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## **“RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD”**

**BY Pastor Stephen Bohr**

# **Changing the Truth Into a Lie - Part 1**

## **Two competing world views**

### **Special Creation**

The **book of beginnings** (Genesis) clearly teaches that a **personal, loving** God created this world and everything in it perfect in **seven literal days**. Seventh-day Adventists believe that the **Genesis story** is absolutely **trustworthy**. They believe that God created a perfect world, that Adam and Eve were real historical persons, that **death** came in as the result of sin and that the sentence of death necessitates a **redeemer**. They also believe that after God eradicates sin from the universe, He will create a new heavens and new earth just as He did at the beginning.

### **Macro-evolution**

The greatest and **most destructive lie** that Satan has ever **panned off** on the world is the **theory of evolution**. It strips God of His **awesome power** by stating the everything came into existence by the **cruel method** of **natural selection** or the survival of the **fittest**. It leaves humanity, as Ellen White put it, upon a *'boundless ocean of uncertainty'*. The theory of evolution destroys the **entire fabric** of biblical theology. If there was no **perfect beginning**, **no sin** and **no death** then we do not need a **Redeemer** and there is no hope of a soon coming of Jesus to restore creation as it was at the beginning!

## **Jesus was the Creator**

The Bible seems to be **ambivalent** when it describes **who** created this world. Sometimes it indicates that it was **Father** and at other times that it was the **Son**.

However, there is **no contradiction**. The Father **thought out** the plan and the Son executed the Father's will and **spoke it** into actual existence. The Father was the **Architect** and Jesus was the **Master Builder**:

*"What **speech** is to **thought**, **so** is Christ to the invisible Father. He is the **manifestation of the Father**, and is called the **Word of God**." Ellen G. White, The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, volume 5, p. 1131*

### **John 1:1-3**

*"In the beginning **was** the Word, and the Word was **with God**, and the **Word was God**.<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.<sup>3</sup> **All things** were made **through** Him, and **without Him** nothing was made that was made."*

### **Hebrews 1:2, 2**

*"**God**, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,<sup>2</sup> has in these last days spoken to us by **His Son**, whom **He has appointed** heir of all things, **through whom** also **He made [the Father]** the worlds."*

The apostle Paul explained this **intimate relationship** between the Father and the Son at creation:

### **1 Corinthians 8:6**

*"yet for us there is one God, the Father, **of whom** are **all things**, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom** are all things, and **through whom** we live."*

### **Revelation 4:11**

*"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for **You created** all things, and by **Your will** they exist and **were [passive voice]** created."*

*"The Son of God had wrought the **Father's will** in the creation of all the **hosts of heaven**; and to **Him**, as well as to **God**, their homage and allegiance were due. **Christ [Jesus was the Creator]** was still to exercise **divine power** in the creation of the **earth and its inhabitants**. But in all this He would not seek power or exaltation **for Himself** contrary to **God's plan**, but would exalt the **Father's glory** and execute **His purposes** of beneficence and love." Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 36*

*“When God **said to His Son**, ‘Let **us** make man in **our** image,’ Satan was jealous of Jesus. He wished to be consulted concerning the formation of man, and because he was not, he was filled with envy, jealousy, and hatred. He desired to receive the highest honors in heaven next to God.” Ellen G. White, Early Writings, p. 145*

## **Freedom of Choice**

At creation, the Father and the Son **revealed** their **perfect plan** for humanity and commanded Adam and Eve and their descendants to **follow it** for **their own good**. However, God gave Adam, Eve and their descendants **freedom of choice** to **follow** or **not to follow** His clearly revealed plan. Like Israel, God **told them** that following His plan would lead to life and prosperity:

### **Deuteronomy 6:24**

*“And the Lord **commanded** us to observe all these **statutes**, to **fear** the Lord our God, for our **good always**, that He might **preserve us alive**, as it is this day.”*

Our **mission** as Seventh-day Adventists is to **follow** God’s original plan and encourage the world to follow it as the **only way** to live a **meaningful** and **happy life**. However, although we might **strongly disagree** with the lifestyle of those who transgress God’s original plan, He commands us to **love them**.

## **The Beginning is the Standard**

### **Matthew 19:3-9**

Jesus, the **Creator**, made it clear that he wants us to **return** to the **original Eden plan**. He does not want us embrace a **plan ‘B’** but rather a **plan ‘A’**:

*“The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for **just any reason**?” <sup>4</sup> And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them **at the beginning** ‘made them male and female,’ <sup>5</sup> and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? <sup>6</sup> So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate.” <sup>7</sup> They said to Him, “Why then did **Moses** command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?” <sup>8</sup>*

*He said to them, “Moses, because of the **[plan ‘B’] hardness of your hearts**, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the **beginning it was not so**.”*

Let's take a look at the various **elements** of God's **original blueprint** for humanity in Eden and how a rebellious world—and even some churches—has **rejected or changed** every detail to the **detriment** of society.

## **Country Living**

At the beginning God placed Adam and Eve in a **Garden environment** and instructed them to be fruitful, multiply and **spread out** over all the earth (Genesis 1:26).

### **Genesis 2:15**

*"Then the **Lord God took** the man and **put him** in the **garden** of Eden to tend and keep it."*

The word 'garden' appears **13 times** in **Genesis 1-3** to describe the **environment** where God placed Adam and Eve. **Ellen White** wrote:

*"Here, amidst the beautiful **scenes of nature** untouched by sin, our first parents were to receive their education." Ellen G. White, Education, p. 20*

*"The Creator chose for our first parents the **surroundings** best adapted for their **health** and **happiness**. He did not place them in a **palace** or surround them with the **artificial adornments and luxuries** that so many today, are struggling to obtain. He placed them in close touch **with nature** and in close communion with the holy ones of heaven." Ellen G. White, The Ministry of Healing, p. 261*

*"He who taught Adam and Eve in Eden how to tend **the garden**, would instruct men today. . . Those who will take their families **into the country**, place them where they have **fewer temptations**. . . They have a much more favorable opportunity to gain a fitness for the kingdom of heaven. Send the children to schools **located in the city**, where every phase of temptation is waiting to attract and demoralize them, and the work of character building is tenfold harder for both parents and children." Ellen G. White, Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 326*

**Conglomerating in cities** was **never** God's plan. This is why Ellen White wrote:

*"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." Ellen G. White, *Life Sketches*, pp. 409, 410.

"Gather your children into your own houses; gather them away from those who are disregarding the commandments of God, who are teaching and practicing evil. **Get out of the large cities** as fast as possible." Ellen G. White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 139

### **Wicked Cain built a city:**

#### **Genesis 4:17**

"And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And **he built a city**, and called the name of **the city** after the name of his son — Enoch."

### **The Babel builders built a city:**

The contrast of God's original plan with the project of the **Babel builders**:

#### **Genesis 11:4**

And they said, "Come, let us build **ourselves a city**, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a **name for ourselves**, lest we be **scattered abroad** over the face of the whole earth."

"Here they decided to build **a city**, and in it a tower of such stupendous height as should render it the wonder of the world. These enterprises were designed to **prevent the people from scattering** abroad in **colonies**. God had directed men and women **to disperse** throughout the earth, to replenish and subdue it; but these Babel builders determined to keep their community **united in one body**, and to found a **monarchy** that should eventually embrace the whole earth. . . The magnificent tower, reaching to the heavens, was intended to stand as a monument of the **power and wisdom** of its builders, perpetuating **their fame** to the latest generations." Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 117-119.

The aspirations of these Babel builders became **the root** for the **end time Babylon** that is called 'the great city'. A desire to build a **world order** based on

human **ingenuity**, **technology**, and **science** without regard to God. The spirit of the original Babel builders is reflected in the **arrogance of Nebuchadnezzar**:

### **Daniel 4:30**

*"The king spoke, saying, "Is not this **great** Babylon, that **I** have built for a royal dwelling by **my** mighty power and for the honor of **my** majesty?"*

### **The cities of the Plain:**

The next cities mentioned in Genesis are **Sodom and Gomorrah**.

### **Genesis 13:11-13**

*"Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. <sup>12</sup> Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot **dwelt in the cities** of the plain and pitched his tent even **as far as** Sodom. <sup>13</sup> **But** the men of Sodom were **exceedingly wicked and sinful** against the Lord."*

Lot made the fatal mistake of **pitching his tents** toward the city of Sodom while Abraham remained in **the country**: What was the **result of Lot's choice**?

- ✓ He lost all of his **children** except for **two single daughters**.

**Genesis 19:12-15** states that Lot had other sons and daughters who were married and had their **own households**. They **all perished**. Only the **two unmarried** daughters, who lived in his household survived. And even they had embraced the **immorality of Sodom**.

- ✓ Lost **his wife**

### **Genesis 19:26**

*"But his wife **looked back** behind him, and she became a **pillar of salt**."*

The death of Lot's wife has **lessons** for those who live in the **end time**. She looked back because **her heart** was **in the city**. Could this be true of many who make **this world their home**?



## **Luke 17:31-33**

*"In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him **not come down** to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him **not turn back**.<sup>32</sup> Remember **Lot's wife**." Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.*

**Why** was she turned into a **pillar of salt**? This is the **only time** in the Bible where God meted out this type of punishment. Salt **flavors** the food but remains **distinct** from it. But salt that is **not salty** is useless:

## **Matthew 5:13**

*"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt **loses its flavor**, how shall it **[the earth]** be seasoned? It is then **good for nothing** but to be **thrown out** and trampled underfoot by men."*

- ✓ All of Lot's **possessions** were wiped out.
- ✓ Even Lot was a **brand plucked** from the burning. Lot was **personally righteous** and **deplored** the wickedness of Sodom but he **placed himself** in an environment where his **wife and children** were influenced more by the lifestyle in the city than by Lot:

## **2 Peter 2:7-8**

*"and delivered **righteous** Lot, who was oppressed by the **filthy conduct** of the wicked<sup>8</sup> (for that **righteous** man, dwelling among them, tormented his **righteous** soul from day to day by **seeing and hearing** their lawless deeds)."*

Regarding this, **Ellen White** wrote:

*"Leaving Abraham's altar and its daily sacrifice to the living God, he had **permitted his children to mingle** with a corrupt and idolatrous people; yet **he had retained in his heart** the fear of God, for he is declared in the Scriptures to have been a 'just' man; his righteous soul was vexed with the vile conversation that greeted his ears daily and the violence and crime he was powerless to prevent. He was saved at last as "a brand plucked out of the fire' (Zechariah 3:2), yet stripped of his **possessions**, bereaved of his **wife and children**, dwelling in **caves**, like the wild beasts, covered with*

*infamy in his old age; and he gave to the world, not a race of righteous men, but two idolatrous nations, at enmity with God and warring upon His people, until, their cup of iniquity being full, they were appointed to destruction. How terrible were the results that followed one unwise step!”*  
Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 168

- ✓ The influence of the city upon his daughters is seen in the fact that they made their father drunk, had an incestuous sexual relationship with him and brought into the world the progenitors of two wicked nations: Edom and Moab.

55% of the world population today lives in cities. This percentage is expected to grow to 68% by 2050. That is more than two-thirds of the world population!

I have spent a lot of time in New York. Once I even walked the Island of Manhattan from north to south, from the George Washington Bridge to Battery Park. Everything in the city is artificial and speaks of the greatness of man. As people rush by, their faces denote anxiety and stress.

The concrete jungle, the traffic, the defiled air, the foul smell of fossil fuels, the rats in the subway, the impressive skyscrapers, the artificial entertainment—TV, sports, shows and movies, the food, the endless hustle and bustle, Wall Street, human technology, the noise of buses, cars, trains and planes, flesh foods, refined foods, the immorality, the filthy rivers, the humanist university curriculums, all speak of man, not of God. You cannot even see the stars in the city at night because of the artificial light of man. Surrounded by the greatness of man, human beings forget God. This is the reason why the most secular places in the United States are in the great cities!

Life in the country is vastly different. It is natural, not artificial. Instead of a concrete jungle, there is rich soil with grass, trees, and gardens. Instead of smog, clear and fresh air. Instead of defiled rivers and aqueducts, crystal clear springs of water. Instead of the hustle and bustle of constant activity, serenity and peace. Instead of the noise of cars, buses, trains and planes, the songs of birds and the rustling of the wind as it blows through the trees. Instead of meat and processed foods, the natural fruit and vegetable products of the ground. Instead of television, sports and Broadway shows, the delightful

contemplation of the awesome God of nature. Instead of the **foul smelling gym**, hiking and gardening in natural surroundings. Instead of **human philosophies**, learning from God's two books, the Bible and nature.

*"The Lord has sent us warning and counsel **to get out of the cities**. Then let us make no more **investments in the cities**. Fathers and mothers, how do you regard the souls of your children? Are you preparing the members of your families for translation into the heavenly courts? Are you preparing them to become members of the royal family? children of the heavenly King? "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" How will **ease, comfort, convenience**, compare with the value of the souls of your children?" Ellen G. White, Country Living, pp. 12, 13*

*"There is **not one family** in a hundred who will be improved **physically, mentally, or spiritually**, by residing in the city. Faith, hope, love, happiness, can far better be gained in **retired places**, where there are fields and hills and trees. Take your children away from the **sights and sounds** of the city, away from the **rattle and din** of streetcars and teams, and their minds will become more healthy. It will be found **easier to bring home** to their hearts the truth of the Word of God." Ellen G. White, Country Living, p. 13*

### **Moses and country living:**

*"Moses had been learning much that **he must unlearn**. The influences that had **surrounded him in Egypt**—the love of his foster mother, his own high position as the king's grandson, the **dissipation** on every hand, the **refinement**, the **subtlety**, and the **mysticism** of a false religion, the **splendor** of idolatrous worship, the solemn **grandeur** of architecture and sculpture—all had left **deep impressions** upon his developing mind and had molded, to some extent, his **habits and character**. [1] **Time**, [2] **change of surroundings**, and [3] **communion** with God could **remove** these impressions." Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 250*

### **Heterosexual Marriage**

At the beginning Jesus established **marriage** between a **man and a woman** and instructed them to have **children** and **form families**. Marriage was an **indissoluble lifetime covenant**.

Jesus said: "What God has joined together, let not man cast asunder".

### **Genesis 2:21-24**

*"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and **he** slept; and He took one of **his** ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. <sup>22</sup> Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from **[the] man** He made into a **woman**, and He brought **her** to the **man**. <sup>23</sup> And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; **she** shall be called **Woman**, because she was taken out of **[the] Man**." <sup>24</sup> Therefore a **man** shall leave **his** father and mother and be joined to his **wife**, and they shall become one flesh."*

### **Matthew 19:4-8**: Jesus confirmed **God's original plan**:

*"And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them **at the beginning** 'made them **male** and **female**,' **[heterosexual]** <sup>5</sup> and said, 'For this reason **a man** shall leave his **father and mother** **[normative for all time]** and be joined to **his wife** **[monogamous]**, and the two shall become one flesh'? <sup>6</sup> So then, they are no longer two but one flesh, therefore what God has joined together, **let not man separate** **[indissoluble]**." <sup>7</sup> They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" <sup>8</sup> He said to them, "Moses, because of the **hardness of your hearts**, permitted you to divorce your wives, but **from the beginning** it was not so."*

### **God's original plan A:**

- Marriage is **heterosexual** (male and female)
- Marriage is **normative** for all time (leave father and mother and Adam had no father)
- Marriage is **monogamous** ('**a man**' leaves father and mother and is joined to 'his **wife**')

Marriage is **indissoluble** (what God has joined together let not man cast asunder)

God gave man and woman distinctive and complementary reproductive organs to make it possible to procreate and form nuclear families. As the family goes, so goes society, as society goes, so goes the nation and as the nation goes, so goes the world. Yet man has changed God's plan to the detriment of the world.

**Divorce, fornication, pornography, polygamy, adultery** and **gay marriage** have destroyed the sacredness of heterosexual marriage. Broken homes lead to **single mothers** and deep **psychological problems** among children. **Gay marriage** violates **God original plan** for a family composed of a female mother and a male father who can **grow and nurture a nuclear family**. The **psychological makeup** of the father and of the mother is different. God did not create **two fathers** or **two mothers**. He created a father and a mother.

*“The influence of an ill-regulated family is widespread, and disastrous to **all society**. It accumulates in a **tide of evil** that affects **families, communities, and governments**.”* Ellen G. White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 33





## **“RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD”**

**BY Pastor Stephen Bohr**

### **Changing the Truth Into a Lie—Part 2**

#### **Gender Distinctions**

The Genesis story tells us that God made two genders, male and female. There is not a single example of a transgender in the Bible:

#### **Genesis 1:26-27**

*“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man [the broader generic use without the definite article] in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’” <sup>27</sup> So God created [the more restricted use: ‘the’] man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”*

Discarding the creation account as symbolic, has led even Christians to justify multiple genders. I found two lists of genders on Google. One list has 64 genders and the other has one hundred. Needless to say, none of these have come as the result of scientific research. They are constructs created by man. God made it simple: There are two genders, male and female.

#### **Two Uses of the Word ‘Man’**

The world has sought to blur the distinction between men and women. These days there is an aversion for the word ‘man’. It is considered sexist. Therefore, modern man has suggested that instead of saying that God made ‘man’, we should say that He made people or ‘people kind’. Some have even gone so far as to say that we should refer to women as ‘Wo’.

For example, at a **town hall** meeting in Canada, Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** corrected a woman who used the word **mankind** and told her it would be better to use the politically correct term, **people kind**.

The **117<sup>th</sup> Congress** in January, established rules that require **gender inclusive** language. The changes mean that the **rules document** will use language such as 'parent,' instead of 'father' and 'mother', 'child' instead of 'son' and 'daughter' and 'sibling' instead of 'brother' and 'sister'. It will also replace 'chairman' with "chair," 'seamen' with 'seafarers,' and 'himself' and 'herself' with 'themselves.' (a word that does not even exist **in the dictionary**!!)

The rules established by Congress, denote a **profound ignorance of Scripture**. In Genesis the word 'man' is used in a **restricted sense** to refer to **one male individual**:

### **Genesis 2:7**

*"And the Lord God formed **[the] man** of the dust of the ground, and breathed into **his** nostrils the breath of life; and **[the] man** became a living being."*

However, the word 'man' is also used **generically** in the broader **sense** to refer to both man and woman:

### **Genesis 5:2**

*"He created **them** male and female, and blessed **them** and called **them Mankind** **[Adam]** in the day they were created. <sup>3</sup> And **Adam** lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth."*

## **Restricted and Broader Uses**

This **restricted and broader** use of word 'man' in **Genesis 1 and 2** should not surprise us.

Genesis uses the word **day** in a **restricted** sense referring to the **light portion** of the 'day' (Genesis 1:5) but it also has a **broader meaning** that includes the 24 hours, 'it was the evening and the morning of the first day', etc.

The same is true with the word **heaven**. In a **restricted** sense, heaven can mean the atmosphere where the birds fly (Genesis 1:8) or in a **broader sense**, to the entire starry sky (Genesis 1:1, 15).



In a restricted sense, **earth** can refer to the **dry portion** of the planet (Genesis 1:10) and in a broader sense, the planet in its **totality** (Genesis 1:1).

Thus, from the inspired record of Genesis, the word ‘man’ refers **to all humanity**. Therefore, there is **no need to replace** the word ‘man’ with politically correct language!

## **Male Headship/Leadership**

It seems strange that God held **Adam accountable** for the entrance of sin into the world even though Eve sinned first:

### **Romans 5:12**

*“Therefore, just as through **one man** [not one woman] sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”*

Genesis 3 helps us understand **the reason**:

### **Genesis 3:8-11**

*“And **they** heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and **Adam** [the man] **and his wife** hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> Then the Lord God **called to Adam** [‘the man’] and said to **him**, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup> So **he** said, “**I** heard Your voice in the garden, and **I** was afraid because **I** was naked; and **I** hid myself.” <sup>11</sup> And He said, “Who told **you** that you were naked? Have **you** eaten from the tree of which I commanded **you** that **you** should not eat?”*

Why did God hold Adam accountable and not Eve? The answer is that God gave the command **to Adam** for Adam to give **to Eve**. This is made clear in Genesis 2:15-17 where God commanded ‘**the man**’ (singular) not to eat from the tree.

God —————→ Adam —————→ Eve

Because, as we have seen, Christ executed the Father’s will at creation, the Father was Christ’s head. In turn, Christ was Adam’s head and Adam was Eve’s head (see 1 Corinthians 11:3). However, instead of Adam obeying the word of his head, he gave up his headship to Eve and obeyed her voice:

## **Genesis 3:16**

*“Because you have **heeded** the voice of your wife [***the implication is, ‘instead of mine’***], and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded **you**, saying, ‘**You** shall not eat of it.”*

Ellen White made it clear that Adam was crowned **king** at creation. Adam and Eve were not **both kings**!

*“Adam was crowned **king** in Eden. To **him** was given **dominion** over every living thing that God had created. The Lord blessed Adam and Eve with intelligence such as He had not given to any other creature. He made **Adam** the **rightful sovereign** over all the works of His hands” Ellen G. White, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 1, p. 1082*

Basically God reprimanded Adam in the following manner:

*“I commanded **you** not to eat from the tree and as her head, I gave **you** the responsibility of **making sure** that she obeyed my command. Instead, **you relinquished your headship role** by obeying your wife’s voice instead of mine.”*

## **Older and Younger**

This of the headship of Adam over Eve is reflected in God’s **words to Eve** after her transgression:

## **Genesis 4:16**

*“Your **desire** shall be for your husband, and **he shall rule** over you.”*

Was this declaration by God to Eve a **confirmation** of a reality that **had existed** before the fall, or was it a **divine sentence** pronounced upon her by God only **after the fall**? Expressed another way, was Eve’s desire for her husband and her husband’s rulership over her a **less than ideal** arrangement that kicked in **after the fall** or was it a **confirmation** of **God’s original plan** albeit in a less than desirable **sinful environment**? The answer to this question is found in **Genesis 4:7** where the identical two words ‘**desire**’ and ‘**rule**’ appear in the story of Cain and Abel. **All Bible versions** except the **KJV** translate Genesis 4:7 in **similar fashion**. Let’s take the **NIV** as an example. God said to Cain:

*"If you do what is right will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it [sin] desires [same word] to have you, but you must master [rule] it [sin]."*

The NIV, as well as other versions, **personify** sin as a **crouching beast** desiring to **rule over** Cain but Cain is instructed to **rule over sin**. The **KJV** and Ellen White provide a different and **more plausible** contextual explanation:

### **Genesis 4:7**

*"If thou [Cain] doest well, shalt thou [Cain] not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee [Cain] shall be his [Abel's] desire, and thou [Cain] shalt rule over him [over Abel]."*

Ellen White provided the **profound meaning** of the words 'desire' and 'rule':

*"Abel's offering had been accepted; but this was because he had done in every particular as God required him to do. If Cain would correct his error, he would not be deprived of his birthright: Abel would not only love him [his desire would be for him] as his brother, but, as the younger, would be subject to him [he would lovingly be subject to his brother]. Thus the Lord declared to Cain, "Unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him." Ellen G. White, The Bible Echo, April 8, 1912*

Ellen White interpreted the word 'desire' as 'love' (cf. Song of Solomon 7:10 where the Shulamite expresses her intense 'desire' for her beloved) and the word 'rule' as willing submission of the **younger** to the **older**. This helps us understand Paul's statement that **before** the fall, Adam was to have authority over his wife because he was **created first and then Eve**.

### **1 Timothy 2:12-13**

*"And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For [because] Adam was formed first, then Eve."*

Eve was **younger** and he was older. Because of this, God expected her to **lovingly submit** to the authority of her husband. Notably, in Paul's day, the creation order was still in place. The older/younger motif comes into view both **before and after sin** and provides **one rationale** for female submission to male headship in **marriage** and in the church. Since the very beginning of history the younger son was to **willingly be subject** to the loving authority of

the older son. And Adam, who was created first, was to **rule over his wife** who was created second.

In **no sense** does this mean that **Abel was ontologically inferior to Cain** or the **woman to the man**. In the sight of God, Abel, the younger, was just as human as his older brother and yet, as the younger, it was his duty and privilege to subject himself to his older brother as long as his brother was subject to the Lord.

This better helps us understand what Paul meant when he wrote that **God is the head** of Christ, **Christ is the head** of the man and **man is the head** of the woman.

This divine arrangement is true, not only in the context of the marriage relationship, but also in the context of **corporate worship** in church:

### **1 Corinthians 11:3**

*“But I want you to know that the **head** of every man is Christ, the **head** of woman is man, and the **head** of Christ is God.”*

This is how the process works: Jesus voluntarily and lovingly submits to the authority of His Father, the man submits voluntarily and lovingly to the authority of Jesus and the woman submits voluntarily and lovingly to the authority of the man in the marriage relationship and in the church.

**Long before sin** invaded heaven, the Son was subject to the Father’s authority. Was the headship of the Father over Jesus a bad thing?

*“**The King of the universe [the Father] summoned** the heavenly hosts before **Him**, that in their presence **He** might set forth the true position of **His** Son and show the relation He sustained to all created beings. The Son of God shared the **Father's throne**, and the glory of the eternal, self-existent One encircled both. . . Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven, **the King declared** that none but Christ, the **Only Begotten of God**, could fully enter into **His** purposes, and to Him **it was committed** to execute the mighty counsels of **His [the Father's] will**. The **Son** of God had wrought the **Father's will** in the creation of all the **hosts** of heaven; and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due. Christ was still to exercise divine power, in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants. But in all this He would not seek power or exaltation for Himself*

contrary to God's plan, but would exalt the Father's glory and execute His purposes of beneficence and love." Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 36

Jesus, as the spokesman for the Father, relayed His Head's command to Adam. Adam, in turn, as Eve's head, relayed the information to her. However, Eve dishonored her head and Adam dishonored his head. By Adam obeying the voice of Eve, he allowed her to exercise headship over him.

## **In the Home and in the Church**

The plan of male headship in the home and in the church did not change after Jesus died on the cross. In fact, the faithful headship of the man in the home, qualifies him to be a faithful leader in the church:

### **Ephesians 5:22-24**

"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. <sup>24</sup> Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything."

"He who is engaged in the work of the gospel ministry must be faithful in his family life. It is as essential that as a father he should improve the talents God has given him for the purpose of making the home a symbol of the heavenly family, as that in the work of the ministry, he should make use of his God given powers to win souls for the church. As the priest in the home, and as the ambassador of Christ in the church, he should exemplify in his life the character of Christ. He must be faithful in watching for souls [as Adam was to watch over Eve] as one that must give an account. In his service there must be seen no carelessness and inattentive work. God will not serve with the sins of men who have not a clear sense of the sacred responsibility involved in accepting a position as pastor of a church. He who fails to be a faithful, discerning shepherd in the home, will surely fail of being a faithful shepherd of the flock of God in the church." Manuscript 42, 1903, pp. 1, 2 ("The Training of Children," typed May 4, 1903) Ellen G. White, Manuscript Releases, volume 6, p. 49

If a man does not show wisdom in the management of the church in his own house, how can he show wisdom in the management of the larger church outside? How can he bear the responsibilities which mean so much, if he cannot

govern his own children? Wise discrimination is not shown in this matter. God's blessing will not rest upon the minister who neglects the education and training of his children. He has a sacred trust, and he should in no case set before church members a defective example in the management of his home" Ellen G. White, Manuscript 104, 1901. ("The Need of Reform," October 8, 1901) Ellen G. White, Manuscript Releases, volume 5, p. 449.

## **God's Day of Rest**

Both the creation story in Genesis and the fourth commandment in Exodus tell us that the seventh day of the week is the Sabbath:

### **Genesis 1:31-2:3**

"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. <sup>Chapter 2</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. <sup>2</sup> And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. <sup>3</sup> Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."

### **Exodus 20:8-11**

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore," the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."

## **A Monument Made of Time**

Human beings build memorials where events occurred. For example, the Oklahoma City National Memorial (OKC) is in Oklahoma, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum (WTC) is in New York, and the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania. Why? Because in those places the events occurred. However, God did not build a memorial in a certain place to commemorate creation because the location of the event was worldwide. Therefore, the memorial would have to be a worldwide and accessible to all. So God made a memorial composed

**of time.** We **do not have to come** to the memorial, the memorial **comes to us.** These events occurred only once a year but the seventh day comes once a week!

The observance of the Sabbath is a commemoration of the **Creator's rest.** In fact, on the seventh day we **enter His rest** because we are commemorating **his rest** after **He worked** six days!

*"The first six days of each week are given to man for labor, because God employed the same period of the first week in the work of creation. On the seventh day man is to refrain from labor, in **commemoration** of the **Creator's rest.**" Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 111*

**Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis I** have gone on the record that everyone should **commemorate** creation on **Sunday.** However, it is **not possible** to commemorate an **original event** on a **different day** than when the original **event occurred.**

My wife and I were married on **December 23.** For **almost 50 years** we have **memorialized** our marriage on **December 23.** Why? Because **on that day** the **original event** occurred.

For **245 years,** Americans have celebrated **Independence Day** on July 4. Why not commemorate it on **July 5?** Because that **was not the day** on which the **original event** occurred. Past events are **rooted in history** and the date of their occurrence cannot be changed.

Every year on **September 11** a memorial service is held at the **WTC** to memorialize the terrorist attack. **Three thousand** names are read on that day. Why does the memorial have to be held on **September 11?** Why not on **October 11?** Simply because the **historical event** is rooted in history and the **dates of historical** events **cannot be changed.** I guess now you understand why we cannot **memorialize creation on Sunday.** We must memorialize it on the day that it occurred.

Notice the following tortuous reasoning by **Pope Benedict XVI:**

*"The Sabbath is the **seventh day** of the week. After six days in which man in some sense **participates** in God's work of creation. The **Sabbath** is the day of rest. But something quite unprecedented happened in the nascent Church: the **place of the Sabbath, the seventh day, was taken by the first day.** As the day of the*

liturgical assembly **[going to church]**, it is the day for encounter with God through Jesus Christ who as the Risen Lord encountered his followers on the first day, Sunday, after they had found the tomb empty. **The structure of the week is overturned. No longer does it point towards the seventh day,** as the time to **participate in God's rest.** **[we can only participate in God's rest on the day He rested]** It sets out from the **first day as the day of encounter** with the Risen Lord. . . This **change** is utterly extraordinary, considering that the Sabbath, the **seventh day** seen as the day of encounter with God, is so profoundly rooted in the Old Testament. . . We celebrate the first day. And in so doing we celebrate **God the Creator and his creation.** Yes, we believe in God, the **Creator** of heaven and earth." Homily of His Holiness Benedict XVI, Saint Peter's Basilica, Holy Saturday, 23 April, 2011

The papacy has taken **credit for** the change of God's memorial and Protestants have followed suit, claiming that the Sabbath is Jewish. In this way, they have turned God's **truth into a lie** (Romans 1:22, keep this in the back of your mind!). Without exception, the Bible refers to the Sabbath as the **Lord's Day** with expressions such as:

- Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath **to the Lord** (Ex 16:23)
- 'the Sabbath **of the Lord** your God' (Exodus 20:11)
- 'you shall keep **my** Sabbaths' (Ezekiel 20:12, 20),
- God refers to it as '**my** holy day' (Isaiah 58:13, 14)
- Jesus proclaimed Himself the **Lord of the Sabbath** (Mark 2:27)

**Never once** in the Old or New Testament, do the writers refer to the **seventh day** Sabbath as the **Sabbath of the Jews**. However, John refers to the **feasts** that passed away when Jesus died as 'feasts of the Jews'.

- John 2:13: The Passover is called the 'Passover of the Jews'
- John 5:1: 'a feast of the Jews'
- John 6:4: 'the Passover, a feast of the Jews'
- John 7:2: 'the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles'
- John 11:55 'the Jews Passover was nigh at hand'

## **Vegan Diet**

At the beginning, God specified the diet of Adam and Eve:



## **Genesis 1:29-30**

*"And God said, "See, I have given you every **herb** that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and **every tree** whose **fruit** yields seed; to you it shall be for food.<sup>30</sup> Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every **green herb** for food"; and it was so."*

The **USDA's** "**Livestock Slaughter**" and "**Poultry Slaughter**" report for **2019**:

- **34.14 million cattle and calves**
- **129.91 million hogs**
- **9.33 billion chickens**
- **227.68 million turkeys**
- **27.55 million ducks**
- **3.05 million sheep, goats, and bison**
- ***Sums to 9.75 billion total farm animals***

When people eat meat they are eating processed, **second hand food**. If everyone returned to God's **original** vegan diet, **water sources** would be cleaner, there would be far less **greenhouse gases**, much less **deforestation** that causes climate change and there would be far less **coronary disease**, **cancer** and **strokes**.

The farm animal sector annually accounts for: **9%** of human-induced emissions of **carbon dioxide** (CO<sub>2</sub>), **37%** of emissions of **methane** (CH<sub>4</sub>), which has more than **20 times** the global warming potential (GWP) of CO<sub>2</sub>, and **65%** of emissions of **nitrous oxide** (N<sub>2</sub>O), which has nearly **300 times** the Global Warming Potential of CO<sub>2</sub>.

What would the world be like if we stopped eating **sugar and fat** in processed foods that are **artificially flavored and colored**. What would the world be like if we did not **smoke**, **drink** or do **drugs**? There is a lot of talk about health care as a **human right**. However, what about **human responsibility**? Why should those who live a **healthy lifestyle** pay the bill for those who **abuse their health**?





## **“RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD”**

**BY Pastor Stephen Bohr**

### **Changing the Truth Into a Lie—Part 3**

#### **A Literal Creation**

Everything we have mentioned so far about God’s **original plan** is dependent upon the creation story being **literal**.

- ✓ Country living.
- ✓ Heterosexual marriage for procreation purposes.
- ✓ Two genders.
- ✓ Male headship.
- ✓ Sound principles of health. All **8 laws** are there in Genesis.
- ✓ The Sabbath.

What the devil has done is undermine faith in the **Bible record** by panning off the lie of **macro-evolution**. If the creation account is merely **symbolic** and not literal, then there is **no divine foundation** for any of what we have talked about because it never happened. The theory of **evolution** has destroyed God’s creation plan. And **some Christians** even attempt to **accommodate** the Bible record to the testimony of science, **so called**:

*“Inferences **erroneously drawn** from facts observed in nature have, however, led to **supposed** conflict between science and revelation; and in the effort to **restore harmony, interpretations of Scripture** have been adopted that **undermine** and **destroy** the force of the word of God. Geology has been thought to contradict the **literal interpretation** of the Mosaic record of the creation. Millions of years, it is claimed, were required for the evolution of the earth from chaos; and in order to **accommodate the Bible** to this **supposed revelation of science**, the days of*

creation are assumed to have been vast, indefinite periods, covering thousands or even millions of years. Such a conclusion is wholly uncalled for. The Bible record is in harmony with itself and with the teaching of nature.” Ellen G. White, *Education*, pp. 128, 129.

## **Satan’s Plan to Undermine the Bible in the Past**

So, how has Satan undermined trust in the Bible record? In the past he got the apostate church to forbid access to Scripture:

*“In order for Satan to maintain his sway over men, and establish the authority of the papal usurper, he must keep them in ignorance of the Scriptures. The Bible would exalt God and place finite men in their true position; therefore, its sacred truths must be concealed and suppressed. This logic was adopted by the Roman Church. For hundreds of years the circulation of the Bible was prohibited. The people were forbidden to read it or to have it in their houses, and unprincipled priests and prelates interpreted its teachings to sustain their pretensions.”* Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 51

*“It had been Rome's policy, under a profession of reverence for the Bible, to keep it locked up in an unknown tongue and hidden away from the people.”* Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 269

### **Decree of the Council of Toulouse (1229 C.E.):**

*“We prohibit also that the laity should be permitted to have the books of the Old or New Testament; but we most strictly forbid their having any translation of these books.”*

### **Ruling of the Council of Tarragona of 1234 C.E.:**

*“No one may possess the books of the Old and New Testaments in the Romance language, and if anyone possesses them he must turn them over to the local bishop within eight days after promulgation of this decree, so that they may be burned..”*

## **Satan’s Plan to Undermine the Bible Now**

However, in these sophisticated times, Satan knows that he cannot forbid access to the Bible so he seeks to undermine its accuracy and credibility by

convincing ‘enlightened’ humans that it is an archaic book for a bygone age, irrelevant to the modern world. What Satan accomplished by forbidding access to the Bible in the past, he will once again accomplish by undermining its relevance and authority.

## **From Rome to Egypt to Sodom**

Whether access to the Bible is forbidden or its authority questioned and undermined, eventually the end-result is the same, anarchy such as characterized the French Revolution.

During the 1260 years of papal dominance in Europe, the two witnesses or candlesticks—the Old and New Testaments—did their work in sackcloth, that is, in obscurity. Sackcloth is a pitch black fabric and that is why this period is known as the Dark Ages. The Bible is light (Psalm 119:105) and because the apostate church kept the Bible from the people they walked in darkness. The light of the witnesses was not totally extinguished during this period but burned dim.

At the very end of the Dark Ages, a power arose from the abyss and totally extinguished the dim light of the two witnesses or candlesticks, killing them and rejoicing over their dead bodies.

### **Revelation 11:7**

*“When they [are about to, John 17:4; 2 Timothy 4:7] finish their testimony [dimly, clothed in sackcloth], the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit [France] will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.”*

Ellen White described the link between the papal suppression of the Bible and the events of the French Revolution:

*“The war against the Bible, carried forward for so many centuries in France, culminated in the scenes of the Revolution. That terrible outbreaking was but the legitimate result of Rome’s suppression of the Scriptures.” Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy, p. 265*

The book of Revelation refers to this light-extinguishing power as ‘Sodom and ‘Egypt’:

## **Revelation 11:8**

*“And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the **great city** which spiritually [NIV: ‘figuratively’; CEV: ‘spiritually like’; ESV: ‘symbolically’; NLT: ‘figuratively’; RSV: ‘allegorically’; TEV: ‘the symbolic name’] is called **Sodom and Egypt**.”*

Ellen White explained the meaning of ‘Sodom’ and ‘Egypt’:

*“And in the land where the testimony of God's two witnesses should thus be **silenced**, there would be manifest the **atheism** of the Pharaoh and the **licentiousness** of Sodom. This prophecy has received a **most exact** and **striking fulfillment** in the history of France.” Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 269*

Ellen White explained why the book of Revelation describes **Revolutionary France** as ‘Egypt’:

*“Of all nations presented in Bible history, Egypt most boldly **denied the existence of the living God**, and resisted his commands. No monarch ever ventured upon more open and **high-handed rebellion** against the authority of Heaven than did the king of Egypt. When the message was brought him by Moses, in the name of the Lord, Pharaoh proudly answered, “Who is Jehovah, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not Jehovah, neither will I let Israel go.” [Exodus 5:2.] This is **atheism**; and the **nation represented** by Egypt would give voice to a similar denial of the claims of the living God, and would manifest a like spirit of **unbelief and defiance**.” Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 269*

She further explained why Revolutionary France is called ‘Sodom’:

*“The ‘great city’ is also compared, ‘spiritually,’ to Sodom. The corruption of Sodom in **breaking the law of God** was especially manifested in **licentiousness** [cf. Jude 7]. And this sin was also to be a pre-eminent characteristic of the nation that should fulfill the specifications of this scripture.” Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 269*

Sodom was characterized by a **licentious lifestyle** (Jude 7), **violence** against those who opposed their agenda (Genesis 19:4-10) and **crass materialism** that ignored the needs of the poor (Ezekiel 16:48, 49). Regarding the **class warfare** in France, Ellen White wrote:

*“The rich [**the church and the nobility**] had found no rebuke for their **oppression** of the poor, the poor no help for their servitude and degradation. The **selfishness of***

the wealthy and powerful grew more and more apparent and oppressive. For centuries the greed and profligacy of the noble resulted in grinding extortion toward the peasant. The rich wronged the poor, and the poor hated the rich.” Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy, p. 279

The rejection of the God of the Bible and the crass immorality led to idolatry, the enthronement of an idol goddess: The orator to the French Assembly introduced the goddess of human reason with the following words:

“Mortals, cease to tremble before the powerless thunders of a God whom your fears have created. Henceforth acknowledge no divinity but Reason.” Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy, p. 276

Thus, the darkness of papal Rome led to a denial of the Creator God and the denial of the Creator God led to immoral license and idolatry—reliance on the human reason of the creature in place of the Creator. It is not far from Rome to Egypt to Sodom.

How could this happen to the eldest daughter of the papacy? The answer is that the papacy sowed in France the wind of Bible illiteracy and as a result, she reaped the whirlwind of atheism and license.

**Psalm 14:1:** Notice what follows a rejection of the existence of God:

“The fool has said in his heart: “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.”

Thus, Ellen White wrote:

“It was popery that had begun the work which atheism was completing.” Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy, p. 276

“The only god they [the populace] knew was the god of Rome; her teaching was their only religion. They regarded her greed and cruelty as the legitimate fruit of the Bible, and they would have none of it.” Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy, p. 281 [they threw out the baby with the bathwater]

## **Undermining Bible Authority Today**

Today, in this so-called age of enlightenment, Satan cannot forbid the Bible so his strategy is to undermine its authority and credibility. The result is the same. There are more than 250 versions of the Bible. It has been translated into 690

languages and dialects. Over 100 million are sold each year. And yet, the secular theory of evolution in the great educational institutions of the world and in some churches has robbed the Creator God of His Omnipotent power and the result has been anarchy and immorality.

## Similar Events in the Future

The suppression of the light of the Bible by the papacy resulted in the French Revolution and something similar will happen again. The same sins that afflicted France will recur in the end of time. Ellen White predicted that what happened during the French Revolution would occur once more because men loved the darkness more than the light.

*“At the same time anarchy is seeking to sweep away all law, not only divine, but human. The centralizing of wealth and power; the vast combinations for the enriching of the few at the expense of the many; the combinations of the poorer classes for the defense of their interests and claims; the spirit of unrest, of riot and bloodshed; the world-wide dissemination of the same teachings that led to the French Revolution—all are tending to involve the whole world in a struggle similar to that which convulsed France. Such are the influences to be met by the youth of today. To stand amidst such upheavals they are now to lay the foundations of character.” Ellen G. White, Education, p. 22*

The world will be in this condition shortly before the second coming. Because of papal influence, France cast aside the Bible and reaped defiance against the God of heaven and moral corruption followed. The world will do the same at the end of time. Moral relativism, post-modern thinking, political correctness and a clamor for diversity and equity are destroying the moral fiber of society. Protestantism has cast aside the shield of truth and embraced the doctrines of Rome and this will lead to anarchy.

## Taking the Bible Literally

I take the story of creation literally and it is the foundation of the whole Bible. People call me a fundamentalist, a literalist because I believe the words of the Bible as they are written.

*“Satan is a cunning worker, and he will bring in subtle fallacies to darken and confuse the mind and root out the doctrines of salvation. Those who do not accept*



the Word of God **just as it reads**, will be snared in his trap." Ellen G. White, *Maranatha*, p. 156

"This is a **truth-hating, Bible-neglecting, froward** [habitually disposed to disobedience and opposition] generation. By many it is considered as evidence of **ability and learning to sneer at the word of God**; and in many cases those who are simple enough to take that word **just as it reads**, and believe it, are **subjects of ridicule**." *Signs of the Times*, December 18, 1884

"Truth is **straight, plain, clear**, and stands out boldly in its own defense; but it is not so with error. It is so **winding and twisting** that it needs a **multitude of words** to explain it in its **crooked form**." *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 16

What the Bible makes **absolutely clear**, the **world** and **even the church** have made unclear. Let's take for example, what the Bible says about human sexuality.

## **Biblical Texts about Sexuality**

God, through the **prophet Isaiah**, warned about calling evil good and good evil:

### **Isaiah 5:20-21**

"Woe to those who call **evil good**, and **good evil**; who put **darkness for light**, and **light for darkness**; who put **bitter for sweet**, and **sweet for bitter**! <sup>21</sup> Woe to those who are **wise in their own eyes**, and **prudent in their own sight**!"

What does the Bible have to say about **gay behavior**?

Did God create gay marriage? Is there even **one example** in the Bible of a monogamous committed gay marriage? Let's begin with Sodom, the very city that is mentioned in Revelation 11:

### **Genesis 19:4-11**

"Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the **men of Sodom, both old and young**, **all** the people from **every quarter**, surrounded the house. <sup>5</sup> And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may **know them carnally**." <sup>6</sup> So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, <sup>7</sup> and said, "Please, my brethren, **do not do so wickedly**! <sup>8</sup> See now, I have two daughters who have **not known a man**; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may **do to them as you wish**;

only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof." <sup>9</sup> And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps **acting as a judge**; [accused of being judgmental] now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near **to break down the door**. [violence against those who don't go along] <sup>10</sup> But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door."

**Judges 19:22**: An **old man** received **a traveler** into his house:

"As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, **perverted men**, surrounded the house and beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, "Bring out the man who came to your house, that **we may know him** carnally!"

### **Leviticus 18:22-30**

"You shall **not lie with a male as with a woman**. It is an **abomination**. <sup>23</sup> Nor shall you **mate with any animal**, to **defile yourself** with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is **perversion**. [this is part of the ritual law so it no longer applies?] <sup>24</sup> 'Do not **defile yourselves** with any of these things; for by all these the nations **are defiled**, which **I am casting out** before you. <sup>25</sup> For the land is **defiled**; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the **land vomits** out its inhabitants. <sup>26</sup> You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit **any of these abominations**, either any of your **own nation** or any **stranger** who dwells among you <sup>27</sup> (for **all these abominations** the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the **land is defiled**), <sup>28</sup> lest the land **vomit you out also** when you **defile** it, as it **vomited out** the nations that were before you. <sup>29</sup> For whoever commits any of **these abominations**, the persons who commit them **shall be cut off** from among their people. <sup>30</sup> "Therefore you shall keep My ordinance, so that you **do not commit any of these abominable customs** which were committed before you, and that you do not **defile yourselves** by them: I am the LORD your God."

### **Leviticus 20:13**

"If a **man lies with a male as he lies with a woman**, both of them have committed an **abomination**. They shall surely be **put to death**. Their blood shall be upon them."

Would we not have to put people to death today if we applied this to our society? So, is adultery alright because we do not impose the death penalty?

### **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

*“Do you not know that the **unrighteous** will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, **nor homosexuals**, nor sodomites, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners **will inherit the kingdom of God**. <sup>11</sup> And such **were** some of you. But you **were washed**, but you **were sanctified**, but you **were justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”*

### **1 Timothy 1:8-11, ESV**

*“Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, <sup>9</sup> understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the **lawless and disobedient**, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, <sup>10</sup> the sexually immoral, men **who practice homosexuality**, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and **whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine**, <sup>11</sup> in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.”*

## **Deconstructing and Reconstructing**

**From a secular source: Lisa Miller: “The Religious Case for Gay Marriage”, Time Magazine, December 15, 2008.**

*‘but the Bible is a living document, powerful for more than 2,000 years because its truths speak to us even as **we change** through history. In that light, Scripture gives us **no good reason** why gays and lesbians should not be (civilly and religiously) married—and a number of excellent reasons **why they should**” p. 28.*

*“First, while the **Bible** and **Jesus** say many important things about love and family, **neither explicitly defines marriage** as between **one man** and **one woman**” p. 28*

*Most of us no longer heed Leviticus on haircuts or blood sacrifices; our modern understanding of the world has **surpassed its prescriptions**.” p. 29*

*"The Bible **endorses** slavery, a practice that Americans now universally consider shameful and barbaric. It recommends the **death penalty** for adulterers. . . A **mature view** of scriptural authority requires us, as we have in the past, to **move beyond literalism**. The Bible was written for a world so unlike our own, it's **impossible to apply its rules**, at face value, to ours" p. 29*

The Bible does not endorse slavery:

*"It was not the apostle's work to **overturn arbitrarily or suddenly** the established order of society. To attempt this would be to prevent the success of the gospel. But he **taught principles** which struck at the very foundation of slavery and which, if carried into effect, would surely **undermine the whole system**. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty," he declared. 2 Corinthians 3:17. When **converted**, the slave became a member of the **body of Christ**, and as such was to be **loved and treated as a brother**, a fellow heir with his master to the blessings of God and the privileges of the gospel. On the other hand, servants were to **perform their duties**, "not with eye service, as men pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart." Ephesians 6:6, Ellen G. White, Acts of the Apostles, pp. 459, 460*

Now let's go back to the article in Time Magazine:

*"Religious wedding ceremonies have already changed to reflect **new conceptions** of marriage. Remember when we used to say '**man and wife**' instead of 'husband and wife'? Remember when we **stopped using** the word 'obey'? Even Miss Manners, the voice of tradition and reason, approved in 1997 of that change. 'It seems,' she wrote, 'that dropping the word 'obey' was a sensible editing of a service that made assumptions about marriage that the society **no longer holds**.'" p. 31*

*"If we are all God's children, made in his likeness and image, then to deny access to any sacrament based on sexuality is exactly the same thing as denying it **based on skin color**—and no serious (or even semiserious) person would argue that" p. 31*

**John and Catherine Shore on the Bible: "UNFAIR: Why the 'Christian' View of Gays Doesn't Work".**

*"**Reconciling the Bible** with unqualified acceptance and equality for LGBT people does not necessitate **discounting, recasting, or deconstructing** the*

*Bible. All it takes is reading those passages of the Bible wherein homosexuality is mentioned with the same care that we would any other passage in the book.”*

**How** do those who support same sex unions deal with the texts we have quoted above? They must ‘discount, recast and deconstruct them’. They:

- ✓ Insert their **own private interpretations** to the text.
- ✓ They **reinterpret** the text.
- ✓ They make **assumptions** not in the text.
- ✓ They give their own definition **of words** different than the definitions in the lexicons.
- ✓ They reject the testimony claiming that it was **patriarchal**.
- ✓ They **speculate** about the cultural context in which the texts were written.
- ✓ They brush aside clear texts saying that they were **culturally conditioned**.
- ✓ They appeal to **justice, love and equality** as the reason to approve gay marriage.

How do liberal **Catholic, Protestant and Adventist** scholars justify homosexual relationships in the light of the clear biblical prohibition of the behavior?

**Argument #1:** According to liberal theologians, the story of **Sodom and Gomorrah** does not forbid a loving and monogamous gay marriage but rather **homosexual rape** and a lack of **hospitality**.

**Argument #2:** Some argue that the prohibition of same sex relations in Leviticus was part of the **ritual law** and therefore does **not apply** to Christians. According to the Shores:

*“Christ fulfilled the Old Testament law and the New Testament teaches that Christians should live under the **new covenant** rather than the old one. Consequently, this verse [Leviticus 18:22] has **never applied to Christians**. For a man to lie with a man ‘as with a woman’ violated the **patriarchal gender norms** of the ancient world, which is likely why Leviticus prohibited it. But the New Testament casts a vision of God’s kingdom in which **the hierarchy between men and women** is overcome in Christ. So not only is Leviticus’s prohibition*

*inapplicable to Christians on its own, the rationale behind it doesn't extend to Christians, either."*

This argument is **flawed**. The Levitical law also forbade **bestiality**, that is, sexual relations between humans and animals. Is this practice **now allowable** because the prohibition was part of the Levitical Law?

**Argument #3:** Paul's statements against homosexuality must be seen in the light of **Galatians 3:28** where Paul states that after the cross there is neither male nor female. If there is no longer male nor female, then **gender distinctions** do not matter anymore.

**Argument #4:** We are **all sinners** and it is **not kind and loving** to rebuke others for open sin. The Shores even quote the text where Jesus tells the woman caught in adultery say 'neither do I condemn you'. However, they leave out the part that says, 'go and sin no more.' The New Testament consistently rebukes sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2; 6:9; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 5:3).

**Argument #5:** It is claimed that **Jonathan** had a homosexual relationship with David.

## **2 Samuel 1:26**

*"I am distressed for you, my **brother** Jonathan; you have been very **pleasant** to me; your love to me was wonderful, surpassing the love of women."*

This argument presents **several problems**. First, there is **no evidence** of a monogamous marriage commitment between David and Jonathan. If David did have a gay relationship with Jonathan, then he was **bi-sexual** and was unfaithful to his relationship with Jonathan. Furthermore, David would have violated the **Levitical Law**. Finally, would God openly rebuke the **adultery** of David with Bathsheba and not a gay relationship with Jonathan?

Some even **blasphemously** suggest that Jesus had a homosexual relationship with John, the 'disciple He loved' and who 'leaned on His breast' at the last supper (John 21:20). This argument is **perverse**! Jesus was subject to the ritual laws until He died on the cross! Furthermore, in **Matthew 19:4-6** Jesus upheld heterosexual marriage.

**Argument #6:** Those who support same-sex marriage affirm that the Bible does not forbid **committed, loving, monogamous** gay marriages. They argue that God allows that which the Bible does not explicitly forbid. The same argument is used in favor of **women's ordination**.

Show me just **one example** in the Bible of a committed, loving, monogamous marriage. **There is none**. The Bible does not forbid **smoking, baptizing infants, baptizing by sprinkling**, celebrating **Sunday** in honor of the resurrection, the celebration of **lent**, etc. It is very dangerous indeed to go down this road. It is a **slippery slope** that never ends.

*"The very beginning of the great apostasy was in **seeking to supplement** the authority of God by that of the church. Rome began by enjoining what **God had not forbidden**, and she ended by forbidding what He had explicitly enjoined."*  
Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, pp. 289, 290

**Argument #7:** Those who favor gay marriage redefine the expression 'against nature' in **Romans 1:26** saying that it really means '**unconventional**'. Neither the lexicons nor the evidence from the rest of Scripture support this novel 'translation'.

**1 Corinthians 11:14:** A male who grows **long hair** does so contrary to nature.

**Romans 11:24:** A wild **olive tree** is so by nature.

**Galatians 2:15:** Jews **by nature** are contrasted with Gentiles.

**Romans 1:26-27, The Living Bible:**

*"That is why God **let go of them** and **let them** do all these **evil** things, so that even their women turned against **God's natural plan** for them and indulged in sex sin with each other.<sup>27</sup> And the men, **instead of having normal sex** relationships with women, burned with lust for each other, men doing **shameful** things with **other men** and, as a result, getting paid within their own souls with the penalty they so richly deserved."*

**Argument #8:**

The Shores wrote:

*"Paul's condemnation of homosexuality in 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10 only condemns the **predominant forms** of same-sex behavior in the ancient world which were*

sex between masters and slaves, between adult men and adolescent boys and prostitution. But he does not forbid committed, loving homosexual unions.”

But Paul uses the word arsenokoitai. This is a compound word composed of arseno (‘male’) and koitai (bed). The word means a ‘male that goes to bed with a male.’

## **Even Among Adventist Intelligentsia**

As the women’s ordination debate was heating up in **2011**, I received a petition by email which was signed by **200** Seventh-day Adventists from all walks of life requesting that the church recognize and give its stamp of approval to same-sex committed monogamous relationships. The request was signed by physicians, teachers, students, engineers, physical therapists, nurses, attorneys, real estate agents, computer technicians, film editors, writers, psychologists, pastors, architects, marriage therapists, musicians, etc. The document began with the words: “A Solemn Appeal to our fellow believers in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.” In part the appeal to the church included the following:

“Current scientific evidence supports our conviction that, just as with heterosexuals, a homosexual orientation is determined before birth and/or very soon after, by a complex mix of biological and environmental factors over which a person has no control. To describe people who find themselves attracted to the same sex as sinful, contradicts not only science but the scriptural principles of truth, justice and compassion [the very words used by the ‘women’s ordination lobby’ to defend women’s ordination] taught and demonstrated by Christ.”

“Along with our Seventh-day Adventist family, we do take seriously the guidance God has given us through the Bible. However, we have carefully studied those biblical texts that are traditionally interpreted as forbidding same-sex activity, and join with those scholars who have found that they do not address homosexuality as we understand it today.”

“We believe the same Jesus who said, ‘The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath,’ might say today in regard to this issue, ‘Marriage was made for humans, not humans for marriage.’ We believe God wants homosexuals, as well as heterosexuals to enjoy the many blessings of a monogamous, committed



*relationship—companionship, support of each other, a greater understanding of God’s love, and emotional and sexual intimacy—needs with which **He created all of us.***

There are two **insurmountable obstacles** for those Christian scholars who seek to justify gay marriage **with the Bible**:

- ✓ **Genesis 2** tells us that **at creation, before sin**, the **Old Covenant**, and the **patriarchal** period, God established **heterosexual marriage** and gave male and female the **biological equipment** to be **fruitful and multiply**.
- ✓ There is not **a single example** in the Bible of a so-called committed and monogamous gay marriage. All marriages were **heterosexual**.





## **“RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD”**

**BY Pastor Stephen Bohr**

### **Changing the Truth Into a Lie - Part 4**

#### **Biblical Illiteracy**

The nation has been brainwashed by the media and even by the government to think that to be gay is just as normal as to be straight, and to be transgender is just as normal as being male or female. And Millennials who are biblically illiterate and depend on their iPhone, their peers, the media, the internet and social media as their moral compass readily accept the discussion as a matter of civil rights, equity, love, and a non-judgmental attitude. If you hear enough times that gay marriage and being transgender is normal you will come to believe the lie.

#### **Christian Silence**

Some Christians have been programmed to justify homosexuality, even in the SDA circles. When you see elders in SDA churches that openly flaunt and justify that they are transgender and you hear ministers preach sermons such as “*Kaitlyn is Coming*” and still others that marry gay couples, there is reason to be concerned.

The pope’s endorsement of gay marriage is shameful. He has placed all of his eggs in the climate change basket. And what are the great protestant religious leaders saying about this? Joel Osteen, Rick Warren, James Robison, Kenneth Copland? The silence is deafening.

## Excusing Human Weakness

Some claim that it not possible to return to plan 'A' until Jesus comes because we have a sinful nature that inevitably sins.

John and Catherine Shore answered in the affirmative:

*"A fundamental tenet of Christianity is that we are all born sinners, that we have no choice but to exist in relationship to our sinful natures. And so Christians accept as inevitable that any given Christian will, for instance, on occasion drink too much, lust, or tell a lie."*

The idea has proliferated that we will continue sinning until Jesus comes because the flesh is weak or strong depending on how you look at it. Is it true that the flesh is so weak that even the power of God cannot strengthen it? Is it true that the pullings of the flesh are stronger than even the power of God?

What is particularly distressing to me is that Christians that support gay marriage are saying:

*"God made them that way, they were born that way, so they cannot live contrary to the way they were born."*

## We Inherit Sinful Tendencies

Both science and Ellen White confirm that children inherit the sinful tendencies of their ancestors:

*"As a rule, children inherit the dispositions and tendencies of their parents, and imitate their example; so that the sins of the parents are practiced by the children from generation to generation. Thus the vileness and irreverence of Ham were reproduced in his posterity, bringing a curse upon them for many generations. "One sinner destroyeth much good." Ellen G. White, Christ Triumphant, p. 67*

*"Children inherit inclinations to wrong, but they also have many lovely traits of character. These should be strengthened and developed, while the tendencies to evil should be carefully guarded against and repressed. Children should never be flattered, for flattery is poison to them; but parents should show a sanctified, tender regard for them, thus gaining their confidence and love." Ellen G. White, The Review and Herald, Jan 24, 1907.*

*“Children generally **inherit the peculiar traits of character** which the parents possess, and in addition to all this, many come up without any **redeeming influence around them**.” Ellen G. White, Selected Message, vol. 2, p. 421*

*“Children **inherit from their parents some strong tendencies**. These existed in the parent, and exist **intensified** in the children. Christian parents must carefully consider all these things.” Ellen G. White, Good Health, July 1, 1880*

*“The parents **give the stamp of character** to their children. Therefore, children that are born of these parents **inherit from them** qualities of mind which are of a low, base order. And **Satan nourishes** anything tending to corruption.” Ellen G. White, The Review and Herald, September 26, 1899*

## **Victory and Change is Possible**

The Bible is all **about change** and victory over **sinful tendencies and inclinations**. Murderers, womanizers, drunks, liars, thieves, all are changed by the power of God. The problem is with the **defeatist attitude** of Christians. In the process of saying that we should not be judgmental and should love, we **accept anything in the church** even openly sinful practices There is **power for change**. God **receives** us as we are but He does not **leave us** as we are.

It is true that people are born with **sinful tendencies and inclinations**. The tendency to get **drunk**, the tendency toward **drugs**, the tendency toward **immorality**, the tendency toward **obesity**. God does not approve the **defeatist attitude** that I was born that way and therefore I must **live that way**.

Whether the **tendency** toward homosexuality or transgenderism is inherited or cultivated is **beside the point**. Both can be overcome by the power of Christ.

*“We must realize that through belief in Him it is our privilege to be **partakers of the divine nature**, and so escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. Then we are cleansed from all sin, all defects of character. **We need not retain one sinful propensity** . . . As we partake of the divine nature, **hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong are cut away** from the character, and we are made a living power for good.” Ellen G. White, The Review and Herald, April 24, 1900*

*“Although there is a **natural tendency** to pursue a downward course, there is a power that will be brought to **combine** with man's earnest effort. His **willpower***

will have a **counteracting tendency**. If he will **combine** with this divine help, he may resist the voice of the tempter. But Satan's temptations harmonize with his defective, **sinful tendencies**, and urge him to sin. All he has to do is to follow the leader Jesus Christ who will tell him just what to do. Ellen G. White, Mind, Character and Personality, p. 105

“The religion of Christ **changes hereditary and cultivated tendencies** to wrong. It banishes self-confidence and egotism, leading man to see himself as he is—weak and sinful, unable of himself to do any good thing. It leads him to behold Jesus, and **beholding**, he is changed into His likeness.” Ellen G. White, Signs of the Times, January 8, 1902

## **The World at the End**

“I **was referred** to **Romans 1:18-32**, as a true description of the world previous to the second appearing of Christ.” Ellen G. White, Child Guidance, p. 440

### **Romans 1:18-32**

#### **#1A: Rejection of God and His truth leads to idolatry (verses 18-23):**

- ✓ “**For the wrath of God** is revealed **from heaven** against all ungodliness [godlessness; 2 Peter 2:5, 6 used of the flood race and Sodom and Gomorrah] and unrighteousness of men, who **suppress the truth** in unrighteousness [NIV: ‘**suppress the truth by their wickedness**’]<sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is **manifest in them**, for God **has shown** it to them [in the United States the discoveries in modern science and the Bible].<sup>20</sup> For **since the creation** of the world His **invisible attributes** are **clearly seen** [Psalm 19:1; we see the invisible though the visible], being understood by the things **that are made**, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are **without excuse**,<sup>21</sup> because, although they **knew God**, they did **not glorify Him** [first angel’s message] as God, **nor were thankful**, but became **futile in their thoughts**, and their **foolish hearts were darkened**. [because they rejected the light of the Bible, Mt. 6:23, see below]<sup>22</sup> **Professing to be wise**, they became **fools**, [like Stephen Hawking]<sup>23</sup> and **changed** the glory of the incorruptible **God** into an **image made like corruptible** man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things [today we have more sophisticated idols **money, power, entertainment and sports heroes**,

***educational degrees]*** Sunday as a day of worship. Include EGW statements on Sunday as the idol Sabbath.

*“He who **abides in darkness [like France]** will at last lose the power of vision. He is shut in by a deeper than **midnight blackness**; and to him the **brightest noontide can bring no light**. He ‘walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.” 1 John 2:11. Through **persistently cherishing evil, willfully disregarding** the pleadings of divine love, the sinner **loses the love for good**, the **desire for God**, the **very capacity** to receive the light of heaven. The invitation of mercy is still full of love, **the light is shining** as brightly as when it first dawned upon his soul; but the voice falls on deaf ears, the **light on blinded eyes**.” Ellen G. White, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 92*

**#1B: God gave them up (verse 24):**

*“**Therefore, [because they rejected God and fell into idolatry]** God also **[notice what follows]** **gave them up** to **uncleanness**, in the **lusts** of their hearts, to **dishonor their bodies** among themselves. . .*

**#2A: Rejected the truth and God:**

*who **exchanged the truth of God for the lie**, and **worshiped** and served **the creature** rather than **the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen.”*

**#2B: God gave them up (verses 26, 27):**

*For **this reason [because they rejected God and worshiped man]** God **[2] gave them up** to **vile passions**. For even their women **exchanged the natural use** for what is **against nature**.<sup>27</sup> Likewise also the men, **leaving the natural use** of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, **men with men** committing what is **shameful**, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.*

**#3A: Rejected God:**

*“And **even [since, because]** as they did not like to **retain God in their knowledge...**”*

**#3B: God gave them up:**

*“God **[3] gave them over** to a **debased mind**, to do those things which are **not fitting**;<sup>29</sup> **[notice the impressive list that follows]** being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,<sup>30</sup> backbiters,*

haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup> who, **knowing** the **righteous judgment of God**, that those who **practice** such things are **deserving of death**, not only **do the same but also approve of those who practice them.**"

**Stephen Hawking** was considered the **most brilliant scientist** on earth and yet the Bible describes him as a **fool**:

*"One can't prove that God doesn't exist. But science makes God unnecessary. ... The laws of physics can explain the universe without the need for a creator."*

*"I believe the simplest explanation is, there is no God. No one created the universe and no one directs our fate. This leads me to a profound realization that there probably is no heaven and no afterlife either. We have this one life to appreciate the grand design of the universe and for that, I am extremely grateful."*

## **God Gave the them up**

On the meaning of the expression 'gave them up':

### **2 Thessalonians 2:9-12**

*"The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they **did not receive the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup> And for this reason God will send them **strong delusion**, that they should believe **the lie**, <sup>12</sup> that they all may be condemned who **did not believe the truth** but had **pleasure in unrighteousness.**"*

On turning **truth into a lie**:

*"Truth is straight, plain, clear, and stands out boldly in its own defense; but it is not so with error. It is so winding and twisting that it needs a multitude of words to explain it in its crooked form." Ellen G. White, Early Writings, p. 96*

We have seen that a rejection of **Scripture** leads to the rejection of the **Creator God**, leads to **false worship**, **idolatry** and **immorality**. The weekly Sabbath was meant to keep **fresh in the memory** that God is our **Creator**, we owe Him our **worship**, we should have **no other gods**, and we should live **morally clean lives**.



## Creation, Worship and the Sabbath

Distinction between God and all false pretenders:

**1 Chronicles 16:26** The true God is distinguished from all false pretenders by the fact that He is the Creator:

*“For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.”*

We worship God because He is our creator:

### **Psalm 95:1-6**

*Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.  
2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. 3 For the Lord is the great God, and the great King above all gods.  
4 In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the heights of the hills are His also.  
5 The sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land. 6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.”*

**Nehemiah 9:6**: Heaven and earth worship God because He is the Creator:

*“You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.”*

## Link between Creation, Worship and the Sabbath

*“Had the Sabbath been universally kept, man's thoughts and affections would have been led to the Creator as the object of reverence and worship, and there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel.” Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy, p. 438*

### **Exodus 20:8-11**

*“Remember the [1] Sabbath day, to [2] keep it holy. [when we keep it holy we render God worship] 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 [3] For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and*

*rested the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and **hallowed it**.*

**Isaiah 66:22, 23**

*"For as the [1] **new heavens and the new earth** which **I will make** shall remain before Me," says the Lord, "so shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from [2] one Sabbath to another [**from Sabbath to Sabbath**], **all flesh** shall come to [3] worship before Me," says the Lord.*



## **“RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD”**

**BY Pastor Stephen Bohr**

### **Changing the Truth Into a Lie—Part 5**

#### **A Living Example: Solomon**

**Rich and Wise**

##### **1 Kings 10:23-24**

*“So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.<sup>24</sup> Now all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.”*

**Source of Wisdom**

##### **Proverbs 9:10**

*“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”*

##### **Proverbs 8:13**

*“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.”*

**Prosperity, women and idolatry:**

##### **1 Kings 10:14-15**

*“The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold, besides that from the traveling merchants, from the income of traders, from all the kings of Arabia, and from the governors of the country.”*

The following verses constantly use the words 'silver' and 'gold'.

### **1 Kings 11:1-5**

*"But King Solomon loved many **foreign women**, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites--<sup>2</sup> from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "You **shall not intermarry** with them, nor they with you. Surely they will **turn away your hearts** after **their gods**." Solomon **clung to these in love**.<sup>3</sup> And he had **seven hundred** wives, princesses, and **three hundred** concubines; and his wives **turned away his heart**.<sup>4</sup> For it was so, when Solomon **was old**, that his wives **turned his heart** after other gods; and his **heart was not loyal** to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David."*

### **Gradual apostasy:**

*"So **gradual** was Solomon's apostasy that before he **was aware** of it; he had **wandered far** from God. **Almost imperceptibly** he began to trust **less and less** in divine guidance and blessing, and to put confidence in his own strength. **Little by little** he withheld from God that unswerving obedience which was to make Israel a peculiar people, and he conformed **more and more** closely to the customs of the surrounding nations. Yielding to the temptations incident to his success and his honored position, he **forgot the Source** of his prosperity." Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 55.*

*"From being one of the greatest kings that ever wielded a scepter, Solomon became a **profligate**, the **tool and slave** of others. His character, once noble and manly, became **enervated** and **effeminate**. His faith in the living God was supplanted by **atheistic doubts**. **Unbelief** marred his happiness, weakened his principles, and degraded his life. The justice and magnanimity of his early reign were changed to **despotism and tyranny**." Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 58.*

*"Solomon's apostasy was **so complete**, his heart became so hardened in transgression, that his case seemed **well-nigh hopeless**." Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, February 8, 1906.*

*"**Gloomy** and **soul-harassing** thoughts troubled him **night and day**. For him there was **no longer any joy** of life or **peace of mind**, and the future was **dark with despair**." Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 76*

## **Ecclesiastes 2:17**

*“Therefore I **hated life** because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for all is vanity and grasping for the wind.”*

These texts describe a mood of **pessimism, anxiety, depression and desperation**. Life is **meaningless and absurd**. The book does not seem to belong in the Biblical canon because **life is not what Ecclesiastes seems to portray**. Solomon describes a philosophy of life which **does not fit** the view of life in the rest of the Old Testament.

## **Ecclesiastes 8:14-15**

*“There is a vanity which occurs on earth, that there are **just men** to whom it happens according to the work of the wicked; again, there are **wicked men** to whom it happens according to the work of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity. **So** I commended **enjoyment**, because a man has **nothing better** under the sun than to **eat, drink, and be merry**; for this will remain with him in his labor **all the days of his life** which God gives him under the sun.”*

## **Hindsight is 20/20**

Solomon is writing here in his **later years**. He is **looking back** at the second stage of his life. He sees that life as **meaningless, empty and bitter**. Solomon looked back at his life of **pleasures, women, sex, parties, dancing, carousing, opulence, and worldliness** and concluded that it was all **vanity**. I call Ecclesiastes “the **bankruptcy** of the humanist manifesto.”

## **Ecclesiastes 8:11-13**

*“Because the sentence against an evil work is **not executed speedily**, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them **to do evil**.<sup>12</sup> Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his **days are prolonged**, yet I surely know that it will be well with **those who fear God, who fear before Him**.<sup>13</sup> But it will **not be well with the wicked**; nor will he **prolong his days**, which are as **a shadow**, because he **does not fear** before God.”*

**Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:1**: Words to Millennials. UNDERLINE THE WORD ‘REMEMBER’ IN CONNECTION WITH THE CREATOR THAT IS IN THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT:

*“Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your **heart cheer you** in the days of your youth; **walk** in the ways of **your heart**, and in the **sight of your eyes**; **but know** that for **all these** God will bring you **into judgment**. Therefore, remove **sorrow** from your heart, and **put away evil** from your flesh, for **childhood and youth** are vanity. **Remember** now your **Creator** in the days of your **youth**, before the **difficult days** come [like Solomon who forgot His Creator], and the **years** draw near when you say, ‘I have **no pleasure** in them’.*

Solomon is not a **philosopher** speaking from an **ivory tower**. His is the **voice of experience**. He is describing how **he forgot His Creator** in the prime of life and is **counseling the youth** to not go down the **same road**. He explains that a life centered in **pleasure** and **alienated** from God may **appear desirable** and **fun**, but **in the end** it will bring **bitterness, depression and meaninglessness**. Solomon’s angst led him back to God but only after he had **wasted the prime years of his life!!**

### **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**

*“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God** and **keep His commandments** for this is man's all. <sup>14</sup> For God will bring every work **into judgment**, including every **secret thing**, whether good or evil.”*

At the end of the book: Remember now your Creator. Verse 13 contains the same elements of the first and third angel’s message: Judgment, fear, commandments.

### **Solomon’s Later Writings**

*“The book of Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon in his **old age**, after he had fully proved that all the pleasures earth is able to give are **empty and unsatisfying**. He there shows how impossible it is for the **vanities of the world** to meet the **longings of the soul**. His conclusion is that it is wisdom to enjoy with gratitude the good gifts of God, and to do right; for all our works will be brought into judgment.” Ellen G. White, Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 3, p.1164*

*“Solomon’s **later writings** reveal that as he realized more and still more the wickedness of his course, he gave special attention to **warning the youth** against falling into the errors that had led him to squander for nothing **Heaven’s choicest***

**gifts**. With sorrow and shame, he confessed that in the **prime of manhood**, when he should have found God his comfort, his support, his life, he turned from the light of Heaven and the wisdom of God, and **put idolatry in the place** of the worship of Jehovah. And now, having learned through sad experience the folly of such a life, his yearning desire was to **save others** from entering into the bitter experience through which he had passed.” Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 80

## A Very Important Article

This is the **first paragraph** of the article published on **July 4, 1899**:

“The greatest and most favored nation upon the earth is the United States. A gracious Providence **has shielded** this country, and poured upon her the **choicest** of Heaven's blessings. Here the persecuted and oppressed have found **refuge**. Here the Christian **faith in its purity** has been taught. This people have been the recipients of **great light** and **unrivalled mercies**. But these gifts have been repaid by **ingratitude** and **forgetfulness of God**. The Infinite One keeps a **reckoning with the nations**, and their **guilt is proportioned** to the light rejected. A **fearful record** now stands in the register of heaven against our land; but the crime which shall **fill up the measure** of her iniquity is that of making **void the law of God**.” Ellen G. White, *The Signs of the Times*, “Our Country—its Dangers” July 4, 1899.

The article continues:

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 **religion of fable and tradition**. The agencies which will unite against truth and righteousness in this contest are now actively at work.

**God's Holy Word**, which has been handed down to us at such a cost of suffering and blood, is but **little valued**. **The Bible** is within the reach of all, but **there are few who really accept it as the guide of life**. **Infidelity** prevails to an alarming extent, not in the world merely, but **in the church**. Many have come to **deny doctrines** which are the very pillars of the Christian faith. The great facts of **creation** as presented by the inspired writers, the **fall** of man, the **atonement**, and the perpetuity of **the law** of God, are **practically rejected** by a large share of

the professedly Christian world. Thousands who pride themselves upon their wisdom and independence regard it an evidence of weakness to place implicit confidence in the Bible, and a proof of superior talent and learning to cavil [to raise captious and frivolous objections; to find fault without good reason] at the Scriptures, and to spiritualize and explain away their most important truths. Many ministers are teaching their people, and many professors and teachers are instructing their students, that the law of God has been changed or abrogated; and they ridicule those who are so simple-minded as to acknowledge all its claims. In rejecting the truth, men reject its Author. In trampling upon the law of God, they deny the authority of the Lawgiver. It is as easy to make an idol [in the light of Romans 1:23] of false doctrines and theories as to fashion an idol of wood or stone. Satan leads men to conceive of God in a false character, as having attributes which He does not possess. A philosophical idol is enthroned in the place of Jehovah; while the true God, as He is revealed in His Word, in Christ, and in the works of creation, is worshiped by but few. Thousands deify nature, while they deny the God of nature. Though in a different form, idolatry exists in the Christian world today as verily as it existed among ancient Israel in the days of Elijah. The god of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists, the god of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, even of some theological institutions, is little better than Baal, the sun-god of Phoenicia.

No error accepted by the Christian world strikes more boldly against the authority of Heaven, none is more directly opposed to the dictates of reason, none is more pernicious in its results, than the modern doctrine, so rapidly gaining ground, that God's law is no longer obligatory upon men. Every nation has its laws, which command respect and obedience; and has the Creator of the heavens and the earth no law to govern the beings He has made? Suppose that prominent ministers were publicly to teach that the statutes which govern our nation and protect the rights of its citizens were not obligatory—that they restricted the liberties of the people, and therefore ought not to be obeyed; how long would such men be tolerated in the pulpit? But is it a graver offense to disregard the laws of States and nations than to trample upon those divine precepts which are the foundation of all government? When the standard of righteousness is set aside, the way is open for the prince of evil to establish his rule in the earth [like in the French Revolution].



It would be far more consistent for nations to abolish their statutes, and permit the people to do as they please, than for the Ruler of the universe to annul His law, and leave the world without a standard to condemn the guilty or justify the obedient. Would we know the result of making void the law of God? The experiment has been tried. Terrible were the scenes enacted in France when atheism became the controlling power. It was then demonstrated to the world that to throw off the restraints which God has imposed is to accept the rule of the cruelest of tyrants.

Wherever the divine precepts are set aside, sin ceases to appear sinful, or righteousness desirable. Those who refuse to submit to the government of God are wholly unfitted to govern themselves. Through their pernicious teachings, the spirit of insubordination is implanted in the hearts of children and youth, who are naturally impatient of control; and a lawless, licentious state of society results. While scoffing at the credulity of those who obey the requirements of God, the multitudes eagerly accept the delusions of Satan. They give the rein to lust, and practice the sins which called down judgments upon the heathen.

Let the restraint imposed by the divine law be wholly removed, and human laws would soon be disregarded. [we are seeing this in law in certain 'blue states'] Because God forbids dishonest practices—coveting, lying, and defrauding—men are ready to trample upon His statutes as a hindrance to their worldly prosperity; but the results of banishing these precepts would be such as they do not anticipate. If the law were not binding, why should any fear to transgress? [1] Property would no longer be safe. Men would obtain their neighbors' possessions by violence, and the strongest would become richest. Life itself would not be respected. Those who disregard the commandments of God sow disobedience to reap disobedience. The [2] marriage vow would no longer stand as a sacred bulwark to protect the family. He who had the power, would, if he desired, take his neighbor's wife by violence. The [3] fifth commandment would be set aside with the [4] fourth. [5] Children would not shrink from taking the life of their parents, if by so doing they could obtain the desire of their corrupt hearts. The civilized world would become a horde of robbers and assassins; and peace, rest and happiness would be banished from the earth.

Already the doctrine that men are released from obedience to God's requirements has weakened the force of moral obligation, and opened the flood-gates of iniquity upon the world. Lawlessness, dissipation, and corruption are sweeping in upon us like an overwhelming tide [**what would she say today?**]. In the family, Satan is at work. His banner waves, even in professedly Christian households. There is envy, evil surmising, hypocrisy; estrangement, emulation, strife, betrayal of sacred trusts, indulgence of lust. The whole system of religious principles and doctrines, which should form the foundation and framework of social life, seems to be a tottering mass, ready to fall to ruin. The vilest of criminals, when thrown into prison for their offenses, are often made the recipients of gifts and attentions, as if they had attained an enviable distinction. The greatest publicity is given to their character and crimes. The papers publish the revolting details of vice, thus initiating others into the practice of fraud, robbery, and murder; and Satan exults in the success of his hellish schemes. The infatuation of vice, the wanton taking of life, the terrible increase of intemperance and iniquity of every order and degree, should arouse all who fear God to inquire what can be done to stay the tide of evil.

Courts of justice are corrupt. Rulers are actuated by desire for gain, and love of sensual pleasure. Intemperance has beclouded the faculties of many, so that Satan has almost complete control of them. Jurists are perverted, bribed, deluded. Drunkenness and revelry, passion envy, dishonesty of every sort, are represented among those who administer the laws. "Justice standeth afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter."

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. With rapid steps are we already approaching this period. When Protestant churches shall seek the support of the secular power, thus following the example of that apostate church, for opposing which their ancestors endured the fiercest persecution, then will there be a national apostasy which will end only in national ruin."

## The Reason for our Existence

It is no coincidence that immediately before Romans 1:18-22 there is verses 16, 17 about the power of the gospel:

### Romans 1:16, 17

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

The first angel's message begins with the everlasting gospel:

### Revelation 14:6-7

*"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth — to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people —<sup>7</sup> saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."*

The gospel not only forgives; it transforms and changes lifestyles. After referring to the everlasting gospel, the first angels commands us to fear God, glorify God and worship God in view of the judgment.

If there ever was a time when the church and the world needed to hear the three angels' message, it is today. The command to fear God, give glory to Him and worship Him in the light of the judgment, the call for God's faithful to come out of Babylon, and the warning about the beast and his image is an urgent necessity. The condition of the world, demands that we preach the truth for this time, or what Ellen White called PRESENT TRUTH. Ellen White explained why God raised up the Seventh-day Adventist Church:

*"In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as **watchmen [defensive]** and **light bearers [offensive]**. To them has been entrusted the **last warning** for a perishing world. On them is shining **wonderful light [what they have received]** from the word of God. They **[SDA'S]** have been **given a work [what they must do with what they have received]** of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages.*

There is **no other work** of so great importance. They are to allow **nothing else** to absorb their attention." Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 19

And God has warned what will happen if the Seventh-day Adventist Church fails to fulfill her mission:

*"In the **balances** of the sanctuary the Seventh-day Adventist church [not individuals but the church] is to be **weighed**. She [the Seventh-day Adventist Church] will be judged by the **privileges and advantages** [the blessings she has received from God] that she [the Seventh-day Adventist Church] has had. If [it is not a done deal] her spiritual experience does not correspond to the **advantages** that Christ, at infinite cost, has **bestowed** on her, if the blessings **conferred** have not qualified her to **do the work** [what she needs to do with the blessings] entrusted to her, on her will be pronounced the sentence: 'Found wanting.' By the light bestowed, the opportunities given, will she be judged." Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 247*

The words 'balances', 'weighed' and 'found wanting' come from Daniel 5:

*"Those who depend upon their own righteousness instead of relying upon the righteousness of Christ will **lose the prize**; they will be **weighed** in the **balances** of the **sanctuary** and **found wanting**." Ellen G. White, *Lift Him Up*, p. 237.*

God chooses no individual, institution, nation or church unconditionally irrevocably.

If there was ever a time when the first angel's message is relevant, it is now. The first angel calls upon us to fear God, give Him glory and worship the Creator.

## Contact Information

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