

The Final Survivors (Sermon) Part II

By Leslie Hardinge PHD

Let's turn to **Romans Chapter 9** and think about some ideas that go out from Paul's statement about the status of Israel. **Romans 9:6, "They are not all Israel which are of Israel." What does that mean? "They are not all Israel, which are of Israel."** That's something you've got to think about. They are of Israel, but they are not of Israel. There are Israelites in deed, and there are not Israelites in deed, but they're Israelites.

They are not all Remnant that are of the Remnant. That is, even though you are born a child of Abraham, you are not a child of Abraham. **Is he talking in riddles?** Notice **verse 8. "They which are the children of the flesh, they are not the children of God."** **Verse 9, "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son."** **Verse 12, "The elder shall serve the younger."** So you can be a child of Abraham, and not a child of Abraham. See Abraham had a child by Hagar. His name was Ishmael, and he had a child by Sarah. His name was Isaac.

Ishmael was not a child of the Promise. He could say we have Abraham to father, but he didn't have the Promise, he didn't have the prophets, he didn't have the promise of the Messiah. They didn't come to him. So he asks in **verse 4 of Romans 9, "Who are the Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, and the service of God, the promises; whose are the fathers, of whom as concerning the flesh Christ will come."** These are only Israelites. Ish-

mael didn't have that. Ishmael didn't have prophets. Ishmael didn't have a promise of the Messiah; Ishmael didn't have the patriarchs coming through Ishmael. **So he's using that as an illustration to emphasize the point that you can be in name, and even somehow in part.** See Ishmael was part of Abraham but part of the Egyptian Hagar. **She wasn't of the promise.** And Abraham said to God, Oh that Ishmael might stand before thee and the Lord says, **"No, I'll come in a set time, and Sarah will have a child."**

So what does this tell us? Among other things; **God is particular.** See we have a tendency in this 2003 age to make God into **a warm fuzzy.** He's a little teddy bear. When you talk about the wrath of God, then somebody will stand on their exegetical head to make it appear that it isn't wrath. It is awe! When you fear God, you haven't got to be scared of Him; you've got to have respect for Him.

Now how do you answer stuff like that? There's only one answer. It's **the Bible.** Go look at the Bible. When the first angel's message says fear God. **What does that word fear mean?**

Let me **illustrate;** I've got a chain saw, pushed by a very powerful engine. It's an extremely good friend of mine. I love it! But I run scared of it. In one millisecond it would mutilate my hand or leg, and make it look different from what the Creator made it. Now it's tried it several times. Let me tell you, and when I stoop down, and pull that starter rope, I dart a little prayer and say, "Lord, keep my fingers and legs the same length you made them." Let me tell you, it's no joke. **No joke.**

When the Lord came down on Mount Sinai, Moses said, **“I exceedingly fear and quake.” (Heb.12: 21).** **Have you ever been so scared, that you quaked? Would you apply the word reverent to that? Or awe to that? What do we do?** We make our own concepts up, we invent God, we make Him up like we want Him made, and then we try to drag the Bible and fit it in.

Like the Secret Rapture I talked about today. **I say to myself, why don't you read the Bible?** Read the Bible and find out what it says.

Now Abraham tried to manipulate God. God told him, you two are going to have a son and they wait and wait and wait. **How long did they wait, by the way?** He was **seventy-five years** old when he was **called**, and **83 old when Ishmael was born. Isaac was born when he was a hundred.**

Ishmael was nearly seventeen. Five years later, the Lord said, send away Hagar and Ishmael. Ishmael by this time was old enough to take care of himself. **That's why the Lord waited.** He didn't toss them out, infant in arms. So his trying to manipulate God, regarding the heir, didn't work.

And so when God calls; many are the ones being called. **When God calls, that's the authority of Deity. You don't manipulate that. You don't make your own scheme and fit it into.**

The great trouble with Christians today; God is made in their own image. The plan of salvation is made in their own image to suit them: He wouldn't do this, He wouldn't do that, He wouldn't do the other. And so they go their own way. And we see that in Israel. They're not

all Israel, but of the seed of Abraham. Those that accept the Promise, those that surrender to His commandments. **Not everyone that says I love the Lord, and Lord, Lord will make the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 7:21)**

Those who do His commandments. Now as soon as I drop the word **“do His commandments”** onto your tympanic membrane, and it bounces there happily. **Legalist! Ever heard the word legalist?** Some twerp somewhere throws it away without understanding what it is. If some of my friends were here, they might say, “LeRoy, LeRoy”, be careful. Don't be cynical.” I can hear them, but it's very difficult for me to suffer such fools gladly. Very difficult. **“If you love me keep my commandments.” Who said that? Some legalist?**

No my friends, **if you don't keep the commandments, you're going to burn. Let's make no mistake about that.** We've got to subordinate these thoughts, and these ideas to the Bible, if we're going to be among the surviving Remnant. We've got to do it. You can't play around with it. You can't explain these things away.

Let me give you some illustrations. There are Ten Commandments. **They cover every relationship between God and man, and man and man.** Go for a walk sometime, or go into your study or wherever you do some hard thinking, and try to imagine a relationship that is not covered, by one of those Ten Commandments. **Vertical relationships. Horizontal relationships. Try.** If you're really sure you've got one, call me collect, but if I find it isn't, **I'll reverse charges. No it isn't.**

They cover every relationship. Therefore they define every sin. You couldn't invent a new sin, if you tried

it. **Sin is transgression of the law.** God has said in each of those commandments, **“I have made life.”** Don’t mess around with it. You didn’t invent it. You didn’t make it, and if you want to know what it means to kill, start with the **Sermon on the Mount**, even to think bad thoughts about somebody, and then read that paragraph. Actually it’s one compound sentence in Patriarchs and Prophets, the Law given at Sinai, on the sixth commandment. Covers every act or thought that interferes with the total function of life. **All the traffic laws** and illustrations and applications come under the commandment. **“Thou shall not kill.”**

All the diet laws and illustrations and applications come under, **“Thou shall not kill.”** **All psychological laws** about proper thinking, true psychology, are illustrations of the commandment, **“Thou shall not kill.”**

Don’t interfere with an hundred percent function of a life that was given to you, given to other people, That you didn’t create. Maintain them optimally. God’s given property. Don’t interfere with other people’s property. **“Thou shalt not steal.”**

God made communication, all sorts of communication. Communication with the eyes. Tactile communication with touch. Communications by hearing and speaking. **Don’t distort them. Don’t leave impressions that are not in the ideal creator power of God.**

“Don’t bear false witness”. And you can go through them all, and think about them, **they are positive, holding up, of the ideals that God has set. And any breaking of them, fracturing them has a domino effect somewhere down the line.**

That’s what sin is. **Sin is fracturing those ideals that God has set up.** And you start a little; nobody knows where you’re going to go.

Now you can’t do that illustration now with great validity, but you could in the fifties. Because they got guidance systems now that they didn’t have then. But you know when they were aiming at the moon, they were sending rockets up to the moon, they had to aim straight, because if you get a 1/100th degree off on earth and you missed the moon by ten miles.

See the **deviation increases with distance**, so you move away from the ideal that God has set up, and give yourself time and you’ll be in the next county. You’ll move away from it. So **when God states something, He means that something. Just the way He states it, and precisely the way He stated it.**

Now sometime in the economy of Israel in the Bible, He has shown his attitude to a breaking of each of the commandments. **A man broke the Sabbath. He gathered sticks and wound up as a nucleus of a can of rocks. That’s the way he thinks about the Sabbath.**

Do you remember what Solomon said? “Because sentence against an evil work is not, executed speedily; therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.” (Ecclesiastes 8:11)

Now if every Sabbath breaker were stoned to death, we’d have Everest over us. But He doesn’t do it, **He does it once.**

Remember that couple that reneged on their church pledge? (Acts 5:1) Ananias&Sapphira, There were two swift funerals. Now if every person who re-

neged in his church pledge, was thus destroyed, I wonder whether the congregational population would be much less. **Once only**, once only He does it.

Do you remember that Lecturer and his girlfriend, Zimri and Cozbi, remember them? **(Numbers Chapter 25:14&15.)**

When Balaam didn't curse, **(Numbers 24:10)** he made a suggestion to Balak. He says, (This is my imagination.) Why don't you hang some lanterns under the palm trees of Jericho and invite the Israelite youth for a Saturday night party. **Remember?** Or words to that effect. And they said, **"seduce them"**

And Zimri brought one of his girlfriends. He was a Prince of Judah, took her into a tent and **you remember what Phinehas did? (Numbers 25:7,8) (A grandson of Aaron, a priest.)** He took a javelin and he stuck the two of them. **Now if every couple that was indulging in hanky-panky were javelined, the morticians would be in great business.**

But He only did it once, only once, showing the way He thinks about it. **And you can go through all ten of them, and you can see that God is telling us by illustration; the wages of sin is death.**

That's Bible. I didn't invent that. Your pastor didn't invent that. **The Holy Spirit recorded it.** Now you're thinking, or somebody's thinking that's pretty hard. **My God doesn't do that.**

Only problem is; are you worshiping the right God that you've made. It doesn't matter two hoots what your God does, or doesn't do. The only thing that matters is; that God does, or doesn't do it. **"You can change the**

glory of God ", Paul says, **"into all kinds of corruptible things."** **(Romans 1:23)** You can change that in your mind.

But in all these illustrations that I have given you today, **there are those who stood up.** There are always the Zimri's and the Cozbi's, met by the Prince of the tribe of Levi, Phinehas. **While there are always those who break it, there are always those who support it.** And **those who support it are the ultimate survivors. I wish I could convey to you the great solemnity of this thing.**

Abraham decided to do what he knew was not right. **Why did he do it?** In the Biblical Archeologist, it's not called that now, that's what it was called then, prehistory. They published the **News Who Tablets, in a little town called Newsy. These tablets described social acceptable behavior of the time of Abraham.**

For **example**; if a couple had come to the conclusion that they would be childless, the **Newsy Law said** that the wife could suggest to her husband another consort. A husband couldn't let his eye rove over the field, and choose the one he wanted, but the wife could suggest to her husband to do that. **Who suggested to Abraham that he take Hagar? Sarah did.** That's exactly what the social law of Abraham's time permitted.

Everyone was doing it. Everyone was doing it. **Why not do it? Ever heard that? Monkey see, monkey do.** They're doing it, we'll do it. We've tried here now for all these years. Let's do it! See whether it works.

By the way, **if you made a Covenant**, a contract, these same laws said, today it's a dollar, **(Is it still a dollar**

with inflation?) the minimum money that you transferred to buy something. If you want to make it set legally; I think it may be still on the musty books. **It used to be a dollar.** **In the Newsy Tablets, the minimum was one Meal. Remember a Meal? A Contractual Meal, between two men called Esau and Jacob? Newsy tablets.** That was what the law of the land said. If you want to fix this legally, take me out to lunch, or cook a meal for me. Apparently there was no, what would I say, a Big Mac or Sizzler anywhere near abouts. He had to cook his own meal, but that made it legal. .

And when you had all the laws that impinge on the Bible, every time they followed the laws, they goofed. **Don't follow a multitude to do iniquity.** And through all these pressures that you go through in the Old Testament stories, **there's a Remnant that's survives.**

When you've finished it, when you've gone through it, the episode is now history, you look back. **Many had the opportunity, few do it. Few make the right decisions. Few choose.** So you can be of the Seed of Abraham, but you can't be a child of Abraham. And Isaac shall thou seed be called. **Why,** because Isaac fitted in with the promises. He fitted in with the requirements of God. He went the way of Deity.

Look at David's children. Fighting among each other. Amnon raping Tamar, Absalom killing Amnon. Finally winding up with Solomon. Several sons, several wives, take off where they want to go. Then one, and Solomon was far from being perfect, lived long enough to write his autobiography in Ecclesiastes. Where he lists all the things that he wouldn't do again. He had the power to

do it, the money to do it, the get up and go to do it, the wit to do it. Never do it again. **“Listen to the whole matter”,** he says, **“Fear God and keep His commandments and get ready for the judgment.”** The last two verses of Ecclesiastes.

He lived the life, had everything he wanted. His gardens in town, a thousand ladies, with all kinds of houses, and he had all kinds of money. Matter in fact, after he had finished building the Temple, he had so much gold over, that he made golden sheathes and lined the inside of the tabernacle he built. You know sometimes if you haven't got anything to do, **why don't you look in Kings and Chronicles as to how much gold and silver David gave to the Temple.** So many talents of this, so many talents of that, so many talents of the other. And then look up in the newspaper and see what the value for an ounce of gold is and an ounce of silver, then look in the Bible Dictionary and see how many pounds make a talent, and give or take it's about a hundred. Some archeologist finds an eighty pound talent piece, he says, **“Now, I've got it!”** And dig a little more and you get a 110# talent and you say, **“Now, I've got it!”** **When there was no Bureau of Standards, it was what you could get away with.** A hundred pounds is give or take. How many ounces to a hundred pounds? One pound, so many ounces. Hundred pounds, hundred times that, at so much a pound.

There used to be a man called **Ripley Believe It Or Not.** He published a Believe It Or Not after he had done this. And **David gave over 26 Billion with a “B” worth of gold.** And he says to Solomon and the nobles, **“I'm a poor man, you now add to this”.** And when they had col-

lected all the gold and silver and everything else, they didn't know what to do with the rest of it. And so the inside of the Temple was lined with golden sheathes.

And then Solomon died and he had a son (**Rehoboam**) whom I cannot find words to describe, but he was stupid. And about eight years into his reign, he so irritated Shishak, Pharaoh, who had heard, **“There's gold in them thare hills.”** He came in and cleaned out all that gold and took it to Egypt. And then he made shields of brass and had them polished that they would look like gold.

Friend's, **it's only those who follow the will of God who succeed. Only those who keep the commandments of God succeed.** When the whole three angels have finished their work and the Great Harvester is about to put in his sickle and reap, the cry goes out, **“Here are the patience of the saints, here are they that keep the Commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” Rev.14: 12** The remnant keep the Commandments. **Don't call them legalists, they're obedient, and they do it by the faith of Jesus.** (Amen) **“All my commandments are righteousness”.** They have righteousness by faith. You won't get righteousness by breaking a commandment.

Leslie Hardinge shares a story about giving Bible studies to a lady in Edinburgh, and she asked him the question, **“Will God keep me out of the Kingdom of Heaven, if I break one Sabbath?”** She was in her fifties. And he said to her, **“How many Sabbaths have you broken already?”** At 50 a year, it's **2,500, give or take.** And a guy was stoned for breaking one. **How many have you broken?** God won't keep you out of the kingdom of Heaven for breaking one Sabbath. He'll keep you out of the king-

dom of heaven because you've broken them all. **What do you do about that 250 Sabbaths you've already broken?**

God hath sent forth His son to be a propitiation for the sins of the past. **He'll take care of all those 2,500 or however many you might have had. He'll take care of that 10,000 talent debt.** When you've finished it all, and done all your talking, and all your thinking, and all your philosophizing, and all your scheming, at the end you're going to be among the Remnant. **Jesus Christ must have taken care of all of that.**

The Bible says “Sin is transgression.” Friends the Bible says, “Transgression is death.” God has sent His Son to die to take care of the sins of the past, that He might start you off now. Friends, in the little probation that you're given, 20years, 50 years. **How much have you got?**

Every one of us is looking at a shrinking calendar. Make no mistake about it. It's getting less and less as you look down the line. **Today is the day of Salvation.** Isn't that one in **Romans13: 11?** In all ages, only the people that have done this, and they're always the minority, but are acceptable by God.

They're not all Israel that are of Israel. They are not all Adventists that are of Adventists. They're not all among the Remnant, that might be in the Remnant Church.

The kingdom of Heaven is like unto ten virgins; five wise, five foolish. That's **fifty-fifty.** That's scary. I didn't make that up. You read that before you ever met me. **It's been around for 2,000 years. It's talking about us. Five are wise and five are foolish.**

Twice Ellen White has noted that the five foolish virgins also represent the Laodicean State. The **Laodicean State**; five foolish virgins. **Now these little ideas should get our thinking much more Biblical.** You run away with the idea that the whole Laodicean church are lost, but in the last days when the cry is being made, **“Behold the Bridegroom cometh.”** Five of them were wise, five of them were foolish.

And **their foolishness consists of no oil. No Spirit. The lamps went out because they did not have the oil of the Spirit. Is it difficult to get the oil of the Spirit? “Ask, and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened.”** In the Laodicean description, **who does the knocking?** He’s outside knocking. **“Open unto me,”** Christ says, **“If you want that oil, you do the knocking.”** **“If a father will give good gifts to his children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father, give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?”** (Matthew 7:11) Right at the remnant, at the end of time. The problem with those who are outside, those who are unready, those who are taken, with the snares of the adversary; no oil, my friends, no oil.

But He doesn’t leave us there, He knocks at our door, He says, **“I am ready to come in, and I’ll supply you with everything you need.”** **Eye Salve** to give you discernment between what is right and what is wrong. You know we have a great problem because we’ve got no eyesight. **What’s wrong with this? What’s wrong with that?** I don’t see anything wrong with this. **Absolutely a Laodicean State.** I don’t see! I don’t see anything wrong

with that. **Whatever? Isn’t it time you got the Eye Salve, the Holy Spirit.**

I talked about Righteousness, which is the Robe. Righteousness of Christ, through the faith of Christ. He’s ready to give; put over us, the Robe, His righteousness. He’s ready to do all that. **Only those who accept this, when the Bridegroom comes, will go through the door into the wedding banquet.** Outside the wedding banquet, cry to the birds, **“Come eat the flesh of kings and captives.”** They can’t go in, Let me stress again, they can’t go in. It’s only the Remnant that goes in.

So I refer to this and emphasize it; they are not all Israel that are of Israel. Starting from Abraham’s time, going through the times of Israel. To the times of the journeys, going through the times of David and Solomon. **Only the Remnant will survive. Many are the ones being called; few are the ones that are choosing.**

So these illustrations that I am giving you, these things **have been written for our admonition upon whom the end of the world are come, are very important.**

And I think we should spend time every day thinking through this and our relationship to Jesus. Spend time. I was telling your Pastor, I think the greatest need of the Adventist Church today is to study the Bible. **If you study the Bible, eat the Bread of Life; drink the Water of Life, whatever metaphor you want to use for it.**

It’s the power of God unto Salvation that will make all the difference to our life and relationship. Study the Bible, prayerfully, diligently, daily.

How long does it take to read the Bible? How many hours? That's an easy question if you've got tapes, which I have. **It takes 72 hours to read the Bible as fast as it is read from the scripture reading in church.**

We listen to the tapes while we are driving along in the car, we switch one on and the fellow reads and reads and reads. Seventy-two hours worth of tapes. Seventy-two hours is less than 12 minutes a day. Get your calculator out, and look it up sometime. Sixty minutes an hour multiplied by 72 divided by 365 is 11.8 minutes a day. **Is that a lot of time? Less than 12 minutes a day?**

You spend that time listening to the news. You go read the Bible through; it's easy to read the Bible through. You read it twenty minutes a day or twenty-five minutes a day, and you read it a couple of times.

So if somebody comes to me, and he's very gloaty, he says, "At last I've finished reading the Bible". **"How long did it take?" "Two years."** Two years to read the Bible through. That's 5.9 minutes a day. Better than nothing, but not much better. It's not very much better.

And to read one verse a day is unconscionable to me. Like taking a sip, and calling that breakfast. We've got to read the Bible. We've got to read it so that we understand it, so that we may learn proof texts. **Proof texts are important.** Read any version of the Bible. I suggest you read a different one every time you read it. I also suggest that you **underline it.** You won't be able to do it much more than two or three readings, because you will have underlined every word by that time. Because what sticks in your mind this reading through may not quite make the impact next reading through. And you can get another Bible;

they're not all that expensive. **Keep abreast of the Word of God! Make it your Counselor, your barometer of large ideas to go bathing through your mind, floating through. They bring the thoughts that you allow to range over the whole battlefield, into captivity to His will.**

And when you look through these Biblical stories, (early on they didn't have Bibles), but those who rejected, and wouldn't listen to the prophets; those were the ones that got into all kinds of trouble. The Lord rose up prophets and sent them.

It wasn't much Bible in the days of Ahab and Jezebel, but there were about 7 or 8 prophets active, when Ahab and Jezebel were ruling. God didn't leave them. He sent messengers to them. He sent messengers to us. **That's one of the signs of every Remnant. The Spirit of Prophecy manifests to take Prophetic Truth and make it Present Truth.**

How much time do you spend reading God's prophet for these last days? Satan has sent so many curved balls to Adventist's, that he's made them almost gun shy to read, or talk about it. And he sits on some shelf in the church and chuckles to himself at the fools he's made of God's people. (Pause) **Read it!**

Sometimes I ask people how much of the Spirit of Prophecy do you read? You would be surprised what kind of answers you get. Many say I should read it more, some, I don't believe it, others say I don't understand parts of it. I often tell them, read it, and evaluate it. See first hand if it aids in your study of the Word of God. Test it.

The Bible says to test all spirits, and hold on to that which is true. **(1 John 4:1)**

When you've read them, make your mind up. The Bible tells us, there will come a time of famine, not of bread and water, but of spiritual awareness. **Amos 8:11**

We all need to take a better look this gift that the Lord God has given to the Remnant that keep the Commandments of God. All these privileges we have, what are we doing with them? (Pause) Haven't you thought many times if Jesus were here now, you'd spend all your time listening to Him. Have you ever thought that? You know what the people did? You know what the people did; it's all in the Gospels.

Sometimes when He gave them a free lunch, they hung around. Other times, they went away. And He said to Peter one time, **"Are you going away too?"** And they said, **"Lord, to whom shall we go?"** They had nowhere to go. But when He was there, they wound up crucifying Him. You think to yourself, if **Paul were here?** I would listen to Him. I would listen to Him all the time.

Do you read Him all the time? Or do you think He's pretty hard? Especially when He talks about the ladies. Do you try to find out what He is saying? What are we doing? As I am meditating with you this (time)____, part of you, part of the last Remnant, **I keep on saying to myself; would we be among the survivors?**

They had David; they could have listened to David singing anytime they wanted to. Sweet singer of Israel; listening to him recite the poetry he'd written. **What did Saul try to do to him? What did Absalom try to do to**

him? What of the people of Israel do when they fought against him in Hebron?

And we have those same signs. We have the same writings of Paul. How much time do we spend on them? How much time do we think about them? All these treasures have been given to us. By our attitude we show how much we value them. **Do you really think about them?**

As I think more and more, on this topic of Survivors, the Remnant, those who are left, when Jesus Christ comes. Who remain when everyone else is destroyed, everyone is burned up, yet still remaining. When He calls the rest of the Remnant made up of people from every age, into life, to form the ultimate group of survivors; **will I be there? Will my relatives be there? What'll they do?**

And when the Lord looks around and sees the final funeral of everyone else, except we, who are alive and remain, who are caught up together with Him, we will have no more funerals. What regrets! What a shame! What a might-have-been!

Do you know He asks in **Isaiah Ch.5 vs.4** **"What more could I have done, that I have not done?" Friends,** God's asking that, when **He sees His sons and daughters go their own ways, and what more could I have done, that I haven't done?** **Have you got any idea of anything that God could do for you? Tell Him. You can dart a prayer to Him at any time.**

And may I close with this emphasis? Those who are finally lost, choose the road they take. When Christ will say; **"Not my will be done, but thy will be done."**

Let's pray. Our loving Heavenly Father, we thank Thee again for this happy Sabbath day, it's happy fellowship, it's joyous hope and the soon coming of Christ and it's solemn contemplation on how we should relate to Thee and Thy will and Thy word and Thy grace; so that when the journey's end is reached, we might be among those who are alive and remain.

And if you've got something else for us, may we be among the dead in Christ, who arise and are caught up to meet Thee. Forgive us for our sins. Touch our eyes with the Eye Salve. Clothe us with Thy Robe of Righteousness. Enrich us with the gold of faith and love, and give us ears to hear Thy knocking at the door, and may we accept that invitation to sit down with Thee in the great Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Bless each one in the sound of my voice. Bless all the audience, children, grandchildren, spouses, relatives, friends, and the joy of spending eternity with them. Bless them Lord. Bless Thy church. Bless the Pastors and the leaders of churches and congregations and grant that this gospel may soon go into the entire world, for witness. And on that day, hold us tight as the final survivors. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen