

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISM



by
John R Ecob
for
The Herald of Hope Inc.



SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISM WEIGHED AND FOUND WANTING

by
John R. Ecob D.D.
Editor of the Herald of Hope
Email:jrecob@netwit.net.au

Published by
the editorial committee of
the Herald of Hope magazine
PO Box 4216, Marayong, NSW 2148
Australia
© John R Ecob 2004

Index

Introduction.....	1
<i>The Doctrine of the Sanctuary - Mrs White Inspired? - Soul Sleep - Annihilation of the Lost -The Year/Day Theory - Replacement Theology - No “Mystery” Church - A Long Tribulation - The Papacy as the Antichrist - Sunday the Mark of the Beast</i>	
The Great Disappointment.....	5
<i>SDA Interpretation of Daniel 8 - The Correct Interpretation of Daniel 8</i>	
SDA Doctrine of the Cleansing of the Sanctuary.....	13
<i>Yom Kippur - the Day of Atonement, Satan a Sin-bearer? - What is Christ Doing Now? - The Everlasting Gospel</i>	
Sunday Worship as the Mark of the Beast.....	21
<i>Did the Martyrs all Perish? - When Did Sunday Worship Begin? - The Testimony of the Early Church Fathers</i>	
Is the Papacy the Antichrist?.....	26
1,260 Years of Papal Domination?.....	27
<i>Did the Papacy Lose its Power in 1798? - Did the Papacy Assume Secular Power in AD 538? - The Truth about the 1,260 Days</i>	
The Ten Horns of the Beast. What are They?.....	31
Five Tests for SDA Doctrine.....	35
<i>Interpret Literally - Rightly Divide the Word - The Year/Day Theory - The Interpretation of Symbols - Historical Fulfilments - Conclusion - What Should I Do?</i>	

Introduction

Seventh Day Adventism is seeking to gain acceptance among Evangelicals, and many of their publications have the appearance of sound doctrine. Their practice is, however, to begin with teaching Truth in order gain the confidence of the student, and then to introduce false teaching which has characterized the movement since its beginning in 1844.

The Doctrine of the Sanctuary

At the heart of Seventh Day Adventism is the “doctrine of the sanctuary”, which was introduced by the false prophetess Ellen G.White in her book *The Great Controversy*, and expounded by James Edison White in *The Coming King*. We shall see that this iniquitous doctrine makes Satan the ultimate sin-bearer, and not our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a denial of the sufficiency of Christ’s sacrifice, and is therefore an attack on the Gospel of Jesus Christ which is the only way of salvation for mankind.

Mrs White Inspired?

Many SDAs consider the writings of Mrs White to be inspired and believe she was a prophetess who spoke from God. This is a serious error in itself, and brings her under the judgment of God for adding to the completed Word of God(Rev.22:18).

Soul Sleep

Mrs White unashamedly denies the immortality of the soul. She states that the saved at death “do not go immediately to heaven”(Ch28 page 271). Of course they couldn’t if, as they teach, Christ does not finish His investigation of their records until the Second Coming. In fact they can’t even be sure of heaven until that investigation is complete, according to her theology. SDAs struggle with any assurance of salvation as they await Christ’s verdict on whether they are “worthy” to participate in the first resurrection of the just. But where does she believe the soul goes after death? Neither does she believe that the souls of unsaved go to hell.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians of an experience he had and referred to himself in the third person. He wasn’t sure whether he had actually died and entered heaven, or was given a vision of heaven. He described his experience as either “*in the body*”, or “*out of the body*”, “*Such an one caught up to the third heaven*”(2 Cor.12:1-4). He had already told them that

“...if our earthly house (body) of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens”.

SDA Weighed and Wanting

Furthermore,

"...whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord...willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (2Cor.5:1-8).

If Mrs White is right, and there is no conscious state after death, we have to ask how Moses and Elias appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration without resurrection bodies and talked to the Lord (Matt.17:1-3), or how the deceased Samuel appeared and talked with King Saul, telling him, *"...tomorrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me"* (1Sam.28:14-15, 19). How did Jesus spend three days and nights with the penitent thief in paradise (Luke 23:43) if there is no consciousness after death? The rich man in hell cried to Abraham, *"I am tormented in this flame"*, while Lazarus was comforted in paradise (Luke 16:19-31).

Annihilation of the Lost

So far as the unsaved are concerned, Mrs White doesn't believe they go to hell at death, but says that after the second resurrection they will simply be burned up after being punished. Thus she denies the Biblical doctrine of eternal torment, and calls it "heresy" (Ch 3 page 38). Jesus spoke of a place of outer darkness where there is *"weeping and gnashing of teeth"* (Matt.8:12), not cessation of existence. John wrote of the unsaved:

"The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God...and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb...for ever and ever" (Rev.14:10-11).

The Beast and False Prophet will be cast into the lake of fire when Christ returns, and Satan will join them 1,000 years later. Satan is not annihilated, but will be *"tormented day and night for ever and ever"* (Rev.20:10).

The Year/Day Theory

In the area of Bible prophecy the SDA movement has adopted the errors of the "year/day" theory. It has assumed it can change days to years, when Scripture clearly means "days". The 2,300 days of Daniel 8, and the 1,260 days of Revelation 11, 12, and 13 are changed to years. We shall see that in this regard they have followed the teaching of William Miller.

Arising out of the blunder of William Miller that Christ would return in 1843 or 1844, which the SDA Movement calls the "great disappointment", came Mrs White's explanation that produced the

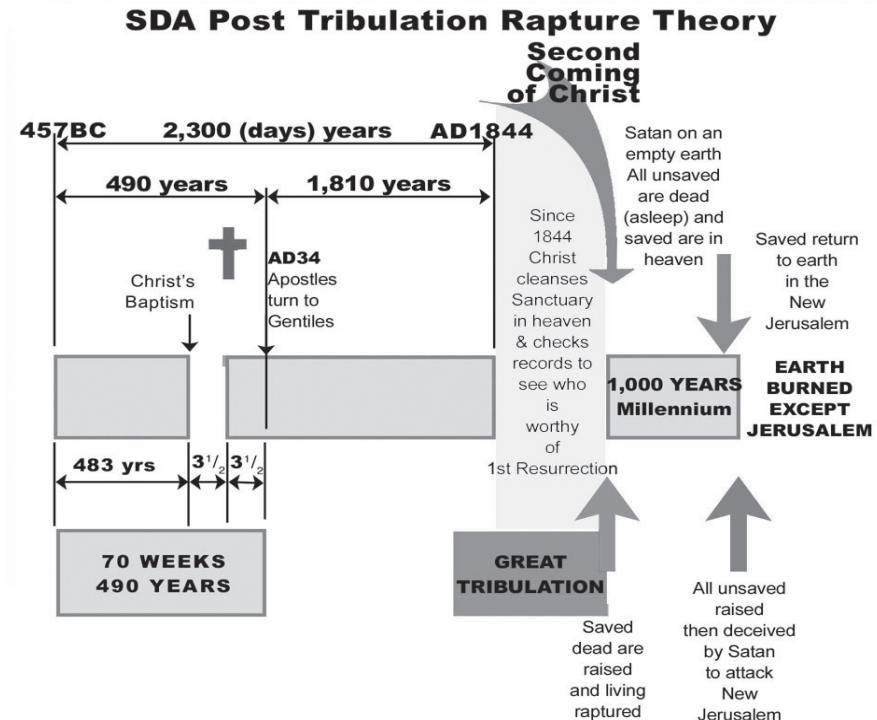
doctrines of the “cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven” and the “investigatory judgments”. These doctrines have no Biblical foundation whatsoever, and actually make Satan our sin-bearer! We will discuss this blasphemous teaching later.

Replacement Theology

Seventh Day Adventism has its own brand of Replacement Theology. It has no place for Israel in God’s plan in the Last Days, and sees the Millennium as a thousand years following the second coming of Christ during which **nobody will be on the earth but the Devil!**

Instead of the Millennium being a time of blessing for Israel and the nations under Christ’s universal reign, as Scripture teaches, SDAs believe the earth will be a desolate wilderness occupied only by the Devil. The bottomless pit (abyss) in which Satan is bound for 1,000 years (Rev.20:2-3) apparently does not exist.

They have no alternative but to believe this, because they hold that



SDA Weighed and Wanting

all the ungodly will be slain at the second coming of Christ and all the saved will either be raptured or raised. If this was the case, there wouldn't be anybody left on earth to inhabit the millennial kingdom!

No "Mystery" Church

Regarding the Church, SDAs are utterly confused and have missed the unique "mystery" character of the Body and Bride of Christ as distinct from Israel and the Gentiles. They don't understand Eph. 3:1-9; Rom.16:25-26; Col. 1:24-28 and Rom. 11:1-36.

A Long Tribulation

The Great Tribulation, according to James Edison White in his book *The Coming King* page 127, has been going on for hundreds of years, whereas Scripture makes it abundantly clear that it will occupy only a short period of 7 years immediately prior to the second coming of Christ (Dan.9:24-27; Matt.24:7-29). Antichrist's reign will extend for only 42 months (Rev.13:5), and the Devil will come down "*having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a SHORT TIME*" (Rev.12:12).

Two Jewish prophets will preach at Jerusalem for 1,260 days before they are martyred (Rev.11:1-13), and Jesus gave details of the Tribulation as the sign of the "*END of the world*" (age) (Matt.24:3).

The Papacy as the Antichrist

Concerning Antichrist who will appear during the great Tribulation and be destroyed at Christ's coming, SDAs believe the papacy **as a system** is Antichrist, instead of an individual called "*the man of sin*" (2Thess.2:3), as stated by Paul.

Sunday as the Mark of the Beast

Antichrist's False Prophet is said to be America, which they claim will issue an edict in the Last Days compelling everybody on pain of death to worship on Sundays. Those who obey this edict will be receiving the "mark of the beast", according to SDAs.



This picture of the American bison is taken from an SDA publication entitled *The Sunday Law Times*, and is meant to represent the "*false prophet*", the second beast of Rev.13:11-18, but the Bible states that the second beast had "*two horns like a lamb*" (Rev.13:11), not a bison.

The “Great Disappointment”

The SDA movement was preceded by one, William Miller, in the United States. He was a farmer who, at the age of 34 years, professed to become a Christian. For years he studied his Bible and began to preach what he believed to be true, travelling from city to city and gathering a following.

Miller taught that Christ would come again in 1843. When 1843 passed and Christ did not appear, he revised his calculations and determined that Christ would come in the autumn of 1844. When this prediction failed, he renounced his views.

This is referred to as “the great disappointment” by SDAs, but the occasion was used to launch the Seventh Day Adventist Movement. Today it is a large organization with extensive interests in the manufacture of Sanitarium Health Food products and in Health Care.

As their name implies, SDAs adhere to observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, and insist that to worship the Lord on Sunday is to receive the “mark of the beast”, which they identify with the papacy.

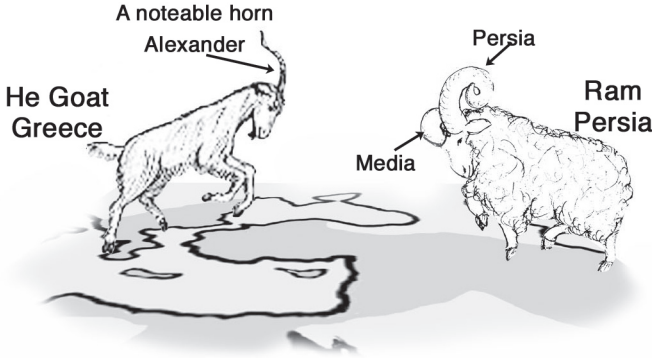
SDA Interpretation of Daniel 8

The Scriptures upon which William Miller based his theory that Christ would return in 1844 are found in Daniel 8 and 9. He failed to understand the fact that Daniel 8 was already fulfilled in the days of Antiochus Epiphanes (165BC), and his calculations of the 70 “weeks” prophecy in Daniel 9 showed a lack of knowledge of history and a failure to accurately exegete each word of Daniel’s prophecy.

Miller chose the wrong start and finish dates for the 70 “weeks” prophecy, totally missed the obvious gap between the 69th and 70th “week”, and then linked the prophecy of Daniel 9 to the prophecy of Daniel 8, which had already been fulfilled nearly 200 years before the 69th “week”. Underlying all his erroneous interpretation was the year/day theory, by which he took prophecies of “days” and arbitrarily changed them into “years” without any justification from Scripture. His, and SDA views, are shown in the diagram on page 3.

The grossly erroneous “doctrine of the sanctuary” was developed by Ellen G. White in an effort to explain the blunder of Miller’s prophecy, after he had left the organization

SDA Weighed and Wanting



The SDA Interpretation of Daniel 8

The vision given to Daniel in chapter 8 of his prophecy begins with a ram pushing westward which is met by an he goat coming with great fury from the west. The goat has one large horn between its eyes.

In the ensuing battle the he goat breaks both horns of the ram and becomes great. However, when he is strong the great horn of the he goat is broken, and in its place there arise **four horns**; out of one of these appears a "little horn" which exercises power toward the south (Egypt), the east (Babylonia and Persia), and toward the pleasant land (Israel).

The "little horn" magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down" (Dan.8:11).

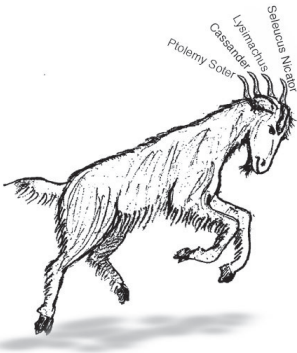
One of the "saints" asks another "saint",

"How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?"

The answer is:

"Two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed" (Dan.8:14).

The interpretation given by Gabriel is that the ram represents the kings of Media and Persia, and the goat is the king of Grecia. The **great horn** is the first king of Greece (Alexander the Great). The prophecy is that Alexander would break the power of Persia and hold sway over the earth,



The "Great Disappointment"

but when the great horn had attained supremacy he would be broken and in his place would appear "*four notable ones*".

Then in the latter stages of the four Grecian kingdoms a "*little horn*" would appear, which would arise peaceably but exercise power toward Egypt and the "*pleasant land*" (Israel).

This little horn was undoubtedly the Seleucid king, Antiochus Epiphanes (175 - 163BC), who fits the description in every detail. His worst activity was that he "*magnified himself to the prince of the host*" (Dan.8:11) and took over the Temple in Jerusalem causing the daily sacrifice to cease. He sacrificed a pig and sprinkled its broth throughout the Temple. He placed an idol on the great altar and erected idols throughout the land.

A period of 2,300 **days** is given as the time before the sanctuary would be cleansed, and this period has been wrongly interpreted by SDAs as 2,300 **years**. This has led to the development of the erroneous "*doctrine of the sanctuary*", which is the basis of SDA eschatology.

William Miller claimed that the visions of Daniel 8 and 9 were linked, and that the 70 "*weeks*" or "*sevens*" (490 years) of Daniel 9 were in fact the first element of a 2,300-year period that would culminate in the second advent of Christ.

We have to ask whether the prophecy states that Christ would come after the 2,300 days, and the answer is, Absolutely not! Daniel was simply told that the sanctuary (the Jewish temple) would be cleansed after being defiled (by Antiochus Epiphanes). That is certainly not the second advent of Christ.

In changing 2,300 days to 2,300 years, when there was not the slightest suggestion that this was the case, Miller was following the year/day theory. If God meant 2,300 years, He could just as easily have stated it, but He said it was "*days*".

In fact the Hebrew word translated "*days*" is specific. Had the Hebrew word "*yome*" been used, it could have been interpreted, subject to context, as a period of time. However, two words, "*ereb*" and "*boqer*", are used to denote "*evenings and mornings*". The Holy Spirit left absolutely no room for changing the 2,300 evenings and mornings into years!

The next error of William Miller and the Seventh Day Adventists is to link the prophecy of Daniel 8 to the prophecy of Daniel 9. The

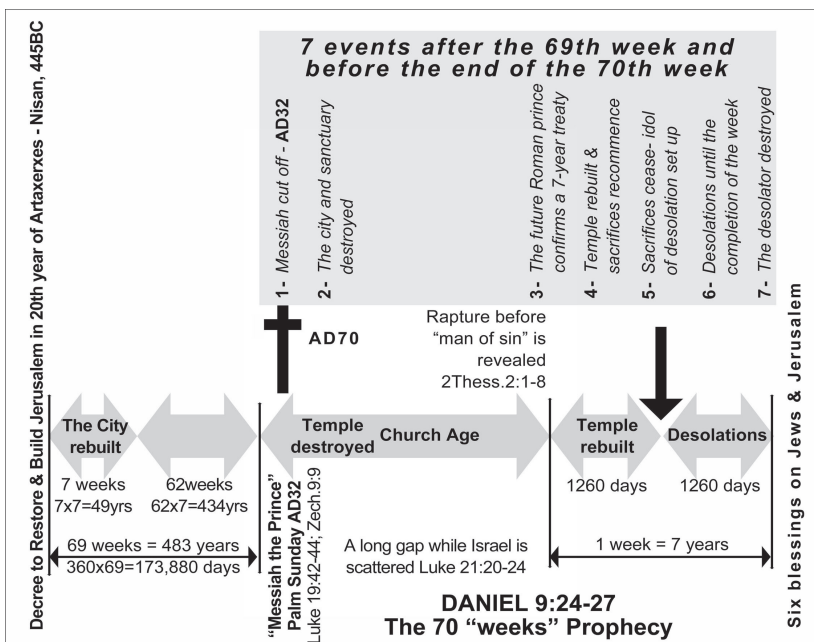
SDA Weighed and Wanting

first was given in the third year of Belshazzar, and the second in the first year of Darius the Mede. They were given years apart, and the first is about the kings of Persia and Grecia, while the second is about the Jews and Jerusalem.

Having wrongly assumed that the 2,300 days of Daniel's prophecy are 2,300 years, Miller placed the start of his period of 2,300 years at the beginning of the 490 years of Daniel's "70 weeks". He assumed that because Gabriel gave both prophecies they must both start at the same time! His conclusion is neither logical nor Scriptural, and can easily be proven incorrect.

The 2,300 days of Daniel 8 began when Antiochus Epiphanes, the "little horn" (175BC to 163BC), interfered with the worship in the the Jewish sanctuary (temple) in 171BC. The 70 "weeks" prophecy of Dan.9 began in the 20th year of Artaxerxes I when the decree was given to rebuild **the city of Jerusalem (445BC)**, as recorded in Nehemiah chapter 2.

The book, *Timetables of History*, by Bernard Grun, places the reign of Artaxerxes I at 465BC to 424BC, which would make the 20th year of Artaxerxes I, when Nehemiah says the decree was issued, 445BC. The two start dates are 274 years apart! (445-171=274 years)



The "Great Disappointment"

The next error Miller made is that he chose the wrong date for the 20th year of Artaxerxes I. Instead of 445BC he chose 457BC, which would have been the 7th year of Artaxerxes I. The reason for this error is obvious; he thought the 70 "weeks" of Daniel ch.9 ended in AD 34 because he incorrectly dated the death of Christ at AD30, and wrongly placed the death of Christ at the middle of the 70th "week" instead of after the 69th "week". He simply counted backward 490 years from AD 34 and arrived at 457BC. He then assumed that 457BC must have been the 20th year of Artaxerxes I. History says otherwise.

Miller and Mrs White also erred in the method used to calculate the 490 years of the prophecy of Daniel 9. They used the Gregorian calendar of 365.24 days per year, whereas Bible prophecy always uses 360-day years ($3\frac{1}{2}$ prophetic years = 42months = 1,260 days, but $3\frac{1}{2}$ years on the Gregorian calendar would be 1,278.34 days!).

Not only did Miller get the start date for the 70 "weeks" wrong, but he also got the finish date wrong. He assumed that the 70 "weeks" ended $3\frac{1}{2}$ years after the crucifixion of Christ, which he placed at the mid-point of the 70th "week". However, Daniel 9:26 clearly states that Messiah is "*cut off*" AFTER the 69th "week" (483 prophetic years) and BEFORE the 70th "week" begins, not halfway through the 70th "week". The "*city and the sanctuary*" are also destroyed AFTER the 69th "week", and we know this happened in AD 70. The 70th "week" obviously did not follow immediately after the 69th "week"; there has to be a gap in time.

The 70th "week" ends with "*everlasting righteousness*" on **Jerusalem and Daniel's people**, the Jews, and by no stretch of imagination could we believe that Israel was so blessed in AD34 as SDAs suggest; in fact, the opposite was true. Israel rejected Messiah and crucified Him in AD32, and during the next 40 years persecuted all who named the name of Christ. Paul, writing to the Romans in AD60 said, "*as concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes*" (Rom.11:28).

Miller totally missed the gap between the 69th and 70th "week". In this gap Messiah is "*cut off*", and 38 years later (AD70) the "*city and the sanctuary*" are destroyed by the Romans! During this gap the whole Church Age, which already has lasted for nearly 2,000 years, has to run its course. God turned to the Gentile Church after the Jews rejected Messiah, as Paul indicated in Acts 28:28.

The putting aside of Israel during this Church Age gap is taught in detail in Romans chapter 11, where Paul states that Israel's

SDA Weighed and Wanting

“blindness in part” will continue “until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in”; only after that event will “all Israel be saved” (Rom.11:25-26). Miller totally missed the parenthesis in Daniel’s prophecy, between the 69th and 70th “weeks”.

Miller also had the finish date for the 69th “week” wrong. He placed it at the baptism of Jesus Christ instead of Palm Sunday. Daniel states that the 69th “week” would conclude with the presentation of *“Messiah the Prince”*. He thus signified that Christ would present Himself as **“the Prince”** to Israel, and not just as *“Messiah”*, at the end of the 69th “week”. We know it was on Palm Sunday that Zech.9:9 was fulfilled:

*“Behold, **thy King cometh unto thee**...riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass” (Zech.9:9).*

In Luke’s Gospel the Lord’s entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday is recorded, when He said:

*“If thou hadst known, even thou, at least **in this thy day**...but now they are hid from thine eyes” (Luke19:42).*

This was Israel’s day when Messiah presented Himself as her **King**, but the nation rejected Him.

So Miller had the start date of the 70 “weeks” wrong, the finish date of the 69 “weeks” wrong, and the finish date of the 70th “week” wrong. On top of all this he made it the first segment of another prophecy in Daniel 8, which began in 171BC and has nothing to do with the second coming of Christ, but was fulfilled, according to indisputable historical evidence, on 25 December 165BC. If the prophecy of Daniel 8 was not fulfilled in 165BC, we have to ask, Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedication which recalls the cleansing of the Temple by the Maccabees? (John10:22).

A summary of Miller’s calculation, which is accepted by the SDAs, goes as follows:

- i) If the 70 “weeks” prophecy **finished** in AD34, then counting backwards 490 years it must have begun in 457BC. (We know, however, that it started in the 20th year of Artaxerxes, which was 445BC- Neh 2:1-8)
- ii) Having decided the 2,300 “evenings and mornings” were really 2,300 years, Miller made 457BC the start date for a 2,300-year period which he thought would culminate in the Lord’s return; subtracting 457 from 2,300 he arrived at 1843. Later he adjusted this to 1844.

The "Great Disappointment"

Mrs White agreed with Miller's calculations, and in her book entitled *The Great Controversy*, following page 187 she states:

"In 34AD the 70 weeks, or 490 years, is completed. 1810 years remains to be fulfilled in this longest of Bible time prophecies - the 2,300 year prophecy of Daniel 8:14. At its termination in 1844AD **began the "cleansing of the sanctuary"** predicted in this important passage, Daniel 8:14."

We might ask what this amazing prophecy is in Daniel 8:14? Does it say that the sanctuary would BEGIN to be cleansed?

"And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred DAYS; THEN SHALL THE SANCTUARY BE CLEANSED."

There is all the difference in the world between the words "began the cleansing of the sanctuary" and the words *"THEN shall the sanctuary be cleansed"*.

Whatever way you interpret the 2,300 days, they terminate with the completion of the cleansing of the sanctuary, NOT the commencement of its cleansing.

The Correct Interpretation of Daniel 8

We will now look at the prophecy of Daniel 8 to see what it does teach. Daniel says that in the latter stage of **the Grecian Empire** a "little horn" would arise who would wreak havoc on the Temple and the Jews, and would defile the sanctuary. The question is asked, How long before the sanctuary would be cleansed? The answer was, 2,300 DAYS ("2,300 evenings and mornings").

History identifies this "little horn" as the Selucid king, Antiochus Epiphanes(175BC to 163BC), who was driven out of Israel in 165BC by the Maccabeans. Judas Maccabees cleansed the Temple that same year, and the Jews still keep the Feast of Hanukkah (Dedication) about Christmas time, lighting a nine lamp (eight branch) menorah to celebrate the relighting of the lamps in the Temple on 25 December 165BC, when it was claimed sufficient consecrated oil for one day lasted for eight days.



The question is, When did the 2,300 days begin? Well there were a number of historical events which could be the beginning of Greek defilement of the sanctuary in Jerusalem. On the Gregorian calendar, 2,300 days from 25 December 165BC would be 5 August 171BC, and the question

SDA Weighed and Wanting

arises, Did anything happen on that date? The answer is that we do not have any historical record of a specific interference by Antiochus Epiphanes on that date, however, we do know that about that time Antiochus changed his attitude toward the Jews. Barnes states:

“There commenced in the year 171BC a series of aggressions upon the priesthood, and Temple, and city of the Jews on the part of Antiochus”.

Prior to 171BC, Barnes points out that in the year 175 BC Antiochus granted to the Jews, who desired it, permission to build a gymnasium in Jerusalem.

In the year 173BC Ptolemy Philometor of Egypt claimed the provinces of Coelo-Syria and Palestine, which was the cause of later wars between Antiochus and Egypt.

In 172AD Antiochus bestowed the high-priesthood on Menalaus, who was the brother of Jason the high priest. **In 171BC the lawful high priest, Onias III, was murdered by Antiochus’ vice-regent and the Jews rejected Menalaus for sacrilege. He sold vessels of the Temple to Tyre to pay Antiochus for the priesthood.** The Jews killed Menalaus and his Syrian bodyguard in 171AD, and Barnes’ Commentary on Daniel 8 states:

“Here commenced a series of aggressions upon the priesthood, and the Temple, and the city of the Jews”(page 115).

Although history does not give us a specific date in 171BC for Antiochus’ interference with the worship in the sanctuary, it seems pretty clear that it did occur in 171BC, and that the 2,300 days were literally fulfilled on 25 December 165BC, just as Daniel had foretold in chapter 8 of his prophecy. It has nothing whatsoever to do with the prophecy of Daniel chapter 9.

SDA Doctrine of the Cleansing of the Sanctuary

The tragic result of Miller's blunders is that, although he admitted his error in 1844 when Christ did not appear, others took up his calculations and unwilling to see the errors sought another explanation for the prophecy. They claimed Miller was wrong in expecting Christ to appear in 1844, and they propounded a whole new doctrine of the "sanctuary" which is without Biblical foundation and has in it the seeds of serious error in relation to the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. The following is a summary of the SDA false doctrine of the sanctuary.

1) There would be 2,300 years until the **sanctuary in heaven** was cleansed. We read:

*"Unto two thousand and three hundred days (literally "evenings and mornings"); THEN shall **the sanctuary be cleansed**" (Dan.8:14).*

2) The Great Tribulation is the tribulation that the Church has endured since the time of pagan Rome.

3) James White writes:

The "abomination of desolation ...was the armies of some enemy that would surround the city, besiege it, and finally destroy it" (*The Coming King*, James E. White, page 115); that is, the destruction of Jerusalem in AD70.

4) In 1844 Christ did not come to earth but entered the temple in heaven in order to begin a high-priestly work of investigatory judgment to determine who would be found **worthy** of the resurrection of the just. James E. White writes:

"By confession...the sins of God's people have been transferred to the sanctuary above...a faithful record has been kept in the books in heaven" (*The Coming King*, page 229).

5) This work would be Christ's final task before He returns in glory and power to the earth. James E. White says:

"It prefigured the closing work of the administration of our High Priest in heaven, in the removal or blotting out of the sins of His people, which are registered in the heavenly records" (*The Coming King*, page 229).

6) This work of investigation will continue until Christ comes. When Christ returns He will have fully assessed every human record to determine the eternal future of each person. James E. White states:

"The cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven, which is the

SDA Weighed and Wanting

investigative judgment, began at that time (autumn 1844)...It is the beginning of the end. Its investigations will continue until the case of every individual is settled for time and eternity" (*The Coming King*, page 230)

7) The "mark of the beast", according to James E. White, is keeping Sunday worship instead of Saturday, and will incur the wrath of God. Those who keep the Sabbath are sealed by God. He writes:

"Those who accept this message and are sanctified by it, are sealed for the kingdom...the climax is reached when their obedience to this sealing message has fitted them for translation when Jesus comes. This work of sealing is the culmination of the threefold message of Revelation 14" (*The Coming King*, pages 277-278).

8) When Christ returns all those who were found faithful would be taken to the New Jerusalem; the dead would be raised and the living changed and caught up. Presumably, all the unfaithful will perish when Christ returns.

9) After the first resurrection of the faithful, Satan would be left here on an empty earth with nobody to tempt for 1,000 years. This, they claim, is the "bottomless pit" where Satan will be bound for 1,000 years.

10) At the end of the 1,000 years, the resurrection of the unfaithful would take place and Satan would convince them to attack the New Jerusalem. God will respond with fire from heaven and destroy Satan and all the wicked. This is the false doctrine of eternal **annihilation**.

There is an obvious inconsistency in this doctrine of the 2,300 days till "*the sanctuary be cleansed*". If the days were really years, and 1844 was when Christ **BEGAN** to cleanse the sanctuary in heaven, and if it will not be cleansed until He finishes His work at His second coming as SDAs conclude, doesn't that make it more than 2,300 years till the sanctuary is cleansed? In 2004 it would be an **additional 160 years!** According to their own scheme, the sanctuary should have been cleansed in 1844, at the end of the 2,300 years!

Yom Kippur - The Day of Atonement Satan a Sin-bearer?

SDAs seek to support the false doctrine of the sanctuary by a distortion of the typology of the Day of Atonement. In Leviticus

chapters 16 and 23 we read about this feast which is the most holy day of the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur, celebrated on the 10th day of the 7th month.

On this day each year the high priest made atonement for the sins of the nation. Two goats were taken; one was slain and the other released into a desert place after the sins of Israel were confessed over it. The slain goat's blood was taken into the holiest of all and sprinkled seven times before and on the mercy seat.

The typology is clear. Christ is our High Priest after the order of Mechizadek, who, after shedding His own blood, entered heaven itself, *"having obtained eternal redemption for us"* (Heb.9:12).

The scapegoat is a picture of Christ bearing our sins as far as the east is from the west, never to be remembered against us again.

SDAs believe something quite different. They do not believe in a finished work of redemption by our Lord Jesus Christ, but that He is still dealing with human sin. Their doctrine of the sanctuary teaches that every sin we confess is **transferred to heaven** and is now "defiling" the sanctuary in heaven. Christ is cleansing the sanctuary in heaven, according to the false doctrine of the sanctuary. What blasphemy!

How could the sanctuary in the heavenly temple be the receptacle for the accumulation of human sin when Scripture declares:

"There shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie..." (Rev.21:27).

But there is more: SDAs believe that the scapegoat depicts Satan who will eventually be judged for all the sins of mankind! Ellen G.White writes:

*"While the sin-offering pointed to Christ as a sacrifice, and the high priest represented Christ as a mediator, the scapegoat typified Satan, the author of sin, **upon whom the sins of the truly penitent will finally be placed.** When the high priest, by virtue of the blood of the sin-offering, removed the sins from the sanctuary, he placed them upon the scapegoat. When Christ, by virtue of His own blood, removes the sins of His people from the heavenly sanctuary at the close of His ministration, **He will place them upon Satan, who, in the execution of the judgment, must bear the final penalty** (*The Great Controversy*, page 192).*

So SDAs have two saviours. Christ as the sin-offering dies for our sins, but it is the Devil who bears our sins away. So Christ's blood

SDA Weighed and Wanting

does not cleanse the sinner, but the sanctuary in heaven! Such teaching makes Satan the final sin-bearer, and therefore a part of the work of redemption. Christ ceases to be the sin-bearer, and is only the mediator between us and Satan to arrange for our sins to be judged in Satan! Personally, I need only ONE Saviour. The men of Sychar said to the woman of Samaria, *"This is indeed the Christ, THE Saviour of the world"* (John 4:42).

God says:

*"I, even I, am the LORD; and **beside me there is no saviour**"*
(Isa.43:11).

Peter preached:

*"Neither is there salvation **in any other**: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"*
(Acts 4:12).

We must also ask how heaven can be defiled by sin, that Jesus should have to cleanse it? Scripture says that:

"There shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie" (Rev.21:27).

What Seventh Day Adventists teach is *"another gospel"*, of a different sort from the true Gospel of the grace of God (Gal.1:6-9). Christ's death on the cross was a completed work, but the false gospel is yet to be completed at the end of the age, when it teaches that Satan finally bears the wrath of God for our sin. What blasphemy! No wonder SDAs struggle with the assurance of salvation.

Peter says that Christ bore our sins:

*"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body **ON THE TREE**"*
(1Peter 2:24).

Isaiah states:

*"The LORD hath laid **ON HIM** the iniquity of us all"* (Isa.53:6).

Satan has his own sin, and he cannot be a substitute for others. The whole nature of God's redemptive work is that a SINLESS SUBSTITUTE must bear the sin of the guilty. Paul wrote:

*"For he hath made him to be sin for us, **who knew no sin**"* (2Cor.5:21).

The sacrifices had to be *"without blemish"*, yet Seventh Day Adventist doctrine has chosen the greatest of all sinners, Satan, to be the final substitute to bear the punishment for our sin.

Furthermore, by attributing all of our sins to Satan it could be interpreted that we are not responsible for our sins. In other words,

Satan is the originator of all human sin, for if all sin is placed on Satan he must be guilty of them, or else God is unjustly punishing Satan for sins for which I alone am guilty. Perhaps Mrs White did not believe that we have a sinful nature which can sin independently of Satan. If she did believe that, then she had to believe that Satan is a substitute sin-bearer, otherwise God is unjust in punishing Satan for sins not his own. The very honour of God is at stake.

Thus SDAs have used typology to build their false doctrine of the sanctuary. The "types" are shadows and not the substance, and to make the shadow the substance is an extremely dangerous method of hermeneutics (Biblical interpretation). Where, in Scripture, do we find the slightest indication of the substance of this doctrine of the sanctuary? It is no less than an attempt to justify a massive blunder in prophetic interpretation. They had affirmed that Christ would appear in the autumn of 1844, and the movement was greatly embarrassed when He did not come. The leader of the movement was honest enough to admit his error, but others went into "repair mode" to salvage something from the debris of their miscalculation. Thus we have, thanks to the "year/day" theory, the delusion of the "doctrine of the sanctuary".

The doctrine of the sanctuary adds works to faith for salvation, for they see those who have part in the resurrection of the "just" as the faithful who have been found "worthy". The Bible teaches that people are NOT saved because they are faithful or worthy. Jesus finished the work on the cross. Christ alone saves!

No works of merit now I plead,
But Jesus take for all my need;
No righteousness in me is found,
Except upon redemption ground.

SDAs cannot ever be sure of their eternal salvation, for if Christ is checking their record out, how do they know if He will place them among the "just"? Yet the Bible says:

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

What is Christ Doing Now?

The SDA teaching of the cleansing of the sanctuary cannot be found in the Bible. It is a new doctrine propounded by Mrs Ellen G White to excuse the massive blunder in prophetic prediction which had

SDA Weighed and Wanting

led the Millerites to expect Christ to return in 1843, and then in 1844. Miller's error was one of interpretation of Scripture, but Mrs White's error added a claim to a new revelation from God.

Scripture was complete when John penned the last verses of the Book of Revelation, and some of his final words warned against adding to divine revelation, but Mrs White has introduced a teaching which is foreign to anything ever recorded in the Word of God. John wrote:

"If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book" (Rev.22:18).

What then does the Bible teach about Christ's work in heaven? Are our sins transferred to the sanctuary in heaven for examination? and do we have to wait till the second coming of Christ before we can be sure of a place in the resurrection to life?

John records:

*"If any man sin, we have **an advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1John 2:1).*

Christ's work in heaven is that of an advocate, or intercessor, and not a judge in relation to His people. The Greek word translated "advocate" is *parakletos* meaning "intercessor, consoler", and is the same word used in John 14:16 translated "Comforter".

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead representing Christ in the believer on earth, and Christ the Righteous One is our intercessor in heaven before the throne of God.

"The Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us..." (Rom.8:26).

What does Christ plead before the Father? He pleads the virtues of His own sacrifice on the cross, where He *"bare our sins in his own body on the tree"*. His work in heaven is not one of examination, but one of intercession.

The whole concept of Christ taking more than 150 years to check out the record of individuals is absurd. The omniscient Son of God knows all things, and nothing is hid from Him! He doesn't need 150 years or more to determine the destiny of souls.

The Epistle to the Hebrews describes the Lord Jesus as our Great High Priest, and indicates that He is performing a ministry of intercession:

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Heb.7:25).

It is clear from these Scriptures that the Bible teaches Christ's work in heaven is that of an advocate and intercessor with the Father on behalf of His people, and for anyone to suggest that Christ is involved in investigative judgment of the sins of believers would be a denial of the sufficiency of the finished work of redemption.

*"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; from henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For **by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified**" (Heb.10:12-14).*

The child of God needs no investigative judgment to determine his fitness to participate in the first resurrection for he already is "in Christ", has the righteousness of Christ imputed to him, is justified freely from all things, and has been perfected forever by Christ's sacrifice. In addition, he has been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise unto the day of redemption. The SDA doctrine of the sanctuary is a blasphemous error which robs the individual of any assurance of salvation, and which, like all false religions, promotes a works-based system of salvation.

The Everlasting Gospel

It was one thing for Miller to have a detail about Bible prophecy wrong, but it is heresy to teach another gospel which influences the personal salvation of individuals. SDAs do believe that this doctrine of the sanctuary and the Sabbath is a new gospel. They teach that it is the *"everlasting gospel"*, which has to be preached by them to all the world AFTER 1844 and until Christ returns.

In Revelation 14 we read of the 144,000 Jewish *"servants of God"* who are sealed by God at the beginning of the Great Tribulation (Rev.7:1-3). By the mid-point of the 7-year Tribulation they are before the throne in heaven, obviously martyred. During the first 3½ years they preach the gospel of the kingdom in all the world as a witness (Matt.24:14), however, when their testimony is silenced, God sends an angel to proclaim the *"everlasting gospel"* during the second half of the Tribulation (Rev.14:6-11).

The message of the angel is:

"Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" (Rev.14:7).

SDA Weighed and Wanting

Two other angels follow, declaring to the world:

1) *"Babylon is fallen, is fallen..."*(Rev.14:8).

2) *"If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God..."*(Rev.14:8-11).

The Everlasting Gospel is God's final warning to the world halfway through the 7 years of Great Tribulation, and has nothing to do with this Church Age. When Antichrist has silenced human testimony on earth and is demanding the worship of all mankind, three angels cry aloud, "Worship God...don't worship the Antichrist! The consequences are eternal punishment!"

Having wrongly identified the papacy as the Antichrist, SDAs believe that it is their mission since 1844 to give a "last-days" warning to the world not to keep Sunday, which they claim is the "mark of the beast". Their gospel, however, is not the everlasting gospel, but *"another gospel"*, which would have us believe that heaven is defiled by our sin and needs cleansing, and that Satan is the ultimate sin-bearer!

This brings us to another lie propagated by the SDAs, and it involves the mark of the beast.

What Think Ye of Christ?

When the Lord Jesus came to the end of His earthly ministry the Herodians, Pharisees, and Sadducees debated the Lord's doctrine as recorded in Matthew 22:15-40. When they had finished, Jesus asked them the all important question, *"What think ye of Christ?"* How could Christ be both David's son and David's Lord?

The answer to this question determines our eternal destiny. If Jesus Christ is not the uncreated Son of God, equal and eternal with the Father, then our faith in Him is worthless. He was God manifest in flesh, the eternal Word who created all things (1Tim.3:16;John 1:1-3).

Seventh Day Adventist studies entitled *The Great Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation* 1980, by Harold Metcalf, states that Jesus is Michael the archangel. He wrote:

"Michael has the meaning of one who is like God...we find this is another name for Christ" Page 42.

If Jesus is only an angel "like God", then He is a created being and can't be God. This is a serious denial of the deity of Jesus Christ. The Bible says of Christ,

"Let all the angels of God worship him"(Heb.1:6).

Sunday Worship as the Mark of the Beast

Not only do SDAs believe that the “*everlasting gospel*” is their “doctrine of the sanctuary”, but also that everyone who keeps Sunday worship is part of Mystery Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth. They believe that they, not angels, are now preaching the final message to the world before Christ returns, and their message is - Keep the Sabbath or perish!

Did the Martyrs all Perish?

How do they explain the multitudes of believers who, before 1844, died at the stake, were thrown to the lions or were cut to pieces by papal swords, yet worshipped on Sundays? If Sunday worship is the mark of the beast, then all of those redeemed, believing martyrs must suffer the torments of hell for ever and ever, according to Rev.14:9-11. How absurd!

Mrs White has an answer. She writes:

“The test upon this question does not come until Sunday observance is enforced by law and the world is enlightened concerning the obligations of the true Sabbath. Not until the issue is thus plainly set before the people, and they are brought to choose between the commandment of God and the commandments of men, will those who continue in transgression receive the mark of the beast” (ch.20 page 203).

If breaking the Sabbath is not a serious offence **until** the end of the age, why was a Sabbath breaker in the Old Testament stoned to death (Num.15:32-36) while the Apostles and the vast majority of saints for nearly 2,000 years receive no punishment? Mrs White’s statement would indicate that they were not “enlightened” about the Sabbath being the mark of the beast. Presumably she is claiming a special revelation from God in the 19th century. Isn’t that adding to God’s Word? and doesn’t that put her under the judgment of God (Rev.22:18)?

If the Sabbath will not become the mark of the beast until it is enforced by law, then why do SDAs quote Philip Schaff that Constantine issued a decree proclaiming his Sunday law on 7 March AD 321 (Vol.3 page 380)? Why do they wait for America to proclaim Sunday as the only day of worship in the Last Days? Wasn’t Constantine’s Sunday law good enough?

When Did Sunday Worship Begin?

SDAs would like us to think that the Church kept the Jewish Sabbath until the Sunday law of Constantine was proclaimed, but that is utterly false, as the writings of the early Church Fathers show. From the days of the Apostles the Church observed the first day of the week, and when Constantine joined the Church he “Christianized” the Roman Empire, adopting the Christian’s day as the weekly public holiday. Government offices closed and officials rested on Sunday. He recognized what was **already general practice** among Christians. When the State took over the Church it adopted the Christian practice of meeting on Sunday.

What confusion is wrought by these false teachers who have never learned to rightly divide the Word of Truth! They seem never to have heard of the three classes of people: Jews, Gentiles, and Church (1Cor.10:32). They have the Tribulation lasting for nearly 2,000 years when God says: *“A remnant (of Jews) shall be saved. For he will finish the work, and cut it **short in righteousness: because a SHORT WORK will the Lord make upon the earth**”* (Rom.9:27-28).

The Tribulation is a short period of 7 years, during which the Devil is cast down to the earth knowing *“that he hath but **a short time**”* (Rev.12:12). Antichrist is not the papacy, which has continued for nearly one and a half millenniums, as the SDAs would teach, because he is given power only *“to continue **forty and two months**”* (Rev.13:5).

The failure of SDAs to understand the real character of the “mystery” Church, which began at Pentecost and will be removed at the Rapture **before** the Great Tribulation, has led them into utter confusion. As a consequence, they do not understand God’s purposes for Israel and, like the Amillennialists, are compelled to “spiritualize” away the literal meaning of many prophecies. The Sabbath was to be a sign **between God “and the children of ISRAEL FOR EVER”** (Exod.31:17), but since SDAs can’t distinguish between the Church and Israel, it is little wonder that they have applied the Sabbath to the Church.

Surely, if Paul told the Colossians,

“Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, OR OF THE SABBATH” (Col.2:16), it can hardly be argued that the Everlasting Gospel has as its essential sign, Sabbath keeping.

If Sabbath keeping was essential to salvation and is the God-given seal of identification that we belong to Christ, why would Paul tell the Roman Christians:

"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind"
(Rom.14:5)?

Furthermore, why do the SDAs falsely claim that the pope instituted Sunday keeping in lieu of Sabbath keeping? The papacy did not begin until the time of Gregory the Great at the beginning of the 7th century, and there is abundant evidence in the writings of the early Church Fathers that the early Church kept the first day of the week (the Lord's Day) and not the Jewish Sabbath. It was called the Lord's Day, because the Lord rose on the first day of the week, and that very point is made by the early Church Fathers.

The Church was formed on the day of Pentecost, which was *"the first day of the week"*, and it was the custom at Troas for the disciples to come together to *"break bread"* on *"the first day of the week"* (Acts 20:7). The Corinthian Church was instructed to bring their gifts for the Lord's work on *"the first day of the week"* (1Cor.16:2), while the Apostle John was *"in the Spirit on the Lord's day"* (Rev.1:10).

The Testimony of the Church Fathers

The Lord's Day was never the Sabbath but the first day of the week, and to claim it was the Sabbath is ignorance or blatant dishonesty.

The Epistle of Barnabas (AD100) Ch.15 page 271 states:

*"Wherefore, also, we keep **the eighth day** with joyfulness, the day also on which Jesus rose again from the dead. And when He had manifested Himself, He ascended into the heavens."*

Epistle of Ignatius (AD30-107) to the Magnesians, page 125:

*"If, therefore, those who were brought up in the ancient order of things have **come to the possession of a new hope, no longer observing the Sabbath, but living in the observance of the Lord's Day, on which also our life has sprung up again by Him and by His death***

*And after the observance of the Sabbath, let every friend of Christ **keep the Lord's Day as a festival**, the resurrection-day, the queen and chief of all the days [of the week]. Looking forward to this, the prophet declared, 'To the end, for the eighth day,' on which our life both sprang up again, and the victory over death was obtained in Christ, whom the children of perdition, the enemies of the Saviour, deny.*

SDA Weighed and Wanting

At the dawning of the Lord's Day He arose from the dead, according to what was spoken by Himself, 'As Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so shall the Son of man also be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth'. The day of the preparation, then, comprises the passion; the Sabbath embraces the burial; the **Lord's Day contains the resurrection.**"

Justin Martyr (AD110-165) First Apology of Justin - Ch. 67

Subject: Weekly Worship of the Christians

"And we afterwards continually remind each other of these things. And the wealthy among us help the needy; and we always keep together; and for all things wherewith we are supplied, we bless the Maker of all through His Son Jesus Christ, and through the Holy Ghost. **And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things.** Then we all rise together and pray, and, as we before said, when our prayer is ended, bread and wine and water are brought, and the president in like manner offers prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability, and the people assent, saying Amen; and there is a distribution to each, and a participation of that over which thanks have been given, and to those who are absent a portion is sent by the deacons.

But Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly, because it is the first day on which God, having wrought a change in the darkness and matter, made the world; and Jesus Christ our Saviour on the same day rose from the dead... and on the day after that of Saturn, which is the day of the Sun, having appeared to His apostles and disciples, He taught them these things, which we have submitted to you also for your consideration."

Tertullian (AD145 to 220) lived long before the papacy existed and argued strongly that the Church kept the first day of the week. Just three quotations are given; many more could be added.

"We kneel at other times, but **on the Lord's Day**, and from the Paschal Feast to Pentecost we stand in prayer, nor do we count it lawful **to fast on Sundays.**"

"The observance of the Sabbath is demonstrated to have been temporary. But the Jews are sure to say, that ever since this

precept was given through Moses, the observance has been binding. Manifest accordingly it is, that the precept was not eternal nor spiritual, but temporary, **which would one day cease."**

"You who reproach us with the sun and Sunday should consider your proximity to us. We are not far off from your Saturn and your days of rest."

It is clear that the observance of the first day of the week was not instituted as a papal edict but was the general practice in the early Church. The Lord's Day was not the Sabbath as Seventh Day Adventists assert, but the first day of the week, on which Christ rose from the dead.

Yet a recent SDA publication printed by *Cornerstone Publishing, USA*, states:

"THE MARK OF THE BEAST is SUNDAY worship enforced by law - This is a MARK of the Roman Catholic Church...The United States will soon restore Civil power to the Papacy."

Sabbath keeping is the cornerstone of the false doctrine of the sanctuary propounded by SDAs. If Christ is checking everyone's record, and if the mark of the beast is as serious as the Bible says it is, then keeping Sunday will damn souls! After all, the Bible says:

"If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark...the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God...and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever"(**Rev.14:9-11**).

As we have pointed out, SDAs link this passage of Scripture with the message of the *"everlasting gospel"* which they claim has been going out since 1844, preached by their preachers.

The truth about the mark of the beast, is that it is a **physical mark**. It will be received by those who follow the Antichrist during the Great Tribulation, which will be a short period of judgment lasting for 7 years after the Church has been raptured. It occurs **immediately before** the second coming of Christ, and will be in the *"forehead, or in his hand"*(**Rev.14:9**). Christians will not be here for that time of judgment, because:

"God hath not appointed us to wrath, (of the Day of the Lord) but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. Who died for us, that whether we wake (live) or sleep (die), we should live together with him" (1Thess.5:9-10).

Is the Papacy the Antichrist?

It is fundamental to SDA teaching to assume that the papacy as a system is the Antichrist, a belief which was prevalent among Protestant writers in the 19th century when William Miller made his historic blunder. As a consequence the “little horn” of Daniel 7, the first beast of Revelation 13, and the harlot woman of Revelation 17 are all seen as the Antichrist and identified as the papacy.

SDAs point out that the pope’s title, “Vicar of Christ”, Filii Vicarivs Dei, has a numerical value of 666 which is the number of Antichrist (Rev.13:18), but so do many other names. Nero Caesar in Hebrew, Nimrod in Chaldee, and the six letters that make up the Roman numeral system added together total 666 (D=500, C=100, L=50, X=10, V=5, I=1). The Greek letters of “Lateinos”(Latin) also total 666. Irenaeus, who wrote in the second century, warned against predictions as to who would bear the number 666. He pointed out that “Euanthas” and “Teitan” in Greek totalled 666, and said:

“It is therefore less hazardous, to await the fulfilment of the prophecy, than to make surmises and casting about for names...inasmuch as **there are many names found possessing the number.**”

We can positively affirm that the SDAs are wrong in identifying the **system of the papacy** as Antichrist, because Scripture states:

“Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast:FOR IT IS THE NUMBER OF A MAN; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six”(Rev.13:18).

John refers to the beast (Rev.13) as a man, and states that *“all that dwell upon the earth shall worship HIM, whose names are not written in the book of life”(Rev.13:8)*. Are SDAs suggesting that all unsaved on earth will become Roman Catholics and worship the papacy?

Paul describes the Antichrist as *“that MAN of sin...the SON of perdition”*. He calls him *“that Wicked”(one)* (2Thess.2:3,8) who *“the Lord shall destroy with the brightness of his coming”(2Thess.2:8)*.

Furthermore, Scripture states that the ten kings who will *“give their power and strength unto the beast” “shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked...and burn her with fire”* (Rev.17:13-16).

The papacy is not the Antichrist. Antichrist is an individual who will be destroyed by Christ at His second advent, but the papacy will be destroyed by Antichrist and his ten kings at the end of the Tribulation. Revelation 18 describes the burning of the papacy.

1,260 Years of Papal Domination?

We have already indicated that SDAs teach that Antichrist is the papacy and Sunday observance is the mark of the beast. We will now show how SDAs have distorted history to support these claims.

In the Book of the Revelation we read that Antichrist will continue 42 months (Rev.13:5), which is the second half of the 7-year Tribulation. However, SDAs interpret the 42 months as 3½ years which equals 1,260 days on the prophetic calendar, and using the year/day theory they then change the days into years so that 42 months become 1,260 years!

If the papacy is the Antichrist, then they need to find a period of 1,260 years in which the papacy has had, or will have power given to it to continue, because *"power was given unto him (Antichrist) to continue forty and two months"* (Rev. 13:5).

What they are looking for is a start and a finish date for the papacy which are 1,260 years apart. They have chosen AD538 and 1798 on the Gregorian calendar, which is 18 years (6,602 days) different from the prophetic calendar of 360-day years.



Did the Papacy Lose its Power in 1798?

In the year 2004 the papacy is obviously alive and well. The Roman Catholic Church boasts about 1 billion members, and great influence is being exercised over the governments of the earth. The European Union (EU), which on 1 May 2004 numbered 455 million, and intends to challenge America for leading-superpower status, has been guided by the Vatican, which undoubtedly is prophetically seen as the harlot woman riding the beast in Revelation 17.

However, that is not the way SDAs see things. They believe that the papacy lost dominance over the nations in 1798 at the time of the French Revolution. At that time the French general, Berthier, captured Rome and took Pope Pius VI captive to France, where he died the following year (1799). The Catholic Church was banned in France during the French Revolution, but Napoleon lifted the ban and signed a treaty with the pope in 1801. Pope Pius VII reigned from 1800 and was at Napoleon's coronation in December 1804.

After reading SDA literature, one would think this was the only time in history the papacy suffered a setback. The truth is that the papacy has had a very turbulent history, and between AD 844 and 1451 there were about 20 anti-popes who set themselves up in opposition to the one held by others to be canonically chosen. There was a period of 70 years, from 1309 to 1378, when the papacy was actually moved to Avignon in France, during which time there were 7 popes, beginning with Clement V and finishing with Gregory XI.

The slight interruption to the papacy in 1798 is interpreted by SDAs as a "*deadly wound*" (Rev.13:3) which would be the terminal point for papal dominion over nations. In Scripture, however, the papacy is the harlot woman who rides the beast, and not the beast itself.

Did the Papacy Assume Secular Power in AD 538?

SDAs therefore need to prove that the papacy began 1,260 years before 1798, and to do this they count backwards 1,260 years from 1798 to AD 538 and assert that the papacy gained dominance over the nations in that year, when Vigilius was the bishop of Rome. But did it?

Mrs E.G.White writes:

"With the year 538, then, begins the 1,260 years of this prophecy of papal domination, which would extend to 1798. In that year...the Roman Catholic Church was set aside in France, the French army, under Berthier, entered Rome and took the pope

prisoner. The date: February 10, 1798. The imprisoned pope died in exile the following year" (*The Great Controversy* ch.11).

The questions arise, **Did the pope of Rome assume secular powers in AD 538**, and did the papacy lose its dominance 1,260 years later in 1798? The answer of history is a resounding, No! The following information is summarized from the *Catholic Encyclopedia*.

The reigning bishop of Rome in AD538 was Vigilius, who reigned from AD537 to 555. At no time did Vigilius exercise secular power. The western Roman Empire ceased to exist in AD 476, and Rome had been subject to invasions from various Germanic people from as early as AD410 when it was first sacked by the Visigoths. It was the bishop of Constantinople, Agapetus, who appointed Vigilius as bishop of Rome. Empress Theodora of Constantinople promised Vigilius the bishopric of Rome and 700 pounds of gold.

When Vigilius arrived in Rome on 22 April AD 536 Silverius was the bishop, appointed by the king of the Goths.

Emperor Justinian had reclaimed much of the western Roman Empire from the Germanic people between AD 527 and 565. Fighting was continuing in Italy in AD 536. Silverius was deposed and died in custody, and Vigilius became the bishop of Rome.

In AD 543 or 544 Emperor Justinian issued a decree with which Vigilius could not agree, and he was forcibly placed on a ship bound for Constantinople; the people of Rome stoned him as he boarded the ship. He remained in Constantinople until AD 555 when he began his return journey to Rome, but died at Syracuse in Sicily on the way home. Most of his days as bishop of Rome were spent in Constantinople, detained at the Emperor's pleasure.

It is quite obvious there can be no grounds for suggesting that papal domination over the state was exercised by Vigilius in AD 538. Emperor Justinian continued to exercise authority over the church from Constantinople until his death in AD 565.

Papal power over Western secular governments began during the reign of Gregory the Great, who was bishop of Rome from AD 590 to 604, and this is the time which is generally recognized by historians as the beginning of the papacy. Schaff's *History of the Christian Church* records:

"Gregory the First, or the Great, the last of the Latin fathers and the first of the popes, connects the ancient with the mediaeval

SDA Weighed and Wanting

church" (Vol.IV page 212).

"The activity of Gregory tended powerfully to establish the authority of the papal chair...he was bishop of the city of Rome...in fact the whole West" (Vol. IV page 218).

To date the beginning of papal power at AD 538 is quite clearly 60 years too early, and throws the whole SDA interpretation of the 1,260 days (years) into the rubbish bin.

The Truth About the 1,260 Days

What, then, is the interpretation of the prophecy of the 1,260 days?

Scripture indicates that the Tribulation will be a period of 7 years immediately following the removal of the Church at the Rapture (Dan.7:24-27). This is the 70th "week" of the prophecy in Daniel chapter 9. At the beginning of that time Antichrist, as the head of the revived Roman Empire, will confirm a covenant with the Jews for the same 7 years.

At the beginning of the Tribulation 144,000 Jewish men will be sealed by God (Rev.7:1-8), and for 3¹/₂ years will preach the gospel of the kingdom throughout the world. As a result of their testimony, and while under threat of annihilation from a massive northern invasion by Muslim nations led by Russia (Ezek.38 and 39; Joel 2; Dan.11:44), Israel will repent and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Messiah.

Following the conversion of Israel to Jesus Christ in the first half of the 7 years, Antichrist will turn on the Jews and occupy the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem for the last 3¹/₂ years (Dan.9:27; Dan.12:11; Matt.24:15; 2Thess.2:4). This is the 1,260 **days** (not years) of which we read, "*power was given unto him (Antichrist) to continue forty and two months*" (Rev.13:5).

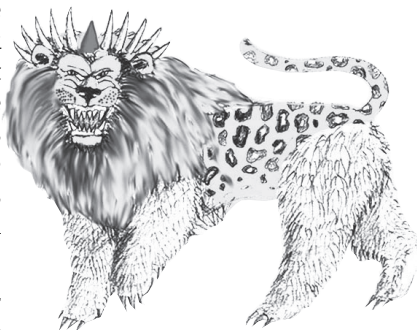
At the end of the 42 months Christ will return, and Antichrist will be cast into a lake of fire and brimstone (Rev.19:11-21; Dan.7:11; 11:45). There is no evidence that the papacy was cast into the lake of fire in 1798.

"Immediately after the tribulation of those day shall...appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven...and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matt.24:29-30).

"Then shall that Wicked (one) be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" (2Thess.2:8).

The Ten Horns of the Beast. What are They?

In Daniel chapter 7, Revelation 12, 13, and 17, we read of a beast which has ten horns. Daniel identifies this beast as the fourth kingdom on earth after the Babylonian, Persian, and Greek Empires. He also indicates that the fourth kingdom would have ten kings (or kingdoms) in its final stage, and these are represented by the ten horns (Dan.7:24; Rev 17:12). The fourth beast is the Roman Empire.



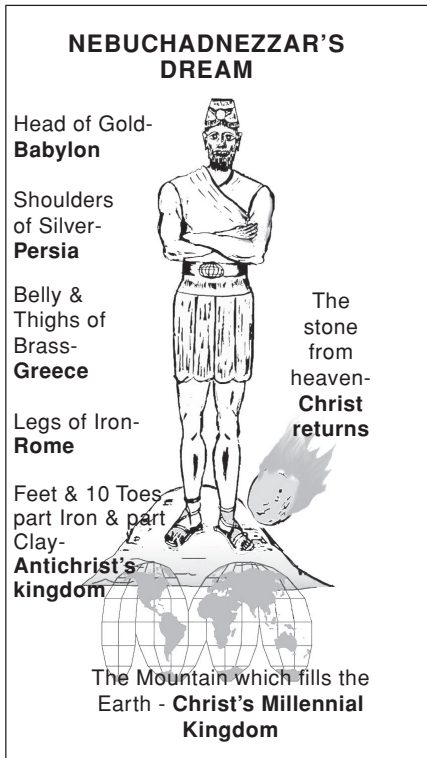
The ten horns “give their power and strength unto the beast”(Rev.17:13,) and then make war with the Lamb at **His second coming** (Rev.17:14).

It is obvious that the ten horns are the **very last stage of the Roman Empire**, and give their allegiance to the Antichrist during the Great Tribulation. They exist at the time of Christ’s second coming.

SDAs agree that the fourth beast is the Roman Empire, but teach that the ten divisions of the Roman Empire came into being when Imperial Rome collapsed in the West in AD 476. To support this claim, they seek to prove from history that the Roman Empire broke up into ten kingdoms in AD 476. The following map is taken from an SDA publication entitled *The Sunday Law Times*, however, other



maps can be produced which indicate differing divisions of the Roman Empire after AD 476. *The Times Atlas of World History* shows the divisions within the western Roman Empire in AD 493 as shown on the next page.



Another prophecy by Daniel likens the four world empires to a grand image having a head of gold, shoulders of silver, belly of brass, and legs of iron. Its feet and **ten toes** are of part iron and part clay and represent the final stage of Gentile history before Christ comes again. Daniel writes: *"In the days of **these kings (ten toes)** shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed"* (Dan.2:44).

The final 10 divisions therefore come into being just before Christ returns!

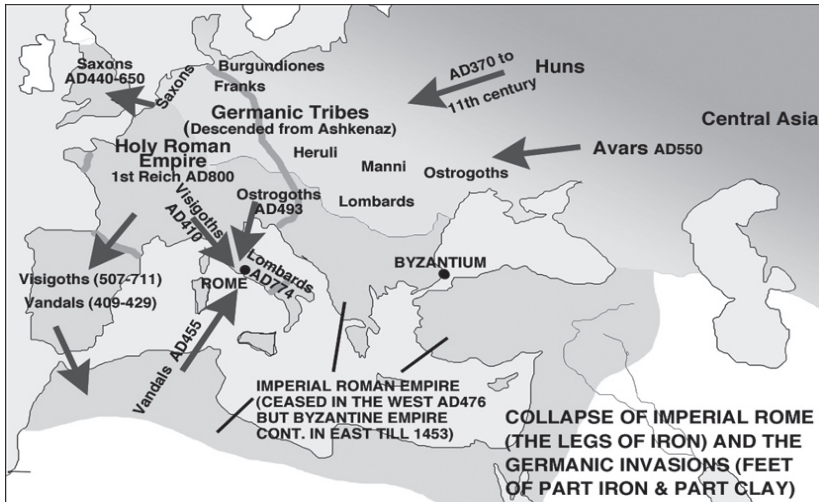
The fact is that in AD 476 the Roman Empire in the west was overcome by many Germanic tribes, and these did not form ten divisions of the old Imperial Empire.



It was a **changing** situation. The Avars and Huns were Asiatic people who were pushing westward into Europe causing Germanic tribes to migrate into Italy, France, Spain, and across into North Africa. To claim that the Roman Empire divided into ten parts after AD 476 is grossly dishonest and

misleading. Early in the second century the empire was divided into 54 provinces and this changed as the empire's fortunes fluctuated.

After AD 476 the centre of the Roman Empire continued in Byzantium (Constantinople), as already stated. During the reign of the eastern Emperor Justinian (AD 527-565), much of the old western Roman Empire was recovered, including southern Spain, North Africa, Italy, and Sicily, as shown on page 27.



Much of western Europe was part of a Frankish kingdom from AD 714 to AD 814, and in AD 800 Charlemagne was crowned emperor of the Holy Roman Empire which continued with **c h a n g i n g** boundaries till 1806.

SDA Weighed and Wanting

In addition, there was the expansion of the Arab Empire after the death of Muhammed in AD 632. Muslims captured much of the Middle East, North Africa, and southern Spain, which were parts of the Byzantine and the old western Roman Empire. Constantinople was captured by the Ottoman Turks in 1453.

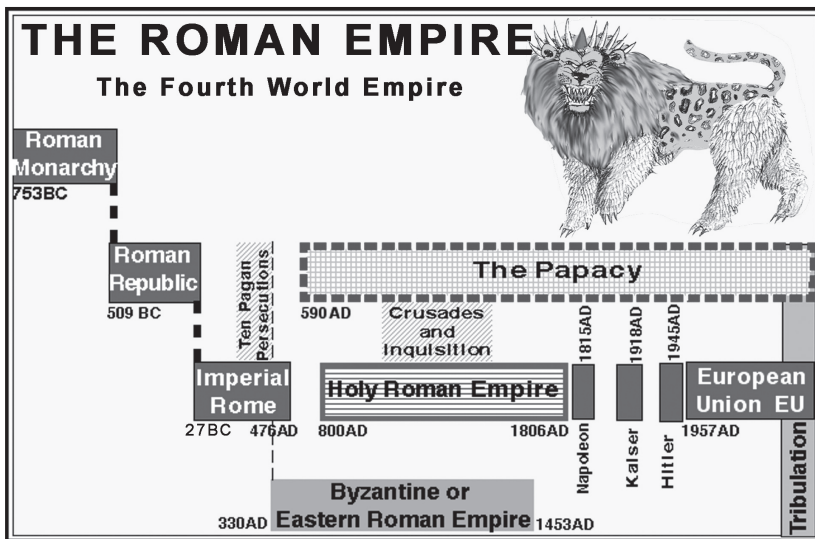
The ten horns of the beast do not appear in the Roman Empire after the collapse of the western Imperial throne in AD 476 but will appear in its final stage before Christ returns. The Roman Empire has never ceased to exist. It continued in various forms, "*partly strong and partly broken*", as seen in the iron and clay of the feet of the image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Dan.2:42).

The final stage of the Roman Empire will be a future confederacy of 10 kings or kingdoms which will give their allegiance to the Antichrist shortly before Christ returns to reign.

"These have one mind, and give their power and strength unto the beast" (Rev.17:13).

Since Antichrist is supported by the 10 kings and is destroyed at Christ's second coming, it only stands to reason that the 10 kings could not have existed in AD 476.

The European Union, which is nearing completion, is without doubt a revival of the old Roman Empire, and its democratic form of government allows the possibility of a rearrangement of its members into 10 states, perhaps along ethnic lines. Once again the SDA view has been shown to be erroneous.



The Herald of Hope Keys to Bible Prophecy No 3 © J R Eoeb 1998

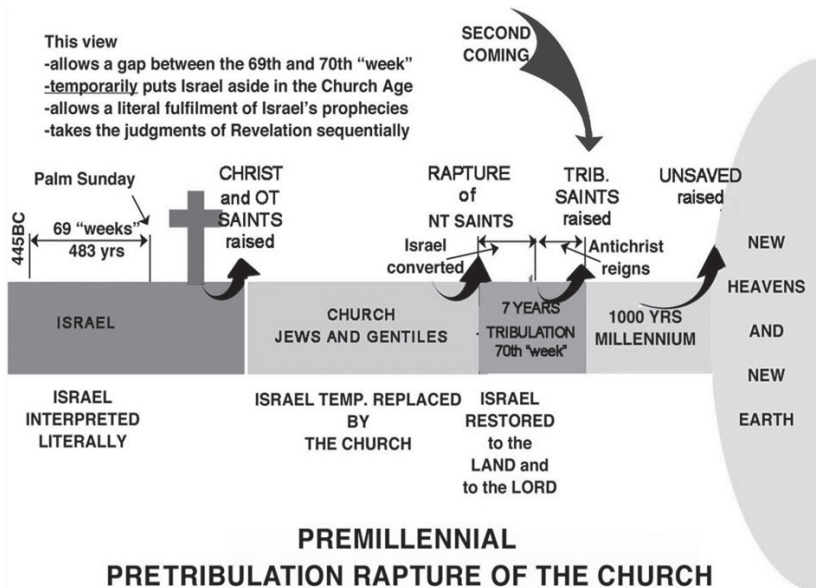
Five Tests for SDA Doctrine

Only God knows the future; omniscience is unique to Deity, and the Word of God is the complete revelation of the mind of God to mankind. Nothing can be added to the 66 books of the Canon of Scripture, and it is our responsibility to seek to understand what God has revealed. Beyond this, we dare not go, for that would pollute the pure stream of Truth.

How we approach the sacred record is therefore of the utmost importance. It requires integrity, objectivity, and a willingness to be led wherever the Word of God should take us. The truth about prophecy can only be discovered if we follow some very basic rules of interpretation. They are:

1) The Bible is to be interpreted literally. Its history is literal, its moral teaching is literal, and its prophecy must be taken literally. Much of prophecy has already been fulfilled and is now verifiable history.

Christ's first coming has been fulfilled in all its minute detail. Prophecy concerning Jerusalem, Samaria, Babylon, Nineveh, Tyre, and Egypt has also been fulfilled. Persia and its King Cyrus, Greece and Alexander the Great, the Seleucid king, Antiochus Epiphanes,



SDA Weighed and Wanting

and the Roman Empire are all literally fulfilled prophecies which can easily be confirmed in the pages of history, exactly as one would expect if, before the event, they were taken in a straightforward literal sense. There is no reason therefore to alter the literal approach to interpreting **future** prophecy.

2) The Bible is to be rightly divided. God's Word distinguishes between the Jew, the Gentile, and the Church (1 Cor.10:32).

Promises made to Israel cannot be applied to the Church, otherwise God may be charged with unfaithfulness to His Word. God is a covenant-keeping God, and whatever covenants He has made with Israel will be honoured.

There are dispensations (different administrations) of time from Adam to the end of time, beginning with the Age of Innocence in Eden and followed by the Age of Conscience to the Flood, Human Government to the Tower of Babel, the Age of Promise in the days of the patriarchs, the Law from Moses to Christ, and the Church Age from Pentecost to the Rapture. The seventh and last dispensation of time will be the Millennial Kingdom, which begins with the Second Advent of Christ and lasts for 1,000 years.

The future eternal state embraces the New Heaven and New Earth, after the second resurrection of all the unsaved to stand before the Great White Throne and receive degrees of punishment in the eternal lake of fire.

3) The year/day theory must be seen as erroneous. When the Bible speaks of a day, it means a day; when it speaks of months and years, it means months or years.

The fact that Israel was punished with 40 years of wandering in the wilderness because their spies spent 40 days searching the land of Canaan, is no grounds for claiming a rule of interpretation, any more than we can say a day means a thousand years because Peter wrote, "*one day is with the Lord AS a thousand years, and a thousand years AS one day*" (2Peter 3:8), or Moses wrote, "*a thousand years in thy sight are but AS yesterday when it is past*" (Ps.90:4).

We cannot say that because Ezekiel lay on his side for 430 days in the sight of Israel (Ezek.4:1-17) as a sign that Jerusalem would be destroyed by the Babylonians as punishment for 430 years of disobedience, therefore days in prophecy can be interpreted as years. In one case cited the Bible states that the **40 years** of wandering were representative of **40 days**, but in Ezekiel's case the **430 days** were

representative of 430 **years** of iniquity. **Does that mean years should be changed to days in prophecy, or days into years?** If God meant us to interpret days as years, He would have indicated that. If it is not indicated, we must assume the days, months, and years of prophecy remain exactly as written. Otherwise, we cannot know which prophecies of days to convert to years, and which remain as literal days?

Jesus prophesied that He would lie in the grave three days and three nights. How do we know that this should not be symbolically three years? SDAs take 1,260 days and 2,300 days as years, yet when Scripture speaks of 1,000 years (Rev.20:2) they take it literally.

Augustine “spiritualized” the 1,000 years of Rev.20, but was compelled by the sheer weight of evidence in both Old and New Testaments to believe that the 1,260 days was to be taken literally.

The Bible simply does not say that prophecies of days can be changed to years.

4) The symbols used in Scripture are interpreted by Scripture. There are symbols used throughout the Word of God and these may be interpreted by comparing Scripture with Scripture. In many cases the interpretation is stated. No doctrine should be determined by a symbolic interpretation without clear literal statements. Types are shadows of substance, and not the substance of Truth. They only illustrate what is plainly stated elsewhere.

5) Historical fulfilments must be thoroughly checked. Too often history has been distorted or sourced from dubious authorities in order to substantiate a wrong interpretation of prophecy. True history is a friend of the Bible and will always agree with the divine record, but evil men throughout the centuries have injected their own political, personal and religious philosophies into the interpretation of events. Numbers have been exaggerated and important events overlooked. Therefore a wider reading of history is essential to avoid being misled. Only Bible history is divinely inspired, and must therefore be used as the yardstick by which secular writers are judged.

Conclusion

SDA doctrine fails the test of all of the above basic rules of interpretation and, as has been shown, preaches “*another gospel* (of a different kind): *which is not another* (of the same kind)” (Gal.1:6-7).

The Apostle Paul wrote:

“If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed” (Gal.1:9).

SDA Weighed and Wanting

What Should I Do ?

If you are a Seventh Day Adventist and have honestly faced the facts presented in this book, you will now be asking yourself, What will I do? You will weigh up the consequences of renouncing the error which has ensnared you.

Firstly, you need to be sure about your salvation. It is not sufficient to change views on eschatology. If you have never been “born again”, changing your view about prophecy will not save you. Inherent in the SDA doctrine is the teaching that you must keep the Law and that your acceptance with God is dependent upon it.

If you are a committed SDA you are awaiting the verdict of Christ after He has investigated your sins to see whether you are worthy of the first resurrection. That in itself implies that your eternal destiny depends on your performance, which is works.

The most important thing for you to realize is that **salvation is a gift to be received, and not a goal to be achieved**. Once you have received Christ you have the power, or authority, to be a son of God (John 1:12), and your salvation does not depend on you, or even you plus Christ, but on Christ ALONE.

Your salvation was purchased by a finished work on the cross, and the Father is fully satisfied with that work. Having received Christ by faith, you are a “new creature” in Christ (2Cor.5:17), old things have passed away and all things have become new.

The moment you unreservedly trust your eternal soul to Christ, He will place you into (1Cor.12:13) the body of Christ, His Church, and give you His Holy Spirit to indwell you. You will be

“sealed with that holy Spirit of promise...which is the earnest (guarantee) of our inheritance UNTIL the redemption of the purchased possession” (Eph.1:13-14).

“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...” (Eph.2:8-10).

Secondly, you must confess Christ alone as your Saviour and renounce allegiance to the bondage of Seventh Day Adventism and its false prophetess.

Finally, seek fellowship with Bible-believing Christians who love and trust the Lord Jesus Christ alone. If you would like further help, you may contact the Herald of Hope. ■

“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;

Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained” (1Tim.4:1-6).

“Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath : Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God (Col.2:16-19)

“One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks” (Rom.14:5-6).

“But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain” (Gal.4:9-11).

“The children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.

*It is a sign **BETWEEN ME AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL FOR EVER” (Exod.31:16-17).***