**Satan’s All-Time Greatest Deception**

**Conclusion**

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| If you have read the eighteen chapters of this book, and if you have considered yourself a Seventh-day Adventist Trinitarian, then surely, between the Scriptures and Spirit of prophecy evidence presented in these chapters, God has spoken to your heart. I certainly and earnestly pray so.  **Satan’s Familiar Method**              What you have read in these pages is the “straight testimony” that has been “called forth” from my heart and the hearts of others “by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans.” We cannot keep silent in the face of such danger. The fact that it is the truth causes “some to rise up against it,” and that is the “meaning of the shaking” our church is experiencing regarding the Godhead. (RH Dec. 31, 1857) It is part of Satan’s war against the remnant:  Revelation 12:17 gives the warning, **“And the dragon** (Satan) **was wroth with the woman,** (God’s pure church) **and went to make war** (to annihilate through any conceivable method) **with the remnant**(God’s church in the end time) **of her seed, which keep the commandments of God**(all ten, and especially the first)**, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ**(the Spirit of prophecy).  Satan has always used the passage of time, as well as men he can manipulate, to turn God’s truth into error. Here in what we hope is the final generation, he has most of the Christian world giving reverence to the counterfeit Sabbath. He is well aware that if you break one commandment, it’s as if you have broken them all, and certainly that is no way to have your probation end—as a law-breaker. But notice in Revelation 12:17 quoted above, the target of his final attack is the remnant movement that God raised up, to which He gave true doctrinal understanding, and which truths He confirmed through His prophet. Revelation 14:12 says the remnant keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.  Satan can do nothing to change the remnant’s understanding of the fourth commandment. It is too explicit to understand otherwise. This has frustrated his goal to deceive the whole world, so he’s had to think of another, more subtle yet effective ploy. He must have reasoned within himself that something that worked for him in the time of Christ would work again with the end-time church. The parallels are obvious. Satan couldn’t get the Jews to break the fourth commandment. They kept the seventh-day Sabbath with religious fervor—but they did so with hearts that were void of love for God. Rather, it was all outward show and trust in one’s own works, a deadly belief that keeping the ten commandments and the law of Moses would earn them a right to heaven. At the same time, they rejected the Son of God, largely because He was not the Messiah they were looking for. They wanted a Messiah more to their liking. It was on that point—the Sonship of Jesus—that the Jewish nation lost its privileged role as keeper of the oracles of God. That nation was replaced by the church that Christ instituted, based on the “rock” of belief that He is, as Peter and the other apostles recognized, the “Son of the living God.” (Matt 16:16-18) Ever since then, Satan has been on the attack against the church. As he had done with the Jews, he would labor to cause the remnant church to become self-confident Sabbath-keepers who reject the Son of God.  **The Son of God Rejected Again**  Could Satan, over a period of time—say, about sixty-five years after the prophet’s death—actually get this remnant people to reject the Son of God and embrace a first-commandment-breaking doctrine the pioneers solidly rejected? All while they were dutifully keeping the fourth commandment? Well, he has engineered his plan into reality. Adventism’s doctrinal paradigm shift happened thirty-seven years ago, as of this writing. In 1980 the three-gods-in-one Trinity god was voted into Adventist beliefs, replacing Adventism’s long-standing belief in one supreme God and His literal only begotten Son. In 1981 our *Fundamental Beliefs* boasted three co-equal, co-eternal Gods. That belief eliminates any possibility of a true, precedent Father and His consequent begotten Son; it has required a reinterpretation of the inspired Word of God—after almost two millennia after Christ. Satan has been successful; the Son of God has been rejected, and in His place a counterfeit god called “God the Son” is accepted. This God, it is claimed without biblical support, cannot be both God and Son, so His *true*Sonship had to be—and was—removed from our beliefs.  Adventists today reject the Son of God as having been birthed in eternity. Instead, they claim that “God the Son” is a role-playing Son who is co-eternal with the Father. Therefore, there is no true Father-Son relationship, and thus Jesus’ Sonship is taught to be only metaphorical and only temporary. So, while the Adventists are dutifully keeping the seventh-day Sabbath, they reject the literal, biblical Son of God, just as the Jews did. Moreover, they embrace a third god to worship—even though God the Father said, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me”—“before” meaning “instead of” or “in addition to” me. Without realizing what they are doing, by accepting the Trinity doctrine as true, Adventists break the first commandment.  These—and more—are details many Seventh-day Adventists don’t know about. The *Fundamental Beliefs*dealing with the Trinity sound good, as written. It is when one hears the details not mentioned in the *Fundamental Beliefs*that alarm bells go off.  **Satan’s Plan Overruled**  Something that the arch-deceiver did not plan on, though, has become a thorn in his side. If “my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6), the converse is also true: “Get wisdom, get understanding: …Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.” (Prov 4:5-6) The much-welcomed release of the writings of Ellen White and the pioneers in easily-accessed CD-ROM format resulted in Adventists in different parts of the world finally being able to investigate thoroughly what the pioneers actually believed and taught. A mystical, confusing three-in-one god just didn’t make sense to many. They learned literal biblical truths that were clearly expressed, and which thrilled their souls. Unable to keep silent, they shared their knowledge, and a movement began that has been bringing back to our beloved church the foundational doctrines and fundamental principles that were established by divine authorityin our early years. That small movement has grown to a considerable number of Seventh-day Adventists worldwide. They are more than happy to willingly share the information that helped them step out of the darkness of deception into the marvelous light of the real truth about the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This God-directed movement is causing a shaking in Adventism.  **An Awakening**  One experiences different emotions in this journey to wonderful, salvational truth. First, there’s an exhilarating feeling for having the fog lift and the truth seen in crystal-clearness. Then comes some anger for having been taught a Satan-inspired lie about our wonderful, sovereign God. Then follows joy for the truth that sets you free. I know from personal experience. I first became an Adventist fifty-seven years ago at the age of twenty-one. A little over three years ago I became a non-trinitarian, and after the first feeling of exhilaration subsided, I thenexperienced feelings of betrayal and anger toward those who had taught me the false trinitarian doctrine. But then I stopped blaming those who taught me the error, because they had bought into Satan’s deceptions, too—just as I had done. After all, I had been preaching it, teaching it, and defending it for a number of years,just like they had been doing.  What I’ve found is that a non-trinitarian settles into a peaceful, confident joy in this pure understanding and in the holy, loving God revealed in it. He or she develops a great burden for the deceived Adventists around the world who have a counterfeit oil in their lamps that will not burn to light their way to “old paths, where is the good way.” (Jer. 6:16) What I see happening is that God is raising up many voices who are using every form of communication to reach souls in the church who have no concept of the spiritual danger associated with the Trinity doctrine.  Our Trinitarian brothers and sisters around the globe need to know the truth. When they decide to study the issue without prejudice or bias, God will give them precious understanding. The light will dawn and the biblical truth will become apparent. As has happened so many times, they will want to learn all they possibly can as soon as they can, and the truth will set them free.  **Yet Some Still Sleep**  Ten sleeping virgins represent God’s remnant church. The wise virgins have the necessary oil, which represents the true Holy Spirit, which comes from a correct understanding of the Godhead. The foolish virgins represent those who embrace the false trinity doctrine that involves another spirit. They have no Holy Spirit oil in their lamps, but they refuse to believe the church leadership could be mistaken. Too late they will want what they could have had. Too late they will realize that leadership has failed them, for leaders are not immune to Satan’s deceptions. They are but mortals like the rest of us, and some, being deceived themselves, have become deceivers. It is now, in the tarrying time, that each one of us must get this issue right, or we personally will never give the third angel’s message with power. We will have disqualified ourselves. Our good works will not save us. Our eternal destinies could well be jeopardized by our choice of which side of the issue we will hold as truth. Will we be among those who rely on man’s questionable reasoning, or among those who accept the Word of God just as it reads?  Will we learn from the Jews’ tragic experience, or will we again be misled by Satan’s lies? The Spirit of prophecy leaves no room for doubt about his intentions against us: “This fact the [fallen] angels would obscure, that Christ was the only begotten Son of God.” (TDG 128, brackets original) But we have the privilege of taking God at His Word: “God is the Father of Christ; Christ is the Son of God. To Christ has been given an exalted position. He has been made equal with the Father. All the counsels of God are opened to His Son.” (CCh 76)  “... Clear light has been permitted to shine upon all; but when Satan’s sophistries are heeded, when men and women reject light and evidence, gradually they become converted to the theories that Satan offers. Too late, too late they will see that angels of God are in the warfare against all who have departed from the faith.” (Ms11 [1909] 23)  **The True Cause of the Division, and the Remedy**              It seems incredible that a literal reading of “the truths most plainly revealed in the Bible” is now called error, though none have shown us why. A competing view has been presented, full of speculation, as has been noted in this book. Enough time has passed since the new view’s adoption into Adventist beliefs that those who “earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints” are seen as troublers of the people, disloyal to the church, purveyors of heresies, when, in fact, Adventist history reveals that the trouble arose when a mysticalcounterfeit of Godwas introduced into our denomination by Dr. John Harvey Kellogg and spread by those equally deceived. Adventism’s adoption of the equally mystical Trinity doctrine has brought division into our ranks. As Satan’s greatest all-time deception has been exposed in these pages, you have seen it for yourself. No other conclusion pertaining to the Godhead can be reached. The only honest way to end the division on this topic is to reverse course and eliminate the cause of the division. It is neither just nor honest to blame, ignore, deny office-holding to, or remove from membership those who object to the divisive doctrine. Those who contend for the faith are those who love the church and want to see her purified from all dross. Silencing objections does not purify her, but makes her condition all the more intractable.  **Something final to ponder**  Spiritually, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has left the “old paths, where is the good way,” and joined the ecumenical Babylonish crowd on the broad way that leads to destruction. The church may not *be*Babylon, but she has certainly reached across the gulf to befriend Babylon and at times our church has invited Babylon into her midst—even into General Conference sessions. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has signally proved its good will toward corrupt Babylon by giving up her biblically-based understanding of the Godhead in order to adopt Babylon’s fundamental and profoundly anti-Christ—*anti-Son of God—*doctrine of a triune God.             There is a time when God winks at our ignorance, but as this topic is agitated more and more, ignorance in this matter becomes a matter of choice, not deception. God wants to save every person whose heart is still beating, but He won’t make their choices for them. Everyone will be saved or lost based on their own decisions, not His. Each of us chooses our own eternal destiny. So long as the door of probation is still open, God calls to those enjoying doctrinal unity with Babylon to “come out of her, My people, lest you partake of her sins and receive of her plagues.” (Rev 18:4) Both warning and promise are in these words: “Come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” (2 Cor 16:17-18)             Salvational is conditional, and His conditions are made clear. God’s mercy and grace are extended to all, but grace does not do away with obedience. “God is the Father of Christ; Christ is the Son of God. To Christ has been given an exalted position. He has been made equal with the Father….” (8T 268) Whoever accepts a counterfeit triplicate god instead of that plain biblical truth breaks the true God’s first commandment. That is serious enough, but there’s more. The Holy Spirit—the transforming presence, eternal life and infinite power of Christ—is given only to those who obey God with and through His only begotten Son. If your concept of God is not the literal one presented in the Bible, then the Spirit of prophecy warns you of idolatry, which again is transgression of the first commandment. “Multitudes have a wrong concept of God and are as truly serving a false god as were the worshipers of Baal.” (RR 63)             God told Solomon, “…If ye shall at all turn from following me, … but go and serve other gods, and worship them; then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them.” (1SOP 394) That divine principle and message is for His church today, too. How clearly a similar warning was sounded in more recent time, in urgency: “The religion of Jesus is endangered. It is being mingled with worldliness. Worldly policy is taking the place of the true piety and wisdom that comes from above, and God will remove His prospering hand from the conference. Shall the ark of the Covenant be removed from this people? Shall idols be smuggled in? Shall false principles and false precepts be brought into the sanctuary? *Shall antichrist be respected?* Shall the true doctrines and principles given us by God, which have made us what we are, be ignored? Shall God’s instrumentality, the publishing house, become a mere political, worldly institution? This is directly where the enemy, through blinded, unconsecrated men, is leading us.” (Ms 29a, Nov. 21, 1890) |

           Did repentance and reformation follow this warning? Sadly, no. “Antichrist has been respected” to the point of Adventism’s adoption of her central doctrine of the Trinity. The most foundational “true doctrines and principles given us by God” have indeed been “ignored.” Idols have been smuggled in, right under our noses. Ironically, in the organized Seventh-day Adventist Church, there have been calls for “revival and reformation,” but not for “repentance and reformation.” However, unless there is confession and repentance, there can be no effective reformation. And so, here we are—still wandering in the wilderness all these years because of unbelief and rebellion.

           Brethren and sisters, if it is your hearts’ desire to be sons and daughters of the Most High, then “now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light…. Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh.…” (Rom 13:11-14)

**The Burden and the Hope**

My burden is great for our church and all Christian brethren, and that is the primary reason I have written this book—to help as many searching Christians as possible discard the false Babylonian doctrine of a triune God. Another goal of mine has been to create a website where this book can be read online and pdf. Chapters, as well as the whole book, can be downloaded. That goal is now a reality; here are the two website addresses: [www.satansalltimegreatestdeception.org](javascript://links%20disabled) and  [www.satansalltimegreatestdeception.com](javascript://links%20disabled). Although I have begun my 80th year by God’s grace, my hope is to meet you where there will be an abundant life of eternal joy.

For further study, I recommend the website [www.revelation1412.org](javascript://links%20disabled) as an excellent resource for many videos and other materials that explain the Godhead subject well. Some of the material in this book comes from that website and is used with permission.

May you continue to grow in the Spirit of the Father and His only truly begotten Son as you learn and share what Satan would happily extinguish if he could. Praise God that he can’t, though, because our eternal Father is ever in control.

     Richard C. Vaughn