



Spec. #1 January 1971.

# "Watchman, what of the night?"

*The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come. Isaiah 21:11-12*

## AN INCIDENT!

Early in December [1970], a young man in the local church came to me and asked if I would be willing to cut a stencil which the district pastor asked him to prepare for the cover of the church bulletin. (I use an IBM "Selectric", and have several type heads which lend variety and distinctiveness to mimeograph production.) Always happy to serve, I told him that I would help, and suggested that he mark the copy as to the particular type style he wished used for the different sections of the bulletin cover.

In typing the back page - "Seventh-day Adventists Believe . . ." - I was unable to get the full copy within the lines and margin specified on the stencil provided. In analyzing the copy to see if changes could be made to adjust to the page area, I observed that certain basic and fundamental doctrines of the Church were completely omitted, and others were sub-divided to fill in the space. (I realize that on a single page it is impossible to give an *unabridged* statement of the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist church, but when such cardinal concepts as the final atonement in the heavenly sanctuary, and the incarnation of our Lord are not even mentioned, something is wrong!) The young man suggested that I write a summary of beliefs, and that he would submit them to the district pastor for consideration. This I did, and gave a rough draft to the brother for presentation to the pastor. The minister objected to Number Two for two reasons; 1) That a visitor might get a wrong impression of Adventist belief, and 2) What a conference official might say, if he should read it on the Bulletin cover.



The young man returned the copy to me telling me why it was not acceptable. I immediately telephoned the district pastor, and asked him for a fuller explanation. He stated that belief Number Two was not in harmony with the teaching of the General Conference. I told him that *if* the brethren in the General Conference did not accept this concept as originally held by the church, they were in a state of apostasy. He replied that this was a strong statement. I told him that I knew that it was, but that I was willing to stand trial on it, if judgment of the General Conference position were true. The minister then referred to a paper written by Professor Gain of Union College which appeared in the October, Ministry. (This will be discussed in future thought papers.) We dialogued about this for a period of time. Later, it was agreed that I would submit a copy of the beliefs that I had prepared for the Bulletin, and he would bring the matter before the church board. Here is where the matter rests at the time of this writing. The young man, taken back by the turn of events, proceeded to reproduce the copy of the bulletin cover in a single type style without variation. (See attachment following page 4 of this thought paper.)

Here is the copy of the beliefs submitted - the rough copy polished off grammar-wise, and spelling-wise.

Seventh-day Adventists Believe . . .

- That the Godhead consists of three Persons, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Heb. 1:1-3, I John 5:7
- That the second Person of the Godhead became man, being made of a woman, thus taking upon His divine nature our fallen nature, and lived a sinless life as an example for man to follow. Gal. 4:4, Rom. 8:3-4, John 16:33, Rev. 3:21.
- That this Person - Jesus Christ - in humanity provided an eternal sacrifice on the cross, and ascended to heaven as our High Priest to minister His spilt blood as an atonement in the heavenly sanctuary. Heb. 8:1-5, 9:8-12
- That according to prophecy, Jesus Christ as High Priest entered upon His final work of atonement in 1844, and when completed will return the second time to take from this earth those who have accepted His atonement. Dan. 8:14, Heb. 9:27-28, I Thess. 4:16-18.



That sinful man can be regenerated only through a new birth experience which comes by faith through the operation of the Holy Spirit. John 3:3-8, Rom. 8:1-11, Eph. 2:8-10.

That man by nature is mortal, and that in death he is unconscious, awaiting either the first or second resurrection. Job 4:17, Eccl. 9:5, John 5:28-29, Rev. 20:5-6.

That the Ten Commandments are the Divine Rule of Life, and that the fourth commandment, which enjoins the seventh-day Sabbath is valid for all time. Ex. 20:3-17, Luke 23:52 - 24:3, Isa. 66:22-23.

That the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the last manifestation of the Woman in White, and entrance is secured through baptism, and its support is maintained by tithes and offerings. Rev. 12:17, Rom. 6:3-5, Mal. 3:9-10.

That the follower of Christ enters the New Covenant relationship to which he bears periodic testimony in the celebration of the ordinances of the church. John 13:4-17, I Cor. 11:23-26.

That the Gift of Prophecy was manifest through the work and writings of Ellen G. White. Eph. 4:8, 11, Rev. 12:17, 19:10.

That Bible sanctification includes the whole man, and is manifest in the life through discard of unhealthful habits, by modest dress and deportment, and by shunning questionable amusements. I Cor. 3:16-17, Lev. 11., I Tim. 2:9-10, James 1:27.

Let us now analyze belief Number Two, phrase by phrase:

1) *The second Person of the Godhead became man* - The Bible states, "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."<sup>1</sup> Indeed, "the humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ, and through Christ to God."<sup>2</sup> The Son of God did become the Son of man!

2) *Being made of a woman* - Does not Paul plainly declare that "God sent forth His Son, made of a woman"?<sup>3</sup>

3) *Thus taking upon His divine nature our fallen nature* - Again Paul writes, "God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh. . . condemned sin in the flesh."<sup>4</sup> "In creation, Christ gave to humanity an existence outside of Himself. In redemption, He takes humanity unto Himself. He makes it a part of His own Being."<sup>5</sup> What was the nature of the humanity that Christ took? "It was in the order of God that Christ should take upon Himself the form and nature of fallen man."<sup>6</sup> "Think of Christ's humiliation. He took upon Himself fallen, suffering human nature, degraded and defiled by sin."<sup>7</sup>

4) *And lived a sinless life* - Again Paul writes - Christ "was tempted in



all points like as we are, yet without sin."<sup>8</sup> To a young man, Sister White wrote: "Jesus was sinless and had no dread of the consequences of sin. With this exception, His condition was as yours."<sup>9</sup>

5) *As an example for man to follow* - It was Peter who stated that Christ "suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps."<sup>10</sup> Verily, "Christ's life represents a perfect manhood. Just that which you may be, He was in human nature."<sup>11</sup>

If this belief can no longer be stated as the belief of the church, so that a local district pastor has to be fearful should conference leaders read this on a church bulletin, it may well be that we have reached the time described by the servant of the Lord in these words:

Unsanctified ministers are arraying themselves against God. They are praising Christ and the god of this world in the same breath. While professedly they receive Christ, they embrace Barabbas, and by their actions say, "Not this man, but Barabbas." Let all who read these lines, take heed. Satan has made his boast of what he can do. He thinks to dissolve the unity which Christ prayed might exist in His church. He says, "I will go forth and be a lying spirit to deceive those that I can, to criticize, and condemn, and falsify." Let the son of deceit and false witness be entertained by a church that has great light, great evidence, and that church will discard the message that the Lord has sent, and receive the most unreasonable assertions and false suppositions and false theories. Satan laughs at their folly, for he knows what truth is.

Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>John 1:14

<sup>2</sup>Ellen G. White, Selected Messages, bk., i, p. 244

<sup>3</sup>Gal. 4:4

<sup>4</sup>Rom. 8:3

<sup>5</sup>Ellen G. White, "The Word Made Flesh", Fm Andreasen Collection # 2

<sup>6</sup>Ellen G. White, Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 2, p. 39

<sup>7</sup>Ellen G. White, Youth's Instructor, Dec. 20, 1900 (4BC 1147)

<sup>8</sup>Heb. 4:15

<sup>9</sup>Ellen G. White, Our High Calling, p. 59

<sup>10</sup>I Peter 2:21

<sup>11</sup>Ellen G. White, Ms. W-106-1896 Fm. Andreasen Collection #2

<sup>12</sup>Ellen G. White, Testimonies to Ministers, pp. 409-410

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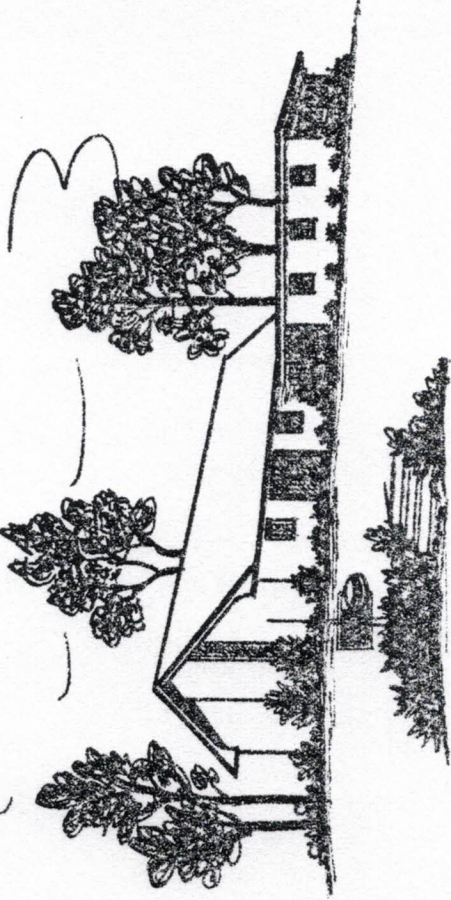
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Spec #1 (Jan, 71)



## SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS BELIEVE . . .

- In a personal God. Heb. 1:1-3.  
In Jesus Christ as the divine Son of God, our Saviour and High Priest. John 1:1-3,14; Heb. 7:25.  
In the Holy Spirit, the divine Comforter. John 15:26.  
In regeneration and the new birth, through the acceptance of the gospel. John 3:3-8.  
That the Bible is the inspired Word of God. 2 Tim. 3:16.  
That the second coming of Christ is very near. That it will be literal, personal, and visible to all. John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; Matt. 24:30.  
That man by nature is mortal. Job 4:17; 1 Tim. 6:15,16.  
That eternal life is the gift of God, received only through Christ. Rom. 6:23; 1 John 5:11,12.  
That the dead are unconscious. Eccl. 9:5; John 11:11-14.  
That there will be a resurrection of the dead.  
1 Thess. 4:16,17.  
That righteousness comes by faith. Rom. 4:3-5.  
That the standard of righteousness is the law of ten commandments, by which all will be judged. James 2:10-12; Ex. 20:3-17.  
That the original seventh-day Sabbath has never been changed by divina authority and therefore to be observed by Christians today. Gen. 2:2,3; Luke 23:52; 24:1.  
In the support of the gospel through tithes and offerings. Lev. 27:30,32; Mal. 3:8-11; Matt. 23:23.  
In baptism by immersion. Mark 1:9,10; Rom. 6:3-5.  
In the ordinance of humility and the Lord's Supper. John 13:4-17; 1 Cor. 11:23-26.  
In the gifts of the Spirit including the Spirit of Prophecy. Eph. 4:8,11; Rev. 12:17; 19:10.  
In discarding unhealthful practices such as the use of intoxicants, tobacco, unclean meats, etc. Prov. 23:29-32; 1 Cor. 3:16,17; Lev. 11; Isa. 66:15-17.  
That followers of Jesus should manifest modesty in dress and deportment, shunning questionable amusements.  
1 Tim. 2:9,10; Matt. 24:37-44; James 1:27.



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