

EARLY ADVENT HISTORY STORIES

In this book, we are going to have a series of stories about the Great Advent movement out of which the people known as Seventh-day Adventists came. The 'time of the end', which means the end of a Bible Time Prophecy, started in 1798 and around that time many prophecies from the Bible began to be fulfilled. We will learn about them.



Part 1- DARK DAY AND FALLING STARS

Dark Day-19th of May, 1780

Falling Stars-13th November, 1833

The day became as dark as night, and everyone wondered what it could mean. "Mother, what time is it?" cried Ben, as he came running in from the yard. "It is only ten o'clock in the morning," said mother with a smile. "Then why is it so dark, mother?" "Do not be afraid, my son. Here comes your father now."

"What can this mean?" said father, as he opened the door. "It is getting dark. The cows have come to the barn. The chickens have gone to roost. They think it is night." Mother lighted a candle. It was as dark as night. Ben started to cry. "Do not cry," said father.

"What can this mean?" said mother. Father answered: "Jesus told His disciples about a dark day that would show that His coming was near. This may be the last day on this earth."

It was so dark Ben could not play. He watched it until at last he went to sleep. How happy Ben was the next morning to find the bright sun making the world light again.

Many years passed by. Ben became an old man. He became a grandfather. Nellie and Edward were his grand-children. Nellie and Edward liked stories. They liked to hear about grandfather when he was a little boy.

Grandfather told them many stories. One time he told them the story of the dark day and of the night when the moon was as red as blood. He said: "These were signs that Jesus is soon coming."

Nellie and Edward heard the story. Grandfather told it so vividly they could almost see him as a boy. When the story was finished, they went upstairs; mother put Nellie and Edward to bed. Grandfather went to bed, too.

In the night grandfather called them. He called father and mother. He called Nellie and Edward. He said: "Get up quickly! Everyone ran outside to see the stars falling from the heavens. Come look at the stars! They are falling. It is as light as day."

Everyone ran outside to watch the stars. Nellie and Edward were afraid. Nellie stood close to mother. Edward stood close to father. Many people were crying. They were afraid. They thought the end of the world had come. Grandfather looked happy. He said: "This is another sign that Jesus is soon coming."

When daylight came, the falling stars could no longer be seen. The sun shone brightly.

Nellie and Edward played with their playmates. They talked about the falling stars. They told them the story of the dark day and of the night when the moon was as red as blood. They were happy that Jesus was soon coming. =^..^=

Part 2: THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE OF PROPHECY

Revelation 6:12,13 "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind."

"Did you notice, Revelation 6:12 actually puts it in the order it happened. It says that "there was a great earthquake" and then John writes "the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;"

This is just what happened:

1-Great Earthquake: November 1, 1755

2-Dark Day: 19th of May, 1780

3-Falling Stars: 13th November, 1833

There was a great earthquake! How great? Greater than San Francisco? Greater than Mexico City? And it did come before the strange Dark Day of May 19, 1780.

25 years BEFORE "the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;" There was the biggest earthquake ever recorded in history!

Says Sir Charles Lyell, "A violent shock threw down the greater part of the city. In the course of about six minutes, 60,000 persons perished. The sea first retired and laid the bar dry; it then rolled in, rising 50 feet or more above its ordinary level... The area over which this convulsion extended is very remarkable." -Principles of Geology (11th ed., 1872), vol. 2, pp. 147, 148.

Encyclopedia Britannica (1945) estimates the deaths at a lower figure, but says the effects of the quake were felt from Scotland to Asia Minor and the distinctive feature of the Lisbon Earthquake was the agitation of inland lakes and streams far beyond the disturbed area—For instance, Italy, Switzerland, Great Britain, Sweden, and Norway felt the effects. (Articles "Lisbon" and "Earthquakes".) from 'People Get Ready'; Nicholas

Revelation 6, says this is under the '6th seal'; under the '5th seal' there is an interesting scene in verses 9-11, where we see the blood of martyrs crying out to God and next we see this terrible earthquake whose center is in Lisbon Portugal, and it hits on a 'Holy Day'!

"The earthquake happened on a holy day, when the churches and convents were full of people, very few of whom escaped."-- Encyclopedia Americana, art. "Lisbon," note (ed. 1831). . . It has been estimated that ninety thousand persons lost their lives on that fatal day." Maranatha -PG- 149

"At Lisbon "a sound of thunder was heard underground and immediately afterward a violent shock threw down the greater part of that city. In the course of about six minutes sixty thousand persons perished. The sea first retired, and laid the bar dry, it then rolled in, rising fifty feet above its ordinary level." "The most extraordinary circumstance which occurred at Lisbon during the catastrophe was the subsidence of the new quay, built entirely of marble, at an immense expense. A great concourse of people had collected there for safety, as a spot where they might be beyond the reach of falling ruins; but suddenly the quay sunk down with all the people on it, and not one of the dead bodies ever floated to the surface."

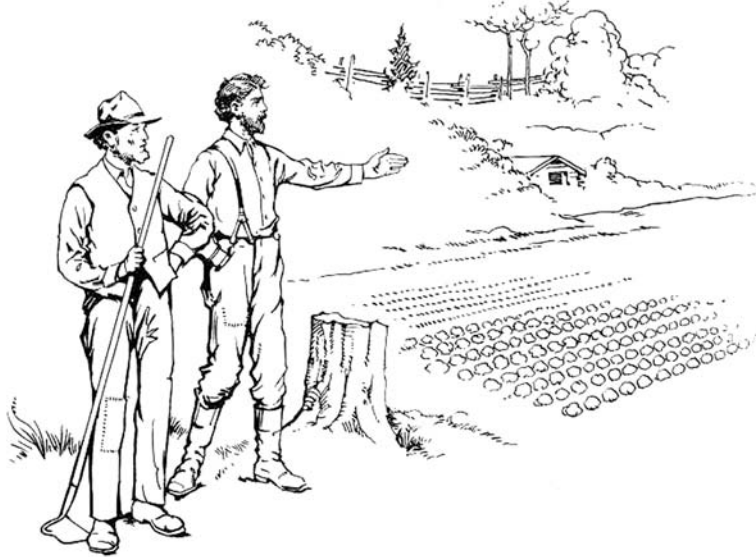
The shock of the earthquake "was instantly followed by the fall of every church and convent, almost all the large and public buildings, and one-fourth of the houses. In about two hours afterward, fires broke out in different quarters, and raged with such violence for the space of nearly three days that the city was completely desolated. The earthquake happened on a holy day, when the churches and convents were full of people, very few of whom escaped."

"The terror of the people was beyond description. Nobody wept; it was beyond tears. They ran hither and thither, delirious with horror and astonishment, beating their faces and breasts, crying, 'Misericordia! The world's at an end!' Mothers forgot their children, and ran loaded with crucified images. Unfortunately, many ran to the churches for protection; but in vain was the sacrament exposed; in vain did the poor creatures embrace the altars; images,

priests, and people were buried in one common ruin." "Ninety thousand persons are supposed to have been lost on that fatal day." The Great Controversy [1888 edition] PG- 305

You see- it does no good to pray to idols and images.

Now it is an interesting fact, and I really can't believe it is an accident, that it was in Lisbon that there was started the terrible persecution of God's people called the 'inquisition' and from there it went all over the world! Millions of faithful Christians died. The true faith was almost wiped out from the earth. Does God care about His dear children who are persecuted for Him? Yes, He does care! =^..^=



Part 3: THE GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT: 1844

1-Great Earthquake- November 1, 1755

2-Dark Day-19th of May, 1780 3-Falling Stars-13th November, 1833

God had sent these great signs on earth and in the sky to tell people that Jesus was coming. Everywhere people were saying: "What do these things mean?" Many people studied their Bibles.

All over the world different people became very interested in studying the prophecies in the book of Daniel. Many found the text in chapter 8 verse 14 that said: "Unto two thousand and three hundred days and then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."

They thought it had some special meaning and that it might tell when Jesus was going to come back and cleanse the earth by fire.

They prayed to know the meaning of these signs. God heard their prayers. In some countries He sent men with messages for the people. In some places little boys and girls preached the message. Jesus told them what to say. Many believed the message.

In USA lived a man named William Miller. He spent long hours reading his Bible. He studied each verse carefully. He found that the Bible said Jesus was coming again. He found this verse in Daniel and he figured out that it was going to happen around 1843. He knew God wanted him to tell the people. Later they found out the actual day the verse pointed to was October 22, 1844.

Other men helped William Miller tell the people about the day when they thought Jesus would come. They said: "We must tell the people to get ready quickly. We must print papers and books which tell the message."

The people who loved Jesus were glad to hear the message. They said: "We will get ready. We will give our money to help tell others." They sold their farms and gave the money. They said: "We will not need our farms. We are going home with Jesus."

One man had many potatoes on his farm. They were still in the ground. He said: "I will leave the potatoes in the ground. I will not need them. I am going home with Jesus."

The people who did not love Jesus laughed. They said: "These people are foolish." The children who loved Jesus loved their playmates, too. They told them of Jesus. They prayed for their playmates. Some of their playmates laughed. They said: "You are foolish."

Even many people in the churches did not like to hear about the soon coming of Jesus and they threw people out that talked about it. These people became known as Millerites and Adventists. This meant they looked for Jesus to come; His 'second advent'.

The wonderful day came! How happy the fathers and mothers were! How happy the children were! They said: "We shall soon be with Jesus. He will take us home to heaven."

They made the beds. They said: "We shall never sleep in these beds again." They swept the floors. They said: "We will not need to sweep again." Soon the work was done.

They watched the sky and waited. Dinnertime came. They did not care to eat. They said: "Soon we shall eat of the tree of life."

All afternoon they watched. The sun began to sink in the west. But Jesus had not come. How sad the fathers and mothers were who were waiting. How sad the boys and girls were! People cried they were so disappointed. Even grown ups cried.

The wicked people said: "Why did you not go to heaven?" They laughed and made fun at the Millerites.

William Miller and the other ministers were sad. They said: "We know Jesus will come. He has promised to come back. We have made a mistake in the time. We must read our Bibles and find the mistake. We must ask Jesus to help us. We must keep our hearts ready."
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Part 4: A MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN

We learned how disappointed God's dear people were when Jesus did not come back on October 22, 1844. They were sad and wept. Some of the people, who had been waiting for Jesus to come, changed their minds and started to laugh and make fun of the idea of Jesus coming. But a few did not. They studied the Bible again and they could find nothing wrong in the time.

They then realized that they must have made a mistake about what happened on that day. Carefully they searched the Bible. They would get together and study and pray, sometimes all night. They really wanted to know the truth and pleaded for Jesus to help them.

Jesus loved His people. He did not forget them. He watched them tenderly as they studied their Bibles. He heard every prayer and helped them find their mistake. They realized that the Bible never says that the sanctuary that was going to be cleansed was the earth. They learned that it is in heaven.

They found that at this time a special work was going on in heaven. Each one who has lived on this earth has his life story in a book in heaven. Every father and mother has his story there. Every boy and girl has his story there. Angels write down everything we do. They write down everything we say.

On October 22 1844 Jesus started looking over the records of all His people to see who would be able to go to heaven. This is called the 'Investigative Judgment'. Jesus is investigating all the life stories of those who claimed to belong to God. He started with the first person that died. That was Abel.

Jesus looked over Abel's life story. When He has looked over every life story He will come to earth again. Those who have kept their faith in Jesus will go to heaven with Him.

The people wrote this message in a little paper. They sent it to the people who looked for Jesus to come. They said: "We must tell everyone to keep his life story clean and trust in Jesus. We must be ready to meet Jesus."

Then God sent His people a message from heaven. God chose Ellen G. White to be His special messenger, His prophet. He gave her many messages for His people. These messages helped the people to know Jesus and understand what is happening in heaven now. Many of these messages are written in books. You can read these books and learn more about Jesus. =^..^=

Part 5: A SEA CAPTAIN WHO FOUND THE SABBATH

The people who believed that Jesus was coming did not have many churches. They often had meetings in their own homes. They had many of these meetings on Sunday. One day Mrs. Preston visited one of these meetings. She knew about the true Sabbath. She had kept it for a long time. She took her Bible and read about God's holy day. How happy they were. Some of the people said: "We shall keep God's holy day ." Joseph Bates heard about



the Sabbath. He had sailed to many countries in his big ship. He was a sea captain. He had been rich, but now he was poor. - He had given his money to tell others of Jesus.

He was glad to hear about the true Sabbath. He said: "We must tell everyone that the seventh day is the Sabbath." Mr. Bates said: "How can I tell the people?" He said: "I will write a little book about the Sabbath." So he began to write.

He had only a few pennies in his pocket. It takes many dollars to get a book printed. But he believed Jesus would send the money.

One day, while he was writing, his wife came in from the kitchen. She had been baking bread. She asked: "Why did you buy only four pounds of flour? I used it all for the bread. I shall need more soon."

"I spent the last money we had," said the captain, "I could not buy more." Mrs. Bates began to cry: "What shall we do? What shall we do?" The captain answered kindly: "Jesus will take care of us."

Soon the captain went to the post office. "Is there a letter for me?" he asked the man. The man handed him a letter. In this letter someone had sent Captain Bates ten dollars. Captain Bates was thankful!

He said: "Now I can surprise Mrs. Bates. She will be so happy!"

He hurried to the store. He bought a whole barrel of flour. He bought Potatoes and sugar. He bought other things for Mrs. Bates to use in her cooking.



He said to the store man: "Please put these things on my front porch."

When Captain Bates came home, his wife was excited- "Look on the porch," she cried, "See, there is a whole barrel of flour. There are potatoes and sugar." There are many other things. We have no money. They cannot be ours."

"Yes, they are ours," said Captain Bates, "I bought them at the store." Then he showed her the letter. She was so thankful. She said: "Jesus is taking care of us. We must thank Him."

Soon the book about the Sabbath was finished. Captain Bates took it to the printer. He said: "Print many books. Many people must hear that the seventh day is the Sabbath."

Many people read the book. They began to keep the true Sabbath. They said: "We are Adventists because we believe Jesus is coming. We keep the seventh day because it is the true Sabbath. We have a new church. We will call it the 'Seventh-day Adventist Church.'"
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Part 6: THE FIRST SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

The Lord was pleased with His people who were obeying His Word about the Sabbath. Soon He sent a message to His prophet about the Sabbath. An angel talked to Mrs. White. She saw a beautiful ark in heaven. Then she saw Jesus. He opened the ark. In the ark were two beautiful stones. On these stones the Ten Commandments were written. A beautiful light was shining on the fourth commandment. This commandment says: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

Mrs. White told the people what she had seen in heaven. She told them what the angel had said. They said: "We will always keep the Sabbath day holy."

Every Sabbath they gathered for church. Elder Bates and other ministers went from town to town. They preached to the people who gathered on the Sabbath day. Elder and Mrs. White visited these towns, too. They preached to the people.

The Seventh-day Adventist boys and girls went to the meeting with their fathers and mothers. The ministers loved the happy children. Elder White said: "These children should have a Sabbath school. They should have a paper with Sabbath school lessons."

Elder White wrote Sabbath school lessons. He spent many hours writing. Sometimes Elder White would sit by the roadside and write the lessons by putting the paper on the flat top of his hat.

He said: "I will put them in a paper for the boys and girls. This paper will be "The Youth's Instructor." Sometimes while he was visiting the churches he stopped by the road to eat his lunch. When he had finished eating he wrote more Sabbath school lessons.

The boys and girls studied these lessons. The fathers and mothers studied them, too. They began to have Sabbath schools in some places. There were no kindergarten rooms. There were no junior rooms. The grandfathers and the grandmothers, the fathers and mothers, the boys and girls, all had Sabbath school in the same room.

They studied the lesson. Everyone brought a penny. All the boys and girls dropped their pennies in the basket. After many years the children had their own rooms and their own paper "Our Little Friend." =^..^=



Part 7: THE FIRST CHURCH SCHOOL

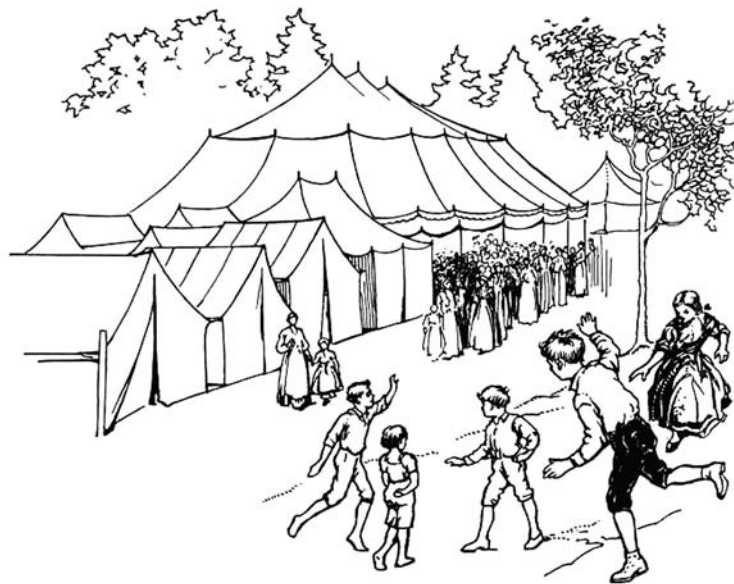
The Seventh-day Adventist boys and girls were brave. They went to school with other children. Many times these other children were not kind to them. They said: "You believe Jesus is coming. You keep the seventh day Sabbath. You are foolish." The Seventh-day Adventist fathers and mothers said: "We need a church school. Our children must study the Bible. They must learn to be missionaries." Miss Morton was a teacher. She said: "I will start a church school." So the children came. They had school in a room in the church. They studied the Bible. They had reading, arithmetic, and spelling.

They learned how to do missionary work. They paid twenty-five cents a week for this school. How glad they were to have a church school.

Another teacher had school in a kitchen. There were twelve boys and girls in this school. After a few years they had a real schoolhouse. The boys and girls were happy to have their own schoolhouse.

The Lord sent a message to Mrs. White about the church schools. She said: "There must be many schools. Teach the children about the Bible. Teach them to be missionaries. Soon there will be many schools."

Teachers started church schools in many places. There were hundreds of church schools. There were thousands of children in these schools. They studied the Bible. They learned to be missionaries. We need to learn these things today also! =^..^=



Part 8: CAMPMEETING IN ELLEN WHITE'S DAY

Have you ever gone to a real camp meeting? Boys and girls like to go to camp meeting. Maybe you live in a tent or a camper. It is fun to live in a tent! There are many meetings. There are meetings for father and mother. There are meetings for the children. They sing happy songs. They pray to Jesus. They listen to stories of missions. Would you like to hear about the very first Adventist camp meeting? It was held more than 150 years ago. The people came

in wagons pulled by horses and oxen. They came many miles. The people came many miles to attend the first Adventist camp meeting.

They brought their tents and put them up under the trees. They put straw in their tents. On this straw they made their beds. Some of the people slept in their wagons. The people helped each other to set up and do the work. The children helped too. It was a happy time.

There were no separate meetings for the children. Everyone went to the one meeting. Elder Bates and other ministers preached. Elder and Mrs. White preached too. They sang many songs. They prayed to Jesus.

After the evening meeting the people went to their tents. When the camp meeting was over, the people took down their tents. They put all their things in the wagons. Again they helped each other and again the children helped too. They said: "We have learned many things. We have learned more about Jesus. We will come to camp meeting again next year."

The boys and girls waved good-bye to their friends as the wagons drove away from the first camp meeting. I wish we could hear those sermons from that very first camp meeting don't you? =^..^=



Part 9: THE FIRST ADVENTIST MISSIONARY

The people in other countries wanted to hear about Jesus coming again. They sent men to America. These men asked: "Will you not send someone to tell the message to the people in Europe?"

The ministers said: "Yes, someone must go." Then they began to look for a missionary. They thought of Elder Andrews. "He will make a good missionary," they said. "He is kind and good. His heart is full of the love of Jesus. He can tell the story well."

So they had a meeting. Elder Andrews went to the meeting. They said to Elder Andrews, "The people in Europe are calling for a missionary. They want to hear the message. Will you go and tell them?"

"I will go," he answered. "I will take my family. We shall live there; I will preach the message to the people". He began to get ready. His children, Mary and Charles, got ready, too.

They sailed on a big boat. They sailed for many days. After they came to land, they got on a train.

Elder Andrews and his family sailed on the big boat to Europe. They rode many miles on the train. They came to the country of Switzerland. Switzerland is in Europe.

Elder Andrews lived there many years. He preached the message. Many people heard and believed. Elder Andrews was the first foreign Seventh day Adventist missionary.

The people in America said: "We will send other missionaries. We will send missionaries to every country. We must not forget the little islands. People who live there must hear the message, too." So they sent missionaries to many countries.

They said: "We must have a missionary ship to visit the little islands." The children saved their pennies. The fathers and mothers saved their money, too. Soon the ship was built.

They called it "Pitcairn." That was the name of one of the islands. The missionaries went to Pitcairn Island to tell the story of Jesus to the people. Missionaries preached the message on many islands.

Many other missionaries were sent and soon there were mission stations all over the world. When I was a little girl we loved to save our money to give to help the missionaries tell the people about Jesus.

Many years have passed by since the message began. Now there are many Seventh-day Adventists. When the message began, only a few missionaries were sent to other countries.

Jesus said: "Preach the message to all nations. When all the world has heard the story, I will come again." Soon the story will be preached in every country. Every island of the sea will hear it, too. Soon the work that Jesus gave His people will be finished. =^..^=