

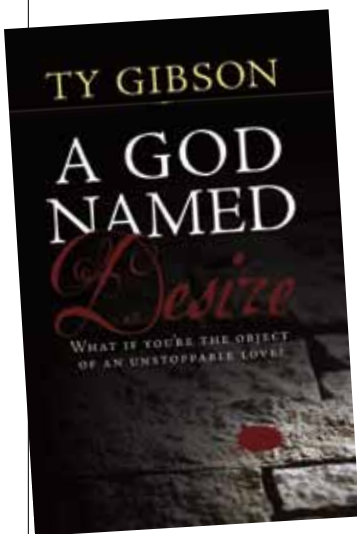
until recently hidden from Christ, cuts off the ear of one of the mob (verses 47-50).

If there was ever a time for the disciples to think they must defend Christ, it is now. They are probably upset with themselves at this point for not seizing the moment and arming themselves to the teeth when Jesus told them to. Yet now, after Peter has cut off the ear of the high priest's servant, Jesus gives Peter and His disciples one of the most incredible lessons in His teaching ministry.

"But Jesus answered and said, 'Permit even this.' And He touched his ear and healed him" (Luke 22:51, NKJV).

Ultimately, our entire trust needs to be in God and not in the weapons of this world. God has appointed the powers that be to protect us from these various dangers (Romans 13:1-7). The description of the church in Revelation 12 points to God as our defense and He can do a much better job than us. We have a part to play, but ultimately our trust must be placed in God. Amen.

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- **December 9**
Franktown Bible Study, CO
Ty Gibson • (541)988-3333
- **January 13**
3ABN Today LIVE—The Languages of Love
James & Rise Rafferty • (618)627-4651
- **January 28–February 5**
Lewiston SDA Church, ID
James Rafferty • (509)295-3991
- **February 6**
Women's Retreat, Veneta, OR
Rise Rafferty • (541)935-3017
- **February 11-13**
Big Lake Retreat, Sisters, OR
James Rafferty • (503)850-3483
- **March 6-19**
Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa
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- **March 13-19**
Bogenhofen Seminary, Austria
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*Light Bearers is a non-profit ministry based in beautiful Oregon State.
Our purpose is to help proclaim the gospel
of our Lord Jesus Christ through the spoken and published word.*

MISSION UPDATE

The Newsletter of Light Bearers Ministry



He Who Kills . . .

By James Rafferty

This is number four of a seven part series on God's church as it is identified in Revelation 12-15. The key verse to consider is Revelation 13:10, NKJV: "He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity: he that kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."

The admonition in this verse is similar to something Christ said to His disciples just before His crucifixion:

"Then said Jesus unto him, 'Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword'" (Matthew 26:52).

The context in which this statement was made is more clearly seen in Luke's account where we find vital insight for God's last day church:

"And He said to them, 'When I sent you without money bag, sack, and sandals, did you lack anything?' So they said, 'Nothing.' Then He

said to them, 'But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a sack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one. For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: And He was numbered with the transgressors. For the things concerning Me have an end'" (Luke 22:35-37, NKJV, emphasis supplied).

The word "for" connects Christ's command in verse 36 with what must happen in verse 37. You need to buy swords because, whether you like it or not, I am going to be crucified. Christ has been trying for over three years to teach His disciples about His mission, but they just don't get it. The disciples are ready to fight to the death for Christ, Messiah. They are not going to allow Him to go to Calvary. In fact, He knows that some have already armed themselves.

"Then they said, 'Lord, look, here

are two swords.' And He said to them, 'It is enough'" (Luke 22:38).

Christ has brought this issue to the forefront. The disciples, as surprised as we are by Christ's words, acknowledge their two concealed swords. What follows next is clearly pivotal. Christ says, "It is enough" (verse 38). This response shows that Christ never intended for all the disciples to get swords.

He obviously has another purpose in mind than what the disciples are thinking. And for that purpose to be accomplished, two swords are enough—but enough for what?

Jesus is not commanding them to get swords to protect themselves or Him, contrary to their plans. Christ's true intent in telling them to get swords is more clearly seen as the story line progresses:

"A multitude" comes to take Jesus. The disciples think to defend Christ, and Peter, using the sword

continued on p. 4 . . .

CONSIDER THIS . . .

The heavenly sentinels, faithful to their trust, continue their watch. Though a general decree has fixed the time when commandment-keepers may be put to death, their enemies will in some cases anticipate the decree, and, before the time specified, will endeavor to take their lives. But none can pass the mighty guardians stationed about every faithful soul. Some are assailed in their flight from the cities and villages; but the swords raised against them break and fall as powerless as a straw. Others are defended by angels in the form of men of war.

Ellen White,
Great Controversy, p. 631

When the earth-born children know it not, they have the angels of light as their companions; for the heavenly messengers are sent forth to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. A silent witness guards every soul that lives, seeking to win and draw him to Christ. The angels never leave the tempted ones a prey to the enemy, who would destroy the souls of men if permitted to do so. As long as there is hope, until they resist the Holy Spirit to their eternal ruin, men are guarded by heavenly intelligences. Let us all bear in mind that in every assembly of the saints

below are the angels of God, listening to the thanksgiving, the praise, the supplication that is offered by the people of God in testimonies, songs, and prayers. Let them remember that their praises are supplemented by the choirs of the angelic host above.

Ellen White,
Signs of the Times, June 6, 1895

When you were in great physical suffering and there was no hope for you in human skill, the Lord pitied you and mercifully removed disease from you. Satan has sought to afflict and ruin you, and even to take your life; but your Saviour has shielded you again and again, lest you should be cut down when your heart was filled with a satanic frenzy, your tongue uttering words of bitterness and unbelief against the Bible and against the truth you once advocated. When Satan has clamored for you, claiming you as his own, Christ has repulsed your cruel and malignant foe with the words: 'I have not yet withdrawn My Spirit from him. He has two more steps to take before he will pass the boundary of My mercy and love. Souls are the purchase of My blood. The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; the Lord rebuke thee.'

Ellen White,
Testimonies for the Church,
vol. 5, p. 338

LIKE LEAVES OF AUTUMN

By James Rafferty

We are on the verge of a transition in evangelism that will bring us to the fulfillment of Revelation 18 when the church will lighten the Earth with the glory of God. The country of Zambia has become a testing ground for a whole new wave of preaching the gospel. If what we are seeing happening there is duplicated in other African countries, and around the world, there is little doubt what the outcome will be:

"And in a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power and who lightens the earth with his glory" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 140).

Picture this reality:

Hundreds of Bible workers, young and old, trained under the leadership of men of experience, organized into groups and teams spreading literature in communities, markets, transit systems and the highways and hedges like the leaves of autumn.

Their spirit is vibrant and their numbers increase. New believers are added to the church, and they in turn are trained and go out.

The movement is fed not only by the power of the Holy Spirit, but by a steady stream of truth-filled literature. The literature begins with Bible lessons and Christ-centered tracts. They are very simple and easy to understand. They bring people to a decision, develop ongoing contacts, take people through the entire message, lead them to surrender their hearts to Jesus Christ, be baptized and join with God's church.

The next wave of literature moves them deeper into the Word—tracts written on the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. They are curious and interested. Spiritual growth continues. They go deeper in their Bible study. They are further grounded, this time in the prophetic understanding of the Bible.

Then they encounter yet another wave, a combination of health tracts and selected chapters from the Spirit of Prophecy (SOP). The health truths they learn meet a real need and SOP materials lead them to a clearer understanding of the word of God.

According to reports from the Zambia, field workers are

now moving to this method of evangelism and it is proving to be more successful than we could have imagined. The crusade ends and the evangelist moves on, but the written word stays to do its work again and again in the hearts and minds of all who read. A piece of paper, some dabs of ink, a few pennies invested and one soul embraces eternal life, and another and another and another. There is nothing like it, or so we have been told:

"I have been shown that the publications already have been doing a work upon some minds in other countries, in breaking down the walls of prejudice and superstition. I was shown men and women studying with intense interest papers and a few pages of tracts upon present truth. They would read the evidences so wonderful and new to them, and would open their Bibles with a deep and new interest, as subjects of truth that had been dark to them were made plain, especially the light in regard to the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. As they searched the Scriptures to see if these things were so, a new light shone upon their understanding,

for angels were hovering over them, and impressing their minds with the truths contained in the publications they had been reading. I saw them holding papers and tracts in one hand, and the Bible in the other, while their cheeks were wet with tears; and bowing before God in earnest, humble prayer, to be guided into all truth—the very thing He was doing for them before they called upon Him. And when the truth was received in their hearts, and they saw the harmonious chain of truth, the Bible was to them a new book; they hugged it to their hearts with grateful joy, while their countenances were all aglow with happiness and holy joy. These were not satisfied with merely enjoying the light themselves, and they began to work for others. Some made great sacrifices for the truth's sake and to help those of the brethren who were in darkness. The way is thus preparing to do a great work in the distribution of tracts and papers in other languages" (*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, pp. 214-215).