



# WORDS OF HOPE

By Charles W. Godfrey, Pastor

Pembroke Seventh Day Adventist Church

Have you ever wondered why God's commandments cannot change? Are they like the laws of the Medes and Persians? Is the King of Glory somewhat like the ancient ruler Darius who had been tricked into consigning Daniel to the lions' den? Remember, "Know, O King, that the law of the Medes and Persians is. That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed." (Daniel 6:15) What really is the significance of God's law, anyway? Is it something that even He cannot change? Is it an arbitrary set of rules by which some of us will earn eternal life if we keep them perfectly enough?

In the time of Jesus' ministry on earth, nothing so distinguished the Jewish people from other nations as did the Sabbath. But as the Israelites departed from the essential relationship of love and faith and trust in God, they failed to sense the significance of the Sabbath. They kept it rigorously and were proud of it. They added strict and burdensome rules until in time, the people began looking upon God as a tyrant, as hardhearted and cruel as the leaders who were supposed to represent Him.

This was the situation when Jesus and His disciples walked through a field of ripening grain one Sabbath, on their return from church. Hungry, the disciples took some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate the kernels. This was proper in Jewish custom—except that it was on the Sabbath. The Rabbis held this to be double sin; not only was the gathering of the grain a kind of reaping, rubbing it in the hands was a kind of threshing.

Jesus answered their accusations by declaring himself to be "the Lord of the Sabbath," and further stated that the Sabbath was made for man and not the other way around and that it was lawful to do good on the Sabbath day.

Here is the great fundamental difference between the law of the Medes and Persians and the law of God. The Medo-Persian law was greater than the person. The "Lord of the Sabbath" is above all question and above all law. He is the infinite Judge. In other words, the divine law cannot be greater or more important than its Author and Source.

God's law is infinitely more than a set of rules. As Jesus showed, the purpose of the law and the Sabbath, along with the sacrificial system, was to direct men to God. Basically, and foremost, the law tells us what God is like. The law shows us the characteristics of our Saviour. Misconceptions of God make faith and friendship impossible. That's why Jesus came—to clear up the misconceptions. He came to illustrate the nature of His law, to reveal in His own character the beauty of holiness. He showed that the law is a law of love. It is an expression of Himself.

So, the law is unchangeable and eternal because God is unchangeable, unalterable, infinite and eternal. In order for God to change His law, He would have to change Himself and His characteristics. And Jesus assures us that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is not variableness, neither shadow of turning." (James 1:17)

We understand God best by studying what Jesus was like.

Although Jesus rejoiced over those who responded to His love, He wept over those who rejected Him, their only hope of salvation.

What about us? Does He still have the same feelings?

The Sabbath has never been changed. But far more significant is the stunning truth that the Lord of the Sabbath has never changed. Hebrews 13:8 declares "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

If you would like to worship on God's Holy day, we invite you to come and join us each Saturday at the Pembroke Seventh Day Adventist Church. The church is located two miles west of Pembroke State University at the junction of Highways 710/711. Worship in praise is at 10 a.m. and worship in study at 10 a.m. Everyone is always welcome.

Don't forget to listen to "Springs Of Living Water, weekdays at 7 p.m. on WSTS-FM, 96.5 on the dial with your host, Pastor Godfrey!

## Elijah The Runner

I Kings 18:41

by Jayne Ozandine

Teacher: Would you please tell the story Jerry?  
Jerry: I would love to teach. This story begins after Elijah had the Baal worshippers killed. Elijah called the fire down from heaven which consumed the burnt offerings: the water, wood, the stones and even the dust where the sacrifice was. Elijah told Ahab, "Get thee up, eat and drink for there is a sound of abundance of rain." Ahab then went up to eat and drink while Elijah went up to the top of Carmel to pray.  
Joel: How about Elijah's legs?  
Teacher: Not yet Joel.  
Jerry: As I was saying, Elijah was praying. He told his servant, "Go up now and look toward the sea." His servant said, "There was nothing." Elijah said, "Go again." Each time he went, he came back saying that he saw nothing, until the seventh time.  
Joel: Boy, he saw something that time!  
Jerry: Yes, he said, "I saw a cloud rising out of the sea, like a man's hand." Elijah told the servant to go tell Ahab to prepare his chariot and go down the mountain so the rain wouldn't stop him. It got cloudy very fast. It was getting dark with clouds. There was wind and rain.

Ahab rode his chariot down the mountain as fast as he could. Now Joel, you tell about Elijah's legs.  
Joel: Teacher, I don't know when I have laughed so hard as I when I read about Elijah's legs. God strengthened Elijah's legs and do you know what he did? Well, here was Ahab going as fast as he could on his chariot, then here comes Elijah, boy, he ran around the chariot and ran ahead of Ahab the Jezreel.

## Church News

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM TO BE PRESENTED AT ISLAND GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Island Grove Baptist Church, Highway 710, Pembroke, invites the public to attend "First Christmas," a worship service in song and drama on Sunday morning, December 21, at 10:30. Children, youth and adult choirs and dramatic characters will tell the story of the first Christmas. Rev. Larry Locklear is the pastor.

### SADDLETREE CHURCH OF GOD TO PRESENT CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Saddletree Church of God will perform "Glory to God" on Sunday, December 21 at 6:00 p.m. The pastor, Rev. Millard Maynard and the congregation extend a cordial invitation to the public to attend.

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT UNION CHAPEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

The Youth at Union Chapel Community Baptist Church will present a Christmas Pageant, "Miracle at Bethlehem," on Sunday night, December 21, 1986 at 7 p.m. The pastor, Rev. Jimmy Strickland, and the congregation extend a cordial invitation to the public to attend.



### CHRISTMAS MUSICAL TO BE PRESENTED

Shown above is the Prospect United Methodist Chancel Choir and select Senior High Youth under the direction of Harold D. Jacobs, as they prepared for last year's Christmas musical, LOVE TRANSCENDING. On Sunday, December 21, in the sanctuary of Prospect United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m., this choir will present David Clyderdale's Christmas Musical—The King of Who I Am, arranged by David Scholl.

The public is invited to come and celebrate the birth of Christ through music with Prospect's Chancel Choir on Sunday at 7:00 p.m. December 21.

**THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE**  
P.O. Box 1075 Phone 521-2826  
Pembroke, N. C. 28372  
ISN'T THIS A Beautiful Day!

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YOUR GENERAL GIFT HEADQUARTERS FOR CHRISTMAS  
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Mon-Fri 9:30-5:30  
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We Will Be Open The Following Hours To Better Serve You During Christmas Week

Mon. & Tues., Dec. 22 & 23 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
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Thur. & Fri., Dec. 25 & 26 CLOSED  
Sat., Dec. 27 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Our Extra Sales Prices Are Still In Effect

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- NO. 2: Union Chapel Road, Pembroke
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- NO. 7: 1000 N. Pine Street, Lumberton

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### PINE STREET STORE HOURS

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MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY  
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**GRADE A PERKY TURKEYS**  
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**WHOLE SMOKED PICNIC**  
**79¢** LB.

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**\$1.29** LB.

**U.S.D.A. CHOICE BEEF FULL CUT (BONE-IN) ROUND STEAK**  
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