

WHY WE EXIST AS A PEOPLE

The Historic and Eschatological Significance of Adventism

THE ADVENT MOVEMENT was born to the stage of human history for the specific purpose of repainting the character of God upon the inner canvas of human hearts, and to do so on a global scale. As a prophetically born movement, Adventism was not formed in an historic void. It did not arise out of nowhere, but as the logical trajectory to the cultural and religious movements that had preceded it, and as the divinely planned answer to the human longings so dramatically intensified by those foregoing movements that had grossly defamed the character of God. The truths held by Adventism, if configured in the immediate and pervasive light of God's love, possess the potential to ignite the final global theological revolution foretold in Scripture, and thus to usher in the second coming of Christ.

A MOVEMENT BORN FOR THEOLOGICAL REVOLUTION

Daniel 7-8 Summary—Daniel (as well as Paul and Jesus Himself) foretold that God's character would be defamed, through long dark ages, by means of a religious system claiming to represent Christ. By the double, compounded evil of a salvation-by-works doctrinal system coupled with the use of coercion under the "Christian" name, God was grossly misrepresented in the eyes of the masses. "How long" will this state of affairs continue, Daniel heard one angel ask and other angel. "Unto 2300 day," came the answer, "then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." A new phase of history would now unfold in which the damage done to God's reputation by the papal system would be repaired.

Revelation 10-14 Summary—John foretold that modern atheism would emerge on the scene of history in the form of the French Revolution, as a violent reaction against the horrific picture of God forced upon the world by the false "Christian" system. John then saw that a people would emerge, following the French Revolution, who would study the book of Daniel. As a result, they would go through a bittersweet experience. But then, John heard an angel say to this shattered movement, "You must prophesies again," this time on a global scale. A flood of light was now to flow forth from the Most Holy Place where Jesus ministers as High Priest. The defamed character of God would be illuminated by a system of truth that would magnify His goodness over against the false picture that has been so long advanced.

A GLOBAL ILLUMINATION PROJECT

Numbers 14:21—The Lord said... 'truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.'

Psalms 72:19—Blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.

Isaiah 60:1-3—¹Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. ³The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

NOTE: See Exodus 33:18-19 for insight to the meaning of the "glory" of God.

Ezekiel 43:2—Behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory.

Habakkuk 2:14—The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Revelation 18:1-2—¹After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority [*power*, KJV], and the earth was illuminated with his glory. ²And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen!”

THE FINAL MESSAGE

The Great Controversy, pp. 610, 611—The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third angel’s message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of worldwide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. The Advent movement of 1840-44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God; the first angel’s message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in some countries there was the greatest religious interest which has been witnessed in any land since the Reformation of the sixteenth century; but these are to be far exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angel.

RH April 1, 1890—Several have written to me, inquiring if the message of justification by faith is the third angel’s message, and I have answered, “It is the third angel’s message in verity.” The prophet declares, “And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.” Brightness, glory, and power are to be connected with the third angel’s message, and conviction will follow wherever it is preached in demonstration of the Spirit. How will any of our brethren know when this light shall come to the people of God? As yet, we certainly have not seen the light that answers to this description.

Testimonies to Ministers, p. 456—What is justification by faith? It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself.

Faith and Works, p. 19—There is not a point that needs to be dwelt upon more earnestly, repeated more frequently, or established more firmly in the minds of all than the impossibility of fallen man meriting anything by his own best good works. Salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 415-416—The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them. The light of the Sun of Righteousness is to shine forth in good works—in words of truth and deeds of holiness.

NOTE: Four elements are evident: (1) power, (2) glory and (3) global illumination, resulting in (4) the fall of Babylon. In brief, the angel of Revelation eighteen symbolizes a message-bearing movement that powerfully, effectually, magnifies the glory of God’s good character as an act of theological and spiritual warfare against a colossal false religious system that has severely damaged God’s reputation in the eyes of humanity. As the illuminating influence of this angel-movement advances to become worldwide, Babylon falls, or loses credibility. Everyone who embraces the light (truth) communicated by this angel (messenger) is liberated from the theological darkness and spiritual domination Babylon has imposed on the world. Then in chapter 19, John reveals the Second Coming of Christ, depicting the Savior returning to earth as a warrior riding on a white horse to rescue of His people.