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# GOSPEL ORDER

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I Corinthians 14:33

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1 Corinthians 14:33 (AV) — 33 God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

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Luke 21:9 (AV) — 9 But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.

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ἀκαταστασία (*akatastasia*) = confusion, upheaval

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to rise up in open defiance of authority, with the presumed intention to overthrow it or to act in complete opposition to its demands . . .

It is possible that ἀκαταστασία in Lk 21:9 denotes merely unsettled conditions, but it is far more likely to carry the meaning of ‘insurrections’ and ‘revolts.’ (Louw Nida, *Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament based on Semantic Domains*, vol. 1, p. 496)

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1 Corinthians 14:40 (AV) — 40 Let all things be done decently  
and in order.

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Order is heaven's first law, ...  
(*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 200.2)

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In heaven there is perfect order, perfect obedience, perfect peace and harmony. Those who have had no respect for order or discipline in this life would have no respect for the order which is observed in heaven. They can never be admitted into heaven, for all worthy of an entrance there will love order and respect discipline. (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 429)

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Matthew 6:10 (AV) — 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done  
in earth, as it is in heaven.

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Ezekiel 1:15–17 (AV) — 15 Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces. 16 The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel. 17 When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went.

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God is acquainted with every man. Could our eyes be opened, we would see that eternal justice is at work in our world. A powerful influence, not under man's control, is working. Man may fancy that he is directing matters, but there are higher than human influences at work. The servants of God know that He is working to counteract Satan's plans. Those who know not God cannot comprehend His movements. There is at work a wheel within a wheel. Apparently, the complication of machinery is so intricate that man can see only a complete entanglement. But the divine Hand, as seen by the prophet Ezekiel, is placed upon the wheels, and every part moves in complete harmony, each doing its specified work, yet with individual freedom of action. (13*LtMs*, Ms 13, 1898, par. 9)

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We all entered the cloud together, and were seven days ascending to the sea of glass, when Jesus brought the crowns, and with His own right hand placed them on our heads. He gave us harps of gold and palms of victory. Here on the sea of glass *the 144,000 stood in a perfect square.*

*(Early Writings, p. 16.2)*

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On each side of the cloudy chariot were wings, and beneath it were living wheels; and as the chariot rolled upward, the wheels cried, “Holy,” and the wings, as they moved, cried, “Holy,” and the retinue of holy angels around the cloud cried, “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!” And the saints in the cloud cried, “Glory! Alleluia!” And the chariot rolled upward to the Holy City. Before entering the city, *the saints were arranged in a perfect square, with Jesus in the midst.* (*Early Writings*, p. 287.2)

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When God created Eve, He designed that she should possess neither inferiority nor superiority to the man, but that in all things she should be his equal. The holy pair were to have no interest independent of each other; and yet each had an individuality in thinking and acting.

*(Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, p. 484.1)*

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Genesis 3:16 (AV) — 16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall *rule* over thee.

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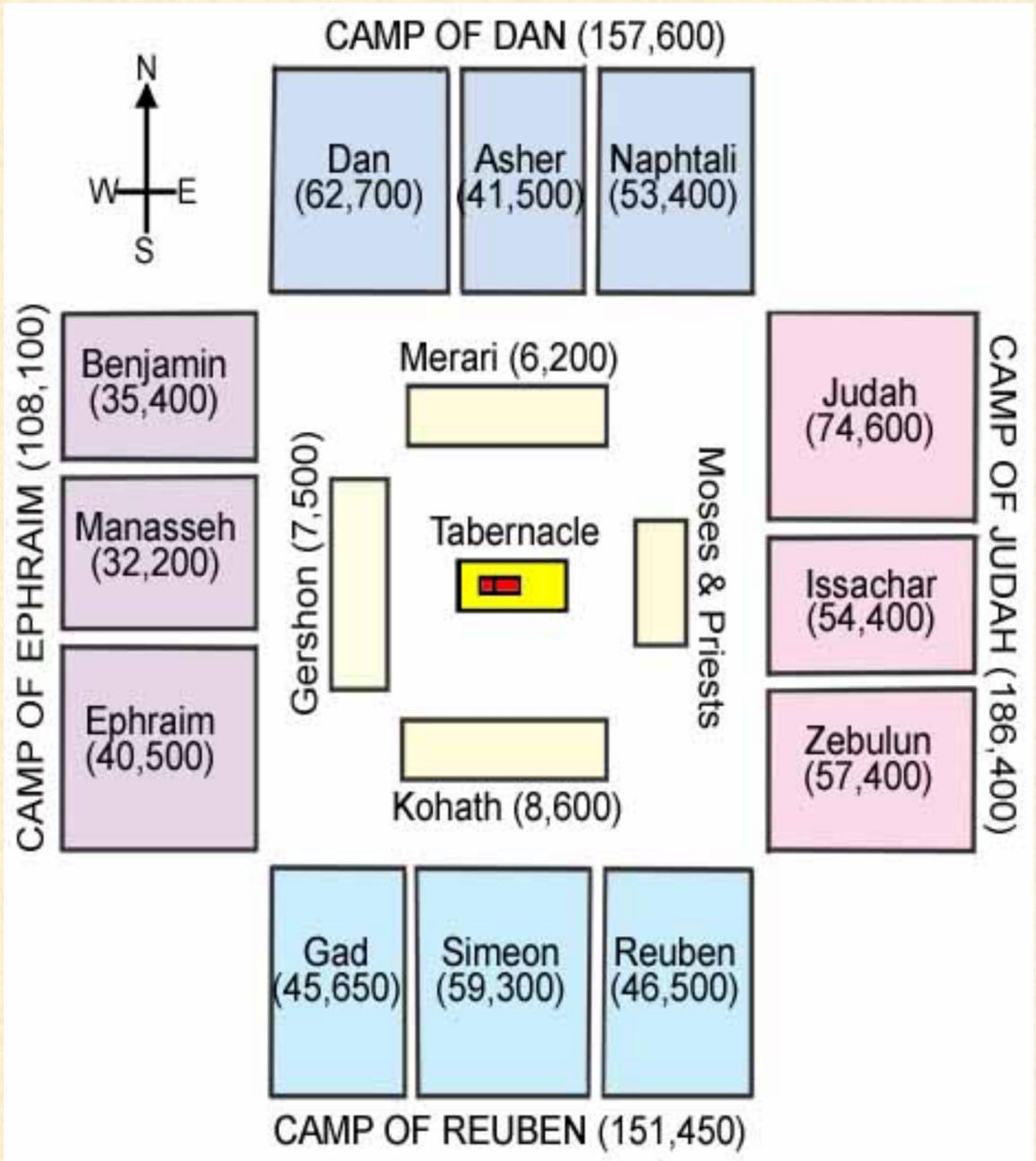
1 Corinthians 11:3 (AV) — 3 But I would have you know,  
that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the  
woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

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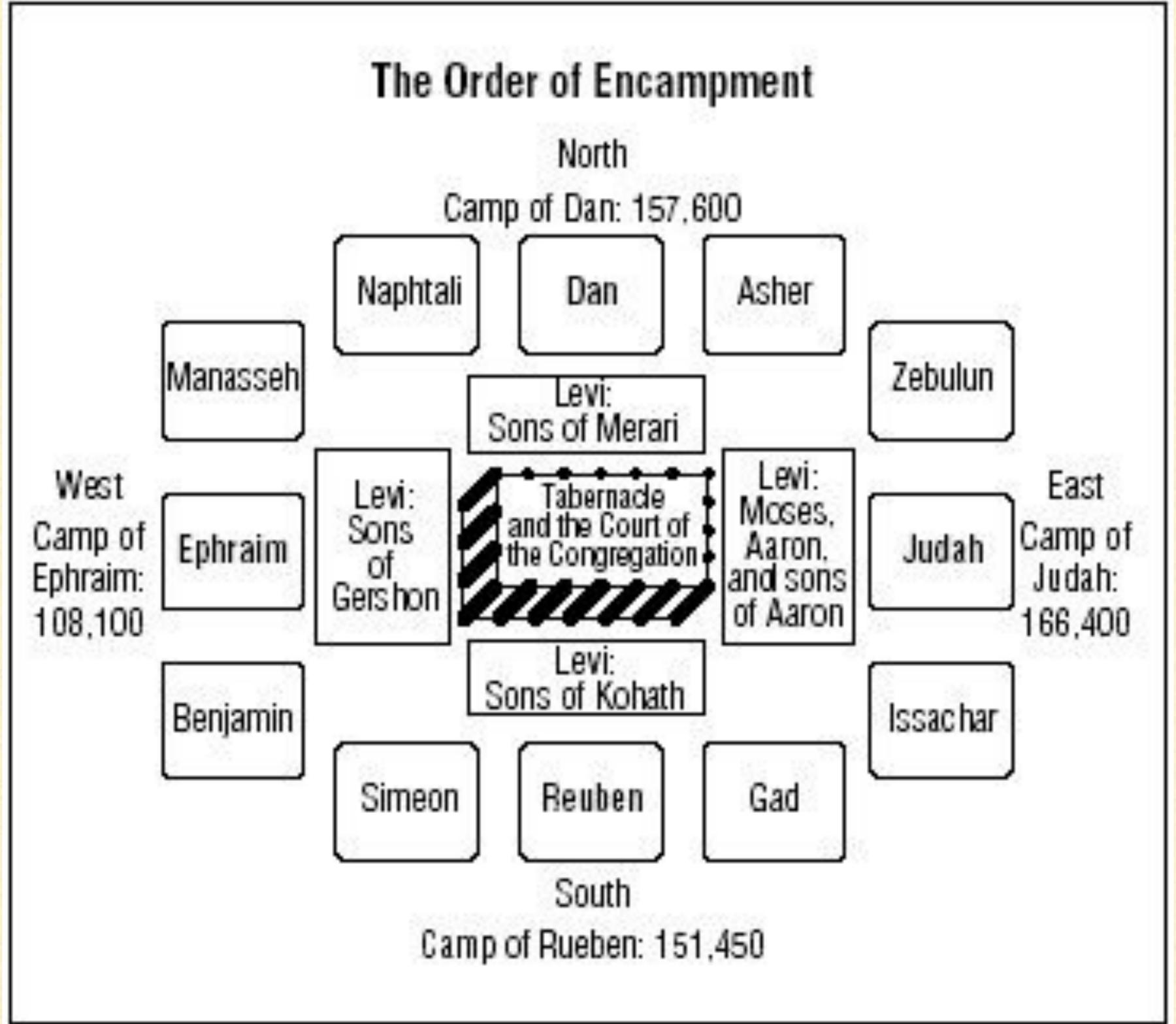
Exodus 18:25, 26 (AV) — 25 And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them **heads** over the people, rulers of thousands, **rulers** of hundreds, **rulers** of fifties, and **rulers** of tens. 26 And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves.

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**Arrangement of the Camp of Israel**  
 Numbers 2:1-3:39

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Deuteronomy 12:7, 8 (AV) — 7 And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee. 8 Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes.

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Deuteronomy 12:8–9 (NCV) — 8 Do not worship the way we have been doing today, each person doing what he thinks is right. 9 You have not yet come to a resting place, to the land the Lord your God will give you as your own.

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Judges 17:6 (AV) — 6 In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

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Judges 21:25 (AV) — 25 In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

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Proverbs 21:2 (AV) — 2 Every way of a man is right in his  
own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.

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1 Samuel 8:5 (AV) — 5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

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Matthew 16:18 (AV) — 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

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Ephesians 4:11–14 (AV) — 11 And he gave some, apostles;  
and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some,  
pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints,  
for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of  
Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the  
knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the  
measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we  
henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and  
carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of  
men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to  
deceive;

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*She is against having pastors  
and any leaders, because Jesus  
is the head and he himself will  
lead the church.*

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*ἀκατασασία* — and it is to rise up in open defiance of  
authority of Christ!

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God never does what man can do.  
(*The Signs of the Times*, September 4, 1879, par. 11)

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Leviticus 26:7, 8 (AV) — 7 And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. 8 And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.

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$$5/100 = 1/20$$

$$100/10,000 = 1/100$$

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Acts 15:1, 2 (AV) — 1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. 2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

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In the church at Antioch the consideration of the question of circumcision resulted in much discussion and contention. Finally, the members of the church, fearing that a division among them would be the outcome of continued discussion, decided to send Paul and Barnabas, with some responsible men from the church, to Jerusalem to lay the matter before the apostles and elders. There they were to meet delegates from the different churches and those who had come to Jerusalem to attend the approaching festivals. Meanwhile all controversy was to cease until a final decision should be given in general council. This decision was then to be universally accepted by the different churches throughout the country. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 190.2)

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An army in battle would become confused and weakened unless all worked in concert. If the soldiers should act out their own impulsive ideas, without reference to each other's positions and work, they would be a **collection of independent atoms**; they could not do the work of **an organized body**. So the soldiers of Christ must act in harmony. They alone must not be cherished.

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If they do this, the Lord's people in the place of being in perfect harmony, of one mind, one purpose, and consecrated to one grand object, will find efforts fruitless, their time and capabilities wasted. Union is strength. A few converted souls acting in harmony, acting for one grand purpose, under one head, will achieve victories at every encounter. (*Spaulding Magan Collection*, p. 121.1)

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My brethren, the Lord has called upon you to do a certain work, but you have not done it; and now in the place where you are, there is discord and contention and strife. But this need not be.

God does not design that his workmen shall stand apart as independent atoms. All have a great and solemn work to do, and it is to be done under God's supervision. (PH156 p. 12.1, Special Testimony to the Brethren in Battle Creek, "Sunnyside," Cooranbong, N. S. W., Australia, June 8, 1898)

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Again I say, the Lord hath not spoken by any messenger who calls the only church in the world that **keeps the commandments** of God, Babylon. True, there is chaff with the wheat; but first gather the chaff and bind it into bundles to burn it, but gather the wheat into the garner. **I know that the Lord loves His church. It is not to be disorganized or broken up into independent atoms.** There is not the least consistency in this. There is not the least evidence that such a thing will be. Those who shall heed this false message and try to leaven others will be deceived and prepared to receive advanced delusions, and they will come to naught. (*8LtMs*, Lt 16, 1893, par. 20)

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O how Satan would rejoice if he could succeed in his efforts to get in among this people, and **disorganize the work at a time when thorough organization is essential**, and will be the greatest power to keep out spurious uprisings, and to refute claims not endorsed by the word of God! We want to hold the lines evenly, that **there shall be no breaking down of the system of organization and order that has been built up by wise, careful labor**. [by Elders White, Andrews, Smith and others]. License must not be given to disorderly elements that desire to control the work at this time. (*Gospel Workers*, p. 487.1)

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Some have advanced the thought that as we near the close of time, every child of God **will act independently of any religious organization. But I have been instructed by the Lord that in this work there is no such thing as every man's being independent.** The stars of heaven are all under law, each influencing the other to do the will of God, yielding their common obedience to the law that controls their action. And, in order that the Lord's work may advance healthfully and solidly, His people must draw together. (*Gospel Workers*, p. 487.2)

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The Lord in His wisdom has arranged that by means of the close relationship that should be maintained by all believers, **Christian shall be united to Christian and church to church.** Thus the human instrumentality will be enabled to co-operate with the divine. Every agency will be subordinate to the Holy Spirit, and **all the believers will be united in an organized** and well-directed effort to give to the world the glad tidings of the grace of God. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 164.1)

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(Ellen White, *Special Testimonies*, series, B, no. 9, p. 19.2, 1907)

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**God has not set any kingly power in the Seventh-day Adventist Church** to control the whole body or to control any branch of the work. He has not provided that the burden of leadership shall rest upon a few men. Responsibilities are distributed among a large number of competent men. (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 236.3)

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Every member of the church has a voice in choosing officers of the church. The church chooses the officers of the state conferences. Delegates chosen by the state conferences choose the officers of the union conferences, and delegates chosen by the union conferences choose the officers of the General Conference. By this arrangement every conference, every institution, every church, and every individual, either directly or through representatives, has a voice in the election of the men who bear the chief responsibilities in the General Conference. (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 236.4)

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After the passing of the time, God entrusted to His faithful followers the precious principles of present truth. ...

*(Selected Messages, bk. 2, p. 389.3)*

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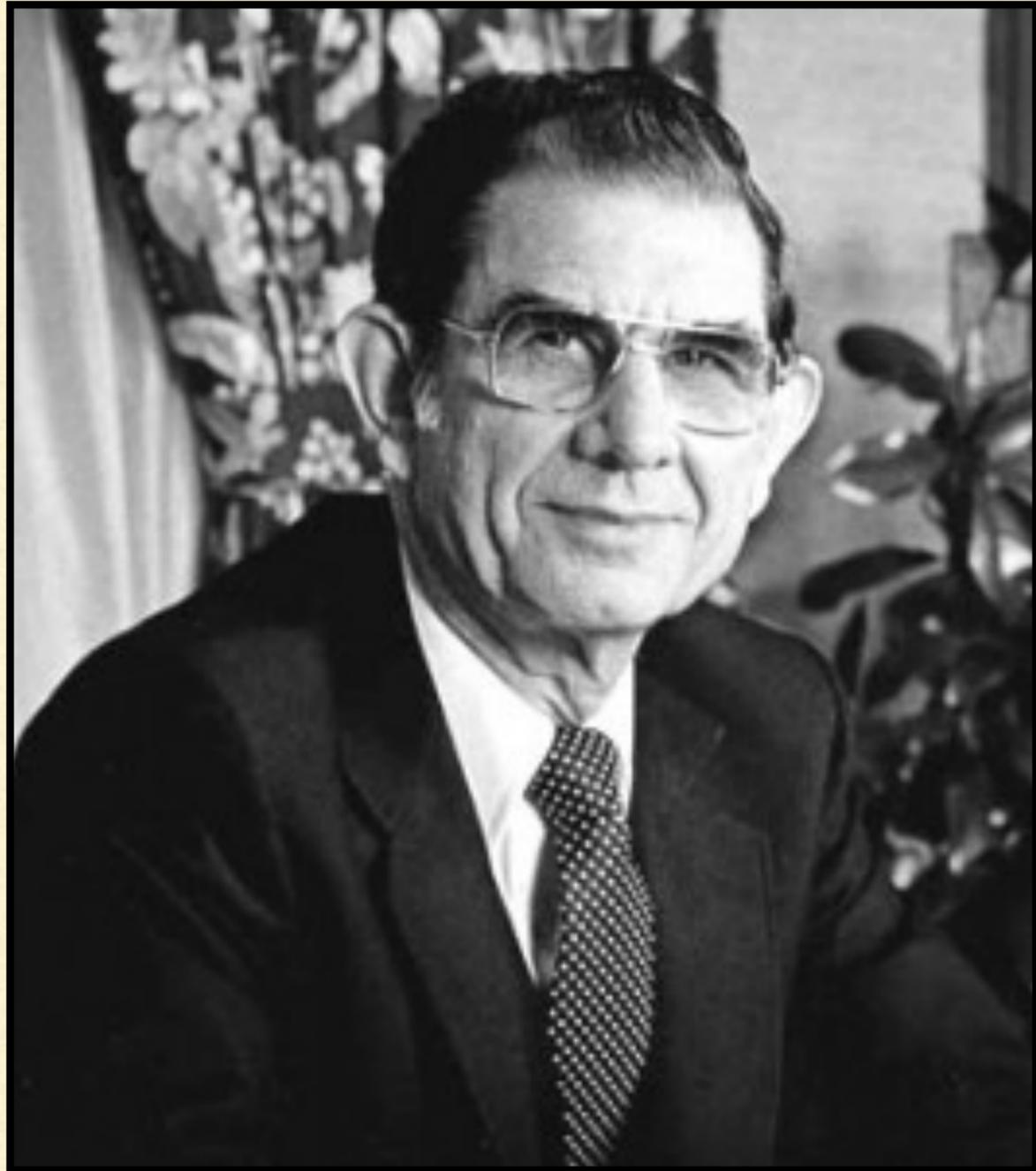
Those who passed through these experiences are to be as firm as a rock to the principles that have made us Seventh-day Adventists. ... (*Selected Messages*, bk. 2, p. 389.4)

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The Lord has declared that the history of the past shall be rehearsed as we enter upon the closing work. Every truth that He has given for these last days is to be proclaimed to the world. Every pillar that He has established is to be strengthened. We cannot now step off the foundation that God has established. We cannot now enter into any new organization; for this would mean apostasy from the truth.--  
Manuscript 129, 1905. (*Selected Messages*, bk. 2, p. 390.1)

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**Neal C. Wilson**  
**(Former GC President and father of current  
GC President Ted Wilson)**

Our doctrines cannot be changed without changing the nature of the church. Let the word go out from this Annual Council that any attempt to tear down the pillars of the faith will be resisted. (Neal C. Wilson, former GC President, Adventist Review, November 8, 1979, speech given at Annual Council, Washington, DC, October 1979)

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## **1872 and 1889 Fundamental Principles**

I. That there is one God, a personal, spiritual being, the creator of all things, omnipotent, omniscient, and eternal, infinite in wisdom, holiness, justice, goodness, truth, and mercy; unchangeable, and everywhere present by his representative, the Holy Spirit. Ps. 139:7.

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II. That there is one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Eternal Father, the one by whom God created all things, and by whom they do consist; that he took on him the nature of the seed of Abraham ...

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# 1980 Fundamental Principles

## 2. The Trinity

There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. He is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation. (*Seventh-day Adventists*

*Believe*, p. 16, 1988 edition

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. . . . God, who is love, is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation. (Gen. 1:26; Deut. 6:4; Isa. 6:8; Matt. 28:19; John 3:16 2 Cor. 1:21, 22; 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2.) (<https://www.adventist.org/fileadmin/adventist.org/files/articles/official-statements/28Beliefs-Web.pdf>)

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God is omnipresent (Ps 139:7-12; Heb 4:13), transcending all space. Yet He is fully present in every part of space. He is eternal (Ps 90:2; Rev 1:8), exceeding the limits of time, yet is fully present in every moment of time. (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 20, 1988 edition)

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## 4. The Son:

God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. ...

Forever truly God ...

## 5. “The Holy Spirit:

God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the

Son in Creation, ...

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The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded.

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**Our religion would be changed.** The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. **A new organization would be established.** Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work.

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The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, **but God being removed**, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and **storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.** (*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 204.2)

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# Ministry

International Journal for Clergy

October 1995

ADVENTISTS  
AND  
CHANGE:  
The Dynamic  
Nature  
of Present  
Truth



George R. Knight

**By saying that the Bible is our only creed, Adventism's founders revealed a profound understanding of the dynamic nature of present truth.**

**M**

ost of the founders of Seventh-day Adventism would not be able to join the church today if they had to subscribe to the denomination's

Fundamental Beliefs.<sup>1</sup>

More specifically, most would not be able to agree to belief number 2, which deals with the doctrine of the Trinity. For Joseph Bates the Trinity was an unscriptural doctrine, for James White it was that "old Trinitarian absurdity," and for M. E. Cornell it was a fruit of the great apostasy, along with such false doctrines as Sundaykeeping and the immortality of the soul.<sup>2</sup>

In like manner, most of the founders of Seventh-day Adventism would have trouble with fundamental belief number 4, which holds that Jesus is both eternal and truly God. For J. N. Andrews "the Son of God . . . had God for His Father, and did, at some point in the eternity of the past, have beginning of days." And E. J. Waggoner, of Minneapolis 1888 fame, penned in 1890 that "there was a time when Christ proceeded forth and

pictured the Holy Spirit as "that divine, mysterious emanation through which They [the Father and the Son] carry forward their great and infinite work." On another occasion, Smith pictured the Holy Spirit as a "divine influence" and not a "person like the Father and the Son."<sup>4</sup>

Such misconceptions during the 1890s—a decade in which the work of the Holy Spirit and the indwelling power of Christ were being emphasized by such writers as Ellen White, E. J. Waggoner, and W. W. Prescott—helped pave the way for the pantheism that Waggoner and J. H. Kellogg taught around the turn of the century. Those misconceptions also probably helped set some Adventists up for the holy flesh heresy by the end of the 1890s.<sup>5</sup>

#### Theological change

The decade of the 1890s, fortunately, also witnessed a positive shift in Adventist theological focus in areas related to the Godhead. That shift found its roots in the Minneapolis General Conference session of 1888. The 1888 meetings had reemphasized Jesus and His saving righ-

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Most of the founders of Seventh-day Adventism would not be able to join the church today if they had to subscribe to the denomination's Fundamental Beliefs.

More specifically, most would not be able to agree to belief number 2, which deals with the doctrine of the Trinity.

(George Knight, *Ministry*, October, 1993 p. 10)

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Can two walk together, except they be agreed?  
(Amos 3:3)

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And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?  
for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I  
will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their  
God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out  
from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,  
and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you,  
(2 Corinthians 6:16, 17)

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After a long and severe conflict, the faithful few decided to dissolve all union with the apostate church if she still refused to free herself from falsehood and idolatry. They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the word of God. They dared not tolerate errors fatal to their own souls, and set an example which would imperil the faith of their children and children's children. To secure peace and unity they were ready to make any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war. (*The Great Controversy*, p. 45.3)

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Well would it be for the church and the world if the principles that actuated those steadfast souls were revived in the hearts of God's professed people. There is an alarming indifference in regard to the doctrines which are the pillars of the Christian faith. The opinion is gaining ground, that, after all, these are not of vital importance. This degeneracy is strengthening the hands of the agents of Satan, so that false theories and fatal delusions which the faithful in ages past imperiled their lives to resist and expose, are now regarded with favor by thousands who claim to be followers of Christ. (*The Great Controversy*, p. 46.1)

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As the light and life of men was rejected by the ecclesiastical authorities in the days of Christ, so it has been rejected in every succeeding generation. Again and again the history of Christ's withdrawal from Judea has been repeated. When the Reformers preached the word of God, they had no thought of separating themselves from the established church; **but the religious leaders would not tolerate the light, and those that bore it were forced to seek another class, who were longing for the truth.**

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In our day few of the professed followers of the Reformers are actuated by their spirit. Few are listening for the voice of God, and ready to accept truth in whatever guise it may be presented. Often those who follow in the steps of the Reformers are forced to turn away from the churches they love, in order to declare the plain teaching of the word of God. And many times those who are seeking for light are by the same teaching **obliged to leave the church of their fathers**, that they may render obedience. (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 232.2)

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**Obligated:** make (someone) legally or morally bound to an action or course of action: doctors are obligated by law to keep patients alive while there is a chance of recovery. (*New Oxford American Dictionary*)

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That these men should stand in a sacred place, to be as the voice of God to the people, as we once believed the General Conference to be,—that is past. **What we want now is a reorganization.** We want to begin at the foundation, and to build upon a different principle. (*General Conference Bulletin*, April 3, 1901 par. 25)

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