

# THE LINE OF TRUTH -- A SOLID PLATFORM

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Through the centuries of papal dominion, the truths of God's Word were cast down by the 'man of sin'. 2 Thessalonians 2:3. Step by step, the pure teachings were mingled with error until truth was no longer distinguishable. The beliefs of the Catholic Church had become pagan dogma, completely distinct from Bible truth.

Restoration began slowly, but under Martin Luther it spread like wildfire. Not that he saw the whole truth, but according to the light given him, he became God's spokesman. During the years that followed, others rejoiced to find hidden gems among the rubble, yet not all was restored.

Forty years after papal dominion ceased, further light was given to those who had come out of Catholicism. But Protestantism was spiritually dead and would not take a step towards true Bible doctrine. When William Miller presented the first angel's message to the Protestant churches they refused to receive it, and were designated Babylon. Men and women who had embraced the light left their churches, and in a short time thousands had embraced the message.

Yet there was still more truth to learn.

When Jesus did not return as expected, a separation took place, and the believers were divided into two groups. The larger segment, 50,000 strong, refused to believe God had led them. Only fifty men and women held on to their belief that the movement had been led of God, and as they studied, God revealed three important truths -- the sanctuary, the Sabbath, and the prophetic gift. When these doctrines were presented to the larger group, all three were rejected.

For the next four years (1845-1848) a number of brethren met together in prayerful study, "searching for truth as for hidden treasure." Ellen White wrote later, "When they came to the point in their study where they said, 'We can do nothing more', the Spirit of the Lord would come upon me, I would be taken off in vision, and a clear explanation of the passages we had been studying would be

given me, with instruction as to how we were to labor and teach effectively.” *1 Selected Messages p206.*

The prophet said they studied “until all the principal points of our faith were made clear to our minds, in harmony with the Word of God.” *Ibid p207.*

Truth had been restored, and the church brought back on the straight line, eternal truth that is “based upon unquestionable authority.” *Ibid p208.*

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LINE OF BIBLE TRUTH FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END

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When their studies ended, the little group rejoiced. Ellen White said with confidence, “We have the truth and we know it.” *Record Book 1. p54*

James White said, “The truth is now made so plain that all can see it and embrace it if they will, but it needed much labor to get it out clear as it is, and such hard labor will never have to be performed again.” *Ellen G. White MS 2. 1855.*

Doctrinally the church was ready, but there were still prophecies to be fulfilled. The believers must hold on to their faith in anticipation of Christ’s return. Within a few years they had lost their zeal.

In 1888, two young men were chosen to prepare the way for Jesus to return. As they preached the message of Christ and His righteousness, drops of the latter rain began to fall. Sadly the majority were not ready to receive it, and the heavenly dew was withdrawn.

With the advent delayed, Christ’s Church must suffer the inroads of a deadly heresy that would eventually take the denomination off the line of truth. Six years later, the prophet was called to speak out

against the 'alpha of deadly heresies', a pantheistic teaching, but with roots that went much deeper.

In her battle against the 'alpha' heresy, she told Dr Kellogg, "You are not definitely clear on the personality of God, which is everything to us as a people. You have virtually destroyed the Lord God Himself." *Letter 300. The Elmshaven Years. Vol 5. 1900-1905. Arthur L White 1941.* The doctor's understanding of God, His Son and the Spirit was out of harmony with the beliefs of the Adventist Church, and in fact was the teaching of the denominations rejected as Babylon.

God had led our pioneers along "... step by step, until He had placed them upon a solid, immovable platform." *Early Writings p169.*

Some would "approach the platform and examine the foundation... then with joy step on it. Others commenced to find fault with the foundation. They wished improvements made, and then the platform would be more perfect, and the people much happier. Some... declared it to be laid wrong. But I saw that nearly all stood firm upon the platform and exhorted those who had stepped off to cease their complaints; for God was the Master Builder, and they were fighting against Him." *Early Writings p169.*

Leading men who continued to complain finally decided the central pillar needed replacing. Gradually others joined in, and little by little the false pillar was established.

Israel of old worshipped the gods of the nations; we have turned to the gods of the *denominations*. It is up to us individually to go to the Master Builder and ask Him to show us the solidness of the platform, and with repentance and humility step back on it.

As this heresy progressively took over the church, those who continued to stand for the pioneer belief were called troublemakers. The devil simply waited until they had passed to their rest.

By **1980** all the pioneers, and the next generation, were dead. It was now safe for the Trinity doctrine to be officially voted as a fundamental belief of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. A study of denominational history reveals how subtly this doctrine made its way into the Church. With the removal of the central pillar, the true identity of God had been lost.

The seventh-day Sabbath is a fundamental belief that tells us 'when' to worship, but the central pillar makes clear 'who' to worship. To worship on the right day and praise the wrong God is not pleasing to Heaven.

When the Lord's messenger spoke out against Kellogg's 'alpha' heresy, she warned that "the omega will follow, and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given." 1 *Selected Messages p200.*

Think about it personally -- Have you heeded the warning?

Today brethren have varying ideas of the 'omega of deadly heresies', and it may have a number of aspects. However, a major change **has** taken place...

One of our church historians stated that "Most of the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church 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." *Ministry. Oct 1993. p10.*

This was repeated by William G. Johnsson in the Adventist Review. "Adventist beliefs have changed over the years under the impact of present truth. *Most startling* is the teaching regarding Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord." *Adventist Review Jan 6. 1994. p10.*

The words "most startling" are an interesting description of the change in belief. In 1902 the prophet wrote (while Kellogg's 'alpha' was growing), "Even now there seems to be a burning desire to get up something *startling* and bring it in as new light." *Manual for Canvassers p70.*

The following quotation applies to the end of the first century while John was a prisoner on Patmos. "One by one the old standard-bearers fell at their post. Some of the younger workers, who might have shared the burdens of these pioneers, and thus have been prepared for wise leadership, had become weary of oft-repeated truths. In their desire for something novel and *startling* they attempted to introduce new phases of doctrine, more pleasing to many minds, but not in harmony with the fundamental principles of the gospel." *Acts of the Apostles p580.*

These words could have been written regarding the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as we have repeated their history.

Brethren today will argue that the Trinity is '*present truth*', '*new light*' or even a '*maturing of the faith*'. Many explanations are given, but each idea falls short of one important fact – the truth was “testified to by the miracle-working power of the Lord.”

No one can stand before the Lord and say, '*We have more light*' when it contradicts light given in the beginning. No major doctrine can differ from the truth revealed to Ellen White as God's messenger.

Brothers and sisters who say, '*Sister White wasn't a theologian*' or '*Ellen White got some things wrong*' must take issue with the Spirit of God. To make her work simply '*pastoral*' is an excuse to reject some of her writings. There are brethren who say, '*She said, If my writings differ from the Word of God, choose the Word*'. Again, this is an excuse to put aside the Spirit of Prophecy and interpret the Bible according to one's own understanding.

During the papal persecution, God's church was hidden in the wilderness for safety. When the persecutor's dominion ended, the 'woman' was able to emerge without fear. However, the devil was angry, and he determined to confuse her with false doctrines. His weapons were ready.

- He raised Ba'hai to counterfeit the date 1844.
- He gave Mormonism a 'prophet' (Joseph Smith) to counterfeit Ellen White's prophetic gift.
- He gave Jehovah's Witnesses a created Son of God to counterfeit God's only *begotten* Son.
- He raised the Fox Sisters to supposedly contact the dead as a counterfeit of the true state of the dead.
- He raised Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution to counterfeit creation and the Sabbath.

These all cried, '*We have the truth*'. Or '*Join us. We are the true church*'. The men and women in these churches were zealous in proclaiming their 'truth'.

Confusion reigned, and the devil was for the moment satisfied.

To make absolutely certain of his prey, he gave a spirit of lukewarmness to the Adventist Church, and in time moved upon other men to hatch up his masterpiece of deception. Again Satan was satisfied with his work.

Over the years there have been separations, but a little remnant has now emerged that once again has stepped up to the line of truth. It is upon them the devil will spend his greatest energies; they must be his main target for confusion. Again he is blowing his 'winds of doctrine' among us, with each one proclaiming, '*We have the truth*'. *Ephesians 4:14*.

The following is a sample of 'winds' blowing today.

- Creation was not in six days, but thousands of years.
- There is no sanctuary in heaven.
- We are not in the Day of Atonement.
- Jesus died on Wednesday, not Friday.
- Jesus died because we cannot keep the Law: '*We will be sinning until Jesus comes*'.
- We are born innocent, and sin goes no deeper than breaking the law.
- There is no judgment for the Christian: the investigative judgment is unnecessary.
- The Sabbath is not the seventh day of the week; it is the 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of each month, and these lunar Sabbaths can fall on any day of the week.
- The law of Moses – Torah -- commands the keeping of circumcision, feast days, and other Jewish rituals.
- The final persecution will not be by the Papacy: it will be destroyed prior to that time.
- Jesus was not fully divine during the Incarnation.
- Hell is not the destruction of the wicked, but a time of cleansing, relearning and repentance, after which all will be saved.

- To be one of the redeemed one must correctly say God's name as Yahweh and Jesus as Yahshua.

The warning from the Spirit of Prophecy still stands, "We must firmly refuse to be drawn away from the platform of eternal truth, which since 1844 has stood the test." *1 Selected Messages 200*. "Many of our people do not realize how firmly the foundation of our faith has been laid..." *Ibid 206*.

Ask yourself – Was the original platform eternal truth? In light of the prophet's statements, how can we say NO? Do you think we are more enlightened today than when Ellen White was personally among us?

Most of us are no longer members of the denomination, but we must remember that we are still 'seventh-day adventists'. When the larger group of believers rejected the Sabbath, they were referred to as 'first-day adventists', while the other group were called 'seventh-day adventists'. It is now the official name of the denomination, but it is a generic name for those who adhere to the following:

- Keep the seventh-day Sabbath.
- Await the coming of Jesus in power and glory.
- Accept our denominational history and its relationship to the three angels' messages.
- Believe we are in the antitypical Day of Atonement as the investigative judgment, from October 22, 1844.
- Believe Ellen White had the prophetic gift and was the messenger of the Lord.
- Stand by the pillar doctrines of the pioneers and the word of the prophet.

We cannot afford to put aside our denominational history; the date 1844 and the testimony of the prophet are our roots.

If the Church has rejected the truth revealed to the prophet, why should we? Jesus cannot return until His remnant is back on the solid platform of eternal truth.

The devil knows Jesus will soon return, and again he is causing confusion with winds of doctrine. They are getting stronger every day,

and the nearer we move towards the close of probation, the more intense they will become.

“A storm is coming, relentless in its fury.” *Reflecting Christ* p311. Even before the storm breaks upon this world, there will be a shaking among us. Those who rebel against the straight truth “will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God’s people.” *Early Writings* p270.

The shaking will “be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth.” *Ibid* p270. In which group will I be – presenting the truth or rebelling against it? What about you?

Jesus must be watching with hopeful anticipation, as His little remnant is now standing on the line of truth. Will they remain true to the foundation teachings? These are the men and women with whom God will display His glory. “Through them the Sun of Righteousness will shine in undimmed luster to the world... The church, endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depositary, in which the riches of His mercy, His grace, and His love, are to appear in full and final display.” *Amazing Grace* p80.

Originally the statement applied to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and even now, if the majority will repent and step back on the platform, they can fulfil these prophetic words with the little remnant now standing upon it.

But there is another criterion.

Jesus cannot return for a people who are satisfied with their condition; they must repent of their lukewarmness and selfish pride. Do not look at the denomination; there are many dedicated and enthusiastic workers in the Church. They have a wrong understanding of God and His Son, but have clearly repented of their lukewarm condition and are on fire for souls.

Instead, think about your own attitude. Is saving souls your goal in life? Not simply when you happen to give out a book or tract, or say ‘God bless’ to someone, but do you have a personal witnessing

program? Is there a definite working plan in your daily schedule for sharing Jesus? If not, your lukewarm condition needs repentance.

“Love to Jesus will be manifested in a desire to work as He worked, for the blessing and uplifting of humanity... No sooner does one come to Christ, than there is born in his heart a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus; the saving and sanctifying truth can not be shut up in his heart.” *Steps to Christ* p79.

Have you imagined how Jesus must long to return and put an end to all the suffering? Of course. But what about the men, women, young people, and children who have never heard of Jesus? They have no hope. Are we selfish enough to want this world to end today, without doing anything to help the lost?

The latter rain will only be poured out on those who are diligently working for souls. “When the churches become living, working churches, the Holy Spirit will be given in answer to their sincere request. . . . Then the windows of heaven will be open for the showers of the latter rain.” *Review and Herald. Feb. 25. 1890.*

Jesus is watching and waiting “with *longing desire* for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.” *Christ’s Object Lessons* p69. The Saviour is waiting for **us**, not the Sunday Law. We can actually hasten Christ’s return. *2 Peter 3:12.*

Jesus has waited 126 years since He first planned to return for His people. His heart must ache. He longs to take us home to give us our inheritance, but He wants all whose hearts are *aching for hope* to be ready as well.

Under latter rain power, God’s remnant will be in harmony of belief, all standing firmly on the eternal platform. “The watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion.” *Isaiah 53:8. 1 Corinthians 1:10.*

It will not be easy, as truth will be “criticized, scorned, and derided...” *Review & Herald. August 20. 1903.* Trusting in their Saviour, the

