

MINISTRY UPDATE | SECOND QUARTER 2019

SECRETS UNSEALED



Reflections on the
**PAPAL
ANTICHRIST**

PART 2

Dear *friend* of Secrets Unsealed,

I greet you in the wonderful Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ trusting that you are enjoying life's richest blessings.

I am glad to report that things are going well at Secrets Unsealed. Our SUMtv channels are broadcasting Present Truth 24 hours a day, our Panama Mission Trip was a great success, we are about to unveil our Secrets Unsealed App and our studio is producing programming at an ever-increasing pace. At our English Anchor School of Theology, we gleaned precious gems as we studied Revelation's Seven Seals and in a few weeks at our Spanish Anchor, we will study the Seven Churches.

None of this would be possible without your prayers and financial assistance. Thank you so much for your continuing and unfailing support, we greatly appreciate it.

In this edition of our newsletter, you will find part two of "Reflections on the Papal Antichrist." If you missed part one you can find it at SecretsUnsealed.org. This series of two articles is vitally important, especially in a time when Pope Francis I is persuading Protestants and the political powers of the earth to come together to address problems such as climate change, poverty, immigration and the disintegration of the family. With the camouflage of the chameleon, the papacy has made the world believe that it has the solutions to the world's problems. As the Bible expresses it 'and the whole world wondered after the beast.'

May our daily prayer be that of the apostle John on the barren island of Patmos, "Even so, come Lord Jesus!"



Maranatha,

Pastor Stephen P. Bohr
President and Speaker, *Secrets Unsealed*

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Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
8:30am- 5:30pm PST

Friday
8:00am - 12:00pm PST

Contact Information
5949 E. Clinton Ave.
Fresno, CA 93727
559.264.2300 (Intl. & USA)
888.REV.1412 (USA Only)
info@secretsunsealed.org

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Editor
Aileen Pyburn

Layout & Design
Jennifer Arruda

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TESTIMONY TIME

“As a convert, Secrets Unsealed was instrumental in my understanding of the State of the Dead. They helped me on my path. I think I may still be struggling if it was not for them. I would be greatly disappointed if I was to go to a convention and they were not there. Pastor Bohr has been a blessing to me.”

EDWARD, FACEBOOK

“I have been following Secret Unsealed since 2012. Through listening to presentations by Pastor Stephen Bohr, I was convinced that the Seventh Day Adventist Church is the Bible remnant church. I have listened and read almost 90% of Secret Unsealed materials.”

MLOTSHA, SOUTH AFRICA

“I live in a very remote place in Papua New Guinea. I praise God for Pastor Stephen Bohr for his powerful and inspiring sermons. I have learned a lot from his presentations especially *Cracking the Genesis Code*, *The 24 Elders*, *Great Prophetic Chain*, *His Way Is In the Sanctuary* and many others. I cannot help financially, but I always pray for Secrets Unsealed, White Horse Media, Amazing Facts and others. I have shared some of Pastor Bohr’s sermons with Baptist pastors. May our friend and Saviour Jesus Christ be with you all.”

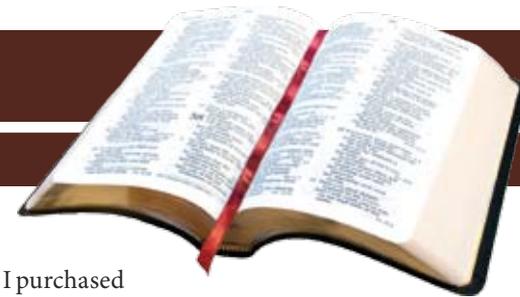
DENN, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

“Dear Pastor Bohr, I LOVE YOU. You are an awesome pastor and man of God!!! I am praying for peace in our church. I am so sad about what is going on. I am back in the church after wandering in the wilderness because 3ABN and featured pastors like you speak the truth, whether I’m ready for it or not. I am eternally grateful and may God bless you and your ministry. I pray we will all remain faithful to the end. Thank you so very much for being a vessel that has been used by God to save wretches like me.”

LUCIA, EMAIL

“I saw your gluten demonstration and I could not be more impressed! I know that you are a GOD-gifted teacher but a fantastic chef also? Where does it end? Thank you so very much for taking the time out to share this skill with us. I have been looking for this particular item for years and could never see one demonstrated that was so straightforward yet I am sure will be so tasty. I would be remiss in not thanking your son for insisting that you share this talent and I hope that you will share other recipes in the near future.”

JAYE, NEW YORK



“All these studies that I purchased are a great blessing to me. It helps me a lot when I’m preparing to do a Bible class. It’s not easy for me to be in attendance when they are having these seminars like the Anchor School seminar and others so I purchase the notes. I get my Bible with my computer and go on YouTube and it’s like I’m right there in the classroom. Thanks to Pastor Bohr and his team at Secrets Unsealed. God’s blessings be with you all.”

DONOVAN, SECRETSUNSEALED.ORG

“We as a Seventh-day Adventist group of Pwani University would wish to thank Secrets Unsealed, for we have experienced a great spiritual uplift from the powerful presenters especially from Pastor Stephen Bohr. We have moved deeper in terms of biblical understanding, our eyes have opened greatly, and we thank God for such inspiration and uplift. May God bless us all.”

J.K.WATTS, KENYA

Panama Mission Trip Update



We were able to record many volunteer testimonies who shared their daily experiences, and people from different parts of the world who shared what going to hear the Pope speak meant to them. Even volunteers not of our faith, helped us to hand out the cards and Glow tracts.



In January, Pope Francis spoke to the youth in Panama City for World Youth Day. A team from Secrets Unsealed went to be part of a joint outreach with Glow to hand out literature. Secrets Unsealed produced a double-sided business card (*right*) with a QR code that would direct people to our SUMTV channel, where they can listen to a special sermon by Pastor Bohr on the Sabbath, read a copy of the *Great Controversy*, and be introduced to SUMTV's solid Biblical programming.



This man with crutches (*left*) came out to help hand out cards although he was in a lot of pain and was physically limited. He said even if God doesn't heal him, he will serve Him.



Approximately **200 volunteers** met us in Panama City to help with this outreach. The Lord tremendously blessed. Each day, volunteers met at Urraca Park, and each day the number of volunteers grew.

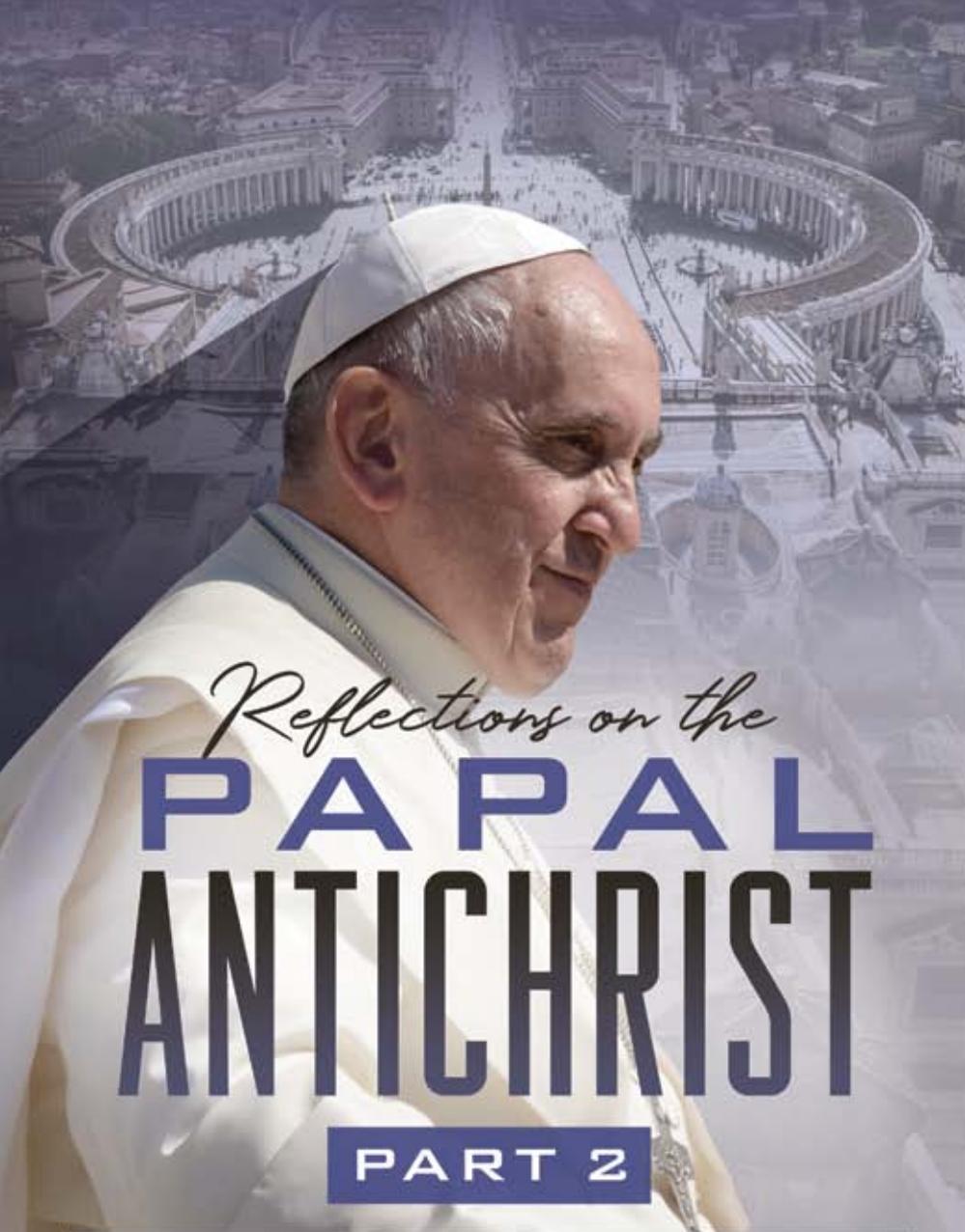


Over **150,000 cards** were handed out to people of all ages, and from different parts of the world. Most were receptive to receiving the information card and over 30,000 have already viewed Pastor Bohr's sermon on the Sabbath just on Facebook alone.



Thank You

for helping make this outreach possible, through your prayers, and financial support. Those of you who speak/understand Spanish, be sure to watch the testimony videos on our Spanish Facebook page.



Reflections on the
PAPAL
ANTICHRIST

PART 2

BY PASTOR STEPHEN BOHR

THREE STAGES OF ROME

The question that confronts us at this point is this: **How** and **when** was the restrainer 'taken out of the way'? What or who removed the man of sin's chains so that he could come forth from hiding and fully reveal himself? We find the answer in the books of Daniel and Revelation and in history.

A careful examination of Paul's prophecy indicates that in the forefront of his mind was the prophecy of the little horn in Daniel 7:23, 24. In fact, virtually all scholars agree that the man of sin and the little horn are symbolic of the Antichrist.

Daniel 7 describes in chronological sequence the rise and fall of earthly kingdoms from the time of Daniel until the year 1798 AD:

- The Lion: Babylon (605-539 BC)
- The Bear: Medo Persia (539-331 BC)
- The Leopard: Greece (331-168 BC)
- The Dragon: Roman Empire (168 BC-476 AD)
- The ten horns on the dragon: The division of the Roman Empire (476-538 AD)
- Little Horn from the dragon's head: Papal Rome (538-1798 AD)

Notice that Daniel 7:23, 24 describes three consecutive stages of the fourth beast (the dragon): "Thus he said: The fourth beast shall be a [1] **fourth kingdom** [the Roman Empire] on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces. ²⁴ The [2] **ten horns** are ten kings who **shall arise from this kingdom** [the divided Roman Empire] and [3] **another** shall rise **after them** [Papal Rome]; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings." Daniel 7:23, 24

According to these verses, after a time, the **Roman Empire** would break apart into **ten kingdoms** and then the little horn or the **man of sin**

would rise to power from this divided kingdom.

Summarizing the three stages of the dragon beast:

- The **dragon**: The Roman Empire (Paul lived during this period)
- The **ten horns**: The Roman Empire divided (future to Paul's day)
- The **little horn**: The divided Roman Empire ruled by the little horn (future to Paul's day)

The apostle Paul was living during the period of the Roman Empire before the emergence of the ten horns and the little horn. This means that the little horn would rise to power sometime after the year 476 AD when the Empire fell apart into ten kingdoms.

The book of **Revelation** describes this transfer of power from the ten-horned Roman Empire to the papacy: "Now the **beast** [the Papacy] which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The **dragon** [the Roman Empire] **gave him** [the papacy] his **power**, his **throne**, and great **authority**." Revelation 13:2

Ellen White well described this **transfer of power** from the Roman Empire to Papal Rome: "In the **sixth century** [538 AD] the papacy had become firmly established. Its **seat** of power was **fixed in the imperial city**, and the bishop of Rome was declared to be the **head over the entire church**. Paganism had **given place** to the papacy. The dragon had given to the beast 'his power, and his seat, and great authority' **Revelation 13:2**. And



now began the 1260 years of papal oppression foretold in the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation. Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5-7.” The Great Controversy, p. 54

Cyril of Jerusalem (318-386 AD) who lived just before the breakup of the Roman Empire, understood very well the link between Daniel 7 and 2 Thessalonians 2: “*But this aforesaid Antichrist is to come when the [1] times of the Roman Empire shall have been fulfilled, and the end of the world is drawing near. There shall rise up together [2] ten kings of the Romans, reigning in different parts perhaps, but all about the same time; and [3] after those an eleventh, the Antichrist, who by his magical craft shall seize upon the Roman power; and of the kings who reigned before him, ‘three he shall humble,’ and the remaining seven he shall keep in subjection to himself.” ‘Catechetical Lectures’ Section 15, on II Thessalonians 2:4; Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, vol. VII, p. 108 [New York: The Christian Literature Company, 1895]*

More recently, Carl Conrad Eckhardt described the three stages of Rome: “*Under the Roman Empire [stage #1: the dragon] the popes had no temporal powers. But when the Roman Empire had disintegrated [stage#2: the ten horns] and its place had been taken by a number of rude, barbarous kingdoms, the Roman Catholic Church [stage #3: the little*

horn] *not only became independent of the states in religious affairs but dominated secular affairs as well.” Carl Conrad Eckhardt, The Papacy and World Affairs (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1937), p. 1*

Thus, Daniel, John, Ellen White and church historians all agree that the fourth beast had three consecutive stages of existence.

THE REMOVAL OF THE RESTRAINER

However, the question that remains unanswered is how the restraint upon the man of sin ‘was taken out of the away’. History has the answer.

In the year 330 AD, Emperor Constantine moved the seat of the Roman Empire to Constantinople in the east thus weakening the political power of the Roman Empire/emperors in the west.

Then, in the late fourth and early fifth centuries, hordes of barbarian tribes from the north invaded and carved up the Roman Empire further weakening it. The deposition of Romulus Augustulus, the last emperor of the west in the year 476 AD, marked the end of the western Roman emperors.

Wrote one historian: “*When the insignificant Romulus Augustulus was deposed (476), there was no longer even a titular emperor.*” Paul Hutchinson & Winnifred E. Garrison, 20 Centuries of Christianity: A Concise History. First edition, p. 93, 1959, Harcourt, Brace & World Inc., New York

The abandonment of Rome by Con-

stantine along with the barbarian incursions into the Western Roman Empire turned it upside down and left it without a civil ruler who could preserve law and order and as a result, civil society fell into disarray.

In the midst of this chaotic situation, the barbarian tribes enticed the Bishop of Rome (later called the Pope) to take the reins of civil power



and bring about some semblance of order in the empire. As a result, the Bishop of Rome was not only the spiritual leader of the church but also became the temporal ruler of the Roman state. In this way, the Roman Empire was ‘taken out of the way’ to give way to the papacy.

The Roman Catholic historian, James P. Conroy explains it this way: “*Long ages ago, when Rome through the neglect of the Western emperors was left to the mercy of the barbarous hordes, the Romans turned to one figure for aid and protection, and asked him to rule them; and thus, in this simple manner, the best title of*

all to kingly right, commenced the temporal sovereignty of the popes. And meekly stepping to the throne of Caesar, the Vicar of Christ took up the scepter to which the emperors and kings of Europe were to bow in reverence through so many ages.” James P. Conroy, American Quarterly Catholic Quarterly Review, April, 1911

Cardinal Edward Manning who converted from the Church of England to the Roman Catholic faith explained the importance of Constantine’s transfer of the Empire to the east: “*But from the hour when Constantine, in the language of the Roman law, ‘Deo iubente,’ by the command of God, translated the seat of power to Constantinople, from that moment there never reigned in Rome a temporal prince to whom the Bishops of Rome owed a permanent allegiance.” The Temporal Power of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, Second edition, London: Burns & Lambert, pp. 11, 12*

Cardinal Manning also described the manner in which the Roman Pontiff originally rose to civil power in the Roman Empire due to the barbarian incursion into the Empire: “*Now the abandonment of Rome was the liberation of the pontiffs. Whatsoever claims to obedience the emperors may have made, and whatsoever compliance the Pontiff may have yielded, the whole previous relation, anomalous, and annulled again and again by the vices and outrages of the emperors, was finally dissolved by a higher power. The providence of God permitted a succession of irruptions,*



Gothic, Lombard, and Hungarian, to desolate Italy, and to **efface from it every remnant of the empire**. The pontiffs found themselves **alone**, the **sole fountains of order, peace, law, and safety**. And from the hour of this providential **liberation**, when, by a divine intervention, the **chains fell off** from the hands of the successor of St. Peter, as once before from his own, no sovereign has ever reigned in Rome except the Vicar of Jesus Christ.” Henry Edward Manning, *The Temporal Power of the Vicar of Jesus Christ*, Preface, pp. xxviii, xxix. London: Burns and Lambert, 1862

The language that Cardinal Manning used to describe the Papal ascent to power is reminiscent of 2 Thessalonians 2: “It [the papacy] waited until such a time as God should break its **bonds** asunder, and should **liberate it from subjection to civil powers**, and **enthroned it** in the possession of a **temporal sovereignty** of its own.” Henry Edward Manning, *The Temporal Power of the Vicar of Jesus Christ* (London: Burns & Lambert, second edition, 1862), pp. 11-13

Manning was saying that when Constantine moved the seat of the Empire to Constantinople and the barbarians carved up the empire, the bishop of Rome filled the vacuum and became the arbiter in **civil affairs** as well as in **religious**. Remarkably, Manning refers to this taking over of civil power by the bishop of Rome

with expressions such as “*breaking bonds asunder*,” and “*chains falling off*,” terminology that is reminiscent of 2 Thessalonians 2. The dragon had given the beast ‘his power, his throne and great authority’ (Revelation 13:2).

The noted Bible commentator, **Albert Barnes**, understood the meaning of the restrainer in 2 Thessalonians 2:7: “The supposition which will best suit this language is, that there was then some **civil restraint**, preventing the development of existing corruptions, but that there would be a **removal, or withdrawing of that restraint**; and that then the tendency of the existing corruptions would be seen. It is evident, as Oldshausen remarks, that this resisting or restraining power must be **something out of the church**, and distinguished from the anti-Christian tendency itself ... It is necessary, therefore, to understand this of the **restraints of civil power**. Was there, then, any fact in history which will accord with this interpretation? The belief among the primitive Christians was, that what hindered the rise of the man of sin was the **Roman Empire**, and therefore ‘they prayed for its peace and welfare, as knowing that when the **Roman Empire should be dissolved and broken in pieces**, the empire of the man of sin would be raised on its ruins.’” From Barnes’ Notes, Electronic Database Copyright © 1997, 2003, 2005, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.

Ellen G. White also had some interesting remarks about the restrainer, and the process of its removal: “The

spirit of compromise and conformity [of the early Christian church] was **restrained** for a time by the fierce persecutions which the church endured under **paganism** [the Roman Empire]. But as **persecution ceased**, and Christianity **entered the courts and palaces of kings**, she laid aside the humble simplicity of Christ and His apostles for the pomp and pride of pagan priests and rulers; and in place of the requirements of God, she substituted human theories and traditions.” The Great Controversy, p. 49.

“The vast empire of Rome **crumbled to pieces**, and **from its ruins** rose that mighty power, the Roman Catholic Church. This church boasts of her infallibility and her hereditary religion.” Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases*, volume 1, p. 50

As we have seen, in cryptic language, the **apostle Paul** had already referred to the moment when the civil power of the Roman Empire would ‘be taken out of the way’ to make the ascent of Papal Rome possible: “And now you know **what** is restraining [neuter: the civil power of the Roman Empire], that he [the Papacy] may be revealed in his own time [once the restrainer was taken out of the way]. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only **he** [masculine: the emperor] who **now restrains** will

do so until **he** is **taken out of the way**.”

UNION OF CHURCH AND STATE

The removal of the civil restraint of the Empire allowed the church to morph into a church/state hybrid that ruled over the kings of Europe for over one thousand years.

Church historian R. W. Southern explained how the papacy united church and state during the medieval period: “During the **whole medieval period** there was **in Rome a single spiritual and temporal authority** [the papacy] exercising powers which in the end exceeded those that had ever lain



Pope Boniface VIII

within the grasp of the Roman emperor.” R. W. Southern, *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages*, volume 2, pp. 24-25

Church historian John N. Figgis wrote: “[In] the Middle Ages the church was not a State, **it was the State**; or rather, the civil authority (for a separate society was not recognized), was merely **the police department of the Church**.” John N. Figgis, *From Gerson to Grotius*, p. 4

In 1302 Pope Boniface VIII wrote the Papal Bull, *Unam Sanctam* where he explained that the church possessed two swords—the civil sword and the spiritual sword: “We are informed by the texts of the gos-



pels that in this [Roman Catholic] Church and in its power are **two swords**; namely, the **spiritual** and the **temporal**. **Both**, therefore, are in the **power of the Church**, that is to say, the spiritual and the material sword, but the former [the spiritual] is to be administered for the Church but the **latter [the temporal]** by the Church; the former in the hands of the **priest**; the latter by the hands of **kings and soldiers**, but **at the will and sufferance of the priest**.”

This erroneous concept, explained so eloquently by Pope Boniface, squares perfectly with the description of the great harlot of Revelation 17 who fornicates with the kings of the earth.

PAUL'S CRYPTIC LANGUAGE

The **church Fathers** both before and after the Council of Nicaea (325 AD) were virtually **unanimous** that the ‘restrainer’ of 2 Thessalonians 2 was a reference to the Roman **Empire** in general and to the **emperors** in particular. In 2 Thessalonians 2:6, the apostle referred to **what** was restraining the man of sin (the Roman Empire, using the neuter article **to katéchon**) but in verse 7, he referred to **who** was restraining (the Roman emperors, using the masculine article **ho katéchon**).

Paul clearly stated that the Church at Thessalonica knew what/who was

restraining the man of sin. Nevertheless, Paul chose to use **veiled or cryptic** language. He did not say to the Thessalonians: “*And you know that the Roman Empire is restraining the man of sin but when the Empire is taken out of the way, then the man of sin will openly reveal himself.*”

Why didn't Paul just come right out and say that the Roman Empire was the restrainer that needed to be ‘taken out of the way’ in order to give way to the Papacy? The answer is obvious. If Paul had said openly that the Roman Empire would be ‘taken out of the way’, the Roman government would have had grounds to accuse him of **sedition**. For this reason, Paul had to be **cautious** in the language that he used.

Evangelicals who believe in the Rapture of the church before the tribulation erroneously identify the restrainer as the **Holy Spirit** whom God will remove from the earth before the tribulation. This interpretation is incorrect because God did not remove the restraint of the Holy Spirit from the earth when the Papacy first rose to power in the sixth century. It is clear that Paul could not identify the ‘restrainer’ openly and he did not need to, because the Thessalonians knew who the restrainer was.

The language that Cardinal Manning used is significant. He wrote that the fall of the Roman Empire led to the ‘**liberation**’ of the Roman Pontiff. If the Roman Pontiff was liberated by the fall of the Empire, then he must have been **restrained**

or in **captivity** before. Likewise, if the ‘**chains fell off**’ the successor of Peter when the Empire fell, then the chains must have been in place before its fall. The inevitable conclusion from Manning's words is that the fall of the Empire removed or **took away** the restraint from the Bishop of Rome.

THE ANTE-NICENE FATHERS

Now let us turn to the writings of the early church Fathers to see how they understood the ‘restrainer’ and its removal. We must note that some of these church fathers were **living in the very time** when the Roman Empire was starting to fall apart.

Tertullian (160-240 AD):

“*For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who **now hinders** must hinder, until he be taken out of the way.*’ What **obstacle** is there but the **Roman state**, the falling away of which, by being scattered into **ten kingdoms**, shall introduce **Antichrist** upon (its own ruins)? ‘And then shall be revealed the wicked one.’” ‘*On the Resurrection of the Flesh*,’ chapter 24; **Ante-Nicene Fathers**, vol. III, p. 563 [New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1908]

“*The very end of all things threatening dreadful woes is only **retarded** by the continued existence of the Roman Empire.*” ‘*Apology*,’ chapter 32; **Ante-Nicene Fathers**, Vol. III, p. 43

Lactantius (240-320):

“*The subject itself declares that the fall and ruin of the world will shortly take place; except that **while the city of***

Rome remains, it appears that nothing of this kind is to be feared. However, when that capital of the world **shall have fallen**, and shall have begun to be a street, which the Sibyls say shall come to pass, who can doubt that the end has now arrived to the affairs of men and the whole world? It is that city, that only, which **still sustains all things**.” ‘*The Divine Institutes*,’ book 7, chapter 25; **Ante-Nicene Fathers**, vol. VII, p. 220

Ambrose (337-397 AD):

“*After the falling or decay of the Roman Empire, Antichrist shall appear.*” Quoted in, Bishop Thomas Newton, **Dissertations on the Prophecies**, p. 463 [London: B. Blake, 1840]

Chrysostom (died in 407 AD):

“*When the **Roman Empire is taken out of the way**, then he [the Antichrist] shall come. And naturally. For as long as the fear of this empire lasts, no one will willingly exalt himself, but **when that is dissolved**, he will attack the anarchy, and endeavor to seize upon the government **both** of man and of God.*” ‘*Homily IV on 2 Thessalonians 2:6-9*,’ **Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers**, vol. XIII, p. 389 [New York: Charles Scribner's and Sons, 1905]

Jerome (347-420 AD):

“*He that **letteth** [restrains] is taken out of the way, and yet we do not realize that Antichrist is near.*” Letter to Ageruchia, written about 409 A. D. Letter 123, section 16; **Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers**, vol. VI, p. 236 [New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1912]



‘IN HIS TIME’

The apostle Paul continued his line of thought: “*And now you know **what** is restraining [the Empire/emperors], that **he** [the man of sin] may be revealed **in his own time.**” 2 Thessalonians 2:6*

What is the meaning of the expression ‘in his **own time**’? The **reflexive pronoun** (‘his own’) indicates that there was a **specific time** at which the man of sin would arise. Once again, we must link the prophecy of 2 Thessalonians 2 with Daniel 7:25 where the text tells us that there was a specific time for the little horn to rise and fall, that is, ‘time, times and the dividing of time.’ Revelation 13:5 refers to this period as 42 months and Revelation 12:14 as 1260 days.

Ellen White linked the passage in 2 Thessalonians with Daniel 7:25 and Revelation 13:5. “*The apostle Paul warned the church not to look for the coming of Christ in his day. ‘That day shall not come,’ he says, ‘except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed.’ [2 Thessalonians 2:3.] Not until after **the great apostasy**, and the **long period** of the reign of the ‘man of sin,’ can we look for the advent of our Lord. The ‘man of sin,’ which is also styled the ‘mystery of iniquity,’ the ‘son of perdition,’ and ‘that wicked,’ **represents the papacy**, which, as foretold in prophecy, was to maintain its supremacy for **1260 years**. This period ended in 1798. The*

coming of Christ could not take place before that time. Paul covers with his caution the whole of the Christian dispensation down to the year 1798.” The Great Controversy, p. 356

THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY

The apostle Paul continued his argument: “*For the mystery of lawlessness is **already** at work; only **he** [the emperor] who now restrains will do so until **he** [the emperor] be taken out of the way [by the barbarian invasions].” 2 Thessalonians 2:7*

The mystery of iniquity was **already at work** in the days of Paul. The word ‘iniquity’ is the identical word that is translated ‘transgression of the law’ in 1 John 3:4. The ‘man of sin’ would teach his followers to transgress the law. As is well known, the Papacy openly violates the second commandment that forbids the making and bowing before idols and claims that God’s rest day is now Sunday instead of the Sabbath.

THE REST OF THE STORY

Let us summarize what we have seen so far:

- So long as the Empire/emperors were in place, the Papacy was restrained or in captivity.
- When Constantine moved the seat of the Empire to the east and the barbarians carved up the Empire, the restrainer ‘was taken out of the way’ and the Papacy was able to capture the throne of Caesar and

rule for 1260 years.

However, there is a chapter of the story that the apostle Paul did not tell the Thessalonians. We must remember that when the apostle Paul died, John had not yet written the book of Revelation therefore Paul was relying only on the testimony of Daniel 7.

Revelation 13:1-10 expands upon the prophecy of Daniel 7 and adds that the ‘man of sin’ would have two periods of dominion—one past during the 1260 years and the other future. Paul simply expounded upon the information available to him from Daniel 7. His emphasis was that the Papacy would be released from the restrainer in the sixth century, rule for a period and then be destroyed at the Lord’s coming (see Daniel 7:25, 26). The apostle did not mention that the man of sin would have two stages of dominion, one before the deadly wound and one after.

In similar fashion, Jesus spoke about the resurrection of the righteous and the wicked as if they would occur at the same time: “*Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.*” John 5:28, 29

A simple reading of these verses leaves the impression that the two resurrections would occur at the same time. The text does not contain the slightest hint that there will be two stages to the resurrection sepa-

rated by a thousand years. However, the book of Revelation expands upon the statement of Jesus explaining that there will be a thousand years between the two resurrections (Revelation 20:5).

In 1798 AD, the civil power of France (followed by other nations) wounded the Papacy with the sword and put the restraints once again on the Papacy. Revelation 13:9, 10 refers to this as the ‘captivity’ of the Papacy. For the last 220 years, the civil powers of the world have kept the papacy restrained or ‘in captivity.’ However, the prophecy of Revelation 13:3 indicates that the civil powers of the world will remove the restraints and the Papacy will once again exercise the power of the sword that she used in the past.

In the days of the apostle Paul, the civil power of Rome was restraining the man of sin but in 538 AD, the restraint ‘was taken out of the way’. However, Paul did not explain that the civil powers of the world would restrain the Papacy once more (in 1798 AD) only to release her once again near the end of history.

TWO STAGES OF THE MAN OF SIN

Ellen White, in full accord with the book of Revelation, explained the two stages of the ‘man of sin’: “*The influence of Rome in the countries that once acknowledged her dominion is still far from being destroyed and prophecy foretells a **restoration** of her power. ‘I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his*

deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.”
The Great Controversy, p. 579

“When our nation [the United States] shall so abjure the principles of its government as to enact a Sunday law, Protestantism will in this act join hands with popery; it will be nothing else that **giving life** to the tyranny which has long been eagerly watching its opportunity to **spring again** into active despotism.” Testimonies to the Church, vol. 5, p. 712

“Protestants will throw their whole influence and strength on the side of the Papacy; by a national act enforcing the false Sabbath, they will **give life** and **vigor** to the corrupt faith of Rome, **reviving** her tyranny and oppression of conscience. Then it will be time for God to work in mighty power for the vindication of his truth.” Signs of the Times, June 12, 1893

Notably, secular philosopher Ayn Rand who wrote in 1967 agreed with Ellen White: “The Catholic Church has never given up the hope to **re-establish** [she must have once had it and lost it] the medieval **union of church and state**, with a **global state** and a **global theocracy** as its ultimate goal. The **Roman Church-State** is a **hybrid**—a **monster** of **ecclesiastical and political** power. Its political thought is totalitarian, and whenever it has had the opportunity to apply its principles, the result has been **bloody repression**. If, during the last 30 years,

it has softened its assertions of full, supreme, and irresponsible power, and has murdered fewer people than before, such changes in behavior are not due to a change in its ideas, but to **a change in its circumstances** ... The **Roman Church-State** in the twentieth century, however, is an institution **recovering from a mortal wound**. If and when it **regains** its power and authority, it will impose a regime more sinister than any the planet has yet seen.” John W. Robbins, *Ecclesiastical Megalomania*, p. 195.

RELEASED ONCE AGAIN

Why is the Papacy still under restraint? Why is her wound still festering? **Malachi Martin**, **Jesuit** scholar and close friend of Pope John Paul II who wrote the best-selling book, **The Keys of this Blood** explained the reason in 1986: “[For] **fifteen hundred years** and more, [papal] Rome had kept as **strong a hand** as possible in each local community around the wide world. By and large, and admitting some exceptions, that had been the **Roman view** [Ellen White calls it the ‘Roman element’ GC 581] until **two hundred years of inactivity** had been **imposed** upon the papacy **by the major secular powers** of the world.” Quoted in *Christianity Today* (November 21, 1986), p. 26

There are **three main points** in this statement by Martin:

- The papacy kept as **strong hand** as possible in each local community around the wide world for **fifteen**

hundred years.

- During the last **200 years**, the Papacy has been restrained contrary to her will.
- The major **secular powers** of the world have imposed this restraint upon the Papacy.

1798. The civil sword that the Papacy had used for over a thousand years turned against her and gave her the deadly wound. France emancipated herself from papal power establishing a free republic. As a result, one nation after another in the western hemisphere formed democratic gov-



French army entering Rome, February 1798

I am certain that Martin did not realize that in this statement he was describing the deadly wound and the captivity of the papacy that is described in Revelation 13:9, 10.

What happened two hundred years before Martin wrote? The answer is the French Revolution (1789-1797). This cataclysmic event for the Papacy reached its climax when General Berthier took Pope Pius VI captive in

ernments that have not allowed the Papacy to use them to accomplish her own ends. That is to say, the secular governments have kept the Papacy restrained or in captivity.

The French Revolution did much more than just deliver France from the iron fist of the Papacy. It actually led all the major secular powers of Europe within a brief period to proclaim their emancipation from



papal dominance. As a result, nation after nation in Europe formed democratic governments that guaranteed civil and religious liberty. For this reason, Henry Edward Cardinal Manning in 1862 (even before Victor Emmanuel II confiscated the Papal States in 1870) lamented that the nations of Europe had forsaken the papacy: *“See this Catholic Church, this Church of God, feeble and weak, rejected even by the very nations called Catholic. There is Catholic France, and Catholic Germany, and Catholic Italy giving up this exploded figment of the temporal power of the Vicar of Jesus Christ. And so, because the Church seems weak, and the Vicar of the Son of God is renewing the Passion of his Master upon earth, therefore we are scandalized, therefore we turn our faces from him.”* The Temporal Power of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, pp. 140, 141, emphasis mine

ELLEN WHITE AND THE HEALING OF THE WOUND

The prophecy of Revelation 13 tells us that the history of the Papacy is not yet complete. The chapter tells us that the civil rulers of the world will once again allow the Papacy to attach herself to them to determine and dictate her agenda. The striking prophecy of Revelation 13:3, 11-18 explains that the secular powers of the world following the lead of the United States, will release the papacy from its cap-

tivity and then she will behave as she did in her heyday. Then the prophecy of 2 Thessalonians 2 will reach its complete fulfillment.

Revelation 17 vividly portrays the final stage of the prophecy of 2 Thessalonians 2 and Revelation 13:3, 11-18. In Revelation 17 we see a harlot woman whose name is Babylon (17:5) who sits on many waters, that is, upon nations, multitudes, tongues and people (17:1, 15). The harlot sustains an adulterous spiritual relationship with the civil rulers of the earth (17:2) and wears purple and scarlet, gold and precious stones (17:4). The kings of the world gladly drink her fermented wine of false doctrine (17:2) and give decrees against those who refuse to drink with them. She has daughters that were born from her at some point because her name is the ‘mother of harlots’ (17:5). Most significantly, she sheds the blood of the saints and the martyrs of Jesus (17:6).

Ellen G. White wrote one hundred years before Malachi Martin and used virtually identical terminology. She predicted that the civil powers of the world would remove the restraint they have placed upon the Papacy and the result would be a revival of her tyranny: *“Let the restraints now imposed by secular governments be removed and Rome be reinstated in her former power, and there would speedily be a revival of her tyranny and persecution.”* The Great Controversy, p. 564

THE PARALLEL OF REVELATION 20

Revelation 20 helps us understand the binding and unbinding of the Papacy by the secular powers. In these last days of earth’s history, Satan is alive and free to accomplish his purposes because he is able to influence the civil powers of the world to do his bidding. Satan has always accomplished his purposes by using the sword of the secular powers.

Satan used Pharaoh, the great dragon (Ezekiel 29:3), to attempt to destroy Moses. In Revelation 12, we find a fiery red dragon standing before the woman to devour her child as soon as he was born. Satan was behind the plot, but the visible instrument that Satan used in his attempt was Herod, a civil ruler of the Roman Empire.

While Daniel 7:25 tells us that the little horn persecuted the saints of the Most High for a ‘time, times and the dividing of time,’ Revelation 12:6, 13-15 tells us that the dragon persecuted the woman for the same period. Thus, the little horn was the dragon’s agent.

In Revelation 3:10, God announced that Satan would cast many members of the church of Smyrna into prison for ten days. Satan did not do this in person but rather used the emperor Diocletian to accomplish his agenda.

In the present, Satan is well and free, wreaking havoc because the civil powers of the earth are at his disposal to carry out his agenda. However, when Jesus comes, all the

kings of the earth that supported Satan’s agenda will die (Revelation 19:21). Without his support base to carry forward his agenda, Satan will be wounded and in captivity (Revelation 20:1-3).

However, after the thousand years, the wicked kings will resurrect and they will once again lend Satan their support (Revelation 20:5). This is how Satan’s wound heals and that which restrains him is removed (Revelation 20:1-3, 7-9).

In short, when Satan loses the support of the kings of the earth at the second coming, he will be mortally wounded, in captivity, but when he regains their support after the Millennium, his wound is healed, and he is freed from captivity. In a similar manner, when the Papacy is able to use the civil powers to accomplish her will, she is healed and free of restraint but when the civil rulers withdraw their support she is wounded and in captivity. Moreover, when the kings restore the sword, the papacy will be healed and free once again.

THE PAPACY’S ‘HEALER’

Revelation 13:11-18 describes a beast that rises from the earth. This beast represents the United States of America. In the first stage of its existence, this nation guarantees full civil and religious liberty, separating church and state. However, at the end of its career it will do all in its power to remove the restraint from the Papacy. It will do all in its power to please the first beast:



- ✓ It will exercise all the **authority** of the **first** beast
- ✓ It will force the whole world to **worship** the **first** beast
- ✓ It will do everything ‘**in the presence** of the **first** beast’ (NIV: ‘**on behalf** of the first beast; CEV: ‘it **worked for** the beast’; **lexicons**: ‘at the **commissioning** of the beast’
- ✓ It will make an **image of** the **first** beast
- ✓ The image will be **in honor** (to the beast) and whoever does not worship the image will be **sentenced to death**
- ✓ It will enforce the **mark** of the **first** beast on pain of not being able to **buy or sell**

Every country on the globe will follow the example of the United States: “As America, the land of religious liberty shall unite with the papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, the people of **every country on the globe** will be led to follow her example.” *Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 6, p. 18

SATAN’S LAST RESORT

When human probation closes, Satan will have full control over the finally impenitent (GC 614). Yet there will be a small remnant that refuses to bow to his authority. Up to this point, Satan has carried on his work of deception

through his emissary, the ‘man of sin.’ However, toward the end of the great tribulation, Satan will take matters into his own hands. He will personally counterfeit the second coming of Christ ‘to deceive, if possible, the very elect’ (Matthew 24:23, 24).

The apostle Paul described this climactic moment in 2 Thessalonians 2:8, 9: “And **then** the **lawless one** [masculine, singular] will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His **coming** [parousia]. The coming [parousia] of the lawless one is according to the **working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders . . .**”

There are three important points I would like to make regarding these verses.

- ✓ FIRST, we are no longer dealing generally with the ‘mystery of lawlessness’ that was chomping at the bit to reveal itself in the days of Paul, but rather with the ‘lawless **one**.’ Satan now takes matters personally into his own hands.
- ✓ SECOND, the word *parousia* appears twice in these verses. In the first reference, the word describes Christ’s second coming, but the second instance refers to Satan’s counterfeit. That is, Satan will have his counterfeit *parousia* before the genuine coming of Jesus.
- ✓ THIRD, the combination of the three Greek words ‘power, signs and wonders’ is used in only one other verse in the New Testa-

ment where Jesus performed these marvelous works while He was on earth. This means that Satan will counterfeit the signs and wonders that Jesus performed while He was on earth.

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by **miracles, wonders, and signs** which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know . . .” Acts 2:22

Ellen White described Satan’s counterfeit second coming and described it as the ‘almost overmastering delusion’: “As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will **personate Christ**. The church has long professed to look to the Savior’s advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will **make it appear** that Christ has come. In **different parts** of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of **dazzling brightness**, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation (Revelation 1:13-15). **The glory** that surrounds him is **unsurpassed** by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: ‘Christ has come! Christ has come!’ The people **prostrate themselves in adoration** before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when

Why would Satan bother to counterfeit the second coming if probation has closed?

He was upon the earth. His voice is **soft and subdued**, yet full of **melody**. In **gentle, compassionate tones** he presents **some** of the same gracious, heavenly **truths** that the Savior uttered; **he heals the diseases** of the people, and then, in his **assumed character** of Christ, he claims to have **changed the Sabbath** to Sunday, and commands all to hal- low the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keep- ing holy the seventh day are blasphem- ing his name by refusing to **listen to his angels** sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost **over- mastering delusion** [an allusion to 2 Thessalonians 2].” *The Great Contro- versy*, p. 624

BEFORE OR AFTER PROBATION?

Some have questioned whether Satan’s counterfeit *parousia* will occur during the time of trouble after the close of probation. After all, what good would it do for Satan to counterfeit the second coming in order to deceive the elect if the elect are already sealed and cannot be deceived? Satan must know at this point that he will not be able to deceive the elect!

There are two reasons why I believe that Satan’s counterfeit *parousia* will take place after the close of probation.

First, Matthew 24 describes a sequence of events in strict chrono- logical order. The chapter repeatedly uses the word ‘then’ (verses 9, 10, 14,



THE GREAT ISSUE IN THE END TIME CONFLICT

16, 21, 23, 30) to describe the sequence. Matthew 24:23-27 where the counterfeit coming is described, clearly portrays events that occur after the Sunday law (Matthew 24:15) and during the great tribulation (Matthew 24:21, 22).

Second, Ellen White places Satan's counterfeit *parousia* in the chapter on the time of trouble after probation's close (GC 624).

However, why would Satan bother to counterfeit the second coming if probation has closed? After all, he knows, at least intellectually, that he will not be able to deceive the elect. Although it is true that Satan knows that the Bible says that he will not be able to deceive the elect, he still harbors a slim hope that he can counteract the Word.

Let us pursue this line of thought with another example. Does Satan know that he will not be able to conquer the New Jerusalem after the millennium? Of course he does. Revelation 20:7-9 is too clear to be misunderstood. Why then will Satan gather the multitudes to attack the city if he knows from the Word of God that it will be fruitless? Because Satan is Satan. He is not going to just lie down and give up. When he sees the multitudes outside the city, he harbors the hope that he can counteract the Word of God and conquer the city.

In conclusion, what will be the great issue that will draw the battle lines in the final war? Every indication in this passage and in others is that the battle will be over obedience or disobedience to the Word of God, more specifically, the Ten Commandments. The little horn thought that it could change God's law. The name of the Antichrist is the 'man of sin,' and sin is the transgression of the law. Paul refers to the apostasy as the 'mystery of lawlessness.'

Revelation 12:17 describes the reason why Satan will war against the remnant: "The dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who **keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**"

2 Thessalonians 2:10 explains that the majority in the world will be lost 'because they did not receive the **love of the truth** that they might be saved.'

In fact, the world will believe the counterfeit second coming because they did not believe the truth: "And for this reason God will send them **strong delusion**, that they should believe **the lie** [the counterfeit second coming],¹² that they all may be condemned who **did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**" 2 Thessalonians 2:11-13

What is the truth that the world rejected? The answer is three-fold: Jesus is the truth (John 14:6), His Word is the truth (John 17:17) and

Only strict adherence to the Word of God will protect the remnant from the 'almost overmastering delusion.'

his Law is the truth (Psalm 119:142). It is impossible to say that I love Jesus unless I love His truth and His law!

After describing Satan's counterfeit *parousia*, Ellen White explained why Satan will not be able to deceive God's people by his counterfeit second coming: "But the people of God will not be misled. **The teachings of this false christ are not in accordance with the Scriptures.** His blessing is pronounced upon the worshipers of the beast and his image, the very class upon whom the Bible declares that God's unmingled wrath shall be poured out. Furthermore, Satan will not be permitted to counterfeit **the manner** of Christ's advent. The Savior has warned His people against deception upon this point, and has clearly

foretold **the manner** of His second coming. 'There shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect ... Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth; behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.' Matthew 24:24-27, 31; 25:31; Revelation 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17. This coming there is **no possibility of counterfeiting.** It will be **universally known** and witnessed by the whole world. Only those who have been **diligent students** of the Scriptures and who have received the **love of the truth** will be shielded from the **powerful delusion** that takes the world captive. **By the Bible** testimony these will **detect** the deceiver in his **disguise.**" The Great Controversy, p. 625

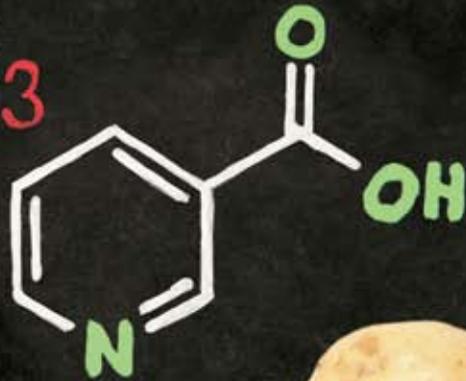
Not emotions, not feelings, not logic, not the testimony of our senses, not the testimony of others will keep the remnant faithful. Only strict adherence to the Word of God will protect the remnant from the 'almost overmastering delusion.'



PASTOR STEPHEN BOHR



Vitamin B₃



BY MILTON TESKE, M.D.



Vitamin B₃ is essential to life. The cellular machinery that provides life-giving energy to every vital function of every cell in your body depends on it. Vitamin B₃ comes in three different forms all of which end up doing the same thing. They are all used to make NAD, a molecule capable of carrying energy from one enzyme to another. The three forms are: (1) Niacin (also called nicotinic acid), (2) nicotinamide (also called niacinamide), and (3) nicotinamide riboside. (Do not confuse these with nicotine, a very toxic compound found in tobacco.)

Dietary Sources

Although the body can make a small amount of niacin out of the amino

acid tryptophan, this pathway is very inefficient and can only produce trace amounts. So, it is essential to provide sufficient niacin in the diet. Vitamin B₃ is high in most meats and fish. But vegetarian sources can provide all you need. Two tablespoons of peanut butter will provide 30% of your daily requirement. A medium size avocado also will provide about 30%. One large baked potato (with or without the skin) will also provide about 30%. A cup of mushrooms or a cup of green peas will each provide about 20%. Whole wheat and brown rice also have a bunch of B₃, but it is more difficult to absorb from these sources. Today niacin is added to most breakfast cereals and white flour to fortify it to help prevent severe deficiencies

(such as seen in pellagra).

Pellagra

Pellagra is a disease characterized by the “4Ds”: diarrhea, dermatitis, dementia and death. A century ago pellagra was an epidemic disease here in America particularly in the poorer areas in the Southern states as well as in prisons, orphanages and mental institutions. There were over 3 million cases with over 100,000 deaths in the U.S. in the early 1900s. These individuals lived on an impoverished diet based primarily on corn or white flour. In 1915 Joseph Goldberger was assigned by the Surgeon General of the United States to study pellagra, and he discovered it was caused by a nutritional deficiency and could be cured or prevented by adding meat or legumes to the diet. Brewer’s yeast also worked.

NAD

NAD stands for *nicotinamide adenosine dinucleotide*, (not to be confused with the North American Division). This is why we need vitamin B₃ — because B₃ is the essential building block needed to build NAD. The position of the atoms that make up vitamin B₃ are in just the right position so that NAD can use them to accept or release high energy electrons. So, NAD can be used as an energy carrier to carry energy from one reaction to another.

Glucose is full of high energy chemical bonds (energy from the sun captured in leaves by photosynthesis). Our cells take in glucose for fuel and they break apart these high energy chemical bonds one at a time

in small increments and they capture that energy by moving some of it to NAD which then can carry it to another chemical reaction that needs energy. So, without sufficient niacin we cannot build enough NAD, and thus our ability to transfer and use this energy will be limited. This limitation will slow down and hinder normal cellular functions. As the deficiency worsens, the symptoms of pellagra appear and eventually death comes as the cells run out of NAD.

But beyond the pellagra level of nutritional deficiency, NAD levels drop significantly as we age, and many age-related deteriorations are directly correlated with NAD deficiencies in our cells.

Epigenetic Modification

There is a group of seven different proteins called **sirtuins** that need NAD. Sirtuins are turned on by NAD and off by a lack of NAD. These sirtuins are regulators that act by flipping a switch on a number of other proteins that control various metabolic activities in the mitochondria. They also flip the switches on some proteins in the nucleus of the cell that wind up or unwind different sections of the DNA so that certain genes can be turned on or turned off. This unwinding and winding up of certain portions of the DNA is called **epigenetics**. It turns out that epigenetics is even more important than genetics. It’s not just what genes you inherited, but which genes you turn on or off that determines the function and health of your cells. The level of NAD in the cell will directly control your cellular metabolism through both directly activating some enzymes as well as epigenetically con-

trolling which enzymes are made.

Cellular Energy

Good levels of NAD (by activating sirtuins) will turn on the machinery to build more new mitochondria (the energy power generators in the cell) as well as also setting in motion the mechanisms to destroy old minimally functioning mitochondria. So higher levels of NAD will transform an old, weak, low-energy cell into a newer, more youthful, high-energy cell. And this can happen in every cell in your body. But you will need high NAD levels to do it.

NAD and the Brain

Research has found that optimally high healthy levels of NAD have *neuroprotective* effects. Using supplements to stop the decline in NAD levels in the brain, they greatly reduced cognitive deterioration and dementia. They also reduced DNA damage in brain cells. In studies of Parkinson's disease, they were able to preserve motor function and prevent cellular death by using supplements to increase NAD levels. It seems that much of the age-related cognitive decline we see may be related to deactivated sirtuins because of low NAD levels, that are due to low B3 levels.

DNA Repair

The DNA in our cells is constantly subjected to damaging forces and the frequent breaks need to be constantly repaired or we would soon die. Three different sirtuins are extremely vital in the cellular mechanisms for the ongoing protection and repair of this DNA damage. We need our sirtuins to be operating at maximal efficiency

as increasing age accelerates the injuries to our DNA. Unfortunately, this is when many experience a decline in their NAD levels resulting in deactivation of their sirtuins. In animal experiments, deactivating the sirtuins results in all the symptoms of rapid aging and premature death.

Metabolic Syndrome

Because of the role of sirtuins in cellular energy, good NAD levels are essential to living a long and healthy life. But when NAD levels fall, the sirtuin activity is seriously slowed down, and then all of the metabolic syndrome pathologies begin to appear. Because sirtuin activity is so essential for normal glucose metabolism in the mitochondria, we see a slowing down of glucose metabolism and an increase of fat build up and storage. In the liver we see fatty liver disease, which can eventually lead to cirrhosis and liver failure. Fat builds up inside of muscle cells where it should never be, and the result is insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes. This can also cause muscle weakness and fatigue. Fat storage around the abdominal organs results in central obesity. The adipose tissue of central obesity releases inflammatory substances throughout the body promoting many inflammatory diseases such as osteoarthritis. Inflammation in the lining of the blood vessels leads to atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease. All this because low NAD levels leave your sirtuins deactivated and non-functional.

Restoring NAD Levels

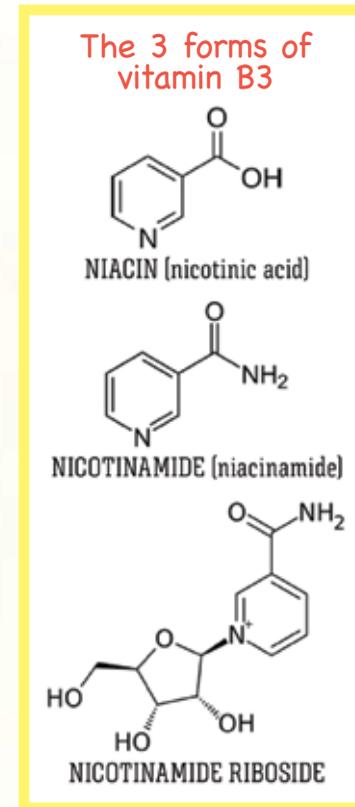
Ideally a perfect diet would provide all of the B3 to keep our NAD levels high. Unfortunately, we don't see that

happening today. Most experience the weakening and accelerated aging and deterioration associated with low NAD levels and low sirtuin activity. What about supplementation?

Niacin has been available as a vitamin supplement for a long time and is not only found in many multivitamins, but it is also used to fortify many cereals and flours. These levels of supplementation are apparently adequate to prevent pellagra but fall short of significantly boosting our NAD levels as we age. Niacin has been tried in higher doses for many of the symptoms we have discussed but it is never well tolerated in high doses because of the hot flushing and itching produced by it. And in very high doses niacin can be very toxic to the liver even causing total liver failure.

Niacinamide is also available as a supplement and does not have the toxicity or flushing side effects of niacin. But unfortunately, niacinamide actually inhibits sirtuin activity. Niacinamide binds to one of the specific sites for NAD thus blocking NAD binding, thus shutting off the sirtuin. So, no benefit to be gained here.

Nicotinamide riboside, a little known, naturally occurring minor vitamin, was only recently (2016) granted GRAS (generally recognized as safe) status by the FDA. No toxic side effects. It has been shown to effectively boost NAD levels in cells. If you take a look at its chemical structure you can see why — it is only two steps away from being made into NAD. And there is now a lot of research being done on it. Many are now recommending supplementation with nicotinamide riboside for the purpose of elevating NAD levels and increasing sirtuin activity with all of its many benefits.



Caloric Restriction

For a long time now, it has been well recognized that a certain level of caloric restriction in the diet is associated with longevity. In every animal species they test they can slow aging and increase the life span by reducing the food intake. One interesting fact has come up in all of this research: NAD levels are always **naturally high** in all these caloric restricted individuals. This could help explain the longevity if you just think about all

of the NAD increased sirtuin activity benefits we have discussed here.

We live in a nation of gluttony and obesity which could help to explain our low NAD levels. And so much of the calorie overload is made up of nutritionally empty calories. We could all benefit from a significantly reduced calorie diet. Most find going to a low-calorie diet leaves them quite hungry. The problem is the concentrated, processed, refined calories (oil, sugar etc.). If the only food eaten were whole plant foods with all of their fiber, we would find that a very satisfying and filling meal can actually be quite low-calorie.

“Cultivate self-control. Keep appetite under the control of reason. Never abuse the stomach by overeating.” CCh 225

“Most people enjoy better health while eating two meals...” CTBH

“It is possible to eat immoderately, even of wholesome food. It does not follow that because one has discarded the use of hurtful articles of diet, he can eat just as much as he pleases. Overeating, no matter what the quality of the food, clogs the living machine, and thus hinders it in its work.” CTBH 51

In the past we have always interpreted passages like this to refer to obesity and lack of brain circulation due to atherosclerosis and also to shunting of blood due to the overloaded digestive organs. But in light of the increased knowledge we now have on the function of NAD and sirtuins and their interactions in the complexities of the living machinery, we can now see an even deeper and more fundamental way in which overeating clogs every aspect of the living machine

and leads to disfunction and disease and eventually death.

Fasting

As we are living in the last few hours of this earth's probation, the call to fasting and prayer as an essential work in preparation for the filling of the Spirit and the holiness necessary to survive the final crisis is now more urgent than ever. The elimination of every unnecessary and hurtful item from our diets and moving entirely to the simplicity of the original diet is now a matter that should have our attention.

“The true fasting which should be recommended to all, is abstinence from every stimulating kind of food, and the proper use of wholesome, simple food, which God has provided in abundance.” CD 90

May we all be prepared to enter the final crisis with the NAD levels in every neuron of our brains at optimal levels and may every cell be full of vigorous energetic mitochondria. The brain is the only channel through which God communicates with man. God's health message to us is not optional good advice for avoiding certain diseases; it is the essential training necessary to prepare every cell of our body to win in the final conflict with evil, to be filled with His Spirit and to stand victorious on the sea of glass.

True fasting is not a period of temporary starvation — it is a lifestyle whose time has now come.



MILTON TESKE, MD

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT TOMORROW...

YOUR FUTURE?

- Are your loved ones well cared for?
- Will you make an eternal impact on others?
- Are you truly helping to share the last warning message of mercy to others?

“Not in the future but now is our probation. We should never forget that we are placed on trial in this world, to determine our fitness for the future life. God tests us here, by committing to us temporal possessions, our use of these show whether we can be entrusted with eternal riches.”

—Counsels in Stewardship, p. 22

Don't continue to put off what has been on your mind time after time. We are able to help you with a good up to date estate plan. If you have charitable intent there will be no charge to you. A few of the documents we can help you with are:

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GIFT ANNUITY WITH LIFE INCOME

POWER OF ATTORNEY
HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVE
AND OTHERS AS NEEDED

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Lessons for
DIFFICULT TIMES

BY MAURICE GRAHAM

During a chaotic evening at a group home where I worked as a Direct Care Counselor for at-risk teens, one of the boys snapped! After a fight, thoughts of his extremely challenging life and memories of the family that abandoned him, anger and hopelessness consumed him. “I’m going to end it all!” he screamed as he bolted through the back door and into the woods. I took off behind him in what was possibly the most important foot race of my life, and probably his. The mad dash took us clear through the woods and onto a dirt road on the other side of the facility. It ended in a wrestling match where he clawed his way toward traffic on the street beyond the dirt road. After things calmed, the young man and I sat quietly on the dirt road until he broke the silence. “How come nobody wants me man?”

Have you ever felt alone, hopeless, discouraged or depressed? Are you facing a difficult situation? Mark 9:14-29 is filled with lessons for making it through difficult times.

Read Mark 9:14-29.

Who are the characters in the story? Mark 9:14

What are some of the thoughts or feelings that could have prevented the father from reaching out for help?

In Mark 9:18, the disciples genuinely tried to help the father and son but could

not. There will be moments when the people we look to for wisdom, help, or support, may not have all the answers we need. Fortunately, the father did not mistake the disciple's inability to help, to mean that Jesus could not help.

LESSON: When attempts to fix a problem fail, or reaching out doesn't seem to be helpful, trust God's wisdom and love for you and keep reaching out.

Where did the father turn when the disciples couldn't help him? Mark 9:17-18

“Now the afflicted father made his way through the crowd, and falling at the feet of Jesus, poured out the story of his trouble and disappointment. The disciples, unable to account for their defeat, felt that they were bringing dishonor upon themselves and their Master. And in the crowd, there were scribes who made the most of this opportunity to humiliate them. Pressing around the disciples, they plied them with questions, seeking to prove that they and their Master were deceivers. Here, the rabbi triumphantly declared, was an evil spirit that neither the disciples nor Christ Himself could conquer. The people were inclined to side with the scribes, and a feeling of contempt and scorn pervaded the crowd.” Desire of Ages, p. 427

Why did the situation appear to get worst when it was brought to Jesus? Mark 9:20, 26

“Again the Prince of life and the prince of the powers of darkness had met on the field of battle,—Christ in

fulfillment of His mission to “preach deliverance to the captives, ... to set at liberty them that are bruised” (Luke 4:18), Satan seeking to hold his victim under his control. Angels of light and the hosts of evil angels, unseen, were pressing near to behold the conflict. For a moment, Jesus permitted the evil spirit to display his power, that the beholders might comprehend the deliverance about to be wrought.” Desire of Ages, p. 428

Did you miss any hidden characters in the first question? _____

Who are they? _____

How should this knowledge change the way we deal with them? 2 Corinthians 10:3-4; Ephesians 6:10-19

LESSON: Our struggles are a part of the “Great Controversy” between good and evil. Remember that praying is important.

How long had the father and son been facing this problem? Mark 9:21

Jesus allowed the ultimate hopelessness of the situation to be revealed as well as the duration so that you would know that your worst problems aren't too big for him.

LESSON: Jesus can handle your little and big problems. Take them to Him!

In Mark 9:23-24 Jesus said to the father, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

What was the father's response?

LESSON: Be honest with Jesus and

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from Andrea Blech
- Pastor James Finn**
from Dana & Jenny French
- Pastor James Finn**
from Daniel & Belinda Schlund
- Pastor James Finn**
from Dave & Elga Boccardo
- Laura Weyer**
from several church members

CHALLENGE

go to Him just as you are.

No matter who you are, what you are going through, or how you are feeling, Jesus loves and cares for you.

The young man in the opening story eventually discovered what Psalms 27:10 says, "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up." He eventually found his place in life and became an amazing mentor to the other boys, but he did not get there without help.



MAURICE GRAHAM

If you are going through a difficult time, the Bible says that in the multitude of counselors there is safety. Prov. 11:14 Talk with someone you trust, or seek professional help. If you would like prayer, our pastoral department is available (559) 264-2300 or email us at info@secretsunsealed.org

- Discuss how the actions of the scribe and the crowd could have influenced the father's decision to seek help.
- How might the hidden characters have influenced the situation? Why?
- Choose a friend as a prayer partner. Pray for Jesus to give you both courage to stand up for what you believe in spite of what the "crowd" says or does.

Bible CROSSWORD

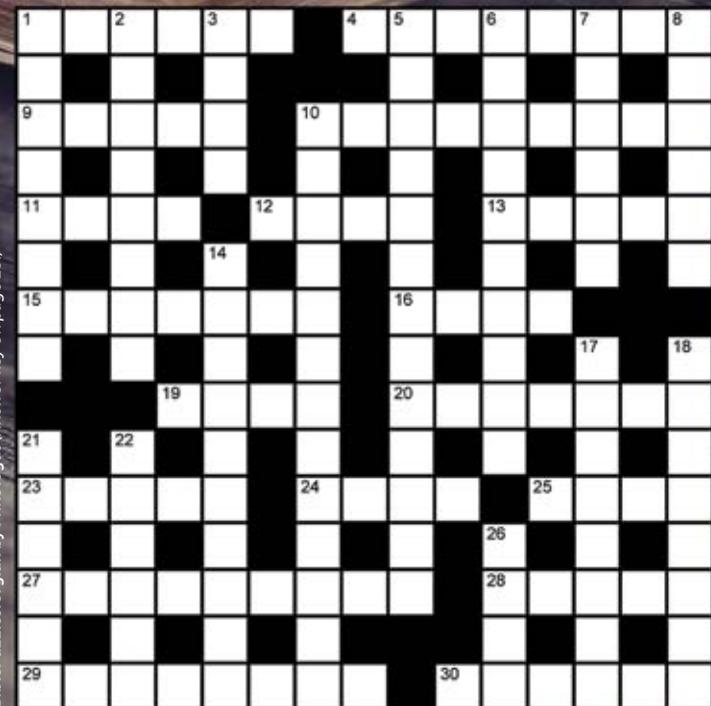
test your knowledge

ACROSS

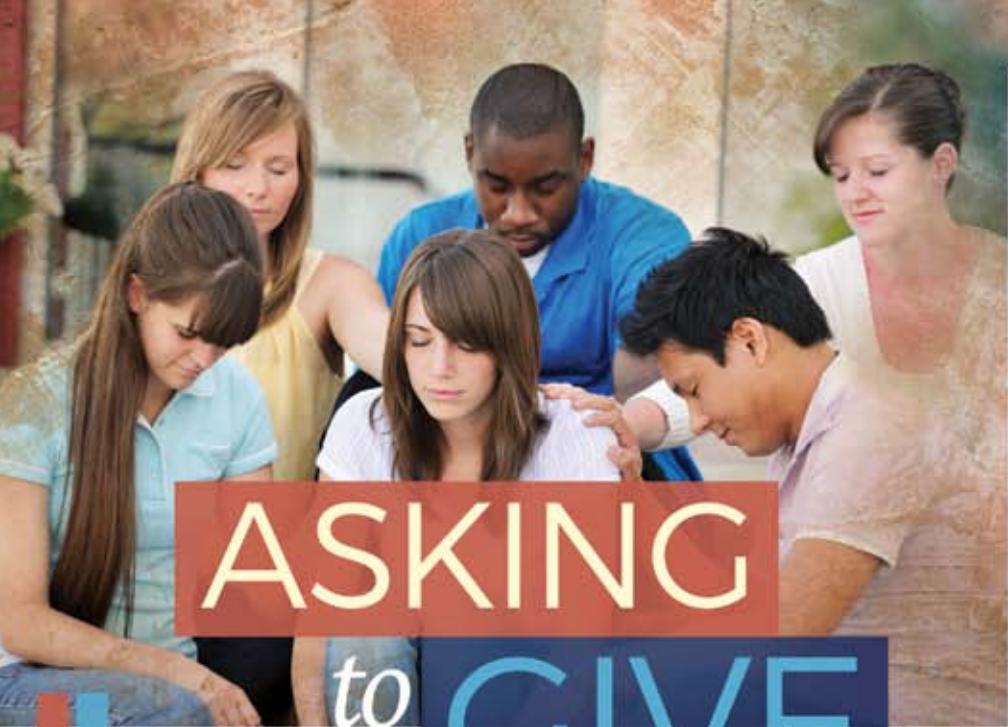
- The waves of the sea were ____ by Jesus
- The way Canaan was divided up to the Israelites
- Sold to Egypt by the people during the 7 year famine
- Babylonians
- Left behind when Peter followed Jesus
- Lame man's entrance to the house where Jesus healed him
- Jesus commanded the evil spirits to ____
- Fragrant spice in Song of Solomon
- Sin starts as this
- You can have ears and yet be spiritually ____
- What David continually did as Saul pursued
- How the strange woman of Proverbs 5 caught the fool
- 7th Egyptian plague
- Insult rendering the giver in danger of hell
- First visitors to baby Jesus
- They that be wise
- Sin
- Peter was ____ when he had the dream of the unclean beasts

DOWN

- Written on the Priest's headplate
- To set apart for sacred use
- Wise men were from
- Location where Jesus met the disciples for breakfast
- Unbiblical selling of sin by Papacy
- Cured of leprosy
- Made for the table of shewbread
- Worn by Jesus on the cross
- David and Jonathan
- We must instruct those doing this to themselves
- Forbidden in the 7th commandment
- A place to pray
- Country visited by Paul
- Hairy hunter



BiblePuzzles.org.uk by Philologus (Answer key on page 25.)



ASKING to GIVE

LESSON 25

Luke 11:1-13; John 7:37-39; Christ's Object Lessons 139-149

The parable we will study in our lesson today is very closely linked with the Lord's Prayer. In fact, the parable illustrates what should be our attitude when we approach the Lord in prayer as well as what we should do once the Lord has answered us. Let's begin by taking a look at the historical context within which Jesus told the parable.

THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

1. Where was Jesus immediately before he taught the disciples the Lord's Prayer? He was praying. "Seeming _____ of their presence, He continued praying _____. The hearts of the disciples were _____ moved. As he ceased praying, they exclaimed, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'" (COL 140; see also, Lk. 11:1)

2. What did Jesus do immediately after he taught the disciples the Lord's Prayer? "Then in a parable He _____ the _____ He desired to teach them." (COL 140)

THE PRAYER LIFE OF JESUS

1. How did the prayer life of Jesus illustrate the principle He sought to teach in this parable? "Christ was continually _____ from the Father that He might communicate to _____." (COL 139)

2. Which Bible texts does Ellen White provide to corroborate her comment in question # 1? "The word which ye hear, is not _____, but the _____ which sent Me. . . . The Son of man came not to be _____ unto, but to minister." (Jn. 14:24; Mt. 20:28)

3. What does Ellen White tell us about the prayer life of Jesus? "From _____ spent with God He came forth morning by morning, to bring the _____ of heaven to men. Daily He received a _____ baptism of the Holy _____." (COL 139)

4. Which messianic prophecy does Ellen White quote to prove her point in question # 3? "The Lord God hath _____ Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a _____ in season to him that is weary: He _____ morning by morning, He _____ Mine ear to hear as the learned." (Isa. 50:4)

5. What does the Gospel of Mark tell us about the habitual prayer life of Jesus? "And in the morning, rising up a great while before _____, he went out, and departed into a _____ place, and there prayed." (Mk. 1:35)

6. What does Ellen White say about the choreography of Christ's life? "Christ in His life on earth made no _____ for Himself. He accepted God's plans for Him, and day by day the Father _____ His plans. So should we depend upon God that our lives may be the simple _____ of His will. As we commit our ways to Him, He will _____ our steps." (The Ministry of Healing, 478-479)

7. What is one of the central lessons of this parable? "Here Christ represents the petitioner as _____ that he might _____." (COL 140)



RECEIVING TO GIVE

1. What lesson did Jesus seek to teach His disciples when He fed of five thousand? “They must receive _____ food, or they would have nothing to _____.” (COL 141)

NOTE: When Jesus fed the five thousand he first multiplied the bread and fishes thus providing an abundant supply of food. Jesus then gave the food to the disciples that they might impart it to the multitude. They received Christ’s abundant supply in order to give.

2. What altruistic spirit should characterize our prayers? “Our prayers are not to be a selfish _____, merely for our own _____. We are to ask that we may give.” (COL 143)

3. How does John 7:37-39 teach the same lesson about receiving and giving? “If any man thirst, let him come unto _____ and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his _____ shall flow rivers of living water.”

NOTE: When we come to Jesus, the Source and Fount of every spiritual blessing, we in turn become fountains to others of those same blessings.

4. Whom does the selfish neighbor represent? “But the selfish neighbor in the parable does not represent the _____ of God. The lesson is drawn, not by _____ but by contrast. A selfish man will grant an _____ request, in order to rid himself of one who _____ his rest. But God _____ to give.” (COL 141)

5. Why does God impart so many blessings to us? “He _____ to us that we may _____ to others and thus become like _____.” (COL 141)

6. According to the apostle Paul, what wise words did Jesus speak? “Remember the words of the Lord _____, how he said, It is more _____ to give than to _____.” (Acts 20:35)

7. What enables us to receive an ever constant supply of heavenly blessings? “The capacity for receiving is _____ only by _____. We cannot continue to receive heavenly treasure without _____ to those around us.” (COL 143)

8. What happens when we put the words of Jesus in Acts 20:35 into practice? “Give, and it shall be _____ unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, shall men

_____ into your bosom. For with the same _____ that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you _____.” (Lk. 6:38)

THE FATHER WHO DELIGHTS TO HEAR

1. What did Jesus say about the solicitous generosity of a parent for his child? “If a son shall ask _____ of any of you that is a father, will he give him a _____? Or if he ask a _____, will he for a fish give him a _____? Or if he shall ask an _____, will he offer him a _____? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly _____ give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” (Lk. 11:11-13)

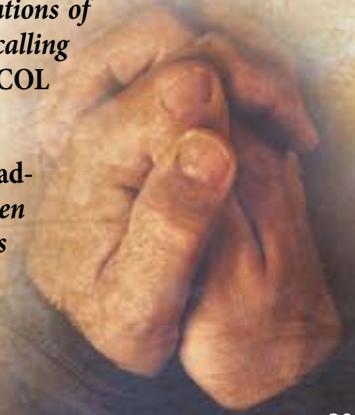
NOTE: Why did Jesus use a stone, a fish and a scorpion in His illustration? G. Christian Weiss provides the answer: “The loaves of bread familiar to the people to whom Jesus was speaking were round, flattish, and rather dark in color. They were made of whole wheat or barley and were baked beside an open fire in a brick oven, often being covered with ash and cinders. Hence they actually had very much the same appearance as an ordinary stone on the ground might have had.

“The comparison between a fish and a serpent is similar. There are certain types of slender, edible fish which closely resemble the deadly sea snake.

“But why would He associate an egg with a scorpion? This is also a vivid comparison. While many scorpions are dark in color, there is also in the Near East a light colored variety, sometimes called the white scorpion. Though not snow white by any means, this creature, when curled up into its relaxed state, could be mistaken for an egg.” G. Christian Weiss, *Insights into Bible Themes*, p. 16

2. Why does God encourage us to address Him as our Father? “In _____ order to strengthen our _____ in God, Christ teaches us to address Him by a new name, a name entwined with the _____ associations of the human heart. He gives us the privilege of calling the _____ God our Father.” (COL 141-142)

3. How does the Father respond when we address Him as our Father? “Spoken when asking His favor or _____, it is as _____ in His ears. That we might not think it presumption to call Him by this name, He has _____ it again and again. He desires us to be-



come _____ with the appellation.” (COL 142)

4. How does the love of earthly parents toward their children compare with the love of God for His children? “Parents love their children, but the love of God is _____, broader, deeper, than _____ love can possibly be. It is _____.” (COL 142)

5. Which three principles of prayer did Jesus seek to teach through this parable? “He shows what is the true _____ of prayer, He teaches the necessity of _____ in presenting our requests to God, and assures us of His willingness to _____ and answer prayer.” (COL 142)

THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER

1. Is prayer meant to change God’s mind? “Prayer is not to work any _____ in God; it is to bring us into _____ with God.” (COL 143)

NOTE: Prayer is not sanctified arm twisting. It has the puts us in tune with the infinite will and wishes of our heavenly Father. It blends our mind with His so that we are on the same page. When we discern His will through prayer, we will understand that His ways are better than our ways and His plans wiser than ours.

2. Why does God sometimes delay to answer our prayers? “When we make request of Him, He may see that it is _____ for us to search our hearts and _____ of sin. Therefore He takes us through _____ and trial, He brings us through humiliation, that we may see what _____ the working of His Holy Spirit through us.” (COL 143)

3. Will delay prove a benefit to those who will go through the time of Jacob’s trouble? “The very delay, so _____ to them is the best _____ to their petitions. As they endeavor to wait trustingly for the Lord to work they are led to _____ faith, hope, patience, which have been too _____ exercised during their religious experience.” (The Great Controversy, p. 631)

CONDITIONS FOR ANSWERED PRAYER

1. What must accompany prayer? “There are _____ to the fulfillment of God’s _____, and prayer can never take the place of _____.” (COL 143)

NOTE: “He who does nothing but pray will soon cease to pray, or his prayers will become a formal routine.” (Steps to Christ, p. 101)

2. Are there conditions for receiving the Holy Spirit? “If ye love me, keep my _____ and I will pray to the _____, and he shall give you another _____, that he may _____ with you for ever.” (Jn. 14:14-15)

3. What relationship is there between prayer and the observance of God’s law? “He that turneth away his _____ from hearing the _____, even his prayer shall be an _____.” (Prov. 28:9)

NOTE: Ellen White has well remarked: “Prayer and effort, effort and prayer, will be the business of you life. You must pray as though the efficiency and praise were all due to God, and labor as though duty were all your own.” (Testimonies for the Church, volume 4, p. 538)

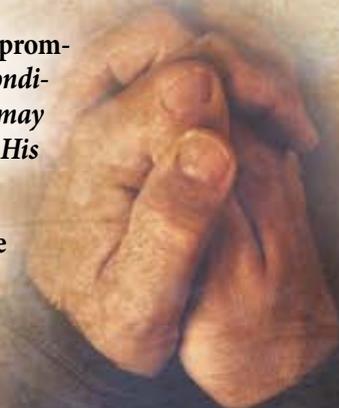
4. How did the apostle Peter underline the fact that obedience is necessary in order to receive the Holy Spirit? “And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath _____ to them that _____ him.” (Acts 5:32)

5. What does Ellen White say regarding those who pray without regard to the conditions? “Those who bring their _____ to God, claiming His promise while they do not comply with the _____, insult Jehovah.” (COL 143)

NOTE: “Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption. For presumption is Satan’s counterfeit of faith. Faith claims God’s promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression.” (The Desire of Ages, p. 126). On the Mount of Temptation Satan tried to entice Jesus to claim His Father’s promises in disobedience (see, Mt. 4:5-7)

6. Who only has a right to claim God’s promises? “All His gifts are promised on condition of obedience. . . . All who _____ Him may with _____ claim the fulfillment of His _____.” (COL 145)

7. How can wounding others prove to be an obstacle to answered prayer? “If we have in any way grieved or _____ others, it is our duty to confess our fault and seek for reconciliation. This is an



_____ preparation that we may come before God in faith, to ask His _____.” (COL 144)

8. Can unfaithful stewardship practices be a reason for unanswered prayer? “If we are unfaithful stewards of _____ things, how can we expect Him to entrust us with the things of _____? It may be that here is the secret of _____ prayer.” (COL 144)

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

1. Why does God sometimes delay to answer our prayers and what should we do about it? “Often he _____ to answer us in order to _____ our faith or _____ the genuineness of our desire. . . . Unswervingly _____ in prayer.” (COL 145)

2. Why do we oftentimes not see more of the power of God in our lives? “But many have not a _____ faith. This is why they do not see more of the _____ of God. Their weakness is the result of their _____.” (COL 145)

3. What will happen as a result of a faithful persistence in prayer? “The _____ more earnestly and steadfastly we ask, the _____ will be our spiritual union with Christ. We shall receive increased _____ because we have increased faith.” (COL 146)

4. Why should we not make it a habit to tell our difficulties to others? “The practice of telling our difficulties to others only makes us _____, and brings no _____ to them. It lays upon them the burden of our spiritual infirmities, which they cannot _____. We seek the strength of erring, _____ man, when we might have the strength of the unerring, _____ God.” (COL 146)

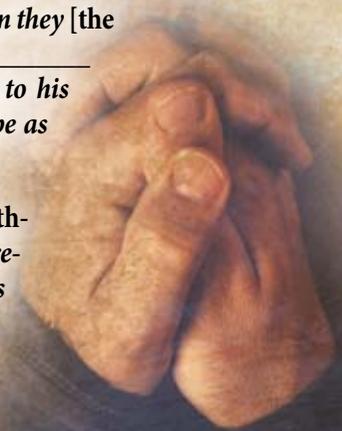
5. How do our attitude and words affect our prayer life? “By looking at _____ appearances and complaining when _____ and pressure come, you give evidence of a sickly, _____ faith. Talk and _____ as if your faith was invincible.” (COL 147)

6. When God makes a promise in His word, can we be certain that it will be fulfilled? “If we ask _____ according to his _____, He heareth us; and if we _____ that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we _____ that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.” (I Jn. 5:14, 15)

7. What assurance can we have that God will hear our petitions when we come to Him in the right spirit? “When we come to Him confessing our _____ and sin, He has pledged Himself to give heed to our cry. The _____ of His throne is staked for the fulfillment of His word unto us.” (COL 148)

8. What attracts the interest of angels? “When they [the _____ angels] see one manifest Christlike _____ for the erring, they press to his side and bring to his _____ words to speak that will be as the bread of life to the soul.” (COL 149)

9. What must we do before we work for others? “Personal effort for others should be preceded by much _____ prayer; for it requires great wisdom to understand the _____ of saving souls. Before communicating with _____, commune with Christ.” (COL 149)



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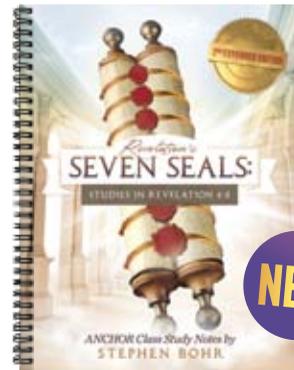
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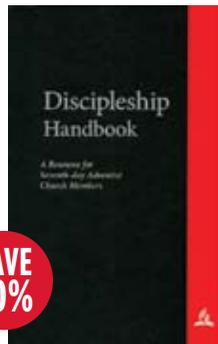
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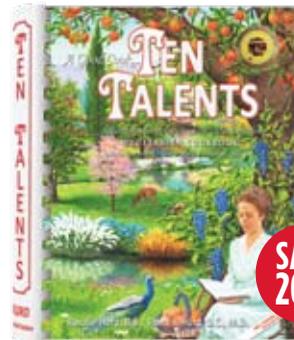
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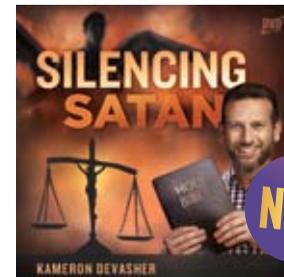
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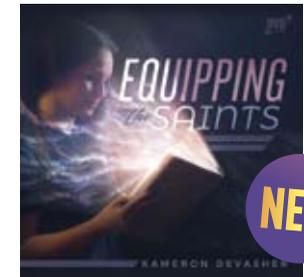
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MINISTRY NEEDS

Long lens for on the road productions \$60,000 per lens

The more we enter larger venues the more the need for larger lenses becomes apparent. The further back we have to set cameras the less reach to the stage we have with our current cameras. Ideally in the future we would need 4 lenses for the 4 cameras we currently have. For now we can make do with 1 lens for the central camera.



Battery pack for master control and production \$30,000

As the channel expands it becomes crucial that all of the equipment run 24/7 365 days a year regardless of power issues in the area. Right now all of the equipment is on battery backups, but those will only last 10-20 minutes. So if a power outage occurs in the area for longer than 20 minutes the channel will go offline. Need a generator or larger batteries to solve this problem. A gas generator will come with noise issues so we prefer a battery solution.

Countdown clock for camera 2 \$5,000

We need to put the countdown clock right below the lens of the central camera so that the speaker does not have to look elsewhere to get how much time is left in the program.

New lights for main stage sets \$30,000

LED lights for the stage expansion. As we build up the stage and have new spots on the stage to build minisets we also need to be able to light those areas. We have a minimum of 4 new stage sets that we need to light. This money will go toward purchasing new lighting fixtures for those sets.



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192 TB Dual server - \$53,990

Backend link - \$2,000

Video Wall \$50,000

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Cinema Camera \$20,000

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