

Dear Harvey,

Thanks for your brief response of Dec. 30/97 addressing my 1844 commentary.

>I appreciate your sincerity in sharing your views on the feasts and the Day of Atonement.

>However, it becomes clear quite readily that you feel more confident in your own conclusions  
>than in the Spirit of Prophecy and our Adventist pioneers. (I am assuming by whom you are  
>addressing your message to that you are or have been a Seventh-day Adventist and are familiar  
>with the writings referred to by the "Spirit of Prophecy.")

>I'm sorry I do not have the time to discuss these issues with you in depth. I might say that I am  
>receiving a blessing as I am reading C. Mervyn Maxwell's book entitled Magnificent  
>Disappointment (regarding the Oct. 22, 1844 experience and events).

>May the Lord guide each of us to a fuller understanding of His precious, present truth.

>sincerely,

>Harvey Steck, Assoc. editor, Hope International

Yes, as you assumed, I am or have been a Seventh-day Adventist, and I am familiar with the writings referred to as the "Spirit of Prophecy." As a matter of fact, I am a fourth-generation Seventh-day Adventist who has read and studied virtually everything Ellen White ever wrote. I truly consider her to be a very dear sister in the faith, but I must also tell you that I consider her statement "We have many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn" to be the most inspired thing she ever wrote! And I really mean that! I believe her challenge to advance with the advancing light until we come to the perfect day, truly embodies the spirit of the Spirit of Prophecy.

I would like to ask you to share with me a few of the "many" things you have learned since Ellen White passed off the scene of action, and a few of the "many, many" things you have unlearned. Being obviously a diligent student of, and believer in, the "Spirit of Prophecy," I'm sure you will be able to give me several items in each category.

To help get the ball rolling, I will share with you several items that I personally have had to learn, and unlearn. I will not give references here for every item, but all references are available upon request.

Unlearn — the law of Moses was nailed to the cross.

Learn — the hand-written record of our transgressions was nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14-16).

Unlearn ~ Jesus and Jehovah as the names of deity.

Learn — Yahuashua and Yahuah as the Biblical, proper and inspired name for deity — and yes it does matter to heaven if we use pagan names or heavenly, inspired names.

Unlearn — how we should "put Christ back in Christmas" by putting a tree at the front of the church at Christmas-time upon which we can hang our gifts for the Messiah (Adventist Home). Learn ~ that heaven categorically condemns any observance of appointed times of pagan origin.

Unlearn -- the Biblical feast days were all fulfilled in the Messiah, and thus their present-day, literal observance became unnecessary, or worse ~ even an insult to Yahuah! Learn ~ the Messiah did not come to destroy a jot or tittle of the law of Moses, which includes the feast days, and thus these special holy days are a blessed part of true worship till the end of time, and portray not merely the Messiah's first advent, but rather the entire plan of salvation from beginning to end. Serious

theological misunderstandings regarding Torah on the part of Adventist pioneers led them to ignore the literal observance of true Biblical Holy Days and to observe pasteurized pagan holy days in their place.

Unlearn -- "I saw that old Jerusalem will never be rebuilt." EW 75.

Learn -- old Jerusalem has been rebuilt, and heaven is gathering the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob from every corner of the world back to the land of Israel, in fulfillment of Bible Prophecy.

Learning this lesson does not require a deep Bible study: the price of a plane ticket to Jerusalem, or the cost of a couple of videos, or even fifty cents for a newspaper will effectively do the job.

There are many, many more items that I could discuss in both the "learn" and "unlearn" categories, but I hope that those mentioned will give you an idea of the Holy Spirit's leading in my spiritual experience. I eagerly await a similar list of items learned and unlearned by yourself. If your list parallels mine -- Hallelujah! there could well be room for both of us in Kingdom come! If our lists are radically different -- we should talk! Either you or I could be lacking precious essential elements of present truth necessary to get us through the final crisis, and we ought to try to help each other and come into unity.

Standing on *the* firm foundation -- the faith once delivered to the saints ~ I remain sincerely yours,  
Ron Buhler