

friend. This is not the great motive. It savors of selfishness. Is it necessary that the terrors of the day of God be held before us to compel us through fear to right action? This ought not to be. Jesus is attractive. He is full of love, mercy, and compassion. He proposes to be our friend" (*Review and Herald*, August 2, 1881).

Right now we have time and opportunity to impact the world with the gospel. How much time, we don't know. But this we do know: In the light of God's great love for us, we are called upon to "carry out great exploits" (Daniel 11:32, NKJV) to advance the knowledge of His saving grace to the nations. Whether or not the economy is going to crash next month or next year, we already have all the reason we need to place all we have and are on the altar of service to the Lord. If it takes a prediction of financial ruin to wake us up, then our awakening is false at heart anyway. We are still fatally asleep and don't even know it.

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Events Schedule

- **October 9-12**
 Oslo, Norway
 Ty Gibson—Kai-Sture.Wiik@tandbergdata.com
- **October 10-11**
 Tracy SDA Church, CA
 James Rafferty—☎(209)835-5342
- **October 17-19**
 Bullhead City SDA Church, AZ
 James Rafferty—☎(928)758-8215
- **October 31–November 2**
 Johannesburg, South Africa
 James Rafferty—papuj@sid.adventist.org
- **November 3-5**
 Port Elizabeth, South Africa
 James Rafferty—papuj@sid.adventist.org
- **November 6-10**
 Cape Town, South Africa
 James Rafferty—papuj@sid.adventist.org
- **December 5-6**
 Cottage Grove SDA Church, OR
 James Rafferty—☎(541)942-5213

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 Our purpose is to help proclaim the gospel
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MISSION UPDATE

The Newsletter of Light Bearers Ministry



The Abomination of Desolation

By James Rafferty

Over the years the phrase, the "abomination of desolation," taken largely from the book of Daniel and quoted by Jesus in Matthew 24, has drawn much attention.

In the following Scripture, Bible prophecy indicates that the abomination of desolation is something that will replace the "daily"—they "shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate" (Daniel 11:31).

In the Torah (the first five books of the Bible), specifically in Numbers and Leviticus, the "daily" (Strong's 8548) is identified with the earthly sanctuary service. The sacrifices, the incense, the lamps, the shewbread and the ministration of the priests were all identified as "daily" or "continual" (8548) aspects of the sanctuary service (Leviticus 6:13; 24:2; Exodus 28:29; 29:42; 30:8; Numbers 4:7). The earthly sanctuary and its divine ordinances all pointed to Jesus as

the ultimate sacrifice, incense, light, bread and priest (Hebrews 7:27; Ephesians 5:2; John 1:9; John 6:51; Hebrews 7:24). In this way the taking away of the daily and its replacement with the abomination of desolation points to Satan's goal to take away our dependence on Jesus and exalt man in God's place. It points to self-worship or "I" worship in the place of God worship (Isaiah 14:12-14).

It may be easy enough for us to identify the more obvious manifestations of this in our world today, but do we see where self has replaced God in our own lives?

In this regard God is calling us back to Him, to look to Him, rejoice in Him, be glad in Him, love Him and to say "continually [8548], the Lord be magnified" (Psalm 40:16). Jesus longs for us to "seek His face continually [8548]" (1 Chronicles 16:11), to give Him thanks, make known His deeds among the people, sing unto Him, to glory in God and

remember His marvelous works (1 Chronicles 16:8-12). When we look to God instead of man, "His praise shall continually [8548] be in our "mouths" (Psalm 34:1). We will look for God's "loving-kindness" and "truth" to "continually [8548] preserve" us (Psalm 40:11). God alone will be our "strong habitation" where we "continually [8548] resort" (Psalm 71:3). We will keep His law, not man's, "continually" (8548) on our hearts (Psalm 119:44; Proverbs 6:21).

Putting man in the place of God, man's law in the place of God's law, man's standard in the place of God's standard, looking to men instead of to God—this is the abomination of desolation. It is Satan's goal to take from us all that is promised in these Scriptures and focus our attention on man, so that we look to man, trust in man and expect much from man. This is an abomination because it makes us desolate of God's love, praise, presence and salvation. Amen.

CONSIDER THIS . . .

The enemy is preparing for his last campaign against the church. He has so concealed himself from view that many can hardly believe that he exists, much less can they be convinced of his amazing activity and power. . . .

Man is Satan's captive and is naturally inclined to follow his suggestions and do his bidding. He has in himself no power to oppose effectual resistance to evil. It is only as Christ abides in him by living faith . . . that man may venture to face so terrible a foe. Every other means of defense is utterly vain. It is only through Christ that Satan's power is limited. This is a momentous truth that all should understand.

Ellen G. White,
Maranatha, p. 64

It was not on the cross only that Christ sacrificed Himself for humanity. As He "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38), every day's experience was an outpouring of His life. In one way only could such a life be sustained. Jesus lived in dependence upon God and communion with Him. To the secret place of the Most High, under the shadow of the Almighty, men now and then repair; they abide for a season, and the result is manifest in noble deeds; then their faith fails, the communion

is interrupted, and the lifework marred. But the life of Jesus was a life of constant trust, sustained by continual communion; and His service for heaven and earth was without failure or faltering.

Ellen G. White,
Education, p. 80

An intensity such as never before was seen is taking possession of the world. In amusement, in moneymaking, in the contest for power, in the very struggle for existence, there is a terrible force that engrosses body and mind and soul. In the midst of this maddening rush, God is speaking. He bids us come apart and commune with Him. "Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10.

Ellen G. White,
Education, p. 260

Many, even in their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the blessing of real communion with God. They are in too great haste. With hurried steps they press through the circle of Christ's loving presence, pausing perhaps a moment within the sacred precincts, but not waiting for counsel. They have no time to remain with the divine Teacher. With their burdens they return to their work.

Ellen G. White,
Education, p. 260

ECONOMIC COLLAPSE



By Ty Gibson

Although you are receiving this article in October, I am writing it in August in response to phone calls and emails inquiring about whether or not the United States economy will collapse in September as some are foretelling. From the first time I heard this prediction earlier in the year I have been responding with a confident, "No, the US economy will not collapse in September." This article explains why I'm so sure it will not and why such predictions should not be made by anyone claiming to represent the gospel of Christ.

In Revelation 13 we are told that the day will come when the United States will use its financial leverage to coerce the world to comply with a papacy-like governmental system that will legislate a particular form of worship. Those who refuse to submit to the demands of America will be punished with economic

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penalties: "that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark . . . of the beast" (verse 17, NKJV). This will constitute what Ellen White called "national apostasy," which she goes on to say is "the signal for national ruin" (*Selected Messages*, vol. 2, p. 372). If the enforcement of the mark of the beast is the "signal for national ruin," then we can be certain that national ruin will not occur prior to that legislative action. To pull off a "no-man-can-buy-or-sell" maneuver of the magnitude envisioned in Revelation 13, the US economy will need to be strong enough for such an achievement. In the light of Revelation 13, it is inconceivable that the US economy will collapse this Fall, for the simple reason that the prophetic scenario demands that the United States be in a strategic financial position during the time it coerces the world in false worship.

Those who suggest a collapse of the US economy prior to

the enforcement of the mark of the beast are not allowing Bible prophecy to guide their predictions, but are rather yielding to a general sense of coming trouble without biblical controls on their predictions. Adhering to Bible prophecy is our surest safeguard against making inaccurate predictions. Speculation on such a grave matter is not safe nor is it wise. We have no counsel in the inspired writings that would encourage us to speculate about when the economy will crash. There are too many variables involved for us to make such predictions with accuracy, not the least of which is the fact that God has promised He will hold the "four winds" in check until His people are "sealed" (Revelation 7:1-4, NKJV).

All is definitely not well with the US economy, and we can expect the situation to get worse. This is no time in earth's history to be lulled to sleep in complacency and self-indulgence. But neither is it helpful

to abandon the clearly marked out prophetic schedule God has revealed in favor of predictions that have no basis in Scripture. Every time a preacher announces that the economy is going to crash and the time passes, the spiritual vigor of those who believed the forecast is drained and their confidence in Scripture is weakened. Inevitably, those who make time-definite predictions, once the time passes, simply come up with an explanation to move the time out further in the future with a new prediction. But the entire prediction game is a false premise for motivation. What we really need is to have all our powers of mind and body aroused and motivated by the beautiful love of Jesus. "Christ's love compels us" (2 Corinthians 5:14, NIV), not the fear of financial ruin.

Here are wise words to keep in mind: "The shortness of time is urged as an incentive for us to seek righteousness and make Christ our