

A Monthly Publication by the E. G. White—Seventh-day Adventist Research

Theme: "Jesus' Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary"

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NEW EGW-SDA RESEARCH CENTRE

OPENED IN TEXAS

(ADVENTIST REVIEW ONLINE, MAR. 2004)

Southwestern Adventist University in Keen, Texas, officially opened a new Ellen G. White-SDA Research Centre on March 26.

Housed on the second floor of the Can Shun Centennial Library, the research centre includes thousands of letters and manuscripts, microfiche and microfilm, containing all of Ellen White's published and unpublished writings, from the 1840s to 1915. Also included are Adventist pioneer historical documents, all copies of the Review and Herald (now Adventist Review), all General Conference session bulletins since 1863. Researchers will find "an opportunity to reconnect and recommit to who we are and the greater vision that started this movement," said Donald R. Sahly, university president.

BIBLE CLASSES AT THE EGW-SDA RESEARCH CENTRE

The EGW-SDA Research Centre in conjunction with NCU Church and its mission of "Reaping God's Harvest," will be hosting **Regular Bible Classes** for the NCU Family. The Research Centre Director, Martin Hanna (Ph.D.) will conduct the sessions under the theme "How to Read God's Three Books." The classes will be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. at the Research Centre.

Would you like to send us your questions or comments on Spirit of Prophecy matters? Please, contact us:

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

(1 John 2: 1).

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR (IV)

This is the fourth and last part of my article on "The Acceptable Year of the Lord's Favor" (Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:18-19). The third part dealt with the question of why Jesus said 2000 years ago: "**This day is this Scripture fulfilled** in your ears" (Luke 4:21). Now I address the issue of the continuing relevance of the message of Jesus for us in the 21st century.

On one hand, as was suggested in part three, **Jesus announced the last days of the Jewish probation 2000 years ago.** The Jewish nation lost its special status as the means through which God's mission would be accomplished. Instead, persons from every nation become part of the people of God by faith in Jesus. "If you are in Christ, you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:3). Jews and Gentiles who believe in Jesus are God's people. "The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1: 16).

On the other hand, **Jesus also announced the "last days" of earth's history!** He said: "then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. . . So . . . when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors" (Matthew 24:30, 33).

The Bible writers often use the expression "the last days" to refer to the time which began with Christ's First Advent (Hebrews 2: 1-2) as well as to refer to the "time of the end" (Daniel 7:17) which ushers in the Second Advent.

The last Days. John wrote, "Little children, it is the last time" (1 John 2: 18). The Apostles wished for Christ's return in their generation. However, they also recognized, in principle, the possibility of the passing of significant time before the end of the age. Paul wrote: "Be not soon shaken or troubled because the day of Christ is at hand . . . that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the Spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" (2 Thessalonians 2: 2-8).

The Time of the End. According to Daniel, the time just before the Lord returns is called the "time of the end" when the sanctuary of God will be cleansed. "After two thousand three hundred days, then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. . . at the time of the end . . . for at the appointed time, the end shall be" (Daniel 8: 14, 17, 19). The cleansing symbolism comes from the sanctuary services of ancient Israel in which the High Priest cleansed the sanctuary on the Day of Atonement once

every year (Hebrews 9: 7).

In Daniel 8:14, the word "cleansed" is a translation of the Hebrew word "nisdaq" which also means restored and/or vindicated. The message of sanctuary cleansing is important for Christians. First, "**we have such a High priest** . . . in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord built" (Hebrews 8:1, 2). Second, **we "are a royal priesthood"** and "should show forth the praises of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). **Let us cooperate with our High Priest in the work of restoring, vindicating, and cleansing the sanctuary.** Ellen White writes: "There must be a purifying of the soul here upon the earth, in harmony with Christ's cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven" (*Maranatha*, 249).

Are we living in the Time of the End? A proper understanding of the 2,300 day/year prophecy of Daniel 8:14 provides the answer. Remember one day represents one year (Numbers 14: 34). As was noted in part three of this article, seventy weeks (490 days/years) of national probation were given to Daniel's people, the Jews (Daniel 9: 24). This period was "determined" or "cut off" from the larger period 2,300 day/years (8:14). As such, the period started with the 457 B.C. decree by the Medo-Persians that the Jews could return to their homeland to rebuild Jerusalem (9: 25).

If there are 2,300 years to the time of the end from the decree

Calculations of time periods in Daniel 8 and 9:

- 1) $70 \times 7 = 490$ days/years (457 BC—34 AD).
- 2) $34 \text{ AD} + 1810 \text{ years} = 1844 \text{ AD}$.
- 3) $490 \text{ years} + 1810 \text{ years} = 2,300 \text{ years}$.
- 4) $457 \text{ BC} + 1844 \text{ AD} = 2,300 \text{ years}$.
- 5) $1844 \rightarrow 2004 = 160 \text{ years}$.

of 457 BC, then the time of the end begins in 1844 AD. So you see, we have been living in the time of the end for approximately 160 years already!

When will Jesus come again? "God, who at different times and in different ways spoke **in time past** unto the fathers by the prophets, has **in these last days** spoken unto us by his Son" (Hebrews 1:1-2). Given that 2000 years have passed since these words were written, it is obvious that the phrase "last days" does not identify the time of the Second Advent. Rather, the "last days" stands in contrast with the "times past" when God revealed Himself to the OT prophets.

<continued page 3>

From the Director (continued)

Misunderstanding of the last days and the fact that Jesus has not yet returned has led some to loose faith in God's word. Peter wrote: "There shall come in the last days scoffers . . . saying where is the promise of his coming? (2 Peter 3: 3, 4). However, we need not doubt because **"the day of the Lord will come"** (v. 10).

The end of the 2,300 days/years has ushered in an extended period called "the time of the end" (Daniel 8:14, 17). During this period Christ engages in His final work of restoring, vindicating, and cleansing His Sanctuary. When will Jesus come? Jesus said: **"Of that day and that hour knows no man**, no, not the angels which are in heaven" (Mark 13: 22). **Nevertheless, "at the time appointed the end shall be"** (Daniel 8: 19).

Ellen White writes "the angels of God in their messages to men represent time as very short. Thus it has always been presented to me. It is true that time has continued longer than we expected Our Saviour did not appear as soon as we hoped. But has the Word of the Lord failed? Never! It should be remembered that the promises and the threatenings of God are alike conditional" (*Evangelism*, 695).

"By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten our Lord's return" (*Desire of Ages*, 633). "Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come" (*Testimonies*, 8:22, 23).

Surely, the time in which we live is the acceptable time of the Lord's favor! Lets reap God's harvest today!

Seventh-day Adventists Believe...

"There is a sanctuary in heaven, the true tabernacle which the Lord set up and not man. **In it Christ ministers in our behalf**, making available to believers the benefits of His atoning sacrifice offered once for all on the cross. **He was inaugurated as our great High Priest and began His intercessory ministry at the time of His ascension.** In 1844, at the end of the prophetic period of 2300 days, He entered the second and last phase of His atoning ministry. It is a work of investigative judgment which is part of the ultimate disposition of all sin, typified by the cleansing of the ancient Hebrew sanctuary on the Day of Atonement. In that typical service the sanctuary was cleansed with the blood of animal sacrifices, but **the heavenly things are purified with the perfect sacrifice of the blood of Jesus.** The investigative judgment reveals to heavenly intelligences who among the dead are asleep in Christ and therefore, in Him, are deemed worthy to have part in the first resurrection. It also makes manifest who among the living are abiding in Christ, keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and in Him, therefore, are ready for translation into His everlasting kingdom. **This judgment vindicates the justice of God** in saving those who believe in Jesus. It declares that those who have remained loyal to God shall receive the kingdom. The completion of this ministry of Christ will mark the close of human probation before the Second Advent"
Fundamental Belief, 23.

THOUGHTS ON JESUS' HIGHPRIESTHOOD

"Thus Christ, in His own spotless righteousness, after shedding His precious blood, enters into the holy place to cleanse the sanctuary. And there **the crimson current** is brought into the service of **reconciling God to man**"

Testimonies to the Church, 4: 122.

"**The intercession of Christ** in man's behalf in the sanctuary above **is as essential** to the plan of salvation **as was His death** upon the cross. By His death He began that work which after His resurrection He ascended to complete in heaven. We must by faith enter within the veil, "whither the forerunner is for us entered."

The Great Controversy, 489.

"**The sanctuary in heaven is the very center of Christ's work** in behalf of men. It concerns every soul living upon the earth. It opens to view the plan of redemption, bringing us down to the very close of time, and revealing the triumphant issue of the contest between righteousness and sin. It is of the utmost importance that all should thoroughly investigate this subject, and be able to give an answer to every one that asketh them a reason of the hope that is in them."

Evangelism, 222.

Fascinating Facts ***From the month of April***

Did you Know that...

- On April 3, 1847, Ellen White had a vision of Jesus' Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary. She wrote in detail about this vision to Elder Joseph Bates. You may read more about this vision in her book *Early Writings*, 32-33.
- Ellen G. White attended the First Conference of Sabbathkeeping Adventists, which was held at Rocky Hill, Connecticut, USA on April 20-24, 1848.



Thanks to Benoît Pâquette

11-30-2001

HERKIMER THE ANGEL KNEW THAT THIS WAS HEAVEN FOR SURE AS THE NEWSPAPER HAD NOTHING BUT GOOD NEWS TO REPORT



Talk-Back

“I found [at the Research Centre] some interesting and informative facts that will certainly influence the way I think about Mrs. White.”

Claston Wallace, Elderslie SDA Church, Jamaica.

“This is one of the best things that have ever happened on the NCU Campus.” **Dwayne Marson**, Fruitful Vale SDA Church, Jamaica.

“The Centre is very informative. It holds a vast amount of information which allows individuals looking for knowledge to smile with satisfaction.”

Alston Thompson, Hanover, Jamaica.

“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4: 14-16).

DONATIONS

The Research Centre is thankful for the donations of the following materials:

- *Movement of Destiny*, by L. R. Froom, donated by **Dr. Clarence Barnes**.
- *Physical Work as an Integral Part of Education at Oakwood College*, Ph.D. dissertation by **Dr. Clarence Barnes**, and donated by its author.
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, by Ellen G. White, donated in an audio CD Version by **Lasell Anderson**.

If you would like to donate other materials to the Centre, please contact us at the address on page one.



QUESTIONS &

What evidence do we have that October 22 is the correct date for the Jewish Day of Atonement? Does Ellen White affirm the correctness of this date?

The evidence that October 22 is the correct day for the Day of Atonement is supplied by L. E. Froom who, in his book *Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, 4: 790-792, gives six exhibits showing the exactitude of this date. Ellen White confirmed also the accuracy of the date when she states: **“The tenth of the seventh month, the great Day of Atonement, the time of the cleansing of the sanctuary, which in the year 1844 fell upon the twenty-second of October, was regarded as the time of the Lord’s coming. This was in harmony with the proofs already presented that the 2300 days would terminate in the autumn”** (*Great Controversy*, 400). “The computation of the prophetic periods on which that message was based, placing the close of the 2300 days in the autumn of 1844, stands without impeachment” (ibid, 457).

Does Ellen White make reference to the articles of furniture in the earthly sanctuary?

Yes. Ellen White wrote that **“No language can describe the glory of the scene presented within the [earthly] sanctuary,—the gold-plated walls reflecting the light from the golden candlestick, the brilliant hues of the richly embroidered curtains with their shining angels, the table, and the altar of incense, glittering with gold; beyond the second veil the sacred ark, with its mystic cherubim, and above it the holy shekinah, the visible manifestation of Jehovah’s presence; all but a dim reflection of the glories of the temple of God in heaven”** (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 349). You may also read more on this topic in her books: *Great Controversy*, 411-413, and *Story of Redemption*, 154-156.

We welcome your questions and comments on Spirit of Prophecy matters. Please, send your comments or questions to the EGW-SDA Research Centre. (See

Principles of Interpretation

The Purpose of Ellen

White’s Writings

“Readers who fail to grasp an author’s purpose often seek to use his or her writings in ways for which they were never intended. Thus it is important to grasp Ellen White’s self-concept on her role in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“One of the most important things we can know about the writings of Ellen White is that they are in no way to take the place of the Bible. ‘In His word,’ she wrote...‘God has committed to men the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience...The Spirit was not given—nor can it be bestowed—to supersede the Bible; for the Scriptures explicitly state that the word of God is the standard by which all teaching [including her own] and experience must be tested” (*Great Controversy*, vii).

“Unlike some who claim to be modern prophets and whose followers treat their writings as kind of a third testament, Ellen White explained that her function was ‘to exalt’ the Word of God ‘and attract minds to it, that the beautiful simplicity of truth may impress all’ (*Testimonies to the Church*, 5: 665).

“Perhaps her most graphic illustration of her function was that she saw her writings as a ‘lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light [the Bible],’ since they had given little heed to the Bible (*Colporteur Ministry*, 125).

“It is unfortunate that some people put Ellen White’s writings in a position she never intended them to be placed. Whenever people regard her writings as an equal authority than the Bible, or whenever people consistently spend more time with Ellen White’s writings than they do with the Scripture, they are in effect using her writings to lead them away from the Bible. Those who truly grasp Ellen White’s self-understanding of her mission will never make that mistake. *If people really read her writings, they will find themselves driven back to the study and authority of the Bible*” (George Knight, *Reading Ellen White*, Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 1997: 16-17).

The Director's Itinerary

Apr. 17, 2004: Sermon Mandeville SDA Church.

Apr. 24, 2004: Lecture, Waltham SDA Church.

May 6-9, 2004: Stewardship Programme, Camp Verley, East Jamaica Conference.

May 21-24, 2004: Stewardship Programme, West Jamaica Conference.

June 5, 2004: Lecture, Harbour View SDA Church.

Jul. 26-Aug. 12, 2004: Classes: Leadership Foundations, and Foundations in Christian Education.

Sept. 30-Oct. 6, 2004: Spirit of Prophecy Heritage Trip.

Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 2, No. 2

Spirit of Prophecy Association News Letter
Ellen G. White—Seventh-day Adventist (EGW-SDA) Research Centre, Northern Caribbean University.

Spirit of Prophecy is a news letter dedicated to the promotion of the biblical truth concerning God's revelation through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit of Prophecy. This news letter is published by the EGW-SDA Research Centre to equip the members of the Spirit of Prophecy Association to participate in the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Editorial Staff: Martin Hanna, Director, Research Centre; Kerry-Ann Chambers, Administrative Assistant, Research Centre.

Supervisory Committee: Leon Wellington, Vice President, Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator, IAD; Ronnie Henry, Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator, WIU; Vassell Kerr, Dean of School of Religion and Theology, NCU; Nazrene Nathan, Resource Centre, WIU; Daniëto Murray, Vice President for Finance, NCU; Heather James, Librarian; Pastor Gary Fletcher. The Director and the Administrative Assistant are also members of this committee.

The Spirit of Prophecy Association:

Did you Know? The Ellen G. White—Seventh-day Adventist Research Centre at Northern Caribbean University has launched a **Spirit of Prophecy Association**. Members of the Association support and benefit from the activities of the Centre.

Activities at the Centre include collecting and preserving Ellen White's writings as well as other materials (supportive and critical) that are relevant to SDA theology and history. We also produce research, present seminars, and answer questions about Ellen White and SDA history and theology.

The **annual budget** of the Centre (**J\$ 6.5 million**) is largely funded by a partnership of the Inter-American Division, West Indies Union, and Northern Caribbean University. The Division provided the materials for the centre and provides the Director's salary and overseas travel budget. The Union and University fund most of our other costs.

To maximize our ability to serve you, **the Research Centre will raise J\$1 million** each year to supplement our budget. We will do this **by receiving donations of J\$1,000 or more** from those who become members of our Spirit of Prophecy Association.

There are three groups of members. **First, regular members** may be sponsored by an institution. For example, some Spirit of Prophecy Coordinators may be sponsored by their churches. **Second**, regular membership fees may be contributed by purchasing materials from the Centre. **Third**, fees or larger contributions may be donated to the Centre by **members who are called benefactors**.

NEW MEMBERS! We would like to welcome to our Spirit of Prophecy Association: **Creeton Reid**, Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator of Santa Cruz SDA Church; **Neville Henry**, Penwood SDA Church; **Joseph Williams, Karen Morgan**, and **Phillip Castell** from East Jamaica Conference, and **Deju Nation**, from Coker SDA Church.

Please fill out and send this coupon to the

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