



SAVED TO SERVE

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**THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, PT. 21: A WARNING REJECTED
CHARLIE GARD. MACRON & EXPERTS DEPOPULATE FOR CLIMATE.
POPE: FEDERALIZE EUROPE, BACKS DEATH PENALTY.
SDA: KEEP SABBATH & SUNDAY HOLY. CREED POWER VS 3 ANGELS**

- 1a. What is the title of chapter 21 of *The Great Controversy*? _____
- 1b. Note: Based on this chapter, the warning rejected was the first angel's message. Read Revelation 14:6,7.
- 1c. Note: In these last days the professed people of God will reject not only the first angel but also the second and third angels' messages.
2. Why did the Lord send the first angel's message of Revelation 14:6,7 to the world? _____

The first angel's message of Revelation 14, announcing the hour of God's judgment and calling upon men to fear and worship Him, **was designed to separate the professed people of God from the corrupting influences of the world and to arouse them to see their true condition of worldliness and backsliding.** In this message, God has sent to the church a warning, which, **had it been accepted, would have corrected the evils that were shutting them away from Him. Had they received the message from heaven, humbling their hearts before the Lord and seeking in sincerity a preparation to stand in His presence, the Spirit and power of God would have been manifested among them.** {GC 379.1}

- 3a. What was the sole purpose of William Miller as he preached the first angel's message? _____

In preaching the doctrine of the second advent, **William Miller and his associates had labored with the sole purpose of arousing men to a preparation for the judgment. They had sought to awaken professors of religion to the true hope of the church and to their need of a deeper Christian experience, and they labored also to awaken the unconverted to the duty of immediate repentance and conversion to God. "They made no attempt to convert men to a sect or party in religion. Hence they labored among all parties and sects,** without interfering with their organization or discipline." {GC 375.1}

3b. Note: As the Millerites were preparing the people for the opening of the investigative judgment, we must be preparing people for the closing of the investigative judgment. The event that signals the closing of the investigative judgment is the mark of the beast crisis. Revelation 14:9,10.

3c. The following news report shows that the mark of the beast is near. The Charlie Gard incident manifests the following: the restriction of personal liberties and the government deciding where and when a person should die.

"Charlie Gard's Death Sentence: The Consequences of Usurping Parental Rights" **First, the government should have no role in dictating when and where a baby should die, and whether his parents can seek additional treatment options. The decision by the British High Court is an appalling overreach, and it sets a very dangerous precedent. In worldview terms, the government is well beyond its sphere of sovereignty, gobbling up authority that rightfully belongs to the family and to the church...** Great Ormond Street Hospital and the British and international courts have determined it's time for little Charlie to die, regardless of how many people around the world want to help him by paying for transportation and additional treatment. They won't even allow him to die at home. They've effectively asserted ownership over this little boy and his life. **This is unambiguously wrong. And, we should note, the British government is in this position of superseded authority largely because of the breakdown of the family. Courts and officials there are accustomed to playing mom, dad, even sometimes God. And we're not that far behind here in the United States.** <http://www.christianpost.com/news/charlie-gard-death-sentence-usurping-parental-rights-191095/>

The Vatican and Donald Trump offer their support to little Charlie. The Holy See and the President of the United States yesterday announced their willingness to help the 10-month-old child affected by a terminal illness, for whom doctors, in the London hospital where he is hospitalized, have decided stop life-sustaining treatment, judging it unnecessary. <http://www.lastampa.it/2017/07/04/vaticaninsider/eng/world-news/the-vatican-and-trump-take-action-to-give-hope-to-charlie-MgauQBotqm1sMo7P8XiQTL/pagina.html>

3d. As Pope Francis and Donald Trump are involved in the Charlie Gard case it shows that we are nearing the fulfillment of Revelation 13:11-18. Both men represent the Beast and the Image respectively. Both entities will restrict liberties and apply the death penalty upon God's commandment-keeping people.

3e. Note: While Pope Francis, a Jesuit, is supposedly fighting for Charlie Gard's life, the following are words taken from the Jesuit oath: **I will spare neither age, sex or condition; and that I will hang, waste, boil, flay, strangle and bury alive these infamous heretics, rip up the stomachs and wombs of their women and crush their infants' heads against the walls, in order to annihilate forever their execrable race.**

3f. The following shows that Pope Francis, on the surface in public, is against the death penalty. However, according the Pope Pius XII, Catholic teaching support the death penalty to support the common good.

The pope wants a death penalty ban during his year of mercy <http://www.cruxnow.com/church/2016/02/21/the-pope-wants-a-death-penalty-ban-during-his-year-of-mercy/>

Let's be honest: Catholic teaching doesn't always forbid the death penalty... As Pope Pius XII said: "It is reserved then to the public power to deprive the condemned man of the benefit of life, in expiation of his fault, when already, by his crime, he has dispossessed himself of the right to life." **Third, the death penalty can sometimes support the common good.** **St Thomas Aquinas** makes this point: **"Therefore if a man be dangerous and infectious to the community, on account of some sin, it is praiseworthy and advantageous that he be killed in order to safeguard the common good."** <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2017/05/16/lets-be-honest-catholic-teaching-doesnt-always-forbid-the-death-penalty/>

3g. Note: The following is a connection between Pope Pius XII and Pope Francis. Pope Pius XII has been dubbed "Hitler's Pope." He reigned from 1939 to 1958.

Pope Francis is considering whether he will make Pope Pius XII a saint, in the same way that he approved the cause of John XXIII. <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pope-francis-thinking-about-declaring-pius-xii-a-saint/>

Pope Francis has praised Pius XII for sheltering Jews during the Holocaust. Speaking during Mass on Monday, the Pope used the wartime pontiff as an example of people who took risks in order to be merciful. Pius XII has been much maligned for supposed silence in the face of the Nazis, especially in John Cornwell's book, which labels him "Hitler's Pope". <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/06/06/pope-francis-praises-pius-xii-for-taking-risks-to-save-jews/>

3h. Note: According to the following news report, the Papacy supports the death penalty for the common good. The common good was one of the arguments used in 1888 to push Sunday Law. Additionally, Pope Francis states in Laudato Si that the common good means that nations, even individuals must give up personal interest or personal liberties.

And for what purpose is this limitation sought to be put upon natural rights? A quotation from the recent hearing on the Sunday bills before the Massachusetts legislature will explain. A speaker in behalf of the [Sunday] bills said: "When we speak of natural rights it must be with limitations. Natural rights of the individual in the community are subordinate to the common good. Sabbath laws [Sunday Laws] have been proved to be for the common good." {April 21, 1898 ATJ, AMS 243.7}

#169 International negotiations cannot make significant progress due to positions taken by countries which place their national interests above the global common good. http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

4. Note: Experts and President Macron of France have stated and are pushing depopulation of people in order to combat poverty and climate change.

Want to fight climate change? Have fewer children... The greatest impact individuals can have in fighting climate change is to have one fewer child, according to a new study that identifies the most effective ways people can cut their carbon emissions. https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jul/12/want-to-fight-climate-change-have-fewer-children?CMP=fb_gu

Macron says Africa's main problem is '7-8 children per woman,' social media erupts <https://www.rt.com/news/395996-macron-africa-children-main-problem/>

Macron: Africa Needs Fewer Children, Not Aid "The problems Africa faces are completely different ... and are civilisational," he went on. "What are the problems? Failed states, complex democratic transitions, and extremely difficult demographic transitions." Macron was uncharacteristically direct in clarifying what these **"demographic transitions" might be later on in his remarks, chiding countries which "have seven or eight children per woman"**. It is likely the Frenchman had in mind countries such as Niger, where at least 50 per cent of the population are reported to be 14 or under. **Eyebrows were raised when news emerged that Macron wanted to emulate Jupiter, the Roman king of the gods, in his presidential style,** just days after he cancelled a traditional Bastille Day press conference on grounds that his thoughts were "too complex" for journalists. <http://www.breitbart.com/london/2017/07/11/macron-africa-needs-fewer-children-civilisational-issues/>

5a. Note: The following words from Pope Francis show that the fulfillment of Daniel 2:42-45 is closer than many people think.

Pope Francis: 'Europe must be federal' Pope Francis then continued, **"The countries [of Europe] will act if they recognise one truth: either Europe becomes a federal community** or it will no longer count for anything in the world." The Pope's remarks came ahead of a G20 summit in Germany. <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/07/11/pope-francis-europe-must-be-federal/>

Definition of Federal. a : **formed by a compact between political units that surrender their individual sovereignty to a central authority but retain limited residuary powers of government.** <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/federal>

5b. Note: The above statement from Pope Francis is in the same line of "common good."

#169 International negotiations cannot make significant progress due to positions taken by countries which place their national interests above the global common good. http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

6. How did the ministers and religious leaders oppose the Millerites as they preached the first angel's message and the Second Advent?

As his work tended to build up the churches, it was for a time regarded with favor. **But as ministers and religious leaders decided against the advent doctrine and desired to suppress all agitation of the subject, they not only opposed it from the pulpit, but denied their members the privilege of attending preaching upon the second advent, or even of speaking of their hope in the social meetings of the church.** {GC 376.1}

7. Why was the preaching of the first angel's message rejected?

The fact that the message was, to a great extent, preached by laymen, was urged as an instrument against it. As of old, the plain testimony of God's word was met with the inquiry: "Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed?" And finding how difficult a task it was to refute the arguments drawn from the prophetic periods, **many discouraged the study of the prophecies, teaching that the prophetic books were sealed and were not to be understood. Multitudes, trusting implicitly to their pastors, refused to**

listen to the warning; and others, though convinced of the truth, dared not confess it, lest they should be "put out of the synagogue." The message which God had sent for the testing and purification of the church revealed all too surely how great was the number who had set their affections on this world rather than upon Christ. The ties which bound them to earth were stronger than the attractions heavenward. **They chose to listen to the voice of worldly wisdom and turned away from the heart-searching message of truth.** {GC 380.1}

8a. How was the spiritual condition of the churches described between the summer of 1844 and the autumn of 1844? _____

About this time a marked change was apparent in most of the churches throughout the United States. There had been for many years a gradual but steadily increasing conformity to worldly practices and customs, and a corresponding decline in real spiritual life; **but in that year there were evidences of a sudden and marked declension in nearly all the churches of the land. While none seemed able to suggest the cause, the fact itself was widely noted and commented upon by both the press and the pulpit.** {GC 376.2} **...Very extensively, church members are becoming devotees of fashion, --join hands with the ungodly in parties of pleasure, in dancing, in festivities, etc.** . . . But we need not expand this painful subject. Suffice it that the evidence thickens and rolls heavily upon us, to show that the churches generally are becoming sadly degenerate. **They have gone very far from the Lord, and He has withdrawn Himself from them.** {GC 377.1}

8b. What were the reasons for the spiritual darkness among the professed Christians? _____

Wherever the cause exists, the same results will follow. He who deliberately stifles his convictions of duty because it interferes with his inclinations will finally lose the power to distinguish between truth and error. The understanding becomes darkened, the conscience callous, the heart hardened, and the soul is separated from God. **Where the message of divine truth is spurned or slighted, there the church will be enshrouded in darkness; faith and love grow cold, and estrangement and dissension enter. Church members center their interests and energies in worldly pursuits, and sinners become hardened in their impenitence.** {GC 378.}

8c. Note: The following shows that we are living in the time of Genesis 19:1-13.

Outspoken: Camilo Nazar Wants to Give Queer People More Representation... "Outspoken" is a ten-part series of short documentaries that features stories of LGBT+ people with ties to the Adventist Church, produced by husband and wife team Daneen Akers and Stephen Eyer, intended "to highlight stories of people who are giving back, showing up, and creating." ... In "Thou Shall Not," a television series he wrote and directed, Nazar plays a young queer man who falls in love with his best friend, a pastor's son, played by Mohammed....Nazar is also president of Gay And Straight People (GASP), Pacific Union College's unofficial Queer-Straight alliance. In the "Outspoken" film, Nazar expressed his longing for PUC to treat its LGBT+ students not as a potential financial liability or a "PR mess," but rather his desire to see "Pacific Union College setting up the conversation so that every student feels welcome." He called GASP's being unofficial another form of being in the closet. "That's not a place where we want to be anymore," he said. <http://spectrummagazine.org/article/2017/07/13/outspoken-camilo-nazar-wants-give-queer-people-more-representation>

8d. "Book Review: A Brief History of Sunday: From the New Testament to the New Creation" Sabbath, therefore, was still held as a day of reverent observance and rest, **while Sunday, "the Lord's day," became a day of celebration of Jesus and the salvation story:**The interpolation shows that, at least as late as the fourth century, some or perhaps even most Christian observed the Sabbath, and then the Lord's day on the following day. **In other words, the Lord's day, celebrated on the first day of the week, was not a substitution for the Sabbath, but a separate celebration of the resurrection of Jesus....**What I most appreciated was learning that early Christians meant Sunday to be a complement to the Sabbath. So inspired by Jesus, who many of them had known in the flesh, they honored Him with a day of rest followed by a day of celebration each week. There is something lovely and quite moving in that idea. **May we all honor Him as passionately as those early Christians with rest and with celebration within our communities [churches] and beyond.** <http://spectrummagazine.org/article/2017/07/10/book-review-brief-history-sunday-new-testament-new-creation>

9. How did the believers of the 2300 prophetic days and the first angel's message react to the spiritual darkness upon the churches and the opposition that they faced from ministers, church leaders and people? _____

Thus the believers found themselves in a position of great trial and perplexity. **They loved their churches and were loath to separate from them; but as they saw the testimony of God's word suppressed and their right to investigate the prophecies denied they felt that loyalty to God forbade them to submit. Those who sought to shut out the testimony of God's word they could not regard as constituting the church of Christ, "the pillar and ground of the truth."** Hence they felt themselves justified in separating from their former connection. **In the summer of 1844 about fifty thousand withdrew from the churches.** {GC 376.1}

10a. What would have been the result if all accepted the first angel's message? What would the result be today? _____

The first angel's message of Revelation 14, announcing the hour of God's judgment and calling upon men to fear and worship Him, was designed to separate the professed people of God from the corrupting influences of the world and to arouse them to see their true condition of worldliness and backsliding. {GC 379.1} **If God's professed people would receive the light as it shines upon them from His word, they would reach that unity for which Christ prayed, that which the apostle describes,** "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." "There is," he says, "one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism." Ephesians 4:3-5. {GC 379.2} Such were the blessed results experienced by those who accepted the advent message. **They came from different denominations, and their denominational barriers were hurled to the ground; conflicting creeds were shivered to atoms; the unscriptural hope of a temporal millennium was abandoned, false views of the second advent were corrected, pride and conformity to the world were swept away; wrongs were made right; hearts were united in the sweetest fellowship, and love and joy reigned supreme. If this doctrine did this for the few who did receive it, it would have done the same for all if all had received it.** {GC 379.3}

10b. Note: Lack of unity among Seventh-day Adventists because the majority of rejected the three angels' messages.

Knight Compares General Conference to the Nazis [the context of the statement is that George Knight is a proponent of Women's Ordination] <http://www.fulcrum7.com/news/2017/6/16/knight-compares-general-conference-to-the-nazis>

Michigan Conference Bans George Knight's Books from Its ABC Stores <http://spectrummagazine.org/article/2017/07/07/michigan-conference-bans-george-knight%E2%80%99s-books-its-abc-stores>

On Tuesday of last week, Fulcrum7 received a phone call from a concerned church member. This is what we were told: **"Amazing Facts sought a loan from the Pacific Union to finance part of their new building project, (the Word Center). The executive committee considered the request, and to my utter shock, voted to deny the request because of Doug Batchelor's conviction that the Bible teaches male leadership." An Amazing Facts staffer admitted that the story was true but preferred not to comment on it much further. The PUC has not responded to our inquiry at the time of publishing.** <http://www.fulcrum7.com/news/2017/7/9/pacific-union-denies-loan-to-amazing-facts>

11. What message follows the first angel's message? Revelation 14:8 _____

12. Note: Babylon is derived from the name Babel which means confusion. See Genesis 11:9. It is employed in Scripture to designate the various forms of false and apostate religion.

13. Note: The sacred and enduring character of the relation that exists between Christ and His church is represented by the union of marriage. See Hosea 2:19; Jeremiah 3:14; 2 Corinthians 11:2.

14. In the book of Revelation, Babylon is represented with what gender? Revelation 17:1-6 _____

15. A woman in Bible prophecy is likened unto a church? 2 Corinthians 11:2 _____

16. Note: A virtuous woman represents a pure church and vile woman represents an apostate church.

17. Using the description of Babylon in Revelation 17:4-6, who does she represent? _____

The woman (Babylon) of Revelation 17 is described as "arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness:....and upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots." Says the prophet: "I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus." Babylon is further declared to be "that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth." Revelation 17:4-6, 18. The power that for so many centuries maintained despotic sway over the monarchs of Christendom is Rome. The purple and scarlet color, the gold and precious stones and pearls, vividly picture the magnificence and more than kingly pomp affected by the haughty see of Rome. And no other power could be so truly declared "drunken with the blood of the saints" as that church which has so cruelly persecuted the followers of Christ. Babylon is also charged with the sin of unlawful connection with "the kings of the earth." It was by departure from the Lord, and alliance with the heathen, that the Jewish church became a harlot; and Rome, corrupting herself in like manner by seeking the support of worldly powers, receives a like condemnation. {GC 382.2}

18. Note: Babylon has daughters. See Revelation 17:5.

19. Who are the daughters of Babylon, the Roman Catholic Church? _____

Babylon is said to be "the mother of harlots." By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world. The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt. Since this message follows the warning of the judgment, it must be given in the last days; therefore it cannot refer to the Roman Church alone, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries. Furthermore, in the eighteenth chapter of the Revelation the people of God are called upon to come out of Babylon. According to this scripture, many of God's people must still be in Babylon. And in what religious bodies are the greater part of the followers of Christ now to be found? Without doubt, in the various churches professing the Protestant faith. At the time of their rise these churches took a noble stand for God and the truth, and His blessing was with them. Even the unbelieving world was constrained to acknowledge the beneficent results that followed an acceptance of the principles of the gospel. {GC 382.3}

20a. Note: The daughters of Babylon can be identified by the iniquitous connection with the kings of the earth, following the example of the Papacy.

20b. **Many of the Protestant churches are following Rome's example of iniquitous connection with "the kings of the earth"--the state churches, by their relation to secular governments; and other denominations, by seeking the favor of the world.** And the term "Babylon"--confusion--may be appropriately applied to these bodies, all professing to derive their doctrines from the Bible, yet divided into almost innumerable sects, with widely conflicting creeds and theories. {GC 383.1}

20c. When the church begins to seek for the support of secular power, it is evident that she is devoid of the power of Christ--the constraint of divine love. {MB 127.1}

20d. Evangelical leaders 'lay hands' on President Trump in Oval Office gathering https://www.aol.com/article/news/2017/07/12/evangelical-leaders-lay-hands-on-president-trump-in-oval-office-gathering/23026726/?a_dgi=aolshare_facebook

21. How do ministers support the profession of religion and the form of godliness in the churches? _____

A profession of religion has become popular with the world. Rulers, politicians, lawyers, doctors, merchants, join the church as a means of securing the respect and confidence of society, and advancing their own worldly interests. Thus they seek to cover all their unrighteous transactions under a profession of Christianity. The various religious bodies, re-enforced by the wealth and influence of these baptized worldlings, make a still higher bid for popularity and patronage. **Splendid churches, embellished in the most extravagant manner, are erected on popular avenues. The worshipers array themselves in costly and fashionable attire. A high salary is paid for a talented minister to entertain and attract the people. His sermons must not touch popular sins, but be made smooth and pleasing for fashionable ears.** Thus fashionable sinners are enrolled on the church records, and fashionable sins are concealed under a pretense of godliness. {GC 386.1}

25. Where does the sin of the world's impenitence lie? _____

The sin of the world's impenitence lies at the door of the church. {GC 389.1}

21. What was the origin of the great apostasy? Where will it also be seen? _____

What was the origin of the great apostasy? How did the church first depart from the simplicity of the gospel? By conforming to the practices of paganism, to facilitate the acceptance of Christianity by the heathen. . . . During the lives of the apostles the church remained comparatively pure. But "toward the latter end of the second century most of the churches assumed a new form; the first simplicity disappeared, and insensibly, as the old disciples retired to their graves, their children, along with new converts, . . . came forward and new-modeled the cause." To secure converts, the exalted standard of the Christian faith was lowered, and as the result "a pagan flood, flowing into the church, carried with it its customs, practices, and idols." Has not the same process been repeated in nearly every church calling itself Protestant? {GC 384.5} {GC 385.1}

24a. How do the Protestant churches withhold the Bible from the people as the Roman Catholic Church and still does today?

Rome withheld the Bible from the people and required all men to accept her teachings in its place. It was the work of the Reformation to restore to men the word of God; but is it not too true that in the churches of our time men are taught to rest their faith upon their creed and the teachings of their church rather than on the Scriptures? Said Charles Beecher, speaking of the Protestant churches: "They shrink from any rude word against creeds with the same sensitiveness with which those holy fathers would have shrunk from a rude word against the rising veneration of saints and martyrs which they were fostering. . . . The Protestant evangelical denominations have so tied up one another's hands, and their own, that, between them all, a man cannot become a preacher at all, anywhere, without accepting some book besides the Bible. . . . **There is nothing imaginary in the statement that the creed power is now beginning to prohibit the Bible as really as Rome did, though in a subtler way.**"--{GC 388.3}

24b. **Definition of the word Creed:** to believe, trust, entrust; a brief authoritative formula of religious belief 2: **a set of fundamental beliefs**; also: a guiding principle. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/creed>

24c. What commonly is referred to among Seventh-day Adventists as the Church Manual falls into the category of religious writings historically called a "creed". (Please see "28 Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh Day Adventists" and "The Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual")

24d. The first business presented was the organization of churches. Brother Loughborough said: I consider it proper and necessary to consider here the organization of churches, as the

subject has been agitated among us, especially for the last six months; and in order to bring the matter before the meeting, I move that we consider the proper manner of organizing churches. Seconded by Brother White. Carried. Brother White then presented the following resolution: {1BIO 452.2}

Resolved, That this conference recommend the following church covenant: We, the undersigned, hereby associate ourselves together as a church, taking the name Seventh-day Adventists, covenanting to keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus Christ.

Seconded by Brother Hull.

Adopted.--Ibid., Oct. 8, 1861. {1BIO 452.3}

But the vote was not full, and White stated that he hoped that a matter of such importance would not be passed without some discussion. On this suggestion, Loughborough, by a motion, opened the way for a reconsideration of the matter. This led to the question whether White's proposal was not a creed--and a creed they would not tolerate. Hull felt that it was not a creed or articles of faith, but merely a pledge to do one thing: "Keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." James White then led into a discussion of the involvements in the light of the fears sustained by some. Here is his statement: {1BIO 452.4}

If there is no one to raise any objections to this step, I have almost a mind to raise some myself, so that the subject may be discussed. Circumstances have driven me to an examination of this subject somewhat, and it is a very clear one to my mind; but perhaps it might be objected to on this ground: it will look like patterning after the churches around us; and what will be the influence? I would like to hear remarks on this point. It will certainly be doing like those around us; and certain individuals will say that we are following after Babylon; and this may be an objection in their minds.--Ibid. {1BIO 452.5}

Loughborough suggested that if this was so, they were patterning after the other churches by building meetinghouses. He stated, "We call the churches Babylon not because they covenant together to obey God." He referred to an article he had written for the Review in which he declared: {1BIO 453.1}

The first step of apostasy is to get up a creed, telling us what we shall believe. The second is to make that creed a test of fellowship. The third is to try members by that creed. The fourth to denounce as heretics those who do not believe that creed. And fifth, to commence persecution against such. {1BIO 453.2}

I plead that we are not patterning after the churches in any unwarrantable sense in the step proposed.--Ibid. {1BIO 453.3}

Cornell could not see that adopting such a covenant was patterning after the churches. Then James White made a rather comprehensive and significant statement: {1BIO 453.4}

A Creed and the Spirit of Prophecy

I am convinced; not by what the brethren have said, for I was convinced before. I wish to say a word now in favor of the resolution. I prefer that the brethren should be uniform in this thing. This would tend to unity in the church. Let us set a right example here, and let it go out from this meeting. This is one reason why I would vote for this covenant. {1BIO 453.5}

On the subject of creeds, I agree with Brother Loughborough. I never weighed the points which he has presented, as I have since I began to examine the subject myself. In Ephesians 4:11-13, we read, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets," et cetera. Here we have the gifts of the church

presented. Now I take the ground that creeds stand in a direct opposition to the gifts. Let us suppose a case: We get up a creed, stating just what we shall believe on this point and the other, and just what

we shall do in reference to this thing and that, and say that we will believe the gifts, too. {1BIO 454.1}

But suppose the Lord, through the gifts, should give us some new light that did not harmonize with our creed; then, if we remain true to the gifts, it knocks our creed all over at once. Making a creed is setting the stakes, and barring up the way to all future advancement. God put the gifts into the church for a good and great object; but men who have got up their churches, have shut up the way or have marked out a course for the Almighty. They say virtually that the Lord must not do anything further than what has been marked out in the creed. {1BIO 454.2}

A creed and the gifts thus stand in direct opposition to each other. Now what is our position as a people? The Bible is our creed. We reject everything in the form of a human creed. We take the Bible and the gifts of the Spirit; embracing the faith that thus the Lord will teach us from time to time. And in this we take a position against the formation of a creed. We are not taking one step, in what we are doing, toward becoming Babylon.--Ibid. (Italics supplied.) {1BIO 454.3}

Some discussion followed about statements in writing and covenants. Then the far-reaching action was taken--that of adopting the wording proposed. Before the meeting ended they adopted the covenant by which members would join the church: {1BIO 454.4}

We, the undersigned, hereby associate ourselves together as a church, taking the name Seventh-day Adventists, covenanting to keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus Christ.

... {1BIO 454.5}

The question was called for, and unanimously carried.--Ibid. {1BIO 454.6}

The third step in church organization had been taken. {1BIO 454.7}

The matter of procedure in organizing churches was referred to the ministers present who were charged with holding a "Bible class" on the subject and were to write an address to the brethren, to be published in the Review.

25a. When will Babylon finally fall completely, since her moral fall began in the summer of 1844? _____

The second angel's message of Revelation 14 was first preached in the summer of 1844, and it then had a more direct application to the churches of the United States, where the warning of the judgment had been most widely proclaimed and most generally rejected, and where the declension in the churches had been most rapid. **But the message of the second angel did not reach its complete fulfillment in 1844. The churches then experienced a moral fall, in consequence of their refusal of the light of the advent message; but that fall was not complete.** As they have continued to reject the special truths for this time they have fallen lower and lower. Not yet, however, can it be said that "Babylon is fallen,... because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." She has not yet made all nations do this. The spirit of world conforming and indifference to the testing truths for our time exists and has been gaining ground in churches of the Protestant faith in all the countries of Christendom; and these churches are included in the solemn and terrible denunciation of the second angel. **But the work of apostasy has not yet reached its culmination.** {GC 389.2}

The Bible declares that before the coming of the Lord, Satan will work "with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness;" and they that "received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved," will be left to receive "strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11. **Not until this condition shall be reached, and the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete.** The change is a progressive one, and the perfect fulfillment of Revelation 14:8 is yet future. {GC 389.3}

25b. Meditate upon Revelation 18:1-4 with Revelation 14:9,10 and Revelation 15:1.

26. What experience must we have so as not to fall with Babylon? 2 Peter 1:10,4-9 _____