

Drug Medications: Let The Fourth Angel Sound!

By Dr. John Clark, M.D.

“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”¹ Thus commences the message of the “forth” or “other” angel of Revelation 18.

In this article, it is our purpose to explore God’s will regarding the use of products produced by pharmaceutical companies marketed for use in the health care industry. I want to start with a story.

“This is another of those amazing stories that bring tears of gratitude. You cannot help but notice that one main ingredient is faith.”

“I am a 32-year-old married mother of two. I have been using activated charcoal for two years to treat a rare, painful eye condition that often leads to blindness. There are no traditional medical treatments that do not cause harmful side effects.

“October 2005 was the beginning of a very traumatic medical experience that occurred with my eyes. I was diagnosed with Pars Planitis / Ocular Inflammatory Disorder / Pan uveitis, an autoimmune disease that causes pain and inflammation throughout the eye. I was sent to have blood work done and an MRI to rule out many different auto-immune diseases. I spent much time visiting different doctors, not knowing what was going to happen to me. Other than the dangerous inflammation throughout my eyes, no other problems were found. I was started on steroid eye drops and during the first year, after having been diagnosed, I ended up having to take additional eye drops due to the side effects of the steroid eye drops.

“Over Christmas 2006, my eye pressure spiked to a very dangerous level that would cause blindness. My eye specialist gave me a prescription for Methotrexate, a form of chemotherapy that can cause serious or life-threatening side effects and can cause hair loss. I prayed so many times before that God would heal me, I knew at this time that I had to either begin this dreadful medication or suffer the damage to my eyes that could very well cause permanent vision loss.

“I pleaded to God for a new direction, another option, but I had no idea what. I was led to Dr. John Clark MD as an answer to my prayer. Dr Clark explained to me what hydrotherapy and charcoal treatments to do, along with dietary changes to make. Dr. Clark’s prayer for me over the phone kept me going through those first few days. The first week required me to turn the whole thing over to God and trust my eyes to Him. I was afraid because I was not on any prescription medications for the first time in over a year and my eye disorder had been in a crisis state when I started the natural treatments and lifestyle/diet changes.

After only one day of hydrotherapy and charcoal treatments, I was shocked because the halos I had always seen around lights as long as I could remember were gone!

“Week after week I visited the eye specialist and we found my eyes were slowly improving! The doctor(s) however were not convinced. After a short while, I was sent to see a top eye specialist in Boston and was told that “the beast is gone.” The interesting thing is that the particular doctor I saw was the head of one of the largest research institutes of Uveitis and he didn’t want to know anything about what I had done. On my last visit to my eye specialist, he told me that he thought I was taking the Methotrexate!

“I am using activated charcoal over my eyes every morning and I don’t feel it’s time to stop these treatments anytime soon. My eyes are clearer and whiter than ever and my vision has improved. I praise God for his natural remedies!”—Amanda.²

The patient was put on a drug for a problem arising from her lifestyle habits. When the drug caused unacceptable side effects (glaucoma) the patient was prescribed a second medication. When this combination of medications failed, a riskier medication was prescribed, which was a wake-up call to the patient.

It is interesting, that in the Bible, Jesus treated a blind man employing clay on his eyes.

“When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.”³

“In the Saviour's manner of healing there were lessons for His disciples. On one occasion He anointed the eyes of a blind man with clay, and bade him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam. . . . He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.’ John 9:7. The cure could be wrought only by the power of the Great Healer, yet Christ made use of the simple agencies of nature. While He did not give countenance to drug medication, He sanctioned the use of simple and natural remedies.”⁴

Notice that Christ healed the blind man without breaking the man’s piggy bank or using medications with risky side effects.

Let’s glean some principles from the experience of Ahaziah, son of Ahab, and Jezebel, King of Israel.

“And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease. But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the

messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. And Elijah departed.”⁵

As it turned out, Ahaziah knew who Elijah was. What’s more, he knew who Jehovah; God of Israel was. Elijah by the power of God had done miracles of healing. Elijah had even predicted, accurately, the death of both of Ahaziah’s parents. Why was this king venturing to seek medical aid from a foreign pagan entity?

“During the father's reign, Ahaziah had witnessed the wondrous works of the Most High. He had seen the terrible evidences that God had given apostate Israel of the way in which He regards those who set aside the binding claims of His law. Ahaziah had acted as if these awful realities were but idle tales. Instead of humbling his heart before the Lord, he had followed after Baal, and at last he had ventured upon this, his most daring act of impiety. Rebellious, and unwilling to repent, Ahaziah died, ‘according to the word of the Lord which Elijah had spoken.’”⁶

From this story we discover that who the Lord of your life is becomes apparent by who you turn to in times of physical need—it reveals to whom you would like to give honor and glory. So, the big question is, at the end of the day, and the patient is well, and singing the praises of their chosen healer, who gets the worship?

“Many are unwilling to put forth the needed effort to obtain a knowledge of the laws of life and the simple means to be employed for the restoration of health. They do not place themselves in right relation to life. When sickness is the result of their transgression of natural law, they do not seek to correct their errors and then ask the blessing of God, but they resort to the physicians. If they recover health they give to drugs and doctors all the honor. They are ever ready to idolize human power and wisdom, seeming to know no other God than the creature—dust and ashes.”⁷

I was visiting with a community, complementary medicine physician when she all of a sudden asked, with a twinkle in her eye, “How do God and Doctors differ?”

I knew I was in for a bit of humor. I replied, “Tell me”.

“Well”, she said, “It is just that God does not think He is a doctor?” We both smiled, realizing the reality of the implication, having met many physicians who suffered the God complex. Physicians do get put on pedestals, but it’s not of God to put them there.

And what is it that arouses us to idolize medicine? Isn’t it that it professes to stand between the victim of disease and sure death? It arises as a hero to resolve all crises. It’s the savior role it professes.

“The history of King Ahaziah’s sin and punishment has a lesson of warning which none can disregard with impunity. Though we do not pay homage to heathen gods, yet thousands are

worshiping at Satan’s shrine as verily as did the king of Israel. The very spirit of heathen idolatry is rife today, though under the influence of science and education it has assumed a more refined and attractive form.”⁸

And how do people exercise their homage to their physician? Isn’t implicit or even blind trust a feature of absolute loyalty?

“The present generation have trusted their bodies with the doctors and their souls with the ministers. Do they not pay the minister well for studying the Bible for them, that they need not be to the trouble? and is it not his business to tell them what they must believe, and to settle all doubtful questions of theology without special investigation on their part? If they are sick, they send for the doctor—believe whatever he may tell, and swallow anything he may prescribe; for do they not pay him a liberal fee, and is it not his business to understand their physical ailments, and what to prescribe to make them well, without their being troubled with the matter?”⁹

We are required to be stewards of our own health, and not to abdicate our responsibility to any other human being.

Jesus gave the commission to His church “heal the sick” (Luke 9:2) in the self-denying spirit of Christ. Apostasy in the Church led to healing shrines, prayers to the saints, confessionals, and penances paid to abolish sins on one’s deathbed, a great windfall for the Church. In the late twelfth century A.D. Waldenses and Albigenses challenged the apostasy and began turning the practice of Christ-centered healing back to its roots. They practiced physical healing, some specializing in wound healing, others in surgery, and quickly became known as the “best of doctors.” This greatly challenged the Catholic medical/financial system. In response to this growing threat to its dominance in all matters concerning humanity, the Romish Church, at the directive of Pope Innocent III, carried out a massive assault on the Albigenses and Waldenses. As a result, 20,000 Albigenses were murdered, and along with them the hopes of a large-scale change for the better in the medical establishment. Unbeknownst to most people, this retaliation in healthcare practice was what directly led to the setting up of the Roman Catholic Inquisition and the loss of millions upon millions of human lives. With the quelling of this “heretical movement,” Pope Innocent III initiated what has now become the modern-day hospital system in Europe. Also, in his Lateran Council of 1215, the Papal See saw to it that only doctors approved by the church could practice medicine.¹⁰

Let me just assure you here and now, you are your own best doctor, and the more intelligent you can become regarding the preservation of your health, the better you are going to be at fulfilling your duty.

“That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;”¹¹

We are accountable for the care of our body.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”¹²

Is Your Physician a Christian? And if so, what will be his opinion on drugs? If Christ is the true healer, the great physician, why would you choose any other than a Christian physician?

“In treating the sick, the physician will seek God for wisdom; then, instead of placing his dependence upon drugs and expecting that medicine will bring health to his patients, he will use nature’s restoratives, and employ natural means whereby the sick may be aided to recover. The Lord will hear and answer the prayers of the Christian physician.”¹³

With the adage in mind, “First do no harm”, What type of physician is the safest to trust your loved one to?

“It is not safe to trust to physicians who have not the fear of God before them. Without the influence of divine grace the hearts of men are ‘deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.’ Self-aggrandizement is their aim. Under the cover of the medical profession what iniquities have been concealed, what delusions supported! The physician may claim to possess great wisdom and marvelous skill, when his character is abandoned and his practice contrary to the laws of life. The Lord our God assures us that He is waiting to be gracious; He invites us to call upon Him in the day of trouble. How can we turn from Him to trust in an arm of flesh?”¹⁴

How does God feel when we abandon Him, The Great Physician, in favor of worldly physicians?

“If any among us are sick, let us not dishonor God by applying to earthly physicians, but apply to the God of Israel. If we follow his directions (James 5:14, 15) the sick will be healed. God’s promise cannot fail. Have faith in God, and trust wholly in him, that when Christ who is our life shall appear we may appear with him in glory.”¹⁵

What you want is a physician who can cooperate with God and secure for you His healing and he needs to receive a diploma from heaven.

“Drug medication must be left out of the question if the human physician would receive the diploma written and issued in heaven. There are many physicians who will never receive this diploma unless they learn in the school of the great Physician. This means that they must unlearn and cast away the supposed wonderful knowledge of how to treat disease with poisonous drugs. They must go to God’s great laboratory of nature, and there learn the simplest methods of using the remedies which the Lord has furnished. When drugs are thrown aside, when fermented liquor of all kinds is discarded, when God’s remedies--sunshine, pure air, water, and good food--are used, there will be far fewer deaths and a far greater number of cures.”¹⁶

And what if your non-Christian physician tells you that the reason for your illness is that you need better protein which can only come from dead animals?

“The common use of the flesh of dead animals has had a deteriorating influence upon the morals, as well as the physical constitution. Ill-health in a variety of forms, if effect could be traced to the cause, would reveal the sure result of flesh eating. The disuse of meats, with healthful dishes nicely prepared to take the place of flesh meats, would place a large number of the sick and suffering ones in a fair way of recovering their health, without the use of drugs. But if the physicians encourage a meat-eating diet to his invalid patients, then he will make a necessity for the use of drugs.”¹⁷

What do I do if all the natural remedies I have been trying fail to bring the desired relief from the disease?

“When human help fails, God will be the helper of His people. ‘Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up.’ If the professed followers of Christ would, with purity of heart, exercise as much faith in the promises of God as they repose in satanic agencies, they would realize in soul and body the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit.”¹⁸

What does it take to get God to heal the sick and suffering in response to prayer?

“The Lord has given me light that when the Israel of today humble themselves before Him, and cleanse the soul-temple from all defilement, He will hear their prayers in behalf of the sick and will bless in the use of His remedies for disease. When in faith the human agent does all he can to combat disease, using the simple methods of treatment that God has provided, his efforts will be blessed of God.”¹⁹

It is interesting to note that in Romans 14:23, God defines sin as, “for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” Given that definition, how do we interpret, “That which we lack in faith we make up by the use of drugs. Let us give up the drugs, believing that Jesus does not desire us to be sick, and that if we live according to the principles of health reform, He will keep us well.”²⁰

“The Lord would have our physicians cooperate with Him in their treatment of the sick, showing more faith and using fewer drugs. Let us rely upon God. Our faith is feeble, and our hearts remain unchanged. God would have a change take place. He says, “A new heart also will I give you.” When this promise is fulfilled to the people of God, the condition of things will be very different from what it now is.”²¹

In the title of this article, I have the line, “Let The Fourth Angel Sound”. Given that there is a fourth angel, what can we learn about the use of medications as it relates to the third angel’s message?

“Physicians have a work to do to bring about reform by educating the people, that they may understand the laws which govern their physical life. They should know how to eat properly, to work intelligently, to dress healthfully, and should be taught to bring all their habits into harmony with the laws of life and health, and to discard drugs. There is a great work

to be done. If the principles of health reform are carried out, the work will indeed be as closely allied to that of the third angel's message as the hand is to the body."²²

The third angel's message is scheduled to be proclaimed at the time in Earth's history when the mark of the beast will be enforced by civil law. That eventually has yet to materialize. It is yet future. Its proclamation may not come till many more drugs have been brought to market and added to the physician's pharmacopeia. But be it most undeniably clear to the rational mind, no ancient dangerous drug of antiquity is here referred to. The drugs here referred to exist and are in regular use upon the commencement of the third angel's message, and as it swells to the loud cry of the fourth angel.

The fourth angel, with its strong warnings, is referred to as the loud cry. What is the relationship between the third angel, the health message with the discarding of drugs, and the fourth angel's loud cry?

"The health reform, I was shown, is a part of the third angel's message and is just as closely connected with it as are the arm and hand with the human body. I saw that we as a people must make an advance move in this great work. Ministers and people must act in concert. God's people are not prepared for the loud cry of the third angel."²³

Thus, the title: "Drug Medications: Let The Fourth Angel Sound!"

The third angel is not on drugs, and neither is the fourth.

How important is this distinction to our survival during the sounding of these messages?

"The truth for this time, the third angel's message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice as we approach the great final test. This test must come to the churches in connection with true medical missionary work." We are told that in time of trouble "there will be sick ones, plenty of them, that will need help" so because of the need, but also "for their own sake, they should, while they have opportunity, become intelligent in regard to disease, its causes, prevention and cure, and those who will do this will find a field of labor anywhere."²⁴

"I was attending a camp meeting where folks desiring to seek God in a morning prayer session were gathered in a special tent designated for that purpose. When the prayers were finished and testimonies commenced, one very insightful sister shared her present struggle with depression, and concluded by relating that she knew, that when she felt this way, that this was God trying to get her to remedy some aspect of their life and get back to Him in a fuller way. At that point I raised my hand and said, "Yes, and instead of recognizing this truth, some rush off to the doctor to receive an antidepressant medication, and the medication becomes a false gospel so they don't have to deal with their real issues in their relationship with God." Did I ever have a stream of people following me out of the tent that day. One lady said, "I've been on Prozac for 20 years now and I have been unsuccessful after several attempts to get off of it."

Medications have become a false gospel, so people do not have to face reality. Are you to be saved in your sins or from your sins? Is your attitude that, if God won't heal you, you'll try pills?

"For thirty years the light on health reform has been coming to the people of God, but many have made it a subject of jest. They have continued to use tea, coffee, spices, and flesh meat. Their bodies are full of disease. How can we, I ask, present such ones to the Lord for healing?" "But how can the Lord work in their behalf when they are not willing to do His will, when they refuse to heed His instruction in regard to health reform?"²⁵

It reminds me of the reports my Vietnam veteran friends brought back from the war front of prostitutes allaying the fears of STDs by saying, "Look Joe, I've got penicillin, no disease here".

God wants to be your healer! Do you care to pursue healing under His guidance?

Has it been predicted that some new drugs will, at some future date, hit the market that will be God's ultimate answer to disease?

"The endless variety of medicines in the market, the numerous advertisements of new drugs and mixtures, all of which, they say, result in wonderful cures, kill hundreds where they benefit one. Those who are sick are not patient. They will take the various medicines, some of which are very powerful, although they know nothing of the nature of the mixtures. All the medicines they take only make their recovery more hopeless. Yet they keep dosing, and continue to grow worse until they die. Some will have medicine at all events. Then let them take these hurtful mixtures, and the various deadly poisons, upon their own responsibility. God's servants should not administer medicines, which they know will leave behind injurious effects upon the system, even if they do relieve present suffering."²⁶

The reason drug medications require a prescription is because they all have serious side effects.

Where in the Bible do you find oral medication? For example, it might say, "Here, put this in your mouth, swallow it and you will be made whole"?

The body is sometimes referred to poetically as one's house and the watchmen its keeper (Ecclesiastes 12:3). Is God the watchman of your house?

"Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."²⁷

Might we say, Except the Lord heal you, are you really healed at all?

Psalms 103:3, says "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;" Can drugs forgive your iniquities?

And what if God, in His merciful foreknowledge, chooses not to make healing a part of your earthly probationary exitance?

What if it is His will that you go to sleep? Think of Hezekiah. God was so kind to him. He sent a message to him, revealing to him that he was going to die and that it was in his power to be prepared for eternity by putting his house in order. Wouldn't you want to know when you were going to die and to also be assured of your eternal salvation? Not Hezekiah.

"In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live. Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore."²⁸

God responded to his begging, and God healed him. What did he do with his added years? Well, he sold the nation out to the Babylonians. That wasn't good. He had a son Manasseh who would become king in his stead. Manasseh wasn't a good king. The point here is, that some people just don't know when to die. Now, I am not making a case for dying, but you understand, there is a time for everything under the sun.

Are you going to say, "If God doesn't heal me, I'll try the doctors?"

And what if I am healed by someone other than God? You know, there are only two options. If it is not God who heals you--if it's not God who builds our house and watches it if you do experience healing--who then heals you?

"The mother, watching by the sickbed of her child, exclaims: 'I can do no more. Is there no physician who has power to restore my child?' She is told of the wonderful cures performed by some clairvoyant or magnetic healer, and she trusts her dear one to his charge, placing it as verily in the hands of Satan as if he were standing by her side. In many instances the future life of the child is controlled by a satanic power which it seems impossible to break."²⁹

Would you rather be sick or dead, but eternally saved, or controlled by a merciless healer?

"Yeah, but", you may be saying, "We're talking medications here, not witchcraft". Who put those dangerous drugs out there in nature?

"To a large extent Satan has carried out his plans. The Lord's property is embezzled; God is robbed. The means that has been lent to man to relieve the necessities of the poor and to uplift and sustain the fallen in righteousness and truth, is used to please and glorify self. From the beginning to the end the crime of tobacco-using, of opium and drug medication, has its origin in perverted knowledge. It is through plucking and eating of poisonous fruit, through the intricacies of names that the common people do not understand, that thousands and ten thousands of lives are lost. This great knowledge, supposed by man to be so wonderful, God did not mean that man should have. They are using the poisonous productions that Satan himself has planted to take the place of the tree of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations."³⁰

"There are 225,000 deaths annually from medical errors including 106,000 deaths due to 'non-error adverse events of medications'"³¹ In other words, the correct drug was given for the correctly diagnosed condition and the patient died.

We have important warnings about the working of Satan.

"The time will come, Christ tells us, when many deceivers will go forth, declaring themselves to be Christ. The Saviour says, 'Go ye not after them.' [Luke 21:8.] We need not be deceived. Wonderful scenes, with which Satan will be closely connected, will soon take place. God's Word declares that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test. Many who have had great light will fail to walk in the light, because they have not become one with Christ."³²

Will Satan make someone sick and then heal them by use of one of the pharmaceutical drugs he has implanted in nature and has been made into medication? Can Satan make the scientific studies, upon which physicians depend for guidance for prescribing, to reach statistical significance in favor of his drugs? Will the researcher report the magnificence results of studies on Satan's drugs as irrefutable?

What if your friends and neighbors were healed by someone other than God and they are pushing you to be healed in the same fashion as they were? Remember that sorcery is pharmakeia in the Bible and indicates drug medications.

"Those who give themselves up to the sorcery of Satan, may boast of great benefit received; but does this prove their course to be wise or safe? What if life should be prolonged? What if temporal gain should be secured? Will it pay in the end to have disregarded the will of God? All such apparent gain will prove at last an irrecoverable loss. We cannot with impunity break down a single barrier which God has erected to guard His people from Satan's power."³³

So how did we come to trust so much in drugs? How did we even learn about them? What made us think of them as a legitimate option? Haven't we been told: "Learn not the way of the heathen."³⁴

We went away to worldly medical schools and bought their poisons.

"Trust not to poisonous drugs that will interfere with nature's work and leave their cruel trail behind. Work away from drugs, and never, never advise one under your influence to go to Ann Arbor or any other place to obtain the education supposed to be essential for the perfection of the medical practitioner."³⁵

"Health reform, I have stated, needs reforming. The grand finishing touch that Ann Arbor has been supposed to give the students is educating away from the lessons that God has given in regard to drug medication."³⁶

This was ancient Israel's problem:

“They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them: But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works. And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them.”³⁷

In the end, the patient, instead of worshiping God, end up worshiping the drug, and its author:

“When sickness is the result of their transgression of natural law, they do not seek to correct their errors and then ask the blessing of God, but they resort to the physicians. If they recover health they give to drugs and doctors all the honor. They are ever ready to idolize human power and wisdom, seeming to know no other God than the creature--dust and ashes.”³⁸

Now, if you will indulge me, let us engage in a “Compare and Contrast” exercise. Turning to Galatians 5, let’s compare and contrast the fruits of the Spirit with the works of the flesh. The one good the other evil.

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft (Pharmakeia: sorcery, witchcraft. 1. the use or the administering of drugs 2. poisoning.), hatred...”

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”³⁹

God’s way is temperance or self-control, Satan’s way is pharmakeia.

One problem with drugs is that, “Drugs never cure disease. They only change the form and location. Nature alone is the effectual restorer, and how much better could she perform her task if left to herself.”⁴⁰

It was my privilege to be visited at one of our sanitariums by the CEO of a European pharmaceutical research corporation. Interesting story, he told of a medication they had developed for which the next step was to bring it to market. He took it to the investors and told them of its efficacy. One shot of the developed medication cured a prevalent European disease. The investors, said, “That’s great, but that’s not a good business model.” He never got that medication to market.

Medications may make you think you are healed or partially healed. But, to be only partially healed, is not to be healed at all.

“They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.”⁴¹

What most people want today is what I call “fast food medicine”. Their thought is, “Just give me a pill so I can continue my chosen lifestyle”.

“Many persons bring disease upon themselves by their self-indulgence. They have not lived in accordance with natural law or the principles of strict purity. Others have disregarded the laws of health in their habits of eating and drinking, dressing, or working. Often some form of vice is the cause of feebleness of mind or body. Should these persons gain the blessing of health, many of them would continue to pursue the same course of heedless transgression of God’s natural and spiritual laws, reasoning that if God heals them in answer to prayer, they are at liberty to continue their unhealthful practices and to indulge perverted appetite without restraint. If God were to work a miracle in restoring these persons to health, He would be encouraging sin.”⁴²

By correlation, wouldn’t supplying a drug that restored such a person to health be encouraging sin?

Let’s review that previous quote:

“Drugs never cure disease. They only change the form and location. Nature alone is the effectual restorer, and how much better could she perform her task if left to herself. But this privilege is seldom allowed her. If crippled nature bears up under the load, and finally accomplishes in a great measure her double task, and the patient lives, the credit is given to the physician. But if nature fails in her effort to expel the poison from the system, and the patient dies, it is called a wonderful dispensation of Providence. If the patient had taken a course to relieve overburdened nature in season, and understandingly used pure soft water, this dispensation of drug-mortality might have been wholly averted. The use of water can accomplish but little, if the patient does not feel the necessity of also strictly attending to his diet.”⁴³

Our job as medical missionaries is to so guide the patient in the practice of natural law so as to give them a reasonable opportunity to submit their case for healing to the Great Physician.

“People need to be taught that drugs do not cure disease. It is true that they sometimes afford present relief, and the patient appears to recover as the result of their use; this is because nature has sufficient vital force to expel the poison and to correct the conditions that caused the disease. Health is recovered in spite of the drug. But in most cases the drug only changes the form and location of the disease. Often the effect of the poison seems to be overcome for a time, but the results remain in the system and work great harm at some later period.”⁴⁴

I’ll give you an example of this from blood pressure. People with normal blood pressure live longer.^{45,46,47} What is more, their thinking is clearer. Studying the brains of people with high blood pressure, also called hypertension, researchers have discovered an association between hypertension, brain white matter defects, and dementia--difficulty thinking and remembering.⁴⁸ People with high blood pressure develop white matter lesions in their brains at 10 times the rate of the normal population.⁴⁹ Controlling blood pressure with medications does not stop brain deterioration. Some blood pressure medications make the brain deteriorate even faster.⁵⁰ To stop brain deterioration, lifestyle habits

responsible for both hypertension and dementia need to be addressed. Drugs are not the answer, they only make other diseases and side effects appear. In this case the tradeoff may be hypertension in exchange for Alzheimer's.

Another example is diabetes. Certain prescription drugs increase the risk of diabetes. Blood sugars tend to be harder to control with the use of some blood pressure medications (thiazide diuretics and beta-blockers, etc.), atypical antipsychotic drugs (Clozapine, Zyprexa, Seroquel, etc.), steroids such as prednisone,⁵¹ and oral contraceptive pills.⁵² The risk of diabetes goes up by as much as 71% with the use of cholesterol-lowering statin drugs.^{53,54} And, what about diabetes medications themselves. In a 4 year study, aggressive blood sugar control with typical diabetes medications and/or insulin increased the risk of dying by 20%.⁵⁵ Drugs do not cure disease.

Cholesterol drugs (statins): are they safe? Some of the most noted problems with statins are muscle pains, rhabdomyolysis (disintegration of the muscles), and liver toxicity.^{56,57} Not all brain failure is due to aging or high cholesterol, statins have been found to play a role as well. Statins have been found to cause cognitive impairment⁵⁸ and memory loss.^{59,60} Statins also seriously decrease coenzyme Q10,^{61,62,63} a powerful antioxidant involved in prevention of heart disease.⁶⁴ This may also be why statins can worsen congestive heart failure.⁶⁵ Statins are such powerful suppressors of the immune system⁶⁶ that they are being tested and considered for use in organ transplant immunosuppressive chemotherapy,^{67,68} and for autoimmune diseases.^{69,70,71} Most things that suppress the immune system leave way for the development of cancer:

"In some randomized trials, notwithstanding their short duration, statins have been found to increase cancer incidence, especially in the elderly and women. In these situations, the decrease in cardiovascular mortality can be matched by an equal increase in cancer mortality, leaving all-cause mortality unchanged."⁷²

Dietary/lifestyle interventions (diet high in plant sterols, soy protein, fiber, and almonds) have been shown to lower cholesterol by 28%.⁷³ Compared to lifestyle interventions, statin drug therapy offers no cholesterol-lowering advantage.

You may be thinking, but what about antibiotics, haven't they saved lives? You might be surprised to find out, as was I, that antibiotics increase your risk of cancer later on in life.^{74,75}

You may be thinking, But what about Anesthesia? The following story By Andrew McChesney appeared on August 13, 2020, under the Title: "New Heart for Alex".⁷⁶

Alex was diagnosed with congenital heart disease, a hole in the heart, as a baby in Finland. Doctors hoped that the heart would heal itself, but it didn't. So, when he was 8, doctors performed open-heart surgery. Afterward, Mother looked at the small boy lying in the recovery ward and thought, "For some reason God allowed this to happen. He has a purpose for our lives".

Mother wrote about the experience on Facebook. Many Finns began to follow her Facebook page, allowing her to speak about God with people who otherwise would not listen. Alex was becoming a missionary.

The boy recuperated quickly from the operation and returned home after only five days. It was a miracle. The devil had tried to snatch away Alex, but Jesus had given him a new heart.

The summer, however, turned out to be hot. One evening, Alex complained about a pain in his chest. At the hospital, doctors saw that his heart had swelled to double its normal size (see photo below). Alex was rushed into emergency surgery. Hours later, doctors called the operation a success. The devil had tried to snatch away Alex, but Jesus had given him a new heart.

Alex acted unusual when he returned home. Usually kind and quiet, he became aggressive and loud, especially toward Father. One evening, Alex was particularly angry, yelling unkind words and tossing his eyeglasses on the floor.

"Why are you acting this way?" Father asked, placing a hand on Alex's head to pray. This was something Father had done many times to pray.

But this time Alex refused prayer. "Take your hand away!" he yelled.

He turned to Father with a look of pure hatred in his eyes. Father had never seen such an expression on his face before. He went to the kitchen, where Mother was preparing supper.

"This is not normal", he said. "This is not our Alex. We need to pray".

Father and Mother walked over to Alex. Without saying a word, Father placed a hand on Alex's head. Mother placed her hand on the boy's forehead.

"In the name of Jesus, we command you, evil spirit, to leave Alex", Father said. "We have given Alex to God, and you have no place in his life".

After the prayer, Alex returned to his normal self. He smiled and laughed like nothing had happened.

The devil had tried to snatch away Alex, but Jesus had given him a new heart. Mother hopes that Alex grows up to have a heart for mission and that his story will change hearts.

"I have given his life to God", Mother said. "We feel that Alex has a special relationship with God. His life has been difficult, but we believe that God will do something wonderful with him."

What happened that led to this demon possession? Under anesthesia, the frontal lobes of the brain are shut down by strong drugs. Surgeons, Nurses, and Operating room staff often play demonic music while patients are under anesthesia. With the frontal lobes guardians shut down, the patient has no protection against evil influences. When you go into surgery under anesthesia you are not safe from evil.

But can't we attribute the increasing longevity of our society to the advances in medicine?

In 1900 cancer affected 5% of the population. Under the influence of vaccinations containing many viruses and drug medications that suppress the immune system one-third of women (33%) and half of men (50%) will now develop cancer in their lifetime.⁷⁷

Many medical practitioners have become mere Symptomatomologists, not healers.

"The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost;"⁷⁸

Were any other kings in apostasy regarding medical care?

"And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians."⁷⁹

So, what is God's plan for caring for the ill?

"Natural means, used in accordance with God's will, bring about supernatural results. We ask for a miracle, and the Lord directs the mind to some simple remedy. We ask to be kept from the pestilence that walketh in darkness, that is stalking with such power through the world; we are then to cooperate with God, observing the laws of health and life. Having done all that we possibly can, we are to keep asking in faith for health and strength. We are to eat that food which will preserve the health of the body. God gives us no encouragement that He will do for us what we can do for ourselves. Natural laws are to be obeyed. We are not to fail of doing our part. God says to us, 'Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure' (Philippians 2:12, 13)."⁸⁰

Can physicians pray and have God direct their minds to some simple natural remedy too? Of course, simple and natural is God's way.

What are examples of simple natural remedies?

"Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power--these are the true remedies."⁸¹

But will these remedies really do what the doctor hoped to achieve through the use of medications?

"When the weather will permit, all who can possibly do so ought to walk in the open air every day, summer and winter." "A walk, even in winter, would be more beneficial to the health than all the medicine the doctors may prescribe."⁸²

You see, God had a purpose in employing simple natural remedies for the healing of man, just as He had a purpose for Israel amongst the nations.

"God's purpose for His institutions today may also be read in the purpose which He sought to accomplish through the Jewish nation."⁸³

"God chose Israel to reveal His character to men. He desired them to be as wells of salvation in the world."⁸⁴

"Every institution established by Seventh-day Adventists is to be to the world what Joseph was in Egypt and what Daniel and his fellows were in Babylon."⁸⁵

And how faithful was Daniel in Babylon?

"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank."⁸⁶

Are we prepared to decline all defiling medical interventions in the name of the Lord?

Loma Linda is our main medical training institution as a Church. Some have come to believe, after reading certain passages from inspiration, that Loma Linda has a special indulgence from God to do anything in medical lines it desires. But, a careful reading of these statements does not carry that meaning. Even Loma Linda is not to be using drugs.

"Be careful not to do anything that would restrict the work at Loma Linda. It is in the order of God that this property has been secured, and He has given instruction that a school should be connected with the sanitarium. A special work is to be done there in qualifying young men and young women to be efficient medical missionary workers. They are to be taught how to treat the sick without the use of drugs. Such an education requires an experience in practical work."⁸⁷

Is there hope for these institutions?

"The only hope of better things is in the education of the people in right principles. Let physicians teach the people that restorative power is not in drugs, but in nature. Disease is an effort of nature to free the system from conditions that result from a violation of the laws of health. In case of sickness, the cause should be ascertained. Unhealthful conditions should be changed, wrong habits corrected. Then nature is to be assisted in her effort to expel impurities and to re-establish right conditions in the system."⁸⁸

Aren't there some exceptions, can't some practitioners engage in drug distribution?

“There are many ways of practicing the healing art, but there is only one way that Heaven approves. God’s remedies are the simple agencies of nature, that will not tax or debilitate the system through their powerful properties. Pure air and water, cleanliness, a proper diet, purity of life, and a firm trust in God, are remedies for the want of which thousands are dying, yet these remedies are going out of date because their skillful use requires work that the people do not appreciate. Fresh air, exercise, pure water, and clean, sweet premises, are within the reach of all with but little expense; but drugs are expensive, both in the outlay of means and the effect produced upon the system.”⁸⁹

Do you believe that you can heal someone without heaven’s approval? And if so, how? With drugs?

So, what should be done about this rising use of drugs by institutions?

“Drug medication should never have been introduced into our institutions. There was no need of this being so, and for this very reason the Lord would have us establish an institution where He can come in and where His grace and power can be revealed. ‘I am the resurrection and the life,’ He declares.”⁹⁰

So, from that we can urge that repentance is the only recourse.

Let’s get back to the title of this article. What is the message of the “fourth angel” relates to drug medications?

“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”⁹¹
 “And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries (Pharmakeia: sorcery, witchcraft. 1. the use or the administering of drugs 2. poisoning.) were all nations deceived.”⁹²

We need a coming out, a repentance on the part of these health institutions.

“In every health institution that has fallen into worldly practices, the Lord calls for a decided change. Let our workers now come out from the world, and be separate.”⁹³

What of our missionaries from these institutions, who go overseas and treat natives with pharmaceutical preparations such as drugs and vaccines? Jesus described this in His calling out to the Pharisees:

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.”⁹⁴

“The whole heathen world will rise up in judgment against those whom heaven has favored the most, but who have placed themselves on Satan’s side, and worked in his lines to

bring their soul-destroying narcotics to foreign lands, to pollute and destroy the heathen nations with their defiling and health-destroying drugs.”⁹⁵

Carrying drugs and vaccines to foreign mission stations for the treatment of disease is not medical missionary work.

What about nutraceuticals, supplements, vitamins, tinctures, and pills? In the 1800s these were referred to as “patent nostrums”, or some potion that could be patented and sold for profit.

“A practice that is laying the foundation of a vast amount of disease and of even more serious evils is the free use of poisonous drugs. When attacked by disease, many will not take the trouble to search out the cause of their illness. Their chief anxiety is to rid themselves of pain and inconvenience. So they resort to patent nostrums, of whose real properties they know little, or they apply to a physician for some remedy to counteract the result of their misdoing, but with no thought of making a change in their unhealthful habits. If immediate benefit is not realized, another medicine is tried, and then another. Thus, the evil continues.”⁹⁶

Let’s take a look at the story of Naaman and draw a few lessons from his experience.

“So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.”⁹⁷

Modern “science” would rush down to the Jordan, collect a sample of the water, set up shop to manufacture more of it, and market it as the 7-dip cure. Would it cure leprosy? No. Why not?

“Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;”⁹⁸

Even Satan merchandized in Heaven.⁹⁹

Some may say, “But My Modern Pills Are Just Herbs!”

“The true method for healing the sick is to tell them of the herbs that grow for the benefit of man. Scientists have attached large names to these simplest preparations, but true education will lead us to teach the sick that they need not call in a doctor any more than they would call in a lawyer. They can themselves administer the simple herbs if necessary. To educate the human family that the doctor alone knows all the ills of infants and persons of every age, is false teaching, and the sooner we as a people stand on the principles of health reform, the greater will be the blessing that will come to those who would do true medical work. There is a work to be done in treating the sick with water and teaching them to make the most of sunshine and physical exercise. Thus in simple language we may teach the people how to preserve health, how to avoid sickness. This is the work our sanitariums are called upon to do. This is true science.”¹⁰⁰

How many pill sorters should one prepare for fleeing to the mountains in the time of trouble?

God wants to be your Healer, spiritually and physically.

- The Great Physician wants your worship and allegiance.
- He works through nature, the 8 laws of health, simple natural remedies, and answers prayer.
- God wants His medical missionaries and institutions to reveal His character to the world.

Satan wants your worship and allegiance.

- Satan wants to be your healer spiritually and physically.
- Satan works through mysticism, emotions, magic, deception, and drugs.
- Satan wants God's health care providers and facilities to deny God and represent Satan to the world.

God calls us to come out of Babylon to the glory of His healing grace, both spiritually and physically.

How many are willing to come out of Babylon and Worship God as the only True Healer?

Let the fourth angel sound:

“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues... for by thy sorceries [medications] were all nations deceived.”¹⁰¹

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