



THEY STARTED... WE'LL FINISH!

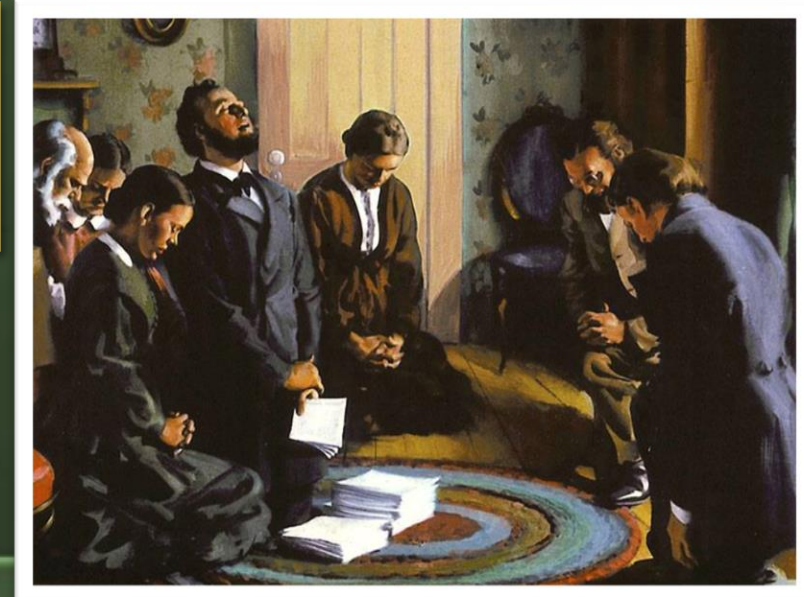
There are people who have a fervent desire to serve in God's work. God uses these people so that His work can move forward, and the church can fulfill the mission entrusted to Him: to preach the gospel to the whole world. Let's remember great pioneers of the past and what they contributed to the growth and progress of God's work.



On May 21, 1863, a small group of people founded the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the city of Battle Creek, Michigan, United States. Today, the church continues to carry that wonderful message of hope to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, until the work entrusted to it is finished, and Christ returns.



"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and his teaching in our past history." — (9T 10.3).



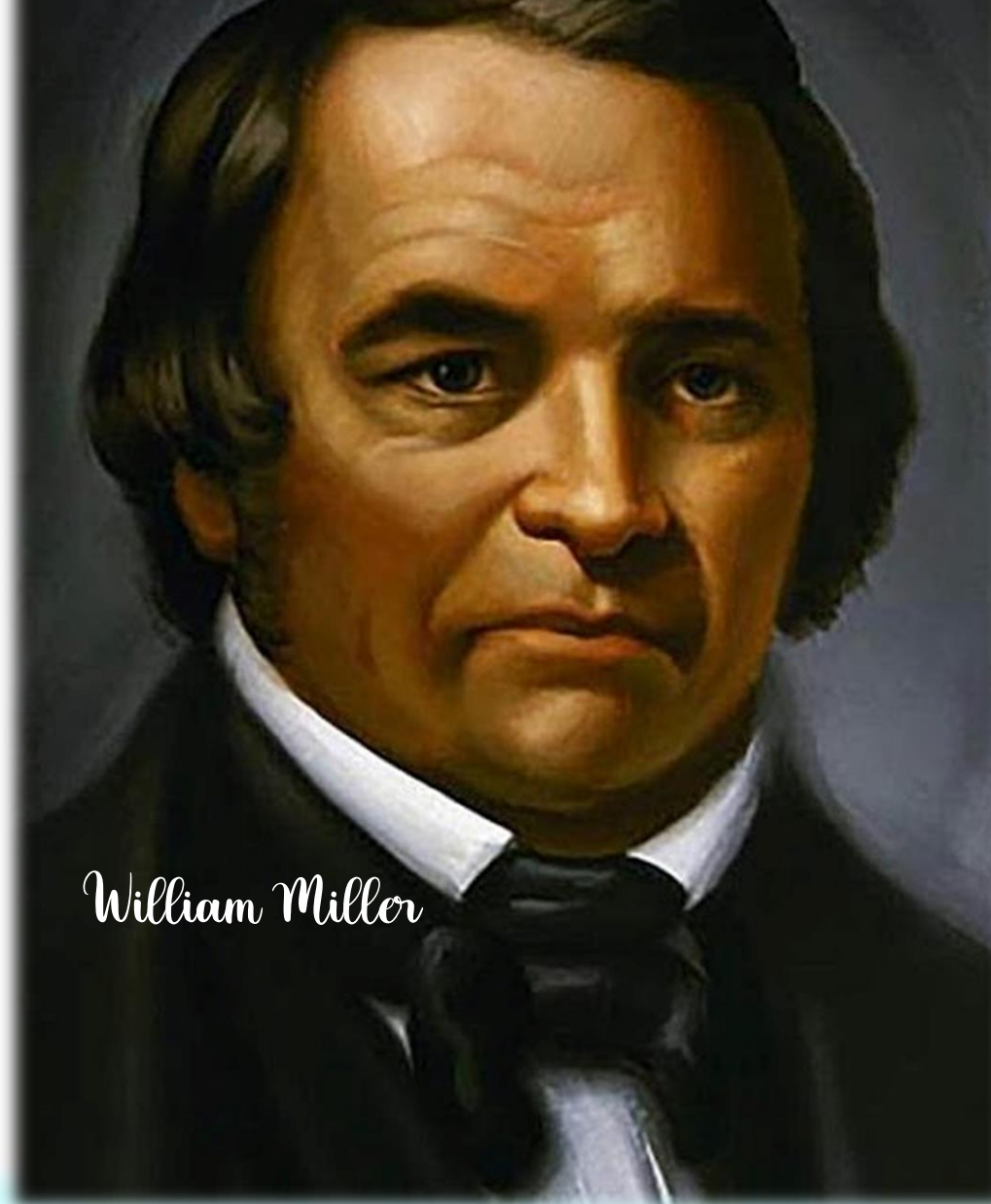
When William Miller was thirty-four years old, he was unhappy with the life he was leading. The Holy Spirit impressed his heart to focus on Bible study. In this book, Jesus was revealed to him as his Savior. He found in Christ the answer to all his needs. He decided to make a meticulous study of the Bible and find answers to the many problems that perplexed him. His study led him to the great prophecies that indicated the first and second comings of Jesus, particularly those of Daniel and Revelation.

In the year 1818, because of his study of the prophecies of Daniel 8 and 9, he concluded that Christ would come sometime in the year 1843.

He hesitated until 1831 before he began to announce his discoveries. His first public preaching marks the beginning of the Adventist movement in North America. In the months and years that followed, approximately 100,000 people believed in the imminent second coming of Christ.

Miller lived for several years after the disappointment of 1844, until his death in 1849. Near his home in Low Hampton there's a small church that he built before he died. Despite his misunderstanding of the event that was to take place in 1844, God used him to awaken the world to the nearness of the end and the preparation of sinners for the time of judgment.

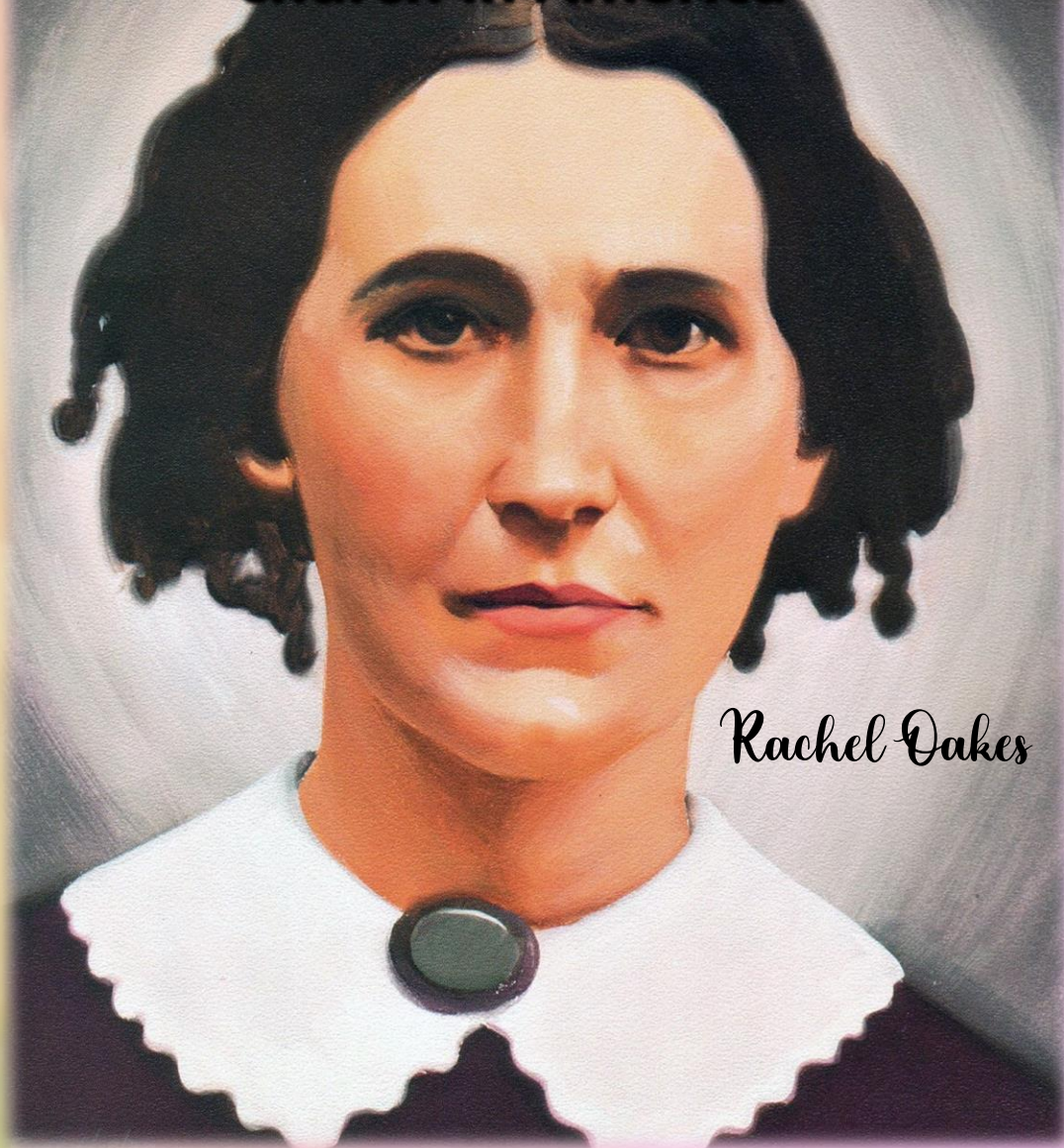
The Prophetic Interpretation of Daniel 8:14 and the Second Coming



William Miller



**She brought the truth of the
Sabbath to the first Adventist
church in America**



Rachel Oakes

When Rachel Oakes learned that the true Lord's day was the Sabbath, she immediately began to keep that day.

In 1837, Rachel Oakes and her daughter joined the Seventh-day Baptist church in Vernon, Vermont.

In 1843 Raquel Oakes and her daughter, Delight, moved to Washington, New Hampshire. Rachel became the instrument in God's hands to bring the Sabbath light to the Adventist group in that city. The Adventists, in turn, brought Rachel the blessed hope of the second advent.

Because of Rachel's influence, Frederick Wheeler (1811–1910), pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church and promoter of William Miller's teachings, preached his first sermon about the Sabbath as the seventh-day Sabbath to his congregation of “Christian Brethren” on March 16, 1844.

Raquel Oakes Preston was a zealous Sabbath-keeper. Through her influence, the Adventist church in Washington, New Hampshire became the first Sabbath-keeping Adventist church.



Washington Adventist Church, New Hampshire; which became the first Seventh-day Adventist church in America

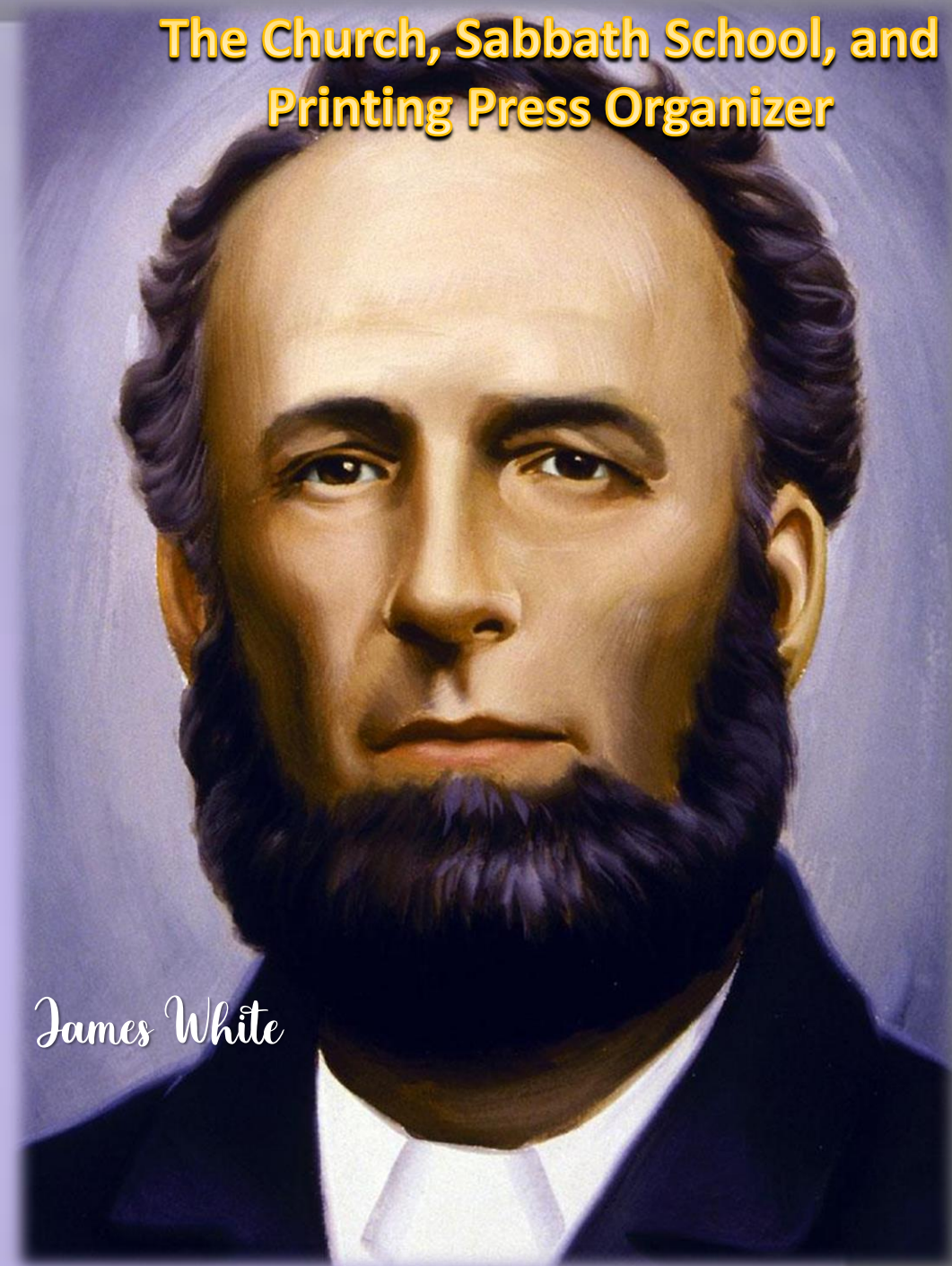
The Church, Sabbath School, and Printing Press Organizer

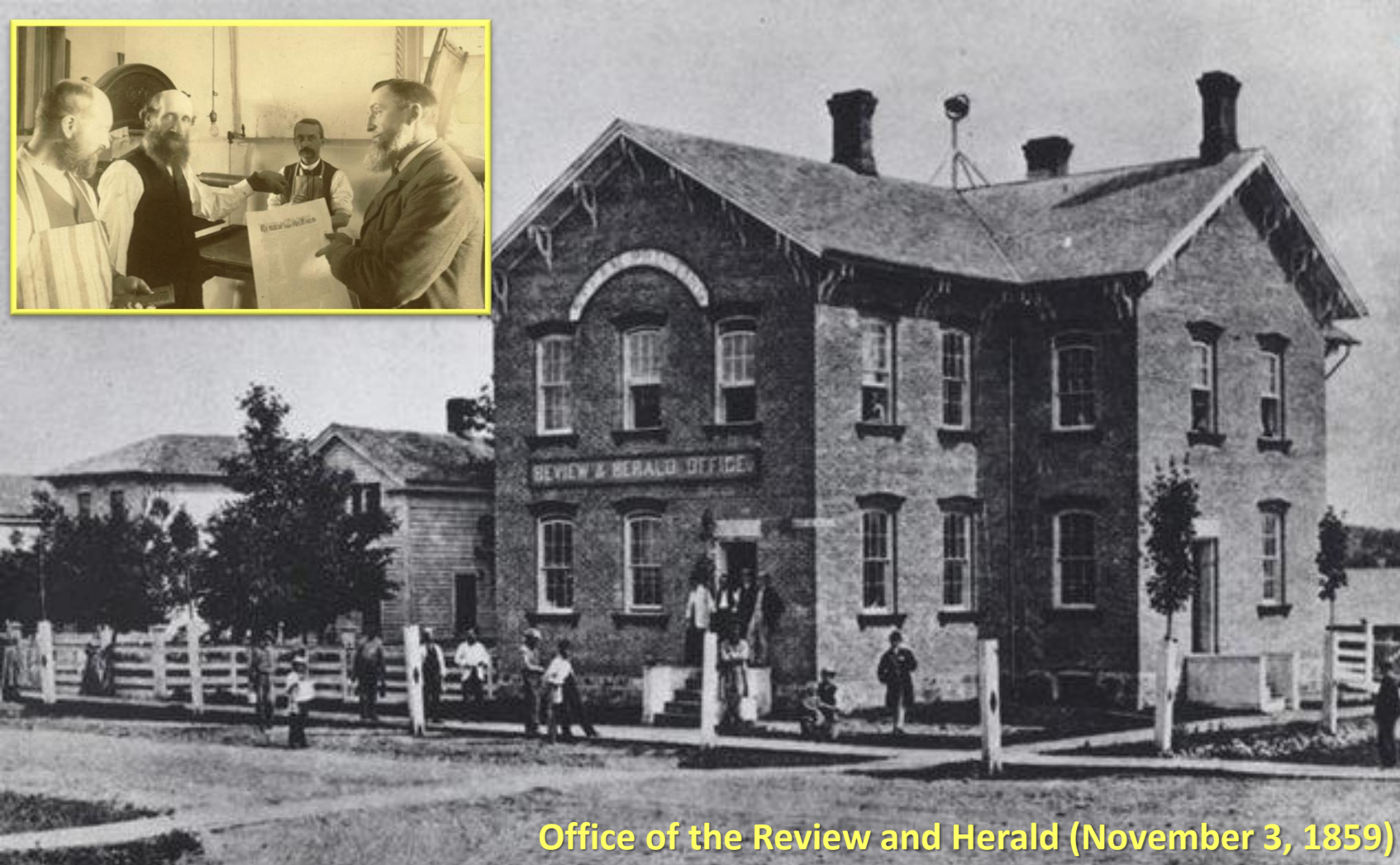
Seventh-day Adventists have never met a more talented and capable missionary executive and leader than James White. He was also a powerful public evangelist. About 1840, he participated with William Miller, Joseph Bates, and other preachers in the proclamation of the advent of our Lord. He survived the Millerite movement to become “the first great apostle of the Seventh-day Adventist cause.”

The word “the first” applies to James White as it does to no other minister in the church. He was the publisher of the first Adventist newspaper, “The Present Truth” (1849). He was the first editor of the Review and Herald (1850), the Youth's Instructor (1852), and the Signs of the Times (1874). He could have been the first president of the General Conference, but he refused the honor offered by most of his brethren because he had led the Church's organization movement. He didn't want people to think he was crafting a position for himself. However, he was president of the General Conference from 1865-1867, 1868-1871, and 1874-1880.

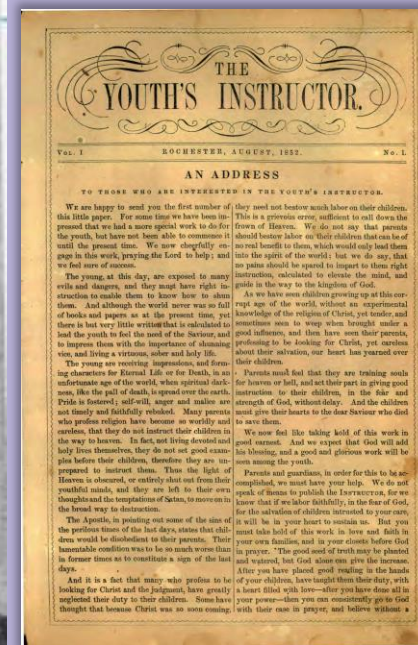
James White's contributions to the church were in the field of publications as well as in the field of church leadership and administration.

He began Sabbath School work and, together with his wife, Ellen G. White, founded the Review and Herald Publishing Association and the Pacific Press Publishing Association.



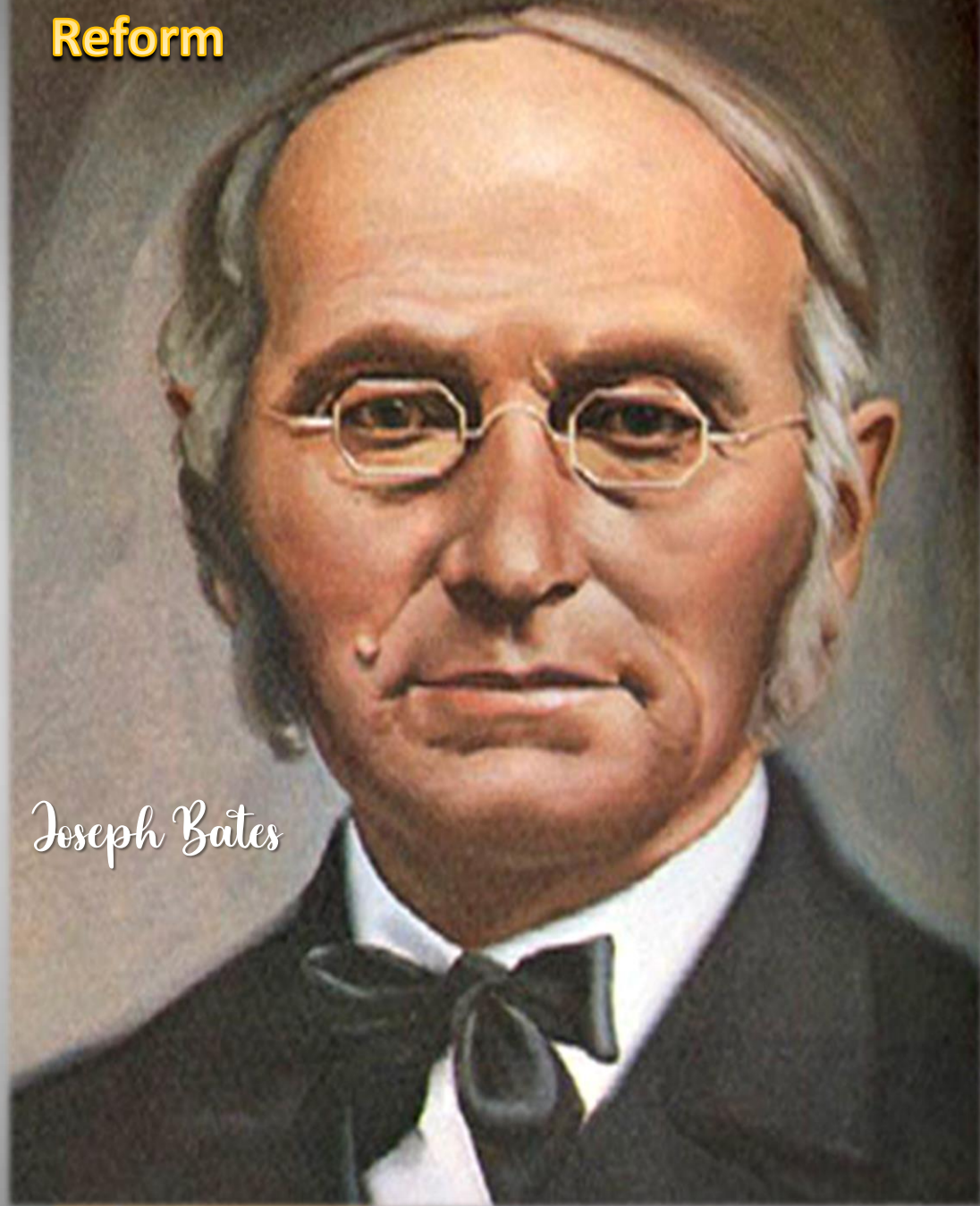


Office of the Review and Herald (November 3, 1859)



James White wrote his first Sabbath School book in a moment of rest during a trip from Rochester to Bangor. Since its inception, Sabbath School has focused on four emphases that are still prominent to this day: fellowship development, community outreach, Bible study, and overseas mission. A solid balance of these elements characterizes the Sabbath Schools today.

Defender of the Sabbath and Health Reform



Joseph Bates

In June 1807, Joseph Bates set sail as a cabin boy on a ship. This was the beginning of Bates' nautical career. Eventually, he became a sea captain.

During one of his trips, he read a copy of the Bible that his wife packed for him. He experienced conversion and became involved in a variety of reforms, helping to found a temperance society.

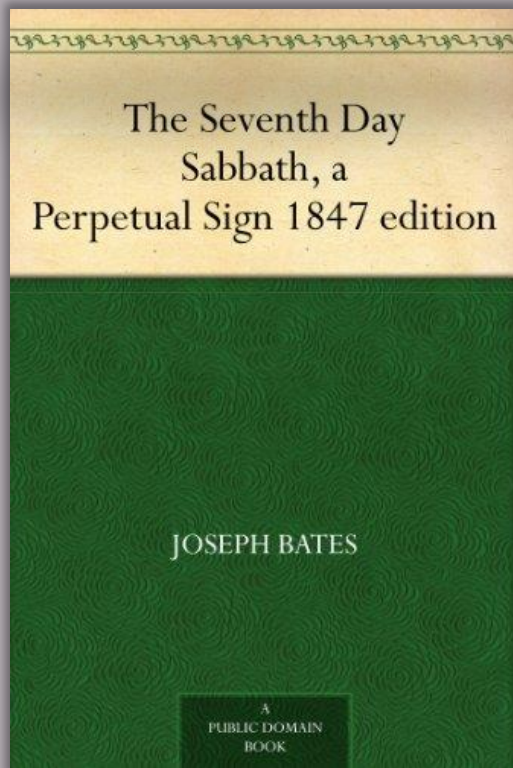
Later, he was adamant that the separation of church and state should be maintained. He was also a strong supporter of the abolition of slavery.

On his travels, he noticed the intemperance of sailors and the resulting side effects. This influenced him so much that he became one of the champions of health reform, abstaining from alcohol, tobacco, and caffeine, and becoming a vegetarian.

In 1839 he accepted the teachings of William Miller. After October 22, 1844, like many other Millerites, Bates searched for the meaning of the Great Disappointment.

During the spring of 1845, Bates accepted the seventh-day Sabbath. He was soon known as the "Sabbath apostle," and he wrote several booklets on the subject. One of the first, published in 1846, was titled "The Seventh-Day Sabbath, A Perpetual Sign."

He was able to connect the Sabbath with a unique understanding of the heavenly sanctuary. This apocalyptic understanding of theology would become known as the theme of the Great Controversy.



Joseph Bates' childhood home in 2005. The house was built in 1742 and is the oldest home in Fairhaven, MA.

Uriah Smith (1832-1903) was an Adventist author, minister, educator, and theologian. He was the longest-serving editor of the Review and Herald, more than 50 years.

He was an extremely versatile and creative person. Some of his lesser-known contributions include his work as a poet, hymn writer, inventor, and engraver.

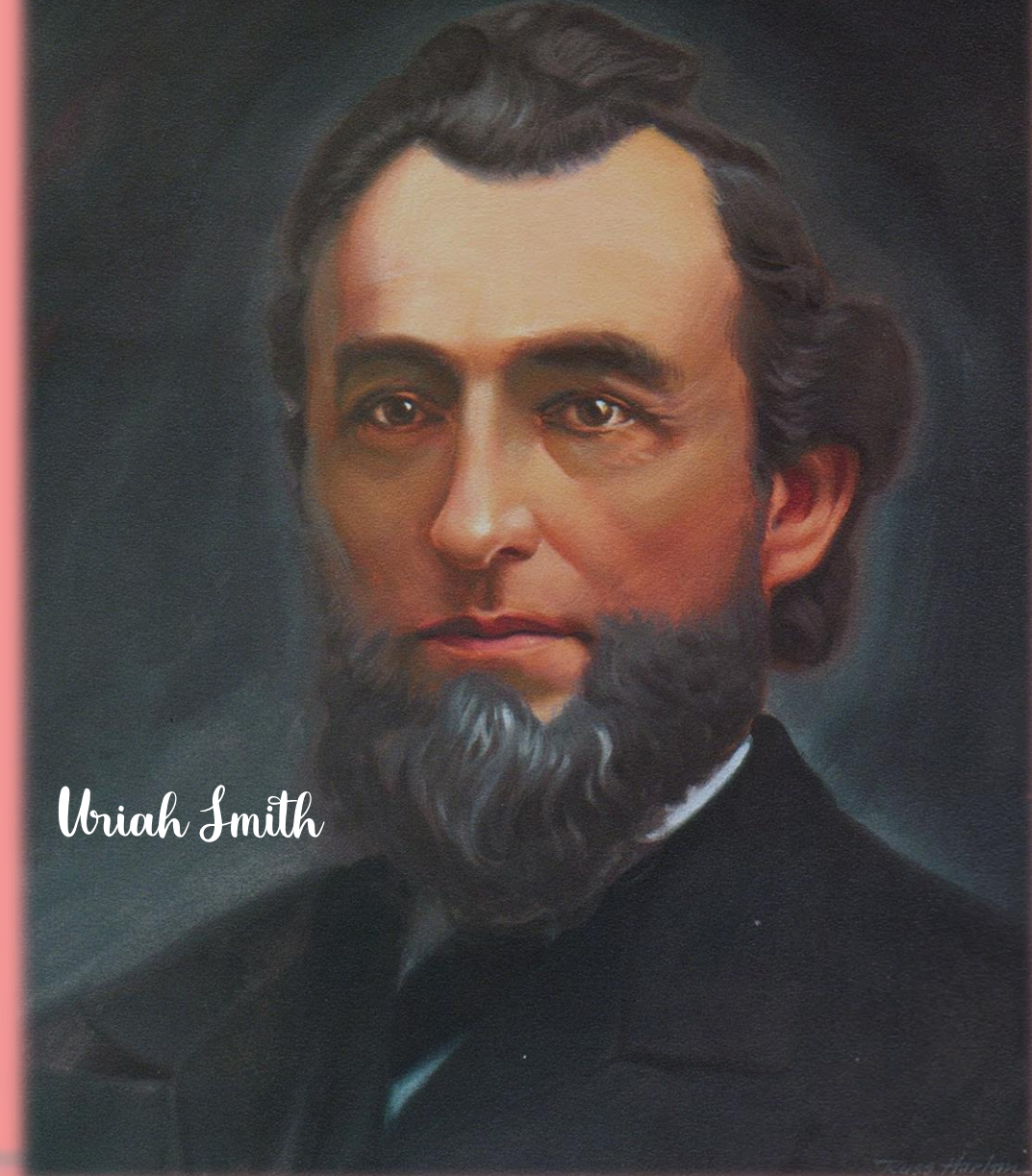
He patented an artificial leg with a movable ankle, and a desk with an improved folding seat, in addition to other inventions.

Smith was elected first secretary of the General Conference. He later held the same position again on five separate occasions. He also served a stint as treasurer (1876-1877).

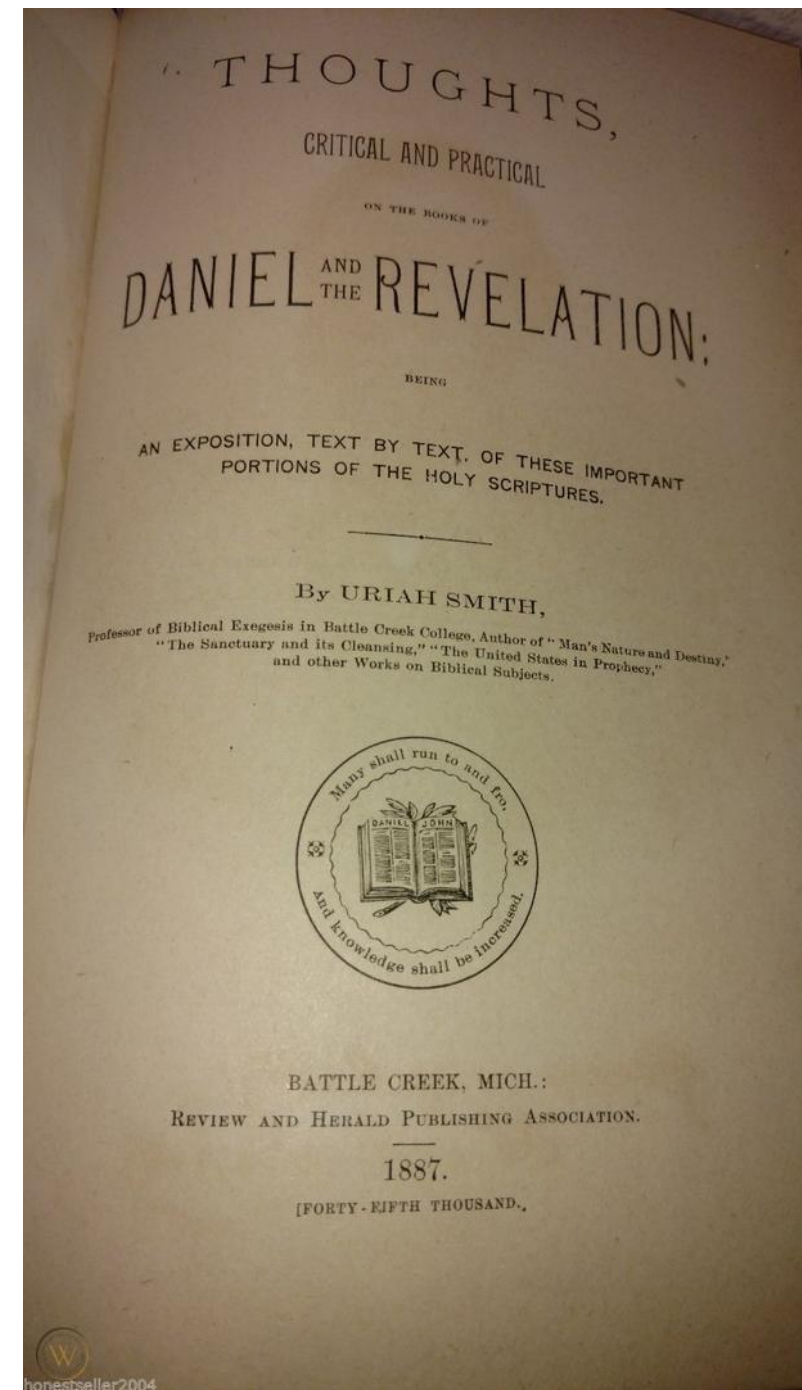
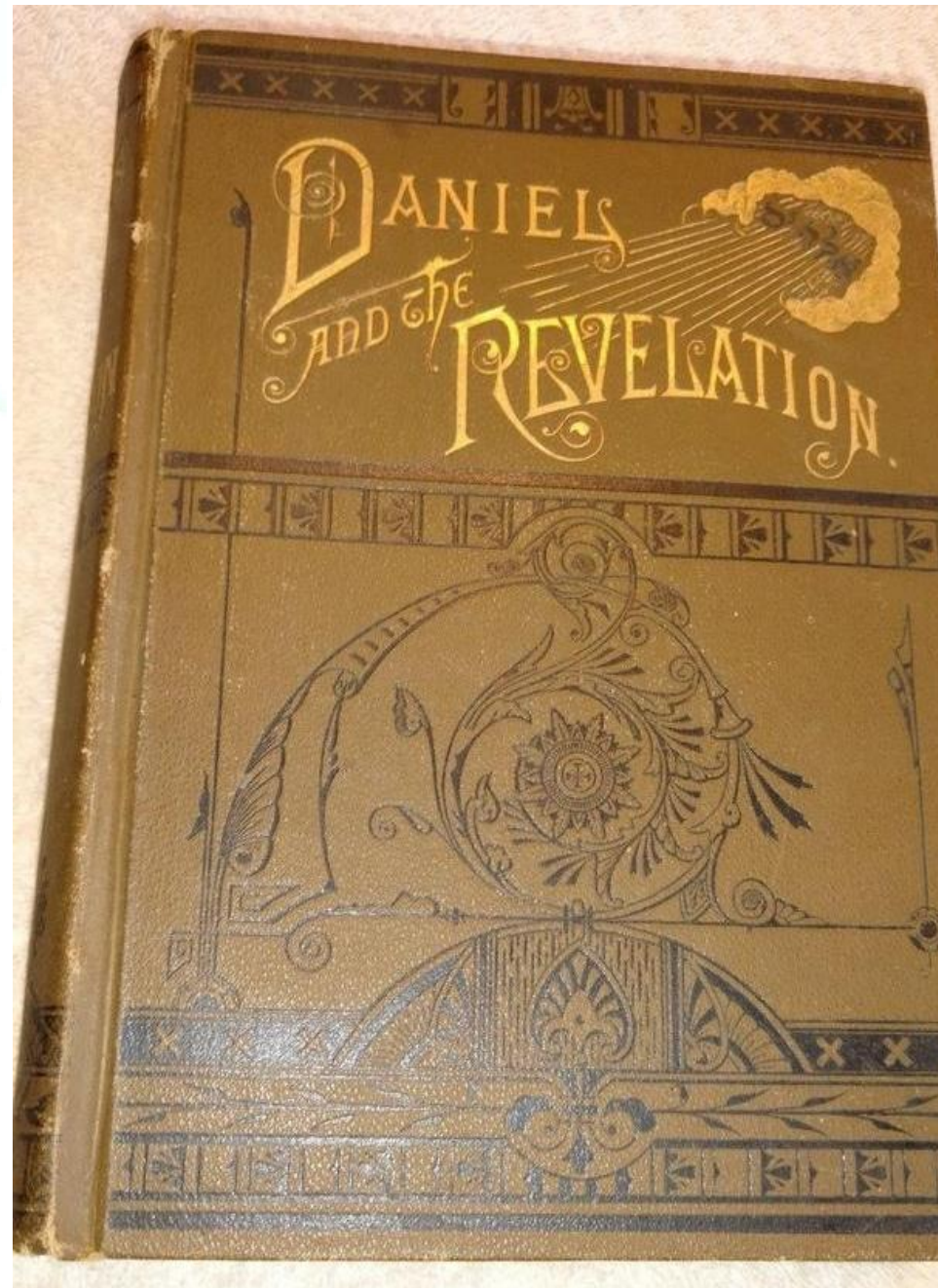
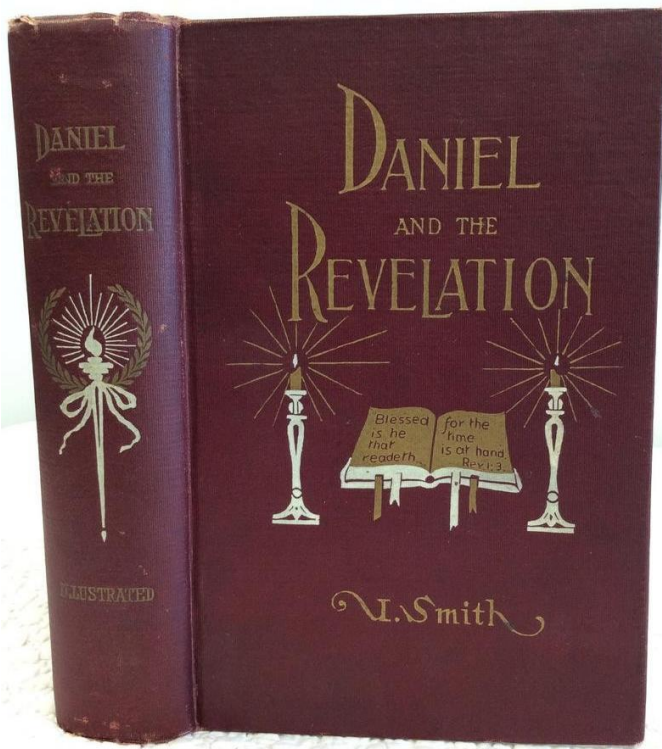
He was ordained to the ministry in 1874. That same year he helped found Battle Creek College. As a theologian, he taught Bible classes, ministry workshops, and chaired the university board.

As the author of numerous books, Smith carved some of the first woodcut illustrations published by early Sabbatarian Adventists. He was one of the most prolific authors of early Adventism. His best-known work is "Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation," often abbreviated simply to "Daniel and the Revelation." It became the classic text on end-time Adventist beliefs.

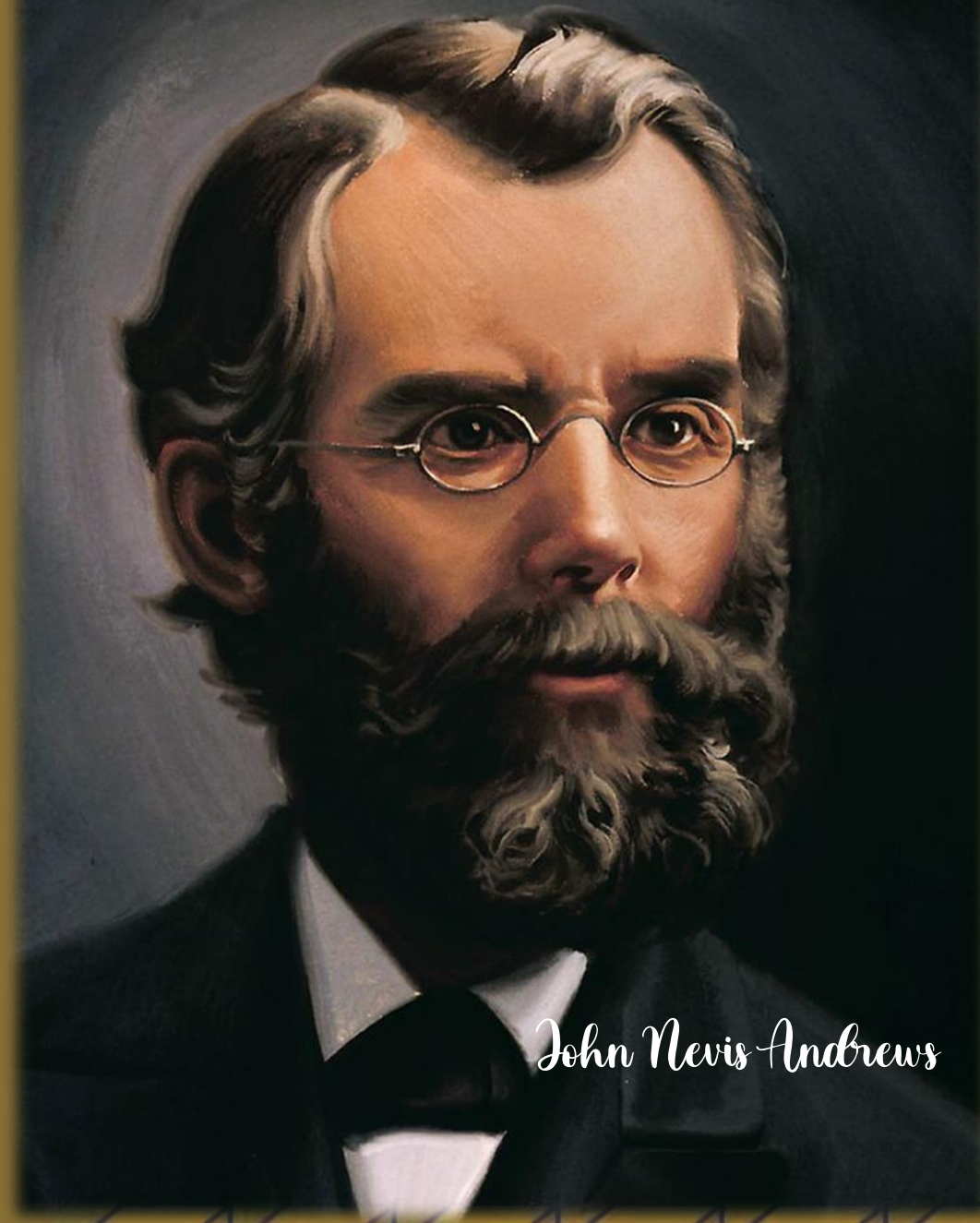
Interpretation of Daniel and Revelation



Uriah Smith



The First Missionary Sent



John Nevis Andrews

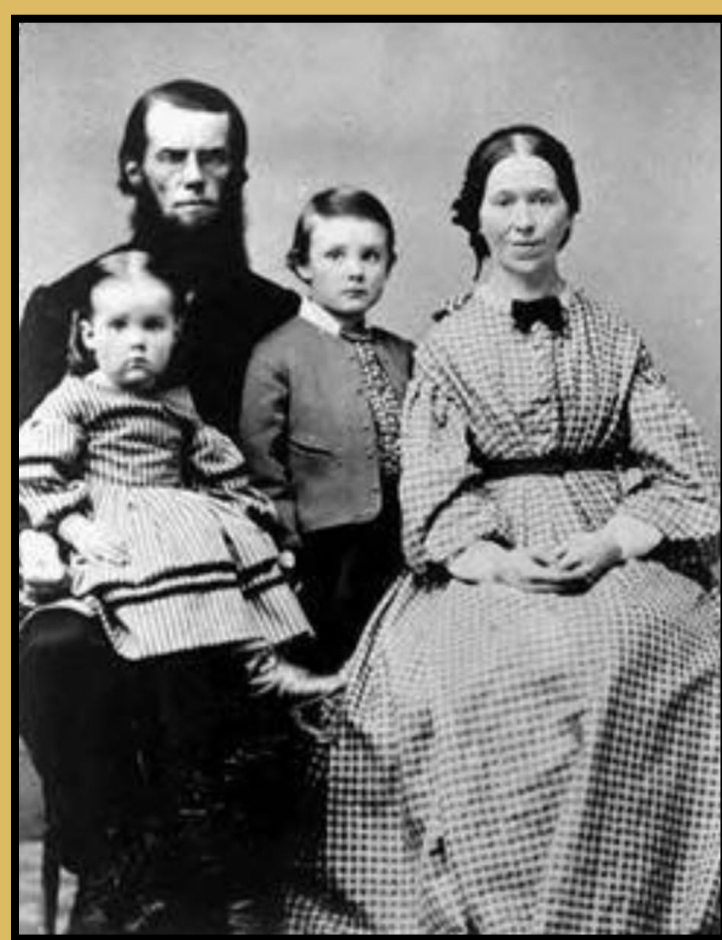
The early Seventh-day Adventists were anything but enthusiastic missionaries.

In September 1874, John Nevis Andrews was sent to Europe as the denomination's "first official missionary." God used him, blessed his contribution to the spread of the Adventist message in that part of the world, and, thanks to his care and power, many people welcomed the message of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with open arms.

He gathered the Sabbath-keeping believers scattered throughout England and on the European continent. He organized the work, with headquarters in Basel, Switzerland.

He was a pioneering missionary, who gave his life for the work of missions.

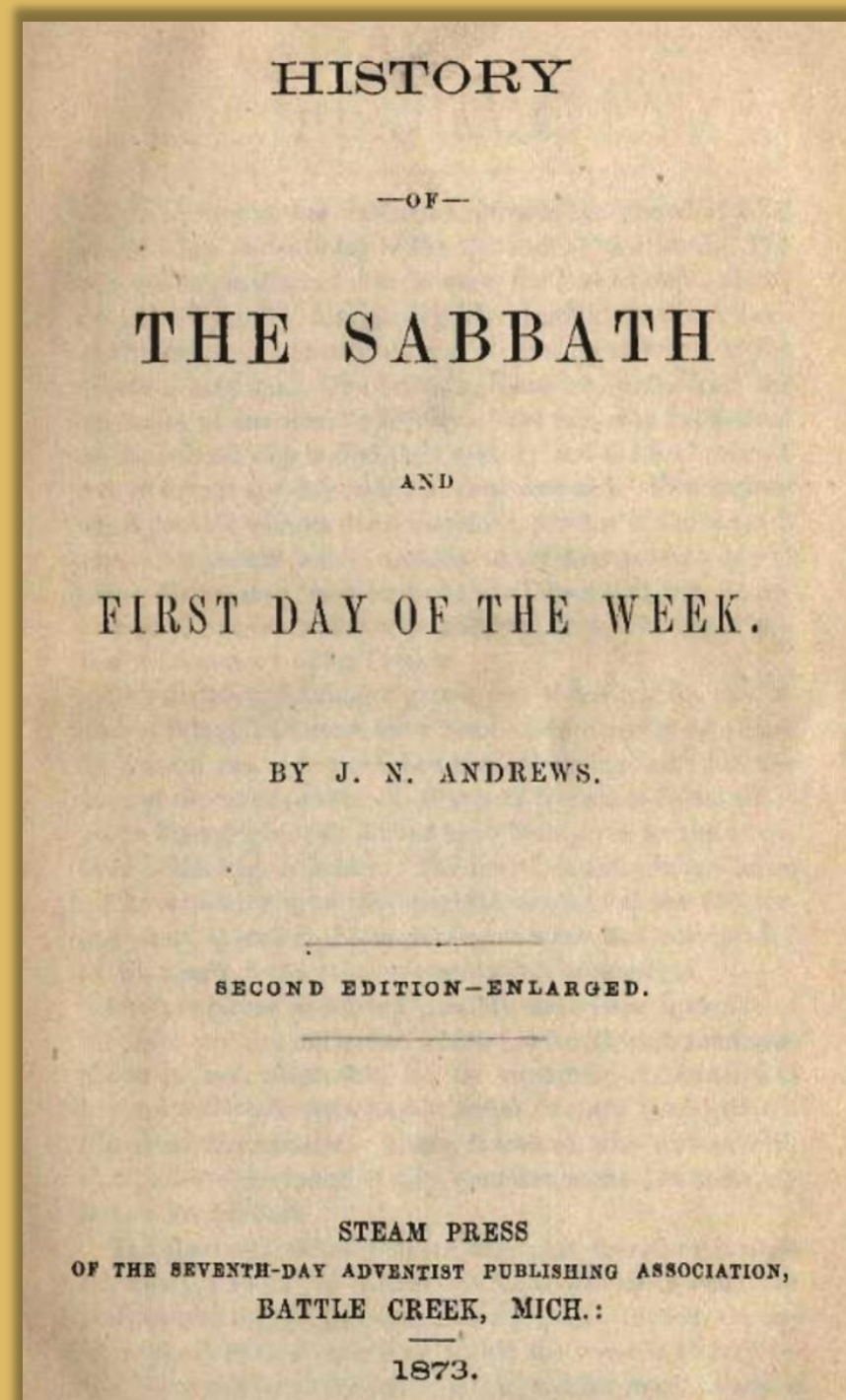
World missions are of the utmost importance. Even today, there are territories where the Adventist message has not entered, and our missionaries are directed by God to carry out the spread of the message "to all the world." You too can help with your service and your offerings.



Andrews family in 1862:

- John N. Andrews (33 years old)
- Angeline Stevens (38 years old)
- Charles Melville (5 years old)
- Mary Frances (18 months old)

The house in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, where J. N. Andrews initially settled upon his arrival in Europe.

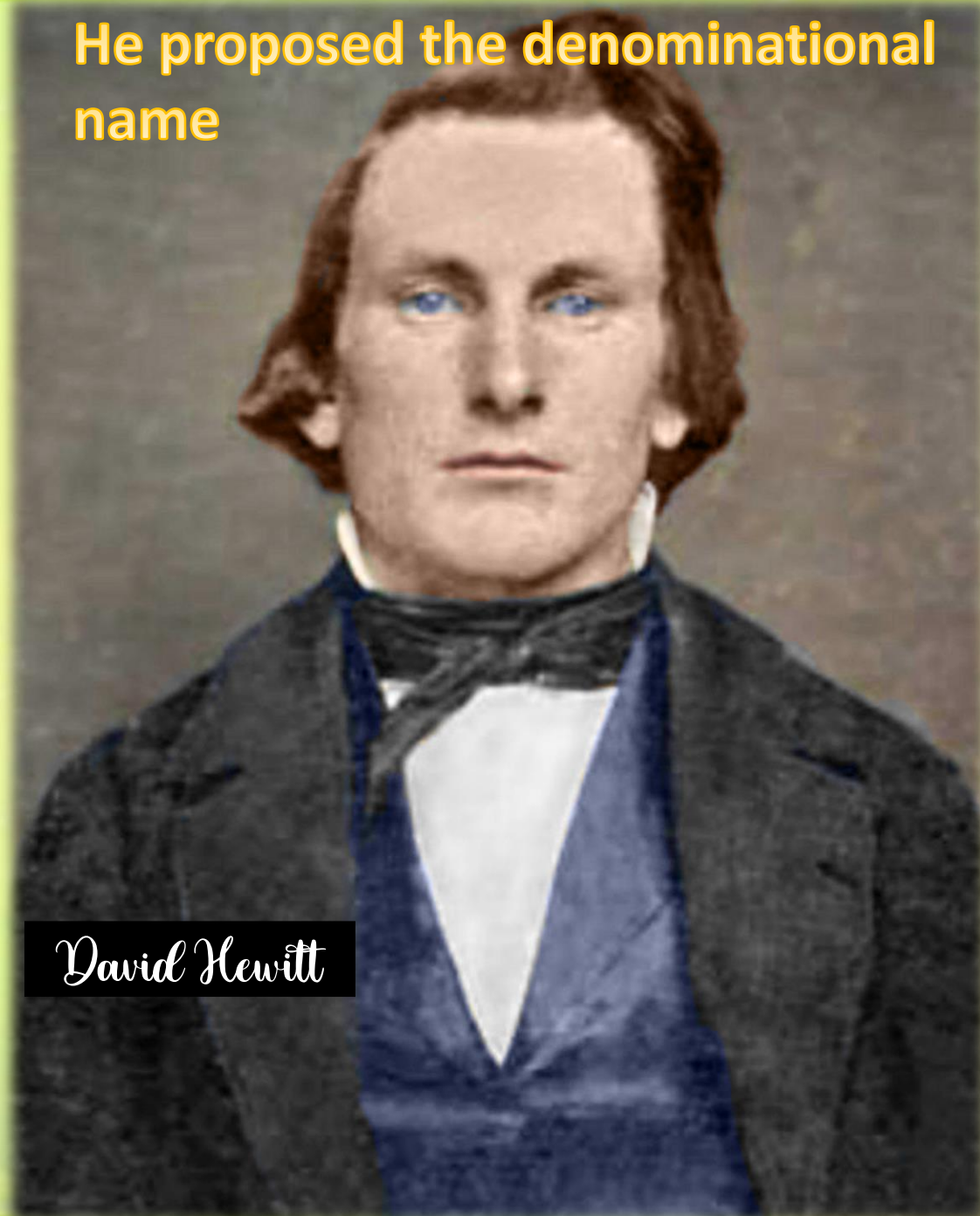


In October 1860, a commission of nineteen people met to find a name for our denomination, to work out some legal details, and to foster a sense of identity amongst believers. During this event, David Hewitt, known as “the most honest man” in Battle Creek, proposed that we adopt the name “Seventh-day Adventists.” The proposal was accepted, as many delegates recognized that the name eloquently expressed our faith and doctrinal position.

- ✓ “Adventist” indicates the assurance of Jesus' soon return (advent) to this earth.
- ✓ “Seventh Day” refers to the biblical Sabbath of rest given by God's grace to created humanity and observed by Jesus during His incarnation.

Today, more than a hundred years after this event, our name “Seventh-day Adventists” still serves the same purpose as it did in 1860. We must identify strongly with our organization and strive to grow spiritually each day to carry high the banner of our church.

He proposed the denominational name



David Hewitt

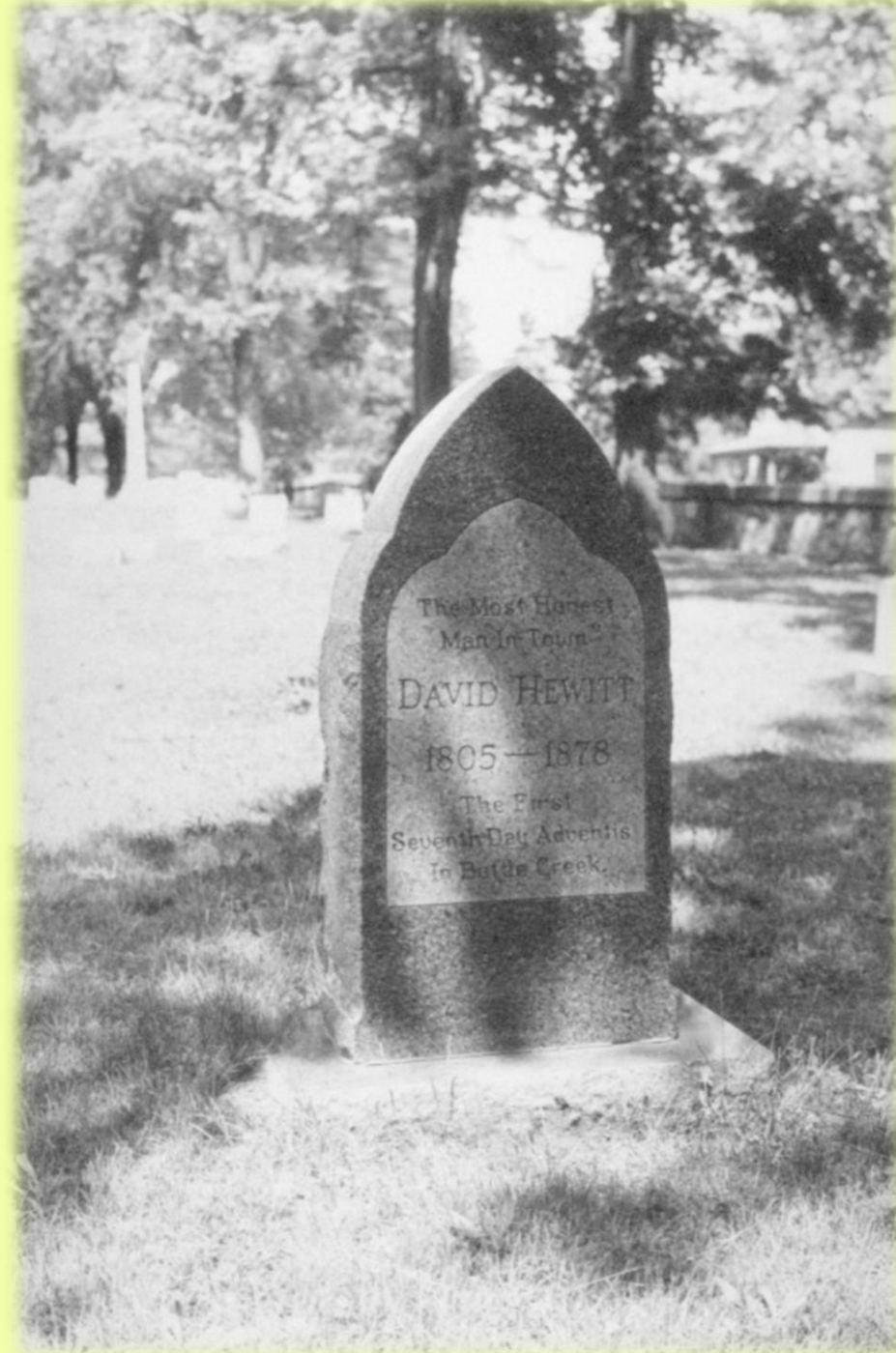


Olive Hewitt,
David
Hewitt's wife.

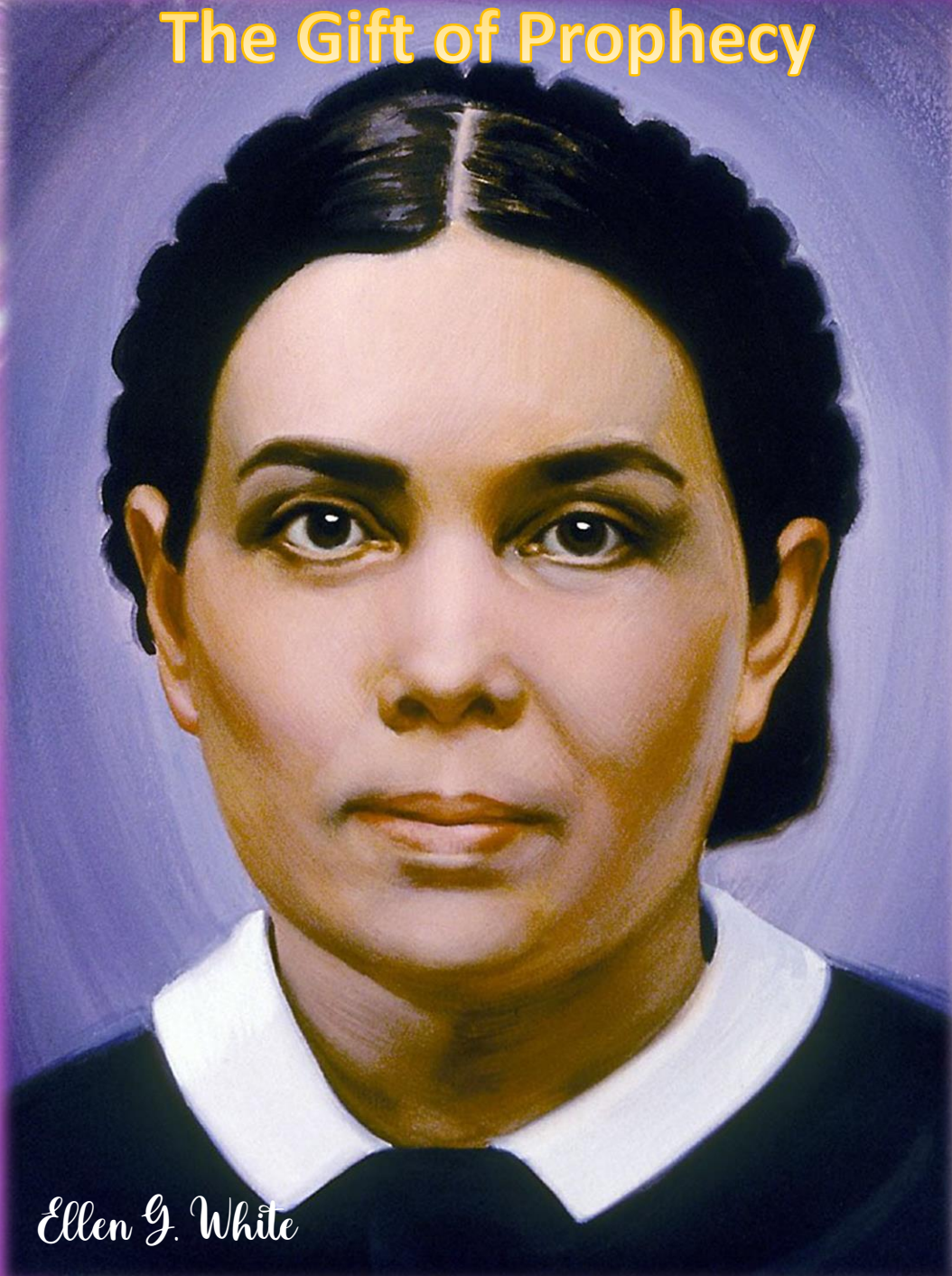


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Denominational logo of
the Seventh-day
Adventist Church.



The Gift of Prophecy



Ellen G. White

When Ellen G. White received God's call to be His servant, she wasn't sure if this was what she really wanted to be. But the Lord showed her that she would be an important piece for the Adventist movement.

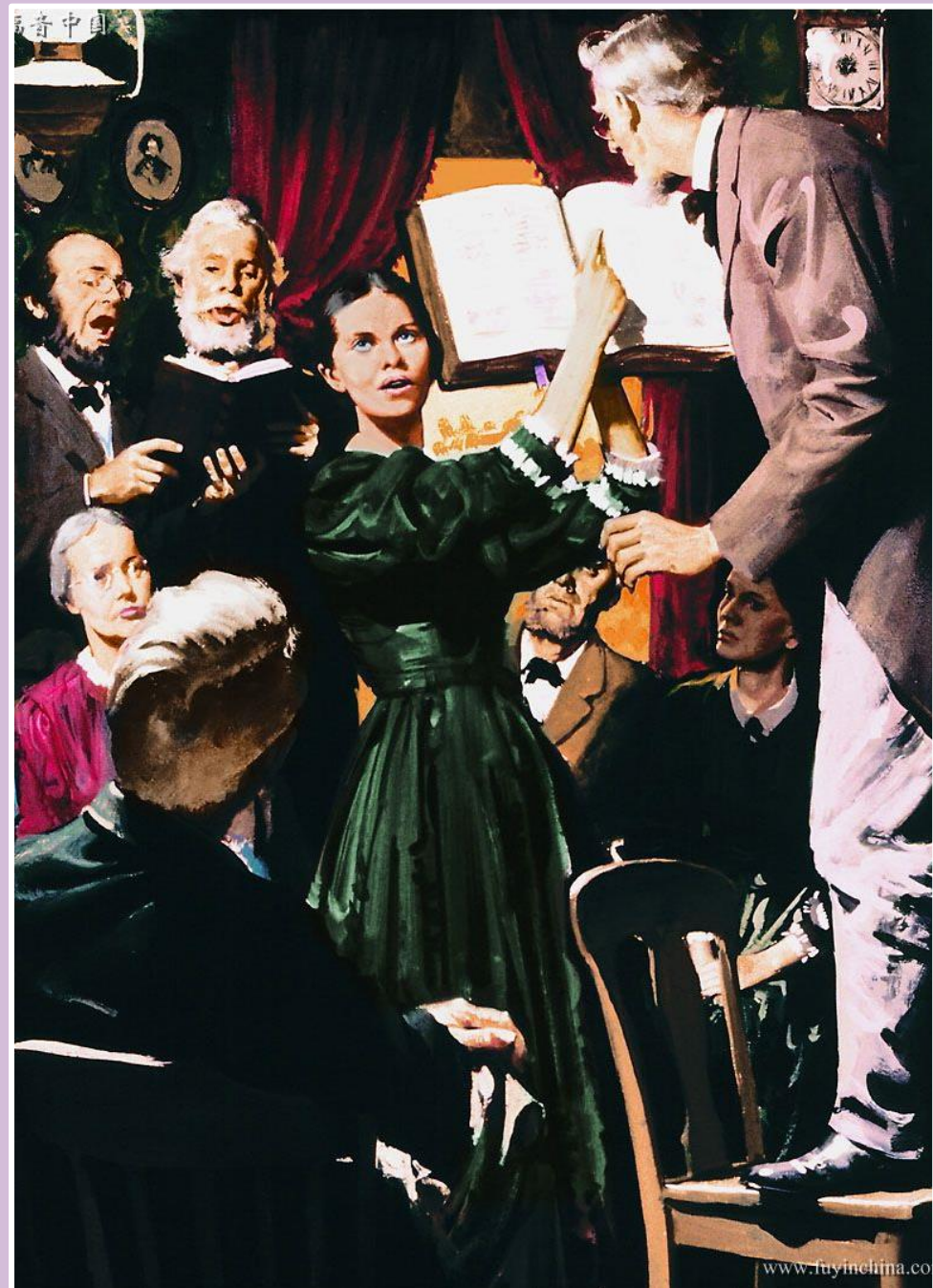
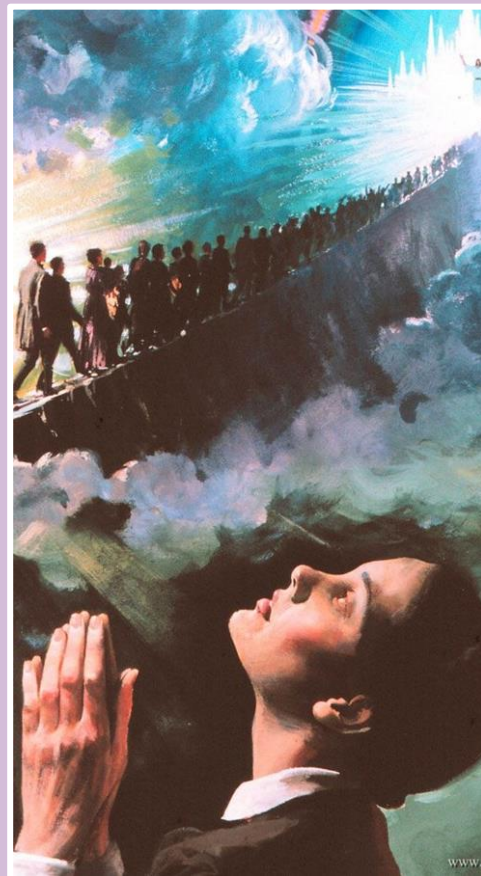
Ellen G. White was endowed with the gift of prophecy, participated in the Millerite proclamation of 1840, and shed new light on the cleansing of the sanctuary and the Sabbath.

Early in her public labors, the Lord commanded her, "Write, write down the things which I have revealed unto thee." Thus, during the seventy years of his public ministry (between 1844 and 1915) she wrote approximately 25 million words, about one hundred thousand pages of manuscript material. This is a lot of writing!

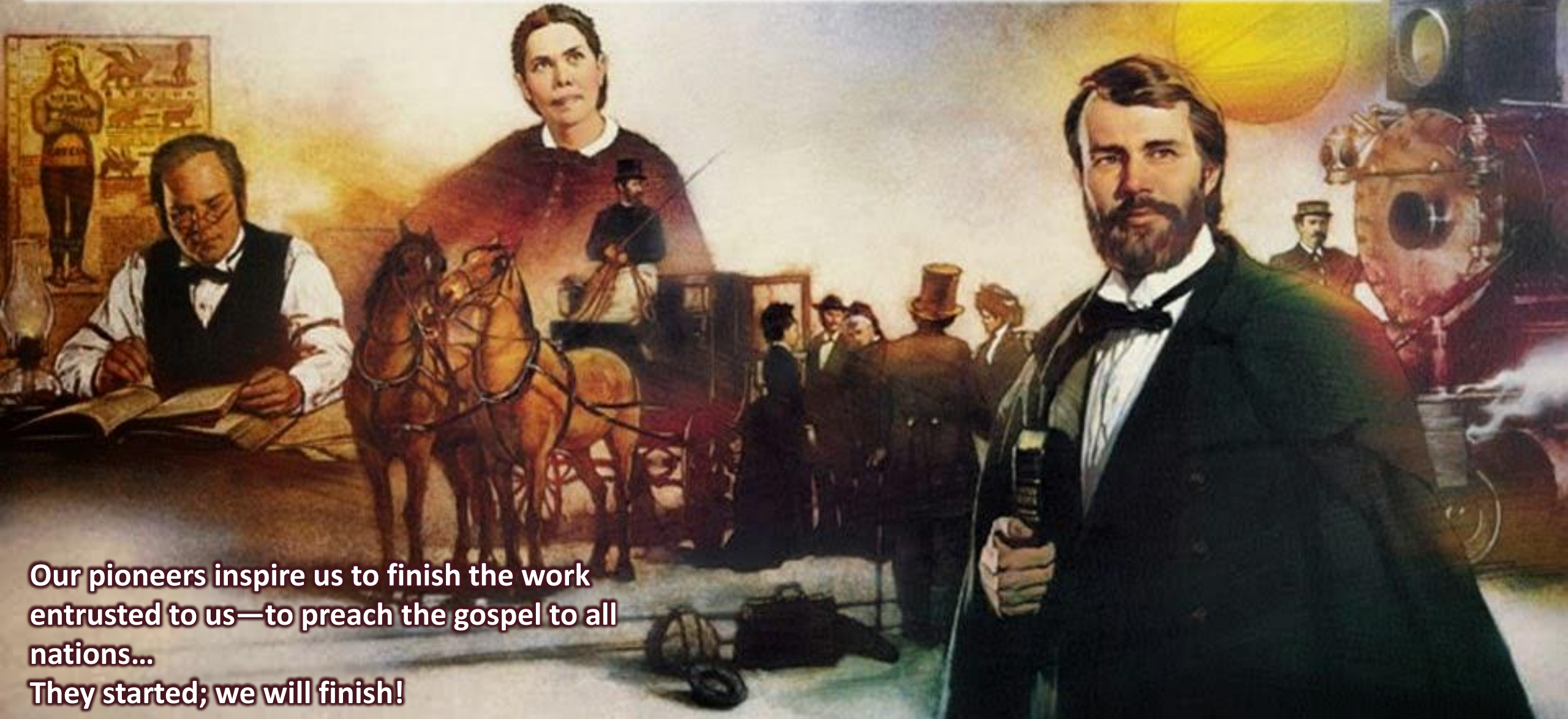
Mrs. White's early counsel in the area of church administration and organization, in the branches of health, medical evangelism, education, and publishing is well known. Her many books convey these messages for churches today. Her writings are not outdated, but up-to-date. Where her counsels have been put into practice, the results have confirmed their divine origin.

Today the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which she helped found, is a strong worldwide movement that carries the message of salvation to others who have no hope.

Let's read her books and practice her inspired counsel.



We need not fear the challenges that God's work presents. Let us remember that the Lord will never abandon His church and will use us, just as He did with these pioneers, to bring the hope of a Savior who gave His life for us and is coming a second time. God has done and will do great things using those who are willing to be guided by the power of the Almighty.



Our pioneers inspire us to finish the work entrusted to us—to preach the gospel to all nations...

They started; we will finish!