

FROM PASTOR KEN'S DESK



Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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January 12, 2009

Website:

The Four Winds Within America:

Part 2: The Second Wind- Prophecy

Revivals brought in its wake unprecedented interest in prophecy: Scholars everywhere had been calling this period the ' *Time of the End*' while preachers declared that they were seeing Daniel 12 being fulfilled before their very eyes. World leaders- men of intellect, wisdom and understanding- searched the scriptures for the signs of the times.

Dr. Nott, President of Union College, Schenectady, NY and also President of the General Assembly of Presbyterian Churches in North America, read in his sermon on May 19, 1806 about the three angels of Revelation 14. He declared, "The six thousand years of Satan's triumph is almost over. Christ is about to return." He pointed to the 1260 year prophecy and noted that the "Kingdom of Saints that will reign forever stands before us."

Dr. Joshua Wilson, Moderator of the General Assembly of Presbyterian Churches (equivalent to GC president) preached a series called "The Sanctuary Cleansed" based on Daniel 8:14.

He said "That sanctuary means the church of Christ on earth. Her purification will take place at the time appointed by Jehovah, approximately 1847."

Alexander Campbell was a dynamic speaker and founder of Bethany College in Virginia. In 1827, he was excluded from fellowship with Baptists because he believed in an imminent millennium. Therefore, he founded a new denomination of like minded students of prophecy called the "Disciples of Christ." He studied the 2300 day prophecy of Daniel 8 and concluded that the end would be in 1847AD.

Harriet Livermore was a fascinating figure, an author and a fiery preacher who travelled around the world. She was the first woman to ever speak in Congress and she was a firm believer in the Second Advent. Her study placed it somewhere between 1843 and 1847, but by 1831 she had revised her view, placing it solidly on 1843.

Interest in prophecy was widespread, covering all denominational groups. Many early presidents of different colleges such as Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Queens and Bacon, were ardent students of prophecy. During the first 20 years of the 19th century, more than 75 authors scattered over 12 nations on four continents, and prior to William Miller's first book, propagated the close of the 2300 years and the beginning of the millennium. Over time, 38 of those 75 writers designated the date of the cleansing of the sanctuary as 1843 or 1844. Thirty more of the seventy-five authors set the date as 1847.

Joseph Wolff, that great orator, was an ardent Episcopal missionary and was a herald of the Second Advent. He taught that, based on his study and research, the 2300 year prophecy would end in 1847. He stressed the signs of Matthew 24. John Quincy Adams opened the House of Representatives to Wolff allowing him to speak to the government and in a later statement said it was the most profound, closely reasoned and convincing addresses he had ever heard on the Second Advent. As a result, he instituted a National Day of Fasting and Prayer for the country.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Mexico, from his own study, came to the conclusion that the prophecy of the 2300 days was to end in 1843 and Christ would come.

William Miller was a late comer to the scene, for by the time he began to speak, there were by estimates almost 20% of the population now anticipating some momentous event in the next decade. Across the nation, there were passionate debates over the millennium. The torch of true Christianity, now lost in Europe, had been taken up by America as the last bastion of true religious freedom. By the turn of the 20th Century, there flowed out from America Bibles, Bible Workers and missionaries. The single largest export from the United States and Canada were the missionaries and the start of missions around the world. It was the age of Ephesus, first love.

Next Week: **Part 3: The Third Wind- Counter Revival**

Blessings, Ken Crawford

