

# According to Scripture

Sponsored by Pembroke Seventh Day Adventist Church

## God's Church Through the Ages

Let's notice first that God's people are always the ones who have remained loyal to him. He has from the beginning, given man opportunity after opportunity to be obedient to His will. Finally in the antediluvian (before the flood) world, God found a man (Noah) who was loyal to Him. And He told Noah that the ancient world had filled up the measure of probation given to them. Genesis 6:6-8. All who wished to be saved had to get on the Ark (God's designated church). This was a promise that was conditional. Lev. 26:3. If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them. Deut. 4:30 "When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the Lord thy God, and shalt be obedient unto His voice;"

Deut. 8:19 "And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve the, and worship them, I testify against you this that ye shall surely perish." Deut. 28:9 "The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto Himself, as He hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in his ways."

Isaiah 1:19-20 "If ye will be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land; But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

Jeremiah 11:4 "Which I commanded your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, shall obey my voice and do them, according to all which I command you; so shall ye be my people, and I will be your god." Jeremiah 44:3 "Because of their wickedness which they have committed to provoke me to anger, in that they went to burn incense, and to serve other gods, whom they knew not, neither they, yet, nor your fathers."

Deut. 28:15 "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command thee this day that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee."

Deut. 28:20 "The Lord shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me."

Deut. 28:26 "And thy carcass shall be meat unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth, and no man shall lay them away."

I Kings 9:17 "Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name will I cast out of my sight, and Israel shall be a proverb and a by word among all people."

II Kings 23:27 "And the Lord said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen and the house of

which I said, my name shall be there."

Amos 8:2-3 "And he said, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, a basket of summer fruit. Then said the Lord unto me, the end is come upon my people of Israel; I will not again pass by them any more. And the songs of the temple shall be howlings in that day, saith the Lord: there shall be many dead bodies in every place; they shall cast them forth with silence."

As in the age before the flood, God was very patient with His constantly wayward people. The Israelites had developed a pattern, which consisted of complaining, disobedience, loss of God's blessing (be it victory in battle or cohesiveness as a nation etc.), repentance, a small time of prosperity for a few years in response to their obedience, and then an apostasy from God would follow again. And each time they stray from God it became a little worse, until finally the prophecy was given to Daniel that pinpointed when the Jews' claim to be God's special people were over. (Daniel 9:24-27 will be discussed in detail in a later column.)

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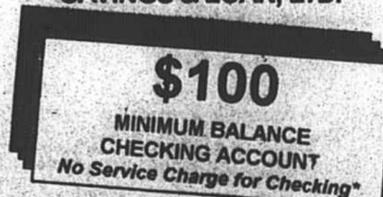
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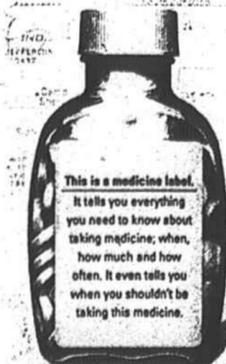
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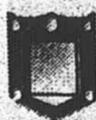
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