

SIX THOUSAND YEARS

“The vision at Lovett's Grove, Ohio, on a Sunday afternoon in mid-March, 1858, was one of great importance. In this the theme of the great controversy between Christ and His angels on the one side and Satan and his angels on the other, was seen as one continuous and closely linked chain of events spanning **six thousand years**. This vision has put Seventh-day Adventists into a unique position with clear-cut views of the working of Providence in the history of our world--a viewpoint quite different from that held by secular historians, who see events of history as the interplay between the actions of men, often seemingly the result of chance or natural developments. In other words, this vision and others of the great conflict of the ages yield a philosophy of history that answers many questions and in prophetic forecast gives the assurance of final victory of good over evil.” - *Ellen G. White: The Early Years*, vol. 1 - 1827-1862, p. 366.

“The holy pair were not only children under the fatherly care of God but students receiving instruction from the all-wise Creator. They were visited by angels, and were granted communion with their Maker, with no obscuring veil between. They were full of the vigor imparted by the tree of life, and their intellectual power was but little less than that of the angels. The mysteries of the visible universe--"the wondrous works of Him which is perfect in knowledge" (Job 37:16)--afforded them an exhaustless source of instruction and delight. The laws and operations of nature, which have engaged men's study for **six thousand years**, were opened to their minds by the infinite Framer and Upholder of all. They held converse with leaf and flower and tree, gathering from each the secrets of its life. With every living creature, from the mighty leviathan that playeth among the waters to the insect mote that floats in the sunbeam, Adam was familiar. He had given to each its name, and he was acquainted with the nature and habits of all. God's glory in the heavens, the innumerable worlds in their orderly revolutions, "the balancings of the clouds," the mysteries of light and sound, of day and night--all were open to the study of our first parents. On every leaf of the forest or stone of the mountains, in every shining star, in earth and air and sky, God's name was written. The order and harmony of creation spoke to them of infinite wisdom and power. They were ever discovering some attraction that filled their hearts with deeper love and called forth fresh expressions of gratitude.” - *Christian Education*, p. 207; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 50, 51; *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 7.

“For **six thousand years**, faith has builded upon Christ. For **six thousand years** the floods and tempests of satanic wrath have beaten upon the Rock of our salvation; but it stands unmoved.” - *The Desire of Ages*, p. 413; *The Faith I Live By*, p. 310

“Man came from the hand of his Creator perfect in organization and beautiful in form. The fact that he has **for six thousand years** withstood the ever-increasing weight of disease and crime is conclusive proof of the power of endurance with which he was first endowed. And although the antediluvians generally gave themselves up to sin without restraint, it was more than two thousand years before the violation of natural law was sensibly felt. Had Adam originally possessed no greater physical power than men now have, the race would ere this have become extinct.” - *Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 7; *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 117; *Counsels on Health*, p. 19; *Review and Herald*, 12-13-1881; *S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, Vol. 1, p. 1082; *Testimony Studies on Diet and Foods*, p. 180.

“The controlling power of appetite will prove the ruin of thousands, when, if they had conquered on this point, they would have had moral power to gain the victory over every other temptation of Satan. But those who are slaves to appetite will fail in perfecting Christian character. The continual transgression of man for **six thousand years** has brought sickness, pain, and death as its fruits. And as we near the close of time, Satan's temptation to indulge appetite will be more powerful and more difficult to overcome.” - *Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 154; *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, pp. 59, 163, 164; *Counsels on Health*, p. 574; *Health Reformer*, August 1, 1875; *Maranatha*, p. 62; *Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 510; *Temperance*, pp. 16, 21; *Testimonies*, vol. 3, pp. 491, 492; *Testimony Studies on Diet and Foods*, pp. 36, 136.

“God endowed man with so great vital force that he has withstood the accumulation of disease brought upon the race in consequence of perverted habits, and has continued for **six thousand years**. This fact of itself is enough to evidence to us the strength and electrical energy that God gave to man at his creation. It took more than two thousand years of crime and indulgence of base passions to bring bodily disease upon the race to any great extent. If Adam, at his creation, had not been endowed with twenty times as much vital force as men now have, the race, with their present habits of living in violation of natural law, would have become extinct. At the time of Christ's first advent, the race had degenerated so rapidly that an accumulation of disease pressed upon that generation, bringing in a tide of woe, and a weight of misery inexpressible.” - *Conflict and Courage*, p. 21; *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, pp. 22-23; *Healthful Living*, p. 45; *My Life Today*, p. 126; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p 138; *The Health Reformer*, 11-01-1872.

“Those who are destroying the earth have had a long probation. For six thousand years God has borne with the ignorance and wickedness of men. In every possible way He has tested and tried them, seeking to lead them to return to their loyalty, and be saved. But they refuse to listen to His entreaties. War and bloodshed have been, are still, and will continue to be. War is popular. To kill and destroy is in the sight of the world to be brave, worthy of a reward.” -*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, pp. 61, 62.

“It was not for the Son of God to descend from his lofty mission to prove his divinity to Satan, nor did he condescend to explain the reason of his present humiliation, and the manner in which he was to act as man's Redeemer. If the children of men would follow the example of their Saviour, and hold no converse with Satan, they would be spared many a defeat at his hands. **Six thousand years** has this arch-enemy been warring against the government of God, and continued practice has increased his skill to deceive and allure.” - *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 2, p. 93.

“For **six thousand years**, Satan's work of rebellion has "made the earth to tremble." He had "made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof." And he "opened not the house of his prisoners." For **six thousand years** his prison house has received God's people, and he would have held them captive forever; but Christ had broken his bonds and set the prisoners free.” - *The Great Controversy*, p. 659; *The Great Controversy* [1888 edition], p. 659.

“The great plan of redemption results in fully bringing back the world into God's favor. All that was lost by sin is restored. Not only man but the earth is redeemed, to be the eternal abode of the obedient. For **six thousand years** Satan has struggled to maintain possession of the earth. Now God's original purpose in its creation is accomplished. "The saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever." - *The Adventist Home*, pp. 539,540; *God's Amazing Grace*, p. 370; *Maranatha*, p.372; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 342.

“Satan's work of ruin is forever ended. For **six thousand years** he has wrought his will, filling the earth with woe, and causing grief throughout the universe. The whole creation has groaned and travailed together in pain. Now God's creatures are forever delivered from his presence and temptations."The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they [the righteous] break forth into singing." Isaiah 14:7. And a shout of praise and triumph ascends from the whole loyal universe. "The voice of a great multitude," "as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders," is heard, saying: "Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." Revelation 19:6". - *The Great Controversy*, p. 673; *The Great Controversy* [1888 edition], p. 673; *The Faith I Live By*, p. 72.

“The great controversy between good and evil will increase in intensity to the very close of time. In all ages the wrath of Satan has been manifested against the church of Christ; and God has bestowed His grace and Spirit upon His people to strengthen them to stand against the power of the evil one. When the apostles of Christ were to bear

His gospel to the world and to record it for all future ages, they were especially endowed with the enlightenment of the Spirit. But as the church approaches her final deliverance, Satan is to work with greater power. He comes down "having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Revelation 12:12. He will work "with all power and signs and lying wonders." 2 Thessalonians 2:9. For **six thousand years** that mastermind that once was highest among the angels of God has been wholly bent to the work of deception and ruin. And all the depths of satanic skill and subtlety acquired, all the cruelty developed, during these struggles of the ages, will be brought to bear against God's people in the final conflict. And in this time of peril the followers of Christ are to bear to the world the warning of the Lord's second advent; and a people are to be prepared to stand before Him at His coming, "without spot, and blameless." 2 Peter 3:14. At this time the special endowment of divine grace and power is not less needful to the church than in apostolic days." - *The Great Controversy*, pp. ix, x; *The Great Controversy* [1888 edition], pp. f, g.

"A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations, He will plead with all flesh; He will give them that are wicked to the sword." Jeremiah 25:31. For **six thousand years** the great controversy has been in progress; the Son of God and His heavenly messengers have been in conflict with the power of the evil one, to warn, enlighten, and save the children of men. Now all have made their decisions; the wicked have fully united with Satan in his warfare against God. The time has come for God to vindicate the authority of His downtrodden law. Now the controversy is not alone with Satan, but with men. "The Lord hath a controversy with the nations;" "He will give them that are wicked to the sword." - *The Great Controversy*, p. 656; *The Great Controversy* [1888 edition], p. 656; *Maranatha*, p. 296.

NEARLY SIX THOUSAND YEARS

"Satan has great advantages. He possessed the wonderful intellectual power of an angel, of which few form any just idea. Satan was conscious of his power, or he would not have engaged in a conflict with the mighty God, the everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace. Satan closely watches events, and when he finds one who has a specially strong spirit of opposition to the truth of God he will even reveal to him unfulfilled events, that he may more firmly secure himself a seat in his heart. He who did not hesitate to brave a conflict with Him who holds creation as in His hand, has malignity to persecute and deceive. He holds mortals in his snare at the present time. During his experience of **nearly six thousand years** he has lost none of his skill and shrewdness. All this time he has been a close observer of all that concerns our race." - *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, pp. 171, 172.

"When they have been led to believe that the dead actually return to communicate with them, Satan causes those to appear who went into the grave unprepared. They claim to be happy in heaven and even to occupy exalted positions there, and thus the error is widely taught that no difference is made between the righteous and the wicked. The pretended visitants from the world of spirits sometimes utter cautions and warnings which prove to be correct. Then, as confidence is gained, they present doctrines that directly undermine faith in the Scriptures. With an appearance of deep interest in the well-being of their friends on earth, they insinuate the most dangerous errors. The fact that they state some truths, and are able at times to foretell future events, gives to their statements an appearance of reliability; and their false teachings are accepted by the multitudes as readily, and believed as implicitly, as if they were the most sacred truths of the Bible. The law of God is set aside, the Spirit of grace despised, the blood of the covenant counted an unholy thing. The spirits deny the deity of Christ and place even the Creator on a level with themselves. Thus under a new disguise the great rebel still carries on his warfare against God, begun in heaven and for **nearly six thousand years** continued upon the earth." - *The Great Controversy*, pp. 552, 553; *The Great Controversy* [1888 Edition], pp. 552, 553; *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, pp. 370, 371.

"The great controversy between Christ and Satan, that has been carried forward for **nearly six thousand years**, is soon to close; and the wicked one redoubles his efforts to defeat the work of Christ in man's behalf and to fasten souls in his snares. To hold the people in darkness and impenitence till the Saviour's mediation is ended, and there

is no longer a sacrifice for sin, is the object which he seeks to accomplish.” - *The Great Controversy*, p. 518; *The Great Controversy* [1888 edition], p. 518; *Maranatha*, p. 130.

“Never has the world's need for teaching and healing been greater than it is today. The world is full of those who need to be ministered unto--the weak, the helpless, the ignorant, the degraded. The continual transgression of man for **nearly six thousand years** has brought sickness, pain, and death as its fruit. Multitudes are perishing for lack of knowledge.” - *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 467.

ALMOST SIX THOUSAND YEARS

“The great controversy between Christ and Satan, that has been carried on for **almost six thousand years**, is soon to close. And yet how few have their attention called to this matter, how few realize that we are living amid the closing scenes of earth's history! Satan is working diligently, binding his sheaves preparatory to gathering in his harvest. He is uniting the elements of his kingdom for the final struggle. Since his fall, he has been the great adversary of God and man, and has shown a masterly activity in trying to defeat our Saviour's efforts in our behalf. He thinks that because so many readily yield to his temptations and believe his lies, he may yet gain some advantage over Christ, who left the royal courts of Heaven that he might defeat this wily foe on his own battle-field, and open a way whereby man might escape from his cruel power.” - *The Signs of the Times*, 05-08-1884.

ABOUT SIX THOUSAND YEARS

“Infidel geologists claim that the world is very much older than the Bible record makes it. They reject the Bible record because of those things which are to them evidences from the earth itself that the world has existed tens of thousands of years. And many who profess to believe the Bible record are at a loss to account for wonderful things which are found in the earth, with the view that creation week was only seven literal days, and that the world is now only **about six thousand years old**. These, to free themselves from difficulties thrown in their way by infidel geologists, adopt the view that the six days of creation were six vast, indefinite periods, and the day of God's rest was another indefinite period; making senseless the fourth commandment of God's holy law. Some eagerly receive this position; for it destroys the force of the fourth commandment, and they feel a freedom from its claims upon them. They have limited ideas of the size of men, animals, and trees, before the flood, and of the great changes which then took place in the earth.” - *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, p. 87; *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, p. 91; *The Signs of the Times*, 03-20-1879.

MORE THAN SIX THOUSAND YEARS

“What greater promises could be given us than are found in these verses? A cunning and cruel foe attends our steps, and is working every moment, with all his strength and skill, to turn us from the right way. Ever since he succeeded in overcoming our first parents in their beautiful Eden home, he has been engaged in this work. **More than six thousand years** of continual practice has greatly increased his skill to deceive and allure. On the other hand, he who once yields to temptation becomes spiritually weak, and yields more readily the second time. Every repetition of sin blinds his eyes, stifles conviction, and weakens his power of resistance. Thus while the power of the human race to resist temptation is continually decreasing, Satan's skill and power to tempt are continually increasing. This is one great reason why the temptations of the last days will be more severe than those of any other age.” - *Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists*, p. 133; *Sign of the Times*, September 29, 1887.

“To this earth angels have come, with the message of redemption, and its hills and valleys have echoed their songs of rejoicing. Its soil has been trodden by the feet of the Son of God. And for **more than six thousand years**, in its forms of beauty and gifts for sustenance, the earth has borne witness of the Creator's love.” - *The Story of Jesus*, p. 183.

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