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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

A Message from the ATS President

C. Raymond Holmes

First a word about this issue of the *Journal of the Adventist Theological Society (JATS)*, and then a word about the next annual international convention.

1. The *Adventist Theological Society (ATS)* is pleased to place in your hands this special edition. Together with the previous edition, Vol. 3, No. 1, the focus is on the great and broad Biblical doctrine of salvation and features papers presented at the International Convention of ATS held at Loma Linda, California, in April 1992. Both issues explore the way of salvation in Scripture. As planning for the 1992 Convention progressed it was felt that perhaps the time has come to talk about salvation, how to get saved and stay saved.

The previous edition contained articles such as "Salvation and Forgiveness" by Richard M. Davidson, "Salvation and the Atonement" by Hans K. LaRondelle, "A Love Affair with the Law" by Siegfried Herman A. Roeske, "A Look at the Larger View of Calvary" by Norman R. Gulley, and "Salvation and the Sanctuary" by George W. Reid.

In this edition Mario Veloso reminds us that salvation is not just personal, it involves mission in the time of the end. This obligates the Seventh-day Adventist Church to preach the pre-Advent judgment as well as Calvary. Gerhard Hasel discusses the human need for salvation in relation to the fall of man and the necessity for a substitutionary Savior, and critiques the moral influence theory of atonement. Angel M. Rodriguez enlarges on the subject of salvation by sacrificial substitution as it is taught harmoniously in both Old and New Testaments. He concludes that Christ's substitutionary sacrifice was more than simply a revelation of love, He took our place and was made sin for us (2 Cor 5:19-20).

The relationship between salvation and obedience is the focus

of Jack Blanco's article. One who is saved by Christ is set free to obey Christ by the power of Christ. Mervyn G. Hardinge reminds us that while good health will not assure us of salvation, it will help us to think more clearly and hear the Word of God more surely. The Good News concerning atonement and salvation empowers the Good Life. E. Edward Zinke shares his personal intellectual journey through human reason, through the historical-critical approach to Scripture, neo-orthodoxy, and humanism, to righteousness by grace through faith in Christ and a renewed understanding of *sola scriptura*. Leo R. Van Dolson tells us that our Lord Jesus Christ is not only our substitutionary Savior but our Forerunner, Mediator, Advocate, and Intercessor in the heavenly sanctuary where the work of atonement and salvation is being completed prior to the return of our Lord.

As Herman Melville put it, "the pulpit is ever this earth's foremost part; all the rest comes in its rear; the pulpit leads the world. From thence it is the storm of God's quick wrath is first descried, and the bow must bear the earliest brunt. From thence it is the God of breezes fair or foul is first invoked for favorable winds. Yes, the world's a ship on its passage out, and not a voyage complete; and the pulpit is its prow." So the sermon in this issue puts the whole matter of salvation into the pulpit where it rightfully belongs.

These two issues of *JATS* are commended to your prayerful study. May they be used by the Holy Spirit to build faith in, and revival of submission to, the historic Adventist understanding of the way of salvation.

2. The 1993 International Convention of ATS will convene April 15-16-17 in Berrien Springs, Michigan, developing the theme "Seventh-day Adventist Theological Methodology." What is unique about the way Adventists go about the theological enterprise? Have we been drifting from our own great theological heritage, or are we still on course? Presentations will focus on practical application of Adventist theological thought to the life of discipleship.

The Thursday evening and Friday sessions will meet in the University Towers on the campus of Andrews University, and the Sabbath session will meet at the Village Church. Preaching during the Sabbath worship service will be Elder Robert Carter, President

of the Lake Union Conference. More details, including lodging information, will appear in the spring edition of the *Newsletter*. I would like to extend my personal invitation to ATS members, and others, to attend.

The annual business meeting of ATS will be held on Sunday morning. A major item on the agenda will be the amendments to the Constitution, a copy of which was mailed to the membership with the last *Newsletter*. As this will be an important business session, members are urged to stay by.

For some time repeated requests have been made by various entities and sources for *JATS* to be published also in several other major languages. These urgent requests could not fall on deaf ears. ATS is, therefore, giving consideration to preparing some issues of *JATS* in other languages.

May the Lord richly bless the global strategy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and ATS as it seeks to serve the Church in the completion of its mission.

Yours, in the service of the Master,
C. Raymond Holmes

DEAR READER:

Many readers may see this *Journal* for the first time. You will belong to this group, if you are not a member of the *Adventist Theological Society (ATS)* or a subscriber of the *Journal of the Adventist Theological Society (JATS)* (please consider becoming a subscriber, using the form on the last page of this issue). This is your free, complimentary copy. (Should you receive more than one copy, please give the extra copy to a friend).

We sincerely hope that you will enjoy reading this issue of *JATS*, find a spiritual blessing in its pages, have your faith strengthened as a committed believer in our Lord Jesus Christ, and share the Good News of salvation in and through Jesus Christ in this end-time of the world with others.

ATS was established in 1988 by Adventist Bible teachers and other Adventist thought leaders as a "centrist" professional society. Members of *ATS* come from all walks of life such as teachers and students, laymembers, local elders and SS teachers, church pastors and administrators, physicians, dentists and other professionals, scientists and researchers, homemakers and retirees, indeed a true cross-section of the Adventist Church. Membership in *ATS* is by application or invitation, followed by endorse-

ment and a signed membership affirmation, and subsequent committee action. *ATS* invites you to consider membership (please use the form on the last page of this issue).

ATS affirms the centrality of the cross of Jesus Christ, reaffirms the surety of the Bible as the Word of God, confirms the Spirit of Prophecy as God's gift to the remnant, attempts to research revealed truth to its full depth, investigates new questions, evaluates innovative approaches to truth from the perspective of confidence in divine revelation, provides dialogue and fellowship in matters of faith, upholds principles of sound interpretation of Scripture, prays for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our time, upholds Adventist church leadership in prayer and with personal effort, and supports the SDA Church with their tithes and gifts, and their influence.

ATS projects include two annual conventions. Previous international conventions were held at the Mid-America Union Conference headquarters in Lincoln, NE (1989), prior to the General Conference in Indianapolis, IN (1990), at Southwestern Adventist College in Keene, TX (1991), in Loma Linda, CA (1992) and the next International *ATS* Convention will be held at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI (April 15-17, 1993). Among the speakers were, and will continue to be, the finest Adventist thought leaders from General conference and Union and local conference levels as well as from various Adventist institutions of higher learning.

ATS donors have provided \$38,000 to assist in the purchase and construction of a new SDA Theological Seminary near Prague, Czechoslovakia, \$3,000 for three CD-ROM computer kits which include all published E. G. White writings for our seminaries in Russia, Romania and Nigeria, West-Africa, and scholarship funds for qualified students to engage in doctoral studies in religion. Aside from publishing *JATS* twice each year as well as newsletters, *ATS* has published three books so far (see the advertisements at the end of this issue) in three different series which have been inaugurated within the last year. You are invited to participate in our projects. All gifts are tax-deductible under IRS regulations, because *ATS* is a duly registered non-profit entity.

ATS seeks to follow the Spirit of Prophecy counsel to "pull together." The platform for this pulling together to the center of the Adventist message and mission is Scripture as the Word of God in its entirety, supported by the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy, the "lesser light" that illumines the greater one.

Let us continue to be united in our biblical faith, the Three Angels' message and mission with our dedicated leaders for the glory and honor of our Lord, the soon-coming Savior.

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SALVATION AND THE ADVENTIST FAITH AND MISSION*

By Mario Veloso

Associate Secretary

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Since I will speak about the Adventist understanding of salvation, faith, and mission, I will select eschatological texts in the books of Daniel and Revelation, where the church of the end is clearly referred to. Our subject will be reviewed under three headings: (1) Salvation in the time of the end. (2) Salvation and faith in the end time. And (3) Salvation and mission in the time of the end.

Salvation in the Time of the End

The major texts for our study are Revelation 12 where salvation means victory over the dragon in the great satanic war against Christ and his followers; Revelation 7 where salvation means victory over the wind-war that blows over the earth after the sixth seal; and Revelation 19 where salvation means victory over the great harlot which the Lord our God will judge and condemn in the pre-advent judgment.

Victory Over the Dragon. In Revelation 12 we find the account of the great controversy between Michael and the dragon, between the Son of God and Satan. The war broke out in heaven,¹ then continued on earth² against the woman-church. Finally, the dragon makes war with the remnant.³

In the middle of the war, a loud voice from heaven says: "Now