

The Sabbath Watchman

March-April 2016

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The Power of One

In life and in Scripture, there are repeated examples of the power of one—to corrupt or to convict. The question to every person is, “Where do you want your influence to lead—to corruption or to conviction?”

This issue of *The Sabbath Watchman* addresses this subject with examples of both sides. Brother David Clarke in Great Britain presents a Memoir of Brother Albert Charles, who honored God with faithfulness and loyalty throughout his life. He fell asleep in Jesus this past December, leaving behind an example of love and a generous spirit. His personal story, “The Trial of Faith” inspires us to consider carefully what is involved when one person stands faithful to God as the world insists that its requirements be given first place.

A miracle—or many miracles—are required to walk this life of faith. Praise God that He is in the business of miracles; He loves doing miracles for and through His children. Sister Ellen G. White asks the question, “How can we escape the power of one who was once an exalted angel in the heavenly courts? He was a being full of beauty and personal charm, blessed with a powerful intellect.... How can we discern his false theories and resist his temptations? Only through the individual experience gained by receiving a knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord. Without divine aid we could not possibly escape the temptations and snares that Satan has prepared to deceive human minds.” —*Review and Herald*, April 24, 1900.

What happened to the patriarch Dinah’s daughter when she decided to go have fun with those outside the protection of her family circle? How easy it is to fall and suffer terrible hurt and corruption! Her brothers were older and should have had a better, more mature view of the family’s influence on the surrounding society than she did, but they had their own weaknesses that brought disaster in the family and to themselves. It’s no different now. One person who takes a wrong step can very quickly destroy peace in the family—and the church. And yet, we have to marvel at the amazing miracle-working power of God carried out through one obedient child, Dinah’s brother Joseph. His dedication and conviction made possible the formation of the nation of Israel in preparation for the One—the coming Messiah.

Before and after him, there were those who—usually one at a time—bore “witness to the faithfulness of God’s promises—of His abiding presence and sustaining grace. They testify to the power of faith to withstand the powers of the world....

“They bore witness to the power of One mightier than Satan.... Through trial and persecution the glory—the character—of God is revealed in His chosen ones. The believers in Christ, hated and persecuted by the world, are educated and disciplined in the school of Christ. On earth they walk in narrow paths; they are purified in the furnace of affliction.” —*Reflecting Christ*, p. 357.

Now it is our turn—yours and mine—to decide where our influence will lead. The greatest of all tests is on the horizon, as seen in the strife and terror exploding first in one place and then in another around the world. A hundred years ago, Elder A.T. Jones told about the political movements that we now see moving toward their peak of destruction and thus confirming the fact that, without the one God of heaven, it is impossible for man to obtain peace. It will strengthen God’s people to become familiar with all of the prophecies and spiritual truths of Scripture.

We pray that this issue will inspire you to uplift the One who said, “All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,... and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.” Matthew 28:18-20.



Beacon of hope, faith, and truth in a confused world.

We believe:

- The all-wise, loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ; He is its Owner and Sustainer.
- He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh.
- The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth, convicts of sin, guides into truth, and, when abiding in man, overcomes all unrighteousness.
- The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine; the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform.
- His people, in harmony with God's Word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus.
- Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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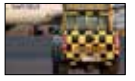


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The Greatest Miracle Today

*"But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."
Proverbs 4:18.*

By Ellen G. White

The beauty of holiness is revealed as Christians draw near together, blending in Christlike love.

We are sometimes asked, Why does not God work miracles through the church today, as He did in the days of the apostles? Because the church refuses to be guided and controlled by Him. Christ's love in the heart, revealing through the life its wondrous power—this is the greatest miracle that can be performed before a fallen, quarreling world. Let us make it possible for God to work this miracle. Let us put on Christ, and the miracle-working power of His grace will be so plainly revealed, in the transformation of character, that the world will be convinced that God has sent His Son to make men as angels in life and character. —*Signs of the Times*, November 26, 1902.

Those who truly believe in Christ sit together with Him in heavenly places. Let us accept the badge of Christianity. This is not an outward sign, not the wearing of a cross or a crown, but it is something that reveals the union of man with God. Let us "put off the old man with his deeds; and ... put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him." Colossians 3:9, 10. The beauty of holiness is revealed as Christians draw near together, blending in Christlike love.

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; and having an high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full

assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;) and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:19-25.

There is only one true religion, only one way to heaven; only one light to illuminate the way as the pilgrims press on. As we follow on to know the Lord, we shall acknowledge at every step that Christ is the Light of the world, that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; and we shall find that the path that He bids us follow is "as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Proverbs 4:18.... —*The Upward Look*, p. 233.

The Lord is good and greatly to be praised.... How blessed, how doubly blessed is the home in which father, mother, and children are consecrated to the service of Christ. —(Letter 126, August 7, 1902) *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 6, p. 377.

Christ's lessons reveal a high and holy purpose; but this purpose the blinded, bigoted Pharisees could not discern. Neither could they turn Him from His appointed work. He announced in Nazareth: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach

the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Luke 4:18, 19.

In spite of the opposition of the Jewish leaders, Christ went about doing good, healing the sick, and comforting the afflicted. He raised the ruler's daughter to life; "and the fame hereof went abroad into all that land.

"And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed Him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched He their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it. But they, when they were departed, spread abroad His fame in all that country.

"As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a dumb man possessed with a devil. And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marveled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel." Matthew 9:26-33.

The scribes and Pharisees had asked Christ to show them a sign. Christ had refused, saying that no sign should be given them. He wrought miracles that sent conviction to the hearts of the unprejudiced. As the people beheld these miracles, they expressed their wonder and amazement at the great power of God. The scribes and Pharisees saw that the people were convicted, and with lowering countenances they came to Christ and said: "Show us a sign; work a miracle for us." They did not make this request because they wished for evidence. They had rejected the greatest evidence that God could give, saying of Christ, "He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils." Matthew 9:35. This was the sin against the Holy Ghost, which hath forgiveness neither in this world nor in the world which is to come.

Today Christ is inviting us, "Come unto me... and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. He waits to raise to newness of life those who are dead in trespasses and sins. But He uses no

compulsion. He employs no external force. We are left free to act as we choose. If we turn from disloyalty, and place ourselves under the banner of Christ, it is because that of our own free will we choose to do this.

The expulsion of sin is the act of the soul itself. [See below.] In its great need the soul cries out for a power out of and above itself; and through the operation of the Holy Spirit the nobler powers of the mind are imbued with strength to break away from the bondage of sin.

When man surrenders to Christ, the mind is brought under the control of the law, but it is the royal law, which proclaims liberty to every captive. Only by becoming one with Christ can men be made free. Subjection to the will of Christ means restoration to perfect manhood....

Do you realize your sinfulness? Do you despise sin? Then remember that the righteousness of Christ is yours if you will grasp it. Can you not see what a strong foundation is placed beneath your feet when you accept Christ? God has accepted the offering of His Son as a complete atonement for the sins of the world. —*The Youth's Instructor*, September 20, 1900.

In the work of redemption there is no compulsion. No external force is employed. Under the influence of the Spirit of God, man is left free to choose whom he will serve. In the change that takes place when the soul surrenders to Christ, there is the highest sense of freedom. The expulsion of sin is the act of the soul itself. True, we have no power to free ourselves from Satan's control; but when we desire to be set free from sin, and in our great need cry out for a power out of and above ourselves, the powers of the soul are imbued with the divine energy of the Holy Spirit, and they obey the dictates of the will in fulfilling the will of God.

The only condition upon which the freedom of man is possible is that of becoming one with Christ. "The truth shall make you free;" and Christ is the truth. Sin can triumph only by enfeebling the mind, and destroying the liberty of the soul. Subjection to God is restoration to one's self—to the true glory and dignity of man. The divine law, to which we are brought into subjection, is "the law of liberty." James 2:12. —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 466. **SW**

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Something That God Does Not Remember

By Jose V. Giner

Unnecessary burdens

Imagine a person who has been locked up in prison for a number of years being suddenly released. The convict, strangely, requests that his prison bars be loaded on him; and he leaves the prison and carries that load for the rest of his life. Such a person would not believe that he was free; that the government no longer considered him guilty even though he had served his sentence; that he was fully pardoned. Although he left the prison, the prison was still inside him. This illustration seems absurd, but this happens in real life and especially in the spiritual life.

When I worked in the court system, I had some very interesting experiences. I remember the case of a man who came to court and casually turned to me. He had an odd request. He had been released from prison but wanted to return to it because he felt he had created in his mind the idea that this should be his normal condition, not that of a free citizen. I remember consulting with the judge about this, and he replied that they could not imprison someone unless he had committed a crime, and now the crime for which he had gone to prison was already pardoned.

I have met many people who were suffering because of the sins they had committed in

the past. I remember several cases that really shocked me. I'll give one example. Someone who had accepted the Lord Jesus as her personal Saviour wrote me a letter. She said that she did not feel worthy of being a member of God's people, because some years before she had had an abortion. She confessed her sin over and over again, but she could not get it out of her mind and God could not forgive her.

Unfortunately there are such cases among church members. They do not believe that God forgives them completely and absolutely; or they believe that God forgives them but they are unable to forgive themselves, so they carry for life the "gates" of anguish and mental suffering. Such a person's favorite phrase is: "Yes, I know that God forgives me, but..."

There is another opposite case that is no less dangerous: There are those who believe that, whatever they do, God will not consider their wickedness, because He is a loving, merciful God and is incapable of condemning anyone. Both cases are satanic delusions to make a person see his life wrongly, contrary to God's ways.

Our concept of forgiveness

If a person continues to carry his sins of the past, after God has granted him forgiveness, he will become discouraged in his life of faith. Who really wants this to happen? The devil! He takes advantage of our limited human perceptions, brought about by our experiences, to make us think this way. In everyday life, we find many cases in which a person does something bad to someone else and the latter person responds in like manner. There are countries where self-defense is considered lawful, so if someone tries to attack you and you kill him, it is not considered a crime; or if someone comes on your property and you shoot him and he dies, it is not considered a crime. In some places, there is still capital punishment, with no chance for an individual's repentance or rehabilitation to be a defense, much less on the appointed day of his execution.

This thought that one "has to pay," even when he repents, **has been introduced into religion**, for the gospel is not understood.

If something wrong is done to us, it is human to hold a grudge for years and years; and this ruins lives. Some even forgive, they say, but they want nothing to do with the one they have forgiven; that is, they forgive but do not forget. Such attitudes affect our relationship with God and our perception of forgiveness. In what sense? We apply to God the same attitudes that we adopt toward others.

The accuser of the brethren

"And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him." Zechariah 3:1. This text shows the tactics that Satan uses to lead people into sin and then despair. Satan tempts us to sin and does everything he can to deceive, weaken, and seduce us, seeking to arouse the desire for sin. Then, after we disobey God, the devil accuses us to Him; this is why he is called "the accuser of our brethren." Revelation 12:10.

Note that in the above text Satan accuses the children of God day and night—all the time. This means that in the mind of one who does not understand the gospel and God's character, there is never any peace that comes from forgiveness. "Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments." Zechariah 3:3. "Thus sinners appear before the enemy who by his masterly, deceptive power has led them away from allegiance to God. With garments of sin and shame the enemy clothes those who have been overpowered by his temptations, and then he declares that it is unfair for Christ to be their Light, their Defender." —(Manuscript 125, 1901) *That I May Know Him*, p. 108.

This is what the enemy has done to every son and daughter of Adam from the beginning to our day: First he presents sin as being somehow beneficial and attractive. It is wrapped in a bright, blinding light. Then, after a person has fallen into sin, the devil accuses him before God and oppresses the sinner with the thought that his sin has taken him away from God, that his clothes are dirty, and that he cannot stand before the Lord. Terrible! But Zechariah's vision shows us how God treats the repentant sinner, and this view should be a great comfort to each of us.

Zechariah's vision shows us how God treats the repentant sinner, and this view should be a great comfort to each of us.

Man's Saviour

God's answer is clear: "I have taken away your sin." Zechariah 3:4. It is true that Joshua was clothed with garments stained by sin, but it is also true that his repentance brought him the Lord's complete forgiveness. When we confess our sins to God, not just once but again and again and again, He forgives us in Christ. Colossians 1:14. "The iniquity is transferred to the innocent, the pure, the holy Son of God; and man, all undeserving, stands before the Lord cleansed from all unrighteousness, and clothed with the imputed righteousness of Christ. Oh, what a change of raiment is this!" —(Manuscript 125, 1901) *That I May Know Him*, p. 108.

The title of this article is "Something That God Does Not Remember." What is significant about this title? Can God forget something? Absolutely. There is a Bible verse that fills us with hope and joy, because it says, yes, God forgets something: "Their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." Hebrews 8:12. Oh, blessed Lord! You forget our faults and sins. This is not a contradiction; it simply means that God will not take account of our offenses; He will blot them out, and they will not be considered in the judgment, because He loves us.

A lady was once reading a book when suddenly she raised her head and hands, exclaiming: "Glory to God!" "Glory to God!" People asked what happened, and the lady replied, "I just read that the ocean depths can reach thousands of meters deep, and this is related to what the Lord says in Micah. That is where the Lord says He will cast my sins: 'He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.'" Micah 7:19.

The ocean can reach a depth of 33,000 feet. When God forgives the sinner, He puts his sins at that depth. This illustration that God uses shows us clearly that He forgives and forgets the sins of the offender forever, and no one has a right to recall them. Thus, it is a mistake to recall the sins of an individual and/or for the individual himself to think that God has not

forgiven him, because the Biblical teaching is clear.

We must learn to put away the negative memories that overwhelm us and embitter our lives; the sins that we committed cannot be avoided, for they are done and are recorded in the book of heaven. But there is a promise: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3:19.

There is something we can do. We can firmly resolve not to offend God as we cling to the righteousness of Christ, which not only leads to repentance and confession but also to conversion through the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus we keep the same sins that embittered our lives and did so much damage from being entered again into God's record; but this is possible only through His great power.

Conclusion

How wonderful it is to know that God forgives our errors, sins and mistakes! His heart does not retain the bitterness that we express to our neighbors. God is the God of forgiveness and mercy; He delights in forgiveness, while the devil delights in accusation.

Let us keep our thoughts on this Biblical principle, that when God forgives, He does so absolutely, because the One who has become the sinner's guarantor is the Lord Jesus Christ, who shed His pure blood to atone for our sins. When Satan comes to accuse us and remind us of our sins so as to discourage and destroy us, let us say, "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7.

Doubt concerning Christ's atonement can cripple and destroy one's life of faith, so let us not continue to doubt God's love. He has promised that He will really forget our sins, and so it is. "When the enemy tells you that the Lord has forsaken you, tell him that you know He has not; for He declares, 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.' Hebrews 13:5. Dismiss the enemy. Tell him you will not dishonor the Lord by doubting His love." —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 275. Let us comfort ourselves with these thoughts. The Lord bless you. **SW**

He forgives and forgets the sins of the offender forever, and no one has a right to recall them.



Memoir of Albert Charles

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38, 39.



By David Clarke

In the UK, we mourn the loss of our dear Brother Albert Charles. He was born on September 3, 1920, in the parish of Crickhouse, Wales. From an early age, he had a love of spiritual things. His conviction that he had a personal Saviour led him to be baptized in his youth. Albert regularly attended meetings of the International Missionary Society and supported the church all his life. Principles central to his life included integrity, nobility of purpose, and genuine Christianity.

His love for all people transcended race, political persuasion, religion, or culture. He believed that war was contrary to everything decent in humanity; he could never harm anyone. At the age of 20, he was drafted into the military service—a call totally contrary to his conscience. Due to his unyielding stance as a conscientious objector, he was sentenced by Newport Court to seven months' imprisonment in Cardiff Jail. It takes courage to be honest to one's beliefs, especially under the pressures to conform. In jail, he experienced additional difficulties and threats of violence, because he believed the Sabbath day, the day of rest, was on Saturday. He could not work on the Lord's day. He remained absolutely loyal to his convictions. After serving his sentence, he was brought before another tribunal that, thankfully, granted him freedom conditional to working on the land. See his story told by his own hand entitled "The Trial of Faith," originally published many years ago in the *Australian Good Tidings*.

Albert found his soul mate and married Pearl in March 1950. They enjoyed 65 years of wedded happiness. That in itself is amazing. Theirs was a lifetime of love, fun, intimacy, and dedication to each other.

As the years progressed, Albert developed in his career as a precision engineer for the company Renault Chains. Throughout his working life, he witnessed faithfully for the truth, earning the respect of colleagues and management. He honored the Sabbath day, explaining its significance in spite of any potential risks to his career. The Lord blessed him, and he advanced in his field, rising to the post of project manager, including the responsibility for quality. He gave unstinting service and professionalism for a total of 34 years.

Incredibly, Albert also found time in his busy life to care for a church. He was the elder of the British Field of the International Missionary Society for approximately 35 years. Central to his life was his desire to introduce individuals to Jesus as their Saviour. Accordingly he acted as tutor for the Bible Correspondence Course. The secret that made his ministry powerful was that "what he taught he was" in his daily life. In his tenure, he always exhibited patience, tolerance, and compassion for those in his flock. Firm as a rock to principle, he was a faithful example to all of right living.

It was very sad that our dear Brother Albert was a victim of dementia for the last ten years of his life. Even when the disease had taken hold, he was able to express sentiments supporting his beliefs, evidencing the deep devotion enshrined in his heart. The Lord saw fit to lay him peacefully to rest on December 3, 2015, to await the call of the Lifegiver. **SW**

The Trial of Faith



Albert Charles served a prison sentence for his faith in Cardiff Prison.

By Albert Charles

And now I will relate a little of my personal experiences during the dividing years in the hope that they may prove a source of encouragement to others who may have to travel the same road in the near future.

In the spring of 1937, I left for Holland to spend a few months there with the object in view of learning the German language. Before this task was complete (I had been there just six months), I was told that I must return home and learn a trade. It was arranged for me to go to Scunthorpe and take up boot and shoe repairing with Sister Clarice's brother. On my return home, I found myself for a time unemployed because those in Scunthorpe for some reason or other refused to let me go there. In 1938, I obtained work in Newport as a window cleaner. When war broke, I was lodging in Sister Baker's house in Newport.

In September 1940, my age group came up, and I was required to register for military service. I registered as a conscientious objector, and so I had to prepare myself to meet a tribunal. After a few weeks, I was required to attend a tribunal in Cardiff, where it was my privilege to witness for the truth. The court was inclined to grant me total exemption from all forms of military service until they heard the case which followed mine. The applicant was a member of the S.D.A. Church and was assisted in his place, to become a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps, by his church minister. After hearing this, the tribunal decided to register me as a person liable to be called up, but to be employed in the

noncombatant corps, with a recommendation to the Medical Corps. How clear to me then was the position of those who had been God's peculiar treasure. They would of a surety, unwittingly or not, be used as a persecuting people to those who desired to remain loyal in the time of the end.

I appealed against this decision to the appellate tribunal, only to receive the same verdict, with the addition that "as far as possible he be allowed Saturday (Sabbath) free."

My father asked me, on leaving the building, "Well, son, and what are you going to do now?" We both knew now that a choice had to be made between obeying the requirements of the military officers or those of God. We are told in vol. 1 of the *Testimonies* that in the army we cannot obey God. I had a burning desire, in spite of the persuasions of Satan to take the easier road, to do God's will.

A short time after, I was ordered to present myself for a medical examination in Newport Nom. I attended the building, only to refuse the examination. The refusal had to be made in front of the doctors and other young people who were undergoing their examination. God saw fit to give me strength to say, "No!"

In September 1941, I was summoned to appear at Newport Court to answer for my refusal to undergo a medical examination. It was a Friday, and the case was adjourned until the next day (Sabbath). How strange to me was that Sabbath evening spent in a police cell, and even stranger was it to be standing answering for the faith that usually we are learning about at that

The court was inclined to grant me total exemption from all forms of military service until they heard the case which followed mine.

hour in Sabbath school. The magistrate ordered me to be sent to Cardiff Prison on remand until the next Monday. No doubt the purpose of this was to give me time to alter my mind by allowing me an insight of what was in store for me.

Handcuffed, I was taken back to Newport on the Monday morning. The court endeavored to get me to change my mind and then, finding me adamant, sentenced me to seven months' imprisonment. In the afternoon, I was securely locked once again behind prison bars. My trials were not yet over, as I was soon to find out. The Governor refused point blank to excuse me from work on the Sabbath. He threatened me with severe punishment if I did not comply with his commands. Once again God gave me strength and courage to say, "No!" I was ordered to be medically examined to see if I was fit to receive punishment. The examination was carried out,

but, praise be to our heavenly Father, the strokes never fell. The Governor's hand was stayed, and the victory was won. I was able to spend the Sabbath in solitude with the Lord, which was to me a great blessing. Soon I was given a position of trust, and I was able to explain to several of the prison officers about our faith.

Soon after my release, I was again brought before a tribunal, where I was able to see how much the influence of the Spirit of God, in answer to my prayer, is able to do amongst even the judges on the bench. On this occasion, even the very questions that were asked were intended to be strengtheners of my case. The previous decisions were changed, and I was granted freedom on condition I continued working on the land. "God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform." —*Australian Good Tidings*. **SW**

I was able to see how much the influence of the Spirit of God, in answer to my prayer, is able to do amongst even the judges on the bench.



Cardiff is the capital and largest city in Wales. It is the tenth largest city in the UK.

Cardiff Castle has gone through a number of reconstructions, having been first built in the late 11th century by Norman invaders on top of a Roman fort. Prisoners were held here before the prison was built. Today it is a tourist attraction.



Seven Trumpets

The King of the North and the Eastern Question



By Alonzo T. Jones
Condensed by Larry Watts

In light of current events in Turkey and Syria, as well as the dispute between China, Japan, and the United States over territorial waters, this outline of prophecy, written by A.T. Jones in 1901, provides an informative context for what we see happening today. This article is Chapter 10 (pages 85-104) from the book titled *The Great Nations of Today*.

In diplomatic history, the "Eastern Question" refers to the strategic competition and political considerations of the European Great Powers in light of the political and economic instability in the Ottoman Empire [epitomized by Turkey] from the late 18th to early 20th centuries. Characterized as the "sick man of Europe," the once-dominant Ottoman Empire was mired in a period of stagnation and decline which threatened to undermine the fragile balance of power system largely shaped by the Concert of Europe. The Eastern Question encompassed myriad interrelated elements: Ottoman military defeats, Ottoman institutional insolvency, the failed Ottoman political and economic modernization program, the rise of ethno-religious nationalism in its provinces, and Great Power rivalries. -Wikipedia.com.

In the short space between the sixth and seventh trumpets, that mighty angel of Revelation 10 came in with his message, which was to sound over sea and land. That this is the place of that angel, is made certain by the fact that he refers to the beginning of the trumpet of the seventh angel as future. Revelation 10:5-7.

It is the sober truth of modern history that from a little time—"quickly"—after 1840 until the present hour, the temper and attitude of the nations have been such that they exactly correspond to the expression, "The nations were angry." During all the time that has passed since that date, it has been true that the rulers of the great nations have had to be constantly on the alert to avoid a general war. And the Turkish power—that power which is the last—remains in its descent; except for the great powers of Europe, the Turkish power would have vanished long ago.

But the main importance of this important truth lies not simply in the fact that Turkey has all this time been kept in existence by these great powers, but in that this has been done for a definite purpose. As acknowledged by those powers themselves, the Turkish government has been thus maintained by the powers, expressly to avoid a universal war. Speaking for the great powers, British Premier Lord Salisbury said on November 5, 1895: "... The danger, if the Ottoman Empire should fall, would not merely be the danger that would threaten the territories of which that empire consists; it would be the danger that the fire there lit should spread to other nations, and should involve all that is most powerful and civilized in Europe in a dangerous and calamitous contest."

All that the great powers pretend to be able to do is, by maintaining the Turkish power as long as possible, to restrain as long as possible this unruly spirit, which, when once let loose, must sweep them all away from themselves, into that dreaded and terrible vortex, involving "all that is most powerful and civilized in Europe in a dangerous and calamitous contest."

The powers that then became responsible to prevent the fall of Turkey, and thus became vitally connected with the original Eastern Question as of August 11, 1840, were at first Russia, Prussia, Austria, and Britain.

Before that time, Russia had more than once appeared in the history of the Eastern Empire of Rome. Beginning in A.D. 865, "In a period of one hundred and ninety years, the Russians

made four attempts to plunder the treasures of Constantinople [today's Istanbul]." "It was asserted and believed that an equestrian statue in the square of Taurus was secretly inscribed with a prophecy how the Russians, in the last days, should become masters of Constantinople. Perhaps the present generation may yet behold the accomplishment of the prediction, of a rare prediction, of which the style is unambiguous and the date unquestionable." —*Decline and Fall*, chapter LV, paragraphs 12, 13.

But it is not only in that prophecy that Russia has a place respecting the last days; she has a place also in the prophecies of the word of God. In Ezekiel, chapters thirty-eight and thirty-nine, there is described a great power which "in the latter days" would be predominant in "the north quarters" of Asia. The first verses of each chapter speak of "Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal." For instance, "Son of man, set thy face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him." Ezekiel 38:2, R.V.

Meshech was one of the grandsons of Noah, who passed from the country of the Euphrates up through Mesopotamia into what is now Russia, and became the progenitor of the people who settled in the place and built the city which is now called Moscow—the Muscovites—"and who still give name to Russia throughout the East."

Magog was another of the grandsons of Noah who peopled all of the north of Asia—the land anciently called Scythia, but now Siberia.

Tubal was another of the grandsons of Noah, who settled in that region of northern Asia which still bears from him the name Tobolsk.

Now, by the word in Ezekiel, the chief of all these is the "prince of Rosh;" and the word "Rosh" is the root word of the word "Russians"—Roshians—and thus of Russia, the country of the Russians.

Throughout Ezekiel 38 and 39, this power of Rosh, Magog, Meshech, and Tubal, is spoken of as dwelling in "the north parts," and this prince of Rosh is spoken of as coming from his "place out of the north parts." And, merely by looking at a map, it is easy for anyone to see that Russia does occupy the north parts of the greater por-

tion of the whole Eastern world. Thus, whether or not there were any inscription upon that equestrian statue in Constantinople, suggesting that in the last days the Russians should become masters of Constantinople, it was perfectly easy for all to know by these scriptures the place that would be occupied in the world by Russia in the last days and, from that, to gather even then the suggestion of that which is now expected by the whole world—that "the Russians in the last days should become masters of Constantinople."

Since 1840, Austria has fallen to the grade of a second- or third-rate power; but France stands fully in her place as one of the great powers controlling the affairs of Turkey, though Austria is still involved in the question. France indeed became connected with that Eastern Question in 1798, when Napoleon made his ambitious expedition to Egypt and the East, to take Constantinople, and "change the face of the world"; so that she must be counted with the others.

Since 1840, Prussia has formed a combination that includes all Germany, with herself as the head and her king as the German emperor, and so still stands as one of the first powers of the world.

Thus, with the exception of Austria, the powers involved in the original Eastern Question are the chief of the great nations of today—Russia, Britain, Germany, and France. And, three of these—Britain, Germany, and France—involved in the Eastern Question, which is the result of

Two years before August 11, 1940, pastor Josiah Litch, using the "day for a year" principle of prophetic interpretation, published an exposition of Revelation 9, predicting the fall of the Ottoman Empire on that date. At the very time specified, Turkey accepted the protection of the allied powers of Europe and thus placed itself under the control of Christian nations. The event exactly fulfilled the prediction. (See *The Great Controversy*, pp. 334, 335 for a further explanation.)



Cave hotel in Cappadocia, Turkey



Istanbul, Turkey

Why are these powers so certain that, if the Turkish power should be left to fall, they will fight among themselves?

the fall of Eastern Rome, are the three strongest powers of the nations of the West that were the result of the fall of Western Rome. Stated in another way, these three great powers—Britain, Germany, and France—involved in the Eastern Question, which is the result of the fifth and sixth of the seven trumpets, are the three greatest powers among those that were planted in the territory of Western Rome, which was ruined by the events of the first four of the seven trumpets.

Here is another important thought: Why are these powers so certain that, if the Turkish power should be left to fall, they will fight among themselves? Why have they spent all their united time day and night, for more than half a century, to keep that power from falling? Here is the answer: If the Turkish power falls, there will be most valuable territory to be possessed by some power. The *London Economist* has lately said that that territory “might and ought to be one of the most flourishing regions on the face of the earth.” And since each one of these powers is determined to have all that it can grasp of these territories, it is simply impossible for them to agree upon a division. And, therefore, they know that there must inevitably be a war among them all, as surely as the Turkish power shall be allowed to fall.

In this present hour of our own day [written in 1901], these powers, in their grasping of power and influence in the East, all meet face to face in the extreme East, in the capital of China. Thus it is strictly true that the China tangle, as it is

today, is the direct result of the original Eastern Question that began on August 11, 1840. And this greater Eastern Question, as it is today, is but the enlarged outcome of the original Eastern Question as it has centered in Constantinople since August 11, 1840. And, in the nature of the case, there can be no solution of the greater Eastern Question as it centers in China which shall not involve the original Eastern Question as it centers in Turkey. This is because the greater Eastern Question, as it centers in Peking [Beijing], is the direct resultant of the original Eastern Question as it centers in Constantinople; and also because all the powers now concerned in the greater Eastern Question as it centers in [Beijing] (except only the United States and Japan) are the identical powers of the original Eastern Question as it centers in Constantinople.

And although these powers, with the exception of Russia and Austria, were originally, and are still, the chief powers of the West, yet, as the Eastern Question, with which they became connected in 1840, has continued to grow until it has absorbed the whole East, these powers of the West have, in the natural course of things, become also the powers of the East.

There must now be considered two powers which are reckoned among the principal ones of the greater Eastern Question, which were not connected with that question originally but have become parties to it only lately. These are Japan and the United States.

In 1895, war broke out between China and Japan. Japan was everywhere and speedily victorious. When peace was established, considerable Chinese territory was ceded to Japan; and also an immense cash indemnity was agreed upon. But Russia, France, and Germany united in a protest against the cession of the agreed territory. Since the threatening protest of these three powers was supported by the “advice” of Great Britain to the Japanese government to yield to it, Japan, to avoid a new war, did yield to the demand of the three powers; and the territory in question fell immediately under Russian “influence.”

Furthermore, to enable the Chinese government to pay the first installment of the cash indemnity, bankers in Paris and St. Petersburg

lent about eighty million dollars to China, upon the guaranty of the Russian government. Later, China secured another loan, from English and German bankers, secured by the customs revenue of China; and, through this, Britain secured a hold upon the fortress and naval station of Wei-Hai-Wei.

These transactions took from Japan all the territory that had been ceded to her by China, except the Island of Formosa [Taiwan] and the Pescadores group, and planted in the hearts of the Japanese a determination to be revenged upon Russia at the earliest possible moment. And thus Japan became, and remains, an integral part of the Eastern Question as it is today.

In 1898, the United States became involved in a war with Spain. The American fleet, in far Eastern waters, found and destroyed the Spanish fleet at Manila; and, through this event, the United States came into possession of the Philippine Islands, and so became an Eastern power. Thus, the United States demanded and secured in China the "open door" for itself and all the nations to Chinese trade.

In June 1900, the legations of the powers in China were attacked—that of the United States equally with the others. To rescue their ministers, each of these powers was obliged to send an army—the United States equally with the others. This brought the United States as a power into China, in alliance with the other great powers, which, from the beginning, have been the material part of the Eastern Question. And in a circular note to all the powers concerned, July 3, 1900, the United States announced to the world that "the policy of the government of the United States is to seek a solution which may bring about permanent safety and peace in China, preserve China as a territorial and administrative entity, protect all rights guaranteed to friendly powers by treaty and international law, and safeguard for the world the principle of equal and impartial trade with all parts of the Chinese empire." This shows that the United States has not only become, but intends to remain, one of the powers of the East, and one of the very chiefest of those concerned in the Eastern Question. And up to the hour when this writing went

The United States has not only become, but intends to remain, one of the powers of the East.



G20 world leaders met in Antalya, Turkey, November 15, 16, 2015 (www.kremlin.ru)

to press, the influence of the United States has proved to be predominant in whatever progress has been made toward a real agreement among the powers in China.

It has been made plain that this Eastern Question as it centers in [Beijing], is but the extension and enlargement of the original Eastern Question as it centers in Constantinople. And the crisis of 1900, which brought all these powers face to face in China, is but the logical outcome of the steps that were taken in 1840, in the crisis which brought the originals of these powers into the position of supporters of the government of Turkey. Thus, the question as it relates to Turkey is the key of the same question in its enlarged form, as just now it relates to China. Consequently, the prophecies that relate to the Turkish power in this time are the key to understanding

In this study, we have seen that a number of times in the last sixty years the Turkish government would have come to an end had it not been distinctly “helped.” Indeed, we have seen that for these more than sixty years, the Turkish government could not have existed at all if it had not been distinctly “helped” by the powers whose relations are the sum and substance of the whole Eastern Question. By all it is expected that the Turkish government must finally leave Constantinople. Many a time in these years it has been expected that the Turkish government must certainly leave Constantinople immediately. By all it is expected that when the Turkish government does leave Constantinople, it must speedily fall. Yet it is expected that after that government shall leave Constantinople, and before it falls, the tabernacles of his palace will be planted in Jerusalem, “between the seas in the glorious holy mountain.” And when that time comes, which must inevitably come soon, it stands written: “At that time shall Michael stand up, the great Prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time.” Daniel 12:1.

This final event in the Eastern Question, with its accompaniments, is further described in Revelation 16:12: “The sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates, and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the East might be prepared.”

As to the literal river Euphrates, from the beginning of history it has been crossed and recrossed, even at the flood, without any particular difficulty, by kings and their armies. It cannot be, then, the literal river that is here spoken of. But since waters signify “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues” (Revelation 17:15), the “water” here signifies the power which dominates the peoples that inhabit the territory of the Euphrates; and that is the Turkish power, which is to come to his end when no one will help him.

And this occurs “that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.” But, with the exception of the United States and Japan, these “kings of the East” are the identical kings that



Ephesus, Turkey

the question that involves China and the world powers—the great nations of today.

What, then, are the scriptures that relate to Turkey in this time? The last verses of Daniel 11 relate to Turkey, which, as “the king of the north,” with its center at Constantinople, occupies, in direct descent, the place of the original “king of the north” in the division of the empire of Alexander the Great, as in verses 4-15 of Daniel 11. And of this power it is written: “He shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.” Daniel 11:45.

The Dome of the Rock is a shrine located on the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem. It was initially completed in 691 CE at the order of Umayyad Caliph Abd al-Malik during the Second Fitna. The Dome of the Rock is now one of the oldest works of Islamic architecture.

have been the principal cause and substance of the Eastern Question, from its origin, August 11, 1840, unto the present hour.

How, then, can the Turkish government come to its end? How can this “water” of “the great river Euphrates” be “dried up,” except by the action of these very powers? These “kings of the East,” whose “way” is to be “prepared” by the fall of Turkey, are the very powers that are altogether responsible for Turkey.

How, then, can Turkey possibly come to its end, except by the direct action of these powers which now are “the kings of the East”? Plainly, this is the only way in which Turkey can come to its end—the only way in which the water of the river Euphrates can be dried up.

It is plain, therefore, that these powers which are now “the kings of the East,” and which are in a vortex, whose immediate swirl is China, but whose original and ultimate center is Turkey, will reach the point where they will remove the Turkish government from Constantinople and allow it to be planted in Jerusalem. And shortly after that, they will let the Turkish power “come to his end.”

And when that is done, whatever the powers may intend in it, the end of it all is that they shall be gathered at Armageddon, to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. For it is written: “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.... And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.” Revelation 16:13-16.

Notice here the striking statement in the association of the two expressions in these verses of Revelation 16: The Turkish power comes to its end—the water of the Euphrates is dried up—“that the way of the kings of the East might be prepared;” and these “kings of the East” are said to be “the kings of the earth and of the world.”

Now, it is the truth that three of these powers that created the Eastern Question in 1840, with Germany and the United States, do actually con-

trol practically the whole world. And with these five powers—Britain, Russia, Germany, France, and the United States—all the lesser powers are, in some way, allied or closely associated. So it is altogether true that the kings of the West are “the kings of the East,” and that the kings of the East are indeed “the kings of the earth and of the whole world.”

And these powers, in centering their interests in the East, and planting their armies in the East, are but arraying themselves and marshaling their forces, in readiness to march to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. And that will be when, in their distress with perplexity, the Turkish government shall by these powers be let fall, and so “the way” be prepared for them as “the kings of the East” to be “gathered” into that place “called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.”

Thus we have found the origin, the place, the present situation, the work, and the destiny of the great nations of today, which indeed include all the nations of today, for the great nations of today are “the kings of the earth and the whole world.” Their origin is found through the knowledge of the first five of the Seven Trumpets; their place is the whole world; their present situation is the interminable entanglement of the Eastern Question, as it now embraces China; and, with China as their immediate center, and with Turkey as their original and ultimate center, their work is the arraying of themselves, and the mustering of their forces, in preparation for “the battle of that great day of God Almighty;” and their destiny is Armageddon. **SW**



Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey. Islam is strong in Turkey, with 75 million adherents. There are 100,000 Christians.

These powers, in centering their interests in the East, and planting their armies in the East, are but arraying themselves and marshaling their forces, in readiness to march to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

The views expressed in this article are those of A.T. Jones and do not necessarily conform to current thinking on the subject. Nevertheless the reasoning of this studied historian is interesting in the light of World War I and current developments.



Dinah

a Teen Tragedy

“And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her.”
Genesis 34:1, 2.

By Idel Suárez, Jr.

Jacob had been gone from Canaan for twenty years. At Bethel, he had asked God to protect him and had crossed the Jordan River alone. But this time when he crossed the same river back into Canaan, he had two wives, two concubines, eleven sons, and one daughter, much cattle, and many servants. And Jacob now had a new name: Israel. He had struggled with God and overcome. He also had a new physical impairment; he was crippled for life. Jacob settled at the same place where his grandfather Abraham had settled more than one hundred years before,¹ near the city of Shechem.

Shechem is located about 30 miles north of Jerusalem² and is one of the cities of Samaria. Today, Shechem is known as Nablus, in the West Bank and Palestinian territories. It lies between two very famous mountains in Israel—Mount Ebal on the north and Mount Gerizim on the south. Those were the two mountains of curses and blessings, respectively. Mount Gerizim is slightly higher. I visited Mount Gerizim this past year and toured the ruins of the Canaanite site, the Samaritan site, and the Byzantine site.

A wonderful breeze greets those who climb to the summit of Mount Gerizim.

Abraham and Jesus

The location of our story has a great deal to do with the two greatest men of faith—Abraham and Jesus. Abraham had built an altar at Shechem. As a nomad, he had held morning and evening services around the altar with the thousand members of his household. Now, one hundred years later, Jacob arrived back at the same place and did three things:

1. **He bought a parcel of land.** “And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem’s father, for an hundred pieces of money.” Genesis 33:19.
2. **He built an altar,** just as his grandfather Abraham had done. “And he erected there an altar, and called it El-elohe-Israel.” Genesis 33:20. This altar’s name by interpretation is “the God, the God of Israel.” The parallel to this is that in every home there should be a

place where God is worshiped and prayer is offered every morning and evening. As the Christian saying goes, “The family that prays together stays together.”

3. **He dug a well.** This well would be visited seventeen centuries later by a descendant of Jacob—Jesus Christ.³ He would have a conversation there with the Samaritan woman, who made a reference to Jacob, who built the well. “Art Thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?” John 4:12. That ancient well can still be seen in Shechem.

The question is, Do you have a well of living water in your home? Jesus is the fountain for the cleansing of the children of God from sin. “In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.” Zechariah 13:1, 2.

The above statements are summarized by Ellen G. White in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 204: “Crossing the Jordan, ‘Jacob came in peace to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan.’ Genesis 33:18, R.V.... For a time he dwelt in the vale of Shechem. It was here that Abraham, more than a hundred years before, had made his first encampment and erected his first altar in the Land of Promise. Here Jacob ‘bought the parcel of ground where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem’s father, for a hundred pieces of money. And he erected there an altar, and called it El-elohe-Israel’ (verses 19, 20)—‘God, the God of Israel.’ Like Abraham, Jacob set up beside his tent an altar unto the Lord, calling the members of his household to the morning and the evening sacrifice. It was here also that he dug the well to which, seventeen centuries later, came Jacob’s Son and Saviour, and beside which, resting during the noontide heat, He told His wondering hearers of that ‘well of water springing up into everlasting life.’ John 4:14.”

Dinah, Jacob’s only daughter

“And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob,...” Genesis 34:1. After having six sons, Leah gave birth to a daughter. She must have been very special to the entire family, being the only daughter of Jacob. What does her name—Dinah—mean? James Strong defines it as “judgment.”⁴ But the root word also means “strife.”⁵

According to Dr. Adam Clarke, Dinah must have been about fifteen years old when this story takes place. He writes: “It is supposed that Jacob had been now about seven or eight years in the land, and that Dinah, who was about seven years of age when Jacob came to Canaan, was now about fourteen or fifteen.”⁶

Her excuse

“Dinah ... went out to see the daughters of the land.” Genesis 34:1. Josephus, the Jewish historian, says that the city of Shechem was celebrating a festival.⁷ Maybe Dinah felt bored at home. Maybe she wanted to talk to some of her worldly friends whom she had met near the well of her father. Maybe she felt old enough to care for herself. She was now fifteen, after all. In Latin cultures, a girl becomes a woman at fifteen years of age, and the family holds a big party to introduce her into society. The celebration is called in Spanish “la fiesta de quinceañera.”

Maybe Dinah felt bored at home. Maybe she wanted to talk to some of her worldly friends whom she had met near the well of her father.



The inhabitants of Shechem were probably holding a big festival in honor of one of their gods. There would be drinking, dancing, and merrymaking.

I like what Matthew Henry writes: She went out not only to see the daughters of the land, but also to be seen by the daughters of the land. She went out to see some of the sons of the land, too, and to be seen by them.⁸

“Her pretense was, to see the daughters of the land, to see how they dressed, and how they danced, and what was fashionable among them; she went to see; yet that was not all, she went to be seen, too; she went to see the daughters of the land, but, it may be, with thoughts of the sons of the land, too.”⁹ Matthew Henry also says that she had “vain curiosity.”¹⁰ Unfortunately, as the saying goes, “Curiosity killed the cat.”

The Bible describes the results of evil associations. “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.” 1 Corinthians 15:33, 34. In common language, the apostle Paul is thus warning us: Do not deceive yourself. If you go with the wrong crowd, you will end up thinking, talking about, and acting out what you should have nothing to do with. Evil communications will proceed from your mouth, and eventually these associations and conversations will corrupt your good manners. You will end up doing evil, because you spoke evil and associated with the wrong crowd.

There is an old Spanish proverb that says, “Dime con quién andas y te diré quién eres.”



The phrase in English is: “Tell me with whom you associate, and I will tell you who you are.” Who are your friends? Are they like the “daughters of the land”? Are your friends worldly? If you do not make a clear and decided effort to testify of Jesus to them, *they* will end up changing *you*.

When I went away to college, I lived in the dormitories in my freshman year. I recall one of the students saying to me, “Idel, we are going to change you.” Even if your worldly friends do not tell you so, that is what the evil one, the devil, will seek to do. He will try to “corrupt [your] good manners.”

I was only seventeen years old and away from home. I attended Oxford College of Emory University at Oxford, Georgia. I was challenged not only by the university course work, but also by the students. One biology professor, who claimed to be an atheist, would make fun of God and call Him a “she.” Nevertheless, that professor accepted the booklet *Steps to Christ* from me.

When one student invited me to attend a school dance, I said, “I do not dance.”

“Just come and have a drink.”

“I do not drink alcohol,” I replied.

“Well,” he persisted, “just have a Coke.”

I answered, “I do not drink Coca-Cola.” I knew that I could not enter the camp of the enemy if I wanted to remain pure and faithful to my baptismal vows. I did not go to the dance either, of course.

At night, I would go out and, under the canopy of the stars, pray to God for His protection and guidance. I also made a covenant with God that I would hold my own private morning and evening worship every day—no matter what. Then I decided to read the book *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*. This book was a great blessing in my life, offering spiritual and practical advice while I was away from home.

The tragedy

William Shakespeare wrote many novels and often quoted from the *Geneva Bible*. His novels are divided between comedies and tragedies. The story of Dinah is a teenage tragedy that grew to be threefold.

In common language, the apostle Paul is thus warning us: Do not deceive yourself. If you go with the wrong crowd, you will end up thinking, talking about, and acting out what you should have nothing to do with.

1. Dinah was raped.
2. Her brothers became liars, murderers, and thieves.
3. The incident led to death and mass murder.

Little did Dinah imagine the consequences of her short visit to Shechem. She was raped by the prince of Shechem. She was kidnapped and kept away from her family. She lost her virginity. She lost her honor. She lost her freedom. She lost her innocent joy. She was disgraced.

"Her danger came from seeking to be free from parental control and supervision, and from disregarding the admonition to remain separate from idolaters, and their evil habits.... What is called 'seeing life' may prove, in many cases, to be flirting with death."¹¹

I remember a family that once worshipped with us. The father had several daughters, who were not very spiritual. They all wanted to see the "daughters of the land" and eventually left the church and became independent. My brother met one of them years later at a university. He told me how one of those daughters was so distressed because she had been used by a boyfriend in college.

Listen—when you live within the practices of God's law in the church, the holy standard is a hedge of protection around you. But if you leave, you will be assaulted by hell and its adherents. They will seek to make your life miserable. You may very well live to regret your decision, but then it will be too late.

Two common temptations

The two planets nearest the earth are Venus and Mars. Venus is a symbol of passion and illicit sex. Mars symbolizes anger and war. These planets represent two gods that ruled the lives of pagans; they also represent the history of our world and of every man and woman. We all must face the temptations of immorality and wrath.

Dinah failed. Simeon and Levi failed. The Bible tells us that those two sons of Jacob deceived Hamor and Shechem by persuading all the men of Shechem to be circumcised. Simeon and Levi committed premeditated lying, killing, and stealing. On the third day, they carried out mass murder.



HELEN MARTINEN

"And it came to pass on the third day, when they were sore, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brethren, took each man his sword, and came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males." Genesis 34:25.

On the third day, "inflammation and fever usually set in" as a result of adult circumcision.¹² Perhaps the men were all weak, in pain, and in bed. They were certainly unable to fight back. Do you know what that means? Simeon and Levi caused widows and orphans to be left behind. Without mercy, two of Jacob's sons killed the husbands and fathers of a multitude of Shechemites. Then the two men proceeded to ransack the city and steal all its wealth. They took the widows and orphans as servants!

"They took their sheep, and their oxen, and their asses, and that which was in the city, and that which was in the field, And all their wealth, and all their little ones, and their wives took they captive, and spoiled even all that was in the house." Genesis 34:28, 29.

The take-home message, or moral, of this story is that one apparently minor disobedience can lead to a train of terrible misfortune and cruel crimes. The wise Solomon wrote, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 16:25.

Joseph—a type of Christ

But Simeon and Levi's brother Joseph was victorious. He did not succumb to temptation. He

When you live within the practices of God's law in the church, the holy standard is a hedge of protection around you.

Beware of going to see the “daughters of the land.” Flee from youthful lusts and anger.

remained pure. He ran away from the temptation of Potiphar’s wife. He did not betray his high calling. In fact, Joseph did not even seek revenge or try to get even with his brothers after they sold him into bondage. He remained steadfast to God and turned his misfortune into a great blessing for his entire family.

Every young person may learn from Joseph one word that will save your life: FLEE. That word, *flee*, appears 101 times in the *King James Version*. Lot had to flee from Sodom. Jacob had to flee from his brother Esau. The Israelites were told how to flee to the cities of refuge. Joseph fled from the wife of Potiphar. “And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.” Genesis 39:12.

The apostle Paul repeated the same words of caution to the young people of Timothy’s time and of all time. “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” 2 Timothy 2:22.

Milagro and Platero

When Persia, my firstborn, was a little girl (before Shiloh, Persia’s younger sister, was born), my father had a she-goat, called a nanny, who gave birth to twins. One was a strong male kid; we named him Samson. The other was his

sister, a weak female whom we called Milagro, Spanish for Miracle. It was Persia’s birthday, and we planned to have a party at the ranch. Before the family arrived, I took Persia to see the corral where Milagro was kept with her brother and her mother. As we entered the fenced area, we could not find Milagro. Fear took possession of both Persia and me. We searched the area, then found the little goat on the other side of the fence. There she was, in the plot where Platero the donkey roamed. She was lying on the ground, lifeless. I ran to pick her up. I poured water over her. But she was gone. It was a terrible shock for Persia.

After the party, Persia asked me, “Papi, why did Milagro die?” Here was my little girl asking a heavy question. It was a teachable moment, and I had to instill in her a lesson she would never forget.

“Persia,” I said, “Milagro was disobedient. She needed to stay within her own fenced area, where her mother was.” The little goat ventured outside the protected area. Her mom called for Milagro to return, but she insisted that it was safe on the other side. Then the donkey came and bit and killed her. Samson, Milagro’s twin brother, was obedient and remained with his mother; he lived a long life at the ranch. But Milagro lost her life.

A word to the wise: Beware of going to see the “daughters of the land.” Flee from youthful lusts and anger. Flee to Jesus. **SW**



¹ Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets* (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1958), p. 204.

² Don Cleveland Norman, ed., *The Christian Book of Knowledge*, vol. 1 (Chicago: Consolidated Book Publishers, 1970), pp. 125, 158.

³ Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets* (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1958), p. 204.

⁴ James Strong, “A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Hebrew Bible” in *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*, 1890, (World, n.d.), p. 30.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Adam Clarke, *The Holy Bible Containing Old and New Testaments ... with a Commentary and Critical Notes*, vol. 1 (New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, ca. 1838), p. 207.

⁷ Flavius Josephus.

⁸ Matthew Henry, *An Exposition of the Old and New Testament*, vol. 1, 1st American Edition (Philadelphia: Haswell, Barrington and Haswell, 1838), p. 177.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Francis D. Nichol, ed., *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1 (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1953), pp. 412, 413.

¹² Ibid., p. 414.

Follow Me



My plane had just landed on the runway at Miami International Airport (Florida), and I was curiously looking out the window. There I saw one of those black and yellow cars with a checkerboard pattern; flashing roof lights and a display in capital letters said, “FOLLOW ME.” From my seat I could see how this car guided the aircraft safely through the airport jungle to the unloading ramp. The marshaller (the car’s driver) is in constantly contact with the air traffic controllers and needs to make sure not to lose track of the situation amid the hustle and bustle of the airport. This person also signals the pilot when to turn, slow down, stop, and shut down the engines.

These two words reminded me of a marshaller who lived 2,000 years ago—Jesus. Back then, He told people many times: “Follow Me.” The theme of following Jesus appears throughout the New Testament. This theme certainly suggests more than simple physical proximity; it signifies a relationship between Jesus and others. In Mark 3:14, it is recorded that Jesus appointed twelve disciples to be “with Him”—to have daily interaction with and follow Him wherever He went. Simon, Andrew, Levi, a Galilean multitude, large crowds, some disciples, blind Bartimaeus, and certain women all followed Jesus, according to Mark’s gospel.

For three years, Peter had followed Jesus. However, in Mark 14:54, shortly after Jesus’ arrest, we read something very significant: “And Peter followed Him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest.” Just as following Jesus involves more than physical proximity, following Him “afar off” involves more than physical detachment. In an effort to seek safety, Peter had done the most dangerous thing imaginable. He put distance between himself and Jesus. That distance left him vulnerable. It would be like the pilot of an airplane losing sight of the marshaller at the airport. Peter quickly drifted off course. The very next time he appears in the text, he denies Jesus three times. Mark 14:66-72.

Jesus wants your fellowship and your agreement to follow wherever He leads. Like Peter, however, you may be following the right Person but at the wrong distance. Distance makes you vulnerable. Therefore, when you become aware of any distance between you and Jesus, make haste to get close to Him and remove the distance. Following Him closely will enable you to navigate through this difficult world and prevent you from drifting off course. He is, after all, the One who knows the way.

There is an impressive example of a man who did not permit any distance in his relationship with Jesus. About 150 years ago, there was a

By Manuela Di Franca

When you become aware of any distance between you and Jesus, make haste to get close to Him and close the distance.

great revival in Wales, England. As a result of this, many missionaries traveled from England to northeast India to spread the gospel. The region was called Assam, and hundreds of tribes lived in that place. The tribal communities were quite primitive and aggressive. The tribesmen were also called headhunters, because by social custom the male members of the community were required to collect as many heads as possible.

A group of Welsh missionaries went to this hostile and aggressive community to spread the message of love, peace, and hope in Jesus Christ. Naturally, they were not welcomed. One Welsh missionary finally succeeded in converting a man, his wife, and two children. This man's faith proved contagious, and many villagers began to accept Christianity. Angrily, the village chief summoned all the villagers to a meeting. He then commanded the family that had first converted to Christianity to renounce their faith in public or face execution. Moved by the Holy Spirit, the man sang his reply, "I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back."

Enraged at the man's refusal, the chief ordered his archers to shoot their arrows at the two children. As the two boys lay dying on the ground, the chief asked the man, "Will you deny your faith? You have lost both your children. You will lose your wife, too."

But the man replied, again by singing, "Though none go with me, I still will follow. No turning back."

The chief was beside himself with fury and ordered the man's wife to be shot. A moment later, she joined her two children in death.

Now the man was told for the last time, "I will give you one more opportunity to deny your faith and live." In the face of death, the man sang, "The cross before me, the world behind me. No turning back. No turning back."

He was shot dead like the rest of his family. But their deaths caused a miracle to happen. The chief who had ordered the killings was moved by the faith of the man. He wondered out loud, "Why would this man, his wife, and his two children be willing to die for a Man who lived in a faraway land on another continent 2,000 years ago? There must be some supernatural power behind this. I, too, want that supernatural power." In a spontaneous confession of faith, he declared, "I, too, belong to Jesus Christ!" When the crowd heard this from the mouth of their chief, the whole village accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

The popular hymn, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," is based on this story. I hope that you also can say and sing these words wholeheartedly: "I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back!" **SW**

*"I have decided to
follow Jesus.
No turning back."*



FOLLOW JESUS

Today companies, websites, and celebrities literally ask you to follow them on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook. They want you to keep updated by reading their posts. The two pop singers Katy

Perry and Justin Bieber now have over 60 million followers each. Many other celebrities also have huge followings. Especially young people follow the lives, words, lifestyles, diets, and fashion choices of these celebrities. They want to know all about them, interact with them, and be like them. But what about Jesus? Are you on His list of followers? Do you follow His life, words, and advice?

Youth Conference in Tanzania, December 17-27, 2015

At the end of last year, the African continent was favored by God to host an African Youth Conference in the city of Arusha, Tanzania. The conference was attended by young people from twelve countries—Botswana, Burundi, Canada, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, U.S.A., South Africa, Zambia, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania. The host country was Tanzania, the leaders of which played a big role in organizing the conference. Many spiritual and physical activities were carried out to make the event attractive and blessed so as to give God the glory.

Elder Parmenas Shirima opened the conference by inviting the presence of the Holy Spirit and welcoming the participants. After song, the reading of John 17:24, 25, and prayer, the choirs from Dar Es Salaam praised God with song. Brother Shirima invited the congregation to meditate on the introductory text: “Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me: for Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee: but I have known Thee, and these have known that Thou hast sent Me.” Every one present was encouraged always to behold Jesus and His Father and reveal Their glory in daily life. By manifesting unity and reflecting Jesus in everything, we will be given the divine nature and become sons and daughters of God.

Elder Joel Barnedo, the General Conference Youth Leader, spoke about “Jesus, Our Friend and Our Saviour.” Jesus experienced



Visitors from twelve countries attended the youth conference in Tanzania

everything that we go through. He is at God's right hand. “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.” Matthew 28:18. Brother Joel urged us to delve more and more into the heavenly things where Jesus is. More than ever before, our minds should be occupied with and enshrouded by heavenly things. We need to be very close to Jesus. God cannot use us if we cherish even one sin. Our mission is to lead people to conversion and salvation. John 1:12. “I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord: I will keep Thy statutes.” Psalm 119:146.

We were blessed to have speakers from different countries to share spiritual food in very unique and special ways. Some days were spent on sightseeing tours, including Mount Kilimanjaro and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area craters, one of the seven natural wonders in Africa. These craters are home to wild and domestic animals that live together surrounded by the Masai traditional houses.

The conference was also blessed to have Elder Pablo Hunger, Vice President and Secretary of the General Conference, present with his oldest

daughter. He encouraged and counseled the youth about the four steps of courtship (friendship, courtship, engagement, marriage covenant), how to conduct their lives before and after marriage, how to find a proper wife, and how to plan for eternal life. Brother Hunger's daughter, Damaris, shared her experience with the Lord.

We were blessed to have Elders Andrew Mangwe and Parmenas Shirima at the conference. These two brothers are pioneers who accepted the message of the Reform Movement in 1974. Elder Mangwe spoke about our great mission to spread the gospel.

Sister Dinewi Dube, from Botswana, shared her experience with the Lord and spoke about waiting on the Lord. Sister Stella Morudu, from South Africa, talked about personal conduct and sexual behavior. She was accompanied by her two daughters, Diniwe, who lives in Botswana, and Molatela, who worked very hard with Brothers Ben Muzondo, Gabriel Shirima, Prosper Mbawambo, Erick Ndimangwa, and Moses Akim, the Tanzanian Union Youth Leader, in planning and coordinating this conference. For the first time, we had representatives from South Sudan—

Brothers John Festus and Kariisa Wilberforce.

Elder Everardo Sandoya, the Zambian Union Leader, preached about “Working with Purpose,” like the four men who brought the paralytic to be healed by Jesus. Sister Leila McTavish, who has visited Africa more than twenty times, shared her experience in the Lord and a presentation on the three types of baptism—by water, by the Holy Spirit, and by fire. She emphasized that the hardest baptism is by fire, which brings purification and nearness to Jesus. We need to hold Jesus' hand.

Sister Christina Bosek spoke about a criminal who met a famous lawyer. She pointed out that we are all criminals and that Jesus sacrificed His own life to save us from the death penalty. He is the famous lawyer; He can handle and win every case, but only if we are honest with Him and are ready to abandon every evil.

Brother Hildon Mbogela presented the importance of drinking the blood and eating the flesh of Jesus, who is the heavenly manna that came down from God so we can grow spiritually and receive life from the Holy Spirit. We must pray earnestly and meditate on

News to inspire

the sacrifice of Christ all the time so we can be protected from the evil one.

On Friday, one brother and two sisters dedicated themselves to Jesus and made a covenant with Him in baptism. Elder Joel Barnedo conducted the service.

The second Sabbath of the conference, December 26, was the most beautiful day we ever experienced. Elder Pablo Hunger read Judges 15:18, 19, which tells how God revived Samson by providing a hollow place and water in the jawbone of an ass that he had used to slay a thousand Philistines. God's Spirit revived Samson's strength. He was a hero only when God gave him power, as shown in the experience that ended his life. Only God can change our lives and make us useful; apart from Him we are nothing. At the end of the service, Elder Hunger invited those who wished to let Jesus make them new to come forward and renew their covenant with Him. The entire congregation stood up, and many hearts were touched by the message.

After lunch, Elder Joel Barnedo gave counsel to those present by speaking about Aaron's rod that budded. He urged the young men and women, ministers, and Bible workers all to blossom and bear fruit; this is possible only when we are connected to Jesus.

The Tanzanian Union is very grateful to all who made this youth conference such a blessing through speaking, music, practical help, organization, and finances. May God bless all who participated and strengthen them to serve their communities through His great power.

—Hildon Mbogela
Tanzanian Union Secretary



The Liberian field officers met with the town authorities to apply for land for the church



The brethren went door to door in Liberia and conducted Bible studies

Camp meeting in Liberia

The 2015 camp meeting for all of God's children in the Liberian Field, under the theme "But ye shall receive power" (Acts 1:8), began on December 28, 2015, in Tumokola Town in northwest Liberia.

Because some participants had difficulty reaching the site on December 27—especially those from south and central Liberia—the opening on December 28 was delayed by eight hours. Pastor Golden Hingabantu, President of the Liberian Field, spoke on the topic of "Signs of

the Time." Verses from Matthew 24 and statements from the Spirit of prophecy were followed by exhortation.

We thank God that the meeting opened with 125 souls in attendance during the evening revival service. On the second day, 185 souls attended the evening revival service. During the course of the week, some of the PowerPoint presentations included the following topics:

- The Work of the Holy Spirit
- One Way to Heaven
- One Church
- The Good News of the Two Tablets

- Three Institutions in the Garden of Eden
- Adam's Wife's Birthday, and others

Midday studies were presented by Pastor Hingabantu, while the Field Secretary, Vice President, and Bible workers were responsible for the morning worship and evening services. Through the influence of the Holy Spirit, 51 souls gave themselves to Christ during the evening revival services.

On Sabbath, January 2, 2016, Pastor Hingabantu spoke on the topic, "God Is Searching for You," and a total of 22 interested souls attended the service. By God's grace, baptism is planned for the close of the second quarter 2016.

During the camp meeting, the officers of the Field met with the town authority on two separate occasions to make application for land for the church. The results of those meetings were fruitful.

The participants in the meeting returned to their respective places on January 3, 2016.

—John K. Mussah,
Field Secretary

Baptisms in Mozambique

We want to inform you about the work done by Pastor Jacobo Martinez when he was here. There were three baptisms—one in the province of Tete-Zobue, and two in Zambezia province.

In Tete there are fifteen new brothers and sisters, and in Zambezia, there are twenty.

We also opened a place in Niassa province in the District of Micanhelas, where there are people interested in the message. We have sent a brother with his wife and children to do



God's work in Mozambique has been blessed with these new brothers and sisters.

missionary work. We thank you for your prayers for Mozambique.

—Maxwell A. Roupa, President

Good news from Jamaica

The poet H.D. Carberry in the poem "Nature" provides a glimpse of what the beautiful country of Jamaica is like.

*"We have neither summer nor winter,
Neither autumn nor spring.
We have instead the days when the gold sun
Shines on the lush green cane fields—magnificently—
The days when the rain beats like bullets on the roofs.
And there is no sound but the swish of water in the gullies.
And trees struggling in the high Jamaican winds.
Also there are the days when leaves fade from off guango trees,
And the reaped cane fields lie bare and fallow to the sun.
But best of all there are the days when the mango and the logwood blossom,
When the bushes are full of the sound of bees and the scent of honey,
When the tall grass sways and shivers to the slightest breath of air,*

*When the buttercups have paved the earth with yellow stars,
And beauty comes suddenly and the rains have gone."*

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light." 1 Peter 2:9.

On Sabbath, December 19, 2015, about a hundred of us came from near and far to our church beside the sea in Annotto Bay, St. Mary. We began the day with the Sabbath school. The lesson for

the day was taught by Brother Bruce Ferguson. Following the Sabbath school, eight precious souls came before the church

to answer questions prior to making their baptismal vows. These souls pledged before God and man to be faithful to the end. We then traveled across the road to the seaside, where the baptism took place in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. After the baptism, those who had been baptized were given the right hand of fellowship and welcomed into the remnant church of God. Later in the afternoon, we had communion as well as a testimony service, which brought us to the end of the Sabbath and a day of praise and thanksgiving.


—George Gowie, President



Elder George Gowie baptized eight brothers and sisters on December 19, 2015, in Annotto Bay, Jamaica



Attendees at the conference in Jamaica, December 23-27, 2015

A person stands on a rocky cliff, looking out over a vast landscape at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm glow and long shadows. The person is silhouetted against the bright light of the setting sun.

July 17-23, 2016

**International Youth Conference
and
American Union
Family Conference**

***Moving Forward—
Beyond This Moment***

TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12.

“He [the apostle Paul] speaks to our young men, saying, ‘Ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.’ Those who will go forth to the work under God’s direction will be wonderfully blessed. Those who in this life do their best will obtain a fitness for the future immortal life.” —*Review and Herald*, May 16, 1912.

You are invited to attend the International Youth Conference and the American Union Family Conference, to be held in Cedartown, Georgia, U.S.A. The following people will be giving presentations: Elders Joel Barnedo, General Conference Youth Leader; Evangelist Henry Dering; General Conference officers Idel Suarez, Jr., Pablo Hunger, Douglas Francis, Larry Watts, Danilo Monterroso, Tzvetan Petkov, and Raquel Orce; and visiting pastors.

Over the past several years, these brethren have carried the precious gospel message around the world, touching the hearts of many young people and families. Time will be devoted to topics of particular interest to different age groups; there will also be public outreach, praise, fellowship, recreation (kayaking on Georgia rivers, hiking in national parks, visiting historical and natural sites in the area), and much more.

It is our sincere hope that you will be able to join us and take advantage of the opportunity to participate in many activities with fellow young people. Various packages will be made available, with choices of lodging, meals, and recreation. This information will be available soon.

For more information, send an email to youth@sda1844.org or youngreformers.us@gmail.com, or call (+1) 770-748-0077 or (+1) 678-246-9085.

Coordinators: Joel Barnedo (General Conference Youth Leader), Pablo Hunger (General Conference Secretary), Addin Ajucum (American Union Youth Leader), and Lisbeth Hunger (American Union Family Leader).