

# Why the Advent Movement Was Called into Existence

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**“Jesus, looking down to the last generation, saw the world involved in a deception similar to that which caused the destruction of Jerusalem. The great sin of the Jews was their rejection of Christ; the great sin of the Christian world would be their rejection of the law of God, the foundation of His government in heaven and earth. The precepts of Jehovah would be despised and set at nought.”—*Great Controversy*, 22.**

“The Saviour’s prophecy concerning the visitation of judgments upon Jerusalem is to have another fulfillment, of which that terrible desolation was but a faint shadow. **In the fate of the chosen city we may behold the doom of a world that has rejected God’s mercy and trampled upon His law.** Dark are the records of human misery that earth has witnessed during its long centuries of crime. The heart sickens, and the mind grows faint in contemplation. Terrible have been the results of rejecting the authority of Heaven.

**“But a scene yet darker is presented in the revelations of the future.** The records of the past,—the long procession of tumults, conflicts, and revolutions, the ‘battle of the warrior . . . with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood’ (Isaiah 9:5),—what are these, in contrast with the terrors of that day when the restraining Spirit of God shall be wholly withdrawn from the wicked, no longer to hold in check the outburst of human passion and satanic wrath! **The world will then behold, as never before, the results of Satan’s rule. But in that day, as in the time of Jerusalem’s destruction, God’s people will be delivered.**”—*Great Controversy*, 36-37.

**“Every ray of light rejected, every warning despised or unheeded, every passion indulged, every transgression of the law of God, is a seed sown which yields its unfailing harvest.** The Spirit of God, persistently resisted, is at last withdrawn from the sinner, and then there is left no power to control the evil passions of the soul, and no protection from the malice and enmity of Satan. **The destruction of Jerusalem is a fearful and solemn warning** to all who are trifling with the offers of divine grace and resisting the pleadings of divine mercy. **Never was there given a more decisive testimony to God’s hatred of sin and to the certain punishment that will fall upon the guilty.**”—*Great Controversy*, 36.

**“In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bear-**

**ers. 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.”—*9 Testimonies*, 19.

**“Commandment-keeping Adventists occupy a peculiar, exalted position.** John viewed them in holy vision and thus described them: **‘Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’**”—*2 Testimonies*, 450.

**“The most solemn truths ever entrusted to mortals have been given us to proclaim to the world.** The proclamation of these truths is to be our work. **The world is to be warned, and God’s people are to be true to the trust committed to them.**”—*9 Testimonies*, 19.

“We are one in faith in the fundamental truths of God’s Word . . . **We have a world-wide message. The commandments of God and the testimonies of Jesus Christ are the burden of our work.**”—*Evangelism*, 179 (*Letter 37*, 1887).

**“Seventh-day Adventists have been chosen by God as a peculiar people, separate from the world.** By the great cleaver of truth He has cut them out from the quarry of the world and brought them into connection with Himself. **He has made them His representatives** and has called them to be ambassadors for Him in the last work of salvation. **The greatest wealth of truth ever entrusted to mortals, the most solemn and fearful warnings ever sent by God to man, have been committed to them to be given to the world.**”—*7 Testimonies*, 138.

**“There must be no pretense in the lives of those who have so sacred and solemn a message as we have been called to bear.** The world is watching Seventh-day Adventists because it knows something of their profession of faith and of their high standard.”—*9 Testimonies*, 23.

**“We are to enter into no confederacy with the world, supposing that by so doing we could accomplish more.** If any stand in the way, to hinder the advancement of the work in the lines that God has appointed, they will displease God. **No line of truth that has made the Seventh-day Adventist people what they are is to be weakened.** We have the old land-

marks of truth, experience, and duty, and **we are to stand firmly in defense of our principles, in full view of the world.**”—6 *Testimonies*, 17.

“Men will employ every means to make less prominent the difference between Seventh-day Adventists and observers of the first day of the week. **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.”—6 *Testimonies*, 144.

“Satanic agencies have been moved from beneath, and they have inspired men to unite in a confederacy of evil, that they may perplex, harass, and cause of the people of God great distress. **The whole world is to be stirred with enmity against Seventh-day Adventists**, because they will not yield homage to the papacy, by honoring Sunday, the institution of this antichristian power. **It is the purpose of Satan to cause them to be blotted from the earth**, in order that his supremacy of the world may not be disputed.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 37.

“It is difficult to hold fast the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end; and the difficulty increases when there are hidden influences constantly at work to bring in another spirit, a counterworking element, on Satan’s side of the question. **In the absence of persecution, there have drifted into our ranks some who appear sound, and their Christianity unquestionable, but who, if persecution should arise, would go out from us.** In the crisis, they would see force in specious reasoning that has had an influence on their minds. Satan has prepared various snares to meet varied minds. **When the law of God is made void the church will be sifted by fiery trials, and a larger proportion than we now anticipate, will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.** Instead of being strengthened when brought into strait places, many prove that they are not living branches of the True Vine; they bore no fruit, and the husbandman taketh them away.”—2 *Selected Messages*, 368.

“But **when the world makes void the law of God, what will be the effect upon the truly obedient and righteous?** Will they be carried away by the strong current of evil? Because so many rank themselves under the banner of the prince of darkness, **will God’s commandment-keeping people swerve from their allegiance? Never!** Not one who is abiding in Christ will fail or fall. His followers will bow in obedience to a higher authority than that of any earthly potentate.

“While the contempt placed upon God’s commandments leads many to suppress the truth and show less reverence for it, **the faithful ones will with greater earnestness hold aloft its distinguishing truths.** We are not left to our own direction. In all our ways we should acknowledge God, and He will direct our paths. We should consult His Word with humble hearts, ask His counsel, give up our will to His. We can do nothing without God.”—2 *Selected Messages*, 368-369.

“**There is the highest reason for us to prize the true Sabbath and stand in its defense, for it is the sign which distinguishes the people of God from the world.** The commandment that the world makes void is the one to which, for this very reason, God’s people will give greater honor. It is when the unbelieving cast contempt upon the Word of God that the faithful Calebs are called for. It is then that **they will stand firm at the post of duty, without parade, and without swerving because of reproach.**”—2 *Selected Messages*, 369.

“It is a solemn and terrible truth that many who have been zealous in proclaiming the third angel’s message are now becoming listless and indifferent! The line of demarcation between worldlings and many professed Christians is almost indistinguishable. **Many who once were earnest Adventists are conforming to the world—to its practices, its customs, its selfishness. Instead of leading the world to render obedience to God’s law, the church is uniting more and more closely with the world in transgression. Daily the church is becoming converted to the world** . . .

“And through lack of zeal for the promulgation of the third angel’s message, many others, while not apparently living in transgression, are nevertheless as verily lending their influence on the side of Satan as are those who openly sin against God. Multitudes are perishing; but how few are burdened for these souls! **There is a stupor, a paralysis, upon many of the people of God, which prevents them from understanding the duty of the hour.**”—8 *Testimonies*, 118-119.

“There has been but little of the missionary spirit among Sabbathkeeping Adventists. If ministers and people were sufficiently aroused, they would not rest thus indifferently while **God has honored them by making them the depositaries of His law** by printing it in their minds and writing it upon their hearts. **These truths of vital importance are to test the world.**”—3 *Testimonies*, 202.

“**Seventh-day Adventists are handling momentous truths.**”—9 *Testimonies*, 158.

“**We are not to cringe and beg pardon of the world for telling them the truth:** we should scorn concealment. Unfurl your colors to meet the cause of men and angels. **Let it be understood that Seventh-day Adventists can make no compromise. In your opin-**

**ions and faith there must not be the least appearance of waverings:** the world has a right to know what to expect of us.”—*Evangelism*, 179 (*Manuscript 16*, 1890).

“The time has come when, as never before, **Seventh-day Adventists are to arise and shine, because their light has come**, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon them.”—*Evangelism*, 36.

“Standing before the world as reformers, **they are to show that the law of God is the foundation of all enduring reform. In clear, distinct lines they are to present the necessity of obedience to all His commandments.** Constrained by the love of Christ, they are to co-operate with Him in building up the old waste places, raising up the foundations of many generations. **They are to stand as repairers of the breach**, restorers of paths to dwell in.”—*7 Testimonies*, 139.

“The Lord is testing His people to see who will be loyal to the principles of His truth. **Our work is to proclaim to the world the first, second, and third angels’ messages. In the discharge of our duties we are neither to despise nor to fear our enemies . . .** Putting our trust in God, we are to move steadily forward, doing His work with unselfishness, in humble dependence upon Him.”—*7 Testimonies*, 107-108.

“I pray that my brethren may realize that **the third angel’s message means much to us and that the observance of the true Sabbath is to be the sign that distinguishes those who serve God from those who serve Him not.** Let those who have become sleepy and indifferent awake. We are called to be holy, and **we should carefully avoid giving the impression that it is of little consequence whether or not we retain the peculiar features of our faith.** Upon us rests the solemn obligation of taking a more decided stand for truth and righteousness than we have taken in the past.

“**The line of demarcation between those who keep the commandments of God and those who do not is to be revealed with unmistakable clearness . . .** To give the impression that our faith, our religion, is not a dominating power in our lives is greatly to dishonor God. **Thus we turn from His commandments, which are our life, denying that He is our God** and that we are His people.”—*7 Testimonies*, 108-109.

“**If ever a people needed to walk before God as did Enoch, Seventh-day Adventists need to do so now**, showing their sincerity by pure words, clean words, words full of sympathy, tenderness, and love.”—*7 Testimonies*, 155.

“**Our people have been regarded as too insignificant to be worthy of notice, but a change will come;** the movements are now being made. **The Christian world is now making movements which will necessarily bring the commandment-keeping people to notice.** There is a daily suppression of God’s truth for the theories and false doctrines of human origin.

**There are plans and movements being set on foot to enslave the consciences of those who would be loyal to God. The law-making powers will be against God’s people.**

“Every soul will be tested. O that we would as a people be wise for ourselves and by precept and example impart that wisdom to our children! **Every position of our faith will be searched into**, and if we are not thorough Bible students, established, strengthened, settled, the wisdom of the world’s great men will be too much for us.”—*2 Selected Messages*, 386 (*Letter 12*, 1886).

“**God’s commandment-keeping people are described by the prophet as ‘men wondered at.’ We are to be a people distinct from the world.** The eyes of the world are upon us, and we are observed by many of whom we have no knowledge. There are those who know something of the doctrines we claim to believe, and they are noting the effect of our faith upon our characters. **They are waiting to see what kind of influence we exert**, and how we carry ourselves before a faithless world. The angels of heaven are looking upon us. **‘We are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men’** (1 Cor. 4:9).”—*2 Selected Messages*, 386 (*Review*, June 18, 1889).

“**We are Seventh-day Adventists. Are we ashamed of our name? We answer, ‘No, no! We are not. It is the name the Lord has given us.** It points out the truth that is to be the test of the churches’ (Letter 110, 1902).

“**We are Seventh-day Adventists, and of this name we are never to be ashamed.** As a people we must take a firm stand for truth and righteousness. **Thus we shall glorify God.** We are to be delivered from dangers, not ensnared and corrupted by them. That this may be, we must look ever to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith (Letter 106, 1903).”—*2 Selected Messages*, 384 .

“**The banner of the third angel has inscribed upon it, ‘The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.’** Our institutions have taken a name [“Seventh-day Adventist”] which sets forth the character of our faith, and of this name we are never to be ashamed. I have been shown that this name means much, and in adopting it we have followed the light given us from heaven . . . The Sabbath is God’s memorial of His creative work, and it is a sign that is to be kept before the world.”—*2 Selected Messages*, 384 (*Manuscript 15*, 1896).

“**There is to be no compromise with those who are worshiping an idol sabbath.** We are not to spend our time in controversy with those who know the truth, and upon whom the light of truth has been shining, when they turn away their ear from the truth to turn to fables. I was told that **men will employ every policy to make less prominent the difference between the faith of Seventh-day Adventists and those who ob-**

serve the first day of the week. In this controversy the whole world will be engaged, and the time is short. This is no time to haul down our colors.”—2 *Selected Messages*, 385 (*Manuscript 15*, 1896).

“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 distinctive people should not be held out so strikingly; for they claimed it was not the best policy in securing success to our institutions. This distinctive banner is to be borne through the world to the close of probation. In describing the remnant people of God, John says, ‘Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus’ (Rev. 14:12). This is the law and the gospel. The world and the churches are uniting in harmony in transgressing the law of God, in tearing away God’s memorial, and in exalting a sabbath that bears the signature of the man of sin. But the Sabbath of the Lord thy God is to be a sign to show the difference between the obedient and the disobedient.

“I saw some reaching out their hands to remove the banner, and to obscure its significance . . . When the people accept and exalt a spurious sabbath, and turn souls away from obedience and loyalty to God, they will reach the point that was reached by the people in the days of Christ . . . Shall anyone then choose to hide his banner, to relax his devotion? Shall the people whom God has honored and blessed and prospered, refuse to bear testimony in behalf of God’s memorial at the very time when such a testimony should be borne? Shall not the commandments of God be more highly esteemed when men pour contempt upon the law of God?”—2 *Selected Messages*, 385 (*Manuscript 15*, 1896).

“You both held the banner upon which was inscribed, ‘The commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus;’ but as you met in your way with people whom you thought were popular, down came the banner, and you put it behind your backs, saying: ‘If we let it be known that we are Seventh-day Adventists, then our influence will be at an end, and we shall lose many advantages.’ I saw the banner of truth trailing behind you. Then the question arose: ‘Why carry it at all? We can believe that which we see to be truth, but we need not let the educators and students know that we bear this unpopular banner.’

“There were those in your company who were not pleased or satisfied with these suggestions, but they weakly followed your influence in place of letting their light shine by holding aloft their standard. They hid their banners and marched on, fearing to let the light which was given them of heaven shine before all.”—5 *Testimonies*, 501.

“I saw a company who stood well guarded and firm, giving no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body. God looked upon them with approbation. I was shown three steps—the first, second, and third angels’ messages. Said my accompanying angel, ‘Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received.’ I was again brought down through these messages, and saw how dearly the people of God had purchased their experience. It had been obtained through much suffering and severe conflict.

“God had led them along step by step, until He had placed them upon a solid, immovable platform. I saw individuals approach the platform and examine the foundation. Some with rejoicing immediately stepped upon it. Others commenced to find fault with the foundation. They wished improvements made, and then the platform would be more perfect, and the people much happier. Some stepped off the platform to examine it and declared it to be laid wrong.

“But I saw that nearly all stood firm upon the platform and exhorted those who had stepped off to cease their complaints; for God was the Master Builder, and they were fighting against Him. They recounted the wonderful work of God, which had led them to the firm platform, and in union raised their eyes to heaven and with a loud voice glorified God. This affected some of those who had complained and left the platform, and they with humble look again stepped upon it.”—*Early Writings*, 258-259.

“Those who have seen the truth and felt its importance, and have had an experience in the things of God, are to teach sound doctrine to their children. They should make them acquainted with the great pillars of our faith, the reasons why we are Seventh-day Adventists,—why we are called, as were the children of Israel, to be a peculiar people, a holy nation, separate and distinct from all other people on the face of the earth. These things should be explained to the children in simple language, easy to be understood; and as they grow in years, the lessons imparted should be suited to their increasing capacity, until the foundations of truth have been laid broad and deep.”—5 *Testimonies*, 330.

“Let men beware lest they neglect the lesson conveyed to them in the words of Christ. As He warned His disciples of Jerusalem’s destruction, giving them a sign of the approaching ruin, that they might make their escape; so He has warned the world of the day of final destruction and has given them tokens of its approach, that all who will may flee from the wrath to come.”—*Great Controversy*, 37.

## **THE CRISIS OF THE AGES**

**COUNSELS FOR THE ADVENT PEOPLE**

**"And 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**

**GOD CALLED US INTO EXISTENCE  
FOR A SPECIAL TWO-FOLD REASON**

**OUR WORK IS TO PROCLAIM  
OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW OF GOD**

**The Message We Are to Give to the World**

Why God Started the Advent Movement

The Heart of the 6,000-Year Controversy

**IN ORDER TO DO THAT  
WE MUST OBEY THAT LAW**

**The Work We Are to Do in Our Own Lives**

The Center of the Final Crisis

You Can Overcome

How to Resist Temptation

In Christ We Conquer

Errors about Overcoming Sin

**WHY GOD STARTED THE AD-  
VENT MOVEMENT**

NOV 2003

IN

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**BASIC CONTROVERSY  
IN GR CONTRO B/N CHRIST  
AND SATAN**

SECOND EDITION OCT 2003

IN

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**CENTER OF THE CRISIS**

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IN

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**YOU CAN OVERCOME**

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**HOW TO RESIST TEMPTATION**

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**IN CHRIST WE CONQUER**

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IN

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**ERRORS ABOUT  
OVERCOMING SIN**

NOV 2003

IN

**ERRORSIN / 18**