

## **It's 1888 All Over Again**

Sadly, there are many Seven-day Adventists today who are not familiar with what the 1888 Message was all about. The setting was the General Conference Session of October 1888, which was being held in the city of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

At this point, the denomination had come forty-four years from the great disappointment of October 22, 1844. It was also twenty-five years from the official organization of the denomination on May 23, 1863, in Battle Creek, Michigan. The founding pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church believed in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and the Bible as their guide in life. Those who had come through the Millerite Movement had first-hand knowledge of disappointment and discouragement. As they studied the Scriptures concerning end time prophecy, the sanctuary types and their fulfillment, and the perpetuity of the law of God, they saw the necessity for better organization as a means for proclaiming these truths to the world.

General Conference sessions were being held every two years and at the 1886 session in Battle Creek, MI, there were some theological disagreements between A.T. Jones and Uriah Smith.

The 1888 session was one of the most significant meetings the denomination has ever had from its official organization up to that time. They had numerous agenda items to deal with, from organizational problems to theological differences as the church was rapidly growing with converts from denominations that believed the moral law was nailed to the cross.

It turned out that the most important event that occurred was a presentation made by two young men, E. J. Waggoner and A.T. Jones and the ultimate response by the gathered delegates, especially from leadership. The two presented a stirring message on "righteousness by faith." It was a message supported and endorsed by Ellen White. Waggoner & Jones gave detailed explanations that caused Ellen White to say that it is light from God. But their message was soundly rejected by the leadership, including General Conference president G. I. Butler and Uriah Smith, as well as many of the elder delegates. The claim was that Waggoner's "new light" was nothing more than what Adventists had always presented on justification by faith, which was theoretically true as Adventist taught that salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ, but the emphasis

had tended to be more on works and sanctification. They couldn't see their trending towards legalism.

Placing righteousness by faith squarely on the foundation of Christ and His righteousness, and Christ's work as our High Priest during the antitypical Day of Atonement, brought a fresh perspective to the doctrine as it had previously been preached from Adventist pulpits. Why was this so important? Because they were on the border of the heavenly Canaan, and the latter rain of the Holy Spirit was about to be poured out.

It was an amazing parallel to the Israelites who were on the border of the earthly Canaan when Moses sent 12 spies to scout the land and bring back a report. After 40 days they returned with a glowing message that the land indeed was flowing with milk and honey. Two young men, Joshua and Caleb, said that we can take the land with God leading us. Their message was a positive one for they saw what God had done in the recent past. But the other 10 spies had a woeful report of giants in the land and we would be like grasshoppers and we would be destroyed. And so the two men's report was rejected causing God to let the Israelites spend 40 years in the wilderness for their woeful lack of faith.

Since 1888, in defense of Jones and Waggoner, Ellen White made some statements as follows: ***"The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God."*** {TM 91.2}

***"The Lord has raised up Brother Jones and Brother Waggoner to proclaim a message to the world to prepare a people to stand in the day of God."*** {1888 1814.4}

***"I have traveled from place to place, attending meetings where the message of the righteousness of Christ was preached. I considered it a privilege to stand by the side of my brethren, and give my testimony with the message for the time; and I saw that the power of God attended the message wherever it was spoken."*** {1888 545.7}

Some of the following quotes apply as much today as they did in 1888. Read them with your understanding:

***"Why do not brethren of like precious faith consider that in every age, when the Lord has sent a special message to the people, all the powers of the***

***confederacy of evil have set at work to prevent the word of truth from coming to those who should receive it?" {16MR 104.3}***

***"God has committed to his servants a message for this time; but this message does not in every particular coincide with the ideas of all the leading men, and some criticize the message and the messengers. They dare even to reject the words of reproof sent to them from God through his Holy Spirit." {1888 954.1}***

***"The Lord has shown me that we are in just as much danger [of rejecting truth] in our day as were the people in the days of Christ. The Lord is speaking through His delegated messengers; but the same unbelief is exhibited. Men close their hearts against Jesus and hold themselves in the veriest bondage to Satan, supposing that they are preserving their dignity as free men; that they are maintaining their right to think and act for themselves, to believe or doubt; and like the despisers of the gospel in the apostolic times, they wonder and perish." {11MR 283.3}***

These doubting rejecters of light from heaven have been in all ages, but in particular are they at this time, in leadership positions in local churches and conferences and unions and divisions and the General Conference itself. What are they rejecting? Why the precious light from heaven espoused by the One True God Church movement.

***"What reserve power has the Lord with which to reach those who have cast aside his warnings and reproofs, and have accredited the testimonies of the Spirit of God to no higher source than human wisdom? {1888 954.2}*** They are literally blind to God's light for this time.

***"To accuse and criticize those whom God is using, is to accuse and criticize the Lord, who has sent them." {1888 954.3}***

What was true in 1888 is also true 131 years later, here in 2019.

Two men from Australia, Robert Brinsmead and Desmond Ford, did considerable theological damage to the church with their liberal agendas, from the 1960's through 1980. Robert believed in perfectionism and had changing theological views and quite a large following. His views were considered heretical and was far outside mainstream Adventism. Desmond Ford was not so radical at first, but was at odds with some of Adventist foundational teachings. Des had a great impact on many young theologians and also had numerous followers. Ford was removed in 1980, but the damage was done. Have you noticed how historically we have been dealing with two men?

There has been a very long list of head-spinning compromises and changes that has completely changed Adventism from the pure faith of the Pioneers, when God taught and gave us our foundational doctrines, founded on unquestionable authority, to a religion no pioneer could recognize if one was alive today.

The General Conference session held in Dallas Texas in April of 1980, the most devastating year in the history of the church, Adventism voted to become Tinitarian, much to the pleasure of Rome.

There were over 25,000 delegates from 190 countries around the world in attendance at the closing day, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Since then the denomination has become splintered with various factions believing in a much more liberal agenda, similar to the world.

Irreverence in the sanctuaries of many churches became commonplace. A large number of the churches, no longer allowed some of our foundational doctrines to be taught and would not permit the Spirit of Prophecy to be mentioned and by casting out the seer, they chose Laodicean blindness.

While Christ tarries, we are rapidly approaching the little time of trouble, such as the world has never known.

Sister White wrote, ***“The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.”*** {CCh 37.2}

No longer able to depend on the fallen denomination, God has raised up men around the world to revive and restore the pure non-trinitarian, one True God faith of the pioneers.

In particular and coincidentally, two men from Australia, Nader Mansour and Imad Awde for such a time as this! Through their large assortment of videos available at their ministry, revelation1412.org, people around the world are learning truths, long hidden from their view. Terry Hill in England and David Clayton in Jamaica and more such in the U.S. and a long list of non-trinitarians that God continues to raise up, preparing a people to receive the long awaited latter rain of the Holy Spirit, when the third angel's message will be preached with unstoppable power. We are on the border of the heavenly Canaan and God's "One True God Church" movement will go through.

One may ask, what then really constitutes a church? Is it membership in a denomination? God had His prophet answer that question in UL 315.5, ***“God has a church.***

*It is not the great cathedral, neither is it the national establishment, neither is it the various denominations; it is the people who love God and keep His commandments. "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). Where Christ is even among the humble few, this is Christ's church, for the presence of the High and Holy One who inhabiteth eternity can **ALONE** constitute a church. {UL 315.5} But what about the structure church?*

Listen brethren, the structure church, the denomination, whose foundation is built on the sand, will be swept away, as we read in a most revealing prophecy that God gave His prophet to warn His church. Listen carefully:

***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. {1SM 204.2}***

The enemy of souls could not begin his nefarious work while one pioneer still remained. But sixty-five years after the prophet's death, his ultimate goal of changing God's church from a non-trinitarian, One True God Church, into a three-god church was completed. Satan has always been the author, architect and creator of trinities, whether pagan or supposedly Christian.

How could Ellen White have known that today's contemporary Adventism was going to give up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, such as the sanctuary in heaven and Christ's judgment work, saying the atonement was completed at the cross? How did she know that the fundamental principles would be accounted as error? Which Fundamental Principles? #1 Which identifies the eternal Father and His Spirit; and #2. His begotten Son Jesus. Two Fundamental Principles which comprised

the Godhead as the pioneers believed it. What replaced them? The product of intellectual philosophy, the 1980 Fundamental Belief #2 which says God is a unity of three co-eternal Persons. Which means three gods who always existed, not one older or younger than the other two, therefore no Father-Son relationship, just a metaphor. How did she know God was being removed from His status as the ONLY true God and the true Father of Jesus? How did she know the Sabbath would be lightly regarded as pastors now encourage their members to eat out on Sabbath and shop if you have to? How did she know? She didn't know all these things, but God knew and by His Spirit she wrote it and we read and have witnessed these unthinkable things which have happened.

God's true Seventh-day Adventist church around the world, holding up the fundamental principles of the pioneers will march on, led by the true Holy Spirit of God and Christ, while the defenders of a unity of three co-eternal gods, go down in defeat, with so many opportunities missed in their stubborn blindness and defiance. Their works cannot save them. With God now leading the One True God church movement, it is by God's grace unstoppable. Let us read 1 Corinthians 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."**

I appeal to my brothers and sisters around the world, in April of 2020, it will mark 40 years that the denomination has been wandering in the wilderness of trinitarian darkness. If leadership does not reverse course, the words of Jesus will soon be fulfilled. Matthew 15:14 **"Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."** What more could God have done to wake them up?

AMEN

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