

A Tale of Three Mountains

By Bill Holt

The year?—about 870 B.C. Ahab is king; and there is a terrible drought! The ground is cracked—the clay as if baked in a furnace. The sun’s scorching rays have destroyed the vegetation. The streams are dry. The lowing herds and bleating flocks wander in distress.

The once-flourishing fields are burning desert sand. Forest trees are gaunt skeletons of nature—affording no shade. The air is dry and suffocating. Dust storms blind the eyes and nearly stop the breath.

Prosperous cities are places of mourning. Hunger and thirst tell upon man and beast—with fearful mortality. The horrors of famine come closer and closer. It’s been a year now with no rain.

Time passes—two years. Drought and famine devastate the nation! Parents, powerless to stay the suffering of the children, watch them die.

Another year and a half will pass before this drought ends. Heaven is curiously determined to make its point—as God withholds the rain these three and a half years: *for the apostacy of Israel is more dreadful than the multiplied horrors of famine.*¹

So what has Israel had done to deserve all this? Or what is it that she should have done?

—A Light on a Hill

Consider these words from an old Adventist periodical:

“In the days of Solomon, the kingdom of Israel extended from Hamath on the northward, to the border of Egypt on the southward, and from the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River. Through this territory ran many natural highways of the world’s commerce. Caravans were constantly passing to and from distant lands. Thus there was given Solomon and his people a most wonderful opportunity to reveal the character of the true God so clearly that men of all nations would be taught to reverence and obey the King of kings...”²

The book, *Prophets and Kings*, enlarges this thought:

“All who... turned from idolatry to the worship of the true God were to unite themselves with His chosen people. As the numbers of Israel increased, they were to enlarge their borders until their kingdom should embrace the world.”³

Earth’s only hope is for there to be a light somewhere—set high upon a hill. Zion should have been that hill; and on Zion: a city of light; and in that city: the temple of God; and in that temple: the place of God’s throne. Jesus said, “I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all me unto Me.”⁴ Israel was supposed to present Christ to the world. Lifting Christ was to be their mission, the *Galilee Protocol* was to their method, and enlarging their borders to embrace the world was to be the result.

So the psalmist sang:

“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the *mountain of His holiness*.”

¹ Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 127.

² Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*, January 25, 1906.

³ Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 19.

⁴ John 12:32.

Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.”⁵

Can you see it?—Mount Zion was to be a holy people. Jerusalem, a bride adorned for her Husband. The temple, God’s own building; with Christ being the chief cornerstone. Israel, as lively stones, was to build up a spiritual house upon the foundation of Christ—a chosen generation; a royal priesthood; an holy nation; a peculiar people; showing forth the praises of Him who *called them out* of this dark world into His marvelous light!⁶ God’s glory should have filled them; and they should have been the light to the nations.

“This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, sayeth the Lord of hosts.”⁷

The candlestick lamps in the temple represent God people. From two olive trees (the old and new testament), the Holy Spirit oil flows into the candlestick—fueling the lamps and bringing the light of heaven into a dark world.

“Who art thou, *O great mountain*? Before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the Headstone thereof with shouting, crying, Grace, grace unto it.”⁸

—The Glory of God

For a better understanding of Israel’s assignment, let’s go back to heaven before sin. God has yet to create the earth. Perfect harmony extends throughout the universe. Fulfilling the Creator’s purposes is everyone’s greatest joy. They reflect His glory and sing His praises. The universe is pristine—loving God is supreme; and love for one another is confiding and unselfish.

Now let’s reverently, carefully go to the heavenly throne room. God glory manifested in this place, displays the *fullness* of His identity—impossible (even for perfect beings) to look at!

It is infinite energy on three scales. Its *physical* energy is pure infinite power: (unlimited brightness, the force of His omnipotence). Its *intellectual* energy is pure infinite knowledge: (the all-knowingness of omniscience). Its *spiritual* energy is pure infinite goodness: (the unswerving justice and mercy of God’s righteousness).

God’s glory is on display to the universe. It dwells here—the *standard of Deity* at full scale—infinite power, infinite knowledge, infinite righteousness. This standard *is* God—living, personal, a physical being—presented without attenuation.

“Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty, All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea!”⁹

The universe depends on this three-fold energy for existence, but also for security. Individuality, diversity, liberty: these things require an arraignment for order and harmony.

Every municipality recognizes the hazards of unmanaged traffic. So it is with the government of God. There’s order and rank, laws and consequences. These are based in love and are essential for maintaining joy and peace within the community.

It is this community that needs God’s infinite energy to be on display—even though finite beings cannot absorb, or measure, or even endure God’s glory. Still it imposes a quality of physical, intellectual, and spiritual authority they cannot ignore or debate. This perpetual manifestation of God’s identity secures the liberty, individuality, and community of all His creatures.

⁵ Psalms 48:1-2. Emphasis added.

⁶ Revelation 21:2; 1 Peter 2:5-9.

⁷ Zechariah 4:6.

⁸ Zechariah 4:7. Emphasis added.

⁹ Reginald Herber, *Holy, Holy, Holy*. 1826. As found in *The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, (Hagerstown, Maryland: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1985).

—Inclusivity and Exclusivity

Two special figures stand before the throne. On God's right hand stands Michael the archangel; on His left, Lucifer, also a covering cherub. These two occupy positions of authority above all the created hosts of heaven. They stand *between* God's infinite glory and everyone who enters there.

They stand together facing each other, with their heads bowed. With wings, they form a place of gentle shade from the brightness of the glory of the Almighty. With other wings they reverently cover own faces. The glory of God is too much for even unfallen angels to behold.

"Holy, holy, holy! Angels adore Thee, casting down their bright crowns around the glassy sea; Thousands and ten thousands worship low before Thee, Which wert, and art, and ever more shalt be."¹⁰

The Almighty shows His *exclusivity* in this arrangement. The magnitude of divine glory presents a barrier between Creator and created. No creature *can* cross it—the finite is no match for the Infinite.

"Holy, holy, holy! Though darkness hide Thee, though the eye of man Thy great glory may not see; Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee, Perfect in power, in love, and purity."¹¹

The arrangement of His throne also shows God's *inclusivity*. Notice the condescension: God put on a form that suits community comfort. Taking on the form and work of angels, Michael—still fully God—can freely mingle with the heavenly host. Even before sin, He veiled the brightness of His divinity. It's the *God with us* principle.¹² It's the *I want to dwell among them*, principle.¹³

Besides all that, God elevates Lucifer to a position close to Himself. An old issue of *The Review and Herald* says that before Lucifer's fall, "God made him good and beautiful, *as near as possible like Himself*."¹⁴ This enabled him to better reflect God's glory. Ezekiel twenty-eight tells us that *physically* he was "perfect in beauty;" *mentally* he was "full of wisdom," and *spiritually* he produced perfect music.¹⁵

Continuing in Ezekiel twenty-eight:

"You are the anointed covering cherub; I made you so; you were on the holy mountain of God; and walked up and down among the *stones of fire*. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. By the multitude of your *merchandise* they have filled you up with violence, and you have sinned: So I will throw you out of *the mountain of God*: and I will destroy you, O covering cherub, from among the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty, you have corrupted your wisdom because of your brightness... You have defiled your sanctuaries by your many sins, and by the sin of your *trafficking*."¹⁶

Stones of fire represent God's law, the foundation of this throne. Lucifer becomes corrupted by ascribing to himself glory that is God's. He thinks the physical, intellectual, and spiritual energy he absorbs and reflects (because of always standing in the rays of divine glory), is his own.

Notice how Lucifer seeks to merchandise that glory—he tries to traffic divinity. He was giving his pitch when he told Eve the *fruit of knowledge* would make her like God.¹⁷ He claimed a tree could give *physical* power; and "she saw that it was good for food." He claimed it could give

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Matthew 1:23.

¹³ Exodus 25:8.

¹⁴ Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*, September 24, 1901.

¹⁵ Ezekiel 28:15, 17.

¹⁶ Ezekiel 28:14-18. Emphasis added.

¹⁷ See Genesis 3:1-6.

spirituality; and she saw “it was pleasant to the eyes.”¹⁸ He claimed it could provide *intelligence*; and she saw “a tree to be desired to make one wise”.

Did you notice the mountain? God places Lucifer on the *holy mountain of God* until He finds sin in him. This is mountain number *one* in a tale of three mountains. It is the mount of the congregation; and the north side is the place of God’s throne.

Cast out but still determined—notice Satan’s boast:

“For you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.”¹⁹

—An Infinite Glory Barrier

Seeking to win service to himself, this prince of angels did not make God supreme. He wanted glory belonging to God’s Son; and he aspired to power that was the prerogative of Christ alone. So the King of the Universe summoned everyone before Him. In their presence, He would clarify the true position of His Son Michael. “The Son shared the Father’s throne and the glory of the eternal, self-existent One, encircled them both.”²⁰

The King declared only Christ, *could* fully enter His purposes (remember there’s an *infinite glory barrier*), and Christ executed the mighty counsels of the divine will. The Son created the angelic hosts; and homage and allegiance belong to Him too.

The vast, unnumbered throng “ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands”—the most exalted angels, as ministers and subjects—rejoiced in this light. They joyfully acknowledged the supremacy of Christ. They bowed before Him; and they poured out their love and adoration.

Lucifer bowed too; but there was a strange, fierce conflict. Truth, justice, and loyalty were struggling against envy and jealousy. Christ made such efforts as only infinite love and wisdom could devise²¹—to win Lucifer back, and to show him his error. He proved his disaffection to be without cause; and lucifer saw what his rebellion would cause.

He was convinced he was wrong. He saw the Lord is righteous—the divine statues are just; and he ought to say so before all heaven. If willing to return, God would have reinstated his office. He nearly returned; but pride forbade him. He felt it too great a sacrifice to confess his wrong.

Lucifer earlier left his place to diffuse discontent among the angels. With mysterious secrecy, he insinuated doubts about the laws that governed them. He suggested exalted angels need no restraint—their own wisdom sufficed to guide them: their thoughts were holy. He told them it was as impossible for them to err as it was for God to. He claimed that if he were so exalted, great good would come to the entire host of heaven: for he planned to secure freedom for all.²² And so this prince of angels, *merchandised* the glory of God.²³

—Tyre and Sidon

We know this *Ezekiel-prophecy* describes Lucifer—even though the prophet never mention him by name. He actually names the king of Tyre;²⁴ and he is addressing the nations of Tyre and Sidon. History helps us appreciate the *Tyre-Sidon connection*.

¹⁸ Eyes symbolize spiritual vision. Matthew 6:22; 13:16; Mark 8:17, 18. Psalms 119:18; Ephesians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 4:4.

¹⁹ Isaiah 14:13-14.

²⁰ Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 36.

²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 39.

²² *Ibid.* p. 37.

²³ See *Appendix A – The Infinite Glory Barrier!* for an in-depth treatment of the *exclusivity* of divinity relating to the eternal divinity of Christ, the divine personhood of the Holy Spirit, and the role of pantheism in the final conflict.

²⁴ See Ezekiel 28:12.

When the children of Israel camped at Sinai, God asked them to build a sanctuary. The portable structure would copy the heavenly throne room we've been talking about. Representing God's throne, the pure-gold mercy-seat would occupy the *most holy place*. The golden covering cherubs would stand on either side; and beneath would be two tables of stone—the stones of fire—God's holy law. The glory of God would dwell between the cherubim above the mercy-seat.

This would be a costly project for Israel. Moses asked the people to give offerings for the material; and God endowed chosen men from Judah and Dan with special skill and wisdom for the meticulous workmanship. Aholiab was one of these men. These gifted workmen passed their talent to their descendants. In time, these wanted higher wages. So they sought employment from the surrounding nations; and they applied their God-given skill in the service of heathen kings. They used their talents to build temples and idols for paganism.

Years later when Israel settled in Canaan, they drove out most of its inhabitants. Among those they allowed to stay where the people of Tyre and Sidon. Both were trading cities—seaport nations on the Mediterranean. Their coastal situation made them world centers of commerce, wealthy in goods, skilled in the arts, and knowledgeable in all matters of learning around the globe.

So when Solomon needed a superintendent for building the temple on Mount Moriah, he didn't go to God for consecrated helpers and teachers. He asked the king of Tyre for someone to teach the skills to men in Judah and Jerusalem. The Phoenician king sent Hiram, the son of a man from Tyre—who descended from Aholiab on his mother's side. Solomon levied burdensome taxes to pay the workers' high wages.

The close relationship between Israel and Tyre continued to increase Tyre's wealth. It also helped to rend the kingdom of Israel. Solomon's son continued his father's policy of high taxation; but the northern tribes revolted and formed a separate nation. Judah to the south, continued to manage close ties with Tyre; and the ten tribes to the north fostered close ties with Sidon—also a wealthy Mediterranean coastal city.

—A General Movement

Why does Ezekiel now prophesy against Tyre and Sidon? Why does he link them to Lucifer's situation in heaven? Consider this from the pen of inspiration:

"I ask our people to study the twenty-eighth chapter of Ezekiel. The representation here made, while it refers primarily to Lucifer, the fallen angel, has a broader significance. Not one being, but a *general movement*, is described, and *one that we will witness*."²⁵

Tyre-Sidon-Lucifer connection somehow represents a *general movement* we're about to witness. Those were exalted entities who became proud of their glory; and commercially merchandised that glory. By Ezekiel's time, Tyre and Sidon had become what Israel had been in Solomon's day: the center of *power, education, and spiritual enlightenment*.

Today there is a similar entity leading a *general movement*—one we should avoid being caught up in. This "last-days" entity is *physically* attractive: visually pleasing, strong against her enemies, and powerful against the elements and sickness and disease. This entity excels *intellectually*: an educational powerhouse, a wealth of scientific know-how. It shines with *spiritual* splendor: a world leader in spirituality, a religion of religions—able to unite the entire world in common worship.

Recently,²⁶ Christians celebrated the 500th birthday of the *Protestant Reformation*. Here is Wikipedia on the "Reformation view" of Babylon:

²⁵ Ellen G. White, *Special Testimonies*, Series B. No. 17, p. 30. Emphasis added.

²⁶ October 31, 2017.

“Historicist interpreters commonly use the phrase ‘Whore of Babylon’ to refer to the Roman Catholic Church. Reformation writers from Martin Luther, John Calvin, and John Knox taught this association.”²⁷

Wikipedia also describes the Seventh-day Adventist view:

“Adventist believe that the fallen state of traditional Christianity can be seen especially in the Catholic Church, which they teach is the great whore in prophecy as seen in Revelation 17:1-[6], a false church. Her daughters are interpreted as other false churches (predominantly Protestant) which adopt false doctrines, some drawn from Catholicism itself...”²⁸

But today many Protestant denominations are reevaluating their *protest*—and their relationship to the Papacy. The question is being asked: *Is the reformation over?*²⁹

Igniting the fires of earth’s final battle, the angel of Revelation eighteen repeats the second angel, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen,”³⁰ adding, “Come out of her my people.”³¹ Wonderful Christian are still within the Babylon system—but prophecy links that system to the last-day *general movement* described in Ezekiel: and to the *mark of the beast*. It would be poor timing to call off the Reformation just now.

—Counterfeiting Glory

Revelation eighteen notes Babylon’s merchandising—how “much she hath *glorified* herself,” and how the kings of the earth will say,

“Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth her merchandise anymore.”³²

Like Lucifer and the cities of Tyre and Sidon, she is proud of her glory—and like them, she traffics in education, religion, and physical comfort. An angel takes a great millstone and casts it into the sea, saying,

“And the voice of the harpers, and *musicians*, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no *craftsmen*, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of the *millstone* shall be heard no more in thee.”³³

Musicians, craftsmen, and millers correspond to the three great enterprises began by Cain’s decedents in Genesis.

“Upon receiving the curse of God, Cain had withdrawn from his father’s household... and he now founded a city... He had gone out from the presence of the Lord, cast away the promise of the restored Eden, to seek his possessions and enjoyment in the earth under the curse of sin, thus standing at the head of that great class of men who worship the god of this world. In that which pertains to mere earthly and material progress, his decedents became distinguished.”³⁴

Lamech’s sons were the first of Cain’s descendant to be so distinguished. Jabal was the father of those who dwell in tents and have cattle,³⁵ providing a secular means for man’s *physical* security (millstone). Tubalcain was an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron,³⁶ providing a

²⁷ Wikipedia. *Whore of Babylon*. Updated September 8, 2018. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whore_of_Babylon. Updated September 8, 2018.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ See *Is the Reformation Over? A Statement of Evangelical Convictions*, (<http://isthereformationover.com/>). 3/7/2019.

³⁰ Revelation 18:2. See Revelation 14:8.

³¹ Revelation 18:4.

³² Revelation 18:7, 10-11.

³³ Revelation 18:22. Emphasis added.

³⁴ Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 81.

³⁵ Genesis 4:20.

³⁶ Genesis 4:22.

secular means for man's *intellectual* education (craftsmen). Jubal was the father of all such as handle the harp and pipe³⁷—providing a secular means for man's *spiritual* needs (musicians).³⁸

Genesis also tells of the birth of a city and the laying of the foundation for her *temporal*, *intellectual*, and *spiritual* glory. Understand Cain's pursuits were the outworking of the same motivation that prompted him to offer his fruits and vegetables. He chose not to trust "his salvation wholly to the atonement of the promised Savior." "He would come in his own merits." "He would express no penitence for sin." "He would not bring a lamb and mingle its blood with his offering, but he would present his fruits, the products of his labor. He presented his offerings as a favor to God, through which he expected to secure the divine approval."³⁹

Revelation reports the judgment of "that mighty city!"—destroyed in a single hour—her glory gone such that even "the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in [her]... for [her] merchants were the great men of the earth; for by [her] medication⁴⁰ were all nations deceived."⁴¹

Prophecy also indicates that prior to her final demise, she will receive a deadly wound, and then undergo a healing.⁴² In 1798, General Berthier captured the Pope—thus wounding the papal power; but it was the Reformation that caused its real damage. Today the beast's power re-surges as her deadly wound quickly heals. This time the whole world wonders after her *educational*, *spiritual*, and *medical* glory.

The Romish church has a recent media campaign they call "*Catholics Come Home*." In television commercials they boast they invented the modern hospital, developed the scientific method—founded the college system, and compiled the Bible.⁴³

—*Spiritual* Trafficking

Daniel tells of a *little horn* power that "grew as high as the host of heaven, and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the earth, and trampled them."⁴⁴ The prophet elaborates:

"It magnified itself, even to the Prince of the host; it removed His daily sacrifice and overthrew the place of His sanctuary. And on account of rebellion, the host and the daily sacrifice were given over to the horn, and it flung truth to the ground and prospered in whatever it did."⁴⁵

This power insinuates himself into the place of Christ. Setting up a counterfeit priesthood and offering counterfeit sacrifices—this ecclesiastic entity derives its authority from the perpetual sinfulness (rebellion⁴⁶) of the host⁴⁷ (congregation).⁴⁸ Besides seating "himself in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God, this power "speaks out against the Most High... intending to change times and the law."⁴⁹

³⁷Genesis 4:21.

³⁸ Music is linked to both true and false worship in the Bible. Psalms 100; Psalms 27:6; Exodus 32:1-7, 17-18; Daniel 3:4-5.

³⁹ Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 71. Emphasis is from the original.

⁴⁰ The King James uses the word "sorceries." However the Greek word for sorcery in the Bible is *mageia*, meaning "magic." The word used in this verse is *pharmakeia*, meaning "medication." It comes from *pharmakeus* and *pharmakon*, meaning "a drug" or "a druggist." See *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, Greek Dictionary entries for 3095 and 5331.

⁴¹ Revelation 18:23.

⁴² Revelation 13:3.

⁴³ *Catholics Come Home*, (<https://catholicscomehome.org/>), accessed 9/25/2018. See also uCatholic.com, *Did you know? The Catholic Church Invented Hospitals*, January 13, 2017, (<https://www.ucatholic.com/blog/did-you-know-the-catholic-church-invented-hospitals/>), accessed 9/25/2018. See Thomas E. Woods, *The Catholic Church and the Creation of the University*. May 16, 2005. (<https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/education/catholic-contributions/the-catholic-church-and-the-creation-of-the-university.htm>), accessed 9/25/2018.

⁴⁴ Daniel 8:10. Berean Study Bible.

⁴⁵ Daniel 8:11-12.

⁴⁶ Strong's Hebrew 6588: Transgression. (Preposition-b | Noun – masculine singular).

⁴⁷ Strong's Hebrew 6635: A mass of organized persons. (Conjunctive waw | Noun – common singular).

⁴⁸ Consider Ellen G. White, *Early Writings*, p. 56. Satan appears to be trying to carry on the holy place work after 1844.

⁴⁹ Daniel 7:25. Berean Study Bible.

Daniel's vision has *the judgment* taking away the power and dominion of the big-mouth little horn.⁵⁰ This is because the judgment brings an end to the perpetual-sin problem in the church.⁵¹

So long as the little horn perpetuates sin among the saints, (by convincing them that there will always be a daily sacrifice⁵² for them), they cannot (and will not) be sealed.⁵³ By changing God's *times and law*, he keeps even the "good" saints sinning. This prevents the judgment from ending the little horn's reign.

In "*Catholics Come Home*," the viewer sees a large open Bible on a golden altar with six candles (not seven), and a Catholic priest waving a golden censor. This is *holy place* imagery. Then the viewer sees a Cardinal wearing a beautiful red and gold robe while holding up the wine and host. He stands at the sanctuary⁵⁴ with statuary of covering cherubs on either side. This is *most holy place* imagery. The most holy is the place of God's throne.

The papal system is a glorious outworking of the motives of Cain—where salvation is not wholly based on the atonement of the Savior. People can come in their own merits without repentance. As they seek to buy their spirituality with the fruits of their labor—the church glitters with the gold.

—Physical Trafficking

Shortly after the *Edict of Milan*⁵⁵ paved the way for the rise of a universal church, the *First Council of Nicaea* met in AD 325.

"The council ordered a hospital to be built in every cathedral town to care for the sick, the poor, the widows, and the strangers...

"In the 6th century, the Benedictines had every monastery of the order establish an infirmary to provide care for their community...

"By the end of the Middle Ages, the Church had laid a foundation of healthcare all across Europe, with hundreds of hospitals dotting the map... By the advent of the Industrial Revolution, a majority of hospitals worldwide had their roots in the long-standing Catholic tradition of caring for the sick. Today the Church has over 600 hospitals and over 400 long-term care facilities in the United States alone."⁵⁶

But modern allopathic medicine traces its roots back to well before the Roman church. It goes all the way back to ancient Egypt.

"The medicine of the ancient Egyptians is some of the oldest documented. From the beginnings of the civilization in the late fourth millennium BC until the Persian invasion of 525 BC, Egyptian medical practice went largely unchanged but was highly advanced for its time, including simple non-invasive surgery, setting of bones, dentistry, and an extensive set of pharmacopoeia. Egyptian medical thought influenced later traditions, including the Greeks."⁵⁷

"The art of healing was originally one of the secret sciences of the priesthood, and the mystery of its source is obscured by the same veil which hides the genesis of religious belief... Candidates aspiring to membership in the religious orders underwent severe tests to prove their worthiness. These ordeals were called *initiations*. Those who passed them successfully were welcomed as brothers by the priests and were instructed in the secret teachings...

"While modern physicians accredit Hippocrates with being the father of medicine, the ancient

⁵⁰ Daniel 7:9-14, 26; 8:13-14, 25-26.

⁵¹ Ephesians 5:27; Revelation 19:7; Revelation 7:3-4, 14:1-5.

⁵² Daniel 8:12, "And on account of rebellion, the host and the daily sacrifice were given over to the horn." Berean Study Bible. "The daily sacrifice" - Strong's Hebrew 8548: 1) continuity, perpetuity, to stretch 1a) continually, continuously (as adverb).

⁵³ Revelation 7:3-4.

⁵⁴ In ecclesiastical architecture, the 'elevated platform that contains the main altar and associated liturgical elements that is restricted for ceremonial use by the clergy, often fenced from adjoining spaces,' is called the sanctuary. See Wikipedia, Cathedral floorplan, (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathedral_floorplan), accessed 3/21/2019.

⁵⁵ AD 313. Constantine I and Licinius met in Lilian and agreed to treat Christians benevolently within the Roman Empire.

⁵⁶ uCatholic.com, *Did you know? The Catholic Church Invented Hospitals*, January 13, 2017, (<https://www.ucatholic.com/blog/did-you-know-the-catholic-church-invented-hospitals/>), accessed 3/22/2019.

⁵⁷ Wikipedia, *Ancient Egyptian medicine*, (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Egyptian_medicine), accessed 3/22/2019.

therapeutae ascribed to the immortal Hermes the distinction of being the founder of the art of healing."⁵⁸

Hermes (Thoth to the Egyptians) is considered to be the god of alchemy, astrology, and magic.⁵⁹ The caduceus (winged staff with two snakes wound around it) is the symbol for Hermes and has become the symbol for modern medicine.⁶⁰

"Hippocrates, the famous Greek physician, during the fifth century before Christ, disassociated the healing art from the other science of the temple and thereby established a precedent for separateness."

"During the Middle Ages the long-ignored axioms and formulae of Hermetic wisdom were assembled once more, and chronicled, and systematic attempts were made to test their accuracy.⁶¹

Much of the world's present knowledge of the ancient systems of medicine come from Paracelsus—a Swiss-German Renaissance physician, botanist, alchemist, astrologer, and general occultist.⁶² He spent his entire life studying the exposition of Hermetic philosophy.

"[He] pioneered the use of chemicals and minerals in medicine...

"His hermetical beliefs were that sickness and health in the body relied upon the harmony of humans (microcosm) and nature (macrocosm). He took a different approach from those before him, using this analogy not in the manner of soul-purification but in the manner that humans must have certain balances of minerals in their bodies, and that certain illnesses of the body had chemical remedies that could cure them...

"Diseases were caused by poisons brought from the stars. However, 'poisons' were not necessarily something negative, but also because related substances interacted, in part because only the dose determined if a substance was poisonous or not... If a... poison caused a disease, then it must be countered by another... poison. Because everything in the universe was interrelated, beneficial medical substances could be found in herbs, minerals and various chemical combinations thereof. Paracelsus viewed the universe as one coherent organism that is pervaded by a uniting lifegiving spirit, and this in its entirety, humans included, was 'God.'"⁶³

During the Exodus, God asserted *His* healing authority in contrast to Egyptian medicine. This was His promise to the children of Israel:

"If you will diligently hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee."⁶⁴

This contrast raises difficult questions about worldly medicine. Like Cain, Egypt took issue with God. And like Cain, Egypt did not want health to be the result of obedience to law. They preferred to buy it.

"Of all nations presented in Bible history, Egypt most boldly denied the existence of the living God and resisted His commands. No monarch ever ventured upon more open and highhanded rebellion against the authority of Heaven than did the king of Egypt."⁶⁵

—**Intellectual Trafficking**

All able applicants were guaranteed access to a teaching license by the *Third Council of the Lateran* in 1179. Before then, the right to grant a *licentia docendi* was reserved to the church. But

⁵⁸ Manley P. Hall, *The Secret Teachings of All Ages*, p. 119.

⁵⁹ Wikipedia, *Hermeticism*, (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermeticism>), accessed 3/22/2019.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ Hall, p. 119.

⁶² Wikipedia, *Paracelsus*, (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paracelsus>), accessed 3/22/2019.

⁶³ Wikipedia, *Paracelsus*, (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paracelsus>), accessed 3/22/2019.

⁶⁴ Exodus 15:26.

⁶⁵ Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 269.

able applicants still had to be tested by the ecclesiastic scholastic until 1231—when the Pope granted that right to a university.⁶⁶

The *scientific method* came along in the 1830s and 1850s when Baconianism was popular.⁶⁷ History credits Francis Bacon (1561-1626) with being the father of the scientific method.⁶⁸ One commentator says:

“A worldwide state of illumination is the ancient dream and prophecy of all great sages who have ever lived on earth... Bacon’s great gift to the world was his ability to see this anew and both devise and inaugurate a particular scientific method by which it might be more certainly achieved, suitable for the approaching era.”⁶⁹

It’s almost impossible to overestimate Bacon’s influence on our modern, scientific age. The *Royal Society* is a fellowship of many of the world’s most eminent scientists and is the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence. On the foundation stones of the *Royal Society* is prose by Abraham Cowley comparing Bacon to Moses—with Bacon leading humanity to the promised land.⁷⁰ Bacon’s friend, George Herbert, hailed him as “the alone-only priest of nature and men’s souls.”⁷¹

There is true science; and there is science-so-called.⁷² The scientific method bases conclusions on *observation rather than authority*. Faith bases conclusions on *authority rather than observation*.⁷³

Bacon promoted what he called the *Great Restoration*.⁷⁴ He said it was *six stages of work* leading to a final stage of *rest*—the state of paradise.⁷⁵ He planned to first reform religion to restore humanity’s relation to God; and second, recover the principles of natural philosophy, so that by the arts and sciences, we might restore humanity’s dominion over nature.⁷⁶ Referring to this as *rebuilding Solomon’s temple*, Bacon saw this as the way to overcome the ravages of sin and to rebuild humanity to its prelapsarian condition.⁷⁷

It would also pave the way for Ezekiel’s *general movement*. Bishop Sprat claimed that Bacon’s scientific method will overcome narrowness of mind; and enable minds distracted by civil and religious differences to meet calmly on neutral ground; He further predicts that Bacon’s scientific method will unite all the various classes, including the Presbyterian, the Papist, the Independent, and the Orthodox.⁷⁸

Solomon’s temple “is to be constructed in the human mind” as a “Pyramid of Philosophy.’ A pyramid is a ‘pyre’ of flame—a temple of light.”⁷⁹ Sir Francis Bacon wrote: “I have held up a *light* in the obscurity of Philosophy... the establishment of good laws as an example to the world. For I

⁶⁶ Wikipedia, Academic degree, (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_degree), accessed 3/21/2019.

⁶⁷ Wikipedia, *Scientific Method*, (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_method), accessed 3/21/2019.

⁶⁸ Wikipedia, *Francis Bacon*, updated September 30, 2018. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Bacon), accessed 9/25/2018.

⁶⁹ Peter Dawkins, *The Great Instauration*, (http://www.fbrt.org.uk/pages/essays/essay-gt_inst.html), accessed 12/30/2013.

⁷⁰ Abraham Crowley, *Ode to the Royal Society*, 1667, (<https://www.bartleby.com/337/473.html>), accessed 3/21/2019. See also Benjamin Farrington, *The Christianity of Francis Bacon*, reprinted from *Baconiana*, the Journal of the Francis Bacon Society (<http://www.sirbacon.org/farrington.htm>). Accessed 9/26/2018.

⁷¹ *Ibid*.

⁷² Ellen G. White, *Medical Ministry*, p. 98; See also Ellen G. White, *The Signs of the Times*, April 18, 1895.

⁷³ Hebrews 11:1.

⁷⁴ His original word was “Instauration.”

⁷⁵ Dawkins.

⁷⁶ Francis Bacon, *Novum Organum*. 1620.

⁷⁷ Stephen A. McKnight, *Francis Bacon’s God*, *The New Atlantis*, No. 10, Fall, 2005, pp.73-100. Prelapsarian mean pre-fallen.

⁷⁸ Benjamin Farrington, *The Christianity of Francis Bacon*, reprinted from *Baconiana*, the Journal of the Francis Bacon Society (<http://www.sirbacon.org/farrington.htm>). Accessed 9-26-2018.

⁷⁹ Peter Dawkins, *The Great Instauration*. (1999, Francis Bacon Research Trust), accessed on 9-26-2018 at <https://www.sc-ribd.com/document/251893594/The-Great-Instauration-pdf>

am not raising a capital or pyramid to the pride of men, but laying the foundation in the human understanding for a holy temple after the *model of the World*.”⁸⁰

In his book, *Peace Among the Willows*, Howard White warns about Bacon’s purpose for this *temple of light*. He says it was to transform the human quest from the search for the “heavenly city,” to the creation of the “well-governed country;” and to change the quest to understand God’s creation (and humanity’s place in it), to “a pursuit to understand what humans can make of themselves.”⁸¹ It seems that Cain’s motivation has found its way in into worldly education.

—Competing Mountains

Maybe you’re seeing two contrasting pictures here—two competing mountains—two plans for restoring mankind: both patterned after the original genesis.

In the one, the Creator restores by His own creative work—the atonement and His word. In His plan there are two temples: a wilderness tabernacle made of skins, and later, a temple on Mount Moriah made of stones. Jesus Himself is the temple of skins, His humanity veiling His divinity—the incarnation, covering, but also revealing God to the world.

Christ is also the chief cornerstone⁸² in the temple of stones. The last-day revelation of Himself will be that of a fully restored, fully rebuilt temple in humanity: one in which the Spirit of God dwells, like the Shekinah filled Solomon’s temple.⁸³

This temple (built by God, not man), is His church.⁸⁴ His bride will be without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.⁸⁵ This temple will demonstrate to the universe that our hearts of stone can become hearts of flesh⁸⁶—the glory of His law written there by His own finger.⁸⁷ As partakers of the divine nature—as we are filled with the Holy Spirit—we will shine with the brightness of God’s glory!

The other is the *second* mountain in a tale of three mountains. On it Satan attempts to restore by his *merchandise*: the *tree of knowledge*—worldly strength, worldly science, and worldly enlightenment.

His plan also has two temples. “Illuminated” individuals (*initiates*) form the temple of skins and constitute the cornerstone—the foundation of a different kind of stone temple—one built by *human* hands; a world-wide state of illumination; and a well-governed world-wide order.

Catholic Priest, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin,⁸⁸ wrote that “each of us is evolving toward the godhead,”⁸⁹ and that the only god to be worshiped is the one who will arise out of the evolving human race. He says there is to be “a general convergence of religions upon a universal Christ who satisfies them all.” “I believe that the Messiah whom we await, whom we all without any doubt await, is the universal Christ; that is to say, the Christ of evolution.”⁹⁰

This temple (built by man), is the synagogue of Satan. With it, men will try to demonstrate to the universe that humanity can be its own god.

—The God’s Glory verses A Pyre of Flame

⁸⁰ Francis Bacon, *Novum Organum*, Bk I, Aph.120 (transl. Spedding & Ellis).

⁸¹ Howard B. White, *Peace Among the Willows*, 1968.

⁸² 1 Peter 2:4-6.

⁸³ 2 Chronicles 7:1.

⁸⁴ 2 Corinthians 6:16.

⁸⁵ Ephesians 5:27.

⁸⁶ Ezekiel 11:19; 36:26.

⁸⁷ Deuteronomy 9:10; Exodus 31:18; Exodus 34:1. The first tablets were supplies by God—representing Christ who was broken for the sins of the people. The second tablets were hewed by Moses—representing the church. Both sets were written on by God.

⁸⁸ (1881-1955).

⁸⁹ Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, as quoted in Sir John Templeton, *The Humble Approach: Scientist Discover God* (Templeton Foundation Press, 1998): 92.

⁹⁰ Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, as quoted in “Teilhard de Chardin: Christianity and Evolution,” Spiritual Conspiracies Project Journal: 56.

God is worshiped on the *first* mountain—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. On the *second* mountain, it's Lucifer-worship: it's Illuminism,—it's the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet.

The Sabbath is the symbol of a finished work⁹¹ on the *first* mountain. On the *second*: the symbol of a finished work is a human sabbath.

The work is accomplished by Christ (from heaven) on the *first* mountain. He is the true crowned and conquering Child—the Lord of heaven, and earth. On the *second* mountain the work is accomplished (from earth) by a universal Christ (anti-Christ)—a false crowned and conquering child—the lord of the aeon.

Restoration involves *coming out from among them and being separate*⁹² on the *first* mountain. Touch not the unclean things: “Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”⁹³

On the *second* mountain, restoration involves a general movement—a *general convergence* of all religion uniting and evolving into a singular humanity—buying and selling and drinking with all nations the wine of the wrath of her fornication; getting rich and comfortable with the kings of the earth, and the merchants of the earth; and enjoying the abundance of her delicacies.⁹⁴

The *first* mountain is *peculiar*. The *second* mountain is *ecumenical*.

—The Galilee Protocol

So Ahab ruled the northern kingdom, not one hundred years after Solomon. Israel was the jewel of the world when Solomon was king. God strategically positioned her among the nations so she could light the world. Kings and queens traveled to Jerusalem to marvel at God's glory displayed by His people. They marveled at Israel's wealth and strength; wisdom and learning; her religion and her temple.

But her king and people did not improve their opportunities to enlighten those continually passing through her cities. “The missionary spirit that God had implanted in [their] hearts was supplanted by a spirit of *commercialism*.⁹⁵ Oh! Not so with Christ! When he lived there (years later), He refused to labor for selfish purposes. He took advantage of the great thoroughfares of travel to evangelize the world!

Jesus stayed at Capernaum so often it was known as ‘His own city.’ It was a great place to work—on the highway from Damascus to Jerusalem, and Egypt, and to the Mediterranean Sea. There, Jesus met those of all nations and all ranks; and they carried His lessons to households the world over.

He didn't follow the mold of the world. He bypassed the systems of human accomplishment—educational, pastoral, and medical.

“Jesus went about all Galilee, *teaching* in the synagogues, *preaching* the gospel of the kingdom, and *healing* all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.”⁹⁶

He didn't use the systems or conventions of the world. He didn't borrow techniques or procedures from the preachers, teachers, and physicians of His time. “By methods peculiarly His own, Christ helped all who were in sorrow and affliction.”⁹⁷ His new *protocol* upset the entire

⁹¹ See Genesis 2:1-3 and Hebrews chapter 4, especially verses 4 and 10.

⁹² 2 Corinthians 6:17.

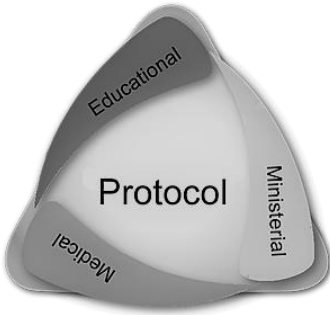
⁹³ Revelation 18:4.

⁹⁴ Revelation 18:3.

⁹⁵ Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 71. Emphasis added.

⁹⁶ Matthew 4:23. Emphasis added.

⁹⁷ Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 23.



establishment. Jesus caused a ministerial crisis, an educational crisis, and a medical crisis; in the church, in the nation, and in the world.

All false religion shares this in common: it exemplifies the fundamental principle of idolatry. It is based on *human* accomplishment. This is the kingpin of Lucifer's platform. It's all about what we can make of ourselves. Christ's *Galilee Protocol* is based on *God's* accomplishments.

Jesus says, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich."⁹⁸ This gold is *faith that works by love*.⁹⁹ It is *interwoven into our life and character*¹⁰⁰ when we are students in the *school of Christ*¹⁰¹—where it is purged until it is pure.¹⁰² Jesus invites us to enroll in the *school of Christ* for restoring our *mind*.

Jesus says, "I counsel thee to buy of me... white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear."¹⁰³ "White raiment is purity of character, the righteousness of Christ imparted to the sinner... for a life of willing obedience."¹⁰⁴

"Health does not depend on chance. It is a result of obedience to law."¹⁰⁵ We cannot heal ourselves.¹⁰⁶ Only God can heal.¹⁰⁷ "Those who come to the great Healer must be willing to do His will, to humble their souls, and confess their sins."¹⁰⁸ "Christ came to this world and lived the law of God, that man might have perfect mastery over the natural inclinations which corrupt the soul. The physician of soul and body, He gives victory over warring lusts. He has provided every facility, that man may possess completeness of character."¹⁰⁹ Jesus is the Great Physician. He offers His touch for our *physical* health and healing.

Jesus says, "I counsel thee to anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."¹¹⁰ "The eye is the sensitive inner conscience, the inner light, of the mind. Upon its correct view of things the spiritual healthfulness of the whole soul and being depends. The 'eyesalve,' the Word of God, makes the conscience smart under its application, for it convicts of sin. But the smarting is necessary that the healing may follow, and the eye be single to the glory of God."¹¹¹ It brings spiritual discernment,¹¹² shows us how God regards our love of the world,¹¹³ and leads us to *repentance and faith*.¹¹⁴

"In His teaching, Christ sought to impress men with the certainty of the coming judgment, and with its publicity... The law of God will be revealed in its majesty; and those who have stood in defiant rebellion against its holy precepts will understand that the law that they have discarded, and

⁹⁸ Revelation 3:18.

⁹⁹ Ellen G. White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 158.

¹⁰⁰ Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*, May 10, 1887.

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰² Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 88.

¹⁰³ Revelation 3:18.

¹⁰⁴ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 88.

¹⁰⁵ Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 128.

¹⁰⁶ Ellen G. White, *Medical Ministry*, p. 13.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 40.

¹⁰⁹ Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 130.

¹¹⁰ Revelation 3:18.

¹¹¹ Ellen G. White, *Our High Calling*, p. 350.

¹¹² Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 88.

¹¹³ Ellen G. White, *Radiant Religion*, p. 209.

¹¹⁴ Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*, July, 24, 1888.

despised, and trampled underfoot is God's standard of character."¹¹⁵

Jesus is the only mediator between God and man; and He says to all, "Come unto Me"¹¹⁶ for *spiritual* regeneration.

—Princess of the Sidonians

So, in Ahab's day there was this politically arranged marriage between Ahab and the princess daughter of the king of Sidon (of Tyre and Sidon fame). Jezebel's father, Ethbaal was king of the Sidonians, and he was Baal's priest.

By Elijah's time, this Phoenician princess—now Israel's queen— made such an impact on the nation there were four-hundred and fifty priests to Baal and four-hundred priests to Astarte.

Maybe you were thinking Jezebel's people were primitive, savage folks; but now you know that they were the cutting edge of post-modern secularism—they were powerful and educated, and wealthy and sophisticated. They were center-stage—the cultural capital of the world. Ezekiel would later epitomize them as earth's *Morning Star*—perfect in beauty, full of wisdom, as earth's *spiritual-choir-director*.

When Jezebel moved into Ahab's palace, Israel seemed like primitive savages to the Sidonian point-of-view. The new queen had to bring this backward, old-fashioned people into the "*twenty-first century*".

They didn't mind, either. It was an easy transition. Who wouldn't be attracted to Sidon's wealth, knowledge and sophistication? They liked Sidon's luxury homes and affluent lifestyle. The sensuality of Sidon's art, entertainment, and religion were tempting treats to their carnal hearts.

They completely forgot about their mission. Their loyalty to God and responsibility to the world were out of sight, out of mind. So tangled were they, they didn't realize they had fallen off God's bandwagon altogether. They still considered themselves the chosen people, they thought things were good—that they were blessed by God.

—Confronting Sidonian Science

Try not to think of Jezebel as superstitious either. Sure she was a pagan, but the Sidonians were surprising scientific. They claimed the good gifts of nature came from Baal—that's true. But since Baal was the sun; and the sun was Baal, they (like scientist today) knew the sun's energy enriched the earth making it able to bring forth abundantly. So when Israel came to think the treasures of heaven, (the dew and the rain) didn't come from Jehovah—it was because they knew the science. Weather is the results of the normal forces of nature.

Elijah didn't think so. He was not impressed with post-modern secularism. He was not caught-up in the Sidonian sophistication and their trinkets and gadgets, and bobbles. He was suspicious it was the busy, comfortable, worldly lifestyles; and the secular learning and sciences; and modern worship and entertainment that was drawing Israel away from her mission and God.

Elijah was increasingly alarmed. He knew, without *a light a hill* the entire world was without hope; and that of all people—the chosen were the guiltiest. They were guilty of high treason against Jehovah!

Elijah asked God to stop sending the rain.¹¹⁷ Earth's only hope was in rattling Israel back into reality. We find the *third* mountain right here. It's Mount Carmel—it's Israel's mountain. It's a high place. It's a place of worship. The groves are fruitful worship centers: where grows the grape,

¹¹⁵ Ellen G. White, *Maranatha*, p.341.

¹¹⁶ Matthew 11:28.

¹¹⁷ Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*, September 16, 1873.

the olive, and the fig trees; and they are for the worship of Baal. They are flourishing. But God's vineyard is languishing. His alter is broken down. Israel gathers there between the two—in all its Laodicean clarity—waiting for the showdown. Elijah's voice rings loud and clear: "How long will you wait between two opinions? If Jehovah be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him."¹¹⁸ The people answer not a word.

¹¹⁸ 1 Kings 18:21. Author's paraphrase.