

Biblical Evidence for Ellen White's Beliefs

The following list of selected books provide the **biblical evidence** for three beliefs held by Ellen White and the Seventh-day Adventist Church: 1) the perpetuity of the Sabbath; 2) the continuity of the Law/Covenants; and 3) the reality of the Investigative Judgment. It should be pointed out that the Adventist authors appeal to Scripture for their authority, not Ellen White's writings.

Sabbath

Bacchiocchi, Samuele. *The Sabbath Under Crossfire* (Berrien Springs, MI: Biblical Perspectives, 1998). This book is Bacchiocchi's response to Dale Ratzlaff's book against Sabbath-keeping, *Sabbath in Christ* (Glendale, AZ: Life Assurance Ministries, 2003). It is based on a previous debate between the two on the Sabbath.

_____. *Divine Rest for Human Restlessness: A Theological Study of The Good News of the Sabbath for Today* (Berrien Springs, MI: Biblical Perspectives, 1980). Bacchiocchi's classic theology of Sabbath keeping. A must read for those who want to better understand and appreciate God's Sabbath memorial of creation and re-creation.

Strand, Kenneth A., ed. *The Sabbath In Scripture and History* (Washington, DC: Review and Herald, 1982). This is a classic treatment on the Sabbath in Scripture and history by Seventh-day Adventist scholars.

Law/Covenant

The following two books address the issues Dale Ratzlaff raises concerning the covenants:

LaRondelle, Hans K. *Our Creator Redeemer: An Introduction to Biblical Covenant Theology* (Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2005). This well-known Seventh-day Adventist theologian provides evidence for the unity and continuity of God's covenants with His chosen people based on careful exegesis and theological analysis. An important companion to this book is LaRondelle's classic, *The Israel of God in Prophecy: Principles of Prophetic Interpretation* (Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 1983), which shows the unity of Scripture and convincingly refutes the Dispensationalist position.

MacCartney, Skip. *In Granite or Ingrained?: What the Old and New Covenants Reveal about the Gospel, the Law, and the Sabbath*. (Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2007). This book provides the most direct response to Ratzlaff's New Covenant theology and succeeds in defending the fundamental unity of the Scriptures and setting forth both the Old and New Covenants as a "grace-based, gospel-bearing, and mission-

directed” relationship with God. A must read for every Seventh-day Adventist as well as any other Christian interested in the biblical justification for Adventist belief in the continuity of the Covenants and the perpetuity of God’s Law.

The following books are written by non-Adventist Christian theologians who argue for the fundamental unity of the covenants in Scripture:

Kaiser, Walter, C. *Toward Old Testament Ethics* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1983). In this important volume, major evangelical theologian Walter Kaiser argues for the perpetuity of the decalogue in the New Testament and shows the relevancy of Old Testament ethics for modern Christians.

Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Christ of the Covenants* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1980). This notable covenantal theologian shows how the various covenant themes of the Bible are tied together in Christ.

Vangemeren, Willem. *The Progress of Redemption: The Story of Salvation from Creation to the New Jerusalem* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1988). Another major evangelical theologian argues for the fundamental unity of Scripture.

Wright, N.T. *The Climax of the Covenant: Christ and the Law in Pauline Theology* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1991). A major New Testament scholar argues for the unity of the covenants in Christ based on detailed and careful exegesis of certain Pauline passages.

Investigative Judgement

The following books address the issues raised by Desmond Ford in *The Day of Atonement and the Investigative Judgement* (Casselberry, FL: Euangelion Press, 1980) and popularized by Dale Ratzlaff in his *The Cultic Doctrine of Seventh-day Adventists* (Glendale, AZ: Life Assurance Ministeries, 1996). It should be noted that all of these Seventh-day Adventist authors see the Investigative Judgement as completely compatible with the Gospel, affirming assurance and hope in the Christian life:

Anderson, John T. *Investigating the Judgement: Patterns of Divine Judgement* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 2003). A very helpful and practical approach to this misunderstood teaching in Scripture.

Augsburger, Daniel E. *The Good News of Daniel 8:14* (Brushton, NY: Teach Services, Inc., 2003). A careful linguistic analysis of the word “cleansed” in the Hebrew Old Testament affirming that the Day of Atonement activities described in Leviticus 16 and the judgement scene portrayed in Daniel 8 are of the same event. This book also establishes why the investigative judgement is not only necessary, but good news, for it

describes God working on behalf of His people to overturn the condemnatory decisions of earthly tribunals, vindicating them in front of the entire heavenly universe, and restoring them to their former rights and privileges through Jesus Christ.

The most direct response to Dale Ratzlaff's *Cultic Doctrine* is Clifford Goldstein's apologetic work:

Graffiti in the Holy of Holies: An Impassioned Response to Recent Attacks on the Sanctuary and Ellen White (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press, 2003). See also Goldstein's earlier *1844 Made Simple* (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press, 1988).

The following books by Roy Gane, Adventist Old Testament scholar and specialist in Leviticus, are also responses to the issues raised by Ford, and more recently, Ratzlaff:

Popular treatments of the subject by Gane:

Alter Call (Berrien Springs, MI: Diadem, 1999). The fruits of Gane's research are made available to the general public in this excellent book vindicating Christ's ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary.

Who's Afraid of the Judgment? The Good News about Christ's Work in the Heavenly Sanctuary (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press, 2006). Part of this book is based on a recent email debate between Gane and Ford. A most helpful, informative, and readable book dealing with the biblical evidence for the Investigative Judgement.

Scholarly treatments of the subject by Gane:

Cult and Character: Purification Offerings, Day of Atonement, and Theodicy (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2005).

"Leviticus, Numbers" *NIV Application Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004). Scholarly yet easy to read with practical application, fulfilling the purpose of the commentary series.

Note several other books by Adventist theologians addressing the issues regarding the Investigative Judgement and its foundation in Scripture:

Brempong Owusu-Antwi, *The Chronology of Daniel 9:24-27*, Adventist Theological Society Dissertation Series 2 (Berrien Springs, MI: Adventist Theological Society, 1995). In order to keep this list manageable, I have purposely left out numerous doctoral dissertations, but Brempon's study is an exception. His exhaustive analysis of the grammatical and chronological data in Daniel 9:24-27 is most convincing and provides solid biblical evidence that the "decree" of Artaxerxes I to Ezra recorded in Ezra 7:11-26 fulfills the "word" of Daniel 9:25 and occurred historically in 457 B.C., the beginning of the seventy weeks and 2300 days. Other decrees of that time are shown to be contrary to the chronological intent of the text. This is an exceptionally helpful work in the face of

the many challenges to the beginning date of the 70 weeks and 2300 days.

Doukhan Jacques B. *Secrets of Daniel: Wisdom and Dreams of a Jewish Prince in Exile* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 2000).

Holbrook, Frank B. *The Atoning Priesthood of Jesus Christ* (Berrien Springs, MI: Adventist Theological Society Publications, 1996). My personal favorite.

Pfandl, Gerhard. *Daniel: The Seer of Babylon* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 2004).

Shea, William H. *Daniel: A Reader's Guide* (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press, 2005).

Stefanovic, Zdravko. *Daniel, Wisdom to the Wise: Commentary on the Book of Daniel* (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press, 2007).

Treyer, Alberto R. *The Day of Atonement and the Heavenly Judgement: From the Pentateuch to Revelation* (Siloam Springs, AK: Creation Enterprises International, 1992).

Wallenkampf, Arnold V. And W. Richard Leshner, eds. *The Sanctuary and the Atonement* (Washington, D.C.: Biblical Research Committee, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 1981).

Last, but not least, is the important DARCOM series addressing the issues raised by Ford:

Daniel & Revelation Committee Series. Frank B. Holbrook, ed. (Silver Spring, MD: Biblical Research Institute, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 1982-1992), 7 vols.

Volume 1: *Selected Studies on Prophetic Interpretation* (William H. Shea).

Volume 2: *Symposium on Daniel*.

Volume 3: *The Seventy Weeks, Leviticus, and the Nature of Prophecy*.

Volume 4: *Issues in the Book of Hebrews*.

Volume 5: *Doctrine of the Sanctuary: A Historical Survey (1845-1863)*

Volume 6: *Symposium on Revelation, Book 1*.

Volume 7: *Symposium on Revelation, Book 2*.

A careful reading of all the volumes on this list (far from exhaustive) will, at the very least, prove that Seventh-day Adventists derive their teaching on the Sabbath, Law, Covenants, and the Investigative Judgement from a careful interpretation of Scripture rather than Ellen White's visions.

Jud Lake, Th.D., D.Min.