

Who Told You to Hate Historic Adventism?

—by Pastor Raphael Perez

Who told you to hate the pillars of the Seventh-day Adventist faith and change them? Who told you that historic Adventism is in need of transformation?

Who is telling you that the role of Ellen White needs to be reevaluated? Who is telling you that the third angel's message is a hate message and that those who dare proclaim it loudly and publicly are a hate group? Who is teaching you these things—to despise your birthright, to deny your past experience, and to abandon the way in which the Lord your God has led you?

The Seventh-day Adventist people have been on this planet for almost 165 years. And for the first 100 years the church has enjoyed virtually universal confidence in the historical teachings of the faith. But for the last 50 years we have endured an unprecedented period of crisis—a theological crisis that threatens to destroy the very life of the movement.

So much criticism has been leveled against our historic message by people from both within and from outside of Adventism. Church leaders in academic, scholarly, and administrative posts are reacting negatively to the “faith which was once delivered to the saints.” There are few, if any, who are seeking to restore historic Adventism to a central and more serious role in the life of the church.

The loudest voices today are those who are critical about our past experience. These sad days have reached such a peak in Adventism as never before. A similar experience happened to Adam in the Garden of Eden. When God created Adam He placed Him in a perfect paradise in order to have a close communion with him, to walk with him, and to give him instruction. Adam was to learn from God alone.

“Adam and Eve, in their untainted purity, delighted in the sights and sounds of Eden...Each day's labor brought them health and gladness, and the happy pair greeted with joy the visits of their Creator, as in the cool of the day *He walked and talked with them. Daily God taught them His lessons.*” Ministry of Healing, p. 261.

The Bible tells us that after Adam sinned he hid himself because of his nakedness. Surprisingly, God directly asked him an important question that we today need to consider: “*Who told thee that thou wast naked?*” Gen. 3:11.

In other words, “Who have you been talking to and who are you getting your information from?”

The serpent was the medium by which the devil caused Adam and Eve to doubt, to disobey, and to ***distance themselves from their previous experience.*** “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted...” 2 Cor. 11:3.

Adam and Eve departed totally from the true source of life and truth and turned to the lying wonders of the serpent for their theology and philosophy. The “daily walks and talks” with the Creator should have been maintained for all eternity.

Tragically, Adam and Eve began to think independently and eventually they put out of their minds God's truth. They even tried to distance themselves from God by hiding themselves among the trees.

A Modern Period

And so it is today, Adventists too have been hiding. We too have turned away from the daily “walks and talks” with our Creator. We too are afraid and ashamed of certain aspects of the Seventh-day Adventist faith. We too have put out of our minds how we previously thought. In this modern era we have distanced ourselves from historic Adventism—the mission and message of the Great Second Advent Movement that was founded right after 1844.

“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.*” Selected Messages, Vol. 1, p. 204.

Just like in Paul’s day a similar experience is happening in this modern era: “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times *some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits*, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.” 1 Tim. 4:1, 2.

The leaders of this work have disguised this departure of the faith. They call it “advances in contemporary religious thought.” They describe their work as a rebirth of learning not locked in on the old ways. There are those in Adventism who are proclaiming a “Declaration of Independence” and are breaking away from the original systems, methods, and ideas.

“*Satan has devised a state of things whereby the proclamation 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.*” Evangelism, p. 230.

Who is behind the reasons for why we are breaking free from our past. No longer do we hear commentaries or affirmations on previously published work of historic Adventism. Today modern thinkers are flooding the church with new discourses and dissertations that present historic Adventism as the “old systems” which we need to break free from. They want a new beginning, not dependent upon the past. They teach that the old ways are narrow and limit our understanding of truth.

This new rationalism will divorce you from the truth and will divorce the church from its past history. This reasoning is separating God’s people from our historical beliefs. It is causing many to despise and hate our past experience.

Would God today inquire of us the same line of questioning as He did to Adam when he asked, “**Who** told thee that thou was naked?” Notice the similar, straightforward questions being presented to us through the Spirit of Prophecy:

“Shall any man sell our *peculiar characteristics* as God’s chosen people for any advantage the world has to give? Shall the favor of those who transgress the law of God be looked upon as of great value? Shall those whom the Lord has named His people suppose that there is any power higher than the great I AM? Shall we endeavor to *blot out the distinguishing points of faith* that have made us Seventh-day Adventists?” Evangelism, p. 121.

Why are we losing the historic aspects of our movement? Where has it gone? Who took it? And how did they take it? What was and is our true history? How is our history being wiped out? What did Seventh-day Adventists believe and what was their burden for the world *before* “our religion was

changed.” When did ecumenism come in? How did celebration come? Who brought in the New Theology which is really not new because it is as old as the first deception that started from the Garden of Eden.

During the rise of the Christian Church a more deceptive medium was introduced—wolves in the form of preachers came in and caused many to depart from the faith. “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.” Acts 20:29.

The serpent’s rationalisms caused Adam and Even to doubt, disobey, and hide from their past experience.

These things were never part of the movement from its inception. Our only safety is to know who we are and what we are supposed to believe. What made us who we are, Seventh-day Adventists?

What are the pillars of Seventh-day Adventism? What makes us peculiar? Do we really know how this movement was founded? Do we know the mission? What did we used to preach? What was the urgency of our message? What did our pioneers dedicate their lives to? Under which hope did they die?

“In the future, deception of every kind is to arise, and we want solid ground for our feet. *We want solid pillars for the building. Not one pin is to be removed from that which the Lord has established.* The enemy will bring in false theories...This is one of the points on which there will be a departing from the faith.” Maranatha, p. 192.

It is the great enemy of truth who hates true, historic Seventh-day Adventism. He hates and persecutes those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus, the Spirit of Prophecy (Rev. 12:17; 19:10). He hates those who own the Crucified One as their Savior.

He hates the pillars of our faith. He hates the distinctive messages that are being preached by faithful ministers. He hates those who stand against him and his antichrist system. He hates those who do not yield to his authority or who do not unite with his apostates.

And in the same manner as he caused Adam and Eve to lose their previous position at the beginning, he is even more determined to cause you and I to lose our standing during the time of the end, being that he has just a little time left. Don’t buy into the devil’s deceptions. He is a wolf and he intends on making you his meal. We need to build new bridges in our minds that will bring us back to the way in which the Lord has led his Seventh-day Adventist people.

Once God’s people are able to bring their minds in contact with our historic message, and once we embrace them and proclaim them with all our hearts—then the work will be finished and cut short in righteousness and there will be nothing the devil can do to stop the work.

Now, before you ask why historic Seventh-day Adventists are an “oldtime,” “strange,” “backwoods,” “fringe message,” that is out of the mainstream—first ask yourself: *Who taught you to hate being what God has made us? Who taught you to love the whole world and yet to hate yourself? Has the devil tricked us to love him, to love his churches, his beliefs, and his deceptions, and at the same time—to hate ourselves, our past, and our beliefs?* These are serious questions that we must consider because in the day of judgment God just might ask you, “Who told *you* to hate historic Adventism?”

“Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan.” Testimonies to Ministers, p. 209, 210.

“Then there will be a removing of the landmarks, and an attempt to tear down the pillars of our faith.” Maranatha, p. 189.