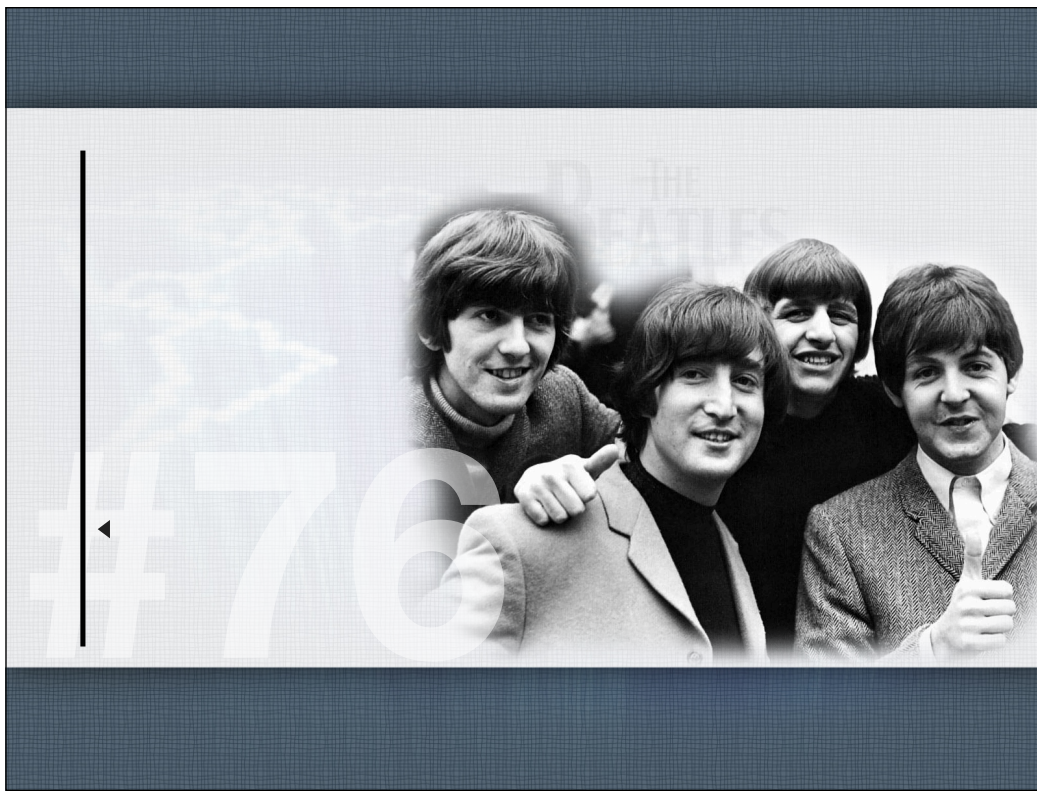




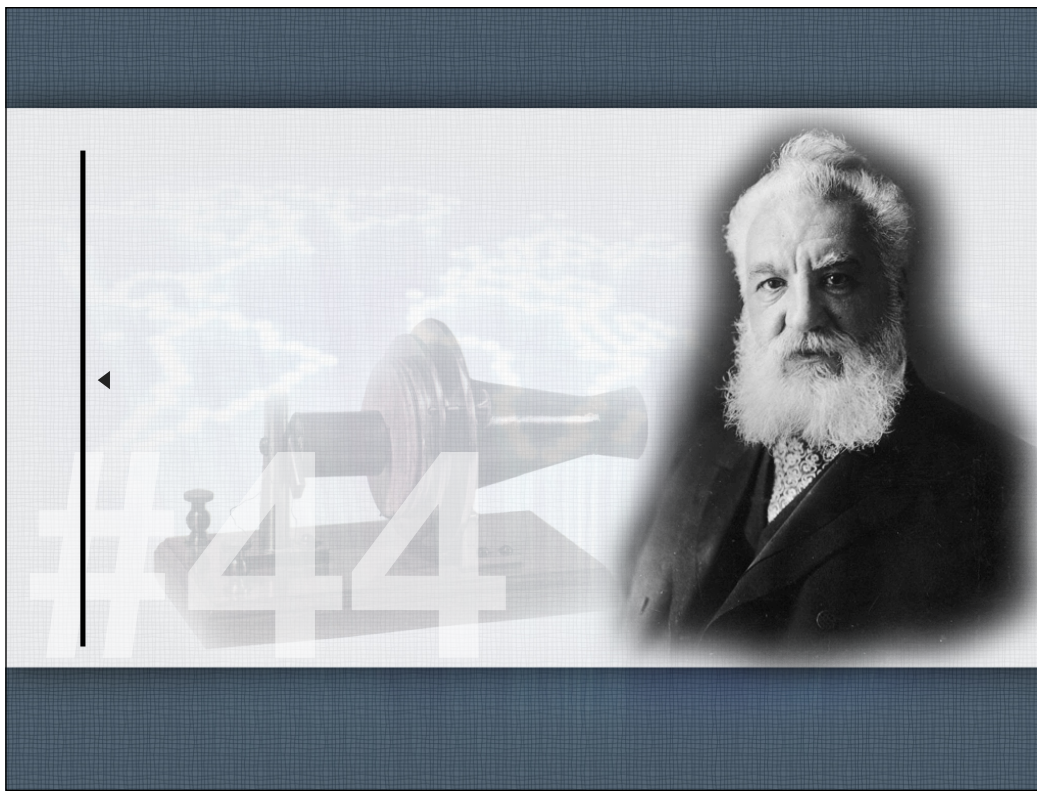
# Silent Messengers, Loud Messages

seven reasons why satan hates literature evangelism





#76 – the Beatles

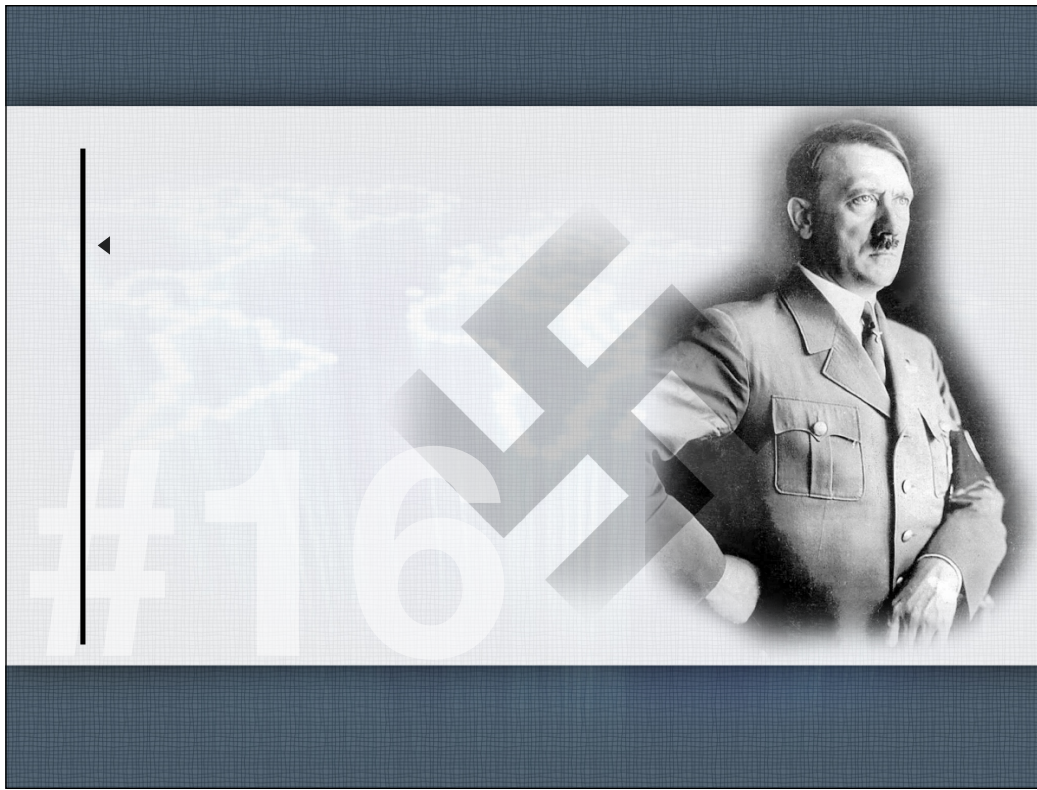


Alexander Graham Bell – #44

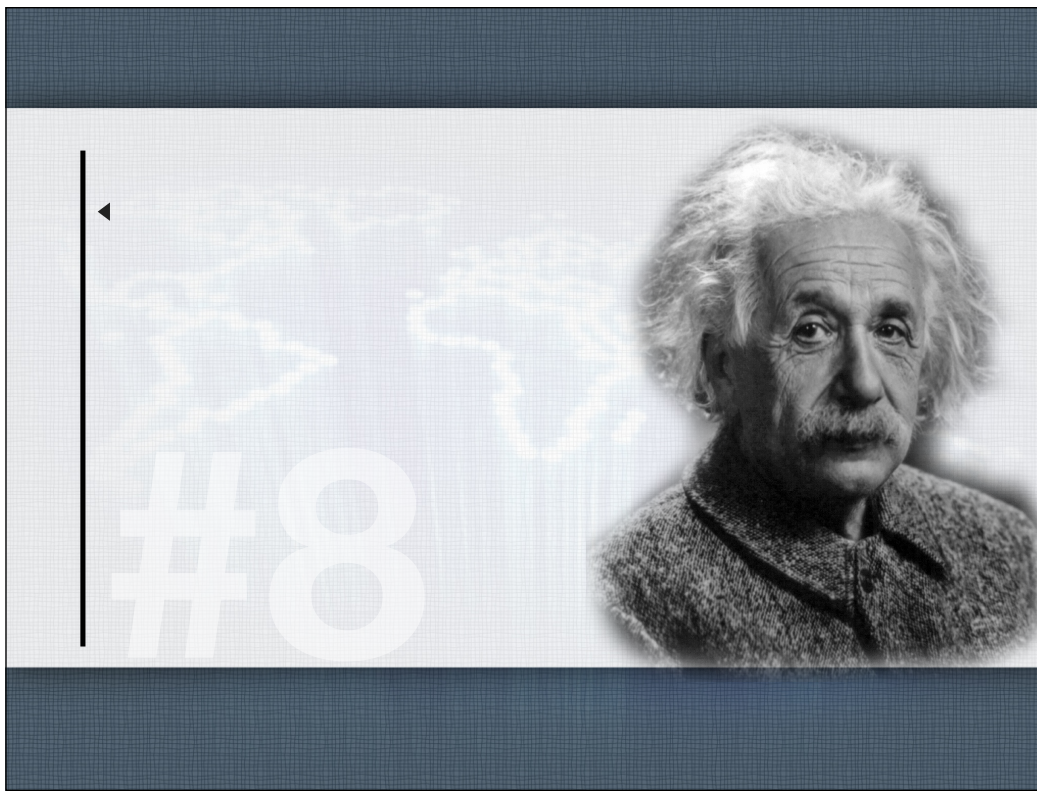


Martin Luther King, Jr. – #33





Adolf Hitler – #16



Albert Einstein – #8



Martin Luther – #3

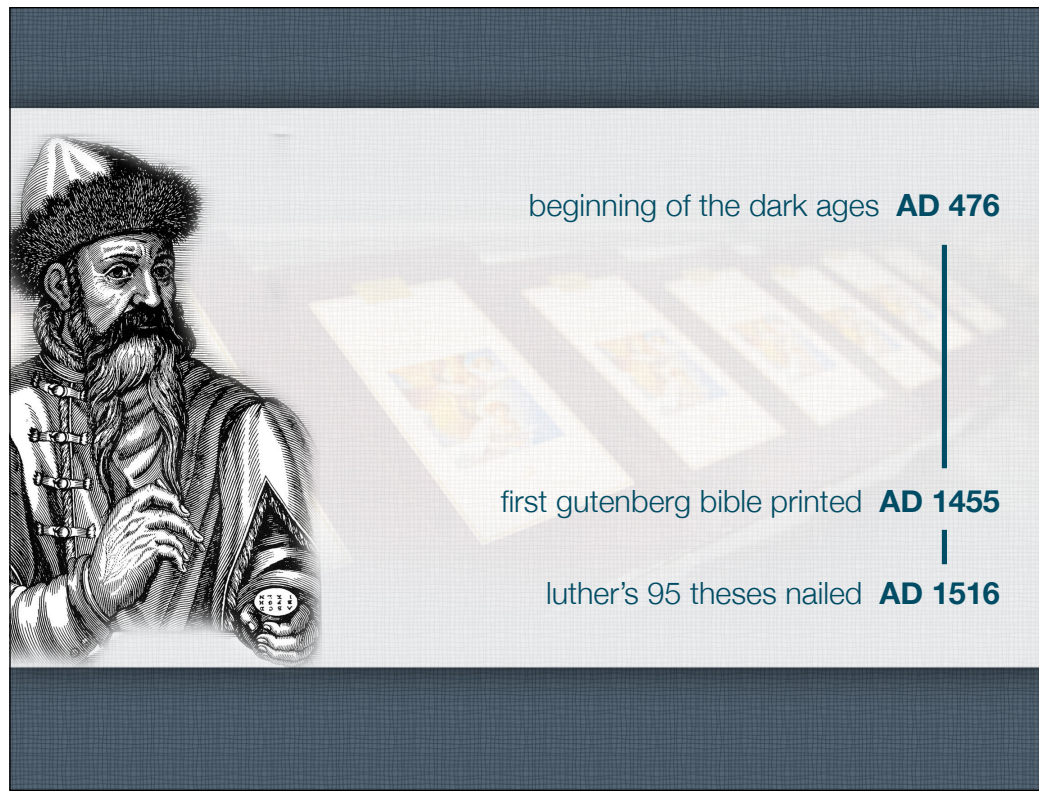


Isaac Newton – #2





Johann Gutenberg - #1



The dark ages began in AD 476, but just over 50 years after Gutenberg printed his first Bible, Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the chapel at Wittenberg.



in the 2 years from 1518–1520, 30,000 of Luther's tracts were distributed

and they weren't cheap, either – the first run of Gutenberg's Bible sold for **30 florins each, which was roughly three years' wages for an average clerk**

## Ellen White, 1873

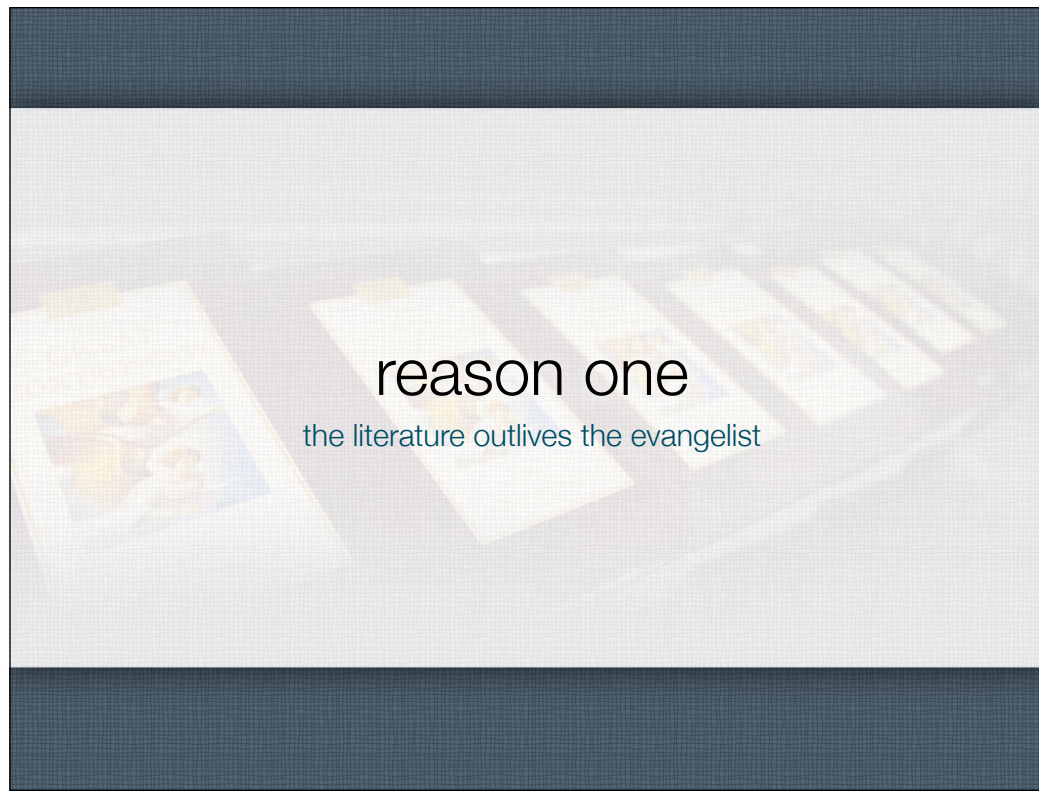
“The publication of truth is God's ordained plan, as a means of warning, comforting, reproving, exhorting, or convicting all to whose notice **the silent, voiceless messengers** may be brought. Angels of God have a part to act in preparing hearts to be **sanctified by the truths published**, that they may be prepared for the solemn scenes before them.”



Ellen White, June 1, 1913

“Whether or not my life is spared, **my writings will constantly speak**, and their work will go forward as long as time shall last. My writings are kept on file in the office, and even though I should not live, these words that have been given to me by the Lord will still have life and will speak to the people.”

Ellen White says that the main influence to impact lives long-term is not her voice, but her writings. They will live on longer than she could ever live on this earth.



so the first reason why Satan hates literature evangelism is because literature outlives the evangelist.



## reason two

it's more difficult to be mad at paper



2 kings 22

The story of King Josiah giving the command to go into the temple and find the silver and deliver it to pay the people and materials, found in

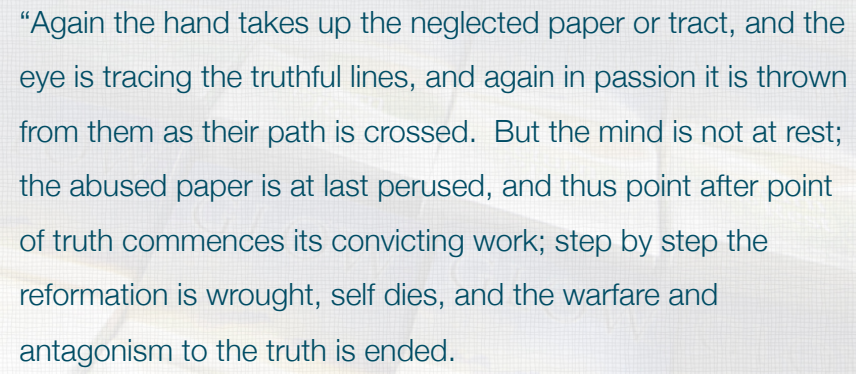
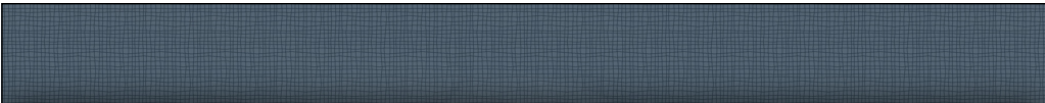
2 Kings 22:1-11

It makes it's way to the King and has a great impact on him.




## publishing ministry, p.397

“Again, many read these papers and tracts and their combativeness is aroused, and they throw the silent messengers from them in a passion. But ideas all new to them have, although unwelcome, made their impression, and as the silent messenger bears the abuse without retaliation there is nothing to feed the anger which has been excited.



“Again the hand takes up the neglected paper or tract, and the eye is tracing the truthful lines, and again in passion it is thrown from them as their path is crossed. But the mind is not at rest; the abused paper is at last perused, and thus point after point of truth commences its convicting work; step by step the reformation is wrought, self dies, and the warfare and antagonism to the truth is ended.”



**“The despised paper or tract is henceforth honored as the means of converting the stubborn heart and subduing the perverse will,** bringing it in subjection to Christ. Had the living preacher spoken as pointedly, these persons would have turned from him, and would not have entertained the new and strange ideas brought before them.”

A photograph of a row of papers on a tray, slightly out of focus. The papers have various colors and patterns. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

## reason two

it's more difficult to be mad at paper





## reason three

it works hand-in-hand with other efforts



2 kings 22

v. 13

## colporteur ministry, p.100

“The silent messengers that are placed in the homes of the people through the work of the canvasser will **strengthen the gospel ministry** in every way; for the Holy Spirit will impress minds as they read the books, just as He impresses the minds of those who listen to the preaching of the Word. **The same ministry of angels attends the books** that contain the truth as attends the work of the minister.”

### STORY:

- Wal mart shopping cart with Roofy
- son had just asked about 4<sup>th</sup> commandment at VBS
- few days later he found tract on Sabbath
- handed off to a BW

recap reason #3 – it works hand in hand with other efforts.



## reason four

literature goes where the living messenger can't go





2 kings 23

v. 1-2

## colporteur ministry, p.8

“Our publications can go to places where meetings cannot be held. In such places the faithful evangelistic canvasser takes the place of the living preacher. By the canvassing work **the truth is presented to thousands who otherwise would never hear it.**”

Story about bathroom Sabbath tract

- kept Sabbath from young age, didn't know why
- someone was trying to convince him to go to Church on Sunday
- found Sabbath tract in bathroom
- signed up for studies



## reason five

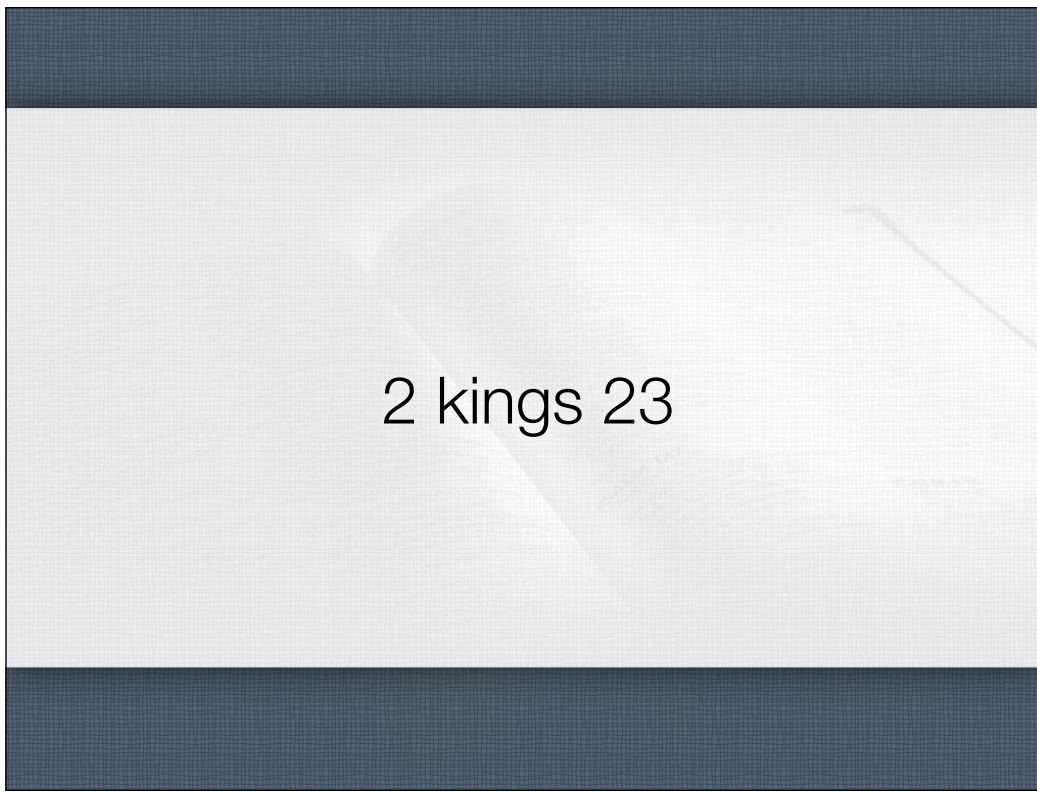
it works when nothing else works



2 kings 21

v.16, 22





2 kings 23

v.24-25, emphasize v.22

## colporteur Ministry, p.150

“It is true that some who buy the books will lay them on the shelf or place them on the parlor table and seldom look at them. Still God has a care for His truth, and the time will come when these books will be sought for and read. Sickness or misfortune may enter the home, and through the truth contained in the books God sends to troubled hearts peace and hope and rest.

## colporteur Ministry, p.150

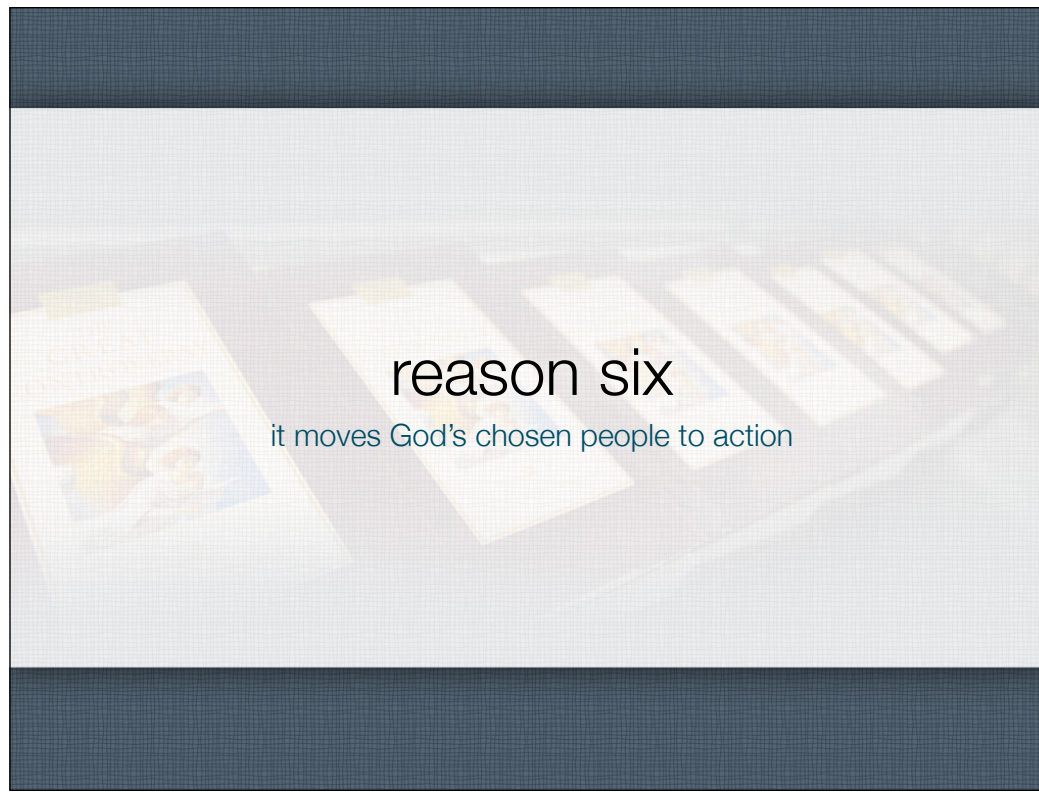
“His love is revealed to them, and they understand the preciousness of the forgiveness of their sins. **Thus the Lord co-operates with His self-denying workers.**”

**I want to bring out two points here:**

1- there will be results you don't see

2- THIS is how God works with his laborers, the doors where you don't see the results, the ones that might discourage you because they didn't really like the books too much.

summary of Reason 5: it works when nothing else works



talk a little about how William Miller began to share his studies about the soon coming of Jesus. Notice what this book says:

----->



## a brief history of the adventists, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

“... the activist Himes made Millerism and Adventism household words in North America. Beyond North America, Himes’s ingenuity saw to it that by 1844 the Advent doctrine had received a hearing around the world. He utilized several avenues to fulfill his mission... **Perhaps the most important and influential was that of the printed page.**”

but the influence of literature didn't stop at the great disappointment, either.

sda encyclopedia, p.1496

“According to J.N. Loughborough, from 1871 onward **almost as many converts** were won by the efforts of Tract and Missionary Society lay workers as through the work of the ministry itself.”

the most successful periods of Adventist ministry were when LAY members were involved in literature distribution as a lifestyle. (see Sunday's presentation)

sda encyclopedia, p.792

“The story of the beginning of the work of the SDA Church in many parts of the world is the story of the colporteur work preparing the way for the preacher. **In all the South American countries except Peru, the SDA work began either through SDA publications being sent into the countries or through the work of colporteurs.**”

does anyone know what year the Seventh-day Adventist Church officially became a denomination? **1863.**

what about the church's first official Publishing house? **1861!**



share some of the history – about how James wanted to stop – would always give Ellen a vision to tell him to continue to publish

this church would not be where it is today, will not get where it is going, either.





revelation 18:1

but the movement of God's chosen people through literature isn't just confined to the past, notice what the book of Revelation says (**read**)

commenting on this verse, ellen white said -->

## publishing ministry, p.150

**“And to a large degree, through our publishing houses,** is to be accomplished the work of that other angel, who comes down from heaven with great power, and who lightens the earth with his glory.”

colporteur Ministry, p.151

“More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, **most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications.**”

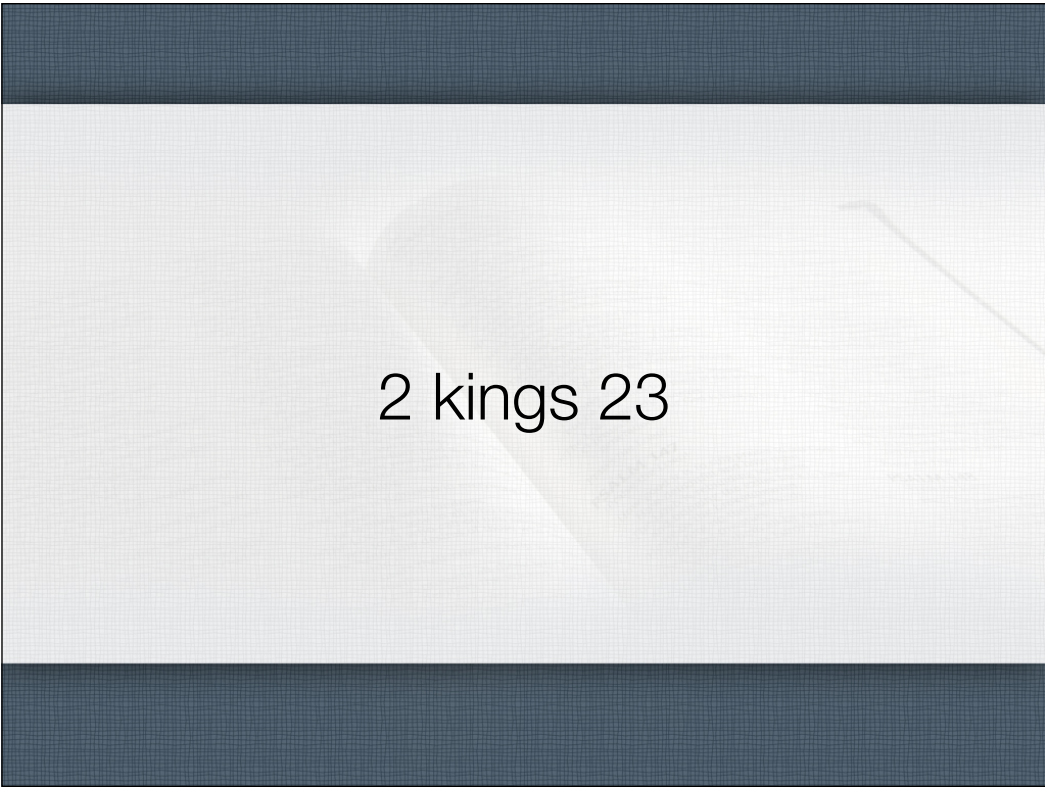
reason #6 why satan hates LE – it moves God’s chosen people to action!



## reason seven

literature evangelism saves lost souls





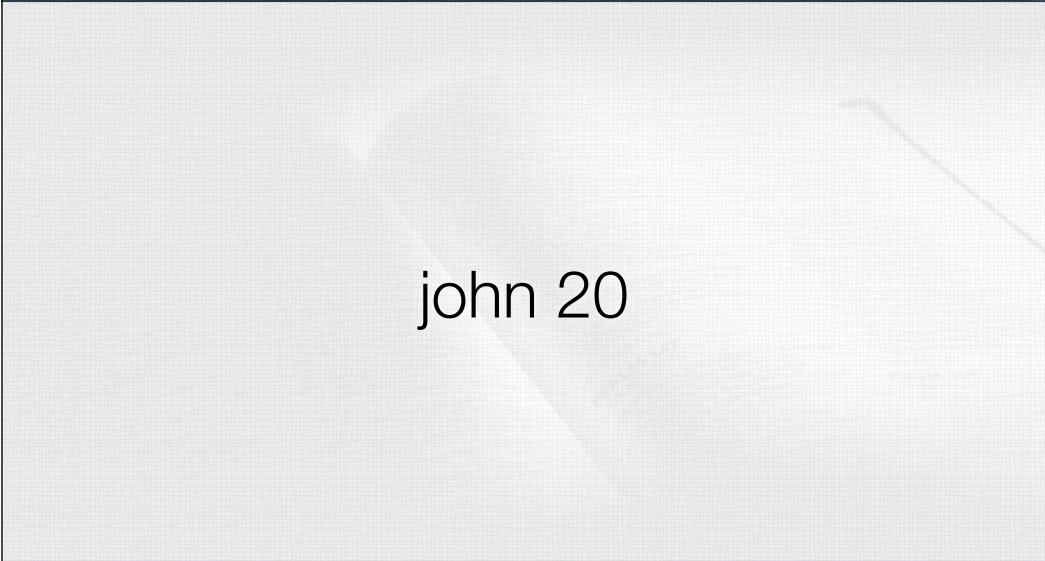
2 kings 23

2 kings 23:2-3

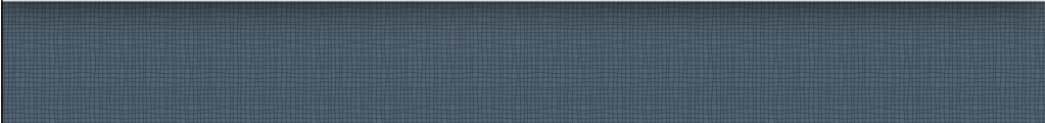


joshua 24

Joshua 24:14-16, 24-26



john 20



## testimonies, vol. 1, p. 591

“The prayer of all... should be, ‘O God, make these truths which are of such vital importance, clear to the comprehension of the humblest minds! **May angels accompany these silent preachers, and bless their influence, that souls may be saved by these humble means.**”

story about girl on bus giving tract to a man who was going to commit suicide.