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Bible Explorations Newsletter

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PASSOVER AND UNLEAVENED BREAD 2022

You can find our calendar and schedule on our website, we will have our "Passover/Unleavened Bread" week April 16 through 23, 2022. This will be on zoom (Roku, YouTube, etc). We have great speakers getting lined up again, so be sure to mark your calendars. It is also on facebook. Call or email if you need more information. Thank you for your continued prayers and support! We have added a special guest for 12 noon (PDT) each day!

THE GOEL

Kinsman / Redeemer / Avenger

By Kimber Hoffman

LESSONS FROM THE STORY OF RUTH

There are many fascinating details about the Goel in the story of Ruth that illuminate the Gospel. We will look at a few of them.

Who is this Goel?

And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was

Boaz. Ruth 2:1

This verse gives us a very brief description of the one who was Goel for Naomi and Ruth and, as a parable, is a description of who our Goel is. Boaz was a near relative of Elimelech, whose name means "God the King." He is described as "a mighty man of wealth." The Hebrew word for "mighty" means "a strong, valiant champion." He was an older man, highly respected in the community, probably a "city councilman." The word "wealth" comes from the Hebrew word for "virtue, strength, worthiness." It is the same word that Boaz uses to describe Ruth herself. ". . . *all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.*" Ruth 3:11

Our Goel is closely related to God, the King. He is a strong, valiant champion of virtue, worthy of all praise and honor. His Bride is to be like Him in character.

Ruth's first husband, Mahlon, died shortly after they were married. His name meant "sickly." Apparently he was weak and unhealthy from the time he was born. The name Boaz means "strength is in him." Our Goel comes in strength rather than weakness.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men. John 1:4

For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; John 5:26

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: . . . John 11:25

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening (life-giving,

vitalizing) *spirit*. 1 Corinthians 15:45

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: John 1:12

Adam, our original ancestor, was given life to become a living being. Because of his sin, he forfeited that gift of life and all of his posterity (us) have shared the same fate. The family of God was destined to become extinct. But, the One who replaced Adam, Jesus Christ, had life in Himself and came as the Life-giver to raise up a new family for God.

God created man for His own glory, that after test and trial the human family might become one with the heavenly family. It was God's purpose to repopulate heaven with the human family. (Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume 1, p. 1082)

Under His Wings--

When Boaz spoke personally to Ruth and assured her that she would be treated well in his field among his workers, he used a beautiful metaphor to describe what she had done in committing herself to stay with Naomi.

And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore. The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust. Ruth 2:11, 12

The Hebrew word for "wings" in this verse (**H3671** כנף *kânâph kaw-nawf*) has an interesting meaning. It is descriptive of a bird's wings and also of the edge of a garment, the hem of a skirt.

Later, when Ruth came to Boaz under the cover of darkness, she laid at his feet and covered herself with the hem of his garment. She was symbolically asking to be brought under his covering, his skirt, his wings. She was declaring her need and requesting that he fulfill his obligation as her Goel.

And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirtH3671 over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman. Ruth 3:9

Here are some other verses that use that same word, "kanaph" (H3671), to describe what our Goel does for us.

I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the

covert of thy wings.H3671 Psalm 61:4

Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wingsH3671 will I rejoice. Psalm 63:7

Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirtH3671 over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine. Ezekiel 16:8

But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings;H3671 and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. Malachi 4:2

Who Cares?--

The kinsman whom Boaz met at the gate was Naomi's nearest relative. He was the one who had the primary right and responsibility to act as her Goel. He showed immediate interest when Boaz informed him that there was some property available (Ruth 4:3, 4), but he lost interest when he was reminded of the family responsibilities that came with the property (Ruth 4:5, 6).

In the beginning, God granted Adam the right and responsibility of being a steward of the earth and everything in it. He had a similar arrangement with the Israelites: they were to manage the land under His ownership. Satan wants the earth and to some extent has already connived to have it and be known as the Prince of this World. (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Matthew 4:9) But he is not interested in the welfare of the people; he only wants authority over the property. Let humanity suffer and die; he cares not at all.

But the One who loves us has stepped in to redeem both the property and the Bride. When He has been granted legal rights to the property, then He takes the Bride to Himself. This picture of what the Goel does sheds light on several other descriptions that we are given.

He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. Luke 19:12

I saw the Father rise from the throne, and in a flaming chariot go into the holy of holies within the veil, and sit down. Then Jesus rose up from the throne, and the most of those who were bowed down arose with Him. I did not see one ray of light pass from Jesus to the careless multitude after He arose, and they were left in perfect darkness. Those who arose when Jesus did, kept their eyes fixed on Him as He left the throne and led them out a little way. Then He raised His right arm, and we heard His lovely

voice saying, "Wait here; I am going to My Father to receive the kingdom; keep your garments spotless, and in a little while I will return from the wedding and receive you to Myself." (Early Writings, p. 55)

And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Revelation 21:9, 10

But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. Galatians 4:26

Our Goel loves the property ("the world") and everyone connected to the family ("whosoever").

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

He will Provide--

Naomi's circumstances in Moab remind us of the situation of the prodigal son in Jesus' parable in Luke 15. He left his home, went to the far country, eventually found himself in desperate straits, and finally decided to return home to where he hoped to get better treatment. By coming back to Bethlehem, Naomi was leaving an area where no one felt any obligation to care for her, to return to her homeland and her people who not only had ties of kinship but were also commanded in the Torah to care for the widows and the poor. When we return to God, we can trust that He will provide what we need, both physically and spiritually.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 2 Peter 1:3

At His own Expense--

Boaz, at his own personal expense, took on the total financial burden of purchasing Naomi's land and supporting the family. He did it because they needed it, not because he hoped to profit by it.

And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: . . . Ruth 3:11

There is not much profit for our Goel to redeem us who are "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." (Revelation 3:17) But He recognized our need, and His great heart of love could not refrain from doing whatever we required, to the point of giving what was most precious and valuable in the whole universe--His own life. The cost of our redemption was graphically demonstrated on the Cross.

Grace is an attribute of God exercised toward undeserving human beings. We did not seek for it, but it was sent in search of us. God rejoices to bestow His grace upon us, not because we are worthy, but because we are so utterly unworthy. Our only claim to His mercy is our great need. (The Ministry of Healing, p. 161)

OUR HEAVENLY GOEL

The Redeemer--

The position, responsibilities, and privileges of the Goel, the Redeemer, described in the Old Testament are a wonderful "parable" that teaches much about what our Goel does for us. The word (H1350) is used over 80 times in the Old Testament, sometimes speaking of a literal Goel, but many times using the term in reference to God, the True Redeemer.

*And he saved them from the hand of him that hated them, and **redeemed** them from the hand of the enemy. Psalm 106:10*

*I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have **redeemed** thee. Isaiah 44:22*

*As for our **redeemer**, the LORD of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 47:4*

*For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy **Redeemer** the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. Isaiah 54:5*

*For the LORD hath **redeemed** Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he. Jeremiah 31:11*

*I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will **redeem** them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes. Hosea 13:14*

In the New Testament, the Redeemer's work is described in slightly different terms but the result is the same. The Greek words used to describe redemption in the New Testament are usually in the context of a ransom paid for

the release of a hostage. We are held hostage under the power of sin and Satan, and are freed through the work of our Redeemer.

For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. Mark 10:45

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 1 Peter 1:18, 19

A Kinsman--

Another aspect of the role of the Goel that is emphasized many times in the New Testament is that of kinship. The Goel was a close relative. We are reminded repeatedly that God is our Father and Jesus is our Brother. As the Goel was obligated to fulfill his roles by his ties of kinship, so our Heavenly Father and Brother have obligated themselves to fulfill those same roles for us because we have been adopted into their family.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: John 1:12

Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. John 20:17

To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Galatians 4:5, 6

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 1 John 3:1

For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Hebrews 2:11

The Avenger--

Satan invented the poison of sin and induced Eve to take it. She convinced Adam to take it and death came as a result of that poison.

... the devil ... was a murderer from the beginning ... he is a liar, and the father of it. John 8:44

Satan is a confirmed criminal. He is the source and

instigator of all the evil that has ever occurred. Our Goel will avenge all the crimes.

SUMMARY

Humanity is in a deplorable condition. Our property (the earth) was forfeited because of sin and we have no resources that would suffice to regain it. Our lives have been cut short by sin and we are on the road to extinction. We are slaves to the criminal who instigated our situation and he is still on the loose making things worse.

But our Goel has stepped into the picture. He is our Kinsman-Redeemer to restore us to our former estate. He is our strong Life-giver to perpetuate the Family of God. He is the Avenger to eradicate the source of evil and all of its results. All of these roles set right what has gone wrong and are part of righteousness and justice. Let us praise our Goel for what He has done for us.

When our first parents fell from their high estate through transgression, God's law was made void. Then Christ entered upon his work as a Redeemer, and probation was granted to the inhabitants of the world. In Noah's day, men disregarded the law of God until almost all remembrance of him had passed away from the earth. Their wickedness reached so great a height; violence, crime, and every kind of sin became so intensely active, that the Lord brought a flood of water upon the world and swept away the wicked inhabitants thereof. But mercy was mingled with judgment. Noah and his family were saved. In the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, we see that the Lord will interfere; fire came down from heaven and destroyed these wicked cities.

From time to time the Lord has made known his manner of working. He is mindful of what is passing upon the earth. And when a crisis has come, he has revealed himself, and has interposed the working of Satan's plans. He has often permitted matters with nations, with families, and with individuals to come to a crisis, that his interference might become marked. Then he has let the fact be known that there is a God in Israel who would sustain and vindicate his people.

When the defiance of the law of Jehovah shall be almost universal, when his people shall be pressed in affliction by their fellow men, God will interpose. The fervent prayers of his people will be answered, for he loves to have his people seek him with all their heart, and depend upon him as their Deliverer. He will be sought unto to do these things for his people, and he will arise as the protector and avenger of his people. The promise is, "The Lord will avenge his own elect, which cry unto him day and night."

The Protestant governments will reach a strange pass.

They will be converted to the world. They will also, in their separation from God, work to make falsehood and apostasy from God the law of the nation. In the place of those who have the light of truth allowing jealousy and evil surmisings to come in and weaken their love and union one with another, their united prayers should ascend to heaven for the Lord to arise and put an end to the violence and abuse which is practised in our world. More prayer and less talk is what God desires, and would make his people a tower of strength. GCB, January 1, 1900

I call upon all who have united in a course of action that is wrong in principle to make a decided reformation, and forever after walk humbly with God. The world is soon to be judged. A righteous God must avenge the death of His Son. Today men are choosing Barabbas, and saying, Crucify Christ. They will do this in the person of His saints. They will go over the same ground as the Jewish priests and rulers did in their treatment of Christ. He, the Son of God, and an innocent man, was murdered because He told men truths that it did not please them to hear. Yet He was the Son of the infinite God.

Those who today despise the law of Jehovah, showing no respect for His commandments, are taking sides with the great apostate. They proclaim to a sin-corrupted world that the law of God is null and void. Those who declare this as truth deceive the people, and have virtually nailed the law of Jehovah to the cross between two thieves. What a thought!

Before the worlds unfallen and the heavenly universe, the world will have to give an account to the Judge of the whole earth, the very One they condemned and crucified. What a reckoning day that will be! It is the great day of God's vengeance. Christ does not then stand at Pilate's bar. Pilate and Herod, and all that mocked, scourged, rejected, and crucified Him will then understand what it means to feel the wrath of the Lamb. Their deeds will appear before them in their true character. TM 131, 132

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying,

Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever. Revelation 5:9-14

(Conclusion)

THE BLOODY CITY
BY TED SCHULTZ (Continued)

Christ died to preserve man's liberty and free choice, but He did not intend that liberty and free choice were to overthrow the law of God. It is this very issue that led to the French Revolution. "The fatal error which wrought such woe for the inhabitants of France was the ignoring of this one great truth: that true freedom lies within the proscriptions of the law of God." *The Great Controversy*, p. 285. It was the claims of the law of God that were summarily suspended during both world wars by the German Seventh-day Adventist Church leadership and backed up by the General Conference leadership. Likewise, it is today on the abortion issue. It is now declared that it is a matter of individual conscience. In 1992 it was stated in the abortion guidelines that "the church does not serve as conscience for individuals." When the Annual Council convened in October 2019, this same theme was reiterated in the voted statement, "The Church while not being the conscience of the individual believers has the duty to convey the principles and teachings of the Word of God." www.adventist.org, *Statement on the Biblical View of the Unborn Life and Its Implications for Abortion*. In other words, no matter what the reason for the abortion may be, one still remains in good and regular standing in the church. Paragraph 6 states, "Decisions in such cases [as pregnancies with fatal prospects and/or acute, life-threatening birth anomalies] may be left to the conscience of the individual involved and their families."

Of course, it is true that no person or group of persons is to be conscience for any individual. Every conscience is to be bound to the word of God. The word of God says, "Thou shalt not kill." Exodus 20:13. If as it is stated that the duty of the Church is to convey the principles and teachings of the Word of God, should not the Church then teach that the conscience should be led by the Biblical teaching that killing an unborn baby is murder?

The German Church leadership found new and creative ways to suspend the fourth and sixth commandments during the war years. The faithful in Germany who rejected this apostasy said, “We leave liberty of conscience to everyone. In heaven is also liberty of conscience – but not liberty of conscience which overthrows the principles of the law of God.” *Reformation, Seventh-Day Adventists At The Crossroads*, p. 20.

Notice the creative use of Scripture as the General Conference President responded to the position of the faithful. “We believe that you, in the opinions which you hold, are fully in error. We believe in the fourth commandment the same as before, but we are not in a position to agree with your interpretation in this regard. What would you have said about Moses if he, after the law had been given at Sinai, had commissioned you a few days later to kill the king of Bashon, and all the men, children and women? Would you have accused him of murder? But God had commissioned him to transgress the sixth commandment. You see that many things are found in the interpretation of the commandments, and we must have freedom to read and understand the commandments, and not be bound to how any small organization may interpret it.” *Ibid.* p. 21. The president’s response leaves us wondering why it is that if “we must have freedom to read and understand the commandments” as one’s conscience directs, why then were the faithful disfellowshipped for doing so? In reciting this historical account, we are not endeavoring to minimize in the least the grave circumstances with which the leadership were faced. But they were not the first to be faced with such circumstances. Just a mere twenty years after the great disappointment the civil war broke out. This time it was not war in a far-off country. It was war in our own homeland. What was the position of Church leadership to this crisis? We see the position they took in a letter from top church leadership to the Governor of Michigan.

“To His Excellency, Austin Blair, Governor of the State of Michigan:

“We, the undersigned, Executive Committee of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, respectfully beg leave to present for your consideration the following statements:

“The denomination of Christians calling themselves Seventh-day Adventists, taking the Bible as their rule of faith and practice, are unanimous in their views that its teachings are contrary to the spirit and practice of war; hence, they have ever been conscientiously opposed to bearing arms. If there is any portion of the Bible which we, as a people, can point to more than another as our creed, it is the law of ten commandments, which we regard as the supreme law and each precept of which we take in its most obvious and literal import. The fourth of these commandments requires cessation from labor on the seventh day of the week, the sixth prohibits the taking of life, neither of which, in our view could be observed while doing military duty. Our practice has uniformly been consistent with these principles. Hence, our people have not felt free to enlist into the service. In none of our denominational publications have we advocated or encouraged the practice of bearing arms; and, when drafted, rather than violate our principles, we have been content to pay, and assist each other in paying, the \$300 commutation money. And while that provision remained of universal application, we did not deem any public expression of our sentiments on this question called for.

“We further represent that Seventh-day Adventists are rigidly anti-slavery, loyal to the government, and in sympathy with it against the rebellion. But not having long existence as a distinct people, and our organization having but recently been perfected, our sentiments are not yet extensively known. The change in the law renders it necessary that we take a more public stand in the matter. For this reason we now lay before Your Excellency the sentiments of Seventh-day Adventists, as a body, relative to bearing arms, trusting that you will feel no hesitation in endorsing our claim that, as a people, we come under the intent of the late action of Congress concerning those who are entitled to the benefits of said laws.

“John Byington
J. N. Loughborough
George W. Amadon
General Conference Executive Committee
Battle Creek, Michigan, August 2, 1864” *Ibid.* p. 13.
As quoted from *Seventh-day Adventists in Time of War*, p. 58.

What a contrast between the stated positions of the General Conference Executive Committee in 1864 and that of the General Conference President in 1920.

The faithful leaders in 1864 did not believe that the fourth and sixth commandments were suspended during the war years. Perhaps the General Conference President in 1920 could have referred to those faithful General Conference leaders in 1864 as merely expressing the interpretation of “any small organization.” But those who obey God’s commandments are not merely “any small organization.” They are the true remnant as identified in Scripture. “Here are they that keep the commandments of God.” Revelation 14:12. Those inspired words mean what they say and say what they mean. No interpretation is required. As we have already seen, Ellen White was shown in vision that there was no suspension of God’s law nor was there need of seeking a new interpretation of the law of God that would release anyone from obedience to any of God’s laws. Further she said, “God has given men no liberty to depart from his requirements. The Lord had declared to Israel, ‘Ye shall not do...every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes;’ but ye shall ‘observe and hear all these words which I command thee.’ In deciding upon any course of action, we are not to ask whether we can see that harm will result from it, but whether it is in keeping with the will of God.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 364.

“In disregarding the will of God, they are placing themselves on the side of Satan, the enemy of God and man.” *Mount of Blessing*, pp. 51, 52.

Like the General Conference and German church leaders who came up with new interpretational approaches to the law of God so it is today with the abortion issue. This time, however, the war is on the unborn. Dr. Ralph F. Waddell, secretary of the General Conference Department of Health called it the “war on the womb.” *Ministry*, March, 1971, p. 9. It is an all-out war which is producing casualties on a scale beyond comprehension. This war is relentless and without end. In 1984 one writer stated that in the United States alone, one out of every four pregnancies ended in abortion. In fourteen metropolitan areas such as Washington D.C., Atlanta, and Seattle, abortions outnumbered live births. Curt Young, *The Least of These*, p. 30.

Seventy-three million abortions per year

According to the Guttmacher Institute there were seventy-three million abortions per year worldwide in the years 2015 through 2019. Seventy-three million

is the number of casualties *per year, every year* from 2015 through 2019. That is over six million abortions every month. It is over two hundred thousand abortions every day. It is over eight thousand abortions every hour. One hundred and forty every minute. Over two every second! Let’s put this in perspective. Five times seventy-three million is 365 million. This is thirty-four million more than the entire population of the United States being mutilated and killed every five years! The Census Bureau says as of April 26, 2021, the population of the United States was 331,449,281. *Guinness World Records* states that the number of deaths from World War II was about 56.4 million. That is for the entire war including battle deaths and civilian deaths from all countries. The Guttmacher Institute reports that 56 million was the number of abortions performed *every year* in 2010 through 2014. The Guttmacher Institute reported 1,100,000 abortions in 1978 and 862,320 abortions for 2017 in the United State alone. This is far more than the number of all soldiers killed in the American Civil war. If these kinds of numbers were casualties of a supposed virus outbreak, what do you suppose would be the response of all governments of the earth and its citizens? The media complex would have the masses worked into an absolute pusillanimous fear. SEVENTY THREE-MILLION PERISH FROM VIRUS OUTBREAK would read the headlines. The whole world would hear nothing else every minute of every hour of every day month after month. A national emergency would be declared. Strict lock downs and curfews would be put in place. Gone would be the days that one could go to church and worship as usual. Schools would be closed. Cities would look like ghost towns. Most businesses would be shuttered. Only the most “essential” businesses would be allowed to operate, and that, only under the most draconian laws. To engage in any occupation or to move even in the most restricted manner would be done only with proper “documentation.” Freedoms guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution would be suspended. Those who would not go along with the new order would be seen as enemies of the people, no better than common murderers.

But abortion? That is a different kind of warfare. Great is the army of those who soldier on ever defending the right to maintain the statistic of seventy-three million abortions per year! But this war is different. Soldiers do not die in this war. Only

civilians perish. And of the civilian population only the most defenseless are marked for extermination. There is something particularly sick about this whole wretched business that is claimed to be a “religious liberty.” It is claimed by those in highest positions in the church that “freedom of conscience” in regard to abortion is according to the law of God. It is as if people are losing their spiritual bearings. This time has been predicted. “Christ will be personified. But on one point there will be a marked distinction – Satan will turn the people from the law of God. Notwithstanding this, so well will he counterfeit righteousness that, if it were possible, he would deceive the very elect. Crowned heads, presidents, rulers in high places, will bow to his false theories.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, pp. 471, 472.

Righteousness is obedience to the law of God. “And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.” Deuteronomy 6:25. A counterfeit righteousness has the appearance of genuine obedience to the law of God when in reality there is no obedience to the law of God. This is the very thing taking place in the name of “religious liberty.” It is a deception that we have been warned about. “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous even as he is righteous.” 1 John 3:7. We now live in a time when transgression of God’s law is disguised variously as “freedom of worship,” “religious liberty,” and “liberty of conscience.” This tricky and deceitful work has been carried on by those in high positions of influence within the church for many years.

.....*To be continued.*

MARANATHA

Ellen G. White

Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. [Jeremiah 25:32.](#)

Soon grievous troubles will rise among the nations—trouble that will not cease until Jesus comes. As never before we need to press together, serving Him who has prepared His throne in the heavens and whose kingdom ruleth over all. God has not forsaken His people, and our strength lies in not forsaking Him.

The judgments of God are in the land. The wars and rumors of wars, the destruction by fire and flood, say clearly that the time of trouble, which is to increase

until the end, is very near at hand. We have no time to lose. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecies of the eleventh of Daniel have almost reached their final fulfillment. [Welfare Ministry, 136.](#)

Soon strife among the nations will break out with an intensity that we do not now anticipate. The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the strained, restless relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they realize that something great and decisive is about to take place, that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis.

A moment of respite has been graciously given us of God. Every power lent us of Heaven is now to be used in working for those perishing in ignorance. There must be no delay. The truth must be proclaimed in the dark places of the earth.... A great work is to be done, and to those who know the truth for this time, this work has been entrusted. [The Review and Herald, November 17, 1910.](#)

In the last scenes of this earth's history, war will rage. There will be pestilence, plague, and famine. The waters of the deep will overflow their boundaries. Property and life will be destroyed by fire and flood. We should be preparing for the mansions that Christ has gone to prepare for them that love Him. There is a rest from earth's conflict. [The Review and Herald, October 19, 1897.](#)

BE READY!!

He IS coming soon! Thank you for your continued support of Bible Explorations.



