



Fundamental Pillars

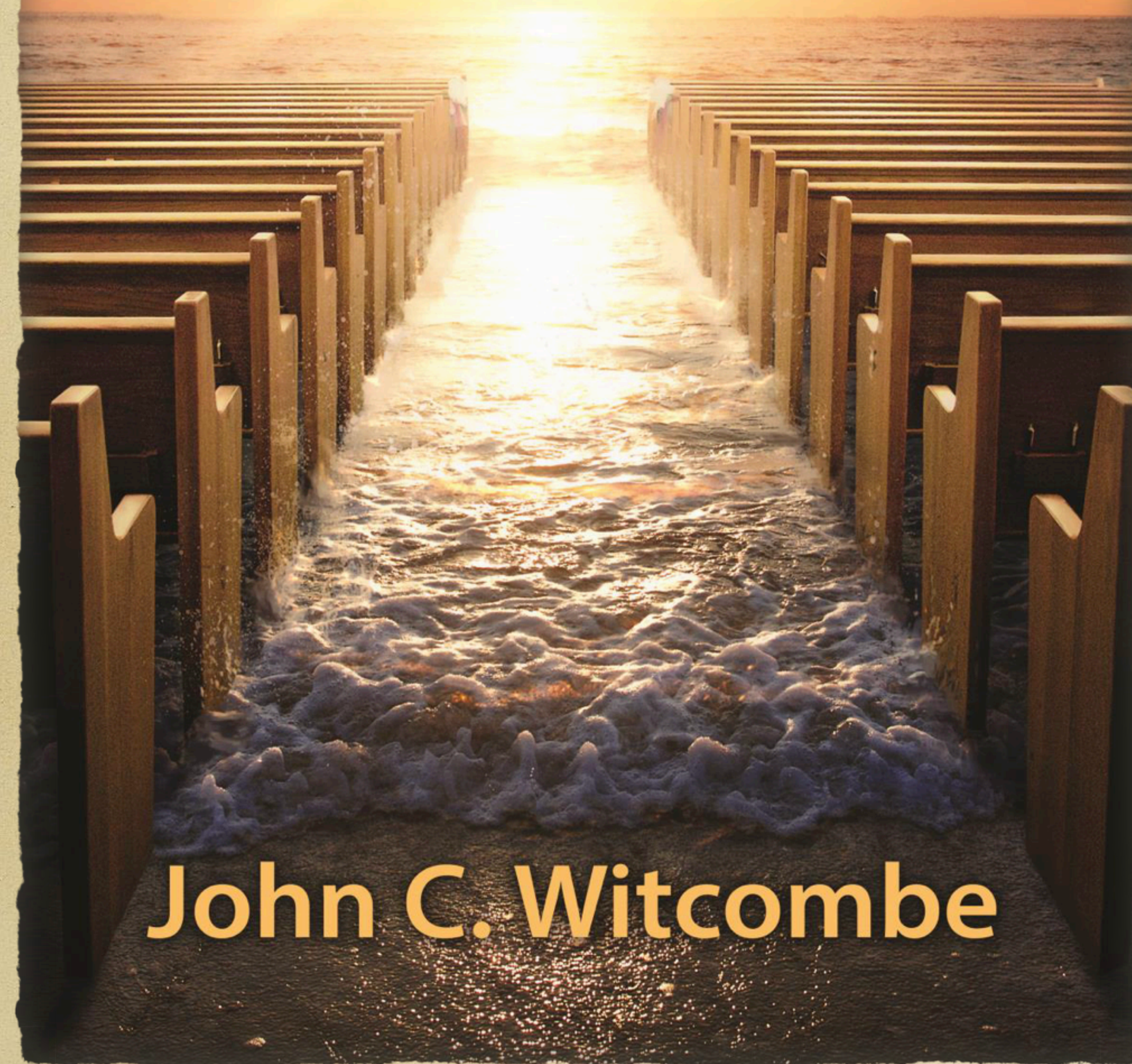
The Second Angel's Message – part 3

**How Shall We Relate to the
SDA Corporate Church
and the Second Angel's
Message?**

The word apostasy comes from the Greek word αποστασια (*apostasia*) meaning *defection* or *revolt*. It is derived from two parts: ἀπό (*apo*) meaning *away from* and ἵστημι (*histēmi*), meaning to stand. Therefore, the literal etymology is to stand away from and it refers to a departure, abandonment or desertion of a belief system.

ONE GOD ONE CHURCH

A **New** Approach to Fortify
Membership Against the
Anti-Trinitarian Movement



John C. Witcombe

“Does the Seventh-day Adventist Church have any unconditional prophecies relating to its continuance as God’s denominated, visible church on earth? Yes, it does!” (p. 144)

Jeremiah 31:35 (KJV) — 35 Thus saith the LORD,
which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the
ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by
night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof
roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:

Jeremiah 31:36 (KJV) — 36 If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.

Jeremiah 31:37 (KJV) — 37 Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.

The Jewish people cherished the idea that they were the favorites of heaven [do Adventists think this way also], and that they were always to be exalted as the church of God. They were the children of Abraham, they declared, and so firm did the foundation of their prosperity seem to them that they defied earth and heaven to dispossess them of their rights. But by lives of unfaithfulness they were preparing for the condemnation of heaven and for separation from God.

(Christ's Object Lessons, p. 294.2)

John 8:31–32 (KJV) — 31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Ephesians 4:25 (KJV) — 25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Matthew 12:36–37 (KJV) — 36 But I say unto you,
That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall
give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For by
thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou
shalt be condemned.

Luke 12:42–43 (KJV) — 42 And the Lord said,
Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom
his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give
them their portion of meat in due season?
43 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he
cometh shall find so doing.

Luke 12:44–46 (KJV) — 44 Of a truth I say unto you,
that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

45 But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord
delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the
menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and
to be drunken; 46 The lord of that servant will come
in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour
when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and
will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

Luke 12:47–48 (KJV) — 47 *And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.* 48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. *For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.*

In the balances of the sanctuary the Seventh-day Adventist church is to be weighed. She will be judged by the privileges and advantages that she has had. If her spiritual experience does not correspond to the advantages that Christ, at infinite cost, has bestowed on her, if the blessings conferred have not qualified her to do the work entrusted to her, on her will be pronounced the sentence: "Found wanting." By the light bestowed, the opportunities given, will she be judged.

(Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, p. 247.2)

Christ would have averted the doom of the Jewish nation if the people had received Him. But envy and jealousy made them implacable. They determined that they would not receive Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah. They rejected the Light of the world, and thenceforth their lives were surrounded with darkness as the darkness of midnight. The doom foretold came upon the Jewish nation. (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 295.3a)

Their own fierce passions, uncontrolled, wrought their ruin. In their blind rage they destroyed one another. Their rebellious, stubborn pride brought upon them the wrath of their Roman conquerors. Jerusalem was destroyed, the temple laid in ruins, and its site plowed like a field. The children of Judah perished by the most horrible forms of death. Millions were sold, to serve as bondmen in heathen lands. (*Ibid.*, p. 295.3b)

As a people the Jews had failed of fulfilling God's purpose, and the vineyard was taken from them. The privileges they had abused, the work they had slighted, was entrusted to others. (Ibid., p. 296.1)

The parable of the vineyard applies not alone to the Jewish nation. It has a lesson for us. The church in this generation has been endowed by God with great privileges and blessings, and He expects corresponding returns. (Ibid., 296.2)

Regarding the testimonies, nothing is ignored;
nothing is cast aside; but time and place must be
considered. (*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 57.2)

To claim that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is Babylon, is to make the same claim as does Satan, who is an accuser of the brethren, who accuses them before God night and day. By this misusing of the Testimonies, souls are placed in perplexity, because they cannot understand the relation of the Testimonies to such a position as is taken by those in error; for God intended that the Testimonies should always have a setting in the framework of truth (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 42.1; first published in *The Review and Herald*, August 29, 1893).

My brother, if you are teaching that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is Babylon, you are wrong, God has not given you any such message to bear. Satan will use every mind to which he can attain access, inspiring men to originate false theories or go off on some wrong tangent, that he may create a false excitement, and thus divert souls from the true issue for this time (Ibid., p. 59.2, written from New Zealand and first published in *The Review and Herald*, September 12, 1893).

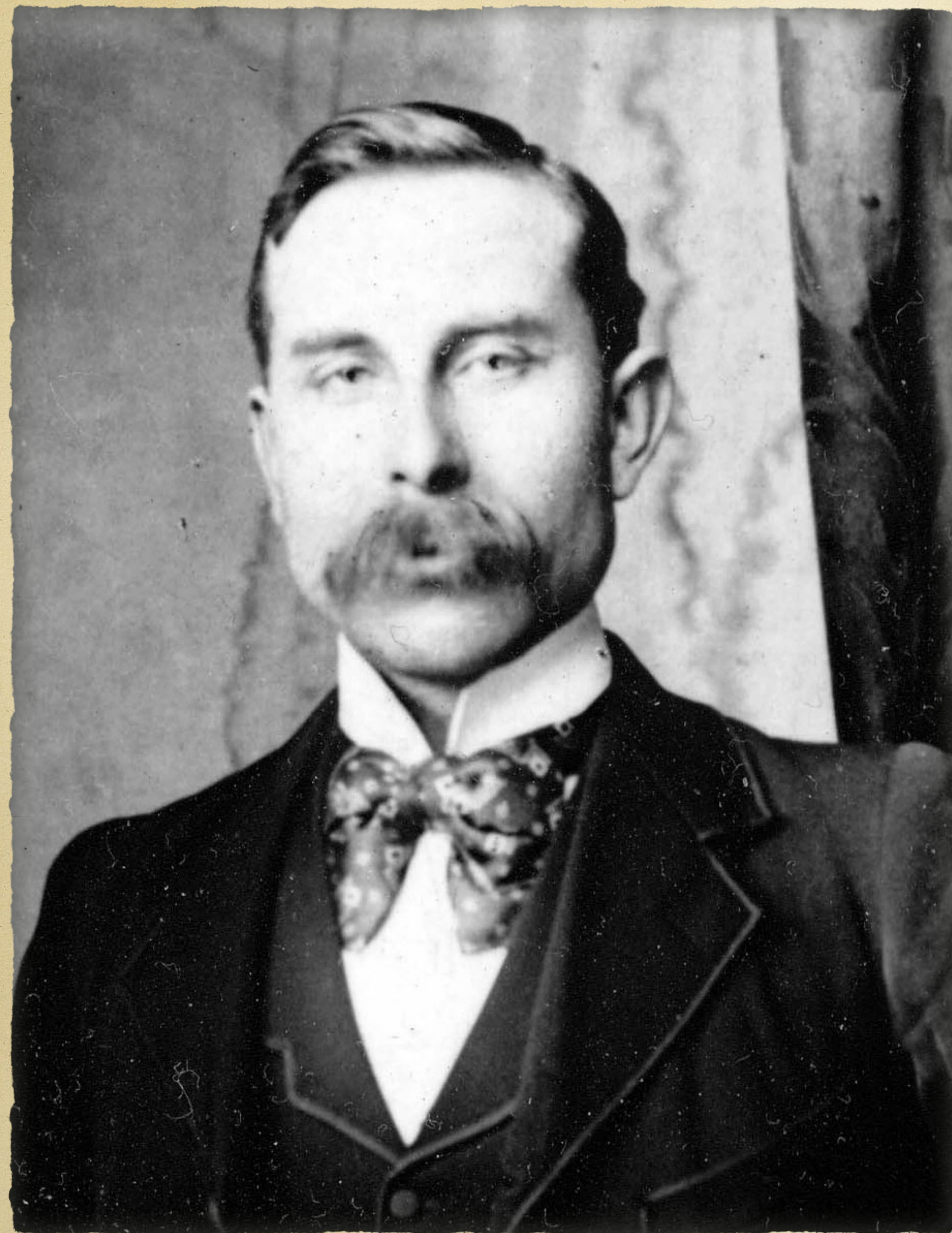
Let every one who claims to believe that the Lord is soon coming, search the Scriptures as never before; for Satan is determined to try every device possible to keep souls in darkness, and blind the mind to the perils of the times in which we are living. Let every believer take up his Bible with earnest prayer, that he may be enlightened by the holy Spirit as to what is truth, that he may know more of God and of Jesus Christ whom he has sent. (*The Review and Herald*, November 22, 1892, par. 7a).

Search for the truth as for hidden treasures, and disappoint the enemy. The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth. (Ibid., p. 7b)

1 Timothy 3:15 (KJV) — 15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

God has a church. It is not the great cathedral, neither is it the national establishment, neither is it the various denominations; it is the people who love God and keep His commandments. "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). Where Christ is even among the humble few, this is Christ's church, for the presence of the High and Holy One who inhabiteth eternity can alone constitute a church. (*The Upward Look*, p. 315.5)

From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 11.2)



Judson S. Washburn

The doctrine of the
Trinity is a cruel heathen
monstrosity, removing
Jesus from his true
position of Divine
Saviour and Mediator

Satan has taken some heathen conception of a three-headed monstrosity, and with deliberate intention to cast contempt upon divinity, has woven it into Romanism as our glorious God, an impossible, absurd invention. This monstrous doctrine transplanted from heathenism into the Roman Papal Church is seeking to intrude its evil presence into the teachings of the Third Angel's Message. (Letter of J. S. Washburn to W. W. Prescott, April 24, 1940)

Seventh-day Adventists claim to take the word of God as supreme authority and to have “come out of Babylon,” to have renounced forever the vain traditions of Rome. If we should go back to the immortality of the soul, purgatory, eternal torment and the Sunday Sabbath, would that be anything less than apostasy?

If, however, we leap over all these minor, secondary doctrines and accept and teach the very central root, doctrine of Romanism, the Trinity, and teach that the son of God did not die, even though our words seem to be spiritual, is this anything else or anything less than apostasy? and the very Omega of apostasy?

(Ibid.)

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, [apostate here] 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. (*Special Testimonies*, series, B, no. 2, p. 54.3, 1904)

We are to hold fast the first principles of our denominated faith, and go forward from strength to increased faith. Ever we are to keep the faith that has been substantiated by the Holy Spirit of God from the earlier events of our experience until the present time.

(Special Testimonies, Series B, no. 7, p. 57.1)

Shortly before I sent out the testimonies regarding the efforts of the enemy to undermine the foundation of our faith through the dissemination of seductive theories, I had read an incident about a ship in a fog meeting an iceberg. For several nights I slept but little. I seemed to be bowed down as a cart beneath sheaves.

One night a scene was clearly presented before me. A vessel was upon the waters, in a heavy fog. Suddenly the lookout cried, "Iceberg just ahead!" There, towering high above the ship, was a gigantic iceberg.

An authoritative voice cried out, "Meet it!"

There was not a moment's hesitation. It was a time for instant action. The engineer put on full steam, and the man at the wheel steered the ship straight into the iceberg. With a crash she struck the ice. There was a fearful shock, and the iceberg broke into many pieces, falling with a noise like thunder to the deck.

The passengers were violently shaken by the force of the collision, but no lives were lost. The vessel was injured, but not beyond repair. She rebounded from the contact, trembling from stem to stern, like a living creature. Then she moved forward on her way.

(Special Testimonies, Series B, no. 2, p. 55.3)

Well I knew the meaning of this representation. I had my orders. I had heard the words, like a voice from our Captain, "Meet it!" I knew what my duty was, and that there was not a moment to lose. The time for decided action had come. I must without delay obey the command, "Meet it"! (Ibid., p. 55, 56.1)

Revelation 18:4 (KJV) — 4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Luke 12:32 (KJV) — 32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.