



# The 1889 Review

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## The Blessed Hope

It was around this time of year forty-five years ago that I preached my first sermon ever, and it was on the second coming of Jesus Christ. I have always cherished this great biblical teaching and believe that I will witness its fulfillment very soon. The second coming of Christ is known as the Christian's blessed hope. Within our name, we, as a people, proclaim the advent of our Lord. This truth is mentioned in four of the church's fundamental beliefs, so it is very proper to know this biblical truth and to be capable of sharing it with others who need hope today.

This article may not resemble the sermon I delivered forty-five years ago; those notes were lost long ago.

However, the Bible teaches so much on this subject that we can look at it from different angles. D. L. Moody estimated that there are over three hundred verses in the New Testament which speak of the second coming!

Let us begin our spiritual journey in the book of Revelation:

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God”

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(Revelation 19:11–13).

Jesus Christ is the “faithful and true witness” (Revelation 3:14), and He is also the Word of God (John 1:1). This glorious scene that John is beholding is the second coming of Christ.

The Bible continues the narrative and says: “And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS” (Revelation 19:14–16).

When Jesus comes back the second time without sin unto salvation (Hebrews 9:28), He will not be coming as a lowly servant or as a poor rejected preacher. No, He will return as “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

“And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great” (Revelation 19:17–18).

The Scripture states that there will be a great supper, if you please, at this time. The flesh of kings and of all who oppose Christ will be left for the “fowls that fly in the midst of heaven” to devour, but there is more!

“And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought mir-

***God has given us the Bible, and if we will rightly divide the word of truth, we can know the truth about the second coming of Christ and not be misled.***

acles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone” (Revelation 19:19–20).

Knowing that the beast and the false prophet are religious systems, we can see that they will come to their end at the

second coming and never be again.

“And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh” (Revelation 19:21).

The powers of Satan have been fighting against the people of God during what is sometimes referred to as the tribulation period or the great time of trouble such as no man has ever known. But Christ is going to come back, and He will deliver His people from the beast, from the image of the beast, and from all that would be against them. Verse 21 states: “And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.” It will be a terribly gruesome event for those who have rebelled against God and have worked against Him. The end of the wicked is sure.

Interestingly, Revelation 19 presents another supper first. In verse 9, we read: “And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” There will be a marriage supper of the Lamb! I want to be there, and I am sure you do too. We will be at one of two suppers—either the marriage supper of the Lamb or the supper for the fowls of the air. It is vital that we are ready for the second coming of Christ and not deceived.

Jesus knew that there would be much misunderstanding concerning His return. He knows that Satan is a master deceiver whose goal is to deceive you so you will not be ready for the great event of the second coming of Jesus. Jesus, in an effort to warn His followers, said: “. . . Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many” (Matthew 24:4–5). There will be a lot of deception on this very point, beloved, and Jesus does not want you deceived.

God has given us the Bible, and if we will rightly divide the word of truth, we can know the truth about the second coming of Christ and not be misled. Jesus also said: “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect” (Matthew 24:24). It is the very elect that Satan wants to destroy, and he will use miracles and wonders, but even the seemingly greatest miracle cannot override the word of God!

Jesus even stated that false christs will arise. In 2 Corinthians 11:14, the apostle Paul says, “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.” I thorough-

ly believe that before Jesus comes the second time, Satan himself is going to impersonate Jesus Christ. He will come and speak with a melodious voice, just as the people will expect. He will come in power, grandeur, and beauty. It is going to look like this is Jesus Christ. If you trust your eyes, you will think it is Jesus.

No comic-book hero, such as Superman, will ever have the majestic appearance which Satan will have when he impersonates Christ. Beloved, if we will use the word of God instead of our senses, we will recognize this impostor.

The world is in the greatest depths of wickedness ever. The openness of the LGBTQ+ movement must surpass anything that Sodom and Gomorrah conceived. This world is a lazar house of sin. There has never been a situation like this in the history of our Earth before. We certainly are seeing the signs of the times in a magnified way that we could never have imagined before. Certainly, the second coming must be soon.

With these points in mind, let us turn to the word of God and see what it says about the coming of Jesus. One of my favorite texts on this topic is found in John:

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:1–3).

Jesus promised to prepare a place for us. Has He done so? Yes, absolutely, He has done this, and just as certainly will He come back for us.

During World War II, the Philippine territory was overrun by the Japanese. At that time, General Douglas MacArthur was the head of the United States military stationed there. President Roosevelt and others felt that MacArthur was too valuable to be captured, so he was hurried away to safety on a patrol torpedo boat at night. Before he left, he told his troops, “I shall return.” Two and one half years later, MacArthur landed on Leyte and proclaimed, “I have returned.” Beloved, Jesus has said He will come back, and His word is better than any earthly general! He is coming back because He wants you to be with Him.

But how will Jesus return? We gain insight into this from the book of Acts. Jesus had visited with His disciples for the last time and was ascending to heaven. As He was leaving and the disciples were watching Him, we have this narrative:

“And when he had spoken these things, while they **beheld**, he was taken up; and **a cloud received him** out of their sight. And while they **looked** stedfastly toward heaven as

he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye **gazing** up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have **seen** him go into heaven” (Acts 1:9–11).

These two men in white apparel were, no doubt, angels, and they told the disciples that Jesus would return in the exact manner as He went into heaven. So, how did He go? Notice in the above verses the emphasis that is given to sight. They visibly saw Jesus go away. “They beheld . . . sight . . . looked . . . gazing . . . seen.” So, one important point is that the coming of Jesus will be very visible.



Further, a cloud received Him out of their sight. Would this make sense if this was a vapor cloud? Certainly not, for that is not something that can receive someone. As we look further in the Bible, we find an important key to unlock this mystery. In Psalms, we read something about clouds:

“Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:” (Psalm 104:3).

So, the clouds are the divine chariots. To this now we add Psalm 68:17: “The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels . . .”

Maybe you remember the old mathematical law called the transitive property. It states that if  $a = b$  and  $b = c$  then  $a = c$ . Applying this principle, we see that the clouds equal God’s chariots, and his chariots are angels. Thus, Christ ascended to heaven with angels, and He will return with angels.

Also from Acts, we learn it is the same Jesus who returns, not a different person. What was Jesus like when he ascended to heaven? Shortly before this, we read about Jesus appearing to His disciples:

“And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet” (Luke 24:36–40).

Notice that Jesus had real flesh and bones. He was a real person. When the disciples first saw Jesus, they were terrified, thinking He was a spirit being of some kind. But as He always does, Jesus gave them assurance and told them to touch him. The Bible goes on to say that “while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them” (Luke 24:41–43).

This same, real Jesus of flesh and blood is coming back to this earth in the same way He left.

While teaching upon the Mount of Olives, Christ’s disciples came to Him: “And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world” (Matthew 24:3)?

Notice that the disciples were linking the destruction of Jerusalem with the end of the world. They just assumed that if Jerusalem were destroyed, it must be the end of the world. Jesus gave them some signs.

With the end of Jerusalem, Jesus mingled certain signs about His second coming. It is not difficult to distinguish between these two events. Notice in verse 30: “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:30).

Jesus said that the people will “see the son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Not only will they witness Jesus’ return, but they will also see Him accompanied by clouds of angels. This is verified also in verse 31: “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory” (Matthew 25:31).

So, mark this second point down: Christ will not only come openly and visibly, but “all the holy angels” will be “with him.” Moreover, we read that these angels have a task to do: “And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other”

(Matthew 24:31).

I think that is going to be quite a sight, don’t you? It sounds pretty dramatic to me. There is nothing secret or quiet about it. Additionally, Jesus said: “For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matthew 24:27). That is very visible.

With this, we combine Revelation 1:7, which says: “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.” Here, we see the clouds of angels and also that “every eye shall see him.” There is nothing secret about that.

One day many years ago, an older gentleman stopped to see me at my house. He was a Jehovah’s Witness who seemed to be fairly knowledgeable about the Bible. I asked him what he thought about Revelation 1:7, since the Witnesses teach that Jesus came in 1917. I was told that everyone, due to the work of the Witnesses, would see Jesus spiritually. I asked how that could be. The text did not say that. I asked how Jesus could come with all the holy angels and that it would be unknown to most. The Witness left without trying to answer. Do you know why? It is because there is no answer to such questions if we ignore what the Bible says!

The second coming of Jesus is a great event. Paul wanted this hope to encourage the believers in Thessalonica. He wrote to them: “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:16–18).

We have a family member right now in “the shadow of death” (Psalm 23:4). What a blessed hope it is to know that Jesus will come back “with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God.” Does that sound quiet or silent to you?

Based on the biblical verses read so far, does the coming of Christ seem like a secret? The Bible says that the dead are going to rise and they will not hold their peace! When pain is banished, when loved ones are reunited, when disease is eradicated, and when wars and conflicts cease, all created beings who love God, both terrestrial and celestial, will thunder His praise! Ω

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WRITTEN BY Allen Stump

## When I Am Weak, Then I Am Strong

***“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10).***

Have you ever felt so weak that you had to depend on someone to do something? As someone with an autoimmune disease, I have experienced this many times in my life. When I was very sick, I had to rely on someone to help me get out of bed, change clothes, open my water bottle, hold a glass, walk to the bathroom, and do all the simplest tasks that even a baby or an elderly person can do.

Before I was diagnosed with this disease, I was stronger than most women my age. At 12 years old, I could carry 25 kilograms of rice for half a kilometer, navigating difficult trails, rocky paths, and crossing rivers. I could chop wood all day, clear a forest, and do all the physical labor typical of country life. At 17, I participated in a survival camp as part of my Master Guide Training in college, but the challenges seemed ordinary to me while others struggled. By 26, I felt there was no limit to what I could do because I was physically strong, mentally capable of learning anything easily, accustomed to hard work, and capable of handling both small and large tasks, even alone. This was me when I dedicated my life to the Lord in doing His work.

But God saw that I was not at all qualified. I needed to learn the first lesson He taught Abraham, Jacob, and Moses—a lesson of faith, of relying upon the power of God and not on human strength or wisdom. Like Moses, who felt prepared to do the work of the Lord, I had to undergo a wilderness training. During this time, I fell seriously ill, and all the strength and abilities I took pride in were taken from me. And slowly and painfully, I learned that apart from Christ, I could do nothing on my own if He did not give me the strength and ability.

This truth applies to all of us, whether sick or healthy, strong or weak physically or mentally. Christ said, “without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5). It is because of God’s grace that you are able to read this now, get out of



bed this morning, and do anything at all. We need to understand that on our own we cannot overcome and cannot do anything, not a single good thing, to the glory of God. And “when we have a realization of our weakness, we learn to depend upon a power not inherent” (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 493.3); we learn to depend upon Christ.

“Be careful lest self-sufficiency come in, and you work in your own strength, rather than in the spirit and strength of your Master” (Ibid). The work done in our own strength will avail nothing. It is not a step closer to but a step farther from heaven, for “we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6).

But however weak and helpless we may be, we “can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth” us (Philippians 4:13). Whether overcoming our weaknesses and sin or doing something we believe we are not capable of, all things are possible through God’s grace. Christ assures us, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9). And like Paul, we can say, “I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong” (2 Corinthians 12:9–10). Ω

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WRITTEN BY Samaritana Malinay

## Relieve Pain Naturally

There are various aspects of pain that are still not well understood. For example, referred pain, pain perception, pain toleration, and visceral pain are some of these aspects. But research has brought to light some information about peripheral pain stimulation and transmission. Gaining a knowledge of what is known will help us in our quest to alleviate or eliminate pain.

Let's have a look at the physiology of pain.

There are “three types of stimuli that can activate pain receptors in peripheral tissues: mechanical (pressure, pinch), heat, and chemical” (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK219252/>, par. 6).

Transduction occurs when a stimulus, such as pressure, thermal energy, or chemical irritation, is converted into a nerve signal (e.g., an action potential). This occurs at the ends of sensory nerve cells whose terminals are sensitive to this type of activation. These cells, known as nociceptors, are distributed throughout the body ([www.painbalance.org](http://www.painbalance.org)).

Pain is often caused by the release of histamine, which increases vascular permeability, allowing fluid to escape from vessels into the tissues. This process is the body's defense mechanism to protect cells from damage caused by toxins or dehydration. However, it also leads to swelling, which in turn creates pressure and results in pain.

For messages to be communicated to the brain, the nerves use a group of chemicals called neurotransmitters. Besides being responsible for causing vascular permeability and various other functions, histamine also acts as a neurotransmitter, facilitating the transmission of pain messages across nerve junctions.

This knowledge can help us better understand how to alleviate pain.

Natural treatments can help significantly with pain relief in various ways:

- Drinking large quantities of water can prevent hista-



mine release, thereby preventing painful swelling and tenderness. Since histamine is a neurotransmitter, inhibiting its release also helps to prevent the transmission of pain signals to the brain.

- For external pain caused by thermal stimulus, water can either cool down or warm up the affected area.
- In cases of pain resulting from chemical stimulation of the nerve cells, whether external or internal, water can neutralize pH or dilute the chemical.
- Poultices are also great for pain relief as they help to draw out toxins through the skin. A poultice can be made of:
  1. A binder, such as potato or cassava
  2. Charcoal or clay for adsorbing toxins
  3. A lubricating gel, such as flax seed gel, comfrey root gel, or aloe vera gel



- Another effective treatment, developed by a friend of mine that had cancer, involves a mixture of cayenne,

ginger, mustard, and a sprinkle of salt placed in a cloth tied at the top. This cloth is then dipped in hot water and rubbed over painful areas. The treatment aims to increase the circulation in the peripheral blood vessels, drawing blood away from congested and inflamed areas. This improved circulation helps remove toxins and reduce swelling, thereby relieving pain.

► Hot and cold applications, whether through baths, sprays, or fomentation pads, are used to increase circulation, which relieves swelling, removes toxins, and thus, relieves pain.

► Another effective method to alleviate various types of pain caused by inflammation is the use of turmeric. It helps to quickly reduce inflammation and thus relieves pain. Relief is often experienced within an hour or two. A tablespoon or two of grated fresh turmeric mixed with a clove or two of crushed garlic and a little coconut oil or cooked for a few minutes in coconut milk can be added to rice or spread on bread to make a tasty recipe. Some prefer to juice fresh turmeric and drink it quickly.



“But many have never learned by experience the beneficial effects of the proper use of water, and they are afraid of it. Water treatments are not appreciated as they should be, and to apply them skillfully requires work that many are unwilling to perform. But none should feel excused for ignorance or indifference on this subject. There are many ways in which water can be applied to relieve pain and check disease. All should become intelligent in its use in simple home treatments. Mothers, especially, should know how to care for their families in both health and sickness” (Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 237.2). I hope you will find some of these ideas helpful the next time you are dealing with pain.

*Disclaimer: This article is for educational purposes only and is not intended to diagnose or prescribe treatment for your specific ailment. Please consult your health practitioner. Ω*

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**WRITTEN BY** David Sims

*Continued from page 8 (On the Verge...)*

“not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25).



Here are a few testimonies from the attendees:

“One of the unforgettable camp meetings that I attended happened just last month. I am very happy to have heard the timely messages that God provided. From the first night until the end of the event, the seriousness of the times we are living in was emphasized. We understand that it will not be long until we meet Jesus.

“I am thankful to God for the privilege He gave me and all of us to participate in this event. I am also grateful for the opportunity to meet and socialize with other brethren from different places, strengthening each other in the faith. Even though some of us met for the first time or rarely meet, God united us in His love.

“Upon returning home, we shared the messages we learned from the camp meeting with other brethren, and they also appreciated the messages. I give praise and thanks to God for all of these blessings.” (Karen Buhia, Mutia 1889 HSDA Church in Zamboanga del Norte)

“The camp meeting was nothing short of a blessing. I am honored to have been part of it and to have met God’s children. In this busy world, we often do not realize the soon return of our Lord. This camp meeting reminded me that we are truly at the verge of a stupendous crisis and that we must not squander the last call of grace and mercy. Let us take advantage of the borrowed time God is graciously giving us and not squander it. So help us, God.” (Patricia Aitcheson, Waldensian Center trainee from Fiji) Ω

## On the Verge of a Stupendous Crisis: 1889 HSDA Ph Camp Meeting 2024

REPORT FROM Yeyen Batasin

On May 15–19, the 1889 Historic Seventh Day Adventists Philippine Conference held a camp meeting with the theme *On the Verge of a Stupendous Crisis* at the Waldensian Center 1889 HSDA Church located at Brgy. Imelda, Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental, Philippines, which is also the headquarters of the 1889 HSDA World Conference. The theme aimed to sound an alarm to the people about the solemnity of the times in which we are living. Brethren from the different islands of the Philippines and from overseas, including United States of America and Australia, gathered for this significant assembly.

Since most of the church leaders of the Philippine Conference are now at the Waldensian Center (WC) undergoing training to further enhance their ability to work in God's vineyard, we decided to hold the holy convocation at this location this year. But extensive preparations were required as some facilities were still lacking. The preparations were very challenging yet fulfilling, and I can only praise the Lord for His faithfulness!

Six months before the camp meeting, we experienced a water shortage due to an inadequate supply from our spring. To address this issue, we decided to dig a well as a long-term solution. While the male trainees were digging, the women were tasked with hauling rocks from a distant location for use in constructing the well. The drought made things more challenging. At times, we very much needed rain because our plants were dying from lack of water; so we held special seasons of prayers specifically requesting rain, and the Lord graciously sent rain.

Although we began preparing early for this event, as the time drew nearer, there was still much to accomplish, and we are thankful to the Lord for touching hearts to help and for being in control for our good. Some brethren arrived early to help with the preparations. Additionally, others from Fiji and the United States of America came for training a few weeks before the camp meeting, providing extra hands to work. More reinforcements arrived one week before the camp meeting.

We were deeply grateful for all of God's provisions for



this important event. Although the facilities were not yet finished, there was enough room for everybody to stay, although some preferred to sleep in tents for privacy. Amazingly, the water supply met everyone's needs, and there was abundant food available without the necessity of going to the market during the convocation.

During the camp meeting, we began our day at 4:30 am with a prayer band, followed by the morning devotional at 5:00 am. The messages delivered by the speakers were meat in due season. They included biblical prophecies, admonitions, exhortations, warnings, and appeals. The personal testimonies shared also served as sources of inspiration.

We also praise the Lord for touching the hearts of the local people in the community to attend the event. Among them were the carpenters who constructed the facilities, along with their families. These carpenters have been receiving daily Bible studies after lunch, before resuming their work.

At the end of the meeting, two precious young souls publicly confessed their decision to receive Christ as their personal Savior through baptism. Their parents and brethren, along with the whole heavenly host, rejoiced at this event.

I may not be able to account for all the blessings that each of us received. But indeed "how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1),

*Continued on page 7*

## Undershepherds

In the book of Ephesians, the apostle Paul wrote about five important spiritual gifts:

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;” (Ephesians 4:11).

A careful reading of the original text shows that the last two are connected. Pastors are to be many things, including teachers. The Greek word for pastor is ποιμήν (*poimēn*). *Poimēn* is used eighteen times in the New Testament, and only here is it translated *pastor*. In the other seventeen verses, it is translated as *shepherd* or *shepherds*. This concept is similarly found in the Old Testament.

While “The LORD is” our “shepherd” in the first and most important sense, Christ has appointed some of His servants as undershepherds to help.

“Ambassadors for Christ have a solemn and important work, which rests upon some altogether too lightly. While Christ is the minister in the sanctuary above, He is also, through His delegates, the minister of His church on earth. He speaks to the people through chosen men, and carries forward His work through them, as when in the days of His humiliation He moved visibly upon the earth. Although centuries have passed, the lapse of time has not changed His parting promise to His disciples: “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” From Christ’s ascension to the present day, men ordained of God, deriving their authority from Him, have become teachers of the faith. Christ, the True Shepherd, superintends His work through the instrumentality of these undershepherds. Thus the position of those who labor in word and doctrine becomes very important. In Christ’s stead they beseech the people to be reconciled to God” (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 393.1; emphasis supplied).

A shepherd has a responsibility to feed and protect the flock. Likewise, pastors nurture and safeguard the church so that it “henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Ephesians 4:14).



Today, much of the flock is scattered in various parts of the world, and members do not have the privilege of a shepherd visiting them regularly to check on their spiritual well-being and help them with eternal issues. Through *The 1889 Review* and other mediums, we hope to bridge that gulf and provide godly counsel and address questions and concerns.

I think of the barrage of error constantly bombarding the flock of Christ. The flock is presented with error clothed in supposed righteousness and transmitted with smooth words and slick presentations. As a result, the flock can become confused.

I was recently asked to review a video that was causing confusion for a sister. In this presentation, the minister was trying to prove that Jesus was not begotten of God in the eternal ages of the past. It was an error-ridden presentation on many levels. There was a terrible interpretation of the concepts of Proverbs, and the presenter failed to explain Proverbs 8 and other important passages, such as Micah 5:2; 1 John 4:8–10; and, of course, John 3:16.

I do not wish to write badly about the author, but he certainly failed to come across with any humility and made it seem absurd if one dared to think differently from his view. He also stated that since every time “begotten” is used in the Bible regarding humans it means created, it could not, therefore, mean that Christ was really begotten because that would make Christ a created being. He

failed, however, to address the fact that Christ did not have a human father in this sense and that “begotten” in Greek means *only-born*.

Jesus said:

“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:37–38).

If this were ever applicable, it is today. Our faithful ministers are few, and the sheep have been scattered. In Ezekiel’s time, the shepherds of Israel were not faithful, so God promised to feed His people:

“I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment. And as for you, O my flock, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I judge between cattle and cattle, between the rams and the he goats. Seemeth it a small thing unto you to have eaten up the good pasture, but ye must tread down with your feet the residue of your pastures? and to have drunk of the deep waters, but ye must foul the residue with your feet? And as for my flock, they eat that which ye have trodden with your feet; and they drink that which ye have fouled with your feet. Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD unto them; Behold, I, even I, will judge between the fat cattle and between the lean cattle. Because ye have thrust with side and with shoulder, and pushed all the diseased with your horns, till ye have scattered them abroad; Therefore will I save my flock, and they shall no more be a prey; and I will judge between cattle and cattle. And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd” (Ezekiel 34:15–23).

The shepherds in Ezekiel’s time had eaten the good instead of giving it to the people. These false leaders had “thrust with side and with shoulder, and pushed all the diseased” and, instead of drawing the people to them, had “scattered them abroad.” God promised them the true shepherd, Jesus Christ, and while we have this promise today, we know, as noted in the Testimonies, that God still wants to work through His appointed channels and undershepherds.

As pastors in the church, we are here as servants to serve the true flock of God according to the ability God has given us. Ω

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WRITTEN BY Pastor Allen Stump

*Continued from page 21 (Seventh-Day Adventists...)*

fifty years” (White, *The Review and Herald*, May 25, 1905, par. 28)?

“We are not to receive the words of those who come with a message that contradicts the special points of our faith. They gather together a mass of Scripture, and pile it as proof around their asserted theories. This has been done over and over again during the past fifty years. And while the Scriptures are God’s word, and are to be respected, the application of them, if such application moves one pillar from the foundation that God has sustained these fifty years, is a great mistake. He who makes such an application knows not the wonderful demonstration of the Holy Spirit that gave power and force to the past messages that have come to the people of God.

“Elder G’s proofs are not reliable. If received, they would destroy the faith of God’s people in the truth that has made us what we are.

“We must be decided on this subject; for the points that he is trying to prove by Scripture, are not sound. They do not prove that the past experience of God’s people was a fallacy. We had the truth; we were directed by the angels of God. It was under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that the presentation of the sanctuary question was given. It is eloquence for every one to keep silent in regard to the features of our faith in which they acted no part. God never contradicts Himself. Scripture proofs are misapplied if forced to testify to that which is not true. Another and still another will arise and bring in supposedly great light, and make their assertions. But we stand by the old landmarks. [1 John 1:1–10 quoted.]

“I am instructed to say that these words we may use as appropriate for this time, for the time has come when sin must be called by its right name. We are hindered in our work by men who are not converted, who seek their own glory. They wish to be thought originators of new theories, which they present claiming that they are truth. But if these theories are received, they will lead to a denial of the truth that for the past fifty years God has been giving to His people, substantiating it by the demonstration of the Holy Spirit” (White, *Selected Messages*, Book 1, pp. 161.2–162.1).

**Note:** Unless otherwise specified, all quotations from the Bible are from the KJV, and all emphases, including those in the quotes from the pioneers, are from the publisher. Ω

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WRITTEN BY Jean-Christophe Bolotte

# Prophetic Interpretation and the Proper Place of the Church Fathers

Rightly understanding prophetic portions of Scripture has been challenging for many Bible students. So the easy way out for many has been to rely on others' research. Many Seventh-day Adventists have depended on books such as *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation* by Uriah Smith, and some have even gone back to an earlier church father, William Miller, and his writings.

These men and their writings have done a great work in shedding light on the prophecies and the truth for this time. I have personally benefited much from their writings. In fact, before I present something on the prophecies to others, I research their writings on the subject and give it careful thought.

However, there has been a temptation to rely on what these men have written and accept it as truth without conducting thorough personal study. Some have justified this tendency by referring to statements made by Ellen White endorsing these individuals and their writings.

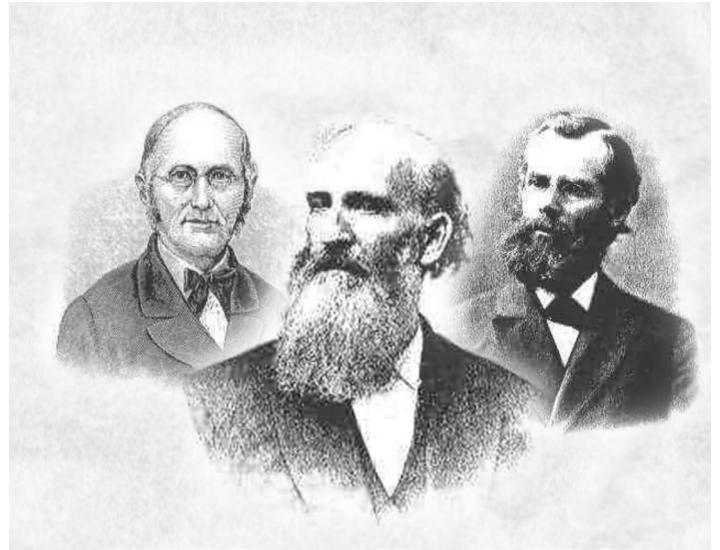
But I believe some people have taken these endorsements too far. They have elevated their writings to a level of inspiration which I don't believe is justified by the endorsements. First, let's have a look at these endorsements.

## 1. Spirit of Prophecy endorsement of William Miller, especially his teachings on Revelation

**"God directed the mind of William Miller** to the prophecies and gave him great light upon the book of Revelation" (Ellen White, *Early Writings*, p. 231.1; all emphasis added in this article unless otherwise noted).

"If Daniel's visions had been understood, the people could better have understood the visions of John. But at the right time, God moved upon His **chosen servant**, who, with clearness and in the **power of the Holy Spirit**, opened the prophecies and showed the harmony of the visions of Daniel and John and other portions of the Bible . . ." (Ibid., p. 231.2).

**"Angels of God accompanied William Miller** in his mission. He was firm and undaunted, fearlessly proclaiming the message committed to his trust" (Ibid., p. 232.1).



**"God sent His angel to move upon the heart of a farmer** who had not believed the Bible, to lead him to search the prophecies. Angels of God repeatedly visited that chosen one, to guide his mind and open to his understanding prophecies which had ever been dark to God's people. The commencement of the chain of truth was given to him, and he was led on to search for link after link, until he looked with wonder and admiration upon the Word of God. He saw there a perfect chain of truth. That Word, which he had regarded as uninspired, now opened before his vision in its beauty and glory. He saw that one portion of Scripture explains another, and when one passage was closed to his understanding, he found in another part of the Word that which explained it. He regarded the sacred Word of God with joy, and with the deepest respect and awe" (Ellen White, *The Story of Redemption*, p. 356.3).

## 2. Endorsement of Uriah Smith's *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*

"I know that *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation* has done a great work in this country" (Ellen White, *Special Instruction Regarding Royalties*, p. 10.2).

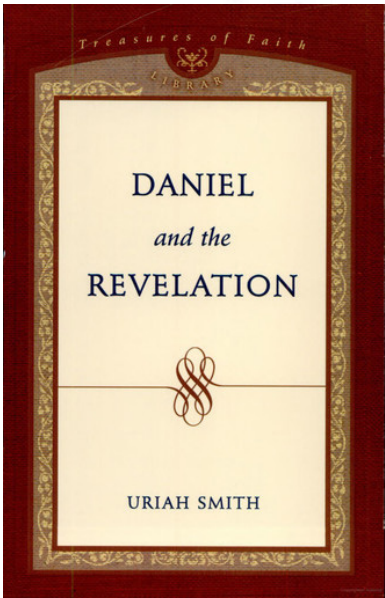
"The light given was that *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*, *Great Controversy*, and *Patriarchs & Prophets*

would make their way. They contained the very message the people must have, the special light God had given His people. The angels of God would prepare the way for these books in the hearts of the people” (Ellen White, *Letters and Manuscripts*, vol. 14, Lt 43, 1899, par. 16).

“I consider that that book [*Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*] should go everywhere. It has its place and will do a grand good work” (Ellen White, *Letters and Manuscripts*, vol. 6, Lt 25a, 1889, par. 9).

“Let our canvassers urge this book [*Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*] upon the attention of all. The Lord has shown me that this book will do a good work in enlightening those who become interested in the truth for this time. Those who embrace the truth now, who have not shared in the experiences of those who entered the work in the early history of the message, should study the instruction given in *Daniel and the Revelation*, becoming familiar with the truth it presents” (Ellen White, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, p. 61.1).

“Those who are preparing to enter the ministry, who desire to become successful students of the prophecies, will find *Daniel and the Revelation* an invaluable help. They



need to understand this book. It speaks of past, present, and future, laying out the path so plainly that none need err therein. Those who will diligently study this book will have no relish for the cheap sentiments presented by those who have a burning desire to get out something new and strange to present to the flock of God. The rebuke of God is upon all such teachers. They need that one teach them what is meant by godliness and truth. The great, essential questions which God would have presented to the people are found in *Daniel and the Revelation*. There is found solid, eternal truth for this time. Everyone needs the light and information it contains” (Ibid., p. 61.2).

“The interest in Daniel and the Revelation is to continue as long as probationary time shall last. God used the author of this book as a channel through which to communicate light to direct minds to the truth. Shall we not appreciate this light, which points us to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, our King” (Ibid., p. 63.1)?

“The students in our schools should carefully study *Daniel and the Revelation*, so that they shall not be left in darkness, and the day of Christ overtake them as a thief in the night. I speak of this book because it is a means of educating those who need to understand the truth of the Word. This book should be highly appreciated. It covers much of the ground we have been over in our experience. If the youth will study this book and learn for themselves what is truth, they will be saved from many perils” (Ibid., p. 63.4).

These are the endorsements, but let's have a look now at the reasons these endorsements are not to be understood to mean they or their writings are without error or inspired in the manner that a prophet's writings are inspired. Look at the table below. It should be readily seen that these men actually differed with each other in many areas and with Ellen White herself in some instances.

William Miller’s and Uriah Smith’s and Ellen White’s Teachings Compared

| William Miller                                                                 | Uriah Smith                                                                         | Ellen White                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Judgment and Immortality of the Soul                                       |                                                                                     |                                                                  |
| Judgment of saints in the heavens after the second coming                      | Judgment of saints from 1844 until just before the second coming                    | Judgment of saints from 1844 until just before the second coming |
| Immortality of the soul                                                        | Non-immortality of the soul                                                         | Non-immortality of the soul                                      |
| Destruction of wicked at beginning of millennium                               | Destruction of wicked at end of millennium                                          | Destruction of wicked at end of millennium                       |
| Miscellaneous                                                                  |                                                                                     |                                                                  |
| There was to be 2,520 years of the scattering of God’s people, ending in 1843. | “Seven times” (2,520) is not a prophecy and does not even mean years but sevenfold. |                                                                  |

| Revelation 11, 12, 17: seven- headed beast         |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                    | Beast from the bottomless pit —<br>1. Atheistical power that ruled in France<br>2. Signifies the basing of your power on a mixture of Christian errors and pagan superstitions | Beast from the bottomless pit is the atheistical power that ruled in France under the revolution.                                                     |
|                                                    | There are two dragons: the seven-headed red dragon is pagan Rome; the other is Satan.                                                                                          | “Thus while <b>the</b> dragon, primarily, represents Satan, <b>it</b> [the same dragon] is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome” (GC 438.2). |
| Revelation 13                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                       |
| Leopard beast = pagan Rome                         | Leopard beast = papal Rome                                                                                                                                                     | Leopard beast = papal Rome                                                                                                                            |
| Pagan head received deadly wound.                  | The head that was wounded to death was the papal head.                                                                                                                         | Papal head received deadly wound.                                                                                                                     |
| Healing of that wound was the setup of the papacy. | Healing of that wound was the restoration of the papacy.                                                                                                                       | Healing of that wound was the restoration of the papacy.                                                                                              |
| The beast with horns like a lamb is the papacy.    | The beast with horns like a lamb is the USA.                                                                                                                                   | The beast with horns like a lamb is the USA.                                                                                                          |
| Mark of the beast is baptism as a Catholic.        | Mark of the beast is Sunday observance.                                                                                                                                        | Mark of the beast is Sunday observance.                                                                                                               |
| The number 666 is time of the rule of pagan Rome.  | 666 is the number of the title assigned to the pope.                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                       |
| Image of beast is papal Rome.                      | Image of beast is Protestants in USA clothed with civil power.                                                                                                                 | Image of beast is formed by Protestant USA.                                                                                                           |
| Daniel 11                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                       |
| Willful king — papacy                              | Willful king — France                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                       |
| King of the north — Syria, Rome, Great Britain     | King of the north — Turkey                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                       |
| Comes to his end — Napoleon                        | Comes to his end — Turkey                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                       |

Obviously, since we can readily see that these men were not in agreement with each other on many points, or with Ellen White on various points, her endorsement of these men did not elevate their writings to the level with inspiration, nor did it mean that they could not err.

“[Speaking, in the nineties, of Elder Smith’s books, one of the leaders in our colporteur work asked Mrs. White]:

“‘You believe they are inspired, do you not?’ Letter 15, 1895, p. 5. (To Mr. Frank Belden, June 8, 1895.)

“[Indicative of her recognition of the folly of the question, she replied]:

“‘You may answer that question, I shall not’ [*Ibid.*]” (Ellen White, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, p. 60.3).

She even had to give him severe reproof at times. “To U. Smith - Battle Creek, Mich. - Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1890.

“Your attitude has encouraged a state of things in our churches which you have not measured. The result of your course and your working on the same line since you left Minneapolis has made the carrying out of the work given me of God to do fifty fold harder than it need to have been. You have barred my way, but O, how little did you know the real result of your work. This has been opened before me. When you have stated that Sr. White was influenced by W. C. W., A. T. Jones, and E. J. Waggoner, you have planted in hearts infidelity that has been nourished and has borne fruit. You will not be pleased to reap the harvest. Satan takes everything of this character and makes it a living active agent in destroying faith in the very work the Lord would have them to do. Every soul that fully takes your words and believes them are correctly represented by the words of Christ, ‘I would that thou were either cold or

hot, so then because that thou art lukewarm, I will spew thee out of my mouth.' Decided opposition would have done me less harm" (Ellen White, *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, p. 794.1).

While there is evidence that Uriah Smith repented of his ways, he clearly was capable of making mistakes.

The servant of the Lord stated:

"In some of our important books that have been in print for years, and which have brought many to a knowledge of the truth, there **may be found matters of minor importance that call for careful study and correction.** Let such matters be considered by those regularly appointed to have the oversight of our publications. Let not these brethren, nor our canvassers, nor our ministers magnify these matters in such a way as to lessen the influence of these good soul-saving books. Should we take up the work of discrediting our literature, we would place weapons in the hands of those who have departed from the faith and confuse the minds of those who have newly embraced the message. The less that is done unnecessarily to change our publications, the better it will be" (Ellen White, *Selected Messages*, Book 1, p. 165.2).

***Since these men were not in agreement with each other on many points, or with Ellen White on various points, her endorsement of these men did not elevate their writings to the level with inspiration, nor did it mean that they could not err.***

It is not my purpose to magnify these errors. Much of what these men believed and taught is true, and I want to point out that the end result of much of their conclusions agrees with each other, even when their specific interpretation of texts differs. Both believed in a judgment of the saints and the destruction of the wicked, but they differed on the time. Both agreed on the significant historical role of the papacy in world events, but they differed on the symbols that pointed to it. The fact that their writings contained much truth is the reason Ellen White could endorse them. Unless we have very good reasons, we should be careful about teaching things contrary to what they taught.

However, we should also be very careful that we don't make Ellen White's endorsements of these men mean more than what is stated. As we have seen, there are some

significant points where their teachings differ from each other and at times differ with Ellen White's own teachings. For example, Miller believed in the natural immortality of the soul. Uriah Smith believed the papal power had begun to be destroyed and would continue to weaken until it was completely destroyed, thus, in reality, denying its significance in last-day events. These views obviously differ with Ellen White's teachings.

Yet some have interpreted these endorsements to mean that these men were divinely inspired and that everything they believed and wrote is without error, but that is just not what is meant by those endorsements. Those who study and understand prophecy for themselves are promised rich blessings. The study of the writings of these men can be a great help, but we need to prove the truthfulness of their teachings just as we would with any other respected Christian author or teacher.

### Summary

"For my part, I cannot sufficiently bewail the condition of the reformed churches, who are come to a period in religion, and will go no farther than the instruments of their reformation. The Lutherans cannot be drawn to go any farther than what Luther saw, and the Calvinists, you see, stick fast where they were left by that great man of God, who yet saw not all things. This is a misery much to be lamented; for though they were burning and shining lights in their time, yet they penetrated not into the whole counsel of God, but were they now living, would be as willing to embrace further light as that which they first received" (Ellen White, *The Great Controversy* (1888 ed.), p. 291.3).

### Appeal

"Many who are serving as gospel ministers need to study the Word. Revelation means something revealed, which all are to understand. Dig deep for the truth. Plead with the Lord for an understanding of His Word. Those who feel their need of the special help of God will ask Him who is the Source of all wisdom to supply their necessities. Ask Him to enlighten your understanding, that you may know how to give light to others. Put your mind to the tax.

"Never rest satisfied with a partial knowledge of the truth, pieced out with some weak suppositions" (Ellen White, *Letters and Manuscripts*, vol. 14, Ms 174, 1899, par. 18, 19). Ω

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WRITTEN BY David Sims

## Teach Us to Number (What's in) Our Days!

There is a wise saying that goes something like this: “If you don’t have time for the things that matter, stop doing the things that don’t.” While this sounds profoundly simple, implementing it is often among our greatest challenges.

Seldom do we have any two days alike, and in our efforts to fit everything in, it can become overwhelming.

When our children were young, we often made schedules and charts so that we could fit those “things that matter” in, but families and life are constantly changing, making this an area that requires frequent revisiting and adjustment.

I find visuals to be very helpful, and the following story provides valuable perspective on the subject of time management:

Once upon a time, there was a wise philosophy professor who silently stood before his philosophy class in the lecture theatre. On the table in front of him, he had a large glass mason jar, a pile of large rocks, a box of pebbles, a pot of sand and a pitcher of water.

In front of his class, he started filling up the jar with the big rocks. When they reached the top of the jar, he held it up to the students and asked them if the jar was full.

“Is it full?” he asked.

The students nodded and agreed that, yes, the jar was indeed full. There was definitely no more room to put any more rocks in, so it was full.

The professor turned back to his table, picked up the box of small pebbles, and began pouring the contents into the jar. He shook the jar so that all the pebbles filled the space around the big rocks.

“Is the jar full now?” he asked.

The group of students all looked at each other and agreed that the jar was now completely full.

“Is it really full?” he asked.

The professor then picked up the box of sand. He poured the sand in between the pebbles and the rocks. Then once again he held up the jar to his class and asked if it was full. Once again, the students agreed that the jar was full.



“Are you sure it’s full?” he asked.

He finally picked up a pitcher of water and tipped the water into the jar until it trickled into all of the remaining space.

The professor went on to explain to his class that the jar of rocks, pebbles, sand and water represents everything that we have in our lives. (<https://womenwhowinatlife.com/how-the-jar-of-life-can-help-you-make-time-for-what-matters-most-to-you/>)

I have recently felt the need to revisit this area in my life. After much prayer and thought, my “big rocks” might look something like this: personal time with God, morning and evening family worship, regular meal times, exercise, time with my husband, etc.

The “things that matter” or “large rocks” are unique to each individual and family and will need to be prayerfully considered. When we are making our list, they are the things we put in the “jar” first.

After those are in place, we can begin to fill in the remaining space with “pebbles.” Again, in my life, this might look something like gardening during the cooler parts of the day, baking bread, laundry, shopping, etc. These are all necessary and important, but if I don’t put the most important things first, they tend to crowd them out.

*Continued on page 18*

## Purpose in Your Heart

There is a very subtle danger facing Christians in these modern times: the danger of being disconnected from reality. Through various means, Satan has programmed humanity in modern times to be passive.

Through television programming, we have been trained to witness horrible crimes and hear the strongest words of warning and passively do nothing about it. Other avenues he has used include our food and medicine. Satan has been able to befog the brain and blur the distinction between imagination and reality. Thus, when convicted by the presentation of appeals of the Holy Spirit, we tend to respond in the same way: by doing nothing.

The prophet Daniel is distinguished in Scripture by his righteousness. “Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, [were] in it, [as] I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall [but] deliver their own souls by their righteousness” (Ezekiel 14:20). He is also called “greatly beloved” (Daniel 9:23). I believe that what made him so highly favored was his fixedness of purpose. For him, religion was not confined to theory but was put into practice. “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself” (Daniel 1:8).

***The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.***

King Rehoboam, however, wavered between right and wrong, and this proved his downfall. “And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD” (2 Chronicles 12:14). Unlike Daniel, he had no determined purpose and had not made up his mind to do right no matter what.



Lot, though he had a desire to do right and though called a righteous man in Scripture, lacked a determined will like Rehoboam. He did not purpose in his heart to do what was right. As a result of his hesitation and delay, he lost his wife and almost lost his life in the destruction of Sodom. “And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city” (Genesis 19:16). “But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt” (Genesis 19:26).

Satan has claimed victory over most of humanity, and he seeks to gain victory over you as well. Will you let him reign over you, too, or will you purpose in your heart to do what is right though the heavens fall?

“The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall” (Ellen White, *Education*, p. 57.3).. Ω

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WRITTEN BY David Sims

# The Importance of Oxygen in the Garden

The often mismanaged and unsung hero of the garden's productivity, oxygen is vital for life, playing a critical role not only in the respiration of animals and humans but also in the health and productivity of plants.

Yes, that's right. Plants don't just take in carbon dioxide; they also use oxygen in very important ways that many do not understand. The lack of proper management of oxygen is one of the major causes of stunted growth, reduced yield, and even disease and death in plants.

In a garden setting, oxygen influences several fundamental processes that are often overlooked. If properly understood by the gardener and diligently applied, it will ensure the overall thriving of the plants and the garden's ecosystem.

## Soil Aeration

One of the primary ways oxygen affects a garden is through soil aeration. Roots require oxygen for respiration, a process that converts sugars into energy necessary for growth and nutrient uptake. Well-aerated soil allows roots to access this essential gas. Compacted or poorly aerated soils restrict oxygen flow, leading to reduced root function and overall plant health. The presence of a large root system in plants is often associated with oxygen availability and forms the foundation for good fruit and healthy leaf production.

Soil compaction is a common occurrence in many tropical climates where the soil is rich in clay particles. Extreme wet and dry seasons, combined with the increasing practices of medium to large-scale commercial farming without consideration for sustainability, largely contribute to soil compaction and degradation.

To mitigate these effects, gardeners can employ techniques such as initial tilling, continuous addition of organic matter, incorporation of rocks or charcoal into the soil to create and maintain air pockets, installation of drainage for even water distribution and exit, and in some cases, raised bed gardening.

Avoid excessive tillage and reliance on synthetic fertilizers and the chemical trio (herbicides, pesticides, fungi-



cides), as these have no long-term positive effect on soil health. Continuous chemical use tends to address symptoms rather than causes.

Mulching with materials like straw or bark chips also helps maintain soil structure and porosity, facilitating better oxygen penetration. Mulching mitigates topsoil dispersion caused by large raindrops, which is common in summer or during monsoon months.

Thus, much depends on the keen sense of observation that gardeners must practice. This trait allows them to assess their garden's landscape, understand the science of its circumstances, and provide remedies specific to its needs.

## Root Respiration and Growth

Roots are the lifeline of plants, absorbing water and nutrients from the soil. Without sufficient oxygen, roots cannot effectively absorb nutrients. Another overlooked duty is that gardeners must ensure their soil is neither too wet nor too dry. Overwatering fills soil pores with water, displacing oxygen, while drought conditions reduce the soil's ability to retain moisture and air. The amount of water present significantly affects the soil's oxygen supply. Therefore, proper water displacement is a valuable tool in a gardener's toolshed.

In areas with high precipitation, one must ensure there is effective drainage to prevent the stagnation of water in

the garden, because too much water not only increases the likelihood of soil compaction but also creates anaerobic conditions over time, providing a foothold for disease-causing bacteria and unwanted pests.

When oxygen is not impeded by the overabundance of water, it purifies the atmosphere of the garden and invigorates the soil. The roots, therefore, are not overtaxed, and their growth is unhindered.

### Microbial Activity, the Teeth of the Soil

Soil is teeming with microorganisms that decompose organic matter, release nutrients, and promote plant health. These microbes, including bacteria, fungi, and earthworms, require oxygen for their metabolic processes. Aerobic conditions (with oxygen) are ideal for these beneficial organisms, supporting their activity and enhancing soil fertility.

Vermicomposting and composting are common gardening practices that rely on aerobic decomposition. By turning compost piles and ensuring they have enough oxygen, or in the case of vermicomposting, employing composting worms to process organic waste, gardeners facilitate the breakdown of organic materials into rich, nutrient-dense compost that can be used to improve soil health and plant growth.

Let us consider an illustration: imagine a large supermarket that provides a variety of goods to consumers. Its staff ensures availability and arranges aisles for easy access to products. Similarly, microorganisms act as the soil staff, making nutrients accessible to plant roots. Without proper aeration to support their metabolic activity, their ability to make these nutrients accessible is hindered. How much wealth is wasted when a supermarket stocks a bulk of precious goods that never reach the consumers they were intended for.

Without healthy biology present, organic matter is more likely to putrefy, attracting pests and disease-causing bacteria to unsuspecting plants. Let your garden promote healthful conditions, and it will attract helpful friends. Of course, oxygen is only one of the factors essential for soil health; nevertheless, it is essential and foundational to successive growth. And to ascertain the reason for its absence is a key element in restoring a healthy and productive garden.

Just as the garden atmosphere attracts the rich blessing of pure air, may we, like planted trees, be surrounded by the invigorating atmosphere of heaven that cleanses us from the presence of all sin. Ω

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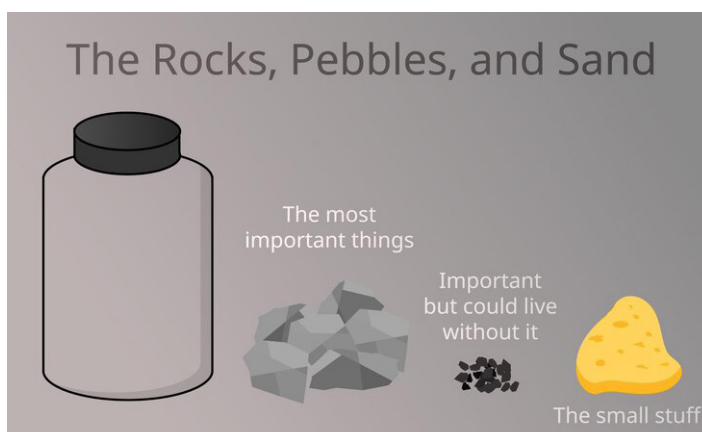
WRITTEN BY Marvic Bugayong

*Continued from page 15 (Teach Us to Number...)*

I'm sure you get the idea, and from here, we can fill the remaining spaces as God reveals it to us. Our days can become very full of good things yet not always with the most important ones.

We find this promise in the book *The Ministry of Healing*: "If every moment were valued and rightly employed, we should have time for everything that we need to do for ourselves or for the world" (Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 208.1).

This can be our experience if we get things in their proper order. If you are a visual person like me, try this: get a jar, some larger rocks, pebbles, sand, and water. As you put them in the jar, prayerfully ask God what they represent in your life. Write it down, date it, and keep it where you can revisit it regularly.



Finally, let this be our experience during the first and most important part of each day:

"Each morning consecrate yourselves and your children to God for that day. Make no calculation for months or years; these are not yours. One brief day is given you. As if it were your last on earth, work during its hours for the Master. Lay all your plans before God, to be carried out or given up, as His providence shall indicate. Accept His plans instead of your own, even though their acceptance requires the abandonment of cherished projects. Thus the life will be molded more and more after the divine example; and 'the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.' Philippians 4:7" (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 44.5). Ω

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WRITTEN BY Rhonda Brown

## Seventh-Day Adventist Pioneers' Teaching: Does It Really Matter?

### The Importance of the Pioneers' Teaching

Understanding the teachings of the body of men whom God used to begin preaching the threefold message of Revelation 14 is very important for those who profess belief in the present truth. As it is written: "Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee" (Deuteronomy 32:7).

This is especially true regarding the foundation, or pillars, of our faith, the truths that have made us what we, Seventh-Day Adventists, are. These foundational truths were firmly established, and the whole company of believers during those early times were united in the truth. "Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein" (Jeremiah 6:16). Therefore, the following counsel has been given to new generations of Seventh-day Adventists:

"Young men will be bidden to link up with the aged standard-bearers, that they may be strengthened and taught by these faithful ones, who have passed through so many conflicts, and to whom, through the testimonies of His Spirit, God has so often spoken, pointing out the right way and condemning the wrong. When perils arise which try the faith of God's people, these pioneer workers are to recount the experiences of the past, when in just such



truth,—the monuments that have been raised up along the way; and we need the experience of the aged workers who have built their house upon the solid rock, who through evil report as well as good report have been steadfast to the truth" (Ellen White, *Gospel Workers*, p. 103.1).

"The true workers of Jesus Christ are to cooperate with their brethren who have had an experience in the work from the very rise of the third angel's message. These followed on step by step, receiving light and truth as they advanced, bearing one test after another, lifting the cross that lay directly in their pathway, and pressing on to know the Lord, whose goings forth are prepared as the morning.

You and other of our brethren must accept the truth as God has given it to His students of prophecy, as they have been led by genuine, living experience, advancing point by point, tested, proved, and tried, until the truth is to them a reality. From their voices and pens the truth in bright, warm rays has gone to all parts of the world,

and that which was to them testing truth, as brought by the Lord's delegated messengers, is testing truth to all to whom this message is proclaimed" (Ellen White, *Selected Messages*, Book 2, p. 102.3).

***The only safety for any of us is in receiving no new doctrine, no new interpretation of the Scriptures, without first submitting it to brethren of experience.***

crises the truth was questioned, and strange sentiments, proceeding not from God, were brought in. Today Satan is seeking opportunities to tear down the waymarks of

“There are a thousand temptations in disguise prepared for those who have the light of truth, and the only safety for any of us is in receiving no new doctrine, no new interpretation of the Scriptures, without first submitting it to brethren of experience. Lay it before them in a humble, teachable spirit, with earnest prayer, and if they see no light in it, yield to their judgment, for “in the multitude of counselors there is safety” (Ellen White, *Last Day Events*, p. 91.3).

“From the beginning of our work, men have arisen from time to time, advocating theories that were new and startling. But if those who claim to believe the truth would go to those who have had experience, would go to the word of God in a teachable, humble spirit, and examine their theories in the light of truth and with the aid of the brethren who have been diligent Bible students, and at the same time make supplication unto God, asking, Is this the way of the Lord, or is it a false path in which Satan would lead me? they would receive light, and would escape out of the net of the fowler” (Ellen White, *Testimony Treasures*, vol. 2, p. 359.2).

“Many of the pioneers, who shared with us these trials and victories, remained true till the close of life, and have fallen asleep in Jesus. Among these is the faithful warrior who for thirty-six years stood by my side in the battle for truth. God used him as a teacher and leader to stand in the front ranks during the severe struggles of those early days of the message; but he has fallen at his post, and, with others who have died in the faith, he awaits the coming of the Lifegiver, who will call him from his gloomy prison-house to a glorious immortality” (Ellen White, *The Review and Herald*, November 20, 1883, par. 6).

***The leading points of our faith as we hold them today were firmly established. Point after point was clearly defined, and all the brethren came into harmony.***

“My husband died in 1881. . . . I have refused to fail or become discouraged. And I have not been told in words that I shall see my husband in the City of God. . . . I have the evidence of the Word of God that my husband loved the truth and kept the faith. And I have the assurance that if I follow on trustingly, faithfully, doing God’s will as a faithful messenger, my husband and I will be reunited in the kingdom of God. I have not one particle of doubt regarding my husband’s preparedness to lay off the armor” (Ellen White, *Daughters of God*, p. 274.2).

“Many of our people do not realize how firmly the foundation of our faith has been laid. My husband, Elder Joseph Bates, Father Pierce, Elder [Hiram] Edson, and others who were keen, noble, and true, were among those who, after the passing of the time in 1844, searched for the truth as for hidden treasure. I met with them, and we studied and prayed earnestly. Often we remained together until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light and studying the Word. Again and again these brethren came together to study the Bible, in order that they might know its meaning, and be prepared to teach it with power. When they came to the point in their study where they said, “We can do nothing more,” the Spirit of the Lord would come upon me, I would be taken off in vision, and a clear explanation of the passages we had been studying would be given me, with instruction as to how we were to labor and teach effectively. Thus light was given that helped us to understand the scriptures in regard to Christ, His mission, and His priesthood. A line of truth extending from that time to the time when we shall enter the city of God, was made plain to me, and I gave to others the instruction that the Lord had given me.

“During this whole time I could not understand the reasoning of the brethren. My mind was locked, as it were, and I could not comprehend the meaning of the scriptures we were studying. This was one of the greatest sorrows of my life. I was in this condition of mind until all the principal points of our faith were made clear to our minds, in harmony with the Word of God. The brethren knew that when not in vision, I could not understand these matters, and they accepted as light direct from heaven the revelations given” (Ellen White, *Selected Messages*, Book 1, pp. 206.4–207.1).

The leading points of our faith as we hold them today were firmly established. Point after point was clearly defined, and all the brethren came into harmony.

“The whole company of believers were united in the truth. There were those who came in with strange doctrines, but we were never afraid to meet them. Our experience was wonderfully established by the revelation of the Holy Spirit” (Ellen White, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 3, p. 413.1).

### **The Teaching from 1855 to 1905**

As the children of Israel were about to leave literal Babylon and return to earthly Canaan, God gave them the following message: “Set thee up waymarks, make thee high heaps: set thine heart toward the highway, even the way which thou wentest: turn again, O virgin of Israel, turn

again to these thy cities” (Jeremiah 31:21).

In the same way, God instructed the pioneers of Seventh-day Adventism to place the waymarks and high heaps of present truth, so that succeeding generations would know the way from spiritual Babylon to heavenly Canaan. This work was accomplished between 1855 and 1905, the period to which the inspiration refers when speaking of the last fifty years.

“The past fifty years have not dimmed one jot or principle of our faith as we received the great and wonderful evidences that were made certain to us in 1844, after the passing of the time. The languishing souls are to be confirmed and quickened according to His Word.... Not a word is changed or denied. That which the Holy Spirit testified to as truth after the passing of the time, in our great disappointment, is the solid foundation of truth. [The] pillars of truth were revealed, and we accepted the foundation principles that have made us what we are—Seventh-day Adventists, keeping the commandments of God and having the faith of Jesus” (Ellen White, *The Upward Look*, p. 352.4).

“We are God’s commandment-keeping people. For the past fifty years every phase of heresy has been brought to bear upon us, to becloud our minds regarding the teaching of the Word—especially concerning the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and the message of Heaven for these last days, as given by the angels of the fourteenth chapter of Revelation. Messages of every order and kind have been urged upon Seventh-day Adventists, to take the place of the truth which, point by point, has been sought out by prayerful study, and testified to by the miracle-working power of the Lord. But the waymarks which have made us what we are, are to be preserved, and they will be preserved, as God has signified through His Word and the testimony of His Spirit. He calls upon us to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority” (White, *Selected Messages*, Book 1, p. 208.2).

“The enemy is seeking to divert the minds of our brethren and sisters from the work of preparing a people to stand in these last days. His sophistries are designed to lead minds away from the perils and duties of the hour. They estimate as nothing the light that Christ came from heaven to give to John for His people. They teach that the scenes just before us are not of sufficient importance to receive special attention. They make of no effect the truth of heavenly origin and rob the people of God of their past experience, giving them instead a false science. [Jeremiah 6:16 quoted]

“Let none seek to tear away the foundations of our faith—

the foundations that were laid at the beginning of our work by prayerful study of the word and by revelation. Upon these foundations we have been building for the last fifty years. Men may suppose that they have found a new way and that they can lay a stronger foundation than that which has been laid. But this is a great deception. Other foundation can no man lay than that which has been laid” (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, pp. 296.2–297.1).

“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pil-

lars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A



new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure” (White, *Selected Messages*, Book 1, p. 204.2).

“In the future, deception of every kind is to arise, and we want solid ground for our feet. We want solid pillars for the building. Not one pin is to be removed from that which the Lord has established. The enemy will bring in false theories, such as the doctrine that there is no sanctuary. This is one of the points on which there will be a departing from the faith. Where shall we find safety unless it be in the truths that the Lord has been giving for the last

*Continued on page 10*

# Be Rightly Trained: Join Waldensian Center!

Waldensian Center (WC) is located in the beautiful hills of Negros Oriental, with an ocean view that includes about 100 miles of the coastline of Cebu across the water. Like its namesake in the Piedmont Valleys of northern Italy, WC aims to qualify individuals for gospel and ministerial work. It seeks to follow the blueprint of education divinely laid out in Inspiration in providing for the development of all three aspects of humanity: the mental, physical, and spiritual.

In addition to academic subjects, such as mathematics, science, the language arts of speaking and writing in English, biblical Greek, history, and geography; the training center also has a strong emphasis on physiology and the causes and natural treatments of disease. Each day (except Sabbath) also includes practical experience in various fields, including agriculture, mechanics, welding, office skills, website building, publishing, and the building trades; but the most important subjects are the religious ones, which include lessons on studying and rightly interpreting the Scriptures, as well as using biblical study tools.

It is not a reformatory school, a getaway for rebellious teenagers, a venue for those seeking a new adventure. It is also not a place for those seeking a conversion experience; instead, it is a place where individuals desiring to join the army of Prince Emmanuel can receive an apprenticeship for gospel work in a structured environment. It aims to fit trainees for the joy of service in this life and the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.

Applicants must already be converted, active Christians and church members desiring to enter the gospel work. They must also have a good knowledge of English. Like the disciples of the Master, the virtues of humility and teachableness are essential qualifications, without which learning would be impossible. Requirements are delineated below.

## Applicants must:

1. Be at least 18 years of age
2. Be able to communicate in the English language by reading, writing, and speaking, as all instruction shall be done in English
3. Have no mental or physical disability that would prevent full participation
4. Have all relationships with the opposite gender severed,

except for the relationship of marriage, prior to coming, as no relationships other than marriage will be allowed

5. Be a Sabbath-keeper acquainted with the 1889 Fundamental Principles of Seventh-day Adventists and be in agreement with them

6. Attend with the purpose of being better prepared to serve the Lord with all the heart, soul, and strength

7. Have the following experience: "... those who are truly sanctified will reverence and obey the Word of God as fast as it is opened to them, and they will express a strong desire to know what is truth on every point of doctrine" (Ellen White, *The Review & Herald*, March 25, 1902, par 8).

8. Believe in the inspiration of the Bible and in the gift of prophecy as manifested in the life of Ellen White

9. Be humble and teachable

Our current school year will end in December. A new training session will begin in March or April. The exact date will be decided upon soon. If you would like to attend WC in the next term, please read more detailed information at <https://1889hsda.ph/wc/wc.php>. On that page you will find a link to an online application form which you will need to fill out. You will also find a link to forms for references who can vouch for your character. Please send that link to two references and ask them to complete the forms.

"What the church needs in these days of peril is an army of workers who, like Paul, have **educated themselves for usefulness**, who have a deep experience in the things of God, and who are filled with earnestness and zeal. Sanctified, self-sacrificing men are needed; men who will not shun trial and responsibility; men who are brave and true; men in whose hearts Christ is formed 'the hope of glory,' and who with lips touched with holy fire will 'preach the word.' For want of such workers the cause of God languishes, and fatal errors, like a deadly poison, taint the morals and blight the hopes of a large part of the human race" (Ellen White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 507.2).

"With such an army of workers as our youth, **rightly trained**, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world" (Ellen White, *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 555.2)! Ω

*\*Find more photos of Waldensian Center on the back page.*

## Speak, for Thy Servant Heareth

How would you feel if you kept calling someone repeatedly and they were not paying attention? Children today often have the habit of not heeding their parent's call, always responding with "wait a minute!" Hopefully, you are not one of them because that behavior is not respectful. Even if you are occupied with something else, it is important to set it aside for a moment to attend to your parents' needs. If you make this a habit, it will form your character and will determine your destiny. How? By habitually delaying obedience, you risk missing the Lord's final call, and that means eternal ruin.

Have you heard the story of the prophet, Samuel, when he was young? It is found in 1 Samuel 3:1–20.

"And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision. And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see; And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep; That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down" (1 Samuel 3:1–5).

Samuel, upon hearing someone call him, promptly went to Priest Eli, thinking it was him who called, even though he had already lied down to sleep. As you continue reading the Bible, you will find that three times he went to Priest Eli to answer the call. What a remarkable boy he was, always ready to answer the call!

The third time Samuel approached Priest Eli, Eli instructed him what to do.

"Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth" (1 Samuel 3:9–10).

See that? It was the Lord who was calling Samuel. Imagine what he would have missed if he had been too lazy to get up and heed the call. He would have missed the privilege and opportunity of communing with the Creator. But because he had developed the habit of responding promptly to being called, the Lord was

able to reveal the secret things of God to him. What were these things? You can find them in 1 Samuel 3:11–14. They concerned the judgement upon the house of Eli because his sons had committed vile things in the sight of the Lord and Eli had not restrained them. Samuel shared these things with Eli though he was hesitant at first. Did it happen as Samuel stated? 1 Samuel 3:19 says, "And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground."

Everything Samuel mentioned to Priest Eli came true because it was the Lord who had told him. Samuel, always ready to listen to the call of the Lord, was given the great responsibility of becoming a prophet. 1 Samuel 3:20 says, "And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD."



***God has something great prepared for you, but first you need to be ready and willing to listen and obey. As part of your preparation, you must develop the habit of hearing the call and being ready to say, "Speak, for thy servant heareth." Ω***

WRITTEN BY Yeyen Batasin

# Cream of Pumpkin Soup

RECIPE BY Corisande Facorat-Bolotte

## Ingredients

1 kilogram pumpkin, cubed  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
2 yellow onions, minced  
1 red onion, minced  
1 liter vegetable stock  
Salt to taste

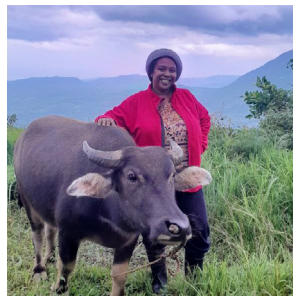
## Directions

1. Cook the onions and garlic in a little vegetable stock.
2. Add the pumpkin cubes and cook for a few minutes.
3. Cover with the vegetable stock and cook for about thirty minutes or until the pumpkin is tender.
4. Blend until smooth.
5. Season with salt to taste.

Thanks to its fiber content, pumpkin soup is not only easy to digest but also very nourishing. In particular, it is a valuable source of beta-carotene, a powerful antioxidant that helps prevent cancer by protecting cells against oxidative stress. Regular consumption of pumpkin soup also supports healthy vision, preventing age-related macular degeneration.



## WALDENSIAN CENTER



**THE 1889 REVIEW** is an official publication of the 1889 HSDA World Conference. May these pages bring you information, inspiration, and blessings. Feel free to share this with anyone.

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