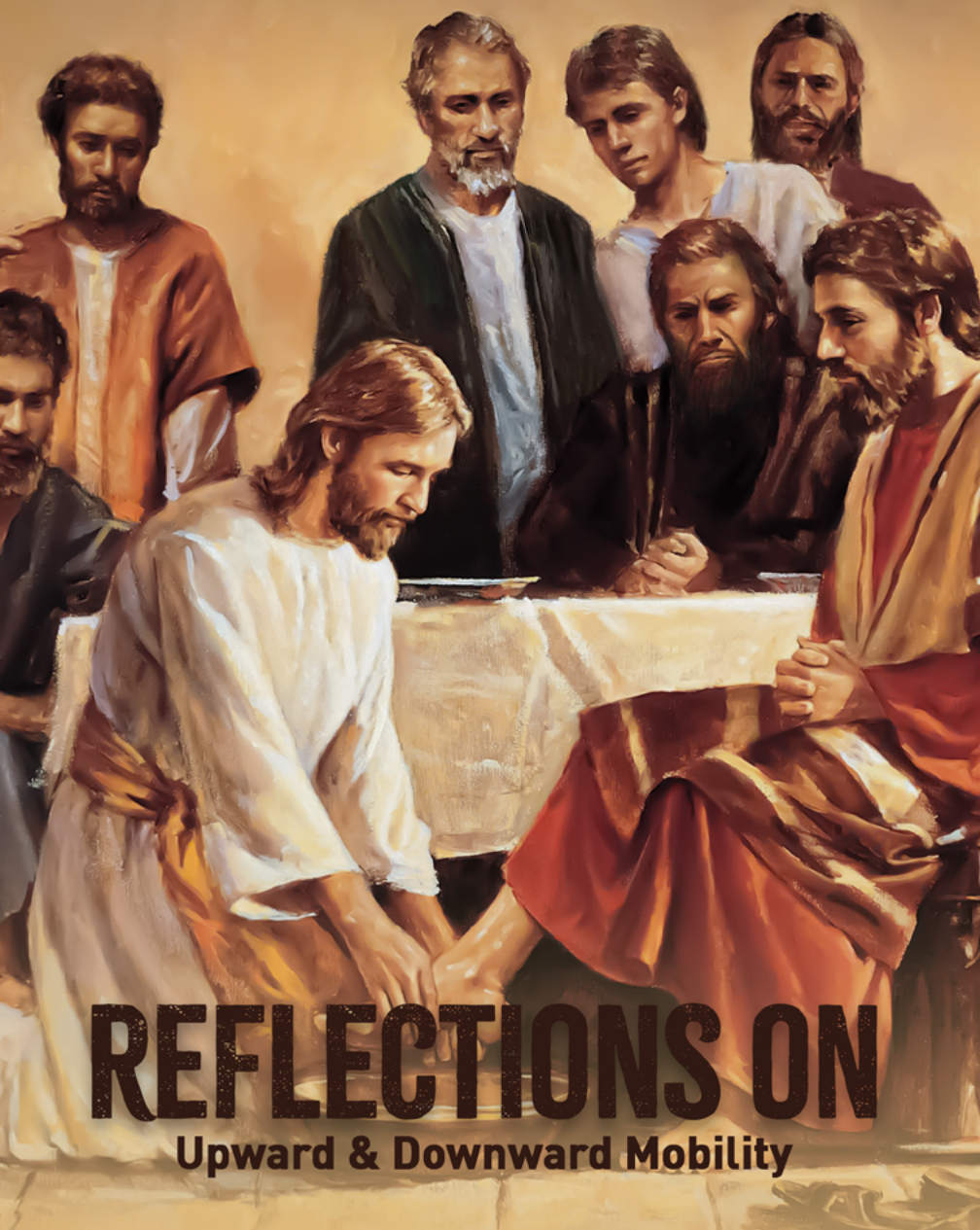


Ministry Update | Third Quarter 2023

# SECRETS UNSEALED



## REFLECTIONS ON Upward & Downward Mobility

# Dear Friends of Secrets Unsealed

**I**t is with profound gratefulness to God that I write these few lines about recent developments at Secrets Unsealed. Things have been moving so rapidly that it is hard to keep up. We continue our television broadcasts to our Central Valley, the UK and in April we launched our channels in Costa Rica reaching over 5 million people. We will soon release a program on how God miraculously opened these doors. We have a passion to reach the Spanish-speaking world with our present-truth message, and we need your support to continue this outreach into other countries.

I am asked wherever I go whether we have moved to the new property. My answer has been that there are many preparatory things we must accomplish before we can build, such as permits, drilling wells, grading roads and doing research on solar panels, internet, septic, finalizing our master plan for the property, plus numerous details that go along with each step of a project such as this. All this takes time and finances. We appreciate the financial support that many of you have given to this project already. We crave your daily prayers and appreciate your continued financial support.

We continue to produce programming for our television channels at a breathtaking pace and need to add additional qualified personnel to our team. Weekly Sabbath School and Worship Service programs, I'd Like to Know, Anchor, Summits, special events, interviews, cooking demos, health lectures and musical selections are just some of the features that we continue to produce.

In closing, I would like to encourage you to download our SUMtv App. Decades of research and study are available to you absolutely free. It truly is amazing!

You are always in our prayers and we trust that our programs have been a continued blessing to you. We give thanks to God always for your offering of prayer and financial support.

Longing for His coming,

*Pastor Bohr*





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# In Memory of

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*from Y.H. Ted & Lisa Struntz*

**My sister Lauretta Ramsey**

*from Anna Jo Clithero*

**Ron Boucher**

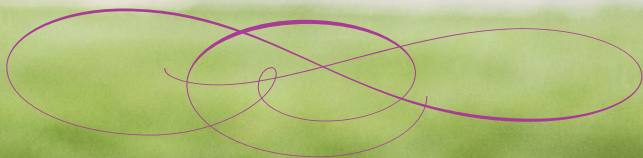
*from John & Merry Walker*

**My husband Richmond L.D. Nelson**

*from Ivalyn Nelson*

**My Parents: Mr. & Mrs. D.E. Allgood**

*from Anna Clithero*







CA Murray

Stephen Bohr

David Salazar

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**COSTA RICA**

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52.3 52.4

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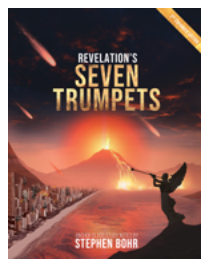


## ***Revelation's Seven Trumpets Review***

A Contextual Approach - PDF Download

*Posted By: Barry A Opseth*

Pastor Bohr provides a plethora of info in his presentation. Watching the videos and following along with this exhaustive study guide is a must for anyone preparing for these end-times. Thank you so much Pastor Bohr and your staff and God Bless your ministry.



## ***Worship At Satan's Throne***

*Posted By: Carol*

A very informative video on many subjects and how people will be deceived. I came out of Babylon 2 years ago. I think Stephen Bohr is a very trusted Bible teacher, and I thank God for him! Saturday is my Sabbath now. Was a Sunday worshipper well over 60 years!

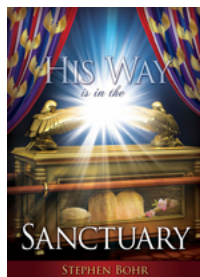


## SIMPLY AMAZING

Product: *His Way Is In The Sanctuary*

- PDF Download

*Posted By: Nicole Hays*



I became a Christian about 8 years ago and embarked on a mission to figure out Bible truths and prophecy. I had help from Walter Veith but never heard of Stephen Bohr until about 6 months ago. These materials are beyond amazing. This is my absolute favorite pastor ever. God blessed him with amazing wisdom. The notes are so well organized and line up perfectly with his videos on YouTube. I always learn all these little things that I never would have caught on my own. I have never seen such a well-organized set of notes. I have been frantically sharing them with everybody that I am close to so that they can be boss because time is SHORT. Thank you so much Pastor Bohr for your painstaking work in compiling these.



### ***Misunderstood Texts on the Dead***

- PDF Download

*Posted By: Robert Beauchamp*

Our group has been searching for study material on the pillars of Adventism. Joyfully, we came across Stephen Bohr's study notes

*Misunderstood Texts on the State of the Dead*. I personally have always enjoyed his enlightening sermons, and the lessons gleaned from these notes have been eye-opening. Now the people in the group will be able to confidently share these truths with people they may encounter. Thank you. (See updated series "Misinterpreted Texts On The State Of The Dead")



## Identity Crisis Review

*Posted By: Dennis Boone*

This is a “must-see” presentation for every Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Christian. Pastor Bohr clearly shows from Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy that we (SDAs) are becoming more like the world and, hence, losing our God-ordained identity, as we seek to be accepted by main-line denominations. Unless this trend is reversed, we will not survive as a denomination and will end up just like the once-very-influential World wide Church of God. Pastor Bohr has done a masterful job in presenting another sensitive topic that needs to be studied by everyone who calls himself/herself a Seventh-day Adventist.

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## Shall We Clap? - Must See

*Posted By: Dennis Boone*

This is a “must-see” presentation for every Christian believer, especially Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Christians. This custom of clapping in response to various activities taking place today in the worship services of many churches is clearly not in harmony with God’s Word or the Spirit of Prophecy. This presentation leaves no doubt that the biblical response should be “Amen” or “Hallelujah!” Pastor Bohr has done a masterful job in presenting another sensitive topic that needs to be studied by everyone who calls himself/herself a Christian.







## Social Media Feedback



“I have watched practically every series on YouTube and have downloaded the study notes and right now we have a study group that meets every Thursday evening and we are studying *His way is in the Sanctuary* from Pr. Bohr’s notes and here’s the exciting part we have two seekers

meeting with us, so needless to say we are blessed beyond measure by Secrets Unsealed’s ministry. God continue to bless you all.”

**Nedra Perera**, Facebook chat

“I have been watching Pastor Bohr’s videos for about 20 years. I feel like I am getting a college degree on the Bible. I even watched them over and over and I take notes so I can share with others. So easy to understand. I love how he connects scripture with scripture.”

**Fran Klein**, 5-Star Google review





# REFLECTIONS ON

## Upward & Downward Mobility

### Introduction

**D**uring the ministry of Jesus, the twelve were constantly arguing over who would be the greatest in the coming kingdom (*Luke 9:46; Matthew 23:11; Luke 22 :24, 26*). Each time, Jesus rebuked them **teaching** that the secret of true greatness is not **coveting** the highest place but rather descending in service to the **lowest**. However, Jesus not only **taught** about the virtue of humility. In the Upper

Room, the day before His death, He gave a practical **demonstration** by performing one of the most menial, disgusting and humbling acts of servants. To **demonstrate** what He taught, the Master humbled Himself, **stooping** to wash the feet of His disciples. At that time, roads were not paved and it was the season of springtime rains, so their feet could have been muddy and if they weren't, they were dusty.



While the eleven were dumbfounded and confused by what Jesus did, Judas was dismayed and disgusted. He had always harbored the hope that Jesus would **ascend** to the throne and rule with a rod of iron. Instead, Jesus **humbled** Himself to wash the feet of His disciples. The arrogant betrayer thought to himself, *if the Master sets aside His dignity and humbles Himself to the point of washing the feet of his servants, He certainly cannot be the Messiah!* After His act, Jesus took advantage of the moment to teach His disciples that humility and service are the secret of true greatness. Three times He exhorted His disciples to follow His example by washing one another's feet (*John 13:12-16*).

We know that Jesus **emptied Himself** during His earthly sojourn by taking the form of a servant and **submitting** to His Father's will. However, is it just possible that, though He is just as much God as His Father, and possessor of all divine attributes, He has **ever** voluntarily subjected Himself to His Father's

authority and will even to the point of saying, "the Father is greater than I?" (*John 14:28*). To answer this question, let's follow the trajectory from eternity past to eternity future.

## The Father's Initiative at Creation

The book of Genesis tells us that the Father **took the initiative** at creation and spoke to someone saying, "let us make man in our image, according to our likeness" (*Genesis 1:26*). Who was the Father speaking to? Was He talking to Himself? No. The Spirit of Prophecy explains that the Father was speaking to the Son. Notably, it was the Father who **took the initiative** and shared the creation plan with the Son. The consultation of the Father with the Son filled Lucifer with envy and jealousy and a desire to ascend (*Isaiah 14:12-14*). This was the first example in "universal history" of upward mobility to be followed by downward. Ellen White wrote:

*"But 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.” *EW*, p. 145

The Spirit of Prophecy provides a profound description of the Father’s initiative, the Son’s submission, Lucifer’s envy and a meeting of the heavenly council called by the Father:

“The Father wrought by His Son in the creation of all heavenly beings. . . The King of the universe 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 [Hebrews 1:1, 2] encircled both. About the throne gathered the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng—ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands’ (Revelation 5:11.), the most exalted angels, as ministers and subjects, rejoicing in the light that fell upon them from the presence of the Deity. 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 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.”

*PP*, p. 36



Here is a summary of the main points in this quotation:

- Before the entrance of sin, Jesus performed **the Father's will** in the creation of all the heavenly beings.
- It was **the Father** who explained the Son's true position in heaven.
- The glory of **the Father** encircled both.
- **The Father** is referred to as "the King of the universe".
- The Son was the only one who could enter the **Father's** purposes.
- The Son executed the mighty counsels of **the Father's** will when He created all the hosts of heaven.
- The Son did not seek power or exaltation for Himself but exalted **the Father's** glory and executed His purposes.

In another place, Ellen White described the Father's authority and Christ's willing submission on the same occasion:

*"The **great Creator** assembled the heavenly host, that **He***

***might** in the presence of all the angels confer **special honor** upon His Son. The Son was seated on the throne with the Father, and the heavenly throng of holy angels was gathered around them. **The Father** then made known that it was **ordained by Himself** that Christ, **His Son**, **should be equal** with Himself; so that wherever was the presence of His Son, it was as His own presence. The word of the Son was to be obeyed as readily as the word of the Father. His Son He **had invested** with authority to command the heavenly host. Especially was His Son to work **in union with Himself** in the anticipated creation of the earth and every living thing that should exist upon the earth. **His Son** would carry out **His** will and **His** purposes but would do **nothing of Himself alone**. The **Father's will** would be fulfilled in Him." ST, January 9, 1879, par. 2*

Here is a summary of the main points in the second quotation:

- **The Father** is called "the great Creator".

- **The Father** conferred “special honor” upon His Son.
- **The Father** ordained that the Son be equal with Himself. Thus, equality and submission are not antithetical.
- **The Father** invested the Son to command the heavenly host.
- The Son was to work in union with **the Father**.
- The Son carried out **His Father’s** will and purposes.
- The Son did nothing of Himself alone. He did not act independently of **His Father**.
- The Son fulfilled **the Father’s** will.

Ellen White described the authority structure in heaven before Jesus came to this earth:

*“The Son of God was **next in authority** to the great Lawgiver. He knew that his life alone could be sufficient to ransom fallen man. He was of as much more value than man as his noble, spotless character, and exalted office as*

*commander of all the heavenly host, were above the work of man. He was in the express image of his Father, not in features alone, but in perfection of character.” The Review and Herald, December 17, 1872, Par. 1*

Clearly, if expressions mean anything, the Father has prime authority in heaven and the Son’s authority is next. In a similar way, the president of the United States is first in authority and the vice-president’s authority is next. The Father and Son are equal as persons but not in their positional authority.

These quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy are supported by the testimony of Scripture. John 1:1-3 tells us that Jesus **is God** and that nothing exists except **through** Him. Hebrews 1:1, 2 adds that the **Father appointed** Jesus heir of all things and created the worlds **through** Him.

Colossians 1:16-17 is even more explicit. These verses tell us that Jesus was **before all things** and that everything in the universe was created **through** Him and **for** Him:

*“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”*

1 Corinthians 8:6 provides a powerful corroboration of Ellen White’s two quotations above:

*“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.”*

The consistent use of the preposition *diá* (through) in these verses indicates that the Father created through the instrumentality of the Son. All things are from the Father through the Son.

Revelation 4 describes the heavenly throne room where the Father was surrounded by cherubim and seraphim and the representatives of the worlds who were singing His praises as Creator. Verse 11 contains the hymn:

*“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 created.”*  
(Rev. 4:11)

In what sense is the Father described as the Creator in this verse and why did Ellen White refer to Him as “the great Creator”? Didn’t we read that creation came through the Son? True. However, the **passive voice** of the text (“were created”) indicates that the Father was **not the active agent**. All things were created by the Father’s will through Jesus. We are reminded of Ellen White’s statement that *‘the Son of God had wrought the Father’s will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven.’* PP p. 36

Psalms 33:6 tells us that the heavens and all their host were made by the Word of the Lord and John 1:1-3 identifies that Word as Jesus. Ellen White wrote this insightful statement where she explained that Jesus, the Son, speaks the Father’s thoughts into existence.



“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.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 5, p. 1131

## The Father’s Permission to Redeem Man

Let’s examine now the relationship between the Father and the Son after sin intruded into this world. Ellen White described an intimate meeting between the Father and the Son after Adam and Eve sinned. When Jesus entered the meeting, He had an expression of “sympathy and sorrow” but when He came out His countenance was “free from all perplexity and trouble”. What made the difference?

*“The whole family of Adam must die. I then saw the lovely Jesus and beheld an expression of sympathy and sorrow upon His countenance. Soon I saw Him approach the exceeding bright light which enshrouded the Father. Said my accompanying angel, ‘He*

*is in close converse with His Father.’ The anxiety of the angels seemed to be intense while Jesus was communing with His Father. Three times He was shut in by the glorious light about the Father, and the third time He came from the Father we could see His person. His countenance was free from all perplexity and trouble and shone with a loveliness which words cannot describe. He then made known to the angelic choir that a way of escape had been made for lost man [this is what they communed about]; that He had been pleading with His Father, and had obtained permission to give His own life as a ransom for the race, to bear their sins, and take the sentence of death upon Himself, thus opening a way whereby they might, through the merits of His blood, find pardon for past transgressions,*



and by obedience be brought back to the garden from which they were driven. Then they could again have access to the glorious, immortal fruit of the tree of life to which they had now forfeited all right.”

EW, p. 126

It is remarkable that, although Jesus was just as much God as the Father, He had to seek for **permission** from the Father to redeem man. In another place, Ellen White described the **Father’s struggle** in giving up **His Son** and the reason why their communing was long continued:

*“Before the Father He pleaded in the sinner’s behalf, while the host of heaven awaited the result with an intensity of interest that words cannot express. **Long continued** was that mysterious **communing**—the ‘counsel of peace’—for the fallen sons of men. The plan of salvation had been laid before the creation of the earth; for Christ is a lamb ‘foreordained before the foundation of the world’; **yet it was a struggle, even** with the King of the universe, to **yield up His Son to die** for the guilty race. **But***

*‘God [the Father] so loved the world, that **He gave** His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life’. Signs of the Times, November 4, 1908, par. 3*

The apostle Paul described the Father’s final decision in giving up His Son:

*“He who did not spare **His Own Son, but delivered Him up** for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:32)*

In another place, Ellen White described Jesus as the Father’s “Darling Son”:

*“It was even a **struggle** with the **God of heaven**, whether to let guilty man perish, or to give **His Darling Son** to die for them.” EW, p. 127*

Abraham’s anguish on Mount Moriah gives us a pale glimpse into the Father’s struggle in giving up His Own Son, the true Son of the Promise:

*“Then He said, “Take now your son, your **only son** Isaac, whom **you love**, and go to the land of Moriah, and **offer him** there as a burnt offering on one*

of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” (Genesis 22:2)

## Of the Father Through the Son

The Father took the **initiative** to **give** and **send** His Son into the world:

*“For **God** so loved the world that **He gave** His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)*

As the work of creation was **of** the Father **through** the Son, so also redemption:

*“For **God sent not his Son** into the world to condemn the world; but that the world **through** him might be saved.” (John 3:17)*

## The Father Prepared Christ’s Incarnation Body

A thousand years before His birth, Jesus prophetically lauded His Father for preparing the body in which He would do His **Father’s will**:

*“Therefore, when **He** came into the world, He said:*

*“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body **You have prepared for Me**. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come — in the volume of the book it is written of Me — **to do Your will**, O God.’” (Hebrews 10:5-7)*

When Jesus ascended to heaven, the Father, who had prepared Christ’s incarnation body, performed a miracle and grew Jesus to the stature He had before His incarnation (more on this later):

*“Said the angel, ‘God, who wrought so great a miracle as to **make Christ flesh** to dwell among men, and will with his almighty power lift up fallen, degenerate, and dwarfed man, and after they are redeemed from the earth, make them ‘grow up as calves of the stall,’ could in his infinite power **return to his dear Son** his own exalted stature, which was his **before he left** Heaven, and **humbled himself** as a man, and submitted to the death of the cross.” Spiritual Gifts, volume 4a, p. 119*



## His Father's Will During His Ministry

Jesus explained why His Father sent Him to the world:

*“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” (John 4:34)*

When He was at the point of death, Jesus cried out to His Father saying, “it is finished”. By His perfect life and vicarious death for sin He completed His **Father's plan**. Jesus even went so far as to say that the Father was greater than He:

*“You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming back to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is greater than I.” (John 14:28)*

*“I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.” (John 6:38)*

Jesus lived to please the Father and therefore the Father was with Him:

*“And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him” John 8:29.*

Ellen White wrote concerning Christ during His earthly ministry:

*“So utterly was Christ emptied of self that He made no plans for Himself. He accepted God's plans for Him, and day by day the Father unfolded His plans.” DA, p. 208*

She furthermore described how the Father revealed His plan of redemption to Jesus before the incarnation and how Jesus **submitted** to the Father's plan step by step:

*“Before He came to earth, the plan lay out before Him, perfect in all its details. But as He walked among men, He was guided, step by step, by the Father's will. He did not hesitate to act at the appointed time. With the same submission He waited until the time had come.” DA, p. 147*

## The Father Assigns Positions

Jesus made it clear that positions in the kingdom come will be assigned by the Father. On a certain occasion the mother of James and John asked Jesus to allow her precious sons to sit at His right and left hand in the kingdom, to which Jesus replied:

*“But it isn’t for Me to for Me to say who will sit at My right side and at My left. That is for My Father to say.” (Matthew 20:23, CEV)*

## The Father’s Will in the Garden

At the end of His ministry, as Jesus sweated great drops of blood in Gethsemane, He prayed to be released from drinking the cup but only if it was the **Father’s will**. Three

times in the “heavenly council of peace” Jesus had asked His Father for permission to redeem man but now, three times, He begged His Father to let Him off the hook, but only if it was the Father’s will:

*“He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O **My Father**, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but **as You will**’” . . . Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, ‘O **My Father**, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, **Your will be done**.’ . . . So He left them, went away again, and prayed the **third time**, saying the same words.” (Matthew 26:39, 42, 44)*

## The Father Preserved His Body in the Grave

A thousand years before Jesus was laid in the tomb, He had prophetically spoken to His Father expressing full confidence that He would preserve His body from decay (cf. Acts 2:25-32):

*“I have set the Lord always before me. Because He is at*



my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let Your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.” (Psalm 16:8-10, NIV)

## The Father Called Jesus from the Tomb

Over **twenty times** the New Testament attributes the resurrection of Jesus to God the Father. Here is just one example:

“Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and **God the Father** who raised Him from the dead)” Galatians 1:1.

This helps us understand why Jesus commended His spirit to the safekeeping of His Father just before He drew His last breath on the cross:

“And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, **‘Father, “into Your hands I commit My spirit.”**” Having said

this, He breathed His last”.  
(Luke 23:46)

Ellen White perceptibly understood that Jesus was a prisoner of divine justice and only the Father could release Him from the tomb:

“He who died for the sins of the world was to remain in the tomb for the allotted time. He was in that stony prison house as a prisoner of divine justice, and He was responsible to the Judge of the universe. He was bearing the sins of the world, and His Father only could release Him.” *The Youth’s Instructor*, May 2, 1900, par. 8

Someone might object that John 10:17, 18 tells us that Jesus had authority (the proper translation of the word *exousía*) to lay down His own life and to take it up again. True enough! However, the last sentence of verse 18 tells us that Jesus took up the life that was in Himself because He received the authority from His Father:

“Therefore My Father loves Me, because **I lay down My life that I may take it again.** No one takes it from Me,



but I lay it down of Myself. I have power [authority] to lay it down, and I have power [authority] to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

Ellen White described the **Father’s role** in the resurrection of Jesus:

*“The light of heaven encircled the tomb, and the whole heaven was lighted by the glory of the angel. The angel approached the grave, and rolling away the stone as if it had been a pebble, he sat upon it. Then his voice was heard, **Son of God**, come forth; **Thy Father calls Thee**; and Jesus came forth from the grave with the step of a mighty conqueror.” Sons and Daughters of God, p. 237*

## The Father Exalted Jesus

Forty days after calling Jesus from the tomb, the Father **sent angels** to catch Him to heaven where the **Father exalted** Him to His right hand to be Prince and Savior:

*“Him **God has exalted** to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to*

*Israel and forgiveness of sins.” (Acts 5:31)*

*“Therefore, **God also has highly exalted Him** and **given Him** the name which is above every name.” (Philippians 2:9)*

After raising Jesus, the Father gave Him the promise of the Holy Spirit that He then poured it out to the disciples at Pentecost:

*“This Jesus **God has raised up**, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore, being **exalted** to the right hand of God, and having **received from the Father** the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.” (Acts 2:32, 33)*

*“But when the Helper comes, whom **I shall send** to you **from the Father**, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” (John 15:26)*

## The Father Committed all Judgment to the Son

Jesus Himself stated that the Father judges no one but has committed all judgment to His Son:

*“For the **Father judges no one**, but **has committed all judgment to the Son**. . . For as the Father has life in Himself, so **He has granted** the Son to have life in Himself. . . and [the Father] **has given Him** [Jesus] **authority** to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.” (John 5:22, 26, 27)*

Just as the Father committed the work of Creation to His Son, so He will judge the world through the instrumentality of the Son:

*“Truly, these times of ignorance **God** overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because **He has appointed** a day on which **He will judge** the world in righteousness **by the Man** whom **He has ordained**. He has given assurance of this to all by **raising Him** from the dead.” (Acts 17:30, 31)*

## **The Father will give Jesus the Kingdom**

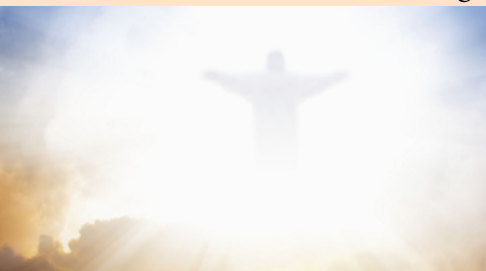
At the conclusion of the **investigative judgment**, the Father will give the kingdom to the Son:

*“I watched till thrones were put in place, and the **Ancient of Days** was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to*



*Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. . . I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like **the Son of Man**, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came **to the Ancient of Days**, and they [the angels] brought Him [Jesus] near before Him [the Father]. Then **to Him** [to Jesus] **was***

**given** [by the Father] dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting



*dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.” (Daniel 7:9, 10, 13, 14)*

## Will Come in the Glory of the Father

**The Father will send** Jesus at the second coming:

*“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, 20 and that **He may send Jesus Christ**, who was preached to you before.” (Acts 3:19, 20).*

Jesus will come in the **glory of His Father**:

*“For the Son of Man will come in the **glory of His Father** [cf. Hebrews 1:3; 2 Corinthians*

*4:6] with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” (Matthew 16:27)*

## Subject to His Father Now

Writing many years after Christ ascended to heaven, the apostle Paul underlined that God the Father is the **head** of Christ. At this point Paul was not saying that the Father **was** the head of Christ only during His incarnation. The Father was the head of Christ long after He ascended to heaven:

*“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**.” (1 Corinthians 11:3)*

## Eternal Subjection to the Father

The apostle Paul wrote that even in **eternity future**, after death has been eradicated from the universe, the Son will be subject to the Father so that the Father may be “all in all”:

*“The **last enemy** that will be destroyed is death. For **He** [the Father] has put all things*

under **His** [Jesus'] feet.' But when **He** [the Father] says 'all things are put under **Him** [under Jesus],' it is evident that **He** [the Father] who put all things under **Him** [Jesus] is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to **Him** [to Jesus], then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that **God** [the Father] may be all in all." (1 Corinthians 15:27, 28)

In the **Theology of Ordination Study Committee** leading up to the San Antonio General Conference session in 2015, there was a **constant roadblock** when **anyone suggested** that the voluntary subjection of Jesus to the Father has been and will be eternal. Submission was considered a sign of inferiority. After all, aren't both the Father and the Son, God in the highest sense? If so, why should one submit to the authority of the other? Should not Jesus claim His rights of equality with the Father?

Jesus begged to differ with this perspective. He taught that upward mobility

is satanic and downward mobility is divine. He taught that a person who **chooses** the **lowest** position is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven and those who desire to occupy the highest are the least. He taught that the first will be last and the last first and whoever exalts himself will be humbled. This is a perspective that the selfish cannot fathom!

## The Stature of Jesus

Let's conclude this section by considering the physical stature of Jesus from before He came to earth till He ascended to heaven.

The physical stature of Jesus in heaven **before the incarnation**:

- At his creation, Adam was **twice as tall** as the average men today (the average is around 6 feet):

*"As Adam came forth from the hand of his Creator, he was of noble height, and of beautiful symmetry. He was more than **twice as tall** as men now living upon earth, and was well proportioned."* The Story of Redemption, p. 21



- Jesus was a **little taller** than Adam at his creation:

*“Adam, who stands among the risen throng, is of lofty height and majestic form, in stature but **little below** the Son of God.” The Great Controversy, p. 644*

The **stature** of the body that the Father prepared for Jesus at His **incarnation** on earth:

*“When His **ministry commenced**, He was but **little taller** than the **common size** of men then living upon the earth. Had He come among men with His noble, heavenly form, His outward appearance would have **attracted the minds** of the people to Himself, and He would have been received without the exercise of faith.” Spiritual Gifts, Volume 4A, p. 115*

The **stature** of Jesus when He **resurrected**:

*“When the Life-giver rose from the dead a triumphant conqueror, and made himself known unto his disciples, he was of the **same size** as before his crucifixion. There were **no special marks** which would at once cause the **men of Emmaus** to know that he was the Son of God. They did not*

*know Him **until He told them who He was.**” Spiritual Gifts, Volume 4A, p. 119*

The **stature** of Jesus when He **ascended**:

We have seen that Adam was **more than twice as tall** as men today and before His incarnation, Jesus **was slightly taller** than Adam. And yet, during His ministry, Jesus was little taller than the men of His age. However, something amazing happened when Jesus ascended to heaven:

*“But when He **ascended up on high**, and led a multitude of captives, escorted by the heavenly host, and was received in through the gates of the city, with angelic songs of triumph and rejoicing, I beheld with admiration and wonder, that **He possessed the same exalted stature** that He had **before he came into the world** to die for man.” Spiritual Gifts, Volume 4A, p. 119*

Did Jesus grow Himself to the stature He had before the incarnation? No. **The Father** performed the miracle!

*“Said the angel, ‘God, who wrought so great a miracle as to **make Christ flesh** to dwell*

*among men, and will with His almighty power lift up fallen, degenerate, and dwarfed man, and after they are redeemed from the earth, make them “grow up as calves of the stall,” could in His infinite power **return to His dear Son** His own exalted stature, which was his **before He left** Heaven, and **humbled Himself** as a man, and submitted to the death of the cross.”* Spiritual Gifts, Volume 4A, p. 119

Thus, from eternity past to eternity future Jesus has voluntarily subjected Himself



to the will and authority of His Father. Never has Jesus demanded His rights, refused to submit to His Father's authority or acted on His own. He has always lived to bring honor and glory to His Father. Never in the Bible do

we find the Father subjecting Himself to the will of His Son. Our study has revealed that submission does not mean inferiority because if it did, Jesus would be inferior to the Father. Let's pursue this idea of authority and submission by examining the Bible's two mysteries.

## **The Mystery of Godliness**

The apostle Paul described the mystery of Godliness as a **voluntary** downward mobility **followed** by upward. The apostle described the **self-abasement** of Jesus which resulted in His **exaltation** by the Father. The apostle Paul wrote about the mystery of godliness:

*“And **without controversy** great is the mystery of godliness.”* (1 Timothy 3:16)

The expression *without controversy* means “case closed, no room for debate”; “indisputably!” That is to say, the greatness of the mystery of Godliness is self-evident and needs no proof! Notice the Son's voluntary **downward**

mobility which results in the Father's exalting Him. The movement is first downward at the incarnation and then upward when Jesus is received up in glory:

- God was manifested in the flesh (the incarnation)
- Justified in the Spirit (the resurrection; cf. 1 Peter 3:18)
- Seen by angels (the ascension)
- Preached among the Gentiles (the mission to the Gentiles)
- Believed on in the world (the result of the preaching)
- Received up in glory (the second coming)

## The Mystery of Iniquity

The mystery of iniquity stands in stark contrast to the mystery of Godliness. True, in both there is upward and downward mobility but in the mystery of godliness, the order is reversed. Lucifer embraced upward mobility **first** followed by being brought **down**. The prophet Isaiah wrote:



*"How you are **fallen** from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are **cut down** to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For [because] you have said in your heart: '**I will ascend** into heaven, **I will exalt** my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; **I will ascend** above the heights of the clouds, I will be **like the Most High**.' Yet you shall be **brought down** to Sheol, to the **lowest depths** of the Pit."* (Isaiah 14:12-15)

The apostle Paul described the papal antichrist who manifests the identical spirit as Lucifer, desiring to ascend even to the height of God:

*"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man*

of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and **exalts himself above** all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, **showing himself that he is God.**  
(2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

Because the papal antichrist **exalts himself**, God will humble him by casting him down and consuming and destroying him:

*“And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the **Lord** will consume with the breath of His mouth and **destroy** with the brightness of His coming.”*  
(2 Thessalonians 2:8)

## The Mystery of Godliness

In contrast to Lucifer, Jesus manifested **downward** mobility **first**. Although Jesus was of the very substance of God, equal with God, He did not covet that equality but **made Himself** of no reputation taking the form of a bondservant. Then, He further **humbled Himself**, being **obedient** to His Father and suffering the ignominious death of the cross (cf. Hebrews 5:7, 8). The humbling was His choice!

*“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the **form of God**, did not consider it robbery to be **equal with God**, but **made Himself of no reputation**, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the **likeness of men**. And being found in appearance as a man, He **humbled Himself** and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”* (Philippians 2:5-8)

However, the self-abasement of Jesus led to His exaltation **by the Father**. Because He humbled Himself, the Father exalted Him and gave Him the name which is above every name that every knee should bow to Him and every tongue confess Him as Lord. However, all this was **to the glory of God the Father!** Jesus did not come back to heaven demanding his rights!

*“Therefore, **God** also has highly **exalted Him** and **given Him the name** which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue*



*should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, **to the glory of God the Father.***” (Philippians 2:9-11)

This passage from Philippians has led to some animated and sometimes contentious discussion among Bible scholars. The discussion centers around what Christ left in heaven when He came to earth. What did He empty Himself of? Did He lay aside His divinity or did He lay off the use of His divine attributes? This debate misses the point. The apostle Paul’s purpose is not merely theological but practical. He begins the passage exhorting us to have the **same mind** as Jesus: “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:5)

## **First and Last and Exalting and Humbling**

On the last journey of Jesus to Jerusalem the disciples exhibited the spirit of the mystery of iniquity by disputing among themselves who would be the greatest in the kingdom. The all coveted upward mobility:

*“Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was*

*in the house He asked them, ‘What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?’ But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves **who would be the greatest.**” (Mark 9:33)*

Jesus responded in a way that ashamed His disciples:

*“If anyone desires to be **first**, he shall be **last** of all and **servant** of all.” (Mark 9:35)*

In a parable, Jesus taught the same principle by contrasting those who seek the **highest** places with those who choose the **lowest**:

*“So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the **best places**, saying to them: “When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the **best place**, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; and he who invited you and him come and say to you, ‘Give place to this man,’ and then you begin with shame to take the **lowest place**. But when you are invited, go and sit down in the **lowest place**, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, **go up higher.**’*

*Then **you will have glory** in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. For whoever **exalts himself will be humbled**, and he who **humbles himself will be exalted**.” (Luke 14: 7-11)*

In His woes to the Scribes and Pharisees Jesus once again taught the contrast between the mystery of iniquity and the mystery of Godliness. Jesus described the upward mobility of the religious leaders of His day:

- They sit on **Moses seat**.
- They bind **heavy burdens** on the populace.
- They show off their great piety by their **phylacteries**.
- They seek the **best places** at feasts and in the synagogues.
- They love to be **greeted** in the market places.
- They crave being called **‘rabbi, rabbi’**.

Jesus rebuked these leaders and admonished them to have the spirit of the mystery of Godliness:

*“But he who is **greatest** among you shall be your **servant**. And whoever **exalts himself will be humbled**, and*

*he who **humbles himself** will be **exalted**.” (Matthew 23:11, 12)*

Jesus concluded the parable of the Pharisee and the publican with the same principle:

*“Also He spoke this parable to some who **trusted in themselves** that they were righteous, and **despised others**: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who **exalts himself will be humbled**, and he who **humbles himself** will be **exalted**.” (Luke 18:9-14)*

It is commonplace for us to categorize and rank the importance of people according to their physical

attractiveness, the car they drive, the house they live in, the academic degrees they have procured, their professional success, their social status, their nationality, their race, their political affiliation and their personal charisma or lack thereof.

However, in the sight of God, none of these “artificial criteria” have any inherent value except as we use them to serve others and give glory to God. Thus, Ellen White wrote:

*“No **distinction** on account of nationality, race, or caste, is recognized by God. He is the Maker of all mankind. All men are of **one** family by **creation**, and all are **one** through **redemption**. Christ came to **demolish every wall** of partition, to throw open every compartment of the temple, that **every soul** may have **free access** to God.” COL, p. 386*

## The Central Lesson

James the brother of Jesus described the proper order of downward and upward mobility:

*“Humble **yourselves** in the sight of the Lord, and **He will lift** you up.” (James 4:10)*

The boasting, self-sufficient and self-righteous **Peter** learned the same lesson:

*“Therefore **humble yourselves** under the mighty hand of God, that **He may exalt you** in due time.” (1 Peter 5:6)*

Ellen White described the substance of the teachings of Jesus:

*“**Self-surrender** is the substance of the teachings of Christ. Often it is presented and enjoined in language that seems **authoritative**, because there is no other way to save man than to cut away those things which, if entertained, will demoralize the whole being.” DA, p. 523*

The big question with which I conclude this study is this: Which mystery have we embraced? The answer that we give will determine our eternal destiny. “Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:5)



**Pastor Stephen Bohr**

# New Legislation Allows New IRA Donation Option



Congress for many years has allowed direct charitable transfers from your IRA to a qualified charity; up to \$100,000.00 per year with complete tax avoidance. This is one of the smartest ways to donate if you've reached age 70.5 and are required to make withdrawals. A big thank you to so many of you who have made these rollovers through the years. Please consider this again if you do not need these required withdrawals for your monthly budget.

So what's new? Besides the required minimum age dropping to age 70.5 the IRS as of Jan. 1, 2023 allows you to rollover \$50,000.00 one time directly to a charitable gift annuity. Wow still receive life income with tax breaks galore! What a win-win situation as you help God's work be strong moving forward and shore up your personal income.



**Pastor John Bridges**

*jthistory58@yahoo.com*  
225-505-0231



# Dear Friend

I am so grateful you have chosen to faithfully co-labor with Secrets Unsealed in God's last day work. Though our world is increasingly shrouded in sin and its aftermath of trouble, your loving gifts have brought light, hope, healing and cheer to so many souls and given them real, true assurance of eternal life in a sweet, safe land. You have helped so many to become a friend of Jesus.

Thank you for your deep devotion in standing with us in these troubled times. I hope and pray you will keep working with us to reveal the light of God's glory so that millions of searching hearts can see the face of our loving Friend, JESUS, more clearly.

*"The silver is mine and the gold is mine"* (Haggai 2:8). The Bible is quite clear. God owns it all.

Our home, our children, our automobiles, our bank accounts, our retirement plans, yes everything we "possess, at death" is temporary and on loan from God.

Soon we must give an account of what he has advanced us. At death though, through a last Will and Testament we are provided with an excellent opportunity to give back the remainder to the owner. As we come so very near the end of time, we specifically will be planning not how little but how much we will return to God. What a touching joy we will experience in heaven to discover how our bequest helped finish God's work on earth! How glad we will be to meet those who are in heaven as a result of [our gifts]!

## Let's look at and discover the possibilities together!

The heartbeat of our day to day operations are your faithful cash gifts. But there are other ways also; some with special tax advantages and some with life income.

1. Every adult should have an estate plan [Will or Revocable Trust]
2. Gifts of Real Estate, Stocks, or Precious Metals
3. Gifts of Life Insurance cash value or named beneficiary
4. IRA rollovers
5. Named beneficiaries on Retirement accounts/Brokerage accounts/Bank accounts
6. Gift Annuities or Charitable Remainder Trusts: Both provide life income and large tax breaks. See chart below.
7. Gifts of autos/RV's/boats/motorcycles

**Please call and we will be glad to help you with these:**

### **AGES 69 - 75**

- Age 69 - 5.8%
- Age 70 - 5.9%
- Age 71 - 6.0%
- Age 72 - 6.2%
- Age 73 - 6.3%
- Age 74 - 6.4%
- Age 75 - 6.6%

### **AGES 76-82**

- Age 76 - 6.8%
- Age 77 - 7.0%
- Age 78 - 7.2%
- Age 79 - 7.4%
- Age 80 - 7.6%
- Age 81 - 7.8%
- Age 82 - 8.1%



**Pastor John Bridges**

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# PRISON MINISTRY

*Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. Hebrews 13:3 (NIV).*

**T**wo years ago I was ready for a change. I had worked in public health for over 30 years and the routine of it all was wearing on me. I had considered retiring at various times but it seemed that the door had always been shut... that is until April 2021. That's when I clearly saw the Lord opening a way for me not only to retire, but also to start a new phase of my life working at Secrets Unsealed, a ministry

I had been a volunteer for and supporter of since its inception.

Working in prison ministry, my primary job here has been an adventure! Opening letters from inmates can bring so many blessings. Here's one of many examples:

*"Thus far, I have 5 men, 6 including me, who have requested baptism. There are 3 or 4 other men under my wing right now, and I have begun the process of submitting a proposal to the chaplain for written approval of a Seventh-day Adventist weekly Bible study group where upwards of a dozen or more men will participate. Thank you for helping to support this ministry*

*here through your provision of religious materials. It's really fascinating to see the eyes of the blind opened so that they can now see the truth as it is in Jesus."*

Through our Worthy Viewer Fund we are able to provide free materials from our catalog to inmates around the country. We have partnered with Christmas Behind Bars to distribute our flyers which then are sent back to us by the inmates. From there we provide our catalog, along with an abbreviated 15 lesson Bible study and personal note to the inmate. They can then order Study Bibles, books, study notes and other items from our catalog without charge. In addition, we work with chaplains to provide DVD's and other materials

that are made available through their prison libraries to individuals or groups for study or worship services.

*"I would like to thank you so much for your help in getting me the truth that has been hidden for years. You have opened my eyes and understanding so much. Thank you!"* These words extend to all those who have supported this important ministry.

Finally, *"Please pray for us here as we embrace the Three Angel's Message of Revelation 14 while preparing for our Lord's soon return. I'm sure I'll see you on resurrection day. If you want to know who I am on that day, I'll be the one shining as bright as a star while clothed in God's glory!"*

**Jeanne Wheaton**  
Outreach Coordinator





# Simply Figs



**T**he story is told of a good king who reigned in Israel from about 715 to 686 BC. His father, a wicked king, led the Israelites into idol worship, turning the nation away from worshiping the true God of Israel. Despite his upbringing in a morally corrupt home, it is recorded that King Hezekiah “did what was right in the sight of the LORD” , and continues “He trusted in the LORD God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him. For he held fast to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses. The LORD was with him; he prospered wherever he went.”

The time came when Hezekiah, still in the prime of his life, was visited by the prophet Isaiah who bore the dreadful news of his impending death. Hezekiah cried out to the LORD and soon after was revisited by Isaiah with the joyful news that he would live another 15 years.

However, he was not immediately healed of his affliction. The king had developed a boil, or abscess, which apparently threatened his life, and part of the plan for his complete

recovery included his trusting in God. Simply put, a lump of figs. “Let them take a lump of figs, and apply it as a poultice on the boil, and he shall recover.” Surely the king must have thought twice about this primitive therapy and, in fact, scripture tells us that he asked the LORD for a sign that he would be healed. In answer to his prayer, a miraculous sign was given and the king was healed as promised.

## Simple is Good

We see other Biblical examples of healings using simple treatments combined with trust in God, including the story of Naaman the leper who was told to go and wash in the Jordan seven times to be healed of his leprosy, and of Jesus healing a blind man's eyes by applying clay to them and telling him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. Since the beginning of time, God has placed within man's access natural agents for maintaining health and healing sickness. These elements, all of which we find in Eden, include healthy foods, physical activity, pure water, exposure to sunshine, absence of harmful substances, fresh air, and rest, along with trust in a loving God who cares for His creation.

## Back to Figs

So why figs? What do we know about *Ficus carica* (fig) and its health and healing properties? The leaves of this tree, first mentioned as a covering to hide Adam and Eve's nakedness caused by sin mark the beginning of numerous Biblical references to figs, including others related to the fruit itself and also to the tree. Because of its wide range of important nutrients (including calcium, potassium, fiber, prebiotics, Vitamins A & C, iron, magnesium,



and phosphorus among others), figs may be considered beneficial in bone health, blood pressure regulation, anemia prevention, promoting good digestion, and may be helpful in reducing the risk of chronic diseases like cancer, heart disease and diabetes. Surprisingly, ½ cup of dried figs is equivalent to ½ cup milk in calcium content.

But a poultice of figs? In 2003 researcher L. Ben-Noun suggested that if King Hezekiah's boil, proposed to be cutaneous anthrax, was healed by figs, more research can be done to determine which compounds in figs may be isolated and used for treating cutaneous and other forms of anthrax. According to a 2014 review article in *Pharmaceutical Biology*, *Ficus carica* has traditionally been used worldwide for more than 40 types of disorders, including skin diseases and ulcers, attributing its wide spectrum of biological activities to numerous components such as plant pigments and enzymes. Indian researchers also showed this plant to have phytochemical and therapeutic properties which have been demonstrated to be effective in various ways, including historical use in poultices made from leaves, fruit, milky juice and branches.

## God's Ways are Better

In an age of high-tech digitalized solutions, can it be that God's ways still work? "God has put it in our power to obtain a knowledge of the laws of life. This knowledge has been placed within our reach for use. We should employ every facility for the restoration of health, taking every advantage possible, working in harmony with natural laws. When we have prayed for the recovery of the sick, we can work with all the more energy, thanking God that we have the privilege of co-operating with Him, and asking His blessing on the means which He Himself has provided." *Ministry of Healing*, p. 231.

**Jeanne Wheaton**

M.S, Registered  
Dietitian

TOLLHOUSE PROJECT



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PRISON MINISTRY

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# HOLY

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