

PURPOSE OF STUDY: To demonstrate that the Advent Movement was raised up by God as a fulfillment of prophecy, designed to give the final warning message to the world to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

TEXTS:

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| 1. DA 12:4 | 7. EZE 3:1-4; JE 15:16 |
| 2. DA 12:6-9 | 8. REV 10:10 |
| 3. DA 8:14, 17 | 9. REV 11:19 (HEB 8:1-2) |
| 4. REV 10:3 | 10. DT 10:2 (HEB 9:4) |
| 5. REV 10:5-6 | 11. REV 10:11 (14:6-12) |
| 6. REV 10:9 | |

THE STUDY:

- 1. What prophetic book did God command to be sealed, and for how long? DA 12:4**
The book of Daniel.
- 2. How long was the book of Daniel to be sealed? DA 12:6-9**
*For "a time, times and half a time," or until the "time of the end." We've seen this time period in previous studies. It is mentioned seven times in the Bible, twice as 1260 days (Rev. 11:3; 12:6); twice as 42 months (Rev. 11:2; 13:50; and three times as "time, times and half a time" (Da. 7:25; 12:7; Rv. 12:14). Every occurrence refers to the 1260-year reign of the Papacy from 538 A.D. to 1798 A.D. The "time of the end" is a **period of time** before the end of time (which is a **point in time**). According to the prophecy, there would be an unsealing of Daniel's prophecies in 1798 A.D.*
- 3. What other prophecy in Daniel points to the "time of the end"? DA 8:14, 17**
The prophecy of the 2300 days announcing the final work of Jesus as our High Priest in the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary, which we learned began in 1844 A.D.
- 4. In Revelation an angel coming from the presence of God is seen holding what in his hand? REV 10:3**
An open book.
- 5. What solemn announcement does this angel make, and how does he make it? REV 10:5-6**
"There shall be no more delay..." Notice that the angel raises his hand to heaven in an oath in the very same manner that the book was sealed in Daniel 12. Here we see that time has come for the book of Daniel to be opened, and more specifically, the only time prophecy in Daniel that reaches into the time of the end – the prophecy of the 2300 days! Amazingly, during this time religious leaders around the world, independent of one another, began a renewed study of the prophecies of Daniel. Among them were people such as Edward Irving in England; Joseph Wolff in India; Manuel Lacunza in South America; Johann Bengel of Germany, and William Miller in the United States. Commenting on this amazing fulfillment of prophecy, a religious periodical of the times wrote –

It is truly interesting to find the various independent writers, who, since 1798, have seen what was entirely unperceived before, that the seventy weeks was a key to the twenty-three hundred days... Is it not a wonderful coincidence that so many writers, without any knowledge of one another, came to the same conclusion about the same time?" – *The Midnight Cry*, June 15, 1842.

Their unanimous conclusion was that the twenty-three hundred days would end in our year 1844.

- 6. What is John instructed to do with the little book, and what will be the result? REV 10:9**
He is told to eat the book, and it will be sweet in his mouth, but will turn bitter in his stomach.
- 7. What does it mean to “eat” the book? EZE 3:1-4; JE 15:16**
The old adage says “you are what you eat.” What you eat becomes a part of you. When these prophets read God’s word, it became a part of their lives and they were moved to proclaim it to others.
- 8. What was John’s experience when he ate the book? REV 10:10**
As he was told, it was sweet in his mouth and bitter in his stomach. In Revelation 10, the apostle John personifies God’s people who are living on earth when the book is opened. His experience is their experience. They understood that the Day of Atonement foretold by the 2300-Day Prophecy would commence on October 22, 1844 according to the Jewish calendar for that year. However, they misunderstood the event foretold by the cleansing of the sanctuary. Popular religious teaching at the time was that the sanctuary was a name for the earth, and no one had ever questioned whether the teaching was Biblical. This assumption led them to believe that the cleansing of the sanctuary was the cleansing of the earth by fire. The nearness of the coming of Jesus was a very sweet message to them, as they longed to see their Savior face to face. They invested their whole lives in the giving of the message of warning to the world, but they were to be disappointed. Their date was correct, but the event was wrong. This led to the bittersweet experience foretold in the prophecy.
- 9. What was the key that unlocked the mystery of the disappointment? REV 11:19 (HEB 8:1-2)**
John saw the temple in heaven, and the Ark of the Covenant in the Most Holy Place. The believers realized that the sanctuary to be cleansed was not the earth; neither was it an earthly temple; the sanctuary to be cleansed was the heavenly sanctuary on the antitypical Day of Atonement by the true High Priest, Jesus Christ.
- 10. What was contained in the Ark of the Covenant? DT 10:2 (HEB 9:4)**
The Ten Commandments. These Advent believers understood for the first time that on October 22, 1844, we entered into God’s Judgment Hour. They sensed God’s call for obedience to His commandments, including the downtrodden Sabbath commandment.
- 11. What commission is John given after his bittersweet experience? REV 10:11 (REV 14:6-12)**
He must prophesy again “to many people, nations, tongues and kings.” Following the disappointment in 1844, God’s people were led to understand the prophecy of Revelation 10. They realized that the disappointment experience had been foretold. They understood that the message of Jesus’ soon coming was to be given again, pointing the people to the closing work of Jesus as High Priest. It was to proclaim God’s judgment hour, expose the errors of Babylon, and warn against the deceptions of the antichrist. It would proclaim that Jesus is coming again and urge men and women to surrender their lives to Him and respond in loving obedience. God has especially raised up the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a powerful last-day prophetic movement to impact the world. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is not just another denomination – it is a God-ordained-divinely called-prophetic movement for these last days.

APPEAL:

“Thou must prophesy again.” This message is *your* message. The Lord Jesus has commissioned that His last-day people proclaim this warning message with a “loud voice.” But in order to fulfill it, we too must “eat” the book. The soon coming of Jesus must become a reality to us, and we must allow it to absorb all our time and attention. Is it your desire to become a part of God’s last-day prophetic movement?

DIFFICULT TEXTS/OBJECTIONS:

How could the Adventist Church be right when it grew out of a mistake?

Many people fail to realize that the early Christian Church also grew out of a mistaken view of the Messiah. They expected a king who would conquer the Romans and take the throne of David. The mother of two of His disciples, thinking to secure for her sons the honor of royalty, asked that they be permitted to sit on His right and left hand (Mt. 20:21-23). Little did they realize that the positions on the right and left hand of Jesus were filled – by two thieves! When Jesus made His entrance into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey, the multitudes assumed He was about to begin His reign (Mt. 21:9). But their understanding of prophecy had been skewed by modern interpretations. They had the timing right, but the event was wrong, and they were destined to be disappointed. On the road to Emmaus, Jesus' disciples lamented "We were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel" (Lk. 24:21). After the resurrection, however, they were led to see their mistake. They were made to understand that Jesus' coming *had* fulfilled prophecy (Lk. 24:25-6). Then they were given a commission to proclaim the good news of salvation to the world (Mt. 28:18-20). In the same way, the Advent movement was led to disappointment, NOT because prophecy failed, but because of their misunderstanding and misapplication of it. However, just as He did with the early disciples, Jesus "opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures" (Lk. 24:45). Then He gave the commission, "Thou must prophesy again."

Doesn't the Bible teach in Mt. 24:36 that no one knows the day or the hour of Jesus' coming?

Didn't they know that the Bible teaches that no man knows the day or the hour? This text was not a mystery to the Advent Movement, as this was the common rebuttal from their antagonists. However, those opposed to the movement used this text as an excuse not to bother studying the prophecies at all, which the Advent believers knew was not right. James White, responding to this objection, wrote –

An old English version of the passage reads, "But that day and hour no man maketh known, neither the angels which are in Heaven, neither the Son, but the Father." This is the correct reading, according to several of the ablest critics of the age. The word know is used in the same sense here that it is by Paul in 1 Cor.2:2: "For I determined not to know [make known] anything among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified." Men will not make known the day and hour, angels will not make it known, neither will the Son; but the Father will make it known.

Says Campbell, "Macknight argues that the term know is here used as a causative, in the Hebrew sense of the conjugation hiphil, that is, to make known. . . . His [Christ's] answer is just equivalent to saying, The Father will make it known when it pleases him; but he has not authorized man, angel, or the Son, to make it known. Just in this sense Paul uses the term know: 1 Cor.2:2: "I came to you making known the testimony of God; for I determined to make known nothing among you but a crucified Christ."

Albert Barnes, in his Notes on the Gospels, says, others have said that the verb rendered knoweth means sometimes to make known, or to reveal, and that the passage means, `that day and hour none maketh known, neither the angels, nor the Son, but the Father.' It is true the word has sometimes that meaning, as 1 Cor.2:2. – James White, *Bible Adventism*, pp. 54-5.