



Ellen White.
Visionary
for Kids

Second Quarter 2011

It's Not the End!

When someone dies, it's a sad time, but the Bible gives us hope.

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Goodbyes Aren't Forever

Promise Trail

Will everyone be resurrected?

... and more!



Goodbyes Aren't Forever

Illustrated by Kyle T. Webster

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Visionary



**When Henry
White fell ill,
he and his family
found strength
and hope in
God's Word.**

Henry lay in bed, trying to stay warm as chills ran down his body. What had started out as a common cold had gotten worse and worse, and now he was confined to bed.

A doctor was called, and after checking Henry's symptoms, the doctor pronounced that Henry had pneumonia. He left some medicine behind along with instructions on how to care for the patient.

Henry's two younger brothers, Edson and Willie, often checked on him to see how he was doing. They couldn't believe how sick their brother had gotten. Just days earlier they had been laughing and talking and having a good time together as they worked on gluing copies of a prophetic chart onto cloth backing.

As they worked, Henry had glanced at the prophetic chart his father had designed, once again amazed at the teachings and promises found in the Bible. He was glad that he had studied the Bible, and about a year earlier he had given his life to God and had been baptized.

The door opened quietly, and Henry's father and mother, James and Ellen White, stepped in. Henry smiled weakly and greeted them. He was glad to see them. They had been gone on a trip visiting churches while Henry and his brothers stayed with a family in Topsham, Maine. How sad they were to return and find their oldest son weak and ill.

Mrs. White did all she could for Henry. She brought him food and water and urged him to eat. She made sure he had enough blankets to keep him

warm. She pressed a damp cloth against his burning forehead. And as she took care of him, she prayed and prayed and prayed. “Please, God, spare my son’s life! Please heal him if it be Your will.”

But Henry continued to get worse. As the days slipped by, he talked to his father and mother about death. They knew from studying the Bible that the dead are unconscious as in a sleep and will remain so until Jesus comes again. They talked about the promise of being raised back to life at Jesus’ second coming and the promise of having eternal life.

“Please bury me beside my little brother, John Herbert,” Henry requested. John Herbert had died as a baby, and Henry wanted to be buried beside him because he wanted to be raised with him at the resurrection.

At times when he was awake and felt strong enough, Henry asked for paper and a pen. He wanted to leave messages for his friends and classmates. “Be faithful to Jesus,” he wrote in his letters to them.

One day, about a week after he had gotten sick with pneumonia, his mother was in the room taking care of him. Henry opened his eyes and whispered to her, “I shall meet you in heaven in the morning of the resurrection, for I know you will be there.”

Henry’s mother smiled, tears in her eyes.

Then he asked to see everyone in the house—his mother and father, his brothers, and his friends. As he said goodbye to them, he pointed up and whispered, “Heaven is sweet.” With those words Henry White passed away. He was just 16 years old. The date was December 8, 1863.

As Ellen White prepared for the funeral, she found peace in remembering her son’s final words. Yes, she would see Henry again on the day of the resurrection. Yes, heaven would be sweet.

She also found comfort in the words of 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17: “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

Two funeral services were held for Henry—one in Topsham, Maine, and the second in Battle Creek, Michigan, where he was buried beside his baby brother. As Ellen White and her family sat listening to the funeral sermon by Uriah Smith, she was glad that even in this time of sadness they had the hope of the resurrection and eternal life.

Like Job in the Bible, they could say with confidence: “I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!” (Job 19:25-27).

You've Got Issues

Are all dead people going to be resurrected?

The short answer is YES! However, there are two resurrections. If you're a Christian and hoping to live in heaven forever, then you'll want to be a part of the first resurrection. Here's why:

When Jesus returns to earth again (an event we usually refer to as the "Second Coming"), it will be a multisensory worldwide spectacle in which every eye will see Him (Revelation 1:7). As mountains are splitting and islands are slipping into the sea, the voice of God will be heard above the sound of great thunder and heaven's trumpets, calling the dead to arise! (Revelation 16:18-20; John 5:25). The righteous dead come up out of their graves and go up through the air to meet Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17). The righteous people who are still living when Jesus returns will be caught up with the resurrected ones to meet Jesus in the clouds of heavenly brightness.

But not everyone is raised in the first resurrection. After the redeemed people have lived with God in heaven for 1,000 years (the millennium), God, His angels, and His people all travel within heaven's Holy City—the New Jerusalem—to Planet Earth. Those people who never accepted Jesus as their Savior and did not ask Jesus to forgive their sins, along with those living in rebellion who were destroyed by the consuming brightness of Jesus' second coming (2 Thessalonians 2:8), are raised out of their graves. Satan, who has been roaming the desolate earth for 1,000 years, now rallies his rebellious troops to capture the beautiful City of God. As they circle the fabulous Holy City, fire comes down from God out of heaven and consumes them (Revelation 20).

God calls this final destruction of the wicked his "strange act" (Isaiah 28:21, KJV). It's strange because it doesn't seem like the loving way that God usually acts. And for sure, God takes no pleasure in the destruction of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11). Yet even the wicked will ultimately bow before God and acknowledge that He is fair (Philippians 2:9, 10; Revelation 15:4; *The Great Controversy*, p. 671).

How He hopes that we will say yes to His call to accept Jesus as our Savior so that we can continue to be part of His family on the day of the first resurrection!



A New You

At the resurrection all blemishes and deformities are left in the grave. Everyone who is redeemed will be perfect and beautiful and will live forever! —*Adapted from The Great Controversy, p. 645*



Give a Bible Study: Death and Resurrection

You can share the truth about what happens when a person dies.

1. Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6. The dead don't know anything about what's happening on earth after they die.

2. Psalm 115:17. The dead do not praise God.

3. John 11:11-14. Jesus says death is like sleeping.

4. Acts 2:34. David, called "God's friend" elsewhere in the Bible, didn't go right to heaven when he died, but awaits the resurrection.

5. Genesis 2:7. Life requires two things: a body and the breath of God (spirit). The "soul" does not live separately from the body, floating about someplace.

6. Psalm 146:3, 4. When you die, you have no more thoughts. Your spirit (God's breath of life) goes back to God.

7. 1 Timothy 6:16. The words "immortal soul" do not occur in Scripture because only God has immortality. (Immortal means living

forever, never dying.) God gives immortality to His people at the Second Coming, not at death!

8. 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17. The good news: someday we will see our loved ones who have fallen asleep (died) having faith in Jesus.

9. Psalm 17:15. David understood he would see God at the resurrection, not at death.

10. 1 Corinthians 15:51-54. At the resurrection we will "put on" immortality. (Do people put on something they already have on?) This passage is a beautiful promise that the dead in Christ will be raised at His coming. Praise Jesus—He has the keys to the grave! What a fantastic resurrection day to anticipate!

So what about all this "communication with the dead" stuff? If there is communication going on, it isn't with the dead; it is with Satan and his angels impersonating those who have died (Revelation 16:14; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15). Don't be deceived!

Answer: Promise Trail, p. V5: "For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality."

This Bible study was made especially for young people. You can find more Bible studies for young people at www.AdventSource.com, including the *41 Bible Studies* set by Cindy Tutsch.



Comments from Ellen White about DEATH AND JESUS' SECOND COMING



**From
the
Pen**

Eyes in the Sky?

The dead are not now in heaven, nor are they conscious (Psalm 146:4). Would it really be fun to look down from heaven and see your loved ones sinning and enduring suffering, sadness, and disappointment? Or if your loved one dies unprepared to meet Jesus, how awful it would be to think that they are even now suffering in the flames of hell! Instead, the dead are in their graves, waiting in a sleeplike state for the resurrection. The false idea that we can communicate with the dead came from heathenism.

Family Reunion!

If we continue to trust Jesus as our Savior, we will be reunited on the resurrection day with our friends and family who died with their faith in Jesus.

Satan's Big Lie

After Adam and Eve sinned, Satan ordered his angels to teach a false belief about what happens at death. Satan's lie was this: Every person will live forever and go to either heaven or hell immediately at death. Satan wants to make God look like a revengeful tyrant who plunges people into hell, where they burn forever. He wants people to think that God enjoys watching them suffer. Actually, it's Satan who wants to see people brought to ruin, and he tries to pass off his cruelty on God!

Adapted from *The Great Controversy*, pp. 534, 537, 545, 550, 551, 645.





**Ask
Cindy**

My friend was killed while riding a bike. Is he in heaven?

For thousands of years theologians (people who study the Bible and God-related subjects) and philosophers have debated about **what happens when we die**. Some religions teach that after death a person is **reincarnated** (begins life over again), perhaps multiple times, and may return to earth as a cow, a monkey, or even a cockroach! Other religions teach that at death a person (or the person's soul) **goes immediately to heaven or to hell**, or to a sort of halfway-in-between place called purgatory. Some people believe that there is **no life after death** at all—that when a person dies, that is the end of life forever.

Some of the theories about what happens at death came about because of certain heathen ideas getting mixed together with Christian truths. For example, one of the main churches during the Middle Ages found it was easier to get converts if heathens were allowed to mix some of their teachings with the teachings of Christianity. (This practice of combining religions is sometimes called “syncretism.”)

But for Christians what really matters is not what philosophers or ancient church fathers said about what happens when you die, but rather, **“What did Jesus say?”** And for that answer we must look to the Bible.

When Jesus was here on earth, a man named Jairus begged Jesus to hurry to the house where Jairus' 12-year-old daughter was dying. But before they could get to the house, Jairus' daughter died. When Jesus finally arrived, he found everyone weeping and wailing.

“Do not weep,” Jesus told the mourners; “she is not dead, but sleeping” (Luke 8:52).

Then Jesus took the girl's hand and called to her, saying, “Child, arise!” The breath of life came back into Jairus' daughter, and she immediately got up.

This story helps us understand that **when we die, we are in an unconscious,**



sleeplike state. We do not go immediately to heaven or hell when we die. On the day of the resurrection Jesus' voice will again call to the "sleeping" dead. Those who accepted Him as their Savior when they were alive will hear His voice and rise up to live with Him forever. (For more, check out the Bible study on death and resurrection on page V8.)

Cindy

What Do You Want to Know?

Ask youth pastor Cindy Tutsch any question about Ellen White, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, or the Bible—especially questions on next quarter's *Visionary* topic: Adventist education. Just send your e-mail to cindytutsch@hotmail.com. All of your questions will be answered—and we might even put some of them in a future issue of *Visionary*!





About Ellen White

Ellen White was born in 1827 near Portland, Maine, U.S.A. Seventh-day Adventists believe that God called her to be a prophet and gave her messages through dreams and visions, as foretold in such Bible passages as Joel 2:28, 29 and Ephesians 4:11-13.

Ellen White's writings bring messages of hope that express the love of Jesus for every person. She proclaimed that the Ten Commandments are based on God's great love and that God will help His children keep His commandments as a response to that love. Ellen White dedicated her entire life to serving others.

The editors of *Visionary* invite you to read Ellen White's writings for yourself to discover, enjoy, and build a stronger friendship with Jesus.

For more fun stories and puzzles, visit our online edition of *Visionary* at www.whiteestate.org/vez.

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