

**ENDTIME ISSUES NEWSLETTER No. 203**  
**BACCHIOCCHI RESPONDS TO FALSE ALLEGATIONS - Part 3**  
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\* **PROF. ROY GANE'S SANCTUARY SEMINAR: only \$19.99 for four video lectures by an Adventist authority on sanctuary. Purchase at <http://www.preludefilms.com>**

**EXCITING NEWS!!!**

**THE FIRST PRINTING OF 10,000 COPIES OF POPULAR BELIEFS: ARE THEY BIBLICAL? WAS SOLD OUT IN ONE MONTH**

The demand for *Popular Beliefs: Are They Biblical?* has surpassed my fondest expectations. The first printing of 10,000 copies came out on April 25 and was sold out in one month. The second printing is already out.

This has been an unprecedented experience for me. Usually it takes five years for me to sell 10,000 copies, not one month. Never before I received so many orders for a book not yet published. The secret is that I posted excerpts of each chapter in our biweekly Endtime Issues Newsletter that is emailed to over 35,000 subscribers. Many readers were so impressed the timeliness and quality of this witnessing book, that they placed their orders long before the book came off the press.

*Popular Beliefs: Are They Biblical?* consists of 384 pages with a very attractive, laminated colorful cover, with pictures representing seven of the ten popular beliefs examined in the book. Take a look at the cover by clicking at this link: <http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/pbcover.htm>

The initial response to *Popular Beliefs* is very encouraging. I have received orders from non-SDA church leaders and scholars. An Editor of an evangelical magazine ordered one case. A pastor of a non-SDA congregation ordered first 65 copies and then an additional case of 30 copies. A non-SDA marketing analyst with a Ph. D. in Business, drove all the way from South Bend, Indiana to our home in Berrien Springs, Michigan to purchase 34 copies. He told me that he is eager to give *Popular Beliefs* to Christian friends who are sincerely seeking to learn Bible truths.

Several Adventist believers in different parts of the world have emailed me messages of appreciation for writing *Popular Beliefs: Are They Biblical?* An Adventist gave copies of *Popular Beliefs* to several people she has been witnessing. She told me that each person who received the book asked for additional copies to share with friends who are truth-seekers.

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Last Sabbath I met a professional Adventist sister who told me that she had already passed out all the 30 copies of *Popular Beliefs* she had received. She gave a copy to a former Adventist pastor and influential politician in Honolulu who recently became a Catholic. He was most grateful for the book which he plans to read thoughtfully.

Conference and Missions that have received the first shipment, have already sent in a second order. For example, the Singapore Conference after receiving the first shipment of 100 copies of *Popular Beliefs*, placed immediately a second larger order for 500 copies. Several churches that initially ordered a case of 30 copies, have already sent in a second order for 100 copies.

*Popular Beliefs* is a much needed witnessing book that you can give with confidence to friends who want to know why their popular beliefs are un-biblical and the Adventist beliefs are biblical correct. Each of the 10 popular beliefs is traced historically and examined biblically. The ultimate goal is to lead people to appreciate the validity and value of our Adventist beliefs.

### **Special Offer Extended to June 30, 2008**

Several churches have asked me to extend the deadline until June 30, 2008 for the special introductory price of \$5.00 per copy, for a case of 30 copies. The reason is that they are still in the process of collecting orders. Thus, I have decided to extend the special introductory offer until June 30, 2008. After that date the price goes up to \$7.00 per copy for a case of 30 copies. This means that if you order a case now, you pay only \$150.00 for case of 30 copies, but from July 1, the cost for a case of 30 copies goes up to \$210.00. The regular price of the book is \$30.00.

If you or your church has not yet ordered a case of 30 copies *Popular Beliefs: Are They Biblical?* at the special price of \$150.00, be sure to place your order before June 30 to take advantage of the introductory offer. See details at the end.

I would like to keep indefinitely the current prices of \$5.00 for 30 copies and \$4.00 for 100 copies. The problem is that at these prices I am not able to recover what I have invested in researching, writing, and publishing the book. This means that I need to raise the price to \$7.00 for 30 copies by July 1, unless the Lord impresses some donors to sponsor this project. If that should happen, I will continue offering the book at the special current prices.

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## My Legacy to our Adventist Church

In many ways *Popular Beliefs: Are they Biblical?* represents for me my legacy to our Seventh-day Adventist Church. This may be my last and hopefully my most important contribution to the mission of our Adventist church. All my previous 17 books are making a contribution by helping truth-seekers to understand and accept fundamental Bible teachings held by our church. But the impact of *Popular Beliefs* most likely will be greater than any of my previous books, because it examines, not one, but 10 popular beliefs, which are biblically wrong.

### *Popular Beliefs* Expresses my Gratitude to God for His Healing

When I was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer on February 2007, one of my deep regrets was the inability to complete *Popular Beliefs* during the remaining few months I was expected to live. I promised to the Lord that if He would extend my life, I would put forth my best efforts to complete *Popular Beliefs*, to express my gratitude for His providential healing.

The Lord answered my prayer in an unexpected way. He led me to Cancer Research Center in Goshen, Indiana, which is only one hour away from Andrews University where we live. The Center is a pioneer in the field of nuclear oncology and treated my liver cancer with a combined strategy of chemotherapy and microsphere embolization - a treatment unavailable at other cancer centers. Within two months my cancer was reduced by 95%. Grateful to God for a new lease on life, I fulfilled my promise by devoting every spare moment of this past year to complete *Popular Beliefs*.

When *Popular Beliefs* came off the press on April 25, I was overwhelmed by a deep sense of gratitude to God for restoring my health and for enabling me to complete this important research project. I felt that an appropriate way to express my gratitude to God, was to plan for a dedication service for the book and in a special way for a re-dedication of my life to His service. About 30 fellow believers, including three medical doctors and a few teachers, attended the dedication service at our home.

### A Most Effective Witnessing Publication

Fellow-believers often ask me this question: What book would you recommend for a neighbor or office worker who has questions about our Adventist

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beliefs? Until now my answer has been: “Unfortunately we do not have a single book that answers questions about our fundamental beliefs in the context of what other Christians believe. Most of our Adventist books, including the ones that I have written, deal with one particular belief like the Sabbath, the Second Advent, the State of the Dead, Temperance, the Sanctuary, etc. But these books do not compares and contrasts our Adventist beliefs with the popular Christian beliefs of other Christians.

The Good News is that this much needed book is finally available. *Popular Beliefs: Are They Biblical?* is designed to meet this specific need. Adventists who have been looking for a book to give their friends with questions about our Adventist beliefs, will be glad to give to their friends this book, because it exposes false teachings and affirms biblical truths in a calm, dispassionate, and objective way.

### **My Sincere Hope**

I have written this book with the earnest desire to help Christians of all persuasions to re-examine their popular beliefs in the light of the normative authority of the Bible. At a time when most Christians still hold to popular beliefs that derive from human traditions rather than from biblical revelation, it is imperative to recover those biblical truths that God has revealed for our eternal salvation.

It is my fervent hope that this book, fruit of many months of dedicated research, will help Christians of all persuasions to “come out” of the Babylonian confusion of popular but unbiblical beliefs, and accept God’s glorious plan for our present life and our future destiny.

### **SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER UNTIL JUNE 30 ON POPULAR BELIEFS: ARE THEY BIBLICAL?**

**Until June 30, 2008, we offer *Popular Beliefs: Are they Biblical?* at the following introductory prices:**

**1 copy of *Popular Beliefs: Are they Biblical?* at \$30.00 per copy.** Mailing expenses are included for the USA. Add \$10.00 for AIRMAIL postage to any overseas destination. The price will remain the same after June 30, 2008.

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**10 copies of *Popular Beliefs: Are they Biblical?* at \$10.00 per copy,** postage paid, instead of the regular price of \$30.00 (\$100.00 for 10 copies). Mailing expenses are included for the USA. Add \$40.00 for AIRMAIL postage to any overseas destination. The price will remain the same after June 30, 2008.

**30 copies (one case) of *Popular Beliefs: Are they Biblical?* at \$5.00 per copy** (\$150.00 for 30 copies). Mailing expenses are included for the USA. Add \$100.00 for AIRMAIL postage to any overseas destination. Beginning on July 1, 2008, the price will go up to \$7.00 per copy, that is, \$210.00 for case of 30 copies. The airmailing cost remains the same.

**100 copies of *Popular Beliefs: Are they Biblical?* at \$4.00 per copy,** postage paid. (\$400.00 for 100 copies). Mailing expenses are included for the USA. Add \$300.00 for AIRMAIL postage to any overseas destination. Beginning on July 1, 2008, the price will go up to \$5.00 per copy, that is, \$500.00 for 100 copies. The airmailing expenses remain the same.

### **HOW TO ORDER *POPULAR BELIEFS: ARE THEY BIBLICAL?***

You can order *Popular Beliefs: Are they Biblical?* at the introductory prices given above, in four different ways:

**(1) ONLINE:** By clicking here: [http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/cart/catalog/index.php?cPath=26\\_35](http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/cart/catalog/index.php?cPath=26_35)

**(2) PHONE:** By calling us at (269) 471-2915 to give us your credit card number and postal address.

**(3) EMAIL:** By emailing your order to <[sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives.com](mailto:sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives.com)>. Be sure to provide your postal address, credit card number, and expiration date.

**(4) REGULAR MAIL:** By mailing a check to BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES, 4990 Appian Way, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103, USA. We guarantee to process your order as soon as we receive it.

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**WOULD YOU LIKE US TO PRESENT AT YOUR CHURCH  
OUR POPULAR SEMINARS WITH WORDS AND SONGS ?**

Would you like us to present at your church one of our popular seminars on the **SABBATH or SECOND ADVENT or CHRISTIAN LIFE with Words and Songs?** These seminars have been greatly enhanced by the participation of Cristina Piccardi, an outstanding soprano from Brazil who joined my ministry eight months ago. She sings several times before and after each of my lectures. She also gives a sacred concert on Sabbath afternoon. Her powerful and passionate singing touches the hearts of people everywhere. Her singing has almost double the attendance at the seminars.

Our 2008 calendar is already filled for the next few months, but we still have a few openings in the latter part of the year. We will be glad to email you the list of the open weekends so that you can choose the weekend that best suits your church.

To make it possible for many churches to benefit from our seminars, we keep the cost of the seminar down by asking only for the refund of two airline tickets and two nights for two rooms in a reasonable hotel. We do not ask for any honorarium. Instead, we trust in the Lord to meet our financial obligations through the sale of our publications and recordings on Saturday night.

**Who is Cristina Piccardi?**

Cristina was born in Brazil 26 years ago and came to Andrews University two years ago to accompany her husband who is studying at the seminary. She has earned degrees in voice performance both in Brazil and at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA, where she received full scholarship during the two years of her studies, graduating in December of 2005 with a Master in Voice Performance. In the same year she performed in a leading role with symphonic orchestras in the USA and overseas. At the annual 2005 International Competition for Opera Singers she won the first prize as the best soprano singer of the year.

Cristina left the opera world to dedicate her singing talents to sing sacred music. She is far the best soprano I have ever heard in the Adventist Church during the past 30 years of itinerant ministry around the world. You can enjoy a preview of Cristina's outstanding singing by clicking at this link: <http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/cristina/> You can see and hear her singing the first stanza of The Holy City.

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If your church board wishes to preview one of our seminars, we will gladly mail you free of charge the DVD album with our SABBATH SEMINARS with Words and Songs, that was recorded in Loma Linda. The album contains 3 DVDs with 6 hours of live recording of my lectures and Cristina's singing.

Feel free to contact us by email <sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives.com> or by phone (269) 471-2915. We will gladly supply you with any additional information and reserve a weekend for your church..

### **BACCHIOCCHI RESPONDS TO FALSE ALLEGATIONS - Part 3**

**Samuele Bacchiocchi, Ph. D.,**

**Retired Professor of Theology and Church History,**

**Andrews University**

Greetings from Honolulu, Hawaii, where this past weekend we presented our Advent Seminar with words and songs at the Central SDA Church. Cristina Piccardi did the singing, I did the preaching, and my wife shared briefly her own testimony.

We are enjoying, not only the warm of the weather, but also the warm reception and response of our fellow believers. We are scheduled for two more rallies. The first at the Kailua SDA Church on Wednesday evening, June 18, and the second on Friday/Saturday, June 20-21, at the Japanese SDA Church. We will be flying home on Sunday, June 22.

### **Positive Responses to the last two Newsletters**

The positive responses to the last two newsletters (Ns. 201 and 202) entitled "Bacchiocchi Responds to False Allegations, Part 1 and 2," has surpassed my fondest expectations. With the exception of a handful of negative comments, the messages we received were most encouraging..

Some told me that my responses to the false allegations, not only dispelled lingering suspicion about my loyalty to the Adventist church and beliefs, but also helped them to clarify some existing misconceptions. One of them is the application of the Number 666 of the Beast to the Pope's title *Vicarius Filii Dei*, supposedly inscribed in the papal tiara. Some told me that they surprised to learn that this popular interpretation has never been an official Adventist teachings.

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They were especially surprised to learn that our church leaders have issued warnings against this interpretation, because the only papal tiara with the inscription *Vicarius Filii Dei*, is the one fabricated by an unscrupulous Adventist artist. When the General Conference was made aware of this fraudulently inscribed tiara, they ordered its removal from Uriah Smith's *Daniel and the Revelation*, besides warned our pastors through *Ministry* against its use in evangelistic meetings.

### **Did Ellen White Receive all the Information through Divine Revelations?**

Another misconception examined in the last newsletter (No. 202) is the popular belief that Ellen White received all the information contained in her books from divine revelation, not from other sources. Some Adventists wrote me saying that they sincerely believed that all what Ellen White wrote was from the "pen of inspiration." They were surprise to learn that Ellen White sought the help of respected church leaders such as E. G. Daniells, W. W. Prescott, Uriah Smith, and J. N. Andrews, when writing on chronology and history. It is unfortunate that this factual information is used by some concerned brethren to accuse me of drifting away from the Adventist Church, when in reality I am sharing what informed Adventists have known for many years.

### **Two Major Lines of Evidences**

To refute this false allegation, I have submitted two major lines of evidences. First, I have shown that I greatly value EGW's writings both for my devotional life and for doctrinal investigation. In some of my books I have devoted a whole chapter to Ellen White's teachings on the subject, because I found that she provides significant theological insights. But, true to Ellen White's instructions and to the position of our Adventist Church, I have never used her writings to settle doctrinal, historical, or prophetic questions.

Second, I have argued that respect for the authority of Ellen White does not preclude any fresh investigation of Biblical or historical subjects discussed in her writings. The reason is that Ellen White did not view herself as the final and infallible authority on prophetic, exegetical, theological, and historical interpretations. She did not expect Adventists to accept whatever she wrote without questioning.

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Her son, Willie White wrote to S. N. Haskell (in a letter she signed at the end with the comment, “I approve of the remarks made in this letter, [signed] Ellen White), saying: “Regarding Mother’s writings, *she has never wished our brethren to treat them as authority on history. . . . When Controversy was written, Mother never thought that the readers would take it as an authority on historical dates and use it to settle controversies*” (*More than a Prophet*, p. 100; emphasis supplied).

Readers interested in a full discussion and documentation of this subject, are urged to read *More than a Prophet*, by Prof. Graeme Bradford. He has devoted twenty years of his life to a painstaking research of Ellen White’s published and unpublished documents. This book has been well-received by many Adventists. In fact several conferences have donated the book to their workers. *More than a Prophet* is a “must reading” for any Adventist interested in a balanced presentation of Ellen White’s prophetic ministry. This book will help you appreciate her divine revelations on the one hand and her human limitations on the other hand. To order a copy simply call us at (269) 471-2915 or click at this link: <http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/BradfordOffer/offer.htm>

Part of the problem we are facing today is the misconception that our traditional interpretations are inspired and cannot be improved upon. This has been the historical Catholic position. Her teachings cannot be changed because they are based on *Scriptura* and *Tradition*. Adventists have distanced themselves from the Catholic position, by appealing solely to the normative authority of Scripture. The problem is that any Adventist scholars or lay Bible students who attempt to expand traditional interpretations, are suspect of heresy, because they are departing from “hallowed” interpretations. This poses a question: Are we really different from the Catholics in the method we use the Bible to define truths?

### **Objective of this Newsletter**

This newsletter responds to a fourth allegation, namely, that I am no longer a faithful Adventist because I have questioned the official Adventist dating of the 1260 years prophecy as starting from A. D. 538 and ending in 1798.

My response will show that I do accept the traditional Adventist application of the 1260 years prophecy to the persecution of faithful believers and to

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promotion of false worship carried out, especially by the papacy. What I am questioning is the wisdom of delimiting the beginning of this prophecy to A. D. 538 and its termination to 1798.

My conclusion reflects the recent research done by Adventist scholars who are deeply committed to the message and mission of our Adventist church. We shall see that their analysis of this prophecy shows that these time designations have more a *qualitative* and than a *quantitative* significance. In other words, the focus of this prophecy is *not on the time of the rule of the Antichrist*, but on the *nature of its rule*, manifested in the persecution of God's people and in the promotion of false worship. This conclusion becomes compelling when we look at the time delimitations of this prophecy both in Daniel and Revelation. We shall return to this important point later in our study.

### **An Amazing Sevenfold Prophecy**

Among the apocalyptic time prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, the three and half years/1260 days prophecy stands out for two major reasons. First, it is the only prophecy that is repeated seven times in these two prophetic books. Second, it is given with three different time designations: (1) a time, two times, and half a time (Dan 7:25; 12:7; Rev 12:14); (2) forty two months (Rev 11:2; 13:5); (3) 1260 days (Rev 11:3; 12:6).

Traditionally, our Adventist church has lumped together the seven references to this prophetic period, interpreting them as fulfilled at the same time during the period of Papal supremacy between A. D. 538 to A. D. 1798. Recent Adventist studies, however, have raised questions about this traditional interpretation, proposing, as mentioned earlier, to interpret this prophecy *qualitatively*, rather than *quantitatively*.

The aim of this Bible Study, is not to examine the historical significance of the two dates of 538 and 1798, but rather to find out if the seven prophecies regarding this prophetic period, support the same beginning and termination we have traditionally assigned to them.

I posted the initial results of my investigation five years ago. The passionate negative reaction of some concerned brethren caused me to suspend this research, because I was not prepared to become embroiled in another controversy. At this time I do not intend to resume a comprehensive study

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of this amazing sevenfold prophecy that I suspended five years ago. I simply want to present sufficient evidence to silence the false allegation that I am drifting away from the Advent church, by raising some questions about the traditional dating of this prophecy. This response will show that what I have proposed reflects the conclusion of recent Adventist scholarship.

### **The Scope of this Sevenfold Prophecy**

My objective is to establish the scope of this amazing sevenfold prophecy, by looking at its distinguishing features and its time delimitators. Our study will show that the scope of this sevenfold prophecy encompasses the various manifestations of the Antichrist (Little Horn, Dragon, Beasts) as well as the experiences of God’s people until the establishment of God’s eternal Kingdom.

We shall see that the Antichrist powers have manifested themselves like a monster with several tentacles, carrying out destructive activities during much of human history through various powers. Daniel’s prophecies focus on the activities of the Little Horn which began during the Roman period and continued through pagan and papal Rome, until the heavenly court terminates its supremacy. Jesus, Paul, and John expand Daniel’s prophecy, applying it especially to the endtime deceptions of the false christ.

### **The Good News of this Sevenfold Prophecy**

The Good News of this sevenfold prophecy, is that God’s faithful witnesses will be empowered during the time of persecution unleashed by the Antichrist. For a limited time of “three and a half days” (Rev 11:9), some Christians will be attacked, overpowered, and killed (Rev 11:7), but ultimately they will triumph: “they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on” (Rev 11:12).

This is a great prophecy to study. It is a prophecy about the great controversy between the Dragon and the woman, Satan and the church. The Good News is that the Dragon and its emissary the Beast will be allowed to exercise their authority and make war against the saints ONLY “for forty two months” (Rev 13:5). Ultimately, “the Lamb will overcome them because he is the Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers” (Rev 17:14).

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**Daniel 7:25: The Rule of the Little Horn is to last “For a time, two times, and half a time.”**

The starting point of our investigation is Daniel 7:25, which describes the rule of the Antichrist (Little Horn) with these words: “He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hands for a time, two times, and half a time.”

**The Setting of the Prophecy**

This description of the rule of the Little Horn which is to last “for a time, two times, and half a time,” comes as a climax to the vision of Daniel 7. The two climactic events of the vision are the BAD NEWS of Daniel 7:25 about the rule of the Little Horn over “the saints of the Most High” “for a time, two times, and half a time,” and the GOOD NEWS of Daniel 7:26-27, about the heavenly court that will destroy forever the Little Horn and hand over “the kingdoms under the whole heaven . . . to the people of the saints of the Most High.”

To appreciate the significance of these two climactic events, it is important to note the function of the overall vision of Daniel 7. In many ways the vision of Daniel 7 parallels Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the statue in Daniel 2. The major difference is that Daniel 2 portrays the world empires from a political and military view point, which was appropriate for a dream given to an earthly monarch. By contrast, Daniel 7 reveals how the world empires will affect the religious life of God’s people—a perspective of interest to a man of faith like Daniel.

We can say that the dream of the four beasts in Daniel 7 recapitulates and expands the vision of the statue in Daniel 2. This principle of recapitulation and expansion applies also to the visions Daniel 8, 9, and 11. Each of them recapitulate and expand the previous vision, especially as it relates to the Little Horn. In Daniel 7 the expansion focuses on the dreadful fourth beast with ten horns, which represents the Roman Empire and its disintegration into ten kingdoms. Among the ten horns comes up a Little Horn that uproots three of the existing horns. The greatest coverage is given to the Little Horn, obviously because this anti-God political and religious power is to affect in special ways the life and witness of God’s people until the establishment of God’s Kingdom.

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Daniel 7 divides equally into two parts. The first 14 verses describe Daniel's dream of the four beasts (lion, bear, leopard, dreadful beast), the Little Horn, the heavenly court, and the coming of the Son of Man to establish God's eternal Kingdom. The last 14 verses (from verse 15 to 28), provide the interpretation of the dream, by focusing especially on the Little Horn that comes out of the ten horns of the fourth beast.

The Fourth Beast and Little Horn receive the greatest coverage in Daniel 7, obviously because they were to play a pivotal role in the history of God's people. Since Daniel wanted to know more about these two powers, the interpreting angel expands on his previous interpretation, by explaining more fully the origin, the activities, and the duration of the power of the Little Horn. Let us take a brief look at each of these characteristics.

### **The Origin of the Little Horn**

The Little Horn "came up among them" (Dan 7:8), that is, among the ten horns of the fourth beast. This suggests that this power came into prominence after the breaking up of the Western Roman Empire in the fifth and sixth centuries. The text says that "three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots" (Dan 7:8) through the aggressive warfare of the Little Horn.

The power that best fits this historical setting is that of the papacy. The origin of the Little Horn at the time of the breaking up of the Roman Empire, does fit the emergence of the power of the papacy at about the same time. It is wise, however, not to press the details too far, because the purpose of Bible prophecy is to point to overall developments, and not to pinpoint the occurrence of specific events.<sup>1</sup>

### **Daniel's Messianic Prophecy**

A good example of the broad function of prophecy is Daniel's messianic time prophecy found in Daniel 9:24-27. This is a unique time prophecy which spells out the waiting time to the coming of the Messiah in terms of seventy weeks of years, that is, 490 years, beginning from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem. In spite of its clarity, this prophecy is never quoted by NT writers. This is all the more surprising in view of their frequent appeals to Old Testament prophecies to prove Christ's messiahship. If the time-element of Daniel's prophecy had been clearly understood, it would have been cited, especially

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by Matthew who quotes Old Testament prophecies extensively to prove the messiahship of Jesus.<sup>2</sup>

The lack of any reference to Daniel's prophecy can hardly be explained as unawareness of its existence. We are told that many calculated on the basis of this prophecy the actual time of the coming of the Messiah. To stop prevailing time-speculations rabbis placed a curse on anyone who tried to calculate the time of the coming of the Messiah out of Daniel's prophecy.<sup>3</sup>

Presumably the Gospel writers were aware of the various messianic dates which had been derived from Daniel's Messianic prophecy, but they refrained from submitting an alternative date. A reason could be that they did not fully comprehend how Daniel's seventy weeks prophecy could possibly fulfill both the mission of the Messiah and the destruction of Jerusalem. Both events are mentioned in Daniel 9:26-27 as marking the termination of the prophecy, though they are separated in time by almost 40 years.

### **Messiah versus Desolator**

Studies have shown that the pattern of Messiah versus Destroyer found in verse 26 is repeated as Messiah versus Desolator in verse 27.<sup>4</sup> The latter verse, however, adds significant information. The Messiah who in verse 26 is simply "cut off," in verse 27 "shall make a strong covenant with many for one week; and for half of the week he shall cause sacrifice and offering to cease." Both of these acts were fulfilled by Christ when He confirmed God's covenant by instituting the Lord's Supper (Matt 26:28) and when He brought to an end the validity of the sacrificial system through the rending asunder of the curtain of the temple at the time of His death (Matt 27:51; cf. Heb 10:9). Adventist prophetic charts show A. D. 31 as the middle of the last week with Christ's crucifixion and A. D. 34 as the end of the last week.

But the 490 years prophecy includes also the desolator (Little Horn), who in verse 26 destroys the city and the temple and comes in verse 27 "upon the wing of abominations" to make "desolate." By this language is described the complete destruction of the temple by the Roman General Titus in A. D. 70. Christ's prediction regarding "the desolating sacrilege spoken of by the prophet Daniel" (Matt 24:15) is clearly paraphrased by Luke as "Jerusalem surrounded by armies" (Luke 21:20). This paraphrase was made by Luke, as most scholars recognize, because he was writing for Greek readers who would not understand the meaning of the Jewish expression "the desolating sacrilege" used by Christ.

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**Prophecies Point to but do not Pinpoint the Occurance of Specific Events**

The fact that the fulfillment of the 490 years prophecy includes two events which are almost 40 years apart, namely, Christ's death in A. D. 31 and the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in A. D. 70, shows that even this specific time prophecy, has considerable latitude. It is not surprising that NT writers had difficulty to understand how the 490 years prophecy could be fulfilled in A. D. 31 with Christ's death, when the destruction of the Temple, which is part of the prophecy, took place almost 40 years later. This example serves to illustrate that the purpose of prophecies is *to point to overall developments*, and *not to pinpoint the occurrence of specific events*.

This point is obviously ignored by those writers and preachers who develop charts to boldly prove that all the details of Daniel's prophecies were fulfilled with absolute accuracy. This conviction caused our pioneers to spend much time and energies debating such fine points of Daniel's prophecies as to whether the Alamanni or the Huns belonged to the list of the ten tribes that took over the Roman Empire. At the pre-session of the 1888 General Conference they became so partisan about it, that the participants went around asking: "Are you a Hun or an Alamanni?" Had they recognized that the number ten is suggestive of manyfold divisions, and not of specific kingdoms, they could have avoided fruitless and divisive debates. In my reading I found no less than five different listings for the 10 tribes that took over the Roman Empire. The historical reality is that the map of the Roman Empire changed constantly as new tribes took over older ones.

Expanding the origin, nature, and duration of the anti-God power of the Little Horn in accordance to the witness of Scripture, ultimately will strengthen the credibility of our Adventist message. We want the world to know that our Adventist church is committed to uphold biblical truths, and not to hold on desperately to questionable traditional interpretations.

**The Antichrist is a Monster with Many Tentacles**

A careful study of the prophetic development of the imagery of the Little Horn, especially in the light of the teachings of Jesus (Matt 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21), Paul (2 Thess 2), and Revelation (chapter 13), shows that the Antichrist power is a monster with several tentacles, which have manifested themselves in different ways at different times.

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The book which has helped me greatly to understand these manyfold manifestations of Daniel's Little Horn, is entitled *How to Understand the End-time Prophecies of the Bible*. The author is Hans LaRondelle, who has served with distinction for 25 years as Professor Emeritus of Theology at Andrews University Theological Seminary. This book is out of print, but an abridged version is available under the title *Light for the Last Days*. I recommend this book to interested readers. You can obtain a copy by contacting directly Dr. LaRondelle by phone (941) 355-0037, fax (941)358-0162 or email <hansemprof564@cs.com>.

### **Christ's Interpretation of Daniel's Little Horn**

LaRondelle offers an informative analysis of how Daniel's prophecy of the Little Horn was understood and applied by Jesus, Paul, and John the Revelator. His conclusion is that "Daniel's anti-Messiah is clearly applied by Jesus to more than one individual antichrist, all of which function as false prophets, until the end of time."<sup>5</sup> This means that if we as Adventists would take into consideration Christ's interpretation of Daniel's Little Horn, we would expand the fulfillment of this prophecy beyond papal Rome, to include various manifestations of anti-God powers and ideologies.

### **The Broad Scope of the Prophetic Little Horn**

Non-Adventist scholars also recognize the broad scope of the prophetic Little Horn. For example, in his scholarly commentary *Exposition of Daniel*, Herbert Leupold, a respected evangelical scholar, rightly observes: "There are, indeed, certain features of this prophecy [of the Little Horn] in regard to whose interpretation we must exercise the greatest caution. . . . We hold that in stating that the pope is the Antichrist the Lutheran confessions were correct . . . but, though the papacy may be the most outstanding manifestation of the Antichrist to date, that does not exclude other possibilities of fulfillment of this passage"<sup>6</sup>

Leupold's warning is supported by the various manifestations of the Little Horn first in Daniel (8, 9, 11), and later in Matthew 24, 2 Thessalonians 2, and Revelation 13. As LaRondelle points out, Christ, Paul, and John apply the Little Horn to manifestations of the antichrist to different entities, starting from pagan Rome and culminating in the endtime satanic deceptions.<sup>7</sup>

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## The Activities of the Little Horn

After explaining the emergence of the Little Horn out of the ten horns of the fourth kingdom (Dan 7:24), the interpreting angel explained graphically both the activities and duration of this anti-god power: “He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change times and law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, two times, and half a time” (Dan 7:25).

The Little Horn is a unique power, “different from the former ones” (Dan 7:24), most likely because it has both political and religious influence. He wants to control both the bodies and souls of people. His activities are described in three short sentences which reveal his intent to oppose God, His people, and His laws.

The Little Horn will oppose God by speaking “words against the Most High.” Later parallels suggest that this entails self-magnification: “He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god” (Dan 11:36; see also 8:25; 2 Thess 2:3-4).

The Little Horn is a persecuting power who “will wear out the saints of the Most High.” In a way the Little Horn perpetrates the “breaking,” “crushing,” “devouring,” and “trampling” of the legion of pagan Rome.

The Little Horn is a lawless power who will attempt “to change times and laws.” The “times” are the sacred seasons established by God for worship. There is one sacred time preeminently mentioned in the Decalogue, namely, the seventh-day Sabbath. It is a known fact that the Catholic Church has historically admitted her responsibility for changing the Sabbath to Sunday. In my dissertation *From Sabbath to Sunday* I discuss the theological, social, and liturgical methods used by the papacy to promote the abandonment of the Sabbath and the adoption of Sunday.

Daniel expands the activities of the Little Horn in chapters 8, 9, and 11. For example, in Daniel 8 the Little Horn, that emerges from one of the four divisions of the Greek empire, suppresses the sacrificial system and desecrates the Temple, causing the so-called “abomination of desolation (Dan 8:9-13). In Daniel 9 the Little Horn appears at the end of the seventy weeks prophecy of 490 years and destroys the city, the sanctuary, causing “the abomination of desolation,” a phrase applied by Christ to the A. D. 70 destruction of the

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Temple by the Romans (Luke 21:20). The phrase “the abomination of desolation,” that occurs in Daniel 8:13; 9:27; 11:31, and 12:11, ties these chapters together by means of the destructive activities of the Little Horn.

The recognition of this fact suggests that the prophecy of the Little Horn has both an immediate and a more distant fulfillment. More immediately, the Little Horn represents the devastation of the Jews and desecration of the Temple carried out by the Romans in A. D. 70. More distantly, the Little Horn typifies the prophetic role of the papacy in persecuting uncompromising Christians, and in perverting the true worship of God through the introduction of idolatrous practices such as the veneration of Mary and of the saints. In other words what the Romans did to the Jews and their Temple, serve as a prophetic prefiguration of what the papacy later did on a larger scale to the Christian Church.

### **The Duration of the Rule of the Little Horn**

The duration of the oppression of God’s people by the Little Horn is limited to “a time, two times, and half a time.” The same time reference is given in Daniel 12:7 and in Revelation 12:14. This uncommon way of numbering time as “a time, two times, and half a time” suggests that we are dealing with a symbolic designation of time. Specific time periods in the Bible are designated in years, months, or days. But in this instance, we have a rather indefinite expression of time that in Hebrews reads: “a time, times, and a fraction.” It is evident that it is not the intent of this prophecy to specify the exact length of the rule of the Little Horn.

Most commentators recognize that we are dealing in this prophecy with an indefinite expression of time. In his *Biblical Commentary of the Book of Daniel*, C. F. Keil notes that “The choice of the chronological indefinite expression, *iddah*–time, shows that a chronological determination of the period is not in view, but that the designation of the time is to be understood symbolically.”<sup>8</sup>

On a similar vein *The Broadman Bible Commentary* observes that “there is an inexactitude which must have been intended and/or understood both by the writer, the hearers, and the readers. . . . This fact should cause every interpreter to examine his use of the numbers. The lack of precise definition

could indicate that these are not predictions in regard to time but directly as to event. When one permits himself to be bound by temporal requirements in regard to events he may impose restrictions on the text which the text does not impose on itself.”<sup>9</sup>

This comment deserves consideration. The indefinite designation of this prophetic period, suggests that *the activities of the Little Horn are more important than the exact time span of their duration*. Some Adventist scholars recognize that the primary function of this prophetic period is *qualitative*, not *quantitative*. For example, in his book *The Lamb Among the Beasts*, published by Review and Herald in 1996, Roy Naden, who has served a Professor of Religious education at Andrews for 15 years, writes: “According to our hermeneutic, we assume these numbers [three and a half years, 1260 days] first have a *qualitative significance* in interpreting the vision, and only second a possible *quantitative application*.”<sup>10</sup>

The same view is expressed by Ranko Stefanovic, Chairman of the Religion Department and Professor of New Testament at Andrews University. His book (653 pages) entitled *Revelation of Jesus Christ: Commentary on the Book of Revelation*, published by Andrews University Press in 2002, is without doubt the best commentary on Revelation that our Adventist church has ever produced. It has been adopted as a text-book in our colleges and seminaries. In many ways the book is an expansion of his doctoral dissertation on Revelation 4-5, presented at Andrews University. Ranko Stefanovic writes: “It appears that all three times designations have *more qualitative* rather than *quantitative significance*.”<sup>11</sup> On the basis of this consideration, he avoid assigning dates to this prophetic period.

Another example is the Sabbath School Lesson for July 19, 2006, which avoids mentioning the traditional dates, saying instead: “If we date the beginning of papal Rome to the late fifth, early sixth century, 1,260 years later brings us to the late eighteenth, or early nineteenth, century.” Note that no mentioning is made of the traditional dates of 538 and 1798.

### **The Possible Origin and Meaning of “Three and a Half”**

To appreciate the “qualitative significance” of this prophetic period, we need to inquire into its possible derivation. Several proposals have been made. We shall briefly mention three of them, which appears to have some plausibility.

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## **Broken Seven**

Some propose that “three and a half” is a “broken seven.” There is no doubt that three and a half times are half of seven times. Since “seven” in the Bible stand for completion, a broken seven or half of seven, suggests incompleteness or limitation.

God completed his work on the “seventh day,” but the work of the Antichrist will be only half of seven, because God will not allow him to have his full course. Thus, the derivation of the three and half from seven, suggests a divinely limited period of oppression before the final victory. We might say that the oppression of the people of God by the Little Horn will last only half as long as the work of God.

## **Elijah’s Experience**

Other scholars suggest that the meaning of three and a half is derived from the divine judgment under Elijah, “when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months” (Luke 4:25; James 5:17). Ahab did more to provoke God’s anger than all the previous kings. In the same way the Little Horn of Daniel 7:24-25 is different from the previous kings because he “shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High” (Dan 7:25).

The three and a half years of drought in Israel during the great apostasy and persecution in the days of the pagan queen Jezebel, who attempted to destroy God’s prophets, could be reflected in the three and a half years of suffering caused by the Antichrist but interrupted and shortened by God for the sake of the elect. Revelation 11:6 supports this interpretation by its allusion to the power of the two witnesses “to shut up the sky that no rain may fall” during the 1260 days of their prophesying.

## **Literary Structure**

Other scholars find the derivation of this prophetic period in its literary structure. They note that the length of time is not given as three and a half years, but as time, two times, and half a time. The literary structure suggests that there is first a doubling of the period, and then a sudden decline. This is taken to mean that at first the power of the Little Horn and the oppression of

God's people will increase, in accordance with the doubling of a time into two times, but, then it suddenly comes to an end because of the interposition of the divine judgment.

Ebrard explains this view saying: "At first it appears as if his tyranny [of the Little Horn] would extend itself always the longer and longer: first a time, then the double time, then the fourfold—this would be seven times; but it does not go that length; suddenly it come to an end in the midst of the seven times, so that instead of the fourfold time there is only half a time."<sup>12</sup>

### Broken Numerical Sequence

Ebrard's view is articulated in a most compelling way by Zdravko Stefanovic in an article entitled "The Presence of the Three and a Fraction: A Literary Figure in the Book of Daniel," published by the *Andrews University Institute of Archeology* in the symposium entitled *To Understand the Scriptures: Essays in Honor of William H. Shea*. Zdravko Stefanovic is the brother of Ranko Stefanovic cited earlier. He serves as Professor of Biblical Languages and Literature at Walla Walla University. He is leading authority on the book of Daniel, having produced a doctoral dissertation on this Book. To avoid competing with each others the two brothers, Zdravko and Ranko Stefanovic, have chosen to specialize in different books, Zdravko in Daniel and Ranko in Revelation.

Zdravko Stefanovic shows that the three and a fraction is a literary device used in the Book of Daniel to "express the progress and end of the earthly powers which are commonly hostile to God. Instead of reaching their intended zenith, the kingdoms are suddenly destroyed and replaced by the intervention of a divine power"<sup>13</sup> For example, he notes that in Daniel 2 "the sequence of the four kingdoms from this standpoint may be understood as three elements of unity and one of division. The sum of the four elements is thus three units and a (division) of a unit. Thus, in the description of the statue in Daniel 2, the three and a fraction literary figure is used to portray the sequence of the world kingdoms."<sup>14</sup>

Regarding the prophetic period under consideration, Stephanovic writes: "Daniel 7:25 gives the well-defined time period of the progress of the horn's activity: 'dn w'dnyn wplg 'dn 'time, (two) times, and half a time.' This

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expression is defined from the literary point of view as an example of the broken numerical sequence (or progression). That is to say that the career of the horn is expressed by the progressive order of one, two, and a natural continuation to reach the climax would normally be three times. Yet, just before the progression reaches its zenith in number three, the power of the horn is broken into plg ‘a division’ or ‘a fraction’ (understood as a half) of the time unit. . . . Thus it becomes evident that the defeat of the horn comes suddenly and unexpectedly.”<sup>15</sup>

### **An Indefinite Expression of Time**

Each of the three views mentioned above seem to contribute to an understanding of the derivation of this unusual time designation. They share a common denominator, namely, they see the “three and a half times” of the Little Horn as a symbolic period of time representing a time of persecution of God’s people and perversion of worship, which is limited and interrupted by divine intervention. In terms of the objectives of this study, this means that this prophetic period is most likely an indefinite expression of time which expresses the progress and then sudden termination of the dominion of the Little Horn.

The recognition of the qualitative and symbolic nature of this prophetic period, should warn us against setting up specific dates for its fulfillment. Adventist scholars Hans LaRondelle, Ranko Stefanovic, and Roy Naden recognize this important fact, and in their respective publications, as noted earlier, they avoid fixing dates. LaRondelle supports the traditional Adventist interpretation, but “without being dogmatic about the precise date-fixing in church history.”<sup>16</sup>

It is encouraging to see that recent research done by committed and competent Adventist scholars avoids the pitfalls of fixing precise dates for a prophetic period which has a more of a qualitative than quantitative significance. This is what I have proposed in my newsletters. It is unfortunate that my detractors accuse me of drifting away from the Adventist church, when in reality I support the conclusion of the recent research done by committed and competent Adventist scholars.

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## **The Judgement Terminates the Rule of the Little Horn**

The qualitative significance of the three and half years is supported by the four time references given in Daniel 7 to the termination of the rule of the Little Horn. In each reference the dominion of the Little Horn on earth is terminated by God's judgement in heaven.

The first reference is found in Daniel 7:8-9, where Daniel sees the appearance of the Little Horn "with eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things." While observing the little horn, Daniel's gaze shifts heavenward where he sees the dazzling appearance of the Ancient of Days seated on His throne: "a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment and the books were opened" (Dan 7:9-10). In this first reference the judgment in heaven is connected to the activities of the Little Horn on earth, but no explanation is given as to how the former affects the latter.

The second reference is found in Daniel 7:11-14, where Daniel's gaze shifts back momentarily from the celestial tribunal to this earth where he sees God's judgment being visited upon the Little Horn who "was slain, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire" (Dan 7:11). Then Daniel's gaze shifts back again to heaven where he sees "a son of man" coming to "the Ancient of Days" to receive His eternal dominion and Kingdom "which shall not pass away" (Dan 7:13-14). In this reference the heavenly judgment is executed by terminating the earthly dominion of the Little Horn. The point to notice is that the judgment in heaven marks the termination of the rule of the Little Horn. This event can hardly be placed in 1798 or 1844.

In the third reference found in Daniel 7:20-22, Daniel asks for an explanation about the fourth beast and especially the Little Horn that "made war with the saints and prevailed over them until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints received the kingdom" (Dan 7:22). In this reference we are explicitly told that the Little Horn prospers UNTIL the judgment terminates his career. Our common sense method of interpretation suggests that the judgment terminates the rule of the Little Horn.

The fourth reference in Daniel 7:25-26 reiterates the same truth, but it add one significant detail, namely, that the career of the Little Horn terminated

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by the heavenly judgment would last “a time, two times, and half a time.” It is evident that the terminal point of this time prophecy is the heavenly judgment that brings to an end the career of the Little Horn.

### **The Termination of the Rule of the Dragon/Beast in Revelation**

The scenario in Revelation is essentially the same, though the name of the protagonists are different. The Little Horn of Daniel 7, becomes the Dragon in Revelation 12 and the Sea-Beast and Land-beast in Revelation 13. In Revelation 12 we read that “when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. But the woman [was] nourished [in the wilderness] for a time, times, and half a time” (Rev 12:13-14). This text places the beginning of the persecution of the woman/church, immediately after birth of the Child/Jesus.

The termination of the rule of the anti-God power, designated in Revelation as “the beast” and “the false prophet,” occurs at Christ’s coming when “these two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone” (Rev 19:20-21). It is evident that both in Daniel and Revelation, the termination of the rule of the anti-God power, variously described as Little Horn, Dragon, Sea-Beast, Land-Beast, False Prophets, occurs in conjunction with the final judgment executed by Christ at His coming, and not in 1798.

The function of the judgment in terminating the rule of these anti-God powers, poses a problem for our Adventist delimitation of the three and half times or 1260 years of this sevenfold prophecy. The problem is how can we reconcile the evidence of Daniel 7 and Revelation 19:20-21 with the date of 1798 we have assigned for the termination of this prophetic period?

In my view the solution to this problem is relatively simple. It is just a matter of recognizing *the qualitative and symbolic nature* of the prophetic period of “three and a half times” or 1260 years. We have found that this prophetic period encompasses the full length of the existence of the anti-God power variously denominated as Little Horn, Dragon, and Beast.

By recognizing the broad scope of this symbolic time prophecy, we can avoid fixing the dates for its beginning and termination. Instead, we can focus on the message of this amazing prophecy, which is a message of hope. The anti-God powers will wage war against the saints and promote false worship

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only for a limited time, because God is in control. He will judge those who persecute His people and alter His laws. Ultimately He will vindicate His people, by offering them “an everlasting kingdom” (Dan 7:27).

## Conclusion

Summing up, the “three and a half times” prophetic period of Daniel 7:25, has a great message of hope and reassurance for God’s people today. It is a message of reassurance that God is in control. Persecution, suffering, and false worship will not last for ever. Those who are waging war against God, His people, and His laws, will be judged and annihilated, while the faithful will inherit God’s eternal kingdom. This GOOD NEWS is expanded in the other references to this prophetic period which I will not examine at this time to avoid further false allegations.

What I have submitted in this newsletter should suffice to show that the false allegations of my detractors are false and groundless. I am drifting away from the Adventist church for proposing a qualitative interpretation of the 1260 years prophecy.

We have seen that my proposal reflects recent research done by competent Adventist scholars who are deeply committed to the message and mission of our Adventist church. Their analysis of this prophecy show that the time designation has more a *qualitative* and than a *quantitative* significance. In other words, the focus of this prophecy is *not on the time of the rule of the Antichrist*, but on the *nature of its rule*, manifested in the persecution of God’s people and in the promotion of false worship.

ALOHA from Honolulu! I gave up some of my needed vacation to prepare this lengthy response. I hope that this response will reassure many that I am a deeply committed Adventist, earnestly desiring to place our prophetic interpretations on solid biblical and historical grounds. For me to be a genuine Adventist means to have the courage to re-examine some of our traditional interpretations on the basis of the normative authority of Scripture. My ultimate goal is to strengthen the biblical basis of our message.

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**ENDNOTES**

1. Some Christians clearly believe that the function of the Advent signs is to pinpoint our position in time with reference to Christ's Return. For example, David Wilkerson writes "Christians rejoice because all the bad news is a series of signposts clearly marked out on their road map to eternity. Each terrifying event more clearly pinpoints our position down the homestretch" (*Racing Toward Judgment* [New York, 1976], p. 138).

2. See, for example, Matt 1:23, 2:6, 18; 4:4, 6, 15; 11:10; 12:18-19; 13:14-15, 35; 21:5.

3. For a scholarly and comprehensive study on the ancient Jewish attempt to determine the time of the Coming of the Messiah on the basis of Daniel 9:24-27, see Ben Zion Wacholder, "Chronomessianism: The Timing of Messianic Movements and the Calendar of Sabbatical Cycles," *Hebrew Union College Annual* 46 (1975), pp. 201ff.

4. For an analysis of the inverted parallelism (chiasm) of Daniel 9:24-27, see J. Doukhan, "The Seventy Weeks of Daniel 9: An Exegetical Study," *Andrews University Seminary Studies* (Spring, 1979), pp. 1-22; W. H. Shea, "Poetic Relations of Time Periods in Daniel 9:25," *Andrews University Seminary Studies* (Spring, 1980), pp. 59-63.

5. Hans LaRondelle, *How to Understand the End-time Prophecies of the Bible*, 1997, p. 45.

6. Carl Herbert Leupold, *Exposition of Daniel*, 1975, pp. 322-323.

7. See, Hans LaRondelle, *How to Understand the End-time Prophecies of the Bible*, 1997, pp. 34-79.

8. C. F. Keil, *Biblical Commentary of the Book of Daniel*, 1959. p. 243.

9. *The Broadman Bible Commentary, Jeremiah - Daniel*, 1971, p. 428

10. Roy Naden, *The Lamb Among the Beasts*, 1996, p.170.

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11. Ranko Stefanovic, *Revelation of Jesus Christ: Commentary on the Book of Revelation*, 2002, p. 338.

12. Cited in C. F. Keil, *Biblical Commentary of the Book of Daniel*, 1959. p. 244.

13. Ddravko Stefanovic, "The Presence of the Three and a Fraction: A Literary Figure in the Book of Daniel, in David Merling, ed., *To Understand the Scriptures: Essays in Honor of William H. Shea*, 1997, p. 202.

14. *Ibid.*, p. 200.

15. *Ibid.*, p. 201.

16. Hans LaRondelle, *How to Understand the End-time Prophecies of the Bible*, 1997, p. 258.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF SERVICES AND PRODUCTS**

### **UPCOMING SEMINARS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE**

As a service to our subscribers, I am listing the seminars scheduled for the month of June 2008. We wish to extend a warm welcome to those of you who live close to the location of our seminars. Our new seminars with Words and Songs will touch your heart and expand your mind.

#### **JUNE 6-7: CHICAGO: BOLINGBROOK SDA CHURCH**

Location: 301 E. Boughton Road, Bolingbrook, Illinois 60440.

For directions and information call Elder Karl Watson at (630) 771-0394.

#### **JUNE 13-14: HONOLULU CENTRAL SDA CHURCH**

Location: 2313 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96817

For directions and information call Pastor Walter Nelson at (808) 524-1352

#### **JUNE 18: HAWAII: KAILUA SDA CHURCH**

Location: 160 Mookua Street, Kailua, Hawaii 96734

For directions and information call Pastor Robert Lloyd at (808) 261-5442

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**JUNE 20-21: HONOLULU - JAPANESE SDA CHURCH**

Location: 2655 Manoa Road, Honolulu, HI 96822

For directions and information call Pastor Koji Nishikawa at (808) 988-4343

**CRISTINA PICCARDI'S NEW DVD RECORDINGS**

A brand new recording of Cristina Piccardi's sacred concert and of our **SABBATH SEMINAR with WORDS AND SONGS** was made in Loma Linda few weeks ago. The recording was done with four state-of-the-art high definition cameras that provide an exceptional clear and crispy video images.

We felt the need to make a high quality recording to share our new ministry with fellow believers in different parts of the world. We are happy that at this time we can offer a professional recording both of Cristina's Sacred Concert and of our **SABBATH SEMINAR with WORDS AND SONGS**.

The **SACRED CONCERT** consists of **16 sacred familiar songs that cover the major themes of God's creative and redemptive love**. Her marvellous singing will touch your heart and inspire you to devote your life more fully to the Savior. You can see the picture of this new album by clicking at this link: <http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/pic.htm>

The **SABBATH SEMINAR** consists of **3 DVD disks** containing a total of 6 hours of recording, that is, the Cristina singing and my preaching done on Friday evening, Sabbath morning, and Sabbath afternoon. Cristina sings a few songs before and after each of my lectures. You can enjoy this informative and inspiring 6 hours seminar in the privacy of your home or church, without having to travel long distances or investing money to fly us in. You can see the picture of this new album by clicking at this link: <http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/sabbathandsong/index.htm>

**Who is Cristina Piccardi?**

In my view Cristina is by far the best Adventist soprano I have heard in my life. Surprisingly she is a slim, only 118 pounds, 5.6 feet high – not the typical heavy-set soprano. When my wife asked her: “How can you project such a powerful voice when you are so slim?” She replied: “It is God's gift.”

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Cristina was born in Brazil 26 years ago and came to Andrews University two years ago to accompany her husband who is studying at the seminary. She has earned degrees in voice performance both in Brazil and at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA, where she received full scholarship during the two years of her studies, graduating in December of 2005.

She has performed in a leading role with symphonic orchestras in the USA and overseas. In the year 2005 she won the first price at an International Competition for Opera Singers.

I officially met Cristina on October 6, 2007 at Andrews University Pioneer Memorial Church. I was spellbound by the three sacred songs she sung during the communion service led by Pastor Dwight Nelson. When we met after the communion service, we both immediately felt that the Lord was bringing us together in a providential way to proclaim with words and songs our timely Adventist Message. She told me that after singing for five years in a leading role with various symphonic orchestras, she felt the call of God to leave glitzy opera stage, in order to dedicate the gift of her voice to sing sacred music. This means that now we are presenting together with words and songs my powerpoint seminars on the **SABBATH, SECOND ADVENT, and CHRISTIAN LIFE STYLE**.

You can enjoy a preview of Cristina's outstanding singing by clicking at this link: <http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/cristina/> She sings the first stanza of THE HOLY CITY.

### **Special Package Offer of Cristina's Recordings.**

At this time we wish to offer the complete package of Cristina's three albums, together with the newly recorded SABBATH SEMINAR with WORDS AND SONGS for only \$50.00, instead of the regular price of \$230.00. The package included the following four albums:

**1) THE CD ALBUM REJOICE IN THE LORD** which consists of 11 sacred songs recorded with Marcelo Caceres, Professor of piano at Andrews University. The regular price of the album is \$30.00.

**2) THE DVD ALBUM SING UNTO THE LORD** which consists of 10 sacred songs recorded at the Andrews University Pioneer Memorial SDA Church. The regular price of the DVD album is \$50.00.

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**3) THE DVD ALBUM BY HIS GRACE** which consists of 16 sacred songs recorded in Loma Linda with four high-definition cameras. The regular price of the DVD is \$50.00.

**4) THE DVD ALBUM OF THE SABBATH WITH WORDS AND SONGS** which consists of three DVD disks with 6 hours of recordings of Cristina singing and my preaching done on Friday evening, Sabbath morning, and Sabbath afternoon. The regular price is \$100.00.

The special offer on the above package of 4 albums is only \$50.00, mailing expenses included even overseas, instead of the regular price of \$230.00.

### **How to Order Cristina's Package of Four Albums**

**You can order the package of the four albums containing Cristina's Sacred Concerts and the SABBATH SEMINAR in WORDS AND SONGS in four different ways:**

**(1) ONLINE:** By clicking here: [http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/cart/catalog/product\\_info.php?cPath=26&products\\_id=122](http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/cart/catalog/product_info.php?cPath=26&products_id=122)

**(2) PHONE:** By calling us at (269) 471-2915 to give us your credit card number and postal address.

**(3) EMAIL:** By emailing your order to <[sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives.com](mailto:sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives.com)>. Be sure to provide your postal address, credit card number, and expiration date.

**(4) REGULAR MAIL:** By mailing a check to BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES, 4990 Appian Way, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103, USA. We guarantee to process your order immediately.

### **PROF. JON PAULIEN'S VIDEO SEMINAR ON *SIMPLY REVELATION***

The 2008 Daily Devotional Book *The Gospel from Patmos*, is authored by Prof. Jon Paulien. He has done a masterful job in expanding each verse of the Revelation into a daily devotional thought.

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To help you appreciate more fully Paulien's Daily Devotional, we offer you his DVD album on *Simply Revelation* that was released few months ago. We have been airmailing the DVD album to church leaders, pastors, and lay Adventists in different part of the world. Several pastors have already shown the lectures to their congregations. They wrote to me saying that viewing the lectures were truly an enlightening experience for their members.

My wife and I viewed *Simply Revelation* on our TV on a Sabbath afternoon. Though I had already watched Prof. Paulien's lectures during the taping session which I paid for, I was spellbound to hear him again offering so many refreshing insights into the most difficult book of the Bible. For me it is a thrilling experience listening to a scholar like Prof. Paulien, who knows what he is talking about.

Prof. Paulien is rightly regarded as a leading Adventist authority on the book of Revelation which he has taught at the Seminary for the past 25 years. His doctoral dissertation as well as several of his books deal specifically with the Book of Revelation.

The constant demand for Prof. Paulien's CD album with his publications and articles, led me to discuss with him the possibility of producing a live video recording of a mini Revelation Seminar, which he chose to call *Simply Revelation*. As suggested by its title, *Simply Revelation* aims to present simply the message of Revelation-not to read into Revelation sensational, but senseless views.

The preparation of this video recording took several months. The *Simply Revelation* seminar consists of four one-hour live video lectures, which have just been recorded in the studio of Andrews University. An impressive virtual studio provides the background of the lectures. Each lecture is delivered with about 50 powerpoint slides. This mini Revelation seminar will offer you and your congregation fresh insights into the Book of Revelation. Be sure to inform your pastor about the newly released *Simply Revelation*, if he is not aware of it.

The file with the powerpoint slides is placed on Prof. Paulien's CD album containing all his publications and articles. The reason is that there was no memory left on the DVD disks. In spite of my pleas, Prof. Paulien was so

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full of the subject that he used the full 60 minutes of each lecture, leaving no space for the slides' file.

This has been a very expensive project, both in time and money. I sponsored it financially because I believe that many will be blessed by Paulien's fresh insights into Revelation. **The regular price of the DVD album is \$100.00, but you can order it now at the SPECIAL PRICE for only \$50.00. The price includes the airmailing expenses to any overseas destination.**

If you have not ordered before the **CD Album with Prof. Paulien's publications, we will be glad to add it to your DVD order for only \$20.00**, instead of the regular price of \$60.00. This means that you can order both the DVD album with Prof. Paulien's four live video lectures on Simply Revelation and his CD album with all his publications and the powerpoint slides of Simply Revelation, for only \$50.00, instead of the regular price of \$160.00.

As an additional incentive, I am offering you together with Prof. Paulien's DVD/CD albums, also my own popular **DVD album on *The Mark and Number of the Beast*, for an additional \$10.00, instead of the regular price of \$100.00.** This means that you can order the DVD and CD albums by Prof. Paulien, together with my DVD album on *The Mark and Number of the Beast*, for only \$70.00, instead of the regular price of \$260.00.

This research on *The Mark and Number of the Beast*, was commissioned by Prof. Paulien himself. He asked me to trace historically the origin and use of the Pope's title *Vicarius Filii Dei* and of the number 666. I spent five months conducting this investigation which was professionally taped at the Andrews University Towers Auditorium. I use 195 powerpoint slides to deliver this informative two hours lecture which has been warmly received by Adventist church leaders and pastors in many parts of the world. For a detailed description of this DVD album click: <http://www.biblicelperspectives.com/Beast/BeastPromo>

### **Special Offer on Prof. Paulien and Prof. Bacchiocchi's Albums:**

**\* ONE DVD Album of Prof. Paulien's four video lectures on Simply Revelation at the introductory price of \$50.00, instead of \$100.00.** The price includes the airmailing expenses to any overseas destination.

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\* **ONE DVD Album of *Simply Revelation* and ONE CD Album with Prof. Paulien's publications for only \$70.00**, instead of the regular price of \$160.00. The price includes the airmailing expenses to any overseas destination.

\* **ONE DVD Album of *Simply Revelation*, ONE CD Album with Prof. Paulien's publications, and ONE DVD Album with Bacchiocchi's two hours video lecture on The Mark and Number of the Beast for only \$80.00**, instead of the regular price of \$260.00. The price includes the airmailing expenses to any overseas destination.

**Four Ways to Order Prof. Paulien and Prof. Bacchiocchi's Albums:**

**(1) ONLINE:** By clicking here: <http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/revelation/>

**(2) PHONE:** By calling us at (269) 471-2915 to give us your credit card number and postal address.

**(3) EMAIL:** By emailing your order to <[sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives.com](mailto:sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives.com)>. Be sure to provide your postal address, credit card number, and expiration date.

**(4) REGULAR MAIL:** By mailing a check to BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES, 4990 Appian Way, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103, USA. We guarantee to process your order immediately.

**SPECIAL OFFER ON 12 DVD/CD ALBUMS FOR ONLY \$150.00, INSTEAD OF THE REGULAR PRICE OF \$1150.00**

This offer may sound too good to be true. At this time we are offering together as a package all the **12 DVD/CD albums we have recorded, for only \$150.00, instead of \$1150.00**. Until now these recordings were sold separately, costing considerably more. To make it possible for many to benefit from all these timely messages, I have decided to offer them together as a package **for only \$150.00, instead of the regular price of \$1150.00**.

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**The Package Includes the Following 12 Albums:**

**1) DVD Album with Sabbath Seminar with Words and Songs** recorded at the Avon Park SDA Church on November 16-17, 2007. The album contains three DVD disks with 6 hours of recordings.

**2) DVD and CD Album containing Cristina Piccardi's sacred songs.** The CD Album "Rejoice in the Lord" contains 11 songs. The DVD Album "Sing Unto the Lord" contains 10 songs.

**3) Prof. Jon Paulien's newly released DVD ALBUM video seminar on *Simply Revelation*.**

**4) Prof. Jon Paulien's CD ALBUM with a dozen of his books, and all his articles.**

**5) Prof. Graeme Bradford's DVD ALBUM with a two hours video lecture on Ellen White.** He shares the highlights of his book *More than a Prophet*. The album contains also Prof. Bradford's the publications and articles.

**6) Prof. Bacchiocchi's newly recorded DVD ALBUM called ABUNDANT LIFE SEMINAR.** The album contains 2 video powerpoint lectures: The Christian and Alcoholic Beverages and How to Build a Happy and Lasting Marriage. These two lectures summarize the highlights of Bacchiocchi's two books Wine in the Bible and The Marriage Covenant. Two separate files with 225 powerpoint slides are included.

**7) Prof. Bacchiocchi's DVD ALBUM containing 10 video powerpoint lectures on the Sabbath and Second Advent.** Some of the lectures show the documents Prof. Bacchiocchi found in Vatican libraries on the role of the papacy in changing the Sabbath to Sunday. This album contains the popular powerpoint SABBATH/ADVENT seminars Prof. Bacchiocchi presents in many countries.

**8) Prof. Bacchiocchi's DVD ALBUM on Cracking the Da Vinci Code.** The album contains a two hours video lecture, professionally taped with a virtual studio as a background. A separate file with 200 powerpoint slides is included.

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**9) Prof. Bacchiocchi's DVD ALBUM on The Mark and the Number of the Beast.** The album contains the two hours video lecture and a separate powerpoint file with the 200 slides used for the lecture.

**10) Prof. Bacchiocchi's CD ALBUM with all his books and powerpoint lectures.** The album consists of two disks. The first disk has all his 18 books and over 200 articles. The second disk has the slides and script of 25 of Prof. Bacchiocchi's popular PowerPoint presentations.

**11) Prof. Bacchiocchi's DVD ALBUM on The Passion of Christ.** The album contains the 2 hours live interview conducted by 3ABN on Prof. Bacchiocchi's book The Passion of Christ in Scripture and History.

**12) Prof. Bacchiocchi's MP3 AUDIO ALBUM which contains 2 disks** with 22 AUDIO lectures on vital biblical beliefs and practices. Ideal for listening in your car while driving.

You can see the picture of all the 12 ALBUMS and read a detailed description of them, just by clicking at this link:<http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/albumoffer.htm>

### **How to Order the Package of the 12 Albums:**

**You can order the complete package of 12 DVD/CD Albums for only \$150.00, instead of the regular price of \$1150.00, in four different ways:**

**(1) ONLINE:** By clicking here: <http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/albumoffer.htm>

**(2) PHONE:** By calling us at (269) 471-2915 to give us your credit card number and postal address.

**(3) EMAIL:** By emailing your order to <[sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives.com](mailto:sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives.com)>. Be sure to provide your postal address, credit card number, and expiration date. For security reasons, you can email your credit card number in two separate messages. In the first message you email me the first 8 digits and in the second message the last 8 digits, plus the expiration date. Be sure to include your postal address.

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**(4) REGULAR MAIL:** By mailing a check for \$150.00 to BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES, 4990 Appian Way, Berrien Springs, Michigan 4990, USA. We guarantee to process your order immediately.

## **HOW TO CONTACT THE CENTER FOR CANCER CARE IN GOSHEN, INDIANA THAT TREATED MY CANCER**

Two days following my 69th birthday, I learned that I had advanced-stage colon cancer requiring immediate surgery. Later I was told that the cancer had spread to the liver, infesting 90% of the organ and making its prognosis bleak. Several oncologists that I consulted, confirmed that I had Stage 4 terminal liver cancer, with only a few months to live. All what they could do was to prolong my life with chemotherapy for a few months or a year at best. No Cancer Center, including Loma Linda Cancer Center, had a clinical trial program for liver cancer. The impression I received is that nothing could be done to heal my cancer: I was doomed to die in a few months, at most a year.

Driven by my faith in God and optimistic attitude, I sought another opinion at the Center for Cancer Care in Goshen, Indiana, which is located only one hour away from Andrews University, where I live. Following a two-hour consultation with Dr. Seza Gulec (see the picture at my website by clicking <http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/goshen>), a pioneer in the field of nuclear oncology, I learned that my cancer was terminal but treatable with a combined strategy of chemotherapy and microsphere embolization - a treatment unavailable at most cancer centers. Within one month, the innovative treatment reduced the presence of liver cancer by almost 80% and decreased total tumor volume from 2435cc to 680cc. Within two months, two more treatments reduced my cancer by 95%.

Today I feel like a new man with a new lease on life. I feel like an old car with a decent looking body and a brand new motor. I have more energy than I have had earlier in my life. I can only thank God for His providential leading to the right place and for using the latest research to restore my health.

Click here to see the pictures of the various stages of my cancer: <http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/goshen>

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The Goshen Center for Cancer Care is one of the few treatment facilities in the world to offer this breakthrough technology primarily due to the commitment of Dr. Gulec. A world-renowned physician, Dr. Gulec has dedicated years to research and develop the combination therapy, which greatly increases survival rates in those with advanced types of cancer. He has also authored landmark publications in lymphatic mapping, sentinel node biopsy, radioguided surgery and radionuclide therapy. Dr. Gulec currently leads the endocrine surgery, hepatic oncology, molecular imaging and positron emission tomography programs at the Goshen Center for Cancer Care. To learn more about Dr. Seza Gulec click: <http://www.cancermidwest.com/main.asp?id=217>

Truly I can say that I believe that the Lord providentially placed me in contact with Dr. Gulec, who has done for me what appeared to be impossible. The Lord has used Dr. Gulec to give me a new lease on life. He is so proud of my recovery that he uses me as a show case at international nuclear oncological conferences. Now I feel like a new man energized to serve the Lord in a greater way in the sunset years of my life. Somehow I feel that I have more energy now than I had at 25 years of age.

**You can contact the CENTER FOR CANCER CARE in Goshen, Indiana in the following ways:**

**1) PHONE: (888) 491-4673**

**2) EMAIL: [sgulec@goshenhealth.com](mailto:sgulec@goshenhealth.com)**

**3) WEBSITES: <http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/goshen> or <http://www.cancermidwest.com/>**

## **INCREDIBLE NEW OFFERS ON HITACHI PROJECTORS**

HITACHI has released the new CP-X400 3000 lumens projector, which has an impressive high resolution, low fan noise, and a wealth of connectivity options. The most impressive feature of this projector is the incredible price of **only \$1395.00** to help especially our churches and schools in developing countries. The price includes a three years replacement warranty.

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**This is the special offer on the following two models:**

**CP-X400 HIGH RESOLUTION 3000 LUMENS - Only \$1395.00**

This is the lowest price for an HITACHI 3000 lumens projector.

**CP-X1250 HIGH RESOLUTION 4500 LUMENS Only \$3795.00**

Previous SDA price for the 4500 lumens was \$4900.00

**WARRANTY: The above prices include a 3 years 24/7 replacement warranty worth about \$285.00.**

You can order the HITACHI projectors online by clicking at this link: <http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/cart/catalog/index.php?cPath=24> If you have a problem ordering online, call us at (269) 471-2915. We will take your order by phone and process it immediately.

**THE SMALLEST & MOST POWERFUL REMOTE PRESENTER**

If you are looking for an outstanding REMOTE for your PowerPoint presentations, you will be pleased to know HONEYWELL has come out with the smallest and most powerful remote in the market.

The size of the transmitter is smaller than a credit card. You can stick it inside the palm of your hand and nobody can see it. I tested the remote in an open environment, and the radio signal can go up to 400 feet of distance. IT IS INCREDIBLE! The transmitter has three buttons: forward, backward, and laser.

You can order online the new POWERPOINT PRESENTER simply by clicking here: [http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/cart/catalog/product\\_info.php?cPath=27&products\\_id=67](http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/cart/catalog/product_info.php?cPath=27&products_id=67)

If you have a problem ordering online, simply call us at (269) 471-2915. We will take your order by phone. You can also email us your order at <[sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives.com](mailto:sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives.com)>, giving us your address, credit card number, and expiration date.

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**DOES YOUR CHURCH OR SCHOOL NEED A SCREEN?**

If your church/school is looking for a screen, the **DA-LITE SCREEN COMPANY**, the largest manufacture of screens in the world, has agreed to offer their line of screens to our Adventist churches and schools at about 30% discount.

The procedure is very simple. Visit the DA-LITE SCREEN COMPANY website at <http://www.da-lite.com>. You will see hundreds of models of screens with their respective prices. Once you find the screen that best suits your church, give us the model number by phone (269) 471-2915 or email your request <[sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives.com](mailto:sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives.com)> We will forward your order immediately to DA-LITE that will ship the screen directly to your address. You will receive the screen at about 30% discount.

**NEW VIDEO RECORDING ON THE SANCTUARY BY PROF. ROY GANE**

Few days ago Roy Gane, Ph. D., Prof. of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Languages at Andrews University Theological Seminary, made a video recording of four of his popular lectures on the sanctuary. You can see a preview of the recording on line by clicking at this link: <http://www.preludefilms.com/preview.html>

The DVD is distributed through a personal website that Roy Gane has set up. I was unable to sponsor the recording and distribution of this informative and timely DVD, simply because I do not have the time to take on additional responsibilities. But I promised that I would do my best to promote this timely recording. The title of the DVD album is Altar Call: Sacrifice, Sanctuary, and Salvation.

**Altar Call: Sacrifice, Sanctuary, and Salvation**

Altar Call is about God's plan to rescue us, as revealed in the services of His sanctuary. These fascinating services demonstrate His character of love, which includes both justice and mercy. They give us hope by revealing that God wants to dwell with us. They teach us how to interact with Him in order to receive the benefits of Christ's sacrifice. They show us how to get in touch with Jesus where He is working for us right now during the final phase of His ministry in the heavenly sanctuary.

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To many Christians, Christ's prolonged absence since He ascended to heaven is a mystery. But the Bible reveals that He is continuing to save us, and it invites us to get in touch with Him where He is now - in His sanctuary in heaven. By becoming acquainted with what He is doing in the control center of the universe, we can enjoy closer interaction with Him, more fully experience His transforming grace, and have confidence that we are at peace with God.

The DVD contains four 1 hour lectures by Roy E. Gane, Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Director of the Ph.D./Th.D. and M.Th. programs at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Born in Sydney, Australia, he graduated from Pacific Union College in 1977 with a B.A. in theology and a B.Mus. in piano performance. He completed his M.A. (1983) and Ph.D. (1992) in Hebrew language and literature at the University of California and taught in the Religion Department of Pacific Union College from 1992-94 before moving to Andrews University.

### **How to Order Altar Call: Sacrifice, Sanctuary, and Salvation**

Simply click: <http://preludefilms.com>

At a time when the sanctuary doctrine is being challenged within and without the Adventist Church, it is refreshing to see an outstanding Adventist scholar showing the biblical validity and relevance of this doctrine. I strongly encourage you to order this DVD album, simply by clicking at this link: <http://www.preludefilms.com/store.html>