

# MISSION UPDATE

MAY 2016

## HOW LONG?

BY FRED BISCHOFF

**“HOW LONG?” IS THE** ultimate time query in the great controversy between good and evil—how long will it last?

From eternity past to eternity future the principle of selfless, self-giving love has been the law of life for the universe. It flows from the heart of the unselfish Ones who created and support all things. It is continual—the love flows continually.

At some point in past time, the opposite principle of selfishness originated in the heart of the highest created being. Since that time, this root of what we call sin has also manifested a continuity as well, in conflict with the eternal principle.

A significant number of God's intelligent, ministering angels adopted this self-focus. The principle of receiving only to give was abandoned for receiving *and even taking* to keep. Suffering came into existence.

After humans chose selfishness, God revealed the interface between these two continual principles in the sacrificial system, involving blood, fire, and ashes—daily death, in the giving of life, and the taking of life. These ceremonies pictured how the unselfish Ones would continue giving, in fact, must

continually give, in new ways, to meet the constant needs created by selfishness.

Embedded in that symbolism is the amazing prophecy that the continuity of this conflict is not eternal, that selfishness is temporary. Eventually a series of discontinuities would occur that would bring it to an end—the fulfillments of the yearly feasts. The first was when the Lord of time and space Himself became our Passover.

The continuity of the two principles in the great controversy would meet the final discontinuity of the Day of Atonement, removing selfishness and restoring unselfishness to its eternal reign of peace. *The daily would meet the Day.* We are currently immersed in this transition time—for the Day has begun!

The Day has a fast accomplished by a feast, answering the “how long” questions. “Faith in Christ alone can destroy selfishness and self idolatry in the human soul. How long will the Lord bear with the perversity of man? How long will He be insulted by his self-sufficiency and rejection of His invitation to receive His call to come to the gospel feast?” (Ellen White, *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, p. 468).

Let us enter into the Day, to help Him hasten the end of selfishness and its pain! 🔥



## COVENANT KINGDOM = 2016 CONVOCATION

BY JEFFREY ROSARIO

**I CAN ONLY IMAGINE** what it was like to be the prophet Daniel in the 7th century B.C., in a foreign land, with God's people captive by an antagonistic kingdom, the mightiest empire of his day. With Jerusalem still reeling from the destruction inflicted by the Babylonians, where could Daniel go to cling to any glimmer of hope that the God of Israel had not abandoned His people? Daniel testifies that in spite of the bleak circumstances all around him, he went to "the books" (Daniel 9:2), specifically the prophetic writings of Jeremiah, to anchor his hope in the promises of God.

Daniel received a series of epic prophetic visions that foretold several millennia of world history. Earthly kingdoms rise and

fall, ruling the world with coercion, brutality, and selfishness. Yet through all the apparent hopelessness, Daniel celebrates, "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. . . . He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him" (Daniel 2:20-22, NIV).

The kingdom of God will eventually override the kingdoms of the earth. And why could Daniel have confidence in this reality? Because his God was the "great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy" (Daniel 9:4). There it is. The God of Bible prophecy is a covenant-keeping God whose covenant fidelity will usher in His kingdom of righteousness. To Daniel, Bible prophecy was all about the faithfulness of God in keeping His promises to establish His everlasting kingdom.

Now fast forward some 900 years . . .

Imagine what it would have been like to be the apostle John writing from a lonely island in the Aegean Sea, forced into exile by an antagonistic kingdom, the mightiest empire of his day. With his fellow apostles martyred by Rome, where could John—the last man standing—go to for a glimmer of hope that God had not abandoned His church? John used his time on the island of Patmos to pen his sweeping

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epic, a prophetic vision that culminates in the triumph of the kingdom of God over all earthly kingdoms. But before getting to the beasts, the horns, the dragon, and the other ominous symbols, John opens the book of Revelation by grounding the reader on what biblical prophecy is all about. The first verse of the first chapter sets the stage: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place” (Revelation 1:1).

To John the revelator the central reality that signaled God’s faithfulness throughout world history was the fulfillment of the promised Lamb, the One who “redeemed us to God

by [His] blood” (Revelation 5:6, 9). This manifestation of the covenant faithfulness of God elicits praise and worship from the redeemed, who will one day “reign on the earth” in God’s kingdom (Revelation 5:10). To the apostle John, Bible prophecy was all about the faithfulness of God in keeping His promises to establish His everlasting kingdom.

These two prophetic books—Daniel and Revelation—are a treasure for the church of today. With so much confusion about Bible prophecy, with so many distractions in this rapidly changing world, with such a significant need in the church for revival and mission, now is the time to rediscover the relevance, beauty and richness of the prophetic promises of God.

Join us this July for the Light Bearers Convocation, where our theme is *Covenant Kingdom*, a fresh exploration of the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. 🔥



#### REDISCOVER PROPHECY

Reconnect with God through study and nature July 5-9 in Jasper, OR. Learn more or register online at [lightbearers.org](https://lightbearers.org).



## COVENANT KINGDOM

JULY 5-9 | JASPER, OR | [LIGHTBEARERS.ORG](https://lightbearers.org)



# SPEAKING SCHEDULE

**MAY 21, 28**

Cascade Adventist Church  
Bend, OR  
www.cascadesda.org / 541.749.9005  
James Rafferty

**MAY 23-26**

Gulf States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Camp Meeting  
Lumberton, MS  
www.gscsda.org / 334.272.7493  
Ty Gibson

**MAY 27-28**

Templeton Hills Adventist Church  
Templeton Hills, CA  
templetonhills.adventistfaith.org / 805.434.1710  
Ty Gibson

**JUNE 4, 11, 18**

Cascade Adventist Church  
Bend, OR  
www.cascadesda.org / 541.749.9005  
James Rafferty

**JUNE 12-16**

Minnesota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Camp Meeting  
Hutchinson, MN  
www.mnsda.com / 763.424.8923  
Ty Gibson

**JUNE 17-18**

Texas Youth Conference  
Keene, TX  
youngtexasadventist.org  
Ty Gibson

see more events at [lightbearers.org](http://lightbearers.org)

