



Our Firm Foundation

Vol 14, No. 6

June 1999

Christ's Second
Coming and Satan's
Counterfeit Explained

Delusions of the Last Days

Peace or Panic

How to find the peace of Christ
on the verge of a new millennium

The Seventh-Day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary

Jesus Is Coming!

Are You Ready?

ONE of the most glorious themes in all the Bible is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. And it is my firm conviction that we are the generation that will witness that glorious event. But we will also witness the greatest deception of all time—when Satan comes and pretends to be Jesus. Just the thought of it disgusts me. To think that Satan, who maliciously lied about God in heaven, who treated Jesus so cruelly when He walked upon this earth, will then come and endeavor to deceive the world by pretending to be Jesus returning from heaven.

Jesus forewarned us of this false coming 2,000 years ago, saying, "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matthew 24:23-24.

One of the greatest warnings associated with these last days is, Do not be deceived. See Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 23-24; Revelation 13:12-14; 16:13-14. The apostle Paul warned us, saying, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." 1 Timothy 4:1.

Satan knows that his time is short. He knows the potential of a Pentecostal experience among God's people. He fears a revival of primitive godliness. Therefore, he must exercise every weapon in his satanic arsenal. He must continue to keep people focused on material things, the faults of others, their own imperfections, their past failures and their current perplexities. Yet, he will do more than that. He is out to deceive the whole world. Yes, Satan will

not only pretend to be Jesus, but his demons will pretend to be the apostles, the virgin Mary, and loved ones who have died. This plan to deceive the world has already been set in motion. The climax will soon be upon us!

Dear reader, it is time to draw nearer and still nearer to God, to study the Bible for ourselves, to pray for those yet in darkness, to witness in the highways and the byways of this old world, and to consecrate ourselves to God as our first work every morning. We have no time to lose. Time is short. Jesus will soon be here!

However, the counterfeit will come first. Are you ready? Do you know how to tell the difference between Christ's return and Satan's personation of Christ? In this issue of *Our Firm Foundation*, we will discuss the differences between the two. But the most important question of all is this, Are you spiritually ready for Jesus to come? Do you know Jesus as your dearest friend?

If you have never fully accepted Jesus into your heart, do not hesitate to do so now. Ask God to forgive you of your past sins. Pray for the gift of repentance that you might have a deep sorrow for those sins. Believe that God has forgiven you because He has promised. The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. Now walk with Him. Spend precious time with Jesus every day in the study and contemplation of His life. Then place yourself into the hands of God to be used as His providence dictates. Pray for opportunities to share with others what you have freely received. The time has come, dear friends. Jesus will soon be here!

Jeff Wehr

It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of *Our Firm Foundation* to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days that yet remain of this world are few, and what we do we must do quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world.

—Editors

Co-Editors: Ron Spear, Jeff Wehr

Associate Editors: Alan Esselbach, Clark Floyd, Philip Garber, Beth Jennings, Harvey Steck

Production Manager: Harvey Steck

Contributing Editors: Colin Standish, Russell Standish

Design & Layout: Kevin Patterson

Circulation: Adam Reiswig

Subscription Information

Prices for the annual subscription are listed below. We have kept them as low as possible, but if your finances cannot meet the requested amount, just send whatever you can. We want this material available to all, regardless of personal finances. If you wish to give a donation to assist in providing subscriptions for those whose funds may be limited, send your gift marked "Subscription Assistance" to the address below. Your donation is tax deductible.

United States: US \$24

Canada and Mexico: US \$34

Overseas (surface mail): US \$34

Inquire for overseas air rates.

Large Print Edition: US \$60

Audio subscription: (2 cassettes / month) US \$60 per year. For foreign subscriptions, please inquire regarding postage.

Hope International publications may be obtained from the following source:

Hope International
P.O. Box 940
Eatonville, WA 98328 USA

Phone: (360) 832-6602
Monday–Thursday: 9:00–5:30
Friday: 9:00–12:00 Pacific Time

Fax: (360) 832-3720

E-Mail: editor@hopeint.org

Web: http://www.hopeint.org

Shipping Information

For all products advertised in this publication (unless otherwise noted):

- Please add 10% shipping plus \$2 handling
- For destinations outside the USA, please add 15% plus \$2 handling.
- If actual shipping charges are greater, you will be billed the difference.

Washington residents: please add 7.7% sales tax, including shipping and handling.
All prices are in U.S. dollars.

contents

table of contents

- 4 **Peace or Panic**
How to find the peace of Christ on the verge of a new millennium
Alane Waters
- 7 **The Loud Cry of the Fourth Angel**
How can we be spiritually prepared to help give the loud cry of Revelation 18?
Clark Floyd
- 8 **Christ's Second Coming and Satan's Counterfeit Explained**
A practical Bible study to know the difference between Christ's coming and Satan's impersonation of Christ.
Jeff Wehr
- 14 **Delusions of the Last Days**
The deceptive errors and doctrines of Spiritualism exposed
Ellen G. White
- 17 **Is It Possible to Stop Sinning?**
The good news of the everlasting gospel—versus Satan's counterfeit
Ron Spear
- 24 **Consider the Lilies**
Some simple and important lessons to be learned from nature
Martha M. Odom
- 27 **The Sanctuary Doctrine, Part 6**
Do we find New Testament support for the Seventh-day Adventist doctrine of the heavenly sanctuary?
Kevin D. Paulson



Departments

Defending the Faith 12

Letters to the Editor 31

News Watch 20

Peace or

PANIC



Alane Waters

We are on the verge of a new decade, a new century, a new millennium! A new page in history is opening and with it—a questioning, a sense of unrest, fear, and panic. A crisis is about to come. People feel it, talk about it, and fear it. Everywhere panic grips the heart!

While it is true that a crisis is coming, so also it is true that Christ is coming soon. Many are focused on the crisis and not on Christ—thus they find that panic rules them instead of peace—that peace which can be ours only in having our wills fully submitted to God's will. Having this experience of Christ abiding in our hearts will bring peace—regardless of the circumstances or crises in which we find ourselves. Our focus should be to have our lives in complete harmony with Christ. His will should be our greatest

delight—doing faithfully what He has for us to do today and each day to come.

We are told that it is in a crisis that character is revealed, and that when God brings us into trial, He has a purpose to accomplish for our good. See *Christ's Object Lessons*, 143; *The Desire of Ages*, 126. The little trials that we may face daily, or even the major crises that may come to us, are all allowed because of God's love for each of us—His desire to save us to the uttermost. For it is in these severe trials that our characters are developed and prepared for Christ's coming and His eternal kingdom.

We were in Europe for meetings and were traveling via train from Amsterdam to Wales due to the storms on the North Sea which made our scheduled ferry crossing too dangerous. In the course of our trip we had to change

trains several times. Upon arriving in London, we had to change from the Eurorail to the London Underground to cross the city to reach another train station in order to catch our last train to Wales.

Because of our extended trip we were traveling with a lot of luggage. When we got down to the Underground train we all waited for just a moment for the next train to pull in. It came in quickly! The doors flew open and people were pushing out while others were pushing in. Tom, Josiah, and I quickly got on with our luggage. However, due to the crowded conditions, there was no room for the girls to get on at that door with their luggage, so they went to the next door down, still opening into the same train car. However, just as they started to get on, the doors began to close. A man, standing inside the train, tried to keep

the door open by putting his hands in it and trying to pull it back, but to no avail. The doors are electronic and consequently they open and shut automatically regardless of human interference.

There we were in the train being whisked away while our two girls, ages 14 and 16, were left standing on the Underground train platform with luggage in hand, but with no tickets or money, not knowing where they were, where they were to go, or where we were going.

Now imagine just for a moment what your feelings as a parent would be under such circumstances. What thoughts would be going through your mind? Would you be at peace, or would you panic in the crisis?

My initial reaction was shock. I could not believe that we were separated! My mind began to think of all the *what ifs*. I did not have peace. My mind was flooded with thoughts accompanied with emotions to which any parent could quickly relate. These emotions of which I speak are very real! My insides were churned up like a raging sea! Immediately, I felt that *sick feeling* that comes when anxious thoughts take control! (All emphasis supplied by author unless otherwise noted.)

Having recognized the truth of Jesus' words, "Without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5), I often pray for God to show me when I begin to stray from His will and keeping—and He does. Often I recognize my need of Christ in my thoughts before my emotions get involved. However, I am also learning that if I miss it there, the next recognition of my need of a Saviour and His call to my heart is when my emotions—whether they be frustration, irritation, hurt, or anxiousness—begin to develop.

As the train was speeding down the track, I felt my helplessness and realized my need of Christ. Amid all the clamors of self in the crisis, I recognized His call to my heart, and by faith—not feelings—I yielded myself to Him and prayed for His keeping power and protection for our girls.

When we got off the train at the first stop, less than two minutes from where we left, I had peace. The raging sea inside me was calmed. I was trusting that God's will would be done. There my husband found an employee of the London Underground Train System and told him what had happened. He then asked the man if

he could call back to the previous station and get a message to our girls to get on the next train. He called back and relayed the message. In just a moment the next train sped into the platform, but our girls were not on it! At that moment, the troubled, anxious thoughts returned, but before they took control, I again prayed for the peace that comes only from God. Then another train came and left, but still no girls!

With each train that came to the platform we looked carefully and quickly to see if our girls were on board. However, in spite of the continuing crisis, I still had peace—the peace that comes from continuing to respond to our Saviour. He has promised, "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*" Isaiah 26:3. And He Who has promised will also do it! The tumultuous sea of anxiousness never rose again. My thoughts never doubted. I knew that God knew where the girls were, and in His time and according to His will, they would come. We were doing all we could to send communication back to our girls, but still they were not coming. Finally, after several more minutes and trains, we got word that they would be on the next train.

What a happy and wonderful reunion it was when our girls arrived and got off the train! But friends, it was not the ended crisis that brought me peace; it was the conscious choice to trust and surrender to God continually throughout the crisis. The girls told us of their concerns of how we would feel, and also how they had found peace in this experience to help them through the crisis.

Having God's peace certainly did not mean that I stood on the train platform carefree, unconcerned, with no earnest expectation as each train rolled to a stop. In fact, it is difficult to describe in just a few short paragraphs all the thoughts and feelings of this experience, which might take 15 or 20 minutes to tell. Even though my peace may not have equaled the peace of Jesus sleeping in the boat in the wild storm on the Sea of Galilee, the peace that I experienced was as real and deep to me, because of my surrender and dependence upon God at that time.

Our peace or panic is an indication of our willingness to accept the work of righteousness to be wrought out in us. Isaiah 32:17 says, "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever." How true this is! It is not within us to gain that peace; it is not within man, but rather the work of righteousness. The Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts and offers us peace. Our part is to take hold of it as our own peace in the midst of a crisis. Our peace is the evidence of His power to keep us to the uttermost. It is the effect of His righteousness that works peace in us.

So what keeps us from having peace? Here are just a few possible culprits: harboring negative thoughts and feelings toward someone; holding

It was not the ended crisis that brought me peace; it was the conscious choice to trust and surrender to God . . .

on to bitterness, jealousy, or animosity; indulging in a cherished, pet sin; waiting for peace until we get our own way; and resisting the gentle convictions of the Holy Spirit. The list could go on and on, but the sad reality is that we cannot have these bad feelings and be at peace at the same time. These and many other manifestations of self-love destroy our peace. When we refuse the way of peace, or do not know what Jesus can do in us, we panic in the crisis.

This was what happened to King Saul. He had not allowed God to have his heart, but rather he continued to seek after his own selfish ways. He had no peace. Yet David had peace—in spite of being hunted by Saul. *True peace comes from true surrender*, and it can be ours at any moment, regardless of our circumstances or our past when we call out to God to save us. He says, "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." Psalm 50:15.

David was not a perfect man, but he was willing to yield to God and be managed by Him. Saul, on the other hand, was unwilling to surrender to God and instead let self manage and rule. When his crisis came, he had no disposition to surrender, and in a panic he sought out a witch for counsel, frantic to find peace—a peace that could

come only from God and not apart from Him.

We may say "I'd never do that!" But, friends, what are we doing right now in this time of preparation? Are we being self-willed and unforgiving? Are we picking and choosing the parts of the truth that fit our personality—while rejecting others because it crosses self? If we are not now seeking after the Prince of Peace to bring Him into our hearts and lives personally and practically, then we are preparing ourselves to panic in the crisis—instead of being at peace with Christ in the crisis. "There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked." Isaiah 48:22.

This is what Judas did. He walked every day with Christ for three-and-one-half years. Yet he held on to one *little* part of his self-will, his self-nature—his

easily he was wounded by others, his resentful spirit, his pride and many other deficiencies, but John did not give up in discouragement. He yielded to the Saviour and allowed the transforming grace of Christ to work a complete change in him. When he faced the crisis in the garden where Jesus was taken by cruel hands to Pilot's judgment hall, John followed his Master even though he did not understand His mission. He was not afraid to be known as one of His followers. He wanted to be with Jesus.

Like John, we may recognize our weaknesses and failures, but are we willing to allow the transforming power of Jesus Christ to completely change us? "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1. The

justification by faith spoken of here is a full and complete yielding of our self, our self-will, to the ownership of Jesus Christ.

The ownership? "I want to be the boss" is the nature each of us has—from the youngest to the oldest. That is why we often do not have peace in everyday circumstances when they go contrary to our way. Instead, we panic—meaning that self immediately takes control and tries to find a way to please self, thinking that peace will then come, but it never does. "It is the love of self that destroys our peace." *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, 16. We can never find peace—true peace and rest—outside of Christ. Yet we, like John, David, and countless others, can have this experience. We can have His

peace—the peace Jesus spoke of when He said, "Peace I leave with you: my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27)—in the trials we face every day and in any crisis situation as well. It can be ours at this very moment! The choice is ours.

I think we all desire this peace, and I believe we are tired of doing it our own way with the results we get. I know the heartache and eruptions of self's way, but I also know the experience that a full surrender to Christ brings—"a peace," real peace, "which passeth all understanding," (Philippians 4:7) that can and will keep my heart (emotions) and mind (thoughts) through trying circumstances.

The decision lies with us moment by moment. Now is our time to prepare for the crisis by choosing Christ to be our Lord and Master in every situation and interaction we face during the day. There is a crisis coming, "a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation." Daniel 12:1. Are we preparing? Are we making use of these daily circumstances and trials to have our lives and hearts cleansed from all sin and self, finding the true peace that comes only when Jesus is the Lord of our lives? Our greatest preparation for the crisis ahead, is to do faithfully the work that God has given us to do today. He can be ours—*now*. His peace can be realized in each heart at this very moment, for He has promised, "These things I have spoken unto you, that *in me ye might have peace*. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; *I have overcome the world*." John 16:33. □

If we are not now seeking after the Prince of Peace . . . then we are preparing ourselves to panic in the crisis . . .

greed. For each of us it can be something different. Judas felt that a partial following and yielding was sufficient. He continued to rationalize and justify his course in his own mind, convincing himself that, in spite of the pleadings of the Lord to his heart, his way was really better. When the crisis came to him he was unprepared because of his own past, day-by-day, moment-by-moment choices. When the crisis came Judas panicked and took his own life—a life that he had tried for years to save. How sad! Jesus says, "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it." Mark 8:34–35. Our part is to come to Christ now—just as we are—and give all to Him, accepting His peace.

If you find yourself saying, "That sounds a lot like me, and I didn't think I was that bad," do not become discouraged. Rejoice—because Jesus truly is a wonderful Saviour and will give you all that you need! But often we do not feel our need until we see our condition. This was the experience of John the Beloved. He saw his true condition in the trials that he faced. He recognized his violent temper, how

"Brethren and sisters, have you the power to endure? Young men and women, are you growing up to the full stature of men and women in Christ, so that when the crisis comes, you cannot be separated from the Source of your strength? If we would stand during the time of test we must now, in the time of peace, be gaining a living experience in the things of God. We must now learn to understand what are the deep movings of the Spirit of God. Christ must be our all and in all, the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

—*Review and Herald*, May 3, 1892.

The LOUD CRY of the Fourth Angel

IN THE WORK that was accomplished on the day of Pentecost, we may see what can be done by the exercise of faith. Those who believed in Christ were sealed by the Holy Spirit. As the disciples were assembled together, 'there came a sound ... as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.' Acts 2:2-3. And Peter stood up among them and spoke with mighty power. Among those who listened to him were devout Jews, who were sincere in their belief. But the power that accompanied the words of the speaker convinced them that Christ was indeed the Messiah. What a mighty work was accomplished! Three thousand were converted in one day.

"The seed had been sown by the greatest Teacher the world had ever known. For three and a half years the Son of God had sojourned in the land of Judea, proclaiming the message of the gospel of truth and working with mighty signs and wonders. The seed had been sown, and after His ascension the great ingathering took place. ... So mightily will God work when men give themselves to the control of the Spirit." *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, 1055.

In these last days of earth's history God is looking for a people who will make a demonstration of what God can do through a person who is wholly consecrated to Jesus Christ. There is to go forth from these people the message which is symbolized by that other angel of Revelation, chapter 18.

Not only is there to be a verbal proclamation, but there is also to be a proclamation through the character of these people. And even greater than at Pentecost will be the number of souls gathered in for God's kingdom. Many of these souls will attribute their initial contact with Seventh-day Adventists to literature that they received, or to personal contacts, evangelistic efforts, or to other contacts that had taken place—seeds that had been sown.

In Revelation 18:1-4, the loud cry message is found: "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues."

The central message of the loud cry is the fall of Babylon. Here we are speaking of spiritual Babylon, but the base for this call out of spiritual Babylon (modern-day churches which have rejected the first angel's message) is found in the call given to ancient, literal Babylon.

As Isaiah speaks of Babylon and its fall, the context also refers to the spiritual Babylon that will exist at the end of time:

"The burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see. ... Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. ... Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the

land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir [here is a reference to character perfection in the last days]. ... And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation. ... Wild beasts of the desert shall lie there ... satyrs shall dance there [signifying that Babylon is full of demons]." Isaiah 13:1, 6, 9-12, 19-21.

And in Isaiah 21:9 we see the fate of this ancient city: "Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground."

In Jeremiah we find the following prophecy and warning: "Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will raise up against Babylon, and against them that dwell in the midst of them that rise up against me, a destroying wind; and will send unto Babylon fanners, that shall fan her, and shall empty her land: for in the day of trouble they shall be against her round about. ... Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the LORD's vengeance; he will render unto her a recompense. Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad." Jeremiah 51:1-2, 6-7.

From both the New and the Old
(continued on page 25)



BRESNAHAN, 1907.



Christ's Second Coming and Satan's Counterfeit Explained

Jeff Wehr

Soon Jesus will come and receive His own. However, Satan has plans to precede the second coming of Christ. Rather than pretending to be Buddha or some other religious figure, Satan plans to personate Christ. Therefore, let us open our Bibles and learn how to recognize Jesus' true return and also Satan's counterfeit.

Jesus will be visible to everybody at the same time.

The Bible says, "Behold, he cometh with clouds; *and every eye shall see him*, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." Revelation 1:7. (All emphasis supplied by author unless otherwise noted.)

When Jesus returns with billions of angels, everyone will be able to witness this spectacular event at the same time! However, while some will rejoice at the coming of Christ, others will "wail" because they will realize that they are on the wrong side. Not having had God's law written in their hearts and minds (see Hebrews 8:10), they had been deceived by Satan and had sought to uphold the traditions of men.

Satan cannot appear to everyone at once.

Jesus said, "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:23-27.

When Satan tries to counterfeit Christ's return, people will say, "Christ is over here," or "Come with us. Christ is in the desert." But, dear reader, you are not to go out to see this "Christ" figure. He will not be the real Jesus. Going to see this false Christ will only endanger your own soul!

Jesus is coming back with *all* of His angels, and *only* with His angels.

The Bible says, "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and *all the holy angels* with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. . . . Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Matthew 25:31-34, 41.

Jesus will return with billions of His angels, and these holy angels have the glorious work of gathering the resurrected saints from all around the world. See Matthew 24:30-31.

Many have been taught that the saved and the unsaved are separated at the time of death, with the former going to heaven and the latter going straight to hell. However, the Bible teaches that the resurrection of the saints is in the future—at Christ's second coming.

The Bible says, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all *sleep* [lie in the tomb], 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." 1 Corinthians 15:51-54.

When the *trumpet of God* blows at the second coming of Christ "the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" [made immortal]. The Bible says, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven [at His second coming] 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. It is at the second coming of Christ that the "dead in Christ" will rise from the grave and put on immortality.

But it is not the sound of the trumpet alone, but the very voice of Jesus Christ that raises the saints from their dusty graves. Jesus said, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming [future], in the which all that are in the graves [both the saved and unsaved] shall hear his [Jesus'] voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life [this is the first resurrection]; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation [the second resurrection]." John 5:28-29. Paul spoke of two resurrections, "that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust." Acts 24:15. The apostle John spoke of these two resurrections as being one thousand years apart. See Revelation 20:4-6.

The first lie that is recorded in the Bible was when Satan told Eve that man would not die. See Genesis 3:4-5. However, when Adam and Eve sinned, God prevented them from partaking of the tree of life, so that they would not "live for ever." Genesis 3:22-23. As we all know, Adam and Eve did die.

Therefore, we see that Satan invented the lie that man has an immortal soul that continues to live after the body dies. The Bible clearly teaches that only God has immortality. See 1 Timothy 6:15-16. The apostle Paul encourages us to seek for immortality and eternal life. See Romans 2:7. Immortality is a gift from God to those who love Him with their whole heart and mind. We receive immortality at the second coming of Christ. See 1 Corinthians 15:51-54.

When the devil, the demons, and the unsaved are burned up in the lake of fire, it will rightly be called the "second death." Revelation 20:14-15. Those who are raised in the resurrection of life will not experience the second death. See Revelation 20:4-6. However, those who do not walk with God, will die twice. They will face the death that all men face. But then, they will also be raised in the "resurrection of damnation" to face the judgment. John 5:28-29. See also Revelation 20. Depending upon life's circumstances, which only God understands, each will receive his just punishment. See Luke 12:47-48; Revelation 22:12.

So, dear reader, if you have not accepted Jesus as your personal Saviour, please do not procrastinate. Millions have lost their souls by putting off this most important decision. Do not become too busy to be saved. Ask God to forgive you of your past sins. Pray for a deep sorrow for those sins. Then believe that you are forgiven because He has promised. See 1 John 1:9. Further, spend at least one thoughtful hour every day in contemplating and in studying Christ's life. As you do so, your love for Him will grow and you will learn to trust Him more. Read your Bible every day. Pray for those around you. Pray for strength to overcome those things that would destroy your body and pollute your mind. Tell others of the joy that you have found in Christ. And lastly, do not give up. You may stumble and fall, but do not become discouraged. Recommit yourself to Christ and continue to grow in His love.

Satan will pretend to be Jesus. Evil angels will pretend to be angels from heaven, the twelve disciples, the Virgin Mary, and loved ones who have died.

The apostle Paul warns us, saying, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." 1 Timothy 4:1.

At the second coming of Christ the "dead in Christ" will rise from the grave and put on immortality.

These "seducing spirits"—or demons—will deceive the world by masquerading as good angels and as other personages. We will need to guard ourselves against their words, "the doctrines of devils," which will be a mixture of truth and error. Appearing as benefactors to the human race, they will deceptively lead people to break God's law.

Yet, the almost overmastering deception will be when Satan will pretend to be Christ. Paul wrote, "And no marvel [do not be surprised]; for Satan himself is transformed [disguises himself] into an angel of *light*. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed [disguise themselves] as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works [in the end they will get what they deserve]." 2 Corinthians 11:14-15. "Light" is one of the supreme attributes of God and the holy angels. For example, the Bible says of the angel who rolled away the stone from Jesus' tomb, "His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow." Matthew 28:3. It is said of Jesus, "And the city [New Jerusalem] had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb [Jesus Christ] is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it." Revelation 21:23-24.

Satan will come in such a way that men will feel that they can walk in the "light" of his counsel in solving the world's problems. He will deceive them through miracles and false

promises, making them feel that they are on a path to restoration and peace; however, it really will be the path that leads to the Battle of Armageddon. See Revelation 16:13–14, 16.

Please note this very important point: Satan must use deception to lead this world against God's commandment-keeping people. Especially in this age of increased

heaven. Jesus said, "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." John 14:1–3. No doubt, Jesus is preparing a place for the saints in the

beautiful New Jerusalem. The saints will live there for a thousand years. At the end of the thousand years, the New

Jerusalem will descend from heaven to the earth-made-new. See Revelation 21:1–4.

Satan will walk upon the earth performing signs and wonders to deceive the world.

The Bible says, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matthew 24:24.

Satan's signs and wonders will support an apostate movement within Christianity to trample upon God's law. The Bible says, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [the second coming of Christ] shall not come, except [until] there come a falling away first [in the church], and that man of sin [antichrist] be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. . . . And then shall that Wicked [literally in the Greek: the lawless one], be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4, 8–10.

The "man of sin," "the son of perdition," and "the lawless one" are

all the same person. *Sin* by definition, is the transgression of God's law. See 1 John 3:4. Therefore, the "man of *sin*" is in opposition to God's law. He does not have to be against all of the Ten Commandments. All he needs to do is to lead the world into breaking just one of those commandments. As James said, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10.

By changing the commandments, the "lawless one" (the one against God's law) is in effect leading people to worship himself. When this change in God's commandment becomes law in the land, Satan will then work wonderful miracles to support this apostasy from God. People will be deceived into thinking that Heaven is behind such a change in the Ten Commandments. But the people of God know exactly what those commandments say. See Exodus 20:2–17.

Jesus will come at the end of the seven last plagues. The world will then be in total ruins.

After the seven last plagues have taken place, Jesus is described as coming with the armies of heaven—the angels. At that time, the rest of the wicked will be slain by the brightness of His coming. See Revelation, chapter 19.

The prophet Daniel described this time as being the greatest time of trouble that ever was, saying, "And at that time shall Michael [another name for Jesus, meaning, 'who is like unto God?'] stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." Daniel 12:1.

When the world tries to wipe out God's people in one decisive blow under the sixth plague—the Battle of Armageddon—Jesus will intervene. See Revelation, chapter 16. Christ's voice will roll throughout the earth like thunder and a mighty earthquake, ushering in the seventh plague. The wicked then realize that they are on the wrong side. It is at this time that they

Satan's signs and wonders will support an apostate movement within Christianity to trample upon God's law .

religious liberty, the only way to lead the world into a universal genocide of God's people is through deception. Remember, it is Satan's last chance to take control of this world. In his mind, he must eradicate all of God's commandment-keeping people. Therefore, Satan must lead the world into passing a law that will go against the law of God.

Now let me ask you a question: Do you know how to tell the difference between good angels and evil angels? Can you tell by their appearance? Obviously, we will only know them by their words. If what they say, or just a part of what they say, is *not* according to Scripture then we know that they are evil angels. Therefore, it is imperative that we know the Word of God for ourselves.

Jesus will not touch the ground.

The Bible says, "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. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18.

When Jesus returns the second time the saints who have died in Christ will be resurrected. The angels will then gather the resurrected saints and those to be translated and they will be taken up to meet "the Lord in the air."

When all the saints are gathered together, Jesus will take them home to

begin to hide from Christ who is on His way back to the earth. See Revelation 6:15–17.

Satan appears as Christ about the time of the beginning of the seven last plagues.

We do not know the day that Satan will appear as Christ, but it will be near the time of the beginning of the seven last plagues. But this one thing we know for sure, Satan's personation of Christ will precede Christ's return. The counterfeit will come first.

The millennium begins when Jesus resurrects the saints and takes them home to heaven.

As we have seen, Christ will return with all of His angels. See Matthew 25:31–46. The angels will gather the saints—those whom have been resurrected and those who remain alive and will be translated—from all around the world. See Matthew 24:30–31. The saints will then be caught up into the air with Jesus. See 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17. Jesus will then take them to a special place in heaven which He has prepared for them. See John 14:1–3. At that time they will begin to reign with Christ for a thousand years—during the millennium. See Revelation 20:4–6. A numberless company of the unsaved will be destroyed by the seven last plagues. See Revelation, chapter 16. Those remaining of the unsaved will be struck dead by the brightness of Christ's coming after the plagues have ended! See Revelation, chapter 19. And the earth will remain in ruins for one thousand years. See Revelation 20:1–3; Jeremiah 4:23–26.

Satan will deceive the world into thinking that there will be a thousand years of peace on the earth.

The Bible says, "For yourselves [brethren] know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night [when they do not expect Him]. For when they [those who are deceived by Satan's devices] shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." 1 Thessalonians 5:2–3.

See also Luke 17:26–36.

Satan will personate Christ after bringing about absolute chaos in the world. Therefore, his promises of a millennium of peace will be welcomed by the world's masses. But, friends, there will be no peace here in this old world. Only when the earth is made new, will there be peace. However, to be a citizen of the New Earth you must accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and follow Him in loving obedience.

To be sure, there will be a millennium (one thousand years) after the second coming of Christ. The saved will reign with Christ in heaven during that time, while the wicked, who will be destroyed, will not live again until after the thousand years. See Revelation 20:1–6. Satan will be bound for a thousand years by circumstance. He will not be able to deceive the saints because they will all be in heaven with Jesus. He will not be able to deceive the unsaved because they will all be dead. However, when the thousand years are over, the unsaved will be raised back to life. Satan will go forth to deceive them again. He will rally them in an effort to capture the New Jerusalem, which will come down out of heaven. See Revelation 20:7–9. The fire that will destroy the devil, the demons, and the unsaved will be the lake of fire, which will be the second death. See Revelation 20:14–15. At that point, they will cease to exist and will never live again. The universe will once again be in harmony!

History will be repeated.

In Daniel, chapter six, we learn that certain Medo-Persian leaders sought to destroy Daniel, the prophet. They could not find any fault with him so they said, "We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God." Daniel 6:5. Therefore, these leaders deceived the king into signing a decree, saying, "that whosoever shall ask a petition [prayer] of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions." Daniel 6:7. Unaware of their plot, the king signed the decree.

Despite the danger, Daniel remained faithful to God, and, as was his custom, he prayed to the true God three times a day. Expecting that Daniel would do just that, those evil leaders sent forth spies to witness against him. Hence, Daniel was brought in and convicted of breaking this new "religious" law. Therefore, he was promptly thrown into the den of lions. However, God sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths, and Daniel's life was spared.

Satan has always endeavored to rid the earth of God's command-keeping people. His only hope is to inspire the world to pass a law against the law of God—ultimately being a death decree against God's people—with the purpose of ridding the earth of them forever. To accomplish this, he must use spiritualism [belief in the immortality of the soul] to deceive the world.

Dear friend, study God's commandments and apply them to your life by the grace of God. Do not deviate from them. There is no assurance in the traditions of men. Believe in God's Word. Believe that He is able to keep you from breaking His law. Believe, believe, believe. □



The Second Coming: Fervent Hope or Faded Dream?

by Colin and Russel Standish

A study of the New Testament will reveal one central theme—the return of Jesus Christ to claim his own. This small book shows how debates over minor theological points have gradually but effectively robbed the people of this blessed hope, bringing in the pagan notion of immediate life after death. An exceptional combination study of life after death and the great Advent hope. A wake-up call for every complacent Christian, regardless of their theological persuasion. \$5.25 Each

*See page 2 for Shipping
and Sales Tax Information.*

The Nearness of the Return of Jesus Christ

How to mark your Bible and know God's Word better

We present this study with the desire that it will encourage you, our readers, to pursue a deeper examination of God's Word. The warning has been given us that "none but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict." *The Great Controversy*, 593–594. It is our suggestion that you use this study personally, in group settings, or with your family. We also encourage you to add other Scriptural references to this study as you proceed in your own personal, careful scrutiny of God's Word. THE EDITORS

Bible Marking Directions

1. In this month's study our Bible marking key letters are NR, which represent "The Nearness of the Return of Jesus Christ."
2. On the blank flyleaf at either the beginning or end of your Bible, write in the key letters followed by the first Scriptural text. This month's beginning entry would appear as follows: **NR Matthew 24:3.**
3. Then turn to the first reference and in the margin near it write the second reference. Then turn to the second reference and in the margin near it write the third reference, and so on to the end of the lesson. When you come to the last reference write "End NR."

1NR: Matthew 24:3.

The disciples inquired how people could know when the end of the world was near, and what signs would tell that Christ was about ready to return to this earth.

2NR: Matthew 24:36.

It is impossible for anyone in this present probationary time to know the exact time—the hour, the day, the month, or the year—of Christ's return.

3NR: Matthew 24:32–33.

However, in contrast, it is our privilege and duty as Christians to know, by the signs that Christ has given, when His coming is near—even at the door! Those who understand the Bible prophecies will know what is to happen just before Christ comes; and when they see those things taking place in these days, then they know that the great day of His coming is approaching, and they will encourage each other to remain faithful. See Hebrews 10:25. They will not be in darkness and will not be overtaken by His coming, as by a thief in the night. See 1 Thessalonians 5:4.

4NR: James 5:3.

Prophecy tells us that the rich will pile up great fortunes, and heap up great possessions—treasures, lands, wealth—for the last days.

5NR: James 5:4, 8.

Prophecy predicts that employers will withhold by fraud the rightful wages of the poor and that there will

be great suffering endured by the poorer classes of society.

6NR: Daniel 12:4.

Daniel's prophecy predicts that, following the great reign of the antichrist for 1260 years, A.D. 538–1798, "many shall run to and fro, [running back and forth through the Scriptures, searching for light] and knowledge [of the prophecies] shall be increased." See *The Great Controversy*, 360; *The Upward Look*, 37.

7NR: Luke 21:11.

Jesus said that there will be fearful calamities in the last days. We see this in the increase of earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, tidal waves, droughts, heat waves, and disaster on the great lines of travel by land, sea, and air.

8NR: 2 Timothy 3:1–5.

Paul prophesied that there would be perilous times in the last days, with a craze for pleasure, (we see this in the great sports insanity gripping the American public, as well as in the professed followers of Christ) while at the same time we see a marked decline in the practice of true religion. See Revelation 3:14–22. Many in the professed remnant church will be involved in a great deception, thinking that they are truly God's children, when in reality they are about to be "spewed out" of the mouth of God—unless they repent.

9NR: Matthew 24:12.

Jesus said that in the last days law-

lessness would abound; the land would be full of bloody crimes. See Ezekiel 7:23; Matthew 24:37; Genesis 6:5, 11.

10NR: Matthew 24:14.

The supreme sign that the end is near is seen in the fact that God is now sending special messages contained in the three angels' messages to warn the whole world to prepare to meet Christ. See Revelation 14:6-14. These messages contain the following truths: that God is now judging His people; that all should keep the Sabbath of the Creator; that God's people should at this time separate from Babylon, the fallen apostate religious system; that we should warn all regarding the beast power, which is the Papacy—the Roman

Catholic Church—against receiving the mark of the beast, which is Sunday—the mark of Rome's authority. At the same time we should invite all to prepare to receive the seal of God, "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus," which is the everlasting gospel—the message of **Christ Our Righteousness**—the message that will eventually lighten the whole earth with His glory! See Revelation 18:1.

11NR: 2 Peter 3:3-5.

There will be many who will scoff at the idea of the end being near.

12NR: Isaiah 8:9-12.

The nations in the last days will talk of forming a great world confederacy,

which God's people are not to join. This union will not last, but will eventually be destroyed at the second coming of Christ. See Revelation 17:12-14, 17.

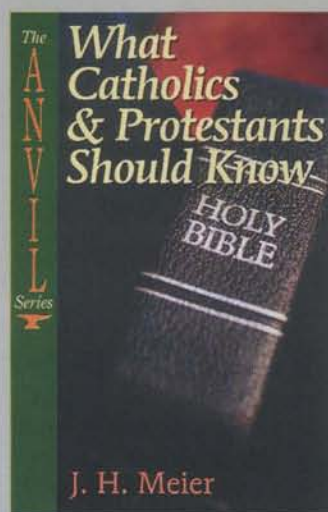
13NR: Joel 3:9-10, 14.

When the day of the Lord is near, the nations will prepare for war as never before, and this is what we are seeing before our very eyes today.

14NR: Mark 13:29.

When we see all these things we should know that the coming of Christ is imminent—even at the door—and we should be preparing our lives to meet Him. □

Adapted from *Helps to Bible Study* by J. L. Shuler

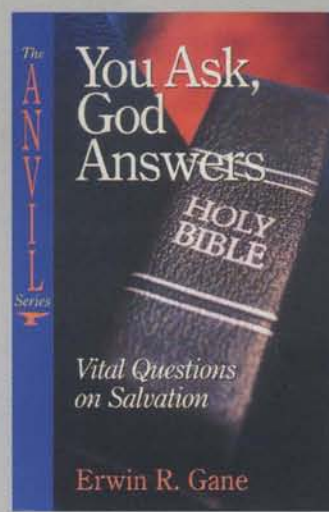


What Catholics & Protestants Should Know

by J. H. Meier

This book was written to clarify many of the issues over which Protestantism and Catholicism disagree, with the Bible as the final authority. The author addresses many of the basic doctrines of the Christian faith in the hope that the Holy Scriptures will give a fuller and clearer understanding of them. Intended for anyone desiring to know the truth and willing to find it in God's word. Part of the Anvil Series from Orion Publishing.

\$8.95 Each



You Ask, God Answers

by Erwin R. Gane

The author of this book focuses on issues of pressing interest to Christians today. Inside, many questions concerning the gospel and salvation are answered in a simple and powerful way that anyone can understand. Fundamental doctrines from many faiths are examined under the light of God's Word, revealing the true religion and faith of Jesus Christ. Part of the Anvil Series from Orion Publishing.

\$9.87 Each

See page 2 for Shipping and Sales Tax Information.

DEFLUSIONS OF THE LAST DAYS

Ellen G. White



“**N**ow the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.” 1 Timothy 4:1-2. Before the last developments of the work of apostasy there will be a confusion of faith. There will not be clear and definite ideas concerning the mystery of God. One truth after another will be corrupted. “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” 1 Timothy 3:16. There are many who deny the preexistence of Christ, and therefore deny His divinity; they do not accept Him as a personal Saviour. This is a total denial of Christ. He was the only-begotten Son of God, who was one with the Father from the beginning. By Him the worlds were made.

In denying the miraculous incarnation of Christ, many turn from other truths of heavenly origin, and accept fables of Satan’s invention. They lose spiritual discernment, and practice that which is brought to them and impressed upon their minds through the agency of Satan. As the convict is branded and defaced by a hot iron, so their consciences are seared and marred by sin. They proclaim their own righteousness, and exalt themselves before the people in order to gain con-

fidence and to draw to their side those who have not received the love of the truth. “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” 2 Timothy 4:1-4.

Spiritualism is about to take the world captive. There are many who think that Spiritualism is upheld through trickery and imposture; but this is far from the truth. Superhuman power is working in a variety of ways, and few have any idea as to what will be the manifestations of Spiritualism in the future. The foundation for the success of Spiritualism has been laid in the assertions that have been made from the pulpits of our land. The ministers have proclaimed, as Bible doctrines, falsehoods that have originated from the archdeceiver. The doctrine of consciousness after death, of the spirits of the dead being in communion with the living, has no foundation in the Scriptures, and yet this

theory is affirmed as truth. Through this false doctrine the way has been opened for the spirits of devils to deceive the people in representing themselves as the dead. Satanic agencies personate the dead, and thus bring souls into captivity. Satan has a religion, he has a synagogue and devout worshippers. To swell the ranks of his devotees he uses all manner of deception.

The signs and wonders of Spiritualism will become more and more pronounced as the professed Christian world rejects the plainly revealed truth of the Word of God, and refuses to be guided by a plain “Thus saith the Lord,” accepting instead the doctrines and the commandments of men. Through rejecting light and truth many are deciding their destiny for eternal death; and as men reject truth, the Spirit of God will gradually withdraw itself from the earth, and the prince of this earth will have more and more control over his subjects. He will show great signs and wonders as credentials of his divine claims, and through Spiritualism will work against Christ and His agencies.

The Scriptures positively forbid intercourse with evil angels on the sup-

position of communion with the dead. Through this deception Satan can educate souls in his school of falsehood, and make of none effect the lessons that Christ would teach, which, if practiced, would result in the eternal life of those who obey. Satan is seeking to form a great confederacy of evil by uniting fallen men and fallen angels. But the Lord says: "When they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:19-20. "And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people." Leviticus 20:6. "Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 19:31.

The great power that attends Spiritualism has its origin in the great leading rebel, Satan, the prince of devils. It is through his artifice that evil angels have been able to substitute themselves for the dead, and through lying hypocrisy they have led men to have intercourse with devils. Those who commune with the supposed spirits of the dead are communing with those who will have a corrupting, demoralizing power upon the mind. Christ commanded that we should have no intercourse with sorcerers and with those who have familiar spirits. This class are represented in the Gospel as among those who shall perish in their iniquity—"the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone." Revelation 21:8.

For years Spiritualism has been growing in strength and gaining in popularity by advocating a certain kind of faith in Christ, and thus many Protestants are becoming infatuated with this mystery of iniquity. It is little wonder that they are deluded, when they persistently retain the error that, as soon as the breath leaves the body, the spirit goes immediately to heaven or hell. Through the hold this doctrine has upon them the way is prepared for the delusive working of the

prince of the power of the air. Satan personated the serpent in Eden, regarding this creature as best adapted for his line of temptations. Satan has been increasing in skillful methods by constantly practicing upon the human mind. It is his one purpose to complete the work which he began in Eden, and work the ruin of mankind. Through his mysterious workings he can insinuate himself into the circles of the most educated and refined, for he was once an exalted being, in a high position of responsibility among the heavenly hosts. It is a mistake to represent him as a monstrous being with hoofs and horns, for he is still a fallen angel. He is capable of uniting the highest intellectual greatness with the basest cruelty and the most degrading corruption. If he had not this power, many would escape his snares who are now charmed with his attractive representations and taken captive by his delusions.

As the Spirit of God shall be withdrawn from the earth, Satan's power will be more and more manifest. The knowledge that he had through being in connection with God, as a covering cherub, he will now use to subordinate his subjects who fell from their high estate. He will use every power of his exalted intellect to misrepresent God and to instigate rebellion against Jesus Christ, the Commander of heaven. In the synagogue of Satan he brings under his scepter and into his counsels, those agents whom he can use to promote his worship. It is not a strange matter to find a species of refinement, and a manifestation of intellectual greatness, in the lives and characters of those who are inspired by fallen angels. Satan can impart scientific knowledge, and give men chapters upon philosophy. He is conversant with history, and versed in worldly wisdom.

Almost every phase of talent is now being brought into captivity to the prince of the power of darkness. Worldly minded men, because they wish to exalt themselves, and have separated from God, do not love to retain God in their knowledge, for they claim to possess a higher, grander intellect than that of Jesus Christ. Satan envies Christ, and makes the claim that he is entitled to a higher position than the

Commander of heaven. His self-exaltation led him to despise the law of God, and resulted in his expulsion from heaven.

Through the Papacy he has manifested his character, and brought out the principles of his government. Of this power the apostle Paul says: "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. . . . For the mystery of iniquity doth already work. . . . Shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the bright-

The signs of wonders of Spiritualism will become more and more pronounced as the professed Christian world rejects the plainly revealed truth of the Word of God.

ness of his coming: even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie; that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 7-12.

The confederacy of evil will not stand. The Lord says: "Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces. . . . Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us. For the LORD spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying, Say ye not, A confederacy to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he shall be for a sanctuary." Isaiah 8:9-14.

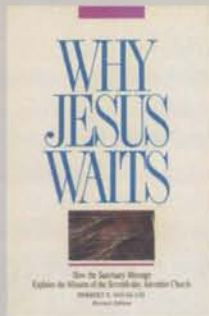
Satan will use his agencies to carry out diabolical devices, to overpower

the saints of God, as in times past he used the Roman power to stay the course of Protestantism; yet the people of God can look calmly at the whole array of evil, and come to the triumphant conclusion that because Christ lives we shall live also. The people of God are to advance in the same spirit in which Jesus met the assaults of the prince of darkness in the past. The evil confederacy can advance only in the course which Jesus has marked out before them; every step of their

advance brings the saints of God nearer the great white throne, nearer the successful termination of their warfare. The confederacy of evil will finally be destroyed; for the prophet says, "Behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." Malachi 4:1. Even of him whose heart was lifted

up because of his beauty, who corrupted his wisdom by reason of his brightness, the Lord says: "I will bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee; thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more." Ezekiel 28:18-19. □

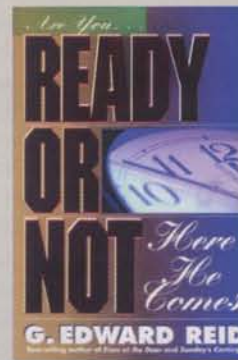
Signs of the Times, May 28, 1894.



Why Jesus Waits
by Herbert E. Douglas

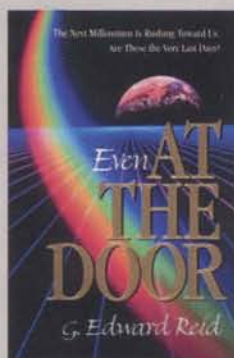
Christianity as a whole has largely missed or dismissed the doctrine of the heavenly sanctuary. Adventism too, in many ways has failed to grasp the personal, heart-changing message of the sanctuary. Uplifting Jesus as the heart of the sanctuary service, this book shows that from Him comes an empowerment that enables the Christian to live a life like His. Moreover, it convincingly demonstrates, in the light of the sanctuary service, that God is waiting for a people who will show that such lives can be lived.

\$4.25 Each



Ready or Not
by G. Edward Reid

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." As the moment of Christ's return draws near, many are stirred by a satanic urgency. A false preparation or neglect will certainly lead to self-destruction. At the other extreme, a false preparation may lead many good Christians to depend upon their own human effort apart from God's transforming power. This book is the author's summary of his other best-selling books, *Even at the Door* and *Sunday's Coming!* Discover for yourself the secret of preparation, a life hid in Christ. \$14.95 Each



Even at the Door
by G. Edward Reid

Rushing toward the end of a millennium, many wonder, "What is next?" The author presents overwhelming evidence that we are nearing the end of time and that the Lord Jesus Christ is about to return just as He has promised. Read and be startled at the plainness of scriptural predictions, the testimony of Ellen White, and the fervent faith of the Adventist pioneers. Find encouragement in preparing for the most spectacular event in history.

\$14.95 Each



**Maranatha!
The Lord Is Coming**
by Ellen G. White

This excellent devotional book, compiled from the inspired writings of Ellen White, urges us to prepare for the imminent return of our Lord. It is in our time of communion with God that the heart preparation will be made. Strengthen your character with daily devotional readings focused on the very culmination of Adventist hope, the Second Coming of Christ! Hardcover.

\$10.95 Each

See page 2 for Shipping and Sales Tax Information.



Is It Possible for Us to Stop Sinning?

Ron Spear

WHOSOEVER abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." 1 John 3:6-9.

"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. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:8-10.

Satan has counterfeited the gospel of grace to the nominal Christian world. The evangelical world believes that all people will go to heaven because of what Jesus did at the cross. Their doctrine of justification teaches that the blood of Christ at Calvary assures the whole human race of salvation—just as long as they do not drive Christ out of their lives by rejecting His gospel of grace.

This is a very dangerous teaching that has now also crept insidiously into the thinking and beliefs of

many of our Seventh-day Adventist pastors, leaders, and laity.

However, to believe in Christ demands that we live for Christ and obey all known truth by the power of the Holy Spirit.

"When before the high priests and Sadducees, Peter clearly presented the fact that repentance is the gift of God. Speaking of Christ, he said, 'Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.' Acts 5:31. Repentance is no less the gift of God than are pardon and justification, and it cannot be experienced except as it is given to the soul by Christ. If we are drawn to Christ, it is through His power and virtue. The grace of contrition comes through Him, and from Him comes justification. . . .

"The faith that is unto salvation is not a casual faith, it is not the mere consent of the intellect, it is belief rooted in the heart, that embraces Christ as a personal Saviour, assured that He can save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by Him. To believe that He will save others, but will not save you is not genuine faith; but when the soul lays hold upon Christ as the only hope of salvation, then genuine faith is manifested. This faith leads its possessor to place all the affections of the soul upon Christ; his understanding is under the control of the

Holy Spirit, and his character is molded after the divine likeness. His faith is not a dead faith, but a faith that works by love, and leads him to behold the beauty of Christ, and to become assimilated to the divine character." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 391-392.

Tragically, Satan has hypnotized many of our pastors and laity with his dangerous doctrine on salvation—that there will be no penalties for violations of God's law just as long as a person believes that God exists and that His love supersedes everything else. This doctrine of Satan has brought a Laodicean condition into our beloved church and has made our people feel too comfortable and too much at ease.

The following is a very dramatic demonstration of what Satan can do to the human mind, if we listen to his lies:

While under the influence of hypnosis, a very athletic young man, who boasted of his physical strength, was ordered by a psychologist to pick up a glass of water on the table before him. However, the young man could not lift the glass from its position on the table. Despite his strenuous exertions he could not budge the glass, which any child could have lifted under normal circumstances. Why could he not do it?—Because the therapist, after placing him in a trance, told him that it was impossible for him to lift

up the glass of water. Inasmuch as the young man's mind was convinced that it could not be done, his body was unable to carry out the simple command to lift the glass!

Here we see the reason why so many Christians are living such weak, defeated lives. Most of the Christian world believes that you cannot live without sinning. The Ten Commandments have been portrayed as being

of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." Romans 12:1-3.

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the

beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then

because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:14-20. See also *Christ's Object Lessons*, 330-333.

We see this command of God, "Be not conformed to this world," portrayed in Revelation 3:14-20. The Laodicean condition is the doctrine of death to all who are not willing to bring their life into obedience to all known truth. This deadly sin has infected the whole Christian world, sadly including many Seventh-day Adventists.

"For many are called, but few are chosen." Matthew 22:14. See Hebrews 5:9; Romans 6:16.

What a terrible tragedy that only some of God's remnant people will buy of Jesus gold tried in the fire—His love, His faith—and be saved! See *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 233-235.

"Some, I saw, would gladly return.

Others will not let this message to the Laodicean church have its weight upon them. They will glide along, much after the same manner as before, and will be spewed out of the mouth of the Lord. Those only who zealously repent will have favor with God.

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." Revelation 3:21. We can overcome. Yes; fully, entirely. Jesus died to make a way of escape for us, that we might overcome every evil temper, every sin, every temptation, and sit down at last with Him." *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 144.

There will be many scoffers in the church in these final days of the great controversy. Even now many scoff at the doctrine of victory over sin. Yet this too is a sign of the end!

"When these things are dwelt upon as they should be, scoffers will be developed who walk after their own lusts, saying, 'Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.' 2 Peter 3:4. But 'when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them. . . . But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.' 1 Thessalonians 5:3-4. Thank God, all will not be rocked to sleep in the cradle of carnal security. There will be faithful ones who will discern the signs of the times. While a large number professing present truth will deny their faith by their works, there will be some who will endure unto the end.

"The same spirit of selfishness, of conformity to the practices of the world, exists in our day as in Noah's. Many who profess to be children of God follow their worldly pursuits with an intensity that gives the lie to their profession. They will be planting and building, buying and selling, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the last moment of their probation. This is the condition of a large number of our own people. Because iniquity abounds, the love of many waxes cold. To but few can it be said: 'Ye are all . . . the children of the day: we are not of

There will be many scoffers in the church in these final days of the great controversy. Even now many scoff at the doctrine of victory over sin. Yet this too is a sign of the end.

merely a divine code of ethics to remind Christians of their great need. They believe that God's love is not compatible with the strict rules portrayed in His divine law, which demands obedience.

Most of the ten million members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—of which we now boast—have been conditioned with the idea that all they have to do is to be good, go to church, pay a faithful tithe, believe what the pastors say, and then heaven will be guaranteed for them. All of these activities are good and can be very important. However, they have no saving value unless they are accompanied by a full surrender of the life—with repentance, confession of all sin, and a belief that God has enough power to keep them from sinning. Satan's doctrine has hypnotized a large portion of our churches, its lay leaders, pastors, and members. Yet Satan's doctrine is foreign to the Bible and to the Spirit of Prophecy.

Millions of Christians in our world are now deceived with this doctrine—that the holy law of God cannot be kept—that we cannot stop sinning until Jesus comes, and that He will work magic and transform us on our way to heaven.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will

the night, nor of darkness.’ ” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 10–11.

If you have been hypnotized by Satan’s deadly doctrine—that you can go to heaven by just being good, and that overcoming all sin now is impossible—it is time—past time—for you to realize that you will be eternally lost if you continue in the Laodicean state, for you will soon be spewed out of the mouth of God. See *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 136; *ibid.*, vol. 3, 324; *ibid.*, vol. 1, 608–609.

Consider God’s final warning: “To those who are indifferent at this time Christ’s warning is: ‘Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold

nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.’ Revelation 3:16. The figure of spewing out of His mouth means that He cannot offer up your prayers or your expressions of love to God. He cannot endorse your teaching of His Word or your spiritual work in anywise. He cannot present your religious exercises with the request that grace be given you.

“Could the curtain be rolled back, could you discern the purposes of God and the judgments that are about to fall upon a doomed world, could you see your own attitude, you would fear and tremble for your own souls and for

the souls of your fellow men. Earnest prayers of heart-rending anguish would go up to heaven. You would weep between the porch and the altar, confessing your spiritual blindness and backsliding.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 408.

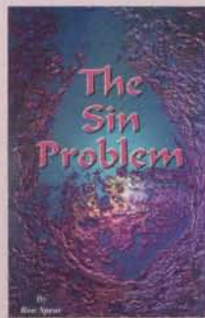
Seek the Lord now and He shall be found. See Deuteronomy 4:29; 1 Chronicles 16:8–12; 2 Chronicles 15:2. Surrender, repent, and confess your sins, and the Holy Spirit will be your Teacher; angels will be your protectors, and Jesus is and will continue to be your Advocate—your Defense Attorney—in the judgment of the living. □



Face-to-Face With the Real Gospel
by Dennis Priebe

The uniqueness of Adventism lies in its understanding of the everlasting gospel, righteousness by faith. This righteousness by faith is a transforming power that will prepare men and women for the final events of earth’s history and the Second Coming of Christ. A solid Biblical study on this topic, especially valuable at a time when opposing views of righteousness by faith are prevalent within the Adventist Church.

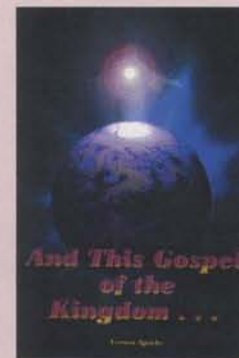
\$6.25 Each



The Sin Problem
by Ron Spear

We live in a world of increasing turmoil. Terms like “relative morality” and “situational ethics,” commonplace in the political arena, are having a deepening impact upon the Church and thinking of many. In much of mainstream Adventism, the simple gospel of the Bible has become an evangelical sin-and-live theology. Elder Spear presents the clarity of God’s plan to save us from our sin. An excellent book for anyone who is confused or searching for a true Christian experience. Use it as a personal study for sharing the truth with others!

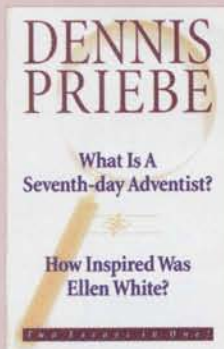
\$4.25 Each



And This Gospel of the Kingdom
by Vernon Sparks

God entreats us to “search the Scriptures.” Each one of us must understand for ourselves the eternal truths of God’s Word; we must know for ourselves what God has said. Most of all, we must know Christ, the very center of the gospel and the hope of our salvation. This easy-to-understand book reveals the golden chain of truth that is woven through the Scriptures, enabling the true seeker to know God.

\$7.25 Each



What Is A Seventh-day Adventist? How Inspired Was Ellen White?
Two essays in one!
by Dennis Priebe

This extraordinary booklet contains two powerful essays on the fundamentals of Adventism. Discover for yourself why Adventism was called into existence and what it really stands for. Why are there so many in the church today who are wavering in uncertainty? What about Ellen White? Was she really the last-day prophet appointed by God to guide His remnant people, or was she just another author with some good insights? Let these clear and concise answers to these questions strengthen your faith and purpose.

\$5.95 Each

See page 2 for Shipping and Sales Tax Information.

War In Europe

NEWS ITEM: "NATO'S gamble on airstrikes was meant to stop the Serbian killing in Kosovo, but it could lead to a much wider bloodbath. . . . President Clinton was careful to warn the world about the risks. In harm's way were allied air crews and the stature and credibility of NATO. But there are bigger stakes. The Kosovo conflict, Clinton said, 'has no natural boundaries.' . . . The president calls the Kosovo operation a 'moral imperative.' But despite the air armada, the Balkan slaughter continued." *U.S. News and World Report*, April 5, 1999.

"On Saturday night the combat came home to Americans, who had their television shows interrupted by images of an F-117A Stealth fighter in flames on the ground inside Yugoslavia," showing that this was not going to be an easy war. *Time*, April 5, 1999.

"The country most violently opposed, [to the war] outside Yugoslavia, is Russia." *Ibid.*

"Moscow's first reaction to NATO's actions was dramatic. Informed while flying to Washington that Holbrooke's mission had failed and hence that NATO would bomb, Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov turned around and headed back to Moscow." *Newsweek*, April 5, 1999.

"Then Clinton had to pass the word to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who went ballistic on the phone for 45 minutes. . . . Yeltsin later lashed out at the U.S. and talked vaguely of radical measures he had considered and rejected." *Time*, April 5, 1999.

The *Newsweek*, April 5, 1999, went on to say that Russia is "the one nation with the real if rusting capacity to annihilate American cities."

PROPHETIC PERSPECTIVE:

"Very soon the strife and oppression of foreign nations will break forth with an intensity that you do not now anticipate." *Ellen G. White Pamphlets 120*, 12.

"Soon grievous troubles will arise among the nations, troubles that will not cease until Jesus comes. . . . The judgments of God are in the land. The wars and rumors of wars, the destruction by fire and flood, say clearly that the time of trouble, which is to increase until the end, is very near at hand. We have no time to lose. The world is stirred with the spirit of war." *Ibid.*, 11-12.

"When the angel of mercy folds her wings and departs, Satan will do the evil deeds he has long wished to do. Storm and tempest, war and bloodshed—in these things he delights, and thus he gathers in his harvest. And so completely will men be deceived by him that they will declare that these calamities are the result of the desecration of the first day of the week. From the pulpits of the popular churches will be heard the statement that the world is being punished because Sunday is not honored as it should

be. . . ." *That I May Know Him*, 355.

"In the future there will be broken thrones and great distress of nations, with perplexity. Satan will work with intense activity. The earth will be filled with the shrieks of suffering, expiring nations. There will be war, war. The places of earth will be in confusion, as from its bowels pours forth its burning contents, to destroy the inhabitants of the world who, in their wickedness, resemble the inhabitants of the antediluvian world." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 18, 92.

"Notwithstanding the fact that there is war and bloodshed, and nations are preparing for battle, thanksgiving should arise from our hearts because the Sun of Righteousness never sets. The mightiest earthly potentates may be engaged in battle for the supremacy, but the children of God, whose life is hid with Christ, in God have nothing to fear. Their refuge is safe and sure." *The Kress Collection*, 126.

Special Report: *History of the Yugoslav Conflict*

"When you hear the word 'Serbs,' think Orthodox Church. When you hear the word 'Croat,' think Roman Catholic Church. When you hear the term 'Ethnic Albanian,' think Muslim.

"What we have entered into in the former Yugoslavia is a civil and religious war that has at times raged and at times simmered for many long centuries." *Christian News*, March 29, 1999.

Early History

This area "has had fighting going on since the seventh century when the Serbs and Croats first squared off in battle. That conflict started between Roman Catholic (Croat) and Byzantine Greek Orthodox (Serb) missionaries twelve centuries ago and it was a religious battle." *Ibid.*

The early development of the Serbs as a nation in the Balkan

territory was especially bloody and turbulent. Near the end of the seventh century, the Bulgarians established a powerful kingdom upon the eastern border of the Serb territory. The Bulgarian threat, coupled with the ongoing victories of Basil, the Greek emperor, lead the Serbs to acknowledge the dominion of the Byzantine Empire. One important result of this servitude was the acceptance of Christianity by the entire Serbian people in about A.D. 879.

Regarding the relationship of Constantinople and Rome to this strategic area, we know from history that "Serbia was for a long time a bone of contention between the Eastern and Western churches and empires. Until 1043 it was tributary to the Eastern Empire. At this time Stephen Bogislav expelled the



Have a news item of interest?

contact newswatch@hopeint.org

To send us a copy, see page 2.

imperial officials and a few years later an independent government was established. Pope Hildebrand sought to win the Serbians to the Roman Catholic faith, but they have remained persistently Orthodox. . . ." *A Manual of Church History*, Albert Henry Newman, vol. 1, 634.

History During the Crusades

"The inveterate and persistent determination of the Roman hierarchy to dominate the East as it was dominating the West was undoubtedly one of the reasons why the popes pressed the crusading movements of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The Eastern church had been for centuries sorely pressed and miserably hampered by Mohammedan (Saracen and later Turkish) conquest, and welcomed at first the sending of great crusading armies for the destruction of their enemies and the restoration to Christians of their former possessions. But their enthusiasm dwindled to the vanishing point when they realized that the pope and the Western civil rulers who engaged in crusading were more eager to bring into subjection the Eastern Empire and the Eastern church than to rescue the holy places from the Mohammedans." *Ibid.*, 626-627.

Ottoman and Austrian Dominance of the Balkans Until the 20th Century

The Ottoman Empire (1288-1919) through most of its history dominated the eastern part of Yugoslavia, known as Serbia. By contrast, the Austro-Hungarian Hapsburg Monarchy (976-1918) controlled for most of its reign the area of Yugoslavia known as Croatia and Bosnia. Thus by the Catholic Hapsburgs on the west, and the Ottoman Moslems on the east, the religious and ethnic feuding was kept somewhat restrained.

The Balkans: A History of World War I

"When in 1917, during the First World War, the Papal Nuncio in Munich, E. Pacelli, secretly negotiated

with the Central Powers to accomplish the Pope's *Peace without Victory*, in order to save both Germany and Austria-Hungary from defeat, he had already made his first attempt to strangle a nation as yet unborn; Yugoslavia." *The Vatican's Holocaust*, Avro Manhattan, chapter 1.

The Vatican saw in the Hapsburg Monarchy a useful partner to preserve Catholic dominance in Europe. Rome was opposed to a nation being formed of multi-ethnic peoples, where Catholicism was in a minority, and where the state would be dominated by the Orthodox Church. However, despite that opposition, on October 29, 1918, supported by the Allies and President Wilson, the Yugoslavs declared their independence.

"Yugoslavia, by her mere existence, represented the greatest obstacle to the long-range Catholic strategy, the Vatican's feeling, more than one of hostility, became one of implacable hatred, a wind which boded no good to the young nation. This hatred became the main inspirer of the Vatican's anti-Yugoslav strategy, the objective of which was the destruction of Yugoslavia." *Ibid.*, chapter 1.

In that same chapter the author lays down the Vatican's threefold strategy for Yugoslavia:

1. (a) The detachment of Catholic Croatia from the rule of Orthodox Serbia, 2. (b) the setting up of Croatia as an independent Catholic State, and, last but not least, 3. (c) the possible creation of a Catholic Kingdom in the Balkans.

"For such goals to be attained, one thing was necessary: the partial or total disintegration of Yugoslavia." *Ibid.*

Pre-World War II History

Following the turbulence of World War I, Yugoslavia emerged disunited and weak. Several political parties struggled for the dominance. Among them were the Serb (Orthodox) national parties; the Croatian

(Roman Catholic) Peasant party, backed by the Vatican; the Communist party; and the Moslem party.

"Alexander I, who had been prince-regent of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes since Dec. 1, 1918, became king on Aug. 16, 1921, at the death of his father, King Peter I of Serbia. . . . Having no confidence in the majority of Serbian politicians, the king decided to take all responsibility into his own hands and on Jan. 6, 1929, proclaimed a royal dictatorship. . . . Alexander changed the official name of the country from Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes to Yugoslavia. He was determined that Serbian, Croatian or Slovene nationalism should give place to a wider loyalty, Yugoslav patriotism." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, vol. 23, 918-919. (1957 Edition).

The Vatican's plan for a Catholic Europe was at stake, and Rome began encouraging other nations to bring down the fledgling country. Ante Pavelic with his Croatian terrorist organization of the "Oustachis," Hungary's semi-fascist government, along with Mussolini's fascist Italy, were some of the key players in this drama. On December 20, 1926, the pope himself had declared that "Mussolini is the man sent by Providence." *The Vatican In World Politics*, Avro Manhattan, 115.

"On Oct. 9, 1934, Alexander was assassinated at Marseilles, Fr., together with the French foreign minister, Louis Barthou, by a Macedonian terrorist who had connections with Pavelic and with the Italian [Mussolini] and Hungarian authorities." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, vol. 23, 919. (1957 Edition).

World War II History

In the early years of this conflict Hitler and Mussolini worked secretly to undermine Yugoslavia. Ante Pavelic used his Croatian Ustashi bands to carry out subversive operations against the Yugoslav

Army. And “when, in 1941, Hitler and Mussolini invaded and divided Yugoslavia, this supposed Croatian patriot was put, by them, at the head of the satellite state they created under the name of ‘Independent State of Croatia.’” *The Secret History of the Jesuits*, Edmond Paris, 144.

“On the same day as the German Army had entered the capital of Croatia, one of the chief Ustashi leaders, Kvaternik, proclaimed the Independent State of Croatia (April 10, 1941), and, while fighting between the Germans and the Yugoslav Army was still going on in the Bosnian mountains, Archbishop Stepinac called on the leader of the Ustashi and urged all Croats to support the New Catholic State. On that very day the newspapers of Zagreb carried announcements to the effect that all Serbian Orthodox residents of the new Catholic capital must vacate the city within twelve hours, and that anyone found harbouring an Orthodox would immediately be executed. On April 13 Ante Pavelic reached Zagreb from Italy [with the blessing of the pope]. On the 14th Archbishop Stepinac went personally to meet him and to congratulate him on the fulfillment of his lifework. What was Pavelic’s lifework? The creation of perhaps the most ruthless Fascist tyranny ever to dishonor Europe.” *The Vatican’s Holocaust*, Avro Manhattan, chapter 3.

“During the existence of Croatia as an independent Catholic State, over 700,000 men, women and children perished [the Serbian Orthodox Church puts the number at 1,500,000]. Many were executed, tortured, died of starvation, buried alive, or were burned to death. Hundreds were forced to become Catholic. Catholic padres ran concentration camps; Catholic priests were officers of the military corps which committed such atrocities.” *Ibid.*, Preface to the American Editions.

It is all too evident from these and many other sources that Ante Pavelic would never have gained such tremendous power without the support of Archbishop Stepinac, and the Roman Catholic Church. It has been amply documented that Stepinac continued this support till the demise of Fascist Croatia.

“After the war, the communist

government that came to power in Croatia, then an independent region of Yugoslavia, convicted Cardinal Stepinac of collaborating with the Ustasha and sentenced him first to jail, then to house arrest . . . he died there in 1962.” *National Catholic Register*, October 4–10, 1998.

Revelation 17 points out that MYSTERY BABYLON is “drunken with the blood of the saints.” Verse 6. History certainly bears out that the Roman Catholic Church has her hands stained with the blood of many souls.

Events Leading up to the 1999 Yugoslav Conflict

1. Catholic-Orthodox conflicts escalate in 1997

“Since mid-1997, Catholic-Orthodox ties have slumped, amid acerbic disputes over the very sense and purpose of ecumenism. Just what will emerge from today’s inter-Church disputes remains to be seen, but it seems certain to have a key impact on the future of European and world Christianity. . . .

“Having seen 200,000 of its priests, monks, and nuns slaughtered under communism, and its hierarchy crushed into subservience, Russia’s Orthodox Church thinks Catholics are exploiting its weaknesses by setting up parishes and dioceses in new areas. Some say Rome is pursuing an age-old dream of ‘reuniting Christendom’ and violating canonical rules by proselytizing. . . .

“They fear Catholicism will gain ground by default, as a better organized ‘Western’ faith. . . . This explains why hostility to Catholics forms an important part of the growing ‘non-ecumenical option.’” *National Catholic Register*, July 5–11, 1998.

The article goes on to state that “Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic are expected to join NATO in April 1999. . . . Since the three countries are predominantly Catholic, their priority treatment could suggest a new division in the heart of Europe—between a more secure and advanced Catholic West and a poorer, less stable Orthodox East.” *Ibid.*

“Czech bishops had been assured by European Union officials that Catholic traditions and interests

would be ‘fully respected’ in a united Europe. . . .

“European Union [EU] officials ‘emphasized that the EU was not only an economic and military affair, but also a cultural union between nations with the same common roots,’ [the Catholic] Father Herman said.

“They showed they understood the Church’s role as a platform of reconciliation and builder of civil society,’ [Union of Church and State] said Father Herman.” *Ibid.*, June 14–20, 1998.

2. CATHOLIC bishops call for the return of church properties in Yugoslavia

“When Yugoslavia’s newly formed bishops’ conference held its inaugural meeting April 15, its four members sent a letter to the Belgrade government’s Religious Affairs Office, promising to maintain good contacts.

“They made some requests: that citizenship and visa rules be clarified to help the work of Catholic priests and nuns, that legal equality be ensured for all religious communities, and that communist-confiscated Catholic properties be returned—especially in the northern district of Vojvodina.

“The government hasn’t responded though. Neither has Yugoslavia’s predominant Serbian Orthodox Church, to which the bishops’ conference proposed setting up an ecumenical commission.” *National Catholic Register*, May 24–30, 1998.

3. Pope calls for moral reconstruction in Bosnia

“The peace process in Bosnia-Herzegovina took another step forward Sept. 11, as John Paul II received the first ambassador of this new country. . . . The Holy Father confirmed that the Church wants to make a contribution to the construction of the new Bosnia-Herzegovina. . . . For this reason, the Pope explained to the representative of the Sarejevo government that the Church requests the restitution of the property confiscated during the communist period and during the recent conflict.” *National Catholic Register*, September 20–26, 1998.

4. Pope beatifies Cardinal Stepinac

Ignoring the request of the Jewish Simon Wiesenthal Center that the beatification of the controversial Archbishop Stepinac be postponed, pending a complete investigation of his wartime record, Pope John Paul II proceeded on October 3, 1998, to beatify the cardinal. The pope stated plainly that Stepinac was, "one of the outstanding figures of the Catholic Church." *National Catholic Register*, October 11–17, 1998.

Speaking of Stepinac the pope said; "His was a response shaped by faith in God, respect for man, a love shown in forgiveness, and a determination to defend the unity of the Church guided by the Successor of Peter," the Pope said. "The same response is required of Croatian Catholics now as they seek to heal the wounds of war, to build a just and lasting peace, and to strengthen moral values undermined by the long years of totalitarian rule." *Ibid.*, October 18–24, 1998.

Later, after returning to the Vatican, the pope said that beatifying Stepinac "was the high point of his visit." *Ibid.*

5. Serbian response to Stepinac beatification

"When the Pope paid his second visit to Croatia on October 2–4, he appealed for forgiveness and reconciliation to 'reoccupy the place of violence and destruction.'

"But Bremer [Thomas Bremer, a German expert on Serbian Orthodoxy] thinks this had little impact on Serb attitudes. The controversial beatification of Alojzije Cardinal Stepinac (1898–1961), the German believes, confirmed the prejudices of Serbs, who see him . . . as an accomplice in wartime anti-Serb atrocities." *National Catholic Register*, November 8–14, 1998.

Summary and Conclusion

The recent war in Yugoslavia was really only the continuation of a conflict begun in the fifth century by the Eastern and Western churches which ended temporarily in irreconcilable differences.

The Orthodox Serbs have through their history been under either brutal oppression by the Moslems, or grinding persecution by

the Catholic nations which were seeking to force their conversion to Romanism.

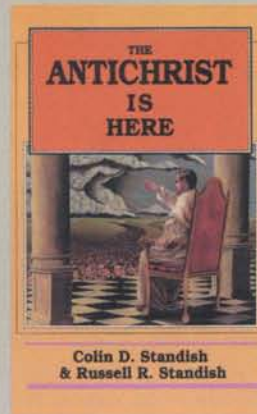
The Vatican has from the beginning worked to undermine and dismantle the Yugoslavian nation. Through Hitler's puppet Fascist government of Croatia, Ante Pavelic, with the support of Catholic Cardinal Stepinac, inflicted horrendous atrocities upon the Orthodox Serbs.

On the heels of the collapsing Soviet Union, the Orthodox churches have seen a revitalized Roman Catholicism sweeping through the former communist-block countries. They have seen in Rome's moves much to be feared, and, based on the past history of the Papacy, who could blame them?

While on the one hand, we are horrified by any type of "ethnic cleansing," yet on the other hand, we believe that the atrocities committed in the Balkan conflict have not all been one-sided. There is evidence that the Serbian people have also suffered severely in this war.

Could it be that the United States has somehow—perhaps unintentionally—aided the Vatican in another religious crusade? Could it be that Rome has been making her final moves to place herself in control of the world?

It is my prayer that God will use the information in this News Watch article to help expose the mystery of iniquity that figures so largely in the closing events of earth's history. □

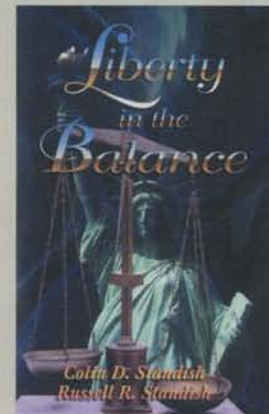


The Antichrist is Here

by Colin and Russel Standish

Rapid and unexpected changes have swept the European nations during recent years, yet few Americans discern their true significance. While the movement toward a universal democracy comes as a long-awaited release from oppression in many countries, even fewer anticipate the greater oppression that is sure to follow. The authors of this book show how these world events are fulfilling the prophecies set forth in the book of Revelation, rapidly bringing the history of this world to a close.

\$6.95 Each



Liberty in the Balance

by Colin and Russel Standish

Prophecy foretells a time when the civil and religious liberties we now enjoy will be wrenched from those who determine to serve God and obey His commandments. This book shows just how close we are living to that day. We live in a time when the powers of darkness are working behind the scenes to restrict the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. Read and recapture the clarity of thinking that gave America its truest freedoms, preparing yourself to engage in the battle to preserve religious liberty.

\$12.95 Each

See page 2 for shipping and sales tax information.



Consider the Lilies

Martha M. Odom

WHO IS NOT charmed by the exquisite perfection of a rose, an orchid, a lily of the valley? How wonderful that the Lord has “spared us the beauty of these wanderers from Eden”¹ as constant reminders of His unfathomable love for us!

We are told that “Jesus plucked the beautiful lily, and placed it in the hands of children and youth; and as they looked into His own youthful face, fresh with the sunlight of His Father’s countenance, He gave the lesson, ‘Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow [in the simplicity of natural beauty]; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.’ Then followed the sweet assurance and the important lesson: ‘Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven,

shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?’ Matthew 6:28–30.”²

Mrs. Ellen G. White tells of an experience she and her son had with waterlilies: “These beautiful lilies come up pure, spotless, perfect, without a single mar. They come up through a mass of debris. I said to my son, ‘I want you to make an effort to get me the stem of that lily as near the root as possible. I want you to understand something about it.’

“He drew up a handful of lilies, and I looked at them. They were all full of open channels, and the stems were gathering the properties from the pure sands beneath, and these were being developed into the pure and spotless lily. It refused all the debris. It refused every unsightly thing, but there it was developed in its purity.

“Now this is exactly the way that we are to educate our youth in this world. Let their minds and hearts be instructed who God is, who Jesus Christ is, and the sacrifice that He has made in our behalf. Let them draw the purity, the virtue, the grace, the courtesy, the love, the forbearance; let them

draw it from the Source of all power.”³

In other words, let us fill our children’s minds from their earliest years with the thrilling truths of the Bible and nature. Help them to love the right and reject the wrong. We are all surrounded with the filth and debris of sin in this wicked world. Especially is it a time of great peril and trial for youth. They must have right principles so firmly established in their own hearts and lives that they will be able to lay hold of divine strength to resist temptation, for without it they will be overcome. Surrounded by the scum of skepticism, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, pornography, immorality, fictitious literature, rock-and-roll music, the television screen depicting crime and bringing other objectionable programs into the home—to mention only some of the wickedness prevailing in our world today—our Seventh-day Adventist children and youth need our sympathy, guidance, and prayers.

“If they will with faith and courage bring their will in submission to the will of God, He will teach them, and

their lives may be like the pure white lily, full of fragrance on the stagnant waters."⁴

"The lily is a representation of Christ among men. He came to a world all seared and marred with the curse, but He was not polluted by His surroundings."⁵ He is our Example, as well as our Saviour.

A visitor at a mine noticed a pure white lily growing close to the ground. Although it was surrounded by coal dust, not a speck of the black dust was on its petals! The guide explained that the lily had something within itself that enabled it to throw off the coal dust.

So the Christian in this sinful world, young or older grown, like the lily on a slimy pool, by feeding his soul with the Word of God, the Spirit of Prophecy writings, secret prayer, and work for others, may develop a beautiful Christian character.

"Christ did not fail, neither was He discouraged; and His followers are to manifest a faith of the same enduring nature. They are to live as He lived, and work as He worked, because they depend on Him as the great Master-worker.

"Courage, energy, and perseverance they must possess. Though apparent impossibilities obstruct their way, by His grace they are to go forward. Instead of deploring difficulties, they are called upon to surmount them. They are to despair of nothing, and to hope for everything. With the golden chain of His matchless love, Christ had bound them to the throne of God. It is His purpose that the highest influence in the universe, emanating from the Source of all power, shall be theirs. They are to have power to resist evil, power that neither earth, nor death, nor hell can master, power that will enable them to overcome as Christ overcame."⁶

"The life of Christ's disciples is to be like His, a series of uninterrupted victories, not seen to be such here, but recognized as such in the great hereafter."⁷ □

REFERENCES:

- ¹ *Education*, 119.
- ² *Christ's Object Lessons*, 19.
- ³ *Child Guidance*, 58.
- ⁴ *Temperance*, 187.
- ⁵ *Youth's Instructor*, January 21, 1897.
- ⁶ *Gospel Workers*, 39.
- ⁷ *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 307.

Loud Cry of the Fourth Angel

(continued from page 7)

Testaments, we can see that Babylon is a place to be much avoided, and that God has placed a solemn responsibility upon His people not only to flee themselves from Babylon but also to warn others to flee. This is part of what the loud cry message is all about.

Are there spirits in modern Babylon?—Yes, indeed yes. Satan and his angels are involved in the modern-day spiritualism—Mariology—spirits of devils working miracles, and in tongues that are not the real Biblical tongues.

Part of the loud cry message is to unmask all this by teaching the truth about the state of the dead—life only in Christ—and against the once-saved-always-saved false doctrine.

Also we are to warn others against the union of church and state—"the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her." Revelation 18:3. The leaders of the nations ("kings") have joined together with the apostate church ("Babylon") to enact laws that are in opposition to God's law ("fornication"). The national Sunday law will complete that illicit union. The loud cry will expose the evil of that union.

"Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome." *The Great Controversy*, 588.

In Revelation 18:4 a call is given: "Come out of her, my people." There are two reasons given for coming out: Her sins have filled up their measure by enacting and enforcing the national Sunday law, and destruction is about to come because of her plagues.

However, God still has a people to call out of Babylon as He called His faithful ones out of Sodom before its destruction. That other angel is adding his voice to the three angels who are already calling, and together they will swell the giving of the message into a loud cry.

The call out of Babylon began with the three angels' messages in 1844, but it will gain its real strength in the loud cry of the last days of this earth's history. The final apostasy, as the image to the beast is formed through the various stages of the national Sunday

law, will bring the loud cry up to its crescendo. This loud cry will end when it has completed its work at the close of probation for the world.

The loud cry will have great power behind it. Revelation 18, verses 1 and 2, speaks of an angel having "great power," "the earth was lightened with his glory"—the character of God's people will be readily recognizable, crying "mightily with a strong voice." What a time this will be!

What will be the result of the loud cry? We are told that the strength of the loud cry will far exceed that of the midnight cry in Ellen White's day. See *Early Writings*, 278–279. In the midnight cry the message swept like a tornado over the country and the world—thousands heard and accepted.

"During the loud cry, the church, aided by the providential interpositions of her exalted Lord, will diffuse the knowledge of salvation so abundantly that light will be communicated to every city and town. The earth will be filled with the knowledge of salvation. So abundantly will the renewing Spirit of God have crowned with success the intensely active agencies, that the light of present truth will be flashing everywhere." *Evangelism*, 694.

The results will come from the sowing done in the past through literature work, evangelism, personal contacts, preaching, and other sharing. It will be like Pentecost—but even greater. Only those who have received the former rain through their close connection with Jesus in Bible study and in prayer will be involved in this last great outpouring of the latter rain in this loud cry message.

"There is to be in the churches a wonderful manifestation of the power of God, but it will not move upon those who have not humbled themselves before the Lord, and opened the door of their heart by confession and repentance. In the manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, they will see only something which in their blindness they think dangerous, something which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it." *Review and Herald*, December 23, 1890.

There will be a definite reaction to the loud cry—both in the church and in the world. There will be those in our own church who will think that it is a false light and they will not walk in

its advancing glory. See *Review and Herald*, May 27, 1890. Some will think that it is dangerous and will brace themselves against it.

In the world, the more power that comes, the more persecution will follow. Anger will be rampant. Prison will follow for some; economic pressure will be severe. However, God's people will go forward.

Let us remember that the loud cry is more than a message. It is the revelation of the life of Jesus in His people. The glory spoken of in Revelation 18:1 is referring to the character of God's people. It is more than something said—it is a demonstration.

"The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 415–416.

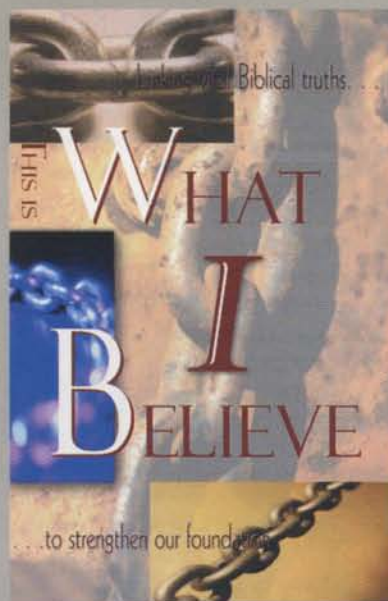
And when the character of Christ is perfectly reproduced in His people, He will come to take them home. See *ibid.*, 69.

O brother, O sister, how is it with you? Will you be giving the loud cry; will you be resisting it, or will you seek to be neutral? Neutrality in a crisis is a dangerous position to take, for it is, in reality, another form of resistance to the Spirit's leading.

"If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is doing nothing in case of an emergency. Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God." *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 281.

"God is raising up a class to give the loud cry of the third angel's message. . . . It is Satan's object now to get up new theories to divert the mind from the true work and genuine message for this time. He stirs up minds to give false interpretation of Scripture, a spurious loud cry, that the real message may not have its effect when it does come. This is one of the greatest evidences that the loud cry will soon be heard and the earth will be lighted with the glory of God." *Selected Messages*, book 3, 410.

Time is short. Soon there will be no more opportunity—no more second chance. **Now** is the day of salvation; **now** is the time to commit yourself fully to Jesus. Give up the world and come to Him without reserve. He is waiting to receive you. □



This Is What I Believe

by Ron Spear

IN RECENT MONTHS Elder Ron Spear received a request to meet with a committee at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to answer questions regarding his beliefs and his manner of work in the world field. Elder Spear saw this invitation as an opportunity to share more than 20 of his convictions regarding the true gospel and how our church has in many ways followed the example of rebellious Israel of old.

Because Elder Spear supported each of his convictions with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, you too can be strengthened in your belief as you read. You will see in this book a blend of love and deep concern for God's last-day remnant church.

Order this latest book by Ron Spear: \$7.95 each.

See page 2 for Shipping and Sales Tax Information.



The Sanctuary Doctrine

Cultic or Biblical?

Part 6

Kevin D. Paulson

IN AN EFFORT to provide answers for those persons with honest questions about the Biblical faithfulness of the Seventh-day Adventist sanctuary doctrine, we are continuing in this article to respond to arguments by one Dale Ratzlaff and his recent book, *The Cultic Doctrine of Seventh-day Adventists*.¹ At this point in our study we will continue to examine arguments which he claims are based on certain New Testament passages, particularly from the book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 9 and the Most Holy Place

Like Ford, Ratzlaff fervently maintains that according to the book of He-

brews (9:8, 12; 10:19–20), Christ entered the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary at His ascension.² This view finds support in the erroneous rendering of the Greek expression *ta hagia* (holy places) by a number of modern translations, such as the New International Version.

However, the Most Holy Place is specifically named only once in the New Testament, and that is in Hebrews 9, verse 3:

“And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all [**Hagia Hagion**, or ‘Holy of Holies’].”

This term was obviously available to Paul in this chapter, and is very distinct and unambiguous. Why then, if he intended to convey Christ’s entrance into the heavenly Most Holy Place at His ascension, would he not use this term in subsequent verses?

The answer becomes clear as we read the rest of the chapter. No special emphasis is attached to the Most Holy Place as being the focus of Jesus’ heavenly ministry in this context. Rather, the focus is on the replacing of the spiritually inadequate earthly sanctuary with the spiritually adequate heavenly sanctuary. See Hebrews 9:8–11. Neither of the sanctuary’s apartments is seen as being spiritually superior to the other—a point which seriously damages the notion that the holy place in this chapter symbolizes the Jewish era while the Most Holy Place symbolizes the Christian era. In fact, the inadequacy of the Second Apartment is seen in this chapter as being far greater than that of the first apartment, since no one but the high priest could enter the Second Apartment—and then only once a year and not without blood. See Hebrews 9:7.

In short, the earthly sanctuary (both apartments) offered only limited access to God, through mortal priests and animal sacrifices. See Hebrews 7:23; 9:6–9, 13. By contrast, the heavenly sanctuary offers unlimited access through an immortal Priest who has Himself shed all the blood required. See Hebrews 7:25; 9:14, 25–26.

But the strongest argument against viewing the Most Holy Place as the fo-

The heavenly sanctuary offers unlimited access through an immortal Priest who has Himself shed all the blood required.

cus of Jesus' ministry in Hebrews 9 is to simply compare the key verse on this point—verse 12—with several other verses later in the chapter. Verse 12 reads:

“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place [literally, “holy places”], having obtained eternal redemption for us.”

Robert Brinsmead, with views similar to Ford's and Ratzlaff's, declares concerning Hebrews 9 and 10: “Here Christ's ascension to the heavenly sanctuary is compared and contrasted with Aaron's entrance into the Most Holy Place on the Day of Atonement.”³ However, this is not at all the comparison made by these chapters. Rather, Jesus' entrance into the heavenly sanctuary is compared to the inauguration of the wilderness tabernacle services by Moses and Aaron:

“Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.” Hebrews 9:18–21.

Notice that the same blood is described in these verses as is described in verse 12. Moses and Aaron dedicated the wilderness tabernacle with the blood of goats and calves. See verses 18–21. Jesus dedicated the heavenly sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood.

See verse 12. The parallel here is not with Aaron's entrance into the earthly Most Holy Place on the ancient Day of Atonement, but with the inaugural ceremony of the wilderness sanctuary.

“Within the Veil”

Like other critics of the Adventist sanctuary doctrine, Ratzlaff insists that “the Biblical term, ‘within the veil’ always refers to the Most Holy Place.”⁴ It

is true, as Ratzlaff claims, that many Old Testament verses do use this phrase to refer to the veil separating the holy apartment from the Most Holy Apartment of the sanctuary. See Exodus 26:33; Leviticus 16:2, 12, 15; see also Exodus 26:35; 27:20–21; 40:22, 26; Leviticus 4:5–6; 17; 24:1–3.⁵ However, each of these passages, in context, specifically describes the veil being referred to as the one between the holy place and the Most Holy Place, thus making no assumption that the readers would automatically identify the phrase “within the veil” as referring to this particular veil.

The word for “veil” used in the book of Hebrews is the Greek word *katapetasma*, which in the Greek Old Testament, or Septuagint, can refer to either the veil at the door of the sanctuary courtyard, the veil between the courtyard and the holy place, or the veil separating the holy place from the Most Holy Place. See Exodus 38:18; 39:40; Leviticus 16:2, 12, 15; 21:23; Numbers 3:26; 4:26; 18:7. It seems careless to assume that whenever prepositions such as “within” or “without” or “before” are attached to this very general word, it must automatically refer to the veil between the first and second sanctuary apartments.

One of the Old Testament verses using this phrase, which Ratzlaff cites as referring to the Most Holy Place, refers in fact to both apartments of the sanctuary. Numbers 18:7 reads as follows:

“Therefore thou [Aaron] and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for every thing of the altar, and within the veil; and ye shall serve.”

In context, the altar here described (see verse 3) clearly refers to the altar of burnt offering in the courtyard. “Within the veil” thus refers in the above verse to those portions of the

sanctuary not in the courtyard, which would mean everything behind the veil to the holy place, which would include the Most Holy Place also.

Ellen White is thus not at all out of step with Scripture when she states that “within the veil” in Hebrews 6:19 refers to the veil to the first apartment of the heavenly sanctuary.⁶

In a broader sense, the term “within the veil” in the book of Hebrews refers to the complete access to God which believers now enjoy as a result of Jesus' sacrifice and priestly intercession. This is why “the veil” is used as a symbol of Jesus' broken body in the following passage:

“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest [again, the plural form, ‘holy places’ meaning the sanctuary as a whole] by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.” Hebrews 10:19–20.

As we saw in Hebrews 9, the issue here is not the distinction between the veil to the first apartment and the veil to the Second Apartment, but the replacement of the spiritually inadequate, inaccessible ministry of the Levites and the spiritually efficacious, accessible ministry of Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary. This is what Ellen White refers to when she writes that “a new and living Way, before which there hangs no veil, is offered to all.”⁷ This in no way contradicts her other statements in which she describes physical partitions in the heavenly sanctuary.⁸ Her point in the previous statement is simply that because of the cross, no barriers of any kind prevent our immediate access to God. The physical structure of the heavenly temple—clearly attested to by Scripture (see Hebrews 8:5; 9:23)—is not the issue here at all. Veils in the heavenly sanctuary can no more impede our access to God than could the walls and gates of the New Jerusalem!

Ratzlaff follows the script of other sanctuary critics by alleging that belief in a literal heavenly sanctuary necessitates the physical confinement of Jesus, stating that according to historic Adventism, “Christ entered into the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary for the **first** time” in 1844.⁹ Considerable time and attention has been given to this point through the years by critics of our sanctuary doctrine. One now-deceased Adventist historian, in a

favorable review of Desmond Ford's attack on the sanctuary, spoke of how Ford rejected "the confinement of Christ in the Holy Place for 1800 years."¹⁰ Another critic has stated more recently that, according to historic Adventism, "the Father and the Son have been separated by a curtain for 1800 years."¹¹

However, the critics' arguments arise from a failure to consider all of the

Because of the cross, no barriers of any kind prevent our immediate access to God.

relevant Biblical evidence. None need fear that Christ's ministry in the heavenly holy place excluded Him from the Father's immediate presence, which is where the book of Hebrews clearly places Him at His ascension. See Hebrews 9:24. Sometimes people get confused in thinking that wherever God is would have to be the Most Holy Place—so if Jesus is in the presence of God at His ascension, they claim, He would have to be in the Most Holy Place.¹² Yet the critics fail to consider that the only reason the immediate presence of God was restricted to the Most Holy Place in the earthly sanctuary was due to the problem of sinful man. This problem does not exist in heaven or in the heavenly sanctuary; thus the immediate presence of God need not be confined there.

Moreover, in the earthly sanctuary symbols of God's presence were found in the holy place and courtyard as well as in the Most Holy Place. See John 6:48–51; 8:12. Without question Christ went into His Father's immediate presence at His ascension. See Hebrews 9:24. Adventism has never denied this truth. There is no doubt that Jesus was just as surely in His Father's presence while ministering in the holy place for 1800 years as He has been since 1844.

In short, according to the book of Hebrews, the inefficient earthly sanctuary has been replaced by the efficient heavenly sanctuary. The rending of the Saviour's flesh at Calvary was accompanied by the rending of the inner veil in the temple at Jerusalem. See Matthew 27:51. Nowhere does Scripture teach that this means Jesus immediately began a Most-Holy-Place, Day-of-Atonement ministry at His ascension. The rending of the inner veil

simply meant that because of Jesus' death, nothing in the earthly sanctuary was sacred anymore—even the Most Holy Apartment. Only one sanctuary (in heaven), and only one Priest (Jesus Christ) mattered from that time forward.

Those who insist that the cross has already fulfilled the Hebrew Day of Atonement, with no further fulfillment needed in 1844, should wonder why the New Testament—especially the book of Hebrews—says so little about the Day of Atonement and its services. While Christ

may indeed have attended Day of Atonement ceremonies in His lifetime, no record exists in the Gospel accounts of His ever doing so, much less of His pointing to these services as the focus of His coming sacrifice. Perhaps most importantly of all, we should ask Why did Jesus not die on the Day of Atonement instead of on the Passover, if, in fact, He wished His followers to understand that the final judgment, symbolized by Yom Kippur, was to begin immediately with His ascension to heaven? From the perspective of evangelical theology, what a powerful statement Jesus' death on the Day of Atonement would have made, signifying that no one need ever afflict his soul again, as required by the ancient ritual! See Leviticus 16:29; 23:29.

But the fact is that Christ's fulfillment of Day-of-Atonement symbolism was not the burden of the New Testament, because, aside from fulfilling the sacrificial requirements, the final anti-type of Yom Kippur was yet future. No wonder the book of Hebrews declares, concerning the Most Holy Place, "of which we cannot now speak particularly." Hebrews 9:5. Yet the fact that the heavenly sanctuary will eventually require cleansing is clearly stated in this very chapter, which speaks of the heavenly sanctuary being "purified [cleansed] . . . with better sacrifices." Hebrews 9:23. It is significant, as we earlier noted, that the Greek Old Testament, or Septuagint, uses the same word for cleanse in Hebrews 9:23 as is found in Daniel 8:14 and Leviticus 16, the latter of which explains in detail the Day of Atonement services.¹³ □

In our next article, to be printed in the August issue of *Our Firm Founda-*

tion, we will examine these questions: What is it that defiles the heavenly sanctuary that would necessitate a cleansing? When we confess our sins and are forgiven, is the record of those sins immediately wiped away for eternity, or does there remain in heaven a record to be blotted out in the investigative judgment? Finally, who is being judged in the judgment spoken of in Revelation 14:7—believers? unbelievers? both?

REFERENCES:

- ¹ Dale Ratzlaff, *The Cultic Doctrine of Seventh-day Adventists: An Evangelical Resource. An Appeal to SDA Leadership* (Sedona, AZ: Life Assurance Ministries, 1996).
- ² *Ibid.*, 179, 182, 210.
- ³ Robert D. Brinsmead, *Judged by the Gospel: A Review of Adventism* (Fallbrook, CA: Verdict Publications, 1980), 43.
- ⁴ Ratzlaff, *Cultic Doctrine*, 186.
- ⁵ *Ibid.*, 174.
- ⁶ White, *The Great Controversy*, 421; *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 1, 159; *Early Writings*, 251.
- ⁷ *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, 1109.
- ⁸ White, *The Great Controversy*, 420–421; *Early Writings*, 251–252.
- ⁹ Ratzlaff, *Cultic Doctrine*, 159. (emphasis original).
- ¹⁰ Walter Utt, "Desmond Ford Raises the Sanctuary Question," *Spectrum*, vol. 10, no. 4, 4.
- ¹¹ Jack Sequeira, "Issues: The Heavenly Sanctuary," quoted by Kevin Paulson, *Those Who Do Not Remember the Past*, (Eatonsville, WA: Hope International, 1995), 95.
- ¹² *Ibid.*, 96; see also *Sanctuary* (collection of transcribed sermons available from Pastor Jack Sequeira, 9220 Saint Andrew Place, College Park, MD 20740), 90.
- ¹³ See Gerhard F. Hasel, "The Little Horn, the Saints, and the Sanctuary in Daniel 8," *The Sanctuary and the Atonement* (Washington, D.C.: General Conference Biblical Research Institute, 1981), 227.

"The smallest duty done in sincerity and self-forgetfulness is more pleasing to God than the greatest work when marred with self-seeking. He looks to see how much of the spirit of Christ we cherish, and how much of the likeness of Christ our work reveals. He regards more the love and faithfulness with which we work than the amount we do."

Christ's Object Lessons, 402.



1999 Family Camp Meeting

Now available on tape!



Tom, Alane, Allison, and Emily Waters

Jim, Sally, Matthew, and Andrew Hohnberger

This is the third year* that we have had the privilege of attending and recording the Restoration International's Family Camp Meeting in Eastern Washington. Again, our own families were richly blessed as we received encouragement and practical instruction on how to be faithful in our **first work**.

- Video #1: Common Questions on Finances, Part 1 (Tom); Getting Organized (Sally); Common Questions on Finances, Part 2 (Tom)
- Video #2: Sibling Association (Emily); Expectations (Alane); Family Home Evenings (Jim)
- Video #3: Healthful Hints in Parenting (Alane); Scheduling My Life (Sally); Becoming a Man (Matthew); Portrait of a Godly Wife (Jim)
- Video #4: Common Questions on Association (Tom); Possessing the Land (Sally); A Passion for God (Jim); Dating, Courtship, or Betrothal (Andrew)
- Video #5: Making Home Happy (Alane); Y2K: Crisis or Counterfeit? (Tom); But Lord! (Jim)

Set of 5 videos: \$75

Set of 17 audio tapes: \$42.50

Individual tapes may be ordered for \$20 per video, \$3 per audio. Please see page 2 for shipping and sales tax information.

Parents, what is our first work?

Many are ever restless and disappointed, seeking for some greater work than that which now occupies them. Some mothers long to engage in missionary labor, while they neglect the simplest duties lying directly in their path. The children are neglected, the home is not made cheerful and happy for the family, scolding and complaining are of frequent occurrence, and the young people grow up feeling that home is the most uninviting of all places. As a consequence, they impatiently look forward to the time when they shall leave it, and it is with little reluctance that they launch out into the great world, unrestrained by home influence, and the tender counsel of the hearth-stone.

The parents, whose aim should have been to bind these young hearts to themselves, and guide them aright, squander their God-given opportunities, are blind to the most important duties of their lives, and vainly aspire to work in the broad missionary field.

As I have marked these unhappy, restless spirits, and deplored their power to shadow the lives of others, the thought would arise: What a fearful deception is upon them! How terrible a mistake they are making!

Some of this class pronounce the faithful Christian mother worldly, as they mark how attentive she is to the wants of her husband and children, how zealous in performing the sweet home duties. They sigh because of her lack of spirituality, thinking the labor wasted that goes to make home a place of comfort and happy rest. Their minds fail to understand how the performance of these humble tasks can satisfy the heart. *Signs of the Times*, August 9, 1877.

Parents, your own home is the first field in which you are called to labor. The precious plants in the home garden demand your first care. To you it is appointed to watch for souls as they that must give account. Carefully consider your work, its nature, its bearing, and its results. *Adventist Home*, 200

*You may also order the tapes of the 1997 and 1998 family camp meetings. Please inquire regarding prices.



The magazines which I received have helped me greatly and I need some more if possible. Today, the district officer of my division visited me and I showed him your materials you gave me. He appreciated them very much, and gave me a pledge he will visit me to get more spiritual material from me very soon. Thank you very, very much for this paper.

SK, Kenya

In the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, I extend sincere Christian greetings to you, the Hope International family, for your love, care, and concern. I have received your sumptuous gift of the book with the *Review and Herald* articles in it and some other books you sent to me.

In fact, I danced for joy on that fateful Wednesday that I received the packages! May God richly bless you for making my ministry successful through these inspirational books.

Pastor IA, Ghana

Allow me to register my heartfelt gratitude for your recommendable job and the initiative taken to warn the world of the impending crisis that will soon befall the world.

I am an ordained SDA pastor who has been reading and following your interesting, eye-opening and inspiring articles. Your articles have stimulated a lot of interest here in Zambia, and therefore are opposed.

The Catholic Church is up in arms against your paper entitled *Earth's Final Warning*, and I am sure they will one day write to you. In their latest local publication which gives much coverage on denominational matters and politics, the Catholic spokesman has condemned your paper and alleges that it attacks and insults the Catholic Church and its leader the Pope. He also denies that the Pope has an interest in governing the world but attributes the Pope's interest in world affairs to that of peace-making. Furthermore, he condemns the

SDAs, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and some Pentecostal groups for being doomsayers as they are praying for the soon coming of Christ and the end of the world—while the world at large is praying for peace and the Jubilee that is around the corner. Much more has been said against SDAs and the articles you have been producing, but thank God, more people now will learn the truth as more articles are issued. Apparently, the article to which the spokesman responded was thrown into his yard. Whoever threw it there did a commendable job.

I have vowed to enter into public evangelism. We haven't done much to help further the cause because of [the lack of] material and equipment to use in public evangelism. We cannot print as you do, but we can distribute, quote, preach, and explain—if given the material. In short, I need your help. I need material from your ministry. . . .

My heart is burning to preach before the impending storm comes on us. I long to preach and quote, and lift up to the audience the books from which I am quoting. Please help us.

AM, Zambia

In order to get funds to help at least in a small way, I have been digging, cleaning, and packaging day lily plants and selling them for \$1.00 per package to a local store. This check represents 165 packages. If even one soul finds the Saviour through the literature you will send for me, it will be worth all the hours of hard work. I will be 80 this year so we are eagerly awaiting the return of our blessed Lord.

KH, Georgia

I have received your nice gift from you, *Our Firm Foundation*, with much joy! I have read this important magazine, and I do appreciate the topics. I especially liked the articles entitled "The Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement," and "Transparent as the Sunlight." These topics I like to pro-

claim for myself first, and second to others. Thank you very much, and God bless you for your hard and important work.

HI, Romania

The medical missionary training classes at the Life Abundant Missionary Institute of Hope International were a real blessing! I am so glad the Lord allowed me to hear about and come to the meetings! It felt good to receive Southern hospitality on the West Coast. It is a blessing to be a part of God's commandment-keeping church; wherever you go you can find family. My week at L.A.M.I. was one of the best I've had in a long time. I learned *a lot*, and the Lord blessed me with some great friends. JT, Alabama

Thank you for the "new look" of *Our Firm Foundation*. It is filled with great messages, which I greatly appreciate! You all are in my daily prayers. Your far-reaching labors are greatly appreciated by some of us here, be assured.

AF, California

We received a copy of your magazine. I thank you for it. Please send it regularly to us. We are doing the service of a lending library through faith. Your magazine will be very useful in our library. So please send it freely to us. We cannot buy it. We have no support from any place.

MK, India

We would like to express our great appreciation for your donations that help us continue the literature ministry. It is through your donations to Subscription Assistance that we are able to send free subscriptions to those who cannot afford them, such as the library mentioned above. Your donations marked Literature Assistance are used to send out thousands of pieces of literature to answer as much as possible the requests for Bibles, Spirit of Prophecy books, and other literature. We know that there will be many who will rejoice in heaven as they realize the fruits of investing their talents and money in the Lord's work. —THE EDITORS

Have a letter to share?

contact editor@hopeint.org or see page 2 for our mailing address.



California Camp Meetings!

Do you sense the nearness of Christ's return? Are you seeking to do all you can to prepare yourself, your family, and others for the crisis just ahead? Do you find encouragement as you fellowship with others who like you are striving to serve the Lord with all their hearts?

If your answer is Yes, then please plan now to join us in fellowship and worship.

September 16–19, 1999

Angelus Oaks

—Camp Morning Star, Barton Flats, Hwy. 38.

Speakers include: Ron Spear, Jeff Wehr, Dr. Lorraine Day, Colin Standish, and John Davis.

Lodging in rental cabins is available at Camp Morning Star. The fee is \$5.00 per person per night. Tent and RV spaces are available across the way at San Gorgonio Campground at \$15.00 per camp site which holds up to 8 people.

September 23–26, 1999

Angwin

—formerly Calistoga, will be held at the Angwin Village Church on Circle Drive.

Speakers include: Ron Spear, Jeff Wehr, Danny Vierra, Tom Kopko, Colin Standish, and John Davis.

Contact Hope International for the locations and prices for tent and RV camping, available dorm rooms, and motels.

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Eatonville, WA
Permit No. 8

***B-00

Hope International

P.O. Box 940

Eatonville, WA 98328

Change Service Requested