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# JOURNAL OF THE ADVENTIST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Senior Dedication  
April 12, 1991  
Jack Blanco

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

A Message from the ATS President  
Gerhard F. Hasel

This third issue of the JOURNAL OF THE ADVENTIST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY is being sent not only to members of the SOCIETY but also to thousands of pastors and other leaders in the Seventh-day Adventist church as well.

If this is the first time you have seen a copy of the JOURNAL, we are happy to present you this complimentary copy. We trust you will find in it affirmation of sound Bible teachings, stimulation for your Adventist religious convictions, and deep spiritual blessings that will enhance your mission outreach to a world about to pass away in these dramatic last days.

Nearly every item in this issue was presented first to the International Convention of the Adventist Theological Society (ATS) held in Indianapolis, June 28-30, 1990, just prior to the General Conference session. This ATS convention was attended by more than 1,000 persons, including many church leaders, hundreds of ordained ministers and Bible teachers, and division, union, and local conference administrators, as well as physicians and dentists, scientists and researchers, lawyers and business persons, and still others.

You will probably find some of the articles easier to digest than others. Let me beg you to dig your teeth into the most challenging ones!

Because our JOURNAL is designed primarily to serve the members of our Society, you may expect it to reflect the convictions and goals of the Society and of its constituencies.

The Adventist Theological Society affirms the centrality of the cross of Jesus Christ, reaffirms the surety of the Word

of God in its entirety, confirms the Spirit of Prophecy as God's gift to the remnant, attempts to research revealed truth to its full depth, investigates unsettled questions, evaluates new approaches to truth from the perspective of confidence in divine revelation, provides dialogue and fellowship among persons with theological interest, upholds principles of sound interpretation of Scripture, prays for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our time, and upholds church leadership in prayer and with personal effort. ATS members support the Seventh-day Adventist church with their tithes and gifts, and by their influence.

The next annual International Convention of ATS is scheduled to meet at Southwestern Adventist College in Keene, Texas, March 7-10, 1991, addressing the area of "Salvation and End-time Prophecies." By invitation from the Southwestern Union Conference, this convention will be merged with the union's quinquennial Union Ministerial Meeting, expected to host 350 pastors from around the union. All ATS members and everyone else who is interested are invited to attend.

Our Society is pleased to serve our church in this capacity. And there are other projects as well that ATS is engaged in. Very recently, the Society had the honor of presenting a CD-ROM computer kit containing all the published writings of Ellen G. White (and costing over \$1000.00) to the new Seventh-day Adventist theological seminary in Russia. Thus our ministers in the Soviet Union will now have access to all the Spirit of Prophecy publications during their training period. We hope that under God's blessing people will be impressed to provide funds for additional Ellen G. White CD-ROM computer kits for needy seminaries around the world.

We are also very happy to announce that through God's special blessing over the past six months, donors have been impressed to contribute \$38,000 to our Society to assist in the purchase or construction of a Seventh-day Adventist seminary

building in or near Prague, Czechoslovakia. The seminary began to function by faith in October, 1990, as an institution without a building. Impressed by this display of courage and by the unique opportunities available just now in Eastern Europe, the ATS Executive Committee pledged to attempt to raise the basic, Western (hard) currency required to get a building program off the ground.

Another major ATS project is a scholarship fund, recently established, to help qualified students from around the world engage in doctoral studies in religion. The needs are immense. Our official church budgets are simply unable to keep up with the expense of educating dedicated persons to serve the seminaries and college religion departments among our rapidly growing world membership. We earnestly encourage donations large and small to this important fund.

We are also looking for funding to provide publications on significant topics of relevance to Seventh-day Adventists.

We invite you to participate in our projects. Because ATS is duly registered as a non-profit corporation, all gifts to it qualify as tax-deductible under IRS regulations.

Regional chapters of ATS have been established in the United States, Europe, and Africa, and requests are coming in for the establishment of others. At the invitation of the Indiana Conference and several local congregations, the Midwest chapter conducted a weekend series on Jan 25-27, 1991, at the Indiana Conference campsite. Topics of great relevance to our faith were presented in an atmosphere of study and prayer.

As President of the Society, I wish to thank every one who has provided and will provide financial support for ATS projects. A big "thank you" goes also to those who have assumed leadership roles in the Society and in its chapters, helping it indispensably to fulfill its mission.

Everyone who is interested in becoming a subscriber—or, better yet, who is desiring to become a member of ATS—will find a tear-out sheet at the end of this copy of the JOURNAL.



Please fill it out, indicate your interest, and mail it to us as soon as possible. As is the case with most professional societies, the process of membership in ATS is designed to protect the Society's goals and purposes. Members of ATS include religion teachers, pastors, administrators, business people, medical and legal professionals, local elders, lay persons of many kinds, students, and retirees. The annual membership fee is \$25 (\$35 for husband and wife, \$10 for students or retirees). You will receive each year two issues of the JOURNAL and two Newsletters. Membership entitles a person to full participation in all international and local Society events, including participation in the business sessions. Let us receive your tear-out sheet soon.

Our mission statement affirms that the Adventist Theological Society is "centrist" in outlook. The challenge facing the Seventh-day Adventist movement today to remain a united movement, on track for the Lord, is intense. May God help His remnant church carry its true message to all the world and thus hasten the coming of Christ on the clouds.

We greatly appreciate the kind words of greeting, encouragement, and support extended to the Society and its members, for publication in this issue of the JOURNAL, by Elder Robert S. Folkenberg, President of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. May the Lord Jesus Christ abundantly bless Elder Folkenberg and his fellow leaders in their heavy responsibilities.

Let us continue to be united with our leaders in earnest prayer and common interests, so the Lord can be glorified and His work can be strengthened.

All praise be to God for the achievements of our Society thus far.

Yours cordially in Christ,

Gerhard F. Hasel



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

General Conference of

**Seventh-day Adventists**

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January 22, 1991

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

From our beginnings Seventh-day Adventists have maintained loyalty to the Scriptures as a hallmark of our movement. They are taken not only as good counsel but messages from God spoken with authority.

I am pleased to extend greetings to the Adventist Theological Society—a group dedicated to searching the Scriptures in pursuit of a deeper grasp of God's message. In a time when theological confusion is rampant in the Christian world and secular values compete for the loyalties of people everywhere, it is important that Adventists maintain and extend their loyalty to Christ, who as the Word of God is most fully revealed in the Written Word.

My commendation is due as well for the journal you are publishing. Although this project is relatively new, already it has provided for us a number of well-written articles on important subjects.

May the Holy Spirit encourage you in seeking His message as we prepare for the return of Jesus.

Your brother in Christ,

Robert S. Folkenberg

/dw