



STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

Article IX – The Second Coming of Jesus

Jesus will return a second time without sin unto salvation. Hebrews 9:28. His return will be literal, personal, audible, and visible. Acts 1:9-11; Matthew 24:30-31; Revelation 1:7. His return is the great hope of the church. Titus 2:14. His coming is not in secret, but with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and the trump of God. 1Thessalonians 4:16, 1Corinthians 15:52. When He comes, those who are declared righteous in the investigative judgment, who are asleep in the grave, will rise first, then those who are still alive will rise with them. 1Thessalonians 4:16, 17. Many will not be prepared for His return so His coming will be as a thief in the night, Revelation 3:1; 1Thessalonians 5:2; Revelation 16:15, including professing Christians. Matthew 25:1-13. There is no time prophecy as to the return of Jesus, so no man knows the day or the hour of His coming, Matthew 24:43, so we are to be ready always. Matthew 23:44. However, God has provided a plethora of waymarks by which we can know that His return is near, even at the door. **Amos 3:7; 1Thessalonians 5:1-10; Matthew 24:33.** Some of these would include, the bringing to life of the image to the beast, **Revelation 13:15**; the mark of the beast being made law (Sunday worship), **Revelation 13:16**; the king of the north planting the seat of his government in Jerusalem, **Daniel 11:45**; marking the end of probation, the termination of the antitypical day of atonement, the closing of the investigative judgment, **Daniel 12:1**, and the seven last plagues, **Revelation 16**, ushering in His return.

*“The word of the Lord is fulfilled. We are in perilous times; iniquity abounds; the power of godliness is seldom seen; men are even now in perplexity; the nations are angry and becoming distressed. Soon will the judgments of God be manifest, and destruction sweep as a whirlwind over the earth, swallowing up the ungodly in everlasting ruin. How good is the Lord to mark out our path and set up **waymarks** so plain that we need not be mistaken! One of the plainest signs of these perilous times, a great*



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danger of which we are warned in Scripture, is the work of Satan now manifested in Spiritualism. May the Lord set home the truth to our hearts, that we may truly "discern the signs of the times." **J. H. Waggoner, *The Nature and Tendency of Modern Spiritualism*, pg. 119 (1884)**

*"Reader, do you believe that all the signs of Christ's coming and of the end of the world recorded in the Scriptures, are given that you might know nothing about the time of the Advent? Jesus says, If thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. But to those who watch the reverse of this will be true. Paul says, But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. **1Thessalonians 5:4**. The Bible is in our hands. — The **waymarks** are all laid down, the history of the world is all given in advance. There are no great events to take place, but they are marked in the sure word of prophecy. Blessed is he that readeth; blessed is he that watcheth."* **R. F. Cottrell, *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, November 22, 1853**

We have this hope of immortality at the appearing of Jesus. This doctrine is, of course, at the heart of all Seventh-day Adventism. Remember as discussed previously, there is no such thing as an immortal soul apart from Christ. Paul tells us in **1Corinthians 15:50-54**:—

*"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, **and this mortal [must] put on immortality**. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, **and this mortal shall have put on immortality, THEN** shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."*

So Paul clearly establishes that immortality is not achieved or put on until Jesus comes to take us home. That is why it must happen in the twinkling of an eye, for anyone not so changed will be consumed by the brightness of His glory. **2Thessalonians 1:7, 8**.



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“The glory of the Lord will always consume sin. It is true that for a time men may seem to conceal it, but when the Lord comes He “will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and make manifest the counsels of the heart.” **1Corinthians 4:5**. Then all the wicked, who have exalted themselves against God, shall be consumed with the Spirit of His mouth, and destroyed with the brightness of His coming. **2Thessalonians 2:8**. The glory of the Lord will utterly consume all sin, and those who have kept it covered in their own hearts until that time, and have held it as a part of themselves, will be consumed with it. But those who by acknowledging it, have disavowed it, and have laid it open to the light of His countenance, find salvation in the glory of the Lord. The wicked will call for the rocks and mountains to fall on them, to hide them from the face of Him that sitteth upon the throne (**Revelation 6:16**); while the righteous, when His glory shall be revealed, will “be glad with exceeding joy.” **E. J. Waggoner, Present Truth, UK April 6, 1893**

Without looking forward to the Second Coming of Christ, there is no hope. Titus 2:14. Now, this doctrine would appear very clear. However, there are many confused as to what the nominal churches (not Adventist) are teaching concerning the secret rapture of which there is no record of in the Scriptures, combined with the false belief of a second chance during the millennial reign of Christ on earth, that reign being equally false and without Biblical foundation.

*“During the millennia! age, there will be a restitution of all...things lost by the fall of Adam (**Acts 3:19-21**) and before its close all tears shall have been wiped away.”—“Plan of the Ages,” Vol. I, page 73.*

“Those who do not receive a full knowledge and, by faith, an enjoyment of this favor of God in the present time (and such are the great majority, including children and heathen) will assuredly have these privileges in the next age, or ‘world to come,’ the dispensation or age to follow the present.”—Id., page 129.

*‘And why should not the Sodomites have an opportunity to reach perfection and everlasting life as well as Israel or any of us? ... Thus our Lord teaches (**Genesis 19:24; Luke 17:29; Matthew 11:23**) that the Sodomites did not have a full opportunity; and he guarantees them such an opportunity when he adds (**verse 24**), ‘But I say unto you, That it shall*



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be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.”—Id., page 110.

“These quotations are sufficient to show the positive teaching in reference to a second probation. At the risk of being thought harsh, we must say that Satan never invented a doctrine better calculated to ensnare souls than that of a "second chance." Another "probation" in the millennial age. Here we are told that the inhabitants of the city of Sodom, whose deeds were so revolting and wicked that the longsuffering God could no longer permit them to curse the earth, are to have another probation.

*“What teaching is better calculated to confirm men in sin than this? It says to all who hate God, of every class, Live on in the haunts of sin, and debauch yourselves amid the gilded halls of shame and infamy. Do despite to the Spirit of God as much as you please. Take your fill of iniquity; drink the cup of sin to its very dregs. Reject every overture of mercy. Mock at the pleadings of Jehovah, and despise His loving counsel to repent. You will have another chance, another trial, when circumstances are more favorable! Such a doctrine is well pleasing to the unregenerate heart, and is calculated, as nothing else ever can be, to lull sinners to sleep in carnal security, and land them in perdition at last.” **The Banner, pg. 8, 7 J. W. Manns, editor January 1924***

Thus, there are many believers, even Seventh-day Adventists, who are not preparing themselves as they ought for His return. **As we explore this further, you are beginning to see a chain of beliefs that go hand in hand with each other, expanding on and clarifying more fully what we need to believe and practice in totality in order to experience the full reward of salvation.** Go back to the sanctuary, wherein we must be found in the Most Holy Place when Jesus leaves in order for Him to return to this earth to take His church home once and for all. That is the preparation necessary that must take place in order for us to see heaven, either from the grave or from this life.

This also goes into the Day of Atonement and the period of probation which we are currently living in. God in His mercy, as previously discussed in the immortality of the soul doctrine, delays His coming so that His church can make herself ready; and for souls not yet committed to reach that turning point in their lives and repent of their sins so that they may find life and life eternal.

But in order to properly prepare, we must be in accordance with all other doctrines and all that is contained in them. How to prepare is contained in the



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Word of God that we must believe are the living oracles of God (Article III), and is the primary source of information God has made available to us. Part of that preparation is the reality of the Sabbath day, what makes us Adventists in the first place and is the determining factor by testing who it is we really worship in the last days, God or Satan. And of course, this is followed by the Law of God, which the Sabbath is a part of and which we must obey in order to see Jesus. The Bible makes it clear that it is those that keep the commandments of Jesus and thus have the testimony (character) of Jesus that will make it to the end. And all of this is essential in our preparation for His soon return.

Are you ready yet?

Are you afflicting your soul before God daily to ensure there are no hidden sins or “bones in the closet” of unconfessed sin?

Do you love your neighbor as you do yourself?

Do you esteem your brother and sister as more important than yourself?

Do you weep for the sins of your brothers and of the world?

Do you grieve for the church that has gone astray from the full truth of the Gospel?

Is there unforgiveness or bitterness in your soul for some past wrong that has not been dealt with by the Spirit of God?

Is your diet and lifestyle lining up with God’s Health Message for these last days?

Are you unreservedly surrendered to Him to do His will?

These and more are questions we need to be asking ourselves on a regular basis as we seek after God and ask Him to reveal whatever shortcomings may still be in our lives so that we will be ready when He comes. This is especially true since we don’t know the day or the hour of His coming. Let us not be caught sleeping or unprepared as was the case with the five foolish virgins.

“Troublous times are right upon us. The fulfilling of the signs of the times gives evidence that the day of the Lord is near at hand. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the future. Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are



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taking the lives of men and women and little children. All these things testify that the coming of Christ is near at hand.

The doctrine that men are released from obedience to God's requirements has weakened the force of moral obligation, and opened the flood-gates of iniquity upon the world. Lawlessness and dissipation and corruption are sweeping upon us like an overwhelming tide. In the family, Satan is at work. His banner waves even in professedly Christian households. There is envy, evil surmising, hypocrisy, strife, betrayal of sacred trusts, indulgence of lust. The whole system of religious principles and doctrines, which should form the foundation and framework of social life, seems to be a tottering mass, ready to fall to ruin.

Courts of justice are corrupt. Rulers are actuated by a desire for gain, and love of sensual pleasure. Intemperance has beclouded the faculties of many, so that Satan has almost complete control of them. Jurists are perverted, bribed, deluded. Drunkenness and revelry, passion, envy, dishonesty of every sort, are represented among those who administer the laws. "Justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity can not enter." Men are rushing on in the mad race for gain and selfish indulgence as if there were no God, no heaven, and no hereafter.

*The Scriptures describe the condition of the world just before Christ's second coming. The apostle James pictures the greed and oppression that will prevail. He says: "Go to now, ye rich men, . . . ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton. Ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you." **James 5:1-6.** This is a picture of what exists today. Be every species of oppression and extortion, men are piling up colossal fortunes, while the cries of starving humanity are coming up before God.*

In accidents and calamities by land and by sea, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hail-storms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes,—in every place and in a thousand forms,



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Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. The visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. “The earth mourneth and fadeth away, ... the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.” **Isaiah 24:5**.

The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling against one another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horse-races, gambling-hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation’s hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agents to work, that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied, and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut. The time is right upon us when there will be sorrow that no human balm can heal. Sentinel angels are now restraining the four winds, that they shall not blow till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads; but when God shall bid his angels loose the winds, there will be a scene of strife such as no pen can picture.

The “time of trouble, such as never was,” **Daniel 12:1**, is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an experience which many are too indolent to obtain. It is often the case that trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality, but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation can not reach the magnitude of the ordeal. In that trial every man must stand for himself before God. Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in the land, “as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters;” “they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness.” **Ezekiel 14:14, 20**.

Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ. Not even by a thought could



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our Saviour be brought to yield to the power of temptation. Satan finds in human hearts some point where he can gain a foothold; some sinful desire is cherished, by means of which his temptations assert their power. But Christ declared of Himself, “The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me.” Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept his Father’s commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble.

“Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself.” Psalm 50:3. Ellen G. White, Review and Herald, March 14, 1912, “Nearness of the End”.

“This great change in the heavenly sanctuary, corresponding to the entering in of the high priest in the earthly, or typical service, on the day of atonement, was made known to the church of Sardis. Those who opened the prophecies where this truth is made known, misinterpreted the cleansing of the sanctuary to be the second coming of Christ. Nevertheless, while mistaken in the event which transpired, they were not mistaken in the time; and the heart cleansing necessary to prepare a people for the beginning of the investigative judgment, which has been going on in heaven since 1844, is the same preparation necessary to welcome the Son of God in the clouds of heaven. Although Christ did not then come to the earth, -the outer court of the heavenly sanctuary, -but entered within the most holy place before the Ancient of Days, to act as mediator in the investigative judgment, the message to prepare for His coming, will continue to the end of time. Some of those who witnessed the signs given to Sardis and listened to the advent message, will see Him when He comes in the clouds of heaven. S. N. Haskell, Story of the Seer of Patmos, pg. 80 (1905)



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See also, *Bible Readings for the Home Circle, 1914 Edition*: “Christ’s Second Coming;” “Manner Of Christ’s Coming;” “Object Of Christ’s Coming;” “The Resurrection Of The Just;” “The World’s Conversion;” and “The Gathering Of Israel.”