Seventh-Day Adventism AND ITS FOUNDERS



By Elder D.M. Canright

NOTE: D. M. Canright was one of the foremost leaders of Seventh-Day Adventism in his day -- Professor of Theology in their college; Associate Editor of their church periodical; writer of lessons for all their Sabbath Schools; had charge of eighteen churches in Michigan. In 1876-77 he was one of the General Conference Committee of Three which had control of all Seventh-Day Adventist work in the world. God delivered him from this cult and he wrote the book, "Seventh-Day Adventism Renounced" (1889) which may be secured from Asman Tract Publishers. He later pastored Berean Baptist Church of Grand Rapids.

THE TRUTH ABOUT SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISM

Seventh-Day Adventists claim to be raised up of God, to reform the Church of today. They claim to be purer, more spiritual, and on a higher plane than other Christians.

In doctrine they differ radically from evangelical churches. The main points are these as taught in all their books: They hold to the materiality of all things; believe in the sonship of Christ; believe that they only have a correct understanding of the prophecies to which they give most of their attention; that the end of the world is to occur in this generation; that we are now in the Judgment which began in 1844; that the seventh day, Saturday, must be kept; that keeping Sunday is the mark of the beast; that all should pay tithes; that Mrs. (Ellen G.) White is inspired as were the writers of the Bible; that the Bible must be interpreted to harmonize with her writings; that they are called of God to give the last warning to the world; that the dead are unconscious; that the wicked and the devil will be annihilated: that all churches but their own are Babylon and rejected of God; that everybody but themselves will soon become spiritualists; that when Christ comes only 144,000 out of all then living on the earth will be saved, and all these will be Seventh-Day Adventists. Hence, they have no fellowship with other Christians; never work with them in any way, but zealously proselyte from all.

It is "another gospel," Gal. 1:6, which the apostles never preached. I was long impressed with the fact that we Adventists preached very differently from the apostles. For instance, we were always preaching and writing about the Sabbath, while Paul in all his fourteen epistles mentions it but once, Col. 2:16, and then only to condemn it!

The system of Seventh-Day Adventism rests for its foundation on the unsupported theories of an uneducated old farmer in his last days and the reveries of a totally uneducated, unread, sickly, excitable girl. Wm. Miller, the founder of Adventism, was sixty-one years old in 1843, the year he set for the end of the world. He died six years later, disappointed and confused. ...

Jesus said, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons;" Miller said, "We know all about them." Jesus said, "No man knows the day;" Miller said, "We know the exact day." Which was right? The disappointments of the Adventists, time and again, during the past fifty years, in setting the date for the end of the world have clearly demonstrated their folly. The whole Advent move was conceived in error, born in a mistake, has grown up in folly, and must die in disgrace. "But were not the Millerites honest?" There is no doubt of it, but that proves nothing as to their correctness.

Then came the present Mrs. (Ellen G.) White, a mere girl, wholly unacquainted with history or chronology, and set her seal to all Miller's figures and dates, said not one must be altered, Hear her: "I have seen that the 1843 chart was directed by the hand of the Lord and that it should not be altered, that the figures were as he wanted them." "Early Writings," page 64, edition of 1882.

Seventh-Day Adventists regard Mrs. White as a prophetess and her writings as inspired. They make long arguments from the Bible to prove that there should be gifts, miracles and prophets in the church. But these are the same arguments used by Mormons, Shakers, etc., in favor of their churches. They do not touch the case. The question is not, CAN the Lord inspire men and women? but, HAS he so inspired Mrs. White? The New Testament repeatedly warms us against accepting false prophets. "Beware of false prophets," Matt. 7:15. "There shall arise false Christs and false prophets," Matt. 24:24. "Believe not every spirit.... Many false prophets are gone out into the world." I John 4:1.

These inspired writings now embrace forty bound volumes. Thus they have another Bible, just the same as the Mormons have. They have to read our old Bible in the light of this new Bible. . . . That she is NOT inspired is plainly shown by many facts. She has never wrought a single miracle. The old prophets and the apostles wrought miracles freely, to prove that God had sent them. In all these seventy years, in all her forty volumes, not a single prediction has she ever made that has come to pass. . . . I could fill a volume

with proof of her mistakes, for all of her books are full of them. . . . The sad part of it is that so many honest souls are deluded into receiving all this as a divine revelation.

THE TWO-HORNED BEAST AND THE MESSAGES.

Seventh-Day Adventists lay great stress upon their interpretation of this symbol. Rev. 13:11-18. Their theory of the mark of the beast, and his image, the seal of God, the Third Angel's Message, and all their special work about the Sabbath is built upon their assumption concerning that beast. If they are mistaken here, their whole system collapses. They claim that this beast is the United States, and that soon we shall have here church and state united, the image of the beast, the papacy. The mark of the beast is Sunday-keeping. A law will enforce this upon Seventh-Day Adventists. They won't obey. Then they will be outlawed, persecuted, and condemned to death! Of all the wild Advent speculations in the prophecies, this deserves to stand among the wildest....

Did not Elder White, their leader, set three different times for the end of the world, and fail in all? Yes. May they not then possibly be mistaken also in this? Of course, as they must admit. So their system rests upon an uncertainty. Or are they infallible? Do our hopes of Heaven depend upon such uncertainties as these? Would it not be safer to follow the plain precepts of Christ (Matt. 7:24, 25), than to run after these uncertain speculations? Better than to follow the lead of Adventists who have been making mistakes over and over again for eighty years? "Take heed that no man deceive you." Jesus. Matt. 24:4.

NOTE: We urge you to carefully and prayerfully select a sound church where Christ is worshipped and served as God and Saviour and where the Bible is the only source of faith and practice.

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