

Last Generation Theology in 14 Points

1. BORN WITH WEAKNESSES AND TENDENCIES TO EVIL

Man was designed to live, not to die; wired to succeed, not to fail. But at the Fall, his nature was dramatically disordered so that he is born with weaknesses and tendencies to evil. There is now in the fallen human organism little inclination to cause him to seek God or His righteousness.

2. LOST BECAUSE OF PERSONAL CHOICES

Men and women will be lost because of personal choices, not because of being born with disordered natures.

3. GOD TAKES THE INITIATIVE

Repentance is a gift from God, who has taken the initiative to bring it within man's reach. His grace is sent out in search of us even before we realize our need.

4. NO MERIT FOR OUR DEEDS

Nothing we do in the Christian walk earns us even the slightest merit toward our salvation.

5. CHRIST'S CHARACTER REPRODUCED IN US

Justification is God's way of simultaneously counting men right and making them so. In declaring a man just, God writes no fiction. The disciple's walk continues, and through the process of sanctification, the character of Christ is perfectly reproduced in us. Both justification and sanctification are the work of God and are necessary and causative for salvation.

6. OBEDIENCE IS A CONDITION OF SALVATION

Obedience is both a condition for salvation and an ongoing requirement of salvation.

7. JESUS EMPTIED HIMSELF AND TOOK FALLEN FLESH

During His earthly sojourn, Jesus, God from eternity and still God, laid aside out of His possession certain of His powers of deity and lived as a man in fallen flesh among men in fallen flesh. He came not to our world to give the obedience of a lesser God to a greater, but as a man to obey God's Holy Law. He could have recovered those powers at any time, but for our sakes chose to live as we do.

8. JESUS TEMPTED FROM WITHOUT AND WITHIN

That which Jesus has not assumed He has not healed. He took our disordered humanity and was tempted both from without and within. Capable of choosing sin, His entire earthly life was lived as we will live once we are sealed. Even after probation has closed, His power and presence continue with His followers. Today He grants them an experience of present and complete victory over sin.

9. JESUS IS CURRENTLY MAKING THE FINAL ATONEMENT

Jesus' atonement was promised in Eden. With His incarnation and then death as our Substitute upon the cross, His atoning work was begun. He rose from the dead and went to heaven in A.D. 31 to represent us before the Father, who received His sacrifice for us. Through that sacrifice we can be right with God as soon as we accept His gift of forgiveness and heart-cleansing. In A.D. 1844 He entered the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary, commencing the closing phase of His atonement. Today, Jesus is making the final atonement.

10. CLEANSING IN HEAVEN CONNECTED TO CLEANSING ON EARTH

Neither Luther nor the Millerite Adventists living in 1844 finished the Reformation or understood the angel messages of Revelation 14 and 18. The cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary is connected to the cleansing and purifying of lives on earth. The sanctuary is cleansed when God has a people who have become so settled into the truth that they will never again be moved to doubt Him or to disobey known duty. The torrent of sin that has needed forgiveness is dried up. Christ's presence remains with those who have chosen Him. The Holy Spirit empowers obedience even after the ministry of forgiveness is closed.

11. DELAYING THE SECOND COMING THROUGH A HALF-GOSPEL

Jesus' Second Coming could have occurred within the generation that proclaimed the 1844 messages, but the same sins that kept ancient Israel out of the promised land have delayed the entrance of modern Israel into the heavenly Canaan. Unbelief, worldliness, unconsecration, and strife among the Lord's professed people have kept us in this world of sin and sorrow so many years.

12. HASTENING THE SECOND COMING AND EMBRACING THE HARVEST PRINCIPLE

Heaven has put it in our power by consecrated, Christ-reflecting lives to hasten Jesus' return. God will wait for the maturing of Christian character in a significant number of people as the chief condition determining those events, such as the latter rain, loud cry, sealing, and Sunday law, which affect the time when probation for the world shall close, and thus the time of the Second Coming.

13. CHARACTER WITNESSES TO THE GREAT HEALER

More than forensic declarations only, the gospel is primarily concerned with telling the truth about God as our Best Friend. He is more concerned with our healing than with legal pronouncements. In the great controversy, His character witnesses tell the story of their deliverance.

14. DECISION TIME FOR PLANET EARTH

In spite of past insubordination, we believe that God stands ready to work through a repentant people. He is using Seventh-day Adventists to prepare the willing for translation. No added Fundamental Belief statement is needed to teach LGT. When Adventists embrace the truths they now have they will become the five wise bridesmaids. Adventist truths enflamed by the transforming Spirit will produce the light that will say to the world, "Behold your God!" The character of God will be demonstrated more clearly and winsomely by the followers of Christ than ever before on Planet Earth. It will be decision time for all, everywhere.