

**ANSWERS  
TO  
4 QUESTIONS  
CHURCH-MEMBERS  
GRAPPLE  
WITH**

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## About the Author

An ordained S.D.A. minister, Pieter Barkhuizen is also an author and visiting Professor of Systematic Theology. Now semi-retired, he lives with his wife, Yvonne, in Collegedale, Tennessee in the U.S.A. Pieter served for 30 years as Pastor, Conference Evangelist and Professor. He conducted more than 150 Major Crusades and Seminars from South Africa to England to Romania and all over the United States fruited plain. He saw more than 4,000 souls sealing their acceptance of Christ as Savior, through baptism. All glory to God!

Pieter has studied at a number of institutions of higher learning, including Trinity Graduate School of Theology, (Alma Mater of famed Evangelist, Dr. Billy Graham), as well as the Seminary at Andrews University. He also earned the post-graduate HED (School Psychologist) from the University of Cape Town in South Africa.

God has blessed Pieter and Yvonne with four wonderful children..... two boys and two girls, all involved in the Medical Professions.

# Chapter 1

## The Missionary I Fell in Love with .....

I met my girlfriend in tenth grade in High School, in South Africa. Since that time she became my wife - 58 years of blissful marriage, and growing older together!

She was a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, beautiful and the class Valedictorian. I was from a Dutch Reformed background, but more interested in pretty girls than religion, at the time.

As our relationship grew stronger, my Adventist girlfriend did her "lay-activity" missionary work and I became convinced about the true, Biblical Sabbath. That was easy to understand and was clearly a Biblical doctrine. The same with doctrines like the State of the Dead, Baptism, etc. I did not understand much about the Investigative Judgment, Millennium, Ellen G. White, etc., but simply assumed that, if the Adventists were right on the Sabbath, State of the Dead, Baptism, etc., they must surely be right on their other teachings as well.

Later, I got baptized, married my girlfriend, and was accepted for the B. Juris Law degree at the University of Port Elizabeth. However, something incredible happened that changed the course of my life. (for a free E-copy of my Amazon-book, *Rough Road to the Pulpit*, simply request at [adventistdilemmas@yahoo.com](mailto:adventistdilemmas@yahoo.com))

I attended Helderberg College, and the University of Cape Town. All along, I never seriously questioned ANY of the SDA Beliefs. I assumed they could not be wrong. My studies brought me to the United States where I engaged graduate studies at Trinity College, Seminary Division (Alma Mater of Dr. Billy Graham). I also studied at the SDA Theological Seminary of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI. Long story short, I was ordained in England by Dr. Jan Paulsen, who later became the General Conference President. In 1980, I received a call to the US and served for about 30 years as Pastor, Conference Evangelist, and Professor.

Thank you for allowing me to offer FOUR ADVENTIST DILEMMAS for your consideration. Just like my girlfriend had good intentions to share the Sabbath-truth with me, many years ago in High School, I

have only sober intentions to share what *God* has revealed to me, as we journey together.

Now, for the rest of the story, and the most important part:

# Chapter 2

## What is Truth?

I was greatly honored when I received the news that my small Sabbath booklet, *The Fourth Dilemma*, was the best-selling share-book of *Review & Herald* for 2009. It sold for only 95c, and a few hundred thousand copies were printed. Many people bought them in boxes of 100, at Camp meetings and ABC's, as giveaways to friends and family. Of course, I had a box in my car also!

One day I saw two elderly gentlemen in front of a small Jehovah's Witness Church, and approached them, books-in-hand. I asked if I could give them each a complimentary booklet and one of them responded, "Is there anything religious in it?" As soon as I affirmed the question, the two spoke almost in unison and said, "No thanks, we have the truth". This made me think about the question: "What is truth?" And I was forced to do some introspection myself. How Biblically correct was the "truth" I believed in and subscribed to? How could I know for sure?

This is what the Bible says about truth:

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

Therefore, whatever we wish to know as far as our belief-system is concerned, our ultimate resource and example should be Jesus, Who is the way and the truth. Could we agree on this principle? For example, if we want to know the truth about the Godhead we ought to find out what Jesus taught about God. If we want to know the truth about baptism, we ought to trace the example of Jesus. The same, if we want to find out on which day Jesus rested and worshiped.

If we want to know the truth about how Jesus reconciled us with the Father, we need to listen to the final words Jesus spoke from the cross, and find out if the blood of Jesus is sufficient to cleanse us from all our sins, to the point where the Father "no longer remember" our sins. If we want to know the truth about the Millennium and Judgment of God, we need to discover what role Jesus will play in these incredible events. I trust we can agree that all real truth must be the "truth as it is in Jesus". Amen?

# Chapter 3

## What is the Problem?

Some time ago, I did some research regarding the current membership-loss from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and I was shocked by the report of Dr. David Trim (Office of Archives, Statistics and Research), he presented to the 2020 Annual Council of the General Conference of SDA. According to Dr. Trim, starting in 1965, the number of members who have left the denomination since then, has now passed the **16 million mark**, and the net loss is above **40 percent**. This prompted me to do more research.

I discovered an article in *Ministry Magazine*, February 2009, page 28, by my friend, the late Dr. James Cress, who was at the time Ministerial Director of the General Conference of SDA. We worked shoulder-to-shoulder in the early 80's when we both held executive positions in the Ohio Conference - he was the Ministerial Director, and I was the Conference Evangelist.

Here is the quote from Dr. Cress: "In North America alone, nearly 300,000 members officially have been removed (and not because of death) from our membership in the past 20 years. That total equals 40 percent of our total membership at the beginning of these two decades - a tragedy of greatest proportions, especially when we have not maintained even basic information like a mail or telephone contact. This equals a total loss similar to that of the ten largest conferences in the division simply disappearing." Dr. Cress then wrote, "only, about 50 percent of all members actually attend weekly worship services."

It is estimated that members are still leaving the Adventist Church at the rate of more than 20,000 per month! Many of the members are gravitating to any one of more than 400 Sabbath-keeping groups and denominations, including the Messianic Jewish Congregations and the growing House Church Movement. Some become agnostics.

It is common knowledge that the General Conference announced that there are about 22 million SDA's in the world. However, there are apparently SDA academics and statisticians who believe the actual world-wide number of active practicing Adventists seems to be less than 6 million. In North America, there are less than 1 million members.

I have not personally fact-checked the numbers, but you can do the research yourself. I have looked at every listed SDA Church with a website in the world-field myself, including academies, colleges and universities. Most of them have received a copy of the document you are reading now.

The country with most SDA's is Brazil, with 1.5 million members. When we add the 1 million Adventists living in the USA, then we can account for 2.5 million members. Where are the rest of the 22 million to be found? It seems that very few of the 16 million formers were taken "off the books".

It is a bad reflection on the local pastor if he removes too many names from books. I know that for a fact: I once accepted a call to be the Senior Pastor of a church with 180 members, "on the books". However, on the first Sabbath when I preached there, only 40 members were present to hear their new pastor! At our first Board meeting, the elders suggested that we "clean up" and remove the names of the members who no more attended church. I asked the elders to be patient, and then for the next 2 years I worked hard and commenced a very intensive visitation program, including an Evangelistic Crusade, resulting in a membership count of around 180 souls! But this was a rare occasion. Most SDA Churches have inaccurate records. One commentator on Spectrum of May 24, 2024, noted: "There have been instances of 'active members' found in other countries that should be 130 years old if they were still alive today."

In England, the British Union membership has declined sharply. Secularism and post-modernistic questioning of the "landmark doctrines" resulted in most of the remaining members to be elderly or migrants from "the Islands". The same phenomenon can be observed in European Countries such as the Netherlands, Germany and France.

In an effort to understand the current membership-loss from the SDA Church, I have spent much time researching the reasons WHY so many members are transitioning out of the Adventist Church. As part of my research, I have consulted thousands of resources that included personal interviews with former, as well as "regular" Adventists, Web-sites, Forums, Books, Articles, etc. My statistical findings indicate that members leave the Adventist Church for apparently two major reasons: Sociological and Theological. For example, at Trinity Community Church in Redlands, California, I have discovered that, of the many former Adventists (mostly from the Loma Linda and surrounding areas) who joined that (Sunday) Church, probably 90 percent left the ranks because of theological issues, particularly the Investigative Judgment. My research confirmed that the



FOUR overwhelming DILEMMA-doctrines are the Investigative Judgment, the Trinity concept of a unity of three co-eternal Persons, the Heavenly Millennium, and also the position Adventists hold regarding prophetess, Ellen G. White.

This document is not written in a scholarly language, but rather for the casual reader to easily understand. I have chosen to employ the method of grammatico-historical exegesis, the most basic method of Bible Study since the time of the Protestant Reformation. My approach was to study these doctrines from a Biblical perspective alone, without any reference to outside resources, unless to clarify a historical fact.

Here are two secrets for consideration as you formulate and confirm your personal belief system:

- A. Be absolutely HONEST and make your OWN personal decisions based on Scripture ALONE.
- B. Do not be afraid of what your family or church friends might say if you believe differently than they do.

# Chapter 4

## The pre-Advent, Investigative Judgment

Perhaps this is a good time to look at the Official SDA position on the Investigative Judgment and Christ's ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary: (Fundamental Belief, 23)

Seventh-day Adventists believe that on October 22, 1844 an Investigative Judgment commenced in Heaven for the benefit of "Heavenly Intelligences", in order that they may discover who among the dead and living are saved and who are lost. The Investigative Judgment originated with farmer Hiram Edson and teacher O.R.L. Crosier, who published an article in the *The Day Star*, a Millerite magazine. Crosier soon abandoned this understanding as unbiblical and then he opposed this very doctrine as well as his former SDA friends and associates! However, Ellen G. White later confirmed the Investigative Judgment as "the central pillar of the Advent Faith." She insisted that "the Lord showed me in vision ....that Brother Crosier had the true light on the cleansing of the sanctuary". (Topsham, Me, April 21, 1847)

Let's look at how prophetess Ellen G. White explains the Investigative Judgment: "The determination of the cases of the righteous in showing that **they** have perfected the work of overcoming, and that **they** are **worthy** to have their sins blotted out, is the final work of our Lord as high priest". (Chapter 4, *Offices of Christ*, 3, par. 7)

In other words, the SDA teaching is that we cannot have our sins blotted out until we are found worthy by passing the Investigative Judgment. The implication is that when God says, "you are forgiven", He really means, "I'll forgive you after I have investigated your record, and the Heavenly Intelligences, Satan and his angels, can be the final judges of My judgment."

The 1844 - Investigative Judgment is accepted doctrine in the Adventist Church, primarily due to the visions of Ellen G. White, which Adventists believe are AS inspired as the Bible.

"The quality of inspiration of Ellen White is equal to that of the Bible writers" - (Graybill, E.G. White Estate)

A God Who is omniscient and knows the end from the beginning, knowing all that was, is, and will be, does not need to spend centuries "investigating" anything!

What was it that polluted or defiled God's abode in heaven, according to Ellen G. White?

"Our sins in fact transferred to the heavenly sanctuary by the blood of Christ" - Great Controversy, p. 266, 1886 Edition

The Bible teaches that the blood of Jesus cleanses, not transfer anything to heaven! "..... and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin." 1 John 1:7 (b)

Many Adventists live in terror of the secret tribunal of the "Investigative Judgment" when at any time their case may come up for eternal life or eternal death! What are being "investigated" during the Investigative Judgment, right now? Answer: Our good works to see whether we are "worthy"! Please read the following quotation with me:

"As the books of record are opened in the Judgment, the lives of all who have believed in Jesus come in review before God. Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth, our Advocate presents the cases of each successive generation, and closes with the living. Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected." Great Controversy, (1888 edition), P.483.

May I ask you 2 questions? 1. Have you accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior? \_\_\_\_ 2. Can you openly confess that you are saved? \_\_\_\_ If you confirmed both questions, you are not in agreement with what Ellen White wrote: "Those who accept the Savior, however sincere their conversion, should never be taught to say or feel that they are saved." COL. P155 Accordingly, no SDA may have any assurance of salvation, today!

In 2 Tim. 2:19, we read, "The Lord knoweth them that are His". Do you believe God needs so many years to figure out and decide who is saved and who is lost?

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life," John 5:24

Ellen White further writes: "Those only who through faith in Christ obey all of God's commandments will reach the condition of sinlessness in which Adam lived before his transgression". MS 122, 1901 - also in SDA BC Vol. 6, P. 111 (see 1 John 1:8-10) Have YOU achieved this? Neither have I. My hope is built on nothing less - than Jesus Christ and HIS righteousness. Imputed and freely given to you and me!

**Please observe what some prominent Seventh-day Adventist leaders have discovered:**

Dr. Raymond Cottrell (from a presentation at Loma Linda, CA in 2002): "For about forty years the sanctuary doctrine raised no eyebrows or protests. But on an average of every fifteen or twenty years or so since 1887 an experienced, respected, and trusted church administrator or Bible teacher has called the attention of fellow church leaders to flaws in the traditional interpretation of Daniel 8:14, forfeited his ministerial credentials, and either been disfellowshipped or voluntarily left the church."

Then Dr. Cottrell refers to a number of examples: the first church leader to question the sanctuary doctrine was Dudley M. Canwright, in 1887. He had served the church for more than twenty years as minister, evangelist, administrator, and served on the General Conference Committee. He voluntarily left the church, became a bitter opponent of Adventism, and published a book, *Seventh-day Adventism Renounced*.

Other prominent SDA personalities were Albion F. Ballenger, W.W. Prescott, William W. Fletcher, Louis R. Conradi, and Harold E. Snide.

Pastor R. A. Greive, who was President of the Queensland Conference in Australia, asked a question about Romans 8:1

"If there is now, no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, how can a record of those sins be preserved and reviewed during the course of an investigative judgment?"

Dr. Desmond Ford delivered a compelling (Glacier View) 991-page document on Daniel 8:14. In attendance were 115 leading administrators and Bible scholars from around the world. It is said that more than 150 ordained ministers, mostly in Australia, forfeited their ministerial credentials in the aftermath of the Glacier View presentations. Thousands of lay persons, mostly in the United States, left the church.

Dr. Raymond Cottrell served as associate editor of the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary series. It was when he was working on the Book of Daniel, for Volume 4 of the SDA Bible Commentary, that he encountered problems with the traditional SDA interpretation of, particularly, Daniel 8:14. (a brilliant scholar, he memorized large sections of Daniel from the original Hebrew text) As part of his research, Dr. Cottrell formulated some questions regarding the Hebrew text of the verse and its context, which he then submitted to every College teacher competent in Hebrew, and every head of the Religion department, of all SDA Colleges, in North America. The Result:

"Without exception they replied that there is no linguistic or contextual basis for the traditional Adventist interpretation of Daniel 8:14"

The aftermath of this questionnaire eventually caused the General Conference, "to appoint the super-secret Committee on Problems in the Book of Daniel, of which I was a member", said Dr. Cottrell. The committee apparently met for 5 years (1961-1966), but then disbanded, "unable to reach a consensus".

Pastor Francis Campbell, South African Union Conference President:

Pastor Campbell, was one of the most beloved and trusted Adventist pastors in South Africa, family and personal friend of Yvonne and I. I have just finished re-reading his statement with regard to his forced resignation as Union Conference President. He lists a number of issues he brought to the attention of the Union Committee. One of the bones of contention was his special emphasis on Righteousness by Faith that he presented at a number of camp-meetings in the Transvaal and Oranje-Natal Conferences. (as a young pastor, in the Oranje-Natal Conference, I attended some of those excellent presentations) Pastor Campbell was asked to express his position on a number of Theological areas, "which have been problematic in the Adventist church for decades ... The 1919 Bible Conference in North America...the Daniel Committee (1961-1966) struggled with the same problems, without successfully reaching clear conclusions. Accordingly, the problem remains unsolved and study should be open-ended".

The problem-areas Pastor Campbell identified as:

1. Righteousness by Faith, as taught in Romans and Galatians. Elder Campbell held to the Pauline, evangelical doctrine that the righteousness which saves, is through justification alone, which comes by grace alone, through Christ alone, received by faith alone. By this justification, the sinner is DECLARED righteous by the Father, because of the righteousness of Christ and not because of any of his own works. Eph. 2:8, 9.

2. The Investigative Judgment: Pastor Campbell pointed out that the book of Hebrews clearly teaches that Christ accomplished a complete atonement "once for all" at the cross, and entered the Most Holy Place directly at His ascension. (Heb. 6:19,20; 9:6-8; 22-26; 10:19-23) He pointed out that, "prominent Adventist Theologians now state that the doctrine of the Investigative Judgment, cannot be found in Scripture".

3. Authoritative Source of Doctrine: Pastor Campbell pointed out that the Adventist church allows for "another source of authority besides the Bible". This refers to the writings of Ellen G. White.

4. The Remnant Church Concept: Pastor Campbell's understanding was that, "the remnant concept in the New Testament includes all believers in Christ who have received remission of their sins, which does not make it exclusive to one denomination". Adventists claim that Rev 12:17 and Rev 19:10 identify them as the only true remnant church of Revelation! Many believe this to be a clear-cut rightwing, exclusivist view that is not Biblical.

### PERSONAL TESTIMONY:

I have mentioned the reactions of some prominent Seventh-day Adventists, and what they have discovered during their studies and tenures. Before you and I will both look at the issues together, I would like to refer to my own experience as a Conference Evangelist for more than 20 years. I conducted more than 150 major evangelistic crusades and many Seminars from South Africa to England to Romania, and all over the North American fruited plain, where I witnessed many souls getting baptized.

During these Crusades and Seminars, I have noticed that about 95% of the attendees were already Christians, but they came to the well-advertised meetings to hear about Dead Men Do Tell Tales, Who or what 666 and the Anti-Christ might be, and when the New World

Order will begin. And, of course, if our deceased love ones can watch us from heaven!

I must confess that, as Conference Evangelist, my main goal was to convince my audience to exchange Sunday keeping for Sabbath observance. You may be familiar with the \$1,000 offer we still make to Sunday-keepers, if they can prove Sunday-sacredness from Scripture alone. After we refuted their 8 first-day "proof" verses, our money was safe!

However, I determined early in my evangelistic ministry to focus more on the gospel and the message of Righteousness by Faith in the merits of Christ alone. This message is incompatible with an "Investigative Judgment", when our performance will be evaluated and judged by our personal works and record.

### **DO NOT LIVE IN FEAR!**

Like some of my fellow Conference Evangelists, I have discovered that many Adventists come to church and seldom hear much about the Cross and the Assurance of their Salvation. Could this be because of how Ellen G. White described the Investigative Judgment as "the central pillar of the Advent Faith". How I wish she said : "Jesus is the central pillar of our Faith."

As a retired pastor, I often reflect on the "difficult problems" of my church members. At the top of the list was, "I am not sure if I have enough good works".

Let's take a look at this major SDA misunderstanding:

**"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."** Revelation 22:12 This verse seems to indicate that we are being judged by our **works**.

I invite you to read with me **John 6:28,29**. **"Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."**

Yes, we will be judged, but never by any of our materialistic good works which are "like filthy rags" and is an offense to God. No work is a prerequisite for salvation. Jesus died for us while we were yet sinners.

So, by which works will we be judged? Very simply, by accepting or rejecting Jesus as Lord and Savior. (the Gospel)

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us..... For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." Romans 5:8,10



# Chapter 5

## Daniel 8:14

We now come face to face with our own challenge to study Daniel 8:14 for ourselves: Let's remember, truth that cannot be TESTED is truth that cannot be TRUSTED! Without any prejudice or preconceived ideas, may we agree to earnestly search for Biblical Truth Only on this vital subject?

I want to invite you to read something very interesting with me in the New Testament about an event that ALREADY transpired before the time of Jesus, who celebrated Hanukkah!

"And it was at Jerusalem **the feast of the dedication**, and it was winter.

And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch." John 10:22, 23

I trust your Bible is open, like mine. The first thing we notice is that this is the only time we read about the Feast of Dedication in the Bible. When we try to find more info about this Feast in the writings of Ellen G. White, we also do not find any more light on the subject. We know that the Jews have been celebrating this Feast, called HANUKKAH, for the past 2000 years. Since we cannot find much information in the Bible, we may have to consider some extra-biblical resources in our careful research. One of the best resources is the Apocrypha Books of First and Second Maccabees, where we find a beautiful description of the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem and the significance of the lighting of the menorah. Even though these books are not part of the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible), they were part of the Greek Septuagint (the Greek Old Testament) and were as such accepted as part of the Old Testament canon by the Roman Catholics and Orthodox Churches.

The story of Hanukkah is a most fascinating one. Space will not allow me to tell you all I have discovered. But, you have some homework to do: please do your part of our research, and simply Google: Wikipedia on Hanukkah, and you will be absolutely amazed by what you will discover. Perhaps you want to do this before you read much further, because I must return to the Biblical text and background of our focus-verse, Daniel 8:14. Remember, we are looking at Theology and History!

Please read Daniel chapter 8. In this vision of Daniel we notice that the RAM represented the Kingdom of Persia, and the GOAT represented the Kingdom of Greece. Each horn represents a King. (Dan 8:20-21) Beasts always represent Kingdoms, (Dan 7:23) and Horns represent Kings in Bible Prophecy.

Alexander the Great was the first King of Greece, and when he died, the Kingdom was divided into 4 parts, among Alexander's 4 top generals. Ptolemy got Egypt (South), Seleucus got Syria (North), Lycemicus got Asia Minor (East), and Cassander got Greece (West). These are confirmed historical FACTS.

We now find a very unique person entering the arena - a little horn that came out of one of the four horns or kings.....

"And out of one of **them** came forth a little horn which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land." Dan 8:9

We observe that this little horn represents a king, who is a descendant (came out of) one of the first four kings of the divided kingdom toward the final years of Alexander's Greek Kingdom (not after the Kingdom of Greece).

"Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered." Daniel 8:11, 12

We notice now that this "horn" would make war against the people of God, cause the sacrifices to cease, and desecrate the temple.

And now we have a very special question:

"Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?" Dan. 8:13

Apparently two angels are having a discussion about this vision. One of them wanted to know something about the length of time that would be allowed for the "horn" to make an end to the sacrificial system and desecrate the sanctuary. Let's read the answer to the question.

"And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days:  
then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Daniel 8:14

The answer implies that, after a certain period of time (2300 evening and morning sacrifices), then the sanctuary would be "cleansed". In Dan. 8:14 we have a hapax legomenon, a once-used term in the Old Testament. Nitsdaq, the passive or niph'al form, of the root-verb, tsadaq. This word means vindication, to be made right, or to be restored to its original state .... as we read in many of the Bible translations. It refers to the restoration of the temple in Jerusalem, and NOT to the sanctuary in heaven!

Seventh-day Adventists teach that the "2300 days" ended in 1844 and that the little horn is Rome. However, the little horn is not Rome, because it came out of one of the 4 provinces of the Greek Kingdom of Alexander. Rome rose much later and independently of the Grecian Empire.

Please observe that the Sanctuary is defiled by the acts of the little horn for a specific-time-period and not by the confessed sins of God's people. The eventual restoration of the earthly Sanctuary had nothing to do with the Day of Atonement when it was symbolically "cleansed" from sin.

Adventists are wrong when they teach that the 2300 days began in 457BC and that the little horn is Rome, and particularly, the papacy. How could Rome, who only came in contact with God's people in 161 BC, cause the sacrifices to cease and desecrate the Sanctuary almost three hundred years before? How could the Papacy, who only received their power around 321 AD, be credited with causing the sacrificial system to cease also hundreds of years before?

What does history confirm about this vision? Here are the **FACTS**: The "little horn" would come up from one of the divisions of the Greek Empire. His conquests would stretch to the south, to the east, and the pleasant land or the west (Arabic text). Therefore, the little horn-king had to come from the north (Syria). Does history provide a clue? History indeed confirms such a king, named **Antiochus Epiphanes**, who had his roots in the Seleucid Kingdom in Syria, one of the four horns, we encountered before.

We find more details about this evil man in the Apocrypha Book of Maccabees:

"From them came forth a sinful root, Antiochus Epiphanes, son of King Antiochus; he had been a hostage in Rome. He began to reign in the one hundred thirty-seventh year of the kingdom of the Greeks."

1 Maccabees 1:10

Any evidence that Antiochus indeed waxed great toward Egypt (South)?

"So he invaded Egypt with a strong force, with chariots and elephants and cavalry and with a large fleet. He engaged King Ptolemy of Egypt in battle, and Ptolemy turned and fled before him, and many were wounded and fell". 1 Maccabees 1:17-18

How about Persia?

"He was greatly perplexed in mind: then he determined to go to Persia and collect the revenues from those regions and raise a large fund." 1 Maccabees 3:31

Any evidence Antiochus appeared in Israel?

"After subduing Egypt, Antiochus returned in the one hundred forty-third year. He went up against Israel and came to Jerusalem with a strong force." 1 Maccabees 1:20

Did Antiochus defile the Sanctuary?

"He arrogantly entered the sanctuary and took the golden altar, the lamp-stand for the light, and all its utensils. On every side of the sanctuary they shed innocent blood; they even defiled the sanctuary. Her sanctuary became desolate like a desert; her feasts were turned into mourning, her Sabbaths into reproach, her honor into contempt." 1 Maccabees 21, 37, 39

What more did this evil man do?

"to forbid burnt offerings and sacrifices and drink offerings in the sanctuary, to profane Sabbaths and festivals, to defile the sanctuary and the priests, to build altars and sacred precincts and shrines for idols, to sacrifice swine and other unclean animals. The books of the law that they found they tore to pieces and burned with fire. Anyone found possessing the book of the covenant, or anyone who adhered to the law, was condemned to death by decree of the king. According to the decree, they put to death the women who had their children circumcised."

1 Maccabees 1:46, 47, 56, 57, 60

How many Jews were killed by Antiochus?

"Within the total of three days eighty thousand were destroyed, forty thousand in hand-to-hand fighting, and so many were sold into slavery as were killed." 2 Maccabees 5:14

The Sanctuary was indeed restored to its original state by **Judas Maccabees** who replaced and purified the holy altar and courts, vessels of the Sanctuary, and re-installed the daily sacrifice.

These are the FACTS about the Biblical and Historical interpretation of Daniel 8:14.

The evidence is overwhelming that Adventists are wrong with the notion that Daniel 8:14 has anything to do with 1844! This is an unbiblical teaching and it is wrong to call it "the central pillar of the Advent faith".

Let's look at the context after Daniel 8:14. Daniel receives a revelation or interpretation from Gabriel as to the true meaning of this vision. Gabriel identifies the participating countries or kingdoms. But notice in v. 23 the little horn is a King, not a Kingdom! Verses 24 and 25 explain the power and deeds of this little horn.

History confirms that Antiochus Epiphanes was the ruler of the down-sized Greco-Macedonian Empire. He conquered Jerusalem in a peaceful-diplomatic manner, without taking up any arms. Once in power, he killed his opposing political party. Then he plundered the city, desecrated the temple, and placed an idol (Zeus) upon the altar after he sacrificed a pig on it, thusly defiling the temple. This occurred in 168 BC. Incidentally, he changed the idol's face to look like his own. He then forced the Jews to build idol altars, and outlawed circumcision, and the Sabbath. Many mothers, who allowed their sons to be circumcised, were crucified. In fact, mothers and sons were both killed. Those found with any Scripture manuscripts in their possession, were also killed.

On one occasion, Antiochus wanted to get a prominent citizen to be first to sacrifice a pig on the temple-altar. Mattathias, a Jewish priest, was chosen, but he refused to perform the ritual. Another Jew took his place, and the sacrifice was made. When Mattathias saw this, he and his 5 sons killed the man and some other followers of Antiochus. Then they fled into the desert. Others fled with them,

and a number were later killed by the military. Some however, escaped and became scattered.

The temple of God had eventually been deserted for more than three years, but a new day was dawning. Judas, the son of Mattathias, took over the temple and purified it (restored it to its original condition) ... and as a perpetual memorial instituted the **Feast of Dedication**, (John 10:22, 23). Antiochus died in 164 BC (he became insane)... 3 ½ years after he set up the abominable idol, and defiled the temple. His grave is at Mount Nimrod (Hemrut Dagi) in Southeast Turkey.

Jesus confirms the correct interpretation of Daniel 8:14, and nullifies any idea of a Heavenly Investigative Judgment that commenced in 1844:

John 10:22, 23 - "And it was at Jerusalem **the feast of the dedication**, and it was winter. And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch."

Apart from sparring with different dates, the Feast of Dedication confirms to me personally that the role of Antiochus Epiphanes, culminating in the restoration performed by Judas Maccabees, could be **the most probable explanation** for what we read in Daniel 8:14. The record is clear that Jesus participated in a feast instituted by Judas Maccabees, to celebrate the time when the Sanctuary was "properly restored". (Daniel 8:14 NASB) Wikipedia offers an excellent historical record, referring to the book of Maccabees, explaining in detail why this Feast was also known as the Feast of Lights, and is still celebrated today by the Jews, as the Feast of Hanukkah.

Hebrews 9:26 - "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

The truth of the matter is that the final atonement has been completed at the cross! There is not, and cannot be another atonement where sins can be forgiven or wiped out more completely than what happened at the cross. To teach anything to the contrary, would rob Christians of the assurance of their salvation. No sins were ever "piled up" in God's holy abode to be "cleansed" in 1844. That is NOT what the Bible teaches!

Full forgiveness is granted to helpless sinners like me, IMMEDIATELY when confession and repentance are made. You may have the immediate assurance that you are NOT under any condemnation or judgment.

"There is therefore now **no condemnation** to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 8:1

Also read Hebrews 9:26, 10:14, 1 John 1:9, John 5:24. The imputed righteousness of Jesus in your life is the only requirement you need for everlasting life. John 3:36 says, "He that believeth on the Son **hath** (present tense) everlasting life." YOU may be SURE of your salvation! Uncertainty is no longer a dilemma!

Jesus, our Substitute, was judged for us. We do not need to be further investigated. We plead guilty, and have accepted our Substitute who stands in our place. If anyone wants to question God's judgment, let them investigate ... Jesus! Let no one confuse you on this!

There are a number of theological reasons why we cannot accept the incorrect teaching of a pre-advent Investigative Judgment:

In the New Testament is no reference to any other future heavenly ministry of Jesus other than what He commenced with at His ascension.

Scripture does not teach or imply a two-phase ministry in heaven. The heavenly, once-for-all High Priestly ministry of Jesus is in direct contrast with the regular, earthly High priest sanctuary services. Not the same, but DIFFERENT and BETTER and CONTINUALLY!

At Jesus' ascension no heavenly two-apartment sanctuary separated by a veil, existed. He went DIRECTLY into the presence of God the Father.

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:" Hebrews 9:24

Jesus was already in the presence of the Father when these words were penned around AD 95.

"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, he entered in once into the holy place, **having obtained** eternal redemption for us." Hebrews 9:12. Also read Hebrews 10:19.

The rending of the veil at Jesus' death terminated the earthly sanctuary service and assured us direct access to the Father. **The very body of Christ replaced the veil.** In salvation history, the Cross of Calvary is of paramount importance! A complete atonement!

"By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh." Hebrews 10:20

Antiochus Epiphanes believed he could end the sacrificial system, but **ONLY** the real Lamb of God could do away with the sacrificial system!

Many Seventh-day Adventists do not understand that when the earthly tabernacle-veil was torn from top to bottom at the crucifixion of Jesus, it symbolized the fact that there is now no restriction to the very throne and presence of God the Father. Jesus removed the veil, and it is wrong to teach that we need to present our good works and offerings to be added to the blood of Jesus in order to enter through the veil. The **FACT** is, there is no veil in Heaven (read in Early Writings, p. 54-56 how E. G. White puts Satan next to Jesus' throne, "breathing light and much power" on God's children!) Do **YOU** believe that?

The writer of the book of Hebrews points out differences rather than similarities between the earthly and heavenly mediation. For instance, Jesus did not go in and out and in and out of Heaven, but entered once. The earthly sanctuary was simply a teaching mechanism of what Jesus would do in His role as Heavenly High Priest. Instead of bringing animal sacrifices on a daily basis to church, we can now pray directly to God the Father through the Mediatorship of His Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. There is no veil in Heaven, neither is there any record of any sins in Heaven. As we bring our confessions of sin through prayer to our Heavenly High Priest, those sins are immediately blotted out - paid in full by the blood of the Lamb! Yes, our sins are under the Blood of the Lamb. You ARE Saved! Let the TRUTH set you FREE! Another dilemma is removed!

The main function of the earthly veil was to protect the Priests in their daily service from being consumed by the Shekinah glory or Holy Spirit-presence of YAHWEH in the Most Holy Place. The simple teaching was that sinners could not approach the Father except through Jesus Christ.

There is no established theological basis or authority for changing the 2,300 days of Daniel 8:14 into 2300 years. There simply is no "year



for a day" principle established in Scripture! In Numbers 14:34 God pronounced a judgment of 40 years upon Israel's unbelief to correspond with the 40 days in Canaan. This was clearly stated. There is no possible association of the 40-year judgment of Numbers with the prophecy of Daniel 8. It cannot be done! Same with the Ezekiel 4:5, 6, pericope. The year-day principle is not a Biblical datum and is not supported by the hermeneutical system of grammatico-historical interpretation.

Some want to apply a "year-day" principle to Daniel 8 because it seems to work in Daniel 9, where a 70-week prophecy to the time of Messiah, is stated. No "year-day" principle exists in Daniel 9 because there is no need for it. The Hebrew for the number "seven" is SHABUA, or a unit of seven. The context will determine whether the unit is of days, months, or years. Most linguists see in Daniel 9 "weeks of years" or "seventy sevens". Nothing in prophecy states that a year represents a day, and historically the time to Messiah was indeed approx. 70 weeks of years or 490 years.

Nothing in Daniel 9 confirms that the 490 years marked the beginning of the 2300 days, or that it was the first section or part of the 2300 days. Careful analysis points out that the 490 years began with a work of restoration while the 2300 days is a time of desolation (Daniel 9:25).

Let's sink a little deeper into the Daniel 8:14 "problem" and see if we can get right to the bone. The word "day" does not appear at all in the Manuscripts. The Hebrew word for day is the word "yom". The word for days is the Hebrew word "yamin". Neither of these words appears in Daniel 8:14. The word "days" is not a direct translation but an INTERPRETATION of the two Hebrew words "ereb" (evening) and "boqer" (morning). The angels speaking in v. 13 answered a question by giving the number of sacrifices. There were TWO sacrifices every day, morning and evening .... both on the SAME DAY. (the translators were correct by using the word "sacrifices" in v. 11, 12 and 13 .... Unfortunately they did not follow through with the same word in v. 14). Here is the translation from the New American Standard Bible, regarded by many scholars as the best direct translation in the English language:

"For 2,300 evenings and mornings: then the holy place will be properly restored."

I want to make sure we have no misunderstanding about this vital point: William Miller was a Baptist LAY-preacher and it is doubtful if he had a solid working knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures. He used the King James' Version and simply assumed that the translation was correct. However, the King James is INCORRECT in saying "after 2300 DAYS". Miller built his entire hypothesis on an erroneous translation! Daniel 8:14 refers to a total of 2300 SACRIFICES (Hebr. TAMID) executed as "the daily", every morning and every evening all through the year. These were not sin-offerings, but rather offerings of appeasement to Yahweh. They PRECEDED and concluded all the sin offerings. At two ritual-offerings, 10 evening-morning offerings = 5 days; 100 evening-morning offerings = 50 days; 2300 evening-morning offerings = 1150 days. (See 1 Chron. 16:29)

The number 2300 is viewed by some scholars as a numerical ERROR according to the earliest manuscripts, which give the number to be 2200, as referred to by Jerome who translated the Vulgate from the oldest OT manuscripts. Let's see what happens when we divide 2200 by two = 1100 actual DAYS.

The question is, HOW DID ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES FULFILL THIS PROPHECY? Follow carefully! For more detailed, historic information, we have to consult one of the Apocryphal books ..... 1 Maccabees.

In 1 Maccabees 1:54 it is stated that on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Chislev, in the 145<sup>th</sup> year, Antiochus set up the abominable idol of desolation "upon the altar of burnt offering". He thus made an END to the Jewish evening and morning sacrifices.

In 1 Maccabees 4:52, 53 we read what Judas and his followers did: "Early in the morning on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, which is the month of Chislev, in the one hundred forty-eighth year, they rose and offered sacrifice, as the law directs, on the new altar of burnt offering that they had built."

The Jewish year contained 12 months of 354 days, and every 3<sup>rd</sup> year they added an extra month of 29 days to equalize it with the solar year. We have to look at 15 Chislev, 145<sup>th</sup> to 25 Chislev, 148<sup>th</sup> year.

**So, let's get out our high-speed calculators: 3 Jewish years x 354 days = 1062 days, PLUS 1 extra month of 29 days = 1091 days, PLUS 9 days from 15<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of Chislev =(hold on to your seat) 1100 days! A total of 2200 evening and morning sacrifices! Referring to this prophecy, the greatest Jewish historian of all**

time, Josephus, purportedly said, "No prophecy was ever more accurately fulfilled than this".

The fact is that Dan. 8:14, was fulfilled by Antiochus and Judah Maccabees. Jesus confirmed this for us in John 10:22, 23. This is PRESENT TRUTH TODAY!

### Differences between two horns of Daniel 7 and 8

Daniel 8:9 - says the Little Horn would originate from one of the divisions of Alexander's empire when these were in their "latter time" (v 23). This points to a power originating from the Grecian world sometime after 300BC. Rome was never part of the Alexandria Empire, nor did it originate from one of the divisions of the Grecian empire. Rome came from Italy, and was founded in 750 BC and became a republic in 509 BC. Rome did conquer the 4 divisions of the Grecian empire, but this is further proof that Rome did not arise from any of the divisions of Alexander's Empire!

The "Little Horn" of Daniel 7 did not have its beginning until the 4<sup>th</sup> beast was divided into 10 Kingdoms, which happened in 476 AD. The "Little Horn" of Dan. 8 was to come up in the "latter time of their Kingdom" (v. 23). "Their kingdom" refers to the 4 divisions of the Alexandria Empire. The "latter time" or last days of the 4 kingdoms was 200 BC-100BC. Therefore, the little horn of Dan. 8 was to arise 6 centuries before the little horn of Dan. 7 existed! This difference in timing is prima facie evidence that the two "little horn" powers are not the same. They arise at vastly different points in human history.

Please observe: Daniel 2 and 7 were written in Aramaic, the lingua franca of the ancient Near East and the prophecies concern ALL people. Daniel 8 was written in Hebrew, for the Jewish people with a special message of restoration for them: It was their temple that was desecrated in Jerusalem, not a Muslim Mosque, or any temple in heaven or elsewhere.

Daniel 7 portrays God's judgment as a civil case and not as a criminal case with 3 phases as practiced in our system of jurisprudence. In a criminal trial the judge considers the evidence against the accused and then renders a verdict culminating in a sentence to be executed. In a civil case, two parties appear before the judge who pronounces the outcome after the hearing.

In Daniel 7, the case involves Jesus vs. Satan, and Jesus is declared the Victor! In Daniel 7:14, 18 Jesus is given a Kingdom to be ruled with His Saints: Daniel 7:22 - see Revelation 20:4. This will be the time of the Earthly Millennium - see Revelation 5:10, 11. I will elaborate on this incredible Kingdom in Chapter 8.

**Did you know** the Bible speaks of a time when Jesus will rule from Jerusalem, while sitting on His father DAVID's throne and the disciples will sit on 12 thrones, judging (ruling) over the twelve nations? This can only happen during the coming Earthly Millennium!

According to SDA, the 2300 days (years) began in 457 BC and ended in 1844 AD. During this time the little horn is supposed to be "treading underfoot" the sanctuary, beginning with pagan Rome, later to be followed by papal Rome. This notion presents many dilemmas:

1. Rome did not have any contact with the Jewish nation until 161 BC. How could the Little Horn have begun its desecrating work in 457 BC, 296 years before it even came into contact with the Jewish state? Rome had no part whatsoever in the activities of 457 BC, and thus could not be the "Little Horn" described in Dan. 8!

2. Rome existed peacefully with the Jewish nation and did not upset the Jews until after Palestine became a part of the Roman Empire in 63 BC.

3. If Papal Rome is the Little Horn of Dan. 8 during the latter part of the 2300 days, then what happened to Papal Rome on Oct. 22, 1844? Why is there no event in papal history to coincide with the end of the 2300 days?

4. NB - If pagan Rome neither persecuted the Jews, nor stopped the sacrifices in 457 BC, and if there is no event in papal history to coincide with the close of the 2300 days in 1844, then how can we possibly attach Rome to this prophecy? It simply cannot be done!

Daniel 8 does NOT say that the 4 horns were absorbed by the Little Horn, as the 4 divisions of Alexander's empire were by Rome.

1. Alexander died in 323 BC.

2. Alexander's Kingdom was divided in 301 BC.

3. The Little Horn could not have come on the scene until after 301 BC.

4. How could the Little Horn be desecrating the Sanctuary in 457 BC when the prophecy does not even show it arising until after 301 BC?

5. The Little Horn of Dan. 8 is a KING, not an EMPIRE! Dan 8:23. Hebr. for "KING" = MELEK - meaning a king, not a kingdom or empire.

However, the most convincing evidence that Dan 8 is talking about Antiochus Epiphanes, is the fact that Dan. 11 explains the prophecy of Dan. 8 in greater detail, and the Little Horn, (Antiochus) is interpreted from v. 21 onwards. (And, of course, John 10:22, 23 - Feast of Dedication, attended by Jesus Himself)

**PLEASE NOTE: the verse in Daniel 8:14 says that the sanctuary will "be cleansed". The action is COMPLETED. Right here is the clear evidence to prove that, at the END of the 2300 days, the sanctuary WILL BE CLEANSED. It does NOT say "then the sanctuary will begin to be cleansed in some future time". Please think this through for a moment. Today it apparently is still not "cleansed"!**

There are obviously many scholars who have different options and approaches to solve the "riddle" of Daniel 8:14 and some may indeed have significant technical data to consider. However, the issue for many of us, is simply to discover if Daniel 8:14 refers to an Earthly or Heavenly event. I believe the evidence is irrefutable that the "adjusted" version of Daniel 8:14, in The Clear Word, is WRONG! Read this with me and then YOU decide: He answered: "After two thousand, three hundred prophetic days (or two thousand, three hundred years) God will step in, proclaim the truth about Himself and restore the ministry of the Sanctuary in heaven to its rightful place. This is when the judgment will begin, of which the cleansing of the earthly sanctuary was a type."

Have you ever heard the expression "reading something into a verse, which is NOT THERE? We refer to that as EISEGESIS. There IS NO Investigative Judgment, Period! Let the Truth set you Free from this dilemma!

**THE MAIN PROBLEM:** The Biblical message of Righteousness by Faith in the Merits of Jesus Christ ALONE is incompatible with an "Investigative, Judgment", when your performance will be scrutinized as evidenced by YOUR personal works and record! The blood ALONE is NOT ENOUGH!

I read an article by Roy Adams (Adventist World, NAD/August 2007, P. 3), in which is stated the reason for a so-called pre-advent Investigative Judgment: "there are intelligences beyond our own planet-created beings who, if the universe is to be secure, must be satisfied with the integrity of the divine process through which some people are saved and others lost." It continues to say, "Its wider concern is with vindication - vindication of God, of God's sanctuary, of God's name, of God's people .... Upon its vindication hangs the security of the universe .... The judgment now in session will settle the question of God's love and justice prior to the Second Advent."

I am convinced that any thinking Christian, who understands that salvation is based on the shed blood of Jesus ALONE, must reject all of the above as a sincere effort to explain a "denominational" concept, founded and expounded on the incorrect notion of grace PLUS works as the pre-requisite FOR salvation. The belief in an on-watching universe of "intelligences" is simply unbiblical. Nowhere in Scripture do we find the slightest indication that the "security of the Universe" depends on the choice human beings have made regarding the Plan of Salvation. The judgment of the Creator must be judged by His creatures? Such thought borders on blasphemy! God is self-authenticating. Who would dare to question His judgment! Have the "intelligences" not observed the effect of sin during the past 6000 years for themselves? Why would they doubt the judgment of the Judge? God's justice in saving sinners is vindicated by Christ's death on the cross! This is ESTABLISHED TRUTH! (Romans 3:24-26, salvation is God's GIFT to YOU)

The Investigative Judgment was simply developed as counter-answer to the failed Oct. 22, 1844 Second Coming expectation of the Millerites, and the wrong interpretation of Daniel 8:14.

A Baptist lay preacher, William Miller, thought that when the verse says, "After 2300 days shall the sanctuary be cleansed", that the sanctuary-cleansing referred to the Second Coming. After some figure-and-calendar juggling, he came to the conclusion that the Second Coming would occur on October 22, 1844.

When this date passed without a Second Coming, Miller and about fifty thousand Millerites decided to give up on prophetic speculation and moved on ...."preaching Jesus". However, there was a group of young people called The Little Flock, who tenaciously clung to the Daniel 8:14 prophecy and simply would not accept the fact that

October 22, 1844, was a NON-EVENT. Then it happened! They "discovered" the idea that "it was something that happened in heaven ... The judgment of the dead began." Of course, nothing could be further from the truth!

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3:19

There was no need for the beginning of the blotting out of any sin in 1844; **Jesus began His meditorial work as our Advocate at His ascension, not in 1844.** When sinners accept Christ as Lord and Savior, their sins are blotted out right there and then. It is of uttermost importance that Adventists understand that they cannot just transition from Dan. 8:14 right into God's Heavenly Sanctuary! Protestant scholars are in consensual agreement that the theme of the book of Daniel is captivity and restoration occurring ON EARTH!

"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more" Hebrews 8:12 Any sins we commit after our salvation is "propitiated for" by Jesus our Mediator, on a daily basis. According to 1 John 2:1, the blood is still applied!

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous".

**No sins or any record of sins had EVER been transferred into the holy abode of God the Father.** This teaching of Ellen G. White is unbiblical, and it negates Christ's atoning work on Calvary.

2 Timothy 2:19 says, "The Lord KNOWETH them that are his ...." God knows who are saved. Please read the NON-CONDITIONAL statement in 1 John 1:9 again.

Seventh-day Adventists are **WRONG** when they teach that those who will be living just before the Second coming will have to achieve perfection of character in order to be able **"to stand without a Mediator"**. Most Protestants find this understanding repulsive, and when Adventist-members discover that their church indeed believes this way, many leave the ranks. This is an unbiblical teaching, period!

## **Day of Atonement and Pre-Advent Judgment**

When did the Pre-Advent Judgment begin?

Seventh-day Adventists traditionally teach that a Pre-Advent or Investigative judgment began on October 22, 1844, when the anti-typical Day of Atonement of Leviticus 16 commenced. That is not what the Bible teaches.

Hebrews Chapter 9 specifically refers to the period of the anti-typical judgment as the time when Christ began his High Priestly Ministry, applying His blood-sacrifice, continually, until the Second Coming. This leaves absolutely no space for an October 22, 1844 date for an "Investigative Judgment"! The FACT is that the antitype of the annual Day of Atonement or Pre-Advent Judgment commenced in AD 31, at the ascension of our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Please read with me the following Bible texts that confirm the commencement of the Pre-Advent Judgment of AD 31:**

1. **Mark 16:19** - "So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at **the right hand** of God."

2. **Luke 22:69** - "Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on **the right hand** of the power of God."

3. **Acts 5:31** - "Him God has exalted to **His right hand** to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins."

4. **Acts 7:55, 56** - "But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at **the right hand** of God, and said, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at **the right hand** of God!"

5. **Romans 8:34** - "Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at **the right hand** of God, who also makes intercession for us."

6. **Ephesians 1:20** - "Which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at **His right hand** in the heavenly places,"

7. **Colossians 3:1** - "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at **the right hand** of God."

8. **Hebrews 1:3** - "Who being the brightness of this glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself **purged our sins**, sat down at **the**



**right hand** of the Majesty on High," (If Jesus blotted out our sins at the CROSS, our judgment is clearly OVER and no need for any further "investigation"!)

9. **Hebrews 6:19** - "This hope we have an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil,"

10. **Hebrews 8:1** - "Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at **the right hand** of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens."

11. **Hebrews 9:7,8,12** - **7,8** - "But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into **the Holiest of All** as not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing." **12** - "Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption."

12. **Hebrews 9:24-26** - "For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear **in the presence of God** for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enter **the Most Holy Place** every year with blood of another - He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, **once** at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself". (Thus the daily sacrifice was taken away forever!)

13. **Hebrews 10:12** - "But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down **at the right hand** of God,"

14. **Hebrews 10:19-21** - "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter **the Holiest** by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, **through the veil**, that is, His flesh, and having a high Priest over the house of God, ..."

15. **Hebrews 12:2** - "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,, and has sat down at **the right hand** of the throne of God."

16. **Revelation 3:21** - "To him who overcome I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father **on His throne.**"

**17. Revelation 12:5** - "She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and **His throne.**"

**Conclusion:** The Above Biblical texts fully support the Teaching that the Judgment of this world began in A.D. 31. This world is being JUDGED BY THE GOSPEL.

From a theological perspective, the fallacy of the Investigative Judgment is that it overlooks our sinful NATURE. It is our sinful nature that renders us imperfect - not the sins we commit! We are under condemnation, not for what we DO, but for what we ARE! We are sinners not because we sin, but we sin because we ARE sinners! Therefore, to judge our records in an Investigative Judgment means nothing; because our permanent, sinful NATURE is the problem we have to deal with! We need a PERFECT CHARACTER to stand IN PLACE OF our imperfect characters. THAT is your free gift from Jesus! Perhaps we should look together at what really happened on the Cross.

# Chapter 6

## The Message of the Cross

The implication of the Investigative Judgment teaching is, that Jesus' death on the cross was not enough to pay for all our sins and that we have to perform certain good works in order to make us "worthy" for salvation! The blood plus our good works = salvation!

This is contrary to what the Bible teaches. Jesus announced from the Cross, "It is finished". (John 19:30)

The Greek word is tetelestai, which means paid in full!

This means that our sins were paid for completely, rather than just a down payment being made. Jesus secured our full salvation without any help from our side. He paid for all sins, past, present, and future!

Atonement was executed once for all on the cross, and the full penalty was paid at that time. It was a complete gift, with no part left for sinners to work off or pay for.

When you confess your sins to God, and accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord, He forgives you instantly and completely.

God does not keep a record of your sins; He removes them far away from you; God does not remember your sins anymore; your sins are blotted out like a thick cloud; and your sins are thrown into the depths of the sea; never to be held against you anymore. (Psalm 103:12, 130:3-4, Ezek. 33:16; Isaiah 44:22; Micah 7:19) Please read and mark these verses in your Bible.

The Bible teaches that the blood of Jesus does not transport our sins to heaven, but it cleanses us from ALL sin (1 John 1:7). When you truly accept the forgiveness so freely offered by God, you will simply not be able to prevent yourself from loving Him in return. Good works are the fruits of salvation.

Your love response will agree with John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments".

You will begin to bear good fruit - and if ever you should slip or fall He will be right there to help you up - He will never abandon or cast you away from Him.

John 6:37 (b) ".....and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

Paul reminds us in Hebrews 13:5, ".....I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee,"

Isn't the love of Jesus something wonderful!

What is the base-requirement for sinners to participate in the Plan of Redemption?

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9-10

Theologians refer to this as "Exclusive Forensic Justification", which means that the believer depends entirely upon the righteousness of Christ for holiness and perfection with God, and reconciliation and AT-ONE-MENT with the Father, EXCLUSIVELY! Christ PLUS NOTHING!

Read Romans 5:9-11, 19.

When you have accepted this gift of eternal life, your life will automatically begin to focus on the goodness and glory of God, you will love to grow into the likeness of Jesus, and naturally desire to do what is pleasing to Him.

I believe that, if God SENT HIS VERY BEST in order to save me - He most certainly is not going to deny us eternal life. Listen, my friend: it is much easier to be saved than some legalists want you to believe. When we come to Christ, He is aware of our background of more than 6,000 years of sin - and He knows the devil is not retired - and will keep on tempting us, and tempting us, and tempting us, and .....However, Jesus leaves us a lot of space to grow and develop.

The truth of the matter and the glory of the gospel is this: I am not lost every time I fall. Why not? Because, the perfect lifetime record of the sinless perfection of Jesus stands in place of my imperfect lifetime record, and God sees me as if I have never ever sinned!

The final atonement has already been completed **at the cross!** There is not, and cannot be another atonement where sins can be forgiven or

wiped out more completely than what happened at the cross. To teach that, would rob Christians of the assurance of their salvation.

Full forgiveness is granted to helpless sinners, like me, IMMEDIATELY, when confession and repentance are made. You may have the immediate assurance that you are NOT under any condemnation or judgment.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit." Romans 8:1

Also read Hebrews 9:26; 10:14; 1 John 1:9. The imputed righteousness of Jesus in your life is the only requirement you need for everlasting life:

"He that believeth on the Son hath (present tense) everlasting life:"  
John 3:36

Please observe that your judgment is OVER! "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life." John 5:24

Jesus, our Substitute was judged **for us**. We do not need to be further investigated. We plead guilty and have accepted our Substitute, Who stands in our place. If anyone wants to question God's judgment, let them investigate ... Jesus!

At His ascension, Jesus went DIRECTLY into the presence of God the Father:

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, **now** to appear in the presence of God for us." Hebrews 9:24

Jesus was already in the presence of the Father when Paul wrote these words around AD 95.

"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." Hebrews 9:12

Jesus began His meditorial work as our Advocate at His ascension. When sinners accept Christ as Lord and Savior, their sins are blotted out right there and then.

"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will **I remember no more.**" Hebrews 8:12 - This does not mean God "forgets". God is omniscient, but God can choose not to remember (bring to mind).

Any sin we commit after our salvation, is "appropriated for" by Jesus our Mediator on a daily basis. According to 1 John 2:1, the blood is still applied!

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:" 1 John 2:1

Lets all remember: no sins or any record of sins had EVER been transferred into the holy abode of God the Father. This teaching is UN-Biblical, and it BLASPHEMES Christ's atoning work at Calvary. 2 Timothy 2:19 says, "The Lord KNOWETH them that are his..." God knows who are saved.

Allow me to repeat this again:

It is our sinful nature that renders us imperfect - not the sins we commit! We are under condemnation, not for what we DO, but for what we ARE! We are sinners, not because we sin, but we sin because we ARE sinners! Our permanent sinful NATURE is the problem we have to deal with! We need a PERFECT CHARACTER to stand IN PLACE OF our imperfect characters. THAT is your free gift from Jesus!

## **God's Two Special Gifts to You and Your Family**

God made provision for our salvation before the creation of this world.

"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." 2 Timothy 1:9

Yes, God loves YOU personally, as well as your entire family. And He has TWO gifts for each one of us.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."  
Ephesians 2:8, 9

The Bible tells us here that, by the grace of God, we ARE already saved. This is written in the Greek perfect, passive tense. We HAVE BEEN SAVED! And this gift of salvation is free! "it is the gift of God"

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that **ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." 1 John 5:13

In this verse God ASSURES us, that we may know **for sure that we HAVE eternal life! Right now!**

**So, the first gift of God is the gift of salvation and everlasting life.**

The second gift is found in the same v. 8 of Ephesians 2 and it refers to that very special instrument we need to **accept** this incredible promise, it is called, FAITH! "..... saved **through faith.**" Now, notice as we read together in **Romans 12:3**,

"..... But to think soberly according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

God has built something into our minds or psyche, that helps us BELIEVE. As the sinner listens to the gospel, or read what you are reading now, something incredible happens. It is almost like a light bulb that is switched on. The moment the sinner hears the sweet message of redemption (the gospel) the ever present Holy Spirit of God, confirms to you that what you have just heard is the TRUTH. And faith seals the message on your heart and mind! I trust we are all in agreement and with grateful hearts accept both of these two incredible gifts from the heart of God the Father.

# Chapter 7

## The Trinity-Godhead

In Ministry Magazine, October 1993, Dr. George Knight, an accomplished author, professor, and prominent SDA Theologian, makes this startling confession: "Most of the founders of Seventh-day Adventism would not be able to join the church today if they had to subscribe to the denomination's fundamental beliefs. More specifically, most would not be able to agree to belief number 2 which deals with the doctrine of the Trinity." This should be alarming to you, if you are a Seventh-day Adventist Christian.

### How Many Is God?

We read something interesting in the Ten Commandment Law of God, in Exodus 20:1-3.

"And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

God introduces Himself as "the LORD thy GOD" with the stern warning, "have no other gods before me". Will this exclude the Son of God and the Holy Spirit? Something to keep in the back of our minds for now.

The central message of the Old Testament is two-fold:

1. We must only worship ONE God. "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, is one LORD". Deuteronomy 6:4 (the Hebrew Shema)

As far as God the Father is concerned only HE, Yahweh Elohim, should be worshiped as Only True God.

The Hebrew word for ONE is ECHAD and it means only ONE! In Hebrew they count 1, 2, 3 as ECHAD, Sh'NAYIM, SHALOSH .... For the number 11, they say "one (echad) plus 10". Many who prescribe to the Trinitarian doctrine, refer to the word ECHAD at the end of the Hebrew SHEMA of Deuteronomy 6:4 "ONE LORD", and assume that the word ONE (Echad), refers to "a group of one", in order to prove the idea of "three in one", ..... a desperate effort to prove that God exists as more than one! This is a classic example of twisting what the Bible describes in very simple language.



Echad appears around 970 times in the Old Testament, and it always refers to the Number ONE, and this numerical adjective is always viewed as "singular one".

The FACT is that Trinitarians are 100% wrong when they try to convince you that "one God" is really "three gods" in one!

I believe you agree with what Jesus Himself said in John 17:3:

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

2. Then there are more than 300 different Messianic prophecies, pointing to the coming Lamb of God, or Messiah.

In the New Testament we discover the fulfillment of the Old Testament, Messianic prophecies: when Jesus was born, His earthly ministry of preaching and healing, His crucifixion, His resurrection and ascension to His Father.

"Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God."

John 20:17 Please observe that Jesus Himself has a Father and God!

In the last book of the Bible, Revelation, we discover God's final call to all humans, immediately before the second coming of Jesus. And this last call again centers on the concept of WORSHIP! Just as Adam and Eve had to choose between loyalty to God or Satan, we also face the same test of loyalty. Let's take a look at Revelation 14:14.

"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle,"

Most Christians will agree that this verse refers to the Second Coming of Jesus. The preceding verses contain instructions or messages identified as "God's Last Call". This final message from God to us, is also referred to as the Three Angels' Message, as recorded in v 6-12, and this message again centers on the concept of ... WORSHIP! WHO do we worship: The only true God, or the "beast and his image?" Satan, just like in Genesis!

"Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Revelation 14:7

This verse draws our attention back to *Genesis 1:1*, where Yahweh Elohim is identified as the One Who "made the heaven and the earth".

We want to take a very careful look at exactly what the Bible teaches about the question: How Many Is God? It is of paramount importance that we know WHO we worship. I am sure you can agree.

I distinctly remember when, as a boy of around 15 or 16, the time had come to take catechism classes as pre-requisite to be confirmed in the Dutch Reformed Church. One Sunday morning the elder-in-charge of our catechism class, was teaching about WHO God was. This is what he said: "God is three persons in one". At just about the same time, the minister came by to visit the class, and the elder told him about the topic we were discussing. The minister then made the following comment: "God is one person in three, but we can never truly understand the Trinity - for it will always be a mystery." The way God was described in all the different ways, really confused me. I even asked my father (who was an elder in the Dutch Reformed Church), if he could explain to me about the three gods who actually is only one god, and how 1+1+1 is still 1 and not 3. My father said: "Son, you are now talking about the mysteries and hidden things of God. This is not something we should talk about. We must just believe."

Well, the following Monday afternoon, at the Post Office, I bumped into the minister, and I used the opportunity to confront him directly with the same question. The preacher then said to me: "You must understand that we ministers study for a number of years at the Seminary. The Hebrew and Greek of the Bible are very clear on our view of the Trinity." According to the minister, the answer is simple, we all need more education!

Perhaps the preacher had a point, because, through the years, my own theological studies required that I study the base-languages of Scripture at the Seminary!

While I can still remember some of the Hebrew and Greek, why don't we take a look right now at what the Hebrew language teaches about *Genesis 1:1*, and if Yahweh Elohim really consists of more than one person.

## WHO IS ELOHIM?

The Hebrew word ELOHIM for God in *Genesis 1:1* is plural in form, but singular in meaning! (the same word can also be spelled god, with a lower case g, for non-divine beings such as angels and men).

Since Elohim has a plural ending, many believe that this is an indication that Genesis 1:1 should read, "In the beginning Gods (plural) created the heaven and the earth".

However, ELOHIM, does NOT indicate plurality in Genesis 1:1!

Many of the English plural nouns end with "s". For example; bird is singular, while birds are plural. We would say "the bird (singular) eats much"; "the birds (plural) eat much". The Hebrew language expresses these concepts differently. The same sentences would be: "the bird (HE) eats much"; "the birds (THEY) eat much".

AND HERE IS THE TRUTH: The FACT is that we should read in Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning, Elohim (HE) created the heaven and the earth". It does NOT read: "In the beginning, Elohim (THEY) created the heaven and the earth".

That is why many Trinitarians have ceased to argue for the Trinity from Genesis 1:1 and that is why they never put an "S" with God in the first verse of the Bible!

In more than 2500 instances in the Old Testament, ELOHIM appears with a singular verb. We always read, "ELOHIM (HE) spoke with Moses", and NEVER, "ELOHIM (THEY) spoke with Moses".

The obvious question now is this: Why does Elohim have a multiple suffix if it is indeed a singular number with a singular verb? The answer is actually very simple! In the Hebrew language, we find a special KIND of multiple that indeed have a multiple suffix even though it is a singular number with a singular verb. These nouns are referred to as MAJESTIC MULTIPLES with the goal of describing someone or something as great or majestic!

ELOHIM in Genesis 1:1 is a classic example of the application of this majestic multiple and it simply means: "great God". Therefore, the correct reading of Genesis 1:1 should be, "In the beginning the GREAT GOD (HE) created the heaven and the earth". This proves beyond the shadow of any doubt that there indeed is ONLY ONE TRUE GOD THE FATHER! (like JESUS believed in John 17:3 and John 20:17).

Part of our discussion from now on, lies at the heart of Roman Catholic belief - in fact, it scrutinizes the major pillar of Papal dogma. According to the Bible, there will be another persecution of God's people in the last days of earth's history. I believe the issue will again touch that sensitive nerve of Catholicism, called TRINITARIANISM.

In the history of the Christian church there was much persecution by Trinitarians against non-Trinitarians. The persecution started with the edict of the Roman emperor Theodosius, in 380 AD, which compelled everyone to accept the Catholic Trinity Doctrine. While persecution has ceased during the last two hundred years or so, extreme wrangling still continues to this very day over the Trinitarian vs. non-Trinitarian perception of the Godhead. Right now, the non-Trinitarian Revolution has motivated millions of Christians to re-evaluate their belief in the Trinity, all over the Western World.

Yes, the doctrine of the Trinity is recognized as THE MAJOR DOCTRINE of the Catholic Church. It is my sincere conviction that the final end-time issue in the moments before the Second Coming will again be what it was about during the Dark Ages: a controversy, which involved WORSHIP, Christ's Deity, and a correct understanding of WHO GOD IS.

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Revelation 13:8

The context of this verse deals with the anti-Christ Beast power, operating during the final days of Earth's history. You will notice in v.4 and V.8 of Revelation 13 that the issue has to do with WORSHIP. All humans are interested in who to worship, because we all have a built-in longing for worship!

The common theme in both the Old and New Testament is WORSHIP. So it is understandable when people ask the question: "Who should we worship? One God in Three, or Three Gods in One?"

Only since the 4<sup>th</sup> Century, the church has taught the doctrine of the Trinity. The subject seems confusing, because not only can the word Trinity not be found in the Bible, there is absolutely no Scriptural support for the theological concept it postulates. The theory is that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, are three persons in one, also referred to by some as three hypostases (manifestations) of one being, which is God. It is believed that these three "persons" are equal in rank, eternal existence, and of the same substance.

Thinking back of what the minister said to the catechism class, "It is a great mystery and no one can understand it", I often wondered why such a vital teaching could not be understood! Does the Bible not explain to us WHO our Creator is?

Careful probing of Scripture and history confirms the fact that the Trinity doctrine was not taught and believed by the early, monotheistic, New Testament Christians. The idea of a Trinity is the result of century long disagreements and disputes, and developed gradually. This doctrine only came up for discussion at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD and became more established or practiced toward the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> Century.

Trinitarians believe in the notion that Jesus Christ possessed two distinct natures: one that was human, the other represented the second divine person in the Trinity, who dwelt in the flesh for a short period, but could not possibly suffer or die. They believe that the Christ that died was only the human nature in which divinity dwelt. They believe in only a human sacrifice - not the complete, pre-existent, Son of God. Only His manhood died. Of course, most proponents of the Trinity theory assume that death is not the cessation of life: eventually two Christ-spirits arrived in Heaven; the human as well as the divine one! Do you agree that this is absurd?

Scripture is clear about the basic gospel-offering: that we have redemption through the "complete" Son of God.

It was the COMBINATION of divinity and humanity that died on the cross. The word "begotten" of John 3:16, is the Greek word, MONOGENES, which implies the idea of uniqueness: The unique, mysterious, human-divine, Son of God!

Some Adventists speak of the "Trinity", others prefer the "Heavenly Trio". The main issue has to do with definition. What exactly do people understand by these expressions? One view is that there are three divine beings that make up one God, meaning that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are the same being. If I put three apples in front of you on the table, how many apples do you have One or three? Please read John 17:3, and John 20:17. Jesus said that our God is also His God! This is not what Trinitarians believe.

Adventists agree with the Roman Catholic, main doctrine: "There is one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a Unity of Three co-eternal Persons", Fundamental Belief, 2.

Pastor Doug Batchelor in his booklet, Exploring the Trinity P. 68, states, "Nothing comes right out in Scripture and says, "The Holy Spirit is fully and completely God, just as the Father and Son are".

Personally, I do not think it is wrong to believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as long as we accept the Biblical definition of who they are.

Here is the official Roman-Catholic statement regarding the Trinity:

"In Trinitarian doctrine, God exists as three persons but is one being, having a single divine nature. The members of the Trinity are co-equal and co-eternal, one in essence, nature, power, action, and will" (Trinity, Wikipedia)

At [www.catholic.com/seventh-day-adventism](http://www.catholic.com/seventh-day-adventism), they state: "Seventh-day Adventists agree with many Catholic Doctrines, including the Trinity".

A SDA Pastor recently conjectured that one of the three Divine Persons decided to make one of the other two Divine Persons, His SON. Thusly, He became a Father, God the Father. Since the Son will only be role-playing, He would still remain one of the Gods, or Divine Persons, and be referred to as God the Son. Not much was said about how the remaining Divine Person, ever got the name, God the Holy Spirit!

"The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old"

"Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills I was brought forth"  
Proverbs 8:22, 25

I prefer to believe what Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 8:6 - "To us Christians there is one God, the Father." Are you prepared to believe this? Listen to Malachi: "Do we not all have one Father? Has not one God created us?" Malachi 2:10

The word "God" means the Father in the NT about 1300 times and it never once means Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Father is defined many times by singular pronouns: I, Me, My, Myself, Thy, Thee, Thou, Himself, His, Thine, Thyself. Notice how Jesus Himself repeated the Hebrew SHEMA in Mark 12:29:

"And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, HEAR O ISRAEL THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD".

One Lord means one Person, not three Persons. Any three-year-old will confirm this mathematical formula! The notion that this one-Person-God is really three Persons violates the Bible, as well as common sense.

So, if we want to find out what Jesus said about the Godhead, we now know. This is PRESENT TRUTH TODAY! Truth as it is in JESUS!

For those who insist on what does the "pen of inspiration" or "the Spirit of Prophecy" say? Here is what Ellen G. White wrote:

"God gave His own spirit to His Son, without measure, and Christ gave the same spirit, the same life, to us. It is the very life of God in the soul.

It is the life that dwells fully in Jesus. Thus, the Holy Spirit is the representative Presence - the omnipresence - of the Father and the Son"  
14 Manuscript Release, 23.3

And one more reference: "In giving us His SPIRIT, God gives us HIMSELF"  
(E. G. White 7 T, 273.1, 1902)

## JOHN THREE SIXTEEN

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."  
John 3:16

There are some ministers who teach the heresy that God the Father does not really have a physical Son, and that He only role-plays when he refers to His Son, in a metaphorical way in the verse. They say that if God really gave or sacrificed His Son, then He must be labeled a "child abuser". Some ministers teach that it was none other than the Father Himself who "appeared" as a Son, and actually sent Himself to die on the cross. Accordingly the Father Himself was then born as Mary's baby, grew up, prayed to Himself, was baptized by John as "the Lamb of God", and later ascended to Himself to sit at His own right hand, and other absurdities ..... This is ALL HERESY and UN-Biblical false teaching, which originated with Satan, and was introduced to the Christian Churches via the Roman Catholic, "mother-church".

The expression, "gave" His only begotten Son, is regarded by some, to imply the pagan practice of child sacrificing. Thus, portraying, the Father as a "child abuser."

However, Jesus was never "forced" by the Father to die in our stead.

The Greek word for "gave" is EDOKEN from the root word, DIDOMI (did-o-mee) and can mean to give, to offer, to allow, to grant, to permit, to yield. When we read what Jesus said about His personal role and attitude in being sent or commissioned by His Father, a totally different picture emerges.

The Biblical teaching is of a Son who willingly became the "Lamb of God". He was never forced or "sacrificed" by His Father in the pagan sense of the term. The picture that unfolds is one of the Father allowing His Son to be sent by Him to earth.

"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:14

Here we can clearly read that Jesus was the Lamb of God by own volition, not by force.

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28

The Scripture is clear that it was Jesus, as Son of man, who gave his life, "a ransom for many". When God the Father "sent" His only begotten Son, it was a willing Son who was sent. God never acted like a "child abuser who sacrificed His Own Son to do His dirty work", as some ministers believe and teach.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

Paul was very clear that it was the Son of God Who "gave himself for me".

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32

Please observe that the Greek word for "spared not", is the word EFEISATO, which means "keep back". The contemporary English Version indeed reads "God did not keep back His own Son".

Here we also notice that the word "delivered" is from the same Greek root as the word "gave". God simply allowed His Son to do what they decided a long time ago, even before the foundation of the world. Jesus would be a willing sacrifice .... A decision devised by Father and Son, together.

"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God." Hebrews 10:12

Notice, "after he had offered ...." It was Jesus Himself who had chosen to be a willing sacrifice by dying on the cross in our stead. He performed this gracious act, obviously, in harmony with the approval of His Father. His death on the cross was not a sacrifice-to-be-killed-by-his-Father in the pagan sense of the concept, but the Father allowed His Son to lay down His life WILLINGLY.

One final verse will sum it all up for us: "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour." Ephesians 5:2

Jesus was our offering and sacrifice to God (not from God!). God the Father did not pay a penalty to Himself! So, just as the Father and Son



created the Universe together, we may be sure that BOTH planned the salvation of lost man, also together ..... The recipient of the Lamb was God the Father.

When Jesus prayed that His disciples might be one as He was with His Father, the prayer did not contemplate one disciple with twelve heads, but twelve disciples - made one in goal and effort in the cause of the Gospel. Neither are the Father and the Son parts of a "three-in-one God". God the Father, and His Son Jesus, are one in goal, yet TWO in function.

God the Father and His only begotten Son are two distinct persons or individuals. Of course, as Son of God the Father, Jesus may use the Family name: God. He is worthy of worship by all! Because of the Father's love for His Son, Jesus is God-family by imputation, declaration and inheritance. However, in all of His discourses, Jesus never said: "the only One True God of the Bible is actually made up of THREE persons, the Father, Myself and another being called the Holy Spirit."

The Godhead exists as two Lords or Divine Beings. The first Divine Being is the LORD God, the Father. The second Divine Being is the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is not inferior to His Father, but He said: "My Father is greater (in position) than I am". (1 John 14:28) Any father existed before his children. Therefore, when the Bible refers to Jesus as God, (twice in the New Testament), it refers to Jesus as His Father's appointed representative and agent. Everything Jesus is, and was, and will be, is GIVEN to Him by His Father. Even in the Old Testament, in Isaiah 9:6, we can see how some of the Father's titles and descriptions are shared by his Son, who said in John 14:9, ".....he that have seen me, have seen the Father". In other words Jesus was a revelation of His Father. Please observe that the title "Only True God" is never applied to Jesus.

During the ancient Jewish economy of the Old Testament, and during the formative years of the early Christian Church, prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> century, no one ever prescribed to a Trinitarian view of the Godhead. (Deuteronomy 6:4 - "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD.")

The question might be asked, "If the Trinity-teaching was such an important doctrine, why can it not be substantiated by Scripture?" Could it be another "man-made", institution, such as the Roman Catholic replacement of the original Seventh-day Sabbath, with the pagan Day of the Sun? (per edict of Constantine in 321 AD)

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE Triune Deity

Few Christians are aware of the fact that the concept of a Trinitarian god can be traced back to ancient Babylon and primitive paganism! The Indian Hindu belief embraced the idea of a Trinitarian group, consisting of Brahma, Siva, and Visnu. In Egypt, worshipers bowed before the Trinitarian gods Osiris, Isis, and Horus. It is clear that the Catholic Church must have adopted the Trinity doctrine from paganism.

When we only use the Bible in our quest for the truth about God, the first observation is that there is absolutely NO EVIDENCE for the Trinity doctrine. The Scriptures teach that there is only one supreme God over all: God the Father, who has a Son, Jesus. The Father and Son constitute the Family of God. Period! The New Testament makes it abundantly clear that the Father is greater than the Son, and preceded His Son in existence, like all fathers do. A brave young man once said to his father who tried to convince him about the Trinitarian doctrine: "If you can convince me that we are one in the sense that you are my father, and I your son: and also that I am your father, and you my son, then I can believe in the Trinity."

The Roman Catholic doctrine of the Trinity states that the Son is existing co-equal, as well as co-eternal, with the Father. The Bible maintains just the opposite. The Father and Son are one in unity, but two in existence.

The teaching that the Godhead is a trinity, was first formulated and developed by a church father named Tertullian, between 196-212 CE. He was the first theologian to use the Latin word Trinitas, meaning Trinity in English. It took several centuries and several councils to establish the doctrine of the Trinity as accepted orthodox dogma.

At the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, the debate centered not on the issue of three persons in one God, but rather concluded that Christ is not the truly begotten Son of God. Jesus was viewed as a "mysterious person" who is continuously being begotten of the Father (also referred to as "eternal generation"). Whatever that might mean!

Only 56 years later at the Council of Constantinople (381 AD), did the idea that God consists of three persons, become the official, orthodox teaching of the Catholic Church.

The major problem with this Catholic doctrine is that it is founded on the notion that Christ is not literally the Son of God - "mysterious person" at most. Some theologians prefer to use the term HYPOSTASIS rather than person. God, accordingly, can appear and role-play AS Father, Son or Holy Spirit.

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, which denieth the Father and the Son." 1 John 2:22

Jesus Himself affirmed that He was not co-equal with the Father, but was subservient to the Father.

"Ye have heard how I said unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father; for my Father is greater than I." John 14:28

If someone is greater than yourself, you are not equals.

"For unto which of the angels said he at any time, thou art My Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?" Hebrews 1:5

How can God say this of Himself? Clearly the Father and Son are separate individuals.

In Proverbs 8:25, we read that, "Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, was I brought forth". The Father must have existed before He could bring forth His Son. A co-eternal relationship between Father and Son is simply illogical. Any father comes before his son.

The Bible tells us, that only God the Father has immortality (1 Timothy 6:16). This is further proof that a co-eternal relationship between Father and Son is not Scripturally substantiated. We know the Son actually died.

Notice one of the very special attributes of God the Father in James 1:13 - "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man".

The God who cannot be tempted must be God the Father - it cannot be the Son. Why not? Read with me Hebrews 4:15 - "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

Please follow what transpired at the baptism of Jesus, by John, in the river Jordan:

"And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: and there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved son in whom I am well pleased." Mark 1:9-11

There are some ministers who believe that God the Father performed a TRIPLE, METAPHORIC-role-play here: God acted as Father in heaven, then He acted as the Holy Spirit "like a dove", and also acted like His Son, Jesus, getting baptized. All 3 hypostases (appearances) AT THE SAME TIME! This really seems a little far-fetched for intelligent people to buy into! What say you?

SDA Pioneer, Pastor J. N. Loughborough, was the first pastor of the Healdsburg SDA Church, in N. California in 1868. I had the privilege to serve as Senior Pastor of that very same church in 2002! In RH, Vol 18, P184, a question was directed to Elder Loughborough: "What serious objection is there to the doctrine of the Trinity? Answer: There are many objections which we might urge, but on account of our limited space we shall reduce them to the three following: 1. It is contrary to common sense. 2. It is contrary to Scripture. 3. Its origin is Pagan and fables".

## **Is the Holy Spirit a Person?**

The doctrine of the Trinity states that the Holy Spirit is a separate being, and part of the "Holy Trinity".

The adjective "holy", describes the nature of God's Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Power and Presence emanating, from the Father, through His Son, to us. God is omnipresent and does not need "a third person" to help Him with anything!

The Holy Spirit is not a separate being with its own mind. It is simply what the Bible says: the Spirit of God!

We also have a spirit. Job 32:8 - "But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding."

This does not mean that there is a second being for every human being. In similar fashion is there also not a separate being called the Holy Spirit.

There is NO RECORD in the New Testament that anyone had ever seen the "person" of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was on earth, He lived as a PERSON, and if anyone had a camera at that time, they could have taken a PICTURE of Jesus. If the Holy Spirit is a PERSON, where can this person be seen and photographed? The truth is, a Power and Presence cannot be photographed! Notice for instance how prophecy was authored through the Prophets:

"Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow," 1 Peter 1:11

It was clearly "The Spirit of Christ, which was IN THEM ....."

The Bible does NOT teach that the Holy Spirit is a separate being or person. In Isaiah 32:15, 44:3 and Acts 2:17 the Holy Spirit is described as being POURED. A being or person cannot be poured into another.

In Titus 3:5, 6 and Acts 2:33, we read that the Holy Spirit is SHED. One person cannot shed himself onto another person. The Holy Spirit is also described as something that can be STIRRED UP (2 Timothy 1:6), QUENCHED (1 Thessalonians 5:19), and RENEWED (2 Cor. 4:16). These attributes are far more fitting for a power or presence, than a person!

John 20:22 - "And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost."

Does a person ever get "breathed on" someone?

Please consider the following: There is no evidence in either the Old or New Testaments that the Father or Son ever communicated with the Holy Spirit.

Paul never addressed the Holy Spirit in the salutations of any of his letters, as he did with the Father and Son. Of the 27 books in the New Testament, 15 of them begin with a greeting similar to the record of Galatians 1:3:

"Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ."

Not one of these greetings mentions the Holy Spirit as a separate person or God, and there is also no record where anyone ever prayed to the Holy Spirit.

Nowhere in the Bible is the Holy Spirit called the "third person". If the Holy Spirit were a separate being, it would have had a personal name, as do YAHWEH the Father, and YESHUA the Son. It is nameless, because it is not a person!

We know that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:20), therefore if the Holy Spirit were a person, separate from the Father, then Jesus obviously prayed to the wrong Father in John 17 and other instances! Is this a reasonable deduction?

"And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

Romans 8:27

We all know there is only ONE MEDIATOR between us and God: JESUS CHRIST. Therefore, the "Intercessor" of Romans 8:27, is Jesus! (Please read 2 Corinthians 3:17, 18)

The question might be asked: "If the Holy Spirit is merely God, why is there a need for this term?" The reason is that it emphasizes a particular ASPECT of God. It emphasizes that He Who is a holy, omnipresent, and invisible spirit, works among all men everywhere and can fill the hearts and minds of men. This explains God's ability to anoint, baptize, fill, and indwell human lives. Since the Holy Spirit is God Himself, I personally have no problem to use the pronouns He or Him to refer to the Spirit.

The DIVINITY resident in Jesus emanates from none other than the Father. That is why the Spirit in the Son is the Father. (Phil. 1:19, Gal. 4:6, 2 Cor. 3:17)

The truth is that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God the Father, which flows through Christ, and can flow to humans if they desire it to be so.

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

Romans 8:9

Notice how the Spirit of God flows through Christ and to Christians as well. The same Spirit that is in God the Father is also in Jesus the Son. That Spirit is "Holy". God's Spirit is no more a person apart from His own person, than our spirit is a person apart from us.

If someone should complement you by saying: "you have a compassionate spirit", you know the person is not talking about two persons!

### **Analysis of two "proof" Trinitarian Passages:**

Most Trinitarians will refer to two New Testament passages in order to "prove" their belief in the doctrine of the Trinity.

1. Matthew 28:19 - "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Some Bible translators question whether the baptismal formula recorded here, is inspired or was a later liturgical addition by the Catholic Church

The Hebrew version of Matthew, **OMITS** the entire verse. There are no original New Testament manuscripts in existence to substantiate the accuracy of the present rendition of Matthew 28:20. The context of this expression is not an explanation about what the Deity consists of, it is rather about **BAPTISM**. Jesus is not here teaching them about the Godhead. We could question the originality and validity of this passage, because it **CONFLICTS** with the baptismal examples recorded in the New Testament. If the Matthew 28:19 formula was correct, then all the NT baptizers were disobedient! In all other instances, baptism was performed in the singular name of Jesus. (See Acts 2:38, 8:16, 10:48, 19:5, Romans 6:3, Galatians 3:27) It seems that the original text should simply read: "baptize them **IN MY NAME**". Of course, there is no need to feel "undone" if you were baptized in the 3-fold name. By allowing that, you have expressed your belief in the existence of the One True God, the mediation of His Son, and the power of His Holy Spirit.

The **Catholic Encyclopedia**, 11, p. 263, records: "The baptismal formula was changed from the name of Jesus Christ to the words Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by the Catholic Church in the second century".

2.1 John 5:7 - "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."

Most Biblical scholars will admit 1 John 5:7 was a later (Catholic) addition to the New Testament manuscripts. It is interesting to note that a number of Bible editions **OMIT** this interpolation. Among those are the esteemed Afrikaans Multivertaling Bybel, the New International Version, the New American Standard Version, and the Contemporary English Version. There are dozens of other translations that offer footnotes indicating that 1 John 5:7 is not present in earlier manuscripts. Verse 7 was **ADDED** along the way! Scholars refer to this problem as the **COMMA JOHANNEUM**.

3.Perhaps we should look at John 1:1,2 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God".

Some interpret this verse to mean that God the Father and His Son, Jesus, is one and the same Person! However, the text, "the word was with God" clearly speak of two separate entities or individuals. According to Revelation 19:11, 13, - Jesus is also known as "Word of God". And John 1:14 explains: "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us". This clearly defines for us who "the Word" is, and that "Word" is not God the Father. By virtue of His relationship to His Father, Jesus may use the Family Name God. Thus, the Word that "was God" was none other than Jesus, the Son of God, who was "in the beginning" with God the Father!

4.One more verse I should mention is, 2 Corinthians 13:14, - "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen".

Once again, nothing in this text tells us about the relation between Jesus Christ, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit. It is rather speaking about their relation to us. This verse is a closing greeting, and just because the three expressions are used in one verse, does not establish the doctrine of the Trinity. The "Holy Spirit" should be viewed as the intimate and holy presence of the Father and Son in the hearts and minds of believers. In 1 Corinthians 8:4-6 we find Paul's clear teaching about the Godhead:

"As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many). But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."

I trust you have your Bible next to you as we continue our study.

"And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been



slain, having, seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth". Rev. 5:6

This is a very revealing verse regarding the Holy Spirit. Notice that the Lamb, which is Christ, has "seven" eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, to send forth into all the earth. (Seven, being an expression of completion and perfection of the Holy Spirit) This is a clear reference to the Holy Spirit, and WHO is it that HAS the Holy Spirit to send? It is Christ, "the Lamb". This lines up with what is revealed in Revelation Chapters 1 and 2. Notice the following in Revelation 2:7 (A) - "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the SPIRIT saith unto the churches."

WHO does John see "speaking" to him? He sees Jesus Christ, right? It is Jesus Christ Himself speaking to the churches. Now notice again what Jesus says at the end of each message to the churches: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches". Jesus confirms that HE is the Spirit speaking to the churches.....Which confirms what Rev. 5 says regarding Christ being the one who HAS the Holy Spirit to send to us. It is Christ's OWN divine Spirit, which He sends, not another "third being" like the Trinity teaching says.

Revelation 3:1 - So, the "Spirit" speaking in Revelation was Jesus Christ Himself! There are, of course, other New Testament verses which support this truth of the Holy Spirit actually being the Spirit of Jesus Christ. John 14:16-20, Matt 18:20, Acts 1:1,2

Please observe that Christ referred to Himself in these verses as if He were another person (Holy Spirit).

You will remember that right after His resurrection, Jesus quickly went up to heaven to receive confirmation and power from His Father, so that He could pass it on to His disciples! Read John 30:19-22 and notice how "He breathed on them, and said unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit"! Did Jesus "breathe" another "third being" onto His disciples? No, of course not, He breathed the Spirit and power of God the Father, which Jesus now had HIMSELF. It seems as if the Holy Spirit can come in different "measures".

Please read the following verses: Galatians 4:6, and 2 Corinthians 3:17

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Romans 8:9

We have the Spirit of God the Father, which is manifested through His Son, Jesus Christ. The Scripture cannot be clearer!

Some Bible translations will often ignore what was really meant in the original language. For example, let's look at Acts 16:7 (b) "but the spirit suffered them not". In the original Greek it says: TO PNEUMA IESOU = "the Spirit of Jesus"!

Another example to prove that the Holy Spirit is not a person, but the Power and Omnipresence of God the Father, is found in Luke, and repeated in the book of Acts.

"And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."  
Luke 24:49

"But ye shall receive Power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."  
Acts 1:8

And then it happened! Read the record in Acts chapter 2 about what happened when the promised OMNIPRESENT-POWER (Holy Spirit) was manifested and the disciples received the Gift of Communication.

## **WHO is the COMFORTER?**

Most Christians are familiar with the celebration of the Lord's Supper, and the words of Jesus recorded in John 6:56 - "He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in Him".

Jesus said that HE will live IN US. Paul stated that Jesus wants to dwell IN OUR HEARTS. He speaks of "CHRIST IN YOU, the hope of glory", (Colossians 1:27). Again, in Galatians 2:20, Paul says that "CHRIST liveth IN ME". Just take a moment and think this through ....

If Christ lived in Paul's heart and the Holy Spirit also lived in Paul's heart, then we have TWO living in Paul's heart! Which is it? Paul, uses the heart (an organ that pumps blood) to explain a metaphysical concept in understandable terms. He is simply saying that the Spirit of Jesus is present in his life or mind.

Can you ever imagine how much God really loves you? Galatians 4:6 - "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your heart, crying, Abba, Father." Galatians 4:6 Jesus is so intimate with us that He adopts us into His very own family-relationship with God the Father, and He "shares" His own Father with us!

I think it is reasonable to assume that God not only (John 3:16) allowed His only begotten Son to die for us, but also for His Son to live IN us.

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever." John 14:16 God will allow Jesus to come to His disciples, in another FORM.

Observe how Jesus continues His discourse, saying that He would send "the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you". John 14:17

It must have impacted the disciples when just after Jesus said, "the world" does not know the Spirit (Comforter), He then said, "but ye know him"! The question is HOW could the disciples know the promised "Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit"? (v. 26)

Follow with me, as we dig deeper. Jesus explains in John 14:17: ".....ye know him; for (or because) he dwelleth **with** you, and shall be **in** you".

Who was dwelling WITH the disciples for more than 3 years? Jesus Christ Himself! And Jesus said that soon this Person who was dwelling WITH them would be IN them. Jesus would simply manifest Himself in another form or presence.

His essential presence would be in their hearts and minds, even if His body-Person has ascended to heaven (John 16:17). Jesus explained that the disciples would profit much if He went to His Father, and send the Comforter do dwell IN them.

Jesus said in John 14:18 - "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you". Here we notice why the Comforter could not come until after Christ went away and was glorified; for Jesus HIMSELF would come back to His disciples to comfort them! Could it be any clearer? We continue to read how Jesus HIMSELF reinforces this point in John 14:19, 20

"Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me; because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you."

Just a few moments earlier Jesus had said to His disciples that the Comforter "shall be in you". Now, Jesus says that when the Comforter comes, "Ye shall know that I am in you". In essence, Jesus assured the disciples that the Father would NOT send anyone else, but His only begotten Son to be their Comforter. They would recognize that the same "Person" who was dwelling WITH them, would now be IN them through HIS SPIRIT. The Bible cannot be clearer! This is PRESENT TRUTH TODAY!

Read with me John 14:23. "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him".

Jesus made it very clear that after His ascension, He would come back to live in the hearts of His people. Not only would He return, but His Father would come with Him, so that BOTH of them would live in the hearts of His children, not physically, but by God's Spirit.

Thus we may enjoy fellowship with **both** the Father and His Son! John understood this principle very well as recorded in 1 John 1:3, "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ". Please observe that no reference is made to a **"third"** person.

John also confirms in several other verses, that **ONLY** God the Father and His Son, live in us: 2 John 1:9 (b) - "He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."

1 John 2:22, 23: "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also."

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit was working upon the hearts of people long before the day of Pentecost, helping them to overcome and combat sin. Remember our great grandfather David's concern? "Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me." Psalms 51:11. This is clear evidence that the Holy Spirit was at work before Christ came to earth.

Scripture specifically confirms that the Spirit of Christ worked in Old Testament times.

"Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner or time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow." 1 Peter 1:10, 11. So long before the New Testament, the Spirit of Christ was living in the prophets.

The Bible records in more than thirty instances the fact that God the Father raised Christ from the dead. "Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead)" Galatians 1:1

Christ did not raise Himself from the dead - or else, He would not have been dead in the first instance! (Please read the great Christian-Confession in Romans 10:9).

On page eleven of Handbook for Today's Catholic, the Roman Catholic Church admits "The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of the Catholic Faith. Upon it are based all the other teachings of the Church."

It is interesting to note how, with the passing of time, the Adventists made adjustments to some of their doctrines and creeds in acceptance of the Roman Catholic Trinitarian doctrine.

For example, consider hymn number 73 in the Adventist Hymnal, "Holy, Holy, Holy". This song appears in both the 1941 and 1985 editions, but with a major difference! Written in 1826 by Reginald Heber, it was originally a Trinitarian song, ending with "God in three persons blessed Trinity!" The Adventist Pioneers were non-Trinitarians and the Hymnal ended as follows: "God over all who rules eternity!" (1941 ed). In 1985 they changed the words to "God in three persons blessed Trinity". Why the change?

As time went on, Adventists have, like many other Protestant Churches, also adopted the Roman Catholic Trinity Doctrine (officially in 1980). Therefore, in 1985 the words in the Adventist Hymnal were changed to the original, reflecting the church's present position on the Trinity. PLEASE NOTE: The Adventist Church was non-Trinitarian but has changed to become a Trinitarian Church! You can very easily verify this yourself.

Notice the statement on p. 56 of the Amazing Facts booklet, What About the Trinity:

"It's very important to have a proper understanding about all 3 Persons of the Godhead - they are not 3 Gods, they are One God in 3 Persons - and the only way for us to be saved is to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and accept the Holy Trinity!" Please note, "the only way" to be saved, is Jesus Christ PLUS the belief in the Catholic Trinity!

"..... the Trinitarian understanding of God, now part of our fundamental beliefs, was not generally held by the early Adventists. Even today a few do not subscribe to it". (Adventist Review, Jan. 6, 1994 P. 10 Dr. William G. Johnsson)

It is interesting to note that in Revelation 22:3, John gives us a glimpse of God's throne: "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it: and his servants shall serve him:"

John says it is the throne of God and of the Lamb. It is obvious that God's throne has TWO seats, one for the Father and one for the Lamb. And we will be ruled, on the New Earth, by the Father and the Son as two distinct, separate beings ... for eternity! The Holy Spirit as a person is nowhere to be found on God's throne, and plays no apparent pivotal role on the New Earth!

I trust you will accept, with many fellow Christians, the Biblical teaching, that "there is but one God the Father" and "one Lord Jesus Christ", who is "the only begotten Son of God", who "proceedeth forth" and "came out of God", "before the hills", who "died for our sins according to the Scriptures", and "the Father raised Him from the dead". My sincere hope is that you will also believe that the Holy Spirit is "the Holy Spirit of God" which "proceedeth from the Father" and is sent to us "through Jesus Christ". Here are the Scriptural references - be sure to mark them in your Bible: 1 Corinthians 8:6; John 3:18; John 8:42; 16:27; Proverbs 8:25; Galatians 1:1; Eph. 4:30; John 15:16; Titus 3:5, 6. and another dilemma is removed!

I now want to mention something very personal...from my heart to yours. I hope you will not perceive my analysis as an "attack" on the Adventist church. I'm simply being honest with myself and with you. Hopefully you will study and verify my presentations. My goal is to HELP the church, not confuse it!

# Chapter 8

## The Millennial Reign of Jesus

### An Equal Opportunity God for All

This is what Adventists believe about the Millennium, Fundamental belief, 26:

"During this time the wicked will be judged, the earth will be utterly desolate, without living inhabitants, but occupied by Satan and his angels. At its close Christ with His saints and the Holy City will descend from heaven to earth. The unrighteous dead will be resurrected, and with Satan and his angels will surround the city; but fire from God will consume them and cleanse the earth."

On p. 366, *Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, it states: "Confined to this earth, Satan is 'bound' by a chain of circumstances. Since the earth is devoid of any human life, Satan has no one to tempt or to persecute. He is bound in the sense that he has nothing to do."

The main reason for the SDA Heavenly Millennium is to check up on the fair judgment of God. Note p. 367 of *Beliefs*:

"Imagine you were in heaven and you found that one of your loved ones whom you certainly expected to be there was not. Such a case might cause you to question God's justice".

Apparently all Catholic, Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist and other redeemed saints will share the thousand years in heaven.

One day I asked my High School girlfriend, the following question: "Tell me, what will happen to the millions of people who are now alive, and the billions who have died and never heard the gospel? Will God be fair to them also, or is it just too bad they were born in the wrong country?"



She looked kind of confused but quickly provided her answer: "Oh, in God's foreknowledge He knows **what** they **would** have decided **if they had a chance**. **Many of them will simply be regarded as if they never existed and will just not be resurrected.**"

**Question:** Have you ever thought about the billions of people living on the earth right NOW who have never heard the name of Jesus, and probably will never hear the gospel in their lifetime? Have you ever wondered about the billions who have died and went to their dusty graves - without ever hearing the gospel message? Is it just "bad luck" that they were not as fortunate as you and I or could it be ....could it just be, that God has a special plan for them also? We **CANNOT** ignore this question any longer!

I have heard a statement from a preacher which sounded good, but was totally wrong: He said that when people become "aware" of their sins, they, because of His grace, "unknowingly" become children of God. This may "sound" good, but the Bible says in 2 Peter 3:9 ... "all should come to repentance". Salvation implies that human beings must make a **choice**. For the blood of Christ to be efficacious, sinners must **ACCEPT IT**. This ought to be a very conscious act and cannot be executed without cognitive understanding. Do you agree?

Perhaps we can study together the **BIBLICAL** teaching about this simple question.

First of all, let's look at the question of God's will. What is God's will and desire for His creatures?

"what is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him. For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and has crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:" Psalm 8:4-6

Here we notice that God has a special purpose for man. Humanity was given responsibility to rule over the EARTH since the beginning. Of course, we all know how sin came into this world, and put a "delay" on God's ultimate destination for us, as well as all the other humans who

are now living on earth - and also for those who are already in their graves. Would you like to know the Bible answer?

"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world." 1 John 4:14

Here we notice that Jesus came to be, "the Saviour of the world." That means exactly what the Greek word *COSMOS* implies: not just some parts of the world but **ALL THE WORLD!** Does that sound reasonable and fair to you? It seems to me that it is God's will and desire that everyone be offered an opportunity to come to repentance and accept Jesus as Savior. The implication is that the gospel-message must be made available to all humans who ever existed from Adam's time.

By the way, you are going to be blessed as seldom before with this section of our journey together. Come with me as we discover more about the Love of God, and His amazing end-time program for YOU!

One more verse before we move on: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness: but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that **all** should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9

Notice, God is "long-suffering". Which means that He will take His time with the offering of His Plan of Redemption to humans; not Satan or all the evil angels will hurry God. God may take a day or a thousand years .....all the same to Him!

So let's get our thoughts together: God's will is that everyone should have ample opportunity to listen to and evaluate the gospel presentation, and then exercise their God-given option of free choice.

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will," Ephesians 1:4

Yes, God loves everyone and has made provision for every human ever born. Paul clarifies this fact again in 2 Timothy 1:9, "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."

It is clear that the Plan of Salvation originated from "before the foundation of the world", which means in Heaven, the abode of God the Father. Every human being was taken into consideration. "... He hath chosen us in Him". Rejecting this gift means, SELF-CONDEMNATION!

### **The Present Ruler of this World:**

Most Adventists understand that this world has been under control and influence of Satan for the past 6,000 years. It is against this backdrop that Paul wrote 2 Corinthians 4:3-4: "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

In the book of Revelation, John confirms this view: "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Revelation 12:9

We observe two points in these passages. Paul says, "the god of this age has BLINDED" and thus robbed many of the privilege to hear the gospel. John says, "the whole world" is being DECEIVED by the Devil, or Satan. Even Jesus Himself referred to the existence of this evil entity in the world (John 14:30). Simply stated, Satan wants to keep the gospel as far AWAY from sinners as possible! THAT IS HIS MAIN AIM AND CONCERN!

In 2 Corinthians 4:3, 4 - we find an acceptable explanation of why so many billions of people have never heard the Gospel. Satan blinded them, prevented them and deceived them. I think we could very well include some of our own loved ones who perhaps only partly understood the Gospel, or never had an opportunity to hear the Gospel

clearly explained. They were blinded and deceived and never really had a "fair chance".

The BAD NEWS for the Devil and his evil angels is this: we worship a loving and impartial God, Who desires that EVERYONE be saved. Every individual who was ever born on this Green Planet WILL hear the complete gospel, and given ample opportunity to make their own decision AFTER THEY HAVE RECEIVED THE LIGHT and become "UN-DECEIVED". (2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4) What a loving God we serve!

Keep on reading, and you will discover what the Bible-guidelines are and WHEN this will happen!

One of our biggest problems is that we often think in terms of days and months and years. With God a thousand years is like a day with us. GOD WILL TAKE HIS TIME!

Our Creator is not bound by our time-restrictions. He never said WHEN the entire world would be saved! Salvation has been going on for a long time, but not all are saved right now. Will you accept the notion that God may choose WHEN HE wants to bring His good-news-gospel to people?

Some received the gospel before the cross, some received the gospel during the time when Jesus was on Earth, some received the gospel during the past 2000 years since the Crucifixion, and still others are receiving the gospel today. Would you be surprised to learn that God has another time-period to offer His Plan of Redemption?

### **Time of the Great Harvest:**

In Daniel 2, we find the record of the dream King Nebuchadnezzar had of a metal image that the prophet Daniel interpreted, and most Adventists are very familiar with. (Please read this fascinating chapter in your Bible)

This was the interpretation: The head made of gold, represented the world's first empire, Babylon, who ruled the world between 606-538

BC. Medo-Persia, the chest made of silver, came next, and ruled between 538-331 BC, then follow Greece, the mid-section of brass, who ruled between 331-168 BC. The 4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom was Rome, represented by the legs made of iron, and ruled the world between 168 BC-476 CE. Finally, the Roman Kingdom became a divided Kingdom that was represented by the feet, made of iron and clay. The toes represented the 10 countries of Western Europe, from 476 CE (or AD) till the end.

The important part for our study on the Earthly Millennium is found in Daniel 2:44:

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."

This is the climax of the prophecy of Daniel 2, and will be 100% fulfilled, just like the rest of the predictions were 100% correct. Right now the world is waiting with great anticipation for this part of the prophecy to be fulfilled. Please observe what will happen: It is common knowledge that we are TODAY living in the time of "the feet" - the time of divided Europe.

Daniel 2:44 says that it will be in OUR TIME, "in the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom", that will be ruled by God's only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ!

This event was represented by the ROCK (stone) that King Nebuchadnezzar saw in his vision: Daniel 2:34,

"Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces." Notice v. 35 (last sentence) "and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, AND FILLED THE WHOLE EARTH".

Without any question, this refers to Jesus as the real "Rock of Ages", who will establish His Millennial Kingdom to cover "the whole earth".

Follow closely now...

The Biblical, prophetic record is indisputable: the Millennium will not be a heavenly, but an **earthly event**, right here on planet Earth! This has always been a real dilemma for Adventists!

In Revelation 19:11-21, we find the dramatic description of the Second Coming of Christ, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. AT THAT TIME, the antichrist-beast and the false prophet are cast into "a lake of fire burning with brimstone", v. 20. In v. 21, we find a description of the remnant or associates of the beast, slain by the sword (words spoken by the mouth of the Lord). This remnant is described in more detail in v. 19, as "the Kings of the earth, and their armies ...."

The general sweep or sequence of this vision of John now continues in Revelation 20:1-3:

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."

You will notice the reason for Satan's capture, is that he may no longer "deceive the nations" v. 3. The immediate implication is that there will be many nations (people) on earth during the Millennium - to whom Satan will be denied direct access. And then, in v. 4, we find the beginning of the Millennial reign of Jesus, right here on Earth. You may be wondering where you, personally, will be at that time. Notice the last sentence of v. 4: ".....and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." (Also, note v.6)

### **PLEASE READ WITH ME A VERY IMPORTANT VERSE:**

Revelation 5:10 - "And hast made us unto our God Kings and Priests: and we shall reign on the earth." This will happen "on the Earth".

Let's come back to our original sequence-study of the Earthly Millennium. It is an awesome thought that you and I will be privileged to serve God as kings and priests during the coming reign of Christ on Earth.

1 Corinthians 6:1-3 - "Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things, that pertain to this life?"

Here the Bible says that we will indeed "judge (manage) the world"..... and even angels. If this will not occur during the Earthly Millennium, what other time or event could we fit this into? The only way it makes any sense, is the Bible-way! Daniel 7:26 and 27 refer to this incredible time when you and I will encourage and teach the BILLIONS who were blinded by Satan, deceived to the point where they were denied a fair and reasonable opportunity to understand the Gospel. It will then be our privilege to teach them and serve them as priests and administrators.

The Second Coming will usher in a Millennium of peace and prosperity and restoration for the whole world. This will be a time of peace among the nations as they come to the temple in Jerusalem to worship. Nations will beat their swords into plowshares ...

Isaiah 2:4 - "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither shall they learn war anymore."

The Devil will not be around to continue to BLIND anyone, anymore!

According to Isaiah 11:1-9 it is obvious that Jesus will rule this present earth, because in heaven, or the new Earth there will be no wicked people to be judged. Jesus will change the wild nature of animals and they will all become tame, during the earthly Millennium, **not** during any time in Heaven or the New Earth.

When Jesus comes the second time there will be a resurrection of those who died "in Christ" throughout the ages. The living saints will undergo a change and will meet the Lord in the air **with** the resurrected saints.

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord". 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

During this time there will also be billions of other people ALIVE. The reason they will not be destroyed at the Second Coming, is because they are **not evil**, but simply **uninformed** people who never heard the gospel.

So, the saints meet the Lord in the air, and then we will accompan Him - and see Him touch down on the Mount of Olives.

Zechariah 14:3-4 - "And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south,"

He will be King over all the earth (v.9). The Kingdom of God will have come to this earth, and it will eventually become the paradise described in the last two chapters of the Bible.

### **Armageddon:**

To begin His Millennial reign on earth, Jesus will descend upon the Mount of Olives, accompanied by His army of angels, as well as the transformed and resurrected saints. However, before Christ can establish His Millennial Kingdom, He will fight and defeat the nations of this world in what is called the Battle of Armageddon. Zechariah 14:12-15 and Revelation 19:11-21 describe the horrible details of this last battle in which the wicked will fight Jesus and His armies. Many millions of humans will perish in this end time war ....the climax of the Great Tribulation.



Satan and his armies will be defeated and he will be "sealed up" to prevent any direct access to "the nations" who obviously will be on earth during the Millennium. "The nations" are the living billions who never heard the Gospel, as well as the billions who died during the past 6,000 years without ever hearing the gospel-invitation. Other inhabitants will of course include the King of Kings, His special angelic and Patriarchal entourage, and all the saints including you and me, who will serve as administrators, managers and priests.

The Bible **never** speaks of a totally uninhabited or unpopulated earth. There will **always** be people on the earth. Isaiah 24:1 "and scattered abroad the inhabitants thereof": v. 6 "and few men left".

### **The Earthly Millennium:**

One of the first things Jesus will do, according to Isaiah 11:11-14 and Isaiah 27:12, 13, will be to bring the remnant of the twelve tribes of Israel **back** to the Promised Land. This same scenario is also referred to in Jeremiah 3:17-20; 16:14-20; 31:7-9. Ezekiel 47:21-23 refers to this time, as well as the hospitable attitude of Israel toward the (non-wicked) surviving gentiles during the Millennium. So, all the remnant of Israel and billions of gentiles will inhabit the earth as the Millennium begins. They will be ruled from Jerusalem, and YOU will be part of this. Here are some verses you might want to read about the priestly responsibilities that await you: Rev. 1:6, 5:9, 10; 20:4-6

In Isaiah 30:18-21, the Bible says that people will see their teachers that will offer them instruction in the way they should live. In Matthew 19:28, Jesus told His **disciples** that they will sit **on thrones** judging (managing) the twelve tribes of Israel. **And Jesus will sit on His father David's throne.** (Isaiah 9:7, Luke 1:32) This could ONLY happen during the Earthly Millennium! The millennium events of Revelation 20 are in perfect chronological order!

Micah 4:5 - "For all people will walk everyone in the name of his god, and we, will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever."

When Micah uses the expression, "his god", lower case g, it could be that he is describing the relationship of people in different cities and

regions, to their particular Priest or Judge. They will walk in "the name of God", because of the instruction they receive.

In 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3, we read the following: "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much, more things that pertain to this life?"

We ("the saints"), will someday **judge angels**. **Moffat's translation reads:** "Do you not know that the saints are to **manage** the world?" The word "judge" here could possibly, in the Hebraic sense of the word, be understood as "REIGN" - a function incorporating judgment. It makes sense to me that we will be "managers" with Christ - over the entire world, as kings and priests. Revelation 20:6. This is clearly referring to what we will be involved in during the 1000 year Earthly Millennium.

Seventh-day Adventist public evangelists teach that Satan will marshal the resurrected wicked together to attack the New Jerusalem. The reason they skip over Rev. 20:3 where Satan is kept away from the NATIONS, is because of the erroneous belief that the earth will be depopulated and all the saints will be in heaven - and because of "CIRCUMSTANCES", Satan and his angels have no human to deceive. That is all wrong! Please continue our study together.

"Revelation 20:7-10 - "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea, And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

**Please observe** that the "beloved city and the camp of the saints" mentioned in v. 9, refers to the **earthly** Jerusalem and the saints living around the city, and the sea is still there, v. 13. This DOES

NOT refer to the New Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem descends to earth only later in Revelation 21, AFTER the New Heaven and the New Earth had been established and there will be no more sea .... And hell is OVER!

At the end of the Millennium, Satan again deceives "the nations" (the living who rejected Jesus during the Millennium). The Greek word for "nations" in v. 3 is exactly the same Greek word for "nations" in v. 8. Neither of these two verses gives us the slightest indication that by "nations" we must understand the resurrected wicked at the end of the Millennium. Satan deceives the **living** wicked at the end of the Millennium into thinking that they can launch a successful military coup. As they attack the beloved city, they are "devoured" by fire from heaven (dying the first death), and Satan is cast into the same "Lake of Fire" we were first introduced to in Revelation 19:20. He joins the beast and false prophet, who were thrown into the lake of Fire that will apparently burn throughout the Millennium!

Revelation 20:8 - "And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea."  
(The expression is, of course, used in metaphorical sense)

**The Bible does not say anywhere that Satan will command the resurrected DEAD to attack the New Jerusalem.** Do you really think God will give the wicked a "second chance" to attack His own Son and also Himself coming down from heaven in the Holy City, the New Jerusalem? The wicked will be resurrected for only **one purpose** - to be destroyed by fire! Do you agree?

Note that "the nations" Satan will deceive, will be like "the sand of the sea". This gives us an indication of the billions who will live on the earth during the Millennium! And since more will hopefully be saved than lost, we can accept the idea that they will **also** be like "the sand of the sea".

"And this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Matthew 24:4

The Gospel "shall be preached in **ALL** the world for a witness unto **ALL** nations: and **THEN** shall the **END** come" (that means not only to **SOME**, but to **ALL**). The Bible does not say then "the Second Coming will take place", but rather "then shall be the **END**". Only **AFTER** the Gospel has been preached to **ALL** the world ...unto All nations, **ONLY THEN** shall the end come. Do you agree that this is what the **BIBLE** says?

What is meant by "the end"? By this expression we must understand the culmination or final offering of the Gospel to **ALL** - not before that time. We know for a **FACT** that this has not yet been accomplished, neither will or can it be accomplished in our lifetime. It is simply a logistical impossibility, and in any case - billions had already died without hearing the Gospel. Were they also on Jesus' mind when He hung on the cross? I believe we are in agreement that the blood of Jesus is sufficient for them also. What a God!

It seems obvious that God offers a **three part gospel-opportunity** to "ALL the world and ALL nations". The **first group** includes the ones who lived **BEFORE** the cross. The **second group** is the ones who were exposed to the Gospel while living on the earth, after the cross. This includes you and me. The **third group** will be the ones who will be living on Earth during the Millennial reign of Christ, including the billions of people who died without ever hearing the gospel. This group constitutes the **MAJORITY** of humans who ever lived on earth and will date back to Adam's time! (Those ones will still have their sinful natures, but Satan will no longer be able to deceive them and keep the Gospel away from them.)

According to this three-part offering of the Gospel, "**the end**" referred to in Matthew 24:14 will only come at the end of the Millennial time, when hell and the last enemy, death, will be finally destroyed. **THEN** God the Father will dwell with us forever more. Chronologically, Revelation 21 clearly comes **AFTER** Revelation 20.

Researched against the backdrop of overwhelming evidence in the Old Testament prophetic record, and the Revelation 20 confirmation that Satan will be locked away for the **SPECIFIC** purpose of being denied access to "THE NATIONS" (who will obviously be on the **EARTH**), I fail to see how any honest student of the Word can have any doubts

that the Scriptures undeniably confirm a coming Earthly Millennium. It gives me hope and something to look forward to with great anticipation!

## **Equal Opportunity for ALL**

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindred of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." Revelation 1:7

The Bible reference to "those who pierced Him" obviously implies Roman soldiers, who under the yoke of the Roman government, were in adherence to the Roman pagan system of worship, and would not be interested in the Jewish Messiah. They were not necessarily "wicked" people, but were blindfolded by circumstances that prevented them from hearing the Gospel. Is this acceptable to you? So, here is a group of people who will be resurrected to witness the Second Coming, perhaps with billions of others who never heard the Gospel. The Bible does not say they would be harmed or destroyed after their resurrection. They are not resurrected in a vindictive way, but in order that they can be exposed to the Gospel from now on.

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:" 1 Thessalonians 4:16

**Here is the scenario:** at the Second Coming, there will be 6 groups of people in and on the earth. Group 1: The living wicked who will die in the Battle of Armageddon at the end of the Tribulation. Group 2: The Christians who will be alive and be changed "in a moment ...." Group 3: The Christians who "died in Christ", and will be resurrected with immortal bodies. This group, together with the living saints, will "meet the Lord in the air". Group 4: This group consists of billions of live people who are not wicked, but simply never had a gospel-opportunity. Group 5: These are the wicked that will remain in their graves till the end of the Millennium ...for final annihilation. Group 6: this group includes the billions who died through all the ages without the opportunity to hear the full gospel account. They will probably be among "those who pierced him", and did not die "in Christ" - and will be resurrected to live during the Earthly Millennium. They will join the

billions of living people, who also never heard the gospel explained. Together these two groups will now, during the Earthly Millennium, be taught the plan of Salvation. **Not** a **second chance** - but their **FIRST GOSPEL OPPORTUNITY!**

**This will constitute the greatest evangelistic effort ever conducted during earth's history! God's ultimate showcase of His justice and fairness! NO one is left out .... Equal Opportunity for ALL!**

Revelation 20:11, 12 - "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

It is clearly stated that the resurrected dead were judged or tested according to what was written in "the books" (v. 12). These books are not personal journals of their lives, but **the Bible**, as implied by the Greek BIBLION (Scripture scrolls). The "books" cannot be the records of pre- Millennial Christian's lives, because at the Second Coming, the saved meet the Lord in the air, and the wicked simply are not resurrected. The "books" of Rev. 20:11, 12, **MUST**, contextually, only involve the Millennialists, and how they responded (their works) when taught by their instructors. Verses 14, 15 refer to the resurrected wicked of all previous ages, including the wicked millennialists, culminating in the final executive or punitive judgment phase .... Their names were not found in the Book of Life! The saints are **NOT** involved in this judgment. Please read John 5:24 .... They **HAVE** received eternal life. No reason for them to be judged again!

1Timothy 2:3, 4 - "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior: Who will have **all men** to be saved, and come unto the knowledge of the truth."

The word "knowledge" is the Greek EPIGNOSIS, meaning "an overview" of the Gospel. That is what God desires: that everyone should clearly understand what God is offering them. Only **then** will

sinner's decide to accept or reject eternal life. Keep this in mind as we realize that God's provision **includes** the BILLIONS of humans now living **and** even more who have died through the previous millennia ... but never had the same opportunity you and I now enjoy - learning and understanding the Plan of Redemption. God does not have a double standard. **Every** human being, ever born on this planet will get a fair chance! Oh, what a Savior, Who takes care of yet another dilemma!

Only those who have their names recorded in the Lamb's book of Life, before, or during the Millennium, will inhabit and live on the Earth made New.

"Revelation 21:27 - "And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither, whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

Those, whose names are not found in the Book of Life, will be cast into the Lake of Fire - this is the second death from which there is no resurrection. In God's infinite mercy, He will destroy them (Malachi 4:1-3). We understand this as the concept of eternal PUNISHMENT, not eternal PUNISHING! Revelation 20:13-15 refer to HELL'S permanent destruction.

The truth is that there will be a Millennial salvation opportunity (not a second chance) for those billions who sincerely, NEVER had a fair chance to accept Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior. Evaluate this from an honest, common-sense perspective .... it makes sense logically and theologically!

So, what my high school girlfriend said about "they will be like they never existed" is wrong. The problem is, they **do** exist, and every soul must be dealt with individually. This group will include little children who died in infancy, mentally handicapped individuals, and multitudes with other physical impairments that prevented them from having a fair gospel-opportunity ...

I trust you will understand that the exact details about the earthly Millennium are not spelled out very clearly in Revelation. We cannot be overly dogmatic on the finer points, however, the promise that there will be a post second Coming, Earthly Millennial period,

CANNOT be disproved from Scripture. One of the major flaws in Adventist eschatology is that they make no provision for the BILLIONS of people, dead or alive, who NEVER HEARD THE GOSPEL! This is a real DILEMMA for Adventists! The explanations they offer, such as, "God knows what they would have done", and "They were saved unknowingly" simply will not stand the test of Scripture. We must be HONEST, and allow the Truth to Set us FREE!

## **No One Goes to Heaven ....**

While preparing for confirmation in the Dutch Reformed Church, I asked my catechism teacher an apparently difficult question: "If we go to heaven when we die, why must the Lord come back to get us if we are already there?"

Contrary to what my catechism teacher told me, the Bible does not say that anyone goes to heaven or hell when they die. In Matthew 5:5, Jesus said: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the EARTH!" I don't think anyone will ever go to the abode of God the Father. As far as we humans are concerned, it will all happen right here on earth! **According to Jesus, no one has yet ascended to heaven, except Himself.**

John 3:13 - "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man ..."

## **Do you believe Jesus told the Truth?**

John 14:1-3 - "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also."

Does this section of the Bible really say that one day we will be going to heaven to inherit a mansion? Could this be mere assumption? If there are ALREADY mansions, why would Jesus have to construct even more mansions? Translations vary with regards to the word "mansions". Other metaphorical expressions of the same word are:



rooms, abodes, and dwelling places. In the Christian hymn, A child of the King, songwriter, Hattie Buel, says, "They're building a palace for me over there!"

You will notice that there is no time-connotation to the statement of Jesus. If it were true that some of us indeed would go to heaven, for how long would we live in the mansions and palaces? 7 years? 1000 years? This whole concept is in stark conflict with Jesus' own statement in Matthew 5:5. (Also read Psalm 37:11, 29, where the Psalmist is clearly referring to an earthly abode during a time of "great peace")

God the Father's House:

Romans 8:16 - "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"

When we say, "our children are part of our house", we simply mean they are part of our family .... the same with God the Father. Because of our acceptance of Christ, we were adopted **into** our Father's house, or family. And in the **household** of God there is ample SPACE for EVERYONE! There is "room at the Cross for **you**:" in God's heart is a dwelling place for you.

John 2:16 - "And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence: make not my Father's house an house of merchandise."

Jesus was clearly drawing an analogy from the temple being "my Father's house".

Hebrew 3:6 - "But Christ as son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."

This is simply saying that Jesus has followers ..... "whose house WE ARE" - and of course, Christ's house is His Father's house. It cannot be clearer: God the Father's house is composed of those who have accepted Jesus as their Savior.

**Preparing a Place:** When Jesus said that He was going back to His Father to prepare a place for us, He was referring to His daily work as INTERCESSOR for us. It would only take a few moments for Jesus to "speak" the most beautiful mansions into existence - like He did when He made the Earth in only 6 days! He was not going to take 2000 years to build or prepare a physical palace for any one!

Hebrews 4:14-16: "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

What is Jesus PREPARING? He is continually offering His atoning blood for the sins we still commit every day. This is the only way we can continue to **stay** in the household of the Father.

Romans 3:23-25 - "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God."

Notice that when a sinner accepts Jesus as Savior, ALL his or her sins are forgiven, wiped away and blotted out, never to be remembered by God again.

However, no matter how good our intentions might be to never sin again, the FACT is, we still sin every day. Do you agree with me?

1 John 1:8 - "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us,"

It is for that reason we need a LIVING SAVIOR who can take care of our "post-conversion" daily sins and shortcomings. That is why it takes both the death and life of Christ to save us and KEEP US SAVED!

1 Corinthians 15:17, 18 - "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished."

How then are our present sins forgiven? Please read 1 John 1:9; 2:1, 2 - and see if you can discover the answer yourself.

Jesus is not involved in **any** kind of "investigation" of our good works to figure out if He should allow us eternal life or not, but He **continually** intercedes in our behalf in order to KEEP and PRESERVE us as members of the household of Him and His Father!

### **Please read Hebrews 4:14-16**

So, when Jesus said that He was going to prepare a place for us in the Father's household or family, HE IS DOING JUST THAT!

The New Testament writers were unanimous in writing about the literal Second Coming of Jesus. In John 14, Jesus said, "I will come again". That does not mean, WE are going to Him but simply that Jesus is coming to US! Do you agree?

Acts 1:11 - "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

Jesus will return to where He departed from. Then He will fulfill His promise to "receive you unto myself". Jesus alluded to that very event in Matthew 24:31,

"And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Let's get some more details about just what the scenario will be at the Second Coming.

1 Corinthians 15:51, 52 - "Behold, I shew you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

We now want to find out just WHERE we shall be when Jesus will receive us unto Himself:

1 Thessalonians 4:17 - "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Scripture is clear that Jesus will be in the CLOUDS when we meet Him, ".... in the AIR." That means just above the surface of the earth. That is where Jesus will be when we meet Him. And for how long will we be with Him? V. 17 "....shall we Ever be with the Lord." And Jesus Himself said in John 14, "....that WHERE I AM there you may be also."

The question for us to consider is this: do we stay in the clouds forever? Do we go to some or other planet - perhaps to heaven itself? Because in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, Paul does not tell us where we go after we meet Jesus in the clouds. He did say that we will REMAIN with the Lord. We need to search for other Scripture for our answer to WHERE Jesus will go after this gathering of saints in the air.

We have already noticed where Jesus was when He ASCENDED to heaven. (Acts 1:11)

Zechariah 14:1-4 - "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst and toward the east, and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south."

Some scholars understand Revelation 1:10 to refer, not to the Seventh-day Sabbath (Lord's day), but rather to the "Day of the Lord", as it is referred to more than 30 times in the Old Testament. It is viewed as referring to a future prophetic time, rather than the day of the week on which John had the vision. This "Day of the Lord", is seen as referring to the Second Coming and Millennial reign of Christ

I have noticed that in the Greek, the word **en** is used - which should be translated "in" and not "on" the Lord's Day. In the vision John was apparently taken **into** that particular end-time scenario.

Speaking of "the Day of the Lord", and referring to the Battle of Armageddon (read Revelation 16:12-16), Zachariah says that, "His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before **Jerusalem.**" In Revelation 19:11-21 is a detailed description of this end time battle.

Notice in Zechariah 14:5, last sentence: "and all the saints with thee". At the Second Coming after we meet Christ in the air, we continue on **with Him** down to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, to see Him fight the armies of the warring nations.

Only God, The Father knows when that day will occur.

Matthew 24:36 - "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

Zechariah 1:9 says that Jesus will be "King over all the EARTH". That is exactly where you and I will be part of his administration. (Revelation 5:10 - "...and we shall reign on **the earth**")

After the 1000 year Earthly Millennium, Jesus will hand over the Kingdom to God the Father. **THIS VERSE IS VERY IMPORTANT AND REVEALING:**

1 Corinthians 15:24-26 - "Then cometh the end. When he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till

he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."

It is only **after** this time when the last enemy, DEATH, is destroyed that the New Jerusalem comes down and God the Father HIMSELF will come and live on the New Earth. You may want to read Revelation chapters 21 and 22.

The truth is that no one goes to heaven - but that God the Father and Heaven are coming down TO US! What an awesome God! (I can hear some are wondering about Enoch and Elijah! Please request the free E-book, The Bible Truth, from [drpieter43@gmail.com](mailto:drpieter43@gmail.com), for the Bible answers).

The New Heaven and New Earth will be inhabited by God the Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, all the saints, and a host of angelic beings. Unfortunately, the Bible does not give us much details of our future destiny, except what we read in 1 Corinthians 2:9.

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

Personally, I made my decision about the Earthly Millennium, when I studied all the OT prophetic references to the Earthly Millennium ... The crux of Jesus' own teaching was to remind His followers of A COMING KINGDOM .... When the apostles will sit on 12 thrones, helping to manage the EARTH ... and Jesus Himself will sit on His father David's throne. These events have NOT yet happened; it CANNOT refer to anything in Heaven OR the New Earth ....it MUST happen during the Earthly Millennium!

Also, in Rev. 20:9, those who attack Jerusalem with Satan are NOT the resurrected wicked, but are OF the NATIONS, living at the end of the Millennium, who did not accept the Gospel. The term "devoured" simply refers to how they will die the FIRST DEATH. Notice, Satan is thrown into the LAKE OF FIRE! The "devouring" of the unrepentant in v. 9, is NOT HELL. Those people will later take part in "the resurrection of damnation", and be annihilated in v. 13-15 when the last enemy, death, will also be destroyed.

ONLY NOW do we come to Revelation 21, and CHRONOLOGICALLY the New Jerusalem AND God the Father come down. The Jerusalem referred to in v. 9 is NOT the New Jerusalem ... it simply CANNOT be!

# Chapter 9

## "The Testimony of Jesus"

Adventists have traditionally believed that the SDA Church constitutes "the Remnant" of Revelation 12:17. In fact, the official baptismal vow includes the words "I believe that the Seventh-day Adventist church is the Remnant Church of Bible Prophecy".

In Revelation 12:17 we noticed that there are two qualifications for being part of the Remnant: keeping God's commandments and have the testimony of Jesus. The implication is that the members would exhibit TWO actions: OBEDIENCE to God, and WITNESSING about the teachings of Jesus. However, Adventists refer to Revelation 19:10 for a definition of "the testimony of Jesus". For some or other reason they would then come to the conclusion that "the Spirit of Prophecy is the writings of Ellen G. White." In some instances the wording would be something like, "the Spirit of Prophecy is manifested in the writings of Ellen G. White".

That is obviously an incorrect exegesis of Revelation 19:10. Please observe the translation of The New Testament Contemporary English Version, which makes most sense:

Revelation 12:17 - "They are the people who obey God and are faithful to what Jesus did and taught."

Revelation 19:10 - "Everyone who tells about Jesus does so by the power of the Spirit."

These two verses make it very clear that it is most assuredly not the writings of E. G. White, although she had every right just like you have, to be part of those who indeed proclaim "what Jesus did and taught".

"Go thee therefore, and teach all nations ..... Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you ....."

Matt. 28:19, 20



God's Remnant will simply "observe all things" that Jesus commanded and taught on the great issues such as Salvation, the Ten Commandments, the Sabbath, Baptism, the Second Coming, the Millennium, the Ordinances, etc.

The literal translation of Revelation 19:10, indeed refers to "spirit of prophecy". However, the term has a much broader application than simply the office of a prophet.

Prophecy is more than foretelling things to come. It also includes the ability to speak according to Scripture in the power of God's Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 14:1, Paul expresses his desire that the church members at Corinth would "prophesy". Does that mean every-member-a -prophet? The Greek word for prophesy is PROPHETEIS, which could refer to foretelling the future OR simply "preaching". The context would determine the meaning. In the formative years of the Christian Church, like Corinth, the immediate need was clearly for more preachers to proclaim the Gospel.

The Testimony of Jesus can best be proclaimed in the power of the Holy Spirit through Preaching! For doing just that, John was exiled to the Island of Patmos. This gift of Witnessing is clearly an identifying feature of the Christian Church, and not just reserved for one person!

The existence of an extra or post-Biblical prophetess cannot be substantiated by the verses Adventist preachers so often quote. I believe it has been proven over and over again that Ellen G. White does not qualify as a Biblical-level prophetess.

Here are just a few **examples** of what readers have discovered in Ellen White's writings that prompted more research:

1. "If there was one sin above another which called for the destruction of the race by the flood, it was the base crime of **amalgamation** of man and beast which defaced the image of God and caused confusion everywhere". She also wrote, that after the flood, "amalgamation of man and beast as may be seen in the endless varieties and species of animals and in certain races of man". (Spiritual Gifts, P. 301, Vol. 3, spirit of Prophecy Vol 1, P. 69)

2. "In heaven there will be no color line, for all will be as white as Jesus Himself. Let us thank God that we can be members of the royal family." GH, March 1, 1901, par. 2
  
3. "God permits slaves who never heard the gospel as if they had not been" ( will not be resurrected) EW 276.1
  
4. Manuscript 34, 1885, Document File 360 A, White Estate July 15, 1934. "...the bringing of children into this world is more an occasion of grief than joy. Satan controls these children, and the Lord has but little to do with them.." Manuscript 1, 1854. Released from White Estate 2014. "God hates unruly children who manifest passion and evil tempers, etc. He cannot save them in the time of trouble."

"As the Lord's messenger, her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth." Fundamental Belief, 17

Accordingly, Seventh-day Adventists have TWO sources for truth: the Bible plus the writings of Prophetess Ellen G. White. The Bible is viewed as the "greater light", and E. G. White's writings are viewed as the "lesser light", according to Mrs. White's own definition. Someone inquired: "Since we already have the greater light (Bible), why is the lesser light needed?" Some view her writings as "above" the Bible!

Even though I have discovered many disappointing facts about Ellen G. White, her "visions", her great wealth, etc., I have no personal vendetta against Mrs. White, and have read most of her books. Her writings are of pastoral nature, but contain little trustworthy eschatological material. May I recommend that you visit [NONEGW.ORG](http://NONEGW.ORG) and check any item of interest on the left side of their home-page. I have no affiliation with this site, neither am I acquainted with any of the moderators, but I have personally fact-checked many of the references and resources, and was amazed at the accuracy. You could easily spend a few days researching all of the interesting topics. Please conduct your own, personal research on the topics in your sincere pursuit to uncover yet another dilemma!

In her book *The Great Controversy*, Ellen G. White presents the cornerstone-support for the Heavenly Millennial belief. Referring to

Isaiah 24:6, some have made the stunning discovery that the last words: "and few men left" are omitted! She left out key words with the obvious intent to support the doctrine of a supposed Heavenly Millennium. To verify this for yourself, simply see the chapter called: "Desolation of the Earth" (15<sup>th</sup> paragraph), and compare the quotes on Isaiah 24:1, 5, 6. She used the King James Version of the Bible and quoted verses 1 and 3 word for word, but when we get to verses 5 and 6, we observe that key words were left out in order to prove the belief in an earth de-void of all people at Christ's Second Coming. Denying what the end of verse 6 clearly says - "and few men left". Regardless the excuses - there is absolutely no argument for deleting these words! This was not a typo, but an obvious omission from Scripture in order to circumvent the Biblical teaching of an Earthly Millennium! I trust you will not hold it against me for bringing these FACTS to your attention .... I was just as shocked when I discovered this!

At an October 2023 meeting of a group of Adventist Scholars at Pacific Union College, one speaker mentioned the possibility that between 80-90% of Ellen White's account of her TGC (The Great Controversy), is directly depended on John Milton's Paradise Lost.

# Chapter 10

## The 144,000 and the 6 Angels of Revelation 14

### Final Revival and the Great Tribulation

The greatest Christian Revival is yet to come!

In Revelation 6:17 we find an important end-time question: "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (This question refers to the time of the coming Great Tribulation)

Revelation Chapter 7 offers 3 discoveries about this coming Great Tribulation period. There will be good news in the midst of bad news, God has a protection plan for His chosen, covenant people, and there will be great multitudes that will be converted and saved.

Let's look at the good news first. Revelation 7 introduces us to two groups who will be able to stand during the period of the coming wrath of God. Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Daniel all referred to this extremely bad time. Under the 4<sup>th</sup> seal of Revelation 6 a quarter of the earth's population is decimated, but it gets worse!

Coming events will include a period of divine reckoning, a time of demon involvement but also a time of spiritual awakening and a time for evangelism.

The question is who will be the evangelists during the Tribulation? There will be two witnesses we read about in Revelation chapter 11. It is not revealed exactly who they will be regardless of all the speculation. What is important to know, is that the two witnesses come to Jerusalem in Israel. They not only have a good message but can also perform miracles and apparently the whole world will be able to watch them. Television comes to mind!

There will also be 144,000 Jewish evangelists who are identified in Revelation chapter 7. Finally there will be 6 angels, identified in Revelation

chapter 14 who will participate in the proclamation and final harvest of the Gospel.

In Revelation 7 we read about 144,000 of all the tribes of the children of Israel who were sealed on their foreheads. God's word tells us exactly who the 144,000 are, from verse 5 to verse 12. We do not have to guess who the 144,000 are. They are clearly identified as Jewish evangelists of the children of Israel. Please observe that the 144,000 do not represent any church or denomination.

The Jews are God's people. 83% of the Bible is about the Hebrew race, and 83% of the Scriptures deal with the Jewish race. Most of the authors of the Bible were Jewish. All the apostles of Christ were Jewish, including Jesus himself.

Like the 144,000 we as Christians are also sealed as a sign of ownership and protection of God. We are not sealed because we follow a vegetarian lifestyle or keep the Sabbath or Feast Days, but according to Ephesians 1:13 by the Holy Spirit of God, because we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

We read about the 144,000 again in Revelation chapter 14 as we come towards the climax of the Great Tribulation. As a final evangelistic effort God now employs real angels to offer His Plan of Salvation to the entire world. The final world-wide revival is coming! At this stage the great tribulation is over and the 144,000 no longer play any pivotal role in the proclamation of the Gospel. Even the angels sing a song of apparent appreciation for the work that the 144,000 evangelists have done.

## **The Six angels of Revelation 14**

In Revelation 14 we read about 6 angels, each with a special message or task (2 sets of 3 angels each).

### **A. THE FIRST SET OF ANGELS:**

**Angel nr. 1 in Revelation 14:6,7** - Gives the world the INVITATION to the Gospel and to accept Christ as Lord and Savior

and to worship the only true God, (the Creator-God of Genesis). This angel also announces that the judgment of God has come. Sinners are being judged by their reaction to the Gospel-invitation on a daily basis, but contextually the judgment of Revelation 14:6, refers to the imminent judgment of BABYLON. There is not the slightest reference or inference to an "Investigative Judgment" that would commence on Oct. 22, 1844. Period! (Please read the following verses yourself: Rev. 17:1, Rev, 18:10 and Rev. 19:2) This angel is flying in mid-heaven. The Greek word is MESOURANEMA which refers to the point in the sky where the sun reaches its APEX or high point at noon. From that vantage point the angel would be most visible to those on the earth. By this time, the world will have heard the Gospel by the 144,000 Jewish evangelists and the two witnesses and other Christians, but still most of earth's population will reject the Gospel. (Revelation 9:20, 21 and Revelation 16:9, 11) God graciously sends this powerful angel to proclaim the EUANGELION-Gospel one last time. Please observe that not the slightest reference is made to Sabbath-keeping, or the threat of Sunday -enforcement.

**Angel nr. 2 in Revelation 14:8** – Gives a DECLARATION of the doom of Babylon, the Anti-Christ System!

**Angel nr. 3 in Revelation 14:9-11** – Announces the CONDEMNATION of those who follow and worship the beast; they will be become subject to the wrath of God.

Revelation 14:14 describes the vision John had about the second coming of Jesus as HARVESTER of the saved souls of the earth. Jesus on a white cloud represents PURITY; Jesus wearing a golden crown represents VICTORY, the sharp sickle in Jesus's hand represents AUTHORITY. The expression "like unto the son of Man" is a Messianic reference to Jesus. (John uses figurative language)

## B. THE SECOND SET OF ANGELS

**Another Angel, nr. 1 in Revelation 14:15** – makes an announcement to Jesus regarding the harvest of the earth that is "RIPE".

**Another Angel, nr. 2 in Revelation 14:17** - is deployed from the Temple in heaven and also carries a sharp sickle, apparently to help with the reaping of the harvest.

**Another Angel, nr. 3 in Revelation 14:18** - encourages angel nr. 2 with the sharp sickle, to help gather the harvest which he indeed did in v 19.

So, the Bible is clear that Jesus will be using real angels in this final harvesting process. Please observe that even though we have not yet come to Revelation chapter 14 on God's eschatological countdown program, any Christian church, denomination, or individual member, may today freely preach the message of the first set of 3 angels of Revelation 14. The same gospel Paul defines in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

And I want to proclaim the same Gospel to your right now: It is the good news of forgiveness and eternal life, God promised in Ephesians 2:8, 9. What a privilege for men and angels to Lift Him Up the Risen Savior!

# Chapter 11

## Special Appeal to General Conference

I have recently come across a very interesting article by **Dr. Reinder Bruinsma**, (a retired President of the SDA Church in the Netherlands) **Adventist Today, 2-29-24**

"...our teachings about judgment have caused many to doubt whether they can ever be sure of their salvation .... The investigative judgment teaching in particular has robbed Adventist believers of inner peace .... The doctrine of the investigative judgment is still very much part of the official beliefs of our church. But, in spite of all frantic efforts from the higher regions of the church to preserve this doctrine, it seems that the I.J. (as it is often abbreviated) is losing support, and few pastors nowadays preach on it! The conviction is growing that the biblical basis for this doctrine is extremely slim."

Referring to Ellen White's *Great Controversy*, Dr. Bruinsma writes: "The incessant emphasis on such topics as the time of trouble, the seven last plagues, the papal antichrist, the Sunday laws, the mark of the beast, the shaking, the close of probation, and Armageddon has for many totally eclipsed the 'blessed hope' of the 'glorious appearing' of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:13)

### **Please Help!**

Our goal is to send an E-copy of this document to 500,000 Seventh-day Adventists, including pastors, academics and administrators. (We have already crossed the 20,000 mark!) I want to invite you to forward a copy to all of your SDA friends and family. Simply ask them for their evaluation and honest opinion. This way we can exponentially reach our HALF-MILLION goal within a very short time, and thusly extend a special appeal to the General Conference.

The question many are asking is: "where can we go to worship with like-minded believers?"



There are a number of options if you just like to attend a worship service on Sabbath. First to consider is **to stay in your local church** and enjoy the fellowship with your friends, family and the pastor's good sermons, while you share the Four Adventist Dilemmas with them all .... and see what happens!

One popular option is the **House-Church Alternative!** One of the fastest growing Christian phenomena is the rapidly growing House Church Movement, according to the New Testament Model. Some groups have incorporated the Online-Church facility. More than 20 million Christians are right now meeting in House Churches in the U.S. and Barna Research projects that by 2025 more than 35% of all US Christians will attend House Churches.

## What is our Goal?

**Answer:** 1. To request the General Conference of SDA to REMOVE the Four Dilemma-doctrines and promote the Cross of Christ as the **only** remedy for sin and immediate and total forgiveness! 2. To establish an Online, Internet Fellowship. We are a 501(C)(3) Organization. Let us know how you can participate and share your talents.

Feel free to contact us if you know someone qualified to translate this document into another language and perhaps print and distribute it. We do not solicit any donations, because the Father has already provided a budget to cover translation, printing and mailing costs.

Contact us on [adventistdilemmas@yahoo.com](mailto:adventistdilemmas@yahoo.com). We will cover all Conferences, Educational and Health Institutions that are already in our DATABASE. Thanks for your help in mailing this E-document to friends and family.

In His Service,

Pieter Barkhuizen

[drpieter43@gmail.com](mailto:drpieter43@gmail.com) (personal) Feel free to contact me for a preaching appointment or Seminar. There will be no charge for these presentations.

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