

# BABYLON – THEN and NOW, part 9 quotes

## 1) The Third Angel's Message ... continued

-- The wrath of God is the literal seven last plagues which will fall upon the wicked and kills them (Revelation 16; Early Writings, p 44, 64, 289-290; Testimonies, vol 5, p 211, 634; vol 9, p 234-235).

-- The non-immortality of the soul (Job 4:17; 1 Timothy 6:15-16; Hebrews 9:27), is the truth that there is only a grave to rest in at death, but there is no hell or purgatory to descend into (1 Corinthians 15:51; Acts 13:36; Psalms 88:10-12; Ecclesiastes 9:5-6). **And the gift of immortality is only given to the righteous at Christ's second coming** (2 Timothy 2:11-12; Job 19:26-27; Revelation 20:4-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Great Controversy, p 549-551, 586-587; Testimonies, vol 1, p 344; Gospel Workers, p 119-120).

-- The Sanctuary in heaven (Great Controversy, p 324-329, 351-353, 398-400, 409-436; Patriarchs and Prophets, p 351-358) contains **2 sacred apartments** (Hebrews 9 & 10) — **the holy place or the first apartment** (Revelation 4:1-5; Hebrews 9:2, 6, 12, 6:19; Leviticus 16:15) **and most holy place or the second apartment** (Revelation 11:19; Hebrews 9:3-5, 7; Psalms 28:2; 1 Kings 6:16, 8:6; 2 Chronicles 5:7; Exodus 40:3).

-- Christ's work of atonement is currently taking place in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, and it began on October 22, 1844 when the end of the 2300 days/year prophecy of Daniel 8, and will not end until Christ finishes His work just prior to His coming (Great Controversy, p 400, 419-422; Early Writings, p 251-254; Bible Commentary, vol 7, p 933; Patriarchs and Prophets, p 355-358; Testimonies, vol 5, p 472-473).

-- Christ is the Head or first Minister of His church (Bible Commentary, vol 6, p 1083; Acts of Apostles, p 360; Selected Messages, book 1, p 93; Testimonies, vol 1, p 78; vol 4, p 393; Desire of Ages, p 288; Sons and Daughters of God, p 303), **is also our High Priest and Mediator between God and mankind** (Hebrews 7, 8 & 10; Bible Commentary, vol 5, p 1145; vol 6, p 1061, 1077-1078, 1116; Selected Messages, book 1, p 243, 332).

-- The true church of God is founded only on Christ and His truth (Desire of Ages, p 413; Acts of Apostles, p 175-176, 595-596; Testimonies, vol 9, p 147; Prophets and Kings, p 595-596). The marks of God's true church are listed in Revelation 12:17 and 14:12 — being those who "keep the commandments of God," who have the "faith of Jesus," and who keep the "testimony of Jesus Christ" (Great Controversy, p 453-454) which is "the spirit of prophecy" (Revelation 19:10) or the writings of Ellen G. White (Testimonies to Ministers, p 114; Selected Messages, book 1, p 27, 41; Evangelism, p 257; Testimonies, vol 4, p 13). Hence these writings have their continuing purpose, and are still to be followed today as a guiding light until Christ comes (Selected Messages, book 1, p 48-50; Life Sketches, p 198; Publishing Ministry, p 361; Testimonies, vol 5, p 64, 654, 672-691; vol 3, p 257, 260)!

-- The Righteousness of Christ is the precious conditional gift of His righteous life (Sons and Daughters of God, p 189; Selected Messages, book 1, p 377; Christ's Object Lessons, p 223; Prophets and Kings, p 591; Sons and Daughters of God, p 369) imputed to every repentant sinner by faith (Bible Commentary, vol 6, p 1071-1072; Selected Messages, book 1, p 392, 397, 317, 363; Sons and Daughters of God, p 240; Testimonies, vol 5, p 469; vol 3, p 371-372; Gospel Workers, p 161; Testimonies, vol 8, p 208-209; My Life Today, p 311; Mount of Blessings, p 115-116; Medical Ministry, p 115). This holy covering enables us to be accepted back to God (Patriarchs and Prophets, p 353), and then to receive His grace (Patriarchs and Prophets, p 431; Selected Messages, book 1, p 351). This grace enables us to overcome all sin, perfecting holiness in the fear of God before Christ's second coming (Prophets and Kings, p 175; Testimonies, vol 4, p 567; Testimonies to Ministers, p 92, 150; Testimonies, vol 3, p 528; Desire of Ages, p 555-556; Selected Messages, book 1, p 395; Acts of Apostles, p 531; Sons and Daughters of God, p 315; Testimonies, vol 5, p 744). In order to become perfect we must use our will power to take the first step in obedience to God before His grace comes to help us overcome (Joshua 3:13, 15-17; My Life Today, p 100), and Christ's righteousness is imparted to us (Bible Commentary, vol 7, p 972; Evangelism, p 596; Bible Commentary, vol 6, p 1096; Selected Messages, book 1, p 241; Testimonies to Ministers, p 92; Messages to Young People, p 35; Desire of Ages, p 439). This truth teaches us that the law of God is still binding upon the Christian today, and Christ's keeping of it does not free us from having to keep it also (Testimonies to Ministers, p 94; Sons and Daughters of God, p 240; Testimonies to Ministers, p 131; Bible Commentary, vol 6, p 1073). It also teaches us that perfection is not instantaneous (Sanctified Life, p 10, 92; Messages to Young People, p 114; Testimonies, vol 3, p 325; vol 8, p 312-313; vol 1, p 340; vol 2, p 472; Acts of Apostles, p 560-561; Bible Commentary, vol 7, p 947; Christ's Object Lessons, p 65-66; Selected Messages, book 1, p 317), but is progressive throughout our lifetime as we strive to advance upward on the straight and narrow pathway to heaven (Acts of Apostles, p 533, 560-561; Testimonies, vol 2, p 170, 408-409, 479; Messages to Young People, p 73, 144-145; Selected Messages, book 1, p 28; Fundamentals of Christian Education, p 218; Christ's Object Lessons, p 315; Bible Commentary, vol 5, p 1085; Testimonies to Ministers, p 150). This shows us that while we are on the earth, no one is yet saved, or even should say or feel that they are saved, until they actually make it into heaven (Selected Messages, book 1, p 314; book 3, p 354). Christ's robe of righteousness will not cover any unrighteousness nor even a single unconfessed sin, because no one can find salvation in Jesus while knowingly continuing to live in sin (Faith I Live By, p 113; Christ's Object Lessons, p 312; Review and Herald, vol 2, p 232; Signs of the Times, vol 2, p 307; vol 3, p 363; Selected Messages, book 1, p 396; Lift Him Up, p 150; Bible Commentary, vol 6, p 1072; Desire of Ages, p 555-556).

-- The Seventh-day or Saturday is the only Lord's day of worship as the Sabbath (Genesis 2:2-3; Revelation 1:10; Testimonies, vol 6, p 128). It is the sign or seal of God between Him and His people (Ezekiel 20:12, 20), and there is no biblical truth supporting a change to Sunday as the Lord's day (Exodus 20:8-11; Hebrews 4:3-11; Ezekiel 20:12-20; 1 Chronicles 17:27). This means that we must keep the Sabbath holy in obedience to God if we would see heaven (Early Writings, p 37; Desire of Ages, p 206; Testimonies, vol 8, p 196-198; Great Controversy, p 455; Testimonies, vol 6, p 349; Prophets and Kings, p 182; Bible Commentary, vol 7, p 949; Testimonies, vol 3, p 392; Evangelism, p 290; Testimonies, vol 1, p 532; vol 2, p 705; Life Sketches, p 117-118).

## 2) What does the SDA church teach today about the wrath of God being the seven last plagues?

"The third angel of Revelation 14 warns that in the end the wrath of God, unmixed with mercy, will be poured out on the heads of unrepentant sinners....God gives up such people and turns them over to the results of their rebelliousness....Since faith and love cannot be forced, what else can God do but sadly give up those who reject Him?

"God's wrath...**is His turning away in loving disappointment** from those who do not want Him, thus leaving them to the inevitable consequences of their own rebellious choice.

"Such [is] a picture of God's wrath..." Signs of the Times, July, 1978, p 19.

## 3) What does the SDA church teach today about the non-immortality of the soul?

The Bible declares that "the soul that sins, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:20). But the SDA church teaches that no one can overcome all sin, and yet God will not destroy you, but will make you perfect and take you to heaven giving you eternal life anyway. That's immortality of the soul -- you can disobey God, but not die!

"...**I will always fall short** of my potential....Those who are hungering and thirsting after righteousness...[are] striving after an elusive goal..." Adventist Review, December 6, 1984, p 6.

"...**we cannot live without sinning.**" The Return of Elijah, p 95, by Morris L. Venden, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1982.

"We are sinners. **We will be sinners until Jesus comes, and sinners cannot produce obedience**....All we can do is to give up ever hoping to produce any real obedience." Faith That Works, p 175, by Morris L. Venden, Review & Herald Publishing Association, 1980.

"...if we die to sin at conversion, are we going to sin anymore? We will **continue to sin as Christians**--not because we want to, but because we're human." Voice of Prophecy News, May, 1985, p 2-3, H.M.S. Richards, Jr.

"We should remember that **only when Jesus comes can we be made perfect.**" Ministry, December, 1965, p 9.

This specious immortality of the soul falsehood has also been applied to the SDA church to excuse and justify her continued apostasy and rejection of God's truth.

"...God's remnant church is Laodicea which undeniably has its problems. But no less sure is God's offered remedy...The promise that Christ at His coming will 'present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.'" Adventist Review, March 7, 1991, p 10.

#### **4) What does the SDA church teach today about there being only a grave, but no hell to descend into?**

"...[the] Apostles' Creed, states: 'I believe in God the Father...and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord, who...suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. **He descended to hell**, the third day rose again from the dead, ascended to heaven...'

"To this confession...which in principle goes back to the second century A.D., The Seventh-day Adventist Christian can say whole heartedly, 'Amen!'" Adventist Review, June 10, 1982, p 4 .

#### **5) What does the SDA church teach today about the gift of immortality being given only when Christ comes?**

"The Bible presents eternal life as **a present endowment of salvation**....Not just later, but now." Signs of the Times, May, 1992, p 11.

"If we accept His [Christ's] gospel and believe that the Father is as He represented Him, we have already entered into eternal life." Adventist Review, October 8, 1992, p 9. (Another statement along this same line: Adventist Review, August 11, 1983, p 7).

**6) What does the SDA church teach today about the Sanctuary in heaven with 2 apartments--the holy place and most holy place?**

"There is a sanctuary in heaven...In it Christ ministers on our behalf...In 1844, at the end of the prophetic period of 2300 days, He entered **the second and last phase** of His atoning ministry." 27 Fundamental Doctrines, p 312 (#23).

This statement removes the words "most holy place" that were used in the other statements dealing with the fundamental beliefs of SDA's (1872 #10, 1912 #10), and replaced it with the words "second and last phase." (Another article not mentioning two apartments while discussing the Heavenly Sanctuary: Adventist Review, Feb 16, 1984, p 7-8).

**7) What does the SDA church teach today about Christ's work of atonement going on in the most holy place (2nd apartment of heavenly sanctuary) which began on October 22, 1844 at the ending of the 2300 days, and not final until He finishes His work just prior to His second coming?**

"...the sacrificial act on the cross--a complete, perfect, and **final atonement** for man's sin....That is the Adventist understanding of the atonement..." Ministry, February, 1957, p 10, 44.

"...the Act of Atonement was **completed on the Cross...**" Movement of Destiny, p 505, by Leroy Edwin Froom, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1971.

"Atonement **has been completed...**" Adventist Review, February 16, 1984, p 7.

"The atonement, or reconciliation, was completed on the cross...and the penitent believer can trust in the **finished work** of our Lord." 27 Fundamental Doctrines, p 315.

"Today Seventh-day Adventist do teach that complete sacrificial atonement was made on the cross. But our pioneers generally did not believe that atonement was made at the cross." The Sanctuary and the Atonement, p 586, by The Biblical Research Committee of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Review & Herald Publishing Association, 1981.

(Other statements along this same line: Adventist Review, Nov 6, 1986, p 18; 27 Fundamental Doctrines, p 106; Adventist Review, January 6, 1983, p 3; Adventist Review, February 7, 1985, p 9; Adventist Review, March 5, 1992, p 11 (p 251)).

This new position was in direct contradiction to the mass of pioneer literature and inspired Testimonies dealing with the truth of the atonement being ongoing. So to remedy this, the SDA church published this statement:

"When, therefore, one hears an Adventist say, or reads in Adventist literature--even in the writings of Ellen G. White--that Christ is making atonement now, it should be understood that **we mean simply** that Christ is now making application of the benefits of the sacrificial atonement He made on the cross." Questions On Doctrines, p 354-355, by Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1957.

Since the SDA church has changed this truth about the atonement, and is teaching that it was completed on the cross, they must deal with the issue that only a priest can make atonement. Christ was not acting as a priest when He was on earth (Hebrews 8:4), and thus the atonement could not have been made and completed on the cross. But what does the SDA church now teach about this?

"...during His earthly ministry Christ was **both priest and offering**. His death on the cross was part of His priestly work." 27 Fundamental Doctrines, p 53.

## **8) What does the SDA church teach today about Christ being the only Head or first Minister of His church, also our high Priest, and Mediator between God and man?**

"Elder Robert H. Pierson is the president of the General Conference and, as such **the first minister of the Seventh-day Adventist church....including myself as its first minister.**" Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (US Government) vs Pacific Press Publishing Association (SDA Church), Civ #74-2025 CBR.

If the first minister or head of the SDA church is not Christ, but is the General Conference president, then who is our high priest and mediator between God and man?

"We see here that his [Aaron's] principle responsibility was to act as mediator, as a link between the holy and profane, between God and man....In like manner the [SDA] minister of the Gospel today is the high priest....**Today we [SDA ministers] are the high priests....What a tremendous responsibility to act as mediators between God and man!**" Ministry, December, 1961, p 27, 29.

Thus the SDA church leadership of today casts Christ away and replaces Him with themselves!