

“WHO’S AFRAID?”

Text: Rev. 14:6-7

CAMPMEETING SERIES #4, GGSDA, 8/29/15

INTRO. A. One of my old jokes, just too good to not bring back at least once--Young man, in college, walked into his final test. Class on birds, ornithology. For the final test, professor had put pictures of 26 pair of bird legs. You had to match them up with the right bird. Guy said--“That’s hopeless. Nobody could do that.” Professor said, “Never mind, still have to do it.” “Not going to do it. That test is hopeless.” “You’re going to fail.” “I don’t care, go ahead, fail me.” Professor gets out his grade book--“Ok, you fail. What’s your name?” Kid pulled up his pant leg and said, “**You tell me!**” But the Adventist Church has had a belief for 170 years—**INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT**—made most of us feel hopeless. Since 1844 your name could come up at any time, have to stand alone before God and all the angels, read all your sins, sins you thought about doing and wanted to do but didn’t—things you should have done but didn’t—and then God will Judge. If you pass, heaven for 1000 years. If one sin not forgiven--throw you into the Lake of Fire, burn you up. Hopeless.

B. I have friends, thought they had been elected to be Secretary of the next Conference over, walked through house—sitting there ready to be introduced—small group got them out. Not good enough. 2 GC VP’s—president wanted them out, out of a job that very day, after 40 years working for the church. Not good enough. Friends of ours, sure God wants them to be doctors, top grades, friends all getting letters, never got one, not good enough. All reality shows, singing, dancing, bachelor sows, somebody sits there, decides you’re not good enough, Trump says, You’re fired. We have friends, sure God has called them to be doctors, top grades—all friends getting letters—no letter. Not good enough.

C. I grew up scared to death of this Investigative Judgment. **DANIEL 7:9-11 “Thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. The court was seated, books were opened.” 2 CORINTHIANS 5:10 “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.” 1 CORINTHIANS 4:5 “He will bring to light everything hidden in darkness “ William Miller, farmer in NY, 1825, reading DANIEL 8:13-14 “Unto 2300 days shall the Sanctuary be cleansed.”** Did the math, came to 1844, sure that meant Jesus coming to cleanse the earth, 50,000 looking up into the sky, sure be in heaven that night. Didn’t happen, got a new idea, cleansing sanctuary in heaven, just like OT, you brought lamb, put your sins on lamb, blood went into the sanctuary, 1x a year, Day of Atonement cleanse the sanctuary, so we put our sins on Jesus, He dies, takes blood to heaven, at end of the world, have to cleanse sanctuary of all our sins in the books up there. Started in 1844, your name can come up at any time, if not perfect, name off the List, you’ll be thrown into the Lake of Fire.

E. 1979—**DESMOND FORD**, teacher up at PUC—made a speech—said it was all wrong. Dates wrong, not one person in the world outside of our church has ever agreed with us, It was just a coverup, mostly young people, 21,22 years old, to coverup their mistake. Church should just admit it, we were wrong, let it go.

I. WHAT WERE THE PROBLEMS HE FOUND? A. **It has to be Good News. LUKE 2:10ff “The angels said, ‘We have good news of great joy.’” First Angel of REVELATION 14 6-7 “The everlasting gospel...fear God and give Him glory, for the hour of His judgment has come.”** “Gospel” means good news. So whatever the Judgment is, has to be good news.

B. **No fear. 1 JOHN 4:18 “Perfect love casts our fear, for fear has to do with punishment. “ 1 JOHN 4:17 “:Love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment.”** The whole book of Daniel—**NO FEAR**. 3 guys standing up, thrown in the fiery furnace, not afraid. Daniel 5, handwriting on the wall, everybody else is afraid, Daniel, not afraid. Daniel 6, lion’s den, Daniel not afraid, opens window, prays same way. The whole point of the book of Daniel, don’t have to be afraid. We got to Daniel 7, Judgment—made everybody scared to death. Can’t be right. The whole word **SANCTUARY**—safe. Don’t have to be afraid. **SANCTUARY** in Africa—animals don’t have to be afraid. Why guy killing **CECIL** is

so wrong. Don't kill any animal that has a name! Whatever Sanctuary doctrine we come up with, if it makes people afraid, has to be wrong. By definition.

C. Can't be that complicated. The Gospel has to be simple enough, kids in Outer Mongolia can understand it. If it is that complicated, can't be essential. **Whatever it takes to be saved has to be based on the Bible alone**—but for this one you have to go outside the Bible, to find all the dates. So you can believe it, I believe it—but it cannot be part of the absolute core, minimum you have to believe to be saved.

D. God doesn't have to have any Judgment for Him to find out who to save. Not for God. **2 TIMOTHY 2:19** “The Lord knows those who are His.” The Judgment is for the rest of the Universe, see that God is fair. But not for God. **AND Your name can't come up while you're still alive, deciding. Judgment of the Living can't be until the Close of Probation.**

E. CROSS—Our early pioneers said, the Day of Atonement started in 1844. Desmond Ford said, No, it started at the Cross. The heart of the Day of Atonement was the sacrifice of the goat. That's Christ. The Day of Atonement starts with the Cross, and goes until the scapegoat is led out into the wilderness, end of the 1000 years. Don't think anybody can argue with that anymore. The heart of Christianity is the Cross, and the Second Coming. Those are events you can see. Not something in 1844 no one can see.

E. Jesus was not apart from the Father for 1800 years. He was not in one room, and then in 1844 moved into another room. Christ went into the Father as soon as he went back to heaven. **HEBREWS 9:24** “He entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.” The clear message of Hebrews is, you have nothing to worry about, because Christ has gone right into the presence of God. If you believe in Christ, **HEBREWS 4:16** “Come boldly before the throne of grace with confidence.” The whole message of Hebrews is, there is nothing more that has to happen. Everything you need for salvation has already happened, Jesus is in the Most Holy Place with God, all you have to do is follow Jesus right into the Presence of God. Done. There was nothing more that had to happen in heaven in 1844 for people to be saved.

F. Sins are forgiven in 1 stage, not 2. The many of us grew up, when you first came to Christ, God would forgive your sins, but not totally—went on the shelf until the Judgment, and if you didn't pass the Judgment, then all the sins came back on you. No. Moment you accept Christ, sins are gone. **JOHN 1:29** “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.” **HEBREWS 9:28** “He was sacrificed once for all to take away sins.” OT—“I will remember your sins no more.” “As far as east from west, bottom of the ocean.”

G. The Only Ultimate Issue in the Judgment is Christ. Not your works! Yes, if you are saved you should become a follower of Jesus, become more like Jesus. But the only question in the Judgment is-- What have you done with Christ? Bill Hybels tells about sailing in San Diego--huge aircraft carrier came into the harbor. All the little boats--had to go to one side or the other. Aircraft carrier didn't decide--God doesn't decide who will be saved or lost. Christ is the Aircraft Carrier--He is the issue in the judgment, you have to decide whose side you're on. God is not measuring, evaluating, cutoff line. Issue is--Christ--or not?

II. JUDGMENT. **A. So what can we say for sure? A. Judgment is First of All--About God.** **REVELATION 14:7** “For the hour of His judgment has come.” **ROMANS 3:4** “You must win your case when you are being tried” (TEV) Remember, most of us grew up, seeing God inside, we are banging on the door, trying to convince Him we are good enough for Him to let us in. No—**REVELATION 3:20** “Behold, I stand at the door and knock—if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in.” We are inside, God is outside, knocking on the door, trying to convince us **HE** is good enough for us to let **Him** in.

B. Judgment Is Against Satan, Little Horn. If Little Horn is speaking against God **DANIEL 7:25** “He will speak great words against the Most High.”—then, if the Judgment is in favor of God, then it is against the Little Horn The good news of the Judgment is that you will not always be under the power of the

demons, Satan, Little Horns, Babylons, Saddam Husseins, cancer, death, divorce, miserable bosses, IRS, whoever. Someday there will be a Judgment, God will make everything right.

C. **Judgment is Always For You**. Why for the Jews—Judgment was always good news. Judge was not supposed to be neutral—for you, for the poor, the marginalized. David, Psalms—always begging for judgment. **DANIEL 7:22 “The Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High,”**

D. **Works**—what about verses—“bring every work into judgment”? They are never the basis for salvation in the Judgment—“Not of works.” Our works are to bring honor to God—**MATTHEW 5:16 “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”**

E. **Summary of Judgment—In stages**—Found two papers this week, shocking. **Dr. Moskala**, I know him, professor of OT, Seminary, now Dean of the Seminary. Right with what I believe. Published in the most conservative journal we have in the Adventist Church. Judgment—not just in 1844—Before the Cross! 7 Stages: **(1) Judgments in OT**—people saved, people lost—signs of the Last Days, wake people up, going to be a Judgment someday, be careful. **Judgment #2—CROSS**. Many pages, The Cross is the Judgment of God against sin, but saves the whole world. **Judgment #3—Conversion**—Every time someone accepts Christ, hears a sermon, Bible study, goes over the line—that split second is a Judgment, God pronounces them **JUSTIFIED**. That moment you are already on the Last Day List, you are sitting with Jesus at the right hand of God. **JOHN 5:24 “Whoever believes in Me has transferred from death to life.” STEPS TO CHRIST 62 “You are accepted before God just as if you had never sinned.” #4—PRE-ADVENT JUDGMENT**. Does believe in a Judgment just before Christ comes back. But he says—No investigation! God already knows who is His, we already know we belong to Him. There is nothing to be afraid of! That’s all been settled. It’s for the Angels. It’s for the whole Universe, whoever is out there, to understand and know that God has absolutely fair in everything He’s done, and it’s safe for Jesus to bring all these people into heaven to live with them for 1000 years! **ROMANS 3:25-26 “God did this to demonstrate His justice, just and the justifier.” AND he says—Judgment just before Christ comes back—AFTER people have made all their final decisions. What many of us have been saying for 30 years.**

#5 Judgment—is the Second Coming, **Judgment #6—Millennium, 1000 years—answering every question. DONALD story. #7—Great White Throne Judgment in heaven, every being who has ever lived, God shows video, Cross, answers every question, PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11 “Every knee will bow, every tongue confess, Jesus is Lord.” So universe will be safe, never happen again.**

F. Now watch this—Do you see how the Judgments are not about trying to convince God, change the mind of God, get God to vote for you? Judgment #1, OT, floods and all, to convince you. Judgment during 1000 years, to convince you. Judgment at the end of the 1000 years, to convince the wicked.

BUT we have traditionally said, Cross was to convince God. And the Investigative Judgment was us trying to convince God to let us in. NO—The Cross was not for God, to convince God—God didn’t love us because Christ died for us. Christ died for us because God already loved us.

***He is saying—All these 7 judgments are the same. Never about us trying to persuade God, change God’s mind, get God’s vote. Always God trying to convince the world. There is no investigation.

*****So what really happened in 1844?** God trying to tie things up. So hurt, 1000 years of Dark Ages, terrible things done to His character. Called one last Church. Give the final truth to the world. Won’t somebody stand up for Me, speak for Me, get this right. Waiting for us. Final Judgment—about God.

APPEAL: 14th century, Robert Bruce in Scotland, in battle with England. English put his own bloodhounds on his trail. They were about to capture him, they all thought it was hopeless. Bruce said, “No, it’s all right.” Went into a stream, walked upstream, then went out the other bank, into the forest. Dogs came to the stream,

lost the trail, trail was broken. The stream had taken the scent away. Robert Bruce became king of Scotland. Satan is like those bloodhounds, accuser of their brethren, yapping at us. But there's a stream, of red blood—that breaks the trail. Can't get to us. If in Christ—don't have to worry about the Judgment.