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## CHAPTER 4

### CHURCH FATHERS-THE CORRUPTION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

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*Suggested by the father of lies ancient  
writings were forged by monks. The Great  
Controversy, page 56*

## INTRODUCTION

Before a proper conspectus of the corruption of the New Testament can be reached, one must first have a brief knowledge of what took place among Biblical scholars during the fourth century of the Christian era. The *Textus Receptus*, referred to in this study, is the Greek manuscripts preserved by the Waldenses of Northern Italy, used by Martin Luther in his translation of the Bible, and the translators of the Authorized King James Version in 1611 A.D. The *Vaticanus* and *Sinaiticus* are the Greek manuscripts of the Roman Catholic Church. These erroneous manuscripts are highly regarded today by contemporary Evangelical and Seventh-day Adventist scholars.

### Only Two Bibles

There are really only two versions of the Bible in existence today. (1) The *Textus Receptus*, Greek manuscripts known as the “Received Text.” (2) The *Vaticanus* and *Sinaiticus*, the Greek manuscripts of the Latin *Vulgate*. The *Vulgate* was known as “the great Bible,” and was translated into Latin from the *Vaticanus* and *Sinaiticus* Greek manuscripts for the Roman Catholic Church by Saint Jerome. The *Vaticanus* and *Sinaiticus* were the Greek manuscripts corrupted at Alexandria, Egypt during the fourth century. These are the spurious Greek manuscripts of the contemporary Roman Catholic Church, and all modern translations!

Pioneer Seventh -day Adventists did not believe in these spurious Greek manuscripts of the Roman Catholic Church. Dr. Benjamin G. Wilkinson, a renown Seventh-day Adventist teacher and Biblical scholar commented on how the corruption of the New Testament began in the first century:

*Beginning shortly after the death of the apostle John, four names stand out in prominence whose teachings contributed both to the victorious heresy and to the final issuing of manuscripts of a corrupt New Testament. These names are, 1, Justin Martyr, 2, Tatian, 3, Clement of Alexandria, and 4, Origen.*

Benjamin G. Wilkinson, *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated*, pages 16, 17.

In his book, Dr. Wilkinson quotes from some of the most reliable and respected sources of the history of the early Christian era. His account of what took place shortly after the apostles had passed from the scene is confirmed by many noted Christian and secular historians. Among these were men like – Dr. Adam Clarke, Scrivener, Dean Burgon, Dr. Schaff, J. Hamlyn Hill, and even Dr. Newman, a noted theologian of the Roman Catholic Church. Professor Wilkinson gleaned information from such reliable works as: *History of Christianity*, *Encyclopedias*, *Americana*, *Ante-Nicene Fathers* (Scribner’s), *Commentary on the New Testament* (Clarke’s), *Eusebius*, *Eccles.* (History Book), *The Diatessaron of Tatian* (Hill’s), and *McClintock and Strong*, to name a few.

### Justin Martyr

The first outstanding name to appear in the history of the Christian era is that of *Justin Martyr*. Many contemporary Evangelical scholars believe Justin Martyr to be one of the true “Fathers” of the early Christian church. About this man Dr. Wilkinson commented:

*The year in which the apostle John died, 100 A.D., is given as the date in which Justin Martyr was born. Justin, originally a pagan and of pagan parentage, afterward embraced Christianity and although he is said to have died at heathen hands for his religion, nevertheless, his teachings were of a heretical nature. Even as a Christian teacher, he continued to wear the robes of a pagan philosopher. *ibid.*, Benjamin G. Wilkinson, *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated*, page 16. (emphasis supplied).*

Dr. Wilkinson, like pioneer Seventh-day Adventist Biblical scholars before him, did not believe in the teaching of “textual critics” like Justin Martyr. In his book Dr. Wilkinson narrates how the pure Scriptures were being corrupted as early as fifty years after the death of the apostle John by the erroneous teachings of Justin Martyr:

*In the teachings of Justin Martyr, we begin to see how muddy the stream of pure Christian doctrine was running among the heretical sects fifty years after the death of the apostle John. It was in Tatian, Justin Martyr’s pupil, that these regrettable doctrines were carried to alarming lengths, and by his hand committed to writing. ibid., Benjamin G. Wilkinson, *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated*, page 16.*

### **Tatian – Student Of Justin Martyr**

The second important name to appear in the history of the early church is that of *Tatian*. Like Justin Martyr, his teacher before him, Tatian is also considered to be an excellent source of history and truth by many contemporary Evangelical scholars and theologians of our day (and now it appears like many Seventh-day Adventist scholars and writers). Dr. Wilkinson narrates for us how Tatian developed the heresy further during his lifetime:

*After the death of Justin Martyr in Rome, Tatian returned to Palestine and embraced the Gnostic heresy. This same Tatian wrote a Harmony of the Gospels which was called the Diatessaron, meaning four in one. The Gospels were so notoriously corrupted by his hand that in later years a bishop of Syria, because of the errors, was obliged to throw out of his churches no less than two hundred copies of this Diatessaron, since church members were mistaking it for the true Gospel. ibid., Benjamin G. Wilkinson, *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated*, page 16. *op. cit. Encyclopedias, Art. Tatian. (emphasis supplied).**

Notice how each of these men seemed to have a prominent pupil who carried on his heretical teachings. Not only that, but after the passing of their famous teachers, the student then carried the heresy even further, weaving in more of the subtle teachings of Paganism. *Clement of Alexandria*, Tatian’s famous pupil, carried the heretical teachings to the utmost extremes.

### **Clement Of Alexandria – Student Of Tatian**

*Clement* of Alexandria is referred to many times in footnotes of Roman Catholic translations of the Scriptures. Contemporary Protestant Evangelical scholars and theologians relied heavily upon the writings of these men who were so admired by the medieval Roman church. A most interesting statement is found in a “footnote” to Romans 16 verse 22 in the *St Joseph Catholic* edition:

*The Clementine Vulgate adds: ‘and I have been hindered till now,’ The Greek has nothing that corresponds to it. Footnote, Romans 16:22, Saint Joseph Catholic Edition, Douay-Rheims. Published by Catholic Book Publishing Company, New York. New Edition Copyright, 1962, (emphasis supplied).*

Notice the Catholic footnote refers to “The Clementine Vulgate,” and that: “The Greek has nothing that corresponds to it.” The Greek here referred to, of course, could only mean the erroneous *Vaticanus and Sinaiticus* manuscripts. By “The Clementine Vulgate,” they obviously mean Clement of Alexandria. Noted Biblical historian Dean Burgon comments on the teachings of Clement:

*Clement expressly tells us that he would not hand down Christian teachings, pure and unmixed, but rather clothed with precepts of pagan philosophy. All the writings of the outstanding heretical teachers were possessed by Clement, and he freely quoted from their corrupted MSS. as if they were the pure words of Scripture. Dean Burgon, *The Revision Revised*, page 336. (emphasis supplied).*

In 1930, noted Seventh-day Adventist teacher and scholar, Benjamin George Wilkinson published his splendid work, *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated*. In his book Dr. Wilkinson stated about Clement of Alexandria:

*We come now to Tatian's pupil known as Clement of Alexandria, 200 A.D. (J. Hamlyn Hill, *The Diatessaron of Tatian*, p. 9). He went much farther than Tatian in that he founded a school at Alexandria which instituted propaganda along these heretical lines. . . . His influence in the depravation of Christianity was tremendous. But his greatest contribution, undoubtedly, was the direction given to the studies and activities of Origen, his famous pupil. *ibid.*, Benjamin G. Wilkinson, *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated*, pages 16, 17. (emphasis supplied).*

#### **Origen – Student Of Clement**

*Origen*, the fourth and last in the succession of heretical "church fathers" corrupted the New Testament more than all previous scholars who had tampered with the original text of Scripture. Undoubtedly *Origen* contributed the most heresy in the demise of the pure original teachings of the New Testament manuscripts.

*"When we come to Origen, we speak the name of him who did the most of all to create and give direction to the forces of apostasy down through the centuries," Dr. Wilkinson wrote. "It was he who mightily influenced Jerome, the editor of the Latin Bible known as the Vulgate." (ibid., Wilkinson, *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated*, page 17, emphasis supplied).*

Notice that it was *Origen* "who mightily influenced Jerome, the editor of the Latin Bible known as the *Vulgate*." The St. Joseph Catholic edition refers to the "*Vulgate*" Manuscripts many times. Even the Protestant translators of the New International and Revised Standard Versions refer many times to the *Vulgate*.

It must be repeated that both the Roman Catholic Church, and contemporary Protestant Evangelical translators relied heavily upon the *Vaticanus* and *Sinaiticus Greek* manuscripts. These manuscripts were believed to be two of the fifty Bibles translated by Bishop Eusebius at the direct request of the Roman Emperor Constantine in the fourth century:

*Dr. Tischendorf believed that this [the Sinaitic] and the Vatican manuscript were two of the fifty copies of the Bible which were made in Greek, by command of the Emperor Constantine, about the year A.D. 331, under supervision of Bishop Eusebius, the historian of Caesarea. Sidney Collett, *The Scripture of Truth*, page 28. (emphasis supplied).*

Bishop *Eusebius*, the man chosen by the Roman Emperor Constantine to translate the Bible into Greek for the Roman Church, was an admirer of the writings of *Origen*. Because Bishop Eusebius admired the writings of *Origen* it is not difficult to understand how the Greek New Testament was corrupted by this bishop of the Roman Church.

*Eusebius worshiped at the altar of Origen's teachings. He claims to have collected eight hundred of Origen's letters, to have used Origen's six-column Bible, the Hexapla, in his Biblical labors. Assisted by Pamphilus, he restored and preserved Origen's library. Origen's corrupted MSS. of the scriptures were well arranged and balanced with subtlety. The last one hundred and fifty years have seen much of the so-called scholarship of European and English Christianity dominated by the subtle and powerful influence of Origen. ibid., Benjamin G. Wilkinson, Our Authorized Bible Vindicated, pages 16, 17. (emphasis supplied).*

Notice that in the succession of apostasy each man was an admirer of the man who preceded him. In other words, man following man. "Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help." (Psalms 146:3).

Let us pause for a moment and note the chain in the corrupting of the pure New Testament Greek manuscript. Note how each man from each succeeding generation carried the corruption further.

- (1) Justin Martyr to his pupil *Tatian*.
- (2) *Tatian* to his student *Clement of Alexandria*.
- (3) *Clement* to his famous student *Origen*.
- (4) *Origen* then translated the corrupted Greek manuscripts of *Clement* into his famous six-column Bible known as the *Hexapla*.
- (5) In the fourth century, 331 A.D. the *Hexapla* was used by Bishop *Eusebius* when he translated into Greek the fifty copies of the Bible for the Roman Empire and the Roman Church at the direct request of Emperor *Constantine the Great*. Two of these copies are believed to be the *Vaticanus* and *Sinaiticus* Greek manuscripts of the Roman Catholic Church. (Remembering time and place in history, 321 A.D., was the date Emperor *Constantine* decreed the first Sunday Law. See *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Art. "Constantine").
- (6) When the Bible was translated into Latin by Saint *Jerome* for the Roman Catholic Church, it was the writings of *Origen* that influenced *Jerome*. (See, Dr. *Scrivener*, *Introduction to the Criticism of the N.T.*, p. 270. "The readings approved by *Origen*, *Eusebius*, and *Jerome* should closely agree.")
- (7) The last one hundred and fifty years have seen much of the so-called scholarship of European and English Christianity dominated by the subtle and powerful influence of *Origen*. (*ibid.*, *Wilkinson*, *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated*, page 17).

It is well known how contemporary Evangelical scholars admire the writings of *Origen*. Even Dr. *Newman*, the famous theologian of the Roman Catholic Church, boldly declares his admiration for *Origen*.

*"I Love. . .the name of Origen," Dr. Newman wrote. "I will not listen to the notion that so great a soul was lost." (Dr. Newman, Apologia pro vita sus. Chapter VII, page 282).*

*Origen*. What did this evil man teach? His opinion of individuals studying the Scriptures for themselves is noted in the following statement from his writings:

*"The scriptures are of little use to those who understand them as they are written." (McClintock and Strong. Art. Origen, emphasis supplied).*

Special counsel from the Lord to Seventh-day Adventists states the opposite from the teachings of *Origen*. Note carefully the inspired counsel:

*“There is great need that all who claim to be Bible Christians should take the Scriptures as they read.” (Ellen G. White, The Signs of the Times, February 19, 1894, emphasis supplied).*

*“We must be careful lest we misinterpret the Scriptures. . . ,” Ellen White counseled. “Take the Scriptures as they read.” (Selected Messages, Bk. 1, page 170, emphasis supplied).*

If one considers the position taken by the Roman Catholic Church in the Council of Trent, i.e., that Tradition is equal with the Bible, is it any wonder that the Roman Church loves the writings of *Origen*? Dr. Schaff, one of the most respected and reliable Biblical historians, in his brilliant work relates more about the beliefs and teachings of *Origen*:

*“His [Origen] predilection for Plato (the pagan philosopher) led him into many grand and fascinating errors.” (Dr. Schaff, Church History, Vol. II, page 791).*

*“He [Origen] studied under the heathen Ammonius Saccas, founder of Neo-Platonism.” (Wilkinson, Our Authorized Bible Vindicated, page 17).*

In his book, Dr. Wilkinson points out many of the false teachings of *Origen*. Note carefully the teaching of this so-called “church father.”

*He taught that the soul existed from eternity before it inhabited the body, and that after death, it migrated to a higher or a lower form of life according to the deeds done in the body; and finally all would return to the state of pure intelligence, only to begin again the same cycles as before. He believed that the devils would be saved, and that the stars and planets had souls, and were, like men, on trial to learn perfection. In fact, he turned the whole law and Gospel into an allegory. *ibid.*, Benjamin G. Wilkinson, Our Authorized Bible Vindicated, (page 17).*

*“Such was the man who from his day to this has dominated the endeavors of destructive textual critics,” Dr. Wilkinson stated. “One of the greatest results of his life, was that his teachings became the foundation of that system of education called Scholasticism, which guided the colleges of Latin Europe for nearly one thousand years during the Dark Ages.” (ibid., Wilkinson, Our Authorized Bible Vindicated, page 17, emphasis supplied).*

Dr. Scrivener tells how deep were the corruptions of the early Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. He also describes why he believed the *Textus Receptus*, the Greek manuscript used by Martin Luther and the translators of the Authorized King James Version, is the most reliable.

*It is no less true to fact than paradoxical in sound, that the worst corruptions to which the New Testament has ever been subjected, originated within a hundred years after it was composed; that Irenaeus (A.D. 150), and the African Fathers, [Justin Martyr, Tatian, Clement of Alexandria, Origen] and the whole Western, with a portion of the Syrian Church, used far inferior manuscripts to those employed by Stunica, or Erasmus, or Stephens thirteen*

*centuries later, when molding the Textus Receptus. Scrivener, Introduction to N.T. Criticism, 3rd Edition, page 511. (emphasis supplied).*

Thus we see how a mutilated New Testament has come to be recognized by the majority of Christendom today. How sad that most of the world today accepts a Bible, corrupted by the so-called church fathers, and amplified by the Roman Catholic Church.

### **Pioneer Adventist Leadership Rejected the Church Fathers**

Did pioneer Adventists believe and teach the writings of the “church fathers?” Indeed, they did not! It must be stated by the Seventh-day Adventist pioneers themselves how they felt about the so-called “church fathers” who changed the Scriptures and the seventh day Sabbath of the Lord.

*“Accordingly, extracts were made on a more extensive scale, and were woven together, the result being this book,” E. J. Waggoner wrote, “which is in reality a brief account of the rise of that Antichristian structure called the papacy, which was built on the foundation of the so-called Fathers, the heathen philosopher Plato being the chief corner-stone.” (E. J. Waggoner, Fathers of the Catholic Church, page iii, emphasis supplied).*

Waggoner’s book was published in 1888 by Pacific Press Publishing Company, Oakland, California. In this book Waggoner stated further that, “I would not forget to acknowledge the service rendered by my friends, Elders E. W. Farnsworth, W. C. White, and A. T. Jones, who read the book in manuscript, and made valuable suggestions.” (*ibid.*, Fathers of the Catholic Church, p. iv). This list, beyond question, is a significant endorsement of Waggoner’s book by leading pioneer Seventh-day Adventists, wouldn’t you say?

*“Now there are certain men who have acquired great celebrity as ‘Church Fathers,’” Waggoner wrote. “This term, strangely enough, is never applied to the apostles, to whom it would seem to be more applicable than to any other men, but to certain men who lived in the first few centuries of the Christian era, and who exerted a great influence on the church.” (*ibid.*, FCC, p. 58, emphasis supplied). “As a matter of fact, the true church has but one Father,” Waggoner continued, “even God; therefore whatever church recognizes any men as its Fathers, must be a church of merely human planting, having only human ordinances.” (*ibid.*, FCC, p. 58, emphasis supplied).*

### **Waggoner Comments On Church Father, Origen**

*“So, also, Christians who adopt from Plato the doctrine of the natural immortality of the soul, have conveniently lost sight of the absurd and atheistical doctrine on which it rests,” Waggoner stated. “Some of the most eminent of the ‘Church Fathers,’ however, and especially Origen, accepted without question all the vagaries of Plato concerning the pre-existence of souls.” (*ibid.*, Fathers of the Catholic Church, p. 34, emphasis supplied).*

*“It passes all comprehension how, in the face of all this testimony, which is perfectly familiar to every scholar,” Waggoner reasoned, “Professor Worman can say, as he does in McClintock and Strong’s Encyclopedia, ‘Origen may well be pronounced one of the ablest and worthiest of the church Fathers—indeed, one of the greatest moral prodigies of the human race.’” Waggoner added further that, “It is difficult to retain any respect whatever for the*

*judgment of a man who can indulge in such gush over Origen.” (ibid., FCC, p. 229).*

*“And the matter is so much the worse because, in the very same article in which the above language occurs, Professor Worman brings the identical charges against Origen, which are made in the quotations from Mosheim, Farrar, and Schaff,” Waggoner observed. “Such lavish and unmerited praise is an indication that Origen’s influence is by no means dead, and that the reviving interest in his writings, and in patristic literature in general, augurs ill for the future condition of the Christian church.” (ibid., FCC, p. 229, emphasis supplied).*

*“Origen’s writings were largely instrumental in bringing about the great apostasy which resulted in the establishment of the papacy,” Waggoner stated, “and if they are taken as the guide of the theologian to-day, they must necessarily result in another similar apostasy.” (ibid., FCC, p. 229, emphasis supplied).*

*“The Reformation was a protest against the speculative dogmas of the schoolmen, and a movement toward relying on the Bible as the only guide in matters of faith and practice,” Waggoner concluded, “and just in proportion as the Fathers are esteemed, the Bible will be neglected, and the work of the Reformation undone.” (ibid., Fathers of the Catholic Church, page 229, emphasis supplied).*

#### **Waggoner Comments On Church Father, Justin Martyr**

*On page 148 Waggoner states his opinion of Justin Martyr. He then quoted a powerful statement on Justin Martyr from the writings of Dr. Schaff. This statement is noted in part: “He is the first of the church Fathers to bring classical scholarship and Platonic philosophy in contact with the Christian theology.” (Dr. Schaff, Vol. 1, sec. 122, emphasis supplied).*

#### **Waggoner Comments On Church Father, Gregory Thaumaturgus:**

*“Mosheim says that Gregory Thaumaturgus, one of the most highly esteemed of the church Fathers, allowed his people, at their festivals in honor of the martyrs, not only `to dance, to use sports, to indulge conviviality,’” Waggoner observed, “but also `to do all things that the worshipers of idols were accustomed to do in their temples on their festival days.’” (ibid., Fathers of the Catholic Church, page 247, emphasis supplied).*

#### **J. N. Andrews Comments On Church Father, St. Augustine**

*“St. Augustine did not regard the Sunday festival as a divine institution,” J. N. Andrews wrote. “He gave the credit of the work, not to Christ or his inspired apostles, but to the holy doctors of the church, who, of their own accord, had transferred the glory of the ancient Sabbath to the venerable day of the sun.” (J. N. Andrews, Sermons on the Sabbath and Law, Steam Press of the*



*Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association, Battle Creek, Mich. 1870, page 149, emphasis supplied).*

*“More than this, we will add, that though Cyprian, or Jerome, or Augustine, or even the fathers of an earlier age, Tertullian, Ignatius, or Irenaeus,” Andrews observed, “could be plainly shown to teach the unscriptural doctrines and dogmas of Popery, which, however, is by no means admitted, still the consistent Protestant would simply ask, Is the doctrine to be found in the Bible?” (J. N. Andrews, History of the Sabbath, page 199, emphasis supplied).*

#### **A. T. Jones Comments On Church Father, St. Augustine**

*“First, the church had all work on Sunday forbidden, in order that the people might attend to things divine,” A. T. Jones wrote, “work was forbidden, that the people might worship. But the people would not worship: they went to the circus and the theater instead of to church.” (Alonzo T. Jones, The Two Republics, page 326).*

*“Then the church had laws enacted closing the circuses and the theaters, in order that the people might attend church,” Jones continued. “But even then the people would not be devoted, nor attend church; for they had no real religion.” (ibid., TTR, p. 326).*

*“The next step to be taken, therefore, in the logic of the situation, was to compel them to be devoted – to compel them to attend to things divine,” Jones observed. “This was the next step logically to be taken, and it was taken.” (ibid., TTR, p. 326).*

*“The theocratical bishops were equal to the occasion,” Jones concluded. “They were ready with a theory that exactly met the demands of the case; and one of the greatest of the Catholic Church Fathers and Catholic saints [St. Augustine] was the father of this Catholic saintly theory. He wrote:–” (ibid., TTR, p. 327, emphasis supplied).*

*It is, indeed, better that men should be brought to serve God by instruction than by fear of punishment or by pain. But because the former means are better, the latter must not therefore be neglected. . . . Many must often be brought back to their Lord, like wicked servants, by the rod of temporal suffering, before they attain the highest grade of religious development. Augustine, The Correction of the Donatists, chap. vi. I adopt Schaff’s translation, History of the Christian Church, Vol. iii, par. 12. (emphasis supplied).*

#### **Uriah Smith Comments On Church Father, St. Augustine**

*“John Knox, the celebrated Scotch reformer, was born in 1505, and was educated at St. Andrew’s University,” Uriah Smith wrote. “He received a priest’s orders, but renounced popery after reading the writings of St. Augustine and Jerome.” (Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, page 790, emphasis supplied).*

## **James White Comments On Church Father, St. Augustine**

*“The harmony is found in the nature of the punishment,” James White wrote on the final punishment of the wicked. “This the Scriptures show to be death; and this view overthrows alike the restoration view of Origen and the eternal hell of Augustine.” (James White & Uriah Smith, The Biblical Institute, Pacific Seventh-day Adventist Publishing House, Oakland, California, page 215, emphasis supplied).*

It must be conceded that from these few statements alone by, J. N. Andrews, A. T. Jones, Uriah Smith, E. J. Waggoner and James White, that pioneer Seventh-day Adventists did not believe in the so-called “church fathers.”

### **What about contemporary Adventist scholars and SDA Church leaders? Do they believe in the Fathers of the Catholic Church? Yes, they do!**

Contemporary Adventist Leadership Honor the Church Fathers These “church fathers,” used by Satan to change the very Word of God, and who were instrumental in the forming of the papacy, are now praised and honored by the leadership of the contemporary Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Consider three paragraphs from the 1993 “missionary book of the year,” *Pause for Peace*, by Clifford Goldstein. This book has the endorsement, or IMPRIMATUR, if you please, of the highest authority of the Church. Indeed, the introduction to this book was penned by George E. Vandeman, speaker emeritus of the *It Is Written* television program. In his conclusion, Goldstein expresses the position of most contemporary Adventist scholars on the church fathers in three paragraphs. The statements in these three paragraphs are so foreign to the pioneer Seventh-day Adventist position on Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Ignatius, Justin Martyr, and St. Augustine, the so-called church fathers, that comment must be made on each of the three paragraphs.

### **Paragraph #1 of Goldstein’s Statements on Church Fathers**

*Imagine a vast, pulsating throng, composed of those who, throughout history, have kept Sunday. Besides the unknown millions, church fathers, such as Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Ignatius, and Justin Martyr are there. Amid the mass stand the great and revered – Saint Augustine, Saint Francis, and Saint Thomas Aquinas, popes, cardinals, monks, and many selfless missionaries who devoted, even donated, their lives to spread the gospel to all the World. Martin Luther, John Calvin, William Wilberforce, John Wesley, Charles Finney, William Miller, and Charles Spurgeon stand among them, along with Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II, and even Billy Graham. Clifford Goldstein, *Pause for Peace*, published by Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1992, page 120. (emphasis supplied).*

The documented evidence presented above clearly shows that pioneer Seventh-day Adventists did not believe that “Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Ignatius, Justin Martyr, and St. Augustine,” were “church fathers.” According to true Seventh-day Adventist history, and even the Spirit of Prophecy, these so-called church fathers were the very men who altered the Holy Scriptures.

*“I saw. . . learned men had in some instances changed the words,” Ellen White stated. (Early Writings, page 200, emphasis supplied).*

*“Suggested by the father of lies,” Ellen White continued the thought in the Great Controversy. “Ancient writings were forged by monks. And a church that had rejected the truth greedily accepted these deceptions.” (GC, p. 56, emphasis supplied).*

No, pioneer Seventh-day Adventists did not believe in the Church Fathers as do contemporary Seventh-day Adventist leaders.

Again we quote pioneer Adventist, E. J. Waggoner:

*“Origen’s writings were largely instrumental in bringing about the great apostasy which resulted in the establishment of the papacy, and if they are taken as the guide of the theologian to-day, they must necessarily result in another similar apostasy,” E. J. Waggoner wrote. “As a matter of fact, the true church has but one Father, even God; therefore whatever church recognizes any men as its Fathers, must be a church of merely human planting, having only human ordinances.” (E. J. Waggoner, Fathers of the Catholic Church, page 58, emphasis supplied).*

**In the third sentence of this first paragraph, Goldstein makes the astounding statement that, “Amid the mass stand the great and revered—Saint Augustine.”**

Are you kidding me! First of all, we as Seventh-day Adventists do not believe that any man is, or ever was, a saint. Especially Augustine. Neither do we believe that he was “great” or “revered.” True history reveals that Augustine was the man who brought persecution and death to Protestants. (See any reliable history of the Reformation). He was the one person who convinced the Roman Catholic hierarchy that it was proper to “compel” (by the power of the state) the people to conform to the dogmas of the Roman Catholic Church.

*“Many must often be brought back to their Lord, like wicked servants,” Augustine wrote, “by the rod of temporal suffering, before they attain the highest grade of religious development.” (Augustine, The Correction of the Donatists, chap. vi., emphasis supplied).*

**Goldstein goes on to list the complete hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church, “Saint Francis, and Saint Thomas Aquinas, popes, cardinals, monks.” According to my Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and true Protestant historians, these personages are the core of the “man of sin,” the beast of Revelation 13, the very authors of Sunday, the false Sabbath. Indeed, they are the founders, the originators of what will be the mark of the beast before the Lord of the Sabbath comes to save his people and destroy the beast.**

**In this first paragraph, Goldstein further states that there were many “selfless [Roman Catholic] missionaries who devoted, even donated, their lives to spread the gospel.” Astounding! Roman Catholic missionaries did not spread the true gospel throughout the world. They promoted the heretical teachings of the papacy, the false dogmas of the beast, to all the world. The Bible says “**

*. . .and all the world wondered after the beast.” (Revelation 13:3). “With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication,” the apostle John wrote, “and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication [false doctrine].” (Revelation 17:2).*

Do contemporary Seventh-day Adventists believe that officials of the Roman Catholic Church are Christian brethren? Apparently so.

**After this, Goldstein lists the great reformers, “Martin Luther, John Calvin, William Wilberforce, John Wesley, Charles Finney.” These very reformers were persecuted and even killed by the first group listed by Goldstein in the sentences before! They would resent being classed, or even hinted as being, Christian brethren, with the first group.**

Goldstein finished the first paragraph by lumping two great later reformers, William Miller, and Charles Spurgeon, with contemporary leaders of the Roman Catholic Church. He states that these two great later reformers, “William Miller, and Charles Spurgeon stand among them, along with Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II, and even Billy Graham.” William Miller, the great Advent reformer, would turn in his grave if he knew that a latter-day “Adventist” would class him with “Mother Teresa” and “Pope John Paul II.” While it is true that all these personages listed did keep Sunday, the true reformers, especially William Miller, were no brothers in Christ, or “contemporaries” of the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church. Are current Seventh-day Adventist scholars and writers totally ignorant of history?

Would Clifford Goldstein consider the leaders of Nazi Germany contemporaries of the six million Jews they destroyed in the death camps of World War II? I think not. Although the atrocities of Nazi Germany against the Jewish people was heinous, the Papacy’s persecution of Protestants was much more heinous. History testifies that the Papacy killed and mutilated over 90 million Protestants! One might say that Nazi Germany was more merciful than the Papacy when they gassed people to death. The Papacy tortured and mutilated it’s victims on the rack, the stake, and other instruments of torture. (See, *Foxes Book of Martyrs*, also, Lecky, noted Roman Catholic Historian, available at most Christian book stores). Only Satan himself could have devised such awful means of torture of human beings, yet Goldstein classes them all together as “contemporaries.”

### **Paragraph #2 of Goldstein’s Statement on Church Fathers**

In the second paragraph of his statement on the “church fathers,” Goldstein includes another smaller group of seventh-day Sabbath keepers who he lumps together with the first group of “church fathers.” Ellen White had stated that this first group were the ones who had “changed the words” of Scripture. (See, *Early Writings*, page 200; *The Great Controversy*, page 56).

*Another group, smaller, lowlier, and more meek than the first has gathered nearby. It is composed of those who have kept the seventh day Sabbath. Because “the Sabbath was made for man” (Mark 2:27), Adam, the first man, stands there. Abraham, “who obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My law” (Genesis. 26:4,5), stands with this group too, along with Moses, Aaron, King David, John the Baptist, John the Revelator, Paul, James, and Peter. Throughout history, in Asia, Europe, and Africa, there have been scattered Christians who, despite persecutions, alienation, and suffering, have kept the seventh day Sabbath, sometimes at the cost of their lives. They are numbered among this group too. Standing also in the crowd are those Christians from almost every land today who, though unable to boast the big names or numbers of their Sunday-keeping contemporaries, keep the seventh day Sabbath. *ibid.*, Clifford Goldstein, *Pause for Peace*, published by Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1992, page 120)*

Notice that Goldstein places the great men of the Bible, “Adam, Abraham, Moses, Aaron, David, John the Baptist, John the Revelator, Paul, James, and Peter” in the same spiritual status, the same group with, “Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Ignatius [founder of the Jesuit Order], Justin Martyr, the great and revered—

Saint Augustine, Saint Francis, Saint Thomas Aquinas, popes, cardinals, monks,” and the “church fathers” who altered the Scriptures. These great men of the Bible, Goldstein says, “*stand with this group too!*” (emphasis supplied). The “great and revered” St. Augustine? Please!

Then Goldstein places the faithful people of God during the dark ages, those who kept the seventh day Sabbath, and who were persecuted for standing for truth, “sometimes at the cost of their lives,” among the first group of persecutors. Who was it, dear reader, that persecuted and took the lives of these faithful Sabbath-keeping Christians during the dark ages?

*“The papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity,” Ellen White replies. “Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when she crushed out human liberty and slew the saints of the Most High.” (The Great Controversy, page 571, emphasis supplied).*

**Goldstein then includes the Seventh -day Adventists with the “church fathers” and leaders of the Roman Catholic Church.** “Standing also in the crowd are those Christians from almost every land today who, though unable to boast the big names or numbers of their Sunday-keeping contemporaries, keep the seventh day Sabbath.” Is this true? Are the Sunday-keeping churches of Babylon our contemporaries, and as such, our Christian brethren? Evidently the leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church believe this statement to be true. This, of course, flies directly in the face of the Spirit of Prophecy statement, “The papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation.” (*ibid.*, The Great Controversy, page 571, emphasis supplied).

### **Paragraph #3 of Goldstein’s Statement on Church Fathers**

In the third and last paragraph, Goldstein places Jesus Christ among the smaller group that have kept the seventh day Sabbath. However, the Bible says that Christ is standing outside of the Laodicean Church, knocking at the door.

*“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock,” Jesus said to the church of the Laodiceans, “if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20).*

“I stand at the door,” Jesus said. He is not standing among Seventh-day Adventists, but He is standing at the door knocking. Jesus is speaking to individuals. “If any man hear my voice, and open the door.” Jesus is standing outside the Church, at the door, knocking, pleading with individuals. If any man will open the door, “I will come in to him,” Jesus promised. The promise is to the individual. However a solemn warning is given to the Church.

*“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot,” Jesus warned. “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” (Revelation 3:14a, 15a, 16).*

*Yet one more person remains. He who spoke His holy day into existence, who thundered it from Sinai, who called Himself the Lord of the Sabbath, stands meek and lowly amid that smaller, less-imposing throng. Then, extending His scarred hands, as if to embrace His flock in both groups, Jesus pulls in His breath and in a loving plea that has echoed across the millennia*

*cries out, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” (John 14:15). ibid., Clifford Goldstein, Pause for Peace, published by Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1992, page 120. (emphasis supplied).*

**“Then, extending His scarred hands, as if to embrace His flock in both groups,” Goldstein says. Does Jesus hold out His scarred hands to “Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Ignatius, Justin Martyr, the great and revered—Saint Augustine, Saint Francis, and Saint Thomas Aquinas, popes, cardinals, monks?” I think not!**

**Does the leadership and scholars and writers of the contemporary Seventh-day Adventist Church now believe in the Roman Catholic doctrine of purgatory? These so-called “church fathers” are now dead. Their probation is past. They have no second chance to be saved! Does Jesus really hold out his scarred hands to the leaders of the Papacy, the beast which used the power of the state to change and enforce the false Sabbath? Preposterous! Absurd! Ridiculous! There are not enough words in the English language to describe this contradictory position.**

The great second Advent movement is a last-day movement, commissioned by Jesus to give a final warning to planet earth. This movement would “build the old waste places,” and “raise up the foundations of many generations.” Indeed, God’s remnant people will be called “the repairers of the breach” in the law, *which was made by the Papacy!* (Isaiah 58:12).

No, dear reader, the Lord Jesus Christ does not hold out His scarred hands of mercy to the leaders of the Papacy who are now dead. *Neither does He hold out His scarred hands of mercy to the leaders of the Papacy who are now alive unless they repent!* This is the beast power, the Antichrist, the “man of sin.” (See, Rev. 13:17; 2 Thess. 2:2). Jesus Christ does not hold out His scarred hands of mercy to the Antichrist, living or dead, or the “church fathers” who gave rise to the Papacy unless they repent and forsake their positions. That is a contradiction of truth. If Jesus said of Israel, “Behold, your house is left unto you desolate,” (Matt. 23:38), what would He say of the Papacy? What would Jesus say to Seventh-day Adventists who uphold the Papacy as Christian brethren and “contemporaries” of Adventists? “And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice,” Jesus warned through the apostle John,

*“If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.” (Revelation 14:9, 10, emphasis supplied).*

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