

Pigs Can't Fly

WITHOUT AN AIRPLANE

John Harvey Kellogg, M.D.



The Possibilities

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— Letter 21, 1888

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— Review and Herald, March 17, 1910

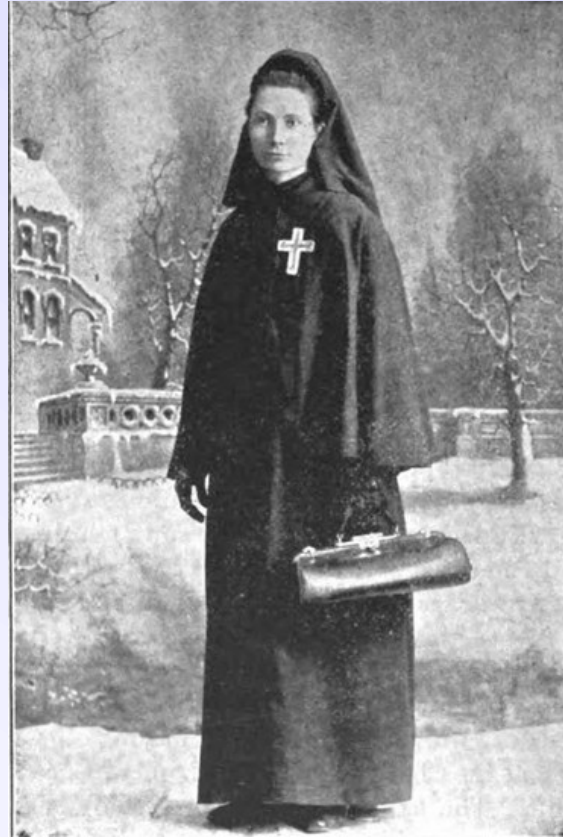
General Conference, 1891



The Haskell Home



The Visiting Nurses Program



Christian Help Bands

- ◆ **November 15, 1892**
- ◆ **1 Leader, 2 Mothers' Helpers, 3 Burden Bearers, 2 Nurses, 1 Bible Worker**
- ◆ **Provided food, or firewood, or clothing, or nursing care... helped people find jobs, learn how to cook, and pretty much whatever else was needed**
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- ◆ **That's one hundred forty-four people**

The Crux of the Issue

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— Manuscript 177, 1899

A Hard Row to Hoe

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“Why do you delight in making your wicked speeches and indulging your wicked feelings against Dr. Kellogg? Has he not sufficient burdens to carry?... Would you crush him to the earth with your suspicions prompted of Satan? Would you feel great pleasure in seeing the Health Institute go down? Is this what you desire?”

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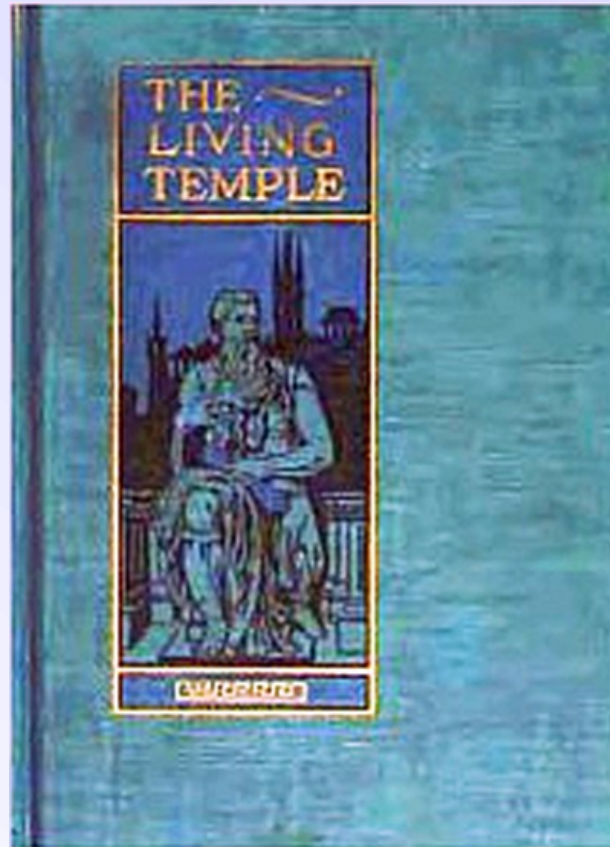
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— *General Conference Bulletin*, April 6, 1903

From Cause to Effect



From Cause to Effect



A Whole New Approach

“Much good can be done by those who do not hold diplomas as fully accredited physicians. Some are to be prepared to work as competent physicians. Many working under the direction of such ones can do acceptable work without spending so long a time in study as it has been thought necessary in the past.”

— Loma Linda Messages, 446.

A Whole New Approach

“Our people are now being tested as to whether they will obtain their wisdom from the greatest Teacher the world ever knew or seek to the god of Ekron. Let us determine that we shall not be tied by so much as a thread to the educational policies of those who do not discern the voice of God, and who will not hearken to His commandments....”

A Whole New Approach

“Shall we represent before the world, that our physicians must follow the pattern of the world, before they can be qualified to act as successful physicians? This is the question that is now testing the faith of some of our brethren. Let not any of our brethren displease the Lord, by advocating in their assemblies the idea that we need to obtain from unbelievers a higher education than that specified by the Lord.”

— Loma Linda Messages, 447

A Whole New Approach

“To us, it seems clear from the foregoing testimonies that there are at least three classes of workers to be educated in medical lines:

“First, Many well trained nurses to work as evangelists;

“Second, A large number of persons qualified with the ability of physicians to labor as evangelists

“Third, a few fully accredited physicians with recognition to stand at the head of the work.”

— Loma Linda Messages, 447

California Medical Licensing, 1907

“Three forms of certificate shall be issued by said board...: first, a certificate authorizing the holder thereof to practice medicine and surgery; second, a certificate authorizing the holder thereof to practice osteopathy; third, a certificate authorizing the holder thereof to practice any other system or mode of treating the sick or afflicted not referred to in this section.”

California Medical Licensing, 1907

The new law required examinations on “anatomy, histology, gynecology, pathology, bacteriology, chemistry and toxicology, physiology, obstetrics, general diagnosis, [and] hygiene.”

What's missing here? Two items specified by the previous law have been left off the “required” list.

- ◆ **Materia medica**
- ◆ **Surgery**

Spread It Out!

“We must do more than we have done to reach the people of our cities. We are not to erect large buildings in these cities, but over and over again the light has been given that plants should be made in every city of America. We have no time to neglect the doing of this work, which for years has been outlined before us.”

— Manuscript Releases, vol. 4, 283

Spread It Out!

“In every city there are men and women who would go to a sanitarium were it near at hand, who would not be able to go to one a long way off.... I look at this matter in a very decided light.”

— Loma Linda Messages, 53

“The Lord’s plan is to have small sanitariums established in many places, so that the greatest number of people, East and West, North and South, can be reached through this means.”

— Manuscript Releases, vol. 7, 211

Spread It Out!

“The sick are to be reached, not by massive buildings, but by the establishment of many small sanitariums, which are to be as lights shining in a dark place.”

— Counsels on Health, 211

“Our sanitariums are to help to make up the number of God’s people. We are not to establish a few mammoth institutions; for thus it would be impossible to give the patients the messages that will bring health to the soul. Small sanitariums are to be established in many places.”

— Medical Ministry, 327

Recognized as Preferable...

“The education that meets the world’s standard is to be less and less valued by those who are seeking for efficiency in carrying the medical missionary work in connection with the work of the third angel’s message. They are to be educated from the standpoint of conscience, and, as they conscientiously and faithfully follow right methods in their treatment of the sick, these methods will come to be recognized as preferable to the methods to which many have become accustomed, which demand the use of poisonous drugs.”

— *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 175

The Danger of Popularity

“Some of our medical missionaries have supposed that a medical training according to the plans of worldly schools is essential to their success. To those who have thought that the only way to success is by being taught by worldly men and by pursuing a course that is sanctioned by worldly men, I would now say, put away such ideas. This is a mistake that should be corrected. It is a dangerous thing to catch the spirit of the world; the popularity which such a course invites will bring into the work a spirit which the Word of God can not sanction.”

— The Medical Evangelist, April 1, 1910

Nothing New Here

Lucifer's Rebellion



Christ's Response



The "Good Kellogg"
(Beginning of Loud Cry)



The "Bad Kellogg"
(Alpha Apostasy)



The Loud Cry
(Final Refutation)



The Omega Apostasy

The Accusations

1. Angels are holy by nature and wise enough to govern themselves, so they don't need God's law.
2. God was unfair when He exalted Jesus above Lucifer.
3. The plan to create human beings was a mistake.
4. God is selfish, unforgiving, and revengeful.
5. God's law is defective, and needs to be changed.
6. Neither angels nor human beings can obey God's law.
7. **God's law is arbitrary.**
8. **God's law makes forgiveness impossible.**
9. **God is lying about all the above.**

Storm and Tempest

“In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off.”

—Desire of Ages, 121

“It is safe to let go every earthly support and take the hand of Him who lifted up and saved the sinking disciple on the stormy sea.”

—Testimonies, vol. 4, 558

“We can never perfect a round, full, Christian experience until every earthly support is removed, and the soul centers its entire affections about God.”

— Letter 6, 1894

What to Do Now?

“Pray much for those you are trying to help. Let them see that your dependence is upon a higher power, and you will win souls.”

— Letter 24, 1898

What to Do Now?

“God desires everyone to understand the hateful character of selfishness and to co-operate with Him in guarding His human family against its terrible, deceptive power. The first result of the entrance of sin into the world was the birth of principles of selfishness. The design of the gospel is, by means of remedial missionary work, to confront this evil of selfishness and destroy its destructive power by establishing enterprises of benevolence.”

— Letter 165, 1901

To Finish the Task

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“OK, God. If You can't change Your law, that means You can't ever forgive anyone, because if the law is beyond your control, so is the penalty!”

To Finish the Task

“Right and wrong are not based upon God’s moral government; God’s moral government is based upon a distinction between right and wrong. The erroneous view which many have of this subject causes them to rebel against God’s law of government as arbitrary.”

— Manuscript 79, 1896

To Finish the Task

[Satan laid his] “plans to wrest from God the noble Adam and his companion Eve. If he could, in any way, beguile them to disobedience, God would make some provision whereby they might be pardoned, and then himself and all the fallen angels would be in a fair way to share with them of God’s mercy.”

— Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1, 29–30

“He reasoned that if God pardoned sinful man whom he had created, he would also pardon and receive into favor him and his angels. But he was disappointed.”

— *Review and Herald*, February 24, 1874

To Finish the Task

Lucifer couldn't imagine any way to forgive, without changing the law. He thought he had God in a box:

“Those humans You thought it was such a good idea to create, they sinned, so they have to die. Unless, of course, You decide to be reasonable and change Your law.

“But, either way, I win!”

To Finish the Task

Satan declares, “Will God banish me and my angels from His presence, and yet reward those who have been guilty of the same sins? Thou canst not do this, O Lord, in justice. Thy throne will not stand in righteousness and judgment. Justice demands that sentence be pronounced against them.”

— *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 474

To Finish the Task

“just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

— Romans 3:26

To Finish the Task

“Even as a sinner, man was in a different position from that of Satan. Lucifer in heaven had sinned in the light of God’s glory. To him as to no other created being was given a revelation of God’s love. Understanding the character of God, knowing His goodness, Satan chose to follow his own selfish, independent will. This choice was final. There was no more that God could do to save him. But man was deceived; his mind was darkened by Satan’s sophistry. The height and depth of the love of God he did not know. For him there was hope in a knowledge of God’s love. By beholding His character he might be drawn back to God.”

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“In the character of God’s people a living testimony will be borne that will contradict the fallacy of Satan, who has declared that the law of Jehovah is arbitrary, and holds its subjects under a cruel bondage.”

— Review and Herald, August 13, 1895

“The Lord desires through His people to answer Satan’s charges by showing the results of obedience to right principles.”

— Christ’s Object Lessons, 296

When pigs fly!



When pigs fly!

When planes fly!

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”

— Romans 8:2

Where We Are Now

“The atonement of Christ is not a mere skillful way to have our sins pardoned; it is a divine remedy for the cure of transgression and the restoration of spiritual health. It is the heaven-ordained means by which the righteousness of Christ may be not only upon us, but in our hearts and characters.”

— Letter 406, 1906

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1

FAST FAST FAST

THROUGH SLIDE 36

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Review and Herald, March 17, 1910

General Conference, 1891



8

Was he really serious about this? Well, he and his wife did raise forty-two children, 18 of whom they adopted... but I can't tell you about his bank account.

Kellogg's point was simple: If we say we trust God to take care of us, maybe we should live like we trust God to take care of us.

Of course, this is not a "one-size-fits-all" kind of issue. Jesus did work in the carpenter's shop for thirty years before He hung up his apron and began His unpaid volunteer ministry.

As they say, "Timing is everything."

Perhaps the most important thing to remember is that, even when God's plan looks like a disaster, there is always a good reason for it.

The Haskell Home



9

Again, skipping over lots of interesting details, this was the Lord's answer to his prayer:

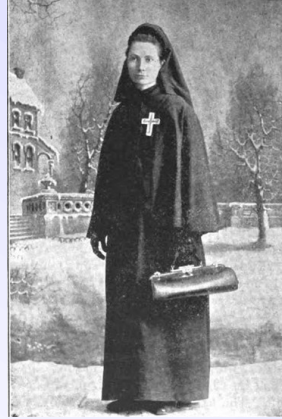
CLICK for picture

It was known as the Haskell Home for Orphan Children, and it was all paid for by Mrs. Caroline Haskell, in memory of her husband, Charles Haskell who had died and left her a fair amount of money.

It cost \$30,000 and housed about 100 orphans.

But what was interesting is that neither of the Haskell's were Adventists. (And no relation to Elder S.N. Haskell, either.)

The Visiting Nurses Program



10

But Dr. Kellogg didn't spend all his time on the orphanage project. In early 1892 he started the visiting nurses program that put Sanitarium nurses to work in the worst parts of Chicago, doing what they could to help the poor.

This program, too, was paid for by a non-Adventist. The man's daughter had been a patient in the Sanitarium before her death, and had appreciated the care of the nurses so much that she asked her father to fund such a program in her memory.

Notes continue on next page

Christian Help Bands

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- ◆ **That's one hundred forty-four people**

11

Kellogg also started the Christian Help Bands in Battle Creek in 1892. It was almost as if he were saying, "there has to be *something* the Adventists can do to make the world a better place." Within a few months, there were more than 140 Sanitarium workers making weekly visits to the poor, sick, or generally needy in Battle Creek. That had to be making an impact!

A Christian Help Band was just an organized group of church members, with a variety of skills, working together to help people who needed things like firewood, clothing, food, a job, medical care, or even a surgery—when that was an option, anyway. Sometimes they helped people clean their homes, and they taught people about healthful foods and how to cook them. They might teach hydrotherapy, or help someone stop smoking, and through it all they talked about Jesus. Sometimes they would leave behind a Bible or a good book for the people to read.

It was simple, really, and much the same approach that Jesus had used

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— *Review and Herald*, November 22, 1892

Here's Ellen White's statement again. Notice the last sentence:

CLICK for highlighting

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— *Review and Herald*, November 22, 1892

Notice that Ellen White didn't say “the proclamation” of the righteousness of Christ. That's actually a big difference.

In 1893, Dr. Kellogg, the “Good Kellogg,” seemed to grasp an idea that Ellen White wrote out beautifully some years later.

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16

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— Manuscript 7, 1882

Just note that this was written in 1882. Apparently, things hadn't changed much six years later—

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“If the doctor fails in doing his duty and being an overcomer at last, those brethren who have failed in their want of wisdom and discernment to help the man when and where he needed their help will be in a large measure responsible.”

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Ten years after this—

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— Letter 58, 1899

The important idea here is that internal opposition is always the most deadly and confusing. If it's an outsider, an avowed enemy, who is attacking you, it's generally fairly clear what you need to do.

But when it's your own Christian brothers and sisters... what do you do? Understanding one's "duty" in such cases is much harder. And please note: Ellen White didn't say Kellogg was wrong in not connecting with these church members who were "not in sympathy with the work he knew to be of God."

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— General Conference Bulletin, April 6, 1903

Stop and think about this: She was defending a pantheist! But not defending pantheism. In fact, that subject was never publicly mentioned at the 1903 General Conference session. She would address that a few months later, of course, but first importance was the man's soul.

Unfortunately, the doctor did not respond to her efforts.

From Cause to Effect



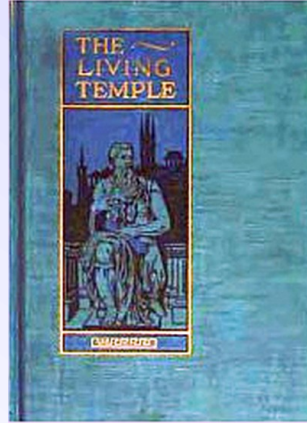
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February 18, 1902

A great opportunity to split the operation into a number of smaller institutions... but Kellogg determined to re-build right there in Battle Creek, bigger, better, and more expensive.

But he was still generous, and offered to help raise money for the project by donating his royalties from a new book he had written.

From Cause to Effect



The usefulness of Dr. Kellogg's work was pretty much at an end.

Something new was needed.



In the business world, starting a “new thing” usually requires finding a new person to push the project.

When Ellen White came back to the States from Australia in 1900, one of the first things she did was arrange for a minister to go work with the sanitarium in Australia.

But while he was there, she kept writing him letters about the need for sanitariums... in southern California!

A Whole New Approach

“Much good can be done by those who do not hold diplomas as fully accredited physicians. Some are to be prepared to work as competent physicians. Many working under the direction of such ones can do acceptable work without spending so long a time in study as it has been thought necessary in the past.”

— Loma Linda Messages, 446.

A Whole New Approach

“Our people are now being tested as to whether they will obtain their wisdom from the greatest Teacher the world ever knew or seek to the god of Ekron. Let us determine that we shall not be tied by so much as a thread to the educational policies of those who do not discern the voice of God, and who will not hearken to His commandments....

A Whole New Approach

“Shall we represent before the world, that our physicians must follow the pattern of the world, before they can be qualified to act as successful physicians? This is the question that is now testing the faith of some of our brethren. Let not any of our brethren displease the Lord, by advocating in their assemblies the idea that we need to obtain from unbelievers a higher education than that specified by the Lord.”

— Loma Linda Messages, 447

A Whole New Approach

“To us, it seems clear from the foregoing testimonies that there are at least three classes of workers to be educated in medical lines:

“First, Many well trained nurses to work as evangelists;

“Second, A large number of persons qualified with the ability of physicians to labor as evangelists

“Third, a few fully accredited physicians with recognition to stand at the head of the work.”

— Loma Linda Messages, 447

California Medical Licensing, 1907

“Three forms of certificate shall be issued by said board...: first, a certificate authorizing the holder thereof to practice medicine and surgery; second, a certificate authorizing the holder thereof to practice osteopathy; third, a certificate authorizing the holder thereof to practice any other system or mode of treating the sick or afflicted not referred to in this section.”

California Medical Licensing, 1907

The new law required examinations on “anatomy, histology, gynecology, pathology, bacteriology, chemistry and toxicology, physiology, obstetrics, general diagnosis, [and] hygiene.”

What’s missing here? Two items specified by the previous law have been left off the “required” list.

- ◆ **Materia medica**
- ◆ **Surgery**

Spread It Out!

“We must do more than we have done to reach the people of our cities. We are not to erect large buildings in these cities, but over and over again the light has been given that plants should be made in every city of America. We have no time to neglect the doing of this work, which for years has been outlined before us.”

— Manuscript Releases, vol. 4, 285

Spread It Out!

“In every city there are men and women who would go to a sanitarium were it near at hand, who would not be able to go to one a long way off.... I look at this matter in a very decided light.”

— Loma Linda Messages, 53

“The Lord’s plan is to have small sanitariums established in many places, so that the greatest number of people, East and West, North and South, can be reached through this means.”

— Manuscript Releases, vol. 7, 211

Spread It Out!

“The sick are to be reached, not by massive buildings, but by the establishment of many small sanitariums, which are to be as lights shining in a dark place.”

— Counsels on Health, 211

“Our sanitariums are to help to make up the number of God’s people. We are not to establish a few mammoth institutions; for thus it would be impossible to give the patients the messages that will bring health to the soul. Small sanitariums are to be established in many places.”

— Medical Ministry, 327

Recognized as Preferable...

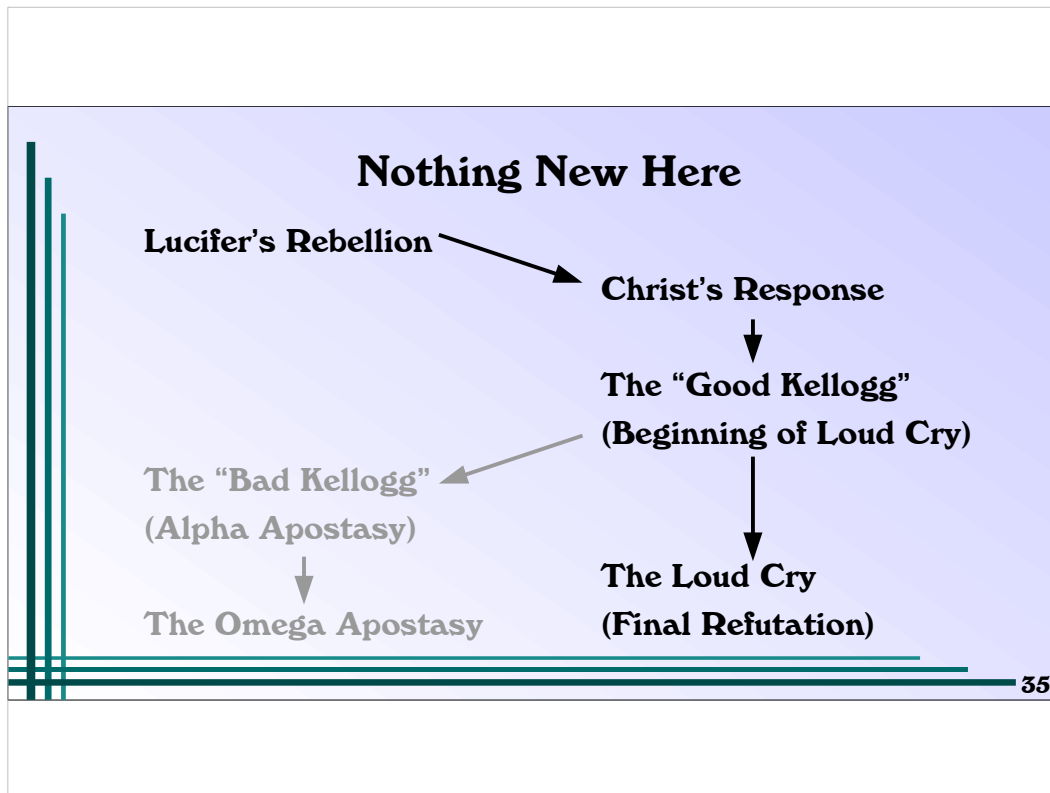
“The education that meets the world’s standard is to be less and less valued by those who are seeking for efficiency in carrying the medical missionary work in connection with the work of the third angel’s message. They are to be educated from the standpoint of conscience, and, as they conscientiously and faithfully follow right methods in their treatment of the sick, these methods will come to be recognized as preferable to the methods to which many have become accustomed, which demand the use of poisonous drugs.”

— *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 175

The Danger of Popularity

“Some of our medical missionaries have supposed that a medical training according to the plans of worldly schools is essential to their success. To those who have thought that the only way to success is by being taught by worldly men and by pursuing a course that is sanctioned by worldly men, I would now say, put away such ideas. This is a mistake that should be corrected. It is a dangerous thing to catch the spirit of the world; the popularity which such a course invites will bring into the work a spirit which the Word of God can not sanction.”

— The Medical Evangelist, April 1, 1910



I believe the Lord has given us the record of all this...

CLICK for text:

...in order to illustrate this:

CLICK for text:

It's vital that we remember that there's "nothing new here."

The principles and methods that Jesus used in His ministry were employed —albeit imperfectly—in the 1890s, and brought the beginning of the loud cry... which was unfortunately smothered. We can only expect the loud cry to sound again when the same principles and methods assume their proper role as the "right arm," and are allowed to open doors for the truth—particularly the doors to the large cities where well over half the population lives.

Every tactic used by Lucifer in his rebellion in heaven was used by J.H. Kellogg in the alpha apostasy a hundred and twenty years ago. We can expect the same again in the Omega. It would be wise to prepare for its coming.

The Accusations

1. Angels are holy by nature and wise enough to govern themselves, so they don't need God's law.
2. God was unfair when He exalted Jesus above Lucifer.
3. The plan to create human beings was a mistake.
4. God is selfish, unforgiving, and revengeful.
5. God's law is defective, and needs to be changed.
6. Neither angels nor human beings can obey God's law.
7. God's law is arbitrary.
8. God's law makes forgiveness impossible.
9. God is lying about all the above.

36

These are Satan's accusations against God and His government. We've seen them before, and we saw that Jesus had proven Satan wrong on most of them.

Most. But not all. There are still two that need to be addressed. (The ninth just evaporates if seven and eight are refuted.) Why are they still there? And what is God going to do about them?

To answer those questions, let's start by noting that they are both intricately connected with the fate of sinful human beings. In fact, the task of proving them false was something that Jesus could not accomplish by Himself. To do so requires evidence from another source....

So we'll be looking at that. In a bit. But first....

Storm and Tempest

“In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off.”

—*Desire of Ages*, 121

“It is safe to let go every earthly support and take the hand of Him who lifted up and saved the sinking disciple on the stormy sea.”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, 558

“We can never perfect a round, full, Christian experience until every earthly support is removed, and the soul centers its entire affections about God.”

— Letter 6, 1894

CLICK for two items:

Losing every earthly support may sound like a really bad thing, but it's not. Not only is it what Christians need, it's what the world needs!

What to Do Now?

“Pray much for those you are trying to help. Let them see that your dependence is upon a higher power, and you will win souls.”

— Letter 24, 1898

38

We need to face up to the fact:

The only way to let the world see that our dependence is upon a higher power, is to have all the lower powers stripped away from us. It's going to be nerve-wracking, but it's the only way to do the job.

It works like this: faith makes self-sacrifice possible, and self-sacrifice strengthens faith.

Sadly, we're behind the curve on this, and God knows we need some remedial help.

What to Do Now?

“God desires everyone to understand the hateful character of selfishness and to co-operate with Him in guarding His human family against its terrible, deceptive power. The first result of the entrance of sin into the world was the birth of principles of selfishness. The design of the gospel is, by means of remedial missionary work, to confront this evil of selfishness and destroy its destructive power by establishing enterprises of benevolence.”


— Letter 165, 1901

39

It looks like we need a “Bonehead Christianity” class. And notice those “enterprises of benevolence.” Those are for our sake even more than they are to be a blessing to others.

“More blessed to give than to receive” is literally true here, because that work of benevolence to others is the means of “destroying the destructive power of selfishness” in ourselves. It is really the process of healing sinners.

Remember sozo? Healing... salvation... both the same word. This is the final act in that line. And “salvation” involves “forgiveness,” a subject Satan’s got a few things to say about!



To Finish the Task

- 7. God's law is arbitrary.**
- 8. God's law makes forgiveness impossible.**

40

Let's go back to those unresolved accusations.

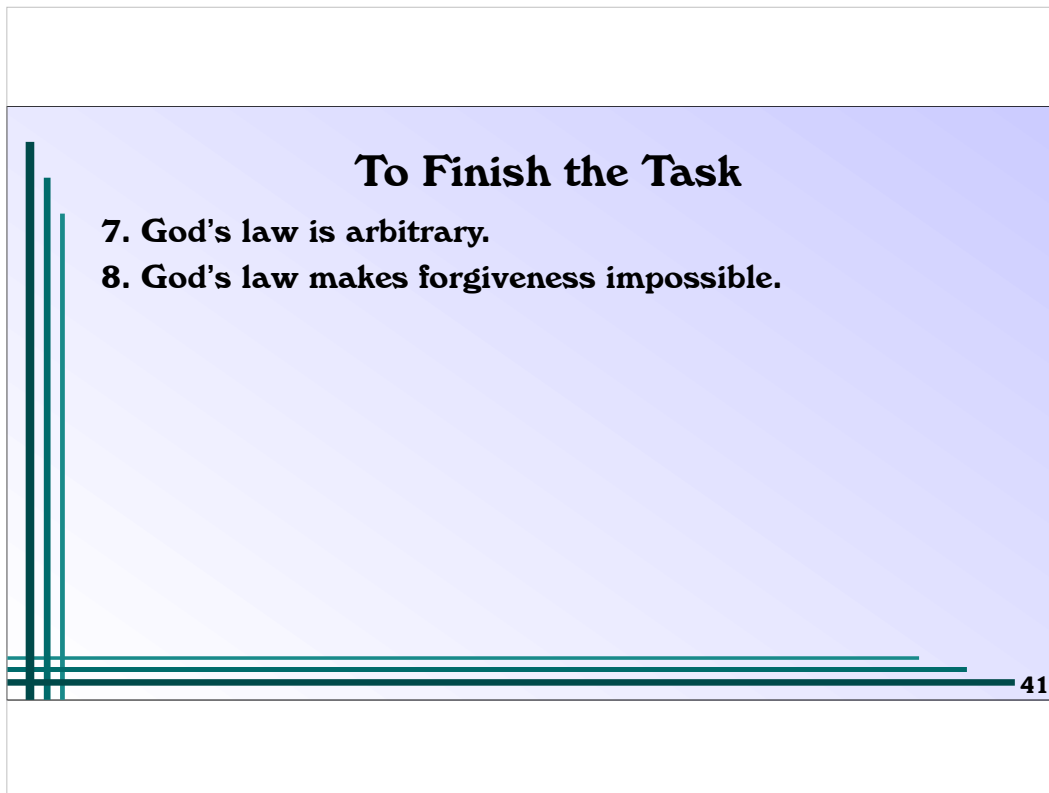
Number seven is a bit ambiguous, so let's start with number eight. It seems clear enough. But when you stop to think about it, it sounds kind of... stupid, maybe?

On a personal level, we think of forgiveness as just not hanging on to some bad feeling because someone did us wrong. What kind of law could make it impossible for God to think kind thoughts about someone if He wanted to?

On a more "legal" level, we think of forgiveness as the cop saying, "I'll just give you a warning this time," or the judge slamming his gavel and saying "case dismissed."

It happens all the time, for all sorts of reasons. It's easy.

Notes continue on next page



To Finish the Task

- 7. God's law is arbitrary.**
- 8. God's law makes forgiveness impossible.**

41


Well, it turns out that it's only easy with "arbitrary" laws.

That's just a law that is what it is because some King or Congress, or city council, or faceless unelected bureaucrat said, "This is the law."

"You can only drive this fast." "You need to buy a dog license." "You have to pay income tax." These are all arbitrary laws. Which isn't to say that they are necessarily bad, Having everyone drive on the right side of the road is probably a petty good thing!

But the key point is that all those laws are easy to change. That's why we elect politicians! So they can change old laws and make new ones.

Notes continue on next page



To Finish the Task

- 7. God's law is arbitrary.**
- 8. God's law makes forgiveness impossible.**

42

But when Lucifer said God's law was arbitrary, God said, "No, it's not." This was an issue, because Lucifer's fifth claim was that God's law needed to be changed. God's response was not, "I don't want to change it." Nor did He say, "I won't change it." Instead, He said, "The law is perfect, and it cannot be changed."

To which Lucifer helpfully pointed out that all God had to do to change His law was say, "This is the new law." That's the point of that seventh accusation. Lucifer said, "Of course you can change your law, God. It is what it is just because that's what you said it was going to be."

In other words, "God's law is arbitrary." But God said, "No, it isn't. It's eternal, perfect, and unchangeable."

To which Lucifer came back with number eight:

CLICK for next page:

To Finish the Task

7. God's law is arbitrary.

8. God's law makes forgiveness impossible.

"OK, God. If You can't change Your law, that means You can't ever forgive anyone, because if the law is beyond your control, so is the penalty!"

That's the only way that eighth accusation makes any sense.

But, of course, sin and lies never really make sense, because they're wrong. And Lucifer was wrong here. This is worth noting, because he's not the only one who's made this particular mistake!

CLICK for text:

To Finish the Task

“Right and wrong are not based upon God’s moral government; God’s moral government is based upon a distinction between right and wrong. The erroneous view which many have of this subject causes them to rebel against God’s law of government as arbitrary.”

— Manuscript 79, 1896

That’s the only way that eighth accusation makes any sense.

But, of course, sin and lies never really make sense, because they’re wrong. And Lucifer was wrong here. This is worth noting, because he’s not the only one who’s made this particular mistake!

CLICK for text:

To Finish the Task

[Satan laid his] “plans to wrest from God the noble Adam and his companion Eve. If he could, in any way, beguile them to disobedience, God would make some provision whereby they might be pardoned, and then himself and all the fallen angels would be in a fair way to share with them of God’s mercy.”

— Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1, 29–30

“He reasoned that if God pardoned sinful man whom he had created, he would also pardon and receive into favor him and his angels. But he was disappointed.”

— Review and Herald, February 24, 1874

This issue has been a big part of Satan’s plans for a very long time!

CLICK for two items:

Satan had made the biggest mistake of all time when he bet against God. He thought he had covered all the bases, but “he was disappointed.”

I love the understatement there. God didn’t follow the script Satan had written, and as a consequence he’s gone into a chronic total mental/emotional homicidal melt-down.

To Finish the Task

Lucifer couldn't imagine any way to forgive, without changing the law. He thought he had God in a box:

"Those humans You thought it was such a good idea to create, they sinned, so they have to die. Unless, of course, You decide to be reasonable and change Your law.

"But, either way, I win!"

And he's still using the same argument at the close of probation!

To Finish the Task

Satan declares, “Will God banish me and my angels from His presence, and yet reward those who have been guilty of the same sins? Thou canst not do this, O Lord, in justice. Thy throne will not stand in righteousness and judgment. Justice demands that sentence be pronounced against them.”

— *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 474

So what is God going to do about this final claim?

He’s going to show—through His people—that He doesn’t need to change the law in order to be forgive sinners. He’s going to be BOTH

To Finish the Task

“just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”
— Romans 3:26

48

Do you see what Paul's talking about here?

It's Satan's final argument! And Paul says God is going to prove Satan wrong... but he doesn't say much about ****how**** God is going to do that.

That's OK. That's why we have “progressive revelation.”

That's why we have this...

To Finish the Task

“Even as a sinner, man was in a different position from that of Satan. Lucifer in heaven had sinned in the light of God’s glory. To him as to no other created being was given a revelation of God’s love. Understanding the character of God, knowing His goodness, Satan chose to follow his own selfish, independent will. This choice was final. There was no more that God could do to save him. But man was deceived; his mind was darkened by Satan’s sophistry. The height and depth of the love of God he did not know. For him there was hope in a knowledge of God’s love. By beholding His character he might be drawn back to God.”

— Desire of Ages, 761

49

This explains why “the whole purpose” of Christ’s mission was to reveal the Father. The knowledge of God’s character was the “medicine” needed to counteract the “illness” that the loss of faith had caused.

That treatment could work for human beings, but not for Satan and his angels, since they had already seen the evidence and rejected it.

But Jesus was here a couple thousand years ago....

If that revelation was going to polish off Satan’s final argument, shouldn’t it have done so by now? What’s missing here?

One thing: participation

Notes continue on next page

To Finish the Task

“Even as a sinner, man was in a different position from that of Satan. Lucifer in heaven had sinned in the light of God’s glory. To him as to no other created being was given a revelation of God’s love. Understanding the character of God, knowing His goodness, Satan chose to follow his own selfish, independent will. This choice was final. There was no more that God could do to save him. But man was deceived; his mind was darkened by Satan’s sophistry. The height and depth of the love of God he did not know. For him there was hope in a knowledge of God’s love. By beholding His character he might be drawn back to God.”

— Desire of Ages, 761

It turns out that treating a “darkened mind” has to go deeper than the eyes.

Proving Satan wrong takes real evidence.

And showing the rest of the universe that the disease of sin has actually been cured is not so simple as saying “They’re all forgiven!”

To Finish the Task

“In the character of God’s people a living testimony will be borne that will contradict the fallacy of Satan, who has declared that the law of Jehovah is arbitrary, and holds its subjects under a cruel bondage.”

— *Review and Herald*, August 13, 1895

“The Lord desires through His people to answer Satan’s charges by showing the results of obedience to right principles.”

— *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 296

God’s claim that His law is “non-arbitrary” is going to be proven by “the results of obedience.”

That word “results” is the language of reality, of cause and effect.

Not God’s arbitrary decision to forgive the ones He likes and just kill off the rest.

Of course, this sozo idea is a huge deal for Satan. He’s staked his life on the claim that God can’t actually heal sinners. He wants a change in the law. That’s the one thing he’s been fighting for all this time, and using sinful human beings as leverage is the best tactic he’s found.

So, naturally, Satan has a few words to say about this “living testimony” that will “contradict his fallacy”:



When pigs fly!

52

God, of course, sees it differently. He knows that the law of heaven is every bit as real as the law of gravity. Laws like that don't depend on the king, or the parliament, or congress, or city hall. They come from a more basic reality than any of those things.

So does the law of sin and death. Satan can see no way but to change it. He looks at God like King Nebuchadnezzar—stuck with a law he cannot change, even though it will cost the life of his friend, Daniel. But if God sends an angel to work a miracle this time, Satan will claim interference! He says, “You can't do that for them, and not for me! You've got to save me too!”

Notes continue on next page



When pigs fly!

53

But God isn't like Nebuchadnezzar! He's like King Ahasuerus! Also stuck with a law he couldn't change, also in danger of losing one he loved (that would be Esther, by the way, in case the king's name isn't all that familiar).

But Ahasuerus was smart! He handed off the royal signet ring to Mordecai and said, "Write a second law to counteract—but not change—the first law."

So God has a few words, too!

When planes fly!

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”

— Romans 8:2

54

Planes don't do away with gravity, they just use aerodynamics!

God doesn't do away with the law of sin and death, He just uses the law of faith and the Spirit of life!

CLICK for text:

God actually does one better than Ahasuerus, because He doesn't have to write a new law at all. It's always been there, because both the law of sin and death, and the law of faith and the Spirit of life are simply parts of the eternal, immutable, unchangeable, reality of God's creation.

In the end, it all comes right back to where Lucifer fell. It comes back to faith.

Where We Are Now

“The atonement of Christ is not a mere skillful way to have our sins pardoned; it is a divine remedy for the cure of transgression and the restoration of spiritual health. It is the heaven-ordained means by which the righteousness of Christ may be not only upon us, but in our hearts and characters.”

— Letter 406, 1906

Read TEXT;

OK, let's wrap up for now. The government of heaven was confronted with a daring rebellion, and charged with gross incompetence, selfishness, and dishonesty. So what was the response? When human beings fell into sin and were hopelessly lost, what was the response? What was the “whole purpose of Christ's mission on earth”?