

# THE SABBATH SCOOP

VOLUME 24

JUNE 2011

NUMBER 3

## Who Is the Coming *Elijah?*

**Malachi prophesied that Elijah would come before the great and dreadful day of the Lord. Can we know who that Elijah is? Absolutely! The Bible names him!**



*Drawing by Gregory Dullum*

The original Elijah prayed and God sent fire from heaven to consume his offering, the wood, the stone and the water.

**By Gregory Dullum**

The Old Testament concludes with these ominous words from God as recorded by the prophet Malachi:

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse” (Mal. 4:5-6).

Who is this Elijah? The Jews have been waiting for him to come for centuries. Every Passover Seder meal, Jews set an empty place for him just in case he shows up.

We, in the Church of God, have had our own traditions. Herbert W. Armstrong, the 20th century apostle, taught that there was a dual fulfillment in much of Bible prophecy. He recognized that John the Baptist fulfilled this prophecy prior to Christ’s first coming, and thought another Elijah may come before Christ’s second coming—before the great and dreadful Day of the LORD. He thought he might be called to fulfill this prophecy, so he created youth programs within the church (Y.E.S. Bible lessons for pre-teens and Y.O.U. programs for teenagers).

Mr. Armstrong died in 1986 and the great and dreadful Day of the LORD is still in the future. This has led some to believe there must be another Elijah yet to come.

A few men have split off from the Church of God, claiming to be the coming Elijah or hoping some Church group will recognize them as such.

Who is this mysterious Elijah who will appear before the great and dreadful Day of the LORD? We don’t need to wonder. We don’t need to speculate. The Bible tells us plainly who he is by name.

### **Not the Original Elijah**

The Elijah to come is NOT the original Elijah, a prophet who lived in ancient Israel, who went to heaven and will return.

The story of the original Elijah is found in 1 Kings 17:1 to 2 Kings 2:11. His name means, “My God is LORD.”

Elijah interacted with the evil Israelite King Ahab. He foretold a long drought (1 Kings 17:1) and its end (Ch. 18:21). During the famine, he lived with a widow and her son. When the son died, Elijah was used by God to bring him back to life (Ch. 17:8-24).

Elijah is most remembered for his confrontation with the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20-40). He told the Israelites: “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him.” Baal’s prophets prayed, cried aloud and cut themselves, but their nonexistent god could not answer them. No heavenly fire ignited their altar.

Elijah prayed a simple prayer to the true, living God: “LORD God of Abraham, Isaac

and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel, and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again” (Ch. 18:36-37). The original Elijah’s commission was to turn the hearts of the children of Israel back to their Father in heaven!

God answered Elijah’s prayer by sending fire from heaven that consumed his offering, the wood, the stone, the dust and the water in the trench around the altar (v. 38).

Elijah trained the prophet Elisha to replace him (1 Kings 19:19-21). Elijah was taken away from Elisha by a chariot and horses of fire (2 Kings 2:11).

Elijah was taken “into heaven” but this heaven was NOT the *third* heaven of God’s throne. It was simply the *first* heaven—they sky. How do we know? Because the Bible tells us that the only man who has ascended to heaven is Jesus Christ, who came down from there (John 3:13). So, Elijah was simply given air transportation away from Elisha. We don’t know where the chariot landed. But it is safe to assume that it did, and Elijah lived the remainder of his days in obscurity until he died. The

**ELIJAH TO COME**

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## Elijah to Come

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dead know nothing (Eccles. 9:5). There is no consciousness after death (v. 10). The dead will not live again until Christ returns to this earth (1 Cor. 15:20-23, 50-52, 1 Thes. 4:15-17).

The original Elijah is dead. He has no consciousness. He won't live again until Christ's return. He can't come back as the Elijah to come.

### John the Baptist

There was someone who came in the spirit and power of Elijah prior to Jesus' first coming: Jesus' second cousin, John the Baptist.

John's birth was a miracle and foretold by an angel, as was the birth of Jesus. Notice what the angel said to John's father, Zacharias: "And he shall turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:16-17).

We are told in no uncertain terms that John the Baptist was the fulfillment of Malachi's prophecy.

This point is confirmed in the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus said of John, "Assuredly I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist... If you are willing to receive it, he is the Elijah who is to come" (Mat. 11:11, 14). There can be no doubt that John the Baptist was "the Elijah to come."

### Is There Another Elijah?

Some have been *confused* by Jesus' statement made at his transfiguration, when Moses and Elijah appeared in a vision to Peter, James and John. They have *misunderstood* what Jesus said about another Elijah that is yet to come. Let's see what the Bible *really* says.

After seeing Jesus transfigured and the images of Moses and Elijah, the three disciples were told by Jesus that what they had witnessed was NOT real. It was only a vision, and they were to tell the vision to no man until Christ had risen from the dead (Mat. 17:9).

"And his disciples asked Him, saying, 'Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?' Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'Elijah truly is coming first and will restore all things'" (vv. 10-11). Much emphasis has been put on the fact Jesus said "is coming" and "will re-

store all things." These phrases make Elijah's coming appear to be yet in the future. But was Jesus speaking of a future coming of Elijah? We don't have to wonder. All we have to do is read the next two verses.

Jesus continued, "'But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.' Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist" (vv. 12-13).

Again, there is no doubt that Jesus was speaking about John the Baptist and not some future coming of Elijah.

Why did Jesus use the phrases, "is coming" and "will restore all things"? Because He was quoting what the scribes were saying—and they were quoting from Malachi's prophecy. However, Jesus did not leave them wondering if another Elijah was coming. He made it clear that the prophesied coming of Elijah was fulfilled by John the Baptist.

### Timing of Malachi's Prophecy

Doesn't Malachi's prophecy require that there be another Elijah—one that appears *at the end time*? Malachi said he would come "before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD."

If all we had were Malachi's prophecy, we would naturally assume Elijah would come *immediately* before the Day of the LORD, which is yet in the future. However, we have more than the book of Malachi. We have the New Testament, and Jesus tells us *in his own words* that John the Baptist was the Elijah to come. John was the fulfillment of Malachi's prophecy.

Did John the Baptist come before the great and dreadful Day of the LORD? Yes! He came about 2,000 years ago. The Day of the LORD is a time when God will directly intervene in world events, causing great heavenly signs (Isa. 13:6-13; Jer. 46:10; Joel 1:15, 2:1-11; Acts 2:20). It is still in the future. So yes, John the Baptist—the Elijah to come—did indeed come before the great and dreadful Day of the LORD—more than 2,000 years before!

### Prophetic Duality

Because there is dual fulfillment in many Bible prophecies—an original type of fulfillment and then a larger fulfillment on a grander scale—can we speculate that another Elijah will come?

Certainly we can *speculate*. But let's be clear—that's *all* we are doing. There is NO scripture that stipulates that there must be an end-time Elijah.

We can speculate that since God sent

John the Baptist in the spirit and power of Elijah prior to Christ's *first* coming, He *may* send someone in that same spirit and power before Christ's *second* coming.

Is there anyone in these last days who has "restored all things" and who has helped turn people back to God—back to obeying his laws and having respect for the Bible?

Indeed there was such a one—Herbert W. Armstrong. The Church of God had lost a lot of truth in the 20 centuries since A.D. 31. God used Mr. Armstrong to restore much truth. For example, the church still kept the weekly Sabbath and the Passover but Mr. Armstrong restored the keeping of *all seven* annual Sabbaths.

All of the various Churches of God which trace their roots back to the Worldwide Church of God owe their understanding of God's truth to Herbert Armstrong. Herbert Armstrong preached obedience to God and restored much truth to the church—thus fulfilling Malachi's prophecy of a coming Elijah in these last days.

Was Malachi *really* speaking about Mr. Armstrong? NO. Jesus said he was speaking about John the Baptist. Could the prophecy have been dual, and the second fulfillment have been fulfilled by Herbert Armstrong? We can speculate that this is the case, but we can't prove it by scripture.

Since Mr. Armstrong died in 1986 and the Day of the LORD has not yet come, must there be another Elijah to come on the world scene? No. There does not need to be another fulfillment. John the Baptist was the scriptural fulfillment. Mr. Armstrong fulfilled the dual role, if indeed there was one. There is no reason to believe there will be a *third* Elijah to come.

We need not be like the Jews who set a plate every Passover Seder meal for Elijah if he comes. The Elijah to come has already come and gone.

## The SABBATH SCOOP

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PRINT CIRCULATION: 79 • COST PER ISSUE: FREE  
[www.thesabbathcoop.org](http://www.thesabbathcoop.org)

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# GOD'S GOVERNMENT

## PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

*The form of government God used changed from patriarch to monarchy to oligarchy.*

By Gregory Dullum  
Part 3

The first form of government that God established among humans was marriage. The second was the family.

That is one reason why, in Satan's society, marriage and the family are under constant attack. Satan hates God's government! He loves the "battle of the sexes" in which men and women belittle the other sex. He loves to see unmarried couples living together, or marital discord and divorce. He loves to see rebellious youth dishonoring and disobeying their parents. Satan is all for the homosexual lifestyle and "gay marriages." Why? Because all these things are *contrary to God's government*. All are contrary to God's way of life. All these things cause people to *hurt and suffer*. And Satan gets sadistic satisfaction seeing us suffer.

### God Works With Individuals

In the early days of human life on this planet, there were no prophets, no priesthood, no king, no ministry, no church. God dealt personally with each individual. Each person was responsible to keep the seventh-day Sabbath (Gen. 2:12-3, Ex. 20:8-11), each offered his own sacrifice to God instead of going to a priest (Gen. 4:3-4), and each person heard God's own voice, instead of hearing a message relayed through a prophet (Gen. 3:9-19, 4:6-7, 8-15).

God often worked with the father, who was the leader of the family. He spoke directly with Noah but there is no record of conversations between God and the rest of Noah's family (Gen. 6:13, 7:1). After the flood, it was Noah—the family leader—who built an altar and gave God a burnt offering (Ch. 8:20).

### God Works With Patriarchs

Families grew into tribes. God used the family/patriarchal/tribal system of government as He worked with the descendants of Abraham: his son, Isaac, his grandson, Jacob, and Jacob's 12 sons, from whom descended the 12 tribes of Israel (Acts 7:8).

During the patriarchal/tribal period, God usually dealt with the father, who was the head of the family or tribe.

God spoke directly to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3, 7, 13:14-17). Abraham knew he

was to become a father of many of God's people—a tribal leader and patriarch. Yet, Abraham recognized there was a greater authority than he, for he submitted to the office of high priest. He paid tithes to Melchizedek, the high priest of God (Gen. 12:1-3, 14:18-20).

This is the first mention of a priesthood. The priesthood ranked higher in God's government than the father or patriarch. Melchizedek had the power and authority to bless Abraham (Gen. 14:19-20), and the authority to accept tithes, which belong to God (Lev. 27:30).

Abraham's meeting with Melchizedek appears to be a one-time event. We have no record of them meeting every Sabbath or every holy day.

However, we have more accounts of God dealing directly with Abraham, and not going through a priest or prophet. In the very next chapter, Abraham and God held a two-way conversation (Gen. 15:1-9). They formed a covenant together in chapter 17. God appeared in human form to Abraham in chapter 18 and they shared a meal together. Abraham himself prepared to kill his son, Isaac, as an offering to God in chapter 22; he didn't take Isaac to the high priest and ask Melchizedek to perform the sacrifice. The patriarch was the leader of the family and he performed the religious duties.

After Abraham's death, God spoke directly to his son, Isaac (Gen. 26:1-5).

God also spoke to Isaac's son, Jacob, but he spoke in a dream (Gen. 28:10-16). Jacob, in return, made a vow to God and promised to tithe to Him (vv. 20-22). God spoke again to Jacob and warned him to leave Laban (Gen. 31:1-3). When Jacob was returning to his own people, he feared his brother Esau would take his life. So Jacob prayed to God for protection (Gen. 32:9-12).

Jacob had the rare opportunity of wrestling with God. He would not let God go until He had blessed him (vv. 24-30). A little later, God again appeared to Jacob and blessed him (Gen. 35:9-13).

God next dealt with Jacob's son, Joseph. We don't read of God speaking directly to Joseph. Instead, Joseph had symbolic dreams that required interpretation. We are told, however, that "the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man" (Gen. 39:2). God gave Joseph the ability to interpret the dreams

of others, including the Egyptian Pharaoh and the Pharaoh's butler and baker (Ch. 40:8-23, 41:14-16).

Joseph became the second most powerful man in Egypt. When a seven-year famine struck the region, Jacob and his whole family moved to Egypt, where there was food. They multiplied until the 12 tribes of Israel numbered more than 3 million people—600,000 men, not counting women and children (Ex. 12:37).

A Pharaoh came to power who didn't remember Joseph. He feared the large number of Israelites living in Egypt, so he enslaved them (Ex. 1:8).

### God Uses Monarchy Under Moses

When it came time to rescue the Israelites out of Egypt, God chose one man—Moses. Read through the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, and it is obvious that God and Moses had a special relationship. They conversed back and forth. God worked through this one man to rule his people. God used a monarchy structure at this time.

Moses did not rule all alone. He refused to do so (Ex. 4:13). So God sent his brother, Aaron, to be his right-hand man (v. 14). Aaron does not play a big part in the narrative that follows. However, when the Israelites rebelled under Korah, they rebelled—not just against Moses—but against Aaron as well, accusing both of them of taking too much authority upon themselves (Num. 16:3).

Moses set the record straight, explaining that while Aaron was the high priest, he was not in charge of the nation (Num. 16:11). Aaron was second-in-charge under Moses.

### God Uses Oligarchy after Joshua

Joshua succeeded Moses, and God continued to lead his people using one man—it remained a monarchy form of government. Joshua, like Moses, also had a right-hand man. Joshua's assistant was Caleb.

Who ruled the Israelites after Joshua and Caleb died? There is no single leader named. The Israelites continued to live righteously under an oligarchy—a group of leaders called "the elders" who ruled the people (Josh. 24:31; Judges 2:7, 10).

*(To be continued!)*

# College Letters:

## Lessons of Life Learned at Ambassador College

*Working eight hours a day takes a big chunk out of your life.*

**April 15, 1976**

Dear Greg,

Got your letter today and was surprised that you didn't go on your trip. Think you made a wise decision to stay in Pasadena. Didn't send your check because I thought you were gone. Will send it with this letter. Am sending \$5<sup>00</sup> extra to help pay for your phone call home.

We had a nice Night to be Remembered. We ended up with 13 people—Brent, Peggy, Stacy & Loren Matson, Roy Bowman, Greg Johnson, Steve Fagerstrom, Mrs. Maher and Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Peterson & sons Dan & Larry. It all went good and we had oodles of food.

It was chilly in the basement so we built a fire to warm it and we almost roasted everyone out. The temperature outdoors had gotten up to 87 on Friday. Mrs. Maher stayed all night and kept the dog company today while we went to services, then I took her home tonight. We had services today at the Majestic Ballroom in Cottage Grove. It was a nice place and really seemed out in the country. We ate dinner out in a restaurant.

Mr. & Mrs. Matson were down for services and don't plan on going home until Saturday night. Brent asked his dad to bring his big chain saw down so they are coming over tomorrow to cut down the willow tree and another tree. The willow is such a dirty tree the way it sheds limbs & leaves. It will seem funny without it, but will eliminate some work too. Don't know if I'll have a garden. The roto-tiller doesn't work. If it don't cost too much I'll have it fixed.

They are saying at work the Lemon Tree will be closed Mon. thru Thursday next week. It will really make a couple small checks but will seem good to have a few days off.

Brad, Loren and a bunch of teens went bowling tonight. Brad sure likes having Loren down here. Loren bought himself a motorcycle so he rides that over here and then they go in Brad's car. He comes over and plays pool with Brad.

Well guess I better quit as it's getting late again. It was 1:30 a.m. last night.

Love,  
Mom

**April 25, 1976**

Dear Greg,

Guess it's about that time to write again. The days go by so fast. I bought some new end tables and a coffee table so the living room is beginning to look nice.

Lucile & Carl were down last night to see Lawrence Welk at the Met Stadium. They came here to stay overnight so got here at 11:00 p.m. Then we sat up until 3:00 a.m. D.S.T. so I was tired today at work. Got off early so came home and slept. Brad was out chasing with the kids until that time.

Pruzinskes came over this afternoon and Stan helped Brad get the tiller working. Really don't care about putting in a garden but suppose I should.

You know I really am not sure how to fill out this form for college financing. I have to put on we are separated and yet we file our income tax together so I'll have to show both our incomes. Guess I could explain that your Dad don't contribute.

Mr. Matson brought down his chain saw so he and Brent cut down the willow tree and another one. Now I have to have all the limbs hauled out. Sure makes it seem wide open. Brad is trying to root a willow and if it works we'll plant it in back.

One of the neighbors (Dahls) and a fellow he works with came and got [bought] four trees so I made \$40. Beethes and Arlo want some so I hope they get them. Have a cake to make for this next weekend so will make a little more there.

Craig Bardahl is getting married in January. His folks went out to see him during the Feast and they took his girlfriend along. They announced their engagement the Night to Be Remembered. His girlfriend isn't in the church but maybe she will come later.

I went to a widows tea a week ago. It was really nice. Played games and everyone got a little gift plus a chance at prizes which were really nice ones. Door prize was a portable tape recorder and radio. I didn't win though.

Loren comes over every once in a while to play pool. Nice having him around. Like having Brent when he was single.

Well guess that's about it for this time. You still haven't sent me your box number.

Love,  
Mom

**May 8, 1976**

Dear Greg,

Guess it's time for me to write again. Hope all is well with you.

Got a letter from Gary a couple days ago. He is laid off. Guess he works until the 15th. He said he has applied at a couple companies in Dallas and was going to an employment office there. I sure was hoping he would try to work here if he ever got laid off but I guess he'll never make this his home. He said he may come to the Dells during the fall Feast for a weekend if he can't get a week off. Hope he doesn't wait two months to let me know what he is doing.

You must only have a couple weeks of school left. I still haven't filled out that form you sent. Guess I better get busy at that.

Ruth Matthews (Bauer) & husband and baby are home. Saw them in services today. Mr. & Mrs. Bauer went to California to meet them and then they did some sight-seeing on the way home. Ruth's husband wanted to see some of the country.

Brad went with Phil bowling tonight. Loren went to his folks for the weekend. Loren has a motorcycle so he came over one night and took Brad for a ride.

Guess we are going to Brainerd next week Friday because I need your Dad's signature on some papers.

They have started a Woman's Club in Church. Went to the first meeting last Thursday night. I went and believe it is going to be well worthwhile. They are also working on getting Sabbath School started.

Brad & I were invited over to Tom Hof-fahrt's for spaghetti supper last night. Enjoyed it except their little girl has a hamster and she had that thing crawling all over—ish.

Well guess that's about all from here.

Love,  
Mom

**May 24, 1976**

Dear Greg,

Brad is working until 11:00 p.m. tonight so I'm sitting here by myself. Took a nap and then felt like doing dishes and a little work.

Lots of talk about how dry it is and the fear of forest fires in northern Minn. The

grass is getting so brown so I bought a sprinkler tonight and watered the front yard.

It was so nice having a few days off work. The day waitresses all went to the Ranch House one noon for lunch. Visited June Harris one day and another day went to garage sales. The time went all too fast.

How does it feel being just a worker? Doesn't it feel strange to be out there and not go to school?

Brent & Peggy were over Friday night & brought me a belated Mother's Day gift. A couple bars of Avon pretty soap. Thought that was sweet of them. Stacy (their little girl) calls me Grandma so she gets anything she wants from me.

Joni Kuether is getting married in June. I was asked to make her cake and today I got an invitation to a shower. She has been living with the guy for a year and is pregnant and now is having a big wedding. They sure do things different now days.

There isn't much else going on around here. Write once in [a] while.

Love,  
Mom

## May 23

Dear Mom & Brad,

Boy it's been so long since I've written that I've almost forgot how to write a letter. I've really been busy working and moving into our apartment. I never realized how much 8 hours of work takes out of your life every day. I thought I was going to have all kinds of free time this summer, but I guess not.

It's 12:45 a.m. and we (Steve, I) just got back from Marie's. She was going to go to the movies with her roommates, but they decided not to go. I didn't want her to eat alone, but I didn't want Steve to eat alone in our place. We don't have enough food for 3 in our place right now. Marie was hungry for pizza. She said she would like to make some. So I suggested we make pizza for all 3 of us. We made everything from scratch—and had tomato sauce, onions, meat, cheese, olives, mushrooms, some BBQ sauce and spices on it. It really turned out great! We also had salad and ice cream w/choc. syrup and whip.

Afterwards, Marie and I put a puzzle together that I bought her.

Steve and I have really eaten well this Sabbath. Fri. nite we mixed up BBQ beans w/cut up hot dogs, mustard, etc., bread and honey, milk, and salad w/carrots & celery. For dessert we had strawberry shortcake.

For brunch today we fried some bologna, had French toast, scrambled eggs, orange juice.

May 27

Sorry it's taking so long to finish this letter. But I never knew how much time 8 hours of work takes out of your life every day. Throw in 8 hours of sleep (which I hope to get one of these nights) and 2 hours for dinner, and that only leaves me with 4 free hours. Take away lunch hour and walking time, plus shopping, plus time with Marie, and Zombo—I'm still 2 weeks behind in [writing] my journal!

Boy, the food has been great, though. Sat. nite Marie, Steve & I made pizza from scratch at her place. It really turned out good. Also had salad, and ice cream w/choc. syrup and whip cream,

Sunday I just had sandwiches, and then hamburger at Disneyland for dinner.

Monday night Steve and I had hamburgers—we each made up two 1/4 pounders—so 1/2 pound of meat apiece! We also had peas and corn, and strawberry shortcake, w/o whip cream, coz [because] we used it all on the ice cream Sat.

Tuesday we had soup (chicken with rice) and grilled cheese sandwiches with bologna.

Yesterday we had spaghetti, garlic bread and salad with choc. milk. Tonight we'll probably have tuna sandwiches and leftover soup and vegetables. Maybe tomorrow on Fri. nite, we'll have fried chicken. Sabbath brunchwise we've been invited over to Marie's.

I decided to read what I wrote Sat. night and I realized I told you twice about dinner that night. Oh well. If you have it memorized by now, maybe I'll quiz you on it in my next letter.

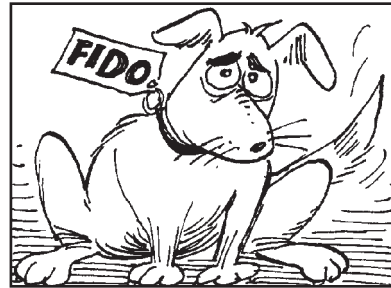
Let me tell you a little about my job. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays we usually rake our section of the campus. We have the biggest section. It stretches from Grove Street (between lower gardens and Grove Terrace) to Terrace Villa, and from the student center to Orange Grove Boulevard. I've done everything from weeding to raking, vacuuming the parking lots, blowing off the sidewalks, watering flowers, trimming hedges, shoveling dead fish out of the stream, washing down walls, arranging flowers for graduation in the lower gardens. We've weeded HWA's yard several times, twice I've cleaned his walks, and once I've trimmed his hedges out front.

The week before graduation they filmed a movie in the lower gardens, It was on plants. We had to clean up after them.

Did you see the Emmy Awards? I missed them. But I was told you could hardly see or recognize much of the auditorium.

A week ago, Marie and I treated her sis-

## Fun Fact



*Drawing and Fun Fact are courtesy of NAPS*

Fido, at one time a common name for the family dog, comes from the Latin word *fidus*, meaning faithful.

## Witerature

*Wit and wisdom to complement the truths of the Holy Bible can be found in secular writings.*

*Treat Your Customers* by Bob Miglani, Hyperion, 2006, pp. 114-115.

## Being Frugal

“For some people it might not make sense to save a few cents at the expense of your time and the extra gas mileage, but to my dad it made a difference.... Over the years, I noticed that he and my mom carried this frugal habit into other things: They squeeze the last amount of soap from the bottle by pouring in a little bit of water or pitch in with other Dairy Queens to buy certain products or services in bulk. My sisters and I never really paid much attention to these details while we were growing up, mostly because saving a buck or two here and there wasn't something we thought about when we were young. We just wanted convenience. But over time, it does add up....

“In the last few years, I've learned to be more frugal simply because it it doesn't make sense to waste money when you don't have to!”

**Prov. 10:4; 21:5, 17, 20; 27:23;  
John 6:12, Luke 15:13, 17-19**

## Quotable Quote

“When you have a number of disagreeable duties to perform, always do the most disagreeable first.”

—Josiah Quincy

## Memory Scripture

“You shall not steal.” —Ex. 20:15

## College Letters

Continued from Page 5

ter Patrice out to Farrell's. Santana drove us. Then, we came back to her place. Later, we took Patrice out to the airport to see her off. She's going home, and then to SEP [Summer Education Program; the church's summer camp] at Orr [Minn.] We got back really late, because her flight didn't leave until 1 a.m.

Sunday, Marie and I went to Disneyland. We got a special deal where you have unlimited rides for \$5. We rode on Pirates of the Caribbean twice, Haunted House twice, Matterhorn, Submarine, Bear Jamboree, Inner Space, Monorail, Gondola, America Sings, America the Beautiful, and much more.

I got chilled until we went for our coats (stayed there from 4 p.m. 'til midnight) and that started me off on my annual cold. I got one last year when I came home. Partially it's from lack of sleep, partially from change in diet, partially from not being under pressure.

And speaking of pressure—I got my grades today. What a shock! For being so busy and never having time to study, I expected to be lucky to be above 2.0 grade point average. That's a "C." My *midterms* were:

Math	C
Broadcasting	A
Racquetball	B
Public Speaking	B
Voice & Articulation	B
Old Testament Survey	C

GPA was 2.75 (C+, B-) I really wanted to get them up on my final grades.

So these are my final grades:

Math	C
Broadcasting	A
Racquetball	B
Public Speaking	B
Voice & Articulation	A
Old Testament Survey	A

I really studied for my OTS final. I only missed 5 out of 90. It really went well. But I still didn't expect an A.

Yesterday I ordered our telephone. We should be getting it tomorrow. Maybe I'll call you on it. I'll send you the number when we get it.

It really doesn't feel strange to be here and not go to school. Our apartment seems like home. And we're eating good, home-cooked meals. It feels kinda like summer, but I wish I had all the free time past summers had. Or at least I wish I could sleep late in the mornings. This getting up early will kill me yet. It used to take me 20 minutes to walk to campus (work) from the apt. But, as late nights became more frequent, and I became sleepier in the mornings, I've discovered



### Tornadoes Strike U.S.

In early April, a massive storm sent more than 200 tornadoes ripping across the South, killing at least 45 people and causing millions of dollars in damage.

This storm was followed by a "super outbreak" of tornadoes April 25-28, which killed more than 300 people in the South and Midwest.

"Less than a month later, a devastating tornado took more than 120 lives in Joplin, Mo. This now could be the deadliest year for tornadoes since 1950, based upon an assessment of National Weather Service figures.... There were deadlier storms before 1950, but those counts were based upon estimates and not on precise figures" ("Scientists can't design away twisters' deadly threat" (AP) *Brain-erd Dispatch*, May 30, 2011, p. 3A).

The Joplin tornado struck May 22, killing at least 122 people. An additional 1,500 remain unaccounted for. The tornado was rated the most severe level it can be, with winds exceeding 200 mph.

Tornadoes struck Oklahoma two days later, wiping out homes and businesses and killing at least five more people.

Early this month, a tornado struck Massachusetts. Bob Horacek, a landlord in Monson, Mass., whose apartment building as damaged by the tornado, was quoted in the *New York Times* saying, "This happens in Missouri. This happens in Kansas. This doesn't happen in Massachusetts."

Scientists are baffled as to why there

are so many tornadoes in so many different areas. Minnesota has had its share of tornadoes this spring as well. In a recent *Minneapolis Tribune* article, someone suggested that this could be caused by the "wrath of God."

If our nation obeyed God, we would be blessed with good weather and good crops. Because we're turning our backs on God, He is removing his blessings from us, and promises to send destructive winds in the latter days (Deut. 28:1-5, 15-18, 23-24; Jer. 23:19-20, 30:23-24).

Our hearts go out to the victims of tornadoes. We mourn with them for their losses. The ones who suffer in these disasters are not worse sinners than anyone else. But unless our nation repents and turns back to obeying God, we can expect more disasters (Luke 13:1-5).

### E. Coli Plagues Germany

"An unusually lethal strain of E. coli bacteria has infected more than 1,500 people in Germany, mystifying health officials, ravaging Spain's agricultural heartland, and touching off panic in Europe as people weighed whether it was safe to eat raw vegetables" ("Virulent E. Coli Strain Spreads in Germany and Puzzles Health Officials" by Alan Cowell and William Neuman, *The New York Times* reprints, June 1, 2011, p. 1).

Deadly disease epidemics and pestilence are prophesied to be part of the end-time scenario (Mat. 24:3, 7-8; Rev. 6:8).

I can make it in 15 minutes, and the other day I made it in ten.

We've bought a little linen at Salvation Army. But the [apartment] manager gave us some to use until we get some. [It was a furnished apartment.] Boy, it was uncomfortable sleeping under my rain coat with my Peanuts towel wrapped around my legs until we got some sheets and blankets.

I got a matching plate and silverware for two at Salvation Army. It felt good to eat off real dishes. And I bought a 7-piece Teflon cookware set brand new on sale for \$10 at a store. Regular price is \$19. That makes it fun to cook.

We've got a desk, end tables, a long table, a round, low table and a magazine

rack in the living room. Still waiting for our couch. I really like this place.

It feels good to take a bath again instead of showers.

I'll be glad to get our telephone.

Well, I guess it's time we make up some dinner. So I guess that's about it from here.

Thanks for the letter and check. I got those today too. This weekend we might go up to the mountains. I'm not sure.

That's about it. Hope to write y'all more often now that summer's here. But, as busy as I am, I can't guarantee it. I'll have to try my best. Belated Happy Mother's Day.

Love,  
Greg