

Sanctuary Under Siege: Last Generation Theology

In order to facilitate covering all the intended information for this seminar, please hold and write down your questions until the seminar is completed. If time allows there will be a segment for questions at the end.

Information will be given at the end of the seminar of a time and location when further dialogue can take place later this evening.

There will be a link provided at the end for downloadable seminar notes.

Format

Andreasen

QOD

Heppenstall

Reflections

If time: Questions

M.L. Andreasen

“It is impossible to overestimate the influence of M.L. Andreasen on twentieth century Adventist theology. His theological package is so central to modern Adventist development that a person is forced to respond in one way or another to it. Individuals and groups within the church either agree with his theology or they must react against it. Neutrality is not an option for those who understand his teachings...”

– George Knight, Search For Identity

Sin

Nature of Christ

Christ as Example

Eschatology - LGT

“Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.”

– Ellen White, *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 69

Questions on Doctrine

Classic Augustinian View

“Questions on Doctrine easily qualifies as the most divisive book in Seventh-day Adventist history. A book published to help bring peace between Adventism and conservative Protestantism, its release brought prolonged alienation and separation to Adventist factions that grew up around it.”

– George Knight

“Heading number II (in QOD on the nature of Christ) has been seen as problematic because it implies that Ellen White believed that Christ “took sinless human nature” when in fact she claimed the opposite. For example, in 1896 she wrote that Christ “took upon him our sinful nature” (RH, Dec. 15896, p. 789). Again in 1900 she penned that “he took upon himself fallen, suffering human nature, degraded and defiled by sin” (Youth Instructor, Dec. 20, 1900, pl. 394)...

Thus Questions on Doctrine not only supplied a misleading heading, but it also neglected to present the evidence that would have contradicted the that heading. The result has been that Questions on Doctrine has been vilified by many Adventists and has probably done more to create theological division in the Adventist church than any other document in its more than 150-year history.”

- George Knight, Annotated QOD Footnotes

“Whether Froom and his colleagues were willing to admit it or not, the view of Christ’s human nature that they had set forth was a genuine revision of the position held by the majority of the denomination before the publication of Questions on Doctrine.”

– George Knight, Annotated QOD Footnotes

Edward Heppenstall

"The most influential scholar to come out against Andreasen's final generation theology was Edward Heppenstall."

– George Knight, *A Search For Identity*, p. 171

"While Heppenstall's writings were influential, his teaching career was much more so. He influenced a generation of preachers and religion teachers through his college and seminary lectures. Theme's highlighted by Heppenstall would echo in other classrooms through such teachers as Hans LaRondelle and Raoul Dederen and in the pulpit through Morris Venden throughout the 1970s and 1980s."

– George Knight, *A Search For Identity*, p. 173

“Edward Heppenstall is the most influential theologian of this generation...” Woodrow Whidden

Sin

“All men are born in a state of separation from God. This is the original sin, a state into which all of us enter the world.”

- Edward Heppenstall

“Where man is separated from the presence and reality of God in any way and to the slightest degree, there sin exists in some form...All sin springs from separation from God.”

- Edward Heppenstall

Christology

“A third group of theologians and church members emphasize that although Christ’s nature was fully human and that he could yield to temptations, Christ did not inherit our inner inclinations and predispositions to sin. He could sin, and he was tempted to sin, but all his temptations came from outside of himself as was the case with Adam and Eve before the fall... This position is held by the following theologians: Edward Heppenstall...

- Denis Fortin, paper “Ellen White on the Nature of Christ”

Christ as our Example

“There is no salvation in the life example of Jesus, the Carpenter of Nazareth if that is all there is.”

-Heppenstall, *The Man Who is God*, p. 37

Eschatology

“The Christian believes that there still remains in the regenerate man a fountain of evil, that sin always exists in the saints till they are divested of their mortal bodies...This original sin remains in Christians and non-Christians until they die or are translated.”

Heppenstall, *Definition of Righteousness*, syllabus lessons, pp. 18-20



Reflections



Sin

- Our understanding of sin must be consistent with the sanctuary service and the blotting out of sin.

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- Our understanding of sin must come from a biblical understanding of human nature.

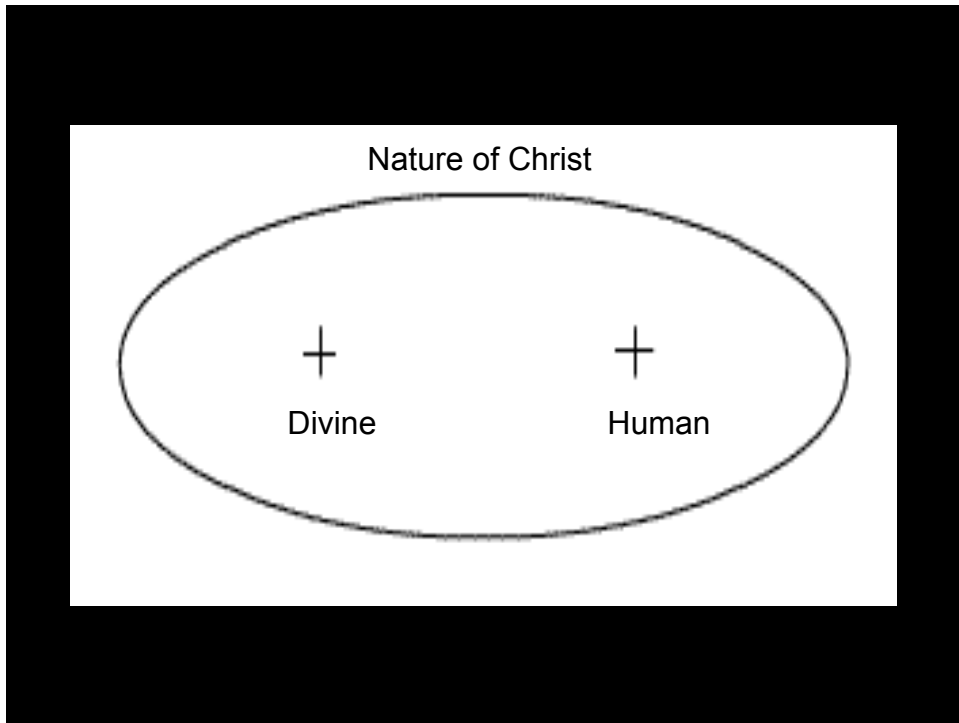
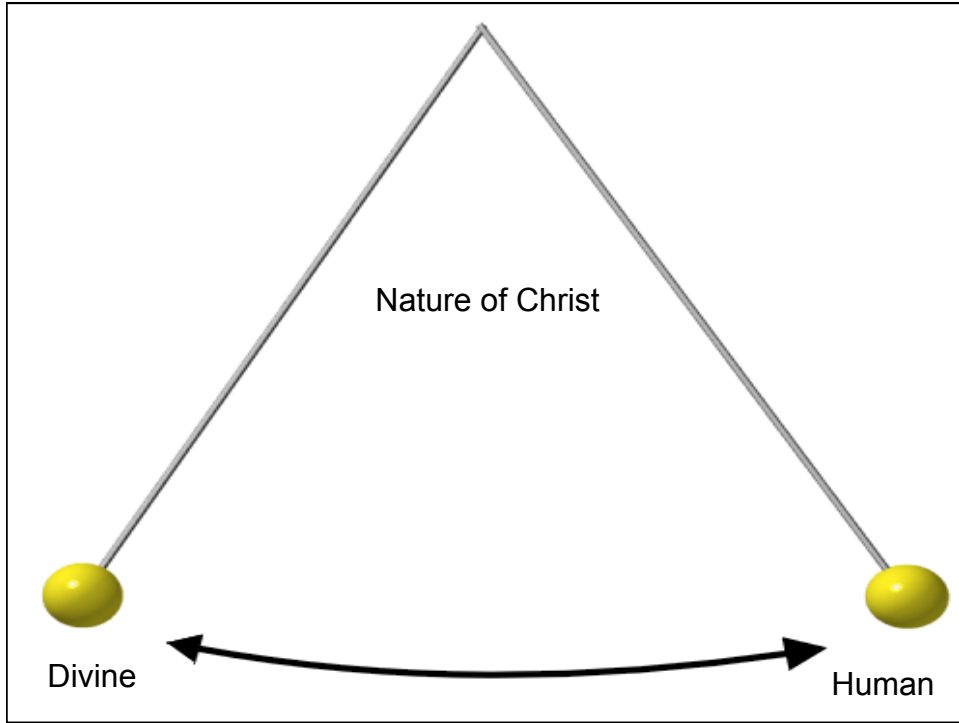
- Our understanding of sin must be consistent with the sanctuary.
- Our understanding of sin must come from a biblical understanding of human nature.
- Our understanding of sin must be compatible with our eschatology (the close of probation and living without a mediator).

“Sin is the transgression of the law.’ This is the only definition of sin. Without the law there can be no transgression. ‘By the law is the knowledge of sin.’ The standard of righteousness is exceeding broad, prohibiting every evil thing.”

- Ellen White, Manuscript 27, 1899

All sin is selfishness.
- Ellen White, 1888 Materials, p. 1763

Christology



“It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man's nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin. Like every child of Adam He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity. What these results were is shown in the history of His earthly ancestors. He came with such a heredity to share our sorrows and temptations, and to give us the example of a sinless life.” - Desire of Ages, p. 49

Hebrews 2:17 -18

Therefore, in all things He had to be *made like His brethren*, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Hebrews 2:11

For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren

Steps to Christ, p. 93-94

Our Saviour identified Himself with our needs and weakness, in that He became a suppliant, a petitioner, seeking from His Father fresh supplies of strength, that He might come forth braced for duty and trial. He is our example in all things. He is a brother in our infirmities, "in all points tempted like as we are;" *but as the sinless one His nature recoiled from evil*; He endured struggles and torture of soul in a world of sin.

“All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and *sanctified*, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, *sin will become hateful to us.*”

- Desire of Ages, p. 668

The Majesty of heaven undertook the cause of man, and with THE SAME FACILITIES THAT MAN MAY OBTAIN, withstood the temptations of Satan as man must withstand them. This was the only way in which fallen man could become a partaker of the divine nature.

– Ellen White, 1 Selected Messages, p. 252

Jesus was born in the nature of Adam after the fall; however in the full potential of human sanctification with sanctified tendencies.

Jesus as Example

1 Peter 2:21

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an *example*, that you should follow in his steps.

John 5:19

Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

John 5:30

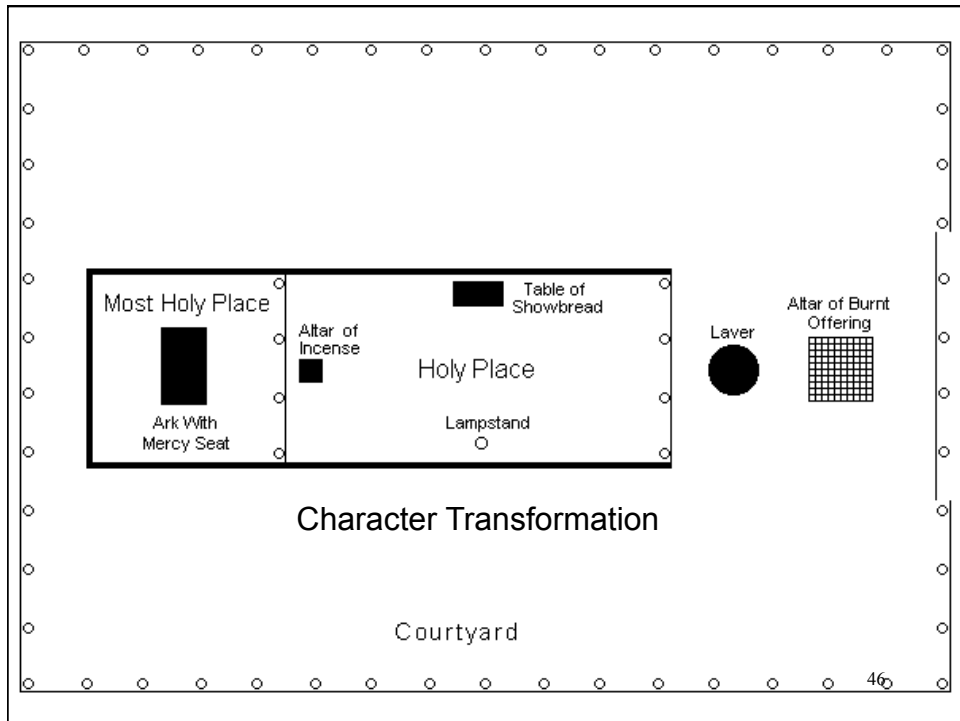
“By myself I can do nothing.”

“Jesus revealed no qualities, and exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him. His perfect humanity is that which all His followers may possess, if they will be in subjection to God as He was.”

- Desire of Ages, 664

Last Generation

Revelation 7



Revelation 14:1

Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

Revelation 7:3

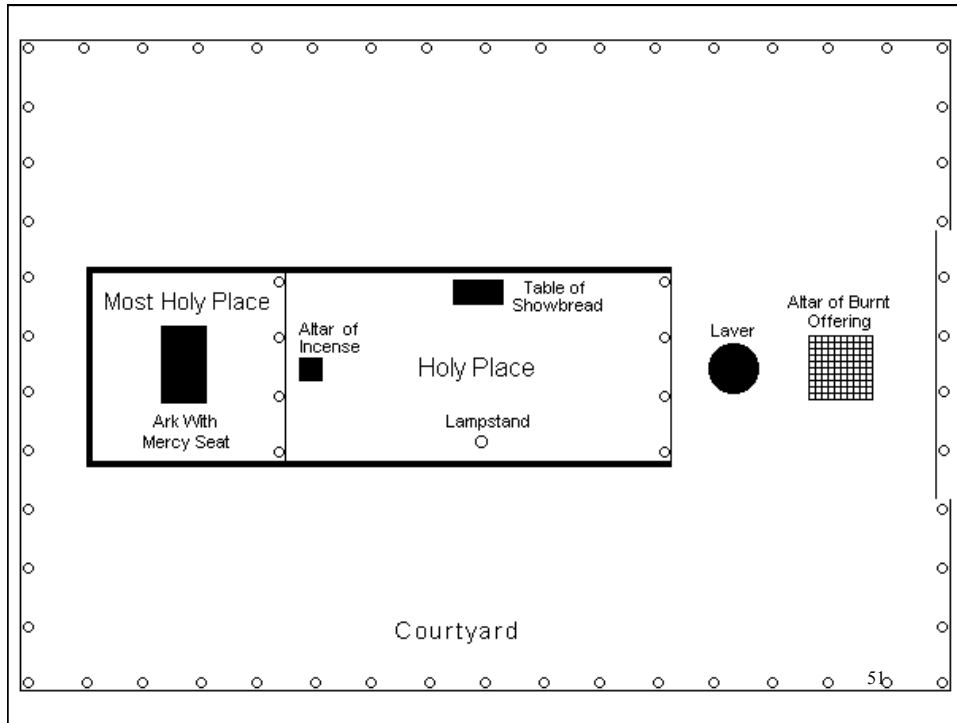
"Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."

“Jesus does not change the character at His coming. The work of transformation must be done now.”

– Ellen White, *Adventist Home*, p. 16

“When Christ shall come, our vile bodies are to be changed, and made like his glorious body; but the vile character will not be made holy then. The transformation of character must take place before his coming.”

– Ellen White, *Our High Calling*, p. 278



“The central theme of the Bible, the theme about which every other in the whole book clusters, is the redemption plan, the restoration in the human soul of the image of God. From the first intimation of hope in the sentence pronounced in Eden to that last glorious promise of the Revelation, “They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads” (Revelation 22:4), the burden of every book and every passage of the Bible is the unfolding of this wondrous theme,—man’s uplifting,—the power of God, “which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:57.” – Ellen White, Education, p. 125

Human Merit

"The CLOSER you come to Jesus, the more faulty you will appear in your own eyes; for your vision will be clearer, and your IMPERFECTIONS will be seen in distinct contrast with His perfect character. Be not discouraged; this is an evidence that Satan's delusions are losing their power"

- Ellen White, Bible Echo 12/1/1892

“Let the recording angels write the history of the holy struggles and conflicts of the people of God; let them record their prayers and tears; but let not God be dishonored by the declaration from human lips, "I am sinless; I am holy." Sanctified lips will never give utterance to such presumptuous words.” Acts of the Apostels, p. 561-562

“None of the apostles and prophets ever claimed to be without sin. Men who have lived the nearest to God, men who would sacrifice life itself rather than knowingly commit a wrong act, men whom God has honored with divine light and power, have confessed the sinfulness of their nature. They have put no confidence in the flesh, have claimed no righteousness of their own, but have trusted wholly in the righteousness of Christ. So will it be with all who behold Christ. The nearer we come to Jesus, and the more clearly we discern the purity of His character, the more clearly shall we see the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and the less shall we feel like exalting ourselves.” Acts of Apostles, p. 561

“The religious services, the prayers, the praise, the penitent confession of sin that ascend from true believers ... to the heavenly sanctuary... but passing through the corrupt channels of humanity, they are so defiled that unless purified by blood, they can never be of value with God”

- Ellen White, 1 Selected Messages, p. 344

"And any works that man can render to God will be far less than nothingness. My requests are made acceptable only because they are laid upon Christ's righteousness.”

– Ellen White, Faith and Works, p. 23, 24

"Oh, that all may see that everything in obedience, in penitence, in praise and thanksgiving, must be placed upon the glowing fire of the righteousness of Christ."

Ellen White, 1 Selected Messages, 344

Further dialogue
and questions

8:30pm-10:00pm

GYC Speaker Time
Rm #320 ABC

Next Seminar:

The Omega Apostasy

Saturday, 4:15-5:15pm

Ellen White looked into the future and trembled. What did she see? An examination of the Alpha and Omega apostasy.

To Download ALL Notes:

<https://goo.gl/9f4kfE>

