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Seventh-day Adventism

—Paul Miller

In this article, we would like to address the Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, which have taken some plain families by storm. I'd like to thank Paul Miller for the many hours of research and studying he did to prepare for this. May the Spirit of God give you, the reader, clarity of mind as you begin to understand the why's and how's of Seventh-day Adventism. —Joe Keim

Seventh-day Adventism is a growing religion. Some people are convinced that it is a legitimate branch of evangelical Protestantism, while others view it as a deceptive cult to be avoided at all costs. Of course, we need to be interested in truth, especially when it comes to matters of eternity and God's Word. We should not be content with partial truth, and we should want to avoid truth mixed with error. Even Satan mixes his lies with God's truth in an attempt to deceive many. Sadly, taking God's Word and mixing in a little man-made religion

is far too common. Often it ends up in lies and deception, resulting in eternal death.

Are the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist church right? If you follow the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist church, will you go to heaven? What are the Biblical qualifications to make it to heaven? Do you have to be nice? Must you be religious? Are you required to go to church? How many good deeds do you have to do? Do you have to teach others about Jesus? What about those who cast out demons or do miracles?

Our standards for going to heaven would probably be much different than God's. For example, if you knew someone who was nice, religious, belonged to a good church, helped others, taught the Bible, and even cast out demons in the name of Jesus, would you let him into heaven? Most of us probably would. However, Jesus tells us: *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess*

unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (Matthew 7:21-23).

We need to know what **God's requirements** are. We can find His requirements in the Bible, and that is where we all should be looking. Do we get to heaven by following a specific group or religion? If we are saved by faith, is it up to us to keep that salvation by works? What does God say? *Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?* (Galatians 3:3). Is salvation by works or faith—or both? *And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work* (Romans 11:6).

There are many religious groups today that use the Bible but include some specific beliefs that are not found in the Bible. For some groups (and it seems that the Seventh-day Adventists are included here) some of their most prominent and distinctive

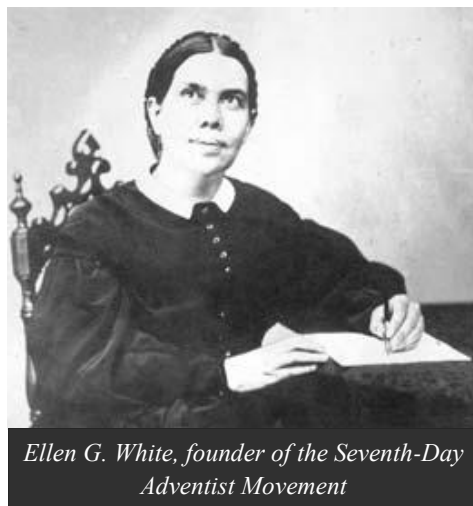
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teachings cannot be found in God's Word—at least not without a whole lot of stretching and twisting. The apostle Paul wrote: *But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed* (Galatians 1:8). It is surprising, therefore, to learn that the founders of many religious groups (i.e. Seventh-day Adventists, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses) claim to have had special revelations or visions from God, or special visits from an angel. Many of these "angels" seem to have given messages that contradict the Bible. Often, more emphasis is placed on these visions and revelations than on the pure Word of God—the Holy Scriptures.

For example, Joseph Smith claimed to have had visits from the angel Moroni. The angel supposedly led him to the golden plates that Smith translated into what became known as the Book of Mormon. Jehovah's Witnesses say that "scripture therefore suggests that Jesus himself is the archangel Michael" and that "the Bible indicates that Michael is another name for Jesus Christ" (jw.org), and He came to earth again in 1914 (invisibly). By the way, Charles Taze Russell, early leader of the "Jehovah's Witnesses," was greatly influenced in his beliefs by the early Seventh-Day Adventists.

What about the Seventh-Day Adventists? They have many good teachings. They do much good around the world. Much of what they teach

seems to be Biblical. However, their founders, Ellen G. White being one of them, formed some of their main teachings on the basis of visions or by visits from angels. Having claimed in the past that these teachings came from God by way of an angel, they cannot now deny these messages and claims without denying that God gave them.



Ellen G. White, founder of the Seventh-Day Adventist Movement

The Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA) church is headquartered in Silver Spring, Maryland, and has nearly 20 million members in over 200 countries around the world. Its origins can be traced back to a Baptist preacher named William Miller, who was convinced that Daniel 8:14 taught that Jesus would return to earth in 1843. (His return is known as "advent"). Jesus did not return in 1843. Miller, recalculating his figures, determined that he was off a year, and that Jesus would return on October 22, 1844. Jesus did not return then, either. Now what would they do? Would the group of "Millerites" die off?

Fortunately for them, a man named Hiram Edson claimed that he had a vision from God. His vision showed him that the date of October 22, 1844, was not the day when Jesus was to return to earth, but was the day when Jesus entered the heavenly sanctuary and began His "investigative judgment." The "truth" of this vision was confirmed by Ellen G. White, who claimed to have prophetic gifts. From 1844-1851, White also taught that the door of mercy had closed in 1844, so no one else could be saved. Of course, after more people later converted to Seventh-Day Adventism, she had to change her story.

While many of the teachings of Seventh-Day Adventism seem true to the Bible, some of their teachings seem quite foreign to God's Word. It is those teachings which should concern us. Some of these teachings include the investigative judgment, the command to worship God on the seventh day of the week (Saturday) rather than on Sunday, the three angels' messages of Revelation 14, and annihilationism. According to their official Statement of 28 Fundamental Beliefs, the SDA church believes that in addition to the Bible, the many writings of Ellen G. White "are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction."

Some people turn to Seventh-Day

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Adventism because it sounds like a nice, peaceful, Biblical religion. Others are dissatisfied with their current religion full of rules and law-keeping, and so find a little more freedom in the SDA church. However, this may be what the prophet Amos described: *As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him* (Amos 5:19). It is not beneficial to go from one man-made religion to another man-made religion; both are deadly.

Let us look at some of these SDA teachings and see if they are indeed Biblical, or if the messages contained in these alleged visions and messages are outside of and contrary to the truth of the Bible.

Investigative Judgment

Even Seventh-day Adventists find the teaching of the investigative judgment hard to fully understand, and it is difficult to explain from the Bible. Simply reading the Bible, one would likely never think of such a belief. The official Seventh-Day Adventism teaching on the investigative judgment is:

“There is a sanctuary in heaven, the true tabernacle that God set up and not man. In it, Christ ministers on our behalf, making available to believers the benefits of His atoning sacrifice offered once for all on the cross. He was inaugurated as our great High Priest and began His intercessory ministry at the time of His ascension. In 1844, at the end of the prophetic period of 2,300 days, He entered the second and last phase of His atoning ministry (28 *Fundamental Beliefs*, no. 24).”

Now read Daniel 8:13-14: *Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake,*

How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

The typical person who reads Daniel 8 would never conclude that those verses teach that that on October 22, 1844, Jesus entered the heavenly sanctuary to begin an investigative judgment and the second phase of His atoning work. That interpretation is not found in the Bible.

The typical person who reads Daniel 8:14 would think that 2,300 days means 2,300 days. William Miller, however, read Daniel 8:14 and concluded that the 2,300 days really meant 2,300 years. To him that meant Jesus was going to return to earth 2,300 years after 457 B.C., which Miller calculated was in 1843. When Jesus did not return in 1843, Miller did an “Oops,” said he miscalculated, and said that Jesus was really going to return on October 22, 1844. When Jesus did not return on that date (known as the “Great Disappointment”), they were not sure what to do.

Then another SDA man, Hiram Edson, claimed to have had a vision in which it was revealed to him that October 22, 1844 was not the day that Jesus was to return to earth, but was the day that Jesus was to enter the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary for the first time. Jesus had been in the Holy Place, they teach, but on October 22, 1844, Jesus entered the Most Holy Place to begin His investigative judgment—“the second and last phase of His atoning ministry.”

In this investigative judgment, the Seventh-Day Adventists teach that Jesus is supposedly investigating who among

the dead had trusted in Jesus and who among the living are abiding in Him, so one’s eternal fate is not certain until Jesus finishes His investigation. However, the Bible tells us that Jesus has already declared that the thief on the cross would be with Him in paradise (Luke 22:43), and also that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would be in heaven (Matthew 8:11). How could He already know those things if He first had to do an investigative judgment? According to the teaching of investigative judgment, Jesus begins with the dead and moves on to the living. We never know when He will get to us, so we had better be good so that when our turn comes up, Jesus will approve of us.

According to Ellen G. White, “Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected. When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book of God’s remembrance” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 483). One day, Jesus will allegedly place the confessed sins of the Christians onto the head of Satan (like the priest did to the scapegoat in Leviticus 16) who will be punished for us.

According to Ellen G. White, “When sin has been repented of, confessed, and forsaken, then pardon is written against the sinner’s name; but his sins are not blotted out until after the investigative judgment” (*The Whole Duty of Man*, May 16, 1895). God said: *I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins* (Isaiah 43:25).

When one is born again, his or her

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sins are then blotted out. There is no need to wait for a supposed investigative judgment. *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross* (Colossians 2:13-14).

Don't be concerned if you do not fully understand this SDA teaching on the investigative judgment. It seems that not many do. It is enough to know that this teaching, one of the Seventh-Day Adventist's most important, is found nowhere in the Bible and is in fact contrary to the Bible. While the SDA church claims that on October 22, 1844, Jesus entered "within the veil" to the Most Holy Place to begin the second phase of His atoning work, Hebrews 6:19-20 tells us that Jesus already entered "within the veil" at His ascension. While the SDA investigative judgment teaching says that on October 22, 1844, Jesus began the second phase of His atoning ministry, the Bible says that the atoning work of Jesus is finished, that those who put their faith in Jesus have their sins forgiven (Colossians 2:13-14). Jesus paid it all by His death on the cross; there is not a part one and a part two of the atonement. The apostle Paul wrote: *we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement* (Romans 5:11).

There are many problems with this

investigative judgment teaching. The SDA church teaches that Satan is the scapegoat who is punished for our sins. The Bible says that Jesus is our scapegoat who was punished for our sins: *For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach* (Hebrews 13:11-13).

Annihilationism

There are additional historical and Biblical problems with the investigative judgment teaching, but let us move on and look at a few more problems with the teachings of the Seventh-Day Adventist church. The SDA church teaches that while the redeemed will have eternal life,

*"And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."
Matthew 25:46*

those who are not redeemed will be temporarily punished and then simply exist no more—that there is no eternal suffering or eternal lake of fire. In fact, the SDA church teaches that those who die simply remain in an unconscious state until the judgment. They teach that our deceased loved ones "are not burning in hell—or enjoying the bliss of heaven while watching us continue to suffer through life on earth without them. They are simply resting until God gives them

His final call" (<http://www.adventist.org/en/beliefs/apocalypse/death-and-resurrection/article/go/0/three-things-you-should-know-about-death>).

The redeemed will be resurrected and will be given eternal life, while the wicked will be resurrected and will be judged and condemned to the second death. However, the SDA church teaches that "the second death refers to annihilation (or extinction) of the unrepentant, rather than a continual and eternal conscious torment" (<http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/apocalypse/death-and-resurrection/article/go/0/waking-up-to-eternity>).

That is, the Seventh-Day Adventist church teaches that there is no eternal lake of fire; the wicked are simply burned up and cease to exist. Let us hear God's Word speak on this matter. Daniel writes that the dead will indeed be resurrected:

some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt (Daniel 12:2). Jesus Himself warned us: *it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire* (Matthew 18:8). Again

Jesus tells us of everlasting fire, and that *these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal* (Matthew 25:41, 46). We read in Revelation 14:10-11 that the wicked *shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever.*

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Revelation 20 explains what will happen: *death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire* (Revelation 20:14-15). Although the SDA church teaches that this second death is short and temporary, it would be far better to hear God's explanation of how long the lake of fire lasts: *the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever* (Revelation 20:10).



These and other Bible verses show that though it might be more pleasant to think of the wicked suffering a little punishment and then ceasing to exist, God tells us that the lake of fire and the punishment and torment of the wicked is for ever and ever. ***Which will you believe: the SDA church or the Word of God?***

Sabbath Day

Another emphasis of the Seventh-Day Adventist church is the belief that the only proper day to worship God is on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath. In fact, they tie this in with their emphasis on the three angels' messages of Revelation 14. The message of the first angel, they believe, is to preach the everlasting gospel (the SDA message) to all people. The message of the second angel is the fall of Babylon, in part due to the corruption of the Protestant churches which have rejected the SDA "truth." The third angel's message deals with the

mark of the beast and the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath. The observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, they teach, is the seal of God identifying the true followers of God.

We see in the Bible that the apostles met on the first day of the week. We see throughout church history that Christians met on the "Lord's Day," or the first day

of the week. However, Jesus taught that *true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth* (John 4:23-24). While the great majority of Christians since the time of the early church worshipped and still meet together on Sunday, whether a church meets on Saturday or on Sunday is neither a matter of salvation, nor a determination of who receives the mark of the beast. True Christians can meet on Saturday or on Sunday (though the great majority since the resurrection have met on the Lord's Day). It would be quite wrong to declare that those who worship God on one day rather than the other cannot be born again.

Conclusion

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from

the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him (2 Corinthians 11:3-4).

There are many false religions in the world. Many of these false religions are related to Christianity. Some of these sound very good and are often difficult to distinguish from true Christianity. To detect these counterfeit religions, we must know the truth. It is not enough to be told what to believe or even to trust that what someone tells us is right, even if someone seems to

use to Bible to prove one's beliefs. Remember: Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Roman Catholics, Anabaptists, Seventh-Day Adventists, Baptists, Methodists, and others all use the Bible and claim to have the truth; however, not all of these groups teach God's truth. It is not enough to use the Bible to teach a belief, for even Satan does this. In the Garden of Eden, Satan asked Eve, *Yea, hath God said . . . ?* Satan quoted from the Bible as he was tempting Jesus in the wilderness. We must be careful to examine God's Word and to seek God rather than simply believe man.

Like the Berean Jews who *received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so* (Acts 17:11), let us search the Scriptures daily and make sure that we are not being deceived

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by a religious system of works that cannot bring us true peace, love, and forgiveness.

The Seventh-Day Adventist church may sound very good and Biblical. They use the Bible to explain many of their beliefs. There may be some true Christians in the SDA church, just as there may be true some Christians in other Christian-based religions. However, what has been explained here regarding Sabbath-keeping, annihilationism, and investigative judgment ought to be enough to warn you to be careful and to seek God's Word. Many people are attracted to the kindness and teachings of the Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh-Day Adventists, and others.

Satan can transform himself into an angel of light. We must be careful with any group that teaches that we are saved by faith in Jesus, but then must keep that salvation by works or by following rules, just as we must be careful about those religious groups that teach that we are saved by keeping rules or belonging to a specific church.

Freedom comes by way of faith in Jesus. We are truly free when we repent of our sins, trust in the Savior, and are forgiven for our sins and adopted into the family of God. If you become a son or daughter of the King of Kings, you do not have to work and keep rules and follow laws in order to remain a child of the king. Your faithful life and actions can help to prove

that you have been changed by God's Holy Spirit and adopted into God's family, but you do not keep your adopted status based upon your works.

Are you bound in a religious system of works and rules, or have you found the peace, truth, and freedom that come through Jesus Christ alone?

Are you looking for truth? Be careful that you do not go from one religious system to another. Go to Jesus alone. Trust in Him and in the Word of God. Find a church that teaches the Bible and not man's traditions in place of the Bible.

How is it with you? Will you trust in a church or a religion, or in Jesus Christ?

END

CAN BORN AGAIN CHRISTIANS LOSE THEIR SALVATION?

By Hank Hanegraaff

Sincere believers are sharply divided on this question. Some say Christians *can* lose their salvation and subsequently must be born again and again if they fall away. Others contend that true believers *cannot* lose their salvation through sin, but they can apostatize or walk away from their salvation. Still others hold that salvation begins at the moment of conversion (not death) and continues for all eternity—I hold this view for several reasons.

First, outward appearances can be deceiving. Consider Judas. For three years, he was part of Christ's inner circle. From all outward appearances, he was a true follower of Christ. Yet, Jesus characterized Judas as "a devil" (John 6:70). The book of Hebrews warns us that there were Jews who, like Judas, tasted God's goodness and yet turned from his grace. They acknowledged Christ with their lips, but their apostasy proved that their faith was not real.

Furthermore, we would do well to remember that everlasting life means just that—life everlasting. This life does not begin when we die but when we embrace the Savior who died in our

place. As our physical birth can never be undone, so, too, our spiritual birth can never be undone. Christ said "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7), not "ye must be born again and again and again." In Philippians, Paul praises God for the confidence that, "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

Finally, Scripture is replete with passages that testify to the security of the believer. John 5:24 assures us that "he who believes ... *has* eternal life"; 1 Corinthians 1:8 promises that Christ will "confirm you unto the end"; and Jude 24 guarantees that God "is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." Moreover, Ephesians provides the surety that "ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory" (1:13-14). As has been well said, the Lord's trees are evergreen.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. —John 10:27-29

Part 5

AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS

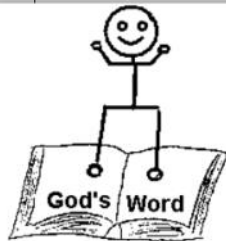
As the world continues to turn its back on God, we want to take a look at what the future holds according to the One who is the Beginning and the End—God! We hope you enjoy and benefit from this series, courtesy of Middletown Bible Church. Follow along, fill in the blanks, and look up! May we all be ready for the return of Jesus Christ!

You will need a Bible for this lesson.

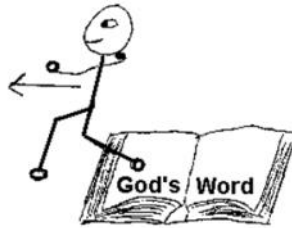
Who Is Standing On The Bible?

Let's learn something else about these difficult days in which we live. The Bible says in 1 Timothy 4:1, *"That in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons."*

The devil loves to deceive men and draw them away from the truth. This verse is telling us that there will be some who will depart from God's truth. They were once standing on God's truth, but then they walked away:



Standing on the Bible



Walking Away and Departing from the Truth

Watch Out For The False Teachers!

In 2 Peter 2:1 Peter said, "there shall be _____ among you."

Do you think these teachers will teach the truth? _____

In 1 John 4:1 we are told that "many _____ prophets are gone out into the _____." We learned about false prophets in the last

chapter of these notes. Do false prophets give people God's true message? _____

In Acts 20:29-30, Paul warned the Ephesians that false teachers would come. What kind of animal does he compare them to (Acts 20:29)? _____

this?" "Did this teacher get these ideas from the Bible or from somewhere else?"

Can the Bible ever be wrong? _____

Can the Bible ever teach something that is not true? _____

Can a teacher ever be wrong? _____

Can a teacher ever teach something that is not true? _____

Suppose a person were to come to your door and tell you: "Jesus Christ is a great angel, but He is not God." Is this what the Bible says (Matthew 1:23, John 1:1 and 14; John 20:28, Titus 2:13)? _____

Does this person agree with what the Bible says? _____

Is this person teaching the truth? _____

Remember, the devil may use people to try to deceive you and trick you, but God's Word (the Bible) will never deceive you or trick you. Whenever you are taught something (even by your own ministers or trusted people in the community), go to the Bible and see if it is really so (see Acts 17:11). Don't

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Just as wolves destroy sheep, so false teachers seek to destroy believers by getting them to turn away from the Lord and not believe His Word. These false teachers would come from without (Acts 20:29) and they would also arise from within (Acts 20:30).

How can we tell if a person is a FALSE TEACHER? First, we must listen very carefully to what the teacher is saying, and then we must ask these questions: "Is this really what the Bible says?" "Does the Bible really teach

blindly believe everything you are taught. Check it out for yourself and compare it with God's Word to see if that is really what God says.

Itching Ears

Timothy was a pastor. According to 2 Timothy 4:2, what did Paul tell Timothy to preach? (Circle the correct answer.)

- a. His own ideas
- b. Whatever he felt like preaching
- c. The Word (the Bible)
- d. Whatever the people wanted him to preach
- e. Whatever would please the people and make them happy

People need God's Word whether they like what it says or not! Sinners need God's Word just like sick people need medicine. Some medicine tastes good and some medicine tastes terrible, but no matter how it tastes, the sick person needs to take the medicine so that it will give your body what it needs. God's Word is what the sinner needs.

In 2 Timothy 4:3, we learn that the time will come when people will not want S_____ D_____.

Sinners will not want the medicine found in God's Word that can make them healthy. These people have "itching E_____" (2 Timothy 4:3).

This means that they only want to hear nice things preached. They only want to swallow good-tasting medicine, even if what they really

need is the bad-tasting medicine. They do not want teachers who will tell them the truth. They want teachers who will tell them what they want to hear.

Many people today do not really want to know what God says in the Bible. The next time you see people going to different churches on Sunday, see how many of them are carrying Bibles in their hands. How many of them who do carry a Bible will thoughtfully read it, study it, understand it, use it, and do what it says?

We Can Expect Mockers

Notice what Peter tells us in 2 Peter 3:3: "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days S_____."

The word "SCOFFERS" means "MOCKERS—those who make fun." These mockers will make fun of our Lord's promise that He will come again. They will say, "Where is the _____ of His _____?" (2 Peter 3:4).

In the days of Noah, do you think there were mockers? Do you think people made fun of Noah? Perhaps they said, "Where is this rain that Noah promised? We don't see any rain! Noah, you are a fool to build an ark where there is no water!" But when the door of the ark was shut, and when it was too late to enter, and when the rain started coming down and getting deeper, how many people do you think were still laughing?

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Test Your Bible Knowledge

Read the following statements that a person might make. If the person is believing God's Word, put the letter **B** in the space. If the person is not believing God's Word, put the letters **NB** in the space:

	Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Matthew 16:16).
	Jesus Christ was the greatest man who ever lived, but He was not God.
	Adam was the first man, but he evolved from ape-like creatures.
	Man was created directly by God and did not evolve from lower forms of life (Genesis 1:27).
	God is a loving God and He would never send anyone to hell.
	Those who refuse to believe in Christ will perish (John 3:16).
	There are many ways to get to heaven, and all the religions in the world are teaching men the same truth about God.
	Jesus is the only way to heaven and those who want to get to God must go through Him (John 14:6).
	The Bible is true because God cannot lie (John 17:17; Titus 1:2).
	The Bible has some nice stories in it with some good lessons for us, but the Bible also contains many mistakes and factual errors.
	To be born again, a person must live a good life and keep the Ten Commandments.
	To be born again, a person must admit that he is a sinner and must call out to God and ask God to save him (Luke 18:13; Rom.10:13).
	Jesus is coming again (John 14:3).
	The early Christians thought that Jesus would come again. However, they must have been wrong because it has been about 2,000 years and He has not come yet.

Suddenly it was no longer funny.

The same principle is true today. People may laugh and think that it is foolish to think that Jesus Christ is really going to return; but when He does return to judge this world, suddenly people will not be laughing any more. Who will be laughing then (Psalm 2:4; Psalm 37:12-13; Proverbs 1:24-28)? _____

We Can Expect That People Will Be Born Again

God is in the saving business! This is

why Christ came into this world (John 3:17). Even today, God is building His church (Matthew 16:18) and saving all those who come to God through Christ (Hebrews 7:25).

God is not willing that any should _____ (2 Peter 3:9).

These are difficult days, but God is at work in this world and God has a message of good news for all men: "Whosoever believeth in Him (Jesus Christ) should not perish but have _____" (John 3:16).

Have you believed in Jesus Christ?

Have you received Him as your Savior? See John 1:12-13.

Have your sins been forgiven? Acts 10:43

Are you standing upon His Word?

Are you staying upon His Word?

It is our hope that your faith and Bible knowledge has been strengthened.

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END

Be Not Deceived

—by Amish Sister

What is the definition of the word 'legalism'? Legalism refers to a doctrine whereby salvation is gained by good works rather than faith. It can mean that you are under the law instead of God's grace for justification. To be justified means to be made right with God.

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him [Jesus] (Romans 5:9).

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:24).

And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith (Philippians. 3:9).

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound! Grace is a free gift meaning unmerited favor for sinful humanity! We are saved "By grace...through faith..." (Ephesians 2:8): faith in what Jesus did on the cross!

I want to share with you a true story. There was an Amish man. He thought his

two sons were disobedient because he wanted them to do this and that, and they weren't performing the way he thought they should.

One night the Amish man had a dream. He and his sons came before Jesus. The Amish man noticed that his sons were saved, but he wasn't. Why? He didn't understand! He looked at Jesus. Jesus looked down. Then the man looked, too. There was a stack of Bibles lying there. Jesus said, "You are under my law and not under grace." In other words, he was trying to be justified by keeping the law.

Dear reader, search your own heart in this matter. Why am I doing what I am doing? Is there something I'm trying to do to find favor with God?

It is important that we seek God and find Him in prayer. We need to search for the truth, for the truth sets us free. Please study the book of Galatians, because Paul warns the people who were under the law saying, "You have turned to another Gospel." It's a blind spot for Christians. We should obey and serve Him because we love Jesus. Jesus saves us when our own works, the works of the law, cannot. He is mighty to save. When we turn to things and the works of law to save us,

we are condemned. God looks at the heart. Jesus is the gate to Heaven.

The law was never meant to be the means for salvation. It was meant to show us our need for salvation. The truth sets us free from performing and trying to be perfect so we can make it to heaven. "My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (II Corinthians 12:9). Jesus knew we could never make it without Him. We stand naked and empty-handed with nothing to offer for our salvation.

Do you now understand?

Study the book of Galatians; it explains the vast difference between Law and Grace. Paul must have had a burden, and so do I. He said. "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth?" (Galatians 3:1)?

Ask Jesus to come into your heart and forgive your sins. Tell Him that you accept His free gift of grace. Repent of your sins and ask Jesus to forgive you by His blood. Pray, "I surrender my life to you, Jesus; save me."

An Amish Sister

END

Isaiah 51:11-16 states: *Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away. I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldst be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass; and forgettest the Lord thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor? The captive exile hasteneth that he may be loosed, and that he should not die in the pit, nor that his bread should fail. But I am the Lord thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: the Lord of hosts is his name. And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.*

The Lord highlighted these verses to me

recently, and with good reason. I have been afraid of what people will do to me. People! HE is my Maker. He set the foundations of the earth in place. He is the One I should fear, and not mere mortals.

Now, I'm not talking about being afraid that someone is going to hurt me, I'm talking about how blind we as humans can be to the thoughts and feelings of others. The interesting thing is that as we focus on how we feel as we are being unjustly treated, our anger and fear causes us to mistreat them, and we are completely blind to it.

Sometimes a lot of this could be avoided if we would truly fear the Lord and see His amazing power and authority. Beyond that, when we are focused on Him and His might, these things we go through pale in comparison. What's more, the Lord often has to allow us to experience these things so we will become desperate enough to come to Him and see the truth. This is a really rough reality for me, because my flesh wants to focus on how much it hurts, and that pain really does matter to God. His heart weeps with ours when we are hurting. My point is that our

focus on our hurt rather than using our spirit-man to steer our eyes toward Jesus and His power actually ends up causing more pain to our own hearts.

The facts are still facts: someone is doing something that causes you pain; life is dealing you something you don't like. That's still true. It still matters to you and to God, but your focus is different. It is on God and His power, rather than the circumstances. It seems God has to keep bringing me back to this, because I still get derailed so easily. Hopefully, you've already learned this long ago, but I'm hoping that my sharing it will help others on their journey, and spare them the agony of learning it the hard way.

I would like to add that I believe that as we turn our eyes back to the Father, our Maker, and to His goodness, power, and might, I believe He is faithful, and will do as He says in the verses above. He will fill our hearts with joy and gladness, and put a song on our lips. He WILL come through for us, but our minds need to be 'stayed' on Him, rather than questioning Him for allowing our tribulations.

END

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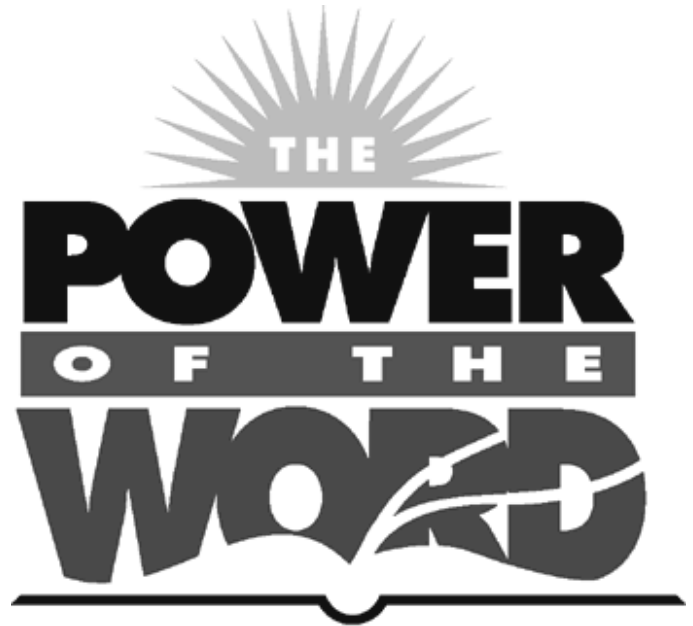
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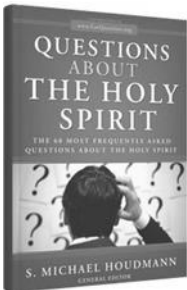
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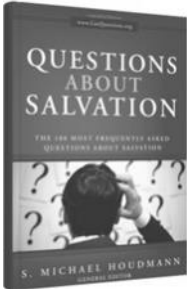


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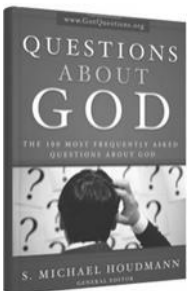


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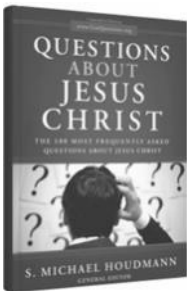


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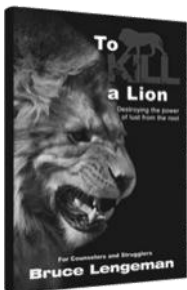


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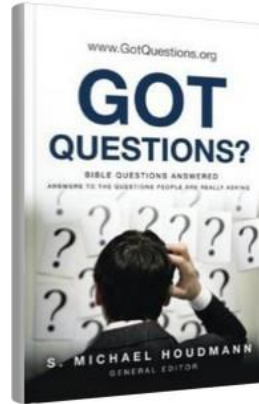
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150 Questions Answered From the Bible, Part 1 of 3

1. **Who made you?** God made me. (Genesis 1:27; Job 33:4)
2. **What else did God make?** God made all things. (Genesis 1:1-31; Deuteronomy 10:14; Nehemiah 9:6; John 1:3)
3. **Why did God make you and all things?** God made me and all things for His own glory. (1 Chronicles 16:28; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 10:31)
4. **Who made God?** Nobody made God. (Psalm 90:2)
5. **Has God ever had a beginning?** No. God has always been. (Psalms 90:2; 93:2; Revelation 4:8)
6. **Will God ever die?** No, God lives forever. (Psalm 90:2)
7. **How can you glorify God?** I can glorify God by loving Him and doing what He commands. (Micah 6:8; John 15:8; 1 John 5:3)
8. **Why ought you to glorify God?** I ought to glorify God because He made me and takes care of me. (Psalms 117:1-2; 146:5-10)
9. **Are there more gods than one?** No, there is only one God. (Isaiah 45:6, 18, 21-22; 1 Timothy 2:5)
10. **In how many persons does this one God exist?** God exists in three persons. (Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; 11 Corinthians 13:14)
11. **Who are the three persons of God?** The three persons of God are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)
12. **Who is God?** God is a spirit and does not have a body like man. (John 4:24)



13. **What is God like?** God is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable. (Psalms 139:7-10; 90:2; Malachi 3:6)
14. **Where is God?** God is everywhere. (II Chronicles 2:6; Psalm 139:7-12; Proverbs 15:3)

souls that could never die. (Genesis 2:7)

23. **Do you have a soul as well as a body?** Yes, I have a soul that can never die. (Ecclesiastes 12:7; Mark 8:36; 1 Thessalonians 5:23)

24. **How do you know that you have a soul?** God tells me so in Genesis 2:7, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (Genesis 2:7)

15. **Can you see God?** No, I cannot see God, but He always sees me. (Jeremiah 23:23-24; John 1:18)
16. **Does God know all things?** Yes, nothing can be hidden from God. (Job 34:21; Ezekiel 11:1)
17. **Can God do all things?** Yes, God can do all His holy will. (Matthew 19:26)
18. **Where do you learn how to love and obey God?** I learn how to love and obey God in the Bible alone. (Deuteronomy 30:11-16; Joshua 1:8)
19. **Who wrote the Bible?** Holy men who were taught by the Holy Spirit wrote the Bible. (II Peter 1:21)
20. **Who were our first parents?** Adam and Eve were our first parents. (Genesis 2:7, 18-22; 3:20)
21. **Of what were our first parents made?** God made the body of Adam out of the dust of the ground and formed Eve from the body of Adam. (Genesis 2:7, 21-22)
22. **What did God give Adam and Eve besides bodies?** God gave them

25. **In what condition did God make Adam and Eve?** God made them holy and happy. (Genesis 1:27-31)
26. **What is a covenant?** A covenant is an agreement between two or more persons. (Genesis 9:11-17; Psalm 105:8-11)
27. **What was Adam's part in the covenant in order to stay in the Garden of Eden?** Adam was required to obey God perfectly. (Genesis 2:15-17)
28. **Did Adam obey God?** No, Adam chose to disobey God. (Gen 3:6)
29. **Did Adam's sin affect himself alone?** No, Adam's sin made all men lose communion with God, become sinful in nature, and subject to God's wrath. (Romans 5:14; 6:23; Eph. 2:3)
30. **How did God punish Adam's disobedience?** Adam's punishment was death and separation from God, (Genesis 3:17-24; Rom 5:12)
31. **What is sin?** Sin is

Turn Page...

the transgression of the law of God. (I John 3:4)

32. **What is meant by transgression?** Transgression is failing to do what God commands and doing what God forbids. (I Chronicles 10:13; Psalm 25:6-7; Matthew 15:3-6)
33. **Who is Satan?** Satan is an evil spirit who is the enemy of God and all Christians. (Matthew 13:39; Luke 22:3; John 8:44; 1 Peter 5:8)
34. **Was Satan ever good?** Yes, Satan was once one of God's greatest angels. (Isaiah 14:12-15)
35. **What was Satan's name when he was one of God's angels?** Satan's name was Lucifer. (Isaiah 14:12)
36. **Why is Lucifer not one of God's angels today?** Lucifer became jealous of God and wanted to be as great as He, so God cast him out of heaven, (Isa. 14:12-15; Rev. 12:7-9)
37. **What is Lucifer now called?** Lucifer is now called Satan or the Devil. (Luke 10:18; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 12:9)

38. **Who is stronger, God or Satan?** God is stronger. (I John 3:8; 4:4)
39. **Does Satan want God's will to be done?** No, Satan always wants people to do the opposite of what God wants them to do. (I Chronicles 21:1; John 8:44; Ephesians 6:11-12, 16)
40. **What was the sin of our first parents?** Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the fruit that God told them not to eat. (Genesis 2:17; 3:6)
41. **Who tempted Adam and Eve to sin?** Satan tempted Eve, and she gave the fruit to Adam. (Gen 3:1-6)
42. **What happened to our first parents when they had sinned?** Instead of being holy and happy, they became sinful and miserable. (Genesis 3:8-24)
43. **What effect did Adam's sin have on all mankind?** Because of Adam's sin, all mankind lost fellowship with God, received a sinful nature, and began to do evil. (Romans 5:12)
44. **What is that sinful nature we inherit from Adam called?** Our corrupt nature is called original sin. (Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12)

45. **What does every sin deserve?** Every sin deserves the wrath and curse of God. (Genesis 2:17; Psalm 89:30-32; Galatians 3:10)
46. **Who can save us?** The only Savior of men is the Lord Jesus Christ, who being the eternal Son of God, became man and so is both God and man in two natures and one person. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
47. **What does God require of man before he can go to heaven?** No one can enter heaven unless his heart is changed. (John 3:3, 16; 5:24; 14:6; Acts 4:12)
48. **What is this change of heart called?** This change of heart is called regeneration. (Ezekiel 36:26-27; Titus 3:5-6)
49. **Who can change a sinner's heart?** The Holy Spirit can change a sinner's heart. (Titus 3:5)
50. **How is your heart changed?** My heart is changed by the Holy Spirit because of the grace of God shown in the work of Christ. (Titus 3:4-7)

END

HOW TO REACT TO THE WRONG DOER

Hebrews 10:31 *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

Matthew Henry, the well-known Bible commentator, was attacked and robbed. Afterward, he made this statement: "I am thankful first, because although they took my money, they did not take my life; second, although they took all my money, it was not much; and third, because it was I who was robbed, not I who did the robbing."

Victims of robbery and cruel treatment often have a hard time feeling anything but contempt and hate for the person who wronged them. If seen from the right perspective, however, they would feel sorry for the ones who caused their pain or loss. Those evil deeds will bring the perpetrators under the judgment of God one day.

John wrote about the coming Day of Judgment in Rev. 20:12, *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

It is better to be victimized by a wicked person than to be that wicked person who will be judged by a holy God. It is much better to forgive that person and help them to find forgiveness and salvation before it's eternally too late.

elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (2 Timothy 2:10).

"(I) now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church" (Colossians 1:24).

"And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments" (Deuteronomy 5:10).

It was John the Revelator who saw and heard from the Throne, the marriage of the Lamb and His Bride. She had prepared and made Herself ready for this monumental event (Rev. 19:5-9). This marriage will be taking place after She is taken out, or caught up (1 Thess. 4:16-18).

Many today believe in a collective catching-away of the Church (which traditionally has spawned long-standing trust in various doctrines) to save them. However, the Lord is presently preparing a Remnant whose hearts and affections are fully hidden in Him—having shaken themselves free from the bondages of false security found in formal denominational affiliations and "party lines."

In light of this, we are told by the Lord Himself to "remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32). It is important to note that He does not say that she was a sinful woman; she simply had her affections misplaced—disqualifying her from being delivered when judgment fell on the city. To remember Lot's wife is perhaps one of the most critical messages of this hour. Some of us may still have our affections misplaced. It may be that we are still resting securely in our favored doctrines,

which could fail us at the moment of crisis.

This is amplified in Luke 17:30-31: "Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back."

In light of these scriptures, with many others relating to this event, it is paramount that we prepare our hearts, for it is what is in our hearts—not in church doctrines—that will be the deciding factor in the moment of crisis.

To be ready will depend on at least two things:

Number One: having a personal and trusting relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, without which we will miss it (Matt. 25:13).

Number Two: guarding our hearts with daily repentance, to be able to stand at the moment of His coming (Luke 21:34-36 and Rev. 3:10).



It is widely understood that the Great Tribulation will be for the purification of the Church; but for the Bride herself, She already is transparent, prepared, and waiting, as exemplified by the "five wise virgins" (Mathew 25).

In a marriage between a man and woman there is total transparency; so it is with Christ and His Bride—there is no room for hidden agendas or broken

relationships. She is therefore not destined for the Great Tribulation, but will enter into her reward with her Bridegroom.

In Revelation 6:5-6 we get a further clue of the Bride's status as these global events begin unfolding, when the "rider on the black horse" speaks of the scarcity of food during this time, while at the same time commanding not to harm the oil or the wine. The five wise virgins carried with them an abundance of oil, together with purified hearts (wine) enabling them to bypass these judgments, for she is already judged (1 Cor. 11:31).

It is also important to note that the five foolish virgins nevertheless were virgins, which speaks of purity; they were not far from the Kingdom, yet they missed the critical moment of redemption, not because of a sinful lifestyle, but by trusting their church doctrines, and allowing the cares of this life to deplete their oil—the oil of holiness and watchfulness, together with an intimate relationship with the Lord, which failed them at the moment of crisis.

We are all aware of His coming, but few are tangibly preparing for it, which could very well catch us off guard. It is true, in all ages they looked for His coming, yet to this day He has not come. Perhaps we have now become indifferent and numbed to this reality, and saying, "Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of (2 Peter 3:4-5a).

In any event, global conditions today strongly point to His imminent coming like never before in history--the time is now to prepare.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

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The End of the Age and the Coming of the Lord

—Ben Girod and Roy Yoder

Time as we know it is rapidly moving into its final stages. What once was a daily routine of quiet serenity and peace in many Christian homes in the West is now rather an atmosphere of shaking, with families being sifted to the core, and this combined with global upheaval, apostasy, and lawlessness. Many are now in fear of what is coming; others remain in denial and blissful ignorance, clueless of the coming crisis.

We have entered the hour of the greatest shift in the history of mankind, with impending judgment. It is the moment of decision.

“Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision” (Joel 3:14).

In the midst of this coming crisis and the great falling-away of the Church, God has an ultimate plan that will be redemptive beyond anyone's imagination. God's designs will in the end defeat Satan's strategies—He will save His people.

In light of this, the Church will soon be placed within the valley of decision, where She will be compelled to make a deliberate choice for or against the Lord's purposes—no more



wavering. When She emerges, the gates of hell will throw every obstacle imaginable at Her to stop Her, but it will be in vain, for in the very end She will triumph. This will be the crowning moment of all history, when the Church collectively chooses to obey, even at the ultimate cost of mass martyrdom.

“ And I say also unto thee, That thou art

Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Mathew 16:18).

Even so, in every age and in every generation, God has had a Remnant who walked in unconditional obedience at any cost. In and through this elect group of intercessors, He historically performed His plan which is now leading up to the final moments of our day. It is this Remnant that comprises the emerging Bride. She dies daily so others can live. She gives away all things so that She can gain all for Christ. She has been shaped and molded by the loving hands of the Father in much tribulation, hardship, and fire. She carries God's glory to the four corners of the earth. She bears the fingerprint of God, and is preparing the way for the ultimate redemption of the Church globally. She has no designs for personal gain, honor, or recognition. She glorifies the Lord.

“Therefore I endure all things for the

Continued inside back cover