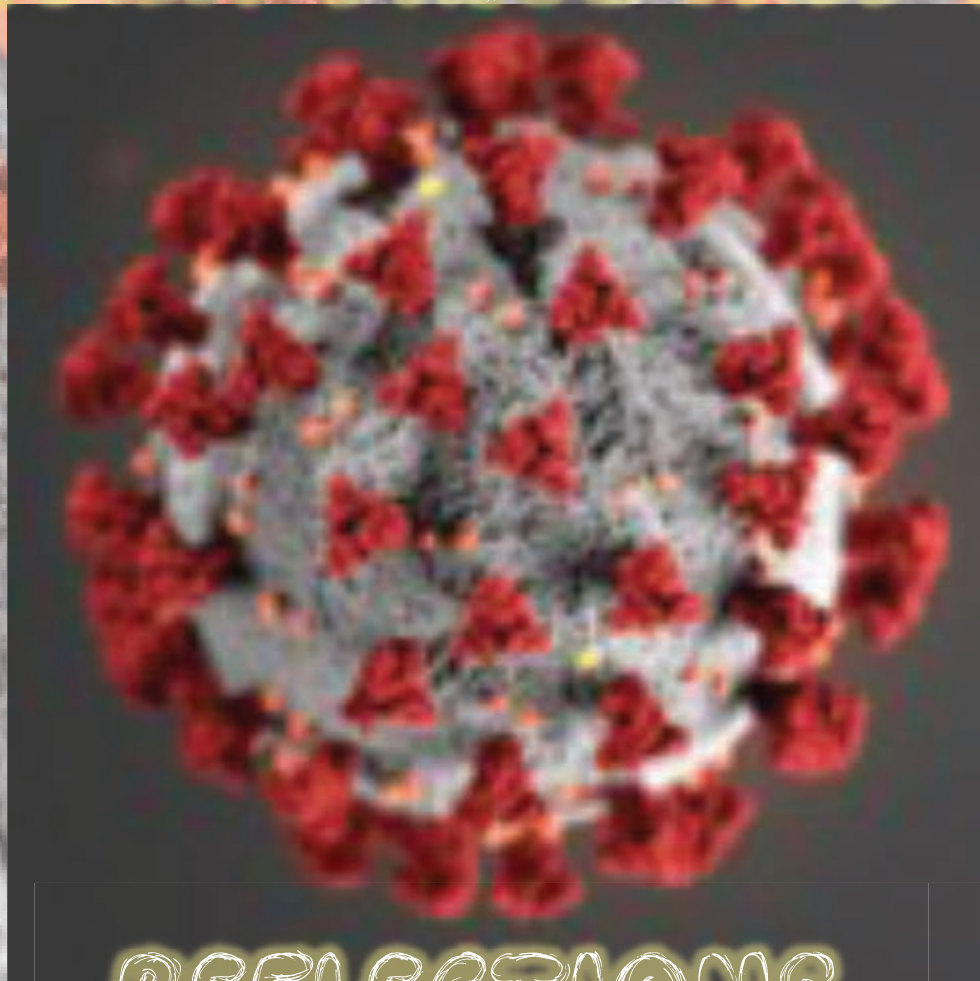




The Sabbath Sentinel

Nov.-Dec.
2020

CORONA VIRUS AND YOU



REFLECTIONS

BSA—The Bible Sabbath Association

Jesus said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do."

The Sabbath Sentinel November-December, 2020

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Cover photo courtesy of Dr. John Merritt.

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Becoming Aware of the Evil

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Eph 6:12). I always have understood this to mean that Satan is at war with us—and he is. But, over time I've come to see that Paul saw a reality in his world that many of us don't yet see.

The above verse not only indicates that our battle is with a wicked spirit, but against people who have gravitated to positions of power to exact their evil on the world around them with impunity.

We are coming to national elections in our country as this magazine is hitting mailboxes around the country. While we debate within ourselves who might be best suited to lead the United States for four years, we contend with the visual images of destruction by people following a Marxist ideology which ideology demands acceptance of communism in place of the way of life handed down to us through the great exertion of the War for Independence. We have seen them burn, loot and murder for months, seemingly unstoppably.

In truth, however, these radicals who are attempting to bring their desired change by violence and intimidation are merely the "useful idiots" defined by Karl Marx in his writings. They have been manipulated into believing that the social construct of communism will work despite its never having worked anywhere it has been tried.

Who then are these evil people who are working behind the scenes, manipulating those rioters and encouraging them to demand "social justice" through the godless evil of communism? We'll come back to that question.

The most notable manifestation of communism was Soviet Russia. In a communist society, all were to work toward the good of that society such that

there would be no need of government. But, the reality was, and is, that mankind without a reward for striving for improvement devolves into doing as little as possible. This causes not only a government to be required, but as was seen under Lenin it is a government of privileges for a few and poverty for everyone else. It is a government of forced labor. It is a government that has never worked anywhere it has been tried. More recently, we have seen the once prosperous nation of Venezuela reduced to poverty via the mechanism of communism.

Communism is a false god. 2 Cor 10:5 tells us that we are to "cast down ... every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God." One of communism's facets is that there is no God. Hatred of all forms of religion that are not worship of the state are integrated into that philosophy. The idea is that everyone is to "worship" Gov, not God.

We read in Jer 10:23 that it is "not in man that walks to direct his steps." This means that we need the wisdom that God imparts in order to walk the path that leads to the life God intends for us. Communism, and its alter egos of socialism and progressivism, are attempts to direct the paths of men by other men—the blind leading the blind.

Jesus did not give up His throne with the Father, come down here to live as we do, then to die ignominiously on the tree, for us to look to other men for the things we need. In all things we are told to look to the Father for "He knows that you have need of all of these things." (Matt 6:32). It is, therefore, to Him that we should look to order our footsteps, not to the evil constructs of men who would rule over other men.

There are people in positions of government who are allowing the unfettered evil of destruction to reign in so many cities. Yet, those people themselves are more "useful idiots" for the evil people pulling their strings with the tools of greed—power and

money. These evil lurkers dangle the illusion of power with monetary wealth before those “useful idiots” to get them to allow the destruction of our way of life wrested from the King of England by those who risked their own lives, fortunes and sacred honor. Those honorable men left to us a nation whose God is the God of Abraham, leaving it as well to their Posterity—us. They left us a nation that looked to that God for our direction, and protection. The Marxist communists are attempting to tear all of that down.

So, who then is providing the illusion of power and money to those errant leaders, and why? Of course, the underlying major power is that of Satan. Why would he care? Satan knows that if he is to prevent God’s people from having a place where they are free to worship God as God commands that He be worshipped then He has to destroy our great nation. He has been working on it since the day our nation was founded. For that he has enlisted powerful “useful idiots.”

Mayer Rothschild of the Rothschild banking empire once said, “Let me issue and control a nation’s money and I care not who writes the laws.” Our nation’s founders in the Constitution mandated that all currency be issued backed by silver and gold. They also proclaimed that the federal government would issue all gold and silver coin. They saw the evil done by the Rothschilds and others like them in Europe (funding of both sides of wars, for example) and wanted to avoid that.

Several attempts at national banks were made but none of them stuck until the Federal Reserve was created in 1913. But, that wasn’t where the evil was born. It happened long before when the central banks of Europe discovered that they could lend money that they did not have, and then charge interest on it. This evil is called “fractional reserve banking.” Using this system, the central banks, including the U.S. Federal Reserve, print money that is not based on gold or silver, then lend it out at interest to other banks for businesses, homes and personal property. Because they control interest rates, they control whether our economy is expanding or

contracting. Because they create money out of thin air, or “fiat money,” they rob all of us by devaluing the money we have in our pockets. Yet, this is how the money is derived to destroy our nation.

Eventually, the devaluation of our dollars in the U.S. will lead to a currency collapse. That is the only possible outcome of deflating the value of the dollar by printing more of them out of thin air, backed by nothing. Such an outcome is not unprecedented. We’ve seen the beginning via the bank bailouts. Soon, “bail-ins” are coming which will wipe out much of the wealth individuals have in our country. Hungry people can be convinced to give up liberty, including the right to worship as they see fit.

This article is too short to get into more detail. The point to which I’m getting is that all of that money in interest coming back to the central bank has to go somewhere. Since they have all the money and the ability to print all that they want (currently at about 80 billion per month), it is not wealth that these people who own the Federal Reserve want. It is power—not the illusion of power like those in public office hold. It is the power of being able to buy and sell politicians so that laws are enacted (or not enforced) according to their desires. It is the power of being able to keep you and I distracted with the evil of Marxism while they continue to rob our nation blind. It is the power to keep us distracted while politicians become wealthy in office and we are made financially less secure year by year.

God will only let this go on for so long. He is a God who is jealous for His Children. At some point when the Evil One has taken us just about to destruction, God will proclaim, “Enough!” and send Jesus back to establish a government that will truly be for the benefit of all men. Until then, we need to pray that God stops the Evil One and his “useful idiots,” i.e., the rulers of darkness in this world, from destroying the one place on earth where the freedom to worship God as He demands is enshrined in law as our God given right.





Kelly McDonald

The President's Corner

Martin Luther and the Sabbath

(Part 1 of 2)

Historic Changes in the BSA!

On behalf of the BSA we would like to thank Barbara Parada for her years of service to the organization. She has served in various roles over the years. Most recently, she served as BSA office manager from 2015-2020. She recently stepped down from this position. I ask that you all pray for her family as they continue life's journey and service in the Kingdom of God. We will do a write-up in a future edition of the Sabbath Sentinel about how important her family has been to this organization. They have made a profound impact that spans decades.

We would also like to welcome Jacquelyn Guerrero who has joined the BSA team as our new office manager. Her family is very familiar with the BSA, as her husband has conducted audits on the organization and served on the board of directors. She brings the skill set and dedication to this position that is necessary as we continue to modernize the organization. When you email our new office manager email address (office@biblesabbath.org), you will now speak with her!

Be sure to welcome her to the organization and thank Barbara for her hard work.

As we come upon the day commonly called "Reformation Day," we are reminded to consider the life of Martin Luther. He defied abuses within the largest religious institution in Europe and won; he risked his life to do so. Many people are not aware that Martin Luther

was also confronted with the issue of the Sabbath. In fact, at the same time Luther's reformation movement began there was also a movement to return to the seventh-day Sabbath.

In 1483, Martin Luther was born into a poor family of peasants. His father entered him into formal learning at a young age. He eventually went to school for law, obtaining a bachelor and master's degree. Not long after this, he decided to become a monk in the Roman Catholic Church.

Upon his entrance into the Erfurt convent, he began to study rigorously. The great question to which he devoted these early years was how he could save his own soul. He fasted, whipped himself, and subjected himself to other forms of penance. In Roman Catholic theology, penance is part of receiving God's forgiveness and coming back into His grace. In Luther's eyes, God appeared as a judge who watched every moment and waited to strike you down for the slightest transgression. This was his idea of God's relationship with man.

In the early Christianity, certain sins were publicly confessed and the remorse of the confessor was accepted as genuine repentance (see I Cor. 5:1-5, 11-13, 2 Cor. 2:1-8; 2 Thess. 3:14-15, Titus 3:9-11). Later, private confession was adopted in the Roman Church. The believer confessed in private to a clergy member, who would then pronounce penance for the believer. In Catholic theology, penance involves performance of certain actions for the

person to be able to receive God's grace. The penance might last a short time or even several years and involve fasting, whipping, a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, or other actions. Perhaps as early as the sixth century, the Roman Church allowed a person to pay so much money as an offering to commute a penance. These were later named indulgences and by the 1500s they were very common.

After some years of study, the idea of indulgences outraged Luther. He nailed the 95 Thesis to the door of the All Saints Church in Wittenburg on October 31st 1517 (some sources say Nov. 1). Community letters and other important announcements were routinely nailed to this door, so this behavior was not out of the ordinary. WHAT Luther nailed to that door was out of the ordinary!

In the 95 Thesis, he stated that there was no need for indulgences and that forgiveness comes from God alone. This bold pronouncement had a chain reaction. The sale of indulgences decreased; there was also a corresponding decrease of revenue for the Roman Church. This catapulted Luther's beliefs to the forefront of German politics, a nation ripe for religious change. The nation was truly divided over the issue. Some of the princes of Germany were very loyal to the papacy, whereas others were weary of Rome and desired change.

In the midst of this attempt to reform the Roman Church, Luther was confronted regarding the Sabbath question. Luther had a close friend named Andreas Karlstadt; they disagreed with each other in two key areas. Karlstadt believed Luther should accept 1) condemning of idols and images as the second commandment decrees and 2) the Sabbath. We have two quotes from him below:

"God laid out before us all commandments and prohibitions to make us aware of our inner image and likeness, and to understand how God created us in his image to become

as God is, i.e., holy, tranquil, good, just, wise, strong, truthful, kind, merciful, etc. All commandments of God demand of us to be god-like; in fact, they have been given us so that we might be conformed to God" (Karlstadt, Regarding The Sabbath and other Statutory Holy Days, Section 2).

"If servants have worked for six days, they are to have the seventh day off God says without distinction, 'Remember to celebrate the seventh day.' He does not say that we must keep Sunday or Saturday as the seventh day. It is no secret that human beings instituted Sunday. As for Saturday, the matter is still being debated" (ibid, Section 10).

In the first statement, Karlstadt discussed the commandments of God and their importance in conforming us in God's image. In the second statement, he wrote about the importance of keeping the Sabbath, though he is undecided about the specific day. Karlstadt admits that human beings instituted Sunday – not God. He was unsure about Saturday being the Sabbath, but he did believe the fourth commandment needed further study in the reformation.

The Saturday Sabbath was a debated issue among reformers. If we are truly to obey sola scripture, then the Saturday Sabbath becomes obligatory! Make no mistake – the Bible is clear that the Sabbath is only one day of the week (Friday sunset to Saturday sunset).

In Part 2 of this series we will look at Luther's response to Karlstadt and the Sabbath. We will also discuss the different groups during the reformation period that definitely obeyed the seventh-day Sabbath.



She bet a Cookie that...



the Sabbath is a New Covenant Command

Dusti Howell, Ph.D.

There are a limited number of NEWS sources that I go to for reliable information. One of those is WND.com which stands for World Net Daily. Last year, my wife spoke to a former Kansas congresswoman who shared a story of a corrupt abortion doctor in our state. The story was so eye opening and unbelievable that my wife had to do research to find out its veracity. Kansas City Newspapers had little to say about this politically incorrect story. There was a dearth of information out there, but a few bold sources covered the story, with WND being one of them. Since that time, we've become big fans of WND.

Let's just say that I was pleasantly surprised on June 12, 2020, to see WND run the following exclusive video release: "Elizabeth Farah bets her viewers a cookie that she can prove her claim." I'll mention that Elizabeth is not only the Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer of WND. She is also 'The Sabbath Lady.' In her video, she asks, "Does the New Covenant command Sabbath keeping?" In the

embedded 23-minute YouTube video, she bets a cookie that she can prove that the answer is yes. In her video, she does an excellent job addressing this question with a focus on Isaiah 56. The WND page can be found at <https://www.wnd.com/2020/06/new-covenant-command-sabbath-keeping/>.

You can also go to the YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLAdB-Xpbi4>. Her YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/c/elizabethfarah>) includes a number of videos, including her journey from Sunday to Sabbath.

I heartily agree with The Sabbath Lady's claim that she brings discipleship and apologetics to her videos. I'll add that she has an upbeat and refreshing message in her videos.

When I shared this information with my wife, she said she already knew of 'The Sabbath Lady' and had positively commented on one of her Sabbath videos last month. If you have not seen her, I recommend giving the Sabbath Lady a listen. But don't get your hopes up. I don't think you have much of a chance of winning one of those cookies.

Did you know...?

that you can aid the BSA effort to promote the Sabbath and a Spirit of brother-hood among all who keep God's Sabbath by becoming a BRIDGE BUILDER or a PILLAR with the BSA? Besides the monthly or annual membership dues which you can find inside the front cover, you can also help with various functions designed to help bring a fellowship of brethren across denominational

lines. Some of the opportunities are: Advise and/or consult with the BSA Board of Directors; visiting and interacting with other Sabbatarian fellowships; speaking on behalf of the BSA; Promotion and/or distribution of BSA materials and services; and assisting with this magazine, the BSA Facebook page, Twitter and other social media on projects defined by the Board of Directors.

THE SABBATH AND THE FIRST DAY— FROM LEVITICUS THROUGH JOHN

Bryant C. Buck

In our previous study we established the basis for the seventh-day Sabbath in Genesis and Exodus. In this study we shall look at the Sabbath from Leviticus all the way through the gospel of John. We will not look at every Scripture that mentions the Sabbath, but we will focus on those Scriptures which either reinforce or change what we have already established about the Sabbath from the first two books of the Bible.

In Leviticus chapter 23 Yahweh gives His annual feasts (annual holydays) to the children of Israel. However, before He even gives the first of these annual feasts, Yahweh declares: *“For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a sabbath of complete rest, a holy convocation. You shall not do any work; it is a sabbath to the LORD in all your dwellings.”* (Leviticus 23:3 NAS) In giving the annual feasts Yahweh sets aside certain days as annual Sabbath days. These annual Sabbath days are the first day and the last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the day of the Feast of Weeks, the day of the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the first day and the last great day of the Feast of Tabernacles. (See Leviticus 23:6-8, 21, 24-25, 27-28, and 35-36.) The fact that Yahweh repeats the seventh-day Sabbath command before He gives the annual Sabbath days shows that the annual Sabbath days neither change nor take away from the seventh-day Sabbath.

When Moses repeats the Ten Commandments first given in Exodus 20, the command to keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy is repeated along with the rest of the Ten Commandments. *“Observe the sabbath day to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant or*

your ox or your donkey or any of your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you, so that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to observe the sabbath day.” (Deuteronomy 5:12-15 NAS) So Yahweh reinforces all of the Ten Commandments including the Sabbath commandment in the book of Deuteronomy.

In the history books of the Old Testament we find only passing references to the Sabbath until we come to Nehemiah. When the Levites pray in Nehemiah 9, part of their prayer is *“Then You came down on Mount Sinai, and spoke with them from heaven; you gave them just ordinances and true laws, good statutes and commandments. So You made known to them Your holy Sabbath, and laid down for them commandments, statutes and law, through Your servant Moses.”* (Nehemiah 9:13-14 NAS) Interestingly, the commandment which the Levites single out as the example of “good statutes and commandments” is the “holy Sabbath.” This concern over keeping the Sabbath day holy is reinforced in the rest of Nehemiah. In the covenant that the people of Israel made with God at that time we read: *“As for the peoples of the land who bring wares or any grain on the sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the sabbath or a ho-*



ly day; and we will forego the crops the seventh year and the exaction of every debt.” (Nehemiah 10:31 NAS)

Later we find Nehemiah speaking to the national leaders: “Then I reprimanded the nobles of Judah and said to them, ‘What is this evil thing you are doing, by profaning the sabbath day? Did not your fathers do the same, so that our God brought on us and on this city all this trouble? Yet you are adding the wrath on Israel by profaning the sabbath.’” (Nehemiah 13:17-18 NAS)

The account in Nehemiah 13 goes on to

relate how Nehemiah locked the traders and merchants out of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day.

Although the Sabbath is not mentioned in all the books written by Old Testament prophets, whenever the Sabbath is mentioned, it is reinforced. Two examples from major Old Testament prophets are particularly noteworthy. From the prophet Isaiah we read: “If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD’s holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.’ The mouth of the LORD has spoken.” (Isaiah 58:13-14 NIV) Note in this passage that Yahweh calls the Sabbath “my holy day” and “the LORD’s holy day.” The concept that the Sabbath is a holy day is not something that man dreamed up; Yahweh Himself calls the Sabbath “my holy day.”

Similarly, from the prophet Jeremiah we read: “This is what the LORD says: Be careful not to carry a load on the Sabbath day or bring it through the gates of Jerusalem. Do not bring a load out of your houses or do any work on the Sabbath, but keep the Sabbath day holy, as I commanded your forefathers.” (Jeremiah 17:21-22 NIV) As the Sabbath commandment included in the Ten Commandments emphasized not doing any work on the Sabbath, likewise the repetition of the Sabbath commandment in Jeremiah emphasizes not doing any work on the Sabbath. Moreover, Yahweh refers directly back to the fourth commandment as He concludes His word through Jeremiah by saying “as I commanded your forefathers.” Yahweh com-

manded Jeremiah’s forefathers when He instructed them to keep the seventh day of the week holy in the fourth commandment.

Going forward to the gospels of the New Testament, we see the Sabbath in the life of Jesus. Some have argued that since Jesus repeatedly reprimanded the Pharisees for their excessively legalistic views of the Sabbath, this indicates that Jesus intended to change the Sabbath. But in every encounter with the Pharisees, Jesus reprimanded them for how they kept the Sabbath rather than for keeping the Sabbath. Specifically, Jesus took issue with the Pharisees’ view that it was illegal to heal on the Sabbath day. The account of Jesus healing the man with the withered hand illustrates this issue best. “Departing from there, He went into their synagogue. And a man was there whose hand was withered. And they questioned Jesus, asking, ‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?’ – so that they might accuse Him. And He said to them, ‘What man is there among you who has a sheep, and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.’ Then He said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand!’ He stretched it out, and it was restored to normal, like the other.” (Matthew 12:9-13 NAS) Jesus didn’t tell the Pharisees not to keep the Sabbath day; He told them “it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” And then Jesus did good on the Sabbath day by healing the man with the withered hand. All this was done to prove that Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath. In fact, this truth was declared just before this account when Jesus stated: “For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” (Matthew 12:8 NAS) Ask yourself this question: How could Jesus be Lord of the Sabbath if He didn’t even keep the Sabbath?

The most decisive verse regarding Jesus and the Sabbath is found in Luke 4:16 (NAS): “And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.” What was Jesus’ custom? “He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath.” It was Jesus’ custom to go to the synagogue on the Sabbath. In other words, Jesus habitually kept the Sabbath. Many Christians emphasize being like Jesus. Do

you want to be like Jesus? Then keep the Sabbath like Jesus did. In addition, many Christians ask the question: "What would Jesus do?" Jesus would do what He did; "as was His custom," He would keep the Sabbath.

The only references to the first day of the week from Leviticus through John are found in the four gospels. I will quote all of them. "Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave." (Matthew 28:1 NAS) "When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices so that they might come and anoint Him. Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen." (Mark 16:1-2 NAS) "But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared." (Luke 24:1 NAS) "Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone taken away from the tomb." (John 20:1 NAS)

All four of these references refer to the resurrection of Yeshua. In fact, each gospel gives an account of the resurrection of Yeshua and the different accounts start with the verses quoted above. All four accounts go on to relate how those who entered the tomb found it empty and how the resurrected Yeshua later appeared to His disciples. From these accounts Sunday advocates affirm that we should worship on the first day of the week because Yeshua was raised from the dead on the first day of the week.

Look at the Scriptures quoted above again. Where does it say in any of them that Yeshua was resurrected on the first day of the week? All the accounts of Yeshua's resurrection tell us the same story—namely, that Yeshua had already been resurrected by the time the early morning visitors arrived at the tomb. So when did Yahweh resurrect Yeshua from the grave?

Most of Christianity teaches that Yeshua died on Friday and was resurrected on Sunday. The Bible doesn't tell us the hour of day when He was resurrected, but it does tell us the hour of day when He

died. "It was about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, because the sun was obscured, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.' Having said this, he breathed His last." (Luke 23:44-46 NAS) (For parallel accounts see Matthew 27:45-50 and Mark 15:33-37.) Yeshua died at the ninth hour in the traditional Jewish reckoning of time; that means that He died at 3 PM in our reckoning of time.

Now consider the time of Yeshua's death in the light of this Scripture: "But He answered and said to them, 'An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.'" (Matthew 12:39-40 NAS) Yeshua Himself foretold us that He would be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth – in other words, that He would be buried for 72 hours. Try to fit three days and three nights into a time frame between 3 PM Friday afternoon and 6 AM Sunday morning. You can't do it! Yet that is precisely what the Sunday morning resurrection advocates want us to believe.

From the gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, we know that Yeshua died on Passover. In 31 AD (the most likely year of His death) Passover occurred on Wednesday. There are more than 72 hours between 3 PM Wednesday and 6 AM Sunday. From the Scriptural evidence it appears that Yeshua died at 3 PM on Wednesday, was resurrected at 3 PM on Saturday (three days and three nights after His death), and was found to have been resurrected on Sunday morning. The gospel accounts of Yeshua's death, burial, and resurrection neither disprove the Sabbath as Yahweh's weekly holy day nor prove that Sunday is Yahweh's weekly holy day.



SABBATH KEEPERS WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

Bill Lussenheide

The Bible tells us in Ecclesiastes 9:10 *“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might.”* This can apply to any endeavor in this life that God has given us!

Dr. Frank Jobe, a lifelong Sabbath Observer and a lifetime member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, became a legend in the annals of sports medicine. He was the creator of what is now called “Tommy John” surgery for baseball pitchers. His groundbreaking, innovative and pioneering achievement prolonged or saved the careers of countless baseball players at all levels and changed baseball forever.

Frank Jobe was born in 1925 in Greensboro, North Carolina. After graduating from Collegedale Academy, a Seventh Day Adventist High School, in Tennessee in 1943, he enlisted in the United States Army and reported to Camp Barkeley for training. Like his more famous fellow Adventist, Desmond Doss, Jobe did not take up arms in military service, but rather served in the Medical Corp. Serving in World War II as a medical staff sergeant in the Army's 101st Airborne Division, he landed by glider at Normandy. He was captured during the Siege of Bastogne in the Battle of the Bulge, but successfully escaped his captors!

The Germans had captured all of the American field surgical team, most of the medical clearing station, equipment, and transportation. The Germans ordered the Americans at gunpoint to gather their wounded, load everything onto their vehicles and fall back into the enemy positions. Jobe and a buddy looked for any opportunity to escape, and as soon as they saw a German guard not paying close



attention, they jumped from the German vehicle and took off running as fast as they could with bullets flying all around them! Scrambling down a bank, they forded an icy stream and hid in some bushes along a road until they jumped onto a passing American Army truck.

He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Combat Medical Badge, and Glider Badge with one star, for his service, without shooting his weapon once. After the war, Jobe enrolled at Southern Adventist University with help from the G.I. Bill. He completed his bachelor's degree at La Sierra University and went on to medical school at Loma Linda Universi-



ty, receiving his MD in 1956.

He worked for three years as a general practitioner before completing a residency in orthopedic surgery at the Los Angeles County Hospital. Jobe officially joined the Dodgers' medical staff in 1968. Jobe changed the game of baseball on September 25, 1974, when he performed the first ulnar collateral ligament reconstruction surgery on the left elbow of a Los Angeles Dodger pitcher Tommy John. The procedure, now known as "Tommy John" surgery, involved grafting a tendon from John's forearm into his elbow to replace the ligament. John recovered and took his baseball career to new heights. The transplantation procedure had never been done before and was considered revolutionary. Before the operation, Tommy John had won 124 games in the major leagues. After the surgery, he won 164 games, and was able to play until age 46!

Since that groundbreaking achievement, Jobe performed more than 1,000 Tommy John surgeries on pitchers of varying levels and abilities. He later de-

veloped another revolutionary procedure, a shoulder reconstruction surgery that was first used to save the career of Dodger great Orel Hershiser. Other pitchers to extend their careers after Tommy John surgery include All Stars such as Stephen Strasburg, David Wells, A. J. Burnett, Francisco Liriano, Chris Carpenter, Tim Hudson, John Smoltz, Joe Nathan, Brian Wilson, Billy Wagner, and Matt Harvey.

Frank Jobe authored over 140 medical publications, wrote 30 book chapters, and edited seven books. He received three honorary doctorates, two from the United States and one from Japan.

Jobe met his future wife Beverly Anderson while working as a general practitioner and she was referred to him as a patient. Rather than treat her himself, he had another doctor treat her so the pair could date. They had four sons, who had eight grandchildren. Dr. Jobe's name has periodically been put forward by sportswriters, fans, and players alike as worthy of a nomination for the National Baseball Hall of Fame. He was honored during Hall of Fame weekend on July 27, 2013, in Cooperstown, New York. Hall of Fame president Jeff Idelson said that Dr. Jobe's work is a testament to the positive role of medicine in baseball's growth. Tommy John himself attended, praising the Doctor by saying, "I think there should be a medical wing in the Hall of Fame, starting with Dr. Frank Jobe".

Having lived a life of example and service, and being a Sabbath Keeper Who Made a Difference, Frank Jobe passed away, looking forward to the resurrection, on March 6, 2014 at the age of 88. Hundreds of family, friends and colleagues fittingly gathered at Dodger Stadium in memorial, on April 7, 2014 to celebrate Dr. Jobe's life.

Author Bill Lussenheide played semipro baseball in Los Angeles Sunday leagues from 1975 to 1978 as a starting catcher. He serves as Vice President of the Bible Sabbath Association.



ONE RACE...MANY COLORS

Aubrey Duncan

America was born out of a revolution against social injustice. Its birth certificate is signed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

However, the flawed men who were inspired by Creator God to create and sign that divine document failed to live up to its precepts. The result was another nefarious form of social injustice, slavery. There were then, and still are now, those who insist that all men are not created equal. The conflict between the precepts of the covenant and its practical application led to the most bloodied and horrific chapter of the American Experiment, the Civil War.

Throughout the nation's existence, men and women have strived and sacrificed to ensure that the nation lived up to its promise which embodied, what Abraham Lincoln referred to as, "a rebuke and a stumbling-block to tyranny and oppression." Besides Lincoln, the God who created this nation raised up prophets and protestors against the ignominy of slavery. There was Sojourner Truth, Harriet



Tubman, Frederick Douglass and Nat Turner. William Lloyd Garrison, a white abolitionist and founder of the American Anti-Slavery Society, along with other whites, such as writers John Greenleaf Whittier and Harriet Beecher Stowe were neck deep in the struggle. In more recent times, came Stokely Carmichael, Malcolm Little (X) and Martin Luther King, Jr. Like the ancient prophets sent to Israel, they suffered and endured hardship and persecution. Some made the ultimate sacrifice, martyrdom.

But sadly, today we are witnessing the same battle being played out before our very eyes. Some are fighting and protesting against social injustice. Others, rationalizing the thoughts of God's messengers of some two hundred plus years ago, persist in maintaining a system of racial inequality. Their stance remains: all men are not created equal.

I reflected upon the senseless killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and the continued culture of social injustice in which people of color find themselves. There was slavery. Tens of thousands of innocent men and women were savagely separated from their families on the African continent and forcibly brought to Europe and America. Under the most inhuman, cruel, and ignominious treatment they built the foundation of America's and the world's economic prosperity. And now, their descendants are not only denied their rightful place in that enterprise; but are the victims of social injustice for the simple reason for just being around.

Then my Creator reminded me that such is not limited to white on black. There was Idi Amin in Uganda, Africa. His despotic cruelty inflicted upon people of his own color certainly ranks in the upper

echelons of social injustice. Who can forget the heartless massacre of the Hutus against the Tutsis in Rwanda? There was Stalin, Lenin, Mussolini, and Hitler. We are living with Al Kaida and Boka Haran.

The chapters of human history reveal the abominable nature of social injustice. It knows no boundaries. It transcends race, caste, and culture.

We can read the record that tells of the abject cruelty doled out to those who did not agree with the doctrines and dogmas of the European Ecclesiastical Establishment. It was a period that has become known as the Dark Ages in which tens of millions were slaughtered for simply wanting to exercise their God-given right to think for themselves.

We are told of the cruel experience of the Jewish people in Egyptian bondage and their not too distant experience of the Holocaust. But then today, we are confronted with the Jews' treatment of the Palestinians. The plight of social injustice is as broad as it is deep, spanning the gamut of human 'civilization.'

But what is the cause? I inquired.

God responded through His prophet Jeremiah: *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"* (Jeremiah 17:9). It is the condition of the heart that leads to man's inhumanity to man. It entered the world and the hearts of men through the greatest rebel and most cruel slave-master ever, Satan. He continues his baleful work in the hearts of men and women on his hijacked plantation, called planet earth. We all live on it and we are all slaves. Yes, there are house slaves and there are field slaves. The supreme slave master wants to keep us separated, fighting against, and destroying each other.

Then I asked, 'what is the remedy?'

Creator God then directed me to the most ignominious demonstration of social injustice the world has

or will ever know. It is that of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. His continuous unjust treatment, from the womb to the tomb, is unmatched by any in the annals of human history.

His 9-month pregnant mother, a member of the poorest, lowest social class of their time, chose to obey the law of the ruling class. Making her painful journey of more than 80 miles from their humble home in Nazareth, on the back of a donkey, she arrived in the capital city of Jerusalem to be counted in the census. Upon arrival, she was denied the benefit of a comfortable place in which to lay her tired, travel worn, pregnant body. The only place she and her husband could find was in a cave. It was no ordinary cave. It was a cave in which the beasts and animals of the field found their rest. The aroma of its precincts permeated with the stench of their feces and filth of their unwashed bodies.

But what a joy it was when her baby was born. The skies lit up with the presence of the heavenly angels who sang in heart-warming, melodious tones, *"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people... For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord... And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger... And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying... Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"* (Luke 2:10-14).

Then I hear my Lord loudly declaring, "He is the cure. He is still the Answer." He is the Only Destroyer of social injustice.

The religion of Christ is neither cantankerous, accusatory nor prejudicial. Jesus in the heart dispels the spirit of strife and contention. He replaces those impulses with love and compassion for everyone we encounter, regardless of color, culture, or caste. Christ's religion redirects the motives. It reaches out to seek and to uplift the least among us. Truly

knowing Christ purifies the soul. He enters in, refines the taste, and elevates the thoughts. Jesus in the heart transforms the character and ennobles the entire being. He disposes the darkness and cruel predisposition of berating those who look different from we do. He then fills the vacuum with affection, charity, thoughtfulness, and consolation.

God created only one race, the human race. He created it in His own image. That race, like the rainbow that surrounds His throne consists of many colors. They all matter. All are beautiful and radiant, seamlessly blending together to reflect His unspeakable glory to His immeasurable universe. He infused one blood into that race. His servant Luke reminds us, And [God] has made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth (Acts 17:26).

Until the inhabitants on this sin-sick plantation: house slaves, field slaves and under-slave masters, realize who is the real slave master and begin a rebellion against him, social injustice will continue. Not unlike the flawed instruments He used to declare the nation's independence from their Colonial masters, Almighty God promised through His messenger, John, *"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write, for these words are true and faithful.* (Revelation 21:4-5).

Only then will social injustice not only be mitigated, but totally eradicated. The rainbow of God's glory will be fully revealed in the majestic beauty of One Race, Many Colors, living together and loving each other as He originally intended. We must share this undeniable truth.

The choice belongs to each of us. What will yours be?



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The Truth About Inter-Church/Interfaith Relations



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This article addresses some concerns that have been expressed regarding the Seventh-day Adventist Church's engagement with other Christians.

Though most Adventists, since the establishment of a department of Public Affairs and Religious liberty in 1901, understand the necessity to mingle with other Christians, the questions are still asked: "Why mingle with other Christians? Is this not a betrayal of Adventist identity, message, and mission?" To these, our unequivocal answer is no, it is not. The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church cannot be fulfilled without mingling as Jesus did. Fears and objections are part of human experience, but they have to be addressed rationally.

First, a clarification. Inter-church and interfaith relations do not mean ecumenism in the sense of union with other churches, doctrinal alliances, obliteration of differences, or the loss of distinctive emphasis on biblical truths.

A misunderstanding of this basic fact has prompted a few at the fringes of the church to accuse Adventist leaders of betraying the church's position, which they assume demands there be no interaction with other Christians at all. This radical rejection of mingling with others is, at times, expressed through violent and angry rhetoric.

Both in the Bible and in the writings of Ellen White, we have a clear picture that antagonism and hostility toward other Christians should have no place in a heart indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Love of even enemies is at the heart of the teachings and lifestyle of Jesus. Ellen White admonishes Adventists to present ourselves in a favorable light before all the world. The gospel, the good news of God, should never be sidelined. The gospel of the kingdom must be proclaimed, and then the end shall come, said Jesus. But this gospel of the kingdom cannot be separated from the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the first of which is love. After all, a distinctive mark of discipleship is love of God and love of one's neighbor.

Prerequisite

What, then, is driving these attitudes of hostility toward inter-church and interfaith relations and these unfounded fears that Adventist leaders have engaged in ecumenism, which is understood as a union of churches and loss of Seventh-day Adventist distinctives? To understand these issues, one has to dig deeper into aspects of the Seventh-day Adventist worldview that could be easily misunder-

stood and distorted, particularly as they pertain to eschatology and end-time events.

As the name "Seventh-day Adventist" indicates, members of our denomination emphasize the importance of both protology — the studies of origins or first things — and eschatology, the studies of last things. The importance of the reality of creation and consummation of all things — the end of this world and the beginning of the universal kingdom of God — are central to the Adventist message. This beautiful message is an invitation to life, a message of mercy and love, a warning from God's heart not to share the fate of God's enemies and be deprived of everlasting fellowship in love with God and with fellow human beings. It is God's passion for the salvation of human beings that informs the three angels' messages of Revelation 14.

Yet, the ways in which this message is interpreted by some church members demonstrates how a legitimate biblical framework can be used to misleading ends. The worst is always the corruption of the best. When misunderstood, both protology and eschatology can be instrumentalized as weapons of hatred toward others and thus used to betray the very purposes of God. Prophecies themselves can become pretexts for the denigration and vilification of others who believe differently.

There are better ways to model Christian character than verbal violence against perceived enemies. Jesus prayed for His enemies. Stephen prayed for his murderers. Christian martyrs throughout the centuries have shown the same spirit, for they knew they were not fighting against flesh and blood but against evil spirits, who use people to sabotage Christ's work of salvation.

The Undergirding Issue: An Anticipated Persecution Because of Sabbath Keeping

In our church's understanding of eschatology, the Sabbath will play a key role. However, in Ellen White's writings, this phase when the Sabbath becomes a test of loyalty to God is called the last drama of end-time events. When Sunday observance becomes Sunday law and, specifically, when it is imposed as a universal decree upon all the inhabitants of the world, then people will have a final opportunity to choose between God's sovereignty and counterfeit authority:

The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will re-

veal Himself. He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity, and the earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain (Testimonies for the Church 7:141).

There are two important pieces of information here that help us understand the issues at stake:

The universal imposition by law of Sunday as a substitute for the biblical Sabbath is considered the last act of the drama called the great controversy.

There is another key element in the unfolding of end-time events, and it is an element rooted in the time of trouble predicted in the 12th chapter of Daniel. In this last act of the great controversy drama there is the prospect of the persecution, suffering, and martyrdom of those who affirm God's sovereignty by observing and celebrating God's sign, symbol, and seal—the biblical Sabbath.

Predictions regarding end-time restriction of religious freedom and persecution of those who refuse to comply inform the anticipation of the future and, in particular, end-time events.

The Supposed Actors of the Persecution of God's Faithful

This time of trouble, writes Ellen White, is to be carried out by other Christians in coalition with governments who will restrict the religious freedom of God's people.

The remnant church will be brought into great trial and distress. Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts. Satan numbers the world as his subjects; he has gained control of the apostate churches; but here is a little company that are resisting his supremacy. If he could boot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete (Testimonies for the Church 5:472).

Regarding the role of other churches in the future predicament of Sabbath-keepers, she continues:

Satan will excite indignation against the humble minority who consciously refuse to accept popular customs and traditions. Men of position and reputation will join with the lawless and the vile to take counsel against the people of God. Wealth, genius, education, will combine to cover them with contempt. Persecuting rulers, ministers, and church members will conspire against them. With voice and pen, by boasts, threats, and ridicule, they will seek to overthrow their faith. By false representations and angry appeals, they will stir up the passions of the people. Not having a 'Thus says the Scriptures' to bring against the advocates of the Bible Sabbath, they will resort to oppressive enactments to supply the lack. To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law.... On this battlefield comes the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error (Testimonies for the Church 5:450, 451).

These quotes anticipate that the issue of the Sabbath will

be pivotal in the last great conflict. When that time comes, the persecution of Sabbath-keepers will become a reality.

Yet, it is crucial to understand that this passage speaks of the future — the final act in the great controversy. If we misunderstand these words, they can be used to feed into a misplaced suspicion that the Christians who will one day conspire with political powers to persecute God's people are the very same ones who live today.

This is the heart of the mistake — to conflate the future with the present.

For some, the prospect of future persecution brings not only fear but antagonism toward other Christians, yet this is not a just response. We must be clear. These prophetic words do not justify labeling other Christians as "evil." They do not prescribe shunning other Christians. They do not excuse treating supposed future persecutors as present dangers.

Paranoia can perhaps lead some to forget God's injunction to not fear those who can only kill the body and can do no more; or Christ's assurance to His followers that when they see end-time signs, they should lift up their head, for deliverance draws close.

Fear tries to do the impossible, crossing time and space to go into the future and remove a burden that makes life toxic. In this scheme of things, the present and the future are confused. It is profoundly unfair to others and also unjust. Moreover, it leads to neglecting the gospel commission and to abandoning the cardinal Christian virtues: faith, hope and love.

One has to remember that according to 1 Corinthians 13, even prophecy without love is nothing.

Neglecting the True Mission to Share the True Gospel

The danger of focusing on potential enemies is that we neglect the true biblical gospel. This gospel is not that God's people will be persecuted, even by those who claim to belong to God. The good news is always about liberation and God's gracious attribution, His imparting and imputing of Christ's righteousness in view of everlasting fellowship with God in God's eternal kingdom of peace, justice, righteousness, and love.

Jesus said, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world, and then the end shall come."

The current time is therefore a time for mission. The good news of God's kingdom must be shared. Now is a time to articulate and translate the everlasting gospel in ways the current generation can understand. It is a time to be enthusiastic about the blessed hope, for God wants all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

Interestingly, Ellen White writes that "the last message of mercy to be given to the world is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His

glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them” (Christ’s Object Lessons, 415, 416).

Usurping God’s Prerogatives: Trying to Do What Only God Can

Misunderstanding Adventist eschatology can lead to serious consequences. Those who confuse future events with current reality dismiss relationships with other Christians as unnecessary and useless. They conflate other Christians with future enemies and act as if their destiny is already sealed; and further, that the “the mark of the beast” is already affixed on those who do not keep the biblical Sabbath. This fundamental hermeneutical fallacy clouds their thinking as to faith, hope, and love.

It is important to understand Ellen White’s consistent teaching regarding the “mark of the beast,” which is expressed in the following:

No one has yet received the mark of the beast. The testing time has not yet come. There are true Christians in every church, not excepting the Roman Catholic communion. None are condemned until they have had the light and have seen the obligation of the fourth commandment. But when the degree shall go forth enforcing the counterfeit Sabbath, and the loud cry of the third angel warn men against the worship of the beast and his image, the line will be clearly drawn between the false and the true. Then those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast (Evangelism, 234, 235).

Similarly, Ellen White’s declarations regarding the seal of God are sobering and should never lead to a spirit of triumphalism or accusation of others.

Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God — candidates for heaven (Testimonies for the Church 5:216).

There is a paradox here. Those who see themselves as victims of future persecutions are in fact led by fear. They adopt the very practices they claim to revile. Those are inquisitions, condemnations, accusations, and discriminations. They become promoters of hate speech, slanderers, accusers of the brethren, and character assassins.

But there is no room for hatred in the heart of a Seventh-day Adventist, someone who, by calling, welcomes the Holy Spirit of Christ to dwell in his or her heart along with God’s fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control.

Public Affairs and Freedom of Conscience

The counsel of Ellen White provides a fundamental ra-

tionale for why Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) leaders of the church continue to promote freedom of conscience, liaising between the church and governments, civic leaders, religious leaders of all Christian denominations, and leaders of world religions. Ellen White wrote clearly and unequivocally regarding the responsibilities and duties of Adventist leaders:

It is our duty to do all in our power to avert the threatened danger. We should endeavor to disarm prejudice by placing ourselves in a proper light before the people. We should bring before them the real question at issue, thus interposing the most effectual protest against measures to restrict liberty of conscience (Testimonies for the Church 5:452).

We are not doing the will of God if we sit in quietude, doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscience.... Let there be more earnest prayer; and then let us work in harmony with our prayers (Testimonies for the Church 5:713, 714).

To disarm prejudice is core to the work of the General Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department. Yet it is impossible to dispel prejudice without mingling with others, engaging others, having conversations, dialogues — and honest disagreements, certainly, but in ways that are respectful of their dignity.

This is not just about making friends in case we need them in the future. Human dignity precludes such utilitarian instrumentalization of human beings created in the image of God. We enter into genuine relationships with people for the sake of human solidarity, respect, and tolerance. Developing friendships does not mean believing the same thing, downplaying differences, or diluting one’s distinctiveness for the sake of mingling with others.

However, in obedience to Christ’s command to be salt and light and to be His witnesses everywhere, we must continue to mingle.

In obedience to Jesus’ admonition to engage even opponents at law, we make no difference between friends or enemies in what we owe them: love.

An Appeal

Every follower of Christ is faced with a critical question: Does the love of God, which compels us to love our neighbors as ourselves, dwell in our hearts, or is the wrath of the “dragon” stirring passions of hatred and accusations and condemnations against other brothers and sisters in humanity and in Christianity?

Jesus Christ prayed for the unity of His disciples. This unity is unity in God, unity in the truth of God, and unity in the purposes of God.

I hope and pray that for us as witnesses of Jesus Christ, the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit will inspire and model every relationship we are privileged to be graced with.



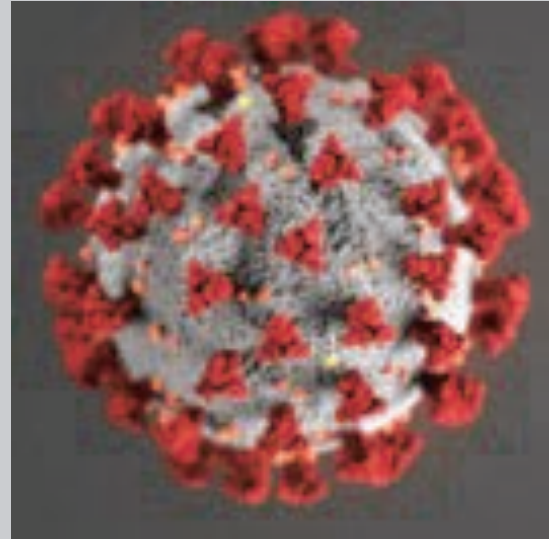
CORONAVIRUS AND YOU REFLECTIONS

John L. Merritt, MD & J. Lawrence Merritt, II, MD

This pandemic, a worldwide plague, should trigger us to reflect upon what is really happening in our world. We wonder when will it end, we look forward to the time we can get back to work, and we even worry about the impact of this on our personal, and national economies. We consider these things even as we learn about how many people's lives have been impacted and watch as the chilling mortality rates continue to rise. As we try to understand these things, our minds and hearts also reach beyond these mortal aspects and ponder the other lessons of life, both physical and spiritual.

First, what is a coronavirus? Even more, what is a virus in the first place? Understanding what a virus is, is more than just learning the basics of a review of a biology 101 class from high school. This coronavirus should cause us to consider one of creation's most intriguing mysteries, one that reveals of our place among God's vast creation. As we consider these lessons, perhaps then viruses can teach us some other deeper lessons God has for us.

Consider first: what is a virus and are viruses living or non-living? We would refer readers to two fascinating and highly recommended books for detailed reviews: *Virus, An Illustrated Guide To 101 Incredible Microbes*, Marilyn Roossinck, Princeton University Press, 2016, and *A Planet of Viruses*, 2nd ed, Carl Zimmer, University of Chicago Press, 2015, both widely available. These are two enlightening summaries of the many thousands of scientific works, each or which is written in clear and under-



standable language.

The term "virus" is a Latin contraction, meaning at the same time, the semen of a man and the venom of a snake. For thousands of years the term has referred to any substance that could spread a disease. Although it was not until the 1800s that bacteria, 1/100th the size of the average cell, were identified as causes of various diseases, the identification of virus particles that were 1/100th the size of bacteria had to wait until the 1930s to be characterized. It was first found that these strange tiny particles, which consisted of 95% protein and 5% nucleic acid, could cause infections in plants, such as tobacco, and then later this was discovered in animals.

Over seventy years of research has uncovered their simple, but ingenious structure. Each viral particle consists of a coat of unique proteins, sometimes with a lipid outer coating, which surround a core of DNA or RNA. They are inert. This means that they just sit there, as an innate crystal or a mineral, unable to

produce energy, to change, to multiple, or to grow by themselves. That is—until they come into direct contact with a living cell. If their outer protein shell recognizes a specific, unique surface, like another protein on a cell—in a very exact and specific way. This is like a key that fits exactly into a unique lock on the surface a particular cell. The viral RNA is converted to DNA and the viral DNA can then be inserted into the cell. Once inside the cell, the viral DNA or RNA hijacks the very complex molecular machines of the living cell in order to reproduce the specific viral nucleic acids and proteins from the cell's own internal machinery. Effectively this turns the cell into a viral reproduction factory at a massive level. Within a short time, the cell is filled with the multiplied viruses and then the cell bursts, releasing thousands of the newly created viruses, each identical to the infecting one that first entered the cell.

For these reasons, the question of whether a virus is a living substance, or not, continues to be debated. They cannot of themselves produce energy, they cannot change, they cannot reproduce or interact, nor move about on their own. Thus, they do not meet any of the definitions of life, as it is defined. They require the complex machinery of another individual specific living cell that does contain all these elements. These cells could be a human lung cell or bacteria or any of the millions of different kinds of cells of any living organism—plant, animal, or human—all in order to reproduce. So, we are left seeing a viral particle as a crystalline-like structure, of magnificent beauty (see photo), that is neither living, nor non-living, but is part of God's creation. That, we should remember and meditate on.

Today we have learned there are millions of different viruses. Each seems to specialize in infecting

each of the millions of types of bacterial, plant, and animal cells on earth. Viruses are generally categorized as RNA (if their core contains a single strand of nucleic acid) or DNA (if their core contains a double stranded nucleic acid). There are many types of viruses based on how they infect a cell. One interesting variety of viruses is called "retrovirus." When retroviruses infect a cell, the viral DNA enters and then attaches and integrates into the cell's original DNA. It then becomes part of the cell's DNA as the cell divides the next time. Current estimates are that up to 8% of human DNA consists of DNA originally came from DNA retroviruses. Some of these are known to be able to cause certain cancers. Much more research is needed to understand their effect on our health—long term and short term.

Most viral infections are acute and they cause the human body to produce an immune response. This immune response kills the virally infected cells, but this inflammation can become generalized throughout the body and damage the body. In fact, most of the deaths from coronavirus is a result of the intense inflammatory response in the lungs causing severe lung cell death, damaging these cells until the lungs are no longer capable of transporting oxygen and releasing carbon dioxide.

Whether they are living or not, these extremely tiny viral entities altogether, make up a major part of the biomass of our earth. They are everywhere—everywhere—even in the oceans. When we gather up a small bucket of fresh, clean sea water, what is in it? Sea water consists of an amazing number of microscopic life forms: bacteria, algae, phytoplankton, tiny spores, sperm, eggs, and tiny embryos. All these organisms are too small to see without a microscope; but far beyond an optical microscope, every liter of seawater also contains over 100 billion viruses. Not until 1986 would we recognize these massive num-

bers. Most of these billions of viruses are a form of virus called bacteriophages that specialize in attacking bacteria. It is estimated 30% of the ocean's bacteria are killed by viral bacteriophages every day. This process serves as a limit on potential bacterial growth, preventing bacterial overgrowth in our oceans. The dead bacterial cellular products then, in turn, serve as nutrients for other sea life forms—whose potential overgrowth again are also limited by viruses specific to each of these. This massive and complex circular balance of life and virus exists not only in the oceans, but in our lakes, rivers, in the earth's soil, deep into the earth, in caves, in underground streams, in the atmosphere, and even in our own bodies.

One author remembers a long time ago, back in 1973, when as an Internal Medicine resident at Huntington Hospital, part of the University of Southern California training program. Like most medical students and residents, when one rotates through the various specialties, one reflects on and considers that specialty. Internal medicine requires training in nine subspecialties, and one of them is infectious disease. I remember my training as being excellent. One day relaxing at a late lunch after long morning rounds, mentioning to my professor, that I might like to consider infectious disease, as a subspecialty, which would of course require an additional year of training. He breathed deeply and said, "This is an interesting specialty and has been very helpful to so many. However, in my opinion, the specialty of infectious disease has no long-term future. You see, with the rapid development of new broader-spectrum antibiotics, it won't be long until we have "The Drug" that will take care of all the bacterial infections, and then one for fungal infections. All that will be left will be viruses, and in a few years, we will have vaccines for all of them. The

exception might be the common cold, and who would pay a specialist to see which virus is causing his cold?" A great physician, yes. A brilliant scientist and teacher, yes.

But some of the worst advise I have ever heard! So, I dropped that idea and went into neurorehabilitation instead.

That was early 1970s. Then within a decade we experienced the sudden plague of HIV and AIDS. Still today millions die of it annually. There was West Nile Virus in the early 2000s, then the chikungunya virus in 2014. These viruses are now endemic in North America. The Zika virus outbreak was just two years ago and before that the Ebola outbreaks were a powerful threat, which still continues to affect parts of Africa. Also, of recent times was SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) virus epidemic, which was also a coronavirus from China. Only seven years ago MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) hit Saudi Arabia, a virus from North African bats transmitted to camels coming to Arabia, then to humans. Today, we are experiencing another rapidly spread, highly contagious, and deadly virus from China.

No, the promise of "The Drug" that can cure all infections has not appeared either. Instead, rapidly developing drug resistance to bacterial infections, and the chase for new drug modifications. The abuse of broad-spectrum antibiotics have led to the ubiquitous methicillin-resistant bacteria and similar drug-resistant infections and deaths. The development of antiviral medications has proven to be even more difficult and proceeds all too slowly. Even the development of vaccines often seem to be too late, or ineffective, and unable to target viral infections adequately or quickly enough.

Over the last decade we have added to our biologi-

cal understanding as we have learned about our human microbiome. The microbiome is the natural and unique balance between the bacteria in our intestines, on our skin, and throughout our body—all interacting with our body as a factor of our health. Some have proposed that even our brain is tied into this balance with our microbiome. How do viruses relate to those? This is a fertile area for further research indeed. Other animals also have their own characteristic biomes, linking their biological functions. I even met a young doctor on a recent trip to Saudi Arabia who was researching the changes in the biomes of honeybees, and the effect of biome changes on bee health and productivity.

This recent coronavirus plague over the entire earth is terrible but is not as deadly as many plagues of our past. Its sudden appearance and ability to shock our world should humble us. Modern civilization may stand tall and proud and confident in our industrial production, in our nanotechnology,

our space flights, our communication accomplishments, and even the quality and quantity of our lives has grown as we have seemingly overcome the historical challenges of war, famine, and plague. It is truly one that King Solomon would have envied.

As we consider these things, this current plague should awaken us. Indeed, it should alarm us and the whole world. It should alert us to how fragile the foundation of our world, of today's civilization—truly is. A better system is needed to help all mankind understand and to help us harmonize with God's vast and mysterious, terrifying but benevolent, complex creation. The hope is indeed a better world, a perfect and balanced world, is coming.

(More lessons are extant, both physical and spiritual: lessons from a lowly virus. Read Part II in the next issue of The Sabbath Sentinel.)



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Letters to the Editor



What a breath of fresh air the editorial was in the September-October 2020 issue of the Sentinel! There are so very many people, even within congregations who recognize the 7th day Sabbath, who do NOT realize it is a feast day. I even heard a gentleman give a message in an assembly which should know better, preach that although the 7th day of the week is Sabbath, it is NOT a feast day!

Dr. Mitchell points out quite clearly that Leviticus 23 starts with the Sabbath as the first feast of Yahuweh! A feast day it is—a whole 24 hours to rest and feast on His words!

It is also important that he pointed out that the plan for mankind is incorporated into the feast times. Thank you.

DJ

I was able to read the May/ June issue today because it is now online; it was good to read; and it was good to see the “End Time Preparation” article in their also.

You mentioned about some input when you wrote: “One of the questions we will have to answer this year is whether or not, and if we do, in what form, TSS will continue. This is one place we would like to have input from you, the membership.”

I know some brethren who are not online, and get Sabbath Sentinel, so I would hope that the paper issues can continue. And I can understand if you need to discontinue the paper copy; but it would be sad to see it go.

TW

Thank you both for your kind words. As for The Sabbath Sentinel, for now we are waiting to see how the cost cutting measures that the board has undertaken pan out. The plan is to continue the hard copy for the present. If we are to continue to do so, we'll need to know that it is valuable enough to the readers in that form that we should continue

publishing the magazine. Obviously, that would mean increased subscribers to the print copy as well as donations of members to continue to publish the magazine. At any rate, for now, the plan is to continue as we are doing and to continue to look for ways to bring expenses down.

I have just finished reading the article by Ray Daly where it appears he is saying that Immanuel is actually Mithras. Is this correct? Is this your conclusion as well? For the life of me I cannot understand where the author gets his information. No sources are quoted. The author is intimating that Jesus/ Yeshua are two different individuals. He even goes as far as saying that Jesus has nothing at all to do with foot washing as is taught in Scripture. He speaks as if he has received some divine revelation, that he is privy to knowledge the rest of us are ignorant of. Poor grammar but you get my meaning. Sir, if you can explain to me what he is trying to get at, I would appreciate it. It seems as if he is saying that Immanuel is a mirror image of Jesus, and is actually pagan.

I will attempt to locate the previous issue, where he stated that Immanuel and his mother were taken captive by the Syrian Aramite King, Rezin.

I believe in freedom of speech. But I honestly am surprised to find an article of this caliber in your magazine.

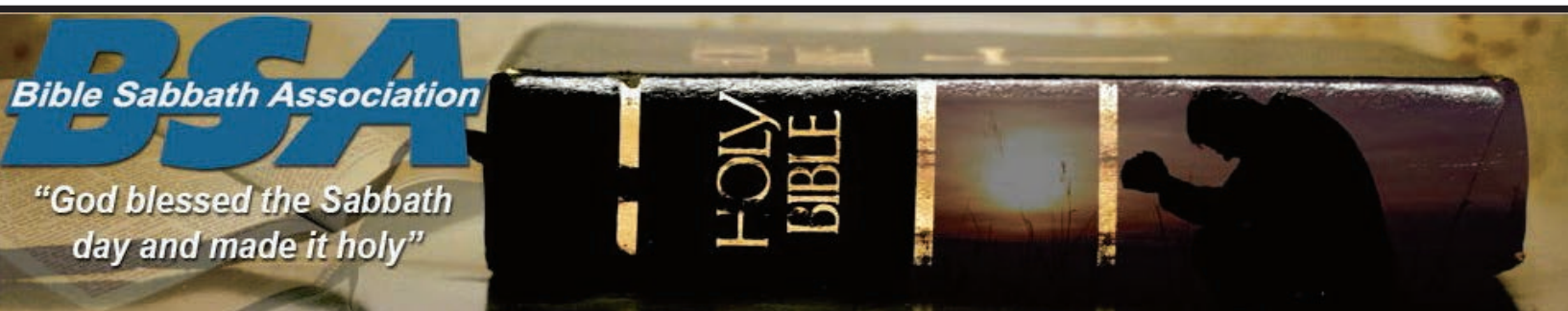
JP

Thank you for your insight. The BSA is an inclusive organization. As such, we tolerate the opinions and ideas of all who accept Jesus as the Christ and keep the Commandments of God. We don't always agree with the opinions of the writers but that doesn't make their beliefs any less valid to them—and gives the rest of us a chance to “prove all things and hold fast to that which is good.” I encourage you to submit an article that deals with the subject from a direction you find to be more accurate!

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