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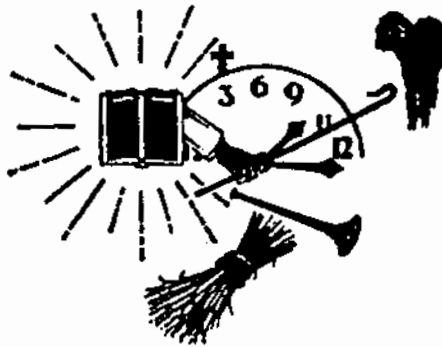
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PURPOSE

This publication is dedicated to the mission of conveying to Davidian present Truth believers, edifying news and articles of timely significance. This comforter freely gives its time to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation, and neither collects fees nor charges for its service.

Address all communications to:

THE SYMBOLIC CODE

Mt. Carmel Center

Waco, Texas

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MANKIND AND HOW IT WILL SOON REACH FRUITION

(The following is the text of a discourse delivered by Sister Houteff at a regional meeting of Davidians held Sabbath, June 30, 1956 at a Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon. Davidians had journeyed to Portland from the states of Washington, Oregon and also from northern California to hear the inspirational and faith-building sermons that were given in the several meetings by the "Hunters" and Sister Houteff.)

I can only hope that you know my deep gratitude for this privilege to be with you here in the great northwest, even though my visit is for only a short time. My great regret is that I could not have visited you before, and that my husband could not have shared with me this pleasant association with you, for I can assure you that it was his desire as well as mine to visit you and thus become more personally acquainted with you and your needs.

I am glad, however, that you have made it your chief concern to study carefully the message of present Truth and that you have made it your guide and fountain of hope which has caused you to rejoice in the Lord and to walk with steady and unwavering feet over the path that has been made rough by the stones and the rocks and the

way in order to bruise your feet and to discourage you in your journey. Yes, I am glad that the joy that is in the Truth and the faith it has inspired in your hearts in the surety of the soon-fulfilment of everything worthwhile, has brought you through this far.

The letters you have written expressing your fidelity to the Truth and relating the experiences you have had as you continuously labored to warn as well as to share with others the Truth which you cherish, have always been a great source of encouragement to us. We believe that it is because of your unabated study of present Truth and your undiminished efforts in behalf of the cause that has made it possible for God to add to your joy and hope in it. For it is a true principle that our satisfaction in anything grows in proportion to the time and effort and study we devote to it.

Since it is our faith and belief that causes us to be associated and bound together, it occurs to me that it would be profitable for us to spend some time refreshing our minds with how God works, and the means He uses with which to accomplish His purpose.

To learn how God works and how He accomplishes His purposes is actually the most interesting subject I know of; for it compasses a universe of thought that affords an eternity of thrilling study and satisfying learning.

All of us are aware of the fact that the two main mediums through which we may learn about God are Nature in its broadest sense and the Sacred Word.

There are of course endless fascinating and beneficial agents that have been, and many which yet will be, observed and harnessed in Nature. But in giving attention to the realm of Nature, man is unable to penetrate very far into its boundless area before he is cognizant that an infinitely more powerful, more intelligent Being is the creator and controller of it all. For man has not yet been able to learn the underlying secret of the operations of even one of the numerous forces or agents of Nature.

It is true that we know a great many things that can be accomplished with electricity for instance, and men have learned much about how to generate and use it; but men cannot tell you what electricity is. Man understands perfectly that plant and animal life grow, but man does not know how God placed the energy necessary for growth into each blade of grass and into every living creature, nor can he tell how God sustains it there through life, nor how it is withdrawn at death.

A contemplation of facts of Nature also makes us aware of the infallibility and harmony of the laws which govern all of creation. To ponder the delicate beauty and sweet fragrance

of the flower; the rhythm of time and the heart; the massiveness and height of the mountain and the properties of the smallest atom; the vastness and order of the universe; the mysteries of energy and reproduction; the heights and depths of measurement and calculation; the powers of reason--all bring the human being to concede that though he himself is fearfully and wonderfully made, and though he has greatly increased his knowledge, yet he is not smart or powerful or great after all when he compares Himself with God whose power and infinite intelligence and influence are back of all the forces of Nature.

But man's attention is so completely absorbed with the study, development, enjoyment and adulation of the results of his scientific research and labor, that there is scarcely any place or time left to reflect on Him Who made this knowledge known to him and this achievement possible. In this respect man shows the tendency to reverence science instead of God.

Though man has indeed enriched himself with certain knowledge, yet God says that man's wisdom is foolishness, and some may wonder about it.

Perhaps the colossal proof, though, that the wisdom of man is foolishness with God is seen in what man has done with the knowledge he with God's permission has searched out from the realm of Nature. Besides all the useful knowl-

edge he has gained from his technological study, you also know that he has learned something else, too. He has learned to make instruments that are powerful for mass destruction. In fact his learning in this is so advanced that those who have learned much about what man can do but little if anything about what God can do, wonder which segment of the human family will suddenly reduce the world to a state of utter disintegration and annihilation! And so men are perplexed and apprehensive, and insecure. That is the ugly picture that man with his wonderful ability has portrayed with the beautiful paints God has given him.

The plight in which the human race now finds itself shows as clearly as anything possibly can that though man has searched for wisdom and has been greatly rewarded, he has not yet obtained understanding.

But just as the dawn is preceded by the darkness, so we can see in the world's present condition if in no other way, that men are about due for a great awakening. Without it all would perish. When they understand that there is still a higher plane of knowledge for them to mount than the knowledge they have attained in their study of Nature; when they realize that the study of Nature is but a step toward a knowledge of God; and when they desire with all their soul to gain a knowledge of God, then will burst upon the world the great awakening. The time for it

is at hand. It is imperative, therefore, that men study and search with great diligence to learn God's purpose and how He intends to accomplish it, so that they may know how to cooperate with Him and thus help bring about perfect results in the spiritual sphere as they have diligently studied and cooperated with the laws of science and were rewarded with results so great that it seems near fantastic to man's finite mind.

We have found that it is through the Sacred Word that God has conveyed to us the knowledge of His great purpose for us. For therein is traced the origin and the destiny of man.

In Daniel 12 we are told that the wise shall understand God's future leadings but none of the wicked will understand. And in Revelation, speaking of events yet future and which are foretold in symbolic language, we find these words: "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six." (Rev. 13:18.)

We see, then, that in order for anyone to understand the deep things of God he must first acquire wisdom. The wise man said, if "thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and

searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous; he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly." Prov. 2:2-7.

In 1 Corinthians 1 we find the Apostle Paul's testimony concerning how God works. Let us read a few verses commencing with the nineteenth

"For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: but we preach Christ crucified unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the

world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, Who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: that, according as it is written, he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." (1 Cor. 1:19-31.)

Here we are frankly told in these few verses how God works: He uses the foolish things to confound the wise and the weak things to confound the mighty; the base and despised things, God chooses; and the things "which are not, to bring to nought things that are." The reason also is given: "That no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: that, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." Verses 29-31.

With this we are reminded that God's ways are simple yet profound, and in order to understand them we must search as for hid treasure; for only those who really want to receive wisdom and understanding will obtain it.

The study of the mystery of God is just as intriguing but even more rewarding than is the

study of natural and physical laws. For without the knowledge of God's supernatural powers man cannot survive, for his salvation is bound up in it.

In observing natural phenomena we learn merely the ordinary results of the harmonious interaction of God's laws which govern everything, but in studying the spiritual we learn about the supernatural or extraordinary.

Let us review a few instances to illustrate this:

Up to Noah's time rain had never fallen and so the antediluvians could not understand that rain ever would fall. But Noah was a deep student of spiritual things and understood perfectly that he should prepare for the great flood which God declared was coming to deluge the world. In making this preparation he was saved while all the rest perished. Those who died in the flood had seen no reason to prepare for the catastrophe because their knowledge of God's power was limited only to the ordinary behaviour of the elements of nature in the past, and therefore Noah's prediction of this extraordinary event seemed impossible to them.

Through this experience men learned that it could rain, but still they were not open for spiritual revelation and therefore they refused to believe that God never again would destroy

the earth by flood. In order therefore to safeguard themselves from future danger by flood, they built a high tower whose top was to provide a refuge when the waters should rise. But here again they were so lacking in understanding the ways of God that it never occurred to them that He could easily throw them into confusion and thus bring their project to a halt and scatter them over the face of the earth by the instantaneous action of merely confounding their language.

And you remember that the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah revelled in the assurance that as it had been ordinary for them to live more and more abundantly day after day, they therefore could do as they pleased with no fear of interference. But because they did not at all possess the knowledge of the Lord they perished in the flames that God sent down from heaven for their destruction.

There was also the Egyptian army that pursued the escaping hosts of Israel to the Red Sea where they were sure that the Israelites would be an easy prey. For were they not caught between the mountains with the sea ahead and their enemies behind? What the Egyptians did not know, though, was that God could divide the sea and let the Israelites go through safely and then close it up at the very time the returning waters would bury everyone of the pursuing Egyptians!

And God's own people, too, had a difficult time learning His ways. For you remember all their troubles in the wilderness were directly caused by their being bound down by their knowledge of only the ordinary. Their knowledge of God's greatness was not advanced enough for them to know that He was able to bring streams of water out of a desert rock, and to prepare a table for them in the desolate wilderness when it becomes necessary.

Now we recall the walls which one time surrounded the city of Jericho. God laid them flat by a miracle because His people finally had learned something of His limitless power, and so in faith they did the simple things He commanded them to do. And then the walls came down. The inhabitants inside the city had also learned well the miraculous way that God had worked for the Israelites, and this knowledge made Jericho's people helpless with fear in that time of fatal crisis for their city and themselves and their cattle and all that they had.

And do you not remember the battle that Israel fought at Gibeah with the five kings of the Amorites who took their armies up to fight against Gibeah because the men of that city had made peace with Israel? Little did they realize that God would put them into confusion and then rain down heavy hail upon them as they fled from before Israel so that more were killed by the hail than by the sword. And in order to com-

pletely avenge themselves upon their enemies, Israel's commander, Joshua, who had learned perfectly God's ways commanded the sun and the moon to stand still a whole day. And the Lord caused it to be so.

Another experience the Lord used to show His people His power was the way He gave Gideon and his three hundred men victory over the hosts of the Midianites. His simple strategy put them into such confusion that they turned their swords upon each other in their panic as they fled from before Gideon's men who, in obedience to God's simple instructions had done no more than blow trumpets, hold lighted lamps, break their pitchers, and shout, "The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" The lesson God so dramatically gave through this experience was that it is not according to might or numbers, but according to the Lord's power and man's faith and obedience that makes him successfully overcome otherwise insurmountable obstacles that are in his way.

Another example of a man who had learned well how God works was Elisha who was able to make iron float, and who was so close in partnership with God that he was able to save Israel twice, because he knew by Divine revelation the strategy that the King of Syria planned against Israel. When the King of Syria found out that Elisha was able to reveal his military secrets

to his enemy and thus defeat his purposes, he sent a host of his men to Elisha's city intent on getting rid of him. In the morning he and his men were discovered by Elisha's young companion who became fearful, and Elisha prayed that the young man's eyes be opened to see the invisible army of God which was present to aid them, and the fiery chariot that made an invisible armor of protection for Elisha and him. He prayed again that the eyes of all those assembled enemy warriors might be blinded so that Elisha, the man whom they were seeking to harm, could himself take them as captives to the King of Israel. When he got them there he prayed the third time that their eyes be opened to see where they were. And if you can imagine yourself in their place while they were standing there before their enemy king completely at his mercy, then you know how convinced they were that Israel had uncommon wisdom and power among them and that they were not to be tampered with!

Of course you are familiar with the impressive dream that the King of Babylon had one night in which he saw a great image of a man whose head was of gold, the arms and breast of silver, the thighs of brass, and the legs of iron and the feet and toes of iron and clay. And you remember, too, that for some reason the king was so troubled over the dream which he could not even remember, that he demanded his

wise men not only to tell him the meaning of it but to tell him the dream itself! And to make matters still worse, they were to fulfil this request or die! That was an impossible order for mere men, do you not think? But Daniel, because he had been a life-time learner in the school of God, was able to do it.

The king, however, had great misgivings about the dream, for how could he like the idea that another kingdom would take over and subdue his kingdom? In taking steps to keep it from happening, he built an image all of gold to symbolize the glory and greatness of Babylon forever, and demanded that everybody bow down and worship it. And all complied with the king's command except the three Hebrew youth who had learned in the school of God that no man can by any means successfully establish himself, nor can a kingdom perpetuate itself, if God does not approve of it. And history bears witness that just as truly as the dream the Babylonian king had showed that there would be three empires to succeed first his own and then each other's, so Babylon fell to Medo-Persia, then came Grecia and then Rome, followed by the several kingdoms and separate governments which came out of Rome and which exist today. And it is well to remember also that the nations of history fell when they were best armed.

We could of course go on and on relating true accounts of instances which demonstrated

God's great wisdom and power. But we shall stop with those we have just reviewed, and allow ourselves to reflect on the fact that the Bible, with its rich treasure of biography and history as well as its laws and wise counsels, truly should be sufficient to "thoroughly" furnish the men of God "unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:17). For the sacred Word has power to impress upon those who will seriously study it that it is indeed God Who has set up and brought down kingdoms, rulers, and individuals, too; that He has supreme control of all the affairs of life.

Though this knowledge is necessary if we would learn how God works and what is our relationship to Him, yet it still falls short of being helpful to the fullest extent, however, if the further provision which is also contained in the Bible is not understood. Unless we know God's great purpose for us and the course and direction we should travel in order to reach that destination, how futile and how meaningless all of life would be! We need therefore to understand what lies in the future. It was for this very reason that prophecy was sealed up in the Bible to be revealed when it is needed.

If we have the benefit of Divinely revealed Scriptural prophecy we need not be perplexed or insecure or fearful because of the foreboding prospects of today, for there in prophecy we learn that not all of mankind is going to succumb to the foolishness of human wisdom, nor will they

be annihilated by it. Rather, through prophecy we learn that all the wise shall awaken to an entirely different and happier concept than the one that is so generally, though perhaps unwittingly held today; namely, that we can get along quite adequately without God. Yes, multitudes soon will learn that it is this fallacious concept that is the very root of our present-day world-wide dilemma. They also will learn that it is not so much bombs that are to be feared, but rather the Lord.

And so we see the human race today shaken with the realization of the grim prospects of seemingly possible self-annihilation, and thus is the world being brought a step nearer to the deeper realization that the human family needs a saviour. In this the mystery of God is working, for it is preparing the inhabitants of the world for the fruition of God's great purpose which is so simply stated in the prayer Christ taught His disciples to pray: "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven."

In the sublime words of Isaiah's chapters sixty and sixty-one we have a description of the conditions that will exist in that Kingdom which is to be set up when "the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people." There we see the excellency and the fulness of God's good pleasure for those who are learners of Him. This Kingdom has in it far more than man could even dream as the ideal individual,

family, and government arrangement. There "violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within its borders;" "a little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation;" no more famine and pestilence will be laid upon the fields but rather the earth will bring forth her bud and the garden shall cause the things that are sown in it to spring forth; and sickness, sorrow and crying will not be there, for the people will be all righteous and the Lord God will be their glory. "Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the Lord, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all. Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow. And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, saith the Lord." Jer. 31:12-14. "And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof." Zech. 8:5.

Thus God will cause "righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations" (Isa. 61:11) and "all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God" (Isa. 52:10), "for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover

the sea." Hab. 2:14.

"And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Mic. 4:2. And "the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted." Isa. 60:12.

With God's pledge to bring all these grand things to pass, it would seem that all would rejoice in the awakening to these good tidings. But, alas! Just as the mystery of God has operated throughout time, so also the mystery of iniquity has operated. And it is the mystery of iniquity which will cause some to be of no understanding. In contrast to those wise who keep the commandments of God and have the Testimony of Jesus and who will therefore be given welcome into the Kingdom of God, are the foolish who will not enter into it, for they are "sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie." Rev. 22:15. Their end is destruction.

The world is about to be brought into the valley of decision where all must choose his own ultimate destiny--whether life, liberty and happiness with God, or sorrow, bondage and death with the Prince of Darkness, the father of lies.

Christ said of the Kingdom of Heaven that it "is like to a grain of mustard seed... which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof." Matt. 13: 31, 32. The learners in the school of God, therefore, will not despise the day of small things. Rather, having received this vision of future glory, they will lay hold upon it and dedicate themselves to its proclamation as God has said:

"I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, and give Him no rest, till He establish, and till He make Jerusalem a praise in the earth." Isa. 62:6, 7.

To these men of Divine foresight nothing will seem as important as the Kingdom of God. So great will be their desire for It that they will speak of It whether men will hear or whether they will forebear, for it is a true message of glad tidings which they carry; they will devote the days and strength of their youth and the prime of their life to its advancement; and they will endure insult and ridicule because they realize that it comes from those having no understanding in the things of God; they will if necessary sacrifice position, riches, family associations and friends; and they will endure hardship and even

threatened death as good soldiers for the cause. The reason they will do so is probably the same reason the world's great inventors did it--because they have a vision of the great benefit to the world which is certain to follow their labors. Christ Himself said, moreover, that "there is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the Kingdom of God's sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting." Luke 18:29, 30.

This should be comforting to all devoted followers in God's cause, and especially comforting to you "hunters" who for the sake of the work have left your children and friends and parents at home while you are engaged in the work of announcing the imminence of the great and dreadful day of the Lord among those who should believe, and themselves join in proclaiming it.

All these things which we have discussed these last several minutes form the reason for the existence of The Davidian Seventh-day Adventists, the heralds of the soon-coming Kingdom of God. This Association was formed for the purpose of calling attention to the fact that we must at once put out of our lives all things which offend and make the Kingdom of God our great love, and thus fit ourselves to be among those, who, without guile in their mouths, shall be granted the privilege of proclaiming with power these glad

tidings of good to all the world. For said Christ, "this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matt. 24:14.

At that time will be completely fulfilled the prayer that Christ prayed just before He was betrayed and killed, --that all who believe on Him may be one in Himself and the Father even as they are one, that the world may know that the Father sent Him into the world.

Now is the time when all of us who hope to gain entrance into the Kingdom which God is so soon to set up which shall never be destroyed nor left to other people, should be wide awake for the snares that will be laid for us through the operation of the mystery of iniquity. For the Devil does not want this Kingdom of God, because he knows that it will mean his certain defeat. And so we need not think for a moment that in its formation when God's people are coming in "one by one" that he will not have a well-fitting tailor-made suit of deception for each of us to put on instead of the "wedding garment." Later, when nations are about to join, he will of course make the great lie for mass deception. But now he is busy with each individual candidate for citizenship in the Kingdom of God which is at hand. And unless we are wide awake to a knowledge of God's claims upon us, unless we know the Truth and love It above absolutely everything else, we stand

to lose. Many throughout the field are awake to this fact, but sadly enough there are some who are sinking into the Devil's quick-sands because there is somewhere within the soul that cherished idol that they choose to serve.

Now is the time when we who profess to be learners of God must choose whether we will serve Baal or whether we will serve God. We have already arrived at the valley of decision. And a warfare is going on over the case of each of us. The correspondence which comes into the Office gives striking evidence of what I am talking about now.

I am glad to report to you that by far the majority of the mail which comes in reflects a deeper experience in the lives of Davidians, both old and new. And the rallying of Davidians everywhere to witness for the Truth more intensely than ever before is exceedingly heartening. You will be encouraged to know that there are an increasing number who are rejoicing over the Truth which they are either restudying from the literature or are studying for the first time through the Davidian Bible Course. Our work has greatly increased.

But I do not believe that our courage in the Message should be based on whether many or few or any are accepting it, but rather it should be based upon the assurance we have through His Word that His Truth is marching on! And even

if it were to be crushed to the ground it will yet rise again. Nothing can defeat Truth. Our courage should be based on those facts, for that is the power of God that is in Truth. It is not Truth because people think it is Truth. It is Truth simply because it is Truth.

As we see State after State covered by the literature and hunting campaign, and the same work going on in foreign countries; as we witness the changes which are taking place at Mt. Carmel which you probably read about in the June issue of The Symbolic Code; and as we see the shaking that is going on in the church and among individuals, we recognize each to be an omen that the "closing work for the church" is drawing to an end.

May each of us, therefore, continue on the path that leads more and more to the perfect day, and may we thus come to "see eye to eye when the Lord brings again Zion." And my prayer for each of us gathered here today and all God's people everywhere, is that we may not be overtaken with the temptations of the times, but may we rather hold fast that which we have that no man take our crowns.