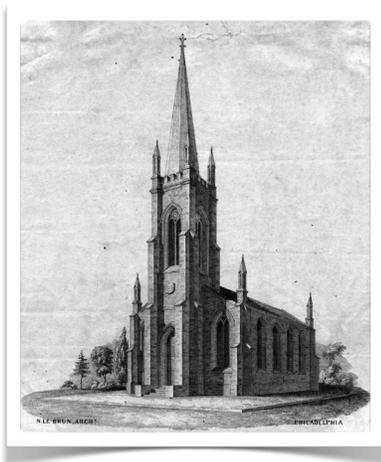


# BEREAN SPIRIT

“... they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”  
*(Acts 17:10-11)*

## PHILADELPHIA OR LAODICEA?

by David Clayton



**THE SDA CHURCH AND LAODICEA**

One of the things that is early engraved in the mind of every Seventh Day Adventist, is the thought that Laodicea is God’s church of the last days. As soon as a person joins the Seventh Day Adventist church, he is made to understand that the Seventh Day Adventist church is represented by the seventh of the seven churches mentioned in Revelation chapters 2 and 3, the Laodicean Church. It is not difficult to support this claim, because there are many statements in the writings of Ellen White, which state that the church is in a Laodicean condition, and in which the Seventh Day Adventist church is identified as Laodicea.

In Adventist thinking the seven churches in Revelation are understood

to indicate seven chronological stages in the history of the Christian church. That is the way it is explained. The churches are Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

It is believed, that Ephesus covered the apostolic era from the time of Jesus, until the time of the death of the last apostle about A. D. 100. Smyrna would cover from about A. D. 100, to A. D. 313, and Pergamos would go from about 313 to about 538 when the papacy was fully established as a dominant power. Thyatira would span the period of papal supremacy, from 538 to about 1517, when the Protestant reformation began under Martin Luther, and Sardis would cover the Protestant period, from about 1517 to about 1833, when the great second Advent movement began under William Miller. The Philadelphian period, continued from the time that William Miller started to preach in 1833, until about sometime in the 1840’s when the Seventh Day Adventist church began. The Seventh Day Adventist church, would be from the eighteen forties until the coming of Jesus, which is the Laodicean period.

This is the way it is explained, and if this is the way you understand the interpretation of the seven churches, then logically if you want to be saved and be a part of God’s program in the

last days, then you will have to be in the Laodicean, church. Likewise, if you accept that the Seventh Day Adventist church is the Laodicean church, then the natural conclusion is that you have to be a member of this church in order to be saved.

This is the kind of thinking, that has led to statements like the following, which were taken from the Adventist Review, published a few years ago:

“It (the S. D. A church) is God’s created, appointed, and only means for the salvation of sinners.”

“... It is the gate of heaven for the sin sick soul. ... No one pretends that God’s church is blameless, or that it has no fault, but it is God’s church and all should stand back and let God deal with his possession.” *Review, February 1995, page 2 (Inter-American edition)*

“Many have been tempted to doubt our remnant status or special calling.

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## Coming Home Ministry

Wenatchee area, WA, USA

**Berean Spirit** is dedicated to the promotion and restoration of all Bible truths and principles that God has given to His church, especially for the last days of this Earth's history.

Our purpose is to share articles and studies about Bible truths and health to help motivate the readers to be prepared for the coming of the Lord.

*Berean Spirit* is published quarterly, and sent free of cost to all who desire to receive it.

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They are making a mistake that may last for eternity. Inspiration tells us, that God will carry the noble ship which bears the people of God safely into port, and that to enter any new organization would mean apostasy. Scripture is clear. God has established a remnant church for these last days. Corporately, No other church body fits the description but ours, which alone has been given his present truth message." *Review, Sept. 1994, page 7*

This is the kind of thinking that stems from the idea, that the S. D. A church is Laodicea, which is God's true church in the last days.

### A SEQUENTIAL ORDER?

Let us now examine this idea of Laodicea being the last church. Everything hangs upon the question of whether or not; those seven churches in

Revelation are intended to represent a sequential order in the history of God's true church on the earth. When Smyrna comes on the scene, is Ephesus already gone? Does Pergamos take the place of Smyrna, and in our time, When Laodicea comes on the scene, does Philadelphia cease to exist? Is Laodicea the only church of the seven remaining today? This is the popular belief of Seventh-day Adventism.

Let us consider a few pertinent points. First of all, Revelation is a book that is primarily applicable to the end time. Its focus is primarily to that period of time that the Bible calls "the day of the Lord," when God will begin, once again, to mightily intervene in the affairs of men. It is very clear that Revelation's emphasis is on the time of the last great crisis, when we will have the development of those who receive the mark of the beast, and those who receive the seal of the living God.

In Revelation 1:11, Jesus is speaking. John says he hears a great voice, which says, "*I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia, unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.*" Notice that the message is applicable to all seven churches, and was sent to all seven of them. Notice furthermore, that all of these seven churches existed at the same time, and even in the same basic geographic area of the world. They all existed in Asia.

### ANOTHER INTERPRETATION

Is it possible that there is another interpretation of these seven churches? Seven is a symbol of completeness. Do these churches represent God's complete church in the world in the end time? Notice that the lamb in Revelation 5 has

seven horns on His head, but it doesn't mean that there are seven stages in the power of Jesus, but rather, that He has complete power. Can it be that the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3, really represent the entire Christian church in the world in the time of the end? It is interesting to notice that Jesus mentions his coming, to at least three of the last four churches. He mentions his coming in such a way, that it seems to indicate that these churches will be around at the time when He returns.

### EXISTING AT CHRIST'S RETURN

In Revelation 2, v. 24, 25, Jesus says,

"But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come." (*Revelation 2:24, 25*)

If Jesus says, "*hold fast till I come*", it seems to indicate very clearly, that whomever he is talking to, is going to be around at the moment when he comes. He doesn't say (like he says to the people of Smyrna), "*be thou faithful unto death*" but "*hold fast till I come*". The people of Smyrna will die, but the people of Thyatira to whom He is speaking will be around when He returns, because he says, "*hold fast till I come.*"

Next, He says to Sardis in Revelation 3:3,

"Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." (*Revelation 3:3*)

Again, this is very interesting. We have always said, that Sardis represents

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# What's Wrong with Modern Wheat?



*We would like to emphasize at the beginning of this article that we are not suggesting cutting all grains and gluten from the diet. We just want to bring to the reader's attention the truth about **modern wheat** and encourage everybody to research, to study this subject and to make sensible life-style choices.*

The world's most popular grain is also the deadliest for the human metabolism. Modern wheat isn't really wheat at all and is a "perfect, chronic poison," according to **Dr. William Davis**, cardiologist and author of *Wheat Belly: Lose the Wheat, Lose the Weight, and Find Your Path Back to Health*.

Approximately 700 million tons of wheat are now cultivated worldwide making it the second most-produced grain after maize. It is grown on more land area than any other commercial crop and is considered a staple food for humans.

At some point in our history, this ancient grain was nutritious in some respects, however modern wheat really isn't wheat at all. Clearfield Wheat, grown on nearly 1 million acres in the Pacific Northwest, was created in a geneticist's lab by exposing wheat seeds and embryos to the mutation-inducing industrial toxin sodium azide, a substance poisonous to humans and

known for exploding when mishandled, says Dr. Davis. This hybridized wheat doesn't survive in the wild, and most farmers rely on toxic chemical fertilizers and pesticides to keep the crops alive. (It's important to note, however, that the intensive breeding efforts that have so dramatically transformed wheat should not be confused with genetic engineering of food, or GMOs.) All nutrient content of modern wheat depreciated more than 30% in its natural unrefined state compared to its ancestral genetic line. The balance and ratio that God created for wheat was also modified and human digestion and physiology could simply not adapt quick enough to the changes.

Davis said that the wheat we eat these days isn't the wheat your grandma had: "It's an 18-inch tall plant created by genetic research in the '60s and '70s." "This thing has many new features nobody told you about, such as there's a new protein in this thing called gliadin. It's not gluten. I'm not addressing people with gluten sensitivities and celiac disease. I'm talking about everybody else because everybody else is susceptible to the gliadin protein that is an opiate. This thing binds into the opiate receptors in your brain and in most people stimulates appetite, such that we consume 440 more calories per day, 365 days per year."

The appetite-stimulating properties of modern wheat most likely occurred as an accidental by-product of largely unregulated plant breeding methods, Dr. Davis explains. But he charges that it's impact on inflammatory diseases may have something to do with the fact that, in the past 15 years, it's been showing up in more and more processed foods. Wheat ingredients are now found

in candy, lunch meats, soy sauce, and even wine coolers.

As if making you hungrier wasn't enough, early evidence suggests that modern wheat's new biochemical code causes hormone disruption that is linked to diabetes and obesity. "It is not my contention that it is in everyone's best interest to cut back on wheat; it is my belief that complete elimination is in everyone's best health interests," says Dr. Davis, "In my view, that's how bad this thing called 'wheat' has become."

## THE NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF WHEAT IS PRACTICALLY NON-EXISTENT IN ITS CURRENT FORM

So-called health experts in nutrition who continue to promote the health benefits of wheat are extremely uninformed about the nature of modern wheat and its evolution from growth to consumption. It is shocking how many professionals in public health still recommend wheat products without an assessment of their individual requirements, especially considering the amount of evidence regarding its lack of nutrition and health risks for proportionally large segments of the population.

The majority of wheat is processed into 60% extraction, bleached white flour. 60% extraction—the standard for most wheat products means that 40% of the original wheat grain is removed. So not only do we have an unhealthier, modified, and hybridized strain of wheat, we also remove and further degrade its nutritional value by processing it. Unfortunately, the 40% that gets removed includes the bran and the germ of the wheat grain—its most nutrient-rich

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**"Philadelphia or Laodicea?"***Continued from page 2*

the Protestant churches. Now Jesus says to the Sardis Christians, *"I will come on you as a thief if you will not watch."* Every time in the Scriptures that Jesus' coming has been compared to the coming of a thief, it has been in connection with His second coming. In 2 Peter 3:10, it says: *"But the day of the Lord shall come as a thief in the night."* Again in 1 Thessalonians 5:2, it says: *"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night."* It also says in verse 4. *"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief."* In Matthew 24, Jesus says:

*"But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up."* (Matthew 24:43)

So he instructs us to watch for his return as for a thief's coming.

In this message to Sardis then, in Revelation 3:3, Jesus' reference to coming upon Sardis like a thief, is clearly referring to his second coming. The church that He is speaking about, is a church that is going to be around when Jesus comes, but it will be a church that will be taken by surprise.

Now let us notice something very interesting about the message to Philadelphia. After Thyatira, there is Sardis, then Philadelphia. Philadelphia is accepted by all Adventists, as representing the period of the great awakening, from the time of the Millerite movement, to the early stages of the Seventh Day Adventist church.

Philadelphia means brotherly love, and those who lived at that time described that movement as being char-

acterized by great brotherly love, great affection for one another and a great zeal for the cause of God. In fact, Ellen White says that it was the greatest awakening since the time of the apostles. That is a strong statement, but I suppose only those who lived through it could ever understand what it was really like. She implies that it was greater even than the Protestant reformation.

Notice that in Revelation 3:11, Jesus says to Philadelphia: *"Behold I come quickly, hold that fast which thou hast that no man take thy crown."* So we see, that Jesus mentions his coming to the church of Philadelphia also. He says: *"I come quickly, hold fast that which thou hast."* Clearly, again, this must be a message that applies to people who are alive. It cannot be a message that applies to those who are dead. What would the statement here, *"Behold I come quickly,"* mean to a person who is dead?

For all the people who died from the days of Adam down to the very last Christian who will die on this earth, the time that passes from the time of their death to the coming of Jesus will appear to have been very brief. Adam died over five thousand years ago, but when he comes back to life on the resurrection morning, it will seem to have been just a moment. The same thing will happen to me if I die today. It will seem to be just a moment, and I won't know about the passing of all those years that pass while I sleep. So, when Jesus says, *"Behold I come quickly"* he must be talking to people who are able to see that the time is passing quickly. It will mean nothing to a Christian who dies. So Philadelphia clearly is a church that is around at the time when Jesus comes again. We will see this very clearly in just a moment.

Does this mean that the historical interpretation of these churches is false? The truth is that when we examine the

seven churches carefully, they really do seem to fit into that historical pattern. Can it be that there is more than one angle from which we should view this prophecy?

During the period of Catholic supremacy, we have the Thyatira period. Then came the Sardis period when the reformation began. But when Sardis began, did the Roman Catholic Church come to an end? When the Protestant reformation began, did it mean that all of a sudden there were no more Christians in the Roman Catholic Church? Are there Christians in the Roman Catholic Church today? Did the Roman Catholic Church come to an end as soon as the Protestant church started, or did Protestantism and Catholicism continue side by side? The truth is, that they continued side by side, and even today, Catholicism and Protestantism continue in the same way.

The same thing happened at the time of the great Advent awakening movement in 1833. When this movement began, Adventists began to preach, and the Protestant churches suffered a moral fall. Does it mean then that there were no more Christians in these churches? Ellen White herself says that the majority of God's people are still in the churches that we call Babylon.

So here we had the Advent movement, the Protestant churches and the Catholic Church, Three church groups existing together side by side, with God's people being in each of these three churches. The majority of God's people at this time were inside the Advent movement, but God still had people in the Protestant churches and the Catholic Church.

**A FAULTLESS CHURCH**

Out of the last church, will come the 144,000, a people who are perfect, without fault or spot, without wrinkle

or blemish or any such thing (Revelation 14:5). In the last generation, God will perfect a people who will experience the completeness of the atonement.

There are only two churches among the seven that could be described as perfect. These are the two churches with which Jesus finds no fault. They are, Smyrna and Philadelphia. Smyrna seems to be a church of martyrs, because one of the things that Jesus says to Smyrna, is, *“Be thou faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of life.”* He speaks about Smyrna suffering tribulation for ten days, and counsels, *“Be thou faithful unto death.”* For Philadelphia also, Jesus has only commendation. There is not a single word of rebuke for Philadelphia, and at the end he says: *“Hold fast what you have.”* He even says to Philadelphia: *“You have kept the words of my patience.”* Bear in mind, that only the 144,000 will be a perfect people.

In contrast, there are two churches in which Jesus can find nothing good. One of them is Sardis. The best thing that Jesus can find to say about Sardis, is that there are some in Sardis who have not defiled their garments. *“And they shall walk with me in white for they are worthy.”* But to Sardis, generally what he says is this, *“You have a name that you live, but you are dead. Awake and strengthen the things that remain that are ready to die.”* But even in Sardis, he finds a few who have not defiled their garments.

The other church of which He can say nothing good, is Laodicea. We have been taught to believe that Laodicea is God’s end time church. The church that will be perfect, the one that will produce the 144,000, and which will be without spot, wrinkle or blemish, but Laodicea is the church in which Jesus can find nothing good. In fact, he says very clearly to Laodicea, *“I will spew thee out of my mouth”* (Revelation 3:16). Why does he

say this to a church if that church is going to be perfect? If this church is the church of the 144,000, why does Jesus say, *“I will spew you out of my mouth, because you are lukewarm?”* The best thing he can find to say to Laodicea is, *“I counsel you.”* He has counseled, but there is no prophetic word or indication that Laodicea ever comes into the favour of Christ.

But here is another question. Laodicea has become synonymous with the idea of lukewarmness. If you say somebody is Laodicean, what you actually mean, is that the person is lukewarm, lethargic, self righteous, not zealous in his Christianity. If somebody is in the Laodicean state or condition and this person repents, he is no longer lukewarm; he is now a hot Christian. Can this person be said to be Laodicean? Is it ever possible for the Laodicean church, the Laodicean condition to become a hot, vibrant, living Christian church? Laodicea will always represent that which is about to be spewed out of the mouth of Christ.

### PHILADELPHIA AND THE 144,000

In actual fact, there is compelling evidence to indicate that God’s remnant church in the last days, is not Laodicea, But actually Philadelphia! How do we come to that conclusion? There is much evidence in the writings of Ellen White and in the Bible, which supports this conclusion. Let us examine some of this evidence.

In Revelation 3:12, Philadelphia is told,

“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.” (Revelation 3:12)

Notice that the Philadelphians will have three things written on them.

- (1) The name of God,
- (2) the name of the new Jerusalem
- (3) Jesus’ new name.

In the book, *Early Writings*, on page 15, and in the little booklet, *A Word To The Little Flock*, also on page 15, here is what E. G. White wrote:

“The 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united. On their forehead was written, God, New Jerusalem and a glorious star containing Jesus’ new name.”

These are the same exact things that Jesus promised to the Philadelphians.

So the 144,000 as well as the Philadelphia church each have the words, “God, New Jerusalem,” and Jesus’ new name written on them. This suggests that they are the same people. But here is more compelling evidence. In Revelation 3:12, Jesus says *“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out. ...”* Again, he is talking to the Philadelphia church. *“He will become a pillar in the temple of my God.”* Jesus says of the 144,000 in Revelation 7:15, that they will serve God day and night in his temple. If the 144,000 serve God day and night in his temple, and according to Revelation 3:12, Philadelphia will be made pillars in the temple of God; it seems to suggest again that they are the same people.

In *Early Writings*, on page 19, Ellen White says, speaking of herself and the 144,000,

“as we were about to enter the holy temple, Jesus raised his lovely voice and said: “only the 144,000 enter this place,” and we shouted “hallelujah!”

So clearly then, only the 144,000 can enter the temple of God, and as we see in Revelation 3:12, it is the Phila-

dolphians that will be made pillars in God's temple. She says again on the same page, "I saw there tables of stone in which the names of the 144,000 were engraved in letters of gold." So it is very clear that the 144,000 are the people who will have the privilege of serving God in his temple, of being made pillars in his temple, of entering that temple and of having their names engraved in letters of gold. The same things which apply to the 144,000, also apply to the Philadelphians. Clearly, they are the same people.

There is more evidence however. Let us now move on to Revelation 3:9. Jesus is again speaking to the Philadelphians. He says:

"Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee." (*Revelation 3:9*)

Jesus says first of all that there is a group of people, who say they are Jews, but they are really the synagogue of Satan, they are the people of Satan, they are the church of Satan. This is quite startling. Here are people who say they are Christians, they say they are Jews, but Jesus says they are not. They are liars, who are really of the Synagogue of Satan. They are really Satan's people. He says that these people will come and worship before the feet of the Philadelphians.

Ellen White speaks of this prophecy in *Early Writings* on page 15. Here is what she says.

"The 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united. On their foreheads was written, God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus' new name. At our happy, holy state the wicked were enraged, and would rush violently up to lay hands on us to thrust us into prison, when we would stretch forth the hand in

the name of the Lord, and they would fall helpless to the ground. Then it was that the synagogue of Satan knew that God had loved us who could wash one another's feet and salute the brethren with a holy kiss, and they worshiped at our feet." (*Early Writings, p.15*)

This is the same exact thing that Jesus says of Philadelphia. Ellen White says it happens to the 144,000. The synagogue of Satan comes and worships at the feet of the 144,000. The synagogue of Satan comes and worships at the feet of the Philadelphians. The Philadelphians and the 144,000 are the same people.

So Philadelphia still exists today! And if we give it a little thought we should be able to see that this is logical and reasonable. The book of Revelation is not talking about human denominations, or physical or organizational structures, If there exists today, people who hold to the principles of Philadelphia, which are, brotherly love, and zeal for God's truth, can we say that Philadelphia has passed away? Absolutely not. One of the things that Jesus says about Philadelphia in Revelation 3:8, is this: "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door; and no man can shut it:" Philadelphia has an open door before it, but what is this open door? It is the door to the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. It was to the Philadelphian church that the message of the atonement first came, the message concerning the experience that was available through Christ's ministration in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. There was an open door placed before Philadelphia. It was the door to the experience of perfection. That's what the open door means, the door to the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, the door to the final ministration of Christ. It is Philadelphia who has this open door, and Jesus says No man can shut it. Philadelphia has that opportunity, and wherever there are

Christians who believe in this ministration of Christ in the most holy place, there is still that open door before them, with that opportunity to become perfect through Christ. As long as there are people who believe this, Philadelphia cannot pass away.

I want to suggest something else as well. There are still Christians in the world today who believe what those early Adventists believed. People who still believe these truths undiluted and unadulterated. They have not rejected the teachings of the pioneers. It is those who hold to those same beliefs, including what the pioneers believed about the nature of God and His identity, who are still a part of that Philadelphian church, that Philadelphian movement. Those, however who have embraced the Trinitarian doctrine and have rejected the beliefs of the Philadelphian pioneers concerning God's identity, are surely pressing farther and farther into the arms of something else, perhaps best characterized as Laodicea. The early Adventist church was characterized as Philadelphia, a church without fault. Surely those who have turned away from the beliefs of that church cannot be without fault.

### THE TRUE REMNANT

This teaching that Laodicea is God's last day church is a falsehood. The foundation of this false idea is the fact that Ellen White kept on saying since about 1852, that the church was in the Laodicean state. If something negative is said about your behaviour over and over again, you have a choice. You can either stop your negative behaviour, or you can adjust your thinking to accept the name that you are being given. If I say to a pig, "you are a filthy creature," then the pig could try to reform. He could try to change himself, but

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# What Difference Does It Make?

Many people say they don't believe in the Trinity. What they mean by this, is that they don't believe in the *version of the Catholic (or Protestant, etc.) Trinity*. They don't believe in the Trinity, they believe in the "Godhead"—they say. Many of these people fail to dig deeper in studying this issue.

The doctrine of the Trinity has very deep roots and implications. It is not just about names and believing in a 3-in-1 or 3-in-3.

Our understanding of God has a very close and unbreakable link with the plan of salvation, righteousness by faith, the atonement, and our salvation.

Let us examine what are the common points and differences of the Trinity and so called "Godhead" belief. Below you will find the main points of these "doctrines" and also what the Bible reveals about these points. Please take the time to study them thoroughly.

THE TRINITARIAN BELIEF	THE GODHEAD BELIEF	THE BIBLE
<p>1. Teaches that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there is one God who is one Being, one substance, composed of 3 self-conscious hypostases: God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit.</li> </ul>	<p>1. Teaches that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there is one Godhead composed of 3 self-conscious persons: God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit.</li> </ul>	<p>1. Teaches that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there is one God, the Father and one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God (<i>1 Corinthians 8:6</i>).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"But the Godhead of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost is all one: the glory equal, the majesty co-eternal" ...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>these three separate beings work together in perfect unity, and are "one" (because they are one in purpose and character): their glory equal, the majesty co-eternal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Father and the Son are one (<i>John 10:30</i>) in purpose, in mind, in character but not in person (<i>MH p. 423; RH July 13, 1905</i>).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"So the Father is God: the Son is God: and the Holy Ghost is God;"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Father is God: the Son is God: and the Holy Ghost is God.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Father is God, Jesus is the Son of God (He is never called "God, the Son" but rather the "Son of God") and the holy spirit is their spirit (not a separate person) (<i>Romans 8:9</i>).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"And yet there are not three Gods; but one God ..."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>and yet there are not three Gods; but one God (or divinity, called the Godhead).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there is only one God (a personal being): the Father (<i>Deuteronomy 6:4, 1 Corinthians 8:6</i>).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"And in this Trinity none is before or after another: none is greater or less than another."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in this Godhead none is before or after another: none is greater or less than another.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God is the head of Christ (<i>1 Corinthians 11:3, 15:28</i>).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"But the whole three Persons are co-eternal together, and co-equal." <i>(The Athanasian Creed)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>but the whole three Persons are co-eternal together, and co-equal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God, the Father is greater than Jesus (<i>John 14:28</i>) in a sense that He was first (<i>RH January 4, 1881</i>) (God doesn't have a beginning, His Son does).</li> </ul>

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► *Continued from page 7*

**THE TRINITARIAN BELIEF**

- 2. Denies the literal Sonship of Christ.
- 3. Teaches that Jesus has no beginning, He is co-eternal and the same age as God, the Father.
- 4. Holds that there is no relationship between the persons or hypostases of God, they are just playing roles in the plan of salvation.
- 5. Teaches that the death of Christ on the cross wasn't complete because Jesus is God Himself and God cannot die; also that Christ raised Himself from the dead because He wasn't dead completely.
- 6. States that the Holy Ghost (or the Holy Spirit) is a third person of God, coequal, co-eternal and almighty, possessing the same authority as God, the Father or God, the Son.
- 7. Holds that it is the Holy Spirit, a different, third person of God other than Jesus, that is our Comforter.

**THE GODHEAD BELIEF**

- 2. Denies the literal Sonship of Christ.
- 3. Teaches that Jesus has no beginning, He is co-eternal and the same age as God, the Father.
- 4. Holds that there is no relationship between the three persons of the Godhead, they are just playing roles in the plan of salvation.
- 5. Teaches that the death of Christ on the cross wasn't complete because Jesus is God in highest sense and God cannot die; also that Christ raised Himself from the dead because He wasn't dead completely.
- 6. States that the Holy Ghost (or the Holy Spirit) is a third person of the Godhead, coequal, co-eternal and almighty, possessing the same authority as God, the Father or God, the Son.
- 7. Holds that it is the Holy Spirit, a different, third person of the Godhead other than Jesus, that is our Comforter.

**THE BIBLE**

- 2. Teaches the literal Sonship of Christ. (*for example, John 3:16*)
- 3. Teaches that Jesus does have a beginning (*Micah 5:2, Proverbs 8:22-30*), He is not co-eternal, nor the same age as God, the Father.
- 4. Holds that there is a real relationship between the persons of Jesus and His Father, God, they are not just playing roles in the plan of salvation.
- 5. Teaches that the death of Christ on the cross was complete (*Revelation 1:18*), and God, the Father raised Him from the dead (*Galatians 1:1, Romans 10:9*).
- 6. States that the Holy Ghost (or the Holy Spirit) is God's spirit, which He shares with His Son (*Romans 8:9*) and with which He is everywhere present (*Psalms 139:7*).
- 7. Holds that it is Jesus (through His holy spirit), that is our Comforter. (*John 14:18; 8MR p. 49, 19 MR p. 296, 297*)



**“Modern Wheat”**

*Continued from page 3*

parts. In the process of making 60% extraction flour, over half of the vitamin B1, B2, B3, E, folic acid, calcium, phosphorus, zinc, copper, iron, and fiber are lost. Any processed foods with wheat are akin to poison for the body

since they cause more health risks than benefits. The body does not recognize processed wheat as food. Nutrient absorption from processed wheat products is thus consequential with almost no nutritional value.

Dr. Marcia Alvarez who specializes in nutritional programs for obese patients says, “In my practice of over two de-

acades, we have documented that for every ten people with digestive problems, obesity, irritable bowel syndrome, diabetes, arthritis and even heart disease, eight out of ten have a problem with wheat. Once we remove wheat from their diets, most of their symptoms disappear within three to six months.

*Continued on page 11*

## “Philadelphia or Laodicea?”

*Continued from page 6*

if he will not change, or if he doesn't want to change, then what he can do is convince himself that “filthy” is a good thing. When I say, “you are filthy,” the pig says, “yes, isn't it wonderful!” He comes to accept a bad name as meaning something good.

That is exactly what the SDA church has done. Ellen White kept on saying that the church was in the Laodicean state, the church was lukewarm, the church was in a fallen state, and so the Adventist denomination could not get away from the fact that it represented the Laodicean state, because it was said so many times. But instead of changing, what the church did was to deceive itself into thinking that Laodicea was something good. It has now begun to teach that Laodicea is acceptable, so to be Laodicean is a wonderful thing. How terrible a state to be in. In actual fact, it is the greatest of all deceptions.

God's end-time true church is, in fact, not a denomination, but the people who continue to hold to the same faith, the same spirit and the same principles as the early Philadelphians. It is they who have an open door before them, and it is they who will finally be perfected. It is from among them that the 144,000 will be produced. These will be the people who enter the experience of the open door. Look at what it says in Revelation 3:10, speaking of these Philadelphians of course.

“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” (*Revelation 3:10*)

Popular SDA interpretation says that Philadelphia would be kept from the hour of temptation, because all the

Philadelphians would die. The Philadelphia church would pass away, and in this way would be spared that great hour of temptation because they had kept the word of his patience. This of course indicates that it would be Laodicea, which would pass through, and be purified by the hour of temptation.

However, in the phrase, “*I ... will keep thee ...*” the word “keep” is translated from the Greek word “tereo” According to Strongs Greek dictionary (#5083), it means: “to guard from loss or injury, by keeping the eye upon.”

This word and a similar idea also appears in John 17:15 where Jesus says,

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. (*John 17:15*)

The word does not suggest being taken away. It suggests rather, being kept during the hour of temptation. This indicates that Philadelphia will be here during the time of trouble, and if Philadelphia is indeed the church of the 144,000, then this must be the meaning of the verse which states that Philadelphia will be kept from the hour of temptation. In Revelation 7:14, it says of the 144,000, “*These are they who came out of great tribulation*” or as it should have been translated, “*These are they that came out of the great tribulation.*” Philadelphia is kept during the hour of temptation, the 144,000 came out of the great tribulation. They are the same people.

### THE SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN

Let us examine just one more piece of evidence from the writings of Ellen White. We saw on page 15 of *Early Writings*, where Ellen White said that it is the 144,000 who will have the synagogue of Satan worship at their feet. Revelation 3:9 says that they will worship at the feet of the Philadelphians. In *A Word To The Little Flock* Ellen

White wrote to brother Eli Curtis, who had suggested that the synagogue of Satan, who bows at the saints' feet would eventually be saved. She says,

“You think, that those who worship before the saint's feet, (Revelation 3:9), will at last be saved. Here I must differ with you; for God shew me that this class were professed Adventists, who had fallen away, and “crucified to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.” And in the “hour of temptation,” which is yet to come, to show out every one's true character, they will know that they are forever lost; and overwhelmed with anguish of spirit, they will bow at the saint's feet.” (*A Word to the Little Flock, p.12*)

There are some striking, powerful points in this little passage. First of all, she says that these people represent professed Adventists. Now as we can see, this applies to the hour of temptation, the final great test which is yet to come. Future in the days of Ellen White, future in our days, an hour of temptation, which will try the whole world. It is not here yet, although it is almost upon us. Ellen White applies this prophecy of the Philadelphia Church to that time, and says that these people who worship at the saints' feet, are professed Adventists.

Clearly, in our day, there is only one group of people that would be referred to as Adventists. In the days of Ellen White, sometimes you had first day Adventists, and people who came out of the Advent movement, but in our day, it has come down to Seventh-day Adventists. She says that these are professed Adventists. What is interesting is the fact that Jesus says, “They say they are Jews and are not.” Here is a most remarkable statement, because this is exactly the way the average denominational Seventh-day Adventist behaves. They are fond of saying, “We are God's remnant people.” This could be almost directly a

quotation from the Jews. They believed they were God's people. "We are Abraham's seed," was one of their favourite phrases. There is hardly anybody else in the world who has that sense of exclusiveness, that sense of being God's special chosen people, as much as Seventh-day Adventists. The two statements previously quoted from the Review illustrate this point quite well.

They say they are Jews, but Jesus says they are not, but they do lie, and it is remarkable how He identifies them. They are really the synagogue of Satan. Those are such dreadful words, that we should fear to speak them if the Lord Himself had not said them. Is this how God really regards many professed Adventists? We had better be very careful to be sure that we are on God's side.

This hour of temptation during which Philadelphia will be preserved, and during which professed Seventh-day Adventists will worship at the feet of the 144,000, is yet to come. So we see very clearly that the Bible teaches that rather than Laodicea being the end time people of God, it is really Philadelphia, which is the end-time church of God. It is also very clear that in order to be Philadelphian you have got to hold to the same spirit, the same teachings, the same beliefs and the same attitudes as those first Philadelphians. The question, brothers and sisters is this, do you have the same spirit as those Philadelphians? Do you have the same beliefs as those early Philadelphians? Those are questions we do well to consider.

### A LOST CHURCH

Finally, I want to quote two statements of Ellen White. She made many statements regarding the Laodicean church, but I want to quote just two of them which I believe sums up what her attitude was to Laodicea. I don't believe anybody who reads or listens to these

statements can ever again feel safe in the assurance that "I am a Laodicean." In *Manuscript 156, written in 1898*, Ellen White says:

"The church is in the Laodicean state, the presence of God is not in her midst."

So we see very clearly that, if a people are Laodicean, then God's presence is not in their midst. What does that make them? Who controls them? Who rules them? Who guides them if God's presence is not in their midst? The only hope is to get out of the Laodicean Church. As long as you are in that state, God's presence is not in your midst. And yet amazingly, it is something that Adventists have become proud of. In another statement from the *Review and Herald of August 19, 1890* Ellen White says:

"The state of the church represented by the foolish virgins, is also spoken of as the Laodicean state."

The question is this; do the foolish virgins ever get into the kingdom? Never ever! The wise get in but not the foolish!

These statements make it very clear that Laodicea will never be saved, and that those who are a part of Laodicea are lost. If you and I want to be saved, we have got to get out of Laodicea, and we have got to get among the wise virgins, that is the church that will be saved.

The seven churches need to be studied a lot more and a lot more carefully, but if we believe that Ellen White was a messenger of God, and that the visions that she received were from God, then we are compelled to believe that God showed her very vividly, that the church, the true remnant church, the church of the 144,000, the church that will experience the atonement, the church that will be perfect, God's church in the last moments of time will not be Laodicea, but Philadelphia. The

good thing for those who are Laodicean is that, Jesus says: "*Repent, buy of me gold tried in the fire.*" If a Laodicean repents, it is clear that he no longer remains in Laodicea but can migrate to Philadelphia. God bless you, my sister, my brother, whoever you are reading this article. I pray that by the grace of God you may be one of God's Philadelphian last day people.



## Save the DATE

Please mark your calendars for the next Wenatchee camp meeting which will be held from

**MAY 14 - 18, 2014**

(Wednesday afternoon - Sunday)

The **location** will be the same as last year's:

Wenatchee Community Center  
Chelan Avenue  
Wenatchee WA 98801

**Theme** of the meetings:

**"Our Only Hope"**

**Speakers:**

- David Clayton and Howard Williams (*from Jamaica*)
- Nader Mansour and Imad Awde (*from Australia*)
- Ken Corklin (*from Pennsylvania*)

More information will be posted in the next issue of this newsletter. Also, you will find updates about the camp meeting at our Web site [www.cominghomeministry.org](http://www.cominghomeministry.org).

## “Modern Wheat”

*Continued from page 8*

### HEALTH EFFECTS

A powerful little chemical in wheat known as ‘wheat germ agglutinin’ (WGA) which is largely responsible for many of wheat’s pervasive, and difficult to diagnose, ill effects. Researchers are now discovering that WGA in modern wheat is very different from ancient strains.

Each grain of wheat contains about one microgram of WGA. Even in small quantities, WGA can have profoundly adverse effects. It may be pro-inflammatory, immunotoxic, cardiotoxic ... and neurotoxic.

Dr. William Davis has documented several hundred clinical studies on the adverse effects of wheat. When Dr. Davis’ patients eliminate wheat from their diet, the outcomes are often dramatic, with many losing as much as 20 pounds during the first month. He reports that patients experience relief from acid reflux, esophagitis, gas, cramps, and diarrhea stemming from irritable bowel syndrome after ditching wheat. Joint swelling and pain are often completely eliminated, he says, and patients report improvements in everything from asthma and skin conditions to Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis.

It needs to be mentioned that whole wheat bread is not a better choice either. Due to the unique properties of amylopectin A, two slices of whole wheat bread increase blood sugar higher than many candy bars.

### WHEAT-FREE OPTIONS

Note that many of the wheat-free options still contain gluten and many people sensitive to wheat may still experience digestive problems and bloating. Experiment and see what works best for you. Caution is advised with cereal grains if you have been diagnosed with gluten intolerance.

1. Cereal Grains: barley, millet, oats, rice, rye, sorghum, tef and wild rice are all in the same cereal grain family as is wheat.

2. Non-Cereal Grains: Amaranth, quinoa and buckwheat are three grain-like seeds unrelated to cereal grains (there are ancient wheats on the market, too which are still to be found in their original, unaltered forms; for example: *einkorn* and *emmer* - you can find more information about them on the Internet).

3. Nut Meal (Flour): Ground nuts such as almonds, hazelnuts or walnuts make the richest flour substitute for cookies and cakes.

4. Bean Flour

5. Other Flour Substitutes: Potato starch, arrowroot powder, and tapioca are thickening agents that substitute for wheat in sauces and gravy. In baked goods these starchy ingredients serve as a binding agent.

Eliminating wheat from your diet is not insurmountably difficult, but it does require some creativity in the kitchen, as many of your family favorites will now be on the forbidden list. If you want to make a change in your diet, first start educating yourself about wheat alternatives and look for stores that carry wheat/gluten-free items (local health food stores are a good place to start). There are many Websites and books that can help you in your search.

Remember to be careful using a lot of “gluten-free” foods, as they are made by replacing wheat flour with cornstarch, rice starch, potato starch etc. Though these foods don’t trigger the immune or neurological response of wheat gluten, they still trigger the glucose-insulin response that cause you to gain weight. Don’t forget: always read the label on the food you are buying.

#### Source Materials:

<http://www.undergroundhealth.com/modern-wheat-is-the-perfect-chronic-poison-says-expert/>  
<http://www.rodalenews.com/wheat-free-diet>

William Davis, MD: *Wheat Belly*

## Think about These Things ...

We need not go to heathen lands, or even leave the narrow circle of the home, if it is there that our duty lies, in order to work for Christ. We can do this in the home circle, in the church, among those with whom we associate, and with whom we do business.

The greater part of our Saviour’s life on earth was spent in patient toil in the carpenter’s shop at Nazareth. Ministering angels attended the Lord

of life as He walked side by side with peasants and laborers, unrecognized and unhonored. He was as faithfully fulfilling His mission while working at His humble trade as when He healed the sick or walked upon the storm-tossed waves of Galilee. So in the humblest duties and lowliest positions of life, we may walk and work with Jesus. ...

You are not to wait for great occasions or to expect extraordinary abili-

ties before you go to work for God. You need not have a thought of what the world will think of you. If your daily life is a testimony to the purity and sincerity of your faith, and others are convinced that you desire to benefit them, your efforts will not be wholly lost.

#### Source Materials:

Ellen White: *Steps to Christ*, p. 81, 83

# Tasty Vegan Recipes



## RAISIN & WALNUT COOKIES

These yummy cookies are **gluten-free**, soy-free, refined sugar-free, and vegan bits of delight.

*(If you are not familiar with some of the ingredients, ask for them at your local health food store, or any other stores that have gluten-free sections.)*

### Ingredients:

- 1 c *The Cravings Place*, Create-Your-Own Cake & Cookie Mix (or Bob's Red Mill - gluten-free flour)
- 1 c almond flour
- 1/4 c potato starch
- 1 tsp xanthan gum
- 3/4 c raisin
- 3/4 c walnuts, chopped
- 1 TBSP aluminum-free baking pwd
- 1/2 c extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 c rice milk
- 3/4 c maple syrup
- 1 tsp vanilla

1. Preheat the oven to 350° F. Line 2 cookie sheets with parchment paper.

2. In a large bowl, combine dry ingredients. Make sure that the raisins are not stuck together.
3. In a smaller bowl, combine oil, rice milk, maple syrup, and vanilla.
4. Add the mixture to the dry ingredients. Stir it until the 2 mixtures are well combined. (Do not over mix because the more you mix it the more the potato starch thickens everything.)
5. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls (for bigger cookies—use tablespoonfuls) 2 inches apart onto the prepared cookie sheets.
6. Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until they turn golden-brown.

*Enjoy!*