

# *Victory Everlasting Gospel*

FREE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

April 19, 2014

The title of today's sermon is:

**"The Great Week of Time"**

Let us pray ...

The Great Week of Time is nearly finished and yet there are few in Adventism that even know or understand it. They may have had encounters with it with certain scriptures and certain S.O.P. quotes; but few have had an actual study as you will today.

A battle on earth has been raging for almost 6,000 years now, and it is for your worship!

It all started with the most beautiful and most intelligent of all God's created beings, the angel Lucifer. Here is what we read in

Ezekiel 28:15, **"Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created ...**

**till iniquity was found in thee."** Lucifer, who could create no life, coveted the throne of God who created him, and the worship due to God only.

He began a whispering campaign which went rapidly among the angels, attacking God's character; His Government, His law; His authority; the very Throne of God.

The Bible tells us in Revelation 12:9, **"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."** Revelation 12:9

Angels had been sent to pre-warn Adam and Eve about the rebellion in heaven as we read this in the Spirit of Prophecy SR 29,

*"The angels ... gave them the sad history of Satan's rebellion and fall. They then distinctly informed them that the tree of knowledge was placed in the garden to be a pledge of their obedience and love to God; ... that they could obey the law of God and be inexpressibly happy, or disobey and lose their high estate and be plunged into hopeless despair. {SR 29.3}*

Genesis 3:1-3 **"Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman,**

**Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?**

**And the woman said unto the serpent,**

**We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden,**

**God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.** Notice how Eve properly stated God's command.

But in verse 4 Satan came back with the first lie told on planet earth, **"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:"** And so we had the confusion when by adding one word, "not;" truth was mixed with error **"ye shalt not surely die"** rejecting God's word by rejecting truth, embracing error, creating the first new theology and plunging this world into sin. Satan is filling the Christian world with numerous similar lies in the new theologies, which of course are nothing more than the old errors, close to truth, but error nonetheless.

Then there is the winds of Doctrine which have flooded the church, such as 1. Calling the church Babylon; 2. the Leviticus 26 - 2520 Prophecy which is not a prophecy; 3. the Holy Spirit not a Person; 4. Only Name of God Yahweh; 5. keeping the feast days; 6. God doesn't kill; 7. the Wednesday Crucifixion; 8. the Lunar Sabbath; 9. The New Moon Feast; 10. Diet and dress extremes, etc, etc. It is Satan's purpose to get God's people caught up and focused on a wind of doctrine and away from preaching and teaching the three angel's messages. These winds of doctrines will continue to come in.

We must be ever vigilant for error has many faces; and we must be ever rooted and grounded in our historic doctrinal beliefs, which is most important.

Any doctrine contrary to those doctrines which we uphold, must be put to the test in Isaiah 8:20. **“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”** And the messenger must also be tested.

What we want to consider today is the approximate time that Adam and Eve committed planet Earth’s very first sin. There are time specific quotes in the Spirit of Prophecy that can help us determine how old Adam and Eve were when they sinned. That time is very important to our discussion and we will come back to that in a little while.

But first I want to call your attention to the fact that the book of Genesis is under attack for a number of reasons. There was a time that the Christian world was pretty united on the creation account of the origin of all things.

Sadly, many today lean more towards the **big bang theory**. Hundreds of books are written on the origin of all things and experts use many volumes to substantiate their theories and the evolutionary account of man.

They like to believe that they have evolved from lower forms of life. The problem is that it is **all** unproven theory and speculation.

It’s pretty sad to think that a man would believe that a monkey was his common ancestor, rather than to believe he was created in God’s image.

Ed 130.1 *“Akin to the theory concerning the evolution of the earth is that which attributes to an ascending line of germs, mollusks, and quadrupeds the evolution of man, the crowning glory of the **creation.**”* {Ed 130.1}

In spite of their numerous volumes, God has given us “The origin of all things” in the first ten words of the Bible. Let’s read it together, **“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”** Genesis 1:1

We are aware of God’s seal in His law as found in the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment, but you will notice that God had also put His seal in the very first verse of the Bible, thereby authorizing the entire Word of God.

His name God, His title Creator, and His dominion heaven and the earth. God’s seal on God’s Book! May God be praised!

Our subject matter, “The Great Week of Time” is going to reveal to us the time that God has allotted to Satan, to expose his claims against God.

We believe that Satan’s allotted time will not exceed a full 6,000 years and we know that it had to begin as soon as he caused our first parents to sin.

First, do we know when Creation week began?

According to **“The Annals of the Old Testament,”** the 1650 classic by James Ussher, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh, God began the creation of the world at nightfall on the evening of Saturday, October 22, in 4004 B.C. His establishment of October 22<sup>nd</sup> is interesting, and perhaps coincidental, but I do believe we would be okay with just saying the fall of 4004 BC. There are many within Adventism that embrace 4004 BC as the acceptable year of creation. That would support many of Ellen White’s quotes regarding the 4,000 and 6,000 years.

However there are others even within Adventism that prefer the 10,000 year hypothesis based on giant trees where they have calculated 10,000 rings, each ring pointing to a year of its existence. But think about it, God spoke things into existence and could have created the giant mature trees already having 4,000 rings. After all Adam was a full grown adult male on his first day of life.

At this time I want to refer to a book written by G. Edward Reid titled “Even at the Door.” Brother Reid was the General Conference treasurer before his retirement. His book is most interesting as it deals with the “Great Week of Time.”

On page 157, the author quotes Warren H. Johns, seminary librarian at Andrews University as follows, "Having recently completed an examination of all 2,500 references to Biblical chronology made by Ellen White, I can state unequivocally that her chronology matches that of Archbishop Ussher more closely than perhaps any other of the dozens of chronologies in use in the nineteenth century. ... For her as for Ussher there were exactly 4,000 years between the creation of man and the birth of Christ.

According to Ussher, Sister White, and many theologians who agree, the fall of 4004 B.C., would have been the time of creation.

Adding 6,000 years to the fall of 4004 BC would give us the fall of 1997 AD.

We know that Jesus was not born on December 25<sup>th</sup>. We do believe that His birth was rather in the fall of 4 BC, most likely mid to late October, as the climate made it almost impossible to be grazing sheep any later in the year.

Jesus was born 4,000 years after creation and I believe, Jesus being the second Adam, exactly 4000 years from the 6<sup>th</sup> day of creation when Adam was created a sinless being.

Now we need to look at the great week of time as a millennial week, and soon we can tie this all together.

God reckoned a day as a thousand years based on: Psalm 90:4 "**For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.** This passage draws a correlation between a millennium and the day from God's perspective. It is strictly literal and not prophetic. David's intent was clearly that God does not reckon time as do humans and that is how most understand that principle.

It is interesting to note that Adam died at age 930, lacking seventy years of one thousand years. For one thousand years are as one day in the recorded testimony. The Lord said: **for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.** For this reason he did not complete the millennial day; for he died during it. The oldest living human being ever was Methuselah who died at the age of 969, 31 years short of 1,000 years. He died the year of the flood, but not in the flood. Noah was 600 when the flood occurred and he lived to the age of 950, just 50 years short of a millennial day.

We also read in: 2 Peter 3:8 "**But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**"

One Millennial Day = A Thousand Years; A Millennial Week = 7 Millennial Days; Which = 7 Thousand Years. A millennial day would not speak that much to us if it were to stand alone;

**But what about a millennial week? Seven consecutive 1,000 year days.** A millennial week is not new information. A few of our pioneers wrote about it.

This chart illustrates a millennial week; being a period of seven millennial days or 7 periods of 1,000 years or 7,000 years.

J. N. Andrews was a pioneer Adventist theologian and missionary. Andrews University is named after him. Andrews could read the Bible in seven languages and could reproduce the New Testament from memory. In 1867 he was the third General Conference president for two years. He made significant contributions to the SDA doctrines. He was the editor of the Review and Herald for ten months while Uriah Smith took a leave of absence for health reasons. Brother Andrews wrote a series of six articles for the Review that carried the title "THE GREAT WEEK OF TIME or THE PERIOD OF SEVEN THOUSAND YEARS DEVOTED TO THE PROBATION AND THE JUDGMENT OF MANKIND."

It is very important that everyone understand this premise about today's presentation. This is not a prophecy regarding time as we will be discussing only literal time. It is not a prophecy at all. It is not date setting; it is not new light; it is not a doctrine and it is not new. We will be using known information found in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy and connecting the dots.

There are many time prophecies in scripture, and thank God for them.

Based on God's word, we can be sure that there are NO time prophecies extending past the fulfillment of the 2300 year prophecy which was concluded in 1844.

Jesus said Himself in Rev. 10:6, "... **that there should be time no longer:**" This is the final prophecy regarding time and there would be none past 1844. Now let us move on to find when Satan's allotted time began and when will it end.

This we do know, that the holy pair were created in the first millennial day, the fall of 4004 BC, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of creation and they were created sinless.

There was a year, day, hour and minute that they committed the first transgression at the forbidden tree. The question is whether or not we have any clues as to when the transgression happened, which would have begun Satan's allotted time.

Their transgression caused them to be banished from the garden.

There are 42 quotes in the Spirit of Prophecy regarding six thousand years. In some of the quotes God's prophet would say more than six thousand years. For example:

*"More than six thousand years of continual practice has greatly increased his skill to deceive and allure."* {ST, September 29, 1887 par. 2} We have established that Adam and Eve were created on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of creation; which we understand to be in the fall of 4004 BC.

Even though the account of their creation is in Genesis 1:26, 27; the account of their fall was in Genesis 3:1-6 some 30 verses later; creating an illusion that their fall was shortly after their creation. But there had to be a considerable period of time from the 6<sup>th</sup> day of creation until the transgression. But how long?

Here is where this study gets really interesting. I believe that God has given Satan 6,000 years to prove his accusations against God in the full view of the loyal angels and all the unfallen worlds in the universe. His allotted time could not have begun until the pair sinned.

Here is a supporting TIME SPECIFIC SOP quote where Ellen White was talking about the time after his allotted time has ended,

*"Satan's work of ruin is forever ended. For six thousand years he has wrought his will, filling the earth with woe and causing grief throughout the universe."* {GC 673.2}

Since fall 1997 was the 6,000<sup>th</sup> year from creation, we can arrive at a calculation that would show that to date, April 19, 2014, Satan is still in the temptation business.

So that means that Adam and Eve were sinless for at least 16-1/2 years. It would be safe to assume that they were a number of years older than 16-1/2 when they transgressed, since there is still much to happen in the future.

Jesus was born in the fall of 4 BC. Was He born a sinner? No. Did He ever commit a sin in His entire life? No. When did He become sin? He became sin on the cross.

When did Jesus begin His earthly ministry? He began His ministry when He was anointed at His baptism in the fall of 27 AD. This is in the 5<sup>th</sup> millennial day.

Jesus is crucified in the spring of 31 AD. This is a critical date.

How old was He when He was crucified? He was 33-1/2. Keep 33-1/2 in your mind and we will come back to it shortly.

Also in 31 AD He ascended to heaven as our High Priest. He ministered in the Holy Place for 1,813-1/2 years.

Also in the 5<sup>th</sup> millennial day, the anti-Christ rose into power in 538 AD. Pagan Rome became Papal Rome and the long line of Caesars became a succession of Popes.

In the 6<sup>th</sup> millennial day, the 16<sup>th</sup> century Reformation began. One of its most telling reformers was Martin Luther.

In 1798, the anti-Christ Beast power receives the deadly wound. General Berthier acting under orders of Napoleon marched into Rome and took the Pope prisoner, where he died a year later in captivity.

Another major event of the 6<sup>th</sup> millennial day was the Advent movement that God raised up. The gift of prophecy was given to this new church in 1844.

On October 22, 1844, Jesus entered the Most Holy Place to begin the anti-typical Day of Atonement.

Rev. 12:17 prophesied the wrath of Satan would be against the woman, God's remnant people. **"And the dragon was wrath with the woman ..."**

In our millennial week, the fall of 1997 would have been the 6,000<sup>th</sup> year from creation. This is the millennial week as many in the past have understood it to be, however now we want to put some pieces of the puzzle together. Follow closely so that you do not miss the conclusion.

Jesus was born 4,000 years after Creation week, most likely 4,000 years exactly from the 6<sup>th</sup> day when sinless man was created. Listen now,

So if Jesus was without sin for 33-1/2 years, than it is possible that He died on the cross exactly 4,000 years to the moment when Adam and Eve's transgression occurred. That would mean that Adam and Eve remained sinless for 33-1/2 years after they were created.

Is there anything in the Spirit of Prophecy that would be TIME SPECIFIC, that would support such a conclusion? Yes, and I will give you three such quotes.

Earlier we looked at a quote where the SOP spoke of more than six thousand years, referring to sin starting in heaven. There are 42 six thousand year and

41 four thousand year quotes. Most are not time specific as they might be prefaced with the words almost, nearly or more than. But I would like you to listen to the three quotes regarding four thousand years that are

TIME SPECIFIC. *"With the great sacrifice offered upon Calvary, ended that system of offerings which for four thousand years had pointed forward to the Lamb of God."* {GC88 327.3}

Note - From the institution of the sacrificial system when sin entered, until the Lamb of God on the cross, it was exactly 4,000 years.

2<sup>nd</sup> quote: *"Christ was standing at the point of transition between two economies and their two great festivals. He, the spotless Lamb of God, was about to present Himself as a sin offering, that He would thus bring to an end the system of types and ceremonies that for four thousand years had pointed to His death."* {DA 652.2}

3<sup>rd</sup> quote: *"Satan led men into sin, and the plan of redemption was put in operation. For four thousand years, Christ was working for man's uplifting, and Satan for his ruin and degradation. And the heavenly universe beheld it all."* {DA 759.3} This statement indicates that the system of sacrifice was initiated as soon as man sinned. His death occurred 4,000 years later. Now listen carefully to this next quote:

*"If you look to yourself, you will see only weakness. There is no Saviour there. You will find Jesus away from yourself. You must look and live; look to Him who became sin for us, that we might be cleansed from sin and receive of Christ's righteousness."* {DG146.3}

So what can we conclude from the three 4,000 year statements and the final quote?

1. That Jesus created sinless people in 4004 BC.
2. That Jesus was born 4000 years after creation, 4 BC, in the likeness of sinful flesh, but never committed an act of sin.
3. When Adam and Eve committed sin, the system of animal sacrifice began. They were without sin up to that point.
4. That Jesus died 4,000 years after sin entered the world, thus ending the system of animal sacrifice, because He was the Lamb of God that all sacrifices pointed to.
5. Jesus was sinless for 33-1/2 years.
6. According to SOP, When did Jesus become sin for us? 4,000 years after sin entered the world on the cross.
7. How old was Adam and Eve therefore when they sinned? 33-1/2.

On the left side of this slide we see the 4000 years or 4 millennial days from creation to Christ's birth.

Then 2,000 years or 2 millennial days to 1997 AD, the 6000<sup>th</sup> year from creation.

On the right side of this slide we are looking at the time of Satan's reign of terror. From the spring of 3970 BC when Adam and Eve were 33-1/2 years old, to the spring of 31 AD when Jesus died on the cross; we would have 4 millennium days completed of Satan's allotted time.

Since 4 millennial days (4,000 years) ended at the cross, he had two millennial days (2,000 years) remaining, which would be concluded in the Spring of 2031; the conclusion of his 6,000 years of allotted time. I do not believe that Satan will get one minute of his evil work in the seventh millennial day, 2031 – 3031 AD. This only means that his six millenniums of evil work are finished. It is not saying that that is when Jesus is coming.

Satan's allotted time can also be expressed in periods of time called generations. A Biblical generation is 40 years, so 4,000 years would be 100 generations from 3970 BC to the cross. That would leave 50 generations or 2,000 years until 2031.

From the fall of man in the spring of 3970 BC, Satan was given 6,000 years which equals 150 generations, to prove his case.

In the Spring of 1991, 149 generations were completed and we began the final generation. The Final Generation ends in the Spring of 2031 AD the 6,000<sup>th</sup> year of Satan's allotted time would be complete.

I will finish this presentation looking at the seventh millennial day in a few moments, but first I want to answer two questions:

At a given point probation will end for the world and Jesus shall stand up and make the declaration that seals everyone for eternity:

Rev. 22:11 **“He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.”**

This begins the great time of trouble when God's mercy and grace have been replaced with His Justice on a rebellious people. With probation over, there is NO second chance; God's people cannot be lost and those with the Mark of the Beast can no longer be saved; the death decree is issued; the Heavenly Sanctuary is cleansed; all the forgiven sins are transferred from the Sanctuary to the head of Satan; the seven last plagues are poured out; 1st plague – painful boils head to toe; 2nd plague – seas turn to blood; 3rd plague – Fresh waters turn to blood; 4th Plague – Heat – sun 7 times stronger; 5th plague – Darkness on the seat of Beast; 6th plague – Euphrates dried up and the Battle of Armageddon rages to completion; 7th plague – Earth's greatest all time hailstorm and earthquake; God's people go through the time of Jacob's trouble; Jesus comes for the redeemed; Wicked survivors are destroyed by the brightness of His coming.

{GC 673.2} says this, *“Satan's work of ruin is forever ended. For six thousand years he has wrought his will, filling the earth with woe and causing grief throughout the universe.”*

At this point one may ask, If we knew when Satan's allotted time was ended, wouldn't that indicate when Jesus is coming?

The answer of course is a resounding **NO**, because no one knows but the Father. Although the spring of 2031 is the absolute deadline for Satan's evil work, it is by no means referring to the coming of Jesus.

Romans 9:28 tells us, **“For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.”**

So the truth is, is that Jesus can come many years before 2031. We know just how He will come, we just don't know when. The important thing to take from this is we are running out of preparation time.

*“Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agents to work, that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied, and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut.”* {RH, March 14, 1912 par. 6}

occupied, and entranced

Listen to God's prophet:

*When divine power is combined with human effort, the work will spread like fire in the stubble. God will employ agencies whose origin man will be unable to discern. Angels will do a work which men might have had the blessing of accomplishing had they not neglected to answer the claims of God.*--1SM 118 (1885). {LDE 207.3}

I can tell you this for a certainty, Satan will not get one hour, not one minute in the seventh millennium to tempt a single soul, as it will be his time to contemplate what he had, and what he has done.

The Great Week of Time is nearly finished. Satan has presented his evidence over his allotted 6,000 years.

Revelation 20:1, 2 **“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years ...”** He is bound by circumstances.

Jeremiah 4:23-27 says, **“I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.**

**I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly.**

**I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled.**

**I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger.**

**For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.**

Satan will be bound by circumstances on a cold dark planet where the sun has burned out and no living human beings are to be tempted anymore.

The seventh 1,000 year period is the last millennial day in the millennial week, where Satan will spend his time contemplating the glories he once had in his place to the left of the Father's throne, when everything was harmonious and peaceful. He'll also think about what he has done for six millenniums on earth; especially to the woman, God's church. All about him are dead bodies everywhere that there was once thriving nations.

“Thus the period of 7,000 years is cut off from the eternity of the past to eternity in the future, and assigned to the probation and judgment of mankind.” J.N. Andrews – Review and Herald – July 17, 1883

Here we see the “Great Week of Time correctly shown as it applies to when eternity past was interrupted.

Please Note - Creation in 4004 BC was still in the realm of eternity, as Adam was created with conditional immortality. The 7000 Year “Great Week of Time” would actually have interrupted eternity in the Spring of 3970 BC when sin came into the world. At the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> millennial day, earth will be recreated and the realm of eternity will resume with no further interruption.

In this final generation, God's church, you and I, have the awesome privilege to vindicate God's Character; His Government; His Law; His Authority; His Throne; His Fairness; His Sabbath; and His Church before the unfallen angels, the unfallen worlds and the whole of creation.

More important than our desire to be saved, should be our desire to be God's Vindicator.

But God's church of all the ages will be with Jesus, enjoying the fruits of loyalty and obedience to the three dignitaries of the Godhead.

**“... and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. Revelation 20:4**

I close with this quote from the SOP: *“Those who walk even as Christ walked, who are patient, gentle, kind, meek, and lowly in heart, those who yoke up with Christ and lift his burdens, who yearn for souls as he yearned for them--these will enter into the joy of their Lord. They will see with Christ the travail of his soul, and be satisfied. Heaven will triumph, for the vacancies made in heaven by the fall of Satan and his angels will be filled by the redeemed of the Lord.”* {RH May 29, 1900}

**God is Love.**

Let us pray ...