

The Chosen Peoples

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The Chosen People, Part 1

Two thousand years ago—give or take—a people awaited the coming of Messiah. For over a thousand years this particular people had awaited the promised Deliverer from sin, and bondage to oppressive regimes. “Messiah!” How the very word must have brought a thrill of excitement to those that were *truly* watching, *truly* waiting for Him. These people were very blessed. You see, God had entrusted the Jewish nation—most applicably the Priesthood—as the treasurers of His oracles.

What were these oracles? You know the answers to this question... God’s chosen people held the sacred scrolls containing the Writings of Moses and the prophets, the Law of the living God, the Testimony of the King of the universe in words and in symbols. They administered the ordinances and sacrifices of the temple as the centerpiece of their entire economy. In its essence they held in human forms that which opened the mind of God to men, as much as could be beheld by mankind.

They did not only hold His words. Their fathers spoke face to face with God. He testified to them that Messiah would come within their lineage. God Himself had handpicked them.

God had enshrouded them within His covenants from the beginning, effecting the wondrous plan of salvation. From the moments that Adam and Eve had initially sinned, they were given the covenant of grace, in this promise of Scripture:

Gen. 3:15 ... (NASB) I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.

This was the first promise of a Savior—One to stand between man and the serpent. Since Adam and Eve had been created with the precepts of the commandments written in their hearts, they understood that this arrangement would have to provide for their sin. They had rebelled against God and His law. God provided this covenant to bring men back into harmony with His will, by placing them where they could obey His law once again. He offered pardon and eternal life! Wonderful!

This same covenant was (repeatedly) renewed to Abraham, and he responded—*usually*—faithfully.

Gen. 12:2, 3 (NASB) ”... I will bless you [Abram] ... in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.” 17:2, 4-5 “I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly... 4 behold, My covenant is with you, and you will be the father of a multitude of

nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham.” (Being renamed was a significant part of a covenant.)

This covenant of circumcision with Abraham and his offspring was called an “everlasting covenant.”

Then, after long years of mingling with and living among those that did not worship God—the “heathen” of Egypt—He literally called Moses and formed a covenant with him and the people of Israel. Unlike the Adamic and Abrahamic covenants, this one was to be immediately ratified with blood, it being sprinkled on the people themselves. If and when the people accepted this agreement, God promised to make them

Ex. 19:5, 6 (NASB) [His] “own possession... a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

As we all understand looking back on sacred history, it didn’t work out at all well.

More long years later the chosen people cried out for a king. Not like what they had, *which was God Himself*, visibly among them in the Sanctuary. No! They wanted a human king. God, being wonderful, gave them their heart’s desire.

God then made His last covenant with man to King David. This covenant was given at or near the beginning of the Monarchy, that is, the line of Kings to rule Israel, about 1025 BCE. God spoke thusly:

2 Sam. 7:8-13, 16 (NASB) Thus says the LORD of hosts, “I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel. 9 I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and *I will make you a great name*, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. 10 *I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them*, that they may live in their own place and *not be disturbed again*, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, 11 ... and *I will give you rest from all your enemies*. The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you. 12 ... I will raise up your descendant after you ... and *I will establish his kingdom*. 13 ... *I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever*. ... 16 *Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.*”

God provided this vision to David, through His prophet Nathan, the very night that David spoke to him about building a house for the Lord so that He would not have to live in a tent.

All of the covenants initiated by God for the love and watch-care of His people provided the promise of seed, land and blessing to all of His followers for time and eternity.

Was it not a wonderful *privilege* to be of this people?

(Hmmmmmmm...)

If what I spoke so far is true—and I believe it is—how does one then explain the continuing history of Israel (and Judah)?

About 420 years after the founding of the Monarchy, a national crisis of unprecedented scale occurred with the captivity of God’s own people by a heathen, pagan nation: Babylon the “Great.” 6 x 70 years later—and there is a reason for that number—God’s own people, in a sense so near in time to the promise made to David, were decimated. The sacred Temple lay in ruins, Jerusalem was shattered, and His people were carried away.

Yet God had not forgotten His people, as Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, several of the greatest prophets that ever lived, sounded and continued to sound the trumpet warning for decades, in advance of the calamity.

But, still, what about the promise of God to David??

(Previously quoted) *“I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly... Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”*

As we continue our review on the timeline of sacred history, we learn that many of those that were captive in Babylon returned to their homeland of Palestine, and rebuilt the Temple as well as the Holy City Jerusalem. Afterward, several more prophets arose and prophesied concerning God’s people in short, but nevertheless important writings—and then a great ‘silence’ from God begins. We call this the “Intertestamental Period,” that is, the times between the last book of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New. In my view it was most likely not that God had stopped speaking, but that His people had stopped listening almost completely.

We’ve now come full circle to where I began my talk.

Isa. 9:2 (KJV—Referenced by Zacharias, in his prophecy at John the Baptist’s dedication.) The people that **walked in darkness** have seen a

great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

O that this people had not *chosen* to walk in darkness. This was the antithesis of God's intent.

God's always and forever *intent* was that these people were to be a blessing to the nations surrounding them. God would bless them, and then He would bless all nations that they came into contact with, through them. Ellen White, on page 28 of The Desire of Ages states concerning the Jewish people *at that time in history*:

... He [God] could have accomplished His purpose through their honor and exaltation.

For a time it seemed that God was again so active... Angels were known to be speaking to human beings again! One had come unseen to Jerusalem and had talked to the righteous Jewish priest, Zacharias—in the temple!! The angel's message was extraordinary and profound, and concerned a soon-to-be-born son to him and his wife:

Lk. 1:13-17 (KJV) Thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. 14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. 15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. 16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. 17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

What an amazing promise for a priest—and a nation! What wonderful news for a tired and demoralized people! I'm sure that the 'buzz' was palpable, and that the national pride was piqued... The Bible says that all in the hill country of Judea were saying, "What then will this child turn out to be?" Zacharias' understanding was that the Davidic covenant, and certain prophecies of Malachi and Isaiah were to be fulfilled to an extent through his son, for all intents a Nazarite.

Piqued—for a time... Days turned into weeks, weeks to years, years to decades. An appalling spiritual apathy now overtook the nation. Some were even proposing—and acting—on violence as the *only way* to have religious and civil freedom.

The people had separated themselves from the Gentiles. They would not associate with them. How could God's purpose be fulfilled then?

During their captivity in Babylon, Israel learned not to worship idols. In fact, they became entirely convicted that national prosperity depended on their obedience to God's

law. They were therefore zealous for the religious rituals that were their heritage and inheritance. But had they forgotten *to whom* all these things pointed?

Also during the Babylonian exile, the angel Gabriel came and spoke to Daniel—face to face. He gave to Daniel a prophecy of God’s prolonged “indignation” upon His people, and a message of final judgment upon the people Israel. Amazingly, this prophecy contained a year-date for the appearing of “Messiah the Prince.” (Dan. 8-9)

This time foretold to Daniel was now speedily upon the Jewish people, but the majority did not know or understand. A few were wise unto salvation, and did seek understanding. God would hear their pleas, and would not disappoint at all.

Yet, in a tragic sense I can understand their plight. From the days when Daniel spoke those strange prophecies until that very time, their nation was oppressed and they were allowed to rule themselves as vassals, only. God is not the only one that made covenants with Israel! You see, when a conquering nation took control of an area and its people, if they didn’t destroy the people utterly they often allowed them to rule themselves, but *under their sovereign authority as vassals*. The conquered must agree to be ruled by the conqueror. So, the Medes ruled over the Israelites, then the Greeks (or Macedonians) and finally the Romans.

The Roman oppression lay heavily upon God’s chosen people. They *only* wanted deliverance now—a heavenly Conqueror of the world!

The voices of the prophets had ceased. It seemed to them that every vision had failed. Hope—the illuminator of the future for God’s people—had well-nigh ceased.

It appears that outside of the Jewish nation, this was not the case at the time. Quoting again from The Desire of Ages, page 33, Ellen White wrote:

Outside of the Jewish nation there were men who foretold the appearance of a divine instructor. These men were seeking for truth, and **to them the Spirit of Inspiration was imparted. One after another, like stars in the darkened heavens, such teachers had arisen. Their words of prophecy had kindled hope in the hearts of thousands of the Gentile world...**

... Among those whom the Jews styled heathen were men who had a better understanding of the Scripture prophecies concerning the Messiah than had the teachers in Israel. There were some who hoped for His coming as a deliverer from sin.

Imagine that! The outpouring of His Spirit—including the Spirit of prophecy—on the gentile world instead of Israel!

The “appointed time,” “the fullness of the time” was even at the doors. God’s clock displayed “time to send My Son.” All heaven was astir, and filled with intense preparation, but God’s people were *just the opposite*.

WHAT WAS WRONG??! How and why did this tragic circumstance come about?

A Closer Look is needed:

The Jews of Jesus’ time made some theological and other serious errors, based upon false presuppositions. Ultimately these proved disastrous, leading to the national rejection of Messiah, Jesus Christ; and consequently, national judgment and ruin. These included those who were shepherded and especially those who taught: the Priests, Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes—who were the Pastors, theologians and civil rulers of the day.

Let’s look at some significant reasons for their failure, in reasonable detail:

1. **In each of the covenants initiated by God Himself, they misunderstood and misapplied the conditional nature of covenant—and prophecy. That is to say, each and every one was based on God’s people living within the bounds of those covenants.** The eternal Law was the basis of each. This fact was well nigh forgotten by the Jews of Jesus’ day. Here are portions seemingly forgotten by the Jewish nation, that are now in conjunction with the Scriptures quoted earlier:
 - Gen. 17:1-2, 4-5 (NASB) Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless. 2 I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly... 4 behold, My covenant is with you, and you will be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham."
 - Ex. 19:5, 6 [At Sinai] Now then, IF you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; ... and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.
 - Ps. 132:1-5, 12 [David speaking] Remember, O LORD, on David's behalf, all his affliction; 2 how he swore to the LORD and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob, 3 "Surely I will not enter my house, nor lie on my bed; 4 I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, 5 until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob." ... 12 [God speaking] "IF your sons will keep My covenant and My testimony

which I will teach them, their sons also shall sit upon your throne forever."

Do you notice the additional texts that I intentionally left out before? Do you notice the profound effect these things could have upon the hearer? It is critical to realize that this is why the Jews and Jesus did not see eye-to-eye, regarding those things that could befall the nation of Israel. The following texts sum up the disconnect regarding the Abrahamic covenant:

Lk. 3:7-9 (KJV) [John the Baptist speaking] Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham to [our] father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. 9 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Do you see the clear disconnect?

John and Jesus' view of the Jewish nation's stance: "We are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." In other words, they were *entitled to the Kingdom* by their DNA. God's promises were *to them* an irresistible force.

John and Jesus' stance: "Don't even *begin* to believe that will save you! Fruits—I need to see fruits! Useful servants can be brought up from these very rocks. In fact, your judgment has already begun."

2. **They did not understand the nature of the full commitment that the Godhead had made, to fulfill all of Their covenants.** In each and every covenant God made with His people, *the people failed* in varying degrees. Yet, because they were promises to His people, each must still be fulfilled. **The people could delay their fulfillment, but they could not derail them.** Let's look at the covenants again:

- Adamic: Fulfilled "crushing" the serpent's head by Christ on the cross.
- [Noahic: Fulfilled the saving of the whole world by the Christ-symbol of the ark.]
- Abrahamic: Fulfilled the blessing of all the nations in the life and death of Christ.
- Sinaitic: Fulfilled the requirement of a perfect life for the legal salvation of mankind, as well as the perfect offering for sin, by the life and death of Jesus.
- Davidic: Fulfilled in the eternal kingship and throne of Jesus Christ. Before the cross, He was Prince of the Covenant. Now, He is our High Priest, and He will return as King. We await the full establishment of His kingdom.

→ In each and every case, fulfillment was by the wondrous work(s) of God!

3. **The nation misunderstood what God intended by and for the material blessings that He gave them.** Remember that quote from The Desire of Ages that we read earlier? Here's "the rest of the story:"

"... The Israelites fixed their hopes upon worldly greatness... Had Israel been true to God, He [God] **could have** accomplished His purpose through their honor and exaltation. **If** they had walked in the ways of obedience, He **would have** made them "high above all nations which He hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honor." "All people of the earth," said Moses, "shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of thee." "The nations which shall hear all these statutes" shall say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." Deut. 26:19; 28:10; 4:6. But because of their unfaithfulness, God's purpose could be wrought out only through continued adversity and humiliation."

This error led the leaders and people to seek worldly greatness for their own exaltation. Combine this fact with the oppression of their captors and you have an elitist, separate and volatile 'church.'

4. **In the instructions and requirements of the Sinaitic covenant (under Moses,) God's purpose in making them a peculiar, separate people was misinterpreted.** God's intent was to keep them *pure* and *unpolluted* by the heathen religions. Instead they looked at and exalted themselves as better than the gentiles. They were *supposed to mingle* in a deep spiritual sense!
5. **After returning from Babylon, they lost sight of the true significance of the Sanctuary services and their religious rites.** This caused the people and priests to become intensely legalistic—the religious leadership adding many impossible-to-keep requirements onto the Commandment of God. They began to trust in the already-dead rites *themselves*, crushing love and the work of the Spirit.
6. **The religious leaders enjoyed the status, privilege and power of their positions as an end in itself.** They were very happy and comfortable in their lifestyles. This led to a greater desire for Messiah to set up His Kingdom of glory—and directly led to their rejection of the humble Servant that Jesus Christ was. National pride spiraled upward; prophecies were filtered and mis-interpreted to fit their greedy desires.
7. **They accepted the principle that man can save himself by his own works.** This is what Ellen White states lies at "the *foundation* of every heathen religion." The devastating effect of this principle and doctrine is to be left without a barrier against sin. This is the Adamic/Abrahamic covenant turned on its head.
8. **They received their 'word from God' in a predigested and prepackaged state, from the teachers and leaders of the church.** I cannot overstate how harmful I

believe this to be. Is God so inept that He is unable to fill us with truth through His Spirit, to a humble, teachable believer? The “new” covenant itself is a promise to return us to an Edenic, pre-Fall state, by writing His laws directly in our hearts; and this *by His mighty power*, alone.

9. **They had an intensely difficult time with metaphor, the language of prophecy.** It seems that when God wants to test the mettle of the heart, He often pulls out the “hard words.” That is, hard to understand to the unspiritual, and those to whom it is not revealed. Consider the following exchange:

- Jn. 6:51 [**Jesus:**] I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.
- 6:52 **The Jews** therefore strove among themselves, saying, how can this man give us [his] flesh to eat?
- 6:53 Then **Jesus** said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. (And so on...)
- 6:60 Many therefore of **his disciples**, when they had heard [this], said, this is an hard saying; who can hear it?
- 6:66 From that [time] many of **his disciples** went back, and **walked no more with him.**

The appearance and convergence of all of these primary elements (and more,) created a spiritual “perfect storm” for what were then God’s people. Listen to Ellen White’s scathing commentary on these times and persons in [The Desire of Ages](#), page 36:

The message of salvation is communicated to men through human agencies. But the Jews had sought to make a monopoly of the truth which is eternal life. They had hoarded the living manna, and it had turned to corruption. The religion which they tried to shut up to themselves became an offense. They robbed God of His glory, and defrauded the world by a counterfeit of the gospel. They had refused to surrender themselves to God for the salvation of the world, and they became agents of Satan for its destruction.

The people whom God had called to be the pillar and ground of the truth had become representatives of Satan. They were doing the work that he desired them to do, taking a course to misrepresent the character of God, and cause the world to look upon Him as a tyrant... The ordinances which God Himself had appointed were made the means of blinding the mind and hardening the heart. God could do no more for man through these channels. The whole system must be swept away.

The deception of sin had reached its height. All the agencies for depraving the souls of men had been put in operation...

Sadly, this commentary goes on for quite a while, especially dwelling on the demonic habitation of human bodies, and all that that this horrible phenomenon entails. The literary focus does not change for quite a while.

This is the world and its inhabitants, which our perfect Master came to. It is truly incomprehensible to men, to understand what this truly meant to Christ. To *Messiah*.

It was—almost—Noah’s world, part 2. However, there was, *as always*, a remnant of *true* believers. Truly watching, and waiting for the true King.

The Chosen People, Part 2

What I’ve just spoken is quite a large assemblage of biting-cold words. I want to state clearly that there is absolutely zero anti-Semitism here—in fact, I feel quite to the contrary. To me, the Jewish nation was blessed beyond measure; they truly were God’s very own. The problem is, they were just like me—and you.

Starting with their situation at a very high level: they awaited the imminent coming of their true King. **So are we.**

It’s probably obvious by now, but for me the kernel of this study was reading very deeply the first four chapters of The Desire of Ages, the amazing work of Ellen White. Chapters two through four are the real deal.

As I read it seemed that every page, then paragraph, then phrase, and almost every word were crying out a single message:

We, as Seventh-day Adventists, at this time, are in clear and present danger of walking as in the footsteps of the Jewish nation at the time of Christ.

I challenge you, patient listeners, to do the same as I had done. Read those first four chapters, wide-eyed and awake, in a prayerful, honest and open mind—and see if you notice the parallels.

The parallels even go to the level of national governance. Observe the following statements from page 32:

The nations were united under one government. One language was widely spoken [Greek—editor’s note], and was everywhere recognized as the language of literature.

You may say that the nations of this day are not truly united under one government, in a literal sense. This is not essential to the Babylon motif of the book of Revelation, which is how God chose to describe the end-time world in all its aspects. It is an agreement and association of convenience, perceived necessity (and ultimately force,) that makes it a one-world system. Its essence is identical to the times we live in, as well as the prophetic word of Scripture.

This type of parallel is not what disturbs me most. The ones that do are the spiritual ones, and they utterly abound.

Here’s one (chosen out of very many), as food for thought. In the book of Revelation, God’s people in the vision are shown to be in a metaphorical (or allegorical) “kingdom” and “mighty city” called Babylon. Do we *ever* consider why God’s people would ever be in such a place? You have to look back to the captivity of the Jews, who were there because they had rejected the covenant of God, and were allowed to go into captivity because of it. There they would remain captives until they came to their senses, or God knew they were forever captives of that earthly “king.”

After noticing the parallels, I (of course) was curious to find if any independent writing of Ellen White supported the scenario I had observed, in concept.

I was not surprised to find the following:

The Lord Jesus will always have a chosen people to serve Him. *When the Jewish people rejected Christ, the Prince of life, He took from them the kingdom of God and gave it unto the Gentiles. God will continue to work on this principle with every branch of His work. When a church proves unfaithful to the word of the Lord, whatever their position may be, however high and sacred their calling, the Lord can no longer work with them. Others are then chosen to bear important responsibilities.* But if these in turn do not purify their lives from every wrong action; if they do not establish pure and holy principles in all their borders, then the Lord will grievously afflict and humble them, and, unless they repent, will remove them from their place and make them a reproach. (Manuscript 33, 1903, from Entire Manuscript, MR No. 1098)

(Please note the conditional nature of the statement: “if” ... “if” ... “then ...”)

These are *not* “smooth words.” And again:

Shall Seventh-day Adventists walk in the same path as did the Jewish nation? Shall the message to the Laodicean church be applicable

to this people? Shall those who have seen great light, who have had large opportunities and many privileges, cease to do service as witnesses for Christ? ...

The true commandment-keeping people of God show to the world a character of unspotted integrity, testifying by their own course of action that the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul. Thus the Lord Jesus, the Son of God, through His obedience to the law of God, exalted and made that law honorable. God will surely condemn every member of every church claiming to be Seventh-day Adventist, who is not doing Him service, but through pride, selfishness, and worldliness, is showing that the truth of heavenly origin has not worked a reformation in his character...

Please read carefully Rev. 3:15-18...

Will the churches heed the Laodicean message? Will they repent, or will they ... go on in sin? ... Those who have had opportunities to hear and receive the truth and who have united with the Seventh-day Adventist church, calling themselves the commandment-keeping people of God, and yet possess no more vitality and consecration to God than do the nominal churches, will receive of the plagues of God just as verily as the churches who oppose the law of God. Only those that are sanctified through the truth will compose the royal family in the heavenly mansions Christ has gone to prepare for those that love Him and keep His commandments.

The Lord shall judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" [Heb. 10:28-31]. (Letter 35, 1898—To Edson White)

So... It is very clear that Ellen White supported the thesis I have outlined here, as well as the attendant concerns. It is also possible that this is 'old news' to you...

My church family and friends, I have wrestled long and hard regarding presenting this message. It really hurts to read these statements, because I really care. The problem is, every time I started down the path to creating a presentation for this service, I ended up in this hard place. I cannot risk *silence*.

It is my complete conviction that we do not live in the days of "business as usual." If you have an eye to see, or an ear to hear it is becoming impossible to believe that Christ will delay much longer.

And having said that, I am fully convicted also that we must stand as a people prepared for Judgment. How does one do that? By an entire submission to God, *through* His power **and** by His grace. By faith **and** works. By justification **and** sanctification (which is regeneration). We are indeed blessed that all these are the free gifts of God!

We await the greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit of all time. Do you believe that? Do you want to be part of that wonderful experience?

I understand that we are all TIRED. This message of an imminent coming has been preached for more than 160 years (4 periods of 40.) NOAH “only” preached for 120 years! (3 periods of 40.) But he was only one man, so in that sense his efforts blow ours away...

We await the coming of Christ, and establishment of His kingdom as an imminent event! But we may be in a shadow so dark that we cannot see this grand, glorious possibility...

You see, Satan’s solemn hope for those that lay claim to being God’s emissaries, is that *they eclipse* the rays of Christ’s light from the world; that they absorb or deflect the light instead of reflecting it to all on earth. What a true disaster!

We must not say to ourselves: “I’m an Nth-generation Adventist. I’ve got my spiritual alarm clock set for the Sunday law.” *It is **not that simple!***

It is life and death imperative that we, as Seventh-day Adventists, *grasp fully* the fact that God has placed us in a position to give an Elijah and John the Baptist message conditionally.

Like Israel of Jesus’ time, we have been blessed in so many amazing ways. Like them, we stand at a conditional crossroads. We can stand and—finally—be what we say we are, or *truly* be cast out, as the message of the True Witness to the church at Laodicea has *promised* that He would do. *He was not using rhetorical statements!*

Impossible, you say? You *insist* that Ellen White prophesied otherwise—and *that* prediction is an irresistible force? My friends, she left the door open for both possibilities. That is the way it works.

The Jewish nation believed that they could *never* be rejected as God’s covenant people. They had the prophecies to back their arrogance.

We, God willing and empowering, *must not walk in their footsteps*. There is no need for us to. We must choose not to...

God willing.