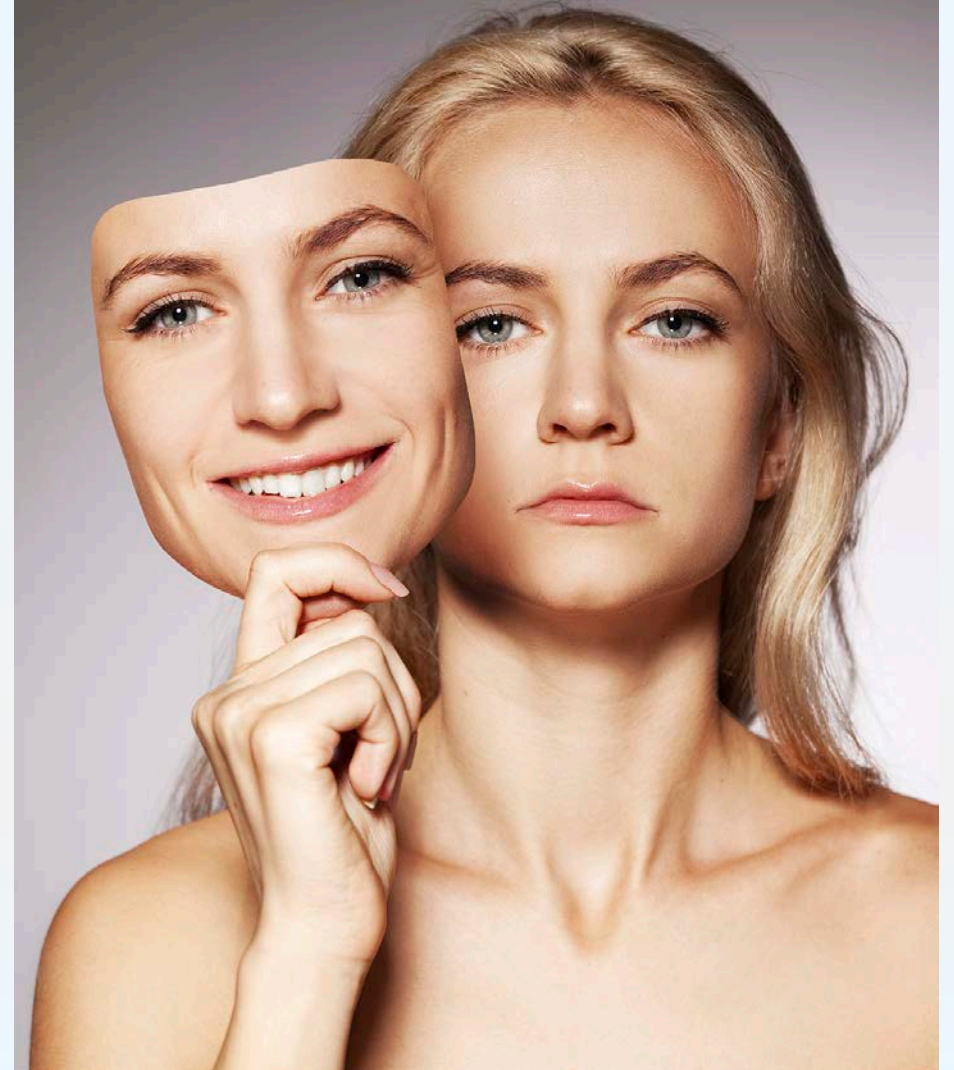


Behind the Mask

Proverbs 25: 6.



“Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of the great”.
Proverbs 25: 6.



I. Introduction

Life is a mystery. God created the universe in such a way that we remain impressed by its complexity, majesty, and unreachability. At the same time, the omnipresence of mysteries is also inviting us to live in transparency, authenticity, and truthfulness. The mystery is the beauty of God's creation. The transparency is the beauty of His creatures.



God is mysterious and
real, always active

"God works in
mysterious ways but at
least he works, he's
never on welfare in a
mysterious way."
Stephen Colbert



Our problem is that we are so distracted and have no time to think about mysteries and even not about obvious realities

"The world is full of obvious things which nobody by any chance ever observes."

Arthur Conan Doyle,
The Hound of the Baskervilles



Mystery doesn't preclude
transparency

"I have realized that mystery is what keeps people away, and I've grown tired of smoke and mirrors. I yearn for the clean, well-lighted place. So let's peek behind the curtain and hail the others like us. The open-faced sandwiches who take risks and live big and smile with all of their teeth. These are the people I want to be around."

Amy Poehler, *Yes Please*



A mysterious God needs
dreamt conceived the church
as a real manifestation of His
love, mercy and peace.

“The revelation of God’s
mysterious and awe-inspiring
presence always evokes a
response from man. This
response takes place in and
through the Church, the
community of believers.”
Justin Rigali



Human transparency
depends on their
knowledge of themselves.

“Only through becoming
aware of yourself and your
limitations can you be
transparent with others.”

Joanie Connell, Flying
Without a Helicopter: How
to Prepare Young People
for Work and Life



Transparency is a must in our world of technology, communication, scientific exploration, and confusion

“My past conduct was so transparent and so honest that when my enemies spread rumours about me nobody believed them.”
— Amit Kalantri



Transparency, a powerful and persuasive argument in all aspects of human life.

“There is no persuasiveness more effectual than the transparency of a single heart, of a sincere life.”
Joseph Lightfoot



The consequence of
transparency is accountability

"The best way to deal in a transparent world is just be transparent. Let your life be authentic and let people look in. Because if they want to find out, they're gonna find out. And so to me it's given me a greater sense of accountability as a CEO. It's given me a greater opportunity to lead."

*Michael Hyatt, Vanderbilt
University*



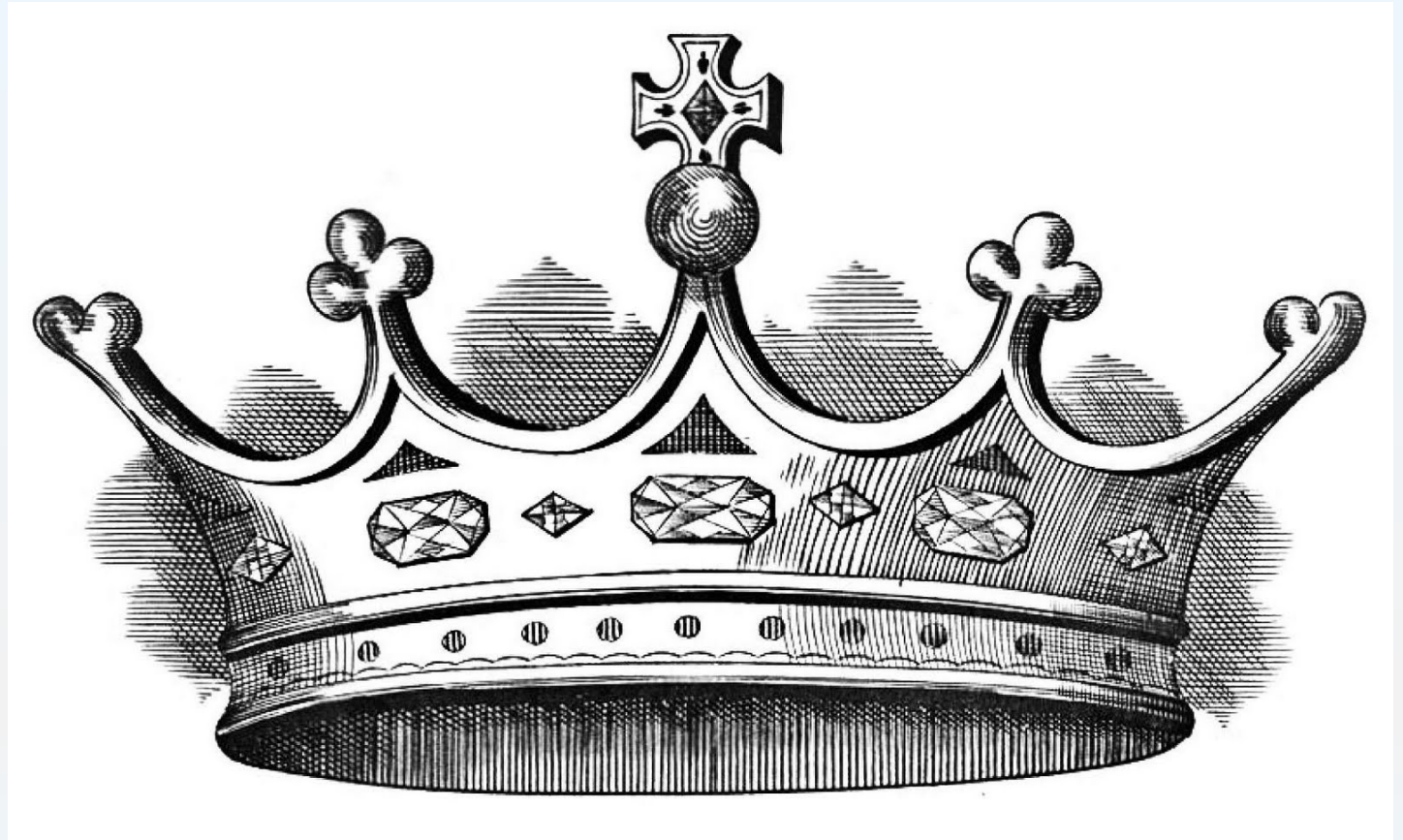
II. Context



Book of Proverbs – Structure

INTRO	1: 1 – 1: 7	The Fear of the Lord for young man: Purpose of the Book, First lesson
1	1: 8 – 9: 18	Wisdom 101 (Introduction to Wisdom)
2	10: 1 – 24: 34	Wise Children (Proverbs for the Youth)
3	25: 1 – 29: 27	Wise People (Proverbs for general public)
4	30: 1 – 30: 33	Wisdom of Agur
5	31: 1 – 31: 9	Wisdom of King Lemuel's Mother
CONCL	31: 10 – 31: 31	Finding the Virtuous Wife with the Fear of the Lord Conclusion of the Book, Last lesson before marriage

The first seven verses of chapter 25 are the first poem with the message related to the role and the mission of the kings as well as the relationship of the population with authorities in general.



Book of Proverbs, Chapter 25: 1 – 7. Structure

Behind the Mask. Search for Authenticity and Integrity

A	Kings and Mystery	
	25: 2	Nobility of Discovering Secrets
	25: 3	Impossibility of Discovering the Secrets of King's Heart
B	Kings and Wickedness	
	25: 4	Eliminating the Dross
	25: 5	Eliminating the Wicked
C	Conduct in the Presence of the King	
	25: 6	Self gratification unwelcomed in the Presence of the King
	25: 7	Being put higher or lower in the Presence of a Prince

Kings and Mystery

The first two verses create a parallel between the capacity of God to hide, to conceive secrets and kings to discover them. Secrets are the trademark of divinity, the nobility of His omniscience and omnipotence.

Discovering secrets are the trademarks of kings.

Obviously kings should be solution oriented in their leadership activities.



At the same time kings will find the nobility of their role when they spend time to penetrate gradually the beauty and the magnificence of God's plans. If God is hiding things, kings will not only discover secrets of their kingdoms but also study the work of God and learn more about His character.

By the way this was one of the essential tasks of Salomon, the author of the Book of Proverbs.

“And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt... He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five. Also he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish. And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon.” 1 Kings 4: 29 – 34.

Finally, citizens should accept the fact that there are some things nobody can penetrate. One of them is the impossibility to probe the heart of kings.



Kings and Wickedness

The effectiveness of kings is considerably diminished in the presence of wicked people. This is why it is important to preserve the integrity and moral authority of the king by a careful choice of his advisers. There is no place for corruption in the presence of the king.



III. Wisdom
and integrity
of kings.
Respect
and esteem of
people for their
leadership.



1. Respect those who have authority in your home, church, and country

“I grew up to always respect authority and
respect those in charge.”

Charles de Gaulle



“Instead of being critical of people in authority over you and envious of their position, be happy you're not responsible for everything they have to do. Instead of piling on complaints, thank them for what they do. Overwhelm them with encouragement and appreciation!”
Joyce Meyer

“In order to be
respected, authority has
got to be respectable.”
Tom Robbins



“He who
establishes his
argument by
noise and
command
shows that his
reason is
weak.”
Montaigne

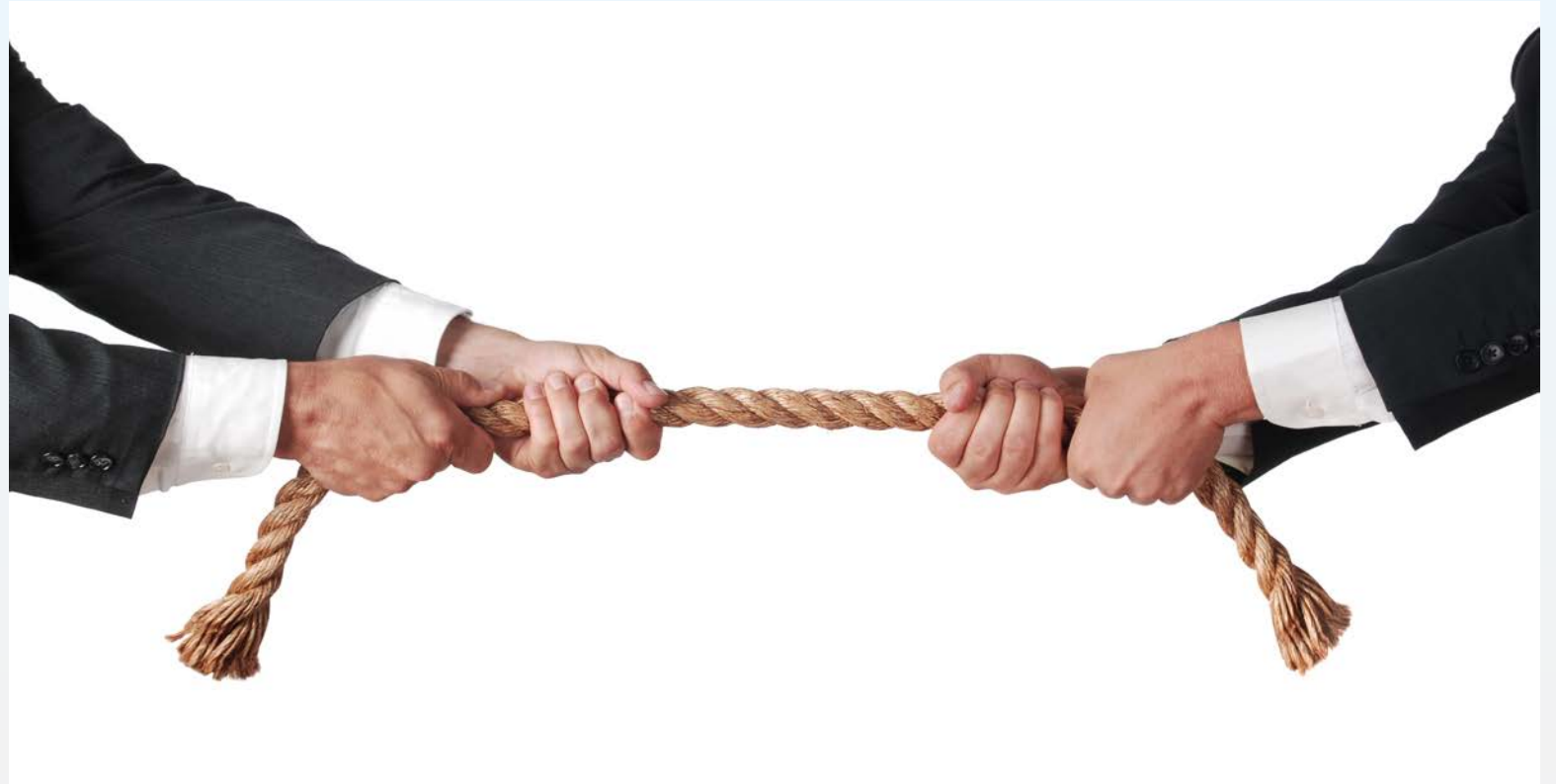


“Jesus was a perfect example of following authority. He was subject to His earthly parents; he subjected himself to the laws of the land, and as God, he had the power not to do any of it.”
Monica Johnson



2. Don't fight for your position.

Nowhere. Even not
within the church.



“My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition.”
Indira Gandhi



"Some persons are always ready to level those above them down to themselves, while they are never willing to level those below them up to their own position. But he that is under the influence of true humility will avoid both these extremes. On the the one hand, he will be willing that all should rise just so far as their diligence and worth of character entitle them to; and on the other hand, he will be willing that his superiors should be known and acknowledged in their place, and have rendered to them all the honors that are their due."

Jonathan Edwards

"Humility is the only true wisdom by which we prepare our minds for all the possible changes of life."
George Arliss



“A great leader needs to love and respect people, and he needs to be comfortable with himself and with the world. He also needs to be able to forgive himself and others. In other words, a leader needs grace.”
Leo Hindery Jr



3. High spiritual level of all church leaders

The church leaders should be intensely connected with God who is the source of purity and power. There is no place for corruption within church institutions



This text is reminding us the importance of the right team for the leadership of the church:

“The spiritual level of a church is only as deep as its leadership is willing to go.”
Manny Garcia



“The people will seldom rise higher than their minister. A world-loving spirit in him has a tremendous influence upon others. The people make his deficiencies an excuse to cover their own world-loving spirit. They quiet their consciences, thinking that they may be free to love the things of this life and be indifferent to spiritual things, because their ministers are so. They deceive their own souls, and remain in friendship with the world, which the apostle declares to be “enmity against God.” [Romans 8:7.] Ministers should be examples to the flock. They should manifest an undying love for souls, and the same devotion to the cause which they desire to see in the people.—Testimonies for the Church 2:645, 646.{GW 342.1}

“Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely... There is no worse heresy than that the office sanctifies the holder of it.”
Lord Acton, (John Emerich Edward Dalberg), 1887



“The corruption of the
best things gives rise
to the worst.”
David Hume

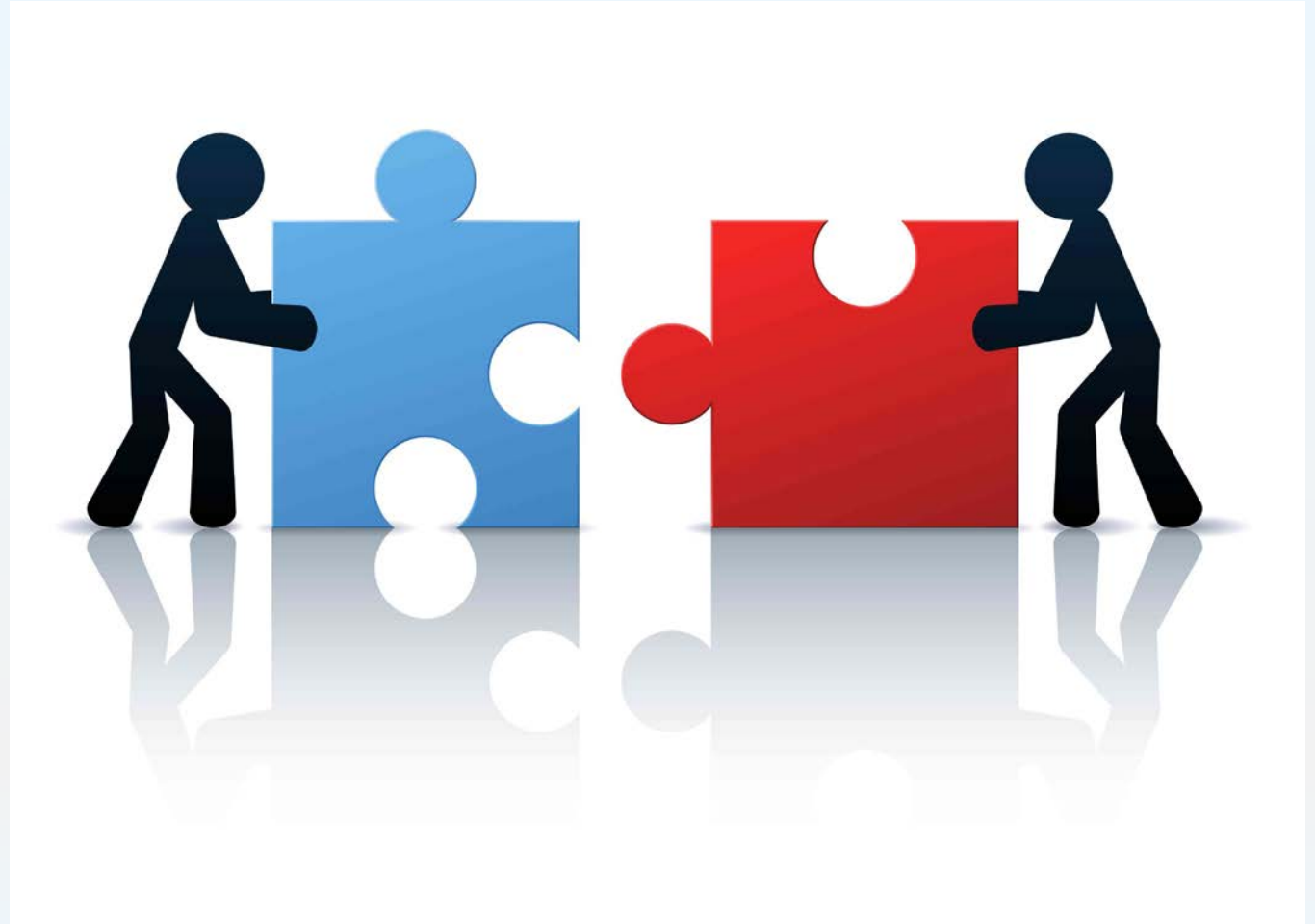


V. Conclusion



“Competition has been shown to be useful up to a certain point and no further, but cooperation, which is the thing we must strive for today, begins where competition leaves off.”

FRANKLIN D.
ROOSEVELT, *The Roosevelt Reader: Selected Speeches*



“All who are co-laborers with Him will be burden-bearers. Their anxiety will not be to tear one another to pieces and exalt themselves; but their work will be to help one another, to strengthen one another in the most holy faith, while they will be diligent to make their own calling and election sure... Pride and ambition will be humbled in the dust. We are to meet those we associate with when the Judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, and when all shall be judged according to their works. How can we meet those we have treated with neglect, those we have envied, those we have tried to tear down, the souls we have wounded and bruised, destroyed their influence and awakened a spirit of hatred against them, that caused them to be crippled and hedged up in doing the work God would have them do? God is in earnest with us. God help us to be wise unto salvation.”

Ellen G. White, *Special Testimony for the Battle Creek Church*, p. 24.

“A most solemn message has been entrusted to those who have received the light of present truth. As members of the visible church, and workers in the vineyard of the Lord, all professed Christians should do their utmost to preserve peace, harmony, and love in the church. Mark the prayer of Christ: “That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.” The unity of the church is the convincing evidence that God has sent Jesus into the world as its Redeemer. This is an argument which worldlings cannot controvert. Therefore Satan is constantly working to prevent this union and harmony, that unbelievers, by witnessing backsliding, dissension, and strife among professed Christians, may become disgusted with religion and be confirmed in their impenitence. God is dishonored by those who profess the truth while they are at variance and enmity with one another. Satan is the great accuser of the brethren, and all who engage in this work are enlisted in his service.”
Ellen G. White, 5T p. 619.

“Everything will line up perfectly when knowing and living the truth becomes more important than looking good.”
Alan Cohen



Behind the Mask

Proverbs 25: 6.

