

11. Hiram Edson- Truth Plain Upon Tables

The Vision of Revelation Chapter 10 Had Spoken and Did Not Lie

We are not to receive the words of those who come with a message that contradicts the special points of our faith They gather together a mass of Scripture, and pile it as proof around their asserted theories. This has been done over and over again during the past fifty years. And while the Scriptures are God's word, and are to be respected, the application of them, if such application moves one pillar from the foundation that God has sustained these fifty years, is a great mistake. He who makes such an application knows not the wonderful demonstration of the Holy Spirit that gave power and force to the past messages that have come to the people of God. -- Preach the Word, p. 5. (1905.) {CW 32.2} 1905- 50 years = 1855

There are persons ready to catch up every new idea. The prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation are misinterpreted. These persons do not consider that the truth has been set forth at the appointed time by the very men whom God was leading to do this special work. These men followed on step by step in the very fulfillment of prophecy, and those who have not had a personal experience in this work, are to take the Word of God and believe on "their word" who have been led by the Lord in the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. {2SM 111.2}

The record of the experience through which the people of God passed in the early history of our work must be republished. Many of those who have since come into the truth are ignorant of the way in which the Lord wrought. The experience of William Miller and his associates, of Captain Joseph Bates, and of other pioneers in the Advent message, should be kept before our people {CW 145.2} 1903

Writing of what must be accomplished by the emerging Seventh-day Adventist Church before the Lord shall come, Ellen G. White in 1883 said:

"The minds of believers were to be directed to the heavenly sanctuary, where Christ had entered to make atonement for His people."-Selected Messages, Ilk. 1, p. 67.

In a crisis in 1906, in which certain of the basic teachings of Seventh-day Adventists were threatened, she wrote:

"The correct understanding of the ministration in the heavenly sanctuary is the foundation of our faith."-Evangelism, page 221.

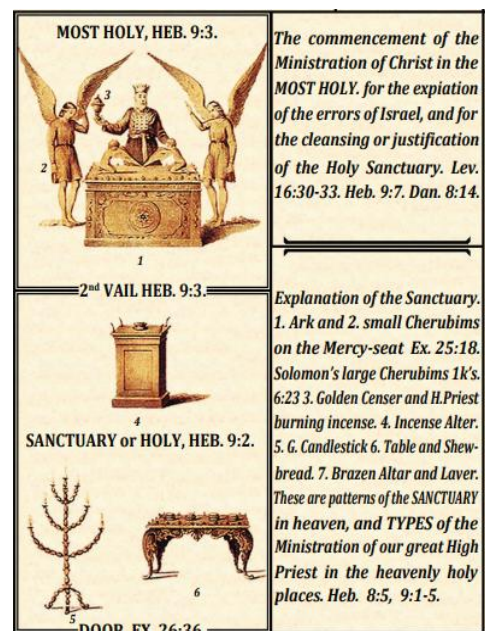
THE END OF THE 2300 DAYS

Among the prophecies forming the foundation of the advent awakening of the 1830's and the early 1840's was the prophecy of Daniel 8:14. "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Ellen White, who passed through the experience, explains concerning the application of this prophecy.

"In common with the rest of the Christian World, Adventists then held that the earth, or some portion of it, was the sanctuary. They understood that the cleansing of the sanctuary was the purification of the earth by the fires of the last great day, and that this would take place at the Second Advent. Hence the conclusion that Christ would return to the earth in 1844."-The Great Controversy, page 409.

This prophetic period came to its close on October 22, 1844. The disappointment to those who expected to meet

1850 CHART



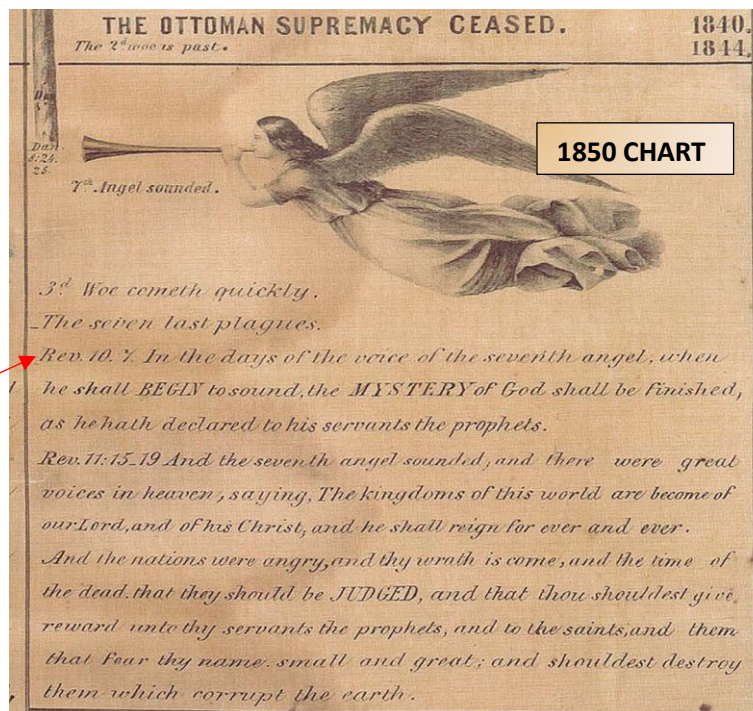
their Lord on that day was great. [Hiram Edson](#), a careful Bible student in mid-New York State, [describes what took place among the company of believers of which he was a part:](#)

“Our expectations were raised high, and thus we looked for our coming Lord until the clock tolled twelve at midnight. The day had then passed, and our disappointment had become a certainty. Our fondest hopes and expectations were blasted, and such a spirit of weeping came over us as I never experienced before. It seemed that the loss of all earthly friends could have been no comparison. We wept and wept, till the day dawn....

I mused in my heart, saying: 'My advent experience has been the brightest of all my Christian experience. . . . Has the Bible proved a failure? Is there no God, no heaven, no golden city, no Paradise? Is all this but a cunningly devised fable? Is there no reality to our fondest hopes and expectations?' . . .

I began to feel there might be light and help for us in our distress. I said to some of the brethren: 'Let us go to the barn.' We entered the granary, shut the doors about us, and bowed before the Lord. We prayed earnestly, for we felt our necessity. We continued in earnest prayer until the witness of the Spirit was given that our prayers were accepted, and that light should be given-our disappointment explained, made clear and satisfactory.

“After breakfast I said to one of my brethren, 'Let us go and see and encourage some of our brethren.' We started, and while passing through a large field, I was stopped about midway of the field. Heaven seemed open to my view, and I saw distinctly and clearly that instead of our High Priest coming out of the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary to this earth on the tenth day of the seventh month, at the end of the 2300 days, He, for the first time, entered on that day into the second apartment of that sanctuary, and that He had a work to perform in the most holy place before coming to the earth; that He came to the marriage, or in other words, to the Ancient of Days, to receive a kingdom, dominion, and glory; and that we must wait for His return from the wedding. **And my mind was directed to the tenth chapter of Revelation, where I could see the vision had spoken and did not lie (Habakkuk 2:4- “For the vision [is] yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”).”** -Unpublished, manuscript published in part in the Review and Herald, June 23, 1921. (*Emphasis supplied*)



There followed a careful investigation of the scriptures that touched on this subject-particularly those in Hebrews by [Hiram Edson](#) and two close associates, [Dr. F. B. Hahn](#), a physician, and [O. R. L. Crosier](#), a teacher. The result of this joint study was written up by Crosier and was published, first in The Day Dawn, a paper of limited circulation, and then in rewritten and enlarged form in a special issue of the Day-Star, on February 7, 1846. This was a more widely read Adventist journal, published at Cincinnati, Ohio. Through this medium it reached a number of the disappointed Advent believers. The rather lengthy presentation, well supported by Scripture, brought hope and courage to their hearts as [it clearly showed that the sanctuary to be cleansed at the end of the 2300 days is in heaven, and not on earth, as they had believed earlier.](#)

Ellen G. White, in a statement written on April 21, 1847, declared in endorsement of the Crosier article on the sanctuary question:

“The Lord showed me in vision, more than one year ago, that Brother Crosier had the true light, on the cleansing of the

“sanctuary, etc.; and that it was His will, that Brother Crosier should write out the view which he gave us in the Day-Star Extra, February 7, 1846. I feel fully authorized by the Lord, to recommend that Extra, to every saint.”-A Word to the Little Flock, page 12.

At a later time she wrote of the rapid development of doctrinal understanding which followed the disappointment:

“The passing of the time in 1844 was a period of great events, opening to our astonished eyes the cleansing of the sanctuary transpiring in heaven, and having decided relation to God's people upon the earth.” Manuscript 13, 1889, published in Counsels to Writers and Editors, page 30.

The visions given to Ellen White, while not running ahead of Bible study, confirmed the soundness of the position that an important phase of Christ's ministry in the heavenly sanctuary was entered upon on October 22, 1844. Gradually the breadth and depth of the subject opened before the Advent believers. Looking back on the experience in later years, she recalled their study and the manifest evidences of God's guiding hand:

Many of our people do not realize how firmly the foundation of our faith has been laid. My husband, Elder Joseph Bates, Father Pierce, **Elder [Hiram] Edson**, and others **who were keen, noble, and true, were among those who, after the passing of the time in 1844, searched for the truth as for hidden treasure.** I met with them, and we studied and prayed earnestly. Often we remained together until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light and studying the Word. Again and again these brethren came together to study the Bible, in order that they might know its meaning, and be prepared to teach it with power. **When they came to the point in their study where they said, 'We can do nothing more,' the Spirit of the Lord would come upon me, I would be taken off in vision, and a clear explanation of the passages we had been studying would be given me, with instruction as to how we were to labor and teach effectively. Thus light was given that helped us to understand the scriptures in regard to Christ, His mission, and His priesthood. A line of truth extending from that time to the time when we shall enter the City of God, was made plain to me,** and I gave to others the instruction that the Lord had given me. “During this whole time I could not understand the reasoning of the brethren. My mind was locked, as it were, and I could not comprehend the meaning of the scriptures we were studying. This was one of the greatest sorrows of my life. I was in this condition of mind until all the principal points of our faith were made clear to our minds, in harmony with the Word of God. **The brethren knew that when not in vision, I could not understand these matters, and they accepted as light direct from heaven the revelations given.** -Selected Messages, bk. 1, pp. 206, 207.

Habakkuk 2:1-4

*I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and **what I shall answer when I am reprov'd [argued with].***

*And the LORD answered me, and said, **Write the vision, and make [it] plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.***

*For the vision [is] yet for an appointed time, but **at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.***

*Behold, his soul [which] is lifted up is not upright in him: but **the just shall live by his faith.***



Let us ever hold in remembrance the cheering message, “The vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it: because it will surely come, it will not tarry.... The just shall live by his faith.” Habakkuk 2:3, 4. {RH July 15, 1915, par. 3}