

### Dear Friends of Secrets Unsealed

I am excited about what God is doing through Secrets Unsealed and SUMtv. He is blessing beyond our wildest expectations to His honor and glory. I can't help but echo the apostle Paul's words: "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! (Philippians 4:4).

There is much going on around here. The 4 channels in Costa Rica are on the air 24/7/365 broadcasting Present Truth to millions and very soon we will be broadcasting to every country in Central and South America via satellite TV. We continue to broadcast on free-to-air TV in the Central Valley of California, in the United Kingdom, and on 3ABN as well.

We continue to finalize the architecture plans in preparation for submitting county permits, grade needed roads to the building site, and acquire housing at the property in Tollhouse, where, if the Lord tarries, we will move our headquarters to a country environment. None of this would be possible without God's almighty power and through your regular prayers and financial support. The signs of the times in the world and the church clearly show that a stupendous crisis is at hand and the world must be warned with the truth for this time. Thanks so much for partnering with us.

I trust that you will enjoy reading this newsletter which centers on the invisible history that impacts visible world events. May the Lord give us the vision to 'see the invisible' struggle transpiring in the shadows. Though it might appear that the forces of evil are in control, God sits on the throne orchestrating world events and guiding our individual lives.

As I close, may the words of the Lord through the apostle Paul bring assurance: "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 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 8:31, 32)

Once again, thank you for your unfailing support!

Paster Stephen Behr

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#### Office Hours Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm PST Open 12/29 9 am - 3 pm

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# Plan A Legacy for Christ

There are a number of unique and effective ways you can partner with Secrets Unsealed and be a vital part of this ministry.

#### 1. Charitable Gift in WILL or Trust

A Charitable bequest is a donation written in a WILL or Trust that directs a gift to be made to the charity you care about such as Secrets Unsealed. Your gift assures your values are reflected in your estate plan.

#### 2. Charitable Gift Annuity

A Charitable gift annuity enables you to transfer an asset (such as cash, stock or real estate) to a charity and in exchange receive fixed payments for life. Additional benefits may include higher pay out rates, tax free income plus a charitable deduction. Your gift will proclaim hope and salvation to countless souls!

#### 3. Charitable Remainder Trusts

This allows you to make a gift of highly appreciated property and avoid (eliminate) the capital gains tax. You can receive payments for life, bypass all capital gains tax, plus you receive a large tax deduction. Your gift will lead more people to Jesus. I saved one family over \$100,000.00 with this.

#### 4. Gift of Retirement Assets

Perhaps the easiest way to make a gift of your retirement assets such as an IRA or 401K, 403-B is to name a charity as beneficiary. If an IRA is given to an individual it loses much of its value through estate and income taxes but by designating Secrets Unsealed as beneficiary, the full value is transferred at your passing and lives will be changed for eternity.

#### 5. Life Insurance Policies

You can name Secrets Unsealed as a beneficiary at your passing or if the policy is no longer needed it can be cashed now and a gift made to Secrets Unsealed presently --- touching many lives for eternity.

#### 6. Outright Gifts of Property

While the previous gift options are great ways to provide for the future work of God, you can give even sooner for God's cause! Gifts of real estate, precious metals, stocks/bonds, motor vehicles, and personal property are all means by which together we can reach even more people for Jesus during our lifetimes.

The closer we come to the end, the more His Spirit will prompt us to lay on the altar of sacrifice.



### **Retraction Notice**

mistake was made with the third quarter ministry newsletter of 2023 on page 33. It was printed that the age for Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from an IRA retirement plan is 70.5, when it should have said age 73. We apologize for this error. Two things do become possible at age 70.5.

First, an IRA rollover of up to \$100,000.00 annually is permitted from an IRA if it is done directly from the IRA holder to the charity. This avoids all taxes. This is a

### **Charitable Gift Annuities Single Life Payout Rates**

- Age 65 5.4%
- Age 70 5.9%
- Age 75 6.6%
- Age 80 7.6%
- Age 85 8.7%
- Age 90 9.7%

wonderful tax break for the donor and an immediate gift to Secrets Unsealed ministry.

The second opportunity at age 70.5 which IRA allows for the first time this year is each owner of an IRA can transfer \$50,000.00 to a charitable gift annuity. That was never allowed in the past. Again you avoid taxes on the withdrawal, plus many tax deductions, plus a nice life income payout to you. Your IRA (RMDs) can bless you and the ministry immediately. Call for more information.



Pastor John Bridges jthistory58@yahoo.com 225-505-0231

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# In Memory Of...

**Lucille Lutz** from Doris Ward

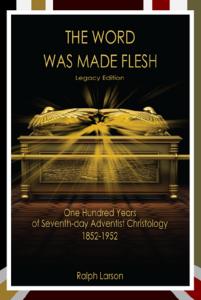
Pastor James Finn from Doris Ward

**Noemi Perez** from Maria Ramirez

Barbara Ann Stout from Daniel F. Falcon

My wife Cathy Ann Knoechel from Kenneth Knoechel





At present there is a conflict in the Seventh-day Adventist Church regarding which nature Jesus took when He came to this earth. Some think he took the nature of Adam before the Fall and others after. The book "The Word Was Made Flesh" provides irrefutable and overwhelming evidence that before the 1950's the church believed that Jesus took the post-fall sinful nature of Adam but never allowed it to express itself in sinful acts, thoughts, or words. This book is an invaluable resource for those who want the truth about the human nature of Christ.

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The 24 Elders Study Notes - PDF Download Posted By: Laura

This is a comprehensive study on the subject of the 24 Elders. I love that pastor Bohr uses common sense, all of scripture (Old & New Testament) as well as SOP to show how these cannot be humans. This is a biblical study guide and not a personal interpretation. There is a reviewer who seems to argue in favor of the 24 Elders being human but

the arguments presented are all answered by pastor Bohr & the biblical record, so not sure they actually studied the topic prayerfully. I feel there is overwhelming biblical evidence to support this point of view. Thank you pastor Bohr for dedicating your life to following the Holy Spirit's leading & doing such exhaustive studies on such important topics for these last days. I want to know truth. I feel it is dangerous in these last days to hold onto cherished ideas just because. Satan will use the smallest things to divide & separate Gods people. All beliefs must have a biblical basis & we must have an answer for our faith. Thank you Secrets Unsealed for providing me with a roadmap on my journey for truth & demonstrating from the Bible that we have a sure foundation for our faith.



**The Mystery Revealed** - The Loud Cry, Perfection and the Righteousness of Faith Posted By: Steve Sage

I love the fact that Jesus is revealing all truth while exposing all error in these last days for the sake of all His children to

come eternally home to the Spirit Leader who loves us (Rev. I 8:4). And I doubly love the fact that, while the greater leadership in God's church is temporarily sidetracked, laymen, especially Stephen Bohr, who has God's gift of teaching, is doing a wonderful job glorifying God and magnifying His Perfect Law of Love and Liberty. I have always appreciated Beloved Bohr. I consider him a bright shining light in this very dark world. Thank you lesus, and keep him faithful and true is my prayer.



#### Face the Giants

Posted By:Tricia Aguilar (Snyder, Texas)

This catalog is full of courses and notes, verse references, prophet references, syllabus material; everything one needs to further their studies on Biblical Truth various topics. These courses are in-depth, and so helpful to help one understand various Bible topics, and I have learned so very much through these courses.

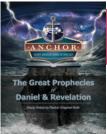
The catalog shows you exactly what items you are ordering, what is included, and offer such a variety of topics. There are so many more lesson packs that I had not known about until I received the catalog.

I highly recommend the Secrets Unsealed catalog, as well as the courses offered in the catalog, to anybody who is searching and yearning for an in-depth look and study of the Holy Scriptures. May you be blessed as you continue your walk with The Lord God.



### **Studies in Revelation 12 & 13** - PDF Download Posted By: Johan Van Heerden

Thank you very much for this. I am using it for bible study for me and my children as we could and still are not attending a church at present. Much appreciated. From somebody in South Africa without a Credit card. I would not otherwise have been able to enjoy this wonderful study.



The Great Prophecies of Daniel & Revelation Study notes - PDF Download

Posted By: Mark Philp

I thank God and Secrets Unsealed for this study. I downloaded the course notes and found them of immense value. There is so much I could say but I will say this, letting the bible explain itself as Pastor Bohr does, the concepts and bible teachings become much simpler to understand. Thank you.



Anchor Class - Believe His Prophets:
Prophetic Guidance in the Advent Movement

Posted By: Sally foungberg Stoesz

I haven't been able to attend an anchor class in person, but I have a DVD set and the syllabus! I love the structure and all the extras! There is so much included.

The research is impeccably detailed and carefully arranged. It's a wonderful blessing to my studies. Thank you. Highly recommend !!!

# "Your Health Matters" TESTIMONY series on SUMty



"Thank you both for letting the Lord use you to be a blessing. Please continue to share God's wonderful health message for healing our soul and mind. God bless you and

"Thank you all so much for sharing with us! I truly believe that our health is impacted by what we eat and do. I think the science/ medical community could do a better job of applying these methods. Unfortunately, pharmaceutical companies benefit from those who are sick and prescribed medication, which is a big aspect of why this is not promoted more. But as Christians, our end goal is to help others, expecting nothing in return & we should apply these in every way possible. God bless"

"This is a great message, very motivating and inspiring since I definitely need a routine."

> "Thank you, Mr & Mrs. Porterfield. LORD bless your ministry always. You're beautiful."

"Wonderful presentation. God be praised thx very much."

> "This series is such a blessing! I look forward to future episodes."

I'm from Argentina, the province of Buenos Aires. I want to greet you and especially thank Pastor Bohr

because thanks to the messages that the Holy Spirit put in him, today I am a Seventh-day Adventist after having congregated in a Pentecostal church. Two months ago (June 2022) the Lord Jesus allowed me to know the truth. God bless you and I hope we see you soon. Marcelo in Argentina



"These series of Pastor Bohr's are getting better than those of Netflix." - David Valdez

#### Across

1 The origin of life (8) 5 The gathering

together of the waters were called these (4)

8 Made by a spider (3)

9 The trees were created on this day (5)

10 New

Testament (abbreviated) (2) 11 To exist or

occur (2)

12 This light was made to rule the night (6)

14 Atmosphere

(3)

15 The first garden (4)

18 An undefined action or object

(2)

19 One of the rivers originating in Eden (9)

21 Thus (2)

22 These were created on the fifth day (4)

24 The apostle John wrote with this (3)

25 The name of the firmament which God created (6)

28 In the year of our Lord (abbreviated) (2)

29 Alternatively (2)

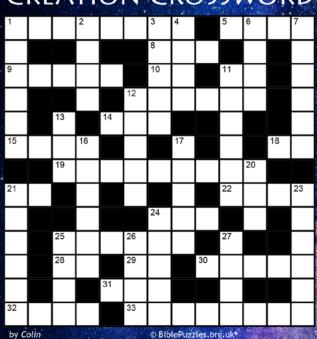
30 The whales were created on this day (5)

31 Adam and Eve sewed leaves from this tree to make aprons (3)

32 Darkness was on the face of this before light was created (4)

33 God divided this from the light (8)

### CREATION CROSSWORD



Down

1 These were created on the sixth day (6)

2 An area of land (4)

3 One who possesses (5)

4 Used to catch fish (4)

6 Always (4)

7 This moved on the face of the waters (6)

11 Faith (6)

12 God created this on the first day (5)

13 To observe (3)

16 Cared for babies or children (6)

17 Removed (5)

20 To scatter seed (3) 21 The firmament was created on this day (6)

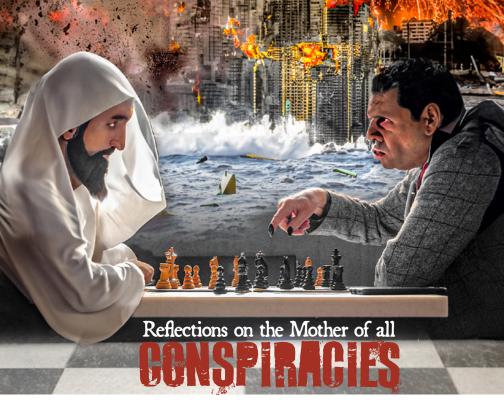
23 Two of these appeared on the fourth day (6)

24 Paul visited here on his first journey (5)

25 To possess (4)

26 The earth was this in the beginning (4)

27 The sun was to be this in the sky (4)



#### Introduction

s we look out at our world with bloodshot Leyes, everything seems to be in disarray. Wars and rumors of war, the disintegration of the nuclear family, unprecedented economic stress, global pandemics, floods, droughts, famines, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, political strife, riots, mass shootings, armed robberies, mass migration, drug addiction, and suicides increase with ever greater intensity. Society is spinning out of control, and it seems like the demons are at the wheel. But are they, really?

And if they are not, how can we explain what is happening on earth?

The <u>Bible</u> provides the unequivocal answer. When Jesus defeated Satan on the cross in the decisive battle of the war, he was cast out of heaven as the ruler and representative of this world. His expulsion filled him with vitriolic hatred, the desperate rage of a mortally wounded warrior. Revelation 12:12 describes his fury:

"Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows he has a short time."

In <u>context</u>, this verse does not refer primarily to Satan's <u>original expulsion</u> from heaven but rather to his casting out as the <u>ruler</u> and <u>representative</u> of this world. When Jesus cried out, "It is finished," on the cross, Satan knew that he had lost his kingdom. Just <u>a few days</u> before His death, Jesus had announced Satan's doom:

"Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. <sup>32</sup> And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself. <sup>33</sup> This He said, signifying by what death He would die." John 12:31-33

When Satan was cast out, the inhabitants of heaven could **rejoice**. However, the earth could not rejoice because it was now the target of Satan's unmitigated wrath. Like a wounded lion, he went out to wreak havoc on the earth (1 Peter 5:8). Ellen White described it this way:

"Satan's angels went forth like roaring lions, seeking to destroy the followers of Jesus" <u>EW</u>, p. 191

### Satan's Last Gasp

As we approach the moment when the sentinel angels will release the winds of chaos, Satan will make one last, desperate attempt to retain the kingdom he legally lost at the cross. Ellen White described the strife that will ensue:

"Angels are now restraining the winds of strife that they may not blow until the world shall be warned of its coming doom, but a storm is gathering, ready to burst upon the earth, and when God shall bid His angels loose the winds there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture." Education, pp. 179, 180

We are witnessing today the last gasp of a defeated and desperate foe! Like Saddam Hussein lit the oil wells when he saw that he was about to lose the Gulf War, Satan will wreak havoc as he perceives the soon-coming doom of his kingdom.

# The Repetition of History

With the passing of time, I have become keenly aware of how important it is to learn the lessons of history. The reason? What happened in the past will occur once more because

<u>God</u> (Malachi 3:6), <u>Satan</u>, and unregenerate <u>human beings</u> always operate on the <u>same</u> <u>principles</u>. Thus King Solomon wisely wrote:

"That which <u>has been</u> is what <u>will</u> <u>be</u>, that which <u>is done</u> is what <u>will be done</u>, and there is nothing new under the sun." Ecclesiastes 1:9, NKJV

"What happens now has happened in the past, and what will happen in the future has happened before. God makes the same things happen again and again." Ecclesiastes 3:15, NIV

### Horizontal and Vertical History

However, the history that we see with the naked eye is only a shadow of the invisible movements transpiring behind the veil. Secular historians can only describe the shadow, or what I call "horizontal history" which occurs on an earthly plane. They are only able to describe events that occur with certain individuals, at a certain time, in a certain way and place.

However, there is a history that is transpiring above and beyond our eyes that cannot be discerned by the unenlightened historian. It is a history for world dominion between Christ and Satan, heaven and earth, that is transpiring behind the veil—what I call "vertical history". These are the "real" invisible movements that can be detected only in the visible shadow.

The apostle Paul described the stealth forces, invisible to unenlightened eyes, that work beyond the realm of "flesh and blood":

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:13

Ellen White quoted this verse when she described the future repetition of the crisis that Israel faced in the days of Esther:

"History repeats itself. The <u>same</u> <u>masterful mind</u> that plotted against the faithful in ages past is now at work to gain control of the <u>fallen churches</u>, that through them [the visible organizations]

he may condemn and put to death all who will not worship the idol sabbath. We have not to battle with mortals, as it may appear [to unenlightened eyes]. We war



not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against wicked spirits in high places [Ephesians 6:13]." <u>Manuscript</u> 51, 1899.

# A Conspiracy in History

There is a conspiracy behind the events of visible history! What is a conspiracy? Webster's 1828 Dictionary provides the following definition:

"A combination of men for an evil purpose; an agreement between two or more persons, to commit some crime in concert; particularly, a combination to commit treason, or excite sedition or insurrection against the government of a state; a plot as a conspiracy against the life of a king; a conspiracy against the government. In law, an agreement between two or more persons, falsely and maliciously to indict, or procure to be indicted, an innocent person of felony."

The word *conspiracy* conjures up the image of <u>Judas Iscariot</u> who overtly seemed to support Christ but in the shadows was stealthily colluding with the religious leaders to betray Him. The conspiracy of Judas to betray

Jesus was not a mere human idea. Unseen to human eyes, Satan was orchestrating the plan. Scripture removes the veil and helps us see who was truly **behind** the plot:

"Now after the piece of bread, <u>Satan</u> entered him. Then Jesus said to him, 'What you do, do quickly." John 13:27

Even the disciples were oblivious to the <u>real history</u> transpiring behind history:

"But **no one at the table knew** 

for what reason He said
this to him. <sup>29</sup> For
some thought,
because Judas
had the money
box, that Jesus
had said to him,
'Buy those things we
need for the feast,' or that
he should give something to the
poor." John 13:28, 29

It is hardly a coincidence that during His ministry Jesus referred to <u>Judas as "a devil</u>", that is, the emissary of a greater DEVIL:

"Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is <u>a</u>
<u>devil?</u>" He <u>spoke of Judas</u>
Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve." John 6:70-71
According to John, the devil had

According to John, the devil had already put the idea to betray

Jesus into the mind of Judas even before the last supper:

"And supper being ended, <u>the</u> <u>devil</u> having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him." John 13:2

## How to Fight an Invisible Foe

How can one fight an invisible foe? It seems well-nigh impossible. However, the good news is that God has removed the veil between vertical and horizontal history so that believers can see beyond what their physical eyes can see. The Bible removes the veil and accurately describes the history behind history.

But there is more. God further removed the veil when He gave Ellen White a view of the struggle transpiring in "invisible", "vertical" history. Her most important work on final events is The Great Controversy between Christ and Satan where she exposes Satan's stealth **objectives**. It is no wonder that Satan attempted to kill her just before she wrote the book! If there ever was a book that we need to distribute like the leaves of autumn, it is The Great Controversy, because it

removes the veil and reveals the true forces behind the events of visible history. Ellen White wrote concerning the importance of this book:

"The Great Controversy should be very widely circulated. It contains the story of the past, the present, and the future. In its outline of the closing scenes of this earth's history, it bears a powerful testimony in behalf of the truth. I am more anxious to see a wide circulation for this book than for any others I have written; for in The Great Controversy, the last message of warning to the world is given more distinctly than in any of my other books." Colporteur Ministry, p. 127

"The results of the circulation of this book are not to be judged by what now appears. By reading it, some souls will be aroused. and will have courage to unite themselves at once with those who keep the commandments of God. But a much <u>larger number</u> who read it will not take their position until **they see** the very events taking place that are **foretold** in it. The **fulfillment** of some of the predictions will inspire faith that others also will come to pass, and when the earth is lightened with the glory of the Lord, in the closing work, many souls will take their position on the commandments of God as the result of this agency."

#### Manuscript 31, 1890.

In the book *Education*,
Ellen White wrote about the **relationship** between the events of **visible** history and the causal movements in the **invisible** realm. A superficial and careless glimpse of history seems to indicate that world events are moved along by the will and prowess of man. However, the Bible removes the veil and reveals God as the real Guiding Force:

"In the annals of human history the growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, appear to depend on the will and prowess of man. The shaping of events **seems**, to a great degree, to be determined by man's power, ambition, or caprice. **But** in the **word of God** the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, behind, above, and through all the play and **counterplay** of human interests and power and passions, the agencies of the all-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will." Education, p. 173



#### A Game of Chess

Ellen White's reference to the "play and counterplay" of history awakens the idea of a game. Thus, we can compare the movements of history with a game of chess where the movement of the pieces on the board represents the events of history. As the game advances, each player attempts to frustrate the moves of the other with the ultimate purpose of putting the opponent at "checkmate".

The strategic "chess game" between Christ and Satan is not a mere game. It is, so to speak, for all the marbles. Who will win the game? The good news is that in the "play and counterplay" of historical events, God has a distinct advantage over Satan because He knows how the game will end before it began. How would you like to play a game of chess if you knew all the moves that the other player was going to make before the game began?

God makes <u>no mistakes</u> in His management of history because He already knows from before the beginning of the game, <u>all</u> <u>the moves</u> that Satan will make and therefore can "play" to counteract them. For this reason, it is <u>impossible</u> for God to lose. On the other hand, Satan makes

<u>mistakes</u> because he has to <u>guess</u> how God will play.

An example of Satan's miscalculations is the 400-year prophecy of Genesis 15:13-15. God told Abraham while he lived in Canaan that his descendants would be strangers in a land not theirs for 400 years, after which they would return. Notably, God did not identify the name of the land. When Satan influenced Joseph's brothers to sell him as a slave to Egypt, little did he realize that he was actually **helping** God fulfill this prophecy. God knows the end from the beginning and therefore He can frustrate Satan's "moves" in order to fulfill His purpose.

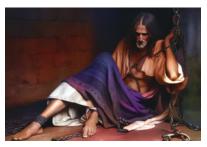
Isaiah described what distinguishes the <u>only true</u> God from all false pretenders:

"Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,' 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, the man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed, I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it." Isaiah 46:9-11

### An Old-Testament Example: The Death of Ahab

On a certain occasion there was a meeting of <u>Ahab</u> and <u>Jehoshaphat</u> in Samaria and Ahab suggested that they <u>join</u> <u>forces</u> to battle against their common enemy, <u>the Syrians</u>. Jehoshaphat, being a good king, asked the idolatrous Ahab if he had <u>any prophets</u> who could advise them whether going into battle was the <u>Lord's will</u>. Ahab responded that he not only had one prophet, but four hundred of them.

When Ahab summoned his prophets, he asked them if it was God's will to go into battle. In response, the four hundred false prophets told Ahab what he wanted to hear. They claimed that the Lord would give Ahab and Jehoshaphat a signal victory. However, Jehoshaphat was not convinced so he asked Ahab if he had around a prophet of the Lord, to which Ahab replied that he did, but he was in the **dungeon** because he always prophesied evil and not good. Jehoshaphat thought to himself, This has to be a prophet of the Lord because true prophets usually hang out in prison.



So, at Jehoshaphat's request, Ahab summoned <u>Micaiah</u> from the dungeon and asked him the <u>same question</u> he had asked the false prophets.—At this point, let's go to the <u>end of the story</u> and then come back to Micaiah's answer.—Ahab followed the counsel of his false prophets, went into battle, and got killed:

"Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded." <sup>34</sup> The battle increased that day, and the king of Israel propped himself up in his chariot facing the Syrians until evening; and about the time of sunset he died." <sup>2</sup> Chronicles 18:33-34

Now let's go back to where we left off in the story.—Why was Ahab killed on the battlefield? To the unenlightened observer, the death of Ahab seemed to be a simple casualty of war. However, according to Micaiah, Ahab's death had already been determined in a meeting of the

heavenly council even before he went to battle. There was one, invisible to human eyes who would influence the false prophets to entice Ahab to go into battle. Without the Bible, Ahab's death would have been attributed to the false prophets:

"Then Micaiah said, 'Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right hand and His left. 19 And the Lord said, "Who will persuade Ahab king of Israel to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?" So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. 20 Then a **spirit came** forward and stood before the Lord, and said, "I will **persuade him**." The Lord said to him, "In what way?" 21 So he said, "I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets." And the Lord said, "You shall persuade him and also prevail; go out and do so." 22 Therefore look! The Lord has put a lying spirit *in the mouth of these prophets of* yours, and the Lord has declared disaster against you." 2 Chronicles 18:18-22

# The Stealthy Iceberg

You see, the Bible <u>removes the</u> <u>veil</u> and helps us discern what

is going on **behind**, **above**, and **beyond** visible history. The overt events of history are **only a sliver** of the real battle that transpires behind the scenes. So to speak, Satan throws the stone and hides the hand.



We can **compare** the play and counterplay of historical events to a seemingly **harmless** iceberg that floats leisurely and peacefully in the **North Atlantic**. The **Titanic** tragedy demonstrated that the visible part of the iceberg was a mere fraction of the danger lurking **below**. The unseen portion was the most dangerous. Likewise, the greatest dangers in history are hidden from human sight and can only be understood by the testimony of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

# The Stories of Esther and Job

The book of Esther illustrates in living color, the **conspiracy** behind history. Esther is the **only** 

**book** of the Bible that does not mention the name of God and for this reason, it was one of the last books to be included in the Old Testament canon. However, although the **name** of God does not overtly appear in the book, the text screams that an invisible hand was guiding events to deliver Israel from genocide. The story does not mention Satan by name either, but the play and counterplay of events clearly reveal two antagonistic, invisible powers that were orchestrating the movements of "horizontal history".

Ellen White, by inspiration, removed the veil and explained who was behind the visible plot and why:

"Satan instigated the scheme in order to rid the earth of those who preserved the knowledge of the true God. But his plots were defeated by a counter power that reigns among the children of men." 5T, p. 450

Thank God for the **Spirit of Prophecy** which removes the veil between visible and invisible history and helps us discern the **great controversy** between Christ and Satan reflected in historical events.

The Book of <u>Job</u> illustrates the <u>play and counterplay</u> of history

as well. The story tells us that all <u>heaven was keenly aware</u> of the events that were occurring in "vertical" and "horizontal" history but no one on the "horizontal" level had the benefit of knowing the events of "vertical history" until the very end of the story.



If a mere secular historian had written about the many calamities that befell Job, he could only have described the events that were occurring in "horizontal history" and probably would have attributed Job's suffering to bad luck. However, the Bible removes the veil and describes the real battle between the Lord and Satan in the realm of "vertical history".

Sometimes, <u>Satan</u> plays and then <u>counter plays</u> in the drama of history to accomplish his objectives. Satan hates the Bible because it removes the veil and

reveals his work in the realm of "vertical' history". He sometimes causes an action and then brings about a counter-action to accomplish his purposes.

During the 1260 years, Satan sought to silence the Bible. Through the instrumentality of **the papacy**, Satan forbade the reading of the Bible and **kept** it in a language that people could not understand. The result was the **ignorance** that pervaded Europe for over a thousand years.

Then, in the French Revolution, due to the people's ignorance, Satan counteracted by influencing the populace to openly turn against the Bible. In both cases, Satan was successful in warring against the Bible. According to the Spirit of Prophecy, the work of the papacy, both during the 1260 years and the French Revolution, were the work of Satan working from behind the scenes:

"In many of the nations of Europe, the powers that ruled in church and state had for centuries been controlled by Satan through the medium of the papacy. But here is brought to view a new manifestation of satanic power."

GC, pp. 268, 269

### The Attack on Jesus by the Dragon (Satan by Rome)

Another example of this invisible struggle between Christ and Satan as reflected in history is the **birth of Jesus**. Matthew's account tells us that **Herod conspired** to kill Jesus as soon as He was born because he considered Him a **rival to his throne**:

"Then <u>Herod</u>, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and <u>he sent forth</u> and put to death all the <u>male children</u> who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men." Matthew 2:16



Any secular **historian** could have written what Matthew wrote. The account tells us **where** the event occurred (in the confines of Bethlehem), **when** (during the reign of Herod), **with whom** (with Herod), and **why** (because he feared losing his throne). However, the book of **Revelation** removes the veil and reveals who really wanted Jesus dead **for fear** of losing his throne:

"And the <u>dragon</u> stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to <u>devour her Child</u> as soon as it was born." Revelation 12:4

Ellen White explained the relationship between the visible dragon (lower case) who sought to kill the male child and the DRAGON (upper case) who remained in stealth:

"The **dragon** is said to be **Satan** (Revelation 12:9); **he** it was that **moved upon Herod** to put the Savior to death."

### Attack on Early Christians (Satan by Rome)

Historians tell us that the Roman <a href="mailto:emperors">emperors</a> mercilessly persecuted and imprisoned Christians.

However, the Bible <a href="mailto:removes the">removes the</a>
<a href="mailto:veil">veil</a> and tells us that the devil was

behind the persecution. Christ encouraged the church of the imperial persecutions (Smyrna) to be faithful because **the devil** would cast some of them into prison:

#### Revelation 2:10

"Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

Clearly, the devil did <u>not</u> <u>personally</u> cast any of the members of the church of <u>Smyrna</u> into prison. He influenced the <u>Roman emperors</u> to do his work while he remained in stealth.

Ellen White wrote that the dragon primarily represents Satan, but in a **secondary sense**, symbolizes the Roman emperors whom Satan influenced from behind the veil to **imprison** and slay Christians:

"The <u>dragon</u> is said to be <u>Satan</u> (Revelation 12:9); <u>he it was that</u> <u>moved</u> upon Herod to put the Savior to death. But the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and His people during the <u>first centuries</u> of the Christian Era was <u>the Roman</u> <u>Empire</u>, in which paganism was



the prevailing religion. Thus while the dragon, primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a <u>secondary sense</u>, a symbol of <u>pagan Rome</u>." <u>GC</u>, p. 438

# The Transition of Power from Pagan to Papal Rome

Revelation 13:2 explains that the Roman dragon gave its power, seat, and authority to the beast. The dragon here is a symbol of Satan working through the civil power of pagan Rome to transfer its throne to another Rome—papal Rome:

"Now the beast 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 gave him [the papal beast] his power, his throne, and great authority." Revelation 13:2

Thus, Satan, from behind the scenes, continued to accomplish his objectives by influencing the



pagan Roman empire to transfer its seat and authority to papal Rome. After all, the papacy is called the ROMAN

Catholic Church and historians describe the papacy as the successor of the Roman Empire. Thus, Ellen White wrote:

"In the sixth century 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]." GC, p. 54

# Attack on the Saints by the Papacy

Revelation 13:3-10 describes the career of papal **Rome** after it received its power, throne, and authority from the Roman Empire. The passage tells us that papal Rome ruled for 42 prophetic months (1260 literal years) during which it persecuted the saints:

"And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for <u>fortytwo months</u>. . . It was granted to him to make <u>war with the saints</u> and to <u>overcome</u> them." Revelation 13:5, 7

This prophecy in Revelation 13 echoes **Daniel 7** where the **papal little horn** used the civil powers of Europe to persecute and prevail against the saints of the Most High for a "time, times and the dividing of time":

"He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. . . I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them." Daniel 7:21, 25

### Attack on the Saints by the Dragon (Satan by Papal Rome)

Daniel 7:21, 25 and Revelation 13:5, 7 tell us that it was the little horn/the beast, that persecuted the saints and prevailed against them for 42 months/time, times

and half a time. However, the parallel prophecy of Revelation 12 gives us a deeper perspective. This chapter tells us that the **dragon** persecuted the saints for "time, times and the dividing of time". The little horn/the beast was the visible dragon doing the behest of the stealth DRAGON:

"Now when the <u>dragon</u> saw that he had been cast to the earth, <u>he</u> <u>persecuted</u> the woman who gave birth to the male Child. . . But <u>the</u> <u>woman</u> was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a <u>time</u> <u>and times and half a time</u>, from the presence of <u>the serpent</u>."

Revelation 12:6, 14

# Attack on the Final Remnant (Satan by Rome)

At the end of the 1260 years of persecution, the little horn/beast received a deadly wound (Revelation 13:3). However, prophecy tells us that the wound would heal and when it does, the same dragon that persecuted the saints for "a time and times and the dividing of time" will vent his hatred against the remnant of the woman's SEED:

"And the <u>dragon</u> was enraged with the woman, and he went

to <u>make war</u> with the <u>remnant</u> <u>of her Seed</u>, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17

The expression 'remnant of her Seed' has been misunderstood.



The early context of the chapter identifies the woman's Seed as Jesus (Revelation 12:1, 2), so the remnant of the woman's Seed must be the remnant of Jesus (cf. Galatians 3:16).

## The Dragon and the Two Beasts

However, the DRAGON, Satan, will not vent his anger against the remnant of Jesus **personally** and **visibly** but rather by recruiting two **visible** kingdoms of Revelation 13 who will work together visibly at the behest of the invisible, stealthy DRAGON. We have already seen that the little horn/the beast was the visible manifestation of the invisible DRAGON during the

1260 years. Likewise, the beast from the earth will be the <u>visible</u> <u>spokesman</u> of the invisible DRAGON in the end time:

"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and **spoke like a dragon**." Revelation 13:11

Revelation 13:11-18 clearly indicates that the land beast will ally itself with the sea beast, and together, they will do the bidding of the invisible DRAGON. Thus, they will be the DRAGON'S dragon:

- ► The land beast will speak like a dragon—Satan working through papal Rome.
- ► The land beast exercises all the <u>authority</u> of the <u>first</u> beast (13:12).
- ► It will force the whole world to worship the first beast (13:12).
- ► It will carry on its work "in the presence" of the first beast. The NIV translates, "on behalf of the first beast". The CEV: reads, "it worked for the beast" and the lexicons render "at the commissioning of the beast" (13:12, 14).
- ► It will make an <u>image of</u> the <u>first</u> beast (13:15).



- ► The image will be in honor to the beast the first beast and whoever does not worship the image will be sentenced to death (13:14)
- ► It will enforce the <u>mark</u> of the <u>first</u> beast on pain of not being able to <u>buy or sell</u> (13:16, 17)

### In Summary

- ► Enmity against the <u>male child</u>: Satan working through the civil power of pagan Rome.
- ► Enmity against the early church: The devil through the emperors of Rome.
- ► The persecution of the <u>saints/</u> <u>woman</u>: Satan working through papal Rome.
- ► The rage of the DRAGON against the remnant of Jesus: Satan working through the civil power of the United States who will do the bidding of papal Rome.

## The Relevance of Revelation 19:19, 20

Revelation 16:13, 14 describes three evil spirits who will confederate three earthly powers to persecute God's people at the very end of time:

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the [1] dragon, out of the mouth of the [2] beast, and out of the mouth of the [3] false prophet for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Revelation 16:13, 14

We encountered these three powers previously in Revelation 12 and 13. The only difference is that the beast from the earth is described as the false prophet. We know that the earth beast and the false prophet represent the same power because Revelation 13:14 and Revelation 19:20 describe both as doing "signs in the presence of the beast to deceive those who dwell on the earth".

The same wicked trilogy comes to view again in Revelation 19:19, 20 with one **notable difference**. The DRAGON—Satan—is replaced by the kings of the earth:

"And I saw the [1] beast, the [2] kings of the earth, and their armies [the wicked subjects of the kings], gathered together [cf. Revelation 16:14] to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. <sup>20</sup> Then the beast was captured, and with him the [3] false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image." Revelation 19:19, 20



Why do the kings of the earth in Revelation 19:19, 20 replace the DRAGON of Revelation 16:13? The answer is that Satan, the real DRAGON, is out of sight while his emissaries, the kings of the earth, are the visible "dragon". Ellen White explained that the dragon of Revelation 12:17 before the millennium represents Satan working through the civil rulers of the world:

"Kings and rulers and governors have placed the brand of

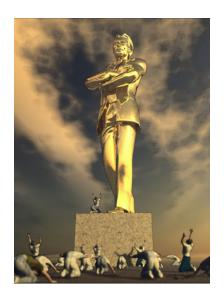
antichrist upon themselves and are <u>represented as the dragon</u> who goes to make war with the saints—with those who keep the commandments of God and who have the faith of Jesus." <u>TM</u>, p. 39

The DRAGON who stealthily deceived the kings before the millennium is exiled in the very next chapter during the millennium when the kings of the earth are all dead:

"He laid hold of the <u>dragon</u>, that <u>serpent</u> of old, who is the <u>Devil</u> and <u>Satan</u>, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup> and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should <u>deceive the nations no more</u> [all the kings are dead] till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be <u>released</u> [to deceive once again] for a little while." Revelation 20:2-3

## Before the Millennium

As we have seen, both Satan and the civil rulers are described with the word *dragon*. So to speak, Satan is the DRAGON and the civil rulers are the DRAGON'S "dragon". **Before** the second coming, Satan works by **stealth**, **invisibly**, **under the radar** through the **civil powers** 



of the world. For this reason, before their destruction at the second coming, the civil rulers of the earth will be **oblivious** and **willfully ignorant** that the **DRAGON**—Satan—has inspired and orchestrated **their actions** from behind the veil. Having rejected the Bible's "**vertical**" world view they will look at historical events only on a "**horizontal level**".

### Satan Visible After the Millennium

After the millennium, all the wicked civil rulers of history will resurrect, the veil between the visible and invisible world will be removed and they will see

Satan with their physical eyes. At this point, Satan will no longer be in stealth mode, working from behind the veil. He will be clearly visible, orchestrating the armies of the world (Revelation 12:7-9) while hiding his true identity. He will claim to be the legitimate ruler of the world whose position has been usurped by Christ:

"The wicked are Satan's captives. In rejecting Christ, they have accepted the rule of the rebel leader. They are ready to receive his suggestions and to do his bidding. Yet, true to his early cunning [in Eden], he does not acknowledge himself to be Satan. He claims to be the prince who is the **rightful owner** of the world and whose inheritance has been unlawfully wrested from him. He represents himself to his deluded subjects as a redeemer, assuring them that his power has brought them forth from their graves and that he is about to rescue them from the cruelest tyranny. The presence of Christ having been removed, Satan works wonders to support his claims. He makes the weak strong and inspires all with his own spirit and energy. He proposes to lead them against the camp of the saints and to take possession of the City of God. With fiendish exultation he points to the unnumbered millions who

have been raised from the dead and declares that as their leader he is well able to overthrow the city and <u>regain his throne</u> and his kingdom." <u>GC</u>, p. 663

Satan will rally all the military leaders of history for an attack on the Holy City (Revelation 20:8). Because Satan was invisible to the civil rulers before the millennium, they will be oblivious that he was behind the veil influencing their decisions and actions while they lived. Therefore, they will buy into Satan's lie, not knowing who he really is. At this point Satan will be the DRAGON inspiring and leading the "dragon"—the kings of the earth and the whole world.

However, when Satan and his wicked followers are **prepared to attack** the city, God will reveal, in a **panoramic view**, the **true history** of Satan and the role that the civil rulers played in doing **his bidding**. **For the first time**, the wicked civil rulers will understand who Satan **really is**, and how he **deceived them** to do his bidding, but it will be **too late**. They will be filled with **fury against Satan** because they know who he really is and they will **turn against him**:

"He rushes into the midst of his subjects and endeavors to inspire them with his own fury and



arouse them to instant battle. But of all the <u>countless millions</u> whom he has allured into rebellion, there are none now to acknowledge his supremacy. <u>His power is at an end</u>. The wicked are filled with the same hatred of God that inspires Satan; but they see that their case is hopeless, that they cannot prevail against Jehovah. Their rage is kindled against Satan and those who have been his agents in deception, and with the fury of demons they turn upon them." <u>GC</u>, p. 671

# A Contemporary Issue: Climate Change

Unfortunately, **politicians**, the **populace**, and even a preponderance of **Christians** get their news from what they read in the **newspapers**, from the **internet**, and from what they watch on **social media** and **television**; that is, from "**horizontal history**". Failing to prayerfully study the Bible, they attribute the **meltdown in nature** to **human factors** such as climate change. Meanwhile, Satan is causing the meltdown

from behind the veil and he goes undetected.

Having <u>cast aside the Bible</u>, the secular world and even some Christians have a <u>superficial view</u> of history. They <u>willfully forget</u> (2 Peter 3:1-4) that the <u>two greatest climate</u> changes in Bible history were the <u>flood</u> and the drought in the days of <u>Elijah</u> and that the cause was not the use of fossil fuels, air conditioners, animal dung, and gas stoves but rather the <u>wickedness</u> of man (Genesis 6:5; 1 Kings 16:30-33).

Ellen White perceptively wrote:

"The restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land, follow each other in quick succession. Science seeks to explain all these. The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause. Men cannot discern the sentinel angels **restraining** the four winds that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed; but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such



a scene of strife as no pen can picture." <u>6T</u>, p. 408

The political left claims that climate change is an existential threat due to human factors. On the other hand, many on the political right deny that there is even such a thing as climate change. Both sides of the political spectrum miss the point because they are merely looking at "horizontal history"! Many, having adopted an evolutionary worldview, propose horizontal solutions to a vertical problem.

To deny that there is climate change is to be willfully ignorant and to attribute it to human factors is misguided. Having cast aside the biblical worldview, both sides of the political spectrum are blind to the **real issue** that will bring them together—Satan's desire to **scapegoat** those who are faithful to the Creator in the observance of His Sabbath. We can be thankful that the Bible and The Great Controversy remove the veil that hides the invisible. "vertical realm" from the visible "horizontal"

Matthew 24:6-8 describes the turmoil in the <u>natural</u> and <u>social</u> world as the end approaches. There will be wars, rumors of <u>wars</u>, <u>pestilence</u>, <u>famines</u>, <u>earthquakes</u>, and <u>tumults</u> (Mark 13:8). <u>Why</u> will these things occur? The world blames climate change. However, the very next verse explains that it is Satan's intention to blame God's faithful people and rally the secular and religious powers to persecute them:

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake." Matthew 24:9

Like in the days of Elijah, God's people will be blamed for the turmoil in society and the meltdown in nature when the cause lies elsewhere. Notably, Matthew 24 does not directly tell us who will be behind these calamities and why. However, Ellen White removes the veil and reveals who is causing climate change and the meltdown of society and what his ultimate agenda is:

"While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, Satan

will bring disease and disaster, until **populous cities** are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly *taint*, and thousands perish by the **pestilence**. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. . . And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God's commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration



to divine favor and temporal prosperity." GC, pp, 589, 590

# The World's Last Stand and Hope

Satan's stealth war is for world domination. He hides and maneuvers invisibly to human eyes to recruit governments, churches and individuals to do his bidding. The Seventhday Adventist Church and its individual members are the focus of Satan's undivided attention:

"He numbers the world as his subjects; but the little company who keep the commandments of God are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete." GC, p. 618

Satan knows that the Seventhday Adventist Church has the message that removes the veil and clearly unmasks his stealth work. For this reason, he is seeking to **divide** the church and **distract** it from its mission of proclaiming the truth for this time. He not only works in the **macrocosm** of world history but also the microcosm of each individual person. The question we should ask ourselves is who is guiding our lives in the great drama of world history.

# What should we be doing?

So the question is, what should we be doing as individuals in light of what we have studied? In closing, Ellen White gives us some inspired advice:

"God has revealed what is to take place in the last days, that His people may be prepared to stand against the tempest of opposition and wrath. Those who have been warned of the events before them are not to sit in calm **expectation** of the coming storm, comforting themselves that the Lord will shelter His faithful ones in the day of trouble. We are to be as men waiting for their Lord, not in idle expectancy, but in earnest work, with unwavering faith. It is no time now to allow our minds to be engrossed with things of minor importance.

While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that the Lord's people may not have *mercy or justice*. The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement do not themselves **see** whither the undercurrent is tending. Its professions are mild and apparently Christian, but when it shall speak it will reveal the **spirit** of the dragon. It is our duty to do all in our power to avert the threatened danger. We should endeavor to **disarm** prejudice by placing ourselves in a proper light before the people. We should bring before them the real question at issue, thus interposing the most effectual protest against measures to restrict liberty of **conscience**. We should search the Scriptures and be able to give the reason for our faith. Says the prophet: 'The wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." 5T, p. 452



**Pastor Stephen Bohr** 

### **Prison Ministry: Following His Steps**

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." Luke 4:18, 19. Such were the words of lesus, read from the Book of Isaiah, as He introduced the nature and objectives of His earthly ministry to the world. To His listeners He described Messiah "as a reliever of the oppressed, a liberator of captives, a healer of the afflicted, restoring sight to the bind, and revealing to the world the light of truth." I

hrist's followers in every age have been entrusted to carry on His ministry to those that are weary and heavy-laden. As a key component of our work at Secrets Unsealed, the Worthy Viewer Fund provides those behind bars with messages of hope and encouragement through free resources. Recently we were asked to visit a State prison located about 45 minutes north of Fresno. A group of Seventh-day Adventist inmates there meet weekly to study and worship together, along with a couple of members from a Fresno area church. Since 2012 the group of about 30-45 inmates have experienced the Lord's blessings of 2-4 baptisms a year. Please pray for our outreach there and for the many other groups around the country that are meeting together to study the word of God with our materials. Following are a sample of the many testimonies we receive daily from our friends in prison:

"Dear Fellow Christians, I cannot begin to express my gratitude for the materials you sent me. My whole life I've just been an 'every once in a while Christian'...It wasn't until I was incarcerated in December of 2021 and was sentenced to life that I started digging into the Word...I consider everything you send me as a

White, E. G. (1898), The Desire of Ages. Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association

blessing from God and often share some of what I learn with the brethren that go to our daily prayer circle. I can't thank you enough and am looking forward to being able to learn even more." From Ronald in Indiana.

"Thank you again for food in due season. After 27 years in this wonderful journey called 'Christianity' your studies are honest, on point, and correcting those ideas put forth by others that just didn't make sense to me...I'm so grateful for your kindness and generosity towards inmates. I really hope to meet you all on the sea of glass!" From Michael in Nevada.

"I love the free catalog. It has been a blessing in my life. I appreciate you for being involved with inmates and helping us stay as close to God as possible. I'm sorry I have no funds to donate, but if I did I would give it all." From Travell in Kansas

"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



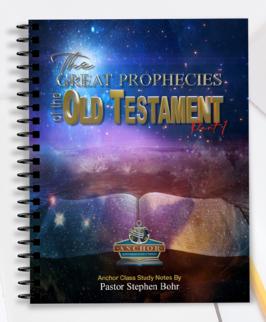
Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Down: I Cattle, 2 Acre, 3 Owner, 4 Nets, 6 Ever, 7 Spirit, 11 Beller, 12 Light, 13 See, 16 Nursed, 17 Taken, 20 Sow, 21 Second, 23 Lights, 24 Perga, 25 Have, 26 Vold, 27 Sign.

Across 1 Creation, 5 Seas, 8 Web, 9 Third, 10 NT, 11 Be, 12 Lesser, 14 Air, 15 Eden, 10 Be, 12 Lesser, 14 Air, 15 Eden, 24 Pen, 25 Heaven, 28 Ad, 29 Or, 30 Pifth, 31 Fig. 32 Deep, 33 Darkness.

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CREATION CROSSWORD ANSWER KEY



# A MUST-READ



#### SKU: BANCHOR23

Pastor Stephen Bohr details some of the minor prophets that are closely linked with the book of Revelation.

Among those are Habakkuk, Nahum, Joel and Jonah.

We will also study portions of the major prophets that are developed in the book of Revelation such as Jeremiah 4, Isaiah 24-27, 36-38 and Ezekiel 38, 39, among others.



But this is not all, he also compares God's perspective of prophecy and ours as well as prophecies that are rarely considered, such as the typological meaning of the cities of refuge, the glory on the face of Moses as he descended from the mount, and the typological parallels between the building of the Jerusalem wall by Nehemiah and our parallel work today.





AN•CHOR ('an-ker), n a seminary-level course of study on the fundamentals of Seventh-day Adventist theology, taught by Pastor Stephen Bohr.



Held at Secrets Unsealed, 5949 E. Clinton Ave., Fresno, CA 93727

# TO WHEAT OR NOT

heat. Healthful or harmful? Everybody has an opinion. One thing is certain: wheat is one of the most important staple foods in the world, along with rice and corn. From Genesis (Gen. 30:14) to Revelation (Rev. 18:13) we find references to this ancient cereal grain, used globally in breads, pastas and other foods. With the recent war in Ukraine. an important producer of wheat, we've seen dire headlines like "Ukraine War Threatens to Cause a Global Food Crisis" highlighting its significance.

### Wheat 101

Wheat supplies a major source of carbohydrates in the human diet in the form of starch, as well as protein. In addition, it contains valuable nutrients like fiber, phytochemicals, vitamins and minerals. The unique quality of its protein, gluten, gives structure and elasticity to baked products like bread and other baked goods.

So what's all the fuss about? Unfortunately, wheat can be problematic in a number of ways. First, gluten, also found in other grains like rye and barley, is associated with several autoimmune disorders, notably

celiac disease. In addition, various non-gluten wheat components make this grain a common allergen. Of increasing concern are individuals with non-celiac gluten sensitivity with symptoms similar to celiac disease and wheat allergy.

### Gluten-free for All?

It has been suggested that there are many reasons or misconceptions why the glutenfree diet has become more common. In recent years, interest in gluten-free diets has grown in popularity among those who have reported experiencing gastrointestinal symptoms from exposure to gluten without having celiac disease. Furthermore, public perception increasingly views this diet as healthier and possibly helpful in alleviating nonspecific gastrointestinal symptoms. Additionally, glutenfree products are now more widely available on the market. Others believe that a gluten-free diet will help them lose weight or that current wheat varieties contain more gluten than the older ones.

Although an assortment of gluten-free products is now commonly available in the

# TO WHEAT

marketplace, many are made with white rice flour, tapioca starch, cornstarch, or other refined flours. A review of articles on glutenfree diets revealed their lack of fiber, vitamins and minerals and inferiority in nutritional quality. Others have suggested that the promotion of gluten-free diets among people without celiac disease should not be encouraged due to reduced consumption of healthy whole grains, known to lower risk of heart disease. Also, clear evidence linking whole grains to reduced risk of cancer, stroke, diabetes, obesity and other chronic diseases raises concerns about the gluten-free diet. Interestingly, in one study the gluten-free diet was shown to negatively affect the gut microbe balance, and lower immune response when compared with those on a regular diet.

Can the gluten-free diet, then, be well-balanced? The simple answer is, yes, if carefully planned. Importantly, substituting wheat with brown rice, quinoa, or other whole grains instead of refined, low-nutrient-dense, gluten-free products can provide much-needed fiber and other micronutrients in a diet that also includes fruits, vegetables, and legumes.

### The Bottom Line

Avoiding gluten is clearly beneficial for those with gastrointestinal symptoms (estimated to be about 6% of the US public); however, evidence is lacking to support the glutenfree diet for those without gluten-related diseases. And finally, inspiration offers us a most reliable guiding principle: "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

#### Jeanne Wheaton M.S, Registered Dietitian

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<sup>11</sup> I Cor 10:31 (NKJV)

### "Then the Lord said to Elijah,

go to Jezebel's country to the village of Zarephath. I want you to stay there until the drought is over. I've asked a widow who lives there to feed you. Though she is not an Israelite, she believes in me. So Elijah left the valley and made his way to Zarephath. As he got close to the village he saw a woman just outside the gate picking up sticks. He stopped and asked, "Would you be so kind as to get me a drink of water? I've been walking for days and would really appreciate it."The woman laid down her sticks to go to the village well to get a drink for Elijah. As she started to go, he said, "Could you also please bring me a piece of bread?" She turned around and said, "as truly as the Lord lives, I don't have any bread. All I have is a little flour and a little olive oil. I was

here to get some sticks to make a small fire so my son and I could have one last meal and get ready to die because the drought is just too much." Elijah said, "Take your sticks, go home and make a small cake of bread for me and bring it here. Then go back and make some for yourself and your son. The Lord God of Israel has told me, "the flour and oil will last until the drought is over." While not an Israelite, she accepted the message from the Lord that Elijah gave her. She went home and made a little cake from the last of her flour and oil and brought it to Elijah. When she went back home, she found that her container had still more flour and her jug still more oil. She ran back to Elijah and invited him to stay with her, and there was plenty of bread for all of them. The flour and oil never ran out, just as the Lord said."

I Kings 17:8-16 Clear Word



## GOD IS

That an amazing story. The times were strange and hearts hard, as they are now. If anything good was to be accomplished, God must manifest Himself in ways most unusual. Whatever means it might take, however long the time, God would demonstrate the fact before the nation that He was God and that He would take care of His own. God has not changed. We are living in strange times but He will again manifest Himself in dramatic and unusual ways.

The Lord prompted the prophet to make this request for bread. God knew exactly the situation that prevailed, the dire poverty of the widow and the prophets need for bread. Being in such desperate need herself, would the widow feel she was able to deny her own son in order to give to a stranger from another land?

The request was a test of faith. The widow had just explained her own financial straits. Her meager store was almost gone....only enough left for one last meal and then starvation. The request was accompanied by a promise. She was told of the blessings that her giving would bring. God made clear to her that if she gave to the prophet, HE would return to her far more than she had given. She met the test and was richly rewarded.

She ate because she believed the promise of God. Thousands about

find even in this life a fullness of joy and blessings that despisers of His grace can never know. Matthew 6:25, 33.

The widow had a most unusual confirmation of the reliability of the word of the Lord. God had promised and He had done all that He promised. The Lord's promises are always sure. "It is well for every child of God to hold fast the profession of his faith without wavering, for He is faithful that promised." Heb. 10:23 God is as good, as powerful, as close to us today as He was to the widow.

"I say to you, take no thought for your life, what you shall eat, or what you shall drink, ....is not life more than meat and the body than raiment? Your heavenly Father knoweth you have need of all these things but seek ye first the kingdom of God and His Righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:25,32,33

# SO FAITHFUL

her, those who trusted in Baal, were starving. When the call came to give, she had only enough left for one last meal for herself and son. But when she had given, she had enough for herself and all her house and the prophet as well, for many days: she found life and blessings because of her faith. "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth." Proverbs 11:24

God's store never runs bare. The Lord is the source of all blessings. Those who learn to rely on Him will "HE who gives men power to get wealth has with the gift bound up an obligation." Education, p. 138 "It is required of stewards that a man be found faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:2 "The goods that we handle are not for our own and never can this fact safely be lost sight of. We are but stewards and on the discharge of our obligation to God and man depend both the welfare of our fellow beings and our own destiny for this life and the life to come." Education, p. 139

There is that scattereth and yet increaseth; and there is that witholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. Cast thy bread upon the waters for thou shalt find it after many days." Proverbs 11:24,25

"Give and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed down and shaken together and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure to you again." Luke 6:38

Friend, the call for you to give is now. We are on the verge of a mighty breakthrough with increase in growth and outreach from the expanding ministry. Experience the satisfaction of participation in giving and making it happen now. Your valued prayers and cash gifts are touching hearts and changing lives for eternity.

I want to remind you of other ways you can help and be a faithful steward; which are wise decisions in your estate planning:

- 1. Do you have a WILL or TRUST that includes Secrets Unsealed as a beneficiary?
- 2. Would you consider your annual IRA distribution or portion of it to help bless this ministry?

- Would you like a guaranteed life income from a Charitable Gift Annuity as you help this ministry? [funded with cash, bonds, stocks or real estate].
- 4. Have you thought of an outright gift of real estate, stocks or bonds avoiding capital gains?
- 5. Have you considered listing Secrets Unsealed as a beneficiary on your life insurance, IRA and retirement plans or brokerage acct. or bank account? This does not affect your present income but are precious gifts as you plan ahead to further God's work.
- 6. Are there gifts of automobiles, RV's, boats or jewelry that you would like to contribute?

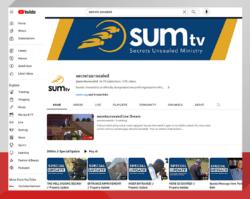
Call us and we will be glad to assist you with any of these. Thank you for your precious prayers and partnership.



Pastor John Bridges jthistory58@yahoo.com 225-505-0231



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