

The Omega of Apostasy – Study #4

© The title of today's study is:
"The Alpha – The Omega" Part 3

Let us pray ...

© Mark Twain once said, **"It's easier to fool people ... then it is to convince them they have been fooled."**

There is a proverb that is centuries old and no one really knows the origin, but it goes like this:

© **"Fool me once shame on you, but fool me twice shame on me"**

We do know the origin of deception however, and it is the studied purpose of Satan to trip up Seventh-day Adventists in any way that he can. Why? Because he knows most serious Adventists cannot be tripped up on their understanding of the 4th commandment. But he wants to get those who call themselves historic SDA's tripped up on a foundational doctrine. Most of them are well versed on the pillar doctrines. But to cause one to be lost, he needed an issue that would involve breaking a commandment. Knowing the scriptures better than we do, and that commandment breakers will be blotted from the Lamb's book of Life, he knew James was inspired to write:

© James 2:10 **"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."**

He does have a vehicle that he is using and that is a foundational doctrine, the understanding of the Godhead. Why would that be effective? Because most SDA's are either too indolent to study our historic beliefs, or they are trusting that current leaders would not teach them error.

© What has evolved are 2 understandings.

© **Trinitarian and Non-Trinitarian.**

Under the Trinitarian view there are two primary but different views:

© **The three Gods in One or Triune God.** This is not necessarily the view of historic SDA Trinitarians.

© **The Tri-theistic view or three separate and distinct, co-eternal Gods.** This is the more popular view of those who call themselves historic SDA's. Their understanding is that there are three separate and distinct Gods who have always been, and not one preceded the others, nor did He come after the others. This view believes that there is not a true Father-Son relationship from eternity and would believe that Jesus did not become the begotten Son until Bethlehem.

The Non-Trinitarian believes that there are:

© Two Divine Beings in the Godhead and that the Father is the eternal God with Jesus having been begotten of the Father at some point in eternity. That He came forth with the same substance as the Father and that the Father gave His Son all His attributes including Omniscience, Omnipotence and

© His Omnipresent Spirit which is a shared Spirit and would be the third Person of the Godhead.

I admit that for most of my years as a SDA, I believed and taught the Tri-theistic view, for that is what I was taught by people I trusted. I am sure that they were taught by people they trusted. It always left me with questions and some doubts. For one thing I was taught that when Jesus became a human being, that He had to give up His Omnipresence. We know that to be false because Sister White taught us:

© ***“While Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth. He is withdrawn from the eye of sense, but His parting promise is fulfilled, “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Matthew 28:20. While He delegates His power to inferior ministers, His energizing presence is still with His church.”*** {DA 166.2}

That is crystal clear. It is Jesus by His Omnipresent Holy Spirit, not by a third God that ministers His church on earth while His physical presence is in the Sanctuary above.

All this said and understood, which commandment is it that Satan wants historic SDA's to break? It would be the First.

© **“I am the LORD thy God, ...Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”** To exalt a third god called “God the Holy Spirit,” is putting a god before the eternal Father.

Those historic SDA's who are teaching the Tritheistic view of the Godhead, whether ignorantly or knowingly, are breaking

© the 9th commandment, **“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”** This commandment covers any form of deception. Think about this, if we are striving to be among the 144,000, then there better not be guile in our mouths, for that is deception.

© Revelation 14:5 says, **“And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.”**

Some will say that our commission is to go, teach and baptize and our last generation message is the three angel's messages. This seems like a matter of little importance, a side issue that creates controversy.

If it is of little importance for one side to be breaking two of the Ten Commandments, it is no small matter indeed!

Over the last three Sabbaths we have given much evidence through scripture, the Spirit of Prophecy and the writings of our pioneers that are in harmony with Ellen White's writings, that the Spirit of Jesus **in** His Omnipresence **is** the Holy Spirit and our Comforter. Also that the Father alone is the one eternal God and that Jesus was begotten from the Father at some point in eternity and was given all the attributes of the Father including Omniscience, Omnipotence and His Omnipresent Holy Spirit which they share. Also that the Godhead consists of only two Divine Beings, the Father and the Son, and that their shared Omnipresent Spirit is the mighty third person of the Godhead. Further, the Father and the Son are a true Father-Son relationship and are not a metaphor as many contend today.

That said we need to read a very important scripture from the Old Testament, for God's prophet said this:

© ***"My brethren, you need to study more carefully the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. This chapter marks out the only course that we can follow with safety. . . ."*** {4BC 1149.2} So we are going to look at some relative verses. First verse 1:

© **"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."**
Isaiah 58:1

Who are the "my people" in Isa. 58:1 that God is referring to through His Prophet?

We look at what the prophet Hosea was inspired to write in the 4th chapter verse 6.

© **"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: ... seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, ..."** Hosea 4:6

So it has something to do with the law that has been forgotten. One more, Revelation 18:4.

© **"Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."**

This is the call of the 4th angel who unites with the three angel's messages for God's people to come out of the Sunday-keeping churches of Babylon. Now back to Isaiah 58:1.

© **"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."**
Isaiah 58:1

The transgression that we are to show God's people in this final generation deals with exposing the counterfeit Sabbath and showing them God's true Sabbath, His seal, and urging obedience to it. Soon under the latter rain the three angel's messages will be preached with power.

© But who is the House of Jacob and what is their sins? I contend that the house of Jacob in this generation is the Seventh-day Adventist Church. What is their sins? Outside of the fact that God has said in Revelation 3:18:

© **“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:”** Revelation 3:18

The SDA church, represented as the church of Laodicea has many character faults, but I want to zero in on the 4th one mentioned here blind. The abominations in the church today are numerous. But in many of our SDA churches today they have thrown out God’s prophet. The scriptures say,

© Proverbs 29:18 **“Where there is no vision, the people perish:”**

So one of the sins of the SDA church in these last days will be a disregard for the Spirit of Prophecy. Now let’s see what further we can learn in Isaiah 58 looking at verse 12.

© **“And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.”**

We understand that the breach that needed to be repaired is to put the true seventh day Sabbath back into its rightful place and urge the “my people” in verse 1 to keep it according to the commandment.

© Secondly, God’s church, the house of Jacob, needs to be **the restorer of paths to dwell in**. This is one of the reasons Ellen White said we need to study more carefully the 58th chapter of Isaiah. And why she said it is the only course that we can follow with safety.

So what paths need to be restored? The paths that the pioneers of the faith dwelt in, especially as it relates to the correct understanding of the Godhead, which we have been discussing these four Sabbaths, and the fact that Jesus was begotten in eternity. We are seeing how it all relates to the alpha and the omega of apostasy.

Sister White tells us why Satan is trying to do what he's doing. Selected Messages, book 1, p. 156.

© ***“Satan is determined that men shall not see the love of God which led Him to give His only begotten Son to save a lost race; for it is the goodness of God that leads men to repentance.”*** Selected Messages, book 1, p. 156.

What's Satan determined to do? That you do not see God's love in giving His only begotten Son. And so Satan is making a full scale attack on the Son of God. And he's not starting this in 2016, today. He started this a long time ago in heaven. Let's see what he did regarding the Son of God:

© ***“Angels were expelled from heaven because they would not work in harmony with God. They fell from their high estate because they wanted to be exalted. They had come to exalt themselves, and they forgot that their beauty of***

© ***person and of character came from the Lord Jesus. This fact the fallen angels would obscure, that Christ was the only begotten Son of God, and they came to consider that they were not to consult Christ.”*** This Day With God, 128.

Lucifer started attacking the fact that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God in heaven before they were ejected. And as Satan, he is determined today that you shall not see the love of God which led Him to give His only begotten Son. Now some people believe that Jesus became the only begotten Son of God when He came in Bethlehem. How would you read the statement then? This statement we just read said this is in heaven and it is a fact.

© It says: ***“this fact the fallen angels would obscure.”*** What does obscure mean? Cover up, hide. They wanted to hide the fact **that Christ was the only begotten Son of God**. Do you think the angels knew the truth? They did, and they wanted to hide that fact. And they still do.

© **“Satan is determined that men shall not see the love of God which led Him to give His only begotten Son to save a lost race; for it**

is the goodness of God that leads men to repentance.” Selected Messages, book 1, p. 156.

Is Satan still making the same attack in our time, that Christ is not the begotten Son of God? As much as I love and respect Vance Ferrell and all the work that he has done for the Lord, he is not infallible. We should not put any finite man on a pedestal for that is close to man worship.

© On page 17 of his book “Defending the Godhead,” he wrote this,

© *“The solution appears to be this: Christ has always been the Son of God; and **there never was a time when He emerged from the Father.** That statement appears to solve all the problems about Christ’s Sonship.”* End quote.

Why did he write this? Because he was struggling with a S.O.P. statement that seemed to indicate to him that Christ may have been begotten in eternity.

What quote was he struggling with? When Sister White had written:

© ***“A complete offering has been made; for “God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son,”-- not a son by creation, as were the angels, nor a son by adoption, as is the forgiven sinner, but a Son begotten in the express image of the Father's person, and in all the brightness of his majesty and glory, one equal with God in authority, dignity, and divine perfection. In him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”*** {ST, May 30, 1895 par. 3} Defending the Godhead – Page 16.

So on page 17 Brother Vance wrote this:

© ***“The above statement could indicate that Christ was actually born at some earlier time.”*** Defending the Godhead – Page 17.

I believe the Spirit of Christ was trying to reach Vance when he wrote that, because Ellen White’s quote said, ***“but a Son begotten in the express image of the Father's person, and in all the brightness of his majesty and glory, ...”*** Think about it. Christ was not born in Bethlehem as a baby

in the express image of the Father's person, and in all the brightness of his majesty and glory. That had to be in heaven, back in eternity. But sadly the brother wrote this:

© ***“The solution appears to be this: Christ has always been the Son of God; and there never was a time when He emerged from the Father. That statement appears to solve all the problems about Christ’s Sonship.”*** Defending the Godhead – Page 17.

Is Satan trying to obscure the fact that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God? He certainly is. If the belief that Jesus was never begotten then in eternity, then Satan succeeded to a **large degree**.

I will say however that the pioneers were very clear on this: You say you’re a historic Adventist and you believe in three Gods? It’s a false belief. This is another variation of the doctrine of the Trinity. It’s a doctrine that teaches that there’s God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, totally unrelated to each other. You therefore say the Son is not really a son. And this is why to support a trinity doctrine, a Tritheistic doctrine, the first thing they had to do was to eliminate Jesus as the truly begotten Son of the Father.

© In 1888 Materials, p. 1633, Ellen White says very clearly:

© ***“There is no place for gods in the heaven above.”***

That should be obvious to everyone, but the Holy Spirit inspired her to write that for obvious reasons... She went on to say:

© ***“God is the only true God. He fills all heaven. Those who now submit to His will shall see his face; and His name will be in the foreheads of all who are pure and holy.”*** 1888 Materials, p. 1633.

So while people are teaching there are three gods, Ellen White says, Listen, there are no gods in the heaven above. “God is the only true God.” Who is she talking about? God the Father. John 17:3 says – Jesus speaking of His Father – says,

© ***“That they might know Thee, the only true God.”***

God, the Father, is the only true eternal God. And we saw earlier that she said: “God is the Father of Christ and Christ is the Son of God” [Testimonies 8, 268]. And since God, the Father, is the only true eternal God, and Jesus was begotten at some point in eternity, Ellen White and the Bible never used the three word phrase “God the Son.”

Now we will connect the dots between the Alpha and the Omega. Remember in part 1, Kellogg summarized the whole problem with the Alpha, when he said:

© “As far as I can fathom, the difficulty which is found in The Living Temple, the whole thing may be simmered down to the question: Is the Holy Ghost a person?”

That’s his teaching. And what argument did he use? He said:

© “Sister White uses the pronoun ‘he’ and has said in so many words that the Holy Ghost is the **third person of the Godhead.**”

Now notice how the Omega makes a reappearance, and notice the similarity in the arguments. Sister White said in Selected Messages, book 1, p. 203:

© ***“Living Temple contains the alpha of these theories. I knew that the omega would follow in a little while; and I trembled for our people.”***
{1SM 203.2}

© On page 91 of Defending the Godhead, Vance Ferrell was disputing a statement in the 1980 doctrinal statement at the Dallas General Conference session shown on his page 90, which read,

© ***There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal persons.***

Taking issue with the wording, Brother Vance wrote:

© The flaw is that, in that first sentence, They are also called “co-eternal” and “One God.” The statement should instead say ***“God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are each eternal, and one***

in nature and purpose, and not in being a single person ...”

Continuing he wrote...

© ***“Such a statement would be in full agreement with the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.”*** Defending the Godhead, 91.

© So Brother Vance says the GC statement, shown on the left, would have been much better, the way he stated it on the right..

Remember Kellogg said almost the same thing in his days? Sister White said, ***“God forbid that that sentiment should prevail. My writings do not support that doctrine or that teaching.”*** Well, here it is again. So be careful what you believe.

Sister White tells us:

© ***“In the book Living Temple there is presented the alpha of deadly heresies.”*** 1 Selected Messages, p. 200

This is the warning we read earlier. Now we’re reading it again in light of what we found. Now notice:

© ***“The omega will follow, and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given.”*** 1 Selected Messages, p. 200

Sister White says the Omega will be received if you refuse to heed the warnings. This is why we looked at what happened before, because it’s the same thing that’s happening today. In all this agitation about this topic – about the Godhead – that’s happening today among God’s people, this is not a coincidence or a chance. This has been prophesied. And Sister White told us about this a long time ago. It’s happening before our very eyes. Here is the warning that we should be very familiar with:

© ***“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”*** Life Sketches, p. 196 (also in Review and Herald, October 12, 1905).

So there are people who are forgetting how the Lord has led us in the past and there are those who aren't even aware of what our pioneers believed and taught. This is the reason for this series, to inform you and show you so you can make an informed decision.

- © Here are the key points of that prophecy that we've looked at:
- © **1. Giving up the doctrines which stand as pillars of our faith.**
- © **2. The principles of truth would be discarded.**
- © **3. Our religion would be changed.**
- © **4. The fundamental principles [from 1853 onward] will be counted as error.**
- © **5. A new organization would be established.**
- © **6. Books of a new order would be written.**
- © **7. A system of intellectual philosophy will be introduced.**
- © **8. God will be removed, and**
- © **9. The foundation will be built on the sand and will crumble.**

By the way, there is one more "book of a new order" we should not fail to mention and that is the 1971 book,

- © MOVEMENT OF DESTINY, by Leroy E. Froom

Froom attacks the writings of some of the pioneers as it pertains to the Begotten Son of God and imposes the Trinitarian view as the correct view. Supposedly a respected scholar, this man has probably done more to bring the Trinitarian doctrine into Adventism than any other person. Also in his book, he upholds the false doctrine of the Atonement being completed at the cross, implying our pioneers were in error.

Here is a warning from God's prophet to God's people who reject the evidence that we have covered in these four presentations:

© ***“He who declared that His truth would shine forever will proclaim this truth through faithful messengers, who will give the trumpet a certain sound. The truth will be criticized, scorned, and derided; but the closer it is examined and tested, the brighter it will shine.”*** 1 Selected Messages, p. 201

Here is another warning. Selected Messages Book 1, p. 72. It gives us a reason of why some people don't accept some things:

© ***“Self-will and pride of opinion lead many to reject the light from heaven.”*** 1 Selected Messages, p. 72

What two things? Self-will and pride of opinion. What's another word for self-will? Selfishness. And it's also being very stubborn. Some have taught the error so long to so many people, that pride will not allow them to admit they were wrong. It's as if they are saying, “My will is the way that it should go. There's no other way.”

© ***“They cling to pet ideas, fanciful interpretations of Scripture, and dangerous heresies....”*** 1 Selected Messages, p. 72

In these 4 presentations we examined a dangerous heresy, it's so dangerous it's actually labeled as a “deadly heresy.” She said some people will want to cling on to that.

© ***“... and if a testimony is borne to correct these errors, they will, like many in Christ's day, go away displeased.”*** 1 Selected Messages, p. 72

The reason why God is sending us these things is to help us to move from error to truth. God is not sending us these things to condemn us but to call us higher. Sadly, when a testimony is borne to correct these errors many people go away displeased.

© ***“It is God's plan to give sufficient evidence of the divine character of His work to convince all who honestly desire to know the truth.”*** 1 Selected Messages, p. 72

If you really want to know the truth, God has enough evidence for you to see the truth.

© “...***But He never removes all opportunity for doubt. All who desire to question and cavil will find occasion.***” 1 Selected Messages, p. 72

© Next study in The Alpha – The Omega Part 4, we will bring the Omega of Apostasy up to our day and expose how Satan has caused the blindness.

© Let us pray ...