

THE 8TH CHURCH - FACT OR FICTION, part 2

quotes

1) #2. The 7 different messages to these churches apply from the time of the Christian church extending all the way down to the end of time.

Were these 7 messages given to church buildings? No. Were they given to church organizational structures? No. These messages were given to those making up God's professed people. Each of these 7 messages ends with "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." Church buildings and structures do not have ears, only individuals do. So we can see that these messages represent 7 different characteristics manifested by individuals who all claim to be God's followers. This means that all 7 of these messages can be seen today being manifested in the lives of those claiming to be God's people, and thus these messages are not limited to any particular time period!

"...the number of the churches--seven--indicates completeness and is symbolic of the fact that the messages extend to the end of time, **and are enforced today**, while the figures used are symbolic of the state of God's professed people..." Manuscript Releases, vol 1, p 372 (Manuscript 81, 1900).

It is very important to understand that these church messages apply to the individual followers of God, and not to the particular church which these followers may or may not be connected to.

"The call to the gospel feast is first to be given in the highways. It must be given to those who claim to be in the highways of Christian experience--to the members of the different churches. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." Revelation 2:7. In these churches there are true worshipers and there are false worshipers. A work must be done for those who have fallen from their first love, who have lost their first zeal and interest in spiritual things. **We must bring the warning before professed Christians** who are transgressors of the law of God. **To them the message must be given.**" Testimonies, vol 6, p 76-77.

"The message to the church at Ephesus is a close, decided personal testimony to them for leaving their first love, and an earnest call to repentance, lest their candlestick be moved out of its place. **We need to heed these words of warning, and repent of our sins.**" The Home Missionary, November 1, 1897.

"The supreme love which sister Palmer has ever had for herself has stood directly in the way of her spiritual advancement, and if continued, will surely prevent her perfecting a Christian character. Sister Palmer is deceived in herself. **She thinks she is in a favorable condition before God, when the message to the Laodicean church applies to her.**" Pamphlet #138, p 48.

2) Why didn't Smyrna receive any condemnation?

"And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." Revelation 2:8-11.

Those Christians represented by the message to Smyrna are those individuals who have these characteristics and experience. They endure tribulation, poverty, imprisonment, and are persecuted by those who call themselves Jews -- or those who call themselves God's followers. Yet they remain faithful unto death, and they will indeed receive a crown of life at the first resurrection!

3) Why didn't those represented by Philadelphia receive any condemnation?

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." Revelation 3:7-13.

As those Christians represented by the message to Smyrna were faithful unto death, who do you think are those other individuals represented by the message to Philadelphia? They would be those who remain faithful to God during the hour of temptation that will try all the world; those who remain faithful while being persecuted by the synagogue of Satan, and who do not deny Christ while all the rest of the world will; those who patiently endure all temptations and trials and yet still hold fast to their faith and crown of life, patiently waiting for the soon coming of their Lord. This shows us that the message to Philadelphia would ultimately represent the 144,000 -- who do not see or taste of death; who remain alive as the only ones still faithful to God on the earth during the time of Jacob's trouble; who have the synagogue of Satan come and bow at their feet, and who also see their glorious Lord come in the clouds of heaven (see Acts of Apostles, p 531, Selected Messages, book 3, p 427; Review and Herald, April 19, 1870 (vol 1, p 94); Review and Herald, April 29, 1875 (vol 1, p 163); Prophets and Kings, p 227; Great Controversy, p 649-650).

4) Those Christians who are represented by the message to Smyrna and also to Philadelphia are both persecuted by a group of people represented as the synagogue of Satan. This Satanic church is a group of liars who call themselves Jews — or they call themselves the followers of God, but they are actually the servants of the Devil. Who do you think compose this particular group of liars and deceivers who make up Satan's synagogue?

"You think, that those who worship before the saint's feet, (Rev. 3:9), will at last be saved. Here I must differ with you; for God shew me that **this class were professed Adventists, who had fallen away**, and 'crucified to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame.'" Word to the Little Flock, p 12.

Some may believe that these "professed Adventists" spoken above are not Seventh-day Adventists, but are those non-SDAs who made up part of the Advent Movement. But this is not true.

In the 1901 General Conference Session, which was composed of SDA church leadership, SDA delegates, and other SDAs, Ellen White plainly stated the following to all gathered there at 9:00 am, April 4, 1901:

"Do not think that because you are here in Battle Creek [where the GC headquarters was located], God is not supervising the work in any other parts of the field....

"The great army of evil is constantly working to gain the victory for Satan. The synagogue of Satan has come out to contest every step made in the advancement of truth. **Will those who profess to believe the truth join the powers of darkness? You have done it, but not all.**" 1901 General Conference Bulletin, April 5, 1901, p 86.

This means that this Synagogue of Satan, this great army of evil and darkness, also includes Seventh-day Adventists! Thus those liars who make up the Synagogue of Satan are indeed "professed Adventists who had fallen away" from the truth of the 3 angels' messages, yet they still claimed to be the true followers of God, and some of the SDA church leadership has already joined this Satanic group! While those who are indeed the true followers of God, because they live and spread the 3 angels' messages, are persecuted by these Satanic deceivers! But the blindness of these Synagogue of Satan SDAs was their own fault, because they did not love the truth, but instead had pleasure in continuing to live in sin (see 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12).