

Habakkuk's Two Tables #21

PART TWO: LINE UPON LINE

THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY

“All need wisdom carefully to search out the mystery of iniquity that figures so largely in the winding up of this earth's history. . . .

“There is no middle path to Paradise restored. The message given to man for these last days is not to become amalgamated with human devising. . . .

“Those whom God has exalted to high positions of trust may turn from heaven's light to human wisdom. . . . All who would possess a character that would make them laborers together with God and receive the commendation of God, must separate themselves from the enemies of God, and maintain the truth which Christ gave to John to give to the world.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 18, 30–36.

AMALGAMATE, v.i. To mix or unite in an amalgam; to blend. *Webster's 1828 Dictionary*.

Genesis 6:1–7

NOAH—MINGLING: (LITTLE BY LITTLE)—VAIN IMAGINATIONS

“For some time the two classes remained separate. The race of Cain, spreading from the place of their first settlement, dispersed over the plains and valleys where the children of Seth had dwelt; and the latter, in order to escape from **their contaminating influence**, withdrew to the mountains, and there made their home. **So long as this separation continued, they maintained the worship of God in its purity.** But in the lapse of time they ventured, **little by little, to mingle** with the inhabitants of the valleys. This association was productive of the worst results. ‘The sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair.’ The children of Seth, attracted by the beauty of the daughters of Cain's descendants, displeased the Lord by intermarrying with them. Many of the worshipers of God were beguiled into sin by the allurements that were now constantly before them, and they lost their peculiar, holy character. **Mingling with the depraved, they became like them** in spirit and in deeds; the restrictions of the seventh commandment were disregarded, ‘and they took them wives of all which they chose.’ The children of Seth went ‘in the way of Cain’ (Jude 11); they fixed their minds upon worldly prosperity and enjoyment and neglected the commandments of the Lord. Men ‘did not like to retain God in their knowledge;’ they ‘**became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**’ Romans 1:21. Therefore ‘God gave them over to a mind void of judgment.’ Verse 28, margin. Sin spread abroad in the earth like a deadly leprosy.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 81.

ABRAHAM—INTERMARRIAGE

“Abraham had marked **the result of the intermarriage of those who feared God and those who feared Him not**, from the days of Cain to his own time. The consequences of his own marriage with Hagar, and of the marriage connections of Ishmael and Lot, were before him. The lack of faith on the part of Abraham and Sarah had resulted in the birth of Ishmael, **the mingling of the righteous seed with the ungodly**. The father’s influence upon his son was counteracted by that of the mother’s idolatrous kindred and by Ishmael’s connection with heathen wives. The jealousy of Hagar, and of the wives whom she chose for Ishmael, surrounded his family with a barrier that Abraham endeavored in vain to overcome.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 173.

MINGLING; LITTLE BY LITTLE; VAIN IMAGINATIONS; INTERMARRIAGE

MINGLING: IMITATED THEIR CUSTOMS AND MANNERS

“But **the descendants of Abraham** departed from the worship of the true God, and transgressed his law. **They mingled with the nations who had no knowledge or fear of God before their eyes, and gradually imitated their customs and manners**, until God’s anger was kindled against them, and he permitted them to have their own way and follow the devices of their own corrupt hearts.” *Signs of the Times*, April 22, 1886.

MINGLING; IMITATED THEIR CUSTOMS AND MANNERS; LITTLE BY LITTLE; VAIN IMAGINATIONS;
INTERMARRIAGE

MOSES & THE MIXED MULTITUDE

MIXED MULTITUDE

“The **mixed multitude** that had accompanied Israel from Egypt were not permitted to occupy the same quarters with the tribes, but were to abide upon **the outskirts of the camp; and their offspring were to be excluded from the community until the third generation**.” Deuteronomy 23:7, 8.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 375.

Thou shalt not abhor an **Edomite**; for he *is* thy brother: thou shalt not abhor an **Egyptian**; because thou wast a stranger in his land. The children that are begotten of them shall enter into the congregation of the Lord in their third generation. Deuteronomy 23:7, 8.

THE HEBREWS INTERMARRIED WITH THE EGYPTIANS

“It was the mixed multitude that came from Egypt with the Israelites who were the principal movers in this dreadful departure from God. They were called a **mixed multitude, because the Hebrews had intermarried with the Egyptians**.” *Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 1, 243.

MOSES—RETURNED TO THE OLD SUPERSTITIONS

“During this period of waiting, there was time for them to meditate upon the law of God which they had heard, and to prepare their hearts to receive the further revelations that He might make to them. They had none too much time for this work; and had they been thus seeking a clearer understanding of God’s requirements, and humbling their hearts before Him, they would have been shielded from temptation. But they did not do this, and they soon became careless, inattentive, and lawless. **Especially was this the case with the mixed multitude.** They were **impatient** to be on their way to the Land of Promise—the land flowing with milk and honey. It was only on condition of obedience that the goodly land was promised them, but they had lost sight of this. There were some who suggested a return to Egypt, but whether forward to Canaan or backward to Egypt, the masses of the people were determined to wait no longer for Moses.

“Feeling their helplessness in the absence of their leader, **they returned to their old superstitions.** The ‘**mixed multitude**’ had been the first to indulge **murmuring and impatience**, and **they were the leaders in the apostasy** that followed. Among the objects regarded by the Egyptians as symbols of deity was the ox or calf; and it was at the suggestion of those who had practiced this form of idolatry in Egypt that a calf was now made and worshiped. **The people desired some image to represent God**, and to go before them in the place of Moses. God had given no manner of similitude of Himself, and He had prohibited any material representation for such a purpose. The mighty miracles in Egypt and at the Red Sea were designed to establish faith in Him as the invisible, all-powerful Helper of Israel, the only true God. And the desire for some visible manifestation of His presence had been granted in the pillar of cloud and of fire that guided their hosts, and in the revealing of His glory upon Mount Sinai. But with the cloud of the Presence still before them, they turned back in their hearts to the idolatry of Egypt, and represented the glory of the invisible God by the similitude of an ox!” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 315.

MINGLING; IMITATED THEIR CUSTOMS AND MANNERS; RETURN TO OLD SUPERSTITIONS; LITTLE BY LITTLE; VAIN IMAGINATIONS; INTERMARRIAGE; IMPATIENT; MIXED MULTITUDE

MOTIVATION

“And they went out, ‘about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children. And **a mixed multitude** went up also with them.’ In this multitude were not only those who were actuated by faith in the God of Israel, but also a far greater number who desired **only to escape from the plagues**, or who followed in the wake of the moving multitudes merely from **excitement and curiosity.** **This class were ever a hindrance and a snare** to Israel.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 281.

MINGLING; IMITATED THEIR CUSTOMS AND MANNERS; RETURN TO OLD SUPERSTITIONS; LITTLE BY LITTLE; VAIN IMAGINATIONS; INTERMARRIAGE; IMPATIENT; MIXED MULTITUDE; MOTIVATED BY FEAR & CURIOSITY

THE FOOLISH VIRGINS

“The coming of Christ, as announced by the first angel’s message, was understood to be represented by the coming of the bridegroom. The widespread reformation under the proclamation of His soon coming, answered to the going forth of the virgins. In this parable, as in that of Matthew 24, **two classes are represented**. . . . Others ‘took their lamps, and took no oil with them.’ **They had moved from impulse. Their fears had been excited by the solemn message, but they had depended upon the faith of their brethren, satisfied with the flickering light of good emotions, without a thorough understanding of the truth or a genuine work of grace in the heart. These had gone forth to meet the Lord, full of hope in the prospect of immediate reward; but they were not prepared for delay and disappointment. When trials came, their faith failed, and their lights burned dim.**

“‘While the bridegroom **tarried**, they all slumbered and slept.’ By **the tarrying of the bridegroom is represented the passing of the time** when the Lord was expected, the disappointment, and the seeming delay. In this time of uncertainty, the interest **of the superficial and halfhearted** soon began to waver, and their efforts to relax; but **those whose faith was based on a personal knowledge of the Bible had a rock beneath their feet**, which the waves of disappointment could not wash away. ‘They all slumbered and slept;’ one class in unconcern and abandonment of their faith, the other class patiently waiting till clearer light should be given. Yet in the night of trial the latter seemed to lose, to some extent, their zeal and devotion. The **halfhearted and superficial** could no longer lean upon the faith of their brethren. Each must stand or fall for himself.” *The Great Controversy*, 391–395.

MINGLING; IMITATED THEIR CUSTOMS AND MANNERS; RETURN TO OLD SUPERSTITIONS; LITTLE BY LITTLE; VAIN IMAGINATIONS; INTERMARRIAGE; IMPATIENT; MIXED MULTITUDE; THE FOOLISH VIRGINS; MOTIVATED BY FEAR & CURIOSITY; HALF-HEARTED & SUPERFICIAL

THE SONS OF LEVI

“Though God had granted the prayer of Moses in sparing Israel from destruction, their apostasy was to be signally punished. The lawlessness and insubordination into which Aaron had permitted them to fall, if not speedily crushed, would run riot in wickedness, and would involve the nation in irretrievable ruin. By terrible severity the evil must be put away. Standing in the gate of the camp, Moses called to the people, ‘**Who is on the Lord’s side?** let him come unto me.’ Those who had not joined in the apostasy were to take their position at the right of Moses; those who were guilty but repentant, at the left. The command was obeyed. It was found that **the tribe of Levi had taken no part in the idolatrous worship**. From among other tribes there were great numbers who, although they had sinned, now signified their repentance. But a large company, **mostly of the mixed multitude** that instigated the making of the calf, stubbornly persisted in their rebellion.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 324.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

“The **mixed multitude** that came up with the Israelites from Egypt were a source of continual temptation and trouble. They **professed** to have renounced idolatry and to worship the true God; but their **early education and training** had molded their habits and character, and they were more or less corrupted with idolatry and with irreverence for God.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 408.

MINGLING; IMITATED THEIR CUSTOMS AND MANNERS; RETURN TO OLD SUPERSTITIONS; LITTLE BY LITTLE; VAIN IMAGINATIONS; INTERMARRIAGE; IMPATIENT; MIXED MULTITUDE; THE FOOLISH VIRGINS; MOTIVATED BY FEAR & CURIOSITY; HALF-HEARTED & SUPERFICIAL; EARLY EDUCATION & TRAINING

THE BREAD OF HEAVEN—PHARISEES

“God continued to feed the Hebrew host with the bread rained from Heaven; but they were not satisfied. Their **depraved appetites** craved meat, which God in his wisdom had withheld, in a great measure, from them. ‘And **the mixed multitude** that was among them fell a lusting; and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely, the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic. But now our soul is dried away. There is nothing at all besides this manna before our eyes.’ **They became weary of the food prepared for them by angels, and sent them from Heaven.** They knew it was just the food God wished them to have, and that it was healthful for them **and their children.** Notwithstanding their hardships in the wilderness, there was not a feeble one in all their tribes. Satan, the author of disease and misery, will approach God’s people where he can have the greatest success. **He has controlled the appetite** in a great measure from the time of his successful experiment with Eve, in leading her to eat the forbidden fruit. He came with his temptations **first to the mixed multitude**, the believing Egyptians, and stirred them up to seditious murmurings. **They would not be content with the healthful food which God had provided for them. Their depraved appetites craved a greater variety, especially flesh meats.**

“**In our day** we see the power of the adversary upon the human mind. Many professing godliness openly transgress the law of God. **In every congregation there is a mixed multitude.** Those who claim to be righteous, while they do not those things that God has commanded, are like **the self-righteous Pharisees.**” *Review and Herald*, February 27, 1900.

MINGLING; IMITATED THEIR CUSTOMS AND MANNERS; RETURN TO OLD SUPERSTITIONS; LITTLE BY LITTLE; VAIN IMAGINATIONS; INTERMARRIAGE; IMPATIENT; MIXED MULTITUDE; THE FOOLISH VIRGINS; MOTIVATED BY FEAR & CURIOSITY; HALF-HEARTED & SUPERFICIAL; PHARISEES; WEARINESS OF HEAVEN’S FOOD DUE TO DEPRAVED APPETITE

PERVERTED APPETITE

“As we receive physical strength from the food we eat, so we are to receive spiritual strength as we study the Word of God. It is as necessary that attention should be paid to the cry of the soul for **spiritual food as that attention should be paid to the cry of a hungry child for temporal food.** A neglect to supply the soul with the bread of life leaves it weak and strengthless, unable to do the will of God. The life of such a one is like the barren fig-tree, destitute of fruit.” *Signs of the Times*, June 26, 1901.

JOSHUA—A NEW GENERATION (A NEW MODEL)

“The people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen the great works of the Lord. Their sins were repented of and forgiven, but the seed of evil had been sown, and it sprang up to bear fruit. Joshua’s life of steadfast integrity closed. His voice was no longer heard in reproof and warning. **One by one the faithful sentinels who had crossed the Jordan laid off their armor. A new generation came upon the scene of action.** The people departed from God. Their worship was **mingled** with erroneous principles and ambitious pride.” *Review and Herald*, September 25, 1900.

MINGLING; IMITATED THEIR CUSTOMS AND MANNERS; RETURN TO OLD SUPERSTITIONS; LITTLE BY LITTLE; VAIN IMAGINATIONS; INTERMARRIAGE; IMPATIENT; MIXED MULTITUDE; THE FOOLISH VIRGINS; MOTIVATED BY FEAR & CURIOSITY; HALF-HEARTED & SUPERFICIAL; PHARISEES; WEARINESS OF HEAVEN’S FOOD DUE TO DEPRAVED APPETITE; A NEW GENERATION

SOLOMON

“Solomon knew that God had chosen Israel, and made them the depository of the true and sacred faith. God had erected a wise barrier between them and the rest of the world, and **only by jealously guarding the ancient landmarks, could they preserve their high and distinct character.** Why then did Solomon become such a moral wreck. He did not act on correct principles. **He cultivated alliances with pagan kingdoms.** He procured the gold of Ophir and the silver of Tarshish, but at what a cost!

“**Solomon mingled error with truth, and betrayed sacred trusts.** The insidious **evils of paganism** corrupted his religion. One wrong step taken, led to **step after step** of political alliance. The polygamy so common in that time was directly opposed to the law of Jehovah. But this evil was introduced into Palestine, and the Israel of God **mingled** in marriage with Phoenicia, Egypt, Edom, Moab, and Ammon, nations which bowed at idolatrous shrines, practicing licentious and cruel rites, greatly dishonouring to God. These Solomon countenanced and sustained. His once noble character, bold and true for God and righteousness, became deteriorated. His profligate expenditure for selfish indulgence made him the instrument of Satan’s devices. His conscience became hardened. His conduct as a judge changed from equity and righteousness to tyranny and oppression. He who had offered the dedicatory prayer when the temple was consecrated

to God, who prayed for the people, that their hearts might be undividedly given to the Lord, was now following a train of circumstances entirely contrary to right. The life which was once wholly dedicated to God, had been given to the enemy.

“Solomon tried to incorporate light with darkness, Christ with Belial, purity with impurity. But in the place of converting the heathen to the truth, pagan sentiments incorporated themselves with his religion. He became an apostate. God was no longer to him the only true and living God, a ruling Providence. He was a religious wreck.

“In the days of Christ the ruins of the groves erected by Solomon for his wives might still be seen. This place was named **the Mount of Offense**, by all the true-hearted in Israel. Solomon little thought that those idol shrines would outlive his reign, even till Shiloh came and looked upon the melancholy sight.

“This case is left on record for all the religious world. **Let those who know the word of the living God, beware of cherishing the errors of the world.** These Satan presents in an attractive style; for he would deceive us, and destroy the simplicity of our faith. **If these errors are introduced, they will mar the precious landmarks of truth.**”
Bible Echo August 29, 1898.

MINGLING; IMITATED THEIR CUSTOMS AND MANNERS; RETURN TO OLD SUPERSTITIONS; LITTLE BY LITTLE; VAIN IMAGINATIONS; INTERMARRIAGE; IMPATIENT; MIXED MULTITUDE; THE FOOLISH VIRGINS; MOTIVATED BY FEAR & CURIOSITY; HALF-HEARTED & SUPERFICIAL; PHARISEES; WEARINESS OF HEAVEN’S FOOD DUE TO DEPRAVED APPETITE; A NEW GENERATION; TEAR DOWN THE LANDMARKS

EZRA STUDIED THE CAUSES

“Very soon thereafter a few of the chief men of Israel approached Ezra with a serious complaint. Some of ‘the people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites’ had so far disregarded the holy commands of Jehovah as to **intermarry** with the surrounding peoples. ‘They have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons,’ Ezra was told, ‘so that **the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people**’ of heathen lands; ‘yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass.’ Ezra 9:1, 2.

“In his study of the causes leading to the Babylonish captivity, Ezra had learned that **Israel’s apostasy was largely traceable to their mingling with heathen nations.**”
Prophets and Kings, 619–620.

NEHEMIAH—LIKE THE MIXED MULTITUDE

“Yet the striking evidence that the hand of the Lord was with Nehemiah was not sufficient to restrain discontent, rebellion, and treachery. ‘In those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters unto Tobiah, and the letters of Tobiah came unto them. For there were many in Judah sworn unto him because he was the son-in-law of Shechaniah.’ **Here are seen the evil results of intermarriage with idolaters. In this union, Satan had gained the victory.** A family of Judah had connected themselves with the enemies of God, and the relation had proved **a snare to the people.** Many others also united in **marriage with the heathen. These, like the mixed multitude that came up with Israel from Egypt, were a source of constant trouble.** They were **not whole-hearted** in the

service of God. When his work demanded a sacrifice, they were ready to violate their own solemn oaths of co-operation and support. All this had tended to weaken and discourage those who sought to build up the cause of God.” *Signs of the Times*, January 3, 1884.

THE DAYS OF CHRIST

CHRIST—DECEPTIVE REASONING

“Christ gave to the world a lesson that should be engraved on mind and soul. ‘This is life eternal,’ he said, ‘that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.’ But Satan works on human minds, saying, **Do this or that action, and ye shall be as gods.** By **deceptive reasoning** he led **Adam and Eve to doubt God’s word**, and to supply its place with **a theory** that led to transgression and disobedience. And **his sophistry is doing today what it did in Eden.** When Christ came to our world, he selected humble fishermen as the foundation of his church. To these disciples he tried to explain the nature of his kingdom and mission. But their limited comprehension imposed a restraint upon him. They had been receiving **the sayings of the scribes and Pharisees**, and therefore much of what they believed was untrue. And though Christ had many things to say to them, they were unable to hear much of what he longed to communicate.

“Christ finds **the religionists of this time** so full of **erroneous sentiments** that there is no room in their minds for the truth. With the **education** given, teachers **mingle** the sentiments of infidel authors. Thus they have sown tares in the minds of the youth. They give utterance to sentiments that should not be presented to young or old, never thinking of what kind of seed they are sowing, or of the harvest they will have to garner as the result.” *Review and Herald*, July 3, 1900.

MINGLING; IMITATED THEIR CUSTOMS AND MANNERS; RETURN TO OLD SUPERSTITIONS; LITTLE BY LITTLE; VAIN IMAGINATIONS; INTERMARRIAGE; IMPATIENT; MIXED MULTITUDE; THE FOOLISH VIRGINS; MOTIVATED BY FEAR & CURIOSITY; HALF-HEARTED & SUPERFICIAL; PHARISEES; WEARINESS OF HEAVEN’S FOOD DUE TO DEPRAVED APPETITE; A NEW GENERATION; TEAR DOWN THE LANDMARKS; DECEPTIVE REASONING; SCRIBES

“In the days of Christ these lessons had been lost sight of. Men had well-nigh ceased to discern God in His works. The sinfulness of humanity had cast a pall over the fair face of creation; and instead of manifesting God, His works became a barrier that concealed Him. Men ‘worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator.’ Thus the heathen ‘became **vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**’ Romans 1:25, 21. **So in Israel, man’s teaching had been put in the place of God’s.** Not only the things of nature, but the sacrificial service and the Scriptures themselves—all given to reveal God—were so perverted that they became the means of concealing Him.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 18.

MINGLING; IMITATED THEIR CUSTOMS AND MANNERS; RETURN TO OLD SUPERSTITIONS; LITTLE BY LITTLE; VAIN IMAGINATIONS; INTERMARRIAGE; IMPATIENT; MIXED MULTITUDE; THE FOOLISH VIRGINS; MOTIVATED BY FEAR & CURIOSITY; HALF-HEARTED & SUPERFICIAL; PHARISEES;

WEARINESS OF HEAVEN'S FOOD DUE TO DEPRAVED APPETITE; A NEW GENERATION; TEAR DOWN THE LANDMARKS; DECEPTIVE REASONING; SCRIBES; MAN'S TEACHING IN PLACE OF GOD'S

LUTHER

“The Reformer continued searching the Scriptures, praying, preaching, and writing. He knew not how soon his work might close, and he be deprived of liberty or even life; but so long as God should will it, he determined to labor for the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom. The knowledge that precious souls were everywhere receiving the truth, filled him with joy.

“It was his work to build in the temple of the Lord. There were living stones buried from sight amid the papal rubbish of false doctrines, forms, and ceremonies, and he must search them out, and lay them on the true foundation. The followers of Christ were not then united as a peculiar and holy people separate from the world. They were **mingled** with the sons of Belial, and must be separated by the power of divine truth.” *Signs of the Times*, July 19, 1883.

VAIN IMAGINATION—BOOKS, AUTHORS & AUTHORITIES

“Cold, philosophical speculations and scientific research in which God is not acknowledged are a positive injury. And the evil is aggravated when, as is often the case, **books** placed in the hands of the young, accepted as **authority** and **depended upon in their education**, are from authors avowedly infidel. Through all the thoughts presented by these men their poisonous sentiments are interwoven. The study of such **books** is like handling black coals; a student cannot be undefiled in mind who thinks along the line of skepticism.

“The authors of these **books**, which have sown **the seeds of doubt and infidelity** broadcast over the world, have been **under the training of the great enemy of God** and man, the acknowledged head of principalities and powers, the ruler of the darkness of this world. The word that God has spoken concerning them is, ‘They . . . became **vain in their imaginations**, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became **fools**.’ ‘because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful.’ Romans 1:21, 22. **They rejected divine truth in its simplicity and purity for the wisdom of this world.**

“Whenever **books** by these infidel authors are given the precedence, and the word of God is made secondary, there will be sent out of the schools a class of students no better fitted for the service of God than they were before they received their education.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, 424.

MINGLING; IMITATED THEIR CUSTOMS AND MANNERS; RETURN TO OLD SUPERSTITIONS; LITTLE BY LITTLE; VAIN IMAGINATIONS; INTERMARRIAGE; IMPATIENT; MIXED MULTITUDE; THE FOOLISH VIRGINS; MOTIVATED BY FEAR & CURIOSITY; HALF-HEARTED & SUPERFICIAL; PHARISEES; WEARINESS OF HEAVEN'S FOOD DUE TO DEPRAVED APPETITE; A NEW GENERATION; TEAR DOWN

TWO PARTIES IN ADVENTISM

“There are but two parties, Satan works with his crooked, deceiving power, and through **strong delusions he catches all who do not abide in the truth**, who have turned away their ears from **the truth**, and have turned unto **fables**. Satan himself abode not in the truth, **he is the mystery of iniquity**. Through his subtlety he gives to his soul-destroying **errors the appearance of truth**. **Herein is their power to deceive**. It is because they are **a counterfeit of the truth** that Spiritualism, Theosophy, and the like deceptions gain such power over the minds of men. Herein is the masterly working of Satan. He pretends to be the Savior of man, the benefactor of the human race, and thus he more readily lures his victims to destruction.

“We are warned in the word of God that sleepless vigilance is the price of safety. Only in the straight path of truth and righteousness can we escape the tempter's power. But the world is ensnared. Satan's skill is exercised in devising plans and methods without number to accomplish his purposes. **Dissimulation** has become a fine art with him, and he works in the guise of an angel of light. God's eye alone discerns his schemes to contaminate the world with false and ruinous principles bearing on their face the appearance of genuine goodness. He works to restrict religious liberty, and to bring into the religious world a species of slavery. Organizations, institutions, unless kept by the power of God, will work under Satan's dictation to bring men under the control of men: and fraud and guile will bear the semblance of zeal for truth, and for the advancement of the kingdom of God. Whatever in our practice is not as open as the day, belongs to the methods of the prince of evil. **His methods are practiced even among Seventh Day Adventists, who claim to have advanced truth.**

“If men resist the warnings the Lord sends them, they **become even leaders in evil practices**; such men assume to exercise the prerogatives of God—they **presume to do that which God himself will not do in seeking to control the minds of men**. They introduce their own methods and plans, and through their misconceptions of God, they weaken the faith of others in the truth, and bring in false principles that will work like **leaven** to taint and corrupt our institutions and churches. Anything that lowers man's conception of righteousness, and equity, and impartial judgment, any devise or precept that brings God's human agents under the control of human minds, impairs their faith in God; it separates the soul from God, for it leads away from the path of strict integrity and righteousness.

“God will not vindicate any device whereby man shall in the slightest degree rule or oppress his fellow-man. The only hope for fallen man is to look to Jesus, and receive him as the only Savior. As soon as man begins to make an iron rule for other men, as soon as he begins to harness up and drive men according to his own mind, he dishonors

God, and imperils his own soul, and the souls of his brethren. Sinful man can find hope and righteousness only in God; and no human being is righteous any longer than he has faith in God, and maintains the vital connection with him. A flower of the field must have its root in the soil; it must have air, dew, showers, and sunshine. It will flourish only as it receives these advantages, and all are from God. So with men. We receive from God that which ministers to the life of the soul. **We are warned not to trust in man, nor to make flesh our arm. A curse is pronounced upon all who do this.**” *The 1888 Materials*, 1432–1434.

DISSIMULATION: The act of dissembling; a **hiding under a false appearance**; a feigning; false pretension; hypocrisy. Dissimulation may be simply concealment of the opinions, sentiments or purpose; but it includes also the assuming of a false or counterfeit appearance which conceals the real opinions or purpose.

DISSEMBLE: To **hide under a false appearance; to conceal; to disguise; to pretend that not to be which really is**; as, I will not dissemble the truth; I cannot dissemble my real sentiments. [This is the proper sense of this word.]

The mixed multitude is the foolish virgins, the Pharisees and the Scribes.

The mixed multitude intermarries with the wise virgins and become vain in their imagination and returns to their old superstitions, customs and manners.

They are impatient, half-hearted and superficial and are motivated by fear and curiosity and soon become weary of Heaven’s food due to a depraved appetite.

Little by little they leaven the truth and people of God, employing deception based upon human reasoning which they teach in place of God’s word. They counterfeit the truth by dissimulation and promote their counterfeit through false education based upon infidel authorities and books in an attempt to control other mind’s and tear down the old landmarks. Their work begins when a new generation arrives.

Mystery: G3466—From a derivative of *muō* (to *shut* the mouth); a *secret* or “mystery” (through the idea of *silence* imposed by *initiation* into religious rites): - mystery.

Iniquity: G458—From G459; *illegality*, that is, *violation of law* or (generally) *wickedness*: - iniquity, X transgress (-ion of) the law, unrighteousness.

G459—From **G1** (as a negative particle) and **G3551**; *lawless*, that is, (negatively) *not subject to* (the Jewish) *law*; (by implication a *Gentile*), or (positively) *wicked*: - without law, lawless, transgressor, unlawful, wicked.

G1—Of Hebrew origin; the first letter of the alphabet: figuratively only (from its use as a numeral) the *first*. Often used (usually “an”, before a vowel) also in composition (as a contraction from G427) in the sense of *privation*; so in many words beginning with this letter; occasionally in the sense of *union* (as a contraction of G260): - Alpha.

G3551—From a primary word *nemo* (to *parcel* out, especially *food* or *grazing* to animals); *law* (through the idea of prescriptive *usage*), generally (*regulation*), specifically (of Moses [including the volume]; also of the Gospel), or figuratively (a *principle*): - law.