



# The Sabbath Watchman

October - December 2018

*“Therefore be ye also ready...”*

Matthew 24:44

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# The Sabbath Watchman

Vol. 93, No. 4


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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*Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*  
*Matthew 24:44*

I believe we are on the very borders of the eternal world, and I am seeking to keep in constant communion with God. I prize eternal life and nothing shall separate me from the love of God. I want constantly to educate and train my soul to lean on Christ, to draw spiritual strength from Christ. God intends that we shall have an experimental knowledge of Christ, then we can be faithful witnesses for God, testifying of the grace of Christ in words and actions, by conscious and unconscious influence.

I fear, greatly fear, that many of the youth connected with the work of God do not know my Saviour. When I think of the work that God is doing for fallen man, I am lost in wonder that God will take poor, fallen beings and bring to them moral power, that there will be the internal workings of His grace, transforming the character and making men fit for the mansions God is preparing for them—beings fitted for the presence of God, fitted to be companions with angels, and to hold communion with God. Oh, how my heart yearns to be one who shall walk with Jesus Christ in the earth made new....

Our lifework now should be to prepare for eternity. We know not how soon our lifework here may close, and how essential that our low, sinful nature should be overcome, and we conform to the image of Christ. We have not one moment's time to squander. We need to be daily preparing for eternity. Our lifetime is granted us to seek the boon of eternal life. God has granted us a probation, and, if we live our threescore years and ten, how short is this period to work out our salvation! Then compare this period with the life that measures with the life of God. The short period of our test and proving may end any time. Then how earnest should we be to secure a clear title to a home in the earth made new....

My anxiety is to do the work the Master has given me to do and let nothing divert me from this work.... We must seek to be one with God. His interest must be our interest, His sentiments and designs ours. We know the love of God for sinners and the infinite sacrifice that has been made to save perishing souls; then let us unite with Christ in this great work.—Letter 82, April 18, 1887, to Edson and Emma White.

*Ellen G. White.*

# Blessed

## *Happiness While Waiting for the Close of Time*

By Idel Suarez, Jr.

*"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." Revelation 1:3.*

Charles Spurgeon told a story about an irreligious husband and his devoted, religious wife. Her name was Mary, and his was Richard. As she was getting ready to go to church, Richard mockingly said to his wife, "Mary, go to church for both of us. Pray for both of us, for me and for you."

She left for church as usual early in the morning, and Richard stayed in bed. Falling asleep again, he had a dream that affected him deeply. He dreamt that he and Mary came to the pearly gates of God's paradise. The apostle Peter appeared at the gate and told Mary, "Mary, you come in for both of you." Seeing himself outside the holy city and separated from his wife, Richard woke up shaking and covered in perspiration. His dream had been so real that he decided that he too would go to church with his wife so he would not be shut out of paradise.

Christianity today is asleep, displaced, and uninterested. But there is a book in the Bible that can wake us up from spiritual lethargy. It is The Revelation, which literally means "moving the curtain" of the future. Many laymen and pastors do not understand its symbolic message.

It is perhaps surprising to us that Martin Luther, the most famous of the Renaissance Reformers, did not understand the book of Revelation and concluded that it was not inspired but an apocryphal book. That is why he placed it at the end of the Biblical canon. Perhaps he was unable to understand the book's many symbols, such as horse-like locusts and scorpion stings, dead souls suffering and begging for clemency under the altar, and a harlot who became drunk from drinking the blood of the martyrs.

However, Jesus prophesied that the last will be first. And the messages of The Revelation, appearing at the end of the New Testament, "are to occupy the first place in the minds of God's people."<sup>1</sup>

### Blessed

The original word in Greek for "blessed" is makarios, literally meaning "happy" or "blessed."<sup>2</sup> "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy..."

Furthermore, that word resembles kairos, which means "time."<sup>3</sup> Thus, this bliss gives happiness and blessing all the time to the one who follows the divine counsel.

There are seven blessings in the prophetic book of Revelation. The fascinating thing is that the closer one gets to the end of the book, the more frequent the blessings become. The word makarios appears more frequently toward the end than it does at the beginning. See Table I. What does it show? As we approach the end of time, God wishes to grant more blessings to His sons and daughters. And it is no coincidence that six of the seven blessings begin with the third angel's message and refer primarily to the 144,000.

**Table I. The Seven Blessings of The Revelation**

BIBLE TEXT	BLESSING
Revelation 1:3	Blessed is he who reads, hears, and keeps the words of the prophecy
Revelation 14:13	Blessed are those who die in the Lord
Revelation 16:15	Blessed is he who watches and keeps his garments
Revelation 19:9	Blessed are those who are called to the wedding supper of the Lamb
Revelation 20:6	Blessed and holy is he who has a part in the first resurrection
Revelation 22:7	Blessed are those who keep the words of this prophecy
Revelation 22:14	Blessed are those who keep the commandments

### Read and hear

Luke the evangelist states that the message of hearing and observing is from Jesus: "But He said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it." Luke 11:28.

Formerly, the edicts of the Roman emperor were read in public, and the people were to gather to hear his message. Disobedience brought a penalty of a fine, jail, exile, or death. But in Scripture, the motivating agent is a



promise and blessing. "Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."

In addition, up until recently, it was customary to read out loud. When the apostle Paul wrote his letters and sent them to the churches, he advised the congregations to come together to hear the reading of his epistles. Psychologists tell us that there is greater retention of a message when it is read aloud.

Remember that faith comes by hearing God's word. Romans 10:17. Therefore, when you sit down to read God's word, read it in a loud voice for greater understanding, retention, and happiness. The people then hear what they read.

## Keep

But the blessing or happiness, the makarios, of the Spirit cannot take root until the reader and the listener keep or live what they have learned. We must do the will of God as given in His word. We must keep and share it. We must live it to be completely happy all the time.

The word "keep" appears eleven times in The Revelation. And what should we keep? Well, what we have read and heard in the prophecy. And what have we read and heard? That the saints of the last days, the servants of God, who will enter through the pearly gates and overcome sin, the world, the devil and his demons, and oneself, keep the Ten Commandments. Repeatedly the prophetic book of The Revelation states that the sons and daughters of God in the last time keep the Ten Commandments.

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17.

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12.

"Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Revelation 22:14.

## The time is near

God wants His people to be blessed and happy in the Spirit all the time, especially as they draw closer to the end. That approaching time refers to the second and third comings of Christ.

At the second coming, the church is His bride for whom He comes. Revelation 19:7, 8. And at the third coming, the city is the bride and the saints are the guests. Revelation 21:2. In both cases, we need to understand that "the time is near" implies a great wedding feast and the coming of the Bridegroom—Jesus.

The time of the wedding is approaching, and we need to prepare for it. We must keep the date and prepare our spiritual clothes for this event.

Girls love and enjoy talking about their weddings; they plan for them years in advance. When my daughters have difficulties with each other, they say, "If you keep this up, I will not invite you to my wedding." That is the biggest insult imaginable.

Like my girls, God also loves weddings and wants to invite us to participate in the wedding of His Son. In fact, one of the blessings of The Revelation deals with the invitation to the wedding of the Lamb.

Revelation 19 joyfully announces the arrival of "the marriage of the Lamb" as something greatly missed and anticipated. Revelation 19:7. He further declares, "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." Revelation 19:9.

By confessing the name of Jesus as your Saviour, you are automatically invited or called to the wedding. But Jesus declared that, although many are called, few are chosen. All are not called to the wedding, and even fewer are chosen. Matthew 22:14.

The church of Laodicea is especially invited to dine with the Lamb at His wedding. It is a personal call and the hope of a reform. Jesus Himself personally presents the invitation to the supper, because He considers us His friends and family. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me." Revelation 3:20.

You have to prepare for the wedding so as not to be rejected. Matthew 22:11-13. You have to put on a fine linen garment that "is the righteousness of saints." Revelation 19:8. We need the clothing that the King Himself grants us—the spiritual robe of Christ Our Righteousness.

The apostle Paul presents this as being baptized in Christ and putting on Christ. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Galatians 3:27. This means living the life of Christ in our flesh and experience as a witness to the world of God's love. It is to live a life of faith and righteous actions. It is to trust fully in Christ's abundant blessings in our behalf and for His eternal glory. It is to keep what we have read and heard in His love letters inviting us to His weddings.

It is a great joy to live in this last time, about which there has been so much expectation, to be witnesses of the final events, and to receive more and more makarios, or blessings, through the merits of Christ. Blessed and happy are those who read, hear, and keep everything that is written in the prophetic book of Revelation, for the time and the impending celebration of the coming of Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, are near.

1 Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, p. 302.

2 James Strong, Dictionary of Greek Words, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2007, p. 1645. It is the Greek word No. 3107 and signifies supremely blessed, fortunate, well off, and happy.

3 James Strong, Dictionary of Greek Words, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2007, p. 1637. It is the Greek word No. 2540 and signifies always, opportunity, (convenient, due) season, (due, short, while) time, a while.





# Religion in the Family

By Raquel Orce Sotomayor

*"... And in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed."  
Genesis 28:14.*

**T**he messianic promise that was given to the first pair after the fall and was repeated throughout the centuries was first fulfilled when Jesus Christ came to earth as a human being. And this promise applies to all of the families on earth today, for the assurance of divine blessing and heavenly joy is guaranteed by the presence of Christ in the very closest human relationship.

Jesus' first advent about two thousand years ago not only connected heaven to earth through the atoning blood of the divine Lamb, but also gave infinite heavenly blessings to man through the birth, life, suffering, death, and resurrection of our dear Saviour.

The sacred Scriptures specifically describe the plan of salvation as encompassing the blessing of the family: "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." Ephesians 3:14, 15.

"We can have the salvation of God in our families; but we must believe for it, live for it, and have a continual, abiding faith and trust in God.... The restraint which God's Word imposes upon us is for our own interest. It increases the happiness of our families, and of all around us. It refines our taste, sanctifies our judgment, and brings peace of mind, and in the end, everlasting life." —*Child Guidance*, p. 484. Thus, there is a close relationship between salvation and the condition or state of the family, since it is the divine purpose that the families of heaven and earth be one through Christ, the link between God and man.

**"... FELLOW CITIZENS ... OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD." EPHESIANS 2:19.**

God has called us individually to the knowledge of His truth, and His work of salvation in every person is also personal. Just as earthly families are composed of individuals, according to the divine design, so is the heavenly family. The close circle of the family is influenced primarily by the two individuals who formed it—the man and the woman. Each of them gives the new home its character, personality, knowledge, past, experience, and spirituality. Thus, the

religious level of the family depends directly on the two spouses, because to the extent that they are united with God, they will radiate this influence to the other members of the family, the church, and their associates.

The principles and values that govern the lives of the founders of the family will be manifested in the quality of their spirituality and will characterize all who are within that family circle. How solemn, then, is one's personal relationship with God! It determines not only his or her own future life and salvation, but also influences the lives of the other family members, including their weaknesses, defects, and sins, as well as their courage, self-denial, accomplishments, and virtues coming from heaven and developed in their characters. It is important for us to decide today what influence we will exert, what heritage we will impart to our children, and what power will direct our lives.

"Men and women may reach a high standard, if they will but acknowledge Christ as their personal Saviour. Watch and pray, making a surrender of all to God. The knowledge that you are striving for eternal life will strengthen and comfort you both. In thought, in word, in action, you are to be lights in the world. Discipline yourselves in the Lord; for He has committed to you sacred trusts, which you cannot properly fulfill without this discipline. By believing in Jesus, you are not only to save your own souls, but by precept and example you are to seek to save other souls. Take Christ as your pattern. Hold Him up as the One who can give you power to overcome. Utterly destroy the root of selfishness. Magnify God, for you are His children. Glorify your Redeemer, and He will give you a place in His kingdom." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 96.

**"... I [WILL] BE THE GOD OF ALL THE FAMILIES OF ISRAEL, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE." JEREMIAH 31:1.**

Heaven's plan for the family is clearly stated: "He who gave Eve to Adam as a helpmeet ... ordained that men and women should be united in holy wedlock, to rear families whose members, crowned with honor, should be recognized as members of the family above." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 356



# If the goal of the earthly family is to one day must embrace the values invol

- **LOVE**

*“Let brotherly love continue.”* Hebrews 13:1. The love that God gives leads us to love our fellow men in the same measure as that which we receive, becoming the driving principle of life. “Above all things, parents should surround their children with an atmosphere of cheerfulness, courtesy, and love.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 426.

- **UNITY**

*“Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”* Ephesians 4:3. Unity is the connecting principle in the family, between the spouses, with their children, and especially with Heaven. “To come near to Christ is to come near to one another. The secret of true unity in the church and in the family is not diplomacy, not management, not a superhuman effort to overcome difficulties—though there will be much of this to do—but union with Christ.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 179.

- **OBEDIENCE**

*“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth...”* 1 Peter 1:22. Obedience must be the governing principle in the family, so that God and His word are the basis of every action and decision. “When Christ is in the heart, He is brought into the family. The father and mother feel the importance of living in obedience to the Holy Spirit so that the heavenly angels ... will minister to them as teachers in the home, educating and training them for the work of teaching their children.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 323.

- **FIDELITY**

*“And the men did the work faithfully...”* 2 Chronicles 34:12. Fidelity is the twin principle of obedience and the cohesive element of unity with God and among people. “Children must see in the lives of their parents that consistency which is in accordance with their faith. By leading a consistent life and exercising self-control, parents may mold the characters of their children.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 322.

- **DEDICATION**

*“... I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life...”* 1 Samuel 1:11. The consecration of body, soul, and spirit to God will be the supreme principle of every successful human relationship. “Religious instruction means much more than ordinary instruction. It means that you are to pray with your children, teaching them how to approach Jesus and tell Him all their wants. It means that you are to show in your life that Jesus is everything to you...” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 317.

- **COURTESY**

*“... But gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.”* Titus 3: 2. The courtesy born of God is not simple behavior according to human standards but is a principle born of love and respect for every person. “The essence of true politeness is consideration of others....

“Christian courtesy is the golden clasp which unites the members of the family in bonds of love, becoming closer and stronger every day.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 424.

- **TOLERANCE**

*“... Forbearing one another in love.”* Ephesians 4:2. Tolerance as a principle is possible through the force that drives it—love. “... Each member of the household should sacredly regard the feelings and respect the rights of the others.” —*The Adventist Home*, pp. 427.

- **SUBMISSION**

*“... Who loved me, and gave Himself for me.”* Galatians 2:20. Submission is equal to love, for the first is the consequence of the latter. “We should be self-forgetful, ever looking out for opportunities ... to cheer others and lighten and relieve their sorrows and burdens by acts of tender kindness and little deeds of love.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 428.

- **JOY**

*“... Filling our hearts with ... gladness.”* Acts 14:17. Joy is a gift from Heaven that needs to be a motivating principle

# be part of the heavenly family, its members ved in achieving that purpose.

in one's daily life, for God imparts it by His saving grace. "Cultivate sympathy for others. Let cheerfulness, kindness, and love pervade the home." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 433.

- **HOLINESS**

"... Perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Corinthians 7:1. Holiness must be a constant, progressive principle and at the same time a daily goal to reach through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. "And when earthly families are conducted in right lines, the same sanctification of the Spirit will be brought into the church." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 306.

- **DISCIPLINE**

"... Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6: 4. Discipline is an educational principle and regulator of behavior in accordance with the commandments of the Most High, and at the same time is a genuine demonstration of true love. "Teach the children and youth to respect themselves, to be true to God, true to principle; teach them to respect and obey the law of God." —*The Adventist Home*, pp. 305.

- **ORDER**

"Let all things be done decently and in order." 1 Corinthians 14:40. Order and discipline are complementary principles in a life guided by God's will. "Fathers and mothers who make God first in their households, who teach their children that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, glorify God before angels and before men by presenting to the world a well-ordered, well-disciplined family..." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 424.

- **DEVOTION**

"... All the kindreds of the nations shall worship before Thee." Psalm 22:27. Devotion, or the spirit of sacred worship, is a principle that should govern our daily relationship with God on this earth, as it will be in heaven. "In every family there should be a fixed time for morning and evening worship. How appropriate it is for parents to gather their children about them before the fast is broken, to thank the

heavenly Father for His protection during the night, and to ask Him for His help and guidance and watchcare during the day! How fitting, also, when evening comes, for parents and children to gather once more before Him and thank Him for the blessings of the day that is past!" —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 43.

- **EVANGELISM**

"I will declare Thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise Thee." Psalm 22:22. Missionary activity is the principle that imparts and shares the truth with everyone. True followers of Christ do this work. "By precept and example parents are to teach their children to labor for the unconverted.... They should be taught to be diligent in missionary work; and from their earliest years self-denial and sacrifice for the good of others and the advancement of Christ's cause should be inculcated, that they may be laborers together with God." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 429.

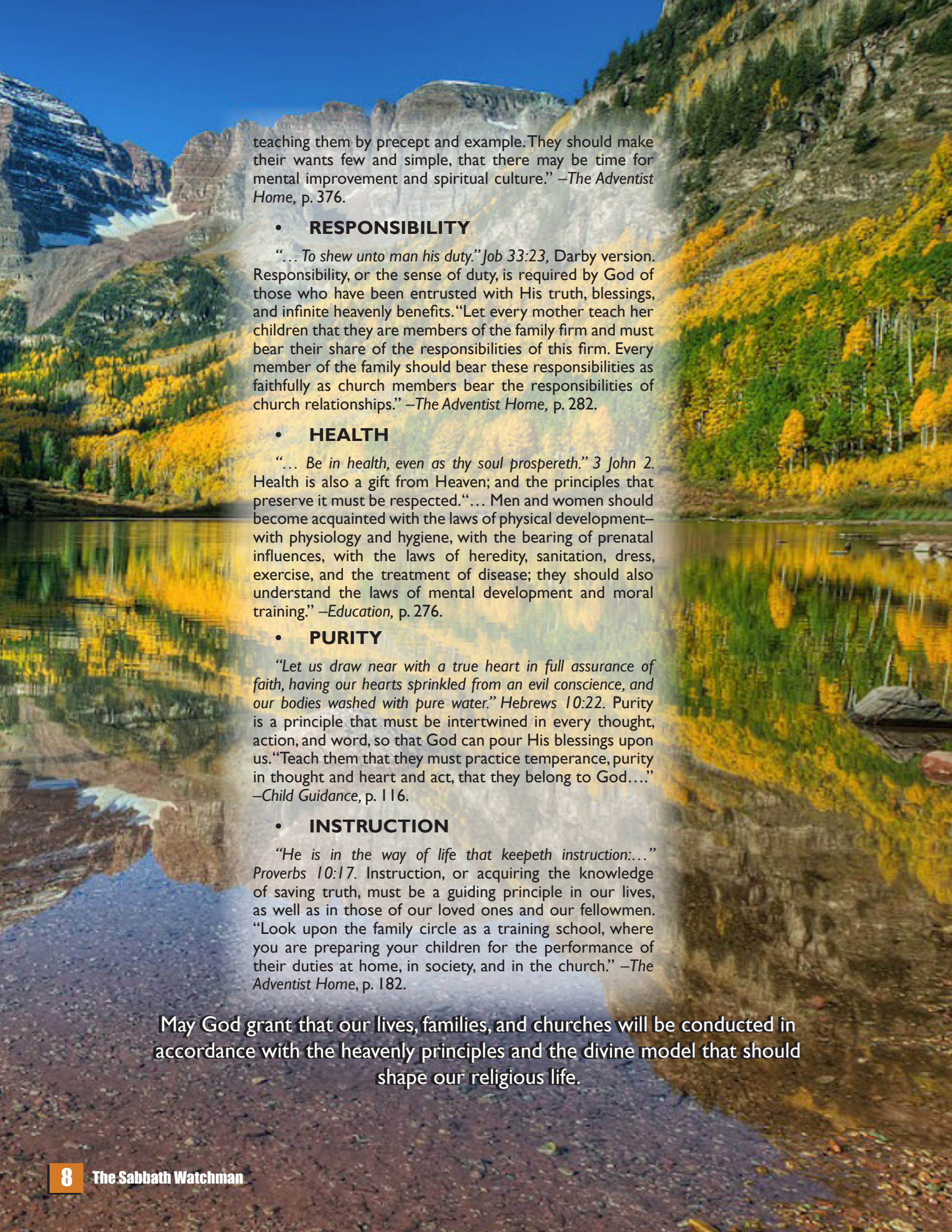
- **INDUSTRY**

"... That they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." Revelation 14:13. Industry, or the principle of work, was established by God Himself before the fall and will continue after the restoration of all things. Our work must be done in a way that leaves behind the fragrance of one life blessing other lives. "Pleasant voices, gentle manners, and sincere affection that finds expression in all the actions, together with industry, neatness, and economy, make even a hovel the happiest of homes. The Creator regards such a home with approbation." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 422.

- **ECONOMY**

"... That a man be found faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:2. Economy, or the principle of carefully managing one's entrusted resources, imparts both blessing and responsibility, for it includes not just financial means but also everything that the Lord imparts, since everything belongs to Him. "Parents should learn to live within their means. They should cultivate self-denial in their children,





teaching them by precept and example. They should make their wants few and simple, that there may be time for mental improvement and spiritual culture.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 376.

- **RESPONSIBILITY**

“... *To shew unto man his duty.*” Job 33:23, Darby version. Responsibility, or the sense of duty, is required by God of those who have been entrusted with His truth, blessings, and infinite heavenly benefits. “Let every mother teach her children that they are members of the family firm and must bear their share of the responsibilities of this firm. Every member of the family should bear these responsibilities as faithfully as church members bear the responsibilities of church relationships.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 282.

- **HEALTH**

“... *Be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*” 3 John 2. Health is also a gift from Heaven; and the principles that preserve it must be respected. “... Men and women should become acquainted with the laws of physical development—with physiology and hygiene, with the bearing of prenatal influences, with the laws of heredity, sanitation, dress, exercise, and the treatment of disease; they should also understand the laws of mental development and moral training.” —*Education*, p. 276.

- **PURITY**

“*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.*” Hebrews 10:22. Purity is a principle that must be intertwined in every thought, action, and word, so that God can pour His blessings upon us. “Teach them that they must practice temperance, purity in thought and heart and act, that they belong to God...” —*Child Guidance*, p. 116.

- **INSTRUCTION**

“*He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction...*” Proverbs 10:17. Instruction, or acquiring the knowledge of saving truth, must be a guiding principle in our lives, as well as in those of our loved ones and our fellowmen. “Look upon the family circle as a training school, where you are preparing your children for the performance of their duties at home, in society, and in the church.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 182.

May God grant that our lives, families, and churches will be conducted in accordance with the heavenly principles and the divine model that should shape our religious life.





# How Did Sin Enter the World?

By Antonino Di Franca

**W**hen the first man came from the Creator's hand, he was pure, holy, and perfect. He was made in the image and likeness of God—in life, words, thoughts, feelings, and desires. Everything about him was good, righteous, and holy. Genesis 1:27; Ecclesiastes 7:29.

He was free and in harmony with God's will, exercising the dominion granted to him over all creation. Genesis 1:28. At his creation, he received privileges, promises, and blessings as well as instructions and conditions. His life was a gift from God, on whom he was fully dependent. The first couple was given freedom of thought, decision, and action and was in close connection and harmony with God's will. "And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil." "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Genesis 2:9, 16, 17.

Being holy and righteous, the man had no problem fulfilling God's command and had no desire for that which was forbidden. This continued until the day of the fall, which began with influences and external assertions about the forbidden fruit. While God had commanded, You shall not eat of it, because if you do, you will surely die, the tempter said, "Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:4, 5. Tragically, Eve allowed herself to be deceived and yielded to temptation. "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat,..." Genesis 3:6. Thus began the path of disobedience for the woman, and the man followed her.

A number of errors can be seen in this critical situation. Evaluating the situation, first Eve was convinced that "the tree was good for food," and this was not so.

Secondly, since "it was pleasant to the eyes"—in her limited, superficial personal view—it would have to be good in all ways. And finally, she was mistaken when she believed that greater knowledge would be acquired and concluded that the tree was "desired to make one wise." These three things show that the woman gave more credence to her own impressions, desires, and conclusions than to God's command and completely lacked faith in and obedience to the beloved Creator.

## CONSEQUENCES

The consequences of such thoughts, desires, incorrect conclusions, and direct disobedience were felt immediately, for the first parents saw the glory with which they were clothed disappear and "that they were naked." When they heard the voice of God, instead of going to meet Him, they hid among the trees. Genesis 3:7, 8. When God called to Adam, instead of responding with joy, the man revealed that he "was afraid," for he was now "naked." Genesis 3:10. It is clear that his actions had changed his condition. An enormous abyss opened up between man and God. Adam, the son of God, became the servant and slave of the evil enemy.

In making the tragic choice to disobey God, Adam lost his trust in Him and His word. As a consequence of doubt and disobedience, his fidelity, innocence, and holiness vanished. On the day of the fall, man died—not physically, but spiritually. In the same moment that the will of God was overruled by human desire, man was overcome, separated from God, and enslaved by evil. In the instant that he ate the forbidden fruit, he died spiritually. "Thou shalt surely die," occurred at that moment; and on that same day man's physical death sentence was pronounced and the steady weakening of the human race continued on from generation to generation. Beginning with man's loss of innocence, the path of sin, guilt, temptation, disease, pain, degeneration, and evil in every form automatically ends with the final wages—death. Genesis 3:16-19; Romans 6:23.



The inspired messenger writes: “The warning given to our first parents—‘In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die’ (Genesis 2:17)—did not imply that they were to die on the very day when they partook of the forbidden fruit. But on that day the irrevocable sentence would be pronounced. Immortality was promised them on condition of obedience; by transgression they would forfeit eternal life. That very day they would be doomed to death....

“... Should they once yield to temptation, their nature would become so depraved that in themselves they would have no power and no disposition to resist Satan....

“The tide of woe ... flowed from the transgression of our first parents....

“To Eve it seemed a small thing to disobey God by tasting the fruit of the forbidden tree, and to tempt her husband also to transgress; but their sin opened the floodgates of woe upon the world. Who can know, in the moment of temptation, the terrible consequences that will result from one wrong step?” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 60, 53, 60, 61.

Sin cannot be considered something superficial to be lightly regarded. It cannot be trivialized as if it were a game of curiosity or an experiment; evil is disastrous, bringing shame, guilt, pain and punishment. Let us remember that “The sin of our first parents brought guilt and sorrow upon the world, and had it not been for the goodness and mercy of God, would have plunged the race into hopeless despair. Let none deceive themselves. ‘The wages of sin is death.’ Romans 6:23.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 61.

## EFFECTS ON THEIR DESCENDANTS

Once the door of sin was opened, it not only remained in the life experience of Adam and Eve but also affected their being and flooded the world. This means that all of their descendants received their parents’ sinful nature and mortality. This is why the Spirit of prophecy writes: “Sorrow filled heaven as it was realized that man was lost and that the world which God had created was to be filled with mortals doomed to misery, sickness, and death, and that there was no way of escape for the offender. The whole family of Adam must die. I then saw the lovely Jesus.... His countenance was calm, free from all perplexity and trouble, and shone with a loveliness which words cannot describe. He then made known to the angelic choir that a way of escape had been made for lost man; that He had been pleading with His Father, and had obtained permission to give His own life as a ransom for the race, to bear their

sins, and take the sentence of death upon Himself, thus opening a way whereby they might, through the merits of His blood, find pardon for past transgressions,....” —*Early Writings*, p. 126 (see p. 149).

“In consequence of Adam’s sin, death passed upon the whole human race. All alike go down into the grave. And through the provisions of the plan of salvation, all are to be brought forth from their graves. ‘There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust;’ ‘for as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.’ Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:22.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 544.

## WHAT ADAM COULD NOT TRANSMIT

Being now a weak being with a limited life, Adam could not transmit to his posterity more than he himself possessed. If this aspect is clear, the whole subject will be easier to understand. “Immortality, promised to man on condition of obedience, had been forfeited by transgression. Adam could not transmit to his posterity that which he did not possess; and there could have been no hope for the fallen race had not God, by the sacrifice of His Son, brought immortality within their reach. While ‘death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned,’ Christ ‘hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.’ Romans 5:12; 2 Timothy 1:10.” —*The Great Controversy*, page 533.

## SINFUL NATURE

This is a fundamental point in understanding the problem of sin; fallen man had a sinful, weak, depraved nature that was transmitted to all of his descendants. The Spirit of prophecy informs us that this is why we have the Adam’s nature. “It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by obedience to God’s law. But he failed to do this, and because of his sin our natures are fallen and we cannot make ourselves righteous. Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law. We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God. But Christ has made a way of escape for us.” —*Steps to Christ*, p. 62.

## DEPRAVED NATURE

After the fall of man, “they were told that their nature had become depraved by sin; they had lessened their strength to resist evil and had opened the way for Satan to gain more ready access to them. In their innocence they had yielded to temptation; and now, in a state of conscious guilt, they would have less power to maintain their integrity.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 61.



“When man transgressed the divine law,” the inspired messenger continues, “his nature became evil, and he was in harmony, and not at variance, with Satan. There exists naturally no enmity between sinful man and the originator of sin. Both became evil through apostasy.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 505.

“It was by falsifying the character of God and exciting distrust of Him that Satan tempted Eve to transgress. By sin the minds of our first parents were darkened, their natures were degraded, and their conceptions of God were molded by their own narrowness and selfishness. And as men became bolder in sin, the knowledge and the love of God faded from their minds and hearts.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, p. 738.

“Satan will bring in every kind of theory to pervert the truth. The work will go hard, for since the fall of Adam it has been the fashion of the world to sin.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, pp. 129, 130.

## WEAK NATURE

In referring to the consequences of sin, other testimonies state: “Through the temptation to self-indulgence and ambition Satan accomplished the fall of our first parents; and from that time to the present the gratification of human ambition and the indulgence of selfish hopes and desires have proved the ruin of mankind....

“The transgression of God’s law brought woe and death in its train. Through disobedience man’s powers were perverted, and selfishness took the place of love. His nature became so weakened that it was impossible for him to resist the power of evil;...” —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, pp. 32, 33.

“By their transgression they had opened a way for Satan to gain access to them more readily,... They were informed that in their fall from innocence to guilt they gained no strength but great weakness. They had not preserved their integrity while they were in a state of holy, happy innocence, and they would have far less strength to remain true and loyal in a state of conscious guilt. They were filled with keenest anguish and remorse. They now realized that the penalty of sin was death.” —*The Story of Redemption*, pp. 40, 41.

“But by disobedience this was forfeited. Through sin the divine likeness was marred, and well-nigh obliterated. Man’s physical powers were weakened, his mental capacity was lessened, his spiritual vision dimmed. He had become subject to death. Yet the race was not left without hope.

By infinite love and mercy the plan of salvation had been devised, and a life of probation was granted.” —*Education*, p. 15.

## TENDENCIES AND INCLINATIONS

In addition to man’s weakened nature, his tendencies, passions, and inclinations defaulted to evil. “Man was to bear God’s image, both in outward resemblance and in character. Christ alone is ‘the express image’ (Hebrews 1:3) of the Father; but man was formed in the likeness of God. His nature was in harmony with the will of God. His mind was capable of comprehending divine things. His affections were pure; his appetites and passions were under the control of reason. He was holy and happy in bearing the image of God and in perfect obedience to His will.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 45.

“In what consisted the strength of the assault made upon Adam, which caused his fall? It was not indwelling sin; for God made Adam after His own character, pure and upright. There were no corrupt principles in the first Adam, no corrupt propensities or tendencies to evil. Adam was as faultless as the angels before God’s throne.” —*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 1083.

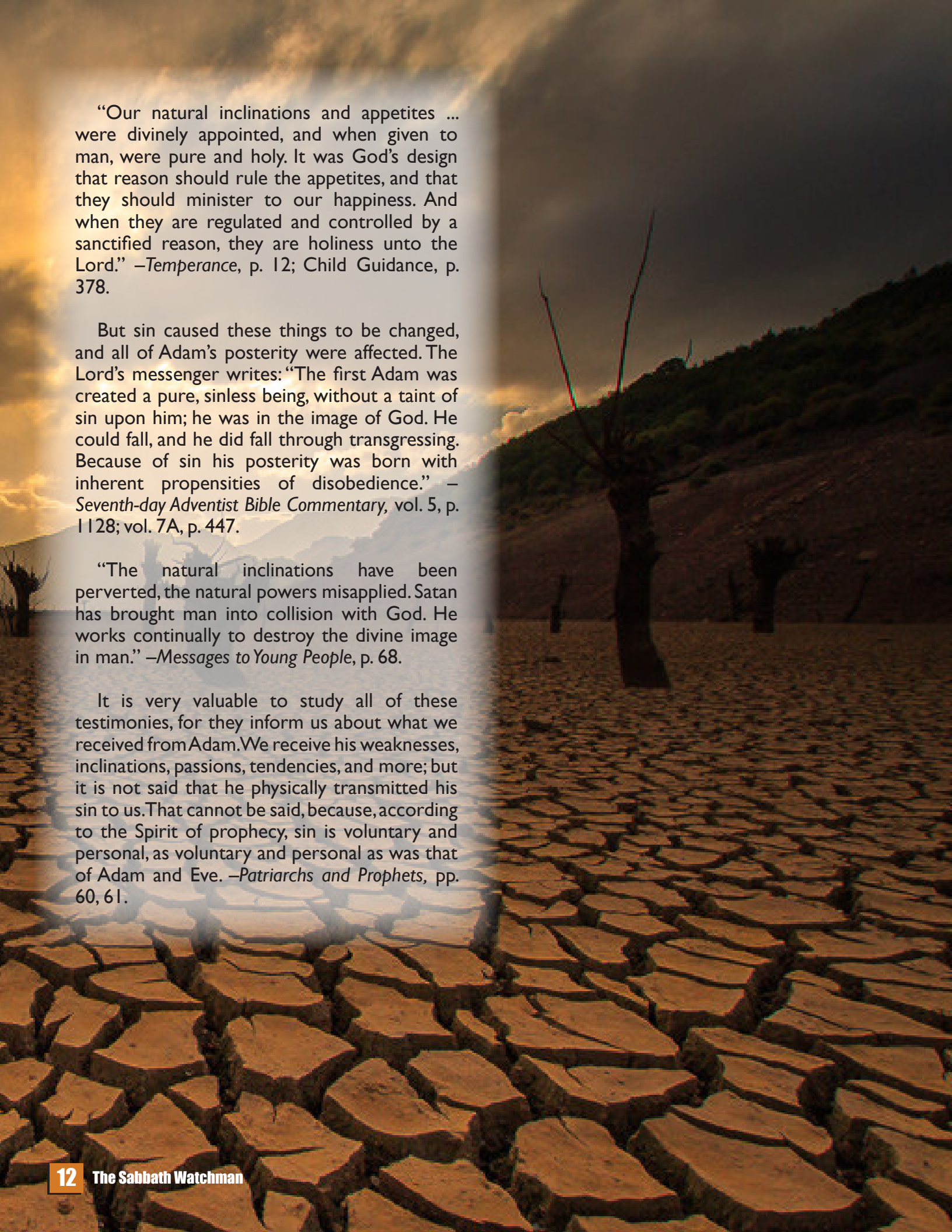
“God made Adam after His own character, pure and upright. There were no corrupt principles in the first Adam, no corrupt propensities or tendencies to evil. Adam was as faultless as the angels before God’s throne. These things are inexplicable but many things which now we cannot understand will be made plain when we shall see as we are seen, and know as we are known.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 344.

“The result of the eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is manifest in every man’s experience. There is in his nature a bent to evil, a force which, unaided, he cannot resist. To withstand this force, to attain that ideal which in his inmost soul he accepts as alone worthy, he can find help in but one power. That power is Christ.” —*Education*, p. 29.

Originally, “Our natural inclinations and appetites ... were divinely appointed, and when given to man, were pure and holy. It was God’s design that reason should rule the appetites, and that they should minister to our happiness.” —(Manuscript 47, 1896) *Temperance*, p. 12.

“The appetites of our animal natures ought to be kept in rigid subjection. These appetites were given us for important purposes, for good, and not to become the ministers of death by being perverted and becoming warring lusts.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 244.





“Our natural inclinations and appetites ... were divinely appointed, and when given to man, were pure and holy. It was God’s design that reason should rule the appetites, and that they should minister to our happiness. And when they are regulated and controlled by a sanctified reason, they are holiness unto the Lord.” –*Temperance*, p. 12; *Child Guidance*, p. 378.

But sin caused these things to be changed, and all of Adam’s posterity were affected. The Lord’s messenger writes: “The first Adam was created a pure, sinless being, without a taint of sin upon him; he was in the image of God. He could fall, and he did fall through transgressing. Because of sin his posterity was born with inherent propensities of disobedience.” – *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1128; vol. 7A, p. 447.

“The natural inclinations have been perverted, the natural powers misapplied. Satan has brought man into collision with God. He works continually to destroy the divine image in man.” –*Messages to Young People*, p. 68.

It is very valuable to study all of these testimonies, for they inform us about what we received from Adam. We receive his weaknesses, inclinations, passions, tendencies, and more; but it is not said that he physically transmitted his sin to us. That cannot be said, because, according to the Spirit of prophecy, sin is voluntary and personal, as voluntary and personal as was that of Adam and Eve. –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 60, 61.

# "I am the Good Shepherd"

By Teresa Corti-Gutknecht

Jesus is both the Lamb and the Good Shepherd. As the Shepherd, He knows very well what His sheep need. He is the Good Shepherd par excellence. The Lord has a flock in this world, a group of humble people who hear and obey His voice because they have had a revelation of the Lamb of God dying for them on the cross. They are a flock that follows the Shepherd along trails that are sometimes scabrous—full of thorns or spines—but in full confidence, because they know that they will be led to green pastures where “they shall no more be a prey,” and “they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods.” They have had sufficient proofs of the Shepherd’s tender care and have made many experiences with Him who has delivered them “out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day,” bound up “that which was broken,” and strengthened “that which was sick.” Ezekiel 34:22, 25, 12, 16.

Every person who decides to follow Christ has experienced His intervention in his life to save him from danger, to console him in the hours of discouragement, and to instruct him in righteousness. The docile, humble sheep know that the Good Shepherd has experience and wants the best for them. If they are sometimes frightened because they see Him take a precarious path to ascend the high mountain and they feel tired and weak, they also follow Him because they know that He wants to take them to the highest heights, is not indifferent to their state and condition and, if necessary, will carry them in His arms.

A shepherd is entrusted with a certain number of sheep to guide safely, feed, and protect from fierce animals and birds of prey. If one sheep goes astray, he will leave the others in a safe place and go in search while the flock is left alone to wait. Each sheep knows that without the shepherd’s guidance he cannot go anywhere, for he does not have the discernment and knowledge of where to go. The shepherd knows that his sheep are faithful and obedient, so he can go in search of the one that did not pay close enough attention to

follow the path or was attracted by something he saw and lost his way.

Caves full of stalagmites and stalactites as well as underground streams have been discovered in some places when a sheep lost its foothold and fell into a hole in the ground. When the shepherd went to look for it, he heard its cry and went down the hole, suddenly finding himself in that fantastic underground world full of rock formations. He took the sheep in his arms, examined it to see if it was hurt, and took it back to the flock. The frightened animal is comforted when its tender master picks it up and does not scold it. The little lamb has learned a lesson; next time it will pay more attention so as not to get lost and will carefully follow in the shepherd to avoid such tests, fear, anxiety, and loneliness. Jesus says: “I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep.” “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” John 10:11, 27).

But the time will come when Jesus will appear as the Judge, and then “I will judge between sheep and sheep.” “And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth His sheep from the goats: And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” “Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” Ezekiel 34:22, American Standard Version; Matthew 25:32-34, 41.

That will be a terrible moment for some and a moment of supreme joy for others. May the Lord in His infinite grace make us obedient sheep and not goats, so that we may hear His voice and sing praises with full confidence in His care. “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.” Psalm 23:1-3.





## World in Brief

### INDONESIAN FIELD NEWS

*Here are some stories of gratitude from the latest baptisms in the Indonesian Field.*



Sister Norry Rattu was formerly a church member. At that time, she was active in the church services and activities, supporting her husband, who is a Bible Worker, not only in Jakarta, but also in Medan. But then she resigned from the church. She still attended church services from time to time. She was ever wandering, and sometimes she attended the Mission Adventist Church (S.D.A.). But Sister Norry was not interested in S.D.A. doctrines or the doctrines of other churches and desired to be united once more with her husband's church. Thus, by God's help and His Holy Spirit, she finally decided to return to the I.M.S. She was baptized and joined the Jakarta local church on December 13, 2017.

Brother Rodrigo Sumual is the son of a brother and sister in the church. He joined his parents in attending church activities and worship. About a year ago, he accepted the teachings of the Reform Movement, but his parents insisted that he not be baptized too soon, because they believed that he was still too young. He continued to attend the church meetings and participate in the church activities for the young people. Later, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, as he continued to request baptism, through consultation and sharing with some church members, his parents finally gave him permission to be baptized. He was baptized and became part of the Amurang local church on December 24, 2017.



Sister Jecklin Koapaha was a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses. The Holy Spirit impressed her with the doctrine of the S.D.A. Reform Movement. About a year before her baptism, she accepted the I.M.S. doctrines after hearing them from her school teacher, who is a member. Then, after learning about the Reformation doctrines, Sister Jecklin made some additional personal investigation to find out more. Finally, she was convicted that this is the right church, accepted the truth, and asked for baptism. She was baptized and joined the Bengkol local church on February 18, 2018.

Brother Jems Rangingisan. This brother was a member of the S.D.A. Church and became inactive because of a family problem. One day, he visited his uncle, who is our church member. About three weeks later, he was given Bible studies about the Reformation by his uncle. Brother Jems diligently studied the Scriptures. We praise our dear Lord that he finally confessed that the Reform Movement is surely the church of the truth. He struggled to attend the worship services every Sabbath and then later requested baptism. He was baptized and became part of the Manado local church on March 25, 2018.



Praise the Lord, and thank you very much for your continued support, help, and prayers for us in Indonesia. Blessings and greetings.  
Adrie Jules Kalengkongan





## FIJI FIELD CONFERENCE



Greetings to our friends and brethren! Our Fijian brethren greet you all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Friend. Together we share the blessed hope of the soon coming of the Lord and with great urgency seek to be prepared to meet Him when He comes.

We recently held the Fiji Field organizational and conference meetings, and it was a great pleasure and blessing for us to have Elder Anton Salavyov, Oceania Division President, back in the Fiji Islands to conduct these important meetings and, more so, to share refreshing spiritual messages with the brethren.

The work in Fiji has advanced over the recent years, and new church groups have been and continue to be established in many places. It was near one of these new church groups that the conference was held—a location two hours' drive north of the main island of Viti Levu, not far from the seaside.

On Friday, everyone gathered to open the Sabbath. The majority of the members live near the main capital city while others live in villages or individual settlements, so on this occasion they travelled to the rural village site for the meetings.

The conference theme, "Choose you this day whom you will serve," challenged each participant to give a definite answer regarding his or her spiritual priorities.





## World in Brief

Brethren, we need to answer this question—in our own souls, among the brethren, and before God! We need to come clean. Whom are we serving? Unless we choose and give the right answer, we are serving something or someone else in the place of God.

The small local church was filled with our members and a few visitors. There was a great blessing in the series of PowerPoint presentations given by Brother Salavyov, entitled “Gold Refined Seven Times” and “The Root of All Evil.” He emphasized how God repeats the process of spiritual cleansing and growth through different periods of our experience and how we are fortunate to undergo this experience daily, so we may be prepared for Christ’s coming into our lives every day; and then we will experience His second coming with amazing joy as well.



God expects no less than the gold refined seven times in us now, as He has always required it from His children in the past. After the close of the Sabbath, everyone dispersed with full hearts, rejoicing that we had shared the wonderful blessing of another Sabbath.

On Sunday morning, two young sisters, Makereta and Litia, were baptized in the ocean. This was followed by their acceptance and the Lord’s Supper service. After lunch, the remainder of the afternoon was dedicated to the organizational aspects of the work in the Fiji Field and lastly to the ordination of church elders. Despite the many hours needed to complete these tasks, the Lord’s presence was felt in the smooth running of the meetings to the end.

We have a great responsibility to this field, both as individuals and also collectively as a church. Our numbers may be few and by ourselves we can accomplish but little; but we believe that, as we put all of our limited energies and capabilities into the hands of the Lord, we can be sure of success.

We would like to extend our gratitude for your prayers, thoughts, and support of the Fiji Field as well as of the Pacific region. Without your support, we cannot be successful in our efforts, so we continue to plead for your help as we are mindful of the ultimate course that Jesus has laid out for us—to finish the work of preparing people to meet the Lord in peace at His coming.

Let us continue to work together in the Lord is our wish and prayer.  
God bless you all.

*Elder Sanaila Ravia Kenivale*

