

Study for the Months May-June 2020

By Nathaniel Fajardo
Whole Gospel Ministries

PO Box 1764 Loma Linda, CA 92354 Tel. (951) 685-1956 (leave a message)
email: natfajardo777@yahoo.com Website: www.wholegospelministries.org

The Decalogue Before and After Sinai - Part I

“The Lord is well pleased for His righteousness’ sake; He will magnify the law and make it honorable.” Isa. 42: 21, K.J.V.

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass [away], not one jot or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” Matt. 5: 17, 18. (To fulfill means “to preach fully.” Col. 1: 25).

First things first. As Christians believing that the Bible is God’s infallible word and thus “the rule of faith,” we want a secure and immovable foundation of Bible truth from which to proceed from in our quest for the “truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth” regarding God’s law.

This isn’t difficult to determine. All we need to ask ourselves again as a matter of self-examination, what are supposed to be “no brainer” questions (that is, at first blush), are the two of the most familiar words connected with Jesus *Christ*--the reason and foundation of *Christianity*--which are *salvation* and *gospel*, (the other words are Calvary or the cross, and grace). These basic questions are:

What is the “Gospel,” and why is it called “the good news of salvation?” Many in fact simply refer to it is “the good news,” which by now, as prophesied of the “Babylonian” doctrinal confusion of the last days, practically says nothing. Worse, because it was prophesied that man “call evil good and good evil” (Isa. 5: 20), so the real good gospel becomes the evil gospel. Jesus Himself said: “And this is the condemnation, that the light [Himself and the truth with Him] has come into the world, and men love darkness rather than light, *because their deeds were evil*. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, *lest his deeds be exposed*. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” John 3: 19-21, NKJV.

The fuzzy, glossy, love-only, forgiven-already neo-gospel or pseudo gospel enables the opposite idea and purpose of what the gospel was designed to accomplish. Such, of course is the classic hallmark of Satan’s work of masterful deceit. All by itself, this seemingly lazy, yet intentional “short-cut” definition of the gospel inevitably leaves out the very cause and reason for its contemplation and development by the omniscience and omnipotence of the Heavenly Council made up of *only* the three Persons of the Godhead, before the foundations of the earth were laid, thus before Adam and Eve fell.

The everlasting Gospel is the “good news of salvation *from* sin.” Salvation also

comprehends “*deliverance* from,” “*rescue* from,” “*set free* from,” “*emancipate* from,” “*unchain* from,” “*unshackle* from,” “*call out* from,” his truth is rendered beyond caviling and doubt by the very meaning of the name, JESUS. Lest they make their own choice, “the angel of the Lord,” angel Gabriel, immediately ordered Joseph in a dream immediately before the act and moment of the mysterious incarnation of the Creator, “saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her *is of the Holy Ghost*. And she shall bring forth a son [not a daughter], and thou shalt call *His name* JESUS: for He shall save His people *from* their sins.” Matt. 1: 21, K.J.V.

“From their sins.” Sheathed by Christ’s promised gift of the fulness of the power of His vicegerent, the Holy Spirit, poured upon the fully-prepared one hundred and twenty disciples (appearing as “cloven tongues of fire” at Pentecost), through Peter, they unitedly declared to religious leaders of the Jews, who had now become their bitterest enemies. Hear what apostle Peter boldly declared to the Sanhedrin:

“Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that *by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified*, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands before you whole. This is the ‘stone rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone (Ps. 118: 22). *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*” Acts 4: 10-12, NKJV. (see verses 1-47)

Now that we are clear on why the name JESUS the Christ, and what it means, we turn to the word SIN. The only definition of SIN in and by the same Bible, is “the transgression of the law” (1 John 3: 4). Since there is “only One Lawgiver” (James ___), who wrote the law with His own finger on two tables of stone and gave it to Moses on Sinai to be given to Israel who had just been “emancipated,” delivered,” “set free,” “saved” from 400 years of bondage to Egypt of the pharaohs, the first atheist world empire, this law is the ten commandments. It is called the Covenant. Deut. 4: 13. It is the everlasting covenant, the one broken by Lucifer and his angels in their rebellion and war in heaven against Christ the Lawgiver, the same one that was transgressed by Adam and Eve in Eden by their disobedience to the Creator’s command.

The plan of salvation or redemption from the power of sin, the flesh, temptation and Satan is called the gospel. It is indeed the “good news of salvation from sin,” because the “wages of sin is death.” Sin is the cause, death is the consequence. Since the law is immutable, the only way that the guilty sinner could be saved from eternal death was for the Lawgiver Himself to take place of the sinner and die the death which he deserves for its transgression. Death is the “curse of the law” *against sin*, which is its transgression *by the sinner*. The law is not “a curse,” as truth naysayers desperately attempt to twist its clear meaning to no avail. God, the Lawgiver, is the Law in the flesh. To say that God’s law is a “curse” is to both call God a “curse” and to “curse” Him, which is blasphemy! To stubbornly persist believing and teaching this distortion of plain truth is to grieve away the Holy Spirit and commit the unpardonable sin.

Summarizing all that can and should be obtained from the Holy Scriptures as to the true meaning and significance of sin, salvation and the gospel, I find the following quote to

be the most concise, truthful, definition and meaning of the gospel:

“The gospel is a system of practical truths destined to work great changes in human character. If it does not work the transformation in life, in habits, and practices, it is no truth to those who claim to believe it. Man must be sanctified [not merely justified] through the truth. And said Jesus, ‘Thy Word is truth’ (John 17: 17). Unless the truth of God [of the gospel] shall lift up man out of his depravity, his intemperate and profligate habits, and make him reflect the image of God, he is lost” [lost and dead in his sins].”- Ellen G. White, *Letter 14*, Mar. 13, 1885/*This Day With God*, p. 81.

“Man must be sanctified through the truth,” not merely justified. This is what Jesus prayed the Father for in His valedictory prayer recorded in John chapter 17. The *sanctifying truth of the gospel*, which Paul says “is the power of God unto salvation” (Rom. 1:16), was the Godhead’s only antidote to “lift up man out of his depravity his intemperate and profligate habits, and make fallen man once more “reflect” the lost “image” of God that he had before the fall. If this is not the result or “fruits,” any and all Christian believers who profess and even preach “the gospel” are not and cannot be saved by any and all their “good works.”

It is such believers who profess to be Christians, claim to believe and even preach “the gospel” yet do not produce the different “fruit of the Spirit” (Gal. 5: 22-24) but rather continue manifesting the various “works of the flesh” (Gal. 5: 19-21) who will hear Jesus say these strange-sounding and saddest of all words “at the end of the day,” or at the end of their life journey on earth:

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does *the will of My Father* in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘*I never knew you; depart from Me*, you who practice lawlessness [iniquity or sin, KJV].” Matt 7: 21-23, NKJV.

It was Jesus who declared these words that were merely recorded, not interpreted, by Matthew. Now, how can it be that a Christian who invokes the name of JESUS CHRIST and performs good and mighty deeds, even miracles in the sight of man by the alleged power in that name, as the apostles did, including “casting out demons” or performing exorcisms, be told by Jesus “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice iniquity or sin or lawlessness?

The obvious answers are: (1) Miracles or “signs and wonders” are not a sure sign of divine origin and power. In fact, from the very beginning, Satan, the subtle serpent, and great dragon, the devil (Rev. 12: 3-9) was and ever will be the counterfeit master miracle-worker as “the father of lies and murderer from the beginning”, who first deceived a third of the angels in heaven, then deceived Eve, the mother of mankind, in the pure and sinless atmosphere and environs of Eden in the yet-unfallen earth. Continuing his satanic schemes and work, he proceeded to successfully and sadly deceive patriarchs, prophets, kings, and God’s very own chosen people starting with the United Kingdom of Israel, then the ten northern kingdoms, followed by Judah of the

southern kingdom and onwards to the Jewish nation up to very time of Christ!

It is a fatal mistake in these last days, particularly during the prophesied stupendous closing events indicating the closing hours of earth's probation, to *blindly* (1) rely on one's senses (2) yield to church authorities and their edicts, (3) obey the laws of the land that openly contradict what the Holy Scriptures says, (4) determine truth by the consensus of a majority—all independent of a clear "Thus says the Lord."

By falling to any or all the above in spite of all the warnings raised from the very beginning by the prophets in the Old and the apostles in the New and specifically proclaimed in a "loud voice," meaning, increasing in reach, magnitude, frequency and intensity globally by the three angels' messages of the advent movement described in Revelation 14 and 18, one either becomes deceived or an apostate or both, and is numbered among the countless that make up morally and spiritually fallen, apostate churches that comprise "Mystery Babylon the Great the Mother of Harlots and the Abominations of the Earth." Revelation 17. This is the "mother church" and her "daughters," the once-pure churches that turned apostate by following the example of the mother church, primarily as the persecuting power against the commandment-keeping saints of the last days (Rev. 14: 12).

Consider only two of the many of passages of Scripture specifically warning of the major forms of deceptions Satan has been perfecting since then that will reach its fearful climax described by the inspired writer as Satan's "overmastering deception" when he finally appears in person, *impersonating Christ Himself* during the sixth plague described in Revelation 16: 12-14. This final counterfeiting act takes place just before Jesus comes in all His glory, immediately after the end of the last and seventh plague. Here they are: (1) **See 2 Thess. 2: 1-12** (2) **Revelation 13: 11-18**.

To Christians who truly believe and rely on *sola scriptura*, that is, "the Bible and Bible only as the rule of faith," which reveals by way of history being repeated antitypically, fulfilling unerring prophecy of the unmistakable signs marking the closing events of earth's history, it should be beyond any doubt now that mankind has already reached a point where the transgression of God's law is well-nigh universal, and irreversible.

What lies next, as a matter of the prophetic "it shall come to pass," therefore irreversible and just a matter of when (though no longer subject to any specific prophetic time period which ended in 1844) is when God's law is finally made "void" by a legislative act by the most divinely-favored Christian nation on earth, according to specific prophecy of Revelation 13. It is thus that we need to immediately cite the extracts below from the inspired pen of Ellen G. White which succinctly encapsulates the profound core issues--- missed, or grossly misunderstood and thus misdiagnosed by practically all the so-called experts and scientists of all stripes---undergirding and driving all the unprecedented, intertwined health, financial, political, even military, and soon religious crises and trauma that is bringing America and the world as it were "down to its knees." How and when it will "rise from its knees" to do what is likewise revealed hereunder based on the specific applicable prophecies of Daniel and Revelation.

Furthermore these extracts quickly unveil what has really been going on behind the

scenes---under the thick camouflage and deluge of unprecedented manifestation of the corrupt “refined art” of public denials, deflections, diversions, distractions, falsehoods foisted as “alternate facts,” “alternate truths” and even blatant, repeated lying, coupled and exacerbated by the double whammy of wild and juiced-up conspiracy theories and counterfeit prophecies spread viral-broadcast by media of every type now—social, cable and traditional)---only by to those willing, as always, to heed to the Word, as what to expect and prepare for in the coming days. (Comments and notes provided by this writer as indicated):

“No error accepted by the Christian world strikes more boldly against the authority of Heaven, none is more directly opposed to the dictates of reason, none is more pernicious in its results, than the modern doctrine, so rapidly gaining ground [back in 1884], **that God’s law is no longer binding upon men.** Every nation has its laws, which command respect and obedience; no government [including tribes, kingdoms and monarchies] could exist without them; and can it be conceived that the Creator of the heavens and the earth has no law to govern the beings He made? It would be far more consistent for nations to abolish their statutes, and permit their people to do as they please, than for the Ruler of the universe to annul His law, and leave the world without a standard to condemn the guilty or justify the obedient. Terrible were the scenes enacted in France when atheism [Godless, lawless society] became the controlling power [during the French Revolution, 1793-1797]. It was then demonstrated to the world that to throw off the restraints which God has imposed is to accept the rule of the cruelest of tyrants. When the standard of righteousness is set aside, the way is open for the prince of evil to establish his power on earth.”

“Wherever the divine precepts are rejected, sin ceases to appear sinful, or righteousness desirable. Those who refuse to submit to the government of God [by individually obeying God’s law] *are wholly unfitted to govern themselves.* Through their pernicious teachings, the spirit of insubordination is implanted in the hearts of the children and youth, who are naturally impatient; and *a lawless, licentious state of society results.* While scoffing at the credulity of those who obey the requirements of God, the multitudes eagerly accept the delusions of Satan. They give the rein [of control] to lust, and practice the *sins which gave called down [God’s] judgments upon the heathen.*

What you sow, you reap.- “Those who teach the people to regard lightly the commandments of God, *sow disobedience to reap disobedience.* Let the restraint imposed by the divine law be wholly cast aside, and human laws would soon be disregarded. Because God *forbids dishonest practices, coveting, lying, and defrauding,* men are ready to trample upon His statutes as a hindrance to their worldly prosperity; but the results of banishing these precepts would be *such as they do not anticipate.*

What are they? “*If the law were not binding, why should any fear to transgress? Property would be no longer safe. Men would obtain their neighbors’ possessions by violence; and the strongest would become the richest [i.e., in earthly riches]. Life would not be respected [whether black, white, brown or yellow skinned]. The marriage vow [between man and woman only] would no longer stand as a sacred bulwark to protect*

the family. He who had the power, would, if he desired, take his neighbor's wife [or husband] by violence. The fifth commandment would be set aside with the fourth. Children would not shrink from taking the life of their parents, if so by doing they can obtain the desire of their corrupt hearts. The civilized world would become [uncivilized] a horde of robbers and assassins; and peace, rest, and happiness would be banished from the earth [the same conditions existing on earth before the Flood, ten times greater].

“Already that men are released from obedience to God's requirements has weakened the force of moral obligation, and opened the flood-gates of iniquity upon the world. Lawlessness, dissipation, and corruption are sweeping in upon us like an overwhelming tide.

“In the family, Satan is at work. His banner [not confederate, union, American, Klu Klux clan, etc.] waves, even in professedly Christian households. There is envy, evil-surmising, hypocrisy, estrangement, emulation, strife, betrayal of sacred trusts, indulgence of lust.

*“The whole **system** of religious principles and doctrines [the real, qall-encompassing ‘systemic’ disease and problem, not merely racial prejudice], which should form the foundation and framework of social life, seems to be a tottering mass, ready to fall to ruin [together with spiritual ‘Babylon the great’].*

“The vilest of criminals, when thrown into prison for their offenses, are often made the recipients of gifts and attentions, as if they had attained and enviable distinction. Great publicity is given to their character and crimes [Thanks but no thanks to the news outlets, book publishers, and film producers]. The press [particularly social and internet media] publishes [and even garnishes] the revolting details of vice [based allegedly on the Freedom of Information] thus initiating others into the practice of fraud, robbery, and murder; and Satan exults in the success of his hellish schemes. [The great problem is that people no longer believe in the real Satan as the fallen Lucifer].

“The infatuation of vice, the wanton taking of life, the terrible increase of intemperance [in the whole life style] and iniquity of every order and degree, should arouse all who fear God, to inquire can be done to stay the tide of evil.”

NOTES: (1) “What can be done to stay the tide of evil”? This is one question the honest in heart have been asking for centuries down to the very present time so descriptive of these very conditions bemoaned. This problem will never find any real and permanent solution in anything based on the wisdom of finite man in his corruptible flesh, or his highest concepts laws and loftiest standards. The only answer is found in the genuine gospel of the establishment of God's spiritual kingdom of righteousness in the heart of man, based of His moral law of Ten Commandments. This everlasting law, which is the standard of Christ's righteousness embodied in His character and life, must be “written in the minds and hearts” of the willing individual and only thus will it produce a “new man in Christ Jesus,” possessing “a new heart, a new mind, and a new spirit” under the New Covenant.

(2) In the unprecedented cascade of contradictions---which will soon join the ranks of

the compromised “new normal” league---taking place before our very eyes and ears, it isn’t so strange anymore that those who, in self-righteousness virulently attack the media, media outlets and news of their own cherry and nit-picking expertise as “fake media,” are using the same media to promote their own counter “news or narratives.” It is already next to impossible to distinguish as to who is telling the “truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth” or not---unless exclusively by “the truth as it is in Jesus” (Eph. 4: 21; cf. John 14: 6), as “it is Written,” not in the books and laws of men but in the Holy Scriptures. As Jesus said, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.” (Matt. 12: 25, K.J.V.).

“Courts of justices are corrupt. Rulers are actuated by desire for gain, and love of sensual pleasure. Intemperance has beclouded the faculties of many, so that Satan has almost complete control of them. Jurists are perverted, bribed, deluded. Drunkenness and revelry, passion, envy, dishonesty of every sort, are represented among those who administer the laws. ‘Justice standeth afar off; for truth is fallen on the street, and equity cannot enter.’ Isa. 59: 14, K.J.V.

Q. Why does it somehow seem to be like the Dark Ages in this age of religious freedom?

“The iniquity and that prevailed under the supremacy of Rome were the inevitable result of her suppression of the Scriptures; *but where is to be found the cause of the wide-spread infidelity, the rejection of the law of God, and the consequent corruption, under the full blaze of the gospel light in the age of religious freedom?* Now that Satan can no longer keep the world under his control by withholding the Scriptures, he resorts to other means to accomplish the same object. To destroy faith in the Bible serves his purpose as well as to destroy the Bible itself. By introducing the belief that God’s law is not binding, he as effectually leads men to transgress as if they were wholly ignorant of its precepts.

“And now, as in former ages he has worked through the church [the apostate churches, that is] to further his designs. The religious organizations of the day have refused to listen to unpopular truths [such as proclaimed by the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14, etc.] plainly brought to view in the Scriptures, and in combating them they have adopted interpretations and taken positions which have sown broadcast the seeds of skepticism.

“Clinging to the *papal error* of natural immortality and man’s consciousness at death, they have rejected the *only defense* against the delusions of Spiritualism. The doctrine of eternal torment [depicted in the Vatican as ‘Dante’s hell’] has led many to disbelieve the Bible.

“And as *the claims of the fourth commandment are urged upon the people* [by those proclaiming “by pen and voice” the three-fold third angel’s message], *it is found that the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath is enjoined; and as the only way to free themselves from a duty which they are unwilling to perform, many popular teachers declare that the law of God is no longer binding.* As the work of Sabbath reform extends, *this rejection of the divine law to avoid the claims of the fourth commandment will become well-nigh universal.* The teachings of religious leaders [in the Christian mainstream that have become politically-aggressive, as prophesied in Revelation 13,

etc.] have opened the door to infidelity, to Spiritualism [the belief that the “soul” immediately goes to paradise at death], and to contempt for God’s holy law; *and upon these leaders rests a fearful responsibility for the iniquity that exists in the Christian world* [not in the “Gentile,” heathen, or pagan worlds or nations].” - Ellen G. White, “*The Great Controversy*,” Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountain View, CA., 1911 edition, pp. 584-587.

The only work remaining now on earth---simultaneous with Christ finishing up His High Priestly and Mediatorial closing work of blood atonement and investigative pre-advent judgment in the heavenly sanctuary began in 1844, is to warn the *living and rational* who are *yet* “sitting in darkness,” sadly ignorant or fearfully deceived as to the real issues bearing eternal consequences *from* the compellingly dazzling counterfeits and distractions---desperate schemes of Satan, the cunning serpent, master deceiver, “the father of lies and murderer from the beginning.”

These specific global warnings, still mingled with divine mercy, are the burden and core of the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14: 6-12 that open up with this warning: “Fear God and give glory to Him for the hour of His judgement has come” This is immediately followed by the second and the third. These are capped with the revelation of who God calls His saints of the last days, as their response to the warnings of the three angels’ messages: “Here is the patience of the saints: here are *they that keep the commandments of God* and the faith of Jesus.” They are the commandment-keepers of the last days, and thus have the faith of Jesus. They are the law-abiding members of His spiritual kingdom on earth, preparing to inherit eternal life and the earth made new as Christ’s rewards when He returns in glory.

And as repeatedly warned of by the prophets of Old and re-echoed and magnified by the apostles in the New Testament, when that flash point is reached, God, the Author of the law which is the foundation of His everlasting throne of love, the transcript of His character and that which governs the measureless heavenly universe, will manifest His divine power and righteous justice towards the impenitent transgressors in divine wrath. David declared that when God’s law is finally made void by the final confederacy of the combined apostate powers of earth, it is then God’s time, declaring: “It is time for Thee Lord to work, for they have made void Thy law.” Ps. 119: 126, KJV.

It is because of the imminence of this fearful probation-closing event that a review of the vital elements of God’s law takes temporary precedence over the continuation of our study on the “Two Witnesses,” which will be resumed in subsequent issues. All who hope not to fail when the final test on this issue comes, centering on the fourth commandment, should find this reiteration helpful. Now this:

“Christ’s death did not make the law of God of none effect; it did not slay the law, lessen its holy claims; nor did it detract from its sacred dignity. The death of Christ proclaimed the *justice* of His Father’s law in punishing the transgressor, *in that He consented to suffer the penalty of the law Himself, in order to save fallen man from its curse*. The death of God’s beloved Son on the cross, shows the *immutability* of the law of God. It *magnifies* the law and makes it *honorable*, and gives evidence to man of its *changeless* character The death of Christ justified the claims of the law.” Ellen G. White, Vol. 2 *Testimonies for the Church*, p. 201. (emphasis supplied).

Let's make this clear. Instead of *Christ's death* on Calvary's cross "crucifying," "slaying" or "doing away" with the law, as strangely asserted, not by what they class as heathen or pagan religions but by mainstream Christianity, thus contradicting themselves as followers of Christ relying on "the Bible and Bible only," not tradition, "as the rule of faith"--- it loudly proclaimed to "men, angels and the world" the JUSTICE of the Father's law in *punishing the transgressor of the law.*" How?

In order to *save* the guilty human race from the immutable *curse* of the law, which is eternal death to the transgressor, and not the law itself, the Creator Himself first *incarnated* into human flesh and blood so that in His adopted *sinless* humanity He could, and in fact and truth, indeed "suffer the curse of the penalty of the law," not as a sinner but as the sinner's *substitute* and surety. This was made possible because "He was tempted in all points as men is tempted yet without sin." As the "second Adam," He not once yielded in thought or act, in His flesh and blood nature to any and all of Satan's temptations. He obtained the victory over the same grounds on which the first Adam was tempted and fell, in our behalf.

By His ignominious yet glorious death on the cross, Calvary stands as its monument and memorial of Him fulfilling the special prophecy that the incarnated Creator would "magnify the law and make it honorable," which is the exact opposite of "abrogating," "crucifying," "doing away with" or "slaying" of the law! Thus the Creator not only became mankind's substitute and surety but the Savior and Deliverer *from* the bondage or slavery to sin and the power of sin as well as the sinner's Example and Pattern Man in the work of overcoming the world, the flesh and the devil, perfecting moral character as the preparation to *fit* one to *inherit* the promised rewards of eternal life, immortality, heaven and the earth made new, the heavenly Canaan. So here starts our review:

The Law of God Before It Was Proclaimed Upon Mount Sinai

Sin is not imputed when there is no law. Apostle Paul says: "**For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.**" Rom. 5: 13.

What Calvary and the Cross of Christ Truly Means. -- Like every single truth contained in the genuine gospel of the plan of salvation for fallen, sinful mankind, Satan immediately sought to attack the meaning and substance, and thus introduce the counterfeit of the atoning sacrifice Jesus inaugurated in Eden in the first promise and promise given in Genesis 3: 15, to redeem the sinner from the curse of the law against sin. This he achieved by immediately corrupting the true meaning and application, thus the efficacy of animal/blood sacrifices that distinguished the Abel-worship from the Cain-worship and on to the Mosaic dispensation, which all pointed forward, as types and shadows to the ultimate, antitypical sacrifice of the Creator incarnate at Calvary as "the Lamb of God that takes the sins of the world away." This resulted in the earliest form of heathen and pagan perverted and cruel forms of worship that cause the apostasies of Israel and Judah and were carried forward into the opening of the Christian dispensation, to our time, and onwards till the close of time as the apex of false worship and counterfeit religion. Now this:

"Those only who realize that the cross is the center of hope for the human

family can understand the gospel that Christ taught. He came to this world for no other purpose than to place man on *vantage ground* before the world and the heavenly universe. He came to bear testimony that fallen beings, through faith in His power and efficacy as the Son of God [divine nature], may become partakers of the divine nature. He alone could make atonement [at-one-ment] for sinners and open the gates of paradise to the fallen race. He took on Himself, not the nature of angels, but the nature of man, and in this world lived a life untainted by sin. ‘The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we held His glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.’ ‘As many as receive Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.’ John 1: 14, 12, KJV.

“By His life and death Christ taught that only in obedience to God’s commandments can man find safety and true greatness. ‘The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.’ Ps. 19: 7. God’s law is a transcript of His character.” – Ellen G. White, Vol. 8 *Testimonies*, pp. 207, 207.

(To be continued in the next issue)