

*This week, millions of Christians will begin studying the story of Job*—probably the oldest book in the world, written by Moses when he was exiled in Midian for 40 years. There is similarity between this story and the last book of the Bible, the Revelation of Jesus Christ. The story of Job tells of a man who was “blameless,” a man whom God declared several times as “upright,” who refused to do evil. Revelation climaxes with the story of a corporate group of people who are likewise described as “without fault before the throne of God” who “follow the Lamb [the crucified Christ] wherever He goes” (Revelation 14:5, 4).

This idea of perfection of character is intriguing; the entire human race as the descendants of the fallen Adam are repeatedly described as by-nature sinners (“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” Romans 3:23; “there is none righteous, no, not one,” vs. 10, KJV). The idea is not that Job was immaculately sinless, sinless in nature; the idea is that God accepted him as blameless in character. Likewise, the Bible idea is not that the “144,000” are sinless in nature or immaculately, physically perfect (for example, who claims that Jesus Christ when He was a carpenter never bent a nail?). But they are “upright,” they still have a sinful nature but they have “overcome even as [Christ] overcame” while burdened with a sinful nature inherited from Adam.

In other words, Job and the 144,000 share the joy of learning to surrender self to be “crucified with Christ” (Galatians 2:20). As such, they are privileged to honor God in a cosmic crisis when He is on trial in the most severe litigation imaginable in the universe: the issue is whether He, the Lord, is worthy to continue as the sovereign Ruler of the universe. We have long understood “the hour of [God’s] judgment” in Revelation 14:6, 7 as the hour when He judges you and me; now enters the book of Job with the idea that it is God Himself who is on trial before the universe. And poor humble Job ends up with the task of defending Him in court.

He succeeds; he defends the Lord of glory. But now in the end of time, the great controversy between Christ and Satan can not be successfully concluded until this corporate body of people from the last weak end of the human race, after 6000 years of desperate sin and moral failure, again defend Him on the witness stand by demonstrating the same “blamelessness” that Job demonstrated. Again they prove Satan wrong! Come, join them in court.

© Robert J. Wieland

## OCTOBER 2016

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sabbath
						1 SS -Joyce Kimbel Sermon - Leslie Walper
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 SS - Joyce Kimbel Sermon - Tory Kimbel
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 SS - David Steen Sermon - Leslie Walper
16 <b>PIZZA PARTY</b>	17	18	19	20	21	22 SS - Jerry Vogt Sermon - Pastor Clark Communion
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29 SS - Joyce Kimbel Sermon - Leslie Walper

Lancaster Seventh-day  
Adventist Church  
742 Lancaster Hwy.  
(Hwy. 141)  
Lancaster, Tennessee

P.O. Box 159  
Gordonsville, TN 38563

# Bread from on High

Vol. VII, No. 10

October 2016

## Great Controversy Ended

by E.G. White

*The law requires righteousness*, —a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give. He cannot meet the claims of God’s holy law. But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them. His life stands for the life of men.

More than this, Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character, a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty. Thus the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ. God can “be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.” Romans 3:26.

God’s love has been expressed in His justice no less than in His mercy. Justice is the foundation of His throne, and the fruit of His love. By His life and His death, Christ proved that God’s justice did not destroy His mercy, but that sin could be forgiven, and that the law is righteous, and can be perfectly obeyed. Satan’s charges were refuted. God had given man unmistakable evidence of His love.

Another deception was now to be brought forward. Satan declared that mercy destroyed justice, that the death of Christ abrogated the Father’s law. Had it been possible for the law to be changed or abrogated, then Christ need not have died. But to abrogate the law would be to immortalize transgression, and place the world under Satan’s control.

It was because the law was changeless, because man could be saved only through obedience to its precepts, that Jesus was lifted up on the cross. Yet the very means by which Christ established the law Satan represented as destroying it. Here will come the last conflict of the great controversy between Christ and Satan.

That the law which was spoken by God’s own voice is faulty, that some specification has been set aside, is the claim which Satan now puts forward. It is the last great deception that he will bring upon the world. He needs not to assail the whole law; if he can lead men to disregard one precept, his purpose is gained. For “whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” James 2:10.



By consenting to break one precept, men are brought under Satan’s power. By substituting human law for God’s law, Satan will seek to control the world. This work is foretold in prophecy. Of the great apostate power which is the representative of Satan, it is declared, “He shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand.” Daniel 7:25.

Men will surely set up their laws to counterwork the laws of God. They will seek to compel the consciences of others, and in their zeal to enforce these laws they will oppress their fellow men. The

*continued on page 2*

### Inside this Issue

- Chickpea and Swiss Chard Succotash 3
- Exercising your Brain 3
- Job and the 144,000 4



warfare against God's law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. Every man will be tested.

Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world. All will be called to choose between the law of God and the laws of men. Here the dividing line will be drawn. There will be but two classes. Every character will be fully developed; and all will show whether they have chosen the side of loyalty or that of rebellion.

Then the end will come. God will vindicate His law and deliver His people. Satan and all who have joined him in rebellion will be cut off. Sin and sinners will perish, root and branch, (Malachi 4:1),—Satan the root, and his followers the branches.

The word will be fulfilled to the prince of evil, "Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; ... I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ... Thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more." Then "the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be;" "they shall be as though they had not been." Ezekiel 28:6-19; Psalm 37:10; Obadiah 16.

This is not an act of arbitrary power on the part of God. The rejecters of His mercy reap that which they have sown. God is the fountain of life; and when one chooses the service of sin, he separates from God, and thus cuts

## Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Shall all our devotional exercises consist in asking and receiving? Shall we be always thinking of our wants and never of the benefits we receive? Shall we be recipients of His mercies and never express our gratitude to God, never praise Him for what He has done for us?

We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. If the loving-kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we would have far more power in prayer. We would abound more and more in the love of God and have more bestowed upon us to praise Him for. You who complain that God does not hear your prayers, change your present order and mingle praise with your petitions. When you consider His goodness and mercies you will find that He will consider your wants. Pray, pray earnestly and without ceasing, but do not forget to praise.

It becomes every child of God to vindicate His character. You can magnify the Lord; you can show the power of sustaining grace. There are multitudes who do not appreciate the great love of God nor the divine compassion of Jesus. Thousands even regard with disdain the matchless

himself off from life. He is "alienated from the life of God." Christ says, "All they that hate Me love death." Ephesians 4:18; Proverbs 8:36.

God gives them existence for a time that they may develop their character and reveal the principles by which they live. This accomplished, they receive the results of their own choice. By a life of rebellion, Satan and all who unite with him place themselves so out of harmony with God that His very presence is to them a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29; Deuteronomy 4:24). The glory of Him who is love will destroy them (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12).

At the beginning of the great controversy, the angels did not understand this. Had Satan and his host then been left to reap the full result of their sin, they would have perished; but it would not have been apparent to heavenly beings that this was the inevitable result of sin. A doubt of God's goodness would have remained in their minds as evil seed, to produce its deadly fruit of sin and woe.

But not so when the great controversy shall be ended. Then, the plan of redemption having been completed, the character of God is revealed to all created intelligences. The precepts of His law are seen to be perfect and immutable. Then sin has made manifest its nature, Satan his character. Then the extermination of sin will vindicate God's love and establish His honor before a universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law. 🌿

grace shown in the plan of redemption.

All who are partakers of this great salvation are not clear in this matter. They do not cultivate grateful hearts. But the theme of redemption is one that the angels desire to look into; it will be the science and the song of the ransomed throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. Is it not worthy of careful thought and study now? "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

What a theme for meditation is the sacrifice that Jesus made for lost sinners! How shall we estimate the blessings thus brought within our reach? Could Jesus have suffered more? Should it not melt the hardest heart when we remember that for our sakes He left the happiness and glory of heaven and suffered poverty and shame, cruel affliction and a terrible death? In our present state we cannot measure how much deeper our afflictions would have been, how much greater our woes, had not Jesus encircled us with His human arm of sympathy and love, and lifted us up.

### CHICKPEA AND SWISS CHARD SUCCOTASH



366 calories; 11 g fat; 0 mg cholesterol; 58 g carbohydrates; 15 g protein; 14 g fiber; 111 mg sodium

- 1 (15 oz) can chickpeas
  - 1 large onion, finely chopped
  - 1 large bell pepper, diced
  - 1 12-oz bunch Swiss chard, tough stems removed
  - 1 1/2 c. fresh or frozen corn kernels
  - 2 large carrots, diced
  - 3 cloves garlic, minced
  - 1 tsp. dried thyme
  - 2 Tbsp. olive oil
1. Heat oil in large skillet; add onion, bell pepper, and saute 5 to 7 minutes, or until softened
  2. Stir in remaining ingredients (chickpeas, carrots, chard, corn, garlic, thyme), plus up to 1 cup water or vegetable broth; cover and simmer for 5 minutes, uncover and cook 5 minutes more, until carrots are tender; season with salt as desired
- Makes 6 servings**

## Exercising Your Brain

**Can you help your brain stay healthy** as you age by doing things that challenge your mind? Could that also help you avoid memory loss, or even prevent or delay dementia such as Alzheimer's? A number of studies show there are benefits to staying mentally active.

When people keep their minds active, their thinking skills are less likely to decline. So games, puzzles, and other types of brain training may help slow memory loss and other mental problems. One study involved more than 2,800 adults 65 and older who attended brain-training sessions for 5 to 6 weeks. The sessions focused on tactics to improve memory, reasoning, and speed of processing information.

People who took the training showed improvements in these skills that lasted for at least 5 years, and they also improved at everyday tasks, such as the ability to manage money and do housework. One study found that exercising the mind delayed declines in thinking skills.

The silver lining here? People who regularly challenge their minds may spend a shorter part of their lives in a state of decline.

What kinds of brain exercises should you do? That may vary from person to person. But the main idea seems to be keeping your brain active and challenged. You could start with something as simple as, from time to time, eating or brushing your teeth with the hand you don't usually use.

Learning new skills such as a second language or a musical instrument has been shown to be highly beneficial. Playing board games with friends or family provides an extra bonus of social connections that also help your brain. When alone, you can work on crossword, number, or other kinds of puzzles, read challenging material, write stories or poems. Another method is signing up for classes in a subject you would like to learn more about.

How does brain activity help? Studies show that keeping the mind active may reduce the amount of brain cell damage, while supporting growth of new nerve cells in the brain. Doing something challenging prompts nerve cells to send messages to each other. Experts think the extra mental activity from education may protect the brain by strengthening connections between its cells.

Couch potatoes have a higher risk of developing dementia in old age, a new study reports. Seniors who get little to no exercise have a 50 percent greater risk of dementia compared with those who regularly take part in moderate or heavy amounts of physical activity. Moderate physical activities, such as walking briskly, bicycling slower than 10 miles an hour, and gardening, are beneficial to brain health.

Brain scans of participants showed those who exercise are better able to withstand the effects of aging on the brain. With age, the brain tends to shrink. But people who regularly exercised tended to have larger brain volumes than those who were sedentary.

### Did You Know?

While plant-based diets are becoming more popular, it is important that the plants you are eating are healthy. Those who eat more *healthy* plant foods, such as whole grains, whole fruits and vegetables, dried beans, and tree nuts, have about a 35 percent lower risk of diabetes, regardless of their weight. On the other side of the plate, those who ate *unhealthy* plant foods, like fruit juices, sugary drinks, refined grains (white flour, rice, etc.), white potatoes (especially, fried), and sweets, have about a 16 percent higher risk of diabetes.