



# THE ADVANCING GLORY

Of the Third Angel's Message

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Volume 02

Canada, December 4, 2018

Number 01

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## **A REVIVAL OF PAPAL PRINCIPLES**

The policy of consolidation, wherever pursued, tends to the exaltation of the human in place of the divine. Those who bear responsibilities in the different institutions look to the central authority for guidance and support. As the sense of personal responsibility is weakened, they lose the highest and most precious of all human experiences, the constant dependence of the soul upon God. Not realizing their need, they fail of maintaining that constant watchfulness and prayer, that constant surrender to God, which alone can enable men to hear and to obey the teaching of His Holy Spirit. Man is placed where God should be. Those who are called to act in this world as heaven's ambassadors are content to seek wisdom from erring, finite men, when they might have the wisdom and strength of the unerring, infinite God. - Publishing Ministry page 152

## The Decree of Justinian

### Thabo Mtetwa

#### Introduction:

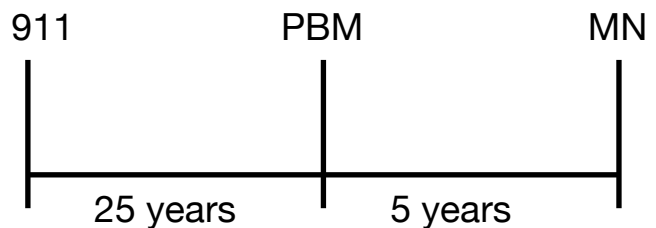
Much light has been shed on the the Prediction Before Midnight way-mark (PBM), more recently stated as the Prediction Before the Close of Probation. Various lines and models have shed light on the events that occur at this way mark.<sup>1</sup> These events include the outpouring of prophetic light represented as the latter rain (in contrast to the early rain which fell at 911), the appearance for the first time of two classes within the present truth movement, a shaking taking place between these two classes, and a separation of one class (the tares) from the other (the wheat). These developments have been taking place since 2014, and continue to this day.

However some of the events that have been taught in connection with this way-mark have not as yet been fulfilled. Students of prophecy have been waiting and watching developments within the church and the world for the coming to pass of these events. Their fulfillment marks the point at which the priests of Adventism will have arrived at the full development of the Prediction Before the Close of Probation.

One such event centres on the decree of the Emperor Justinian as a type of a decree that would be seen within the Adventist Church at the PBM. This article's objective is to demonstrate that this decree has been fulfilled. It was fulfilled last month (October 2018) at the Annual Council of the Executive Committee of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.<sup>2</sup> This fulfilment and its implications will be considered.

#### The Model:

As stated in the introduction, a number of lines and models have been presented over the last two years as shedding light on the events that occur at the PBM. One model centres on various applications of thirty years as representing the history from 911 to Midnight. A division of 25 years and five years is seen within these thirty years. The 25 years mark the history from 911 to the PBM while the five years mark the history from the PBM to Midnight.



One illustration is the thirty years of Abraham's covenant prophecy.<sup>3</sup> This line is vast in terms of the scope of the truths unsealed through it. A detailed exposition of it is beyond the scope of this article. But it will be set forth in summary in order to give witness to the validity of the thirty-year model.

*Genesis 11:31 - 12:4 (KJV)*

*And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there. 32 And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.*

*1 Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. 4 So Abram*

*departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.*

Abraham's father Terah departed from Ur of the Chaldees and settled in the land of Haran where he died. Subsequent to Terah's death God repeated his covenant promise to Abraham after which the patriarch and his household left Haran to follow the leadings of the Lord in the land of Canaan.

Abraham heard God's voice and is thus a symbol of the priests who hear God's voice through His prophetic Word at the end of the world. Abraham is furthermore an heir of the covenant promises as are the priests of Adventism in the history of the final reformatory movement. Terah, by virtue of being Abraham's father, is in fact his leader. Terah was an idolator according to the scriptures (Joshua 24:4). He thus represents the leadership of the Adventist church who are involved in false worship, which is idolatry, and who died prophetically at 911. Terah's death is located at 911 also on account of the fact that Abraham departed from Haran immediately thereafter. This typifies the call to flee from Babylon that is the message of the second angel that descended at 911. These events are also located at 911 on account of the fact that God repeated the covenant promise to Abraham. It is an established truth within this movement that God began to enter into covenant with the priests of at 911.

Abraham was 75 years old when he departed from Haran. In the course of his wanderings in Canaan God told him that he would have a son.

*Genesis 15:1-7 (KJV)*

*After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. 2 And Abram said, Lord God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of*

*my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? 3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. 4 And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. 5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. 6 And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness. 7 And he said unto him, I am the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.*

The scriptures speak plainly about Abraham and Sarah's failure in resorting to human means to produce the promised heir as opposed to waiting for God to fulfil the promise in His own time. Sarah moved Abraham to take Hagar as his second wife and their union produced Ishmael.

*Genesis 16:15-16 (KJV)*

*And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael. 16 And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.*

Notwithstanding this failure God fulfilled his promise to Abraham and Isaac was born when he was 100 years old.

*Genesis 21:1-5 (KJV)*

*And the Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did unto Sarah as he had spoken. 2 For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. 3 And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac. 4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him. 5 And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.*

There are 25 years from when Abraham left Haran to the birth of his son Isaac. According to the thirty-year model the birth of Isaac marks the PBM. It is important to see that Ishmael, by virtue of being Abraham's only son, was heir to his father's household. But Ishmael was not the seed of promise but the seed of the flesh. He is identified by Paul as a symbol of the wicked or foolish virgins.

*Romans 9:6-9 (KJV)*

*Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. 8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. 9 For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son.*

The seed of promise appeared in Abraham's 100th year. There could have been no question regarding the heirship of Ishmael prior to Isaac's birth. But following the birth of Isaac for the first time it was seen that there were two seeds - one was the rightful heir and the other was not. Inspiration is clear that Isaac's birth was the cause of bitter jealousy in Ishmael and Hagar as his heirship was given to Isaac.

*The birth of Isaac filled the tents of Abraham and Sarah with gladness, but to Hagar this event was the overthrow of her fondly cherished ambitions. Ishmael had been regarded by all as the heir of Abraham's wealth and the inheritor of the blessings promised his descendants. Now he was suddenly set aside. Mother and son hated the child of Sarah. EP 90.2*

So what will be seen at the PBM is two classes, like Isaac and Ishmael, becoming visible within Abraham's household. His household is the present truth movement. These two classes are the seed of the spirit and the seed of the flesh. To use the language of other parables in scripture -

they are the wheat and tares or the wise and foolish virgins. The tares represented by Ishmael would develop a bitter hatred and jealousy of those represented by Isaac. All this has been fulfilled in the shaking that began in 2014 and which has continued to this day. In 2014 a division arose over the correctness of new light that had been unsealed to God people. This light centred on Ezra 7:9. This and a constellation of related scriptural and interpersonal issues led to contentions and jealousies. These have produced visible divisions within the movement. PBM is thus, as has been taught within the movement, a progressive development beginning in 2014.

Isaac was weaned when he was five years old.<sup>4</sup> This five years comes to Midnight within the thirty-year model. It was on this occasion that Ishmael persecuted Isaac and was cast out forever.

*Genesis 21:8-12 (KJV)*

*And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned. 9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. 10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac. 11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son. 12 And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.*

Ishmael mocking Isaac marked the beginning of the 400 years of persecution identified in Genesis 15:12-13. The line of Elijah upon mount Carmel marks a mocking at noon (1 Kings 18:27). Noon is the mid-point of the day and parallels midnight which is the mid-point of the night. Persecution of the wise priests by the foolish is also seen at midnight in the line of Christ. Judas (who symbolizes the

foolish priests) came with a mob to seize Christ at Midnight.<sup>5</sup> Thus Ishmael persecuting Isaac and being cast out typifies the close or probation upon the foolish priests at Midnight.

911	PBM	MN
<p><b>Abraham 75 years old</b> Covenant promise,</p>	<p><b>Abraham 100 years old</b> Isaac born,</p>	<p><b>Abraham 105 years old</b> Ishmael mocks Isaac (400 years persecution),</p>
25 years	5 years	

The line of Abraham’s covenant prophecy is a witness to the validity of the thirty-year model. Having established this model’s validity attention can be turned to the line of Justinian’s decree which is a second witness to thirty-year model, and the line that is the main subject of this article.

**The Three-fold Union:**

In order to correctly apply the history of Justinian and his decree to the end of the world one more piece of logic needs to be put in place. This piece of logic will help identify who the key entities in Justinian’s history represent in the line of the priests.

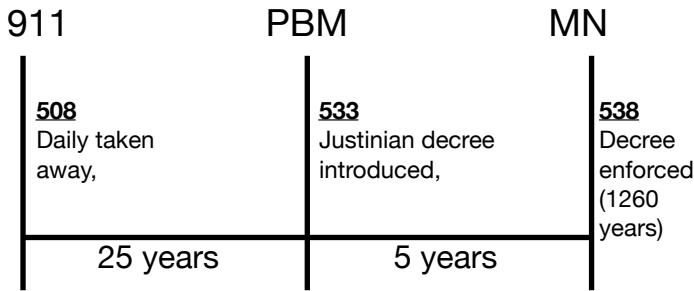
Revelation speaks of a three-fold union comprising of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet (Rev 16:13-14). The essential characteristics of this union are a government or civil power represented by the dragon, an apostate persecuting church represented by the beast, and a power especially characterized by its work of deception - which is the false prophet. This union of modern Babylon is rising now and will be fully established at the Sunday Law.<sup>6</sup> It makes war against God’s people and is finally destroyed by Christ at His second coming. At this macro-level application the dragon represents the governments of the world, the beast represents the papacy, and the false

prophet represents the United States of America. There is a micro-level application at the Midnight Cry which sees the dragon representing the United States, the beast representing the apostate protestant churches within the United States, and the false prophet representing the Seventh Day Adventist Church. There is another micro-level application at Midnight which sees the dragon representing the U.S. government, the beast representing the Seventh Day Adventist Church, and the false prophet representing the foolish priests of this movement. This application can also be seen in the line of Christ. When He was seized at midnight the Jews were in union with the Romans, and Judas for the purpose of persecuting Him. The Romans are the dragon or government, the Jews are the beast or apostate church, and Judas is the false prophet or foolish priests who turn on their brethren and betray them.

MN	MC	SL
<p><b>Dragon</b> - U.S. Government <b>Beast</b> - SDA Church <b>False Prophet</b> - Foolish Priests</p>	<p><b>Dragon</b> - U.S. Government <b>Beast</b> - Apostate Protestants <b>False Prophet</b> - SDA Church</p>	<p><b>Dragon</b> - Governments (world) <b>Beast</b> - Papacy <b>False Prophet</b> - USA</p>

The thirty-year model covers the history from 911 to Midnight. It follows that the application of the three-fold union at Midnight is the model that identifies the entities in the line of the decree of Justinian. The two main entities in Justinian’s line are the Roman Empire and the Catholic church. The Roman Empire parallels the dragon and is therefore a symbol of the government of the United States. The beast or Catholic Church is a symbol of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

**Justinian’s Decree:**



Prior to the reign of Justinian and the introduction of his decree, there is an event which marks the commencement of his line in the thirty-year model. This event was the taking away of the Daily in 508.

*And they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength. The sanctuary of strength was the city of Rome. They refers to the kings of the Heruli and Rugii, who subdued and settled in Italy, A. D. 476. It is said, when Rome was taken by those barbarous kings, human sacrifices were offered in the city, to their supposed deities. Thus the sanctuary of strength, where Christianity had so long been planted, and where it was destined to be established as its common centre, even there the abominations of human sacrifices were offered up to pagan gods. Let it be kept in remembrance, that the ten kingdoms before named, which had settled in the western Roman empire, were all pagans. But the time has come for a change to take place. "They shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate." The last of those kingdoms, that of the Lombards, was established A. D. 483. In A. D. 496, Clovis, king of France, being engaged in a war, made a vow to the God of Christians, that if he would render him victorious, he would become a Christian. Victory declared on the side of Clovis; and he and three thousand of his subjects were baptized into the Christian faith. The conversion of Clovis; gave rise to the titles, "most Christian king," and "eldest son of the church." Soon after this, the other kings finding it to be for their interest to gain the influence of the clergy, embraced the Christian faith and were baptized; the*

*last of them in A. D. 508... We have now arrived to a period, and an event, when paganism in the empire received its deathblow, by the conversion of those pagan kings. Some vestiges of paganism did, of course, exist in the empire after this, but I know of no account of pagan sacrifices being offered, after that, in the city of Rome, "the place of his (paganism's) sanctuary." Nor did it ever recover much strength or influence any where in the bounds of the western Roman empire. Thus, in A. D. 508, paganism, or the daily abomination of paganism ceased in the Roman empire. And it was taken away, too, by those pagan kings who conquered Rome... PSC 83-84*

The taking away of the Daily paved the way for the full establishment of the Papacy thirty years later in 538 A.D. The removal of paganism marks a fundamental change in the character of the empire as it moved from paganism to Christianity. This typifies 911 where the passing of the Patriot Act marked a fundamental change in the character of the United States. This act marked a turning point and the beginning of a progressive decline in adherence to the U.S. Constitution. This departure from the constitution and the erosion of the freedoms and protections it offers will culminate in its eventual abrogation to make provision for the unification of church and state and the passing of Sunday laws. Thus the taking away of the Daily in 508 typifies September 11, 2001.

25 years on from 508 A.D. Justinian introduced his decree declaring the pope of Rome to be the "corrector of heretics." It is important to lay out the history leading to this decree as well as to give attention to its specifications.

*While the Catholics were thus feeling the restraining power of an Arian king in Italy, they were suffering a violent persecution from the Arian Vandals in Africa. (Gibbon, chap. 37, sec. 2.) Elliott, in his Horae*

*Apocalypticæ, Vol. III, p. 152, note 3, says: "The Vandal kings were not only Arians, but persecutors of the Catholics; in Sardinia and Corsica, under the Roman Episcopate, we may presume, as well as in Africa." DAR 134.1*

*Such was the position of affairs, when, in 533, Justinian entered upon his Vandal and Gothic wars. Wishing to secure the influence of the pope and the Catholic party, he issued that memorable decree which was to constitute the pope the head of all the churches, and from the carrying out of which, in 538, the period of papal supremacy is to be dated. And whoever will read the history of the African campaign, 533-4, and the Italian campaign, 534-8, will notice that the Catholics everywhere hailed as deliverers the army of Belisarius, the general of Justinian. DAR 134.2*

There were competing factions within the church; the principal parties being those of the Catholic profession and those of the Arian profession. Neither of these factions held to the pure doctrine of the Bible as their belief systems were polluted by the influence of Greek philosophy. The decree declaring the pope of Rome to be the corrector of heretics helped to decide the contest between the contending factions. This decree constituted a centralization of power within the catholic faction. It placed the weight of the civil apparatus behind this faction's pronouncements. This is to say that dissent against orthodoxy as defined by the catholic faction could have been met with punitive measures that were legally enforceable by the state.

*Paganism and Christianity met on the battlefield when Constantine contended for the throne of Rome; paganism and Christianity met in more deadly conflict in Alexandria, where Christian and pagan schools stood side by side. Here it was that such men as Origen and Clement, recognized Fathers of the church, adopted the philosophy of the Greeks, and applied to the study of the Bible the same methods*

*which were common in the study of Homer and other Greek writers. Higher criticism had its birth in Alexandria. It was the result of a mingling of the truths taught by Christ and the false philosophy of the Greeks. It was an attempt to interpret divine writings by the human intellect, a revival of the philosophy of Plato. These teachers, by introducing Greek philosophy into the schools which were nominally Christian, opened the avenue for the theological controversies which shook the Roman world, and finally established the mystery of iniquity. {SDP 229.2}*

*So from this false teaching of the Word in Alexandria came two leaders-Athanasius and Arius. Each had his following, and yet no man could clearly define the disputed point over which they wrangled. So great was the controversy that the Council of Nice was called to settle the dispute, and deliver to the church an orthodox creed.*

*The emperor Constantine called the council, and was present in person. At this council the creed of Athanasius was recognized as orthodox, and Arius and his followers were pronounced heretics. {SDP 229.3}*

*But announcing a creed is one thing, and having it adopted is another. The orthodox creed was published to the world, and then began the fight. In this strife armies fought and much blood was shed. But in spite of the fact that Arianism was heresy, the doctrine spread. It was popular among the barbarian tribes who invaded the western division of the Roman empire. The Vandals, who settled in Africa, were among the followers of Arius, and so also were the Heruli and Ostrogoths who settled in Italy. But while Arianism spread through Africa, Sardinia, and Spain, and was present at times in Italy, the recognized religion of the Roman emperor and the empire itself, the northern kingdom, which now had its seat at Constantinople, was the Catholic faith, as proclaimed at Nice. As Constantinople was the representative of this northern division in his day, so later, between 527 and 565, Justinian became champion of the Catholic cause. {SDP 230.1}*

This history mirrors developments currently at play within the Adventist Church. There is a civil war being fought between two factions - the liberals and the conservatives. Neither of these two factions hold to the truth of the three angels messages as they were given to the pioneers. Both factions have departed from the foundations as set forth on the 1843 and 1850 charts. And both factions have adopted methods of interpreting the Bible that have been influenced by the scholastic methods used in the seminaries of the fallen churches.<sup>7</sup> There are a number of issues over which this war is being fought; the most visible one being women's ordination. As the catholic faction defined orthodoxy through its Athanasian creed, the conservative faction has defined orthodoxy by dominating the voting on contentious subjects at General Conference sessions. Women's ordination was voted on at the 2015 general conference session which was held in San Antonio, Texas. At this session the vote was won by the conservatives who determined that women cannot be ordained as pastors. However the liberals have maintained their rebellion against the conservatives by continuing to ordain female pastors contrary to the vote of the world church.

In the typical history the catholic faction received the power, through Justinian's decree, to apply punitive measures that were legally binding (that is, enforceable by the state). And it used this power to advance its cause. A parallel development can be seen within the Adventist Church. A pronouncement meeting the specifications of Justinian's decree was adopted at the Annual Council of the General Conference held in October this year.

*Following more than five hours of presentations and discussion, delegates to the Seventh-day Adventist Church's annual meeting of its full Executive Committee approved a recommendation from the church's Unity Oversight*

*Committee (UOC) to create a new compliance process to assist with the need to implement church policies and voted actions.*

*Today's action, expressed in a vote of 185 to 124, with two abstaining, approved a document entitled Regard for and Practice of General Conference Session and General Conference Executive Committee Actions... The document outlines a process for addressing matters of non-compliance within the Seventh-day Adventist Church.*

*In summary, the process begins with perceived non-compliance being reported to the administrative level of the Church closest to the matter. The document emphasizes the need for "Christian due process" including prayer and dialogue and "a supportive atmosphere." As part of the process, the non-compliant entity would be asked to provide evidence of compliance or a plan to "achieve sustained compliance."*

*If no resolution is reached at the closest administrative levels, the General Conference Administrative Committee (ADCOM) may refer the matter to one of five advisory committees. These committees, termed "compliance committees" had earlier been endorsed by ADCOM.*

*After studying the matter, the compliance committee may make recommendations to ADCOM for disciplinary measures.*

*ADCOM may then refer the recommendations on to GCDO and the Executive Committee. The document next outlines a process of appeal as well as disciplinary measures.*

*These disciplinary measures may only be voted by the Executive Committee, and may include official warnings and public reprimand. In the event of persistent non-compliance, potential removal from Executive Committee membership by a two-thirds majority vote is allowed according to the Bylaws of the General Conference Constitution.<sup>8</sup>*

*The Regard for and Practice of General Conference Session and General*



*Conference Executive Committee Actions* document was the subject of intense contention between the two factions. The conservatives see it as necessary to address widespread rebellion against the voted policies of the church - the motivating issue being women's ordination. The document establishes the creation of "compliance committees" comprised of general conference personnel. Ted Wilson is a member of all these committees by virtue of his position as president of the world church. The compliance committees have the authority to punish leaders at all levels within the church if they are deemed to be "out of compliance," or stated more bluntly, in rebellion. The punishments imposed range from public reprimand to the loss of office. These compliance committees also have the authority to apply what Wilson referred to as "the nuclear or ballistic options" which are to downgrade entire conferences from "union conference" to "union mission" status. The general conference has more control over entities that only have mission status. Once downgraded the general conference can by virtue of this control act to take more far-reaching measures against the leaders of missions deemed to be in rebellion. Another more drastic option is to disband conferences altogether.<sup>9</sup>

The liberals see this compliance document as centralizing power within the general conference and establishing a hierarchy of power similar to that of the Catholic church.<sup>10</sup> The liberal faction has been the most strident in rejecting the Spirit of Prophecy. But they have been willing to resort to it in this case and correctly point out that Ellen White opposed such centralization of power within the hands of a small group of men.

*The policy of consolidation, wherever pursued, tends to the exaltation of the human in place of the divine. Those who bear responsibilities in the different institutions look to the central authority for guidance and support. As the sense of*

*personal responsibility is weakened, they lose the highest and most precious of all human experiences, the constant dependence of the soul upon God. Not realizing their need, they fail of maintaining that constant watchfulness and prayer, that constant surrender to God, which alone can enable men to hear and to obey the teaching of His Holy Spirit. Man is placed where God should be. Those who are called to act in this world as heaven's ambassadors are content to seek wisdom from erring, finite men, when they might have the wisdom and strength of the unerring, infinite God. PM 152.2*  
*The Lord does not design that the workers in His institutions shall look to or trust in man. He desires them to be centered in Him. PM 152.3*

*It has been a necessity to organize union conferences, that the General Conference shall not exercise dictation over all the separate conferences. The power vested in the [General] Conference is not to be centered in one man, or two men, or six men; there is to be a council of men over the separate divisions.... In the work of God no kingly authority is to be exercised by any human being, or by two or three.— Manuscript 26, 1903, 1. ("Regarding the Work of the General Conference," April 3, 1901.) 4MR 292.2*

*Notwithstanding frequent counsels to the contrary, men continued to plan for centralization of power, for the binding of many interests under one control. This work was first started in the Review and Herald office. Things were swayed first one way and then another. It was the enemy of our work who prompted the call for the consolidation of the publishing work under one controlling power in Battle Creek. 8T 216.5*

*Then the idea gained favor that the medical missionary work would be greatly advanced if all our medical institutions and other medical missionary interests were bound up under the control of the medical missionary association at Battle Creek. 8T 217.1*

*I was told that I must lift my voice in warning against this. We were not to be under the control of men who could not control themselves and who were not willing to be amenable to God. We were not to be guided by men who wanted their word to be the controlling power. The development of the desire to control has been very marked, and God sent warning after warning, forbidding confederacies and consolidation. He warned us against binding ourselves to fulfill certain agreements that would be presented by men laboring to control the movements of their brethren. 8T 217.2*

It was pointed out by Karnik Doukmentzian, one of the church's attorney's, that the compliance committees decisions to discipline or remove members from their positions in its executive committee, or from any other organs of the church, are legal according the laws of the United States. The courts would therefore be unlikely to entertain any challenges to the committees decisions.<sup>11</sup> It follows logically from this that if an individual or entity is removed, and that individual or entity refuses to comply with the decision levelled against them - appeal can be made by the general conference to the courts for the enforcement of that decision. It can thus be said then that the pronouncements of these compliance committees of the general conference are protected and enforceable by law.

Justinian's decree was introduced in 533 A.D. but it only went into effect in 538 A.D.

*The Rise of the Papacy - the Little Horn of Daniel 7th. - Mr. Miller claimed that the one thousand two hundred and sixty years of the Papacy were to be reckoned from A. D. 538, by virtue of the decree of Justinian. **This decree, though issued A. D. 533, did not go into full effect until 538, when the enemies of the Catholics in Rome were subjugated by Belisarius, a general of Justinian.** In this view, as to*

*the rise of Papacy, he was sustained by Croly (see his work on Words of Encouragement to Self-supporting Workers, 113-117); G. T. Noel (see Prospects of Ch., p.100); Wm. Cunninghame, Esq. (Pol. Destiny of the Earth, p.28); Keith, vol. 1, p.93; Encyclopedia of Rel. Knowl., art. Antichrist; Edward King, Esq., and others. {MWM 197.4}*

The year 538 marks the beginning of the 1260 years of papal persecution and is thus a type of Midnight where persecution begins in earnest upon the priests. Recent studies have shown that Midnight will arrive in the Fall of 2019.<sup>12</sup> It is also worth noting that Ted Wilson stated that the compliance committees will begin their work in 2019.<sup>13</sup>

These considerations all point to the fact that the compliance document is the fulfilment of the decree of Justinian within the Adventist Church. And as Justinian's decree immediately preceded the full establishment of the papacy and its 1260 years of persecution, the adoption of the compliance document shows that the priests are on the very borders of Midnight which marks the beginning of their persecution through the joint action of the church and the state.

### **In Closing:**

God has unsealed light identifying the 9th of November 2019 as Midnight. The studies that make this conclusion also present the fact that this year (2018) marks the PBM. It follows that an important test of the validity of these lines, and the final conclusions they present, is the fulfilment of the lines of prophecy that have been used to understand just what will take place at the PBM. One such line is the history of Justinian's decree. The identification that this decree has been fulfilled within the Adventist church gives force to the conclusions of the studies relating to 2019.

<sup>1</sup> (4-01-17) Sermon: Thabo Mtetwa - Prediction Before Midnight, Retrieved 10 Nov. 2018, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7irmQCrvKVg>>

“Annual Council is a meeting of the church’s Executive Committee, the governing body of the Seventh-day Adventist world church between General Conference Sessions. The meeting is being held in Battle Creek, Michigan, USA.” <<https://live.adventist.org/en/events/event/go/2018-10-08/2018-annual-council/>>

<sup>3</sup> Abram’s Covenant Prophecy, Retrieved 10 Nov. 2018, <<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Aascds%3AUS%3A5cbe14e8-706f-4fe4-8ae0-840fabd670f7>>

<sup>4</sup> There are varying opinions regarding the age at which Isaac was weaned. Commentators place it between 2 – 5 years. Ussher says five and the appendix of Patriarchs and Prophets (page 759) says five.

<sup>5</sup> Desire of Ages pg. 699

<sup>6</sup> Time of the End Magazine, Jeff Pippenger, pg. 38

<sup>7</sup> Considering the Pharisee and the Sadducee, Retrieved 10 Nov. 2018, <<http://www.futurenews.ca/considering-the-sadducee-and-pharisee/>>

<sup>8</sup> Annual Council Delegates Vote to Adopt Compliance Document, Retrieved 10 Nov. 2018, <<https://www.adventistreview.org/church-news/story13038-annual-council-delegates-vote-to-adopt-compliance-document>>

<sup>9</sup> It’s Time for Ted Wilson to Use the Nuclear Option, Retrieved 10 Nov. 2018, <[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9\\_Y6Y6ul9lw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_Y6Y6ul9lw)>

<sup>10</sup> This is a very challenging time for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. Actions taken at the 2018 General Conference Annual Council meeting in Battle Creek, Michigan, did not have the outcome for the church that we had strived toward. Many of us are dealing with fear, disappointment, and even anger.

We believe that this voted document, which outlines a system of governance to address church entities perceived not in compliance with church policy, does not follow the biblical values proclaimed by the Protestant reformers and the founders of the Adventist Church. This document, as voted, has made centralized power possible, and seeks to create a hierarchical system of governance. - <<https://spectrummagazine.org/news/2018/north-american-division-issues-statement-annual-council-vote-and-message-women-clergy>>

<sup>11</sup> Church Attorney Karnik Doukmentzian Says The Law Is Not On The Side Of The Non-Compliant, Retrieved 10 Nov. 2018, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCNvxCb7BQA>>

<sup>12</sup> The Midnight Cry, Retrieved 12 Nov. 2018, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRbse-RIYEW&t=0s&index=10&list=PLfKMAgDOMleA7vgi9KsG0QQs8SvmOsuX8>>

<sup>13</sup> Compliance Committees Will Begin Enforcement in 2019, Retrieved 10 Nov. 2018, <[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8\\_yZ6t-1O4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8_yZ6t-1O4)>

## The Advancing Glory



Published by  
FUTURE NEWS CANADA  
[www.futurenews.ca](http://www.futurenews.ca)

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