

The background of the cover is a landscape photograph. A paved road curves from the bottom left towards the center. In the distance, a large, glowing white cross stands on a hill. A rainbow arches over the cross, and the sun is positioned at the intersection of the cross's arms, creating a bright glow. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, red, and purple, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is spiritual and serene.

THE TWO
COVENANTS

JOE GRESHAM

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THE FOURTH ANGEL'S
PUBLISHING

JOE GRESHAM

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INTRODUCTION

In the religious world today, we find much confusion and misunderstanding on the beautiful Bible teaching of the covenants. However, there is no need to be confused by the artificial definitions used by the theologians, such as the “Adamic covenant,” the “Noachian covenant,” or the “Abrahamic covenant,” for these are all the same covenant – the “New” or “Everlasting” covenant that God promised to different people under varying circumstances.

Because of a misunderstanding of this principle, many have been led to believe the covenants are mutual agreements between God and His people. Thus, many believe the “old covenant” is an agreement or promise made between God and His people, the Jews, and the “new covenant” is an agreement between God and Christians, which has replaced the “old covenant.” Therefore, they conclude the “old covenant” refers to the Old Testament dispensation and the “new covenant” to the New Testament dispensation. However, the word of God clearly reveals the covenants are not a bargain struck between God and His people, nor are they a matter of time, but rather of condition.

CHAPTER 1

GOD'S PROMISES

What then are the two covenants? This can be readily discerned in the third chapter of Galatians where Paul says: "Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise" (Galatians 3:15-18).

Paul says I want to speak to you "after the manner of men," or I am going to give you a "human illustration." His illustration is simple and gives a powerful illustration that God's grace and His law are not contrary to one another, and that one does not "disannul" the other. If one draws up a will and then dies, no one can change that will. It has been attested to and no one can add to it or disannul it. Therefore, if human agreements or arrangements are so binding, would not God be bound by what He said or promised? Would He arbitrarily change or

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alter that which He had promised? A “man’s covenant” can be either accepted or rejected, but it can not be altered. The same is also true of God’s promise.

Verse 16 of this passage clearly shows that the promise God gave to Abraham was also given to Christ, who is the seed. That the “covenant” and “promise” are identical can be easily seen from Paul’s synonymous usage of these words in verses 15-18. Furthermore, his declaration that to disannul the covenant is to make void the promise clearly reveals that His covenant and His promise are one and the same. What, though, is the promise that was given? “For the promise, *that he should be heir of the world*, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith” (Romans 4:13). This is further seen from Hebrews where we are told that all of the faithful from previous ages (including Abraham, verse 8) “having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise” (Hebrews 11:39), but “having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth” (Hebrews 11:13). Even Jesus has not yet received this promise, for we all receive it together when He shall establish His eternal kingdom and His people “shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5).

Paul assures us that the law that was written on tables of stone 430 years after the promise was given to Abraham could in no way make of none effect

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the promise that had preceded it. The assurance of the inheritance was given as a promise from God totally aside from, and before, the performance of any works on the part of Abraham. It was not a contract, an agreement, or bargain; but a promise (verse 18).

We further discover that God's covenant and His promise are the same thing from the account found in the book of Genesis. "And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you; And with every living creature that [is] with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, This [is] the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that [is] with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: And I will remember my covenant, which [is] between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting

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covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth" (Genesis 9:8-17).

Here is recorded that God made a covenant with every creature on the earth. These creatures did not promise God anything in return; they simply received the promise. That is all we can do as well, simply receive. God promises all that we need and all that is necessary for life and godliness, even exceedingly, abundantly above all that we can ask or even think. (See Ephesians 3:20; 2 Peter 1:3, 4). He has given us everything. He has even given us Himself. The problem is we have trouble receiving without trying to strike a bargain with God. We tend to want to make it an equal, mutual affair, a transaction in which we can consider ourselves on a par with God, a sort of a 50/50 arrangement. "God, you do this for me, and I will do this for you." Our problem is feeling we have to promise God something in return, rather than simply believing God's promise.

When the Lord brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, He desired to reaffirm His covenant made to Abraham and promised to make them "a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:6), but rather than simply accept His promise by faith, as had Abraham, they felt they had to make a promise in return "and all the people answered

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together, and said, All that the Lord has spoken we will do" (Exodus 19:8). Thus, they entered into the "old covenant" of works, of futile promises, and within a few weeks they had broken their covenant with God and found themselves dancing around a golden calf, "in bondage" and "under the law," unable to keep their promise. What a sad sight, unwilling to believe the "new covenant" and unable to keep the "old covenant."

CHAPTER 2

AN ALLEGORY

Paul refers to this experience in the fourth chapter of Galatians where he appeals against the follies of legalism or any form of work-oriented religion. In this passage he uses the two sons of Abraham, Isaac, born of Sarah, and Ishmael, born of Hagar, to illustrate the two covenants. One son, Isaac, fell heir to the covenant, the other did not. Thus, he clearly illustrates that simply being a physical heir of Abraham did not guarantee receiving the promise of God. Instead one must be a child of the promise to be an heir. (See Galatians 3:26-29).

“For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free" (Galatians 4:22-31).

The covenant from Sinai brings bondage; the one from above brings freedom, not freedom from obedience, but from disobedience. It has never been a question of IF the law should be kept, but rather HOW and WHY it is to be kept. Why should one keep the commandments of God? Jesus said, "If ye love Me Keep my commandments" (John 14:15). We are to keep the commandments because we love Jesus and for no other reason. How can we keep the commandments? Again Jesus says, "without me ye can do nothing" and "except ye abide in me" all of our efforts will be futile (John 15:5, 4). But if Christ truly lives in the Christian, then "it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

As one renowned commentator, J.N. Andrews, has so aptly stated more than 150 years ago: "The bondage of the Jews did not consist in that God had given them His law, but because they were its transgressors - the servants of sin. John 8:33-36. The freedom of the children of 'Jerusalem which is above,' does not consist in that the law has been

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abolished, but in that they have been made free from sin. Romans 6:22" (*The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, September 16, 1851).

The book of Hebrews tells us that Abraham himself looked for this heavenly city. How did he look? "By faith" it says "he looked for a city...whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:8-10). Always remember; "The gospel was as full and complete in the days of Abraham as it ever has been or ever will be. No additions to it or change to its provisions or conditions could possibly be made after God's oath to Abraham. Nothing can be taken away from it as it thus existed, and not one thing can ever be required from any man more than what was required of Abraham." Waggoner, *The Glad Tidings*, pp. 71, 73

There are some today that have the false concept the people of the Old Testament era were saved by works, and we, of the New Testament period, are saved by faith, and thus the gospel did not even exist until after the coming of Christ. However, the absolute absurdity of such an assertion is clearly seen in Paul's proclamation that "if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness" (Romans 4:2-3). Justification always has been and always will be by faith. If we are justified by works, we make God our debtor.

God's promise was given to Abraham before any works on his part. He simply believed God and followed God's instruction. He made no promise in return, he simply "believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness" (Romans 4:20-22).

At age 99 God again assures Abraham of His promise, calling it an "everlasting covenant" (Genesis 17:7). The reason this "everlasting covenant" is also called the "new covenant" is because even though it "was made with Adam and renewed to Abraham, it could not be ratified until the death of Christ. It had existed by the promise of God since the first intimation of redemption had been given; it had been accepted by faith; yet when ratified by Christ, it is called a new covenant." (White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 370, 371)

There are many today, however, who are living under the "old covenant," for "these two covenants exist today. The two covenants are not matters of time, but of condition. Let no one flatter himself that he cannot be bound under the old covenant, thinking that its time is passed." (Jones, *The Glad Tidings*, p. 100) Each of us are living under the one or the other. Which of the covenants are you under? Do you say, "I accept" or "I will;" "I believe" or "I

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promise"?

In the little book *Steps to Christ*, we find this beautiful assurance. "Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges will weaken your confidence in your own sincerity, and cause you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair. What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him." (White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 47)

The beautiful "good news" of the two covenants is that "the new covenant" was established upon better promises - the promise of forgiveness of sins and the grace of God to renew the heart and bring it into harmony with the principles of God's law. "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,

saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people" (Hebrews 8:10). We are not only given the ability to keep the law, but we are given the mind that delights in doing it (Psalm 40:8; Hebrews 8:10; 10:9, 10).

"The same law that was engraved upon the tables of stone is written by the Holy Spirit upon the tables of the heart. Instead of going about to establish our own righteousness we accept the righteousness of Christ. His blood atones for our sins. His obedience is accepted for us. Then the heart renewed by the Holy Spirit will bring forth 'the fruits of the Spirit.' Through the grace of Christ we shall live in obedience to the law of God written upon our hearts. Having the Spirit of Christ, we shall walk even as He walked." (White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 372)

There are four things that are imperative of notation in verses 27-31 of the above passage of Galatians four.

1. The heir came by promise, not works.
 2. All who seek salvation through any means other than faith will be cast out as was Hagar and Ishmael.
 3. Children of the promise will be persecuted by children of the flesh.
 4. Only children of the free woman - faith - are eligible to the birthright.
- If we are truly "Abraham's seed and heirs

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according to the promise" (Galatians 3:29), then we must have the faith of Abraham,"who staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness" (Romans 4:20-22). We must truly come to understand: "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).

CHAPTER 3

FREE INDEED

When God brought His people out of Egypt He desired to take them directly from Mount Sinai to Mount Zion, but their sinful unbelief would not allow Him to do so (Exodus 15:1, 2, 13, 17). They doubted His promises and even as He was writing His law upon the tables of stone, they were transgressing them by dancing around a golden calf in a drunken orgy. Instead of simply believing God's promise, they felt they had to promise Him something in return. "And all the people answered together and said, All that the LORD has spoken we will do" (Exodus 19:8). God does not call upon us to make promises to Him, but rather in simple faith lay hold of His promises to us. This can be illustrated by the following paraphrase of Galatians 3:20. "Now a mediator is the middleman between two or more people, but the covenant promise of God is unilateral and is contingent upon Him alone."

Paul asks: "Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law" (Galatians 3:21). The answer is obvious. The law could never impart righteousness or give eternal life. But even the law is a part of the promises of God; they are not contrary to one another. God's promise is: "I will put my laws

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into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people" (Hebrews 8:10). Again He says: "Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law" (Isaiah 51:7). Only those who have God's law in their hearts will know righteousness.

Would we be so foolish as to believe that God would write His law in our hearts in order for us to violate or break that law? God's promise is to make us righteous, and when He does, He actually puts that law within our hearts and we delight to keep the law rather than look for excuses not to keep it. We have no power to keep the law or to live the life we should, but all He requires of us, He gives us the power to perform. It was God Himself that gave both the law and the promise, and part of the promise is that He will put the law in our hearts and make us obedient children. Jesus brings freedom from the bondage of sin and makes us servants of God rather than servants of sin. Jesus said: "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." He makes this very clear in John 8:31-35 and then concludes in verse 36 by stating that: "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Paul reiterates these very sentiments of Jesus throughout Romans Chapter 6. Notice how clearly this is presented.

"Knowing this, that *our old man is crucified* with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed,

that henceforth we *should not serve sin*.

For he that is dead is *freed from sin*....

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but *yield yourselves unto God*, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

For *sin shall not have dominion over you*: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

What then? *shall we sin*, because we are not under the law, but under grace? *God forbid*.

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?...

Being then made *free from sin*, ye became the servants of righteousness....

For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness....

But now being *made free from sin*, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life" (Romans 6:6, 7, 12-16, 18, 20, 22).

CHAPTER 4

HISTORICAL IMPLICATIONS

This doctrine of the two covenants was one of the essential elements of the “most precious message” of righteousness by faith that God sent to His church at the General Conference session in Minneapolis in 1888. As unbelievable as it may seem this Bible teaching created a tremendous controversy and contributed to a rejection of the Holy Spirit, His prophetic messenger, the message and the messengers. God’s messenger has informed us that both the message and the messengers were “made light of,” “resisted,” “hated,” “despised,” and “rejected” and this rejection caused the power of the Holy Spirit, in “latter rain” measure, to be kept from God’s people, thus preventing the “loud cry” of the fourth angel.

In confronting this problem Ellen White addressed the brethren in March of 1890 with the following exhortation: “Will you thinking men please to put your thoughts upon these matters for a time, and then consider what spirit is actuating you, and has been moving you at and since the Minneapolis meeting... This spirit does not bear the marks of the divine, but of the power and subtlety of the enemy of God and of man. I say that is from beneath and not in harmony with the Spirit of God, or with the message He has given His servants to bear at the

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present time... You have been weighing every precious heaven-sent testimony by your own scales as you interpreted the law in Galatians. Nothing could come to you in regard to the truth and the power of God unless it should bear your imprint, the precious ideas you had idolized on the law of Galatians." *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, Vol. 2, pp. 630, 631

As this controversy raged the prophet refused to speak on the subject, but rather encouraged the brethren to "dig in the Bible. Sink the shaft of truth to find out what is truth." *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, Vol. 2,, p. 597 However, the leaders did not follow this instruction, so the Lord sent His prophet with a confirmation of the message and a rebuke for the leadership.

"Now I tell you here before God, that the covenant question, as it has been presented, is the truth. It is the light. In clear lines it has been laid before me. And those that have been resisting the light, I ask you whether they have been working for God, or for the devil... No more will my lips be sealed." *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, Vol. 2, p. 597. The following day she wrote: "I have no brakes to put on now. I stand in perfect freedom, calling light, light, and darkness, darkness." *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, Vol. 2, p. 617

On March 8, 1890 she had been compelled to write a letter of warning to Elder Uriah Smith in which she said: "I was shown that the evidences in regard

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to the covenants were clear and convincing. Yourself, Brother Dan Jones, Brother Porter and others are spending your investigative powers for nought to produce a position on the covenants to vary from the position that brother Waggoner has presented." *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, Vol. 2, p. 604. She continued by warning about the danger of "misconstruing the Scriptures as did the Jews."

It is an undeniable reality that "An unwillingness to yield up preconceived opinions, and to accept this truth, lay at the foundation of a large share of the opposition manifested at Minneapolis against the Lord's message through Brethren (E. J.) Waggoner and (A. T.) Jones. By exciting that opposition Satan succeeded in shutting away from our people, in a great measure, the special power of the Holy Spirit that God longed to impart to them. The enemy prevented them from obtaining that efficiency which might have been theirs in carrying the truth to the world, as the apostles proclaimed it after the day of Pentecost. The light that was to lighten the whole earth with its glory was resisted, and by the action of our own brethren has been in a great degree kept away from the world." White, *Selected Messages*, Vol. 1, p. 363

The underlying issues were of such a magnitude that the leadership was sent a most solemn warning.

"There are those who despised the men and the message they bore. They have taunted them with being fanatics, extremists, and enthusiasts. Let me

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prophesy unto you: Unless you speedily humble your hearts before God, and confess your sins, which are many, you will, when it is too late, see that you have been fighting against God. Through the conviction of the Holy Spirit, no longer unto reformation and pardon, you will see that these men whom you have spoken against have been as signs in the world, as witnesses for God... Your turning things upside down is known of the Lord. Go on a little longer as you have gone, in rejection of the light from heaven, and you are lost." White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 96, 97

The great tragedy of all this can be seen in a sermon given by A. T. Jones at the following General Conference in 1893. "Now brethren, when did that message of the righteousness of Christ begin with us as a people? [One or two in the audience: 'Three or four years ago.'] Which was it, three? or four? [Congregation: 'Four.'] Yes, four. Where was it? [Congregation: 'Minneapolis.'] What then did the brethren reject at Minneapolis? [Some in the congregation: 'The loud cry.'] What is that message of righteousness? The testimony has told us what it is; the loud cry - the latter rain. Then what did the brethren in that fearful position in which they stood, reject at Minneapolis? They rejected the latter rain - the loud cry of the third angel's message.

"Brethren, isn't it too bad? Of course the brethren did not know that they were doing this, but the Spirit of the Lord was there to tell them that they

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were doing it, was it not? But when they were rejecting the loud cry, 'a teacher of righteousness,' and then the Spirit of the Lord, by His Prophet, stood there and told them what they were doing - what then? Oh, then they simply set this prophet aside with all the rest. That was the next thing." *The 1893 General Conference Bulletin*, p. 183

Is it any wonder that the Lord says to this church "Be zealous therefore, and repent" (Revelation 3:19).

BOOKS BY JOE W. GRESHAM

1888-THE MESSAGE, THE MYSTERY AND THE MISCONCEPTIONS

Divergent theories have been set forth as to what actually took place at the General Conference Session in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1888. Many of these are based on misinformation, personal preference, corporate pride, and even deliberate perversion of biblical and historical facts; rather than inspiration and documented facts. As a result many questions still demand straight answers. Did God send a special message to His people 100 years ago? Was the message accepted or rejected? What was this message? Can we know for certain today, or did God allow it to be lost for all eternity? Were Jones and Waggoner "trouble makers" or were they "Christ's delegated messengers?" What was Ellen White's position in the midst of all this turmoil? Just where did the prophet stand? Do the events in the lives of Jones and Waggoner in later years have any bearing on the message they brought to the church in 1888? These are some of the questions this book shall provide answers for.

ABORTION: AN ASSAULT ON THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

Have you ever noticed that there has been a strange silence in many of the churches in our land when it comes to certain subjects that might possibly

upset some of the “saints?” And where there is not silence there is often compromise or contortion of certain Bible teachings. Should Christians today forsake the Word of God to wallow in the muck and mire of the mad and muddled musings of men? It is sad to say, many professed Christians have done just that.

I firmly believe the church of the Living God, and every single person comprising that church, should be the great stronghold of truth and morality in the world. It is the church that should give articulation to the voice of God as found in Scripture. All one must do today is to look about them to see that many have lost sight of this.

This book is going to deal with a subject that many consider taboo, one that we should not even discuss. Perhaps because it is felt to be to controversial, perhaps because of a false premise that if we ignore it, it will maybe go away; or perhaps we may even fear the word of God may contradict what we want to believe. What ever the reason, it is a topic seldom heard in many Christian churches of this “post modern” age.

THE ANTICHRIST AND THE MARK OF THE BEAST

One of the most awesome warnings ever given in the Bible says: "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be

tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." (Revelation 14:9-11)

The identity of this power is so intricately detailed in the prophetic books of Daniel and Revelation that none need be confused or uncertain as to who it is, when it is to arise, how long it is to rule, what it will do, and what will eventually become of it. Understanding these things is essential to knowing what the "mark of the beast" is and how to avoid receiving it.

There are 17 different distinguishing points clearly identifying this apostate power presented in this book.

DEALING WITH THE DEVIL'S DECEPTION-HOW TO CHOOSE A BIBLE

An overview of the development and dangers of the modern translations of the Bible and the men and motives behind them.

Over four and a half centuries ago the great reformer, Martin Luther, said, "No greater mischief can happen to a Christian people than to have God's word taken from them, or have it so falsified that they no longer have it pure and clear. God grant that we and our descendants be not witnesses

of such a calamity."

Is it possible that we, today, are witnessing just such a calamity? The answer and issues will become extremely clear when you finish *Dealing With the Devil's Deception*.

DELIVERED FROM DEMONS – THE SAVING POWER OF GOD'S GRACE

As we look about us we see more and more people coming under the demonic control of the Prince of Darkness and I feel compelled to try and help them see there is hope, assurance and promised deliverance through the Son of the living God. Recently I have been unable to shake the impressions that now may be the time to share the power of God to deliver and save, so others may both see and experience the magnificent love, long-suffering and forgiveness of their Creator and Redeemer; that the God of heaven may be glorified in them and they may experience the wonderful deliverance that I have been rejoicing in these many years.

It is my desire that you are able to see from what I'm going to share that no matter who you are, or where you are from, or what you have done, or even what you are doing, is of little importance to God, for He already knows all of this. What is important is that if you see what you're doing is wrong and that you make the necessary changes by allowing God to give you the power, the desire, and the ability to turn to him and do works of righteousness.

THE DEVIL'S DECEPTION ABOUT DEATH

Where are our beloved dead? Where do people really go at death? Do they haunt houses? Are they reincarnated? Do they perhaps go to someplace called limbo or purgatory? Could it be that they are simply floating around on a little pink cloud strumming a harp? Are they possibly in heaven or hell? That last one is not a very pleasant thought, is it? Yet all of these are prominent teachings in the world today. All religious groups (and even the non-religious) believe one or more of the above. But what does the Bible teach?

THE DIABOLIC DANGERS AND DOCTRINAL DESTRUCTION IN THE MODERN BIBLE VERSIONS

Upon investigation of the modern translations, it immediately becomes evident they often contain variant readings. For example, if a person were to take five different translations of the Bible and turn to Hosea 13:9, they would probably find all five translations say something totally different, as can be seen from the following examples.

O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help. (KJV). I will destroy you, O Israel; who can help you? (RSV). I will destroy you, O Israel, because you are against me, against your helper. (NIV). O Israel, if I destroy you, who can save you? (LB). It is your destruction, O Israel, That you are against Me, against your help. (NASB).

The question that naturally arises is: "Which one is correct?" If a person has four Bibles and they all read differently, can they all be the "word of God?" How can one tell truth from error? This book presents many of the doctrinal dangers in the modern translations.

FAITH THAT WORKS

A simple, yet systematic, verse-by-verse study of the book of James.

In the midst of all the confusion and dissension over the relationship between faith and works this book clearly and with simplicity presents the biblical correlation concerning the two imperatives of the Christian faith.

FOOD FIGHTS – SOME CAN BE FATAL

Food Fights to children can be fun, for adults they can be fatal.

This little book examines what the Bible says on the subject of food and how many today respond to what God says about food that kills. It presents a thoughtful analysis of the so-called "problem texts" pertaining to this subject that will clarify the confusion and dissolve the delusions.

THE FORGOTTEN COMMANDMENT

It is interesting that the only commandment God prefaced with "remember" is the one the majority of the world has forgotten.

The word of God warned that there would be "false teachers" who would "bring in damnable heresies" and "many shall follow their pernicious ways" and the "truth shall be evil spoken of" (2 Peter 2:1-2). This has truly taken place today. Discover how in *The Forgotten Commandment*.

THE GOOD NEWS OF GALATIANS

A simple, yet systematic, verse-by-verse study of the book of Galatians.

The glorious good news of the gospel, in Galatians, reveals the power of God that enables the believer to live a victorious life in Christ.

THE KINGS OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH

The prophecy of the Kings of the north and south contain a history that is most essential to understand in order to fully comprehend God's workings among the nations of the world. As we behold how these things have been fulfilled just as God said they would be, we can have full confidence and assurance about those things which lie ahead. Furthermore, if we do not know the historical background of the kings of the north and south it would be impossible to know if they exist today, their identities, how they will meet their end, or when this event is to take place.

This book follows a very important biblical principle of prophetic interpretation: everything should be considered as literal, unless it is obviously symbolic. Because of a failure to adhere to this principle, there have been a variety of views

pertaining to this prophecy. Some claim, for example, the king of the north is Turkey, others that it is the Papacy, some that it is Russia, and still others that it is Satan himself. This confusion need not exist (and indeed would not exist), if people would cease to place their own fanciful interpretation on various passages.

Thus, this book allows the Scripture to be its own interpreter and apply the information contained in God's word to a literal, chronological, historical setting.

THE MEN, MOTIVES AND MALICIOUS MUTILATIONS BEHIND THE MODERN BIBLE VERSIONS

With the multiplicity of modern Bibles today we discover there are between 5,000 and 36,000 changes in the modern Bibles, depending upon the version one chooses. In addition to this there are over 200 cases in which a verse's authenticity is questioned by complete omission, or a footnote, in the modern translations. These various changes affect approximately five percent of the Scriptures, which to some may not appear to be such a large percentage; but it amounts to more than the omission of the entire gospel of John, which is only three percent. It further causes people to doubt and to question what does and does not actually belong in the Bible. For example the NASB contains 4,000 significant additions, subtractions and changes; whereas the NIV contains 6,653 and has 64,094 less

words than the KJV.

This book will consider those involved with the manipulation and mutilation of the Bible and reveal their secular approach and handling of the Sacred Scriptures, some of the changes they made, why they made those changes, and how they have destroyed Bible doctrine. You will be both appalled and outraged when you see these crazed critics shredding the word of God, and then officiously piecing it back together with thousands upon thousands of additions, deletions and perversions.

MICHAEL THE MIGHTY ARCHANGEL

The Bible reveals a mighty being known as Michael who has the power to cast Satan out of heaven, raise the dead and deliver the people of God in the time of trouble. There is much confusion and uncertainty today concerning who, and even what, this spectacular being is. The Bible makes five references to Michael and when one considers each of these passages the identity of this glorious and powerful being becomes extremely evident; and somewhat shocking to some.

THE MILLENNIUM AND THE PUNISHMENT OF THE WICKED

The millennium is a subject that has for years arrested the attention of people world wide. The word itself does not appear in the Bible, but comes from a compound of two Latin words "mille" and

"annum," which means simply, "thousand years." This thousand-year period, called the millennium, is mentioned six times in the first seven verses of Revelation chapter twenty and refers to that period of time in which Satan is to be bound and perfect peace and happiness will reign in the universe.

There are many various theories regarding the millennium which have been based largely upon speculations and fictitious novels. Some have even claimed that the devil has already been bound and we are now in the millennium. To this insanity a minister once replied, "If the devil is bound, he must be tied with a rubber chain that stretches from Paris to Bombay and from Washington, D.C. to the Kremlin." All we need to do is look about us to see that the devil has never been more active than he is today. This is why the Word of God warns us, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

This book will reveal there is no reason for anyone to experience confusion or uncertainty in regard to the millennium, for the Bible speaks quite clearly and in much detail on this subject presenting most clear, concise, and concrete statements pertaining to this thousand-year period.

MODERN PROPHETS – ARE THEY FROM GOD

A comparison of the real versus the counterfeit of a much neglected Bible teaching that has been ignored, rejected, and corrupted within Christianity -

the gift of prophecy.

Jesus gave repeated warning about false prophets, thus emphasizing a counterfeit of a genuine gift. (Matthew 7:15, 16; 24:11, 24) This subject is so vital that the apostle Paul admonished: "Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21). "Beloved, believe not every spirit" is the apostle John's admonition, "but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

Is the gift of prophecy to be found in the church today? How are we to try or test one thought to possess this gift? How can one tell the true from the false? The Bible speaks decisively on this subject and gives several tests by which one can tell a true prophet from a false one.

THE MYSTERY OF THE GODHEAD

A treatise on the doctrine of the Trinity.

The doctrine of the Trinity is one of the most important doctrines of the Christian faith. Nevertheless, there exists within the Christian church today a substantial schism concerning this doctrine. Since God himself is a mystery, how much more the Trinity. However, that should not trouble us as long as the different aspects of these mysteries are clearly taught in Scripture. Even though we may not be able to fully comprehend the various aspects of the Trinity, we need to try and understand, as best as we can, the scriptural teaching regarding it.

PANORAMA OF PROPHECY

The book of Daniel is a most unique book in that it contains several step-by-step prophecies of the rise and fall of world empires from the seventh century B.C. to the very day in which we are now living. These prophecies are some of the most easily understood to be found in the Scriptures and cover nearly 2600 years of history in absolute accuracy. As one commentator has stated: "Human wisdom has never devised so brief a record that embraced so much. Human language never set forth in so few words such a great volume of historical truth. The finger of God is here. Let us heed the lesson well." This book will clearly reveal the events preceding the period of time that the Bible calls "the time of the end" when "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4).

THE REMNANT AND THE GOVERNMENT

There have been many questions and much speculation concerning the role of God's people in the realm of politics, especially in light of the events transpiring in the closing events of earth's history. This booklet deals with current and past issues in an attempt to clarify some of the confusion and misunderstandings that are so prevalent today. It does not promote candidates, nor delve into politics, but simply presents from inspiration and history the role and relation of God's people to government; as well as important biblical principles for guiding the

Christian.

REVELATION: GOD'S LAST MESSAGE TO EARTH

A simple, yet systematic, verse-by-verse study of the book of Revelation.

Many claim the book of Revelation cannot be understood and that it was never intended to be. The very title of the book, however, refutes this claim, for it is a revelation or revealing.

There is so much in this book God would have His people come to understand that they might prepare themselves and shape their course of action, so as to escape the plagues that are to shortly fall upon the world. His promise is "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein" (Revelation 1:3).

SIMPLIFIED STUDIES OF THE SACRED SCRIPTURES

Question and answer studies of many of the great doctrines and prophecies of God's word presented in a simplified and easy-to-understand format.

This 296 page book is an excellent tool for personal study or Bible study classes. It is filled with Scripture to provide you with answers to nearly all your questions on Bible topics.

THE THREE ANGEL'S MESSAGES

In the book of Revelation we are introduced to a scene and chain of prophetic events that are generally referred to as "the three angel's messages."

These three messages, which eventually swell into one loud cry (Revelation 18:1-5), consist of God's last message of warning to the people of this planet. We are now living in the days of the proclamation and fulfillment of those messages. Therefore, as can be seen by the eschatological events transpiring about us, it is imperative that we give considerable attention to these final messages.

TONGUES AND THE BIBLE

Millions around the world today are being attracted by a movement which transcends all barriers of denominationalism. Multitudes have thrown aside the word of God because of some sort of an ecstatic experience they have undergone. They allow these experiences to supersede the word of God itself. Catholics and Protestants alike are caught up in the exciting psychic phenomenon of being moved by a common spirit. They sincerely believe that the Holy Spirit is endowing them with a new language of the soul, and that the power of God is using them to heal, cast out devils, and prophesy. At the heart of this movement is the belief that the gift of tongues, speaking in an unknown, unintelligible language, is the only sign that a person has received the Holy Spirit. Are they correct? Is speaking in an unknown language a sign of having received the Spirit of the Living God?

This book will take the reader through the Bible to discover exactly what the Word of God teaches on this subject, rather than what people are saying or

doing.

THE TRINITY AMONG SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

While the Seventh-day Adventist Church today espouses the doctrine of the Trinity, this has not always been so. It is important to understand that Adventist views were not uniform in our developing years. As Adventism emerged during the late 1840s, it brought various Christian truths and placed them in the framework of fulfilled prophecy and ongoing discovery of biblical teachings. The evidence from a study of Adventist history indicates that from the earliest years of the church, to the 1890s, a whole stream of writers took an Arian or semi-Arian position.

The last several years has seen an increased renewal of anti-Trinitarian activity within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, similar to that of some of the pioneers in their early, formative years. However, this resurgence has remained at the margins of the advent movement. This fringe of Adventist authors today, who are opposed to the doctrine of the Trinity, are trying to resurrect the views of early pioneers in our developmental years on these issues. What these views were and how they evolved through the study and guidance of inspiration are presented in this little booklet.

THE TWO COVENANTS

In the religious world today, we find much confusion and misunderstanding on the beautiful Bible teaching of the covenants. This doctrine of the two

covenants was one of the essential elements of the "most precious message" of righteousness by faith that God sent to His church nearly 120 years ago, and as unbelievable as it may seem, this Bible teaching created a tremendous controversy and contributed to a rejection of the Holy Spirit, His prophetic messenger, the message, and the messengers.

Many have been led to believe the covenants are mutual agreements between God and His people. Thus, many believe the "old covenant" is an agreement or promise made between God and His people, the Jews, and the "new covenant" is an agreement between God and Christians, which has replaced the "old covenant." Therefore, they conclude the "old covenant" refers to the Old Testament dispensation and the "new covenant" to the New Testament dispensation. However, the word of God clearly reveals the covenants are not a bargain struck between God and His people, nor are they a matter of time, but rather of condition.

WHICH GOSPEL?

A treatise of "the everlasting gospel" and how it has been and is being perverted within Christianity.

The word of God makes it clear that the gospel "is the power of God unto salvation." But do we truly understand what the gospel is or the power it has for us today? With the prevailing perversions of the gospel today, can the people of God really discover which gospel contains this life-changing power and how to experience it? This book presents the truths of

the gospel in such a way as is seldom seen in the Christian world today, revealing God's purpose in the plan of salvation from the atonement to the reception of the redeemed. From justification to the future of God's Remnant church, this book reveals the power of the Holy Spirit and the assurance that what God has promised, He is able also to perform.

WHY CHRISTIANS WORSHIP ON SUNDAY

Have you ever wondered why Christians go to church on Sunday? It is not found in Scripture, but is simply a man-made tradition that no one seems to question. What is the origin of this practice and why are so many involved in its observance? Why have laws been established to regulate what can and can not be done on this day? What is the great significance of the observance of this day that will eventually bring about economic boycott, imprisonment, and even a death decree?

There are many in the world today who do things without knowing why they do them simply because of what they have been told by people from the past. As Christians we must know why we do, or do not do, the things we do. The Bible must be the Only Rule of faith and practice for the Christian.

WHY SO MANY DENOMINATIONS

Have you ever wondered, if there's one God and one Bible, why there are so many different churches that dot the hillsides? The world has thousands upon thousands of church congregations and with this

multitude of denominations people often wonder: "How can I find the truth? How can I know what truth is?" With this collection of confusing concepts how can one discover truth? The Bible clearly describes why there are so many different denominations and it helps us find our way through the maze of confusion. It helps intelligent, thinking, rational people to understand where these churches came from, and how to sort out truth from error. As one studies Bible prophecy they will understand what happened to the early Christian church, why it happened, and discover how to find truth for themselves.

WHY SUFFERING AND DEATH

As we look about us today, we see a world that is filled with sickness, suffering, sorrow, pain and death. Encompassed with agony people cry out "Why does God allow these things to happen? Why does He cause so much affliction and anguish?" He is often blamed for things for which He is not responsible and which were never a part of His plan for planet earth and its inhabitants.

THE WISE SHALL UNDERSTAND

A verse-by-verse study of the book of Daniel presented in a simple, easy-to-understand manner.

Of all the books of the Bible, Daniel speaks most repeatedly of last day events and claims to pertain directly to the "time of the end" (Daniel 12:4, 6, 8, 9, 13). The things written in Daniel were written specifically for those of us living today. Now, as never

before, it is necessary for us to understand this book. As for those who say it cannot be understood, I would caution them to beware, lest they find themselves calling God a liar, for He has declared in no uncertain terms that "none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand" (Daniel 12:10).

BOOKLETS FOR SHARING

ARMAGEDDON AND THE PLAGUES

In Revelation chapter fifteen we are introduced to the seven last plagues that culminate in the Battle of Armageddon. These plagues contain God's final judgement which is poured upon the world just before the return of Jesus to take his people home. But before Jesus comes God reveals to John the results of these awesome judgements and shows him those that will survive the plagues. What are these fearsome plagues? How close are we to the Battle of Armageddon? And how can we survive the future? These are questions that are answered in this little book. You will be able to face the future with assurance.

THE ATONEMENT AND THE CLEANSING OF THE SANCTUARY

The urgency of the following inspired statement has prompted the printing of this little book.

"The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God. All need a knowledge for themselves of the

position and work of their great High Priest. Otherwise it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill." *The Great Controversy*, p. 488

BIBLE STUDIES MADE EASY

Outline studies of many of the great doctrines of the Bible presented in a clear and concise manner.

An excellent tool for personal study or for sharing your faith.

CHRISTIAN PERFECTION - DOES GOD EXPECT TOO MUCH?

Jesus came to this world bearing in His flesh the results of sin, but in His humanity was able to live a life free of sin. In His human nature He was able to overcome all temptations to sin that Satan hurled at Him, and He says to each of us: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." (Revelation 3:21) Is this possible? Can we overcome all sin, every temptation, even as Jesus did? God says, YES; Satan says, NO. Whom shall we believe?

THE CITY OF GOD

John said he "saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven" (Revelation 21:2). The real beauty of this glorious city is not found

in the golden streets, gates of pearl, or walls of many precious jewels; but something of far more inestimable excellence than all these combined.

DEFYING THE DEATH DECREE

A study of the great golden image of Daniel three and the parallel to the image to be established in Revelation 13:14 when again the death decree will go forth that "as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed" (Revelation 13:15).

THE DESIRE OF AGES STUDY GUIDE

A study and chain reference of The Desire of Ages

A study of the human nature of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit to live the victorious, sinless life of Christ.

THE GLORIOUS FUTURE OF THE REMNANT CHURCH

When the renowned Christian writer E.G. White said that those "who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God," the reference was to a biblical principle and teaching that many today reject and ridicule. But as with all other teachings of God's word, the opposition of the obstinate or rejection of the rebellious do not nullify its veracity. References to this Bible teaching are too numerous to ignore or misunderstand and the response of the Remnant Church to the claims that "the people of God are numbered with Babylon," and

"the loud cry is a call to come out of her" are of such relevance that it demands our candid consideration.

GOD'S SORROW, OUR SHAME - LET THE PROPHET SPEAK

Various theories have been set forth as to what actually took place at the 1888 General Conference Session in Minneapolis, but many questions still demand straight answers. 1) Did God send a special message to His people 100 years ago? 2) Was the message accepted or rejected? 3) What was this message? Can we know for certain today or did God allow it to be lost for all eternity? 4) Were Jones and Waggoner "trouble makers" as some claim or were they "Christ's delegated messengers"? 5) What was Ellen White's position in the midst of all this turmoil? Just where did the prophet stand? 6) Do the events in the lives of Jones and Waggoner in later years have any bearing on the message they brought to the church in 1888? This little book presents a documented, historical overview of what took place in Minneapolis and the response to the message in the ensuing years.

THE JUDGMENT AND THE CLEANSING OF THE SANCTUARY

When, where, and how does the judgment take place? Where is Jesus now? What is He doing? Why hasn't He come back yet? What does the Bible mean when it says "Unto two thousand and three hundred

days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed?" (Daniel 8:14) These and many other questions are answered in this little book.

THE NATURE OF CHRIST AND THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST

Over a century ago a very gifted Christian writer, E.G. White, declared: "In our conclusions, we make many mistakes because of our erroneous views of the human nature of our Lord. When we give to His human nature a power that is not possible for man to have in his conflicts with Satan, we destroy the completeness of His humanity."

This little book presents an overview of this most vital subject and enables the people of God to see their way through the "erroneous views" and avoid the "many mistakes" that are so prevalent today.

OLD HERESIES AND NEW THEOLOGY - THE MISCONCEPTION OF SIN

What is it about sin that makes it so bad? The Bible is clear that sin is something so deadly that it claimed the very life of the Son of God. (Isaiah 53:1-12; Hebrews 9:28) However, there is much confusion on this subject today. Many have a very limited and often perverted concept of what sin is and its tremendous impact on both God and man. This book is designed to solidify the believer in the biblical teaching about sin that they not be deceived by the many false, man-made theories that are circulating

within the Christian community today.

SECRET OF LIVING A VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE

The Secret of Living a Victorious Christian Life presents a verse-by-verse exposition of Galatians 5:15-26 revealing the promised victory found through the power of the Holy Spirit and evidenced in the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit.

THE SECRET OF THE RAPTURE: WILL YOU BE LEFT BEHIND?

Since publication of the Left Behind series of books, the release of Left Behind: The Movie, and the October 2014 release of the movie Left Behind, there has been an explosion of interest in the sensational and speculative errors being promoted by the movies and the books upon which they are based. This has resulted in many being deceived into thinking these false (and admittedly fictional) concepts are actually Bible truth. The Secret of the Rapture is designed to offset these false and fanciful theories and enable people to see the beauty and truth of the coming of Christ. This little book will strengthen your understanding and faith concerning the "blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13), as well as enable you to share this great Bible truth with those who are being deceived by the errors being propagated today.

SIGNS OF THE SAVIOR'S SOON COMING

Jesus' disciples gathered with Him on the Mount of Olives and inquired: "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3). The word of God responds to this question with no less than 53 prophetic events.

In speaking of His coming, Jesus said, "when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." Matthew 24:33 This little book was prepared that all may "see" and "know" that the "blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13) is closer than many believe.

A STARTLING DREAM

This little book explores one of the most easily understood prophecies found in the Scriptures. It covers nearly 2600 years of history in absolute accuracy, and as one commentator has stated: "Human wisdom has never devised so brief a record that embraced so much. Human language never set forth in so few words such a great volume of historical truth. The finger of God is here. Let us heed the lesson well." Smith, *The Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 39.

THE TWO SIDES OF JUSTIFICATION

Few today have truly understood the depth of what was accomplished at the cross or what motivated such a selfless sacrifice. Although many believe there is unanimity among Christians pertaining to the justification that came through the shedding of the precious blood

of God's Son, in reality there is much diversity concerning who has been justified, as well as how and when justification takes place. This little book explores the initiative of God in the redemption of fallen humanity.

For study aids, sermons and studies on CD and DVD, or for material to equip pastors and laity to conduct revival and evangelistic meetings please check our web site or contact:

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Raised in an agnostic, humanistic environment, Joe Gresham first experienced the life-changing power of the love of God at age 27. His transformation from a life of crime and violence into an international speaker is a miracle of God's grace. The Bible teaching contained in this book led to Jesus delivering him from the "fear of death" (Heb. 2:16) and placing him upon the path to becoming a minister of the gospel. An ordained minister, evangelist, author, radio and TV speaker, Joe served on the staff of Andrews University as adjunct professor of religion. As a pastor and teacher Joe has incorporated into this book over four decades of experience and competence in making the word of God easy to understand for people of all ages, classes, and ethnic backgrounds. He is a much respected speaker both in the United States, and abroad. Joe's ministry has taken him throughout Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Europe and North America. His books have been translated into other languages and are now available on 6 continents and many of the islands.



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