

Our Firm Foundation

Seventh day Adventists as true Protestant Christians and legitimate expositors.

This new concept, I firmly believe, is destined to make possible the reaching of minds that could not be favorably touched by any other channel or approach. Many of these religious leaders are destined to yet become our friends and defenders, and to stand in the breach for us in the time of approaching crisis. Others, I am similarly persuaded, will, under the impulse of the loud cry, take their stand openly with us.

As the gulf between the growing departures of their own churches and their unchanging conceptions of truth grows wider and deeper, many honest, godly men, scattered in posts of leadership throughout the various communions, will take their stand with the remnant church. God hasten that day! And yet that will probably only be when the final issues have been clearly drawn and the loud cry is actually sounding. Meantime, we are tactfully and faithfully to sow the seeds of truth beside all waters, and to present our understanding of prophecy before the world in clear and winsome and telling ways.

The Certainties of the Advent Faith

There is something highly satisfying about the words of Holy Scripture written by Luke the physician, with his medical training and orderly thinking, when he expresses the hope that thou might know the certainty of those things, wherein thou has been instructed.” Luke 1:4. This declaration conveys a distinct sense of assurance. As we observed in our initial study, there is nothing vague, hazy, or untrustworthy about the evidence that lies at the foundation of our prophetic witness to the world. And such a declaration, coming from such a source as Luke, creates a consciousness that our faith rests on that which is sound, substantial, and sure. We may well observe-

1. That intelligent faith is based on sound, unassailable fact. It is not built on pleasing fables and transitory feelings. It is not founded on pious hopes and plausible assumptions. It is not reared upon unreliable traditions and imaginative folklore. Instead, it is built upon solid, trustworthy, factual evidence.

2. That it is impossible for God to lie, and inconceivable that He should deceive. He never contradicts the laws of truth and evidence that He has established upon which we are to base our faith and verify our findings, and by which we are to evaluate and check all evidence. The truth of God ever accords with the highest demands of reverent reason, historical fact, and scientific procedure.

3. That truth has nothing to fear either from reverent investigation or from the attacks of hostile perversion. If it be truth, it is bound ultimately to triumph over its detractors. Indeed, the more it is buffeted, the brighter it shines and the more majestic it stands forth in its towering majesty.

Such observations are pertinent because, along with our increasing growth and the inevitable prominence that comes as a result, especially as we enter the crisis time of earth’s last hour, we shall become the center of the world’s critical and often times hostile scrutiny. Every position we hold will then become the object of bitter attack. It therefore behooves us to know, as never before, the certainty and surety of the foundations upon which our faith is built. It is imperative for us to be assured and established beyond reasonable question upon every major fact of our prophetic faith. We are specifically admonished by the Spirit of prophecy-and such counsel is buttressed by our own common sense-that these fundamentals are to be verified beyond a reasonable doubt. We are further told that if we are not so prepared and buttressed, the “wisdom of the world’s great ones will be too much for us.” [23]

Sure Counsels of Spirit of Prophecy

Before we enter upon our main discussion, there are two other statements from the Spirit of prophecy that are highly pertinent, which we should note. The first is similar to one cited in our initial study-it is in the same strain, and uses the same figure.

“The truths that Satan had concealed by his hellish shadow, the truths that lie had misinterpreted, and misapplied, and disconnected from the Lord of Glory, are to be reset, opened and explained, and made to appear in their heavenly beauty, to be seen as truths that shall stand fast forever. They are to be re-established in the minds of men by the living agents whom God has appointed. And error is to be revealed in its true character by the light of truth. The Lord Jesus has moved upon human minds, that they may become His living agents to do a special work in recovering the old truths from their old forms, that they may rid them of the traditions and maxims of men, and give them to the world in their native purity, in their original splendor, freshness, and force. This is our work, brethren and sisters, in this waiting, watching time!” [24]