



The Tuesday Service

Help on the Journey towards Healing

Direction of Travel : 7 Weeks

- 1 Living conscious that we are loved by God
- 2 Living aware of his Word about us
- 3 Living around the Altar
- 4 Living with a grateful heart
- 5 Living with a forgiving spirit
- 6 Living with simplicity
- 7 Living with faith

The Life and Ministry of John Alexander Dowie 1847 - 1907

trials : triumphs : tragedy

Acorn School of Healing 2

Programme:

10:00: Part 1 - **Life and Background : Early Years : Revelation**
10:30: Break
10:40: Part 2 - **Healing Homes : Arrests : Miracles : Mismanagement**
11:10: Break
11:20: Part 3 - **Flaws : Failures : Friendless**
11:50: Break
12:00: Part 4 - **Theology : Discerning of Spirits**
12:30: Close

www.acornchristian.org

John Alexander Dowie

Part One : Life and Background : Early Years : Revelation

John Alexander Dowie

1 Corinthians 10:12

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

- Dealing with our flaws and frailties with honesty
- Dealing with others yet with wisdom
- Remaining connected to those with whom we disagree with generosity

John Alexander Dowie

- John Alexander Dowie (seen in the picture with his wife Jane) was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on May 25th 1847.
- Born into poverty, his school attendance was irregular due to frequent ill health; suffering from severe dyspepsia
- As a boy he was taken to meetings by his parents, participating in Bible studies and Prayer meetings
- At the age of 6 in 1853 he read the Bible from cover to cover
- He developed a hatred of alcohol and signed 'the pledge' to never drink.

John Alexander Dowie

- His father, a lay-preacher, took John with him on "preaching journeys"
- On one such trip he met Henry Wright and was so impacted by Wright's message that he gave his heart to Christ
- At the the of 7 in 1854 he received his call to ministry, apparently while singing a hymn from a street pulpit in Edinburgh
- In 1860, aged 13, his family emigrated to Australia, and moved to Adelaide.

John Alexander Dowie

- John worked for his uncle in a shoe business, before moving on to various menial positions.
- His business aptitude saw him promoted to assistant to a partner in a firm grossing in excess of \$2 million per annum (in 1868!)
- During his time in Australia, Dowie became a member of the Congregational church, and decided he wanted to enter the ministry.
- At the age of 21 in 1868 he returned to Scotland
- He went to the University of Edinburgh to study at the Free Church School

John Alexander Dowie

- While there he was exposed to the teachings of Edward Irving, who had been a student there.
- Irving was called in 1822 to the Caledonian chapel in London as a preacher.
- His chapel congregation grew rapidly, but His popularity waned, however, because of his increasing emphasis on apocalypticism and eschatology, including his prediction in 1825 that the Second Coming of Christ would occur in 1864.
- Irving believed that cessassionist theology was wrong, and the gifts were still available to the church today.



acorn
CHRISTIANITY

© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- Upon graduation he returned to Australia and was ordained in 1872 as pastor of a Congregational church at Alma, South Australia (near Hamley Bridge).
- Dowie received and accepted a call in 1873 to a pastorate at Manly, New South Wales



acorn
CHRISTIANITY



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- The following year he married his cousin, Jane Dowie, on 26 May 1876, the daughter of his father's brother Alexander Dowie and his wife.
- They had three children: Gladstone (1877–1945), Jeanie (1879–1885), and Esther (1881–1902).
- In 1875 he moved to Sydney and became minister of the Newtown Congregational church.
- In 1878 Dowie left the Congregational denomination and started his own ministry.



acorn
CHRISTIANITY



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- It was whilst at Newtown that God revealed to him that healing was still for today.
- A terrible plague swept through that part of Australia, and in the vicinity of Sydney, people were dying in such numbers that Dowie was appalled. (still only 29 years old)
- Within a few weeks he had officiated at more than forty funerals, and the sick and dying were everywhere.
- Including members of his church
- God spoke to Dowie, and showed him that sickness was of the devil and to be resisted.
- He began to pray for his parishioners, and from that day forward none died.



acorn
CHRISTIANITY

© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- Praying for Mary...from the sermon "Champions of Faith (John Alexander Dowie)
'The prayer of faith may be a voiceless prayer, a simple heartfelt look of confidence into the face of Christ.'
- This revelation that sickness was of the devil and to be resisted so impacted Dowie that he left the pastorate, and became a full-time healing evangelist.
- He moved to Melbourne in the early 1880s, began to gather a following, and eventually built a church there.
- He published a magazine about healing called "Jehovah Rophi".



acorn
CHRISTIANITY

© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- In 1888 Dowie did a preaching tours in New Zealand, and then San Francisco.
- Whilst at a Healing Convention in Chicago he was asked to pray for a woman dying with a fibroid tumour reportedly, the size of a coconut
- She was instantaneously healed and the story ran in several Chicago newspapers
- Dowie took her healing as confirmation that he should be based in the city.



acorn
CHRISTIANITY

© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- In 1893 he went to the Chicago world's fair, and had healing meetings outside the fairgrounds, in a wooden 'hut-like' building called "Zion Tabernacle", across the road from 'Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show'.
- These meetings were so spectacular that the front wall of the meeting room was covered with crutches, braces, and other medical paraphernalia left by those healed in the meetings.



acorn
CHRISTIANITY



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- One reporter, who had made no attempt to conceal his disapproval of Dowie, believed that:
'Hundreds of thousands must have crowded into Dowie's "Little Wooden Hut" during the months of the World's Fair. Sometimes more than a thousand persons came in a week to have his hands laid on them...His success was not limited to cases of hypochondria... Pilgrims came on crutches and went away whole. Paralytics were borne in on litters, and literally 'took up their beds and walked' (Wacker,1985:499).



acorn
CHRISTIANITY

© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- He published a journal called "Leaves of Healing", which went to thousands of people, promoting the divine healing message, with a worldwide circulation by 1894.
- From the pages of his weekly paper, *Leaves of Healing*, he decried doctors, pharmacists, Freemasonry, and the consumption of pork, while championing flat-earth theory and "Anglo-Israelism" — the belief that Anglo-Saxons were the lost tribes of Israel.



acorn
CHRISTIANITY

© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- Dowie had a dispute with the Postmaster General of Chicago who was a catholic and took exception to one of Dowie's sermons denouncing the Infallibility of the Pope
- He revoked Dowie's mailing privileges, causing the price of postage to rise by 1300% on postage for the Leaves of Healing newsletter.
- He eventually won his case only after appealing to the government in Washington
- Whilst there he was also granted an audience with President William McKinley



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

Two: Healing Homes : Arrest : Miracles : Mismanagement

© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- Following the World Fair in 1893 he set up his headquarters in Chicago, where he preached to thousands every Sunday.
- He bought a number of buildings so that people who travelled to Chicago, for healing, would have a place to stay.
- Healing Homes, where they could rest and find accommodation between the Healing Services held at the Zion Tabernacle



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

Zion Divine Healing Home

Situated on the Finest Boulevard in Chicago.

Fire-Proof Construction. It affords one block of the Illinois Central Railway.

Morning and Evening Praise and Prayer Daily. Special Lectures on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with Healing Services thereafter.

ZION HOME, WASHINGTON AVE. and 13th Street.

Conducted by the BROTHER JOHN ALEX. DOWIE and MRS. DOWIE.

Guests coming from the North and East can check their baggage on trains to ZION and then transfer to Illinois Central at Grand Crossing or 13th Street.

Guests coming from the West and Southwest are advised to take a Pullman Transfer Coach to ZION at any of the Agents where they arrive.

TERMS TO GUESTS will be forwarded on application.

- Once there, they were able to receive constant ministry from the Word of God to build up their faith... **'to the place of complete manifestation'...**



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- The Healing Homes became a place of opposition on two fronts
- The Chicago press, discovering that Dowie's name boosted circulation, enthusiastically joined the campaign against him.
- Reporters outdid one another in their fanciful accounts of life within the healing homes, which were variously described as houses of prostitution, lunatic asylums, and hospitals from which dying patients were forcibly ejected.



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- The Chicago Dispatch informed its readers that *"Dowie is wise. Dowie is foxy. Death has no terrors for Dowie if he has secured the dying person's money. But Dowie's wisdom and foxiness tells him that death must not occur at his homes. The patient must be thrown out, bundled away, for all are not imbeciles and there are those who are sufficiently worldly-wise to penetrate the mask of religion and see the criminal behind."* (December, 13, 1895).



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- Pressure also mounted on the Chicago Board of Health which resulted in the passage of a city ordinance requiring the presence of a licensed physician in any facility which provided care for the sick.
- This second line of opposition was fed by the medical profession and 'religious' churches who had suffered financially from his growing popularity and increasing success in seeing people healed.
- In 1895 he was arrested for 'practising medicine without a licence' - Dowie had a loathing for medicine and medical practice fostered by what he had seen while a student in Edinburgh when he also acted as Hospital Chaplain.



View of "divine" medicine and with McPherson's law with it white as snow.

SEALER "DOWIE ARRESTED" next with "Healing" Taken Bit from Frank W. King, author "DOWIE: The Miraculous Fall"

© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- He was taken to court and in spite of having a lawyer, he chose to represent himself.
- He lost, but won his case on appeal to a higher court.
- The city of Chicago hoped he would lose heart if they kept up the pressure, so throughout 1895 he was arrested 100 times, on one occasion twice in two days.
- People came pretending to be guests in need to find accusations against him.
- The publicity from these arrests only served to draw more attention to his ministry and increased size of his congregation.
- It appears he thrived on the challenge!



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- Hundreds of people were flocking to his ministry to receive teaching and prayer.
- Many were healed dramatically.
- Dowie's congregation fed the poor, were highly evangelistic, and had a major impact on this notoriously corrupt city.
- By the end of 1896 Dowie had gained great influence in the city - his enemies were either dead, in prison or silent.
- He had police protection at his meetings
- Divine healing was preached on nearly every street corner and few had not heard the gospel message from Dowie or his evangelistic teams.



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- Dowie was praying for 1000s every week to receive divine healing
- Amanda Hicks, cousin of Abraham Lincoln
- Church leaders and Medics

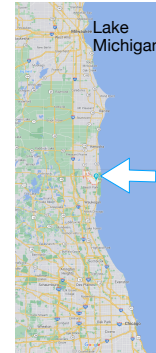
- Sadie Cody, niece of Buffalo Bill Cody, came after reading a copy of 'Leaves of Healing'
- Her healing testimony from her own lips..



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- In 1901 he founded Zion City, about 40 miles from Chicago and sought to establish a 'moral utopia'.
- In the process of buying land Dowie "declared war" on the medical profession in a sermon entitled "Doctors, Drugs and Devils", so that the publicity would divert attention from his activities of purchasing land outside of Chicago, which was undertaken by intermediaries.



Dowie bought 10 sq miles / 6600 acres

© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- Zion: a theocracy governed by "the will of God."
- Dowie owned everything in Zion: lace factory, general store, bank—even the homes his followers lived in.
- It was the ecclesiastical equivalent of a company town.
- Zion's residents were required to comply with Dowie's strict interpretation of the scriptures. "Billboards at the street junctions cautioned that swearing, smoking or bad language of any sort are not allowed,"
- Also banned: saloons, pork, medical practices, gambling halls, drug stores, and fraternal lodges.
- Residents were also required to tithe 10% of their income to Dowie.
- Their savings went into the Zion bank.



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- At this point Dowie was totally occupied in running Zion and neglected the Healing ministry
- By 1902 Zion's population had grown to 10,000, and Dowie claimed 150,000 followers worldwide. He amassed a fortune in excess of \$10 million. His annual income from tithes alone reported to be \$250,000.
- He visited New York and took a European tour in 1903 and then New Zealand and Australia in 1904.
- These trips were taken using Zion bank money - even though the bankers assured him that the bank could not support the drain.
- As a result of mismanagement things naturally began to crumble as he extended his reach into a number of failed and costly ventures. The Madison Square event lost Zion £300,000



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- Dowie with the encouragement of some other leaders declared himself "Elijah the Restorer" or Elijah III.
- First Elijah, then John the Baptist, then himself
- He walked around dressed in an Old Testament-like priest's outfit.



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- An investigation determined that Dowie had been using Zion's bank "as his personal bank."
- There was discontent in the flock.
- Dowie now appeared fallible in the eyes of his followers.
- In 1905, one of his top lieutenants, Wilbur Voliva, orchestrated a coup, charging Dowie with "extravagance, hypocrisy, misrepresentations, exaggerations, misuse of investments, tyranny and injustice."
- Voliva was installed as the new leader of the church, a position he would hold until his death in 1942.



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- After he was deposed, Dowie went abroad to escape his creditors.
- In 1905 he had a stroke but travelled to Mexico, where he bought a large tract of land for a "plantation paradise."
- In April 1906, the community and his family had had enough.
- Zion City was in financial ruins, his daughter had died, and his marriage had disintegrated.
- His wife claimed that he was promoting polygamy.
- Dowie had a second stroke, which immobilized him.
- He died on March 11, 1907, broken and discredited.
- At his request his grave was filled with concrete, after his coffin was put inside, to stave off anyone taking his body and suggesting he had miraculously arisen.



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie

- Tens of thousands of people were touched by the truth that God still heals, but Dowie was a seriously flawed messenger.
- He brought Divine Healing into the national consciousness, but also tainted it with the deception he fell into.
- The greatest legacies that Dowie left were the lives of the men and women of God who carried the truth of God's healing power on into their own ministries.
- These included: John G. Lake, F. F. Bosworth, Martha Wing Robinson, Raymond T. Richey, Dr Lillian B. Yeomans, Cyrus B. Fockler, and many others.



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

Three : Flaws : Failures : Friendless



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie



- Dowie was drawing people by the thousands, but there were some major cracks in the spiritual foundations of Dowie personally and of his family.
- His vision of a new church similar to the Catholic church, where he was the pope, was a significant shift away from his main calling
- He engaged in bitter criticism of other churches and leaders
- He lacked any external point of reference and had few 'friends' to speaking his life and ministry

© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie



- Dowie also attacked any church that he perceived didn't support him, even those that believed in Divine Healing.
- He attacked denominational churches and told people that they needed to leave them.
- He spoke against A. B. Simpson and the Christian and Missionary Alliance, as well as the Salvation Army.
- He particularly attacked D. L. Moody and R. A. Torrey in their work of the Moody Bible Institute and Chicago Avenue Church.
- In 1898 that battle moved to an all-out war. Dowie declared that Moody would die because of his criticism against him.

© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie



- When Moody did die in 1899 Dowie declared it was the judgment of God.
- The battle continued and he took up the war with Moody's successor, R. A. Torrey declaring that Torrey, too, would die under the judgment of God.
- Torrey would go on to hold some of the most successful evangelistic campaigns up to that time and live 20 years beyond Dowie.

© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie / Maria Woodworth-Etter



- Before moving to Chicago he became acquainted with Maria Woodworth-Etter (1844–1924)
- Though simply evangelistic in the early days 'Sister Etter' was unusually successful and in 1885 supernatural signs began to accompany her ministry.
- Her ministry resurrected dead churches, brought salvation to thousands of unconverted and encouraged believers to seek a deeper walk with God.
- She described an 1883 meeting in Fairview, Ohio: "I felt impressed God was going to restore love and harmony in the church....."



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie / Maria Woodworth-Etter



- After he met her, a conflict arose between them, and he denounced her ministry, not liking her methods, possibly because he either did not understand them or because of pride.
- He never spoke to her personally about any of his concerns
- He criticised her ministry, even after being present in one of her meetings, taking to the stage, and announcing that she was indeed of God!

© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

John Alexander Dowie / Maria Woodworth-Etter



- It is considered that had he been of a more humble disposition she could have been of great help to him if establishing a more balanced lifestyle and stable ministry
- He would sometimes work for over 40 hours non-stop
- This added to the pressure on marriage and family
- He was not connected to any network of leaders or others involved in the Healing Ministry
- As a result he became isolated and vulnerable to those who fed his ego (like William Branham who was also heralded as a second Elijah)

© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

Four : Theology : Discerning of Spirits



© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

The Discerning of Spirits



- 1 Cor.12:10 – the gift of discerning
- 2 Cor. 5:16 – regarding one another after the flesh or spirit
- Mk 2:8 – Jesus knew in his spirit

- Heaven
- Human
- Hell

© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

The Discerning of Spirits



1 John 2:16

'For everything in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - comes not from the Father but from the world.'

Ephesians 6:12

'For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.'

- world
- flesh
- devil

© Wes Sutton/Acorn Christian Foundation

The Discerning of Spirits



- | | | | |
|--------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| •Money | •Prejudice | •Character | •Independence |
| | •Preference | •Disposition | •Defensiveness |
| | •Experiences | •Expediency | •Approval |
| | •Upbringing | •Judgementalism | •Control |
| •Sex | •Intellect/mind | •Sentimentalism | •Emotionalism |
| | •Fears | •Embarrassment | •My 'truth' bias |
| | •Phobias | •Propriety | •Pains/hurts |
| •Power | •Theology | •Tradition | •Guilt |
| | •Denomination | •Favouritism | •Shame |



Prayer Requests can be sent to:

Email: info@acornchristian.org

DM on Twitter: [@acornchristian](https://twitter.com/acornchristian)