

ADVENTISM'S VISITATION

PART ONE B

Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe *it* not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Matthew 24:23–25.

THE FALLEN CHURCHES

“I saw that God has honest children among the nominal Adventists 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**.” *Early Writings*, 261.

FIRST ANGEL

“**The churches would not receive the light of the first angel’s message**, and as they rejected the light from heaven **they fell** from the favor of God. They trusted in their own strength, and placed themselves by their opposition to the first message where they could not see the light of the second angel’s message. But the beloved of God, who were oppressed, answered to the message, **Babylon is fallen**, and **left the fallen churches**.” *Spiritual Gifts*, volume 1, 140.

SECOND ANGEL

“Our hopes now centered on the coming of the Lord in 1844. This was also the time for **the message of the second angel**, who, flying through the midst of heaven, cried, ‘**Babylon is fallen, is fallen**, that great city.’ Revelation 14:8. That message was first proclaimed by the servants of God in the summer of 1844. **As a result, many left the fallen churches**.” *Life Sketches*, 59.

FUTURE

“God has many thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal. There are God-fearing men and women in **the fallen churches**. If this were not so, we would not be given the message to bear: ‘**Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen**. . . . Come out of her, My people.’ Revelation 18:2–4. Many of the honest in heart are gasping for a breath of life from heaven. They will recognize the gospel when it is brought to them in the beauty and simplicity with which it is presented in God’s word.” *Testimonies*, volume 9, 110.

THE NOMINAL ADVENTISTS AND THE FALLEN CHURCHES

“I saw that God has honest children among **the nominal Adventists 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.” *Early Writings*, 261.

NOMINAL: 1. Titular; **existing in name only**; as, a nominal distinction or difference is a difference in name and not in reality. 2. **Pertaining to a name** or names; consisting in names. *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*

NOMINAL ADVENTISM

“The test of discipleship is not brought to bear as closely as it should be upon those who present themselves for baptism. It should be understood **whether they are simply taking the name of Seventh-day Adventists**, or whether they are taking their stand on the Lord’s side, to come out from the world and be separate, and touch not the unclean thing. Before baptism there should be a thorough inquiry as to the experience of the candidates.” *Testimonies*, volume 6, 95.

“There are many Seventh-day Adventists who do not understand that to accept the cause of Christ means to accept his cross. **The only evidence they give in their lives of their discipleship is in the name they bear.**” *Review and Herald*, February 25, 1909.

“I terribly fear that **many that bear the name** of Seventh-day Adventists are stumbling-blocks in the way of sinners. They neither enter into the work themselves, and those that would enter in, they hinder by their unconsecrated lives. God forbid that we should go down to death with the blood of souls upon our garments. **God forbid that we should stand merely bearing the name of Christians, when we are not sanctified by the truths we profess.** God forbid that we at last find that our lives have been an entire failure, an entire mistake, and there appear no soul to whom we can point, as one whom we have been the means of saving, and bringing in through the gates, into the city. Shall it appear finally that we have been wrapped up in our own self-righteousness, all covered up with the spirit and love of the world?” *Review and Herald*, August 17, 1869.

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LIKE JUDAS

“I saw **the nominal church and nominal Adventists, like Judas, would** betray us to the Catholics to obtain their influence to come against the truth. The saints then will be an obscure people, little known to the Catholics; but **the churches and nominal Adventists** who know of our faith and customs (for **they hated us on account of the Sabbath**, for they could not refute it) will betray the saints and report them to the Catholics as those who disregard the institutions of the people; that is, that they keep the Sabbath and disregard Sunday.” *Spalding Magan*, 2.

JUDAS

“**Judas had had great light**; he had had many **opportunities** to understand what were the requirements of God. **Numbered among the twelve**, he had listened to the lessons of Christ; he had heard the truth, and he had no excuse for failing to form a character after the likeness of Christ. . . .

“**In this age**, if those who come under the precious influence of the truth do not become transformed in character, they will, **like Judas**, go from light to darkness; and how great will be their darkness.” *Signs of the Times*, July 18, 1895.

THE SEPARATING WALL

“I saw that the holy Sabbath is, and will be, **the separating wall** between the true Israel of God and unbelievers; and that the Sabbath is the great question to unite the hearts of God’s dear, waiting saints.

“I saw that God had children who do not see and keep the Sabbath. They have not rejected the light upon it. And at the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully. [SEE PAGE 85.] This enraged **the churches** and **nominal Adventists**, as **they could not refute the Sabbath truth**. And at this time God’s chosen all saw clearly that we had the truth, and they came out and endured the persecution with us. I saw the sword, famine, pestilence, and great confusion in the land. The wicked thought that we had brought the judgments upon them, and they rose up and took counsel to rid the earth of us, thinking that then the evil would be stayed.” *Early Writings*, 33.

THE FALLEN CHURCHES AND FIRST DAY ADVENTISTS

“From the beginning of my work, I have been pursued by hatred, reproach, and falsehood. Base imputations and slanderous reports have been greedily gathered up and widely circulated by the rebellious, the formalist, and the fanatic. There are ministers of the so-called orthodox churches traveling from place to place to war against Seventh-day Adventists, and they make Mrs. White their textbook. The scoffers of the last days are led on by these **ministers professing to be God’s watchmen**.

“The unbelieving world, the ministers of **the fallen churches, and the first-day Adventists** are **united in the work of assailing Mrs. White**. This warfare has been kept up for nearly forty years, but I have not felt at liberty even to notice their vile speeches, reproaches, and insinuations. And I would not now depart from this custom, were it not that some honest souls may be misled by the enemies of the truth who are so exultantly declaring me a deceiver. In the hope of helping the minds of the honest, I make the statements that I do.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 69.

THE FORDITES AMONG US

“The Seventh-day Adventists who profess to be looking for, and loving, the appearing of Christ, should not follow the course of worldlings. They are no criterion for commandment-keepers. Neither should they pattern after **the first-day Adventists, who trample underfoot the law of God**, and who will not acknowledge its claims. This class should be no criterion for them. Commandment-keeping Adventist are occupying a peculiar, exalted position. John viewed them in holy vision, and described them. Here are they who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus.” *Pamphlets 011*, 16.

THE MOST DIFFICULT TO REACH

“**The first-day Adventists** as a class are the most difficult to reach. They generally reject the truth, **as did the Jews**. We should, as far as possible, go forward as though there were not such a people in existence. They are the elements of confusion, and immoralities exist among them to a fearful extent. It would be the greatest calamity to have many of their number embrace the truth. They would have to unlearn everything and learn anew, or they would cause us great trouble. . . .

“The *Sabbath History* has been kept from the people too long. They need this precious work, even if they do not have it in all its perfection. It never can be prepared in a manner to fully silence unreasonable opponents, who are unstable, and who wrest the Scriptures unto their own destruction. This is a busy world. Men and women who engage in the business of life have not time to meditate, or even to read the word of God enough to understand all its important truths. Long, labored arguments will interest but a few; for the people have to read as they run. You can no more remove the objections to the Sabbath commandment from **the minds of first-day Adventists** than could the Saviour of the world, by His great power and miracles, convince **the Jews that He was the Messiah**, after they had once set themselves to reject Him. Like the obstinate, unbelieving Jews, they have chosen darkness rather than light, and should an angel direct from the courts of heaven speak to them, they would say it was Satan.” *Testimonies*, volume 3, 37–38.

OUR BRETHREN

“If **our brethren** had been divested of prejudice, if they had had the Spirit of Christ and spiritual discernment, reasoning from cause to effect, **they would not have borne false witness against me**. They would not have made the statement that **Sister White was influenced** by W. C. White, A. T. Jones, and E. J. Waggoner.

“The charge of my being influenced has been brought against me by **first-day Adventists** and by those to whom the Lord has sent warnings, cautions, and reproof. ‘Someone has influenced Sister White,’ they have said, ‘Someone has told her these things.’ This I have had to meet from the very first day of my labors. Everyone who has been reproved and has apostatized has had these things to say.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 12, 201.

“Satan is . . . constantly pressing in the spurious—to lead away from the truth. **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’ (Proverbs 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**.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 48.

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