FEEDING THE WHOLE BODY

Even though the coconut is a very healthy and valued fruit, it can provide nutrition only if opened the right way. Some years ago a theology student at an Adventist University in northeast Brazil was talking to his friends under a tall coconut tree. He suddenly passed out after being hit in the head by a large falling coconut of more than three pounds (1.4 kilograms).

The point is that despite how beneficial that coconut would be, it was unable to nurture the student’s body just by hitting his head. To provide nutrition, the coconut must enter the body in an appropriate, nontraumatic way, through the mouth, created and provided by our God. From there it is processed and distributed so that it provides nourishment and sometimes healing to the body.

God planned the church in such a way that it, Christ’s body, should be sustained in a similar way. He established only one place—His storehouse—by which tithes and regular offerings should be received. From that place, they are processed, and nourishment is distributed throughout the whole body, equally nurturing all of its parts.

This week we will explore the narratives of two giving motivators and the spiritual consequences of the way they related to the storehouse principle. One aimed to bring revival and reformation while enforcing the practice of this principle. The other induced his people to apostasy by replacing God’s storehouse system with another system of his own creation.
Write out Deuteronomy 12:5–14 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Deuteronomy 12:11. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.
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Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Deuteronomy 12:5–14. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What God-commanded practices are in risk of being considered also “too much” in your culture?

Which reasons may lead some to despise or attack the storehouse system?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw08-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Based on Hezekiah’s account, why is the teaching and practice of the storehouse system still vital as part of a revival initiative in the church? Or isn’t it?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw08-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Acts 1:8
Revelation 14:6, 7
Psalm 66:13
Psalm 116:12–14
Malachi 3:6–10
Matthew 6:21
Acts 4:32–36
John 17:21–23

What other verses come to mind in connection with Deuteronomy 12:5–14?

Review your memorized verse from Deuteronomy 12:5–14.
Meditate on Deuteronomy 12:5–14 again and look for where Jesus is.

Which offering is the most important for the accomplishment of Jesus’ missionary strategy?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw08-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study, what do you need to do?

After this week’s study, are there elements you can inform others to do as well?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/stw08-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Based on this week’s narrative, what, in your opinion, is the main reason we need to support the ministry of authorized pastors?

Why shouldn’t people involved in independent or supporting ministries, as good as they may be, be supported by tithe funds? Or should they?

What is the problem with waiting for spontaneity while expecting what is good and right?

What damage would be inflicted on the worldwide missionary strategy of the church if every member would bring their tithes and regular offerings only to where it seems right in their own eyes (Deut. 12:8)?

If not already, how can you get involved with the storehouse system?