

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A FRIEND OF GOD

As the Israelites journeyed toward the *earthly Canaan*,
so are we pressing onward to reach the *heavenly
Canaan*. The history of their backslidings is repeated
among the people of God today. Faith and piety are
waning. Many who once loved the appearing of Christ,
are setting their affections upon this world, and are
conforming to its habits and customs. The fear of God
is not kept before the mind, and the natural desires
and inclinations gain control.

(ST, May 26, 1881)

It is not safe for Christians to choose the society of those who have no connection with God, and whose course is displeasing to Him. Yet how many professed Christians venture upon the forbidden ground. Many invite to their homes relatives who are vain, trifling, and ungodly; and often the example and influence of these irreligious visitors produce lasting impressions upon the minds of the children in the household. The influence thus exerted is similar to that which resulted from the association of the Hebrews with the *godless Canaanites*.

(2BC 1001.3)

The condition of society today is the same as when God presented before Israel the abominations of the heathen . . . the people of God cannot in any sense follow the practices of the world. They must keep the commandments of the Lord. The line of separation must be distinctly marked between the obedient and the disobedient. There must be open and avowed enmity between the church and the serpent, between her seed and his seed.

(ST, August 26, 1889 par. 7)

The same experience is repeating in the history of God's people. God is leading them out from the abominations of the world to keep his law in the land of the enemy, and the rage of "the accuser of the brethren" knows no bounds. . . . The antitypical land of promise is just before us,--a land where no strange god shall ever come, no evil spirit enter; and Satan desires to destroy the people of God, and cut them off from their inheritance. {ST, August 26, 1889 par. 9}