

Sabbath ~ October 8, 2016

## **Lecture 4: God's Prophets - Part 1**

### **1.) Subject: October 23, 1844**

1.1.) Review of the Midnight Cry leading up to October 22, 1844, the great disappointment.

1.1.1.) The first angel's message had gone forth, from August 7, 1831—William Miller's first sermon, to March 21, 1844, the end of the Jewish year 1843.

1.1.2.) It was a dark night with no spiritual light from March 21, 1844 to August, when campmeetings started and the Midnight Cry began.

1.1.3.) The Midnight Cry lasted ten weeks, from the Exeter Campmeeting to the Great Disappointment.

1.1.4.) October 22, 1844 was the date of the Great Disappointment.

### **2.) Subject: Hiram Edson - God's First Prophet for the Saints**

2.1.) God gave Hiram Edson a vision on October 23, 1844 immediately after the Great Disappointment. This act by God made Hiram God's first prophet to the Advent believers.

Hiram Edson—Born December, 1802, died January, 1882.

He was one of the true pioneers that sets present truth for us today

as defined in The Present Truth, No.11,p.86; meaning he participated in the first, second, and third angel's messages.

In the 1840's he lived on a farm near Port Gibson, New York, a little town on the Erie Canal almost midway between Albany and Buffalo. His farm was about a mile south of town and here is where some of the Adventists gathered on October 22, 1844, to await the coming of the King.

The following day, October 23, Edson and a friend went into a barn and prayed to God for light. After prayer they left the barn to go encourage some of the other believers. While crossing the cornfield God stopped Hiram and gave him the following vision.

### **The Vision**

"Heaven seemed open to my view, and I saw distinctly and clearly, that instead of our High Priest coming out of the Most Holy of the heavenly sanctuary to come to this earth on the tenth day of the seventh month, at the end of the 2300 days, that he for the first time entered on that day the second apartment of that sanctuary; and that he had a work to perform in the Most Holy before coming to this earth.

That he came to the marriage at that time; in other words, to the Ancient of days to receive a kingdom, dominion, and glory; and we must wait for his return from the wedding; and my mind was directed to the tenth ch. of Rev. where I could see the vision had spoken and did not lie; the seventh angel had begun [sic] to sound; we had eaten the little [sic] book; it had been sweet in our mouth, and it had now become bitter in our belly, embittering our whole being. That we must prophesy again, &c., and that when the seventh angel began to sound, the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament, &c."

*(Spelling and punctuation preserved. In the original handwritten text the words “from the wedding” were underlined.)*

It was Edson who advanced funds to purchase the first Seventh-day Adventist press. It was at Edson’s home in Port Gibson that the third Sabbath Conference of 1848 was held. Edson sold his farm, turned to preaching and became a successful evangelist. In his later life he labored near Roosevelt, New York. For years he was leader of our work there.

For six months before his death he was confined to a bed, almost entirely helpless, and his sufferings were almost beyond endurance. He lies buried in the Roosevelt cemetery.

### **3.) Subject: The Position of the SDA church on Hiram Edson**

3.1.) By not holding it up, it vanishes!

3.1.1.) Here is a paper written by one Fernand Fisel, Professor Emeritus, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, [ffisel@auxmail.iup.edu](mailto:ffisel@auxmail.iup.edu) titled, **Edson’s Cornfield “Vision:” Frisson or Fiction?** Here is the first line of paper. “Adventist *tradition* credits Hiram Edson, a prosperous farmer of Ontario County, N.Y., with the *insight* that gave birth to the Seventh-day Adventist church.” But that not being enough, here is the last sentence of that first paragraph. “Some *Adventist historians* have *expressed caution in the use of* Edson’s late autobiographical manuscript, either *because it reflects later influences* or *because various accounts differ as to the very nature of the experience.*”

Right away my guard is up! This man is not a believer. To me his actions are more like I should think a Jesuit would act; in this case working to destroy faith in the work of God.

We see this all the time, at least from the perspective of our position, that of holding on to the faith once delivered to the saints. People constantly arising questioning the pillars of the faith. That, of it's self is not a bad thing, but when one is presented with the truth and refuses it with a barrage of more questions, which is a demonstration of a lack of faith, we need spend no more time there.

Here is a footnote with the latest date I can find, as the article is not dated, and a true assessment of the SDA church position relative to the true pioneers. "In a recent article in Spectrum, vol. 33, No. 1 Winter 2005, Ross E Winkle expressed a certain nostalgia for the days when Edson's narrative was accepted without question, for as he correctly observe, it is becoming a "disappearing act" in contemporary Adventist literature."

#### **4.) Subject: In Review of the Past**

4.1.) It is a very sad commentary on the church that we find it necessary to separate ourselves from it. Like Esau it has despised it's birthright which now belongs to the younger sibling, those who cherish the faith once delivered to the saints.

And that is...

~ **The End** ~

of our Presentation for Today,  
God Bless your Study

