

Reasons why I am glad that William Miller was Wrong



Jesus Still Waits

ALLEN STUMP OCTOBER 22, 1844

Revelation 10:9, 10 (KJV) — 9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. 10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

He [William Miller] had devoted two years to the study of the Bible, when, in 1818, he reached the solemn conviction that in about twenty-five years Christ would appear for the redemption of His people. (*The Great Controversy*, p. 329.2a)

He began to present his views in private as he had opportunity, praying that some minister might feel their force and devote himself to their promulgation. But he could not banish the conviction that he had a personal duty to perform in giving the warning. The words were ever recurring to his mind: “Go and tell it to the world; their blood will I require at thy hand.”

For nine years he waited, the burden still pressing upon his soul, until in 1831 he for the first time publicly gave the reasons of his faith.

(The Great Controversy, p. 330.2)

In 1833 Miller received a license to preach, from the Baptist Church, of which he was a member. A large number of the ministers of his denomination also approved his work, and it was with their formal sanction that he continued his labors. He traveled and preached unceasingly, though his personal labors were confined principally to the New England and Middle States. (*The Great Controversy*, p. 332.1)

Daniel 8:14 (KJV) — 14 And he said unto me,
Unto two thousand and three hundred days;
then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

Hebrews 8:1, 2 (KJV) — 1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

Hebrews 8:5 (KJV) — 5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

Hebrews 9:11 (KJV) — 11 But Christ being
come an high priest of good things to come,
by a greater and more perfect tabernacle,
not made with hands, that is to say, not of
this building;

Revelation 11:19 (KJV) — 19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

Habakkuk 1:13 (KJV) — 13 Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: . . .

**Hebrews 12:29 (KJV) — 29 For our God is a
consuming fire.**

Isaiah 59:2 (KJV) — 2 But your iniquities
have separated between you and your God,
and your sins have hid his face from you,
that he will not hear.

John 17:24 (KJV) — 24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

**Psalm 77:13 (KJV) — 13 Thy way, O God,
is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God
as our God?**

The Advent Sabbath
REVIEW *and* HERALD
CENTENNIAL SPECIAL, 1844 - 1944



Centennial Special

The Advent Sabbath

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Our Great Commission

THE year 1944 is one of special significance and interest to every Seventh-day Adventist. This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the great second advent movement. A century ago a few men and women laid the foundation for the world-wide work now being carried on by this people. This period of time can well be described as a "century of progress." Beginning in obscurity and poverty, and without resources of any kind save the blessing of God and the faith of its founders, the cause has grown to its present proportions. Very humbly and reverently we thank God for what He has accomplished through the devotion and the sacrifices of a willing people.

To describe the accomplishments and growth of the past century would require more space than can be allotted to this article. It is not our purpose to recount the accomplishments of the past, but rather to set forth

What good and devout men in the past looked forward to by faith, we see taking place about us.

It is right for us to maintain a deep interest in the history of the work of God during the past century. It is from the experiences of the past that we learn how to face the needs of the future. For, after all, the greatest history of this movement should not be of the past, but it should be written of the future. Indeed, our deepest concern should be with the future. We are the successors of the pioneers. We have taken over where they laid down the responsibilities. What they commenced we must finish. The carrying out of God's plan to give His last message to the world is laid as a direct charge upon us today.

What we need to realize most deeply is that the responsibility for finishing God's work is the immediate personal and active concern of every believer and

By JOHN LAMAR McELHANY, President of the General Conference

extend the line of battle, to occupy new positions, until we have fully accomplished our mission and the work of God is finished.

The length of time required to do this is not a matter of primary importance. The times and the seasons are in God's own hands. He possesses all the divine resources needed for the finishing of His work. He is not lacking for means whereby this shall be done. God is ready to do His part.

The church must arouse to the call of her divine Leader and awaken to her responsibility in this matter. God has chosen to make the church the channel through which He will accomplish His purpose to proclaim the last gospel message to the nations of earth. His call is to the church, to every member of the church. The problems and difficulties that are multiplying in the world today do not release the church from the respon-

again and receive His people unto Himself. This hour hastens greatly. His fulfilling Word proclaims the fact that soon "He that shall come will come, and will not tarry." Heb. 10:37.

There opens up before the church today an unparalleled opportunity for earnest, devoted, consecrated effort. Under the leadership and inspiration of the Spirit of God a mighty work is to be accomplished by calling upon men and women everywhere to repent and turn to God in preparation for the coming of the Lord.

In order to do our part in finishing God's work there must be a deep and absolute consecration of ourselves to the Lord and to His work and service. We must consecrate our sons and daughters to Him and to His service wherever He may choose to use them. We must consecrate our means and lay our all upon the altar in the one great supreme task of winning souls for the eternal kingdom. This work must be done

The Second Coming of Christ

By W. H. BRANSON
Vice-President of the General
Conference

**"We Have Not Followed
Cunningly Devised Fables"**

harbinger of the breaking up of earthly nations and

The Sabbath in the Setting of the Threefold Message

By FRANCIS D. NICHOL
Associate Editor, "Review and Herald"

no difference in days, why has there been such a vigorous endeavor through the centuries to enforce Sunday sacredness, even with legal aid!

Through such controversy as this the pioneers passed, holding tenaciously to the elementary truth that

the proving of it provides one of the most weighty reasons for believing, in a new and stronger way than ever before, that we have a distinctive message for the world today. To provide the proof calls for us to survey briefly the trends in the religious world in the

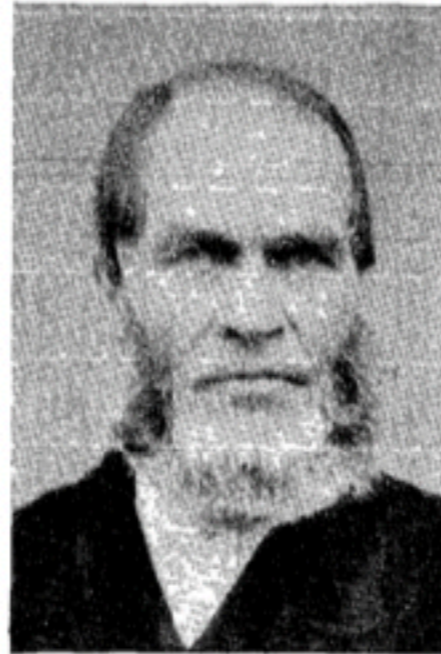
The Sanctuary

By M. L. ANDREASEN
Field Secretary of the General Conference

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS believe in the deity of Christ and make Him central in life and doctrine. To them Jesus is Lord and Christ, Prince and Saviour, the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. With all true Christians they believe that "neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

The cross is to them the supreme evidence of God's love and saving grace. There the Son of God suffered and died; there He provided the means of salvation and effected peace between God and man; there He triumphed over death and the grave. Without the cross there can be no reconciliation, no redemption, no salvation, no resurrection, and no hope of a life to come. All these blessed doctrines center in the cross, and from it draw their life and significance. This is accepted Christian doctrine, and to this Adventists subscribe.

There is one phase of the atoning work of Christ which Adventists stress, believing it to be most vital. This concerns Christ's office as high priest in heaven above. While most Protestant bodies accept and teach this doctrine, it is to them of little practical importance and does not affect life. They consider Christ's assumption of the high priestly title merely a theological ornamentation, and not an essential part of the plan of salvation. They overlook that an entire book in the New Testament—the book of Hebrews—is written for the specific purpose of acquainting Christians with the work of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary.



Hiram Edson, the First to Receive Light on the Work of Our Great High Priest

The Mosaic Tabernacle

That we may get a better conception of Christ's high priestly work, let us consider the Mosaic ordinances of the earthly sanctuary, which served "unto the example and shadow of heavenly things." Heb. 8:5. Soon after God had proclaimed the law from Mount Sinai, He commanded Moses, "Make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them." Ex. 25:8. With this came the admonition, "See . . . that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount." Heb. 8:5. (See also Ex. 25:9, 40; 26:30.) Moses immediately set about constructing a tabernacle "according to the heavenly pattern," and when the work was done "Moses did look upon all the work, and, behold, they had done it as the Lord had commanded, even so had they done it."

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The tabernacle was a copy of the heavenly sanctuary shown Moses in the mount. It consisted of two apartments: the first called the holy place, the second the most holy. Into the first apartment the priests could go every day, with incense and the blood of sacrifices; but into the second, the high priest only could enter, and he only on one day of the year, the Day of Atonement. In the most holy place was only one piece of furniture, the sacred ark containing the ten commandments which God had written with His own finger on two tables of stone. Covering this ark was the mercy seat, and between the two cherubim, placed one on each end of the ark, God revealed His glory.

To this tabernacle Israel came daily, confessing their

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The Spirit of Prophecy . . . A Guiding Light

By WILLIAM A. SPICER
Former President of the General Conference

THE Spirit of prophecy is essentially a gift for guidance, and so it has been to us in the advent movement. Other gifts of the Spirit were in the movement from the first. In the days of 1844 men were gaining the experience that brought into the infant church the gifts of apostleship—the administrative and directing gift, teaching, evangelism, and pastoral and shepherding gifts. We see just such gifts manifested in the labors of various brethren called to public work in early times, and still these gifts abound in the church everywhere.

But interwrought with all these gifts was the special gift that had been foretold as marking the remnant, or advent, church—the gift of the Spirit of prophecy. (Rev. 12:17; 19:10.) In the journey that the church of the last days would be called upon to make toward the heavenly Canaan, they would need the same guiding gift that the children of Israel needed on their journey to the earthly Canaan. Of that ancient church we are told, "By a prophet the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved." Hosea 12:13.

The Publishing Work, Which Began Small, Was to Grow and Expand Like Streams of Light Encircling the Globe. Here Are Pictured James White, Mrs. White, and a Few Friends, Gathered in the Belden Home. They Knelt Around the First Edition of PRESENT TRUTH, and "Earnest Prayers Mingled With Tears Were Offered to God That His Blessing Would Attend the Silent Messengers"

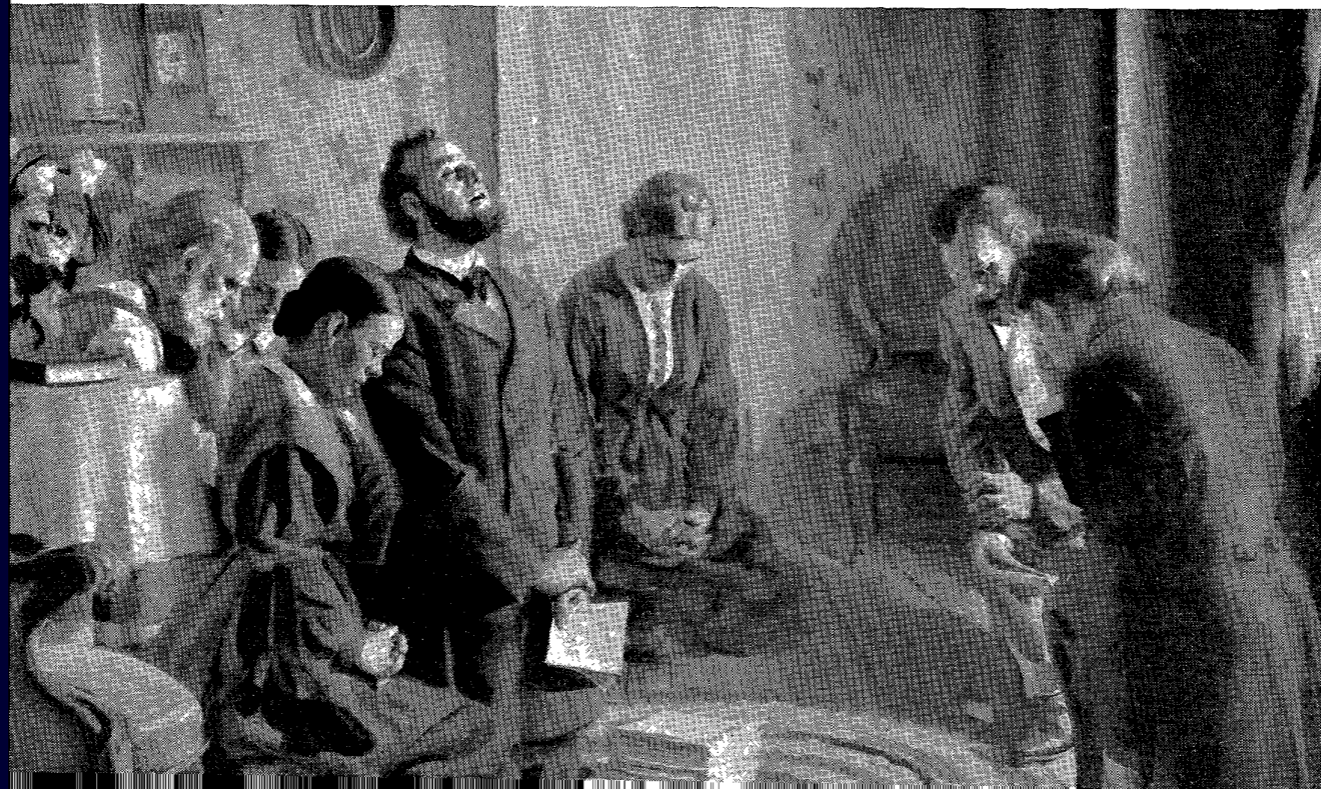
PAINTED BY HARRY ANDERSON

If we should take away from the narrative of the church in the wilderness in that ancient time all that came to them of guidance through the ancient gift of the Spirit of prophecy, we would readily see how the hand of the Lord would have been shortened in guiding that people. All the way through He was using that gift of the Spirit to hold them back from wrong ways, to lead into right ways, to guide into truth, and to ward off error. What would the story of the Exodus have been without that gift?

"Now all these things happened unto them for examples ["types," margin]: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." 1 Cor. 10:11.

All who know anything of the story of this advent movement since 1844 know that this same gift, from the first steps of our journey, was used of God to guide us and keep our feet in right ways. It is still guiding by the written messages that live and speak the counsels that we need. Well did the messenger answer the oft-thought question of years ago, What if Mrs. White should die? She answered in the letter to O. A. Olsen, former president of the General Conference:

"The question is sometimes raised, 'What if Mrs. White should die?' I answer, 'The books that she has written will not die.' They are a living witness to what saith the Scripture. . . . Of myself I could not have brought out the truths in these books, but the Lord



John 3:16 (KJV) — 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.

Romans 8:28 (KJV) — 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

1 John 4:8 (KJV) — 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love

1 John 4:9, 10 (KJV) — 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. **10** Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins

“God is love” is written upon every opening bud, upon every spire of springing grass. The lovely birds making the air vocal with their happy songs, the delicately tinted flowers in their perfection perfuming the air, the lofty trees of the forest with their rich foliage of living green—all testify to the tender, fatherly care of our God and to His desire to make His children happy. (*Steps to Christ*, p. 10.1)

Revelation 22:11 (KJV) — 11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

2 Peter 3:12 (KJV) — 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Psalm 54:1 (KJV) — 1 Save me, O God, by thy name, and judge me by thy strength.

Proverbs 31:9 (KJV) — 9 Open thy mouth,
judge righteously, and plead [דִּין (*din*)] the
cause of the poor and needy.

Psalm 43:1 (KJV) — 1 Judge me, O God,
and plead my cause against an ungodly
nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and
unjust man.

2 Corinthians 3:5 (KJV) — 5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

Romans 13:11 (KJV) — 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.

The judgment is now passing in the sanctuary above. For many years this work has been in progress. Soon—none know how soon—it will pass to the cases of the living. In the awful presence of God our lives are to come up in review. At this time above all others it behooves every soul to heed the Saviour's admonition: “Watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.” Mark 13:33. “If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”

Revelation 3:3. (*The Great Controversy*, p. 490.1)

The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided.

(Selected Messages, book 2, p. 80.4)

**1 Timothy 2:5 (KJV) — 5 For there is one God,
and one mediator between God and men, the man
Christ Jesus;**

1 John 1:9 (KJV) — 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.