



# JOURNAL OF THE ADVENTIST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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JOURNAL OF THE  
ADVENTIST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 3, Number 1, Spring 1992

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## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

### A Message from the ATS President

#### C. Raymond Holmes

The Adventist Theological Society has had four years of life, years characterized by organization, development, and consolidation. The Society's gratitude is due to past-presidents Dr. Jack Blanco, chair of the Religion Department at Southern College of Seventh-day Adventists, who served as president during the founding and organizational phase, and Dr. Gerhard Hasel, Director of the Ph.D. and Th.D. programs at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Andrews University, who served as president during the consolidation phase. Thanks is due also to many others who served in leadership roles during that time, in particular the editors and referees of publications.

Most prominently, we offer thanks to our Lord for the ways in which He has blessed the formation, growth, and influence of ATS. A brief review is appropriate.

#### GROWTH

ATS has enjoyed phenomenal membership growth in a short time, starting with a handful of interested parties in 1988. This rapid growth may lead to possible constitutional changes relative to organizational structure in order to implement a wider distribution of responsibility in a volunteer organization.

#### BROAD-BASED MEMBERSHIP

Some questions have been raised relative to the broad-based membership policy of ATS, which includes professionals in disciplines other than theology, as well as interested laity. It became apparent early in the organizational meetings that in order for an Adventist theological society to be truly *Adventist* it should have a broad base. The responsibility for the theological enterprise in the Seventh-day Adventist Church is not the prerogative of profes-

sional theologians alone, but a responsibility of the whole Church. The broad base reflects that Adventist principle.

## CHAPTERS

Currently chapters have been organized and are engaged in local activities, and I want to express my greetings to the members and leaders of each chapter. It is the fervent prayer of the general officers of ATS that the Lord will mightily bless the activities of these chapters as they conscientiously represent the ideals of ATS in affirming "our faithfulness to the Seventh-day Adventist Church" (*Constitution and Bylaws*, p. 4). The establishment of local chapters is encouraged, and interested parties may write for information and guidelines governing the organization and structure of such chapters.

## PUBLICATIONS

Since its inception ATS has viewed the production and distribution of theological literature as a major endeavor. Here again the Society has been blessed by the Lord with phenomenal growth and development within four short years. The production of theological literature has developed providentially along four lines: the twice yearly publication of the **Journal of the Adventist Theological Society (JATS)**, as well as **ATS Occasional Papers**, **ATS Monographs**, and the **ATS Dissertation Series**. See the tear-out order form for these publications at the back of this issue of **JATS**.

## INVITATION TO DIALOG

The formation of the Adventist Theological Society, and its publications, constitute an invitation to dialog. Volume 1 of **Adventist Theological Society Occasional Papers (ATSOP 1)**, "Issues in Revelation and Inspiration," is a dialogical response to the vital issue of biblical authority for Seventh-day Adventists and other Christians. Furthermore, ATS meetings, with the exception of business sessions, are open to all with opportunity for dialog.

## RECENT MEETINGS

The 1992 annual convention convened in Chan Hall, Loma Linda Academy, Loma Linda, California in April with "Salvation" as the theme. Attendance was phenomenal, the spirit of oneness and praise outstanding, and the presentations inspiring. Papers and addresses given at that meeting constitute the major contents of this and the next volume of **JATS**.

The 1992 Scholars Meeting will assemble in the Airport Hilton, San Francisco, California, November 19-20, followed by an ATS rally at the Pleasant Hills Church on Sabbath, November 21. The theme will be "Seventh-day Adventist Lifestyle."

## FUTURE

Where does the Adventist Theological Society go from here? The Society and its leadership must aggressively continue the momentum generated during the past four years with respect to: (1) Continued membership growth. It is not outside the realm of possibility for ATS to double its membership in 1993. May I encourage every member to function as a recruiter, inviting friends and acquaintances to attend general and chapter meetings. A nice gift to friends would be copies of **JATS** and other publications. (2) Broadening the international nature of the Society by establishing additional chapters around the world. (3) Continuing to produce and publish high quality, cutting-edge theological literature that will make a positive contribution to the message and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Pray that the Lord will employ ATS as one instrument in sparking a Spirit-inspired, Spirit-filled, Spirit-empowered revival of Adventist Christianity. Maranatha!

Yours, in the service of the Master,

C. Raymond Holmes

## THE PAST PRESIDENT'S PAGE

### A Message from the ATS Past President

Gerhard F. Hasel

It was my distinct privilege to serve as elected President of ATS for the last two years. They have flown by with end time rapidity. Our members know that the Constitution and Bylaws of ATS call for a change in President every two years. This is a wise and healthy procedure. Dr. C. Raymond Holmes, one of the co-founders of ATS and a colleague of mine in the teaching ministry at the Theological Seminary of Andrews University, began his two-year term as President on June 1, 1992. Ray, as we all call him, is a knowledgeable and informed person. Before he became a loyal and committed Seventh-day Adventist in the early seventies, he functioned as a pastor in the Lutheran Church. He knows what it means for a church to be drifting and to be reshaped by forces other than those based in Scripture with its Holy Spirit-provided revelation. He had served as Vice President until now and is succeeded in that office by E. Edward Zinke, a person who has served as a pastor and in the Biblical Research Institute of the General Conference before taking a leave of absence to further his education in theology. He supports himself now as a successful businessman while remaining active in all phases of theology. I wish both of them the unfailing support of heaven and of the officers, trustees, staff and members of ATS which I had the privilege to experience. Without the warm and close fellowship and the supportive association of fellow members of ATS the unimaginable undertakings of ATS would have been an impossibility. All praise, honor and glory belong to Him who is the inspiration, source and driving force of ATS, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

ATS is now well known around the globe on all levels of the Church and beyond. The Lord has blessed the continuing humble efforts of all officers and trustees, each of whom serve on a fully volunteer basis without any remuneration, the presenters of papers, the counselors and all the others who have been such dedi-

cated supporters of ATS. Highlights of ATS were the international conventions held in Keene, Texas, and in Loma Linda, California, in 1991 and 1992 respectively. Hundreds of people from all ranks of church life, General Conference, union conference, local conference leaders, ordained pastors and interns, educational, medical, and legal professionals, and huge numbers of interested lay members of our Church attended these international conventions. The next one will be held April 15-18, 1993, on the campus of Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan. In the meantime the so-called Scholars' Meeting will be held in San Francisco, California, at the Airport Hilton (in conjunction with other professional meetings) on November 19-20, 1992. Everyone is invited to attend all of these meetings. Time and again it is said that the superb fellowship and the spiritual uplift based on the solidity of the presentations made is second to none, revealing the genuine Adventist spirit at its best.

The readers of this **Journal**, now in its third year with its fifth publication (and the next issue scheduled to be published very shortly), gain some flavor of the quality of material presented since most of the presentations of both annual meetings are published in **JATS**. In the meantime ATS has begun an "Adventist Theological Society Monograph" series, an "Adventist Theological Society Occasional Papers" series, and an "Adventist Theological Society Dissertation" series. The first volumes of the first two series are published already and by the time this issue of **JATS** reaches our readers (see the advertisements on the last pages of this issue) the first volume of the "dissertation" series will have come off the press. These publications are available at moderate cost to anyone who wishes to receive them.

ATS receives numerous letters from readers who express their appreciation for what they see. We are unable to respond to them or to reproduce them. We are told, "How refreshing and satisfying to feel the 'pillars' firm under our feet" (lay member). **JATS** "is without doubt the most thought provoking, encouraging, and faith inspiring material I have read in recent times" (pastor). And we could go on and on. These and many other voluntary comments seem to indicate that the intellect and soul of many readers of **JATS** are fed. We trust that our Father in heaven will continue to attend

ATS with His divine blessings and that whatever is done will be done to the glory of God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours,

Gerhard F. Hasel

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## SALVATION AND FORGIVENESS

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### Introduction

Today is Easter Friday (April 17, 1992). It is also one of those rare occasions when Easter Friday in our Gregorian calendar coincides with the eve of Passover, the 14th day of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar. On this day, almost 2,000 years ago, in fact, at this very time of day (about the 9th hour, 3 p.m.), Jesus, hanging upon Golgotha's cross, cried out, "It is finished! Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." At this time, on this day, in A.D. 31, the antitypical Paschal lamb died.

The evening before, on Maundy Thursday, in the upper room, Jesus explained in advance the meaning of His death. "And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the [new] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins'" (Matt 26:27).

When the blood flowed from the Saviour's riven side, the new covenant was formally ratified. And the essence of the new covenant promise, according to Jesus (alluding to Jeremiah 31), is the forgiveness of sins.<sup>1</sup> Salvation and forgiveness is at the heart of what happened at the Cross.

**English Terminology.** When we speak of forgiveness, we could just as well be using any of several virtually-synonymous biblical terms: forgiveness, pardon, remission, or justification<sup>2</sup> (or closely related terms: reconciliation, covering, atonement, and propitiation). In an intriguing reference, E. G. White uses the three