

## Chapter 10

# *Do You Know You Are a Seventh-day Adventist Christian?*

*“Then the voice which I heard from heaven, I heard again speaking with me, and saying, ‘Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land.’*

*So I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book.*

*And he said to me, ‘Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.’*

*I took the little book out of the angel’s hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.” Revelation 10:8–10*

**H**ello, again. Now that you’ve returned, I’m ready, even anxious, to turn that corner that I talked about. I’m ready to concentrate on the unique spiritual and historical description of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—and you as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. Remember, I ask my curiously hard question, not only of the church body, but of you.

Do you know who you are?

Now for that corner we’ll turn. I’m going to take all that we have studied thus far, all that the Bible says pertaining to all seriously seeking Christians, and apply it specifically to Seventh-day Adventist Christians.

Fair enough, you say.

But now—add to it all that the Bible says pertaining to us as Seventh-day Adventists.

And immediately, I hear you ask: Really? What makes us think that we're so special? Aren't we being a little arrogant?

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Believe me, it's not about arrogance—as the surprise or shock (depends on how you look at it) will reveal at the end of our conversation. It's about God's agenda and the way He makes known His agenda to His world. He has always had a special group with whom He has developed a Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship, through whom He transmits His character and His messages to the world. We even have a special name for this group. They are called the Remnant—another of those metaphorical words we want to explore. But before we discuss Seventh-day Adventists as the Remnant, let me explore with you whether we should even be considered as part of that special group that God has always had in every age, especially in every age of crisis.

Let me say right here that this exploration requires something that many people find difficult to do. Some don't have the patience for it. Some don't think it's worth the effort. Many don't think that God or His Word has anything to say worth exploring.

I am proposing that you and I do something that many find inconvenient. I want to do a Bible study with you. Unlike the Bible studies we had in our previous conversations, this one won't be easy. This will be an extended Bible study that requires some flipping through the pages and some thoughtful contemplation on your part.

I will not apologize for studying the Word of God, because in it we find the self-revelation of

God, the plan of Salvation, and the hope that we as humans need to enable us to be rescued from the dilemma of Sin. Secondly, studying the Word of God is absolutely essential to enable us to be in a Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship with God. We have to talk with Him and, especially—the part we frequently leave out—He has to talk with us. No communication; no relationship.

So, if you are up for this, I promise to go slowly and allow time for you to think about each step. Patiently follow in your Bible that you always bring to our conversations. I think you will agree that the final product at the end of our study will be worth the effort.

To begin this exploration, let's attempt to understand one of those Bible teasers that God is famous for, like a Sudoku grid with only half the parts supplied, a “mystery” which God sets before us and says, “Consider the evidence. See if you can piece this one together.” And I will begin, as usual, with a story.

**I**t was one of those hot days when there were no clouds in the sky and the sun beat down unmercifully. Actually it had been hot and dry every day for the last three and a half years. There had been no rain. No early rain, no latter rain. No rain at all.

Elijah, the “hairy” prophet (according to 2 Kings 1:8), had called a meeting of all Israel, including King Ahab and his band of 450 prophets of Baal. Amazingly they all came. Imagine it, if you can. The entire mountainside was covered with people, people curious to see what would happen.

“Have you heard?”

“Do you know what's going to happen?”

“I heard Elijah threatened the king.”

“I heard there's going to be a fight.”

“Do you think the king will kill Elijah?”

“Isn't Elijah a prophet of God? You can't kill God's prophets, can you?”