

MY ASSESSMENT

- *Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?* [1 Cor. 6:3]
- *And EliYah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and EliYah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.* [1 Kings 18:40]

I have encountered numerous opposers during the twenty-two years of my personal ministry. In fact, many more such persons have surfaced than supporters. The experience has been much like unto a fish swimming upstream against an overwhelming current. To partake of the divine nature is the only means of victory. [see 2 Peter 1:4]

The servants of God who teach the truth should be men of judgment. They should be men who can bear opposition and not get excited; for those who oppose the truth will pick at those who teach it, and every objection that can be produced, will be brought in its worst form to bear against the truth. The servants of God who bear the message must be prepared to remove these objections, with calmness and meekness, by the light of truth. Frequently opposers talk to ministers of God in a provoking manner, to call out something from them of the same nature, that they can make as much of it as possible and declare to others that the teachers of the commandments have a bitter spirit and are harsh, as has been reported. I saw that we must be prepared for objections, and with patience, judgment, and meekness, let them have the weight they deserve, not throw them away or dispose of them by positive assertions, and then bear down upon the objector, and manifest a hard spirit toward him; but give the objections their weight, then bring forth the light and the power of the truth, and let it outweigh and remove the errors. Thus a good impression will be made, and honest opposers will acknowledge that they have been deceived and that the commandment keepers are not what they have been represented to be. [*Early Writings*, page 102]

Unfortunately, we find that there are few, if any, “honest opposers” in this day. While the above counsel is well-taken and applicable, it is challenging to engage a reasonable dialogue with provocative opposers. More times than not, they are deaf to any truthful argument and ready to press their opinions without relenting. We are warned of typical opposers’ work in the following paragraph:

The manner in which the Pharisees sought to evade the truth, and to turn the attention of the people away from vital lessons,—by starting questions that did not bear upon the subject,—is one in which the opposers of truth in all ages have taken refuge. Satan, who is proficient in all manner of arts for the resisting of truth, suggests to his agents plans whereby they may reject the counsel of God against themselves. He incites the opposers of truth to start false issues, to discuss questions that are not to the point, in order that those who are convicted and half convinced, may be turned aside from their investigation and acceptance of truth. Ever since the days of Christ there have been men whose attitude toward truth has said, "Depart from me, O God. I want not thy way, but my own way." [*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, October 18, 1892]

Creation Seventh Day Adventists have proclaimed the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14 for nearly 20 years now. We have sought divine guidance in all of our movements. Every doctrine espoused has been based solely upon the channel of truth we inherited from the historic Advent believers—namely, the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, with commentary from other prominent pioneer writers. Of course, we have been obliged to walk in the advancing light shed upon our way, with confirmation by a gift of prophecy, and without removing any pins or pillars of “the faith once delivered unto the saints.” We have faithfully championed “righteousness by faith”—the gospel in verity.

One major bone of contention has been the interpretation of Revelation 13:11-18 which reads as follows:

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* Six hundred threescore *and* six.

While all SDAs agree that the “two-horned beast” is associated with the United States of America, the historic view of the “mark of the beast” connects the prophecy with a National Sunday Law purportedly to be passed by Congress at the behest of the citizens and restricting religious liberty of Seventh-day Adventists. Here, Creation Seventh Day Adventists teach differently and receive mass criticism, particularly from the conservative elements of

Adventism. It is reasoned by our opponents that, since the SDA Church co-founder/prophetsess wrote prolifically about the passage of an oppressive Sunday law in America, such a fulfillment of the Revelation 13 prophecy must be correct. Notwithstanding, these adversaries have neglected to understand “conditional prophecy principles.”

We have written extensively about this dilemma over the years, but few, if any, opposers have been either convinced or convicted. The outcome has been wholesale rejection of Creation Seventh Day Adventism by the majority of those professing Seventh-day Adventist faith. We are truly “the voice of one crying in the wilderness.”

When the crisis is upon us, when the season of calamity shall come, [eleventh-hour workers] will come to the front, gird themselves with the whole armor of God, and exalt His law, adhere to the faith of Jesus, and maintain the cause of religious liberty which reformers defended with toil and for which they sacrificed their lives. [*Manuscript Releases Volume Sixteen*, page 238]

One point of common ground among devout Adventists, however, has been the conception of the sacredness of the religious name Seventh Day Adventist. I recall Pastor J. Marik in Hawaii and Pastor R. Perez in Florida taking strong stands for freely employing that name in their religious observances and missionary services. After legal challenges were brought to bear by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, both pastors eventually compromised their positions. Pastor Perez had been exposed to the CSDA “mark of the beast” teaching but discarded it completely.

Other proponents of “historic Adventism” held a softer position on the use of the favored name while supporting the idea as a general principle. Only Creation SDAs have embraced the importance of keeping the name as a divine mandate, and that has been evidenced throughout the ongoing four-year trademark lawsuit initiated by the General Conference against Walter McGill, dba Creation Seventh Day Adventist Church, *et al.*

Because most SDA believers are stuck on the Sunday law fulfillment of the “mark of the beast,” they refuse to consider any other possibility. By standing irreversibly, they fail to notice the significance of the name Seventh Day Adventist as applied to the third angel’s message. This error in interpretation has predisposed modern Adventists in a similar vein as ancient Israel when they fell short, not recognizing the Messiah in their day.

The third angel’s message is a most solemn warning as the following paragraph indicates:

Will the churches heed the Laodicean message? Will they repent, or will they, notwithstanding that the most solemn message of truth--the third angel's message--is being proclaimed to the world, go on in sin? This is the last message of mercy, the last warning to a fallen world. If the church of God becomes lukewarm, it does not stand in favor with God any more than do the churches that are represented as having fallen and become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and the cage of every unclean and hateful bird. Those who have had opportunities to hear and receive the truth and who have united with the Seventh-day Adventist church, calling themselves the commandment-keeping people of God, and yet possess no more vitality and consecration to God than do the nominal churches, will receive of the plagues of God just as verily as the churches who oppose the law of God. Only those that are sanctified through the truth will compose the royal family in the heavenly mansions Christ has gone to prepare for those that love Him and keep His commandments. [*Manuscript Releases Volume Nineteen*, page 176]

So, what of the independent ministries and various break-away groups claiming adherence to Adventism? Do they fall into the above category? Will they heed the Laodicean message? *My Assessment* is that they will not. “Why?” you might ask. It is because they cannot and will not overcome their pride of opinion that amounts to idolatry. “If doubts and unbelief are cherished, the faithful ministers will be removed from the people who think they know so much.” [*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, page 409] But in our day, where are “the faithful ministers?” This species of idolatry has well-nigh overcome Christendom in general and Adventism in particular.

Saul's stubbornness in persisting before Samuel that he had obeyed God, was as iniquity and idolatry. His love to carry out his own will was more desirable to him than to obtain the favor of God, or the approbation of a clear conscience. And when his sin was opened clearly before him, and his wrong definitely pointed out, his pride of opinion, his excessive self-love, led him to justify himself in his wrong course, in defiance of the reproof of Samuel, and the word of the Lord by the mouth of his prophet. Such obstinacy in a known transgression, separated him forever from God. [*The Spirit of Prophecy Volume One*, page 366]

While professed Adventists have been long awaiting the belated National Sunday Law, Creation Seventh Day Adventists have been receiving the latter rain and warring against the beast and his image. We have “followed the Lamb” into the Most Holy place to be reviewed in the investigative judgment of the living. We are presently making final preparations for the “time of Jacob’s trouble.” Sadly, our “loud cry” is perceived as mere thunder in the ears of nominal professors of Seventh-day Adventism.

Another complication has entered the scene to broaden the gap between Creation Seventh Day Adventists and their opposing Adventist brethren. It has to do with a group of rebel Adventists founded in the early part of the 20th Century. They took the name *Free Seventh-day Adventists*, and were organized as a California corporation separate from the General Conference of SDA. Recently, and as the result of so much stir caused by the numerous trademark-related issues within Adventism, a legal loophole has been suggested for independent SDA groups to safely use the Seventh Day Adventist name. The theory is that FSDA is a legal entity exempt from SDA trademark prosecution.

Apparently, historic Adventists and other dissenting SDA groups have attached themselves to the FSDA association with a plan of circumventing the General Conference trademark. While this scheme appears to the human mind as a clever maneuver, it cannot please the God of truth and righteousness. “Why?” you may ask. The answer is quite simple in that this strategy is carnal in nature and not compatible with the Divine similitude. Christ uttered a profound statement when He said, “**For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.**” [Matt. 16:25] When these groups seek legal loopholes, thinking they can fulfill the will of YAH by operating in their own strength and applying earthly reasoning, they are self-deceived. Their motive is self-centered and self-perpetuating rather than seeking the glory and honor of the Father in Heaven. This action amounts to yet another example of idolatry. The remnant messenger wrote, “He will give grace to all that keep his way, and do his will, and walk in truth. But those who love their own way, who worship their idols of opinion, and do not love God and obey his word, will continue to walk in darkness. O, how terrible is unbelief! As well let light be poured upon the blind, as to present truth to these souls; the one cannot see, and the other will not see.” [Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, December 23, 1890]

Let all beware lest they imitate the example of the Jews, and, fearing they must give up some cherished idea, or discard some idol of opinion, refuse the truth which cometh down from the Father of lights. It was adherence to tradition that proved the ruin of the Jews, and will prove the ruin of many, many souls in every age. Let us fear to become satisfied, with that which we already have acquired, but ever advance with the light, that Jesus may not have to cast us aside as worthless bottles, when he would present to us new truth. [The Signs of the Times, September 19, 1892]

Creation Seventh Day Adventists have a divine mandate to employ the sacred name of their calling. We have not used any trickery or legal loopholes in our planning or activity. The Voice of YAH has been clear to our minds from the beginning, and we have implicitly obeyed the Master in every respect. Yes, we have been tempted by our “friends” with the notion of joining ourselves to the FSDA for protection from the assaults of the General Conference. YAHWEH has forbidden such a course of cowardice and guile.

Those who grasp for the “safety” of association with FSDA are manifesting their true colors and effectively taking the “mark of the beast” in the hand. *My Assessment* is that they are “weighed in the balances of the sanctuary and found wanting.” Surely, the curtains of probation are falling quickly.

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. 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? 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. And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, *but* I will recompense their way upon their head. And, behold, the man clothed with linen, which *had* the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou hast commanded me. [Eze. 9:7-11]

Writing from Africa
Pastor “Chick” McGill
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