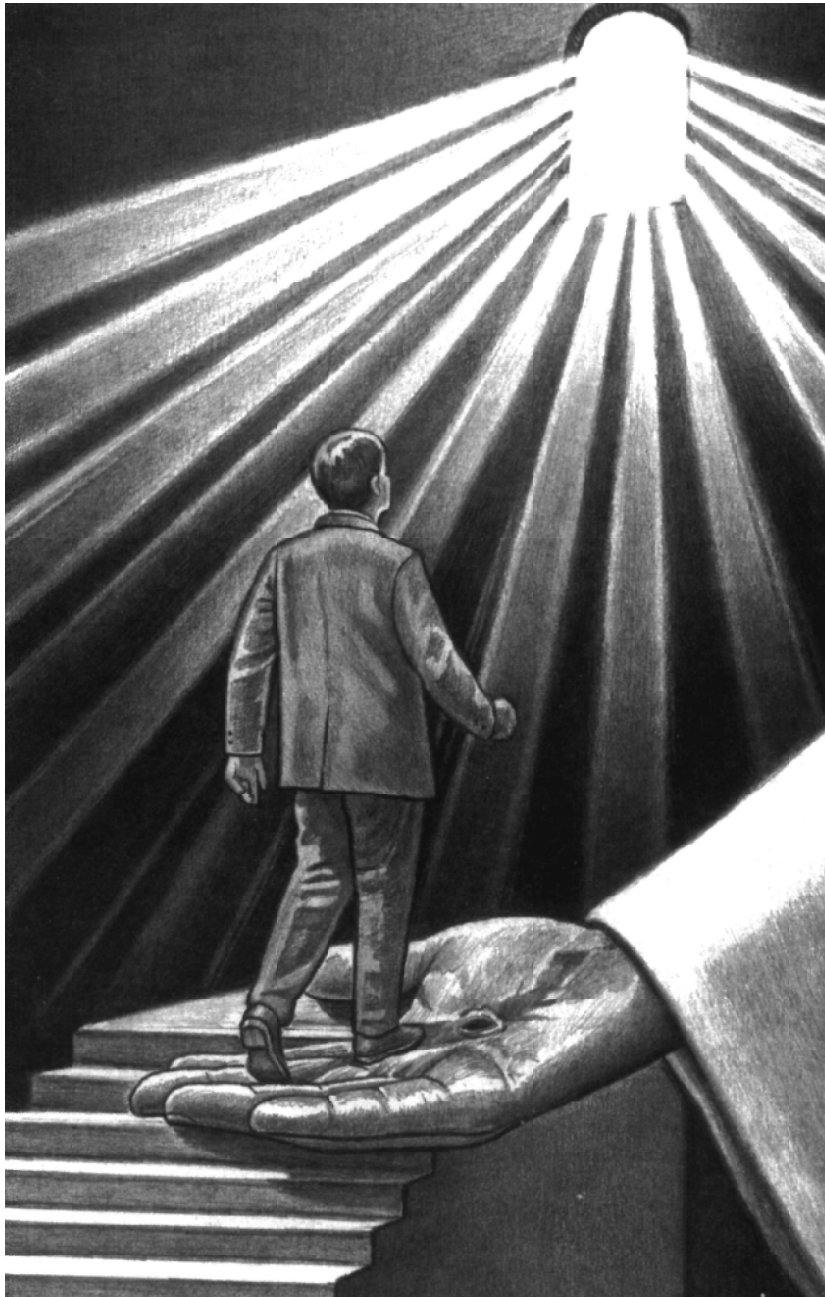


Gods Way to save His church



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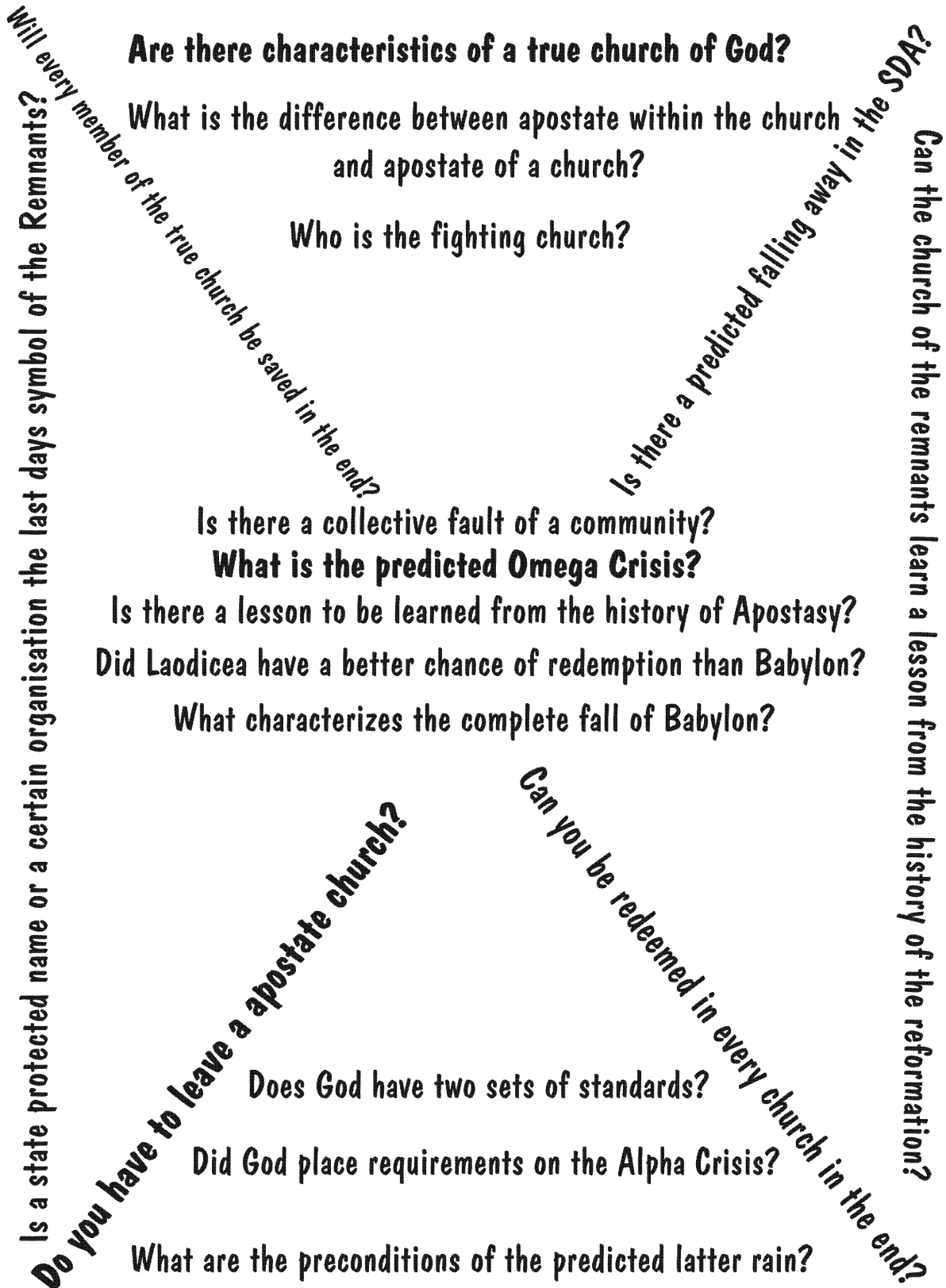
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Questions that are answered by God's word:

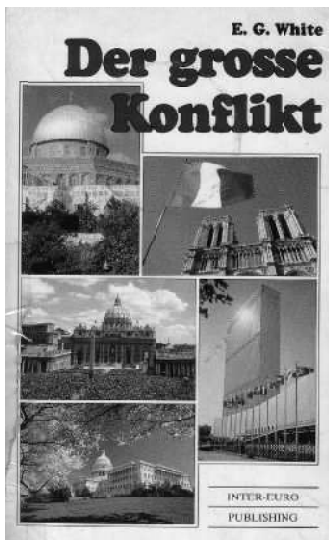


Preface:

This brochure has been created because of the growing need to examine the general apostasy within the SDA community in Germany. Apostasy has come to the point that requires consistent measures to honour God and to redeem our souls. Spiritual prostitution at the highest level of community leadership has spread to local community level. This has in the past increasingly led to faithful brothers and sisters, even whole communities being excluded from the SDA community only on account of them having remained dedicated in word and text to our basic principals in these times of spiritual apostasy. This has given rise to a situation clearly indicating, at least at different national levels, the manifestation of the dark last days foreseen by the spirit of prophecy for the SDA community. The question arises, how are all those who wish to remain faithful to Jesus to treat the situation? To obtain a clear divine answer to this question many righteous brothers and sisters have studied under prayer the Bible and the work of E.G.White and have come to a definite result.

According to 1. Cor. 10:11 the history of God's ancient people has been written down for us, the generation of the endtime, as an educational example. We are therefore called to acquire Gods answer for our situation today out of the history of this people. Assuming that our heavenly father is unchanging in his righteousness, mercy, and love there arise certain fixed unchangeable principles that determine the actions of God's people regarding the apostasy in the present time. As a golden thread these divine principles can be traced throughout the history of the Remnant of God's people. These principles have to be our own if we claim the promises to the "Remnant" for us. That is why the book 'The Great Controversy' is recommended to us by God's spirit as guiding literature containing comprehensive educational examples of the divine principles based on the history of the Church of the Remnant. This fact is pointed out to us in the preface of "The Great Controversy" by E.G.White:

*"It is not so much the object of this book to present new truths concerning the struggles of former times, as to **bring out facts and principles which have a bearing on coming events.** Yet viewed as a part of the controversy between the forces of light and darkness, all these records of the past are seen to have a new significance; and through them a light is cast upon the future, illuminating the pathway of those who, like the reformers of past ages, will be called, even at the peril of all earthly good, to witness "for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*



*To unfold the scenes of the great controversy between truth and error; to reveal the wiles of Satan, and the means by which he may be successfully resisted; **to present a satisfactory solution of the great problem of evil**, shedding such a light upon the origin and the final disposition of sin as to make fully manifest the justice and benevolence of God in all His dealings with His creatures; and to show the holy, unchanging nature of His law, is the object of this book. **That through its influence souls may be delivered from the power of darkness** (see page 34,57,61), and become "partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light," to the praise of Him who loved us, and gave Himself for us, is the earnest prayer of the writer." GC XII*

May this indicatory compilation of quotations help you to be lead to this elevated aim.

The Editor

Gods Way to save His church

“Apostasy, apostasy, apostasy, is engraven on the very front of every church...”

In past times Seventh-Day-Adventis believed with good reason that this quotation from *Great Controversy* 388



was not applicable to the SDA-Church. Today we can see that in the same book God describes through His servant with words adapted to the circumstances in that time, the tragic fate of His own Church in the endtime (see also John 16:12,13).

Our days many Seventh-Day-Adventist question themselves how they should deal with apostasy in our own ranks. They see that the vast majority of pastors and in most churches the majority of members disobey the plain instructions of the bible and the Spirit of prophecy. Often they must face open hostility by pastors and bretheren against the Spirit of prophecy in Ellen G. White.

Today we experience the climax of apostasy which began among the Advend People already 100 years ago and is described by Ellen White in the following quotation:

Today we are experiencing a climax of apostasy that was once indicated here and there by the Adventist people a 100 years ago and described then by E.G.White as follows:

*“The Lord has bestowed great blessings upon **His church**. Justice demands that she return these talents with usury. As the treasures of truth committed to her keeping have increased, her obligations have increased. But instead of improving upon these gifts and going forward unto perfection, **she has fallen away** from that which she had attained in her earlier experience. The change in her spiritual state has come **gradually and almost imperceptibly**. As she began to seek **the praise and friendship of the world**, her faith diminished, her zeal grew languid, her fervent devotion gave place to **dead formality**. **Every advance step toward the world was a step away from God.**”* Testimonies, Vol. V 240

“Unless the church, which is now being leavened with her own backsliding, shall repent and be converted, she will eat of the fruit of her own doing, until she shall abhor herself.” 8T 250

Many ask themselves how the Spirit of the World could gain so much access to our churches and they feel helpless how to deal with this situation. In most cases repentance and the biblical way of clearing off the open sin is impossible because of the distribution of power in favour for the apostasy.

Many feel a joint responsibility due to their own failure in the past, their careless attitude towards the wrong and the lack in their own personal sanctification. They realise that it was their ignorance of the bible and the writing of the Sprit of Prophecy that they did not recognize the evil in its beginning in questions of doctrine of our faith and in important aspects of the present truth.

Many see themselves incapable to counteract those excesses of apostasy of our days in an adequate form with a “thus says the Lord”.

Many believe that only God can bring everything back to order and wait in a passive attitude for a miracle to heal the existing wrongs in the church. They pray to God that He will open the eyes of the leaders and the brethren and they mourn over the condition of the church and then think that they exhausted their contribution for the recovery

of the church.

But that is not the attitude of the faithful as God describes them in His word.

The Faithful and Their Reaction towards Apostasy

Those who honestly mourn, in its true sense according to the bible, over the public sin in his church, is compared by the Spirit of prophecy with those who sighed and cried for the apostasy in Jerusalem in those days and therefore have been sealed and spared by the angel of death.

*“Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those **“that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done”** in the church. Their love for purity and the honor and glory of God is such, **and they have so clear a view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin**, that they are represented as being in agony, even sighing and crying. Read the ninth chapter of Ezekiel.”* 3T 267

The final sealing, as referred to in Rev. 7:3-4 and 14:1-4 as literally being an event of the present, is based on the same principals:

„This sealing of the servants of God is the same that was shown to Ezekiel in vision. John also had been a witness of this most startling revelation. He saw the sea and the waves roaring, and men's hearts failing them for fear. He beheld the earth moved, and the mountains carried into the midst of the sea (which is literally taking place), the water thereof roaring and troubled, and the mountains shaking with the swelling thereof. He was shown plagues, pestilence, famine, and death performing their terrible mission.” TM 445.2



How did the faithful souls during Hesekiel's time react towards apostasy?

“The angel with the writer's ink horn is to place a mark upon the foreheads of all who are separated from sin and sinners, and the destroying angel follows this angel” 4BC 1161.5 (Letter 12, 1886)

Also today the separation from sin and sinners (compare also PP 167; here on page 13) is the order of the hour if we want to be part of the sealed ones. Through the spirit of prophecy we are asked today:

*“Who are standing in the counsel of God at this time? Is it those who virtually excuse wrongs among the professed people of God and who murmur in their hearts, if not openly, against those who would reprove sin? Is it those who take their stand against them and sympathize with those who commit wrong? No, indeed! Unless they repent, and leave the work of Satan in oppressing those who have the burden of the work and in holding up the hands of sinners in Zion, they will never receive the mark of God's sealing approval. **They will fall in the general destruction of the wicked, represented by the work of the five men bearing slaughter weapons.**”* 3T 267

*“The same angel who visited Sodom is sounding the note of warning, **“Escape for thy life.”** The bottles of God's wrath cannot be poured out to destroy the wicked and their works until all the people of God have been judged, and the cases of the living as well as the dead are decided.”* TM 446.1

Also today it is recommended for those who want to be counted as Gods true people, to keep the word of God as a mirror before their eyes (James 1:23-25; Mt. 7:24-26) in order to realize if they fulfil in the apostasy today the characteristics of those faithful souls described in Eze. 9.

Through the Spirit of Prophecy the situation in Eze. 9 is unmistakable applied to the modern apostasy in the Adventist church of today. It is made clear that only those are accepted and saved by God who are distinctively **“separated from sin and sinners”** today as in those days. Those, who **“harmonise”** with the sinners in the church are described as those who **“carry out the works of Satan”**! Also through our financial support of an majority in apostasy we are **“holding up the hands of the sinners”** and help in Satans work (compare 1T 261/62; 2T 552 5T 102/103; 3T 553) these plain words should shake us up.

One sin brings about another sin. Those who rebuke the unholy harmony as unrighteousness and want to carry forward the cause of God with consequences, and this includes also a divinely-ordained separation of Gods people from the majority apostasy into the ecumenical movement, are not even by supposed “faithful SDA” just secretly viewed as troublemakers but also openly combated as enemies of the church community. But the thus fighting brethren do not realise that they are fighting against the instruction of God. Because it was He who in ancient times and today is demanding a uncompromising separation from apostasy as He has set it as an example for the faithful in Eze. 9 and in 4BC 1161.6 This requirement applies even the more when unity in the principles of our faith in accordance with Eph. 4,5: „*One Lord, one faith, one baptism*“ as binding element of truth no longer exists.

The Eternal Gospel as the binding Element

While apostasy has been shown to us as being the cause of the necessary division and separation, God has made the element which will unify his children during the last days quite clear. It is the preaching of the Three Angel’s Message, especially the proclamation of the third message, which will unite and seal God’s children to a true church at the end of time:

“I saw a little company traveling a narrow pathway. All seemed to be firmly united, bound together by the truth, in bundles, or companies. Said the angel, ‘The third angel is binding, or sealing, them in bundles for the heavenly garner’.” EW 88/89

“These truths, as presented in Revelation 14 in connection with “the everlasting gospel,” will distinguish the church of Christ at the time of His appearing. For as the result of the threefold message it is announced: “Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”” And this message is the last to be given before the coming of the Lord. Immediately following its proclamation the Son of man is seen by the prophet, coming in glory to reap the harvest of the earth.” GC 453/54

*“The work of preaching the gospel has not been committed to angels, but has been entrusted to men. Holy angels have been employed in directing this work, they have in charge the great movements for the salvation of men; **but the actual proclamation of the gospel is performed by the servants of Christ upon the earth.**”* GC 312

*“These angels represent those who receive the truth, **and with power open the gospel to the world.**”* 7BC 978/79 (Letter 79, 1900)

*“In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them **has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world.** On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages. **There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention.** ... God’s people are to be true to the trust committed to them. They are not to engage in speculation, **neither are they to enter into business enterprises with unbelievers** (e.g. ecumenical organisations – comment by the publisher); **for this would hinder them in their God-given work.**”* 9T 19

“The gospel ... is the power that draws men together in unity. To present these truths is the work of the third angel’s message. The Lord designs that the presentation of this message shall be the highest, greatest work carried on in the world at this time.” 6T 11



The Saving Gospel Ship



*“There is no need to doubt, to be fearful that **the work** will not succeed. **God is at the head of the work,** and he will set everything in order. If matters need adjusting **at the head of the work,** God will attend to that, and work to right every wrong. Let us have faith that God is going to carry the noble ship which bears the people of God safely into port.”* R&H, Sep. 20, 1892

Those who are destitute of heavenly wisdom, destitute of living power with God, are not competent to steer the gospel ship amid icebergs and tempests. The church is passing through severe conflicts, but in her peril many would trust her to hands that will surely wreck her. We need a pilot on board now,

for we are nearing the harbor. As a people we should be the light of the world. But how many are foolish virgins, having no oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5T 104/5

This noble gospel ship is representing the **Three Angels Message** which will guide the God's people safely into harbour if they are carried by this message in word, action, and thought having this message "**as burning oil or light of the world in their lamps**". The **head of the work** is representing those who press ahead in the proclamation of the Three Angels Message. All those who let themselves be dissuaded by these ecumenical seducers of the church "**will surely wreck her**". They are compared in the last quotation to the "**foolish virgins**". We should endeavour to actively support the work of the gospel and not contribute to a renegade organisation – an organisation that **has abandoned Jesus's ship of salvation representing the powerful preaching of the Three Angels Message** and drives the transformation to an **ecumenical ship of Satan** with cunning falseness and deceitful lies.



To Satan's cunningness and falseness belong also in the modern falsification of the above quotation about the noble ship in the German translation books of "*Last Day Events*" (German "*Christus kommt bald*") and "*Selected Messages Vol. II*" (German "*Für die Gemeinde geschrieben, Band 2*"). On the one hand they falsely translate "**the Work**", which represents the preaching of the Three Angels Message (see **the highest, greatest work** 6T 11), as "**our church community**" (meaning the church structure) and on the other hand they falsely refer to "**the noble ship**" that carries God's people and is **the gospel ship** (see 5T 104/105), as being "**the ship of his church**". Here the Juxtaposition of the falsely translated quotation from the German books to original:

„As long as God stands at the front, the Work will be successful. Should things in <u>the leadership of our church community</u> (?) be not as they should be, I am still not concerned as God will rectify the situation. We can rely on the Lord safely navigating <u>the ship of his church</u> (?) into the port.” CKB 39	⇐ wrong	“There is no need to doubt, to be fearful that the work will not succeed. God is at the head of the work , and he will set everything in order. If matters need adjusting at the head of the work , God will attend to that, and work to right every wrong. Let us have faith that God is going to carry the noble ship which bears the people of God safely into port. ” R&H, Sep. 20, 1892
	⇒ Original	

This demonstrates what satanic work arises from false interpretation. Many Adventists use this false and confusing quotation to confirm their non-concern about the apostasy of the church leader and are supported in their false



belief that they can remain confidently in the **ship of the apostate church**. They believe that God will rectify everything and that the **apostate church ship** will somehow be safely directed to the harbour. This is Satan's sly lying tactics. God says through his prophet that the opposite will be the case. It is written that misled people allegorically referred to as foolish virgins "**will surely wreck her**" (see 5T 104/5 before and RH 23.12.1890: "**The work will go forward to victory without them, and they will have no part in its triumph.**" - here on page 29).



God will not save the confessed SDA people and their seducers who have stepped into an ecumenical ship. He will not save them in their disobedience today just as he in the past did not save the fallen away people of Israel and their leaders or those who did not enter Noah's Arc in time. (see 2. Petr. 3,3-7).

Direction of the Ship by a Pilot

„We need a pilot on board now, for we are nearing the harbor.“ 5T 104/5

Only when we obey the word of God and heed **the unaltered writings of the spirit of prophecy** concerning the sure divine life boat and its pilot is there a chance of gaining eternal life. How God **will set everything in order at the head of the work** (that means the leadership in the proclamation of the Three Angels Message), and how he intends to fight against the distortion of his gospel by apostate preachers is indicated by the history of the reformers

and is also shown us by E.G.White in her writings about the future apostasy of the SDA organisation, adapted onto the circumstances at their time:

“Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel (talking of the angel of Rev. 18 according to EW 277) who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness.” TM 300

During the special time of divine bundling by the third angel and the angel in the Revelation 18 who will act like a pilot team (see Gen. 23:20-22) a work will be done that so much out of **the common order of things** and out of the common organisation and structure that it will amaze many. God will call men into responsibility for his work who identify themselves with His Three Angels Message, especially with the preaching of the third message, and who will press on in this special work by simple means. These are **the men** today “**who have the burden of the work**” which are **oppressed** in satanic ways by the apostate Advent people as we already read in the testimony from 3T, p. 267.1

The introductory testimony on Eze. 9 according to which the faithful *are separated from sin and sinners*, explains why today the work has to be done **outside of the common order**. How can a confessing SDA church that is an apostate condition and whose organisation in Europe and other parts of the world is allied with Babylon call out people of Babylon?!

God’s spirit has shown us a conflict situation in which each Adventist is required to take a clear position and to heed God’s voice which speaks to us in the following testimony:

“But Omnipotence will interpose, and to the apostate churches that unite in the exaltation of Satan, the sentence will go forth, ‘Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.’” TM 62; (R&H 22:8-12:9 1893)

In connection with this the quoted bible text from the Revelation 18,8 describes the fate of the ecumenical melting pot of Babylon the Great and refers to **the churches that were unified therein as apostate!!**

During the time of the Alpha Crisis God’s instructions to the faithful SDA ministers were that until the evil was eradicated there was to be no union between themselves and the Adventist physicians, who spread the misleading beliefs of pantheism:

*“While the misleading theories of this book are entertained by our physicians, **there cannot be union** between them and the ministers who are bearing the gospel message. **There should be no union until there is a change.**” 1SM 199*

These instructions provide in today’s situation a clear message for the faithful followers of Jesus.

Furthermore, according to the testimony from 3T 264-268 God regards people who **harmonise with the evil doers** as themselves supporting the evil (see page 7/13/14 and 16 of this brochure). Today there are many brothers and sisters who are grieved by the atrocities committed among God’s people. The decisive question is how does God assess our behaviour when we continue to attend church service in harmony with those who commit these atrocities? Often those seemingly grieved are grumbling against those who publicly reprove this wrong and who plead for a **god ordained separation from apostasy** which means a **separation from Sin and sinners**. The



spiritual cleft between the true and the merely professing Advent people is increasing further more. Remember the testimony where it says:

“So do all who cherish evil under a profession of godliness hate those who disturb their peace by condemning their course of sin. When a favourable opportunity is presented, they will, like Judas, betray those who for their good have sought to reprove them.” GC 43 (see also 8T 120)

Are we not experiencing today from professed SDA similar spiritual wrongdoing with the ecumenical apostasy, as it has been originally predicted for the other protestant churches in the following quotation by E.G.White?

“As the Protestants churches have been seeking the favour of the world, false charity has blinded their eyes. They do not see but that it is right to believe good of all evil, and as the inevitable result they will finally believe evil of all good. Instead of standing in defence of the faith once delivered to the saints, they are now, as it were, apologizing to Rome for their uncharitable opinion of her, begging pardon for their bigotry.” GC 571/72



The True and the Professed People of God

However it is said about the true people of God:

“The true people of God, who have the spirit of the work of the Lord and the salvation of souls at heart, will ever view sin in its real, sinful character. They will always be on the side of faithful and plain dealing with sins which easily beset the people of God. Especially in the closing work for the church, in the sealing time of the one hundred and forty-four thousand who are to stand without fault before the throne of God, will they feel most deeply the wrongs of God’s professed people. This is forcibly set forth by the prophet’s illustration of the last work under the figure of the men each having a slaughter weapon in his hand. One man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer’s inkhorn by his side. ‘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. 9,4” 3T 266 “The angel with the writer’s ink horn is to place a mark upon the foreheads of all who are separated from sin and sinners, and the destroying angel follows this angel” 4BC 1161.5 (Letter 12, 1886)

In respect to this most import question of dealing with open sin the true people of God in the closing work is contraposed to the wrongdoings of the so-called people of God respectively the professed people of God or to put it differently the nominal SDA.

Collective guilt through wrong dealings with public sin

Ellen G. White describes people who themselves have not committed open evil but who will be considered by God just like the wrongdoers and will consequently be killed by the destroying angel. These are people that certainly see the apparent evil but refrain from dealing **with the evil and the wrongdoers** in a consistent way with all consequences **as God requires it**. They shrink from the separation from the wrongdoers (remember lots wife). The following urgent words demonstrate quite plainly the **collective guilt** that accrued on their account, and describes the consequences for the whole church:

“I have been shown that God here illustrates how He regards sin among those who profess to be His commandment-keeping people (here it speaks of the SDA; remark by the editor). Those whom He has specially honored with witnessing the remarkable exhibitions of His power, as did ancient Israel, and who will even then venture to disregard His express directions, will be subjects of His wrath. He would teach His people that disobedience and sin are exceedingly offensive to Him and are not to be lightly regarded. He shows us that when His people are found in sin they should at once take decided measures to put that sin from them, that His frown may not rest upon them all. But if the sins of the people are passed over by those in responsible positions, His frown will be upon them, and the people of God, as a body, will be held responsible for those sins. In His dealings with His people in the past the Lord shows the necessity of purifying the church from wrongs. One sinner may diffuse darkness that will exclude the light of God from the entire congregation. When the people realize that darkness is settling upon them, and they do not know the cause, they should seek God earnestly, in great humility and self-abasement, until the wrongs which grieve His Spirit are searched out and put away.

*The prejudice which has arisen against us (speaking of E.G. White and her Husband; remark by the editor) because we have reproved the wrongs that God has shown me existed, and the cry that has been raised of harshness and severity, are unjust. God bids us speak, and we will not be silent. If wrongs are apparent among His people, and if the servants of God pass on indifferent to them, **they virtually sustain and justify the sinner, and are alike guilty and will just as surely receive the displeasure of God; for they will be made responsible for the sins of the guilty.** In vision I have been pointed to many instances where the displeasure of God has been incurred by a neglect on the part of His servants to deal with the wrongs and sins existing among them. **Those who have excused these wrongs have been thought by the people to be very amiable and lovely in disposition, simply because they shunned to discharge a plain Scriptural duty. The task was not agreeable to their feelings; therefore they avoided it.***

*The spirit of hatred which has existed with some because the wrongs among God's people have been reproved has brought blindness and a fearful deception upon their own souls, **making it impossible for them to discriminate between right and wrong. They have put out their own spiritual eyesight.** They may witness wrongs, but they do not feel as did Joshua and humble themselves because the danger of souls is felt by them." 3T 265/66*

Although the above testimony describes the deadly risk of collective responsibility, many professed SDA act as though the principle of collective responsibility would not apply to the Adventist affiliation with the ACK prohibited by God [ACK=Arbeitskreis christlicher Kirchen engl.: Council of Christian Churches; makes up the National Council of Churches in Germany as a branch of the World Council of Churches. Remarks by the translator]. Many do not realise that by remaining in an ecumenical community of apostates they are simultaneously promoting the erection of the image of the beast. They do not realise that they are co-responsible before God for their inappropriate conduct to the public sins in their church. Many argue that God cannot be that "unjust" as to make them responsible for the sins of others, for the sins of their leaders or delegates. However, this is a lethal misjudgement of the situation which results by the fact that "**they have put out their own spiritual eyesight (3T 266)**" as mentioned by the testimony above. They solely considered their own spiritual judgement as relevant. Of course, the word of God from Eze. 18:20 is still valid today: „*The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son.*“ Nevertheless, the collective responsibility proceeds from the culpable behaviour of the **neglected watchmanship** to sinners as described in Eze. 3 and 33. Similarly, the same applies **to the failure to observe the God ordained church discipline to segregate sinners** and the **prohibited demonstration of sympathy with sinners** as well (see EW 124/125). Those who disregard these clear divine instructions and develop their own guidelines instead are appropriately described in Pro. 14,12: „*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*“ (compare Pro. 3:5-8; Mt. 7:13)

The Saving Fear of God

As shown in the example of the pilot, who directs the ship through dangerous and unknown waters, every sensible person would have absolute trust in the pilot owing to the impending peril and trust his instructions; thus we should be fearful to disobey the divine instructions of the Lord's pilots (see Ex. 23:20,21). Many SDA do not see the danger and therefore trust their human leaders. They do not realise that they are leading a fatal deadly course. Apparently, today they are lacking a real fear of God as defined several times in the bible (e.g. in Lk. 12:4-9; Pro.1:7; 14:27; 16:6 etc.) and in the 6th Vol. of the Bible Commentary, p.1100:

"A proper fear of God, in believing His threatenings, works the peaceable fruits of righteousness, by causing the trembling soul to flee to Jesus. Many ought to have this spirit today, and turn to the Lord with humble contrition, for the Lord has not given so many terrible threatenings, pronounced so severe judgments in His Word, simply to have them recorded, but He means what He says. One says, 'Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law,' (Ps. 119,53) Paul says, 'Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.' (2.Cor. 5,11) 6BC 1100.8; RH Oct. 21, 1890



At another occasion Paul says: "*For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.*" Gal. 1:10

Those who in this time of apostasy fail to bravely stand up for the Lord's cause, for fearing the loss of their reputation or any other reason, seem not to recognise the risks of not fulfilling God's instructions to act.

„Wherever the cause exists, the same results will follow. He who deliberately stifles his convictions of duty because it interferes with his inclinations will finally lose the power to distinguish between truth and error. The understanding becomes darkened, the conscience callous, the heart hardened, **and the soul is separated from God.**“ GC 378

“None should fear to be singular of the fulfilment of duty requires it. If it makes us singular to avoid sin, then our singularity is merely the distinction between purity and impurity, righteousness and unrighteousness. **Because the multitude prefer the path of transgression, shall we choose the same? We are plainly told by Inspiration, “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil.”** (Ex. 23,2). Our position should be clearly stated, **“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”** (Jos. 24,15)” TM 63

The behaviour of Nehemiah should encourage us today to fulfil our divine duty against the apostasy in the proper fear of God.

“Even though you may not feel able to speak a word to those who are working on wrong principles, leave them. Your withdrawal and silence may do more than words. **Nehemiah refused to associate with those who were untrue to principle, and he would not permit his workmen to associate with them. The love and fear of God were his safeguard.** He lived and worked as in view of the unseen world. And David said, “I have set the Lord always before me.” **Dare to be a Daniel. Dare to stand alone.** Thus, as did Moses, you will endure the seeing of Him who is invisible. But a cowardly and silent reserve before evil associates, while you listen to their devices, **makes you one with them.** [2 Cor. 6:17, 18 quoted.]” 3BC

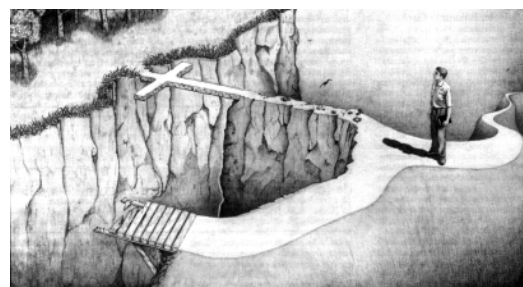
The qualities of these exemplary men of God that in the proper fear of God honoured God by their righteous actions even in difficult times are also required by those who wish to be recognised in this time of divine judgment as belonging to the Remnant:

“**Fear God, and give glory to him;** for the hour of his judgment is come...” Rev. 14,7

The narrow and the broad Way are separate Ways

As for this time of judgment there is prophesied an eminent apostasy of the professed Adventist people, we have to recall the following statement of Jesus:

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Mt. 7,13,14 (see. 2. Peter. 2,15; Jud. 11)



The narrow path is a path of the few separated from the wide path of the majority who are falling away. This is consistent with the commendable behaviour of the faithful in **Eze. 9** and also with the word of God conveyed by his servant Johannes in the **Rev. 18,4**:

“The state of corruption and apostasy that in the last days would exist in the religious world, was presented to the prophet John in the vision of Babylon, “that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.” Revelation 17:18. Before its destruction the call is to be given from heaven, “Come out of her, **My people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” Revelation 18:4. **As in the days of Noah and Lot, there must be a marked separation from sin and sinners.** There can be no compromise between God and the world, no turning back to secure earthly treasures. “Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” Matthew 6:24.” PP 167

The passages above and the following quotations give no room to the idea that in this last time of a general apostasy God would have another way for the unrepentant apostasy among the SDA!

“But the general slaughter of all those who do not thus see the wide contrast between sin and righteousness, and do not feel as those do who stand in the counsel of God and receive the mark, is described in the order to the five men with slaughter weapons: “Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: 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.**” Eze. 9,5,6.

In the case of Achan’s sin God said to Joshua: “Neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.” Jos 7,12 How does this instance compare with the course pursued by those who will not raise their voice against sin and wrong, but whose sympathies are ever found with those who trouble the camp of Israel with their sins? Said God to Joshua: “**Thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.**” He pronounced the punishment which would follow the transgression of His covenant.” 3T 267

If we as God's true children are to stand in the heavenly judgment and before our enemies, we have to remove the open sin against God from our midst today - **"to take away the accursed thing from among us"**:

*„Who, after reading the record of Achan's sin and punishment, can think it according to the will of God that those who do wickedly, refusing to repent, are to be retained in the church? **To retain them would be an insult to the God of heaven** (Letter 215, 1902).“ 5BC 1096*

The Order of Matthew 18 when the majority is in apostasy

We all know the pertinent instructions of Jesus in Matt. 18, where the proper dealing with open sin within God's church is described. Should correction of the wrong within a church or a community be no longer possible on account of the majority ratio, the collective curse of God over every single person can only be avoided when the faithful person or the faithful minority **depart from sin and the sinners**. This is not only logical, but is also clearly stated in Rev. 18:4 as a divine principal or instruction:

*“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, **that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues...**“ Rev. 18,4*

The sincere reader cannot overlook **the parallelism in the divine principals on separation presented to us in Eze. 9** as the spirit of prophecy points them out for today's apostasy within the professed Adventist Church. However, some SDA cherish the erroneous idea that one should not leave the apostate local church because the faithful children of God described in Eze. 9, still remained in Jerusalem. They regard the earthly city of Jerusalem as being symbolically equal to God's church and therefore come to wrong conclusions. Similarly, it would be just as absurd to assume that today's official church resignation would not be valid only because that particular person still has his home address in the same town. Such confused human thoughts had already to be corrected once by God through the prophet Jeremiah:

*“ **Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these!...**“ Jer. 7,4*

A similar **“trusting in lying words”** is also mentioned in 2.Thess. 2:11.12. Such people should consider that Jesus in Matt. 24:15.16 had instructed the faithful to leave Jerusalem to protect them from the coming of God's judgment.

There are Seven Day Adventists who would advocate cleansing of open sins such as prostitution or adultery in accordance with Matt. 18:15-18, but would treat spiritual prostitution and spiritual adultery of the same people considerably leniently, especially when it involves the open sins of several persons or even the majority of the church. They hold the opinion that due to the prevailing majority in apostasy the cleansing of sin in accordance with Matt. 18 is no longer possible. Therefore they think that they just have to accept the situation within their local church leaving the cleansing to God alone. **Nonetheless, these people are acting against the explicit instructions of God!** Apparently, Gods instructions for his true church how to deal with apostasy according to his will are too uncomfortable for them or they do not know the imperative principals for God's true church. The following question arises one again:

*“Or has your faith been molded and restricted until it has become unbelief? **Has your obedience to men become rebellion against God?**“ 1SM 198*

God's instructions in Matt. 18, requiring church discipline represents an unchangeable divine principle that is as old as human history itself. Think of such words as:

*„And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; **because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.**“ Gen. 13:5 (see Chapter 17:7.12; 19:19; 21:21; 22:21-24; 24:7; Jos. 7:13; Judges 20:13; 1.Cor. 5:13)*

Among mankind Adam and Eve have been the first humans who had to submit to the divine principal of separation when they were shut out of paradise.

God's true church shall be the keeper of these divine principles on earth. Hence it is written in Matt. 18:18 that: „*Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*“ (see Ch. 16:19; John 20:23).

The church acts in God's commission, it acts in the place of Jesus:

“This statement (Mt. 18,18 quoted) holds its force in all ages. On the church has been conferred the power to act in Christ's stead. It is God's instrumentality for the preservation of order and discipline among His people. To it the Lord has delegated the power to settle all questions respecting its prosperity, purity, and order. Upon it rests the responsibility of excluding from its fellowship those who are unworthy, who by their un-Christlike conduct would bring dishonor on the truth. Whatever the church does that is in accordance with the directions given in God's word will be ratified in heaven.” 7T 263

Where can we find any indication of the divine principle being abolished, when it is written that it will ***“hold its force in all ages”***?

How is this divine principle of separation from evil compatible with the view of those who think that God, after several unsuccessful attempts for the reformation of the church, would require no more of them than just stay within the apostate church? Their prayer and work for fallen souls is no substitute for divine principles. We should do the one thing and continue to do the other. Furthermore is the occasional reference to God's word and the spirit of prophecy no substitute the necessary protest against open sin and apostasy. The protest has to relentlessly continue ***until the evil is eliminated*** (see 1SM 199). In a situation of overall apostasy loyalty to God's instructions is certainly not upheld by those SDA who wish to avoid conflict and notably criticise only at an appropriate occasion. On the contrary we read in 2.Tim. 4:2-5 that: „*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season...*“ (see 1SM 196). But the hope of these people that they could cause the church to turn back or even to see the whole church turning back through their stubborn behaviour will result in a personal and corporate disaster.

“Are we awake to the work that is going on in the heavenly sanctuary, or are we waiting for some compelling power to come upon the church before we shall arouse? Are we hoping to see the whole church revived? That time will never come.” 1SM 122.1

Many do not realise that the professed Adventist people is in the last phase of the predicted apostasy, in the so-called ***Omega crisis***. All those instructions concerning the ***Alpha Crisis*** that God had given us through the spirit of prophecy (that are to be examined later in detail) were at the time directed at a central but limited part of the church community. Today they are to be applied to the large majority of the apostate church.

It is alarming to see how SDA still rebel against the required separation from sin and sinners, although they are aware of God's requirements and the clear threats given by the spirit of prophecy.

Spiritual Blindness as a Result of Remaining in a Milieu of Apostasy

Through his servant God has already described spiritual blindness resulting from being in a milieu of apostasy:

I was shown the necessity of those who believe that we are having the last message of mercy, being separate from those who are daily imbibing new errors. I saw that neither young nor old should attend their meetings; for it is wrong to thus encourage them while they teach error that is a deadly poison to the soul and teach for doctrines the commandments of men. The influence of such gatherings is not good. If God has delivered us from such darkness and error, we should stand fast in the liberty wherewith He has set us free and rejoice in the truth. God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the



people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy, to be darkened and weakened by him and the power of his evil angels; and the light around us becomes contaminated with the darkness. EW 124/5

Today you can observe amongst SDA people who do not wish to accept the *divine principle of separation from falsehood and apostasy*. They have resided for years in a milieu of apostasy; their spiritual outlook impinged by the power of darkness. Given that God has permanently instructed us to keep the community pure (see Mt. 18), we pray and hope that all those who act wrongly due to ignorance will realise through God's word that they have rebelled against him. Those who persist in calling such a corrupt, fallen away community a true community of God are referred to in Isaiah 5,20.21: *"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!"* (see. Prov. 17,15)

What is the Cause of Reacting Incorrectly Towards Wrong?

God who knows all thoughts describes the possible motives of the heart that cause incorrect behaviour during a spiritual crisis of the community:

Those who have excused these wrongs have been thought by the people to be very amiable and lovely in disposition, simply because they shunned to discharge a plain Scriptural duty. The task was not agreeable to their feelings; therefore they avoided it.

The spirit of hatred which has existed with some because the wrongs among God's people have been reprov'd has brought blindness and a fearful deception upon their own souls, making it impossible for them to discriminate between right and wrong. They have put out their own spiritual eyesight. They may witness wrongs, but they do not feel as did Joshua and humble themselves because the danger of souls is felt by them. 3T 266

At this point let us summarize the negative personal characteristics and motives regarding the cause of incorrect behaviour in a situation of apostasy. The following has been passed on to us in the writings of 3T 265/66 by the one who is aware of all thoughts: *sympathising with the culprits, the desire for love* (see Eze.. 33,31.32: *'with their mouth they show much love'*) and *recognition from the confessed people, actions based on feelings, spiritual blindness due to the fear of being hated by ones brothers and sisters, insufficient spiritual knowledge and no real humble sense of rescue when eternal life is in jeopardy.*

Remember how God has described the behaviour of his true people in contrast to the characteristics described above:

"The true people of God, who have the spirit of the work of the Lord and the salvation of souls at heart, will ever view sin in its real, sinful character. They will always be on the side of faithful and plain dealing with sins which easily beset the people of God. Especially in the closing work for the church, in the sealing time of the one hundred and forty-four thousand who are to stand without fault before the throne of God, will they feel most deeply the wrongs of God's professed people." 3T 266

These '*plain dealings*' of these true souls towards sin and sinners is reflected in *the separation from sin and sinners* which is God's instruction. *They are the people who aspire to the sealing of the 144000*, the ones which are said in the Revelation 14,4 *not to have defiled themselves with women* (see 7BC 978/979, 1117/1118, 1161/1162).

Every bible expert knows that in this case "women" means the apostate churches and communities from which the faithful souls have separated themselves not only spiritually but physically i.e. they are no longer connected with them organizationally on a community level.

The faithful souls realize what God's will is concerning the community and know as children of God and as a community how to deal with the beast, the image of the beast and its mark. They recognise that the Adventist fusion with the ACK is an alliance with Babylon the Great. They know that this with public majority passed alliance was conducted in spite of all divine warnings and that it is spiritually and regarding content against the threefold message.

The true people of God follow the call of the pilot angel: *„Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues..."*

As long as there is still time God can give knowledge through his spirit and his word to all honest searching people. Given a true desire to belong to the 144000 he will give them ample strength to achieve that goal; we are urged to do so: „*Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand!*“ 7BC 970

However, remember that the time given us will be shorter for SDA leaders than for others (see LDE 183).

The many fruitless discussions with numerous named Adventists create an impression similar to the one already indicated by E.G.White in TM 89/90:

“I know not but some have even now gone too far to return and to repent... The Spirit of God is departing from many among His people. Many have entered into dark, secret paths, and some will never return. They will continue to stumble to their ruin. They have tempted God, they have rejected light. All the evidence that will ever be given them they have received, and have not heeded. They have chosen darkness rather than light, and have defiled their souls.”

Everyone is therefore required to truly study this important question of how the divine will is to influence our actions so that we in these last days that are characterised by apostasy within our people **do not leave the narrow**



path; the narrow path which God conveyed to us a long time ago through his prophet, E.G.White. We have to take the time to thoroughly **analyse all predictions of the last days and accept with spiritual conviction the lessons to be learned from past examples concerning the last days given to us by God.** Like Jesus we have to be able to withstand all attacks of our enemy by saying “*so says the LORD*”. Satan will try with all his cunning to catch us out and will not even stop short of posing as an angel of light (see 2. Cor. 11,13-15). Disguised as a false Shepard or as false brothers and sisters (see Röm. 16,17.18) he will try to distort the statements of the bible and the quotations of E.G.White to lead us from the straight and narrow path of eternal life.

When interpreting the bible and the writings of the spirit of prophecy we should always keep the following central statement of the bible in mind: „*To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*“ Isa. 8,20

Just like bible statements, all statements of a prophet and other inspired writings have to be tested, i.e. the interpretation of a quotation should never contradict other statements of the bible or other statements of the same prophet. Anybody who interprets the bible or the spirit of prophecy in a way that opposes other statements of inspiration is not inspired by the spirit of truth, which according to Joh. 16,13 „...*guide you into all truth*“.

Because Satan especially wishes to infiltrate the Remnant with his spirit we should, particularly today, adopt the bible text from 1. Joh. 4,6 as a motto to “sign post our spiritual threshold”: „*We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.*“

A contradictory interpretation or statement therefore represents the spirit of error and an inspired interpretation that is conform represents the spirit of truth.

Given the many announced false teachings and seductions, we have to be very careful and especially abide by the bible’s words in 1. Thess. 5,21: „*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*“

When considering the question of whether or not one is obliged to separate from a apostate church it is advisable to collect all relevant statements from the bible and the spirit of prophecy.

Several important aspects concerning the future of the SDA were kept back or not particularly emphasised by E.G.White during her time. Today the time has come for which these hidden predictions were made and for which they need the proper attention:

„Regarding the testimonies, nothing is ignored; nothing is cast aside; **but time and place must be considered.** Nothing must be done untimely. **Some matters must be withheld because some persons would make an improper use of the light given** (see Joh 16,12). **Every jot and tittle is essential and must appear at an opportune time.**“ 1SM 57

The Consequences of a Tolerated Rebellion

In this context we must keep in mind that there is a great difference between **apostasy within the church** and the **apostasy of the church itself**.

Apostasy **in** the church does not make a apostate church, when it treats the occurring apostasy within its ranks according to the example set for them in the bible i.e. when it removes the fallen away person or persons in the event of refusal to turn back and repent in accordance with Mt. 18

If the community does not meet its responsibility in this respect, then it may be regarded as a fallen away community; it will be collectively guilty in Gods eyes (3T 267-69 – the church as a whole). **Such a apostate church is seen by the spirit of prophecy as follows:**



„The world must not be introduced into the church, and married to the church, forming a bond of unity. **Through this means the church will become indeed corrupt, and as stated in Revelation, 'a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.'**“ TM 265.1 (see TSB 188)

In this case the degenerated church is characterized as being part of Babylon the Great.

„**These kindred heresies, and the rejection of the truth, convert the church into Babylon.** Kings, merchants, rulers, and religious teachers are all in corrupt harmony.“ 2SM 68

Every faithful follower of Christ is subject to the guard function (9T 19: **Called to be a witness!**) especially if his or her community is dominated by apostasy. If owing to a majority ratio and in spite of the explicit guard function (**Eze. 33**), a collective guilt as regarded by God cannot be cleansed, the faithful are

required (**Eze. 9** and **Rev. 18,4**) to leave the organisation or the church.

The preacher should have a special roll on the walls of Zions as guard against the dangers that threaten his community:

„These watchmen represent the ministry, upon whose fidelity depends the salvation of souls. The stewards of the mysteries of God should stand as watchmen upon the walls of Zion; and if they see the sword coming, they should sound the note of warning. **If they are sleepy sentinels, and their spiritual senses are so benumbed that they see and realize no danger, and the people perish, God will require their blood at the watchmen's hands.**“ 4T 402/3

Today this inspired vision of “**sleepy sentinels with their benumbed spiritual senses**” has to an alarming extent become reality.

The appointed guards have become, due to their consumption of ecumenical wine, drunken traitors and are seducers of our people. As has been shown in the allegory of the gospel ship they have themselves become leaders in a rebellion against the divine pilots:



“Those who have been regarded as worthy and righteous prove to be ring-leaders in apostasy and examples in indifference and in the abuse of God’s mercies. Their wicked course He will tolerate no longer, and in His wrath He deals with them without mercy.



It is with reluctance that the Lord withdraws His presence from those who have been blessed with great light and who have felt the power of the word in ministering to others. **They were once His faithful servants, favoured with His presence and guidance; but they departed from Him and led others into error, and therefore are brought under the divine displeasure...** By their lack of devotion and piety, and their failure to reach a high religious standard, they make other souls contented with their position. Men of finite judgment cannot see that in patterning after these men who have so often opened to them the treasures of God’s word, they will surely endanger their souls. **Jesus is the only true pattern. Everyone must now search the Bible for himself upon his knees before God, with the humble, teachable heart of a child, if he would know what the Lord requires of him.** However high any minister may have stood in the favor of God, if he neglects to follow out the light given him of God, if he refuses to be taught as a little child, he will go into darkness and satanic delusions and will lead others in the same path. 5T 212/214

Remember at this point the bible’s words laid down in Isa.

9,16.17:

“**For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed. Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one is an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.**” (see. Jer. 17,5: “**Cursed be the man that trusteth in man**”)

God will not have mercy with the elderly brothers and sisters and pensioned preachers who have failed in this time of desperation as it is described to us in Eze. 9:

Here we see that the church—the Lord’s sanctuary—was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God. **The ancient men, those to whom God had given great light and who had stood as guardians of the spiritual interests of the people, had betrayed their trust. They had taken the position that we need not look for miracles and the marked manifestation of God’s power as in former days. Times have changed.** These words strengthen their unbelief, and they say: The Lord will not do good, neither will He do evil. He is too merciful to visit His people in judgment. **Thus “Peace and safety” is the cry from men who will never again lift up their voice like a trumpet to show God’s people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins. These dumb dogs that would not bark are the ones who feel the just vengeance of an offended God. Men, maidens, and little children all perish together.** 5T 211

Where is the ‘**marked manifestations of God’s Power**’, the Elias within the confessed people that in this time of general apostasy calls upon us to separate God from Baal or God from Babylon? The voice of Elias is represented today by those who proclaim without compromise the message of the 3rd angel to the falling world and demand an explicit separation from sin and sinners. It is the voice of the divine pilot. The Holy Ghost will be with the horde and they will strive with God’s force to become holy i.e. they will rally to separate themselves for the Lord to promote their faith.

Many reformers, in entering upon their work, determined to exercise great prudence in attacking the sins of the church and the nation. They hoped, by the example of a pure Christian life, to lead the people back to the doctrines of the Bible. But the Spirit of God came upon them as it came upon Elijah, moving him to rebuke the sins of a wicked king and an apostate people; they could not refrain from preaching the plain utterances of the Bible— doctrines which they had been reluctant to present. They were impelled to zealously declare the truth and the danger which threatened souls. The words which the Lord gave them they uttered, fearless of consequences, and the people were compelled to hear the warning. Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. GC 606

The Carrier of the Pilot's Message

The proclaimers of the threefold message are encouragingly described as simple people that are to be personally taught and helped by Jesus through the Holy Ghost. The task will be completed by simple methods:

*“As the time comes for it [the third angels message] to be given with greatest power, **the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions.** Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them.” GC 606 (continuation of the earlier quotation)*

*There will soon be an awakening that will surprise many. **Those who do not realize the necessity of what is to be done, will be passed by, and the heavenly messengers will work with those who are called the common people, fitting them to carry the truth to many places.** Now is the time for us to awake and do what we can. LLM 83*



The emphasis of this last warning message lies especially on the 3rd angel and on the angel in the revelation 18. This message indicates, especially in this time of the increasingly developing ecumenical image of the beast, an enhanced confrontation of the true proclaimer with the satanic forces disguised in a Christian clock.

*“Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much **out of the common order of things, and in***



*a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. [talking about the angel of Rev. 18, see EW 277/8 **God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness.”** TM 300*



This specific final missionary work **“to carry the truth through the common people to many places”**, i.e. outside of the previous SDA organisation, is taking place today and the Lord is calling upon all those who wish to be true to him to take part in this **“Work”** using the qualities and resources bestowed to them by him. God is apparently no longer able to conduct this drastic **“Work”** with the modern preachers from our scientific and ecumenical orientated educational institutions.

Each person within this final **“Work”** who wishes to be one of God’s faithful can and must have an active roll, because especially within this highest and greatest **“Work”** God will test, hallow, bless and carry his children in his honour. No one will be able to excuse themselves, on account of their abilities being overtaxed, because God has promised to complete this last and greatest missionary **“Work”** above all through simple human qualities and methods. No one will be able to praise him or herself as it will not be achieved by a great human army or force but solely by the spirit of God (see Sach. 4,6).



The simplest way of **“bringing the truth to many places with the help of the common people”** is the distribution of printed text describing the threefold message as it has been predicted by God’s spirit:

„*The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience.*“ GC 612

Just as the sowing farmer has to be patient until the seed sprouts we have to wait obedient to our beliefs for the coming of the promised fruit and distribute these missionary pamphlets in the world. The natural scepticism against the message will gradually subside due to the clear and gradual fulfilling of the predictions:

„*Heretofore those who presented the truths of the third angel's message have often been regarded as mere alarmists. **Their predictions that religious intolerance would gain control in the United States, that church and state would unite to persecute those who keep the commandments of God, have been pronounced groundless and absurd.** It has been confidently declared that this land could never become other than what it has been—the defender of religious freedom. **But as the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated, the event so long doubted and disbelieved is seen to be approaching, and the third message will produce an effect which it could not have had before.***“ GC 605/6



„*Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and **the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side.***“ GC 612

Do we not experience how the papacy especially today publicly with 'Dies Domini' calls for his followers to strictly observe the Sunday that he calls the Sabbath?

Do you wish to join the reformers in this time of the worldwide mobilisation of Satan; would you belong to the horde of reformers who will oppose worldwide the lies of Satan with the truth of the threefold message? Then join bravely the side of the Lord. God calls upon each righteous person to be an express messenger in his surroundings. These messengers are described to us in PK 177/8:

“*Through the long centuries that have passed since Elijah's time, the record of his lifework has brought inspiration and courage to those who have been called to stand for the right in the midst of apostasy. And for us [that means you and me, the editor], **upon whom the ends of the world are come**” (1 Corinthians 10:11), **it has special significance. History is being repeated.** The world today has its Ahabs and its Jezebels. **The present age is one of idolatry, as verily as was that in which Elijah lived.** No outward shrine may be visible; there may be no image for the eye to rest upon; yet thousands are following after the gods of this world—after riches, fame, pleasure, and the pleasing fables that permit man to follow the inclinations of the unregenerate heart. **Multitude have a wrong conception of God and His attributes, and are as truly serving a false god as were the worshipers of Baal.** Many even of those who claim to be Christians have allied themselves with influences that are unalterably opposed to God and His truth. Thus they are led to turn away from the divine and to exalt the human.*” PK 177/8



Today this description fits most of the Seventh Day Adventists in Germany and in other parts of the world. Regard the words in GC 583: „**idols of false doctrines and theories**“ or the words in 2BC 1011/12: „**Modern Forms of Idolatry**“ or 5T240: talking of the Adventist Church as „**fallen away from that which she had attained in her earlier experience**“ or EW226-228: „**The Church and the World United**“ or 1SM 125-128: when she talks of „**the church need to repent of her backsliding ...and a revival and reformation needing to taking place.**“

Concerning this subject everybody should read the whole 14th capital of **Prophets and Kings** 'In the Spirit and Power of Elias'.

Lesson to be lerned from Past Spiritual Catastrophes

Based on the inspired writings we know that the SDA will repeat the negative history of the Israeli people **in the last days**, similar to how it happened when Jesus arrived:

*“My heart trembles in me when I think of what a foe we have to meet, and how poorly we are prepared to meet him. **The trials of the children of Israel, and their attitude just before the first coming of Christ, have been presented before me again and again to illustrate the position of the people of God in their experience before the second coming of Christ**—how the enemy sought every occasion to take control of the minds of the Jews, and **today** he is seeking to blind the minds of God’s servants, that they may not be able to discern the precious truth.”* 1SM406

*“The alliances made by the Israelites with their heathen neighbors resulted in **the loss of their identity as God’s peculiar people...***

*The experience of Israel will be the experience of all who go to the world for strength, turning away from the living God. Those who forsake the mighty One, the source of all strength, and affiliate with worldlings [or ecumenical organisations, the editor], placing on them their dependence, become weak in moral power, as are those in whom they trust. God comes with entreaties and assurances to those who are making mistakes. He seeks to show them their error, and lead them to repentance. But if they refuse to humble their hearts before Him, if they strive to exalt themselves above Him, He must speak to them in judgment. **No semblance of nearness to God, no assertion of connection with Him, will be accepted from those who persist in dishonoring Him by leaning upon the arm of worldly power.**”* 4BC 1155-1156; R&H, August 4, 1904

*Satan’s snares are laid for us as verily as they were laid for the children of Israel just prior to their entrance into the land of Canaan. **We are repeating the history of that people.*** 5T 160

The Jews had waited a long time for the saviour to come. When he finally stood before them, they thought his message was too abstract, too far away. Especially the spiritual leaders wanted no critic of their spiritual condition, they wanted recognition of them being the promise people, they did not recognise their own sinful and hopeless condition and thought by conducting physical superficial ceremonies they would fulfil God’s will. They did not want to understand the thoughts of Jesus, instead of true liberation from their sins they wished to be liberated from Roman oppression and receive worldly recognition for being a leading word nation. To be recognised by the world was more important to them than recognition from God. The result of their repentless hearts was the rejection the saviour and the subsequent decision to crucify him.

The Crucifixion of the 3 Angel Messages and the Crucifixion of Jesus

Similar to the crucifixion of Jesus God regards the treatment of the threefold message as a crucifixion:



*“I saw that as the Jews crucified Jesus, **so the nominal churches had crucified these messages**, and therefore they have no knowledge of the way into the most holy, and they cannot be benefited by the intercession of Jesus there. Like the Jews, who offered their useless sacrifices, they offer up their useless prayers to the apartment which Jesus has left.”* EW 261



This history has also repeated itself and is being fulfilled today increasingly amongst the confessed SDA. In a spiritual sense the

organisational alliance of the SDA with the ecumenical, babylonian Work Group of the Christian Church [Arbeitskreis Christlicher Kirchen (ACK)] is a rejection of the historical Adventist content of the threefold message, **a crucifixion of these three messages**, an analogue to the crucifixion of Christ. The new views of the spiritual leaders (or more likely the seducers) are partly conveyed openly without them having any repercussions to their office or to their membership; the opposite is the case (see german brochure titled ‘Secret Documents’ or the Video “The Narrow Path”).

The words of E.G. White are becoming all the more clear:

Unsanctified ministers are arraying themselves against God. They are praising Christ and the god of this world in the same breath... Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the torch of Satan. If doubts and unbelief are cherished, the faithful ministers will be removed from the people who think they know so much. 'If thou hadst known,' said Christ, 'even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.' "TM 409/10



Why should the faithful preachers **distance themselves from the confessed SDA people?** Although the answer is apparent we will substantiate God's view with other quotations:

"As the light and life of men was rejected by the ecclesiastical authorities in the days of Christ, so it has been rejected in every succeeding generation. Again and again the history of Christ's withdrawal from Judea has been repeated. When the Reformers preached the word of God, they had no thought of separating themselves from the established church; but the religious leaders would not tolerate the light, and those that bore it were forced to seek another class, who were longing for the truth. In our day few of the professed followers of the Reformers are actuated by their spirit. Few are listening for the voice of God, and ready to accept truth in whatever guise it may be presented. Often those who follow in the steps of the Reformers are forced to turn away from the churches they love, in order to declare the plain teaching of the word of God. And many times those who are seeking for light are by the same teaching obliged to leave the church of their fathers, that they may render obedience." DA 232



Today each person has to answer the following question him or herself: "do I wish to belong to the reformers amongst the SDA"? Do I support the proclamation of the threefold message in these last days of a falling world so wholeheartedly that I am even prepared to depart from my community that is falling away and intends to prevent me from spreading the message? If in a time of communal apostasy I do not recognise the need for segregation and God's word/spirit does not encourage me to take such a step, then I do not belong to the reformers and the righteous, but to the wrongdoers to which I associated myself. The apostle Paulus says quite clearly in 1. Cor. 11,19: "***For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.***"

In 2. Tim. 3,1.4.5 he says about our time: „*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.. Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;*

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (see also Eph. 5,6-18)

This describes a world loving, formal Christianity that thinks it is saved by God's mercy but does not believe that God's force is able to give the 144000 of this sinful world victory over every sin. Does the majority of your community believe this marvellous divine promise? (see Eph. 6,10; Phil. 2,12-15; 2. Petr. 3,11-14; Matth. 5,48; Offb. 14,4; compare 1T,p. 144/ 340; 7BC974/ 977-78; 6BC 1117/18)

Additionally, in Rom. 16,17.18 and in other parts of the bible we continually find the same statement:

*„Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; **and avoid them.**! (see also 1. Cor. 5,11; 2. Thess. 3,6.14; 2. Tim. 3,1.4.5; Tit. 3,10; 2. Joh. 10) For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.*"

Do know the deviation from the doctrine of the Apostle publicly taught today by the preachers? How does the majority of your community think about the **heavenly shrine** (see Hebr. 8 and 9 in connection with Dan. 8,14; GC 409-433) , what do the preachers teach about the **nature of Jesus** (Rom. 8,3; DA 48/49, 112, 117; 664) , how do they define **Babylon, the beast, his mark and the image of the beast** and how do they regard **ecumenical Christianity** in that context (GC 433-450) , how do they view our task of preaching to the world about the most terrible warning message of all time?(GC 450; 453-456)

Many SDA do not seem to think that these questions are especially important, because they do not realise that our eternal lives depend on them. If all this is not so important to obtain eternal life, then why are we instructed by God's word to leave such people who spread other doctrines than those of the apostles? – **These people are according to Gal. 1,8.9 damned by God!**

Satan as the Actual Leader of the Rebellion against the Pilots

In a situation of majority apostasy where penitential sermons remain fruitless the division of the community becomes an unavoidable necessity (see 1. Cor. 11,19). It is a clever Satan's lie that we should be or need to remain together with apostate churches and organisations to create people suited to be called upon for the succession of Jesus. Such false views are spread amongst the people by the enemy of truth; they are not supported by the word of truth but are condemned as being a **deadly mistake** by the above quotations and by the following quotations from the bible and E.G.W. Most people do not realise that they have become the **mouthpiece of Satan** by spreading such views:



“‘They that forsake the law praise the wicked.’ Proverbs 28:4. When those who are uniting with the world, yet claiming great purity, plead for union with those who have ever been the opposers of the cause of truth (think about the connections with the ecumenical organisations and their supporters), we should fear and shun them as decidedly as did Nehemiah. Such counsel is prompted by the enemy of all good. It is the speech of timeservers, and should be resisted as resolutely today as then. Whatever influence would tend to unsettle the faith of God's people in His guiding power, should be steadfastly withstood.” PK 660

“It is Satan's work to mingle evil with good, and to remove the distinction between good and evil. Christ would have a church that labors to separate the evil from the good, whose members will not willingly tolerate wrong-doing, but will expel it from the heart and life.” 7BC 958, RH, 4. Dez. 1900

“Under the direction of Satan, confederacies are being formed, and will be formed to eclipse the truth by human influence. Those who join these [forbidden, the editor] confederacies can never hear the welcome, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant; . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” The instrumentalities established by God are to press forward, making no compromise with the power of darkness. “ Fund. of Christ. Education 473

“Let us not form unholy bonds of union with the friends of the world; for God has pronounced His curse upon all such unions. Let the people of God take their stand firmly for truth and for righteousness. Already we see the terrible consequences of uniting believers with unbelievers. The result is, the unbelievers are given the confidence that belongs to those only who love and revere God.” TM 277

The ACK is a satanic ecumenical alliance, about which God through Johannes and his prophet E.G.White has clearly and beyond doubt warned his people!

“Let the watchmen on the walls of Zion not join with those who are making of none effect the truth as it is in Christ. Let them not join the confederacy of infidelity, popery, and Protestantism in exalting tradition above Scripture, reason above revelation, and human talent above the divine influence and the vital power of godliness” 4BC 1141 (RH, 24. März 1896).

The example of Nehemia has been passed on to us by God's spirit in this decisive hour of temptation and apostasy:
„Even though you may not feel able to speak a word to those who are working on wrong principles, leave them. Your withdrawal and silence may do more than words. Nehemiah refused to associate with those who were untrue to principle,

and he would not permit his workmen to associate with them. The love and fear of God were his safeguard. He lived and worked as in view of the unseen world." 3BC 1155

We therefore see that segregation from apostasy is a divine principal that in God's true community can be never annulled, for what ever reasons!

God's True Community In Spite of Inconspicuous Size

Even if after the division there are only a few faithful remaining members within the local community, they are still regarded by God as in early Christian times when the minorities collected segregated from apostasy as his true community.

*"Christ has said: **'Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.'**" Matthew 18:20. **Wherever there are as many as two or three believers, let them meet together on the Sabbath to claim the Lord's promise.** 6T 360*

***"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 (see also Gen. 28,16.17)*

*"The **little companies** assembled to worship God on His holy day have a right to claim the rich blessing of Jehovah. They should believe that the Lord **Jesus is an honored guest in their assemblies.** Every true worshiper who keeps holy the Sabbath should claim the promise: 'That ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.'" Exodus 31:13. 6T 360*



The above quotation shows that it is not the size but the presents of God that defines the true community. **Jesus also wants to be present in your small home community** as it once was in the early Christian home communities about which the bible has often reported (see also Rom. 16,3-5; Col. 4,15; Phlm. 2; 1. Kor. 16,19)

A minority situation should never discourage us but should be regarded as a test in which the faithful fighters have to prove themselves. They will experience what it means when it is written in Zech. 4,6: „*Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*”

Spiritual Growth and Latter Rain Only in Gods True Community

Those faithful to God will only experience the pouring of the latter rain when they and the larger part of the community have dedicated themselves to the active service of Christ.

***"The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be laborers together with God. When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God."** ChS 253; Review and Herald, July 21, 1896*

It is understandable that this can never happen in a community dominated by ecumenical apostasy. Eph. 4,4-14 also describes the conditions for spiritual growth:

*"4 There is **one body, and one Spirit**, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*

*5 **One Lord, one faith, one baptism,***

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all...

*13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:***

*14 **That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive."***

We have to look for these communities **that perhaps only comprise of two or three members**, where there is unity in belief, steadfastness against false beliefs and human swindling. Only there will we experience spiritual growth and the latter rain!

“Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain.” Do not rest satisfied that in the ordinary course of the season, rain will fall. Ask for it. The growth and perfection of the seed rests not with the husbandman. God alone can ripen the harvest. **But man’s co-operation is required. God’s work for us demands the action of our mind, the exercise of our faith. We must seek His favors** with the whole heart if the showers of grace are to come to us. We should **improve every opportunity of placing ourselves in the channel of blessing.** Christ has said, ‘Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst.’ **The convocations of the church, as in camp meetings, the assemblies of the home church, and all occasions where there is personal labor for souls, are God’s appointed opportunities for giving the early and the latter rain.**”
TM 508



We should always keep in mind especially in these last days of apostasy that only a few will find the way of the Lord: “Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Mt. 7,14

However, the individual requires particularly during the last days a community, in which Christ and his spirit can be present, and in which he or she can prepare during this sad time for the encounter with Jesus.

Heb. 10,23-25 describes the importance of the true community as an edifying place of encounter especially during the last days: „Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” (see Rom. 15,14: “... able also to admonish one another.”)

Understandably, only God’s true community can complete this blessed task.

A Community without Christ and his Spirit

The magnificent promise of the presents of Christ and his spirit in his true community is of little value to many of the confessed SDA, who are of the opinion that they can manage with the community in a state of Laodicea i.e. in a state apostasy. They do not realise that they will never experience the promised presents of Christ and the pouring of his spirit in such a community.

“The church is in the Laodicean state. The presence of God is not in her midst”. 1NL 99; MS. 156, 1898

“If the church of God becomes lukewarm [speaking of the SDA-Church as Laodicea, the editor], 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 [description of Babylon in Rev. 18,2 the editor].” 19MR 176

Can we as believers tolerate such a condition? That would mean the loss of our eternal life. Let us whole heartedly examine the example of Laodicea and let our eyes be opened by God’s spirit (eye ointment), do not let us thoughtlessly discard the belief in justice (fine linen, clean and white) existing in God’s true community. (see Rev. 19,8).

“Never entertain the thought that you can be Christians and yet withdraw within yourselves. Each one is a part of the great web of humanity, and the nature and quality of your experience will be largely determined by the experiences of those with whom you associate. Jesus says: “Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst.” Matthew 18:20. Then let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhort one another; and so much the more, as we see the day approaching. Heb.10,25”
7T 190



The spirit of prophecy shows us quite clearly the relationship between our spiritual experience and our social surroundings i.e. affiliation in the community. What experience will you make, when you associate yourself with a group of people where Christ and his spirit is not present?

“It is impossible for you to unite with those who are corrupt, and still remain pure.” FLB 221

Strength of the Community is not Based on Numbers or Unholy Alliance

The history of the people of God shows that God can be more effective in many small groups of steadfast believers standing under his guidance, than in a large army.

Think of the many early Christian home communities and God’s lesson concerning the small horde around Gideon who with three small units attacked a superior army (Richter 7).

“In perfect and complete unity there is strength. Not in numbers, but in the perfect trust and unity with Christ, one can chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight. Let us not form unholy bonds of union with the friends of the world; for God has pronounced His curse upon all such unions.” TM 276 (see also. James 4,4: “... the friendship of the world is enmity with God...”)



Similar to Gideon the last battle will be fought in small groups sealed by the 3rd Angel Message as we have already read in EW 88:

*“I asked the angel if there were none left. He bade me look in an opposite direction, and I saw **a little company** traveling a narrow pathway. All seemed to be firmly united, **bound together by the truth**, in bundles, or companies. Said the angel, “The third angel is binding, or sealing, them in bundles for the heavenly garner.” This little company looked careworn, as if they had **passed through severe trials and conflicts**.” EW 88/89*

Today there are SDA in almost all countries, which will enable the message to radiate from their international centres. There are already many small faithful groups and with God’s help it will be possible to enlighten the whole world, even if the former organisation that had led to the worldwide spreading should fall away. We personally work together nationally and internationally with faithful and active brothers and sisters from the different Adventist organisations through which millions of pamphlets with the threefold message can be distributed in the particular countries. Should God’s spirit urge even more brothers and sisters to this work, then within a short time the whole world can be enlightened to an extent that has not taken place for over a hundred years. Even today the reactions to these serious warnings are quite impressive; they show us what God’s spirit through this clear message can achieve within the hearts of the people. This is what the force of God can do as it happened with Gideon and not through an army or a human organisation. The Lord has promised: „*Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*“ Zech. 4,6

Let us look at the influence the Holy Ghost has had on the creation of the Adventist movement, where the world round people driven by the Holy Ghost have studied the prophetic statements of the bible and independently from each other arrived at the same conclusions. These insights of truth were proclaimed with divine help to their surroundings. What a magnificent worldwide movement was thereby brought to life.

The spirit of prophecy indicates that the proclamation of the real return of Christ in connection with the 3rd Angel Message will have no less impact than during the early stages of the Adventist movement:

The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are “the times of refreshing” to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said: “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus.” Acts 3:19, 20. Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to

proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.

The message will be carried not so much by argument as **by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God**. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. **The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence**, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience. Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side.



“At that time shall Michael stand up, the great Prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, everyone that shall be found written in the book.” Daniel 12:1.

When the third angel's message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. **The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received “the latter rain,” “the refreshing from the presence of the Lord,” and they are prepared for the trying hour before them.** Angels are hastening to and fro in heaven. An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and **all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received “the seal of the living God.”** Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. He lifts His hands and with a loud voice says, “It is done;” and all the angelic host lay off their crowns as He makes the solemn announcement: “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.” Revelation 22:11. Every case has been decided for life or death. Christ has made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. **The number of His subjects is made up;** “the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven,” is about to be given to the heirs of salvation, and Jesus is to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent. God's long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law. The wicked have passed the boundary of their probation; the Spirit of God, persistently resisted, has been at last withdrawn. Unsheltered by divine grace, they have no protection from the wicked one. Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old. GC 612-614

God's community needs an organisation; an organisation in accordance with God's order, in which Jesus, the rock is the head and in which all brothers and sisters are the limbs of his body (see 1. Cor. 12,4-31; Eph. 4,1-16).

At this point and in this context we should again recap on the special characteristics of God's true community during the last days:

These truths, as presented in Revelation 14 in connection with “the everlasting gospel,” will distinguish the church of Christ at the time of His appearing. For as the result of the threefold message it is announced: “Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” And this message is the last to be given before the coming of the Lord. GC 453/54

The sign described here is not an external sign or badge, such as many confessed Adventists have adopted as the modern emblem of the SDA community depicting a diminished symbolic image of the 3 angels and which surely reflects the changed basic spiritual attitude towards the message, but a public and unvarnished proclamation of the threefold message that ultimately reveals the spiritual fruits for all to see.



A Lethal Deviation from the Instructions of the Leading Pilot

“All who venture to have their own way, who do not join the angels who are sent from heaven with a message to fill the whole earth with its glory, will be passed by. The work will go forward to victory without them, and they will have no part in its triumph.” RH 23.12.1890 (see also page 9-10 of this book and DA 107/8)

You often hear confessed Adventists saying “we first have to preach the love of Jesus to the people before we teach them this hard message of the 3 angels and especially the 3rd angel message”. You keep hearing that or something to that effect. What does God’s spirit say on the matter?:

“No one can be excusable who says, “I will no longer have anything to do with these special messages; I will preach Christ.” No one can preach Christ, and present the truth as it is in Jesus, unless he presents the truths that are to come before the people at the present time, when such important developments are taking place.” VSS 325/326

„Our message is a life-and-death message, and we must let this message appear as it is—the great power of God. Then the Lord will make it effectual. We are to present it in all its telling force.” VSS 329

“God means that testing truth shall be brought to the front and become a subject of examination and discussion, even if it is through the contempt placed upon it. The minds of the people must be agitated. Every controversy, every reproach, every slander, will be God’s means of provoking inquiry and awakening minds that otherwise would slumber.” 5T 453

The Special Meaning of the 3rd Angel Message

„Says the True Witness: “I know thy works.” The third angel is leading up a people, step by step, higher and higher. At every step they will be tested.” 1T 190

„The third angel’s message, the great testing truth for this me, is to be taught in all our institutions. God designs that ough them this special warning shall be given, and bright ams of light shall shine to the world.” 6T 128

„The third message was to do its work; all were to be tested on it, and the precious ones were to be called out from the igious bodies.” EW 278

„Separate the Sabbath from the messages, and it loses its wer; but when connected with the message of the third angel, power attends it which convicts unbelievers and infidels, and ngs them out with strength to stand, to live, grow, and urish in the Lord.” 1T 337

„Satan has devised a state of things whereby the oclamation of the third angel’s message shall be bound about. We must beware of his plans and methods. There must be no toning down of the truth, no muffling of the message for this time. The third angel’s message must be strengthened and confirmed. The eighteenth chapter of Revelation reveals the importance of presenting the truth in no measured terms but with boldness and power.... There has been too much beating about the bush in the proclamation of the third angel’s message. The message has not been given as clearly and distinctly as it should have been.” Ev 230 (Manuscript 16, 1900)

„I asked the angel if there were none left. He bade me look in an opposite direction, and I saw a little company travelling a narrow pathway. All seemed to be firmly united, bound together by the truth, in bundles, or companies. Said the angel, “The third angel is binding, or sealing, them in bundles for the heavenly garner.” This little company looked careworn, as if they had passed through severe trials and conflicts. And it appeared as if the sun had just risen from behind a cloud and shone upon their countenances, causing them to look triumphant, as if their victories were nearly won“ EW 88/89

“I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, ‘Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention.’ ” EW 118

The 3rd angel calls since 1844



The threefold message divides the True Community from the World and the Churches:

„God has called His church in this day, as He called ancient Israel, to stand as a light in the earth. By the mighty cleaver of truth, the messages of the first, second, and third angels, He has separated them from the churches and from the world to bring them into a sacred nearness to Himself.“ 5T 455

Are we not experiencing the division described by the 3rd angel also within the confessed Adventist movement?

As the bible including E.G.White refer to small group meetings in the name of Jesus as the community of God, we are not in the last days to initiate any new standards for God's true community. Small group meetings that are characterised by the mentioned qualities are blessed by the presents of Jesus, the Holy Ghost and holy angels.

Jesus' Decisive Statement: „Gathered in My Name..." (Matthew 18:20)

The enemy of truth applies cunning lies, as he once did at the confrontation with Jesus and still does today to mislead the faithful. These may be out of context and twisted quotations in respect to the true end of time community and may refer for example to its inconspicuous size. Nevertheless, those who thoroughly examine everything in accordance with God's instructions (Eph. 5,6-11; Phil. 1,9-11; 1. Thess. 5,19-21; 1. Joh. 4,1; Rev. 2,2-3) cannot be deceived by him regarding the definition of the true community given by God. The following quotation is often unrighteously used against small unpopular SDA groups chosen today by God to carry his message:

„God has a church upon the earth who are His chosen people, who keep His commandments. He is leading, not stray offshoots, not one here and one there, but a people. The truth is a sanctifying power... We are not to seek any strange, new message.“ TM 61

This quotation was used by E.G.W. in an entirely different context to that which it is used today by the opponents of truth to slander unpopular but faithful small groups. These words were once directed at individuals, who opposed the truth conveyed by God to his community by spreading false beliefs. At the same time they considered themselves to be enlightened by God. In this context E.G.White wrote that God would not convey the truth to a people and give the opposite truth to scattered individuals (see 5T 291/2); she also defines the true community existing at the time as carrier of the truth with the words: **„...His chosen people, who keep His commandments“.**

Today's application of these or similar quotations to a apostate church or an Adventist people not abiding by God's instructions reminds one of the use of bible quotations by Satan himself when he tempted Jesus or of the lies of the former corrupt priests mentioned in Jer. 7,4: **„The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these.“** or of the presumptuous words of the Pharisee in Matth. 3,9 : **„We have Abraham to our father.“** (see Joh. 8,39; Rom. 2,28.29)

Just as once the names 'God's people', 'the chosen people', 'Abraham's children' or similar advantageous names were misused for unfounded spiritual motives, the name of Christ and subsequently also the name "SDA" or "People of the Remnant" have been and still are misused for unjust purposes.

When we read the words of **Matth. 7, 13-27** today it becomes clear that many confessed Christians misused the name of Jesus and apparently in a deceptive manner **used his name** to do miracles. In reality it had nothing to do with Christ. Jesus calls them **false prophets, killing wolves** and **wrongdoers**. He and his apostles warn at several places in the bible about such phenomenon **amongst the confessed people of God**.

In Vers 21 Jesus gives us some indication of the difference between true Christian people and **true congregations in his name: the doing of the divine will**; that is according to Vers 16-20 the only sure sign of a good or a bad tree, of the true people or only the confessed people, the true community or only the confessed Christian community.

In this context E.G.White writes in 'The Desire of Ages':

"'And now also,' said the prophet, 'the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.' Not by its name, but by its fruit, is the value of a tree determined. If the fruit is worthless, the name cannot save the tree from destruction. John declared to the Jews that their standing before God was to be decided by their character and life. Profession was worthless. If their life and character were not in harmony with God's law, they were not His people." DA 107

This divine criterion of difference between the confessed people of God and the true people of God, the confessed Israel and the true Israel can be followed right through the Old and the New Testament. God himself defines in this passage his true people: **"Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people."** Jer. 7,23 (see Jer. 11,4; Jer. 7,1-34)

*"Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are **not my people**, and I will not be your God."* Hos. 1,9

*"Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. **For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel.**"* Rom. 9,6 (see Joh. 8,23-47)

*"For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward **in the flesh**: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, **in the spirit, and not in the letter**; whose praise is not of men, but of God."* Rom. 2,28.29 (see Jer. 4,4)

If we reflect a while on these different passages, we will realise that the true community especially in this time of apostasy is not to be recognised by its **size, name, initials** or its denomination but solely by its **actions, the fruit of the tree**, the realisation of divine will.

Furthermore, Rev. 12,17 describes the true community as the Remnant; the woman's off-spring **who observe the commandments and has the testimony of Jesus** (according to Rev. 19,10 that is the spirit of prophecy).

We should in this context never forget that in old Israel only a remnant is often mentioned, a remnant that was to carry on the promise of the new generation (Ies. 1,8.9; 10,20-23; Jer. 6,9; Am. 5,1-6; Rom. 9,27-29).

The True Community as a House on the Rock

While reflecting upon himself Jesus defines himself in Matth. 7,24-27 as the rock foundation for the true community to withstand all the storms of life:

„24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."

These words were spoken by Jesus and are words of rock (see 1. Cor. 10,4: *'that rock was Christ'*). Jesus compares the adherence of his words to a wise man who builds his house on a rock.

When Jesus in this case talks of a **house on a rock** he is defining his own community, the temple of God (vgl. 1. Kor. 3,16: *'Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?'* (see. 2. Cor. 6,16; Eph. 2,21; Rev. 3,12; Joh. 14,17; 1.Pt. 2,5).



Regarding this community that does the will of God, Jesus said in Matth. 16,18 to Simon Petrus, whose second name, **Petrus** (meaning rock) was given to him by Jesus: “*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*”

All promises of Jesus are linked to conditions, just as the above comforting statement for his community is. Putting a claim to this promise without fulfilling the divine conditions is a characteristic of human arrogance and has been referred to by God himself as relying on lies.

Faithfulness to the Alliance with God in God's True Church Internationally

In Isaiah 56,4-8 God describes through his servant the necessity of being true to our covenant with God as the precondition for fulfilling his marvellous promise to his true church:

„4 For thus saith the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and **choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant;**

5 Even unto them will I give **in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.**

6 Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, **every one that** keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and **taketh hold of my covenant;**

7 Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; **for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.**

8 The Lord GOD which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.”

If God only recognises a congregation as his church, when it definitely fulfills his will as faithful ally by showing the visible fruits thereof, then we must not set any other standard for God's church. If we did so we would experience a deep fall with this house built on sandy ground in the prophesied storm of Matthew 7,24-27.

This house of God's church was once corrupted and profaned by the leaders of Israel. In Jer. 7,4-15 God said through his prophet:

“4 Trust ye not in **lying words**, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these. [see. Micha 3,11; Mt. 3,9]

5 **For if ye** thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; **if ye** thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour;

6 If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt:

7 **Then** will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever. [see 2. Chr. 33,8]

8 Behold, **ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit.** [see Isa. 59,4]

9 Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;



[– Don't we experience this today among the professed SDA people, if we look with a spiritual eye?! - see also GC, p. 583: “idols of false doctrines and theories”, 2BC, p. 1011/1012 “Modern Forms of Idolatry”]

10 And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, **We are delivered to do all these abominations?**

11 Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD.

12 **But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh** (see Ps. 78,56-60; PK, p. 322 et seq.), where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel.

13 And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not;

14 **Therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.**

15 **And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ephraim.**

Rejection of Apostasy and Unfaithfulness as Divine Principle

Should the same principle of divine rejection not be applied to the SDA church if they behave in a similar way as the ancient people of Israel?

The answer is obvious:

„The Lord Jesus will always have a chosen people to serve Him. When the Jewish people rejected Christ, the Prince of life, He took from them the kingdom of God and gave it unto the Gentiles. **God will continue to work on this principle with every branch of His work. When a church proves unfaithful to the word of the Lord, whatever their position may be, however high and sacred their calling, the Lord can no longer work with them. Others are then chosen to bear important responsibilities.** But, if these in turn do not purify their lives from every wrong action, if they do not establish pure and holy principles in all their borders, then the Lord will grievously afflict and humble them and, unless they repent, will remove them from their place and make them a reproach. . . .” UL 131.

For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. Rom. 11:21-22

“In this crisis, where is the church to be found? Are its members meeting the claims of God? Are they fulfilling His commission, and representing His character to the world? Are they urging upon the attention of their fellow men the last merciful message of warning? ... There is a stupor, a paralysis, upon the people of God, which prevents them from understanding the duty of the hour. ... Are they less guilty than was the Jewish church? ... The Lord says, “Shall I not visit for these things?” Jer. 5:9. Because they failed of fulfilling God’s purpose, the children of Israel were set aside, and God’s call was extended to other peoples. If these too prove unfaithful, will they not in like manner be rejected?” COL 302-4

“Solemn admonitions of warning, manifest in the destruction of dearly cherished facilities for service, say to us: “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works.” Revelation 2:5. Why is there so dim a perception of the true spiritual condition of the church? Has not blindness fallen upon the watchmen standing on the walls of Zion? Are not many of God’s servants unconcerned and well satisfied, as if the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night rested upon the sanctuary? Are there not those in positions of responsibility, professing to know God, who in life and character deny Him? Are not many of those who count themselves as His chosen, peculiar people satisfied to live without the evidence that of a truth God is among them to save them from Satan’s snares and attacks?” 8T 248

“Of those who boast of their light and yet fail to walk in it Christ says, “But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment than for you. And thou, Capernaum [Seventh-day Adventists, who have had great light], which art exalted unto heaven [in point of privilege], shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works which have been done in thee had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.”—RH Aug. 1, 1893. [THE BRACKETED COMMENTS ARE BY ELLEN WHITE.] LDE 48

There are similar statements in CE 140; DA 489-90; FE 258-9 and in many other places, but without the bracketed personal notes of E.G. White. Furthermore, the mention of Sodom in relationship to the fate of SDA emphasises the parallel to ancient Israel. At that time the true people of God reduced itself according to Isa. 1,9 to a very small remnant (see Rom. 9,27-29): **„Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.**“

A New Temple of God

At his time on earth Jesus once described the temple of God as a den of thieves. With his death the old temple organisation came to an end making way at his resurrection for the establishment of a new temple structure with him as high priest in heaven.

“And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.” Matthew 21:13

“We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.” Mark 14:58



His church, however small and inconspicuous it may seem, where ever it may be, is the temple in connection with the heavenly sanctuary, if she claims the mediation of her high priest in the most holy place in faithful obedience for herself (see 1. Cor. 3,16.17; 2. Cor. 6,14-7,1).



God's true church on earth is therefore not primarily defined by any church building or any organisation as some believe, but solely by the presence of Christ (cp. Genesis 28:16-19):

“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 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 (cp. also 7BC 949).

These quotations illustrate that organisation is not to be equated with church, but that it is only an instrument for the work of the church.

In a time of predominant apostasy God's true church can never be recognised by a building, a “*national establishment*”, or one of the “*various denominations*” carrying the name SDA, but only by the characteristics indicating the presence of Christ i.e. by the fruits of the tree.

To recognise the right local church (or group) to join, we have to look for the characteristics of the true church directly conveyed to us by Christ or one of his prophets, otherwise we run the risk of “*building our house on sand*”.

Apostatized Church Organisations as Satan's Mighty Instrument

Even though organisation according to the will of God is important instrument of the church to uphold the order of God within it, it may also on the other hand become an instrument of evil. God's prophet said:

organizations, institutions, unless kept by the power of God, will work under Satan's dictation to bring men under the control of him; and fraud and guile will bear the semblance of zeal for truth, and for the advancement of the kingdom of God.... TM 494 (see also TM 265.365-6).

Many honest adventists recognise today that Satan has managed not only to infiltrate the structure of the organisation, but also to influence the majority of the confessed SDA by inducing his spirit into their leaders and teachers. Consequently, the dark predictions of the inspired writings about the terrible size of the **omega apostasy** have day by day become true for all to see:

“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 (cf. Chap. 24, "Alpha and Omega" 1SM, p.192-200)

In connection with the apostasy of the last days a public rebellion against God's work has been predicted within the ranks of confessed Adventists:



"The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Prov. 29:18). **Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony.**— Letter 12, 1890.

There will be a hatred kindled against the testimonies which is satanic. The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them, for this reason: Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded.— Letter 40, 1890." 1SM 48.

Every spiritual eye perceives the fulfilment of this terrible vision concerning our people today. Everyone of us should sincerely humble himself before God when he realises that they have failed in his watchman's call. Even today the following appeal goes to every individual:

"My message to you is: No longer consent to listen without protest to the perversion of truth. Unmask the pretentious sophistries which, if received, will lead ministers and physicians and medical missionary workers to ignore the truth. Every one is now to stand on his guard. God calls upon men and women to take their stand under the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel. I have been instructed to warn our people; for many are in danger of receiving theories and sophistries that undermine the foundation pillars of the faith." 1SM 196-7

This apostasy does not just take place a moment and does not happen at all places in the same way, but is a cunning and refined system of seduction planned by Satan well in advance and passed on in disguise as hypocritical lip service by his helpers among the preachers. This is taking place so gradually that it is not recognised by most SDA members. Remember the words of the inspired pen:

"The Lord has bestowed great blessings upon His church. Justice demands that she return these talents with usury. As the treasures of truth committed to her keeping have increased, her obligations have increased. But instead of improving upon these gifts and going forward unto perfection, she has fallen away from that which she had attained in her earlier experience. The change in her spiritual state has come gradually and almost imperceptibly. As she began to seek the praise and friendship of the world, her faith diminished, her zeal grew languid, her fervent devotion gave place to dead formality. Every advance step toward the world was a step away from God." 5T 240

The entrance of an Adventist organisation to the ecumenical ACK [as in Germany] or similar organisations is the climax of public betrayal of our Adventist message and a satanic blow against the Three-Angels'-Messages which, in other words, just means its crucifixion. The basis and consequence of this step is the abandonment of the pillars of our faith. It is a clear rejection of all the warnings that were given to our people by the spirit of prophecy concerning such alliances.

"Already has the power of darkness placed its mold and superscription upon the work that should stand forth untainted, unpolluted from Satan's cunning devices. We lift our voice of warning upon the social attractions by worldly bids and worldly baits. Keep clear. Touch not the unclean thing. Let not the world's direction and propositions be given to God's people to control them. Woe be unto him whose wisdom is not from above but from beneath! Men of superficial piety, by their desire to receive patronage, to obtain fame, betray the most sacred interests into the hands of unbelievers." TM 277

All those that, in spite of their knowledge of the situation concerning the membership of the SDA church with the Babylonian church alliance ACK [as in Germany], still continue their membership in such a church voluntarily are following **traitors**. ***They betray the most sacred interests*** of calling a people out of Babylon by the Three-Angels'-Messages in a credible way. By their membership in a church which has allied itself in an organizational way with a Babylonian church alliance they will be regarded by God like those they have joined. By their tolerance they sympathize with those who stand for this alliance. They have therefore become a part of

Babylon and will have to suffer the consequences of their disobedience by forfeiting eternal life:

*“Under the direction of Satan, confederacies are being formed, and will be formed to eclipse the truth by human influence. Those who join these confederacies can never hear the welcome, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant; . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” The instrumentalities established by God are to press forward, making **no compromise** with the power of darkness. Much more must be done in Christ’s lines than has yet been done.”* FE 473

Destroying the Foundations of Faith from within our Own Ranks

The delusion of the SDA to join the ecumenical ACK was started as always in the past by Satan’s cunning tactics by the so-called leaders of the church. This was previously the case in the Alpha-Crisis, which is described by E.G.White as follows:

*“What influence is it would lead **men at this stage of our history to work in an underhand, powerful way to tear down the foundation of our faith**—the foundation that was laid at the beginning of our work by prayerful study of the Word and by revelation? ... Do you wonder that when **I see the beginning of a work that would remove some of the pillars of our faith**, I have something to say? I must obey the command, “Meet it!” . . . I must bear the messages of warning that God gives me to bear, and then leave with the Lord the results. **I must now present the matter in all its bearings; for the people of God must not be despoiled.** ... For the past fifty years **every phase of heresy has been brought** to bear upon us, to becloud our minds regarding the teaching of the Word – **especially** concerning the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary [**the Sanctuary Doctrine**], and the message of Heaven for these last days, as given by the angels of the fourteenth chapter of Revelation [**the Three-Angels’-Messages**].”* 1SM 207-8.



100 years later we can see today the result of this **underhand, powerful way to tear down the foundation of our faith** by the enemies of truth within our own ranks not only all across Europe. The past has shown that this destructive influence has always come from hypocritical leaders.

Dr. Alberto R. Rivera , a former Jesuit priest who due to his terrible experiences in Catholicism converted to Protestantism reports of Jesuit infiltration within the SDA leadership: **“ the first protestant groups to be influenced were the Seventh Day Adventists...”** (DC 3, S. 28). This does not surprise us as the bible warns us several times of Satan’s shrewd attacks (cp. 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Rev. 2:2.99)

*“**The apostle urged the Galatians to leave the false guides by whom they had been misled, and to return to the faith that had been accompanied by unmistakable evidences of divine approval.** The men who had attempted to lead them from their belief in the gospel were **hypocrites, unholy in heart and corrupt in life.** Their religion was made up of a round of ceremonies, through the performance of which they expected to gain the favor of God..”* AA 386

Although the question of membership in the ecumenical alliance was long discussed in God’s confessed people and warning testimonies from the Spirit of Prophecy were brought forth against it, the result of the delegates’ vote for the whole of Germany was alarming. The majority decided in spite of all the warnings against God’s express command. Hence God’s word in Jer. 5:31 once again fulfils itself in the case of God’s confessed people. **“The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?”** – The true people of God will act as God has told them to do in the case of apostasy and separate themselves from the apostatized, who are in the majority!

*“When those who are uniting with the world, yet claiming great purity, plead for union with those who have ever been the opposers of the cause of truth [as for example the ecumenical movement and its advocates among SDAs!], **we should fear and shun them as decidedly as did Nehemiah.** Such counsel is prompted by the enemy of all good. It is the speech of timeservers, and should be resisted as resolutely today as then. Whatever influence would tend to unsettle the faith of God’s people in His guiding power, should be steadfastly withstood.”* PK 660

*“**The word of God comes to us at this time: “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:** for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? **and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God;** as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they*

shall be My people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. Where are your children? Are you educating them to discern and to escape the corruptions that are in the world through lust? Are you seeking to save their souls, or are you by your neglect aiding in their destruction?" 6T 195

Keep every time in your mind that those who once cried and whined about the atrocities and apostasy in old Israel did not only separate themselves from sin **but also separated themselves from the sinners**:

„The angel with the writer's ink horn is to place a mark upon the foreheads of all who are separated from sin and sinners, and the destroying angel follows this angel (Letter 12, 1886)." 4BC 1161

Given these very clear words that have been recorded as an example, can anyone assume to be sealed for heaven in our time of the end by God's angel, even if he in spite of explicit warnings to come out still remains connected to apostasy?

Remember: „*This sealing of the servants of God is the same that was shown to Ezekiel in vision. John also had been a witness of this most startling revelation.*" TM 445

God's prohibitions and instructions show us the path we have to follow. The fact that the bible, especially for these last days, tells us not to miss church meetings (Hebr. 10,25) and shows us the necessity of distancing ourselves decidedly from an apostatized church (Rev. 18,4), leads us to the conclusion that we have to search for and join a faithful church in our residential area or alternatively establish a home church together with faithful members.

The fact that E.G.White on the one hand requested members **not to leave the SDA church at her time**, but on the other hand also clearly stated in several quotes that you should **not go to apostatized local SDA churches** but rather leave them, shows the necessity to have a differentiated view at the different statements in relation to time, place and the kind of the apostasy.

When studying the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy many frequently tend to overlook an important difference: We need to differentiate between apostasy within the church and apostasy of the church. This lack of differentiation has often led to a confusion of minds. Today, however, we have not only to speak about the apostasy of a local church, but the rather national and international **Omega** apostasy of a whole denomination. This means that the possibility of changing to a faithful local church within the denomination as at the time of E.G.White no longer exists.

The Lie about the Wheat and the Tares

To promote complacency and prevent the divinely ordained segregation of the faithful from apostasy in the last days, Satan has successfully persuaded false shepherds to spread lies about the prohibited pulling out of the tares. Whoever knows his bible and the inspired statements of E.G. White on this matter will not be fooled. Nevertheless, Satan, the master of confusion, takes advantage of the unlearned within the SDA, unfortunately a fact that can be taken for granted today, and unfortunately he reaches his deadly goal.

Concerning the subject of tares in the church and our behaviour towards open sin, it is advisable to read the chapter on the tares in the book *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 70-74. The allegorical reference to the tares is taken from Mt.13:24-30. This passage describes the tares that sprout up from Satan's seed and explains how they are to be understood and treated. Many Adventists really do believe that the tares, which are not to be pulled out, are open sin and apostasy within the church. However, this is a dangerous and lethal heresy of Satan.

If the parable of the tares in times of general apostasy was to be interpreted in such a way, then the apostles, the early Christians, the Waldensees, Luther, and all the other reformers, and even the Adventists would have violated the principles of this parable and therefore should not have left their churches. Consequently, those Adventists

who interpret the parable in that way would have to return to the Catholic Church, because since the days of Christ his instructions have been: *“Let both grow together until the harvest!”*

The field in the biblical parable does not represent the church but the world (cp. 5T 100). Furthermore, the uprooting of the tares forbidden by God represents the violent missionary method which was practiced by the (fallen) churches during the Middle Ages and is again to be practiced in these last days.

“Notwithstanding Christ’s warning, men have sought to uproot the tares. To punish those who were supposed to be evildoers, the church has had recourse to the civil power.” COL 74

Our church today can also learn something from this example: *„Christ has plainly taught that those who **persist in open sin must be separated from the church**, but He has not committed to us the work of judging character and motive.”* COL 71

As long as the tares do not display the fruit of open sin, they are not to be removed from the church. If for example the fruit of open sin is apparent (*“Ye shall know them by their fruits”* Matth. 7,16), the church has to act in accordance with the instructions of Jesus in Matthew 18 and discipline and eventually to disfellowship them. But even then the time of probation is granted to induce them to repent and turn back until God personally puts an end and finally has the tares bundled for burning.

Satan has succeeded in corrupting and turning around the divine doctrine of true love towards God and humanity to the opposite by bringing in emotional human ideas and false compassion. We can observe the extent of such misunderstood compassion today even within SDA ranks:

*„As the Protestants churches have been seeking the favor of the world, **false charity has blinded their eyes**. They do not see but that it is right to believe good of all evil, and as the inevitable **result they will finally believe evil of all good**. Instead of standing in defense of the faith once delivered to the saints, they are now, as it were, apologizing to Rome for their uncharitable opinion of her, begging pardon for their bigotry.”* GC 571.572

*„He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, **even they both are abomination to the LORD**.”* Proverbs 17:15

The 1260 Years of Church History as a Lesson for the End Time

The divine visions of last day events and the historical examples recommended to us by God for our instruction form a landmark unity we should closely study.

As an educational example of how to treat majority apostasy among God’s confessed people, God advises us through his prophet to study the behavior of the faithful souls who lived during the early period of Christian apostasy to derive guidelines for the apostasy of the last days. In the 7 letters to the churches the principles of right and wrong conduct in God’s church are emphasized (see Rev. 2,1-3.22; 10,8-11; 12,10-17). **During the**

1260 years of persecution God’s true church was always a remnant church separated from apostasy and whose righteous actions were confirmed by God’s servants.

Please pay attention to Ellen G White’s preface to her book *The Great Controversy*:

*“It is not so much the object of this book to present new truths concerning the struggles of former times, **as to bring out facts and principles** which have a bearing on coming events. **Yet viewed as a part of the controversy between the forces of light and darkness, all these records of the past are seen to have a new significance; and through them a light is cast upon the future, illumining the pathway of those who, like the reformers of past ages, will be called, even at the peril of all earthly good, to witness “for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.** To unfold the scenes of the great controversy between truth and error; to reveal the wiles of Satan, and the means by which he may be successfully resisted; **to present a satisfactory solution of the great problem of evil,** ...”* GC XII

What are the mentioned **facts and principles of former times** that “**present a satisfactory solution of the great problem of evil**” and sin; what is this **new significance, through them a light is cast upon the future** for the end time apostasy in God’s confessed church?

The answer is unmistakable:

“But there is no union between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness, and there can be no union between their followers. When Christians consented to unite with those who were but half converted from paganism, they entered upon a path which led further and further from the truth. Satan exulted that he had succeeded in deceiving so large a number of the followers of Christ. He then brought his power to bear more fully upon these, and inspired them to persecute those who remained true to God. None understood so well how to oppose the true Christian faith as did those who had once been its defenders; and these apostate Christians, uniting with their half-pagan companions, directed their warfare against the most essential features of the doctrines of Christ. {GC 45.1}

It required a desperate struggle for those who would be faithful to stand firm against the deceptions and abominations which were disguised in sacerdotal garments and introduced into the church. The Bible was not accepted as the standard of faith. The doctrine of religious freedom was termed heresy, and its upholders were hated and proscribed. {GC 45.2}

After a long and severe conflict, the faithful few decided to dissolve all union with the apostate church if she still refused to free herself from falsehood and idolatry. They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the word of God. They dared not tolerate errors fatal to their own souls, and set an example which would imperil the faith of their children and children’s children. To secure peace and unity they were ready to make any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war.

Well would it be for the church and the world if the principles that actuated those steadfast souls were revived in the hearts of God’s professed people. There is an alarming indifference in regard to the doctrines which are the pillars of the Christian faith.” GC 45-46

A decisive divine **principle of cause and effect** is ignored by many SDAs today. Thinking of themselves as being the chosen people of God, they assume that they will be treated as something special and be assessed by God by other standards:

“Wherever the cause exists, the same results will follow. He who deliberately stifles his convictions of duty [e.g. the plain proclamation of the 3-Angels’-Messages or separation from apostasy] because it interferes with his inclinations will finally lose the power to distinguish between truth and error. The understanding becomes darkened, the conscience callous, the heart hardened, and the soul is separated from God. Where the message of divine truth is spurned or slighted, **there the church will be enshrouded in darkness; faith and love grow cold, and estrangement and dissension enter.** Church members center their interests and energies in worldly pursuits, **and sinners become hardened in their impenitence.**” GC 378-9

The Lie about Laodicea

Many SDA wrongly think that identifying with Laodicea will be somehow more advantageous for them than being called Babylon. However, Ellen White comments on that:



“If the church of God becomes lukewarm [which describes the church of God in the Laodicea state], 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 [which is a description of ‘Babylon the Great’ of Rev. 18:2].” 19 MR 176

With his message to Laodicea God addresses all Christian churches. Laodicea means “people of the judgment“, and it characterizes solely the confessed people of God, who live in the prophetic period of the judgment. God does not accept the contradiction between their confession and their life (i.e. the fruit of the tree).

Laodicea symbolizes the last church epoch. There were in each of the 6 church epochs different and separated churches and church organisations. The same applies to the last epoch, when Jesus since 1844 has been doing his last mediating service in the Most Holy Place analogue to the day of atonement and judgment foreshadowed in the Old Testament. That is why the letters in Rev. 2,1 – 3,22 are addressed to several churches within each epoch (7 times we read : "... let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches!"). SDA churches belong to the Laodicea epoch.



"The professors of religion of the present day, in every church, are lovers of the world, conformers to the world, lovers of creature comfort, and aspirers after respectability. They are called to suffer with Christ, but they shrink from even reproach [which for SDAs might mean being called a sect] ... Apostasy, apostasy, apostasy, is engraven on the very front of every church; and did they know it, and did they feel it, there might be hope; but, alas! they cry, 'We are rich, and increased in goods, and stand in need of nothing.' [here Ellen White quotes Laodicea's words]." GC 388

7 Gemeinden (BL, S. 285-289)							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Ende der Gnadenzeit
Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamon	Thyatira	Sardes	Philadelphia	Laodizea	
→ 100	→ 323	→ 538	→ 1798	→ 1833	→ 1844	U.-Gericht	7 Plagen
Wünschenswert	Süßer Geruch	Erhebung	Zerknirschung	Das, was übrig bleibt	Bruderliebe	Volk des Gerichts oder ein gerechtes Volk →	

"The warning for the last church also must be proclaimed to all who claim to be Christians. The Laodicean message, like a sharp, two-edged sword, must go to all the churches." 6T 77

If this state describes all Christian churches, then this obviously includes the denomination of the SDA. God's servant tells us:

"To the church of the present day this message is sent. I call upon our church members to read the whole of the third chapter of Revelation, and to make an application of it. The message to the church of the Laodiceans applies especially to the people of God today. It is a message to professing Christians who have become so much like the world that no difference can be seen [vs. 14-18 quoted] (RH Aug. 20, 1903)." 7BC 959.5

Laodicea describes a condition of a church which God advises to buy gold, eye ointment and fine linen and and councils to repent. If it would be not necessary to leave a **church which rejects God's call and stays in the Laodicean state** – as some SDAs believe – it also would not be necessary to leave all the other apostate and unrepentant churches described in the same state of Laodizea. The logic of the matter itself indicates that the conviction of having to stay in an apostate church is an erroneous opinion which is refuted by the explicit statements of the bible and the spirit of prophecy.

It is often stated that the denomination of SDA did not preach Babylonian heresies referred to in TM 61 (e.g. the *immortality of the soul, the eternal torment of the wicked, the denial of the pre-existence of Christ prior to His birth in Bethlehem, and advocating and exalting the first day of the week above God's holy and sanctified day*), and therefore the SDA in their apostate condition enjoyed a special status which did not require any member to leave the SDA in the same way as other apostate churches.

These people have surely overlooked the fact that the above characteristics constitute an incomplete list of then existing Babylonian heresies mentioned in a certain context. These words were once directed to a brother who had spread false teachings. Because of the rejection of his opinions he had called the SDA church of his time Babylon. The incompleteness of the list of Babylonian heresies can be seen from the very next sentence which says: "These and kindred errors are presented to the world by the various churches." TM 61-2

There are today many Sabbath-keeping churches, including messianic Jews, which do not hold specifically these above mentioned but other similar false teachings that contradict the instructions of the bible and consequently close the door to eternal life.

Remember the words concerning the fallen SDA church that was once pure but did not live up to the special light of God and finally even discarded it. This was foreseen in the vision of the **Omega apostasy**:

*“Of those who boast of their light and yet fail to walk in it Christ says, **“But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment than for you. And thou, Capernaum [Seventh-day Adventists, who have had great light], which art exalted unto heaven [in point of privilege], shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works which have been done in thee had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.”**—RH Aug. 1, 1893. [THE BRACKETED COMMENTS ARE BY ELLEN WHITE.] LDE 48 (cf. the same quotation without the remarks of Ellen White in brackets 9T, p.265)*

Certainly, today there is still probationary time and the request to repent is directed to every church and individual. If a church repents and removes the obvious apostasy from its midst it is theoretically possible to again become a member of such a church, a church in which Christ is present as opposed to a church in the unrepentant condition of Laodicea where Christ is not present (*“The church is in the Laodicean state. The presence of God is not in her midst.”* LDE 49; cp. 2 Chronicles 15:2-4). The text quoted here demonstrates how badly we need a church **in which Christ is present** to our personal sanctification, especially in these last days (cp. also TM 508; 7T 190; Hebrews 10:24-25).

When do you have to leave a Church in the Laodicean State?

The Laodicean characteristics, of which E.G. White had warned single members and whole churches in her lifetime, did not mean that presumably faithful brothers and sisters inevitably had to leave the church, they rather meant a serious appeal to every church member and whole congregations to examine themselves and repent to restore the presence of Christ in his church. Every SDA, who only theoretically accepted SDA doctrines but did not apply them consistently to his personal life and still does not feel the need for change in that respect, will like Laodicea be sentenced to damnation. This applies to all other Christians as well that in false self confidence do not live by the rules of their beliefs.

As long as this condition does not produce any apparent false teachings and open sin within the church, it can be remedied by internal church measures, like prayer, fasting, and penitential sermons, to achieve spiritual renewal.

However, if a church unrepentantly persists in this condition allowing open sin, false teachings and open apostasy without any chance of improvement by proper church discipline, the conditions are no longer given for those who wish to repent and turn back, because they want to be among the 144,000, to achieve in obedience to God their lofty goal in such a perverted church.

*“John saw a Lamb on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 having His Father’s name written in their foreheads. They bore the signet of heaven. They reflected the image of God. They were full of the light and the glory of the Holy One. **If we would have the image and superscription of God upon us, we must separate ourselves from all iniquity. We must forsake every evil way, and then we must trust our cases in the hands of Christ.** While we are working out our own salvation with fear and trembling, God will work in us to will and to do of His own good pleasure (RH March 19, 1889).” 7BC 978*

The previously examined question of collective responsibility from God’s point of view, should also be considered in the context of open sin and public apostasy from the given divine light.



Further Witnesses for Godly Behaviour in a Situation of Apostasy of His Church

In *The Great Controversy* there are further testimonies from history involving **the necessary separation from majority apostasy** as a lesson for us. There are several examples from the inspired pen that outline the proper path for today (always remember the introductory words of E.G. White to *The Great Controversy* on p. XII).

The Apostasy among the Waldensees

*"For centuries the churches of Piedmont maintained their independence; but the time came at last when Rome insisted upon their submission. After ineffectual struggles against her tyranny, the leaders of these churches reluctantly acknowledged the supremacy of the power to which the whole world seemed to pay homage. There were some, however, who refused to yield to the authority of pope or prelate. They were determined to maintain their allegiance to God and to preserve the purity and simplicity of their faith. A separation took place. ... Theirs was not a faith newly received. Their religious belief was their inheritance from their fathers. **They contended for the faith of the apostolic church,—"the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."** Jude 3. "The church in the wilderness," and not the proud hierarchy enthroned in the world's great capital, was the true church of Christ, the guardian of the treasures of truth which God has committed to His people to be given to the world.." GC 64*



The Apostasy Among the Bohemians

*"As their former brethren, entering into compact with Rome, imbibed her errors, **those who adhered to the ancient faith had formed themselves into a distinct church**, taking the name of "United Brethren." This act drew upon them maledictions from all classes. Yet their firmness was unshaken." GC 119*

The Separation of the Protestants at the Time of the Reformation

In a similar way as for the Waldensees the separation from Rome was not easy for Martin Luther:



*"Yet it was **not without a terrible struggle with himself** that Luther decided upon a final separation from the church. It was about this time that he wrote: "I feel more and more every day how difficult it is to lay aside the scruples which one has imbibed in childhood. Oh, how much pain it has caused me, though I had the Scriptures on my side, to justify it to myself that I should dare to make a SDAnd alone against the pope, and hold him forth as antichrist! **What have the tribulations of my heart not been!** How many times have I not asked myself with bitterness that question which was so frequent on the lips of the papists: 'Art thou alone wise? Can everyone else be mistaken? How will it be, if, after all, it is thyself who art wrong, and who art involving in thy error so many souls, who will then be eternally damned?' 'Twas so I fought with myself and with Satan, till Christ, by His own infallible word,*

fortified my heart against these doubts." GC 143

The Separation from the Protestants in the Advent Movement of 1844

*"As his work tended to build up the churches, it was for a time regarded with favor. But as ministers and religious leaders decided against the advent doctrine and desired to suppress all agitation of the subject, they not only opposed it from the pulpit, but denied their members the privilege of attending preaching upon the second advent, or even of speaking of their hope in the social meetings of the church. Thus the believers found themselves in a position of great trial and perplexity. **They loved their churches and were loath to separate from them;** but as they saw the testimony of God's word suppressed and their right to investigate the prophecies denied they felt that loyalty to God forbade them to submit. Those who sought to shut out the testimony of God's word they could not regard as constituting the church of Christ, "the pillar and ground of the truth." [e.g. 1.Tim. 3:15] Hence they felt themselves justified in separating from their former connection." GC 376*

Can a church or denomination **which has cast away the testimony of Jesus** and which against the clear warnings of the angels of Revelation 14:8-11 and 18:4 and the Spirit of Prophecy (which is, according to Rev. 12:17 and 19:10, the Testimony of Jesus) has allied itself organizationally with the churches of Babylon **be regarded as a pillar and ground of the truth** or the temple of God? Today, it has not only **lost the distinguishing features of the remnant church** but has herself become the **forerunner for the image of the beast**. This is a publicly

tolerated apostasy of the majority of the church! Who would ever have thought about the denomination of the SDA when reading following quotation?

*“Said Paul: ‘There shall come a falling away ... and that man of sin be revealed.’ 2 Thessalonians 2:3. **So apostasy in the church will prepare the way for the image to the beast.** The Bible declares that before the coming of the Lord there will exist a state of religious declension similar to that in the first centuries.” GC 443-4*

Today this has unfortunately become a bitter truth for the confessed Adventist church as well.

The prophesized Separation from the Protestant Churches at the End

“As these bodies depart further and further from the truth, and ally themselves more closely with the world, the difference between the two classes will widen, and it will finally result in separation. The time will come when those who love God supremely can no longer remain in connection with such as are “lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.” GC 390

In respect to these apostatized churches it has been said as well that they were once pure:

*“The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies **that were once pure** and have become corrupt. ... **At the time of their rise these [protestant] churches took a noble stand for God and the truth, and His blessing was with them. ... But they fell by the same desire which was the curse and ruin of Israel**—the desire of imitating the practices and courting the friendship of the ungodly. ‘Thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown.’ Ezekiel 16:14, 15.” GC 382*

Is the SDA church a protestant church, which was once considered by God as pure? The answer is quite clear. Will it not experience the same fate in the last days when it acts as the other churches do and ancient Israel did? Remember in this respect the inspired predictions in 1SM 406 that indicate the apostasy of the SDA in the last days at the time of Jesus’ second coming, similar to the apostasy of the people of Israel at the first arrival of Jesus. In addition, the testimony on page 22 from 5T 160 describes the repetition of the negative history of Israel by the SDA.

The Rejection of the 3-Angels’-Messages causes the Climax of Apostasy

We have read in the inspired writings that the principle of action of those who love God above all in this situation of apostasy is not only valid for the faithful from ancient Israel and other Babylonian churches, but also for the faithful within the ranks of the SDA denomination, if a similar apostasy from the truth occurs. The following quotation from *The Great Controversy* describes the spiritual climax of apostasy in relation to the rejection of the Three-Angels’-Messages, which is taking place today in the deviation of teachings in this respect and has been caused by joining the ecumenical alliance (see page 36; ***Destroying the Foundations of Faith from within our Own Ranks***; 1SM 207/8: attacks, among other things, ***against the sanctuary message and the Three-Angels’-Messages***).



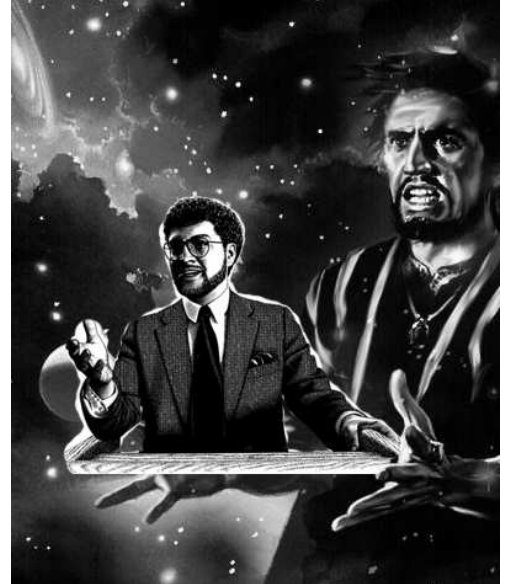
*“Revelation 18 points to the time when, as the result of rejecting the threefold warning of Revelation 14:6-12, the church [which other church than the SDA could be meant here?] will have fully reached the condition foretold by the second angel, and the people of God still in Babylon will be called upon to separate from her communion. This message is the last that will ever be given to the world; and it will accomplish its work. **When those that “believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thessalonians 2:12), shall be left to receive strong delusion and to believe a lie** [think about the satanic lie of gaining supposed advantages for the SDA by their unification with the fallen churches of the ecumenical movement contrary to all divine warnings against: ‘*The Church and the World United*’ (EW 226-8), the lie that ‘*by conformity to the world they would exert a greater influence with worldlings*’ (TM 474), ‘*the synagogue of Satan*’ (7BC 958), ‘*Union Through a Dragonic Bond*’ (3BC 1137-8); ‘*No Confederacy With Those Opposing the Truth*’ (4BC 1141-2); ‘*Danger in Worldly Alliances*’ (7BC 985); ‘*the church**

will become indeed corrupt, and as stated in Revelation, “a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” (TM 265)], then the light of truth will shine upon all whose hearts are open to receive it, and all the children of the Lord that remain in Babylon will heed the call: ‘Come out of her, My people’ (Revelation 18:4).” GC 390

It is clear beyond doubt that a divine judgment of the whole of Christianity, including the apostatized SDA is meant. This is illustrated by the following quotation to SDA, who are described as people who have received great light and did evil in the sight of God. That is why God punishes them with blindness so that they all believe a lie (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12):

“One who sees beneath the surface, who reads the hearts of all men, says of those who have had great light [this applies to SDAs]: “They are not afflicted and astonished because of their moral and spiritual condition.” Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations. I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before Mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not.” “God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie,” because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved,” “but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” Isaiah 66:3, 4; 2 Thessalonians 2:11, 10, 12.” 8T 249 (8Z 245)

“We are living in the last days of this earth’s history, and we may be surprised at nothing in the line of apostasies and denials of the truth. Unbelief has now come to be a fine art, which men work at to the destruction of their souls. There is constant danger of there being shams in pulpit preachers, whose lives contradict the words they speak; but the voice of warning and of admonition will be heard as long as time shall last; and those who are guilty of transactions that should never be entered into, when reproved or counseled through the Lord’s appointed agencies, will resist the message and refuse to be corrected. They will go on as did Pharaoh, and Nebuchadnezzar, until the Lord takes away their reason, and their hearts become unimpressible. The Lord’s Word will come to them; but if they choose not to hear it, the Lord will make them responsible for their own ruin (NL No. 31, p. 1).” 4BC 1170



The same cause has the same effect. In his word and through his prophet E.G. White God describes a climax of apostasy in the latter days, similar to that of the ancient people of Israel, also among the confessed SDA people today (see page 22, examples of spiritual catastrophes). No spiritual-minded person can therefore suggest that the description of the total fall of Babylon would not include the apostatized Adventist church, **when here it speaks on the one hand about the whole of Christianity and when on the other hand the same lying spirit of 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 is mentioned!**

“The Bible declares that before the coming of the Lord, Satan will work “with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness;” and they that “received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved,” will be left to receive “strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.” 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11. Not until this condition shall be reached, and the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete. The change is a progressive one, and the perfect fulfillment of Revelation 14:8 is yet future.” GC 389-90

The Lie about the willful Separation of the True Church

It comes as no surprise that the confessed Seventh-Day-Adventists in the end time, who are influenced by this lying spirit, have adopted the same satanic position in assessing the god-given treatment of apostasy as has been described to have been adopted during the early Christian times of apostasy. No wonder opinions are divided today as well:

“Romanists have persisted in bringing against Protestants the charge of heresy and willful separation from the true church. But these accusations apply rather to themselves. They are the ones who laid down the banner of Christ and departed from “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” Jude 3. GC 51

In the eyes of God a small faithful church which has separated itself from an apostatized majority is therefore not regarded as having left the true church. On the contrary, the apostatized majority has left the fold of the true church.

In the same way as the apostle Paul had foreseen the apostasy of the Christians and had raised his voice in warning, so God through E.G.W. predicted the apostasy of the SDA church and warned us. The parallelism of both events can clearly be seen, when we read the third chapter of *The Great Controversy* (“*An Era of Spiritual Darkness*”) and compare it with other quotes on the apostasy of the SDA (see 5T 240ff on page 6; TM366-7 on page 57):

“The apostle Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians, foretold the great apostasy which would result in the establishment of the papal power...

Even at that early date he saw, creeping into the church, errors that would prepare the way for the development of the papacy.

Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, the mystery of iniquity carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost imperceptibly the customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church.” GC 49

Jesus in his prayer for his disciples in John 17:11.17-23 prayed for the **unity of his church to attain sanctification in the truth**, but through the rejection of the truth and the infiltration of heresies into the church it became necessary for the faithful children of God again and again to separate themselves from those who persistently rejected the light of truth and life and accepted false teachings instead. Remember at this point the words of the Spirit of Prophecy:

“As the light and life of men was rejected by the ecclesiastical authorities in the days of Christ, so it has been rejected in every succeeding generation. Again and again the history of Christ’s withdrawal from Judea has been repeated. When the Reformers preached the word of God, they had no thought of separating themselves from the established church; but the religious leaders would not tolerate the light, and those that bore it were forced to seek another class, who were longing for the truth. In our day few of the professed followers of the Reformers are actuated by their spirit. Few are listening for the voice of God, and ready to accept truth in whatever guise it may be presented. Often those who follow in the steps of the Reformers are forced to turn away from the churches they love, in order to declare the plain teaching of the word of God. And many times those who are seeking for light are by the same teaching obliged to leave the church of their fathers, that they may render obedience.” DA 232

*“For there **must be also heresies among you**, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.”*
1 Corinthians 11:19

*“These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. **They shall put you out of the synagogues** [this prophecy is being fulfilled with many faithful SDAs today]: yea, **the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.**” John 16:1.2*

*“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ... **Traitors**, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away.**” 2 Timothy 3:1.4-5*

*“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences **contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them** [see also 1 Corinthians 5:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6.14; 2 John 10]. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; **and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.**” Romans 16:17-18*

*“Wherefore **come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord**, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” 2 Corinthians 6:17*

God’s true people is and always has been **a remnant people separated from apostasy**. If we do not accept this doctrine, we do not belong to the remnant people even if we call ourselves so.

*“**The remnant shall return**, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God. For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, **yet a remnant of them shall return**: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness.” Isaiah 10:21-22*

If a small faithful rest turn back and the large majority continue on their broad way of ecumenical apostasy, separation becomes inevitable:

“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” Amos 3:3

We always have to bear in mind that the Three-Angels’-Messages as **mighty sword of truth** are in themselves a message of separation:



“God has called His church in this day, as He called ancient Israel, to stand as a light in the earth. By the mighty cleaver of truth, the messages of the first, second, and third angels, He has separated them from the churches and from the world to bring them into a sacred nearness to Himself. He has made them the depositaries of His law and has committed to them the great truths of prophecy for this time. Like the holy oracles committed to ancient Israel, these are a sacred trust to be communicated to the world. The three angels of Revelation 14 represent the people who accept the light of God’s messages and go forth as His agents to sound the warning throughout the length and breadth of the earth.” 5T 455

A Synagogue of Satan or Babylon's Sister

The inversion of the argument presented in the previous statement means that an SDA organisation can no longer be God’s true church when it, contrary to its calling, allies itself with other churches, even fights against faithful brothers and sisters, who proclaim the Three-Angels’-Messages, disfellowships them and whole local churches and dissociates itself publicly from the content of the message. This is not just an opinion, but there is proof that this not only happened in Germany but also elsewhere. This degenerate church has become, to put it in the words of Ellen White, an organisation through which Satan works [cp. TM 365-6.494 ‘Organisations ... will work under Satan’s diction ...’].

Such a church or church organization which may formally still uphold the Sabbath is called ‘Synagogue of Satan’ by Christ (cp. Revelation 2:9; 3:9).

“Christ speaks of the church over which Satan presides as the **synagogue of Satan. Its members are the children of disobedience.** They are those who choose to sin, who labor to make void the holy law of God. **It is Satan’s work to mingle evil with good, and to remove the distinction between good and evil. Christ would have a church that labors to separate the evil from the good,** whose members will not willingly tolerate wrong-doing, but will expel it from the heart and life (RH Dec. 4, 1900). 7BC 958

E.G.W. pointed out the risks involved in joining the church with the world very distinctly:

“The world must not be introduced into the church, and **married to the church, forming a bond of unity** [the ecumenical bonds the SDA church is forming in Germany with the so-called ‘Working Group of Christian Churches’ belongs to this category]. **Through this means the church will become indeed corrupt, and as stated in Revelation, “a cage of every unclean and hateful bird** [cp. Rev. 18:2].” TM 265



Therefore this degenerate church in God’s eyes will get a **part of Babylon the Great!**

The following quotation expressly speaks of a **“sister to fallen Babylon”**:

“We are in danger of becoming a **sister to fallen Babylon,** of allowing our churches to become corrupted, and filled with every foul spirit, a cage for every unclean and hateful bird; **and will we be clear unless we make decided**

movements to cure the existing evil?” TSB 188

This quotation belongs in the context of tolerated adultery within the church. However, spiritual adultery has the same consequences. It made the ancient people of Israel a whore (see on this topic Jer. 2; 3:6-10)!



Despite Warning caught up by the Babylonian Danger

If this evil is not healed, the call: ‘*Come out of her, my people*’, must apply not only to the roman mother whore or to her protestant daughters but in this state in a **second time** also to the sister of the whore’, the fallen away SDA church, which has unites itself with all churches in the large ecumenical melting pot. E.G.White wrote about this terrible climax of apostasy deliberately in a covered way, because the SDA church had in her time not reached this state, and so this message was yet not present truth, and some Adventists would have drawn the wrong conclusions for their time, as can be seen in a further quotation of Ellen White. Today we see this statement in a different light, because it can in fact be applied to the fallen SDA denomination as well, a fact which nobody then dared to believe.

*“My brother [this message was directed to someone calling the SDA church Babylon at a time when they were preparing for the refreshing of the Lord], you are certainly off the track. The second angel’s message was to go to Babylon [the churches] proclaiming her downfall, and calling the people to come out of her. **This same message is to be proclaimed the second time.** And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, **and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.**”* TM 59

There are SDA who claim that E.G.W. wrote that the SDA church would never become Babylon. Such a quotation could not be shown to us by anybody. It would contradict her previous quotations mentioned above. However, all her statements reacting to those premature and therefore lying attacks of Satan denouncing the SDA church of that time as Babylon speak of the true church of God that can never be Babylon. Ellen White describes it as ‘*church that keeps the commandments of God*’ (2SM 68) and states that ‘*there will ever be fierce conflict between the church and the world.*’ (TM 53). She also describes God’s remnant people as those ‘*who keep the commandments of God and have faith in Jesus, who are exalting the **standard of righteousness** in these last days*’ (TM 57). There are more testimonies that state these and other characteristics of the church as quoted elsewhere in this booklet.

Never did she write that a church apostatizing from the truth and allying itself with the world could not become Babylon; on the contrary, she warns SDAs of the great risk of becoming its sister.

It is a sad fact that at the time men appeared from within the ranks of the SDA who claimed the community of the SDA **is Babylon** [that is from their point of view present, but from today’s point of view past]. E.G. White had in her time resolutely denied that:



*“To claim that the Seventh-day Adventist Church **is Babylon**, is to make the same claim as does Satan, who is an accuser of the brethren, who accuses them before God night and day. By this misusing of the Testimonies, souls are placed in perplexity, because they cannot understand the relation of the Testimonies to such a position as is taken by those in error; **for God intended that the Testimonies should always have a setting in the framework of truth.**”* TM 42

The **former** condition of the slanderous church was described by her as follows:

*“How is it that these pamphlets denouncing the Seventh-day Adventist Church as Babylon were scattered abroad **everywhere, at the very time when that church was receiving the outpouring of the Spirit of God?** How is it that men can be so deceived as to imagine that the loud cry consists in calling the people of God out from the fellowship **of a church that is enjoying a season of refreshing?** Oh, may these deceived souls come into the current, and receive the blessing, and be endued with power from on high.”* TM 23 (read the entire chapter, especially pp. 20.36-7.41-2.49-51.58-62)

Many SDA overlook the time factor in the words “was receiving” and “is enjoying”. The first one is past tense and the second one is present tense.

The explanation of those false teachers for their false statement of the SDA church being Babylon was not true. They supported their views by referring to the tithe system, the foundation of an organisation and other erroneous views. E.G.W. encountered this slander by stating the truth about the condition of the church **at the time**. When you read the explanation of Ellen White in this context you realize that she attributed the **characteristics of the remnant** to the SDA church **of her time**. A church possessing and keeping these characteristics can also in the future never be Babylon:

*“Again I say, The Lord hath not spoken by any messenger who calls **the church that keeps the commandments of God, Babylon.**”* 2SM 68

“These kindred heresies, and the rejection of the truth, convert the church into Babylon. Kings, merchants, rulers, and religious teachers are all in corrupt harmony.” 2SM 68 (see also page 40: TM 61-2)

*“The term ‘**Babylon**’ is derived from ‘Babel,’ and **signifies confusion**. It is employed in Scripture to designate the various forms of false **or apostate religion.**”* GC 381 (see also GC 380-390)



At this point one statement of Ellen White concerning the use of the testimonies needs to be remembered:

*“Regarding the testimonies, nothing is ignored; nothing is cast aside; **but time and place must be considered.** Nothing must be done untimely. Some matters must be withheld because some persons would make an improper use of the light given. **Every jot and tittle is essential and must appear at an opportune time.**” 1SM 57*

The close examination of E.G.White’s quotations **in the context of time** shows that there are no contradictions to other statements of her or of the bible in connection with them.

In this context we have to look at the **time-conditioned** statement about these false teachers, who denounced the SDA church then as Babylon.

All the relevant quotations on this subject in the book *Testimonies to Ministers* are directed at the same person or group of persons **of that time**. Ellen White emphasises in some instances **the time factor** of these false accusations:

*“God has not spoken by him, neither has He given a message to him, **but he has run before he was sent.**” TM 41*

The word **“before”** indicates that this accusation against the church as a whole was too early. It came at an inappropriate time, particularly because the contemporary argumentation of the slanderers was totally incorrect. This was not about open apostasy as we have it nowadays, but rather, as mentioned before, about the fundamental rejection of organization, the tithe system as support for the ministers, the wrong calculation of the Second Coming etc.

In the book *Selected Messages, Volume 2*, Ellen White gives us distinct evidence about **the temporal limitation** of her rejection made at that time not to leave the existing organization:

*“The Lord has declared **that the history of the past shall be rehearsed as we enter upon the closing work.** Every truth that He has given for these last days is to be proclaimed to the world. Every pillar that He has established is to be strengthened. We cannot **now** step off the foundation that God has established. **We cannot now enter into any new organization;** for this would mean apostasy from the truth.— Manuscript 129, 1905.” 2SM 390*

Similar statements are made in Last Day Events, p. 48:

*“I was confirmed in all I had stated in Minneapolis, **that a reformation must go through the churches. Reforms must be made, for spiritual weakness and blindness were upon the people who had been blessed with great light and precious opportunities and privileges.** As reformers they had come out of the denominational churches, but **they now act a part similar to that which the churches acted.** **We hoped that there would not be the necessity for another coming out.** While we will endeavor to keep the **“unity of the Spirit”** in the bonds of peace, we will not with pen or voice cease to protest against bigotry.—EGW’88 356, 357 (1889)“*

It is true, at the time of Ellen White there was apostasy in the church which she criticised, but the church as a whole was not yet in the grips of apostasy. The **Alpha Crisis** under Kellogg could be controlled through the **“destruction of the iceberg”**, but the extent of the **Omega Crisis** shown to her made her tremble because of its extents (see chapters 24 and 25 in 1SM pp. 193-208).

We remember her words: *“We have now before us the alpha of this danger. **The omega will be of a most startling nature.**” 1SM 197*

The Prophesized Test through the Apostasy of the Majority of SDA

Today we can see the startling qualitative and quantitative extent of the predicted apostasy. Who would have dreamed that the following words of God’s prophet would be so realistically fulfilled by his confessed SDA people?

*“To stand in defense of truth and righteousness **when the majority forsake us,** to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test.” 5T 136 (LDE 180; SD 201; RH Jan. 11, 1887)*



The departure of the majority from the true church described here is caused by the majority apostasy of the SDA from truth and righteousness as we have read in the *Great Controversy*, p. 51 (see page 44).

The resulting necessary organisational separation of the faithful minority from the majority that has apostatized from the true faith is never described as leaving the true church, but as leaving apostasy and **is part of the battles of the Lord these faithful souls have to fight.**

There is another direct form of separation from the true church that arises when those in apostasy separate themselves structurally from the true church, as we have all experienced it at one time or another when individuals and small groups leave. This has always been the case and represents no special test of the faithful. However, when an apostatized majority desires structurally to remain within a church, **a real trial of the few faithful results.**

This process of apostasy and separation is called sifting and is always based on the faithful decision between error and truth. We are now living in the middle of this process:

“We are in the shaking time, the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. The Lord will not excuse those who know the truth if they do not in word and deed obey His command.” 6T 332 (LDE 173; RH, January 22, 1901

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that it would 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. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this will cause a shaking among God’s people.” 1T 181

The closer we come to the end the more distinct this sifting process will be. Even those who today still confess to believe truly in the third angel’s message, but are not sanctified by it – in other words those who do not separate themselves for Christ – will give up their faith when exposed to increasing external strain:

„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 [this is happening today by uniting with the ecumenical movement as can be seen in Germany], 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.” GC 608

Now we better understand the statement from *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 12, p. 324. It reads:

“The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out - the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place.” 2SM 380 (Mar 32.203; 7BC 911; 12 MR 324; see also Matthew 16:18).

History teaches us that the sifting among God’s confessed people has always taken place during the different times of apostasy in different ways:

1. by divine destruction of the evildoers,
2. exclusion by the faithful majority of the church,
3. exclusion by the apostatized majority,
4. active separation of a faithful minority from an apostatized majority, and
5. the active separation of an apostatized minority from the faithful majority.

In the end, the sealing by the third angel will permanently and irrevocably make the faithful sure in the truth and in the proclamation of the Three-Angels’-Messages. The separation and sanctification of its messengers causes the separation from all apostatized churches. In the final collection of the harvest at Christ’s Second Coming the chaff is separated from the wheat. At this point God separates all those wrongdoers who were until then invisible to human eyes from God’s true people for ever.



God's true church is ordained to fight until the end. How these battles of the faithful minority in accordance with God's will have taken place in the past is described to us as an example in the bible and in *The Great Controversy*. These battles will increase in fierceness.

No one should be deceived by lying statements taken from Satan's treasure chest concerning the militant church of God. Satan's agents use expressions from the bible and the spirit of prophecy completely out of context and fill them with false meaning to mislead SDA. He has been quite successful in that. For that reason we are going to recap at this point the important elements and principles of the church militant to understand the following passage of Ellen White in *Signs of the Times* from January 4, 1883 (cp. also LDE 61; TM 61) about the SDA church:

„The church militant is not the church triumphant“

The fight at God's side which the church militant is committed has existed for 6000 years. The war began in the church in heaven and was continued on earth:

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and an, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Revelation 12:7-9

After Satan had succeeded in getting man on his side by sin, thus, amongst other things, put enmity between his church and man to free fallen from the claws of Satan.

“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed....” Genesis 3:15

As a consequence of this declared enmity we get the chance of changing sides in the war between Christ and Satan to join the side of Christ against Satan. Only when we have joined Christ we experience Satan's resistance, because natural man lives in harmony with Satan.



*“God declares: **“I will put enmity.”** This enmity is not naturally entertained. When man transgressed the divine law, his nature became evil, and he was in harmony, and not at variance, with Satan. There exists naturally no enmity between sinful man and the originator of sin.”* GC 505

In the great fight Satan takes advantage of the natural human desire for peace, harmony, and recognition by society, church or state. He does so by offering people a feigned peace, wealth, honour and recreational activities etc. (see Matthew 4:6-8; Job 21:7-14). This is his cunning tactical battle strategy only to persuade God's church to lay down its weapons and to remove it from the divinely ordained declared resistance against him.

*The believers of the first centuries were subject to the most brutal satanic persecution. However, as Satan saw that Christianity continued to spread in spite of the murder of countless martyrs he changed his battle tactics. Instead of open force he now prefers to use covert seduction with greater effect. “Satan therefore laid his plans to war more successfully against the government of God by **planting his banner in the Christian church** ... The great adversary now endeavored to gain by artifice what he had failed to secure by force. Persecution ceased, and in its stead were substituted the dangerous allurements of temporal prosperity and worldly honor.”* GC 42 (also in the SDA-church, see page 51,57)

Is this not the battle tactics which Satan is using at the moment against us as SDA? As Adventists we are threatened less by open violence and state prohibition than by the “*dangerous allurements of temporal prosperity and worldly honor*”.

The following is said about the half-converted heathen of ancient times:

“With some concessions on their part they proposed that Christians should make concessions, that all might unite on the platform of belief in Christ.” GC 42

Are we not experiencing today the same ecumenical offer of compromise by Satan to the SDA? The description of the former situation is at the same time a description of our present situation within the confessed Adventist church:

“Now the church was in fearful peril. Prison, torture, fire, and sword were blessings in comparison with this. Some of the Christians stood firm, declaring that they could make no compromise. Others were in favor of yielding or modifying some features of their faith and uniting with those who had accepted a part of Christianity, urging that this might be the means of their full conversion.

That was a time of deep anguish to the faithful followers of Christ. Under a cloak of pretended Christianity, Satan was insinuating himself into the church, to corrupt their faith and turn their minds from the word of truth.” GC 42-43

Was the SDA’s joining of the ecumenical alliance not conducted with the same argument, “*it might help them (i.e. the alliance) to convert completely*”? Others claim that “*we can explain our beliefs a lot easier in ecumenical dialogue*”, or that they could “*avert persecution due to the ecumenical connection*”.

In contrast to these sentiments, we are shown by God’s spirit how the true “**church militant**” has at all times acted in such situations. Remember the previous quotation where Ellen G. White states:

“After a long and severe conflict, the faithful few decided to dissolve all union with the apostate church if she still refused to free herself from falsehood and idolatry.

They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the word of God. They dared not tolerate errors fatal to their own souls, and set an example which would imperil the faith of their children and children’s children.

To secure peace and unity they were ready to make any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war.

Well would it be for the church and the world if the principles that actuated those steadfast souls were revived in the hearts of God’s professed people.” GC 45

We have already read similar testimonies about the church, her struggles and her separation from apostasy in history (see also the chapter ‘**Further Witnesses for Godly Behaviour in a Situation of Apostasy of His Church**’ on page 42 of this booklet).

They are of great assistance to the faithful ones, especially today, giving them light and guidance!

Today as then, most confessed Christians do not realize that false relationships, forbidden alliances, and friendly compromises with the world and believers of other faiths mean a change of sides in the war between Christ and Satan.



*“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not **that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**”* James 4:4

In an “*Appeal to the Church*” God described through his servant the condition of the confessed people of God:

“These are the true feelings of many of our people. And Satan exults at his success in controlling the minds of so many who profess to be Christians. He has deceived them, benumbed their sensibilities, and planted his hellish banner right in their midst, and they are so completely deceived that they know not that it is he.” 2T 440

It is really a cause for alarm that the SDA described here have not even realised that Satan has “**planted his hellish banner right in their midst**”. This state of ignorance of their own condition can also be found in the description of Laodicea. There is no greater mistake or a more dangerous self-deception.

"What greater deception can come upon human minds than a confidence that they are right when they are all wrong!" 3T 252-3

The fate of the Jewish nation as well as that of the apostatized Christian churches should be a lesson of warning to SDA. Every person has to test himself and define which side he or she is on in God's eyes in this great controversy between light and darkness.

"The Christian life is a constant warfare. The church militant is not the church triumphant. Paul says, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). We must meet human beings of power and influence who are on Satan's side of the controversy; and we must also meet unseen agencies of evil. Let us be found in the right position." 2SAT 193.3

We are only a part of the church militant if we are on the right side of the battle; fighting alone is not sufficient. We have to '*strive lawfull*'.

"And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully." 2Timothy 2:5

Fight against the Ecumenical Movement

*"Now the church is militant. Now we are confronted with a world in midnight darkness, almost wholly given over to idolatry. But the day is coming when the battle will have been fought, the victory won. ... **But the church must still fight against seen and unseen foes.** Satanic agencies in human form are on the ground. Men have confederated to oppose the Lord of hosts. These confederacies will continue until Christ shall leave his place of intercession before the mercy seat, and shall put on the garments of vengeance. **Satanic agencies** are in every city, **busily organizing into parties those opposed to the law of God.** Professed saints and avowed unbelievers take their stand with these parties." RH, November 26, 1903*

This quote describes the **church militant** in her fight against ecumenical alliances and work groups (**confederacies**). It is significant of this statement is that even "**professed saints**" in these confederacies are taking **the side opposing God**.

A church that gives up the fight against the goals of the ecumenical Christianity and goes as far as joining it can clearly not be regarded as the **church militant** of God. It has changed sides during the fight. Tragically, many believers are not conscious of the fact and its consequences. They do not realise that they no longer stand where God requires them to be in the fight. They are therefore called "**professed saints**" and cursed by God. Remember what we have already read about those who have joined a forbidden alliance:



"Let us not form unholy bonds of union with the friends of the world; for God has pronounced His curse upon all such unions." TM 276

"Under the direction of Satan, confederacies are being formed, and will be formed to eclipse the truth by human influence. Those who join these confederacies can never hear the welcome, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." FE 473

"Let the watchmen on the walls of Zion not join with those who are making of none effect the truth as it is in Christ. Let them not join the confederacy of infidelity, popery, and Protestantism in exalting tradition above Scripture, reason above revelation, and human talent above the divine influence and the vital power of godliness (RH March 24, 1896)." 4BC 1141

Fighting for the Truth

Already in the first centuries of early Christian apostasy God's true church in her fight for the original Christian belief is described to us:

*"A separation took place. ... Theirs was not a faith newly received. Their religious belief was their inheritance from their fathers. They contended for the faith of the apostolic church, - "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Jude 3. "The church in the wilderness," and not the proud hierarchy enthroned in the world's great capital, **was the true church of Christ, the guardian of the treasures of truth which God has committed to His people to be given to the world.**" GC 64*

The church militant opposed an apostate church that had laid down the banner of Christ:

“Romanists have persisted in bringing against Protestants the charge of heresy and willful separation from the true church. But these accusations apply rather to themselves. They are the ones who laid down the banner of Christ and departed from “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”” Jude 3.” GC 51

Those who laid down the banner of Jesus have changed sides and allied themselves with Satan. With the Three-Angels’-Messages God has led us SDA through a special experience; step by step he has guided us through much sorrow and heavy fighting and put our feet on the safe platform of faith (cp. EW 258-9).

We are experiencing the fulfilment of the dark visions that predict the laying down of the special banner of the Three-Angels’-Messages among the confessed people of God, who are especially enlightened by him. Satan began his subtle underground champagne against this divinely ordained last-day message within our ranks quite early using his Adventist agents.

“A company was presented before me under the name of Seventh-day Adventists, who were advising that the banner, or sign, which makes us a distinct people should not be held out so strikingly; for they claimed that this was not the best policy in order to secure success to our institutions. But this is not a time to haul down our colors, to be ashamed of our faith. This distinctive banner, described in the words, “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus,” is to be borne through the world to the close of probation. While efforts should be increased to advance in different localities, there must be no cloaking of our faith to secure patronage. Truth must come to souls ready to perish; and if it is in any way hidden, God is dishonored, and the blood of souls will be upon our garments.” 6T 144 (2SM 385; 13MR 69)

“The third angel’s message, embracing the messages of the first and second angels, is the message for this time. We are to raise aloft the banner on which is inscribed: “The commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” The world is soon to meet the great Lawgiver over His broken law. This is not the time to put out of sight the great issues before us. God calls upon His people to magnify the law and make it honorable.” 8T 197

“The great and wonderful work of the last gospel message is to be carried on now as it has never been before. The world is to receive the light of truth through an evangelizing ministry of the word in our books and periodicals. Our publications are to show that the end of all things is at hand. I am bidden to say to our publishing houses: “Lift up the standard; lift it up higher. Proclaim the third angel’s message, that it may be heard by all the world. Let it be seen that ‘here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’” Revelation 14:12. Let our literature give the message as a witness to all the world.” 9T 61

“Our warfare is aggressive ... until the last warning has been given to the world. ... Let nothing lessen the force of the truth for this time. The present truth is to be our burden. The third angel’s message must do its work of separating from the churches a people who will take their stand on the platform of eternal truth.” 6T 61

“The church militant is not the church triumphant. ... The night of trial is nearly spent. ... The truth must not be muffled now. Plain statements must be made. Unvarnished truth must be spoken in leaflets and pamphlets, and these must be scattered like the leaves of autumn.” 19MR 383

This real spiritual fight has drawn the hostility of Satan and his followers against the faithful proclaimers of this last warning message.

“In God’s word we are shown the consequences of proclaiming the third angel’s message. “The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:17. A refusal to obey the commandments of God, and a determination to cherish hatred against those who proclaim these commandments, leads to the most determined war on the part of the dragon, whose whole energies are brought to bear against the commandment-keeping people of God.” 8T 117

All Adventist organisations and institutions that have allied themselves with Babylon are today already fighting on Satan’s side, because they have lowered the banner that was to protect and characterize them as separate God’s people.

“Satan has called this world his territory. Here his seat is, and he holds in allegiance to himself all who refuse to keep God’s commandments, who reject a plain, “Thus saith the Lord.” They stand under the enemy’s banner; for there are but two



parties in the world. All rank either under the banner of the obedient or under the banner of the disobedient (MS 41, 1898)." 5BC 1119

"The Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the earth who are living in this time of peril and corruption. Ministers of the gospel have departed from the Lord, and those who profess the name of Christ are guilty of not holding aloft the banner of truth." Te 231

Fighting against Sin

As individuals and as a church we continually have to be on our guard and fight sin within us or within the church. This is an essential feature of the church militant.

"The Church militant is not the Church triumphant. Unless the people of God wage a valiant warfare against every species of sin, they will never pass through the portals of the holy city." RH, December 31, 1901

"Every one who fights on the side of right, must fight hand to hand with the enemy. He must put on the whole armor of God, that he may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.—Manuscript 47, 1896." Te 110

The church militant is not a fighting church because it is full of sin, **but because it wages 'a valiant warfare against every species of sin'.**

This battle takes also place where people fight against character deficiencies. Many SDA do not differentiate between a church's different principles of procedure concerning human character deficiencies on the one hand and open sin or public apostasy on the other. Whereas we as a church have to patiently bear and work against the character weaknesses of our brothers and sisters, we have to act against open sin and apostasy consistently in accordance with the instructions of Jesus in Matthew 18.

Are the public proclamation of false teachings and the false decisions of the preachers or delegates to join the ecumenical alliance only a weakness of character that we have to tolerate in our mutual efforts to achieve perfection? This rhetoric question has already been answered unequivocally for us in the bible and the writings of Ellen White.

Our personal fight has to continue until we have finally reached the complete victory in Jesus. At no time we should let ourselves be distracted from this fight by the cunning tricks of Satan. Satan's lies are sometimes very near the truth.

'I am already saved'

so or something to that effect can be heard more and more often. They think that Christ has already done everything for us and believe that they only have to wait for him to return. Such "believers" have given up the fight, if they ever fought it at all.

"We are never to rest in a satisfied condition, and cease to make advancement, saying, 'I am saved.' When this idea is entertained, the motives for watchfulness, for prayers, for earnest endeavor to press onward to higher attainments, cease to exist. No sanctified tongue will be found uttering these words till Christ shall come, and we enter in through the gates into the city of God. Then, with the utmost propriety, we may give glory to God and to the Lamb for eternal deliverance. As long as man is full of weakness—for of himself he cannot save his soul—he should never dare to say, 'I am saved.' It is not he that putteth on the armor that can boast of the victory; for he has the battle to fight and victory to win. It is he that endureth unto the end that shall be saved. The Lord says, 'If any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him' (Heb. 10:38)." 1SM 314-5

In this fight between light and darkness we are not to make any false type of peace. Human praise, a false desire for harmony, false sympathy etc. should never encourage us to compromise with sin. The same applies for the church and our personal sanctification.

"... let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith ..." Hebrews 12:1-2

There will always be a majority upholding the truth in God's true church militant, because **the majority in the church is decisive** for the character and experience of this church:

“When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God.—Review and Herald, July 21, 1896.” Ev 699

The divine principles of separation from sin and sinners already quoted still apply today in the church militant. As soon as apostate forces within a church or denomination constitute the majority, the divinely ordained church life and the necessary church discipline are no longer possible.

In this case we have to do with apostasy of the church itself and the separation of the faithful members from this apostate church is vital, if we want to experience the predicted **“mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit”** to our sanctification.

The Lessons of the Alpha Crisis

During the apostasy of the Alpha Crisis God gave clear instructions through E.G. White which are relevant even today:

“Battle Creek [at that time the center of Adventist medical and educational work and seat of the General Conference] has been the seat of rebellion among a people to whom the Lord has given great light and special opportunities. ... And every place that has turned from light and evidence falls under the same condemnation.” PC 72

“The light given me by the Lord—that our youth should not collect in Battle Creek to receive their education—has in no particular been changed. ... We protest in the name of the Lord God of Israel, against the calling of our youth into a place to which the Lord declared they should not go.” BCL, p. 4/5

This principle of separation from apostasy has been described to us regarding the Waldenses, who based their separation from apostasy on their obedience to God and on their responsibility for the salvation of their children (see GC 45)! Should we today feel any less responsibility for our and our children’s salvation?

“There is a little hope in one direction: Take the young men and women, and place them where they will come as little in contact with our churches as possible, that the low grade of piety which is current in this day shall not leaven their ideas of what it means to be a Christian.” 12MR 333

“Of those who are constantly working to undermine faith in the message God is sending to his people, I am instructed to say, ‘Come out from among them, and be ye separate.’” RH, July 23, 1908

“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 [which is Babylon the Great of Rev. 18].” 19MR 176

History has answered the question about the effects of the Laodicea message on the SDA churches in Germany and other large parts of Europe negatively.

The fruits of the tree show today that whole conferences, unions, and divisions are controlled by Satan and that Ellen G. White’s dark predictions concerning our people are becoming true in our days.

“My heart trembles in me when I think of what a foe we have to meet, and how poorly we are prepared to meet him. The trials of the children of Israel, and their attitude just before the first coming of Christ, have been presented before me again and again to illustrate the position of the people of God in their experience before the second coming of Christ - how the enemy sought every occasion to take control of the minds of the Jews, and today he is seeking to blind the minds of God’s servants, that they may not be able to discern the precious truth.” 1SM 406

“Be not deceived; many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We have now before us the alpha of this danger. The omega will be of a most startling nature.” 1SM 197



Göttliches Vernichtungsf Feuer
im Krankenhaus u. Verlagshaus
1902 in Battle Creek

“I knew that the omega would follow in a little while; and I trembled for our people.” 1SM 203

The bad preparation of confessed SDA in this time of the Omega crisis can be traced back directly to the poor knowledge about God’s true church and its commission. Hosea 4,6 is relevant to today:

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me.”

Since the official membership in the ACK the majority of SDA in Germany are on the side of the enemy. This is the very situation described several times in *The Great Controversy*. In analogy to the exemplary behavior of the Waldenses and other faithful loyal souls in the past, only those as God’s true church can be regarded, that also today separate from the majority apostasy.

That is why, as mentioned in the introductory words to *The Great Controversy*, on p. xii, God recommends us, upon whom the ends of the world are come, to take an example of the behavior of these true souls. According to 1 Cor. 10:5-13, the negative history of the people of Israel has also been recorded as an example for the generation of the last days.

The Separation of Israel because of its Apostasy

Because of the prevailing apostasy under Salomo, God divided the 12 tribes of Israel into the north kingdom Israel of the 10 tribes and the south kingdom of Judah (1 Kings 11:29-39; 12:24; 2 Chron. 11:1-4).

After the division of Israel God was angry with the king of Judah because he supported Israel in the fight militarily against Syria. God said through the prophet in 2 Chr. 19:2:

“Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD.”

At a later date the king of Judah, who was at war with the Edomites, wished to gain military help from Israel. As Israel was fallen away from God, God said through his prophet in 2. Chr. 25:7-8:

“O king, let not the army of Israel go with thee; for the LORD is not with Israel, to wit, with all the children of Ephraim. But if thou wilt go, do it, be strong for the battle: God shall make thee fall before the enemy: for God hath power to help, and to cast down.” (cp. also 2 Chronicles 20:35-37; 22:1-9)

Of interest in this context is the statement of the king of Judah and the Lord’s answer concerning the amount of money that the king of Judah had already invested in the army of Israel:

*“And Amaziah said to the man of God, But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel? And the man of God answered, **The LORD is able to give thee much more than this.**”* 2 Chronicles 25:9

Those of the SDA who are today grieved over the financial investments, the beautiful church buildings, the hospitals, schools and other possessions of the apostatized majority, will find an answer from God in the following quotation:

*“He will use simple means; He will use many who have had few advantages to help in carrying forward His work. **He will, by the use of simple means, bring those who possess property and lands to a belief of the truth, and these will be influenced to become the Lord’s helping hand in the advancement of His work.**—Letter 62, 1909.”* 1SM 128

The history of the separation of Israel is for us, upon whom the ends of the world are come (see 1 Cor. 10:11), an additional historical example of divine principles of action applying to the apostasy in the last days, because according to the inspired predictions SDAs will repeat the negative history of this people.

The apostasy from God’s instructions was at that time the reason for the separation of the people of Israel. This history of separation is also a history of the divine rejection of parts of the people. When even the remaining faithful part of this people turned away from his God and redeemer and in spite of punishment, blessings and advantages connected with the promise of the coming Messiah, the whole of Israel was finally rejected as God’s



missionary people and replaced by a spiritual Israel, consisting of the followers of Jesus and his twelve apostles. According to Romans 11:19-22 the same conditions concerning blessings, curses and rejection apply to this new testament Israel as they did for the ancient people of Israel.

If God demonstrates to us in his word the divine principle of separation from spiritual apostasy and of the denial of any kind of support for it as applying to his people in the Old Testament, then it is clear that we cannot expect anything else from the same God for his New Testament people.

It is a historical mistake to think that God never rejected his confessed people or parts of it or its organizational structures. Whole generations were because of their apostasy rejected and exterminated and reduced to a small stump by divine judgments:

“The destruction that befell the northern kingdom was a direct judgment from Heaven. The Assyrians were merely the instruments that God used to carry out His purpose. Through Isaiah, who began to prophesy shortly before the fall of Samaria, the Lord referred to the Assyrian hosts as “the rod of Mine anger.” “The staff in their hand,” He said, “is Mine indignation.” Isaiah 10:5.” PK 291

“Cut off thine hair, O Jerusalem, and cast it away, and take up a lamentation on high places; for the LORD hath rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath.” Jeremiah 7:29

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” Hosea 4:6 (cp. also 2 Kings 17:18-23)

The consequences of rejected knowledge are shown to us very clearly in the present condition of the Adventist people.

Prediction of Deadly Influence of Adventist Organizations

Everyone with a spiritual insight can see that we are experiencing today the gloomy prophecies about the Omega Crisis among the Adventist people. Exactly in the way as described in *Testimonies for Ministers*, pp. 365-6, Satan has infiltrated the Adventist organizational structure. Consequently the time has come for all who wish to remain faithful to God to leave and separate from ‘*synagogue of Satan*’ (see page 46), else we run the risk of being directly influenced by Satan as described in the following quote:

“He works to restrict religious liberty, and to bring into the religious world a species of slavery. Organizations, institutions, unless kept by the power of God, will work under Satan’s dictation to bring men under the control of men; and fraud and guile will bear the semblance of zeal for truth and for the advancement of the kingdom of God. Whatever in our practice is not as open as day belongs to the methods of the prince of evil. His methods are practiced even among Seventh-day Adventists, who claim to have advanced truth.”

If men resist the warnings the Lord sends them, they become even leaders in evil practice; such men assume to exercise the prerogatives of God—they presume to do that which God Himself will not do in seeking to control the minds of men. They introduce their own methods and plans, and through their misconceptions of God they weaken the faith of others in the truth, and bring in false principles that will work like leaven to taint and corrupt our institutions and churches. Anything that lowers man’s conception of righteousness and equity and impartial judgment, any device or precept that brings God’s human agents under the control of human minds, impairs their faith in God; it separates the soul from God; for it leads away from the path of strict integrity and righteousness. ... We are warned [of such taint and corrupt institutions and churches] not to trust in man, nor to make flesh our arm. A curse is pronounced upon all who do this.” TM 365/6



Although this terrible vision has become true today and Satan has gained control over the structure of our organisation as predicted, numerous confessed SDA members act in a similar way as Achan by financially supporting this corrupt organisation and the seducers to ecumenical apostasy with tithes and offerings. By following this course of action, they have not only deprived God and his work of the means for the distribution of the Three-Angels'-Messages, but they virtually rob God like Achan! Their trust in an apostatized organisation brings the *curse of God* upon them.

A Divine Woe because of the Financial Support of Apostasy

Do you want to stay – despite the curse of God being upon you for such a course of action – in such an Adventist organisation, support it with your means and then claim you were doing the will of God?

We are guilty in the sight of God if we support these unsanctified ministers, pastors, administrators and their helpers with our tithes and offerings.

“There are fearful woes for those who preach the truth, but are not sanctified by it, and also for those who consent to receive and maintain the unsanctified to minister to them in word and doctrine.” 1T 261-2



“If God pronounces a woe upon those who are called to preach the truth and refuse to obey, a heavier woe rests upon those who take upon them this sacred work without clean hands and pure hearts. As there are woes for those who preach the truth while they are unsanctified in heart and life, so there are woes for those who receive and maintain the unsanctified in the position which they cannot fill.” 2T 552

“Whoever solicits to sin is a tempter. Whoever imitates the great deceiver becomes his aid. Those who give their influence to sustain an evil work are doing Satan’s drudgery.” 5T 102

“It would be poor policy to support from the treasury of God those who really mar and injure His work, and who are constantly lowering the standard of Christianity.” 3T 553

“But the Lord has made us individually his stewards. We each hold a solemn responsibility to invest this means ourselves. A portion it is right to place in the treasury to advance the general interests of the work; but the steward of means will not be guiltless before God, unless, so far as he is able to do this, he shall use that means as circumstances shall reveal the necessity. We should be ready to help the suffering, and to set in operation plans to advance the truth in various ways. It is not in the province of the Conference or any other organization to relieve us of this stewardship. If you lack wisdom, go to God; ask him for yourself, and then work with an eye single to his glory.” PH080 41.1

All of God’s children will withdraw every kind of support from the evil work of Satan and in obedience to God and his prophet in the scope of the second call (see page 61-63) according to Revelation 18:4 leave all such organizations through which Satan works. They will give their means to the “highest, greatest work carried on in the world at this time,” (6T 11) the proclamation of the Three-Angels'-Messages. Remember that according to *Early Writings*, pp. 124-5 (see page 61) our attendance of their meetings alone will encourage and confirm them in their great error (see “The Fatal Choice” in TM, pp. 409-12).

Everyone called by God to be a Watchman

Before you leave your apostate brothers and sisters you are required by God’s word to do your best to convince them of their apostasy and to make them turn back and repent (see Ezekiel chapters 3 and 33). Because of the failure of the majority of the ministry, every faithful SDA should even more so act upon God’s calling as a watchman.

“So far as his opportunities extend, everyone who has received the light of truth is under the same responsibility as was the prophet of Israel to whom came the word: “Son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at My mouth, and warn them from Me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.



Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul." Ezekiel 33:7-9. " 9T 19-20 (see also GC 458-60).

The call to be a watchman is a divine duty without illusions being attached to it. On the contrary, the effects are predicted to be quite gloomy.

"Let the church arise, and repent of her backslidings before God. Let the watchmen awake, and give the trumpet a certain sound. It is a definite warning that we have to proclaim. God commands His servants, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isa. 58:1).

The attention of the people must be gained; unless this can be done, all effort is useless; though an angel from heaven should come down and speak to them, his words would do no more good than if he were speaking into the cold ear of death." 1SM 126

Never should we be deterred by the negative consequences that this warning message brings, because the alternative for us would be the loss of eternal life. That is why it is important for us to look upon Jesus who had to suffer a similar humiliation on our behalf and who calls us to follow him on this course.

"The great obstacle both to the acceptance and to the promulgation of truth is the fact that it involves inconvenience and reproach. This is the only argument against the truth which its advocates have never been able to refute. But this does not deter the true followers of Christ. These do not wait for truth to become popular. Being convinced of their duty, they deliberately accept the cross, with the apostle Paul counting that "our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;" with one of old, "esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt." 2 Corinthians 4:17; Hebrews 11:26." GC 460 (see also 1SM 72-3)

Should all efforts in this matter produce no true repentance, the only remaining disciplinary option for us is to leave these apostates.

"Even though you may not feel able to speak a word to those who are working on wrong principles, leave them. Your withdrawal and silence may do more than words. Nehemiah refused to associate with those who were untrue to principle, and he would not permit his workmen to associate with them. The love and fear of God were his safeguard. He lived and worked as in view of the unseen world. And David said, "I have set the Lord always before me.

Dare to be a Daniel. Dare to stand alone. Thus, as did Moses, you will endure the seeing of Him who is invisible. But a cowardly and silent reserve before evil associates, while you listen to their devices, makes you one with them. [2 Cor. 6:17, 18 quoted.]

Have courage to do right. The Lord's promise is more valuable than gold and silver to all who are doers of His Word. Let all regard it as a great honor to be acknowledged by God as His children (RH May 9, 1899)." 3BC 1155

Leaving is not to be regarded as a cowardly retreat from the battle field, but as a special kind of church discipline carried out by the faithful few. This divinely ordained retreat of the faithful few is the ultimate step after fruitless efforts of urging an apostate majority to turn back and repent (see the videos *Alpha and Omega* and *The Narrow Pathway* offered by us) to obtain the victory in the great final battle and to carry out the real missionary commission more effectively and without disturbance. The service of the watchmen is closely connected with the message to Laodicea that in the end leads inevitably to the same consequences.

The Message to Laodicea and Reformation

In connection with the Laodicea message to the SDA church God requires a reformation that is described in the following words:

"God brings against ministers and people the heavy charge of spiritual feebleness, saying, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see" (Rev. 3:15-18). God calls for a spiritual revival and a spiritual reformation. Unless this takes place, those who are lukewarm will continue to grow more abhorrent to the Lord, until He will refuse to acknowledge them as His children.

A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. **Revival and reformation are two different things.** Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices.

Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.—*The Review and Herald*, Feb. 25, 1902." 1SM 127-8

History has shown that reformation was almost always related to a **new order**, i.e. the organisational separation from an apostatized church (see "Separation of the Reformers" in *Desire of Ages*, p. 232, here on page 23).

Separation from apostasy for its own sake alone **will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit**. This important aspect was confirmed by the history of the so-called Reformation Movement among our people as well!

One gets the impression today that the seriousness and true meaning of the Laodicean message still remains hidden to most SDA. Many do not realize that the disregard of this message, especially in the case of open apostasy inevitably leads to a sifting and separation among the Adventist people.

"I asked the meaning of the **shaking** I had seen and was shown that it would 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. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people.

I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified." EW 270

"Many who profess to be looking for the speedy coming of Christ are becoming conformed to this world and seek more earnestly the applause of those around them than the approbation of God. **They are cold and formal, like the nominal churches from which they but a short time since separated.** The words addressed to the Laodicean church describe their present condition perfectly." EW 107

The sifting caused by this message among the Adventist people leads ultimately to the indifferent **being left behind in darkness**, because they have shown sympathy for the **lying spirit** referred to in 2 Thessalonians 2:11,12. We will come once again to this point a bit later (see page 43,44,61).

"The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks. ... I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth with great power. It had effect." EW 271 (*The Shaking*)

This mighty proclamation of **the truth with great power** is the proclamation of the Three-Angels'-Messages, and especially of the Third-Angel's-Message, which will bundle and seal the little flock for heaven and bundle the majority in the ecumenical repository for burning (see EW, p.88).

We are living in an eventful time and soon many confessed SDA like the foolish virgins will experience that the time of probation has ended, while others who have not yet heard and rejected the truth are still on probation:

"The time of God's destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who [now] have no opportunity to learn what is truth. Tenderly will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched, His hand is still stretched out to save, while the door is closed to those who would not enter. Large numbers will be admitted who in these last days hear the truth for the first time.—Letter 103, 1903." LDE 182 (see also 9T 97)

The revival and reformation caused by the Laodicea message is happening where apostasy is most intensive among the Adventist people. The separation and reorganisation necessary in this context is then – similar to



disfellowshipping from a church – the last resort of a faithful minority to do God’s will and protest against the existing apostasy (see 3BC 1155 **“Leave them!”**).

This is the God-given lesson as presented to us in the historical account of the “Great Controversy” between light and darkness. Separation from apostasy has therefore always been the appropriate means of true Protestants in their obedience to God.

Today the experience of many active public messengers of the Three-Angels’-Messages with the apostatized SDA-churches is similar to the experience which has been made by the Advent-heralds with the apostatized protestant churches in the time of 1844.

Those who stand against the existing apostasy and demanding a consequent action of the faithful are being disfellowshipped by apostatized SDA churches as prophesied in John 16:1-2 (compare also the separation through the Three-Angels’ Messages 5T 455-6). The Spirit of God tells us:

“Christ’s ambassadors have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty and leave results with God.” GC 609-10

We cannot defy God’s clear instructions without harming our souls. In this respect the two following quotations, which are just as applicable today as in the past, are relevant to the present state of apostasy among the Adventist people:

*“I was shown the **necessity** of those who believe that we are having the last message of mercy, **being separate** from those who are daily imbibing new errors. I saw that neither young nor old should attend their meetings; **for it is wrong to thus encourage them while they teach error** that is a deadly poison to the soul and teach for doctrines the commandments of men. The influence of such gatherings is not good.*

***If God has delivered us from such darkness and error, we should stand fast in the liberty wherewith He has set us free and rejoice in the truth. God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy, to be darkened and weakened by him and the power of his evil angels; and the light around us becomes contaminated with the darkness.**”* EW 124



In this passage the faithful people of God get divine advice as to how they should react towards those who preach error. Are not false teachings concerning the forbidden alliance with Babylonian churches the cause of modern apostasy among SDAs? Are we not experiencing today the fulfillment of the predicted ecumenical apostasy of the whole of Christianity, now also including the SDA? Today confessed SDA in many countries are an official part of the ecumenical alliance. With that the fall of Babylon on many national levels has become complete, and the worldwide fulfillment will also not take much longer (compare 5T 76: *‘I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies has been steadily increasing as the people backslide from God. It is all through our ranks, **all over the field.** But few know what our churches are to experience.’*).

*“The Bible declares that before the coming of the Lord, Satan will work “with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness;” and they that “received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved,” will be left to receive “strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.” 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11. **Not until this condition shall be reached, and the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete.** The change is a progressive one, and the perfect fulfillment of Revelation 14:8 is yet future.”* GC 389-90

Just as the apostasy of the tribes of Israel took place gradually at different times, we see today different stages of apostasy among the SDA in different countries.

In Western Europe we are experiencing apostasy at a racing pace. It is to be feared that other countries will shortly follow their evil example. The following quotation given by **God describes the future of Adventist apostasy just before the plagues** and shows that his sincere children will leave the apostatized churches of the nominal Adventists.

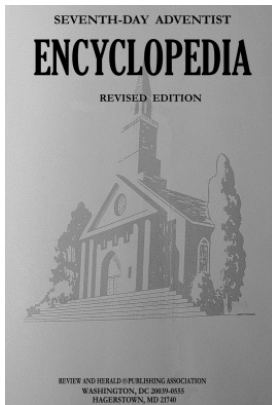
*“I saw that **God has honest children among the nominal Adventists** [here also the word Seventh-Day-Adventists might have been used, because which other church beside the SDA still has the term ‘Adventist’ in their name? You may also note that nominal Adventists and fallen churches are named separately.] **and the fallen churches, and before the plagues shall be***

poured out, ministers and people will be called out from these churches and will gladly receive the truth. Satan knows this; and before the loud cry of the third angel is given, he raises an excitement in these religious bodies, that those who have rejected the truth may think that God is with them. **He hopes to deceive the honest** and lead them to think that God is still working for the churches. **But the light will shine, and all who are honest will leave the fallen churches, and take their stand with the remnant.**" EW 261 (see also TM 410, 'faithful ministers will be removed from the [SDA] people')

Do you want to be among those who are faithful and accept this truth of divinely ordained separation from an apostatized church – to be saved?

Adventist Theologians Advise to Leave Ecumenical SDA Church

In a remarkable way in 1976 this biblical principle was still supported by the publishers of the Adventist Bible Commentar:



"On the basis of Bible prophecy and the writings of Ellen G. White, SDA's anticipate the eventual success of the ecumenical movement, both in eliminating the divisions of Protestantism and in reuniting Christendom by bridging the gulf that separates non-Catholic communions from Rome. The ecumenical movement will then become a concerted effort to unite the world and to secure universal peace and security by enlisting the power of civil government in a universal religio-political crusade to eliminate all dissent. SDA's envision this crusade as the great apostasy to which John the revelator refers as „Babylon the great.“ They understand, also, that God's last message of mercy to the world prior to the return of Christ in power and glory will consist of a warning against this great apostate movement, and a call to all who choose to remain loyal to Him to leave the churches connected with it." SDAE, Vol. 10, p. 411 "ecumenism"

As 25 years later the SDA church in Germany and other European countries became itself a member of the apostatized ecumenical Babylonian movement, it is logical that the call to the **faithful** to leave apostatized churches also has to be applied to these corrupt SDA churches in those countries.

Since 1844 the Three-Angels'-Messages have been directed especially to the faithful souls in the apostatized churches that form Babylon. They are urged to leave these apostatized as expressed in the call of Revelation 18:4, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

A Repetition of the Message of Babylon's Fall

The Spirit of Prophecy uses the term '**Loud Cry**' to describe a special repetition of the message of Babylon's fall:

"The message of the fall of Babylon, as given by the second angel, is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844 (also in the SDA-churches). The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel's message as it swells to a loud cry. And the people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation, which they are soon to meet. I saw a great light resting upon them, and they united to fearlessly proclaim the third angel's message.

Angels were sent to aid the mighty angel from heaven, and I heard voices which seemed to sound everywhere, "Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." This message seemed to be an addition to the third message, joining it as the midnight cry joined the second angel's message in 1844. The glory of God rested upon the patient, waiting saints, and they fearlessly gave the last solemn warning, proclaiming the fall of Babylon and calling upon God's people to come out of her that they might escape her fearful doom." EW 277

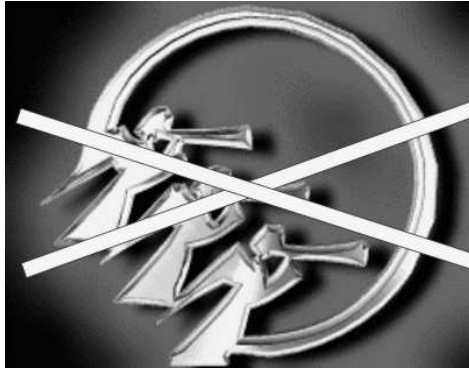
We now understand that for the first time the apostatized denomination of SDA is included in this **second call** to go out. Here once again the quote mentioned above:

"My brother [someone who called the Seventh-Day-Adventists already at Ellen White's time 'Babylon'], you are certainly off the track. The second angel's message was to go to Babylon [the churches] proclaiming her downfall, and calling the



people to come out of her. ***This same message is to be proclaimed the second time.*** ‘And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, *Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.*” TM 59 (see also 2SM 117-8)

The sign for Babylon’s complete fall across the whole of Christianity is, as already described, the predicted rejection of the Three-Angels’-Messages:



*“Revelation 18 points to the time when, as the result of rejecting the threefold warning of Revelation 14:6-12, the church will have fully reached the condition foretold by the second angel, and the people of God still in Babylon will be called upon to separate from her communion. This message is the last that will ever be given to the world; and it will accomplish its work. When those that “believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thessalonians 2:12), shall be left to receive strong delusion and to believe a lie, then the light of truth will shine upon all whose hearts are open to receive it, and all the children of the Lord that remain in Babylon will heed the call: “**Come out of her, My people**” (Revelation 18:4). GC 390*

This is a process taking place gradually. The loud cry began for the SDA church in 1888 (remember the principles revealed in the time of the Alpha crisis, see page 55 of this booklet).

*“The time of test is just upon us, for **the loud cry of the third angel has already begun** in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth (RH Nov. 22, **1892**).” 7BC 984.6*

*“The time of test is just upon us, for **the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth.** For it is **the work of every one** to whom the message of warning has come, to lift up Jesus, to present Him to the world as revealed in types, as shadowed in symbols, as manifested in the revelations of the prophets, as unveiled in the lessons given to His disciples and in the wonderful miracles wrought for the sons of men. Search the Scriptures; for they are they that testify of Him.” 1SM 362*

The true scope of the 1888 Message (righteousness by faith obedience) was not recognised by most SDA. Today we are experiencing the consequences of this rejected message of mercy.

Disfellowshipping faithful messengers of the Three-Angels’-Messages from the church is the consequence. This was described as characteristic of Babylon under the Second-Angel’s-Message of 1844 already:

*“As they harmoniously raised the cry among the different companies, **those who rejected the light pushed them and with angry looks scorned and derided them.** But angels of God wafted their wings over the **persecuted ones**, while Satan and his angels were seeking to press their darkness around them, to lead them to reject the light from heaven.” EW 241*

The thus persecuted called at that time to the faithful souls: **“Come out from among them, and be separate.”** EW 242

The parallelism of events as a symptom of apostasy is obvious and requires in these last days of apostasy the same basic principles of action from those who wish to remain faithful to Christ.

If you have a look at the old church handbook of the denomination of SDA in Germany and the rules it sets on p. 271 for dealing with apostasy of the church and strictly apply them to today’s situation of majority apostasy, you will not be able to come to any other conclusion than to leave a thus fallen church, because these rules state (in accordance with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy) that an apostatized local church has to be disfellowshipped.

Please note that basic principles of action involving eternal life are at stake here. Basic principles are divine rules of action that apply to all time. How could we otherwise learn from the history of God’s people, which we are urged to do by the Bible in 1 Corinthians 10:11, in Jeremiah 7:12-15.29, in Psalms 78:56-60 and by Ellen White in her introductory words to the *Great Controversy*, p. XII.

Dear sister, dear brother, please distribute this booklet among your brothers and sisters and urge them in these times of apostasy to a consistent and logical way of action. The message for these times has to be '*meat in due season*' (Mt. 24:45) to feed God's flock.

Even if you may not realize it, do not forget that the Lord's judgment has begun in 1844 and that your case will soon be decided for life or death. It is up to you to decide on which side you will stand. We have to seek the Lord in true repentance and remorse for our sins and have to acknowledge previous failures that he may forgive us. Take your stand at the side of divine justice and do not support Satan's cause any longer. Found with honest brothers and sisters of your church or vicinity a missionary group and spread the Three-Angels'-Messages in your area; do not let anything or anyone distract you from that.

Foundation of Small Missionary Groups and their Financing

The following counsel has been given to us a long time ago by E.G. White: "*Let small missions be established in many places to teach men and women how to use and thus increase their talents. Let all understand what is expected from them, and many who are now unemployed will become true laborers.*" 6T 432

"The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members, but for unbelievers." 7T 21,22

Use your tithes and offerings for printing and spreading the Three-Angels'-Messages for the salvation of a perishing world.

"The tithe is sacred, reserved by God for Himself. It is to be brought into His treasury to be used to sustain the gospel laborers in their work. ... Read carefully the third chapter of Malachi and see what God says about the tithe." 9T 249

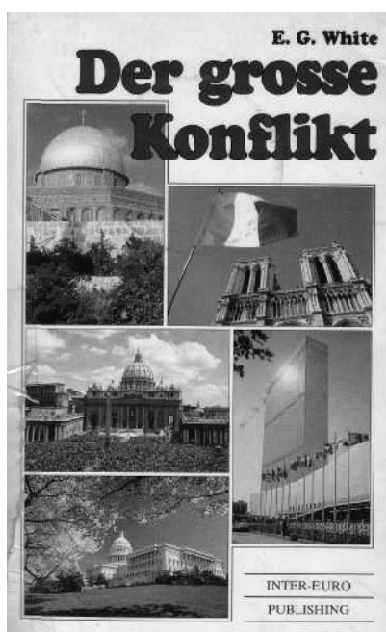
"Great objects are accomplished by this system. If one and all would accept it, each would be made a vigilant and faithful treasurer for God; and there would be no want of means with which to carry forward the great work of sounding the last message of warning to the world." 3T 389 (MYP 304-5)

"God pledges Himself to bless those who obey His commandments. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house ..." 6T 388



God's treasury can only be there where his true church is; a church which fulfils its commission of proclaiming the Three-Angels'-Messages to a perishing world. That is why only faithful servants are to be paid from God's treasury to do this special mission. (see **A Divine Woe because of the Financial Support of Apostasy** page 58)

"The tithe should go to those who labor in word and doctrine, be they men or women.—Manuscript 149, 1899." Ev 492



Spiritual meat of course includes the Word of God itself, which in written form can sometimes be more effective than when it is spoken. These '*silent messengers*' have of course to be available to the bible evangelist who goes from house to house and have to be paid from God's treasury of tithes and offerings:

"The silent messengers that are placed in the homes of the people through the work of the canvasser will strengthen the gospel ministry in every way; for the Holy Spirit will impress minds as they read the books, just as He impresses the minds of those who listen to the preaching of the word. The same ministry of angels attends the books that contain the truth as attends the work of the minister." 6T 315 (see also CM 100; Ev 161)

"The truth must be published far more extensively than it yet has been. It must be defined in clear, sharp lines before the people. It must be presented in short but conclusive arguments, and plans must be laid that at every meeting where the truth has been set before the people, it may be followed by the distribution of tracts and pamphlets. At the present time it may be found necessary to give these away, but they will be a power for good, and nothing will be lost. {Ev 159.1}

"You should go forth with your hands filled with proper reading matter, and your heart filled with the love of God.—Letter 1, 1875." Ev 159 (see also TM 316)

"The discourses presenting the reasons of our faith should be published in little leaflets, and circulated as widely as possible." Ev 160

SOME ONLY REACHED BY LITERATURE. - *Very much more can be accomplished by the living preacher with the circulation of papers and tracts than by the preaching of the Word alone without the publications. . . . Many minds can be reached in no other way. Here is true missionary work in which labor and means can be invested with the best results.—Life Sketches, p. 217. (1915)" Ev 160*

The literature that is paid with tithe money is supposed to be given away freely. It is no literature that is to be sold by book evangelists. There are explicit testimonies that prohibit the financial support of commercially working book evangelists from tithe money.

"One reasons that the tithe may be applied to school purposes. Still others reason that canvassers and colporteurs should be supported from the tithe. But a great mistake is made when the tithe is drawn from the object for which it is to be used—the support of the ministers. There should be today in the field one hundred well qualified laborers where now there is but one." 9T 248

"God has placed at the command of His people advantages in the press, which, combined with other agencies, will be successful in extending the knowledge of the truth. Tracts, papers, and books, as the case demands, should be circulated in all the cities and villages in the land.—Life Sketches, pp. 216, 217. (1915)." Ev 161

With the help of the 'silent messenger with the eternal gospel' which are to be shipped in millions to 'every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people', God can make up for the failure of the apostatized ministry with his Spirit and complete the work sooner than we think.

Only those who contribute with all their energy and all their God-given resources to this closing work will have part in the final triumph.

"All who venture to have their own way, who do not join the angels who are sent from heaven with a message to fill the whole earth with its glory, will be passed by. The work will go forward to victory without them, and they will have no part in its triumph." RH, December 23, 1890 (see also DA 107)

Remember again the encouraging words about the special blessing of God's Spirit on the literature containing the Three-Angels'-Messages, distributed by missionary workers in the closing work, especially when the things predicted and often questioned really come true.

"The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience." GC 612



ZUKUNFT...FAKTEN DER ZUKUNFT...FAKTEN

OZONLOCH BREITET SICH AUS **WALDSTERBEN** **ERDBEENEN**

Zukunftssangst **KLIMASCHOCK** **UMWELTKATASTROPHEN**

MASSENFLUCHT **HUNGERNDE KINDER IN AFRIKA** **GEWALT**

AUSLANDERFÖRCHT **ÜBERSCHWEMMUNGEN** **BÜRGERKRIEG** **WELT AM ENDE**

Trümmer, Pest, AIDS, Hunger, Krieg

Das geht jeden an! Wenn Sie wissen wollen, wie es weitergeht, dann lesen Sie diesen Artikel und füllen den Gutschein aus!

ZUKUNFT OHNE ILLUSIONEN

In den vergangenen Jahren wurde die Welt Zeuge zunehmender Katastrophen. Dürren, Überschwemmungen, verheerende Wirbelstürme und Erdbeben folgten einander ohne Pause. Tausende verloren bei jurechtbaren Unfällen zu Land, zur See und in der Luft ihr Leben. Millionen verhungern. Nationen wie Brasilien und Mexiko sind bankrott, unfähig, ihre Schulden abzurufen. Kriege, Völkermord, Bevölkerungsexplosion und die fortschreitende Zerstörung der Natur machen den Menschen angst. Im Blick in die Zukunft viele dieser Ereignisse sind in der Bibel deutlich vorhergesagt (Matth. 24,4-31; Luk. 21,25-28; Offb. 6,12-17; 16, 17; 18). Gott hat die Menschen vor kommenden Gerichten immer zuvor gewarnt, die dann als Folge der Gottlosigkeit über sie hereingebrochen sind (Jes. 24,5-29; 60,9-10; Am. 3,7; Offb. 1,1).

LEHREN AUS DER VERGANGENHEIT

Gott verkündigte z.B. Noah das Kommen der großen Sintflut, Abraham und Lot die Vernichtung der Städte Sodom und Gomorra und Moses die Plagen über Ägypten. Diese Ereignisse sind uns für die heutige Zeit als Lehrbeispiele aufgeschrieben, die uns klarmachen sollen, daß auch alle prophetischen Warnungen der Bibel in erstaunlicher Weise erfüllt haben und auch in der Zukunft erfüllen werden (1.Kor. 10,6-10; 2.Pet. 2,5-9; Heb. 4,11).

So auch die eindringliche Warnungsbotschaft Gottes an uns:

"So wahr ich lebe, spricht Gott der Herr, ich habe kein Gefallen am Tode der Gottlosen, sondern viel mehr daran, daß der Gottlose von seinem Weg umkehrt und lebet! Kehrt um, kehrt um von euren bösen Wegen! Ja, warum wollt ihr sterben, Haus Israel?" Hes. 33,11 (vgl. 2.Pet. 3,10-11; Mal. 3,15-20).

Was bedeutet das Tier mit dem besonderen Malzeichen?

Bevor wir das Tier behandeln, müssen wir die Hintergründe und die geschichtliche Entwicklung bis zu dem Tier verstehen. Am besten beginnt man im Buch Daniel, das in großartiger Weise die Geschichte vom 6. Jahrhundert v. Chr. bis heute vorführt.

Die Auslegung der dort verwendeten Symbole ist nicht menschlichen Ratschreibern überlassen. Biblische Weissagung ist in voraus geschriebene Geschichte. Die Bibel selbst liefert uns auch den Schlüssel zum Verständnis (2.Pet. 1,20).

In Dan. 2,27-45 symbolisieren die Körperstücke eines Standbildes die esakte Abfolge der Weltreiche von Babylon bis zum heutigen Europa.

In treffender Weise werden parallel zu Dan. 2 in Dan. 7 diese einzelnen Weltreiche und ihre besonderen Merkmale als „Tiere“ dargestellt: „Diese vier großen Tiere bedeuten vier Königreiche“ (Dan. 7,23).

„So wahr ich lebe, spricht Gott der Herr, ich habe kein Gefallen am Tode der Gottlosen, sondern viel mehr daran, daß der Gottlose von seinem Weg umkehrt und lebet! Kehrt um, kehrt um von euren bösen Wegen! Ja, warum wollt ihr sterben, Haus Israel?“ Hes. 33,11 (vgl. 2.Pet. 3,10-11; Mal. 3,15-20).

Das vierte Tier

„Nach diesem schaue ich in Gesichten der Nacht: Und siehe, ein viertes Tier, furchbar und schreckenregend und außerordentlich stark, und so hatte große eiserne Zähne; es fraß und zermalmete, und den Rest zertriet es mit seinen Füßen. Und es war verschieden von allen Tieren, die vor ihm waren, und es hatte zehn Hörner“ (Dan. 7,7). Auch dieses Tier finden wir wieder im Offb. 2, Vers 33 und 40. Die vierte Größendacht, die den Griechen folgte, war das kaiserliche Rom (168 v. Chr.-476 n. Chr.). Es war so verschieden von allen Tieren, daß Daniel konnte, daß er unfähig war, es näher zu beschreiben. Die „zehn Hörner“ bedeuten, daß „zehn Könige, aus diesem Königreich hervorgehen werden.“ (Dan. 7,24). Es ist eine geschichtliche Tatsache, daß das römische Reich 476 n. Chr. zerfiel und an dessen Stelle zehn Reiche traten, nämlich die zehn germanischen Stämme, die heute die europäischen Staaten bilden. Parallel zu Dan. 7,7 werden sie in Dan. 2,41,42 als die zehn Zehen des Standbildes dargestellt. Es waren folgende Stämme: 1. Alemannen (Deutschland), 2. Franken (Frankreich), 3. Angelsachsen (Großbritannien), 4. Burgunder (Schweiz), 5. Westgoten (Spanien), 6. Sueben (Portugal), 7. Lombarden (Italien); 8.

*“Heretofore those who presented the truths of the third angel’s message have often been regarded as mere alarmists. Their predictions that religious intolerance would gain control in the United States, that church and state would unite to persecute those who keep the commandments of God, have been pronounced groundless and absurd. It has been confidently declared that this land could never become other than what it has been—the defender of religious freedom. **But as the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated** [we remember the beginning worldwide papal attack with **“DIES DOMINI”**], **the event so long doubted and disbelieved is seen to be approaching, and the third message will produce an effect which it could not have had before.**”* GC 605-6

“Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord’s side.” GC 612

This is what we are hoping for, especially for apostatized SDA churches. Through the decided and divinely-ordained course of action on the part of a few faithful brothers and sisters that are driven by God’s Spirit and behave like true reformers, the remaining undecided souls among the confessed Adventists might get a last chance to turn back.

Encourage the brothers and sisters of your local churches with the words of E.G. White to take part in the closing work and invite them to your Sabbath meetings in your home churches. Please write and inform us if you conduct public Sabbath home services that those who have been won for the truth by missionary work and who are interested in coming to Sabbath-keeping churches in their area might be sent to your home churches. God’s Spirit can only add honestly searching and faithful souls to a (home) church where faithfulness and harmony in faith already exist:

“The Lord does not now work to bring many souls into the truth, because of the church members who have never been converted and those who were once converted but who have backslidden.” 6T 371 (see also Ev 110)

Home churches based on the early Christian example and moving forward bravely under the banner of the Three-Angels’-Messages will experience God’s special blessings and will be bundled by the third angel for the heavenly barns.

Let us fasten the bonds of brotherly love in the truth as it is in Jesus and join in the proclamation of the Three-Angels’-Messages, both nationally and internationally, to the glory and honor of his name that our work on this earth may soon be completed.

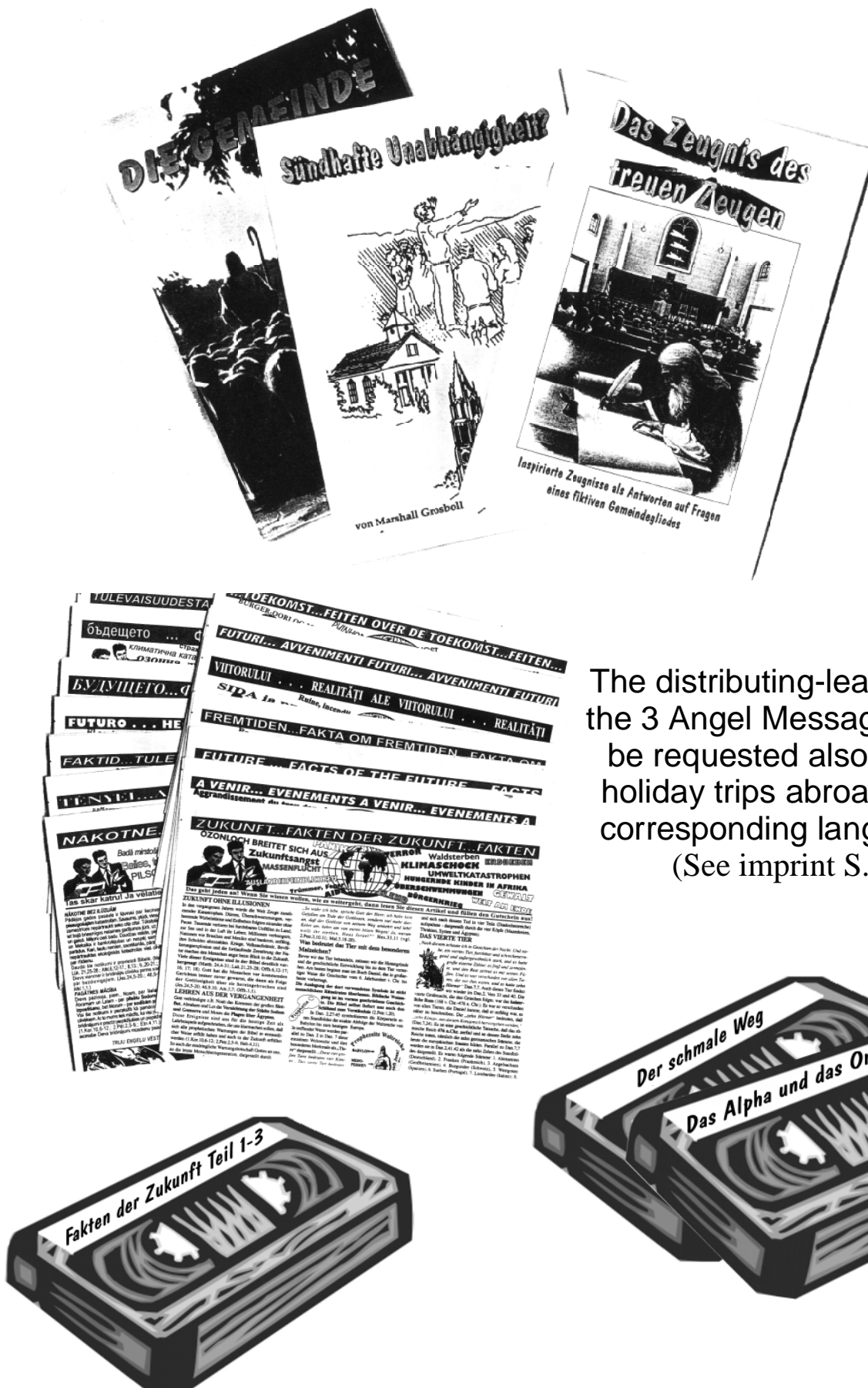
We will happily provide material for the distribution of the Three-Angels’-Messages. You may get video material on the Revelation (including the manuscripts), bible correspondence courses, and other materials for the interior and exterior mission free of charge.

May the Lord bless you, your family, and your home church in your sincere efforts to follow him faithfully in these difficult times.

The brothers and sisters of the Berlin Missionary Society for the Preservation and Promotion of the Adventist Beliefs (*Missionsgesellschaft zur Erhaltung und Förderung adventistischen Glaubensgutes*) greet you in love and warm unity.



Literature and videos for the free transmitting:



The distributing-leaves with the 3 Angel Messages can be requested also for the holiday trips abroad in the corresponding languages! (See imprint S. 3)

Bibliography:

ACK	Arbeitskreis Christlicher Kirchen e.V.
AB I	Ausgewählte Botschaften Band 1 (Inter-Euro-Publishing)
BCL	Battle Creek Letters
BC	Bibel Commentary
BK	Bibelkommentar von E.G.White (Band 7A)
BL	Bibellesungen für den Familienkreis
BvRG	Bilder vom Reiche Gottes (Saatkorn-Verlag Hamburg)
ChS	Christian Service
CKB	Christus kommt bald
DC3	Die Crusaders, Nr.3 "Alberto" von J.T.C.
DO	Daniel u. die Offenbarung (von U. Smith)
EG	Erfahrungen und Gesichte (alte Ausgabe)
EGW '88	The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials
EV	Evangelisation
EW	Early Writings
FG 2	Für die Gemeinde geschrieben (Ausgewählte Botschaften Band 2)
FLB	The Faith I Live By
GIN	Gleichnisse aus der Natur (Edelstein-Verlag)
GKonfl.	Der Große Konflikt (Inter-Euro Publishing, 1988)
GK	Der Große Kampf
GO	Gedanken über die Offenbarung
LW	Leben und Wirken
LJ	Das Leben Jesu
MR	Manuscript Releases Vol. 1-21
MS	E.G.White Manuscript
MYP	Messages to young People
NL	Note Book Leaflets Vol. 1-2
SK	Schatzkammer Band I-III
PC	Paulson Collection
PK	Propheten und Könige
PP	Patriarchen und Propheten
RH	Review and Herald
RJ	Ruf an die Jugend
ST	The Signs of the Times
SDAE 10	SDA Encyclopedia Vol. 10
T	Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1-9
Te	Temperance
TH	Ein Tempel des Heiligen Geistes
TM	Testimonies to Ministers
TSB	Testimonies on Sexual Behaviour, Adultery and Divorce
UL	Upward Look
VSS	The Voice in Speech and Song
WA	Das Wirken der Apostel
ZFG	Zeugnisse für die Gemeinde Band 5-9
ZP	Zeugnisse für Prediger
ZTZ	Das Zeugnis des treuen Zeugen

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