instead, we are told about “the remnant” and how individual believers will go from door-to-door, doing personal work, giving Bible studies, treating the sick with natural remedies, distributing publications, appearing in court, living in rural locations, and being in prison.

After the Sunday Law is enacted, we are told of *individual* believers and *little groups* of believers; that is all. Apparently, low-cost bookwork will continue to be important. We do not find any mention of official “Seventh-day Adventist” denominational offices, church buildings, hospitals, or the rest. **Only independent projects, located here and there in rural areas, will be able to continue.**

Now you can better see why we were warned that we should not live in the cities, or locate our executive offices or institutions there:

“The truth must be spoken, whether men will hear, or whether men will forbear. The cities are

filled with temptation. *We should plan our work in such a way as to keep our young people as far as possible from this contamination.*

“The cities are to be worked from outposts. Said the messenger of God, ‘Shall not the cities be warned? Yes; *not by God’s people living in them*, but by their visiting them, to warn them of what is coming upon the earth.’ ”—*Country Living*, 30 (Letter 182, 1902).

“As God’s commandment-keeping people, *we must leave the cities*. As did Enoch, we must work in the cities but not dwell in them.”—*Evangelism*, 77-78.

It should especially be noted that a careful reading of the many inspired statements indicates that **all our churches and institutions which are located in the cities will be lost to the cause, when the National Sunday Law is enacted.** Unfortunately the clear warnings of Inspiration have not always been considered; and, as a result, a large number of our executive offices, hospitals, publishing houses, or large churches—*are located in urban areas!*

“ ‘Out of the cities; out of the cities!’ this is the message the Lord has been giving me. The earthquakes will come; the floods will come; and **we are not to establish ourselves in the wicked cities**, where the enemy is served in every way, and where God is so often forgotten. The Lord desires that we shall have clear spiritual eyesight. **We must be quick to discern the peril that would attend the establishment of institutions in these wicked cities.** We must make wise plans to warn the cities, and at the same time live where we can shield our children and ourselves from

the contaminating and demoralizing influences so prevalent in these places.”—*Life Sketches*, 409-410 (1906).

“For years I have been given special light that **we are not to center our work in the cities.**”—*7 Testimonies*, 84 (1902).

“The time is near when *the large cities will be visited by the judgments of God*. In a little while these cities will be terribly shaken. No matter how large or how strong their buildings, no matter how many safeguards against fire may have been provided, let God touch these buildings, and in a few minutes or a few hours they are in ruins.”—*7 Testimonies*, 83 (1902).

“There are reasons why **we should not build in the cities**. On these cities, God’s judgments are soon to fall.”—*Country Living*, 8 (Letter 158, 1902).

“The time is near when *large cities will be swept away*, and all should be warned of these coming judgments.”—*Evangelism*, 29 (1910).

“In harmony with the light given me, I am urging people to **come out from the great centers of population.**”—*Country Living*, 9 (Manuscript 115, 1907).

What will happen to those who leave the faith when the crisis hits? We are told that they will unite with our most bitter enemies. Unfortunately, it will be easier for them to betray us if, at that time, we are still living in the cities.

“As the storm approaches, **a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been sanctified through obe-**

dience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. **They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren.** When Sabbath-keepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.”—*Great Controversy*, 608.

In a careful study of the Old Testament pattern of church apostasy, we came across an interesting word: “*Scatter.*” **God repeatedly predicted that if His people chose to go into apostasy, He would “scatter them** among the heathen” (*Lev 26:33, Deut 4:27, 28:64, Jer 9:16, Eze 12:15, 20:23, 22:15*). This is what happened to apostate Israel, later to Judah, and still later to the Jews after A.D. 70. This is exactly what will happen to **the apostate Adventists**, when the National Sunday Law is suddenly enacted. **They will be scattered among the Sundaykeepers.**

God’s faithful ones, who have obeyed the Spirit of Prophecy and earlier positioned themselves in secluded country locations, will be in a more favorable position to begin giving the loud cry message. But, of course, wherever they may be located, all of God’s faithful ones will have a part in proclaiming the truth of the Sabbath and God’s law to the nations.

How suddenly will the crisis come to every Seventh-day Adventist? Will we have a few months in which to prepare? No! **Suddenly, as the midnight thief, it will come upon us!**

“Sundaykeeping is not yet the mark of the beast, and will not be **until the decree goes forth causing men to worship this idol sabbath**. The time will come when this day will be the test, but that time has not come yet.”—7 Bible Commentary, 977 (Manuscript 118, 1899).

Another important point: How fast will the crisis develop?

Under heavy coercion from Catholics and Protestants, **Congress will enact the National Sunday Law. There is every indication that threats and stiff penalties will quickly accompany it—and that it will go into effect almost immediately.**

“**When the legislature frames laws which exalt the first day of the week**, and put it in the place of the seventh day, the device of Satan will be perfected.”—7 Bible Commentary, 976 (Review, April 15, 1890).

How long will every Seventh-day Adventist believer have before he must make his personal decision as to whether he will keep the Bible Sabbath or switch over to Sundaykeeping? **Perhaps only a week or two at the most!**

Because Adventists *already know the issues*, as soon as they make that decision, they will receive the Mark of the Beast or the Seal of God. There will be no backtracking or second chance.

“Judgment must begin at the house of God” (Eze 9:6). Other people will have time to learn what is in-

volved in the Sabbath-Sunday controversy and make their decision—but not us! We understand the issues.—And, by what we do the following weekend (or two or three weeks later at the most), we will immediately make our decision and be judged for it.

“The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for **it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided** . . . [Rev. 13:11-17 quoted.] . . .

“This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. All who prove their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. **Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast.**”—7 *Bible Commentary*, 976 (*Letter 11*, 1890).

The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast will be given at the same time. Before a person receives one or the other, **three things must occur: First**, the National Sunday Law must be enacted. **Second**, he must understand the issues. **Third**, he must make his decision. The following passage explains this:

“If the light of truth has been presented to you, revealing the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and showing that there is no foundation in the Word of God for Sunday observance, and yet you still cling to the false sabbath, refusing to keep holy the Sabbath which God calls ‘My holy day,’ you receive the mark of the beast. **When does**

this take place? When you obey the decree that commands you to cease from labor on Sunday and worship God, **while you know** that there is not a word in the Bible showing Sunday to be other than a common working day, you consent to receive the mark of the beast, and refuse the seal of God.

“If we receive this mark in our foreheads or in our hands, *the judgments pronounced against the disobedient must fall upon us*. But the seal of the living God is placed upon those who conscientiously keep the Sabbath of the Lord.”—7 *Bible Commentary*, 980 (Review, July 13, 1897).

How thankful we can be that, through the enabling grace of Christ, we can obey all the commandments of God, go through the final crisis, and live someday soon with Jesus and all the holy angels!

I know that this is what you want for yourself and your loved ones! It is something we all can have! But we must continually remain on guard.

“Prophecy represents Protestantism as having lamb-like horns, but speaking like a dragon. Already we are beginning to hear the voice of the dragon. **There is a satanic force propelling the Sunday movement, but it is concealed.** Even the men who are engaged in the work, are themselves blinded to the results which will follow their movement.

“Let not the commandment-keeping people of God be silent at this time, as though we gracefully accepted the situation. There is the prospect before us of waging a continuous war, at the risk of imprisonment, of losing property and even life itself, to defend the law of God,

which is being made void by the laws of men.”—7 Bible Commentary, 975 (Review, January 1, 1889).

“Religious powers, allied to heaven by profession and claiming to have the characteristics of a lamb, will show by their acts that they have the heart of a dragon, and that they are instigated and controlled by Satan. **The time is coming when God’s people will feel the hand of persecution because they keep holy the seventh day.** Satan has caused the change of the Sabbath in the hope of carrying out his purpose for the defeat of God’s plans. **He seeks to make the commands of God of less force in the world than human laws.**

“The man of sin, who thought to change times and laws, and who has always oppressed the people of God, will cause laws to be made enforcing the observance of the first day of the week. **But God’s people are to stand firm for Him.** And the Lord will work in their behalf, showing plainly that He is the God of gods.”—7 Bible Commentary, 975 (Manuscript 135, 1902).

Oh, my friends! We must get ready! We must stand in defense of God’s holy law in the midst of a terrible crisis! God will help us as we yield our bodies and minds to His control, and obey what He has told us in the Inspired Writings.

The final crisis, produced by Sunday legislation and the heavy persecution which will immediately follow it, will dramatically purify our church as the chaff is blown away and only the wheat—the remnant—remains.

There is one other interesting fact:

In the final crisis just ahead of us—there will hardly be any leaders at all directing what is done! The reason is that the persecution will be so heavy and extensive, that it would be difficult for leaders to carry on any semblance of an executive work, much less make contact with laymen and workers and direct activities out in the field.

“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 . . . **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 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.

“When **trees without fruit are cut down** as cumberers of the ground, when **multitudes of false brethren** are distinguished from the true, **then the hidden ones will be revealed to view,** and with hosannas range under the banner of

Christ. Those who have been timid and self-distrustful will declare themselves openly for Christ and His truth. The most weak and hesitating in the church will be as David—willing to do and dare.”—5 Testimonies, 80-81.

In that terrible crisis, faithful believers (singly and in little groups) will be guided by the hand of God.

“Unless those who can help in ___ are aroused to a sense of their duty, **they will not recognize the work of God when the loud cry of the third angel shall be heard.** When light goes forth to lighten the earth, instead of coming up to the help of the Lord, they will want to bind about His work to meet their narrow ideas. **Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning.** There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when **the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel** in the message to be given to the world. **God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands.** The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 300.

LOOKING BACK FROM TOMORROW

What did we learn from the last chapter? We

discovered that, because thousands of our church members are gradually drifting even deeper into a love of worldly entertainment, lowered standards, and the stupefying belief that they can go deeper into sin with no fear of a coming judgment, **large numbers of our precious church members will fail to weather the sudden storm brought on by the National Sunday Law; they will join the opposition and be lost.**

Neville Chamberlain, British prime minister from 1937 to 1940, urged appeasement toward Adolf Hitler's efforts to gain control of even larger areas of Europe. This policy led to the Munich agreement of 1938, by which Chamberlain hoped to achieve "peace for our time." He was forced to resign in 1940, brokenhearted as he realized that vast numbers were unnecessarily dying because of his efforts to pacify Hitler; he died a few months later.

Are some of us, for the sake of our own personal comfort, giving the liberals in the church what they want? When the Judgment (which began in 1844) passes to the living and comes to your name and mine, we would not want to be classed with those who let liberal pastors and workers lead once-godly congregations into a love of worldliness.

If we do not earnestly work to bring the church back to obedience to God's Word now, multiplied thousands of our church members may be lost when the great crisis hits—and they have to suddenly choose between obedience to God and the very real threat of imprisonment and death. Will those, who have compromised so long with cheap entertainment and cherished sins, be likely to suddenly return to careful obedience to God's law. Or will they find it easier to join the Sundaykeepers?

THIS IS THE NEW THEOLOGY

It is extremely important that our people become aware of the basic doctrinal teachings of the modernists who have entered our churches in recent years. This hideous set of errors is tearing our church apart and causing our most faithful members to leave in ever-increasing numbers and form small home churches.

Here are several aspects of this treacherous, soul-destroying, un-Scriptural theory.

This horrible package of errors was initially taught to our Bible teachers by men opposed to God's law in outside universities, when our men went there for doctorates. Upon returning to our colleges and universities, these Bible teachers then taught them to our future ministers who, upon being hired into our conferences, began teaching the whole package to our church members. *Here is this theological package:*

Sin: Sin need not be put away in this life. **We must not even try to resist sin; for, to do so, is legalism.** We must let God automatically do it in our lives for us, to whatever degree He might at times decide to, with no effort on our part. Sin, including cherished sin, is not removed from us until the Second Advent. There is no such thing as living a good, clean life. *Bible/Spirit of Prophecy proof? None.*

A variant error is that sin is not disobedience to God's law, but only separation from God! Therefore, as soon as we accept Christ, we no longer have sin in our lives! *Bible/Spirit of Prophecy proof? None.*

God's commandments: God's commands in the

Inspired Writings need not be kept in this life. **It is legalism to try to obey God's laws.** *Bible/Spirit of Prophecy proof? None.* (But they say we should continue obeying the laws of the land; it is not legalism to do that!)

Grace: The grace of Christ can forgive our past sins, but it **cannot empower us to resist present temptations** to sin. God did not plan that we be given strength to overcome sin. He does not care if we sin. Prior to the Second Advent, the plan of salvation only includes forgiveness. *Bible/Spirit of Prophecy proof? None.*

The human nature of Christ: It is said that no one with a fallen nature can resist sin, so **Christ did not take our fallen nature.** Instead, He took the sinless nature of Adam before his fall. While on earth, Christ did not give us an example of how to be overcomers; so He is not our Example. And the “overcomer promises” in Revelation are meaningless. *Bible/Spirit of Prophecy proof? None.*

The atonement: Because it is all right to continue living a life in sin, **we have salvation, complete and eternal, as soon as we accept the fact that Christ died on Calvary.** All that matters is justification; sanctification is of little consequence. Because sins committed after Calvary do not matter, the atonement was finished when Christ ascended to heaven; and He has done nothing since then. *Bible/Spirit of Prophecy proof? None.*

The judgment: There is no future judgment of anyone who professes faith in Christ. There would be no need for it; since they cannot be judged for their sins. It is comforting to know that God does not care how much they sin. *Bible/Spirit of Prophecy*

proof? None.

The church: Because sin and obedience does not matter, **all the denominations are part of the remnant.** But those who are legalists are not in the remnant. A “legalist” is defined as someone who believes his conduct does not have any affect on his salvation. *Bible/Spirit of Prophecy proof? None.*

Bible prophecy: We should not interpret any of the Bible prophecies as applying to the Roman Catholic Church. Therefore, the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation were either fulfilled before Catholicism came into existence (preterism) or at some future time, just before Christ’s return (futurism). The predicted Mark of the Beast will only be given to legalists. *Bible/Spirit of Prophecy proof? None.*

Bible interpretation: Doctrine should only be based on a single verse or passage, never a combination of several (“here a little and there a little”). We should never compare passages in order to arrive at truth (because we might arrive at too much truth). This helps us produce only a few meaningful doctrines. Our sermons should primarily consist of bantering and philosophizing rather than Bible studies. It is important that we keep the people from studying God’s Word. *Bible/Spirit of Prophecy proof? None.*

Spirit of Prophecy: Because it is so pointed and contains so many Bible quotations, we have decided that **the Spirit of Prophecy was only given for “comfort” and should not be used to explain doctrine or standards.** Actually, it is of little value, compared with many other books,—the most valuable of which are those written by men with doctoral degrees. *Bible/Spirit of Prophecy proof? None.*

Non-Adventist theologians: We were taught in

college, and at the Seminary, that **books and articles by Protestant and Catholic theologians are an invaluable source of fresh, new concepts** which we can integrate into Adventist teachings. *Bible/Spirit of Prophecy proof? None.*

Ecumenism: We need to draw closer to the other denominations—by holding joint meetings, inviting their ministers and priests to speak to us, seeking to harmonize our teachings with theirs, and doing nothing to antagonize them. They have great light which we need. *Bible/Spirit of Prophecy proof? None.*

Governments: We should obey governmental laws, without question, **and accept government funds** even when strings are “not” attached. *Bible/Spirit of Prophecy proof? None.*

Church membership: Because we need more members, **we should overlook worldly beliefs and practices in those who wish to join; and we should avoid disfellowshipping because of lowered standards.** The only ones who need to be eliminated are the troublemakers who demand stricter standards or a return to historic teachings. *Bible/Spirit of Prophecy proof? None.*

—So there you have it: the whole horrible mess! It is an encouragement to worldliness, licentiousness, and fraud. It is an invitation to disaster.

Contrast the two messages:

The message of the angels of Revelation 14 is that you should obey the commandments of God, because the Judgment is come; and those who refuse to obey will receive the Mark of the Beast. Incorri-

gible sinners will perish in hellfire. Return to God before it is too late!

The message of demons is that you do not need to obey what God says, because there is no Judgment. The Mark will only be given to legalists who try to obey God's law. Massive numbers of incorrigible sinners will live forever in heaven. Relax and enjoy sin all you want.

THE HEART OF HISTORIC ADVENTISM

The reason our modernist pastors rarely quote the Bible in their sermons is because everything in it disproves their pet theories. In happy contrast, we next turn our attention to Historic Adventism and its God-given teachings.

We do not have space in this small book to provide the Scriptural support for all our historic teachings. But **four are fundamental to all the others; and they demand special attention.** You will notice that *most of the errors, listed above, are related to the issue of whether or not we need to put away sin and obey God.*

(1) Do we need to overcome sin? (2) Are we required to obey God's commands? (3) Can the grace of Christ enable us to live clean, godly lives? (4) Did Christ really take our nature?

Here is a brief overview of a small part—a very small part—of the Scriptural foundation for these four truths—especially as it relates to the core issue: the sin problem.

1 - DO WE NEED TO OVERCOME SIN?

Sin is deceitful (Heb 3:13), defiling (Lev 18:24-

26, Rev 21:27, Isa 59:3), disgraceful (Jer 14:20-21, Prov 14:34), and a besetting hindrance (Heb 12:1, 1 Tim 5:24-25).

God abominates (hates) it (Deut 25:15-16, Prov 6:16-19), marks it (Job 10:14), remembers it (Rev 18:5), is angered by it (1 Kgs 16:2), and will recompense it (Jer 16:18, Rev 18:6), and punish it (Isa 13:11, Jer 21:14).

The wicked plead the necessity of sin (1 Sam 13:11-12) and continually try to excuse it in their lives (1 Sam 15:13-24, Gen 3:12-13,). They encourage themselves as being all right in God's eyes, even while engaged in it (Ps 64:5). The problem is that they are dead in sin (Eph 2:1); and they are actually defying God as they brazenly continue in it (Isa 5:18-20). Amazingly, it is part of their theology to actually boast of it in their lives (Isa 3:9). They expect that God will save them in spite of their sins (Ps 94:7). Thus they make a mock of their sin instead of forsaking it (Prov 14:9).

The truth is that they are chained by their sins and cannot cease from them (2 Peter 2:14-15). They love their sins and heap them up (Ps 78:17, Isa 30:1). Both in prosperity and discouragement they continue in sin (Prov 10:16, Jer 18:12-13). By their flaunting words, they tempt others to sin (Gen 3:6, Prov 29:5) and are delighted when others accept their evil counsel, to continue in it (Rom 1:32).

It is a special duty of all true ministers to warn men against sin. They are to testify against it (Isa 30:8-14, Eze 2:3-5, 2 Tim 2:24-26) and try to turn men from it. Those who choose to remain in their sins are the servants—slaves—of sin (John 8:34, Rom 6:16). Those who refuse to warn the people to turn from

their sins—will bear the responsibility, along with the sinner, for the sins they have placated (Eze 33:1-11, 3:17-21).

2 - ARE WE REQUIRED TO OBEY GOD'S COMMANDS?

Sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4). It is of the devil (1 John 3:8), and is rebellion against God (Deut 9:7, Isa 30:9).

God's law is transgressed by every sin (James 2:10-11 with 1 John 3:4); and God's faithful ones know they dare not live in sin (1 John 3:9). And so they resolve that they will no longer do so (Job 34:31-32). They are ashamed of having committed sin (Rom 6:21) and abhor themselves on account of any sin they may have slipped into (Job 42:6, Eze 20:43). They cease from sin (1 Peter 4:1) because the fear of God restrains them from it (Ex 20:20, 1 Sam 12:14-15, Eccl 12:13-14). The saints are made free from sin (Rom 6:17-22); and, in Christ, they are dead to it (Rom 6:2, 11; 1 Peter 2:24).

It is through obedience to the Word of God that they are kept from sin (Ps 119:11). But whenever they slip and fall, they do not try to cover it. They acknowledge their sin (Ps 32:5-6), confess it (1 John 1:9, Prov 28:13), and put it away from their lives (Job 11:14).

3 - CAN THE GRACE OF CHRIST ENABLE US TO LIVE CLEAN, GODLY LIVES?

Only God can forgive sin (Ex 34:7, Dan 9:9, Micah 7:18, Mark 2:7). Although no man can atone for his own sin (Micah 6:7), God has opened a fountain by which sin can be removed (Zech 13:1). It is the work of Christ to remove it from us (John 1:29, 1 John 3:5). But we must cooperate with Him (Isa 1:18-20,

Rev 3:20-21).

What does the Bible teach that in this life we should do with sin? We should mourn before God because of it (Ps 38:17-18, Jer 3:21-25). We should hate it (Ps 97:10, Prov 8:13, Amos 5:15) and confess it to God (Lev 26:40-42, 1 John 1:9). We should depart from it (Ps 34:14, 2 Tim 2:19) and entirely put it from us (Job 11:14). Its evil presence should be “mortified”—killed out—from within us (Rom 8:13, Col 3:5-6). It should be wholly destroyed from our lives (Rom 6:6). And then, by the continued grace of God, we should guard against its reappearance (Ps 4:4, 39:1). We should strive against it (Heb 12:4, 2 Tim 4:7, 2 Cor 6:1-8) and avoid even the outward appearance of renewed inward evil (1 Thess 5:22).

But only God can help us put this deadly thing from us. We should ask God in prayer to search it out and reveal it to us (Ps 139:23-24). It is also only by His grace that we can recognize sin in our lives (Job 13:23); and, through His enabling grace, we must put it away (Acts 3:26) and depart from it (Ps 34:14, Prov 3:7). Seeing it within our heart, we must ask God to forgive it (Ex 34:9, Luke 11:4), deliver us from it (Matt 6:13), clean it out of our lives (Ps 51:2), and keep us from returning to it (Ps 19:13).

It is extremely important that we continually war against temptation and sin; for, if it is not being actively removed, it is hindering our prayers—our lifeline to Heaven (Ps 66:18, Isa 59:2-3)—and the blessings of heaven are cut off from us (Jer 5:25). We dare not have sin in our lives; for it will exclude us from heaven (Gal 5:19-21, Eph 5:5, Rev 21:27). This is because the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23). Death is its inevitable punishment (2 Chron 25:4, Ps 50:21-

23, Eze 18:24, Isa 5:24-26, Jer 7:12-15), because that is where it leads the sinner to (James 1:15).

4 - DID CHRIST REALLY TAKE OUR NATURE?

Christ in His humanity was a fellow human being, just like us except that He never once sinned. The new theology has dreamed up the theory that, instead of having the nature of Mary, Christ somehow had the nature of Adam and Eve prior to their fall!

Yet the Bible clearly explains that Christ was born 4,000 years after the pair were in the Garden of Eden.

An extremely clear statement is given in the second chapter of Hebrews:

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, **He also Himself likewise took part of the same**; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but **he took on Him the seed of Abraham**. Wherefore **in all things** it behoved Him **to be made like unto His brethren**, that **He might be a merciful and faithful high priest** in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. **For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted**, He is able to succour them that are tempted.”—*Hebrews 2:14-18*.

That is so very obvious. It could not be stated more clearly. In order that He might truly be our Priest, bridging between God and man, the above passage says: (1) Christ took our flesh and blood. (2) He took not angelic nature but our nature. (3) He took the nature of Abraham’s descendants, not that

of Abraham's ancestors—Adam and Eve. (4) In every possible way, He was made—not like Adam—but “His brethren.” (5) He suffered, being tempted, experiences we share in common.

Here are several other significant passages. It is remarkable how many verses in the Bible tell us that Jesus was the descendant of Abraham, a descendant of Judah, a descendant of David, the son of Mary, or (at the time He lived) made like His brethren!

“The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, **the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham begat** Isaac; and Isaac begat . . . And **Judas begat** . . . And Jesse begat David the king; and **David** the king **begat** . . . **Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus**, who is called Christ.”—*Matthew 1:1-3, 6, 16.*

THE DESCENDANT OF ABRAHAM

“And the angel of the Lord called unto **Abraham** out of heaven . . . **in thy seed** shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed My voice.”—*Genesis 22:15, 18.*

THE DESCENDANT OF JUDAH

“For **Judah** prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler.”—*1 Chronicles 5:2.*

“For it is evident that **our Lord sprang out of Judah**; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.”—*Hebrews 7:14.*

THE DESCENDANT OF DAVID

“And there shall come forth a rod **out of the stem of Jesse**, and a Branch shall grow **out of his roots**.”—*Isaiah 11:1.*

“The Lord hath sworn in truth unto **David**; He will not turn from it; **Of the fruit of thy body** will I set upon thy throne.”—*Psalm 132:11*.

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto **David** a righteous **Branch**, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth . . . and this is His name whereby He shall be called, The Lord Our Righteousness.”—*Jeremiah 23:5-6*.

“The gospel of God . . . concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was **made of the seed of David according to the flesh**; and declared to be the Son of God with power.”—*Romans 1:1, 3-4*.

“Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch **David**, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that **of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh**, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne.”—*Acts 2:29-30*.

“Hath not the Scripture said, That Christ cometh of **the seed of David**, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?”—*John 7:42*.

“He raised up unto them **David** to be their king . . . **Of this man’s seed** hath God **according to His promise** raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus.”—*Acts 13:22-23*.

“I Jesus have sent Mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. **I am the root and the offspring of David**, and the bright and morning star.”—*Revelation 22:16*.

THE SON OF MARY

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, **made of a woman, made under the law** [the natural law of genetics], to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”—*Galatians 4:4-5*.

“Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, **a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son**, and shall call His name Immanuel.”—*Isaiah 7:14*.

“And, behold, **thou shalt conceive in thy womb**, and bring forth a son, and shalt call His name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of **His father David**.”—*Luke 1:31-32*.

“And **she shall bring forth a son**, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins.”—*Matthew 1:21*.

MADE LIKE HIS BRETHREN

“For **unto us a Child** is born, **unto us a Son** is given . . . Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice.”—*Isaiah 9:6-7*.

“I will raise them up a Prophet **from among their brethren**, like unto thee, and will put My words in His mouth; and He shall speak unto them all that I shall command Him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto My words which He shall speak in My name, I will require it of him.”—*Deuteronomy 18:18-*

19.

“For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you **of your brethren**, like unto Me; Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever He shall say unto you.”—*Acts 3:22*.

“And the Word **was made flesh**, and **dwelt among us**.”—*John 1:14*.

“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son **in the likeness of sinful flesh**, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.”—*Romans 8:3*.

“But made Himself **of no reputation**, and took upon Him **the form of a servant**, and was made **in the likeness of men**: And being found in fashion **as a man, He humbled Himself**, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him.”—*Philippians 2:7-9*.

“Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ **is come in the flesh** is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist.”—*1 John 4:2-3*.

“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ **is come in the flesh**. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.”—*2 John 1:7*.

“Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me, and see; for a spirit hath not **flesh and bones**, as ye see Me have.”—*Luke 24:39*.

“For every high priest **taken from among men** is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that He Himself also is **compassed with infirmity** . . . **So also Christ glorified not Himself** to be made an high priest.”—*Hebrews 5:1-2, 5.*

It is obvious that those who take the position that Christ took the humanity of Adam before his fall (instead of that of Abraham, Judah, David, and Mary) reject a remarkably large amount of Scriptural predictions and evidence.

There are over 1,400 passages in the Spirit of Prophecy which clearly state that Christ took our fallen nature, that He was fully tempted and able to yield to temptation; but that, in our nature, He never once sinned by even a thought. Through His grace, we can also overcome—and claim the eight promises to overcomers in Revelation (*Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 21:7*).

Here are two sample quotations; both are from *Desire of Ages*:

“It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man’s nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin. Like every child of Adam He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity. What these results were is shown in the history of His earthly ancestors. **He came with such a heredity** to share our sorrows and

temptations, and to give us the example of a sinless life.

“Satan in heaven had hated Christ for His position in the courts of God. He hated Him the more when he himself was dethroned. He hated Him who pledged Himself to redeem a race of sinners. Yet **into the world where Satan claimed dominion God permitted His Son to come, a helpless babe, subject to the weakness of humanity. He permitted Him to meet life’s peril in common with every human soul,** to fight the battle as every child of humanity must fight it, at the risk of failure and eternal loss.”—*Desire of Ages*, 49.

“Satan had pointed to Adam’s sin as proof that God’s law was unjust, and could not be obeyed. In our humanity, Christ was to redeem Adam’s failure. But **when Adam was assailed by the tempter, none of the effects of sin were upon him.** He stood in the strength of perfect manhood, possessing the full vigor of mind and body. He was surrounded with the glories of Eden, and was in daily communion with heavenly beings. **It was not thus with Jesus** when He entered the wilderness to cope with Satan. **For four thousand years the race had been decreasing in physical strength, in mental power, and in moral worth; and Christ took upon Him the infirmities of degenerate humanity. Only thus could He rescue man** from the lowest depths of his degradation.

“**Many claim that it was impossible for Christ to be overcome by temptation.** Then He could not have been placed in Adam’s position; He could not have gained the victory that Adam failed to

gain. **If we have in any sense a more trying conflict than had Christ, then He would not be able to succor us. But our Saviour took humanity, with all its liabilities. He took the nature of man, with the possibility of yielding to temptation.** We have nothing to bear which He has not endured . .

“From the time of Adam to that of Christ, **self-indulgence had increased the power of the appetites and passions, until they had almost unlimited control.** Thus men had become debased and diseased, and of themselves it was impossible for them to overcome. **In man’s behalf, Christ conquered by enduring the severest test.** For our sake He exercised a self-control stronger than hunger or death.”—*Desire of Ages*, 117.

GROUP BIBLE STUDY ON OBEDIENCE BY FAITH

For those who would like to study more of what the Bible teaches on this subject, here is a sample Bible study you and your group will appreciate:

GOD’S PLAN TO SAVE YOU FROM SIN

Romans 3:23, Isaiah 59:2, Romans 6:23, 2 Peter 3:9, Exodus 34:6-7, John 3:16-21, Luke 19:10, Matthew 1:21, Isaiah 53:6, Acts 16:31, 2 Corinthians 6:2, John 1:12, Galatians 2:20, John 3:3, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Philippians 2:13, Hebrews 10:16, 1 John 1:9, Philippians 4:13.

HOW GOD ENABLES YOU TO OBEY HIM

God has a government—*Psalm 103:18-19. There can be no government without law*—*Romans 7:12, Romans 7:14, Proverbs 28:9. God’s law was for men in Bible times*—*Romans 3:31, James 2:10-12. God’s law is for the remnant in the last days*—*Revelation 12:17, Revelation 14:12.*

There is general rebellion against God’s law—*Romans 8:7, Psalm 119:126. There are promises for the obedient*—*Psalm 119:165,*

*Isaiah 48:18. The sacrificial laws were abolished at the cross—
Hebrews 10:1-16, Colossians 2:14, Colossians 2:17.*

WHAT DOES THE LAW DO FOR THE SINNER? It gives a knowledge of sin—*Romans 3:20; 7:7. It brings guilt and condemnation—Romans 3:19. It acts as a spiritual mirror—James 1:23-25, James 2:9-12, Romans 7:7.*

WHAT IS THE LAW UNABLE TO DO FOR THE SINNER? It cannot forgive or justify—*Romans 3:20. It cannot keep from sin or sanctify—Galatians 3:21. It cannot cleanse or keep the heart clean—Romans 9:3, 7-8.*

WHAT DOES THE GRACE OF CHRIST DO FOR THE SINNER? It forgives and justifies—*Acts 13:38-39, Luke 18:10-14. It saves from sin, or sanctifies—Matthew 1:21, 1 Corinthians 1:30. It inspires faith Ephesians 2:8-10. It brings God's power—Romans 1:16.*

HOW DOES A SINNER SAVED BY GRACE RELATE TO THE LAW? The law becomes the standard of his life—*1 John 5:3. He permits Christ to fulfill in him the righteousness of the law—Romans 8:3-4. Christ writes the law in his heart—Hebrews 8:10, Psalm 119:11.*

CONCLUSION

Oh, my friend, whatever may be your position of authority in the church, do not be discouraged at the difficulties confronting you! Press your case to the throne of God; and He will bless and help you as you attempt to fulfill His will and do what needs to be done. *We are not far from heaven! Hold fast to that thought! Soon we will be there!*

“No one need say that his case is hopeless, that he cannot live the life of a Christian. **Ample provision is made by the death of Christ for every soul. Jesus is our ever-present help in time of need.** Only call upon Him in faith, and He has promised to hear and answer your petitions . . .

“It is now that we must keep ourselves and our children unspotted from the world. It is now that we must wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. It is now that we must overcome pride, passion, and spiritual slothfulness. **It is now that we must awake and make determined effort for symmetry of character.** ‘Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts.’ We are in a most trying position, waiting, watching for our Lord’s appearing. **The world is in darkness. ‘But ye, brethren,’ says Paul, ‘are not in darkness,** that that day should overtake you as a thief.’ It is ever God’s purpose to bring light out of darkness, joy out of sorrow, and rest out of weariness for the waiting, longing soul.

“What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation? Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mold and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth—these are receiving the heavenly mold and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.

“Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. **All who receive the seal must be**

without spot before God—candidates for heaven. Go forward, my brethren and sisters . . . Search the Scriptures for yourselves, that you may understand the fearful solemnity of the present hour.”—5 Testimonies, 215-216.

And this is what we are told on the very next page:

“I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people. The Lord has not closed heaven to us, but **our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God.** Pride, covetousness, and love of the world have lived in the heart without fear of banishment or condemnation. Grievous and presumptuous sins have dwelt among us. **And yet the general opinion is that the church is flourishing** and that peace and spiritual prosperity are in all her borders.

“The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. **Doubt, and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches** everywhere. Satan would have it thus. Ministers who preach self instead of Christ would have it thus. The testimonies are unread and unappreciated. God has spoken to you. **Light has been shining from His Word and from the testimonies, and both have been slighted and disregarded.** The result is apparent in the lack of purity and devotion and earnest faith among us.

“Let each put the question to his own heart: **‘How have we fallen into this state of spiritual**

feebleness and dissension? Have we not brought upon ourselves the frown of God because our actions do not correspond with our faith? Have we not been seeking the friendship and applause of the world rather than the presence of Christ and a deeper knowledge of His will? Examine your own hearts, judge your own course. **Consider what associates you are choosing.** Do you seek the company of the wise, or are you willing to choose worldly associates, companions who fear not God and obey not the gospel?

“Are your recreations such as to impart moral and spiritual vigor? Will they lead to purity of thought and action? Impurity is today widespread, even among the professed followers of Christ. Passion is unrestrained; the animal propensities are gaining strength by indulgence, while the moral powers are constantly becoming weaker. **Many are eagerly participating in worldly, demoralizing amusements which God’s Word forbids.** Thus they sever their connection with God and rank themselves with the pleasure lovers of the world. The sins that destroyed the antediluvians and the cities of the plain exist today—not merely in heathen lands, not only among popular professors of Christianity, but with some who profess to be looking for the coming of the Son of man. If God should present these sins before you as they appear in His sight, you would be filled with shame and terror.

“And what has caused this alarming condition? Many have accepted the theory of the truth who have had no true conversion. I know whereof I speak. There are few who feel true sorrow for sin, who have deep, pungent convictions

of the depravity of the unregenerate nature. The heart of stone is not exchanged for a heart of flesh. **Few are willing to fall upon the Rock and be broken.**

“No matter who you are or what your life has been, **you can be saved only in God’s appointed way. You must repent; you must fall helpless on the Rock, Christ Jesus . .**

“Here the work is yet to be begun by many who profess to be Christians and even to be ministers of Christ. Like the Pharisees of old many of you feel no need of a Saviour. You are self-sufficient, self-exalted. Said Christ: ‘I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.’ **The blood of Christ will avail for none but those who feel their need of its cleansing power.**”—5 Testimonies, 217-219.

“The eye of Jesus, looking down the ages, was fixed upon our time when He said, ‘If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace!’ **It is still thy day, O church of God, whom He has made the depositary of His law.** This day of trust and probation is drawing to a close. The sun is fast westering. Can it be that it will set and thou wilt not know ‘the things which belong unto thy peace!’? Must the irrevocable sentence be passed, ‘But now they are hid from thine eyes’ (Luke 19:42)?”—Maranatha, 264.

Truly, history is being fulfilled before our eyes. Here is a most startling example of it!

“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.** The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. **The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded,** as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, **they would place their dependence on human power,** which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.

“Who has authority to begin such a movement? We have our Bibles. We have our experience, attested to by the miraculous working of the Holy Spirit. **We have a truth that admits of no compromise. Shall we not repudiate everything that is not in harmony with this truth?”**—*1 Selected Messages, 204-205.*

In this crisis, immediate action is required!

“Shortly before I sent out the testimonies regarding **the efforts of the enemy to undermine the foundation of our faith through the dis-**

semination of seductive theories, I had read an incident about a ship in a fog meeting an iceberg. For several nights I slept but little. I seemed to be bowed down as a cart beneath sheaves. One night a scene was clearly presented before me. **A vessel was upon the waters, in a heavy fog. Suddenly the lookout cried, 'Iceberg just ahead!'** There, towering high above the ship, was a gigantic iceberg. **An authoritative voice cried out, 'Meet it!'**

"There was not a moment's hesitation. It was a time for instant action. The engineer put on full steam, and the man at the wheel steered the ship straight into the iceberg. **With a crash she struck the ice. There was a fearful shock, and the iceberg broke** into many pieces, falling with a noise like thunder to the deck. The passengers were violently shaken by the force of the collisions, but no lives were lost. The vessel was injured, but not beyond repair. She rebounded from the contact, trembling from stem to stern, like a living creature. Then she moved forward on her way.

"Well I knew the meaning of this representation. I had my orders. I had heard the words, like a voice from our Captain, 'Meet it!' **I knew what my duty was, and that there was not a moment to lose. The time for decided action had come.** I must without delay obey the command, 'Meet it!' "—*I Selected Messages, 205-206.*

Will you and I take hold of the work? Will we meet the crisis head on? Be honest with yourself: What does God want you to do about this moral and doctrinal crisis in our church? On one level or another, you have great influence in the

church. If you reject this call to earnestly work to bring the church back to our historic standards and beliefs, is it likely that you will ever again obey a later call to do it? And if you choose to reject this appeal, how will you answer for it in the Judgment?

Before concluding this chapter, there are several very important facts which it is urgent that we consider:

First, a careful study of the Old Testament church reveals that each time it was pulled back from apostasy by the intercessions and activity of men,—leaders on the highest levels were always involved in doing it! If you do not believe that, read the Old Testament and *Patriarchs and Prophets* and *Prophets and Kings* again.

Second, in each instance in which laymen (men who held no leadership position of any kind in the church) were the only ones pleading that reformation be made,—the church as a whole was never brought back to God.

Third, because of our organizational structure, even lower-level, important leaders can revive and restore their portion of the organization to quite an extent. For example, using the nine-point plan outlined in this book, conference leaders can accomplish a good work in their conference territory. The same holds true for our publishing houses and certain other entities—as well as local churches. But it will require a full use of the nine-point plan. **However, the greatest impact can only be achieved if the highest-level leaders—division and General**

Conference leaders—take hold of the work and make it their own!

Fourth, the reasons for this are obvious. Josiah's district leaders could not have successfully achieved the full reformation required—if Josiah had not taken hold of the work. Lower-level leaders in the time of Jehoshaphat could not have brought the church back to God if he and his highest-ranking associates had not been fired with zeal, to make sure it was done. **The higher the position of a leader, the more he can accomplish. Yet all of us have an important work to do!**

Fifth, this places a solemn responsibility on every leader in our denomination, from top to bottom! But the farther up the line of command, the greater the accountability!

Did you know that, in the Bible, *there is one question which has no answer?* Here it is: **“What will a man give in exchange for his soul?”** (Matthew 16:26, Mark 8:37). Do not lay this book **down without getting on your knees in prayer and making a decision which God can approve.**

If you would understand how serious is the problem, send \$7.00; and we will send you, ppd., a video (Are You Ready for Church?) which will cause you to weep for our people. Oh, how we must pray and work!

THE END OF THIS BOOK

By following the Biblical principles for turning the church around, our denomination, today, could be brought back to its historic positions; and the power of God would attend its efforts to

carry the Advent Message to all the world! But, as the matter now stands, every day, more and more of our people within the church are being enticed into New Theology worldliness.

Please, please, I plead with you! ***Your position in the church is important, even though you may consider your sphere of influence to be rather small. With it comes a most solemn weight of responsibility.***

Who knows? This may be your last opportunity to show the church its great danger, to bring it to repentance, and to restore it to obedience to the God of heaven! Conditions in the world and church are such that the final crisis could break upon us very soon. Surely, we are very close to the end!

Many are praying that you will make the right decision in this matter, and that you will make it very soon. **To delay making a decision will give Satan an opportunity to suggest reasons why you should make no decision at all, but just let things continue on as they are.** By your hesitation to take what you have read in this book to God in earnest prayer, Satan will win. You will remain with the lukewarm ones who fear to do anything, lest it cost them something.

There are too many people in our church who have a nameless dread to stand for anything right when they see wrongdoing recommended and worldliness being promoted.

It is the will of God that our church regain its earlier strength and power. Whatever may be your position of responsibility in the church, you are an important leader, a person whom God needs just now to stand stiffly in defense of our Bible/Spirit of Proph-

ecy truths.

Oh, how thankful we can be that God has given us the wonderful truth of the Advent message!

Now that you have finished reading this book, **you know that, within these pages, I have not spoken one word against our beloved church** which God founded over 150 years ago or against our faithful leaders who are deeply concerned about what the liberals are doing to change our beliefs and lower church standards. **My only objective is to bring the church back to its former strength in God.**

If I was able to do so, I would be willing to crawl into your office over cut glass and plead on my knees before you to accept the fact that **you must immediately set to work and bring our people back to God, in repentance and obedience to our historic standards and beliefs.** There is no time to lose!

The situation in our church, now, is one of gravest emergency. Soon, none know how soon, it will be too late.

The poet is right. **There IS a line between God's patience and His wrath.** Final events will be rapid ones. The future is not bright for those who, knowing so much, have refused to obey Him during a crisis. Now, while there is still probationary time, you and I have decisions to make, important work to do,—work which will affect the salvation of many precious souls.

Our kind heavenly Father will tolerate the deepening worldliness in our church only a little while longer.

And then it will be too late.

Now is the time to repent and change our ways. When the final crisis strikes, under intense threat of imprisonment and death, the final decision will suddenly be thrust upon us.

It is now that we must develop the firmness of character that we must have; it is now that we must know we are doing what is right every day. Through the enabling grace of Jesus Christ, we can be strengthened to do all that God asks of us in His Word.

When the National Sunday Law is suddenly enacted, we cannot at that time begin returning to God in repentance. We cannot then begin making the needed changes. It will then be too late.

In that fateful hour, the final decision will quickly be made by every Advent believer. Every Adventist must prepare for what is soon to come upon us all.

As a leader in the church, you have a special responsibility just now. Before the hurricane arrives, there is work that you must do.

Do you dare wait longer?

Zedekiah, the last king of Judah, kept stalling because he was afraid of what his associates would say (*Prophets and Kings*, 457-459). He secretly believed Jeremiah's warnings to be true.

But he feared to take an open stand, and he met a horrible end. He was afraid to sound the call for the people to return to God and forsake their worldliness. An intangible dread was upon him. He feared ridicule, derision, and opposition. Yet, we are told that, had Zedekiah boldly stood for the right, if he had acted decisively and resolutely,—in great measure he could have turned the situation in the church around!

But he sat there frozen with hesitancy, waiting, waiting,—until the judgments came.

Will you, my brother, my sister, right now make the decision to fall on your knees alone before God, weep bitter tears for the things you have permitted on your watch, and yield your life henceforth to stand in defense of our Bible/Spirit of Prophecy beliefs and standards, regardless of what it may cost you?

Will you, as a leader in our church, refuse any longer to remain silent when wrongdoing is done? Will you sound the call for our people to return to God and forsake their worldliness?

May God help you make a good decision right now.

I hope that there will be more opportunities; but, in your busy schedule, this may be the last warning you will take time to consider before the end.

POSTSCRIPT: GOD WILL HELP YOU!

As leaders and pastors in God's cause, I want to encourage each one of you, that you can help church members reverse course and make the journey into the deep happiness to be found within historic Adventism.

As you entirely surrender your will to His guidance, you will have the help of Heaven's agencies in helping them make this transition. In the process, your own experience will be deepened as well.

It is a godly work that you will be doing; and the Holy Spirit will be with you at each step, guiding your words and actions. Holy angels will be by

your side.

We recognize that it can be difficult for church members to want to separate from compromises they have come to cherish and move on up to higher ground. **But, in the place of liberal values, you will be presenting them with something far better:** the genuine happiness they will experience through a renewed conversion to Jesus Christ and careful obedience to His Word.

In addition, you are giving them many things far more heavenly and encouraging to engage their attention and fill their thoughts, which will make them strong, mature believers.

Here are several examples:

Basic Christian experience—You will want to lead the members into **a better understanding of the precious truths in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.** One suggested way is Sabbath and mid-week studies in chapters of *Steps to Christ*, interspersed with presentations and discussion of chapters in *Desire of Ages*, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *Prophets and Kings*, and *Christ's Object Lessons*. There is a vast wealth of truth and encouragement in those books.

Many of these great truths will be new to some members while being received as old friends by many others. **The church must be reconverted and rededicated to God. As the members study these inspired writings, they will gradually deepen their experience, and become solid and mature believers.**

Studies in final events—Study through the closing chapters of *Great Controversy (23-42)* with them. They will learn about our Sanctuary message, the final crisis, last day events, and how to prepare for what is so soon to come on all the earth.

But there is more that you want to give the members. Some will want to take all of the following courses while others will want to focus on one or two:

Bible study classes—Present the need to learn how to give Bible studies. **Go through a basic course of Bible lessons; and let them practice giving studies to one another.** Teach them how to locate Bible study interests; and help them get started. Experienced workers can go out, two by two, with inexperienced ones.

Colporteur training classes—**Show them how to do door-to-door canvassing.** Let them go out, two-by-two, and become proficient in placing message books in the homes.

Natural remedies classes—**Hold classes where the members learn how to give simple, natural remedies and water therapy treatments.** A knowledge of this will not only improve their own health, but will open many doors to helping others learn about our faith. Teach them that they should never separate the health message from our last-day message to the world.

In all of these instructions, discussions, and practice sessions, you are helping them forsake a love of the world and idle entertainment. In its place, they will gain an understanding and love for our historic beliefs and practices. Historic Adventism is rich and satisfying, because it was given to us by the God of heaven.

You may be able to obtain the needed training materials from various sources. But, if for any reason you are unable to do so, the following printed materials are available from Harvestime Books, Box 300, Altamont, TN 37301 (credit card orders: 931-692-

2777). They have been used in training classes and schools for several years:

The End of Time—The most complete, classified collection ever compiled of Spirit of Prophecy statements on final events, from the National Sunday Law on through to the final destruction of the wicked and eternity beyond.

Family Bible Studies—31 complete Bible studies, with the texts written out, plus an instructional section in back on how to find Bible study interests, how to given Bible studies, and how to obtain decisions leading to baptism. This low-cost book is available in both a bound edition and with the back cut off, so individual lessons can be distributed before or after each study is given.

Medical Missionary Manual—The most complete collection of classified Spirit of Prophecy statements on the need for and how to do medical missionary work.

Natural Remedies Encyclopedia—An outstanding collection of natural, drugless home remedies for the largest number of diseases: over 730 of them in the new *Fourth Edition*. Complete coverage of hydrotherapy, The 126 most important herbs. Plus Bible studies on several of our most important doctrines. With a margin of profit of over \$60.00, this book (with *Great Controversy* and *Bible Readings* included in each sales package) is especially designed to help colporteurs support their families while placing a full message in the homes.

Low-cost Missionary Books for Distribution—All of the most important Spirit of Prophecy books at the lowest printing house cost (*PP, PK, DA, AA, GC, MH, COL, SC*), plus *Bible Readings* and a number of other outstanding books: *You Can Quit Tobacco* (with a Sabbath chapter in back), *International Meat Crisis* (about

the mad cow disease danger), and *The Evolution Cruncher* (a remarkably complete collection of scientific facts refuting evolutionary theory.)

PROMISES TO OUR LEADERS

“So long as he remains consecrated, the man whom God has endowed with discernment and ability will not manifest an eagerness for high position, neither will he seek to rule or control. Of necessity men must bear responsibilities; but instead of striving for the supremacy, he who is a true leader will pray for an understanding heart, to discern between good and evil.

“The path of men who are placed as leaders is not an easy one. But they are to see in every difficulty a call to prayer. Never are they to fail of consulting the great Source of all wisdom. **Strengthened and enlightened by the Master Worker, they will be enabled to stand firm against unholy influences and to discern right from wrong, good from evil.** They will approve that which God approves, and will strive earnestly against the introduction of wrong principles into His cause.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 31.

“God wants men at Battle Creek who can be depended upon; **who will ever be found on the right side in times of danger** . . . In order to prosper, every church must have men upon whom it can rely in times of peril, **men who are as true as steel, unselfish men, who have the interest of God’s cause lying nearer their hearts** than anything which concerns their own opinions or their worldly interests.”—*2 Testimonies*, 637.

“The position occupied . . . [by a leader in the work] . . . is not an enviable one. **It requires the closest attention, care, and mental labor.** It requires the exercise of sound judgment and wisdom. It requires self-denial, a whole heart, and a firm will to push matters through. In that important position God will have a man to venture, to risk something; **to move out firmly for the right, whatever may be the consequences; to battle against obstacles, and waver not,** even though life be at stake.”—*1 Testimonies*, 320.

Those are precious promises which you, whether you be the lowliest or the highest leader in the church, can use to strengthen you for the important work before you.

I look up at the stars at night and I think to myself: God has 500 million stars in each of 500 million galaxies up there; and the inhabitants of all the planets circling those stars obey the laws of God.

Yet down here on the only planet in rebellion, the one church standing in defense of God's law is gradually rejecting obedience to it!

In view of that fact, this book had to be written, appealing to our people to return, by faith in Christ's enabling grace, to obedience to that law! If you believe in the message of this little book, will you join me in pleading with those around you to also obey that law?

My friend, there is only a little time left! We must prepare for the end; for it is almost upon us!

ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS BOOK may be obtained in small boxfuls for only 21 cents a copy, plus shipping.

HARVESTIME BOOKS - Box 300, Altamont, TN 37301