

ACCOUNTED as ERROR

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Page 10, April 17, 1883:

CHRIST NOT A CREATED BEING.

Will you please favor me with those scriptures which plainly say that Christ is a created being? J. C.

.....

ANS. You are mistaken in supposing that S. D. Adventists teach that Christ was ever created. They believe, on the contrary, that he was “begotten” of the Father, and that he can properly be called God and worshiped as such. They believe, also, that the worlds, and everything which is, was created by Christ in conjunction with the Father. They believe, however, that somewhere in the eternal ages of the past there was a point at which Christ came into existence. They think that it is necessary that God should have antedated Christ in his being, in order that Christ could have been begotten of him, and sustain to him the relation of son. They hold to the distinct personality of the Father and Son, rejecting as absurd that feature of Trinitarianism which insists that God, and Christ, and the Holy Spirit are three persons, and yet but one person. S. D. Adventists hold that God and Christ are one in the sense that Christ prayed that his disciples might be one; *i. e.*, one in spirit, purpose, and labor.

ACCOUNTED as ERROR

Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:5

“A new organization would be established.
Books of a new order would be written.”

– E. G. White



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Contents

Introduction.....	5
1. Jehovah the Father.....	11
2. The Son of God.....	18
3. The Image of God.....	29
4. The Form of God.....	35
5. The Spirit of God.....	38
6. Righteousness by Faith.....	52
7. What About These Verses?.....	66
8. Revelation Reveals No Trinity.....	76
9. Greetings.....	83
10. Founders and Historians of the SDA Church.....	91
11. “Our Religion Would be Changed”.....	99
12. Origin of the Trinity.....	104
Conclusion.....	128
Letter From the Author.....	142

Introduction

Christ's church from its beginning was under attack. First from without. Pagan Rome tried to stamp Christianity out by force. Many martyrs lost their lives for their faith in the one true God by becoming followers of His Son Jesus Christ.

Rome did not succeed. Truth triumphed, and the gospel spread. The church grew.

So the enemies of God and Christ regrouped. Their strategy changed. *They joined the church.* Like wolves in sheep's clothing, they assumed the disguise of converts. They brought with them their pagan rituals, traditions, and idols that had their origin in ancient Babylon—all contrary to Scripture and truth. Injected into Christianity, they spread like cancer. Pagans took over the church.

A falling Roman Empire gave authority over both church and state to pagan/Christian leadership. This action ushered in the Dark Ages. For 1,260 years there was persecution for all who dared oppose these pagans. From A.D. 538 to 1798, more true Christians died than before.

As in the days of Noah, Abraham, and John the Baptist, fables and misrepresentations replaced the knowledge of the one true God. It was forbidden to own or read a Bible. The truth was obscured, diluted with false doctrines, eventually forgotten.

The Protestant Reformation was necessary.

God, through His Spirit, chose a people to initiate revival in every age when the truth was suppressed. In medieval times the Waldenses preserved the Scriptures in their

wilderness hideout. When the Roman papal church was at the peak of its corruption, God chose faithful men to reintroduce truth—men like Wycliffe, Huss, and Jerome. They stood for God and truth unto death. Their testimonies inspired multitudes.

Scripture refers to false doctrines as ‘Babylon’ for their confusion. They are as an intoxicating wine which dulls the senses (Revelation 14:8). Through Martin Luther, Christ’s faithful followers took the first steps to come out from that system of false beliefs.

Jesus told His disciples, “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.” John 16:12. The errors of paganism had so dominated the church that the Lord’s Reformation could not take place all at once. Luther was only the beginning. Over time more truths were discovered from God’s Word. With rediscoveries came crossroads. Those who found these holy treasures of truth hoped to bring better reform to their beloved church. But they found, as did Luther, that further reform would be embraced by some, but not welcomed by others. More and more separations resulted.

With each step of reformation, it was meant for all to embrace truth together and move forward in it. God’s intent for reform was never to see His church so fractured as it is. He desires unity in the body of Christ. But the enemy of souls, knowing he could not stop the progress of reform, worked hard to preserve as many of his false doctrines as possible within each denomination.

Again, truth would prevail. The fall of papal domination in 1798 ushered in the prophetic end times. The world was

finally free to worship as conscience dictated. In the 1840s, the Lord took what was to be the final step of this holy reform. Through the Spirit-led studies of William Miller, the sealed book of the prophet Daniel was broken. It revealed that Christ's second coming is near.

With so great an event at hand, Christ brought together a people—what would become the remnant of the church He initially established on earth. Representatives came from many denominations. They put aside their doctrinal differences to study the Bible as one. Prayerfully they sought the Lord to guide their studies as they diligently searched for truth. Their goal was to purge all remaining pagan doctrines from the body of Christ. As the children of Israel were called to prepare the way for the Messiah's birth in Bethlehem, similarly, these Advent people were assembled to usher in the last days, called to proclaim the second coming of the Lord, and His final messages to the world.

“Surely, the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7. Among these Adventist pioneers was a young woman, Ellen Harmon, later the wife of founder James White. Through visions and writings, Ellen White provided inspired guidance to the pioneers of the newly christened Seventh-day Adventist Church. God blessed them for their diligence. Within the first fifty years, they had everything they needed from heaven to stand firm until the coming of the King. Set in place were the pillars of the Adventist faith. Not since the apostles—a church understanding and accepting “every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

Peter best described the Advent people; “But ye are a

chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” 1 Peter 2:9. In shedding the last remaining errors of pagan influence, these faithful few found themselves to be a peculiar people, indeed. Instead of retaining the pagan day of worship, the Adventists returned to the Ten Commandments, observing the day that Jesus and the apostles did, the Bible Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11). Hence the name “Seventh-day” Adventist. They also rejected the pagan philosophy concerning death—immediate access to heaven as a disembodied spirit—in favor of the biblical teaching; death is an unconscious sleep until the coming of Jesus on the “last day” (John 6:39-40, Ecclesiastes 9:5, 1 Corinthians 15:51-53).

The Adventist pioneers dismissed one doctrine with more disdain for its existence than any other. It also had its roots in pagan fallacy, attacking the personality of God and His Son Jesus Christ—the trinity. Most of the Adventist founders came from trinitarian denominations¹. Through their unparalleled understanding of Scripture, they came to reject it (see chapter 10).

Sadly, just as the early church was attacked from within, so has the Seventh-day Adventist Church been infiltrated. Not long after the passing of the founders and Ellen White, misguided individuals worked patiently and subtly. By 1980, at the General Conference session in Dallas, Texas, after more than one hundred years of rejection, the trinity doctrine was officially voted in as a fundamental belief of the Adventist church.

History is repeated. Mrs. White predicted these events with startling and disheartening accuracy. So many members today are unaware that their religion—even their God—has changed. It is not today what the founders of Adventism established.

This same apostasy had threatened this movement in 1903. At that time Seventh-day Adventists were challenged to alter their strict, Bible-based perception of God in favor of pantheistic theories and trinitarian mysticism in the book *Living Temple*, by John H. Kellogg. Ellen White cautioned, “These are the very sentiments against which I was bidden to speak in warning at the very beginning of my public work.... *Living Temple* contains the alpha of these theories. The omega would follow in a little while. I tremble for our people.” — *Sermons and Talks, Volume 1*, page 341.

The omega is now.

“The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be **accounted as error.**”

— Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages Book 1*,
page 204

“The Father and the Son alone are to be exalted.”

— Ellen G. White, *Sons and Daughters of God*,
page 58

Were Ellen White and the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist movement wrong? Is God a trinity? Is this teaching biblical? Through a series of studies in the following chapters, we seek to answer these questions from the Bible and the writings of the Seventh-day Adventist pioneers. We leave it to you to decide.

¹ James White, previously a member of The Christian Connexion, had already rejected the trinity doctrine before his involvement in the formation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Mr. White's published works for Seventh-day Adventist literature confirm that he never reversed his non-trinitarian position within his lifetime, and Mrs. White never corrected her husband on this point.

1

Jehovah the Father

In the twelfth chapter of Mark, in verse 28, Jesus was asked by a scribe, “Which is the first commandment of all?”

Mark 12:29, 32

The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The LORD our God is one LORD... And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he.

Jesus answered the scribe by quoting Moses from the book of Deuteronomy 6:4, “Hear, O Israel: Jehovah our God is one Jehovah.” The scribe responded with, “Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he.” Jesus affirmed his statement, as it says in verse 34, “And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.”

The words “the LORD,” when ‘LORD’ appears in all capital letters in the Bible, it is a translation of the name of God, spelled with the Hebrew letters Yod–Hey–Vav–Hey. Because there are no vowels in written Hebrew, no one knows the actual pronunciation of God’s name. Traditionally it has been pronounced ‘Jehovah,’ or ‘Yahweh,’ as well as others. For simplicity and clarity, we chose to use the more popular pronunciation of ‘Jehovah’ for this study.

Moses told the Israelites that there is only one God and that His name is Jehovah (Yod–Hey–Vav–Hey). Jesus referred to Jehovah as His God and Father throughout the New Testament. Jesus prayed for all of His followers till the end of time in one of Christ’s most significant prayers to the Father. At the beginning of that prayer, He outlined what it means for the sinner to obtain eternal life. Christ said these words to Jehovah:

John 17:3

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

Like a mathematical equation, Jesus indicates that knowing His Father—the only true God, plus knowing Himself—the Son of the only true God, equals life eternal.

Notice that Jesus makes a clear distinction between Jehovah as “the only true God,” and Himself. He emphasizes that our very salvation depends on knowing the two of them. “For this is life eternal,” He said. Salvation equals knowing the Father and His Son. The Saviour mentions no other in this equation.

It was the will of Jehovah to send His only begotten Son to reconnect the human race with Himself. Jesus said, “I shall shew you plainly of the Father.” John 16:25. For this mission, Jehovah taught Jesus everything He should do and everything He should say. “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.” “For I have not spoken of myself; but

the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.” “I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.” John 5:30, John 12:49, and John 8:28.

The apostle John recorded in his gospel the essential lessons that Christ taught concerning the fact that Jehovah is the only true God. Jesus summed up His mission in this single verse: “Jesus saith unto him...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father.” John 14:9.

Since the fall of man, the world had many times, through demonic manipulation, forgotten the only true God. Evil leaders, with Satan behind them, devised a multitude of false gods through paganism. Even God’s chosen people at the time of Christ were not immune to satanic influence. The religious leaders in Israel claimed to worship the one true God, yet they imposed upon the people doctrines that were never commanded by Jehovah. They lost sight of who He is. Jesus rebuking them said, “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” Matthew 15:9. And, “Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.” Matthew 15:6.

These Pharisees knew from the ancient, sacred texts that Jehovah had a Son:

Proverbs 30:4

Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, *and what is his son’s name*, if thou canst tell?

Psalm 2:7

Jehovah hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

Their pride and arrogance would not allow them to admit that Jesus was the Son of God in the flesh. No act of love, no miracle, not even the raising of the dead could humble them. They rejected the teachings of Jesus and put Him to death. Had they indeed known Jehovah, they would have had no difficulty recognizing His only begotten Son.

John 8:42

Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me.

To the world, Jesus demonstrated the identity of His Father by living and teaching the *will* of Jehovah. Jesus directly associated knowing God with keeping His law.

Matthew 19:17

If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

Looking to the first commandment, we see what God says of Himself:

Exodus 20:2-3

I am Jehovah thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Through Moses, God brought the enslaved Israelites out

of Egypt, a land of pagan sun worship.

Sun worship began in ancient Babylon. It started as an open rebellion against the one true God with a trio of blasphemous persons: Nimrod, Semiramis, and Tammuz. These three dared to claim divinity as gods on earth. It was a blatant, satanic cult until Nimrod was killed for his evil practices. After Nimrod's death, his wife (also his mother) continued this false religion, manipulating and influencing followers through deception, fear, and coercion. Instead of worshiping Satan in the open, the devil was honored in secret by way of mysticism, spiritualism, and secret societies. This system of false worship used the sun, moon, and planets as icons for their pretend deities. It spread throughout the world when the languages were confused at the Tower of Babel. The diverse groups of people settled in different parts of the earth, taking the basic form of this false religion with them—a triune godhead being the foundation of each. It was the same religion with new names, depending on the language and culture of each kingdom. To this day, most of the world's false religions derived from them.

Genesis 12:1

Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee.

Exodus 6:3

And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them.

God chose Abraham to be the father of a new nation that was to reestablish truth in the world. Through the descendants of these Hebrews, known as the children of Israel, would come the promise of the Messiah.

Eventually, the Israelites were made a nation of slaves by the Egyptians. In that time, they had been assimilated into Egyptian culture. There was only a feeble recollection of the one true God among them. The first lesson the Hebrews were to learn upon their exodus from Egypt was that there is only one true God and that they were to have no other gods but Him.

Moses wanted to make this point clear:

Deuteronomy 4:39

Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that Jehovah he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: *there is none else.*

That Jehovah is the only God is not just a view exclusive to the Old Testament. The apostle Paul in the New Testament understood this well:

Ephesians 4:5-6

One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Paul also declared many times that the Father Jehovah is the one true God. Like Jesus, Paul also makes a clear distinction between God the Father and Jesus Christ:

1 Corinthians 8:6

But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are

all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

What can we conclude from these verses? Our heavenly Father is the one Supreme Being in all the universe. God the Father is the ultimate source of all life and power. We need to understand that Jehovah the Father in heaven is the one true God. Jehovah is the Almighty God because He is eternal. He has always been, is, and always will be (Revelation 4:8). In the words of Moses, Paul, and Jesus Himself, there is none other but He.

Jehovah is the one true God, but the Bible teaches that He was not alone in the creation of all things. The eternal Father has a Son, equally divine as Himself.

2

The Son of God

Matthew 3:16-17

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove¹, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

The Father said that Jesus is His beloved Son as a declaration of fact, for God cannot lie, says Titus 1:2.

John 3:16

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

1 John 4:9

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Several times in the New Testament is Jesus referred to as the *only begotten* Son of the Father. Begotten is translated from the Greek word *monogenes*. From ‘mono’ meaning *only*, and ‘genes’ meaning *born of*. A dictionary definition of begotten is *to procreate or generate offspring*. From a biblical perspective, the word means the same; *to come out of, to be brought forth as in offspring*. Jesus defined His

Sonship to the Father in these ways:

John 8:42

Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God.

John 5:26

For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.

How does the Son of God have life in Himself? He said that it was given to Him by His Father. It would not have been necessary for God to give to His divine Son that which He already possessed. The Bible declares that Jesus Christ had a beginning and is not co-eternal with the Father. Scripture says that at some point before creation, the Father brought forth His Son.

Psalms 2:7

Jehovah hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; *this day have I begotten thee.*

1 Corinthians 1:24 tells us that Christ is not only the power of God, but He is also called the “Wisdom of God.” “Wisdom” is personified in the book of Proverbs. Looking in chapter 8, Inspiration revealed to Ellen White that this is Jesus talking about Himself. Consider the following quote from page 34 of Ellen White’s *Patriarchs and Prophets*:

“And *the Son of God declares concerning Himself*: ‘The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of

His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting. . . . When He appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him: and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.’ Proverbs 8:22-30.”

With this prophetic insight, let’s look at the entire passage to see what Jesus declares of Himself:

Proverbs 8:22-30

²² Jehovah possessed² me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.

²³ I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

²⁴ When there were no depths, *I was brought forth*; when there were no fountains abounding with water.

²⁵ Before the mountains were settled, before the hills *was I brought forth*:

²⁶ While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.

²⁷ When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:

²⁸ When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:

²⁹ When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

³⁰ Then I was by him, *as one brought up with him*: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;

Jesus twice confirms that He was literally “brought forth” from the Father and that He was “as one brought up” by

Jehovah as a parent brings up a child. The Father delighted over His rejoicing Son. He was born of Jehovah before the creation of the heavens, the earth, and angels. We know this because all things were created by Him and for Him, says Colossians 1:16.

Jesus is equally God, yet subordinate to His Father:

John 14:28

For my Father is greater than I.

Jesus acknowledged many times that He is the Son of God, though the Father is greater than the Son. He said that He could do nothing of Himself. All that Christ had said and done came from His Father (John 8:28). If Jesus were co-eternal and omniscient with the Father, then what could the Father teach Him that He did not already know? The fact that Jesus learned from Jehovah what to do and what to say when on earth is evidence that Jesus did not know it before the Father taught it to Him.

The Sonship of Jesus to God the Father is explained well in the book *Daniel and The Revelation*, by Uriah Smith³, 1897, page 401:

“The Scriptures nowhere speak of Christ as a created being, but on the contrary plainly state that he was begotten of the Father... But while as the Son he does not possess a co-eternity of past existence with the Father, the beginning of his existence, as the begotten of the Father, antedates the entire work of creation, in relation to which he stands as joint

creator with God. John 1:3; Heb. 1:2. Could not the Father ordain that to such a being worship should be rendered equally with himself, without its being idolatry on the part of the worshiper? He has raised him to positions which make it proper that he should be worshiped, and has even commanded that worship should be rendered him, which would not have been necessary had he been equal with the Father in eternity of existence. Christ himself declares that ‘as the Father hath life in himself, so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.’ John 5:26. The Father has ‘highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.’ Phil. 2:9. And the Father himself says, ‘Let all the angels of God worship him.’ Heb. 1:6. These testimonies show that Christ is now an object of worship equally with the Father; but they do not prove that with him he holds an eternity of past existence.”

The Father and Son are only of one accord in carrying out the will of the Father. They are not a single individual with multiple identities—that is not a biblical teaching. A god-in-three-persons *is*, however, the central theme in all forms of paganism.

In the first chapter of his letter to the Hebrews, the apostle Paul put everything we have studied thus far into perspective this way:

Hebrews 1:1-2

¹ God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake

in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,
2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,
whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also
he made the worlds.

God spoke to the ancients through the prophets. But now He speaks to us through His Son, who, by the authority of the Father, created all things. The Son was also appointed by the Father to be the heir of all things. The Father gave His Son possession of all things and confirmed that all things were made by the Son.

Hebrews 1:3

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.


Let's look at this again with the pronouns identified to clarify this verse:

[Christ] being the brightness of his [Father's] glory, and the express image of his [Father's] person, and upholding all things by the word of his [Father's] power, when [Christ] had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the [Father's] Majesty on high.

Jesus, the express image of His Father, fulfilled the mission that God sent Him to earth to accomplish. As a declaration of His success, it says He purged our sins by His sacrifice, then ascended to heaven where He ceremoniously sat at the right hand of His Father on His throne.

Hebrews 1:4

[Christ], being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Jesus inherited Jehovah's name, much like a human son inherits his father's name. Remember, the name Jehovah is spelled Yod–Hey–Vav–Hey in Hebrew. The Hebrew language is a fascinating study. Unlike modern Hebrew, Ancient, or Paleo Hebrew utilized pictographic characters. Each letter in the Hebrew alphabet has a specific meaning of its own. For instance, the first Hebrew letter, aleph, was a pictograph of the head of an ox: . The ancient Israelites were shepherds. The strongest animal of their herds was the ox. Thus, the letter aleph represented 'strength.' The pictographic letters that spell the name Jehovah, Yod–Hey–Vav–Hey, hold a sacred significance:

Exodus 3:15

And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, Jehovah God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

God told Moses that Jehovah is not only His name, but it is also His memorial as well. The only way to know how His name is also His memorial is to understand what the pictographic letters represent. Hebrew reads right to left. The letter *yod* was the pictograph of an outstretched hand. *Hey* is a letter that represented a man who is calling

out as one trying to get attention. In other words, *hey* is a letter depicting “behold.” Next is the letter *vav*, which is a pictograph of a nail, followed by another *hey*. The name of God in pictographic form conveys the message: “Behold the Hand, Behold the Nail.” *Yod* (hand), *Hey* (behold), *Vav* (nail), *Hey* (behold). Jesus, by inheritance, obtained this most excellent name of His Father. Thus the name of God is His memorial forever.

The Name and Memorial of God			
Modern Hebrew	ה ו ה י	Paleo Hebrew	𐤅 𐤆 𐤅 𐤄
	<i>hey vav hey yod</i>		<i>hey vav hey yod</i>
“Behold the Hand, Behold the Nail”			



Although Hebrews 1:4 says that Jesus was “made” so much better than the angels, this does not mean that He is a created being. Angels and mankind are created beings. The Son of God “came forth” from the Father as the “begotten” of God. It was by being begotten and accomplishing the will of His Father that He is better than the angels.

Hebrews 1:5-6

⁵ For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again,

I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?
⁶ And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

Here Paul quotes Psalm 2:7 where the Father confirms that at a specific moment in eternity past Jesus came forth from God—literally begotten. Jehovah makes the divine proclamation that His Son is worthy to receive all honor, glory, and worship from the angels. This decree would not have been necessary if Christ were eternal like the Father, and had been receiving worship from the angels before that point.

Hebrews 1:8

But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom.

In the book *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 36, Ellen White puts this into perspective:

“The Son of God shared the Father’s throne, and the glory of the eternal, self-existent One encircled both. About the throne gathered the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng—‘ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands’ (Revelation 5:11), the most exalted angels, as ministers and subjects, rejoicing in the light that fell upon them from the presence of the Deity. Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven the King declared

that none but Christ, the Only Begotten of God, could fully enter into His purposes, and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will. The Son of God had wrought the Father's will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due. Christ was still to exercise divine power, in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants. But in all this He would not seek power or exaltation for Himself contrary to God's plan, but would exalt the Father's glory and execute His purposes of beneficence and love."

Let's summarize what we have learned so far:

- The Bible declares that Jehovah God the Father is the Supreme Being above all.
- There was a time in ceaseless ages past that God brought forth a Son.
- The Son carried out the will of the Father in the creation of all things.
- The Son became commander of all the heavenly host and was in charge of all creation.
- The Son of God was sent to the earth in human form by the Father. Jesus said to God, "A body hast thou prepared me." Hebrews 10:5. Christ led a sinless life. He died on the cross as our substitute to save us from our sins.

¹ The Spirit in the form of a dove at Jesus' baptism is explained on page 112 in the book *The Desire of Ages*, by Ellen G. White:

“The Saviour’s glance seems to penetrate heaven as He pours out His soul in prayer... Never before have the angels listened to such a prayer. They are eager to bear to their loved Commander a message of assurance and comfort. But no; *the Father Himself* will answer the petition of His Son. Direct from the throne issue the *beams of His glory*. The heavens are opened, and upon the Saviour’s head descends a dove-like form of purest light,—fit emblem of Him, the meek and lowly One.”

Ellen White explained that the Holy Spirit descending like a dove was not a separate person, but “beams of glory” emanating from the Father.

² The phrase, “Jehovah possessed Me,” in Proverbs 8:22, “possessed” comes from the Hebrew word *qanah*, which means, in this context, to be brought into being, or begotten, which is in harmony with what Christ said in verses 24 and 25, that He was “brought forth,” consistent with what He said in John 8:42, “...for I proceeded forth and came from God.”

³ Ellen White stated many times that Uriah Smith’s *Daniel and the Revelation* should be considered as important as her own *The Great Controversy* and *Patriarchs and Prophets*. She even went as far as to say that God used Smith to communicate great truths in this book: “The interest in *Daniel and the Revelation* is to continue as long as probationary time shall last. God used the author of this book as a channel through which to communicate light to direct minds to the truth. Shall we not appreciate this light, which points us to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, our King?” {1MR 63.1}

Sadly, editions of Smith’s book were altered after his death in 1903, removing all references to Christ’s begotten origin, as well as statements denouncing the trinity doctrine.

3

The Image of God

Genesis 1:26

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

“After the earth was created, and the beasts upon it, the Father and Son carried out their purpose, which was designed before the fall of Satan, to make man in their own image.”

— Ellen White, *The Story of Redemption*, page 20

“Us” in Genesis 1:26 refers only to the Father and the Son making man in their image. Let’s look at Scripture to examine how the “image of God” was created:

Genesis 2:7

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

On the sixth day of creation, God made a single human being—the man Adam. After putting the man in the Garden of Eden, God says this:

Genesis 2:18

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Why did God not create two humans at the same time, and in the same manner—out of the dust of the ground, side by side, male and female? Remember, man was created in the “image” of God, after the likeness of the Father and the Son. Notice that God says, “It is not good that the man should be alone.” Could it be that it is because the Father understood what it was like to be alone? In the ceaseless ages past, before the creation of the universe and angels, there was Jehovah—alone.

In the likeness of God, Jehovah created man in step with that which He experienced:

Genesis 2:20-23

²⁰ And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

²² And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

²³ And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because *she was taken out of Man.*

God does nothing without purpose. Since it is not possible to conclude that Eve was an afterthought on the part of an omniscient God—that God put the man here by himself, then suddenly realized that he should not be alone—then we must conclude that Eve’s manner of being was planned explicitly for all creation to observe. The creation of man-

kind was after the similitude of the relationship between God and His only begotten Son. Eve coming forth from Adam was a way for angels to understand how the Son of God was brought forth from the Father. Adam was first, as Jehovah was first. Adam was alone among his kind. There was none other like himself.

Jehovah is eternal. God is love. How unfathomable to the human mind is the contemplation of a lonely God; for One who is love to have no one to love, and no one to love Him. Love was His primary motivation for bringing into existence all things.

By Jesus' divine birth, which preceded his human birth (He was born again), Jehovah was no longer alone. He had a Son to love, and who was "brought up" loving Him. Jesus is "not a son by creation, as were the angels, nor a son by adoption, as is the forgiven sinner, but a Son begotten in the express image of the Father's person, and in all the brightness of his majesty and glory, one equal with God in authority, dignity, and divine perfection. In him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead¹ bodily." – E. G. White, *Signs of The Times*, May 30, 1895.

In the book *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 34, Ellen White wrote:

“The Sovereign of the universe was not alone in His work of beneficence. He had an associate—a co-worker who could appreciate His purposes, and could share His joy in giving happiness to created beings. ‘In the beginning was

the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.’ John 1:1, 2. Christ, the Word, the only begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father—one in nature, in character, in purpose—the *only being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God*. ‘His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.’ Isaiah 9:6. His ‘goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.’ Micah 5:2. And the Son of God declares concerning Himself: ‘The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting.... When He appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him: and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.’ Proverbs 8:22-30.”

God waited for the moment in which Adam realized that he, too, was alone in his existence. When the moment came, God said, “I will make him an help meet for him.” The word “meet” means fit. Only a being equal to himself would be fit for him. In the image of God was Eve brought forth from the side of Adam, and not out of the dust of the ground. For she was “*bone of his bones, and flesh of his flesh*.” For in this act, Christ illustrated to all the witnessing angelic host that He was likewise brought forth from the bosom of the Father, divinity of His divinity.

As Eve came from the side of Adam, Jesus, said Ellen White, was brought forth from the side of God:

“The Eternal Father, the unchangeable One, gave His only begotten Son, *tore from His bosom* Him who was made in the express image of His person, and sent Him down to earth to reveal how greatly He loved mankind.”

— Ellen White, *The Review and Herald*, July 9, 1895

The Son of God—not created, but begotten of Jehovah.

“Though sin had produced a gulf between man and his God, divine benevolence provided a plan to bridge that gulf. *And what material did He use? A part of Himself.* The brightness of the Father’s glory came to a world all seared and marred with the curse, and in His own divine character, in His own divine body, bridged the gulf and opened a channel of communication between God and man.”

— Ellen White, *Letter 36a*, 1890

If the Father is the only true God according to Jesus and the apostles, then is Jesus not God? Again, the answer can be found in the creation of mankind. The woman came from the man. Though she was created as subordinate to the man, and less in stature, she is 100% human. In the same way, the Father is the one true God, and Jesus was brought forth from Him. Although Jesus is subordinate to His Father, as we have already seen—Jesus said, “The Fa-

ther is greater than I,” in John 14:28—He is 100% divine by virtue of the fact that He was brought forth from God; “tore from His bosom,” and, “a part of Himself.” He is equal in authority because His Father bestowed that honor upon Him.

Did the apostles understand that Jesus is literally the begotten Son of God?

John 16:27-31

²⁷ For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that *I came out from God.*

²⁸ *I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.*

²⁹ His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.

³⁰ Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: *by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.*

³¹ Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?

Jehovah is not only Christ’s Father, but He is also the God of Jesus. He said, “I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; *and to my God, and your God.*” John 20:17. Jesus worshiped Jehovah and prayed to Him. Scripture reveals that the Father—being the only true God—worships and prays to no one. As such, Scripture denies the trinitarian claim that the Father and Son are co-eternal.

¹ The word “Godhead” in Mrs. White’s quote is from Colossians 2:9, translated from the Greek word *theotés*, which means ‘divinity’: “In him dwelt all the fullness of *divinity* bodily.” The term ‘Godhead’ does not involve numbers. This is not, as it were, a statement about quantity but quality.

4

The Form of God

Many who want to learn about God at some point wonder if our heavenly Father has a visible form. Jesus said that His Father, though a Spirit, does indeed have a form:

John 5:37

And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.

Some of the prophets were allowed to catch a glimpse of God. Here is how they described what they saw in visions:

Daniel 7:9

I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

Isaiah 6:1

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also Jehovah sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Ezekiel 1:26

And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was

the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.

Revelation 4:10

The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne.

All these prophets were privileged to see Jehovah *sitting* on His throne in such a way that would not mean their demise.

Early in her ministry, Ellen White was taken in vision to see Christ on the throne with His Father. In her book *Early Writings*, page 54, she gave this account:

“I saw a throne, and on it sat the Father and the Son. I gazed on Jesus’ countenance and admired His lovely person. The Father’s person I could not behold, for a cloud of glorious light covered Him. I asked Jesus if His Father had a form like Himself. He said He had, but I could not behold it, for said He, ‘If you should once behold the glory of His person, you would cease to exist.’”

What Ellen White was told is consistent with what God said to Moses in Exodus 33:20, “And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.”

John 4:24

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Because we in our sinful state would perish if we were to look upon Him, He, out of mercy for His lowly creations, has hidden His glory from our sight.

However, for the saved, this is only a temporary state. There will come a time when all who choose the Son will see the Father:

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

5

The Spirit of God

The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 11:3 that the head of Christ is God, and that Christ is subject to His Father. Christ came to earth to reveal the Father and His Father's will to us. As Jesus put it:

John 14:20

At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

God and His Son spiritually connected with humanity—Jesus in the Father, we in Him, and He in us. The Holy Spirit is the greatest gift to mankind that Jesus could petition His Father to give.

Who is the Holy Spirit, according to the Bible? What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit?

Before we can answer these questions, we must first understand the word *spirit*. There are a few words in the Bible translated into English as spirit. The more prominent of Hebrew words is *ruwach*, while in Greek, the word is *pneuma*. The meaning of both these words covers two main concepts: The first pertains to one's thoughts and feelings—one's conscious mind and person. For instance: "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." 1 Corinthians 2:11. The other use of the word spirit means *breathing*, or the move-

ment of air. For example, from the Greek word *pneuma*, we get the English word *pneumonia*, an infection of the lungs that affects breathing. Another word is *pneumatic*, such as a machine that is operated by compressed air.

The Day of Pentecost is perhaps the most prominent example in the Bible of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It involved the movement of air:

Acts 2:2-4

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.

‘Holy Ghost’ in this verse is translated from the Greek *Agio Pneuma*, literally meaning *Holy Breath*.

Jesus also compared receiving the Holy Spirit to the wind when talking to Nicodemus:

John 3:8

The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Why does God closely associate breathing with a person’s thoughts, feelings, character, and mind within the word spirit? Consider what the Bible says about what happens when one dies:

Psalms 146:4

His *breath* (spirit) goeth forth, he returneth to his earth;

in that very day his *thoughts* perish.

In other words, when we stop breathing, we stop thinking. One cannot exist without the other. Moreover, it is through breath that thoughts and feelings transmit into words. Jesus said, “The *words* that I speak unto you, they are *spirit*, and they are life.” John 6:63.

Observe the link between breath and mind in the Creation account:

Genesis 1:2

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the ***Spirit*** of God *moved* upon the face of the waters.

Psalm 33:6

By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the ***breath*** of his mouth.

The words *Spirit* and *breath* in these verses are the very same Hebrew word—*ruwach*. In Genesis 3:8, *ruwach* is a cool breeze—also the movement of air:

Genesis 3:8

And [Adam and Eve] heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the ***cool*** of the day.

There is the *ruwach* of God and the *ruwach* of the day. It is the same word used in the account of Moses parting the Red Sea:

Exodus 14:21

And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east **wind** all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

The *Spirit* of God; the *breath* of His mouth; a *cool* breeze; and a strong east *wind*—are all translated from the Hebrew word *ruwach*. “By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the spirit/breath of his mouth.” “And the Spirit/Breath of God moved upon the face of the waters.” It is even written that Jesus “breathed on the apostles, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost (Agio Pneuma: Holy Breath).” John 20:22. In these Scripture passages, the breath of God is His Spirit.

When the Bible refers to the Spirit of God, it is phrased in the possessive. It is Jehovah’s Spirit. But more than just God’s Holy Breath, it is His divine will. It was His Holy Breath that filled the nostrils of Adam, which caused him to become a living being. It was His holy breath—the Spirit of Christ—in John 20:22 that breathed new life into the disciples and all mankind.

We learned that the words *ruwach* and *pneuma* translated as *spirit* encompasses both the breath and the mind of the Father and the Son. Their Holy Spirit (breath/mind) proceeds forth from them. It is that which is received by the born again soul:

John 15:26

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto

you *from the Father*, even the Spirit of truth, which *proceedeth from the Father*, he shall testify of me.

Matthew 10:20

For it is not ye that speak, but the *Spirit of your Father* which speaketh in you.

Philippians 1:19

For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the *Spirit of Jesus Christ*.

Romans 8:9

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

1 Peter 1:11

Searching what, or what manner of time the *Spirit of Christ* which was in them did signify...

Galatians 4:6

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the *Spirit of his Son* into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Colossians 1:27

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is *Christ in you*, the hope of glory.

Jesus prayed for the disciples and said to His Father, “I in them, and thou in me... And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.” John 17:23, 26.

Notice Jesus says that it is His Father and Himself in Spirit (that is Holy) that enters the hearts of believers. All these verses confirm the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Father and the Son in the man. The mind of God is to be within the born again Christian, connecting them with Him. We can become like-minded with our Creator. He wants us to think, speak, and act in harmony with Him.

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

The Father and the Son will make their abode—that is to say, their *home*—with the repentant sinner. How?

1 Corinthians 6:19

Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

The Holy Spirit is the presence; breath and mind of the Father and the Son in the soul.

Psalms 139:7

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

1 Corinthians 2:16

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ.

You may ask, Didn't Jesus say that the Comforter will come as another? Yes, He did. Let's look in the gospel of John, chapter 14 at what Jesus told the disciples:

John 14:16

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.

Comforter was translated into English from the Greek *paráklētos*. We will come back to this.

John 14:17

Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Didn't we just read in John 14:23 that it is Christ and the Father that make their abode in you? Now notice what Jesus says about the Comforter in verse 18:

John 14:18

I will not leave you comfortless: *I will come to you.*

John 14:20-21

At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will *manifest myself* to him.

At this point, in verse 22, the apostles were confused, but not about *who* would come. They correctly understood that

it would be Jesus manifesting Himself to them. They were expecting no one else. They only needed clarification as to *how* He would manifest Himself in such a way that they would not see Him. One of them asked a question that was probably on all their minds:

John 14:22-23

Lord, how is it that thou wilt *manifest thyself* unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and *we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*

The Father and Son in you. No one else.

John 14:24-25

He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. These things have I spoken unto you, *being yet present with you.*

Jesus said to the disciples in verse 17 that the Comforter “dwelleth with them” in the present, and would be in them in the future. They thoroughly understood that Christ was with them at that time, that He would go to the Father, then manifest Himself to them later in a way that they would not see Him.

Jesus uses that word Comforter again in verse 26. Remember, the original Greek word is *paráklētos*:

John 14:26

But the Comforter (*paráklētos*), which is the Holy Ghost,

whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

After teaching them much about the Holy Ghost (Holy Breath/Mind) as “another” Comforter, Jesus then reveals He had been speaking in proverbs or parables:

John 16:25

These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

Jesus taught in parables all the time. He said of Himself, “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved.” And, “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.” John 10:9. Jesus referred to the Comforter in the third person. Jesus often spoke of Himself in the third person:

Matthew 13:41

The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity.

Jesus spoke of Himself as though he were talking about someone else when He said that *the Son of man* was to come and that *he* will send *his* angels. Remember that after Jesus said that “the Comforter, he will come,” He followed this by plainly saying in verse 18, “I will not leave you comfortless: **I will come to you.**”

Again, in John’s gospel, the word *Comforter* was trans-

lated from the Greek word *paráklētos*. There is another place where *paráklētos* was used to describe Jesus, also penned by the apostle John, yet translated into English as a different word:

1 John 2:1

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

The word ‘advocate’ here is the same word that was translated as Comforter when referring to the Holy Spirit. If you have a Strong’s Concordance, the words Comforter and advocate are both numbered 3875—the Greek word *paráklētos*. For whatever reason, the translators chose a different English word in this verse. Since it is the same Greek word, then 1 John 2:1 is just as accurately translated, “If any man sin, we have a *Comforter* with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

Now, let’s take a look at who the Holy Spirit is according to the inspired writings of Ellen G. White. She commented on this in various works:

“The only defense against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness.”

— *The Desire of Ages*, page 324

“The Holy Spirit is the comforter, as the personal presence of Christ to the soul.”

— *The Review and Herald*, November 29, 1892

“The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ.”

— *Manuscript Releases, vol. 14, page 84*

“This refers to the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ, called the Comforter.”

— *Manuscript Releases, vol. 14, page 179*

“We adore God for His wondrous love in giving Jesus the Comforter.”

— *Manuscript Releases, vol. 19, page 298*

“They have one God and one Saviour; and one Spirit—the Spirit of Christ.”

— *The Later Elmshaven Years, 1905 - 1915,*
page 47

“We want the Holy Spirit, which is Jesus Christ.”

— *Letter 66, 1894*

“The Saviour is our Comforter. This I have proved Him to be.”

— *Manuscript Releases, vol. 8, page 49, 1892*

“In giving His commission to His followers, Christ did not tell them they would be left alone. He assured them that *He would be near them*. He spoke of His Omnipresence in a special way. Go to all nations, He said. Go, to the farthest portion of the habitable globe, but know that *My presence*

will be there. Labor in faith and confidence, for the time will never come when I shall forsake you.”

— *Manuscript 138*, 1897

Most important is the purpose of the Holy Spirit. From her book, *Acts of The Apostles*, pages 52 and 53, Mrs. White wrote:

“It is the Holy Spirit that convicts of sin. If the sinner responds to the quickening influence of the Spirit, he will be brought to repentance and aroused to the importance of obeying the divine requirements.

“To the repentant sinner, hungering and thirsting for righteousness, the Holy Spirit reveals the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. ‘He shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you,’ Christ said. ‘He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.’ John 16:14; 14:26.

“The Spirit is given as a regenerating agency, to make effectual the salvation wrought by the death of our Redeemer. The Spirit is constantly seeking to draw the attention of men to the great offering that was made on the cross of Calvary, to unfold to the world the love of God, and to open to the convicted soul the precious things of the Scriptures.

“Having brought conviction of sin, and presented before the mind the standard of righteousness,

the Holy Spirit withdraws the affections from the things of this earth and fills the soul with a desire for holiness. ‘He will guide you into all truth’ (John 16:13), the Saviour declared. If men are willing to be molded, there will be brought about a sanctification of the whole being. The Spirit will take the things of God and stamp them on the soul.”

The work of the Holy Spirit is best summed up by the apostle Paul:

Galatians 2:20

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

Then they who receive the Holy Spirit will labor as did Paul for the benefit of mankind. He said, “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20.

1 Corinthians 15:45

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam (Jesus Christ) was made a quickening (life-giving) *spirit*.

Why did Christ speak of the Comforter as *another*? It is Jesus Himself come in *another form*. Jesus, the man, was made Jesus the Comforter—a life-giving, Holy Spirit. It is

Jesus, “the last Adam,” whose Spirit is holy that comes to the door of your heart:

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, *I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*

Jesus is the Word. He is the Bread of Life. It is Christ’s Spirit that enters the believer to “sup” on “every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4. By His Spirit, Christ helps the believer understand Scripture. We get to know God by reading His words of life.

John 6:63

The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

In giving us His Spirit, He is giving us His life experience that knew no sin, and with it life eternal. The Holy Spirit. The Comforter. It is not devoid of personality. The Spirit is not an impersonal force or essence. No. It is very personal and very intimate. It is Christ in you, the hope of glory! When we receive the Holy Spirit by faith, we are receiving the mind of Jesus Christ and His righteousness. Is there anything in this world that’s worth more than that?

6

Righteousness by Faith

John 17:1-3

¹ These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

² As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

³ And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Salvation is the gift of God through faith in His Son Jesus Christ.

John 20:31

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Our first parent, Adam, sinned.

Romans 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

It is Adam's sinful life that is passed on to his offspring that we inherit at birth. It is our sinful life that is not capable of keeping God's law. We are born in the flesh, which

brings death. There is nothing we can do to earn our way into heaven. It is the righteous life of Christ we receive in Spirit that brings life eternal. We are “born again.”

Because we are born with a sinful nature, even at our best, we still come short of the glory of God, says Romans 3:23. And 1 John 3:4 says, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” Only the righteous life of Christ meets the requirements of the law. We receive it by faith. This is known as *righteousness by faith*.

A Christian needs to understand how righteousness by faith works. What did Jesus have to experience and accomplish that gave Him legal rights to offer His righteous life to the sinner? Let’s explore what the Bible reveals concerning righteousness by faith.

Jesus told His disciples:

John 16:7

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Jesus said that He had to leave them before the Comforter could come. The disciples were troubled. They did not want to be without their Lord. But Jesus said it was “expedient for them.” It would be to their advantage that He goes away. They would benefit greatly. But if he does not go the Comforter will not come.

Why did Jesus have to go before the Comforter could

come?

John 7:38-39

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: *for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.*)

Jesus had to be glorified before the Comforter could come.

John 6:63

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

In John 6:63, “Christ is not here referring to his doctrine, but to his person, the divinity of his character,” says Ellen White in *Selected Messages Book 1*, page 249.

1 Corinthians 15:45

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

The first Adam was defeated by Satan, bringing defeat and death. Jesus is referred to here as the last Adam. Our chance at life. As we saw, 1 Corinthians 15:45 says that Christ “was made a quickening spirit.” This means that Jesus’ glorification made Him a life-giving Spirit—a Holy Spirit.

It is Christ’s victory over sin and Satan that makes for

an extra measure of the Spirit which He offers to us. Let's look at Scripture to see how:

Romans 8:10

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Who's righteousness? The righteousness of Christ.
Jesus prayed:

John 17:5

And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

In this prayer, Jesus anticipated His glorification by the Father in heaven. The glory Jesus was looking forward to was not for Himself. Jesus did nothing for Himself. It was for the benefit of His followers. Jesus said it was "expedient" for the apostles that He goes away so that the Spirit could come.

John 17:22

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one.

The reason for His glorification is so that we can be one with God through the power of His Spirit.

You might be asking, Wasn't the Spirit of God with His people before this? "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." 2 Timothy 3:16. The Holy Spirit was with all of the Bible writers.

So why was the Spirit, now called the Comforter, given after Christ's glorification, somehow different?

The Bible tells us that as a human being, Christ lived a victorious life. His was a life without sin. This victory over sin became a part of His life experience. Why was it necessary? Because "God cannot be tempted with evil." James 1:13. If Christ had not clothed His divinity with humanity, then He could not have been tempted by evil, and His victory would have had no real value. But as a human being, He could be tempted.

Hebrews 4:15

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

As a man, Jesus gained victories over sin and Satan, such as we, of ourselves, are powerless to achieve. Because He was victorious, Jesus declared, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Matthew 28:18.

But before this happened, notice what Jesus said to Mary Magdalene on resurrection morning:

John 20:17

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

In her book, *The Desire of Ages*, page 790, Ellen White wrote:

“Jesus refused to receive the homage of His people until He had the assurance that His sacrifice was accepted by the Father. He ascended to the heavenly courts, and from God Himself heard the assurance that His atonement for the sins of men had been ample, that through His blood all might gain eternal life. The Father ratified the covenant made with Christ, that God would receive repentant and obedient men, and would love them even as He loves His Son. Christ was to complete His work, and fulfill His pledge to ‘make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.’ Isaiah 13:12. All power in heaven and on earth was given to the Prince of Life, and He returned to His followers in a world of sin, that He might impart to them of His power and glory.”

Jesus glorified could now share His sinless life with all of His followers through faith.

Ellen White further explained in her book, *The Desire of Ages*, page 669:

“The Holy Spirit is Christ’s representative, but divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof. Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally. Therefore it was for [the apostles] interest that He should go to the Father, and send the Spirit to be His successor on earth. No one could then have any advantage

because of his location or his personal contact with Christ. By the Spirit the Saviour would be accessible to all. In this sense He would be nearer to them than if He had not ascended on high.”

In human form, Jesus could not be everywhere at once. Glorification by His Father transformed Him into a “quickening Spirit.” By His Spirit, He could fulfill the promise of being the Comforter, “accessible to all.”

After receiving His Father’s seal of approval, that same day, Jesus appeared to the disciples. Notice what He does:

John 20:19-20, 22

Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you... And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

What a beautiful scene! The same Jesus who at the beginning breathed life into the nostrils of Adam was now breathing new life into the human race for all who would choose to receive it.

“The Holy Spirit is the breath of spiritual life in the soul. The impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ. It imbues the receiver with the attributes of Christ.”

— Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, page 805

But this act of breathing on the disciples was only a preview of what was yet to come:

Luke 24:49-50

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

Just before He left this earth, Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father; the Comforter. From this point, the author, Luke, picks up where he left off at the beginning of the book of Acts:

Acts 1:4-5

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Peter and the other disciples were waiting in Jerusalem for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The apostle Paul tells us what took place in heaven that day:

Hebrews 1:8-9

But unto the Son [the Father] saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness,

and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

In heaven, before all the angelic host, Christ is glorified by His Father. God accepts the sacrifice His Son has made for fallen man. God acknowledges that in Christ's life as a human, He "loved righteousness and hated iniquity." He then anoints Christ with the oil of gladness. Oil is a symbol of God's Spirit. This heavenly ceremony is the inauguration of Jesus Christ as our High Priest both in the temple in heaven and our body temples. Jesus promised the Comforter would come to the disciples when He was *with* them. By His glorified Spirit, He could now continue His work *in* them.

At Pentecost, now filled with the promise of the Holy Spirit, Peter also tells the assembled multitude what just took place in heaven:

Acts 2:32-33

This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Jesus sends us His very own life, full of His experience and power, poured out at Pentecost. Christ's life experience can be ours! He offers it to all who would accept it by faith. This victorious, sinless human life experience is what helps us, comforts us, enables us to have victory over sin. His life makes us righteous—righteousness by faith.

Colossians 1:27-28

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

We have no hope of living righteously in ourselves. Christ had to do it for us through His own life as a human being. To all who would accept it by faith, He gives that life. It is the only human life that is acceptable to God—the life of His only begotten Son.

Acts 3:13

The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus.

John 1:12

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

We receive His life by believing on His name. And He gives us the power to become sons and daughters of God!

1 Corinthians 6:17

But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

As life in the parents is passed on to children, so the

spiritual life of Christ passes to believers. We are born of the flesh by parents. We are born of the Spirit through Christ. And this is how righteousness by faith adopts us into the family of God.

Galatians 4:6

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

The Father promises to give us the life of His Son. By this means, when God looks on us in judgment, He sees the life of Jesus.

Colossians 3:4

When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

“Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:27. When we live righteousness by faith, Jesus will glorify us at His second coming.

1 Corinthians 15:52-53

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

“The cry of Christ to the thirsty soul is still going forth, and it appeals to us with even greater power.... The fountain is open for all.”

— Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, page 454

Revelation 22:17

Let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

John 4:14

But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

The Desire of Ages, page 390, Ellen White explains what it means to receive Jesus by faith:

“It is by beholding Jesus’ love, by dwelling upon it, by drinking it in, that we are to become partakers of His nature. What food is to the body, Christ must be to the soul. Food cannot benefit us unless we eat it, unless it becomes a part of our being. So Christ is of no value to us if we do not know Him as a personal Saviour. A theoretical knowledge will do us no good. We must feed upon Him, receive Him into the heart, so that His life becomes our life. His love, His grace, must be assimilated.

“As the Son of God lived by faith in the Father, so are we to live by faith in Christ. So fully was Jesus surrendered to the will of God that the Father alone appeared in His life. Although tempted in all points like as we are, He stood before the world untainted by the evil that surrounded Him. Thus we also are to overcome as Christ overcame.

“Are you a follower of Christ? Then all that is

written concerning the spiritual life is written for you, and may be attained through uniting yourself to Jesus...and you will become one with the Father and with the Son.”

John 14:20

At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

John 4:24

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

The Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 3, page 239, Ellen White wrote, “The Comforter, the Spirit of truth, was to abide with them forever, and Christ assured them that the union existing between himself and the Father, now also embraced them.” “Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me?” John 14:10. Christ glorified can be in us as the Comforter. But this does not exclude the Father. Both Father and Son make their abode in our hearts (John 14:23).

1 John 1:2

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

² (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

³ That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly

Righteousness by Faith

our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

7

What About These Verses?

The traditional view of God involves the doctrine of the trinity. The trinity is defined by *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* this way:

“The Trinity is One. We do not confess three Gods, but one God in three persons, the ‘consubstantial Trinity’. The divine persons do not share the one divinity among themselves but each of them is God whole and entire: ‘The Father is that which the Son is, the Son that which the Father is, the Father and the Son that which the Holy Spirit is.’”

The 28 Fundamental Beliefs of The Seventh-day Adventist Church explains the trinity similarly:

“Trinity: There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons.”

Compare this fundamental belief with what the Bible says:

1 Corinthians 11:3

But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; *and the head of Christ is God.*

Amos 3:3 says, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” The trinity contradicts what the Bible plainly teaches. The two do not agree.

The trinity doctrine negates righteousness by faith. Why? Because it is not the Spirit of Christ that enters the heart. If ‘God the Holy Spirit’ exists as a separate entity, then he is not capable of being tempted by sin, nor can he die. He, therefore, cannot represent sinners because he did not live as one of us, been tempted as one of us, nor die in our place. Furthermore, if this other could have been sent, then why was it necessary for Christ to be born, live, and die as a man? It makes no sense.

The Bible states roughly 130 times that God has a Son. Ten of those times it says that the Son was “begotten” of God. Many Adventists would be shocked to learn that the doctrine of the trinity in modern Seventh-day Adventism does not allow for Jesus to be the begotten Son of God. The official position of the church is explained in this quote by Adventist theologian and former director of the Biblical Research Institute:

“We are dealing with a metaphorical use of the word ‘son.’ The Son is not the natural, literal Son of the Father.”

—Ángel Manuel Rodríguez, *Adventist World*,
November, 2015

If God is a trinity, then Jesus cannot be the “begotten” Son of God because, according to this teaching, He had no

beginning. Being co-eternal with the Father, then Christ cannot be tempted by sin, nor can He actually die. Therefore it is said that His Sonship to the Father is only “metaphorical.” It cannot be real. Would not the trinity doctrine render salvation metaphorical also? Indeed it would.

Trinitarians insist that this view of God is biblical. Let’s look at one of the passages used to ‘prove’ that God is a trinity, first from the King James Version:

1 John 5:7-8 King James Version (KJV)

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

⁸ And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.”

This stand-alone verse seems to communicate a trinitarian point of view. However, if that were so, it would negate the numerous other Scripture verses that contradict the trinity; many of which, as was this verse, also written by the apostle John.

Doctrine should never be based on a single passage of Scripture. Isaiah 28:10 says: “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.”

To receive the fullness of a biblical principle, we must examine all verses about a particular subject, especially verses by the same author. Those who cite 1 John 5:7-8 to prove the trinity overlook 1 John 4:13; “Hereby know

we that we dwell in [Jesus], and he in us, because he hath given us of *his Spirit*.” Not only does this verse identify the Holy Spirit as Jesus in direct opposition to the trinity, but it also comes from the same 1 John epistle.

Now let’s look at 1 John 5:7-8 in other Bible translations:

1 John 5:7-8 New International Version (NIV):

⁷ For there are three that testify: ⁸ the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

NIV Footnote:

1 John 5:8 Late manuscripts of the Vulgate testify in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. ⁸ And there are three that testify on earth: the (*not found in any Greek manuscript before the fourteenth century*)

Notice the NIV footnote for this verse states that the words, “the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one,” are NOT found in ANY Greek manuscript before the fourteenth century.

Here is the same verse in the New King James Version:

1 John 5:7-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷ For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. ⁸ And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

NKJV Footnote:

1 John 5:7 NU-Text and M-Text omit the words from *in heaven* (verse 7) through *on earth* (verse 8). Only 4 or 5 very late manuscripts contain these words in Greek.

This footnote similarly states that the words, “*the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one*” do not appear in the text of the earliest manuscripts, meaning the apostle John did not write them. They were added centuries later by translators who wanted to make it appear as though Scripture supports the idea that God is a trinity.

Even the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* advises that it would be in error to use this passage of Scripture to prove the trinity doctrine:

“The passage as given in the KJV is in no Greek manuscripts earlier than the 15th and 16th centuries. The disputed words found their way into the KJV by way of the Greek text of Erasmus (see Vol. V, p. 141). It is said that Erasmus offered to include the disputed words in his Greek Testament if he were shown even one Greek manuscript that contained them. A library in Dublin produced such a manuscript (known as 34), and Erasmus included the passage in his text. It is now believed that the later editions of the Vulgate acquired the passage by the mistake of a scribe who included an exegetical marginal comment in the Bible text that he was copying. **The disputed words have been widely used in support of the doctrine of the Trinity, but, in view of such overwhelming evidence against their authenticity, their support is valueless and should not be used.** In spite of their appearance in the Vulgate A Catholic Commentary

on Holy Scripture freely admits regarding these words: ‘It is now generally held that this passage, called the Comma Johanneum, is a gloss that crept into the text of the Old Latin and Vulgate at an early date, but found its way into the Greek text only in the 15th and 16th centuries’ (Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1951, p. 1186).”

— *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*,
Volume 7, page 675

Here is another common passage used to ‘prove’ the trinity teaching:

Matthew 28:19-20

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

In error, some quote this verse with the words, “God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.” “God the Father” appears readily in Scripture. However, many are perplexed when they find out that the words “God the Son,” and “God the Holy Spirit” do not appear anywhere in the Bible.

It is in the “name” of the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost that the Lord tells the disciples to baptize. But, these are references to divine *titles*.

Jesus mentioned the Holy Ghost, then in the very next verse said that it is He who is with us always—in Spirit—

“even unto the end of the world.”

Taking into account all we have learned, the true meaning of this verse conveys the will of the *Father* to baptize into His *Son*, so that converted they would receive the divine mind and character—the *Holy Ghost* (Agió Pneuma: Holy Breath).

The apostles fully understood this, as it was in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ alone that they baptized:

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the *name of Jesus Christ* for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:12

But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and *the name of Jesus Christ*, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 8:16

(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized *in the name of the Lord Jesus*.)

Acts 10:48

And he commanded them to be baptized *in the name of the Lord*. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Acts 19:5

When they heard this, they were baptized *in the name of the Lord Jesus*.

Acts 22:16

And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling *on the name of the Lord*.

Romans 6:3

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized *into Jesus Christ* were baptized into his death?

If Jesus actually said in Matthew 28:19, “baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,” then we have no choice but to apply all other Scriptures to it—that the Father is Jehovah the only true God; that Jesus Christ, “brought forth,” is the only begotten Son of the Father; that the Holy Spirit is their omnipresence and power, their holy mind and breath, and not a separate entity apart from them.

But Ellen White said...

“We need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds.”

— *Manuscript 66*, 1899

“Evil has been accumulating for centuries and could only be resisted by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Godhead.”

— *Manuscript Releases, Vol. 4*, page 329

We must apply the biblical rule of study from Isaiah 28:10 to the writings of Mrs. White. We cannot, therefore,

choose only a few Ellen White quotes while discarding everything else she has written about this subject (refer back to pages 47-49). The second quote above is used often as proof that Ellen White was a trinitarian. But this quote came from page 329 of *Manuscript Releases, Volume 4*. Just three pages later she tells us twice who the Third Person of the Godhead is:

“Subjection to the Word of God means the restoration of one’s self. Let Christ work by *His Holy Spirit*, and awaken you as from the dead.” “Receiving the *Spirit of Christ*, every one of His followers will fulfil a divinely appointed mission not merely to be an influence among influences, but to be a special influence for God in every sense of the term.”

— *Manuscript Releases, Vol. 4*, page 332

Mrs. White’s *Desire of Ages* is also used to ‘prove’ that God’s end-time prophet turned trinitarian later in her life:

“Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power.”

— *The Desire of Ages*, page 671

However, later *in this same paragraph*, Sister White once again identifies that Third Person:

“... Christ has given *His Spirit* as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress *His own character* upon His church.”

— *The Desire of Ages*, page 671

To understand the Holy Spirit from Ellen White’s writings, we must compare all that she wrote about this subject. There is no doubt. Ellen White believed the Third Person of the Godhead to be none other than Jesus Christ. She was not a trinitarian, nor did she change in her later years.

In the book, *Living Temple*, published in 1903 by John H. Kellogg, this author tried to explain the nature of God in pantheistic philosophies and trinitarian terms. In response to these fallacies, Ellen White wrote her book, *The Ministry of Healing* in 1905. Mrs. White included a chapter called “A True Knowledge of God.” This chapter is meant to set straight just that, and to correct Dr. Kellogg. Mrs. White nowhere in those 18 pages mentions, nor describes God as a trinity. Instead, she emphasized as essential knowledge (as we have in this book): “This is life eternal,” said Jesus, “that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.” John 17:3.

Only once in all of her vast writings did she ever use the word “trinity.” Ask Ellen White to define the trinity, and this is what you get: “... beware of that which the old writers called the world’s trinity—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.” — *LT 43*, 1898.

8

Revelation Reveals No Trinity

Ellen White said that all the books of the Bible meet and end in the book of Revelation. It is a summation of all previous inspired writings.

The trinity doctrine declares that God is a single deity in “three persons,” each co-equal and co-eternal. Therefore, a god-in-three-persons must be “Almighty” in every representative personality; Father, Son, Holy Spirit. If this is the truth, then it should be confirmed with singular clarity in the book of Revelation.

Does Revelation reveal a trinity? Let us first examine how the prophecies were handed down to John:

Revelation 1:1

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

We learn in Revelation that inspiration originates with Jehovah. The Father then gives it to Jesus Christ. The Son of God then gives it to the angel, who in turn delivers the message to the prophet John: God–Jesus–the angel–John.

Revelation 1:4-6

⁴ John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be

unto you, and peace, from *him which is, and which was, and which is to come*; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

⁵ *And from Jesus Christ*, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

⁶ And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Verses 4 through 6 are heaven's greeting through John. Who are the greeters? The first comes from, "him which is, and which was, and which is to come." Some say that this is Christ. It cannot be Jesus, as He is mentioned separately in verse 5. Christ is the faithful witness that "washed us from our sins in His own blood." And by this act made us "kings and priests unto *God and His Father*." Again Jesus is presented as separate from "God and His Father."

Who is He "which is, and which was, and which is to come?" The answer can be found in chapters 4 and 11.

The first seven verses of Revelation 4 describe the throne of Jehovah. Around the throne are four Living Creatures who worship Him.

Revelation 4:8

And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

Revelation 11:17

We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come.

It is the Lord God Almighty sitting on the throne who “was, is, and is to come.” Besides Revelation, the word “Almighty” is only used in the New Testament in 2 Corinthians 6:18; “And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty,” identifying the Father as the Almighty God.

Red-letter Bibles indicate the words of Christ. Publishers choose which words they think are spoken by Jesus, not inspiration. In most Bibles, the red letters of Revelation 1:8 do not include the entire verse, making Christ the Almighty:

Revelation 1:8 (Bold type represents red letters)

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending,
saith the Lord, **which is, and which was, and which is to**
come, the Almighty.

However, notice what would happen to the meaning of the verse if it was all red, as entirely spoken by Christ:

Revelation 1:8

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending,
saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is
to come, the Almighty.

In other words, “The Lord (Jehovah), which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty, (He) saith that I (Jesus) am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the

ending.”

Some Trinitarians say that the four beasts in Revelation 4:8 say “holy” three times because they are addressing the trinity. Not so. Why three holies? There is a holy for “which was,” a holy for “is,” and a third for “is to come.” This reference is to Jehovah the Almighty alone.

How do we know that this does not include Jesus Christ? Because He does not appear until chapter 5.

Revelation 5:1

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

Chapter 5 begins with the Almighty God sitting on His throne with a sealed book in His hand. No one can be found worthy to open the seals. Enter Jesus Christ:

Revelation 5:6

And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Jesus stands before the throne, separate from the Almighty God. He is “the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” John 1:29. On His head are seven horns and seven eyes. Take special note that these features of Jesus Himself are interpreted to be “the seven Spirits of God.” The other greeting in Revelation 1:4

comes from “the seven Spirits,” which are before the throne. Jesus is before the throne! The symbolism of the number seven denotes completeness, fullness of perfection, all-encompassing. They are the seven horns and seven eyes of Jesus the Lamb—this is the Holy Spirit!

Revelation 1:10-13

¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

¹¹ Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

¹² And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

¹³ And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

In the vision, John sees Jesus, “one like unto the Son of man” amid seven candlesticks. The candlesticks, we are told in verse 20, represent the seven churches named in verse 11. These churches are not literal. They are symbolic of the seven ages of the Christian church to Christ’s second coming. Jesus walking amid these churches is an illustration of what He promised after His resurrection, “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Matthew 28:20. How is He with His churches throughout the ages? By the Holy Spirit. Who is the Spirit? Jesus Himself tells us. Notice Jesus opens His mes-

sages to the churches by addressing each of them with a different characteristic of Himself, none more direct than to the church in Thyatira:

Revelation 2:18

And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things *saith the Son of God...*

It is Jesus who personally delivers these messages. How does He end all seven of them? By saying, “He that hath an ear, let him hear what *the Spirit saith* unto the churches.” “These things *saith* the Son of God... hear what the Spirit *saith* unto the churches.” The Son *is* the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is depicted in John’s vision as the horns and the eyes of the Lamb. These are the power (omnipotence) and eyes (omnipresence) of Jesus Christ Himself. It is the Spirit of Christ that gives these messages. It is the Holy Spirit, which is Jesus Christ, who walks in our midst, the seven churches, forever.

“Almighty” is a term exclusive to the Father in Revelation.

Revelation 15:3

And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

The redeemed here are singing a song that is also sung by Moses *and Christ*, collectively praising the Father who is the Lord God Almighty.

Revelation 21:22

And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty *and* the Lamb are the temple of it.

The last chapter of Revelation—and the Bible—also makes a clear distinction between the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb Jesus Christ. Only Jehovah the Father is designated “Almighty” God.

The information is so overwhelming to the prophet John that he falls down before his attending angel to worship him. Notice the angel’s reaction.

Revelation 19:10

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Notice to Whom the angel directs John’s worship. Remember, the Father gives the prophecies to His Son. Then Jesus gives them to the angel, who in turn delivers them to the prophet John: God—Jesus—the angel—John. John, out of feelings of awesome wonder, renders worship to the angel. The angel redirects his worship backward through the chain of inspiration, back to the Father: John (the prophet)—the angel (the messenger)—Jesus (God’s Son and Faithful Witness)—God (the Father and object of true worship). It is by the ministration of angels that we receive the Spirit of Christ, that we may be in the presence of God the Almighty Father. As such, Revelation reveals no trinity.

9

Greetings

The New Testament epistles each begin with a greeting. By these, the apostles confirm that what they wrote was inspired. Notice their greetings accordingly include God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ alone. There is no mention of ‘God the Holy Spirit’ in these New Testament greetings. In these greetings, the Father is not only declared to be our God, separate from Jesus, but He is often also mentioned as Christ’s God, too. There is no trinity.

Romans 1:7

To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:3

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

2 Corinthians 1:2

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

Galatians 1:1-5

¹ Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus
Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

² And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches
of Galatia:

³ Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from

our Lord Jesus Christ,

⁴ Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

⁵ To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 1:1-3

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

Philippians 1:2

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

Colossians 1:1-3

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother,

² To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you.

1 Thessalonians 1:1

Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:1-2

¹ Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

² Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 1:1-2

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;

² Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:1-2

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

² To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Titus 1:1-4

¹ Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

² In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

³ But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

⁴ To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Philemon 1:3

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

James 1:1

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

2 Peter 1:1-2

¹ Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

² Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.

1 John 1:3

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

2 John 1:3

Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

Jude 1-4

¹ Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

² Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

³ Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly

contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

⁴ For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

This greeting from Jude is consistent with all that came before it. He confirms that the Father is the one true God, distinct and separate from the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no mention of a third person of divinity. But Jude goes further, saying with warning that there are ungodly men who deny, “the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Again, the trinity doctrine states that Jesus is not the begotten Son of God, that this is a mere metaphor. The titles of Father and Son are nothing more than a role play, as in acting: “The Father is that which the Son is, the Son that which the Father is, the Father and the Son that which the Holy Spirit is.”

The trinity doctrine denies the very profession that the apostles and Jesus Christ Himself were persecuted and put to death over.

Matthew 16:16

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

John 6:69

And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

Matthew 26:63-66

⁶³ But Jesus held his peace, And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

⁶⁴ Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

⁶⁵ Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

⁶⁶ What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.

Would they be so willing to die over a metaphor?

Titus 1:2 states that God cannot lie. Acting is said to be the art of lying. If God, who cannot lie, says that Jesus is His only begotten Son, and Jesus and all the apostles gave their lives for this sake, then this must be taken quite literally.

The trinity denies the Father and the Son as a literal depiction of the Godhead.

1 John 2:22

Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

The spirit of antichrist is in direct opposition to what Jesus prayed in John 17:3.

John 17:3

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

Knowing the Father and Son alone is eternal life, says Jesus. “He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.” Where is the co-equal Holy Spirit in 1 John 2:22? Why is it the spirit of antichrist that denies the Father and Son only? It is because the Bible does not reveal a trinity.

The first angel’s message of Revelation 14 is God’s call to return to worship the one true God:

Revelation 14:6-7

⁶ And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

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

This message for the last generation would not be necessary if the world at large did not need to come back to the knowledge of the one true God and His Son. It would only be required if the god now worshiped, and the gospel now preached, is not those proclaimed by Jesus and the apostles. And did not the apostles give clear counsel and warning concerning these matters?

Jude 3

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

2 Corinthians 11:4

For if he that cometh preacheth *another Jesus*, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive *another spirit*, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Galatians 1:8-9

⁸ But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

⁹ As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

10

Founders & Historians of the SDA Church

What do Adventist historians say about the pioneers of the SDA church?

“Most of the founders of Seventh-day Adventism would not be able to join the church today if they had to subscribe to the denomination’s Fundamental Beliefs. More specifically, most would not be able to agree to belief number 2, which deals with the doctrine of the Trinity.”

— George Knight, *Ministry*,
October 1993, page 10

“Adventist beliefs have changed over the years under the impact of ‘present truth’. Most startling is the teaching regarding Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord...the trinitarian understanding of God, now part of our fundamental beliefs, was not generally held by the early Adventists.”

— William G. Johnson, *Adventist Review*,
January 6, 1994, page 10

The understanding of the pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church was that the divinity of Persons consists of the Father and His begotten Son only, that the Holy Spir-

it is not a third entity. They rejected the trinity doctrine. It was not part of the “pillars” of Adventist faith as given by Christ in the founding years of the church. Seventh-day Adventists have always believed that their doctrines should be based solely on the Scriptures. During the General Conference session in 1980, in Dallas, Texas, the unbiblical trinity doctrine was officially adopted as a fundamental belief of the Adventist church, after more than 100 years of rejection.

“No single Scripture passage states the doctrine of the Trinity, it is assumed as a fact... only by faith can we accept the existence of the Trinity.”

— *Adventist Review*, Vol. 158, No. 31, 1981, page 4

Thoughts From Seventh-day Adventist Pioneers

James S. White: “As fundamental errors, we might class with this counterfeit sabbath other errors which Protestants have brought away from the Catholic church, such as sprinkling for baptism, the trinity, the consciousness of the dead and eternal life in misery.”

— *Review & Herald*, September 12, 1854

Joseph Bates: “Respecting the trinity, I concluded that it was an impossibility for me to believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, was also the Almighty God, the Father, one and the

same being. I said to my father, ‘If you can convince me that we are one in this sense, that you are my father, and I your son; and also that I am your father, and you my son, then I can believe in the trinity.’”

— *The Autobiography*, 1868, pages 204, 205

John N. Andrews: “The doctrine of the Trinity which was established in the church by the council of Nice, A. D. 325. This doctrine destroys the personality of God, and his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”

— *Review & Herald*, March 6, 1855

John N. Loughborough: “It is contrary to Scripture. Almost any portion of the New Testament we may open which has occasion to speak of the Father and Son, represents them as two distinct persons. The seventeenth chapter of John is alone sufficient to refute the doctrine of the Trinity.”

— *Review and Herald*, November 5, 1861

Uriah Smith: “God alone is without beginning. At the earliest epoch when a beginning could be, - a period so remote that to finite minds it is essentially eternity, - appeared the Word. ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.’ John 1:1. This uncreated Word was the Being, who, in the fulness of time, was

made flesh, and dwelt among us. His beginning was not like that of any other being in the universe. It is set forth in the mysterious expressions, ‘his [God’s] only begotten Son’ (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9), ‘the only begotten of the Father’ (John 1:14), and, ‘I proceeded forth and came from God.’ John 8:42. Thus it appears that by some divine impulse or process, not creation, known only to Omniscience, and possible only to Omnipotence, the Son of God appeared. And then the Holy Spirit (by an infirmity of translation called ‘the Holy Ghost’), the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the divine afflatus and medium of their power, representative of them both (Ps. 139:7), was in existence also.”

— *Looking Unto Jesus*, page 10, 1898

What did Ellen White say about the pillars of the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

“In the future, deception of every kind is to arise, and we want solid ground for our feet. We want solid pillars for the building. *Not one pin is to be removed from that which the Lord has established.* The enemy will bring in false theories, such as the doctrine that there is no sanctuary. This is one of the points on which there will be a departing from the faith. Where shall we find safety unless it be in the truths that the Lord has been giving for the last fifty years?”

— *Review & Herald*, May 25, 1905

“But just as surely as we fail to heed the messages that for the last fifty years the Lord has been giving, just as surely as we turn from these messages to human impulses and human science, framing laws that are directly opposed to God’s Word, so surely will we reap the consequence.”

— *The General Conference Bulletin*,
March 30, 1903

“We are not to receive the words of those who come with a message that contradicts the special points of our faith. They gather together a mass of Scripture and pile it as proof around their asserted theories. This has been done over and over again during the past fifty years. And while the Scriptures are God’s Word, and are to be respected, the application of them, if such application moves one pillar of the foundation that God has sustained these fifty years, is a great mistake. He who makes such an application knows not the wonderful demonstration of the Holy Spirit that gave power and force to the past messages that have come to the people of God.”

— *Manuscript Releases No. 760*, page 19

“No line of truth that has made the Seventh-day Adventist people what they are, is to be weakened. We have the old landmarks of truth, experience, and duty, and we are to stand firmly in defense of

our principles, in full view of the world.”

— *Testimonies For The Church, Vol. 6, page 17.*

1901

In her book *The Great Controversy*, Ellen White did not mention a third divine being besides the Father and the Son:

“Christ the Word, the Only Begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father,—one in nature, in character, and in purpose,—the only being in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.”

— *Great Controversy, page 493*

“I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.’ Revelation 21:22. The people of God are privileged to hold open communion with the Father and the Son.”

— *Great Controversy, page 676*

“And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ.”

— *Great Controversy, page 678*

The founders rejected the trinity in the initial 50 years when the pillars of the Seventh-day Adventist church were

established. It was not a part of our original fundamental beliefs. We see a striking contrast with today's church leaders who embrace the trinity doctrine.

Pastor Doug Batchelor is arguably the most prominent and respected of Adventist Bible teachers worldwide. In a series of videos produced in March of 2019, he attempted to refute the anti-trinitarian position. However, in presenting his evidence, Pastor Batchelor made some crucial errors. In one video, Batchelor made an erroneous statement claiming, "Proverbs 8 has nothing to do with Jesus." However, Ellen White confirmed that Proverbs 8 has everything to do with Christ saying, "And the Son of God declares concerning Himself..." (Refer to pages 19 and 20 for an explanation).

In a follow-up video, Pastor Doug identifies the Holy Spirit as a mediator between God and men. However, the Bible states in 1 Timothy 2:5; "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Only if the Holy Spirit is Jesus Christ, as we have shown from the Bible and the writings of Ellen White can Pastor Batchelor's statement be true.

Pastor Doug was also emphatic in his opinion that Christ begotten means Christ created. However, we have also shown from Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy that the two are, in fact, quite different. Ellen White said "begotten" means that Jesus is of the very substance of God, a part of the Father, as one who proceeded from and was brought forth from Him. Angels and man are created beings.

Ted Wilson, General Conference President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, addressed church leaders in 2018 at the Annual Council in Battle Creek, MI. He verily stated that our pioneers were, “led to a right understanding by the Scripture, and the guidance of Ellen White’s writings.” He added, “Our early Seventh-day Adventist Church developed out of intense Bible study, and earnest prayer for truth. They were led by the Holy Spirit and discovered the biblical beliefs and pillars of our faith that we hold so dear. These dedicated pioneers... in simple faith, took the Bible as it reads, even when it led them away from some of the most widely accepted errors popular in the churches of that day.” However, Elder Wilson denounced as “heresy” the very anti-trinitarian views the pioneers held to so unshakably.

By using the word “heresy” in his sermon, Elder Wilson thus proclaimed all who hold to the beliefs of Ellen White and the founders to be heretics within the modern church.

Members are being disfellowshipped worldwide for faithfully adhering to the founding beliefs of Seventh-day Adventism. It seems to follow in step with the spirit of the papacy and their pattern of excommunication. It is that spirit which demands, “You will believe what we tell you to believe.” Liberty of conscience is threatened from within.

11

“Our Religion Would be Changed”

“The Father and the Son alone are to be exalted.”

— Ellen G. White, *Sons and Daughters of God*,
page 58

“Angels were expelled from heaven because they would not work in harmony with God. They fell from their high estate because they wanted to be exalted. They had come to exalt themselves, and they forgot that their beauty of person and of character came from the Lord Jesus. This fact the [fallen] angels would obscure, that Christ was the only begotten Son of God, and they came to consider that they were not to consult Christ.”

— Ellen G. White, *This Day With God*,
page 128

“Every truth that [Christ] has given for these last days is to be proclaimed to the world. Every pillar that He has established is to be strengthened. We cannot now step off the foundation that God has established. We cannot now enter into any new organization; for this would mean

apostasy from the truth.”

— Ellen G. White, *Manuscript 129*, 1905.

“The foundation of our faith, which was established by so much prayer, such earnest searching of the Scriptures, was being taken down, pillar by pillar. Our faith was to have nothing to rest upon—the sanctuary was gone, the atonement was gone....

“Do you wonder that I have something to say, when I see the pillars of our faith beginning to be moved? Seductive theories are being taught in such a way that we shall not recognize them unless we have clear spiritual discernment.”

— Ellen G. White, *The Upward Look*,
page 152

“The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error.”

— Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages Book 1*,
page 204

“And now, after half a century of clear light from the Word as to what is truth, there are arising many false theories to unsettle minds. But

“Our Religion Would be Changed”

the evidence given in our early experience has the same force that it had then. The truth is the same as it ever has been, and not a pin or a pillar can be moved from the structure of truth. That which was sought for out of the Word in 1844, 1845, and 1846 remains the truth today in every particular.”

— Ellen G. White, *Letter 38*, 1906

“We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world.”

— Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages Book 1*,
page 122

“[Adventists] hold to the distinct personality of the Father and Son, rejecting as absurd that feature of Trinitarianism which insists that God, and Christ, and the Holy Spirit are three persons, and yet but one person. S. D. Adventists hold that God and Christ are one in the sense that Christ prayed that his disciples might be one ; *i.e.*, one in spirit, purpose, and labor.”

— *Advent Review, and Sabbath Herald*,
April 17, 1883

“The mystery of the Trinity is the central

doctrine of the Catholic Faith. Upon it are based all the other teachings of the church.”

— *Handbook for Today's Catholic*, page 11.

“The Trinity: There is one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons.”

— www.adventist.org, the official website of the Seventh-day Adventist world church, 2019

“...there is another universal and truly catholic organization, the Seventh-day Adventist Church.”

— Neal C. Wilson, *Adventist Review*,
March 5, 1981

“Most of the founders of Seventh-day Adventism would not be able to join the church today if they had to subscribe to the denomination's Fundamental Beliefs. More specifically, most would not be able to agree to belief number 2, which deals with the doctrine of the Trinity.”

— George Knight, *Ministry*, October 1993,
page 10

“I saw the nominal church and nominal Adventists, like Judas, would betray us to the Catholics to obtain their influence to come

against the truth.”

— Ellen G. White, *Spalding and Magan Collection*, page 1

After reading the above quotes, did you notice the morphing that has taken place within the Adventist church?

- It was the goal of evil spirits to obscure the fact that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God.
- The pillars of our faith were established within the first fifty years. Ellen White and the founders rejected the trinity. The Father and Son alone are to be exalted.
- Our religion would be changed if a single pin or pillar of our faith were to be removed. Truth would be accounted as error.
- The most dangerous threat to the truth would come from within the church. The pillars *were* tampered with. Our religion *did* change!
- Seventh-day Adventist historians admit that Ellen White and the founders would not be able to join the modern version of the church. The main reason for this is the fact that they rejected the trinity doctrine.
- The fact that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God *has* been obscured, as evil angels desired. Now the Holy Spirit is exalted with Father and Son. Members are even encouraged to pray to ‘him’ apart from God and Christ, with no Scriptural directive, and no counsel from Ellen White to do so.

12

Origin of the Trinity

Belief in the trinity presumes that supreme authority always consisted of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. However, before the creation of this world, inspiration is clear—there was the Father, His begotten Son, and Lucifer:

“Lucifer in heaven, before his rebellion, was a high and exalted angel, next in honor to God’s dear Son.”

— Ellen White, *The Story of Redemption*, page 13

“Sin originated with Satan, who was next to Christ.”

— Ellen White, *Australian Union Conference Record*, October 1, 1906

God the Father reigns supreme. His only begotten Son, though equally divine, is subordinate to Him. Then Lucifer, who was the highest-ranking of all the created beings.

“Before the entrance of evil, there was peace and joy throughout the universe. All was in perfect harmony with the Creator’s will. Love for God was supreme, love for one another impartial. Christ the Word, the only begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father,—one in nature, in character, and in purpose,—*the only being in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.* By Christ, the Father wrought in the creation

of all heavenly beings. ‘By him were all things created, that are in Heaven, ... whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers;’ [Colossians 1:16.] and to Christ, equally with the Father, all Heaven gave allegiance.”

— Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, page 493

Christ is the only being in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God the Father. It begs the question: If the trinity is the truth, and ‘God the Holy Spirit’ exists as co-equal with the Father and the Son, then why was he not allowed in these counsels?

“The Father and the Son alone are to be exalted.”

— Ellen White, *Sons and Daughters of God*,
page 58

We also learn from inspiration that it was because Lucifer was not allowed in the counsels of God that he became jealous of the Son:

“All Heaven had rejoiced to reflect the Creator’s glory and to show forth his praise. And while God was thus honored, all had been peace and gladness. But a note of discord now marred the celestial harmonies. The service and exaltation of self, contrary to the Creator’s plan, awakened forebodings of evil in minds to whom God’s glory was supreme. The heavenly councils pleaded with Lucifer. The Son

of God presented before him the greatness, the goodness, and the justice of the Creator, and the sacred, unchanging nature of his law. God himself had established the order of Heaven; and in departing from it, Lucifer would dishonor his Maker, and bring ruin upon himself. But the warning, given in infinite love and mercy, only aroused a spirit of resistance. Lucifer allowed jealousy of Christ to prevail, and he became the more determined.

“Pride in his own glory nourished the desire for supremacy. The high honors conferred upon Lucifer were not appreciated as the gift of God, and called forth no gratitude to the Creator. He gloried in his brightness and exaltation, and aspired to be equal with God. He was beloved and revered by the heavenly host. Angels delighted to execute his commands, and he was clothed with wisdom and glory above them all. Yet the Son of God was the acknowledged sovereign of Heaven, one in power and authority with the Father. In all the counsels of God, Christ was a participant, while Lucifer was not permitted thus to enter into the divine purposes. ‘Why,’ questioned this mighty angel, ‘should Christ have the supremacy? Why is he thus honored above Lucifer?’”

— Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, page 495

Satan’s rebellion began because he, being a created being, wanted to be equal with God. It seems absurd, and

yet how often throughout history has this evil spirit taken hold of even human agencies? Only Christ is equal to Jehovah because He is the begotten Son of God.

But the Father and the Son are one only in the sense that they are so in nature, in character, and purpose. They are separate divine Persons. They are not one God in multiple persons as defined by the trinity doctrine. It was Satan who interjected himself into the Godhead, fraudulently making himself a “third person” in this divine family.

Isaiah 14:14

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

We know the devil can't do this. Deception is the only way he can accomplish his hellish goals. Scripture reveals that he would be transformed into an angel of light to lead souls away from God (2 Corinthians 11:14). Surely, any soul that worships a false god worships Satan unaware, as he is behind every false deity.

In her book, *Early Writings*, Ellen White was given a vision of the heavenly sanctuary. In it, Jesus was showing her what took place from that point in history when the hour of God's Judgment had come (Revelation 14:7). Because He is everywhere at once by His Spirit, Jesus makes no distinction between the heavenly temple and the body temple of human souls. As you read her vision below, please take note of the following:

a) How many are seated on the throne in the heavenly court?

- b) Note the different “companies” of Adventists.
- c) From where does the Holy Spirit emanate?
- d) After God and Jesus move into the Most Holy Place of the sanctuary, who masquerades as the Holy Spirit?
- e) How does he answer the prayers of the “uninterested and careless” company of Christians?

“I saw a throne, and on it sat the Father and the Son.... Before the throne I saw the Advent people—the church and the world. I saw two companies, one bowed down before the throne, deeply interested, while the other stood uninterested and careless. Those who were bowed before the throne would offer up their prayers and look to Jesus; then He would look to His Father, and appear to be pleading with Him. A light would come from the Father to the Son and from the Son to the praying company. Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from the Father to the Son, and from the Son it waved over the people before the throne. But few would receive this great light. Many came out from under it and immediately resisted it; others were careless and did not cherish the light, and it moved off from them. Some cherished it, and went and bowed down with the little praying company. This company all received the light and rejoiced in it, and their countenances shone with its glory.

“I saw the Father rise from the throne, and in a flaming chariot go into the holy of holies within

the veil, and sit down. Then Jesus rose up from the throne, and the most of those who were bowed down arose with Him. I did not see one ray of light pass from Jesus to the careless multitude after He arose, and they were left in perfect darkness. Those who arose when Jesus did, kept their eyes fixed on Him as He left the throne and led them out a little way. Then He raised His right arm, and we heard His lovely voice saying, 'Wait here; I am going to My Father to receive the kingdom; keep your garments spotless, and in a little while I will return from the wedding and receive you to Myself.' Then a cloudy chariot, with wheels like flaming fire, surrounded by angels, came to where Jesus was. He stepped into the chariot and was borne to the holiest, where the Father sat. There I beheld Jesus, a great High Priest, standing before the Father.... Those who rose up with Jesus would send up their faith to Him in the holiest, and pray, 'My Father, give us Thy Spirit.' Then Jesus would breathe upon them the Holy Ghost. In that breath was light, power, and much love, joy, and peace.

"I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne; they did not know that Jesus had left it. Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God. I saw them look up to the throne, and pray, 'Father, give us Thy Spirit.' Satan would then breathe upon them an unholy influence; in it there was light and much power, but

no sweet love, joy, and peace. Satan's object was to keep them deceived and to draw back and deceive God's children."

— Ellen White, *Early Writings*, pages 54 - 56

In this prophetic vision, there is no third person known as 'God the Holy Spirit.' Mrs. White saw the Spirit of God as holy breath and power delivered through Christ, containing the light of truth. The careless Adventists, those who rejected the light, received the spirit of Satan when they asked for the Spirit of God. Jesus revealed to Ellen White how the enemy of souls puts himself in place of God by disguising himself as a third person of a false godhead. The sad circumstance here is that the careless Christians exposed themselves to Satan's delusion by rejecting the light Jesus petitioned the Father to give His followers. The devil gives them light and much power, but he cannot give them the sweet love, joy, and peace that can only come from Christ through His Spirit.

At the beginning of this vision, the Father and Son are seated on the throne in the heavenly sanctuary. The table of shewbread, located on the north side of the tabernacle, represents that throne of God. On it was two stacks of six loaves of bread—one to represent the Father, and one for the Son. If Satan were to have his way, the table would include a third stack of six loaves to represent himself. There would then be three stacks of six loaves—666.

What did Satan declare he would do?

Isaiah 14:13

For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heav-

en, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, *in the sides of the north*.

In a comparable vision given to the prophet Ezekiel, Christ exposed many abominations taking place in His church (the house of Israel). The light of truth was rejected by the careless as they sought after Satan's detestable pagan practices.

Ezekiel 8:3-18

³ And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy.

⁴ And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain.

⁵ Then said he unto me, Son of man, lift up thine eyes now the way *toward the north*. So I lifted up mine eyes the way toward the north, and behold northward at the gate of the altar this image of jealousy in the entry.

Right away, attention points to the north side of the temple, where the throne of God is. Nearby is "the image of jealousy," a reference to the spirit of Satan. It says this image of jealousy provokes jealousy. There is only one reason for this: Satan is jealous of the one true God. Jehovah is also jealous, jealous of the worship people give to false gods (Exodus 20:5).

⁶ He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations.

⁷ And he brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall.

⁸ Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door.

Jesus said, “I am the door.” “No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.” John 10:9, John 14:6. But in vision, Ezekiel is shown a hole in the wall that leads to a door, gaining illegal access to the throne. There is the evil influence of Satan.

⁹ And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here.

¹⁰ So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, pourtrayed upon the wall round about.

¹¹ And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up.

In the Bible, the number 70 represents human leadership and judgment. For example, Moses appointed 70 elders, says Exodus 24:1, and there were 70 positions on the Sanhedrin council. Here the leaders of the church are shown with “every man his censer” burning incense. Revelation

8:4 says that the smoke of incense on the altar of the Holy Place are the prayers of the saints. These 70 elders carry strange incense into the temple of God. Their prayers are an abomination to Him. The idolatrous worship and prayers of these nominal Christian leaders are opposed to the commandment of God. In Ellen White's vision, the careless Christians prayed before an empty throne, and it was Satan who answered them.

¹² Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, Jehovah seeth us not; Jehovah hath forsaken the earth.

¹³ He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do.

¹⁴ Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the Lord's house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.

If that weren't enough, more abominations, also toward the north. Women represent churches. These are the churches that profess to be Christ's, but they weep for Tammuz. Notice that Tammuz was the *third person* of the original pagan trinity of ancient Babylon, consisting of Nimrod, Semiramis, and Tammuz. The women worship him at the side of the north, where the Father and Son alone are to be exalted. It is Satan in disguise as 'God the Holy Spirit.' He is standing by the throne, breathing upon them an unholy influence.

¹⁵ Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of

man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these.

¹⁶ And he brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.

Paganism is the false religion of sun worship. Worship of the sun originated in Babylon with the pagan trinity of Nimrod, Semiramis, and Tammuz. The Roman Catholic religion is the modern expression of pagan ceremonies and rituals born of sun worship. Through compromise, pagan doctrines became part of mainstream Christianity. Pagan tradition brought to the church Sunday worship, the immortality of the soul, the veneration of saints, praying to idols, the eucharist, Christmas and Easter. The Catholic Church does not attempt to conceal the fact that it is responsible for the changes and omissions from Scripture. Because of their false teachings, Catholicism is depicted as the "Whore of Babylon" in the book of Revelation. They stray from the purity of the word of God. "And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." Revelation 17:5. Apostate Protestant churches are her daughters. They retain, in varying degrees, the abominable practices and traditions of the so-called Mother Church. Revelation says the names upon her forehead include: "Mystery, Babylon." Babylon is her name because her false teachings originated in that ancient kingdom. But what about the name Mystery?

“The *mystery of the Trinity* is the central doctrine of the Catholic Faith. Upon it are based all the other teachings of the church...”

— *Handbook for Today’s Catholic*, page 11

The “mystery” of Babylon, the Mother of Harlots, is the trinity doctrine.

¹⁷ Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose.

¹⁸ Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.

God’s message to Ezekiel is a stern one, similar to the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14, which also concern Babylon:

Revelation 14:6-11

⁶ And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

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

⁸ And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is

fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

⁹ And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

¹⁰ The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

In Ellen White's vision, the prayers of the careless Advent people were not heard by God and Christ because they rejected the heaven-sent light, and Satan stepped in to answer their request for the Holy Spirit. God says in Ezekiel 8:18, "Though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them." Does this not hearken to what Jesus said about careless Christians?

Matthew 7:21-23

²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

The abominations described in Ezekiel are clear. They are the pagan teachings derived from sun worship that are sustained by the Catholic church and practiced by apostate Protestants. The foundation of all pagan doctrines is the trinity—a false god. Their day of worship is Sunday, the venerable day of the sun—a spurious sabbath.

Ezekiel 9:4

And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

The careless will receive the mark of the beast in the forehead or hand. The seal of God is upon those who “follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.”

Revelation 14:4

These are they which were *not defiled with women*; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

“The day of God’s vengeance is just upon us. The seal of God will be placed upon the foreheads of those only who sigh and cry for the abominations done in the land. Those who link in sympathy with the world are eating and drinking with the drunken and will surely be destroyed with the workers of iniquity. “The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous,

and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

— Ellen White, *Testimonies For The Church*, vol. 5,
page 212

Only those who recognize what is happening and sigh and cry for the abominations will receive the seal of God. To receive the seal of God, the Christian must put on the full armour of God.

Jesus warned that just before His second coming, Satan would prepare deceptions so great, that they would be difficult for the most devout Christian to detect.

Matthew 24:24

For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Sunday worship and the immortal soul—these are Satan’s masterpieces of deception, embraced by all of Christianity—except the Adventists. These signs and wonders would have to be more than Sunday sacredness in place of Sabbath, more than the delusion of the immortality of the soul to fool the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The devil knows the remnant church is too well informed to fall for these false beliefs.

“As men seek to come into harmony with God, they will find that the offense of the cross has not ceased. Principalities and powers and wicked spir-

its in high places are arrayed against all who yield obedience to the law of heaven.”

— Ellen White, *Thoughts From The Mount of Blessing*, page 30

Revelation 12:17

And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The Advent people are particular targets for the forces of evil in the same way that the children of Israel were when they came to the border of Canaan to possess it. We stand at the border of the spiritual Promised Land, the very edge of eternity. Scripture warns us to expect the devil to attack with his wiles. His tactics have not changed. History is about to be repeated.

What wiles did Satan use on the Hebrews just before they were about to enter into the earthly Promised Land? What happened as they camped at the border?

Numbers 25:1-3

¹ And Israel abode in Shittim, *and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.*

² And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.

³ And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel.

While preparing to enter the Promised Land, they gave in

to the lust of the pagan women. Then they began worshipping their false gods.

Ellen White wrote about this tragedy in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 453, 454:

“Amid these attractive surroundings they were to encounter an evil more deadly than mighty hosts of armed men or the wild beasts of the wilderness. That country, so rich in natural advantages, had been defiled by the inhabitants. In the public worship of Baal, the leading deity [sun worship], the most degrading and iniquitous scenes were constantly enacted. On every side were places noted for idolatry and licentiousness, the very names being suggestive of the vileness and corruption of the people.

“These surroundings exerted a polluting influence upon the Israelites. Their minds became familiar with the vile thoughts constantly suggested; their life of ease and inaction produced its demoralizing effect; and almost unconsciously to themselves they were departing from God and coming into a condition where they would fall an easy prey to temptation.

“During the time of their encampment beside Jordan, Moses was preparing for the occupation of Canaan. In this work the great leader was fully employed; but to the people this time of suspense and expectation was most trying, and before many

weeks had elapsed their history was marred by the most frightful departures from virtue and integrity.

“At first there was little [interaction] between the Israelites and their heathen neighbors, but after a time Midianitish women began to steal into the camp. Their appearance excited no alarm, and so quietly were their plans conducted that the attention of Moses was not called to the matter. It was the object of these women, in their association with the Hebrews, to seduce them into transgression of the law of God, to draw their attention to heathen rites and customs, and lead them into idolatry. These motives were studiously concealed under the garb of friendship, so that they were not suspected, even by the guardians of the people.

“At Balaam’s suggestion, a grand festival in honor of their gods was appointed by the king of Moab, and it was secretly arranged that Balaam should induce the Israelites to attend. He was regarded by them as a prophet of God, and hence had little difficulty in accomplishing his purpose. Great numbers of the people joined him in witnessing the festivities. They ventured upon the forbidden ground, and were entangled in the snare of Satan. Beguiled with music and dancing, and allured by the beauty of heathen vestals, they cast off their fealty to Jehovah. As they united in mirth and feasting, indulgence in wine beclouded their senses and broke down the barriers of self-control. Passion had full sway; and

having defiled their consciences by lewdness, they were persuaded to bow down to idols. They offered sacrifice upon heathen altars and participated in the most degrading rites.

“It was not long before the poison had spread, like a deadly infection, through the camp of Israel. Those who would have conquered their enemies in battle were overcome by the wiles of heathen women. The people seemed to be infatuated. The rulers and the leading men were among the first to transgress, and so many of the people were guilty that the apostasy became national. ‘Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor.’”

The parallels between the Israelites then and today’s church are striking! Satan attacks with licentiousness, and idolatry follows close behind.

What was the result for those who fell victim to the wiles of Satan?

Numbers 26:65

For the Lord had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

They were so close, only to be lost! This was the shaking and sifting of the Hebrews at the borders of Canaan. Satan seduced Israel with licentiousness (sexual unrestraint) before leading them into idolatry (sun worship). The

modern parallel is that we are on the border of the spiritual promised land. Satan is using the same wiles on the remnant.

Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for engaging in licentiousness and idolatry. Jesus warned that it would be the same in our time.

Luke 17:28-30

²⁸ Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

²⁹ But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

³⁰ Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

Ezekiel 16:49

Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

Could not the Lord's description of Sodom's sins by the pen of Ezekiel be a transcript of today's societal ills? Are these not the same dangers that threaten the church?

“Pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness, are as deadly foes to human progress in this generation as when they led to the destruction of Sodom.”

— Ellen White, *Education*, page 209

“Satan works as a destroyer. His temptations are leading multitudes to ruin. Intemperance dethrones reason; sensual indulgence, strife, and bloodshed follow... he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God.”

— Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, page 589

The Israelites had a false sense of security when they reached the border of the promised land. Their guard was down, and the leaders were the first to commit whoredom with pagan women. They ended up worshiping their false gods. In Bible prophecy, women are a symbol for a church. We stand at the border of heavenly Canaan. The Seventh-day Adventist Church began as a people devoted to God, with a prophet to guide their understanding of Scripture. The pioneers rejected the trinity god, denouncing the doctrine as of pagan origin and wholly unbiblical. But today our Adventist leaders, with their guard down, have committed whoredom with the Catholic Church. In a spiritual sense, they have traded the one true God for a pagan deity. Once again, licentiousness has turned to idolatry.

Let's look at the issues that occupy the Seventh-day Adventist Church today that we can conclude there is a falling away happening: The trinity doctrine replaces the one true God as a fundamental belief in 1980; The General Conference distributes *The Great Hope* instead of *The Great Controversy*, eliminating all references to the papacy being the first beast of Revelation 13, and no mention of the

millions of Bible-believing, true Christians that were put to death by the Catholic Church for their fidelity to God and Christ; The General Conference claims that we don't know who the antichrist is; Sunday worship is now an option for some of our congregations; Spiritual Formation, a form of pagan mysticism, is being taught in our universities; The 2,300-day prophecy and righteousness by faith are being abandoned; Women's ordination; Homosexual lifestyle acceptance.

Ellen White foresaw such fundamental changes to our foundation:

“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. *The Sabbath of course, would*

be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.”

— Ellen White, *Selected Messages Book 1*,
pages 204 - 205

But truth is not lost. The Lord is raising a remnant within the remnant. They have not let go of the foundation of our faith, established in the first fifty years. The Lord is using them to call His people out of error, to resist the wiles of the devil. We must be shielded wearing the full armour of God.

Ephesians 6:11-18

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

What must we do to put on the whole armour of God?

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

¹³ Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

¹⁴ But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Conclusion

Isaiah 4:1

And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.

This single verse prophecy describes the state of Christianity in the end times just before the coming of Christ. All of Christianity is in what God says is a state of reproach or disgrace.

It speaks of seven women. Again, a woman in Bible prophecy represents a church:

Jeremiah 6:2

I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman.

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.

Seven is the biblical number of perfection or completion—*all*. In this case, all the churches (seven women).

The man they take hold of is the Son of man Jesus Christ:

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

Bread is the word of God. The eating of bread represents

righteousness by faith, the indwelling of the Spirit of Christ in the believer:

Luke 4:4

And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

Ephesians 3:17

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love.

Apparel is a symbol of being “clothed” in the righteousness of Christ by faith:

Isaiah 61:10

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

“Name” means, *in the name of Jesus*, representing His power and authority. He is the only way for reconciliation with Jehovah:

John 14:6

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

Using the Scriptural method of letting the Bible interpret itself, let’s look at Isaiah 4:1 again:

Isaiah 4:1

And in that day seven women (*all the churches that would call themselves Christian*) shall take hold of one man (*Jesus Christ*), saying, We will eat our own bread (*our worship and teachings will be based on man-made traditions, putting them above Bible truth*), and wear our own apparel (*we will call ourselves righteous by our traditions*): only let us be called by thy name (*Christians*), to take away our reproach (*disgrace in the eyes of God*).

Some believe that this prophecy on the state of Christianity applies to every denomination except their own. But God makes it very clear that there are no exceptions; seven women means all the churches. Even Seventh-day Adventism.

The Israelite church 2,000 years ago was set up by God to be the proprietor and expositor of truth. Pride and arrogance proved to be their downfall. They fell away from their covenant with the one true God. They began teaching man-made traditions and commandments that were contrary to the law and to the testimony. They began to think of themselves as righteous, not by faith, but by birth. So far did they stray from the purity of their religion that they ignored the prophecies concerning the coming of the Messiah. He was not welcomed among them because Christ, being the way, the truth, and the life, exposed their false teachings, their lack of humility and hypocrisy. To them Jesus declared, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." They rejected God's Son. They killed Him. In so doing, they rejected the Father. So Jehovah rejected them. Their house was left desolate.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is in danger of

repeating this sad history. So many in our religion—also raised up by God to be the heralds of truth—are blind to the prophecies that Jesus' return is imminent. The church is rejecting its mandate. We are to be a peculiar people, preaching an unpopular truth; The world is wondering after the beast, his image is almost fully formed, and the world is in danger of receiving his mark. The Lord called the Adventists to, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." Isaiah 58:1. This command leaves no room for political correctness. We hear of so many Seventh-day Adventist churches experimenting with ways to conform to the world, to gain acceptance from the very denominations we are supposed to be calling people to come out of for their apostate doctrines and traditions from Babylon—the trinity doctrine being chief among them. There is no other duty for the Seventh-day Adventist than to proclaim the three angels' messages of Revelation 14. It is the very reason for our existence.

The first angel's message is a call to worship the one true God. Salvation depends on this. Jesus identified the only true God as Jehovah the Father (John 17:3). The second angel's message is a call to come out of spiritual Babylon, those false doctrines which had their origin in that fallen, ancient empire. God-in-three-persons originated with Nimrod, Semiramis, and Tammuz. Like so much of paganism, the trinity, too, found its way into the Christian churches. Like all other errors, it is a pagan concept with Christian names. It is unbiblical. It represents a false god.

“As Jesus was rejected, so I saw that these [three angels] messages have been rejected. And as the disciples declared that there is salvation in no other name under heaven, given among men, so also should the servants of God faithfully and fearlessly warn those who embrace but a part of the truths connected with the third message, that they must gladly receive all the messages as God has given them, or have no part in the matter.”

— Ellen White, *Early Writings*, pages 188, 189

Some ask, “Why does all this matter?” Salvation is at stake. Those who reject the first two messages will receive the plagues described by the third angel and be lost.

Ancient Israel was continually falling into temptation, wanting to be like the false religions around them. The Adventist church does the same today. Some are lulled into a false sense of security, thinking that they are saved by being a first, second, or third-generation Seventh-day Adventist. “Abraham is our father.” John 8:39. Evangelism, through prophecy seminars, has become politically incorrect. Why frighten people with stories of beasts and messages of doom with their mysterious numbers? “All we want to hear about is the love of Jesus,” they say. “Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits.” Isaiah 30:10. But in doing so Adventists fulfill yet another prophecy of Isaiah: “His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.”

Isaiah 56:10. In these verses, the prophet described the Laodicean state of mind.

Revelation 3:14-17

¹⁴ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.

The Laodiceans received the worst report from Christ of all the seven churches representing the Christian era (Revelation chapters 2 and 3). They think so highly of themselves, yet for their sad condition, they have no idea just how far away from Jesus they are. They are spiritually dead—and they don't even know it. We are in the age of Laodicea.

It was to the church in Philadelphia, just prior, that the Saviour delivered a report of the highest praise. Of all seven, they got it right. By the Spirit of Christ, which led them, they discovered the remaining truths from the Scriptures that were yet to be found among God's people, completing the Reformation. Our pioneers were those Philadelphians. We benefit from their dedication and half-century of labor. The light given to them is our foundation. It can be ours to

either stand upon and cherish or reject.

Knowing the truth does not save anyone. Worshiping on the correct Sabbath did not deliver the Pharisees, and it is no more a heavenly insurance policy for us. Salvation is not of works but of grace from the only One who can offer it freely. Jesus made it very clear: salvation is a deep-rooted connection, a relationship with the Father through His only begotten Son.

How is it now that the Laodiceans are teaching that the Philadelphians were wrong? God is not a trinity. When the Adventist church adopted this false doctrine, it rejected the Son of God as readily as did the religious leaders 2,000 years ago. And after they crucified Him, they persecuted the believers in the begotten Son of the living God. In a similar spirit, those within the Seventh-day Adventist Church who dare believe as Ellen White and the founders did are labeled heretics by the General Conference.

Members wanting to return to the pure faith of our founders and prophet are being disfellowshipped. Local conferences are keeping a watchful eye out for any who would speak against the 28 Fundamental Beliefs. These have become our Catechism. Like the Roman church, the authority of the Bible has become secondary to them. None can say with any shred of honesty that belief number 2, the trinity, is biblical. We have shown in this study that it is not. Adventist historians and authors were and are aware that this doctrine can be found nowhere in the pages of Scripture. It is merely assumed to be true. But all our beliefs must be firmly founded on a plain, “thus saith the

Lord,” said Ellen White.

To the reprehensible Laodiceans, Jesus offers this cure:

Revelation 3:18

I counsel thee to buy of me *gold tried in the fire*, that thou mayest be rich; and *white raiment*, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with *eyesalve*, that thou mayest see.

He counsels the Laodicean to buy of Him *gold tried in the fire*. What is this gold?

1 Peter 1:7

The trial of your *faith*, being much more precious than of *gold* that perisheth, *though it be tried with fire*, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

Gold tried in the fire represents the *faith* of Jesus.
Where do we find this faith? Where is the gold?

Revelation 14:12

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

John 14:6

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

To find the gold, we must follow the *way* to the Father through Jesus.

Psalm 77:13

Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary.

In the sanctuary, we learn that the Old Testament tabernacle is a symbolic representation of the plan of salvation. Each step is one taken by (and with) Christ. Jesus said, "I am the door." Beginning at the door of the sanctuary, we come before the altar of sacrifice. Here we acknowledge Jesus as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." Moving to the laver, still within the outer court, we are baptized in water, symbolizing cleansing from sin. Each of these, the altar and the laver, are of bronze.

From there, our spiritual life is supposed to move into the Holy Place. There is where the furnishings are of gold. In it, we find the table of shewbread, the seven-branch candlestick, and the altar of incense.

The bread is a symbol of Jesus, the Bread of Life.

John 6:51

I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Bread represents His word, the Bible. Just as we sustain our bodies with food, Jesus gave us the Bible to sustain our souls.

Job 23:12

Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his

Conclusion

lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

John 6:63

The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

If we do not eat food, we starve our bodies. In the same way, if we neglect to study the Bible, we starve our souls. How do we get the faith of Jesus?

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The next golden object in the Holy Place of the sanctuary is the seven-branch candlestick.

Psalms 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

The word of God is the source of spiritual light in the darkness of this world. It will guide us in our life's journey in the ways and will of God.

The fire in the candlestick is a symbol of the guiding Spirit of God.

Revelation 4:5

And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

As the number seven is a symbol of completeness, this

is a representation of Christ's omnipresence among His church. Jesus said, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20.

With Christ the light of the world in our hearts, He bids us shine.

Matthew 5:14, 16

Ye are the light of the world... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

By living righteousness by faith, we are a light to the world. Others will see Jesus in us and come to Him as well.

The third gold furnishing in the Holy Place is the altar of incense. It represents the prayers of the saints.

Revelation 8:4

And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Pray without ceasing.

Prayer is our lifeline to God. He speaks to us through the Bible, and we speak with Him through prayer. Prayer is so important that the apostle Paul urges that we pray without ceasing, meaning that in all things; in our thoughts, words, and deeds, Christ should be at the forefront of our lives, putting Him first before and above the things of this world.

The Holy Place of the sanctuary represents the active, daily life of a true Christian. If we put Christ first by study-

ing the Bible, sharing the gospel with others, and praying always, then the righteousness of Jesus will cover our nakedness. The word of God is as eyesalve that will cure spiritual blindness.

Beyond the Holy Place, and behind the veil, is the Most Holy Place. In it was the ark of the covenant containing the tablets of stone with the unchangeable law of God, the transcript of His very character. There, in those ancient times, above the ark, is where the presence of God dwelt among His people.

But that was the type of what was to come in the form of the new covenant.

Hebrews 8:10

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.

Here is the fulfillment of the type. Moses built a sanctuary with hands so that God could dwell among His people in an outward way (Exodus 25:8). By the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, both Father and Son dwell with repentant sinners by making their abode *in* them. God's ways become their ways—man's spirit in harmony with Jehovah's Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:16

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Here is the cure for the Laodicean. This condition is not without hope. The sleeping soul can be awakened by looking to Jesus with humility and repentance.

Revelation 3:19-21

¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

²¹ To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

What an amazing promise! Jesus gives those who overcome the privilege to sit with Him on His heavenly throne. Jesus knocks at the door of the heart. He is coming soon. He wants all to be awake and ready; watching and praying, telling others of His glorious coming.

The Father has done all He can to provide salvation for the world, which involved the death of His beloved Son. He loves us that much.

The choice is yours. The Spirit of Christ forces no one. Time is short. Will you, dear reader, prayerfully consider what is at stake? Will you follow doctrines of men with a false god, or will you get to know the one true God, and

His only begotten Son, according to His Word?

When confronted by authorities, will you respond with confidence as the apostles did?

Acts 5:29

We ought to obey God rather than men.

“A ‘Thus saith the Lord’ is not to be set aside for a ‘Thus saith the church’ or a ‘Thus saith the state.’ The crown of Christ is to be lifted above the diadems of earthly potentates.”

— Ellen White, *Acts of The Apostles*, page 69

Dear Reader,

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God— This is the Rock upon which the foundation of the Christian church stands (Matthew 16:15-18). Why, then, are Seventh-day Adventists all over the world being disfellowshipped for believing and proclaiming that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God?

Because of these alarming circumstances, I decided to prayerfully investigate the evidence for myself. This work is the result of more than two years of diligent study of the Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the writings of the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

I wish to express my gratitude to Pastor Daniel Mesa for his time and generous contribution to this project. His consultation has been invaluable.

I thank God for the ministry resources listed on the following page. They continue to be to me heaven-sent resources for learning and growing in truth. I highly recommend each for further study.

“Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Corinthians 1:2.

Elder Rick Ingalsbe
Bible Teacher/Speaker
www.GladTidingsRadio.org

Online Resources:

- Revelation with Daniel
(www.revelationwithdaniel.com)
- Revelation 14:12 (www.revelation1412.org)
- Pioneer Health and Missions (www.phm.org)
- SDA Pillars (www.sdapillars.org)
- The Third Angels Message
(www.thethirdangelsmessage.com)
- Saved to Serve Ministry
(www.prophesyagain.org)