The Three Angels, Idolatry, and the Danger of Indifference.

The theme of greatest importance is the third angel’s message, embracing the messages of the first and second angels. All should understand the truths contained in these messages; for they are essential to salvation. We shall have to study earnestly in order to understand these truths; and our power to learn and comprehend will be taxed to the utmost.

{1MR 57.1} Letter 97, 1902, p. 2. (To Elder E. J. Waggoner, July 7, 1902.)

The mission of every Seventh-day Adventist should be to proclaim the three angels’ messages; a warning to the world based on one subject ...WORSHIP. When mankind’s probationary time has ended –and God’s judgement is finished– there will be only two groups on the earth, those who worship the Father in Spirit and in truth, and those that worship the dragon. Satan wants our worship, and his plan is threefold: he will accept it out of loyalty, gain it through deception, or secure it by force if all else fails.

The proclamation of the three angels’ messages first began in the mid 1800’s –a time Adventists refer to as the midnight cry– and the same message is to be repeated by God’s remnant people just before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. This is the angel of Revelation 18 that lightens the earth with his glory.

The question of who we worship has once again become a controversy within Adventist circles as the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists continues to pay only lip service to the three angels’ messages. How can a church that is supposed to sound a warning about the mother of harlots do so if she is joining hands with that very same mother and her daughters through ecumenism? As Adventists begin to wake up to their own church history it has become obvious to many that our
leaders have joined hands with Rome, and they have followed the example of the Jewish rabbis by leading the people to reject the Son of God. While the Seventh-day Adventist Church professes from one side of her mouth that Jesus is the Son of God, from the other side she officially teaches that He is not the Son of God:

A plan of salvation was encompassed in the covenant made by the Three Persons of the Godhead, who possessed the attributes of Deity equally. In order to eradicate sin and rebellion from the universe and to restore harmony and peace, one of the divine Beings accepted, and entered into the role of the Father, another the role of the Son. The remaining divine Being, the Holy Spirit, was also to participate in effecting the plan of salvation.


The theologians have decided that when Jesus says He’s the Son of God He doesn’t really mean what He says. They claim that He’s only playing the role of a son, which is just another way of saying He’s pretending ...or to put it bluntly ...He’s lying to us! These theories have been published and repeated to such an extent that there are now people who think that the question of who God is—and the apostasy that has ensued because of not knowing Him— are side issues designed to ‘divide and scatter his people’. They have come to believe that the issue over the personality of God—and Christ—is a diversion from proclaiming the three angels’ messages when in fact the personality of God lies at the very heart of the message; how can we claim to be worshipping God if we don’t really know who He is?

Adventists were warned over a hundred years ago that a reformation was being planned which would bring about a change in our foundational doctrines, and ultimately change our religion:

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, 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.

\[\text{(SpTB02 54.3) The foundation of Our Faith 1904}\]

The easiest way to change your religion is to change the god that you worship, the question is, have we as a church changed the God that we worship, and if so how come so few knew about it (at least until recently), and why was there no outcry?

Most of the founders of Seventh-day Adventism would not be able to join the church today if they had to subscribe to the denomination’s Fundamental Beliefs.

More specifically, most would not be able to agree to belief number 2, which deals with the doctrine of the Trinity. For Joseph Bates the Trinity was an unscriptural doctrine, for James White it was that “old Trinitarian absurdity,” and for M. E. Cornell it was a fruit of the great apostasy, along with such false doctrines as Sunday keeping and the immortality of the soul.


George Knight says ‘most of the founders’, but when you look into it you will find that all of them held the same belief, Ellen white says so herself, but you can read about that in a separate article on this website. The point is, here is one of our leading church historians confirming that the church has changed her God. This is not a secret to some, and yet it will be a shock to many because they have no idea of the events that shaped the modern SDA organisation.

More recently, a further question has arisen with increasing urgency: was the pioneers’ belief about the Godhead right or wrong? As one line of reasoning goes, either the pioneers were wrong and the present church is right, or the pioneers were right and the present Seventh-day Adventist Church has apostatized from biblical truth.


So, were our pioneers theological crackpots as Woodrow Whidden once called them, or did the early church hold the truth concerning the personality of God? Many will question
how such a solid doctrine could have been so easily swapped if it is as strong as its proponents claim, but we shall see that this was a fulfilment of prophecy so it couldn’t be stopped, and besides, idolatry is very easy to fall into when church leaders have such a big influence over the members. Were not the Hebrews continually led into idolatry by their leaders? Just look at how easy it is to make an idol out of the one true God:

No outward shrines may be visible, there may be no image for the eye to rest upon, yet we may be practicing idolatry. It is as easy to make an idol of cherished ideas or objects as to fashion gods of wood or stone.

Thousands have a false conception of God and his attributes. They are as verily serving a false god as were the servants of Baal. Are we worshiping the true God as he is revealed in his word, in Christ, in nature, or are we adoring some philosophical idol enshrined in his place?

{5T 173.4} 1882 - also appeared in The Signs of the Times, February 8, 1883, Brotherly Love par. 2.

When this statement was written SDA membership was in the thousands ...today millions have a wrong concept of God. A willingness to listen and believe the interpretation of church leaders –just because of their theological training– is a repeat of the mistake the Jews made in following the Pharisees. What we are being told and (even more so) what we are not being told is a distortion of the truth at best, and at worst an outright lie.

We have also followed in the footsteps of the Jews by doing nothing while church members are put out of the synagogue –disfellowshipped– for speaking out against this idolatry and declaring that Jesus is the real and literal Son of God (John Chapter 9).

So have we apostatised, because apostasy is a serious issue? When Israel sacked Jericho, one man –Achan– decided to disobey God and take spoil from the city. Achan . . .

Jos 7:21 . . . saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then . . . coveted them, and took them . . .

Because of Achan’s sin “the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel” and the Lord could not work for Israel nor protect them:

Jos 7:11 Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.

Jos 7:12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were
accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

Please notice, even though only one man sinned, the Lord counted it as Israel sinning. How then is it possible for God to work for a church that has so much sin and false doctrine in her midst if He couldn’t work for Israel over the sin of one man? No wonder it’s been 130 years (since 1888) and we are still waiting for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This is why the SDA Church organisation cannot be the remnant church of God; the remnant church are a people within the denomination who hold fast to the truth. If we take the example—or type—of Elijah, we can see who the remnant are.

**Mal 4:5** Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

**1Ki 19:14** And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

**1Ki 19:18** Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

It is a well taught doctrine in Adventism that the third Elijah (John the Baptist being the second) will be a people who give the same message that Elijah gave and in the same spirit that he gave it ...this is what will prepare the way for the second coming of Christ. Prominent SDA preachers have led us to believe that the third Elijah is the SDA denomination and the message is to be given to the fallen churches of Babylon. We are supposed to call them to true worship by telling them to give up Sunday and worship God on the day He instituted.

While this is true in a sense, it is by no means the whole story as there are a couple of glaringly obvious points that are always overlooked. Firstly, the Sabbath is a sign which points to the God that we worship and should not take precedence over Him; there is no point worshipping the wrong god on the right day, and secondly, Elijah gave the message to his own people, not to the nations around Israel. We will look at the latter point first as the parallels between the story of Elijah and today’s church are striking.

King Ahab—a type of today’s church leadership—married himself (and therefore Israel also) to Jezebel (the impure woman) ...just as the Adventist leaders have now married themselves to (are having a relationship with) the Roman Catholic Church—the impure woman of Revelation 2:20. When Jezebel became the spiritual power behind Israel’s leader it was her god that was honored above the God of the Hebrews.
During the typological time period of the Pergamos Church – one of the seven churches of Revelation 2:3 – the corruptions of Romanism began to creep into Christianity. The Pergamos church represents the period between AD 313 – the signing of the Edict of Milan – and AD 538 – the beginning of the 1260-day prophecy – those were the days when Constantine “accepted” Christianity.

His edict in AD 321 brought about the first Sunday law, and a few years later in AD 325 he directed the Council of Nicaea where we find the roots of the trinity (Nicene Creed). This was the beginning of the end for the begotten Son in the universal (Catholic) church. The true church fled into the wilderness soon after this, that the truth should be kept alive during the coming centuries of persecution.

It shouldn’t be lost to the reader that during this same period in history we are told that those who resisted the doctrines coming out of Rome (and to some extent Alexandria) were resisting Satan (Revelation 2:13, 24). The two biggest doctrines associated with Rome at the beginning of their intrusion into God’s church – the trinity and Sunday worship – are to be the same two that will play a role in the final battle.

In Elijah’s day Israel worshipped Jezebel’s god, and today (spiritual) Israel are still worshipping Jezebel’s god; this god is better known as the sun god ... or the triune god (see page 35).

If we stick to biblical types and examples, the remnant will be those who warn their own people that they’re worshipping a false god ... as did Elijah. Interestingly, in Elijah’s day the god worshipped by Israel was a plurality (1Ki 18:18, Baalim is the plural of Baal), just as the god worshipped today by spiritual Israel is also known as a plural god (the trinity).

For those who might need more than one example in the Bible before they can settle into the truth, the same story of apostasy and idolatry is prefigured in the vision given to Ezekiel in chapters 8 & 9 of his book:

Study the ninth chapter of Ezekiel. These words will be literally fulfilled; yet the time is passing, and the people are asleep. They refuse to humble their souls and to be converted. Not a great while longer will the Lord bear with the people who have such great and important truths revealed to them, but who refuse to bring these truths into their individual experience. The time is short. God is calling. Will you hear? Will you receive His message? Will you be converted before it is too late? Soon, very soon, every case will be decided for eternity.

{18MR 236.2} Letter 106, 1909.

The vision in Ezekiel 9 begins in Ezekiel 8 and shows the rebellion and apostasy in God’s
church leading up to the sealing of His people (Revelation 7 & 14 also gives record of the sealing of the saints). The vision given to Ezekiel foretold how the leaders in Judah (God’s true church) would secretly bring an idol (false god) into their midst ...which is exactly what happened under the guidance of the Adventist leadership just after Ellen White died –only the First World War prevented it from happening any sooner.

In 1919 the leaders of the SDA church held a secret Bible conference, they decided that Jesus shouldn’t be referred to as begotten, and instead brought in the doctrine of a co-equal and co-eternal Son. These two phrases are not found in the Bible and are two concepts that our pioneers wholly rejected –as previously noted by George Knight.

In swapping the begotten Son for one who is co-equal and co-eternal with His Father, they opened the back door for the triune god to be ushered into the church and thus they fulfilled prophecy. When you ditch biblical definitions and add your own human wisdom and vocabulary to try and bolster a “cherished idea”, it can rightly be called a “philosophical idol” as Sister White stated.

The vision in Ezekiel goes on to show how the ministers/leaders –depicted by high priest and the twenty-four ministering Levites– came out from the shadow of secrecy to worship the sun god in full view of the church:

**Eze 8:16** And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD’S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.

At the same (behind closed doors) meeting in 1919 the authority of Sister White was also called into question. She had taught that Jesus was the real and literal (begotten) Son of God and this is probably the root of the disregard our leaders have for her today.

Thank God not everyone at that meeting was corrupt and that a few good men were willing to stand for the truth. In fact, those few good men caused such a problem for the president and his associates that the minutes of the meeting were hidden away for fifty-five years. You can read the minutes of the meeting online today, so this is not hearsay.

How can people think that idolatry is a side issue if the very first part of the three angels’ messages tells us:

**Rev 14:7** . . . Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.
What does it mean to fear God anyway, and who is it that we are to worship? While this may seem like a stupid question because Adventists are supposed to know who they worship, I would like to suggest that most Adventists don't know who they worship. This can be seen by the amount of different views and explanations given (by those who were once known as the People of the Book) when Seventh-day Adventists are asked basic questions that challenge the corporate view of God laid down in the church's 28 Fundamental Beliefs.

So, before we can proceed we need to answer the question, ‘can we know who God is?’ because when anyone is challenged on their understanding of God the stock answer is to usually say, ‘God is beyond understanding’ ...even going as far as to say that ‘He is a mystery’.

We must also remember to give Satan some respect, because not only does he possess a far superior intellect to ours (probably akin to an adult over a very young child) but he’s also had about 6,000 years of practise in bringing down some of the mightiest men to walk the earth, so we shouldn’t think that we are beyond deception; God called him a deceiver for a very good reason.

To Fear God

**Pro 9:10** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

The Hebrew method of parallel writing –a form of poetry– shows us that to Fear God is to have an understanding –a knowledge– of Him. This makes perfect sense in the context of the three angels’ messages because how can we worship someone if we don’t even know who they are? Are we not told by Christ Himself that there will be a class of Christians rejected because He didn’t know them?

**Mat 7:22** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

**Mat 7:23** And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

We should take note: many will be disappointed (Mat 8:12), they will profess to serve Jesus, they will do works that seem worthy, and yet sin will be the deciding factor in their rejection.

Is there a sin that is specifically linked with a failure to know God? Yes, there is ...idolatry. How so one may ask? And yet the answer is simple ...idolatry is getting to know a false
god while failing to recognise the true.

To Know and Understand Him

We are told that loving God with all our understanding will bring us closer to the kingdom of God:

**Mar 12:32** And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:

**Mar 12:33** And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

**Mar 12:34** And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

But how is it possible for a mortal to understand an infinite being? Doesn’t the Bible tell us that we can’t know or understand God? This is certainly what the SDA General Conference teaches today, but is this necessarily biblical or do they teach it because they have accepted a god that restricts their understanding?

**Rom 11:33** O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

**Psa 139:6** Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

**Psa 145:3** Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

**Job 26:14** Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand?

While this is true –that there are certain things beyond us– we mustn’t forget that what God has revealed is of the uttermost importance. While there are many things we cannot understand about God, there are also many things He wants us to know and understand about Himself ...is this not part of the reason for Him giving us His Son (**Mat 11:27**)?

**Deu 29:29** The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.
Please note, paying attention to what God has revealed enables us to put His will above our own...it equips us to do His words and to keep His law. Our Father is a personal God, and while there are (secret) things that we cannot understand about Him, He is not a mystery as we are continually told. It is of a certainty that we can know Him if we have the desire to seek him earnestly:

**Pro 2:5** Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

**Pro 2:6** For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

**2Pe 1:3** According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

**Jer 9:23** Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

**Jer 9:24** But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

**Joh 17:3** And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

**1Jn 4:7** Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

**1Jn 4:8** He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

**Isa 1:3** The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

The first angels message tells us that we are to “worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters”. So, who is the ‘him’ that created all these things?

**Act 14:15** And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:
A quick search reveals that it was the living God who created all things ...so naturally the next question is, who is the living God?

**Mat 16:16**  And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the **Son** of the living God.

**Joh 6:69**  And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the **Son** of the living God.

**Two Divine Beings and One Spirit**

The Living God is the Father, He is the one who created all things, but He wasn’t alone, He created all things through His Son.

**Heb 1:1**  God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

**Heb 1:2**  Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his **Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

**Joh 1:3**  All things were made by [G1223] him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

**Col 1:16**  For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

The Father created all things by His Son –which means through His Son. Strong’s concordance states that the Greek word translated as –by– means:

**Strong’s Concordance**

**G1223**

διά

dia

A primary preposition denoting the channel of an act; through

If we look at the example of Adam and Eve, who were made in the image and likeness of the Father and Son, we are given a practical example of how creation is accomplished when a source and channel work together. Both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy confirm that only two divine beings were involved in the creation of the world . . .

**Gen 1:26**  And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:
and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Pro 30:4 Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?

After the earth was created, and the beasts upon it, the Father and Son carried out their purpose, which was designed before the fall of Satan, to make man in their own image. They had wrought together in the creation of the earth and every living thing upon it. And now God says to his Son, "Let us make man in our image".

{1SP, 1870, 24.2}

The Sovereign of the universe was not alone in His work of beneficence. He had an associate—a co-worker who could appreciate His purposes, and could share His joy in giving happiness to created beings. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God." John 1:1, 2. Christ, the Word, the only begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father—one in nature, in character, in purpose—the only being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.

{PP 1890 34.1}

In the beginning the Father and the Son had rested upon the Sabbath after Their work of creation.

{E. G. White, DA 1898 769.2}

And I saw that when God said to his Son, Let us make man in our image, Satan was jealous of Jesus. He wished to be consulted concerning the formation of man.

{1SG 1858 17.1}

Adam and Eve were charmed with the beauties of their Eden home. They were delighted with the little songsters around them, wearing their bright yet graceful plumage, and warbling forth their happy, cheerful
music. The holy pair united with them and raised their voices in harmonious songs of love, praise and adoration, to the Father and his dear Son, for the tokens of love which surrounded them.

{1SP 1870, 26.3}

... although the example of Adam and Eve is a basic level view, God often uses things we can understand to reveal essential or eternal truths. Through this practical example we can gain enough of an understanding to see how the Father and Son worked together in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants.

Just as a man creates through his wife, so the Father created through His Son. Just as the woman does the work of bringing children into the world, so it was Christ who did the works of creation. The creation of a child is only made possible because of the seed that originates in the man, and so the creation of the world was only made possible by the Spirit that comes from God (the Father).

Joh 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

There is even a verse in Proverbs 8 showing how the Father directed or ‘trained’ his Son in the works of creation:

Pro 8:29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

Pro 8:30 Then I was by him, as one brought up [H525] with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;

Strong’s Concordance

H525 הָמוֹן 'âmôn

From H539, probably in the sense of training; skilled, that is, an architect (like H542): - one brought up.

1Co 8:6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

We are clearly shown that there were two beings involved in creation, and this is
distinctly stated in both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, but one of the greatest examples given to us in the creation of mankind is to show that Christ was begotten of His Father. Eve was brought forth from Adam (Gen 2:21-22) just as Christ was brought forth from His Father (Pro 8:24-25), and although in both cases one is subject to the other there is total equality in substance and nature.

In Spirit and Truth

When we worship the Father, that worship comes to Him through His Son:

All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father’s life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life. {DA 21.2}

It’s the Father who is the great Giver, and even as Adventists we have lost the import of this immutable truth. Turning away from the truth as a church has caused the lamp that lightens our path to dim and left us in a position of darkness. Ellen White wrote:

I have been shown that the spirit of the world is fast leavening the church. You are following the same path as did ancient Israel. There is the same falling away from your holy calling as God’s peculiar people. You are having fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. Your concord [harmony] with unbelievers has provoked the Lord’s displeasure. You know not the things that belong to your peace, and they are fast being hid from your eyes. Your neglect to follow the light will place you in a more unfavorable position than the Jews upon whom Christ pronounced a woe.

{PH117 58.1} Testimony for the Battle Creek Church 1882.

Shown below are some comparisons of what the SDA church teaches through its 28 fundamental beliefs and what the bible teaches. Remember, we have been warned that a wrong concept of God is akin to idolatry, so we must see God as He reveals Himself in the Bible and not in a man-made creed ...this cannot be stressed enough.

The SDA Church today teaches that the one God of the Bible is a committee of three different beings ...the Bible says:
1Co 8:6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

The one God of the Bible is the Father ...Jesus confirms this in a prayer to His Father:

Joh 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

The Father is the only true God ...meaning, He is the source (page 14) of all things:

1Ti 6:16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

The Father is the source of immortality as plainly shown above, He is the only one in whom immortality originated, and that immortality was given to the Son:

Joh 5:26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

Therefore the Son received a better name than the angels; it was through inheritance that Christ received his immortality and the authority to grant it to others. If you inherit something (by definition) you cannot already have had it.

Heb 1:4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.
Heb 1:5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

The SDA Church today teaches that Jesus and His Father are co-equal and co-eternal ...the Bible says:

Co-Eternal:

Pro 8:22 The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.
Pro 8:23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.
Pro 8:24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.
Pro 8:25  Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:

While it’s not difficult to show (from the Bible) that Proverbs 8 is speaking of Christ, it takes enough time to warrant its own study, therefore two of the four statements by Sister White on this subject should be enough to prompt any serious Bible student to search the scriptures.

(Note: until the study is uploaded any questions about Proverbs 8 can be made using the contact page)

And the Son of God declares concerning himself: "The Lord possessed me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting. . . . When He appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him: and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him." Proverbs 8:22-30.

Through Solomon Christ declared: "The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth. . . . When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him."

{PP, 1890, 34.1}

What does it mean to be brought forth?

Joh 16:27  For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

Joh 16:28  I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

The words used by Jesus here literally mean to come out of something. A couple of examples of how this Greek word –exerchomai– is used in the Bible are: i) to come out of a city, or ii) when a spirit comes out of a person. There is no reason to misunderstand what it means unless a preconceived idea about God causes a wilful neglect of the truth.

Jesus had a beginning, or at least His personality had a beginning –because His origin lies in the Father who has no beginning– but for some reason people recoil at this thought,
even though it is clearly shown through Bible texts and in the distinct example of Adam and Eve, who were in the image and likeness of the Father and Son. Tradition has led to the belief that being a begotten son somehow degrades Christ …somehow makes him unequal with His Father, but his equality depends on Him being the begotten Son.

**Joh 5:18** Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

**Co-Equal:**

A son is always subject to his father, but a father can bestow upon his son many titles, privileges, and gifts …especially in the case of a king to a prince:

**Mat 28:18** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

God is the Father of Christ; Christ is the Son of God. To Christ has been given an exalted position. He has been made equal with the Father. All the counsels of God are opened to His Son.

*{BT, 1904, 268.3}*

**Joh 14:28** Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

**Joh 5:22** For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

The equality of God and Christ lies in their nature:

**Php 2:6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

You cannot be co-equal with a person if you are –and always were– subject to them.

**Joh 12:49** For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

**Joh 12:50** And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

The idea that Christ only became subject to His Father after His incarnation is another
teaching that came from the theologians, they say the reason for His subjection is a consequence of the plan of salvation, but it cannot be. The glory –or Spirit– that Jesus was to receive after He completed His mission was to be the same glory He possessed before the earth was created:

**Joh 17:5** And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

When this future glory was to be bestowed upon Christ He was still be subject to His Father, proving that since the time before the world was made until after its re-creation nothing has or will change in this regard; Christ has always been subject to His Father.

**1Co 15:28** And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

**Heb 13:8** Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Below are a few verses to show that in the right context the glory of God and the Spirit of God are one and the same thing. This is relevant to the previous verse (**Joh 17:5**) because Jesus asks his Father to glorify Him with His own self ...meaning, the Spirit of God is not a separate being from God the Father but is the Father himself, this is in direct opposition to the teaching of the trinity doctrine. Just change the word glory for spirit in the following verses:

**Exo 24:17** And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel.

**Num 14:21** But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.

**2Ch 7:3** And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, . . .

**Isa 60:2** For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

**Eze 39:21** And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them.
The glory—or Spirit—of the Father was poured upon His Son on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4), and when it came to the upper room the same glory could be seen on the disciples as tongues of fire.

The SDA church now teaches that Jesus is not the Holy Spirit ...the Bible says:

Speaking of Christ, in chapter three of his second epistle to the Corinthians, Paul states:

2Co 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

In the first epistle to the same church he also said:

1Co 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening [life giving] spirit.

And to the Galatians He wrote:

Gal 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

By comparing some simple verses, we can plainly see the truths contained in the Bible:

Act 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

If we are told it is Christ in us, and it is also said that the Holy Spirit is in us, then the only conclusion we can come to is that they are one and the same ...which is exactly what Paul just said in 2Corinthians 3:17. This is the harmony that can be found in the Bible when we don’t weave philosophy into our understanding.

Even with so many straightforward Bible texts that show God is not a triune being there are some Bible verses and Spirit of Prophecy statements that can be hard to understand, especially when first coming to this truth, because everybody will have questions that need answering. Those who decide to erect barriers to the truth must ignore a weight of scriptural evidence and instead cling to the few more difficult statements that seem to support their view; these texts are out of harmony with the rest of scripture and are
misunderstood ...if we want the truth we must harmonise all the texts on a given subject.

When we isolate a text or quote it can be made to say anything we like. As an example of how something can be completely misconceived, here is a statement that a lot of people cannot seem to get past ...it’s a favourite amongst SDA leaders and laity alike and is often pulled out and used with such conviction that all other statements may as well not exist.

The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world’s Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church.

{DA, 1898, 671.2}

This quote is used by many prominent men to prove that Ellen White believed in the trinity. Usually though, the last half of this statement is left out ...and we should ask why. We will see just now –using some of her other statements– that she is not talking about the Holy Spirit as a separate being ...a third being, but rather she is talking about the Spirit of Christ ...His own Spirit, which she clearly states in the second half of the quote.

The Third Person

The word person is the root of personality, and even today’s online dictionaries will say:

Person:

Merriam Webster
the personality of a human being: Self

Collins
4. personality; self; being
5. Grammar
   a. a characteristic, as of pronouns and verbs,
The word **personality** simply means **character**, and the word **person** can also mean the same thing (**characteristic**). The word person is more commonly used today to describe the physical body and the character as a whole rather than just character by itself, but language changes over time and in the past it was often used to denote character alone, so we must use our intellect and examine the context of what is being said.

We shouldn't forget that the Spirit of Prophecy is to be studied like the Bible; the truth is established only when her statements are taken in context and harmonise with each other; we cannot choose to leave out or twist glaringly obvious statements to suit our preferred ideas or traditions. When one understands the context of the quote and compares other statements she made on the same subject, it is easy to see why she used the phrase **third person**:

I am the way, the truth, and the life," Christ declares: "no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Christ is invested with power to give life to all creatures. "As the living Father hath sent me," He says, "and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me." ..."It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:57, 63). Christ is not here referring to His doctrine, but to **His person**, the divinity of **His character**.

*RH, April 5, 1906 par. 12*

Though the ministration was to be removed from the earthly to the heavenly temple; though the sanctuary and our great high priest would be invisible to human sight, yet the disciples were to suffer no loss thereby. They would realize no break in their communion, and no diminution of power because of the Saviour's absence. While Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, **He is still by His Spirit** the minister of the church on earth. He is withdrawn from the eye of sense, but His parting promise is fulfilled, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20. While He delegates His power to inferior ministers, **His energizing presence** is still with His church.

*DA 1898, 166.2*

*Cumbered* with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally; therefore it was altogether for their advantage that He should leave them, go to His father, and send the Holy Spirit to be His successor on earth. The Holy Spirit is **Himself divested** of the personality of humanity and independent thereof. **He would represent Himself as**
present in all places by His Holy Spirit, as the Omnipresent. "But the
Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My
name, He shall (although unseen by you), [THIS PHRASE WAS ADDED BY ELLEN
WHITE.]
teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance,
 whatsoever I have said unto you" [John 14:26]. "Nevertheless I tell you
the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away,
the Comforter will come not unto you: but if I depart, I will send Him
unto you" [John 16:7].

Letter 119, 1895. {14MR 23.3}

Where she says, “The Holy Spirit is Himself divested of the personality of humanity
and independent thereof” it is often argued that she means God the Holy Spirit is
‘Himself’ divested of ...rather than, the holy Spirit is ‘Christ Himself’ divested of ...but as
we can see (below), for someone to be divested of something they must have already
had it to begin with ...and it was Christ alone who took our human nature.

Divest:

Collins

2. verb
If something or someone is divested of a particular quality,
they lose that quality or it is taken away from them.

Merriam Webster

1a: to deprive or dispossess especially of property, authority,
or title
B: to undress or strip especially of clothing, ornament, or
equipment
C: RID, FREE

2: to take away from a person

While it may not be the best analogy to use, because films and fables are something we
shouldn’t focus on, I would like to take the liberty of using this next example to show just
how blind we can be sometimes. I grew up like most worldly kids watching Superman,
and whenever there was trouble during the show Clarke Kent would slip away amidst the
chaos and return as Superman. After Superman had finished saving the day he would fly
off and Clarke Kent would return straightening his tie while looking only slightly ruffled.

It frustrated me that no one could see how obvious it was that Clarke Kent was
Superman ...I couldn’t believe it. Not even Lois Lane—the one who was with Clarke all the time—realised that Superman only showed up when Clarke Kent disappeared.

I marvelled at Lois' blindness, because to me—even as a child—it was so clear that Superman couldn’t come while Clarke was around because Clarke Kent was Superman ...and yet she just couldn’t see it.

**John 16:7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

It is no different for me today when it comes to the issue of Jesus and the comforter. The comforter obviously couldn’t come until Christ went away because Christ is the comforter, and I still wonder why it is so difficult for the adults to see it:

**Acts 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

The subject of the Comforter is dealt with (in greater depth) in a separate study so that John 14: 16 can be addressed, but for the sake of this article we can see that this Bible verse (**Acts 20:28**) makes it clear ...the Holy Spirit is Christ.

We know it was Christ who made them overseers of the flock because He told Peter in **John 21:15-17** to feed His sheep, and Peter repeats this commission in **1Peter 5:1-3**. A little earlier in **Acts 20:24** we also see Paul stating that he received his ministry from Jesus. If Paul now says the Holy Ghost made them overseers as stated in **Acts 20:28**, and he—the Holy Ghost—purchased the church with his own blood ...there is only one conclusion that can be made. It was never a problem for Sister white:

> Let them study the seventeenth of John, and learn how to pray and how to live the prayer of Christ. He is the Comforter. He will abide in their hearts, making their joy full. His words will be to them as the bread of life, and in the strength thus gained they will be enabled to develop characters that will be an honor to God. Perfect Christian fellowship will exist among them. There will be seen in their lives the fruit that always appears as the result of obedience to the truth.  
> **{RH, January 27, 1903, vol. 80, no. 4, page 9, par. 13}**

"I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the
world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" [John 14:16, 17]. This refers to the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ, called the Comforter.

Letter 7, 1891 [14MR 179.2]

As by faith we look to Jesus, our faith pierces the shadow, and we adore God for His wondrous love in giving Jesus the Comforter.

{19MR 297.3} Preston, Melbourne, July 26, 1892

The reason why the churches are weak and sickly and ready to die, is that the enemy has brought influences of a discouraging nature to bear upon trembling souls. He has sought to shut Jesus from their view as the Comforter, as one who reproves, who warns, who admonishes them, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." Christ has all power in heaven and in earth, and he can strengthen the wavering, and set right the erring.

{RH, August 26, 1890, vol. 67, no. 33, page 2, par. 10}

Christ is the comforter who comes to us ...the Lord is that Spirit (2Cor 3:17) and when we realise this it will be the beginning of true liberty in our lives.

When the Spirit of God comes to a Christian he receives both the Father and the Son; this might seem a little obvious but let us examine what changed:

Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

The Spirit is both the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of the Son:

1Pe 1:11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

Mat 10:20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

It can be called the Spirit of both the Father and the Son because it (the spirit) proceeds from the Father and comes to us through the Son as we saw earlier (Joh 15:26, 1Co 8:6).

Rom 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he
is none of his.

**Rom 8:10** And if **Christ** be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

**Rom 8:11** But if the **Spirit** of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

**Act 3:26** Unto you first **God**, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

We see two descriptions of the Spirit’s identity used here interchangeably ...so why use the term third person? Sadly, not all Christians are aware that Jesus –although He is the Son of God– is still the Son of Man. When Christ became a man it was a change that he took upon himself for eternity, and it’s a shame that Adventists are fast losing sight of this fact because inspiration has told us that Christ’s humanity is everything to us.

On the day of Pentecost there was a ceremony in heaven –Jesus became our high priest when the Father poured out His Spirit upon His Son– this was typified when Aron was made the high priest of the earthly sanctuary:

**Lev 8:12** And he poured of the anointing oil upon Aaron's head, and anointed him, to sanctify him.

**Psa 45:7** Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

**Psa 133:2** It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

The oil, representing the Spirit of God, ran down onto Aaron’s body ...just as the Father’s Spirit ran down onto Christ’s body (His church, **Rom 12:5**). But now, instead of two characters coming to us in the Spirit –the divine personality of the Father and the divine personality of the Son– there was now a third character (or person) present.

As the Spirit of God now flowed through His Son on the day of Pentecost, the life and character that the saviour perfected while in the flesh was blended with the divine attributes of the Spirit. The humanity of Christ –never before witnessed in the Spirit of God– gave the apostles the power to do the works that Christ did while on the earth (**John 14:12**). That same Comforter is still available to all who believe that the perfect human life of the saviour –the third person of the Godhead– can be theirs by faith.
Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us.

(Col, 1900, 311.4)

So, we don’t have to cause all sorts of contradictions and discord within the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy by becoming confused over this statement (the third person of the Godhead) and others like it. It is very simple; the third person of the Godhead is the (perfected) human life of the Son of God that became a part of the Spirit when Christ was re-glorified on the day of Pentecost. It is the human experience of Christ that enables and qualifies Him to be a comforter to us.

This is a beautiful and magnificent picture that is lost because of the trinity doctrine. The Spirit could now be given in its fulness; the life Jesus lived as a man, the same life that overcame Satan, is now available to us.

This was also symbolised through the blood and water that flowed from the side of Jesus when He was pierced on the cross (John 19:34). The blood –the life– was mingled with water –the Spirit– and it poured from Jesus –the Rock ...and we now receive that life (or Spirit) when we accept the third person of the Godhead in truth.

The spirit flowing from Christ was prefigured in the Old Testament when Moses struck the Rock in the wilderness (Exo 17:6), and although it was essential that only water came out of the rock at that time, it harmonises with the fact that the humanity (life/blood) of Christ was not yet present in the Spirit.

To put it simply, when we understand the truth about the Spirit of God and Christ –that the victorious life of Christ is now mingled into it– the promise to us is this:

Eze 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

We have seen that there are two divine beings working together for our salvation (John 17:3, Zec 6:13, Rev 7:10). We have seen that the Spirit of God is not a being –we won't be seeing ‘him’ sitting on a throne in heaven (Rev 3:21, 22:1, 3)– it is the presence and personality of God (the Father, Psa 51:11, John 17:5, 20:22) and the means by which the Father and Son are one (John 17:21-22, Php 1:27, Gal 3:28); Christ shares His Father’s Spirit by birthright (Heb 1:1-9).

There is one other being who covets our worship, a third being who said he wanted to sit
‘also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:’ (Isa 14:13) ...meaning he wants to sit alongside God.

In the sanctuary on the north side of the holy place (Exo 40:22) sat the table of shewbread ...the table a symbol of God’s throne and the shewbread a representation of the Father and Son. The shewbreads (Exodus 25:30), which also translates as bread of the presence or the bread of the face, were twelve cakes of wheat in two stacks of six placed upon the table (Lev 24:5-6) – Jesus the living bread that came down from heaven (John 6:51) in the express image of God his Father (Heb 1:3) – and around the table were two crowns (Exo 25:24-25) not three. It is interesting to note that the pope wears a triple crown –as did previous pagan deities. Is it possible that the triple crown denotes Satan’s desire to sit alongside God and Christ on the mount of the congregation, with his lust for equality inspiring the need for another crown to be added to the double crown we already see in the sanctuary?

Who exactly is God the Holy Spirit anyway ...because there is no such being –or even title– mentioned in the Bible? We must understand the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, otherwise we leave ourselves open to accepting a false spirit. Sister White told us that Satan tries to carry on—or counterfeit– the work of God:

Those who were bowed before the throne would offer up their prayers and look to Jesus; then He would look to His Father, and appear to be pleading with Him. A light would come from the Father to the Son and from the Son to the praying company. Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from the Father to the Son, and from the Son it waved over the people before the throne. But few would receive this great light.

Many came out from under it and immediately resisted it; others were careless and did not cherish the light, and it moved off from them. . . .

. . . I saw the Father rise from the throne [The glory, or excellency, of His form I never saw; no one could behold it and live; yet the body of light and glory that enshrouded His person could be seen. {EW 92.1}], and in a flaming chariot go into the holy of holies within the veil, and sit down. Then
Jesus rose up from the throne, and the most of those who were bowed down arose with Him. I did not see one ray of light pass from Jesus to the careless multitude after He arose, and they were left in perfect darkness. Those who arose when Jesus did, kept their eyes fixed on Him as He left the throne and led them out a little way. . . . . . .

. . . . I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne; they did not know that Jesus had left it. Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God. I saw them look up to the throne, and pray, "Father, give us Thy Spirit." Satan would then breathe upon them an unholy influence; in it there was light and much power, but no sweet love, joy, and peace. Satan’s object was to keep them deceived and to draw back and deceive God’s children.

{EW, 1882, 54.2-56.1}

It is a scary to think that Satan tries to mimic God’s work ...and just as Jesus breathed His Spirit on those who accepted Him as the Son of God (John 20:22, Mat 16:16-18) Satan breathes his unholy ‘influence’ upon those who resist the Spirit of truth. That group of careless worshippers even prayed to the Father for His Spirit and He allowed them to receive the counterfeit; we shouldn’t think that Satan has given up this deception.

The truth about the personality of God and Christ is the basis to addressing the problems we see in the church. Judah were taken captive by the Babylonians, and it was during this time that a very small minority of captives (three) had to make a stand against idolatry. There are captivating Babylonian doctrines in our midst today –the trinity being the most cherished and guarded– who will be a part of the minority to stand against this idolatry?

The Mark of the Beast

The third angels’ message warns us about receiving a mark, and the first record we have in the Bible of someone receiving a mark was in Genesis 4:15 when God put a mark on Cain. The mark that God placed on Cain spared Cain form the death he deserved, so we can be confident that God’s mark in these last days will protect us from the death we deserve (1Th 4:15-17). Those who receive the mark of God will be the ones to escape the wrath of God (Eze 9:4-11), and those who receive the mark of the beast will be the ones who escape the persecution of the beast (Rev 13:15-17).

In chapter 7 of the Book of Revelation angels are sent to hold back the winds of strife while God prepares his people:

**Rev 7:1** And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind
should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

Rev 7:2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal [G4973] of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

Rev 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

Rev 7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed [G4972]: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Strong's Concordance

G4973 σφραγίς sphragis
Probably strengthened from G5420; a signet (as fencing in or protecting from misappropriation); by implication the stamp impressed (as a mark of privacy, or genuineness), literally or figuratively: - seal.

G4972 σφραγίζω sphragizō
From G4973; to stamp (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation (literally or figuratively); by implication to keep secret, to attest: - (set a, set to) seal up, stop.

Angels are protecting the saints –144,000 in number– until they receive the seal of God in their foreheads. In chapter 14 of the same book we see the seal, which the 144,000 receive in their foreheads, is the name of the Father:

Rev 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

The seal that is placed in the minds of God's people is synonymous with the mark we see being put on those who sigh and cry for Israel's abominations in Ezekiel 9:

Eze 9:2 And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's
Eze 9:4  And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

Eze 9:5  And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

Eze 9:6  Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.

This is a vision of the end time slaughter of the wicked. There is far too much in these few verses to study them in any depth right now, but we saw it referred to briefly on page six of this article. In this vision the mark—or seal—is specifically in the forehead (there is also a mark to be in the hand) and those who receive this mark are spared, as was Cain. This is the same seal—or mark—we see in Revelation 7:4 and 14:1 that seals the 144,000.

Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads, --it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved, --just as soon as God’s people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come.

We know that the seal is in the forehead. We also know it is associated with the Father’s name ...and now we know that it’s a settling into the truth. In other words, the truth that seals us is none other than the truth about the Father who we are called to give our worship to in the first angels’ message of Revelation 14:7.

All we need to do is ask ourselves one simple question ...what is the great truth about the Father that we have forsaken? It is the truth that the only true God is really the Father and the Father alone (John 17:3) --not the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-- and that we are to worship Him in spirit and truth. We need to know that He is a real Father and that He has a real begotten Son, which means this is not a metaphor or role play (John 16:29).

Jesus Himself told us that the only true God is the Father, not a composite of three persons which is what the SDA, Roman Catholic, and every other orthodox Christian Church teaches today. It is understanding the truth about the Father —the only true God—and His Son Jesus Christ and surrendering to their true Spirit that will seal us for the time of trouble. The churches are preparing people for damnation (Mat 23:15) and for this...
reason we are told in Revelation 14:4 that the 144,000 will not be defiled by women (churches). Every church has rejected the truth about God –and Christ– and replaced Him with an idol and a creed; our creed is known as the 28 Fundamental Beliefs.

The seal in the forehead is not the end of the story though as I’m sure most of us are aware, there is also an outward sign –or mark– which is none other than keeping the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. God’s mark is twofold; to have the mark or seal of God you need both the inward seal (in the forehead) and the outward sign (in the hand), you cannot have one without the other and be spared. It is the inward truth that will enable the outward action to be performed when the ultimate test comes. Satan on the other hand is content to have his mark in either your forehead or in your hand, and we shall see just now why this is so important to understand.

In the first angels’ message of Revelation 14:7 there is a direct reference to the Sabbath, because it is the fourth commandment that shows us why we are to worship God:

**Rev 14:7** Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

**Exo 20:8** Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

**Exo 20:11** For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Just after the warning about receiving the mark of the beast in Revelation 14:9-10, we are shown some characteristics of the saints:

**Rev 14:12** Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

The Sabbath is the outward mark that distinguishes God’s people from unbelievers, and when honored as it should be it connects us to the living God –the creator. Keeping the Sabbath is an important part of our sanctification process because it was set aside for us to spend time with the Father and Son (Mark 2:28, 2Co 5:19, Php 3:14); it shows a faith in God’s ability to re-create our characters in the image of His Son, and through his Son.

**Exo 31:13** Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign [H226] between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.
The Hebrew word that is translated as –sign– could also have been translated as –mark:

**Strong’s Concordance**

**H226**

'ôth

Probably from H225 (in the sense of appearing); a signal (literally or figuratively), as a flag, beacon, monument, omen, prodigy, evidence, etc.: - mark, miracle, (en-) sign, token.

**Exo 31:17** It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

Adventists understand that the crisis will come down to whether we obey God and keep the Sabbath as our day of worship or obey man and keep Sunday. The mark of the beast will be Sunday worship enforced by civil law alongside a prohibition on Sabbath keeping. While this is true, we are never taught about the inward sign (the Father’s name) that we have looked at.

Although the Sabbath is an important part of end time events, without the God it represents it’s just a useless formality ...God requires more than just an outward show from His people. Let us never forget that the Sabbath is the sign that points to God (Exo 31:13) and shouldn’t be placed in ascendancy over Him. We can see clearly from the next statement that there is much more to the mark of the beast than just Sunday:

> The time has come for the true light to shine amid moral darkness. The third angel’s message has been sent forth to the world, warning men against receiving the mark of the beast or of his image in their foreheads or in their hands. To receive this mark means to come to the same decision as the beast has done, and to advocate the same ideas, in direct opposition to the word of God. Of all who receive this mark, God says, "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb."

{RH, July 13, 1897, par. 5}

This is one of those Spirit of Prophecy statements that our leaders don’t like to wave before the people –many more are kept from us because they expose the apostate position the church has taken.
Instead of our leaders helping us to gain a greater understanding of the truths surrounding the mark of the beast and the three angels’ messages as a whole, we are actually being led away from the truth and into danger. Ted Wilson said recently:

. . . the mark of the beast would be the worship of God on any other day than that particular day [the seventh-day Sabbath], because that [the Sabbath] is a sign of God’s authority. . .

Ted Wilson, ASI (Adventist Laymen’s Services) Live Panel Discussion, Sept 2014

It’s bad enough that we are not being warned about the idol in our midst without the president watering down the day associated with the mark of the beast ...but I believe this is all part of the deception. Hopefully, with a little more information, you will see why he might have made this statement ...remember our leaders have married Jezebel.

The quoted statement by Ted Wilson will only cement the idea in many people’s minds that keeping the Sabbath is where all the focus should be. Some preachers –mainly those who have independent ministries– can see that our leaders have sold out and they’re now jumping up and down pointing to this watering down of the mark of the beast by Ted Wilson as evidence that the Sabbath is all we need to focus on.

If those leaders who are clasping hands with Rome make it obvious that they’re trying to divert attention away from Sunday, it is understandable that there will be confusion in the ranks over the true nature of the mark of the beast.

And then there are the people who believe God wouldn’t allow corrupt men to lead His church (remember He allowed it to happen to the Jews) and they look to leaders like Ted Wilson for hope, they believe he (Ted Wilson) is led by God and put their trust in what he says instead of searching for the truth themselves:

. . . Let’s contrast the mark of the beast with the seal of God, because the seal of God, for God’s people in the last days will be their adherence, their love of Him, and their observance of the day which He has ordained and made sacred ...the seventh-day Sabbath. So you are sealed with a special connection with Him when you keep that day. . .

Ted Wilson, ASI (Adventist Laymen’s Services) Live Panel Discussion, Sept 2014

This is cleverly worded, and while it’s not explicit it certainly implies that if we keep the Sabbath we are sealed. This teaching has evolved from something Sister White said and is now established as something it was never intended to be. The seal of God is the Sabbath in so much that the commandment acts like the royal seal that an earthly king might have. For example, when a king put his name to a law or sent a letter the document was stamped with the king’s seal; oftentimes the seal would have been
printed with his ring into wax. A typical example today would be to show the Seal of the President of the United States, which includes his title (president) and his dominion (USA). This teaching comes from the Spirit of Prophecy and is a really good way of showing the importance of the Sabbath:

The Lord commands by the same prophet, "Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples." [Isaiah 8:16.] The seal of God’s law is found in the fourth commandment. This only, of all ten, brings to view both the name and the title of the Lawgiver. It declares him to be the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and thus shows his claim to reverence and worship above all others. Aside from this precept, there is nothing in the decalogue to show by whose authority the law is given. When the Sabbath was changed by the papal power, the seal was taken from the law. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to restore it, by exalting the Sabbath of the fourth commandment to its rightful position as the Creator’s memorial and the sign of his authority. {GC, 1888, 451.3}

This is all good, but why is it that when it comes to the writings of Ellen White people become very selective about what they quote? We cannot cherry pick this statement, which is specifically talking about the seal of the law, and use it to negate what the Bible says about the seal of God and what she says in other places regarding the same.

I just find it funny that when it comes to promoting sports we ignore her council, when it comes to eating meat and dairy, she only gives advice, when it comes to dress and education reform, she is not really an authority ...and at least since the Questions on Doctrine controversy in the 1950’s (probably earlier) the theologians have denied what she says about Michael the Archangel, about Christ’s ongoing atoning work in the heavenly sanctuary, and her work to explain the investigative judgement, and why? So that we might be accepted by our Sunday keeping brethren? But the Sabbath being the seal of God ...now that’s something that fits with the new theology so we can use that one all day long.

Are we to believe that the president hasn’t done some basic research in the Book of Revelation or consulted his advisors to see what the Bible says about the seal? These discussions are mapped out beforehand so there seems to be willingness to move away from the truth, and while there might be criticism for thinking along these lines I can only point to his comments on the mark of the beast being ‘any other day’ and suggest that we shouldn’t be naive.

If we worship the same god that Rome worships and ignore the truth about God
revealed through His word, we can cling to the Sabbath all we like because it won’t do us a bit of good; it will not prevent us from receiving the mark of the beast. The Jews were champion Sabbath keepers, and yet without the Spirit of Him who came to reveal God to humanity the Sabbath didn’t do them any good either. The Romans laid siege to Jerusalem while the Jews were keeping the Sabbath inside the city and it was destroyed.

Is it possible that the same fate awaits the corporate Seventh-day Adventist Church because of her apostasy ...because she has rejected the great truths once delivered to her? This should lead us to question who the church really is?

Eze 9:6  Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men [H2205] which were before the house.

Eze 9:7  And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city.

Eze 9:8  And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem?

Eze 9:9  Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not.

Strong’s Concordance

H2205

זָקֵן

From H2204; old: - aged, ancient (man), elder (-est), old (man, men and ... women), senator.

If you have the name of the Father sealed in your mind then Sabbath keeping will come naturally, even under pain of death, but too many Adventists are keeping the Sabbath without the seal of God ...they have a different name in their forehead.

Those who belong to the true church know who they worship (John 4:22-23) and have the name of their God (the Father) securely sealed in their foreheads. In the same way, those who make up the ranks of the counterfeit church will have the name of their god firmly engraved (see Strong’s G5480) into their foreheads:
And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

It’s fascinating that the triune god is commonly referred to as the mystery god, and also that the sun god is triune in nature, in fact most pagan religions worship some form of triune deity. For example, in Egypt the sun god –Ra– was worshipped as the rising sun, the midday sun, and the setting sun under three different names ...the three aspects (or phases) of the one god. In India the sun was worshipped three times a day by performing a sandhyavandana, at morning, noon, and evening ...is this mere chance?

. . . the supreme divinity in almost all ancient heathen nations was triune . . .

In India, the supreme divinity, in like manner, in one of the most ancient cave-temples, is represented with three heads on one body, under the name of “Eko Deva Trimurtti,” “One God, three forms”.


The church leaders in Ezekiel’s vision (chapter 8 & 9) are specifically noted to be worshipping the sun (god) ...for this reason alone these chapters are worthy of our study.

It is also interesting that the Greek word which is translated as –mark– (for the beast) denotes an idol, whereas the word for God’s mark does not.

Strong’s Concordance

G5480
χάραγμα
charagma
From the same as G5482; a scratch or etching, that is, stamp (as a badge of servitude), or sculptured figure (statue): - graven, mark.

Remember it was stated that Satan is happy for us to have his mark in either the hand or the forehead, and that it was important for us to understand why?

Rev 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark [G5480] in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

Rev 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

Rev 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, . . .
Rev 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the [outward] commandments of God, and the [inward] faith of Jesus.

Well, if he (Satan) can dupe us into giving him our worship –by honouring the triune god– he doesn’t care if we worship on the right day because he still gains ...never forget, he’s behind every system of sun worship. In the forehead or in the hand ...if Satan can place his mark in one or the other, i.e. if anybody keeps his day out of fear (lack of faith), or retains his idol in their mind (is willingly ignorant), it will be impossible for that person to have both the seal and the mark needed to be right with God ...this is the great deception.

Did you know that at the end of the Athanasian Creed are the words, “He therefore that will be saved must thus think of the Trinity”? These are interesting words from the Roman bishops because what we behold and believe affects our worship more than we might know. The triune god is the mask that Satan uses to hide behind; it is through a belief in the trinity –three divine beings– that Satan is able to receive worship (see page 27) and if you try to remove this mask –expose this false doctrine– then he will make war,

The Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy are clear, and when Sister White says, “To receive this mark means to come to the same decision as the beast has done, and to advocate the same ideas, in direct opposition to the word of God” we better sit up and take note.

Also, if we profess to know the truth about the only true God and his begotten Son and yet we don’t allow that truth to sanctify our hearts, then Satan is okay with that too; no amount of truth will ever make up for an unsanctified heart –an intellectual knowledge of God will not save anyone– and yet the truth is to be the great sanctifier that prepares us for heaven (John 17:17, 3).

When the truth about the Son of God begins to grow in the hearts of the saints we should expect to see a hostility and resistance to them that is unparalleled. When the great majority Christians realise too late that they have the wrong spirit they will turn on those who have the seal of God and persecute them. History testifies that Adventists will be the ones to spearhead the persecution against their brethren.

The history of Christian persecution reveals much. Persecution began with the Jews and was the beginning of the church persecuting the church due to a difference in beliefs. Those that were persecuted were not even known as Christians at that time, they were just classed as a Jewish sect because they held a different view on who the Messiah was.

This is a lesson that shouldn’t pass us by because history repeats itself (Ecc 1:9) ...in fact, God has shaped history as a lesson for us so that we can know what to expect (Ecc 3:15). Today there is a sect (offshoot) of spiritual Jews who hold a different view on who the
Messiah really is and who the Spirit of the Messiah is. They too will be treated in the same way because it fulfils the type given in the Bible.

The split in the early Christian church— with Rome and Alexandria on one side and the church at Antioch on the other—caused Rome to persecute those who disagreed with her doctrines. The church at Antioch held to the apostolic instruction, and those who were influenced by her teaching suffered because of their faith.

During the Protestant Reformation (in Switzerland), Rome was able to take a back seat for a short time because Zwingli—one of the more prominent reformers—and the council of Zurich decreed that Anabaptists be imprisoned, tortured, and even drowned because they were causing division in the church by holding fast to the Bible. The much-venerated Calvin also persecuted Anabaptists labelling them enemies of the Government, while some prominent Lutherans also joined the fray with verbal condemnation.

There will come a time when those Adventists who rejected the truth will realise that the ones who tried to warn them have been favoured by God.

When God spoke the time, He poured upon us the Holy Ghost, and our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God, as Moses’ did when he came down from Mount Sinai. The 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united. (EW, 1882, 14.1–15.1)

... and like Cain they will turn on their brethren.

The history of Cain shows what must be the results. It shows what man will become apart from Christ. ... Reason and conscience told him [Cain] that Abel was in the right; but he was enraged that one who had been wont to heed his counsel should now presume to disagree with him, and that he could gain no sympathy in his rebellion. In the fury of his passion he slew his brother. ... Abel’s life of obedience and unswerving faith was to Cain a perpetual reproof. ... The brighter the heavenly light that is reflected from the character of God’s faithful servants, the more clearly the sins of the ungodly are revealed, and the more determined will be their efforts to destroy those who disturb their peace. (PP, 1890, 73.1–74.2)

As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been sanctified through obedience
to the truth, abandon their position, and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbath-keepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.

{GC, 1888, 607.2-608.1}

For those who don’t believe this could happen we need only to look at what happened in Rwanda where about 3,000 men, women, and children were killed in a Seventh-day Adventist mission compound in Mugonero. Ninety percent of Rwanda’s population were Christian, and just over ten percent were Adventists, but the tribalism didn’t stop the genocide or stop the Adventists from taking part in the killings.

The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances. The warnings that worldly conformity has silenced or withheld must be given under the fiercest opposition from enemies of the faith. And at that time the superficial, conservative class, whose influence has steadily retarded the progress of the work, will renounce the faith and take their stand with its avowed enemies, toward whom their sympathies have long been tending. These apostates will then manifest the most bitter enmity, doing all in their power to oppress and malign their former brethren and to excite indignation against them. This day is just before us. The members of the church will individually be tested and proved.

{5T, 1885, 463.2}

Persecution has always been a trait of those involved in idolatrous worship, and although we may think we could never take part in—or turn a blind eye to—oppressive behaviour or even persecution, there will come a time when the restraining Spirit of God will be removed and all those who have not the Spirit of Christ will succumb to it in one way or another.

I saw that God had children who do not see and keep the Sabbath. They have not rejected the light upon it. And at the commencement of the
time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully. This enraged the churches and nominal Adventists, they could not refute the Sabbath truth. And at this time God’s chosen all saw clearly that we had the truth, and they came out and endured the persecution with us.

{EW, 1882, 33.2}

When Emperor Justinian came to power in 527 he began working on a legal code called the Codex Constitutionum, this Codex was promulgated in 529 and unified the laws of the empire which up until then had been in a state of confusion. The Codex Constitutionum consisted of ten books, and in Book I. the very first words we read are:

**CONCERNING THE MOST EXALTED TRINITY AND THE CATHOLIC FAITH, AND PROVIDING THAT NO ONE SHALL DARE TO PUBLICLY OPPOSE THEM.**

This is Title I. of Book I. and the people are addressed in the first paragraph by the charge to live under the same religion:

We desire that all peoples subject to Our benign Empire shall live under the same religion that the Divine Peter, the Apostle, gave to the Romans, . . . that is to say, in accordance with the rules of apostolic discipline and the evangelical doctrine, we should believe that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit constitute a single Deity, endowed with equal majesty, and united in the Holy Trinity.

We must understand that the apostle Peter never gave ecclesiastical authority to the Romans bishops or popes –as they claim– and he certainly didn’t introduce the trinity to them ...that began much later at the council of Nicaea as an effort to oppose the doctrine of Arius (see page 40) and make Christianity appealing to the pagans (which is a study all of its own). It goes on to say:

We order all those who follow this law to assume the name of Catholic Christians, and considering others as demented and insane, We order that they shall bear the infamy of heresy; and when the Divine vengeance which they merit has been appeased, they shall afterwards be punished in accordance with Our resentment, which we have acquired from the judgment of Heaven.

Let no place be afforded to heretics for the conduct of their ceremonies, and let no occasion be offered for them to display the insanity of their obstinate minds. Let all persons know that if any privilege has been
fraudulently obtained by means of any rescript whatsoever, by persons of this kind, it will not be valid. Let all bodies of heretics be prevented from holding unlawful assemblies, and let the name of the only and the greatest God be celebrated everywhere, and let the observance of the Nicene Creed, recently transmitted by Our ancestors, and firmly established by the testimony and practice of Divine Religion, always remain secure.

. . . Let those who do not accept these doctrines cease to apply the name of true religion to their fraudulent belief; and let them be branded with their open crimes, and, having been removed from the threshold of all churches, be utterly excluded from them, as We forbid all heretics to hold unlawful assemblies within cities. If, however, any seditious outbreak should be attempted, We order them to be driven outside the walls of the City, with relentless violence, and We direct that all Catholic churches, throughout the entire world, shall be placed under the control of the orthodox bishops who have embraced the Nicene Creed.

In short, those who do not profess a belief in the trinity and want to worship according to their own conscience are to be regarded as a crazy sect that must be “utterly excluded” –disfellowshipped– from the church, and if they persist in trying to meet for worship they will suffer “relentless violence”. Very nice! Is it possible the same thing could happen again?

(Some) Adventists are aware of the edict of Constantine that made keeping Sunday a law of the land (see page 6), but very few are aware of Justinian’s codex and yet the significance of this document should be far more disturbing to a Christian. Justinian’s law goes hand in hand with Constantine’s and yet it is very much overlooked. There are quite a few preachers who warn us about Constantine’s (Sunday) law, and how it will be repeated, but I’ve never seen a mainstream Adventist preacher warn us about this and it too will be repeated. It could be because of our “fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness” (page 14) that we have become blind to this history, or maybe talking about it might just be a little too close to home? Whatever the case, the spirit behind the triune god has been one of hierarchy, coercion, and persecution –in that order. Right now the church is beginning to coerce its members ...how long it takes to enter the last phase we can only guess.

Satan has always hated the fact that Jesus is the only begotten Son (Mat 4:3, 27:40), and this hatred will manifest itself again when the threats contained in Justinian’s decree are voiced again. When the biblical legitimacy of the triune god is tried –and fails– those who
have placed their faith and zeal into upholding this doctrine will exhibit the same hatred that Rome did when she warred against the church in the wilderness:

It was opposition to the trinity that caused the three Arian tribes—the Heruli, the Vandals, and Ostrogoths—to be plucked up by the roots (Daniel 7:8, 24). The last of the tribes (the Ostrogoths) became extinct around AD554 and had to be removed because they were blocking the spread of the trinity in the western provinces of the Roman Empire; they were preventing the papacy from becoming the prominent power in the region.

When something is plucked by the roots it’s safe to say there isn’t much left; these Arian tribes were wiped out to the point where most of their art and literature was destroyed, and so today our picture of what they really believed is unclear. The only thing we do know is that they were Arian, and we must take Rome’s word as to what that means.

Arius—the man whose name was given to the tribes—was an elder of the Alexandrian Christian church in the 3rd and 4th centuries. He too was accused of heresy for believing in the begotten Son of God and all that remains of his writings are a couple of letters; his teachings were destroyed. Why did the Trinitarian’s feel the need to remove evidence that would’ve shone a light on what Arius—and thus the Arian tribes—truly believed?

Are we to believe it’s just a coincidence that the power responsible for eradicating the three tribes—and the confirmation of their doctrine—was the same power that buried the teachings of Arius? Are we supposed to accept what somebody’s enemy says about them when those accused cannot give a full and proper testimony from beyond the grave? It’s an ingenious plan to accuse your enemies of a crime and then to destroy them along with any evidence that would oppose your accusation.

Still today, anyone who believes that Christ was begotten of His Father is branded an Arian, which according to Rome (and therefore the whole Christian world) means a denial of Christ’s divinity. It is said by many that if you believe Christ is begotten then you make Him a creature ...but this if far from the truth. To believe in a begotten Son is not a denial of His divinity:

A complete offering has been made; for "God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son,"—not a son by creation, as were the angels, nor a son by adoption, as is the forgiven sinner, but a Son begotten in the express image of the Father’s person, and in all the brightness of his majesty and glory, one equal with God in authority, dignity, and divine perfection. In him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

{ST, May 30, 1895 par. 3}
To accuse a Christian of denying Christ’s divinity just because he believes in the begotten Son is the same aspersion that Rome and the Bishops of Alexandria heaped upon Arius. This Roman Catholic slur has now been attributed to our pioneers by the same Adventist leaders that court the admiration of the Roman Church and her daughters through ecumenism.

If you listen to the voice of the churches involved in the papal led Ecumenical Movement, they are basically saying that although they have differences in doctrine they can all come together because of a unity that finds its source in the trinity, or triune god. The World Council of Churches (WCC) is the foremost organisation for bringing the churches together as one body of believers; here’s how they describe their “common calling”:

> a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the scriptures, and therefore seek to fulfill together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

www.oikoumene.org, The basis of the WCC, 2018 World Council of Churches

If there are any denominations out there who’s members might fear the WCC because of their motives and high profile, they can always become a member of a lesser known organisation like the Christian World Communions (so as not to frighten their members) and they in turn can hold regular meetings with the WCC:

> The Joint Consultative Commission discusses and recommends ways to further strengthen the participation of Christian World Communions in the life and work of the WCC. It thus fosters greater coherence of the one ecumenical movement and helps to create a relationship of trust and partnership between conciliar and confessional ecumenical actors.

The initial mandate of the Commission, as provided by the WCC’s 9th Assembly, includes exploring the coordination of programmes, the significance and implications of overlapping membership and the feasibility of a structure for WCC assemblies that would provide expanded space for Christian World Communions to meet, for the purpose of deliberation and/or overall agendas.

www.oikoumene.org, JCC with Christian World Communions, 2018 World Council of Churches

It is revealing that Adventist leaders have held the position of Secretary-General of this group –the Christian World Communions (CWC)– uninterrupted for forty-eight years (see page 1) and this is basically our back door into the WCC and the Ecumenical Movement. When it comes to the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, history confirms a
track record of secrecy, guile, and concealment!

As the three angels' messages are repeated, the remnant – those who give this final warning – will at some point have to separate themselves, just as those who preached the same message did so in the mid 1800's. This has never been a popular message and it never will be.

Some will be cast out of the synagogue (and many already have) for professing that Jesus is the begotten Son of God. This truth will bring rejection – and eventually persecution – from those who profess to be the brothers and sisters of the faithful and it will be as trials of fire to bring forth gold (Rev 3:18).

We have been warned not to use the Spirit of Prophecy to prove doctrine when parts of the Bible must be pushed aside to do so. It is so easy – and can be a good thing – to go to the Spirit of Prophecy and pick out a few of Sister White’s statements to begin our Bible study, but if care is not taken it can become a lazy way to determine our beliefs. Let us study to show ourselves worthy unto God by dividing the word of truth (2Tim 2:15) and proving all things (1Th 5:21) that we may find harmony in both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

The three angels’ messages are to bring the world back into a knowledge of the One true God and His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. If we believe that the one God consists of three persons – divine beings – then our adoration will certainly go to three different beings, and there will be one other, besides the Father and Son, who will receive our worship:

> Let the brightest example the world has yet seen be your example, rather than the greatest and most learned men of the age, who know not God, nor Jesus Christ whom he has sent. The Father and the Son alone are to be exalted.

{YI, July 7, 1898, par. 2}

If we are to be Adventists we must be Adventists in the fullest sense ... a peculiar people, not orthodox Christians, and we will have to be peculiar even within our own ranks. Sadly, this is just a sign of the times in which we live, but we must decide if we are to be loyal to our church or loyal to God.

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