

FUTURISM ATTACKS BIBLE PROPHECY

George Burnside

We do well to ever remember that God's Advent Message is based on prophecy. This is what gives it certainty and power. The sure word of prophecy does not fail. "Scriptures cannot be broken." Therefore prophecy will be the devil's chief place of attack. Prophecy is what he dreads. Here he has been defeated many times. As prince of darkness hates the light, therefore hates prophecy which as a light, has pierced the darkness of the ages. It was prophecy that produced the hope of the coming Messiah through the long checkered history of the Jews. It led Alexander the Great to spare Jerusalem when he had sworn to level it to the ground and severely punish the Jews. It was the incredible prophecy of the eighth chapter of Daniel that led this vengeance-seeking enemy to become a friend who lavished gifts on the same people that just shortly before he hated. In this prophecy Alexander rightly saw that he was destined to be "the first King," and to head the Grecian Empire. It was prophecy that led Jesus to announce the "time is fulfilled," for Him to appear as the "Anointed One." It was prophecy's light that lit the "Blessed hope" throughout the Christian era. It was the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation that guided the persecuted saints through the gloom of the "Dark Ages." It was these prophecies that guided Wycliffe in his conflict with Rome - the giant tyrant of that period of dawn when the first streak of grey showed in reformation's dawn. It was prophecy that empowered Savonarola to endure the flames of a martyr's stake. It was prophecy that flamed the light of the reformation.

It was prophecy that revealed to Luther his mortal foe the "Man of Sin." it was prophecy that led him to step off Rome's Antichrist foundation. It was prophecy that led the English martyrs of reformation days to face the terrors of "bloody Mary's" gory reign. It was the prophecy of Daniel that gave foundation to John Knox's first sermon in Scotland. It also gave him his sermon that shook Catholic Scotland and led it out of the arms of Rome. Prophecy truly is a wonderful light. We do well to heed it's precious leading.

2 PETER 1:19 "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:"

Prophecy is a light that is hated by the prince of darkness. He hates it and loves darkness. He produced the Dark Ages. But prophecy was the light that our God used to break that cruel reign of darkness. Note further:

AMOS 3:7 "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he reveals his secret unto his servants the prophets."

That is why every movement of God is based on prophecy. God declares that He does nothing but what is revealed in His prophetic word.

We must therefore be students of prophecy - God's "more sure word of prophecy." I am grateful for the solid foundation of God's truth for this tremendous hour. God's "present truth" is founded on prophecy. Our Lord in His mercy, in "His loving kindness," has given this to us, who live in this religiously mixed up, confused "time of terror." Now let us notice a few of these solid facts from Christ's special book for these last days - "Revelation." Let us begin with, the "Reformation" which was but the beginning of the "great reformation movement."

We must begin here for the lessons of the Reformation which we need to notice. We need to guard against the attacks of our sleepless enemy, which split and practically ruined the Reformation, and history is being repeated. Conflicting voices cry on every hand in this sunset hour. Heresies from the right and from the left lift their voices. We need to "heed the sure word of prophecy." It alone lightens the path. Our Lord gave us this clear light in His special book, Revelation. Regarding the Reformation church, Christ stated in:-

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REVELATION 3:1 “And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things said he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.”

Sardis is the church of the Reformation days. Millions of Christians praise the Reformation and rightly so, but Christ’s statement is not so flattering. “You have a name that thou livest, and art dead.” They started well, but lost much. Christ warned:

REVELATION 3:2 “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain.”

They needed to hold fast to what remained for it indicates they had lost much.

The great truth of Justification by Faith became merely “forensic” in the Council of Concord. “I have not found thy works perfect.” REVELATION 3:2 is Christ’s statement. This is our Lord’s summing up of the Reformation. They finished up with a theory without “works” was our Lord’s pronouncement. They still had some things that remained.

The reformers, to a man, preached that the Papacy was the Anti Christ. This prophecy-based preaching they also finally lost too. Today they are even talking of union with Rome. Christ declared “I have not found they works perfect before God.” Revelation 3:2.

They had not walked in the Light. Their “works” were lacking. Rome’s great council, the “Council of Trent” was held. Futurism was adopted, and in so doing they tossed all the prophecies into the future, and the Year-day scale of symbolic prophecy was brushed aside. Subtly these deceptions were grafted into Protestantism. Their witness was largely silenced. “You have a name that you live, and art dead.” is Christ’s lament over the reformed churches. It started so well, and lost so much.

What does this mean to us as Adventists? Where do we fit in? Why have I begun at the Reformation? We fit right in here. We are to continue the Reformation. We have the real Reformation message. How do I know? Bible prophecy so declares.

ACTS 3:19-21 “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.”

Did you catch the significance of that great statement? “Until the times of the restitution of all things.” “Till the period of the Great Restoration.” Moffett. This restoration of truth would be at the time when sins would “be blotted out.” or in 1844. (See G. Burnside studies on “The Great Judgment Day.”)

The Government Files, in the Government Offices of Wellington, New Zealand, lists the Adventists thus: “The Seventh-day Adventist Church - The Great Reformation Movement of New Zealand.” The Advent Movement so clearly outlined in Revelation 14:6-16 is the Seventh-day Adventist church, and no other. Some have objected and said to me “You know every question has two sides.” My answer is, “This one doesn’t. It’s all one sided.” No other movement fulfils the specifications of Christ’s prophetic picture of His last message.

The beginning of this final phase of Christ’s Reformation movement is further found in other parts of the sure word of prophecy. “For surely the Lord God will do nothing but He reveals His secrets unto His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7.

Here in Revelation 10 Our Lord in his “loving kindness” reveals the beginning of His last movement. He does it so we may have a certain, sure foundation to stand on in this “time of terror”. (See G. Burnside on “God’s Truth for this Time of Terror.”) Here in this Revelation chapter we see a “Mighty Angel” or Message (See Judges 2:1) with “a little book open” the little book of Daniel that had been closed, Daniel 12:4 .

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From the prophecies of Daniel the early Adventists preached “There should be time no longer.” This was in 1844. This Mighty Message that “came down from heaven” Revelation 10:4 was in their mouth “sweet as honey” (Revelation 10:9, 10 but when eaten “my belly was bitter.” This was fulfilled in the bitter “Great Disappointment” of 1844. Likewise Christianity began with a great disappointment, a bitter experience.

When the disciples saw their beloved Master flogged, spat on, crowned with thorns and crucified, they said “We trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel.” Luke 24:21. But out of that bitter disappointment rose Christianity. So out of the bitter disappointment of 1844 rose God’s final movement with His final, last message. Both were clearly and infallibly fixed in the sure word of prophecy. To those of the “bitter” disappointment Christ’s word was:

REVELATION 10:11 “Thou must prophecy again before many and tongues and kings.”

From this cutting and bitter experience arose God’s Last Message, God’s world-wide message as revealed again in Christ’s prophecy.

REVELATION 14.6 “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation and kindred, and tongue, and people.”

Here is the world-wide message of Christ. It is the final message.

REVELATION 14:14-16 “And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to-him that sat on the-cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.”

The Harvest is the end of the world. It is final! “The earth was reaped.”

What other movement meets the prophecy of Revelation 10. No other comes anywhere near. Again, there are not two sides to this question. It is all one-sided? It is certain!

Note also that Christ’s prophecy of Rev.9 closes in 1840. This is the climax of the prophecy of the “Seven Trumpets.” (For its certainty see “George Burnside studies in Revelation.”)

I have asked opponents to explain Revelation 10. To show me the movement that fulfils this Christ given prophecy that is, except the 1844 movement. They have no logical answer. There is only one message that fits. Their only evasion has been to toss it into the future. Like Rome, they become futurists! The future has been a happy hunting ground for truths they want to reject and get rid of.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO THE PRESENT ISSUE?

Just this! The “dual application” of Brother Hauser finds these prophecies with their accurate and certain fulfillment an embarrassment, so like Rome, and the truth-rejecting opponents, they want to toss it into the future.

For example, Now what are the facts?

1. Brother Hauser refers his readers to Robert Olsen’s booklet. Look it up for yourself and all it says is “He states ‘Litch’s application was quite wrong, as he himself admitted in later years.’” Anyone who has checked his handling of quotations knows that he is a very, very questionable authority and this is the only-evidence Mr. Hauser gives. Sister White says without qualification that it was a “remarkable fulfillment of prophecy.” He says it “was quite wrong.”

Mr. Hauser accepts Ford’s statement and seems to entirely reject the one whom our Lord inspired as His mouth piece.

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2. Mr. Hauser writes that it “May be Interpreted” in a way to suit his personal opinion, and brushes a-side the “Testimony of Jesus” as “only a commentary on the events.”

Does he really believe the Spirit of Prophecy or does he only accept those parts that suit his “personal opinions”?

3. Again Mr. Hauser would have his readers conclude that Sister White’s confirmation of Mr. Litch’s conclusions was not “An acceptance of his interpretations.” The “Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary” Volume 7, page 796, however does accept Josiah Litch’s interpretation for it is confirmed by Sister White. The Commentary states:-

“These events, coming at the specified time of Litch’s prediction, exercised a wide influence upon the thinking of those in America who were interested in the Millerite movement. Indeed, this prediction by Litch went far to give credence to other, as yet unfulfilled, time prophecies, particularly that of the 2300 days-which were being preached by the Millerites. Thus this occurrence in 1840 was a significant factor in building up the expectation of the second advent three years later.” (see Great Controversy, page 334, 335).

It should be made clear, however, that commentators and theologians in general have been greatly divided over the meaning of the 5th and 6th trumpets. This has been due principally to problems in three areas:

- (1) The meaning of the symbolism itself;
- (2) The meaning of the Greek;
- (3) The historical events and dates involved. But to canvass adequately these problems would carry us beyond the space limits permissible in this commentary.

Generally speaking, the Seventh-day Adventist interpretation of the fifth and sixth trumpets, particularly as touching the time period involved, is essentially that of Josiah Litch.

“In the year 1840 another remarkable fulfillment of prophecy excited widespread interest. Two years before, Josiah Litch, one of the leading ministers preaching the second advent, published an exposition of Revelation 9, predicting the fall of the Ottoman Empire. At the very time specified, Turkey, through her ambassadors, accepted the protection of the allied powers of Europe, and thus placed herself under the control of Christian nations. The event exactly fulfilled the prediction. (See Appendix.) When it became known, multitudes were convinced of the correctness of the principles of prophetic interpretation adopted by Miller and his associates, and a wonderful impetus was given to the advent movement. Men of learning and position united with Miller, both in preaching and in publishing his views, and from 1840 to 1844 the work rapidly extended.” Great Controversy, pages 334-335.

“Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established.”

“Believe His prophets so shall ye prosper.”

Mr. Hauser goes further:-

As “Daniel and Revelation” by Uriah Smith cuts across his ideas, Bro Hauser downgrades this book. For instance, he states “In no place did she (Sister White) say the book (Daniel and Revelation) was inspired, or that it was correct in every detail.” Why did not Brother Hauser tell us what she was inspired to write regarding this masterpiece, “Daniel and Revelation.”

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY STATES:-

“The interest in Daniel and Revelation is to continue as long as probationary time shall last. God used the author of this book as a channel through which to communicate light to direct minds to the truth “Let those who have been dealing in cheap sentiments and foolish tests, cease this work, and study “Daniel and Revelation.”

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“It is painful to think of the many cheap theories picked up and presented to the people by ignorant, unprepared teachers.”

“The light given was that ‘Thoughts on Daniel and Revelation’, ‘The Great Controversy,’ and ‘Patriarchs and Prophets’ would make their way. They contain the very message the people must have, the special light God had given His people.”

“Especially should the book ‘Daniel and the Revelation’ be brought before the people as the very book for this time. This book contains the message which all need to read and understand.”

These statements were all written from Sunnyside, Cooranbong, New South Wales in 1899.

Sister White wrote at length concerning Uriah Smith’s book “Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation. Sister White also warned historical events showing the direct fulfillment of prophecy. Some will take the truth applicable to their time and place them in the future.” 2 Selected Messages, page 102.

From this statement notice the following facts:

“Historical events” were in direct fulfillment of prophecy. Therefore prophecy is fulfilled historically. Prophecy is history written backwards. It is the historical fulfillment that counts. But Mr. Hauser repeatedly would have us believe that the exact historical fulfillment, as always taught by God’s Advent People, is “secondary” and that his future application is primary. Is not Mr. Hauser following the footsteps of the Jesuits? They applied the prophecies used by the Reformers to the future. This subtle deception practically silenced Protestantism. Many opponents of Truth do likewise and try to push it all into the future.

JOHN 14:29 “And now I have told you before it come to pass, that when it is come to pass, ye might believe.”

“When it come to pass” (historically fulfilled) we are to believe and act. We are not to look to the future for repeated fulfillments. Christ’s prophecy like His atoning death was “once for all”! It would not need another fulfillment.

LUKE 24:25 “Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken.”

Humans are slow to believe, but quick to snatch up sensationalism, Prophecy is to lead us to believe. It is God’s appeal to our logic. It’s certain fulfillment is the supreme evidence of inspiration. May we believe and live, and not be “slow of heart” like the Jews, still looking for a “future” fulfillment. The devil used this “future” bait very efficiently with the Jews, he used it equally with Protestantism. May Adventists learn the lesson well.