



The Biblical World View and Adventist Education

BY E. EDWARD ZINKE

World View Impact

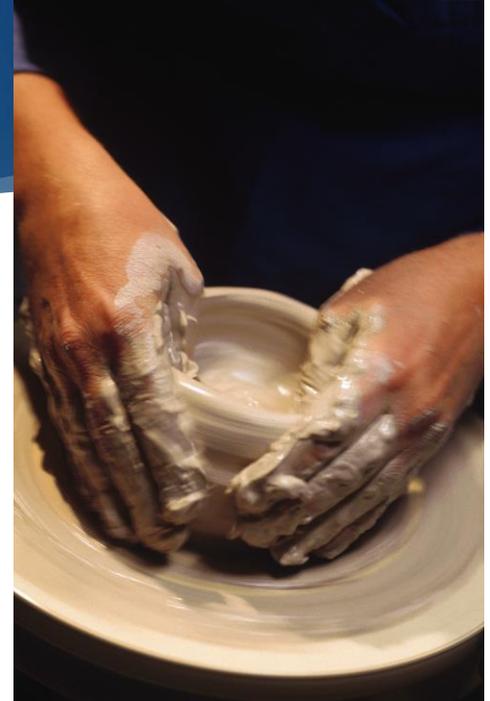
- ▶ World view is the lens, the filter, the template, the paradigm through which we understand our existence and see the world.

World View Impact

- ▶ Our world
- ▶ God
- ▶ Other humans and how to relate to them
- ▶ Truth
- ▶ Freedom
- ▶ History
- ▶ Origins
- ▶ Role in life
- ▶ Concept of the future

World View and “Designer gods”

- ▶ In the likeness of our cultural world view
- ▶ Responds to our greatness
- ▶ Justified by the morals of our society
- ▶ Fits our notion of truth
- ▶ Clay in our hands that we fashion to fit our mold, which is a creation of our world view
- ▶ A designer Bible for a designer god

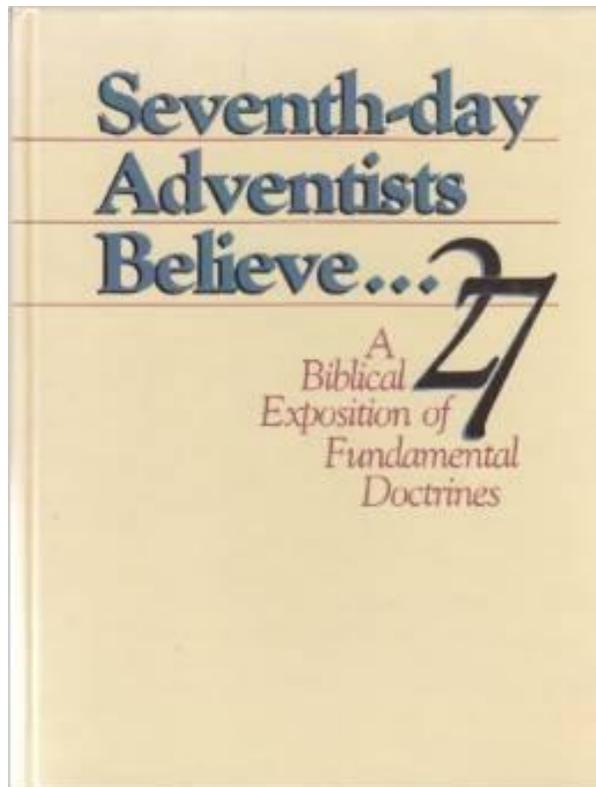


World View Impact

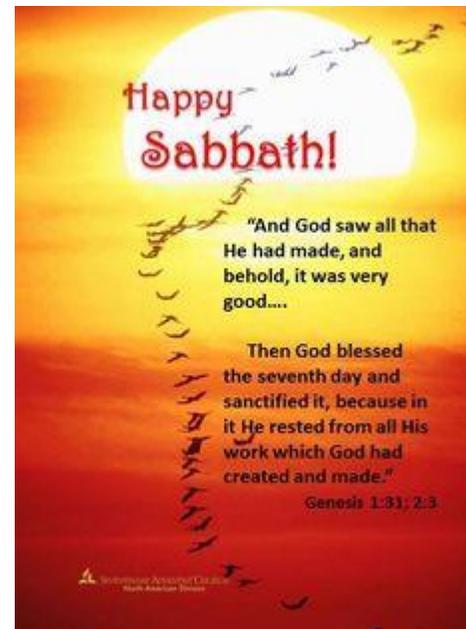
- ▶ Adventism brings a uniquely Biblical world view
- ▶ Our purpose will be to contrast its world view with those of secularism and humanism
- ▶ We will not attempt to discuss other world views

Adventism

Doctrines

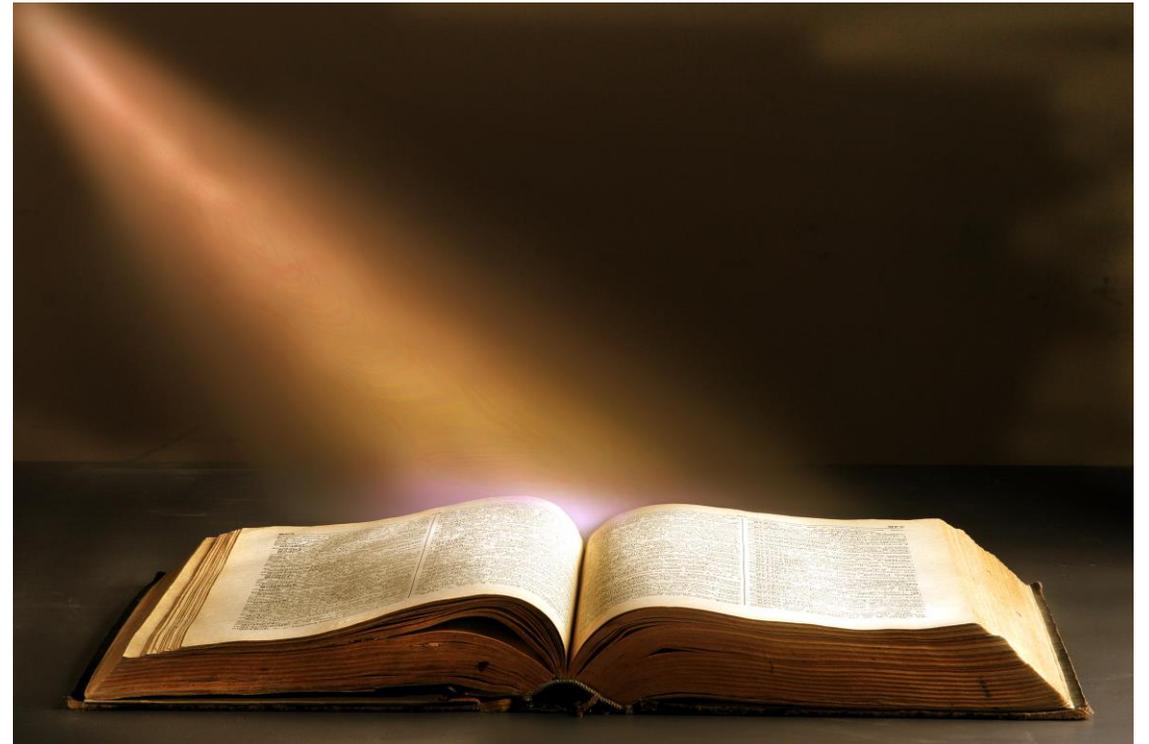


Lifestyle



Adventism is a World View

- ▶ Acknowledges the Bible as the foundational authority in lifestyle and thinking



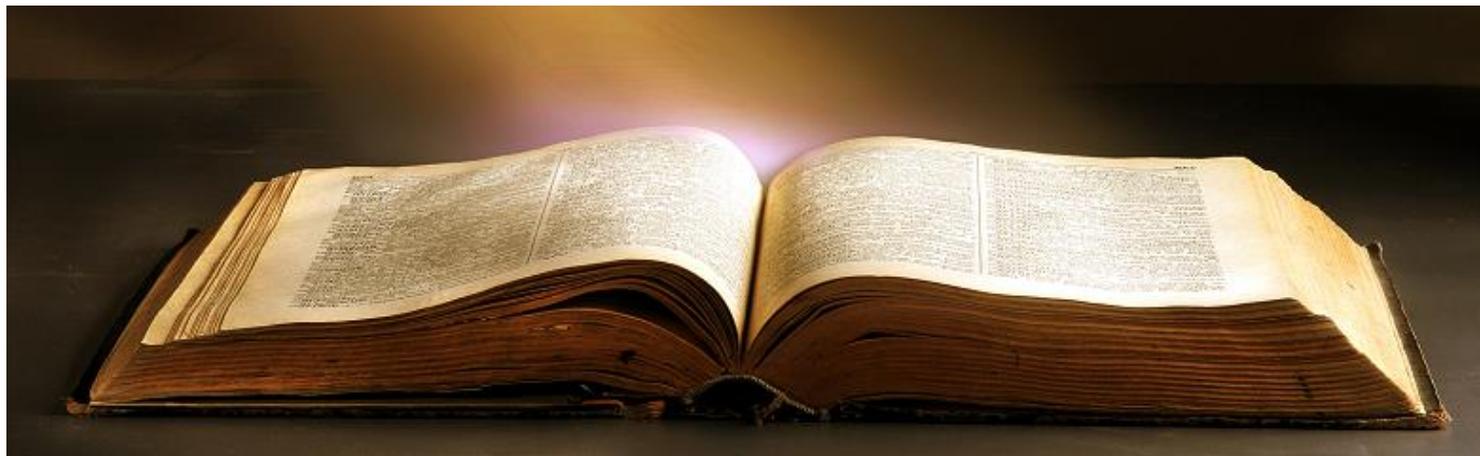
Adventist World View

Impacts:

- ▶ View of God
- ▶ The Bible
- ▶ Doctrine
- ▶ Nature of Truth
- ▶ The Future
- ▶ Self Concept and Purpose
- ▶ Understanding of the world, origins, the future
- ▶ Every aspect of our lives including our intellect

Reason for Existence of Adventist Schools

- ▶ To teach students to think Biblically rather than humanistically or secularly



Reason for Existence of Adventist Schools

- ▶ If that is not our purpose in teaching, we should be honest and teach in the public system
- ▶ If our children do not leave Adventist schools with a Biblical world view, we should send them to secular institutions

Objections

- ▶ Biblical world view thinking will turn Adventist schools into Bible Colleges
- ▶ A text for every aspect of a subject – the Bible was not meant to be used that way

Bible College—Negative Connotations

- ▶ Negative connotations should not impact our dedication to Biblical world view thinking
- ▶ We take the Bible seriously where it makes a specific point, but it does not address every topic, and
- ▶ Understand our disciplines within a Biblical worldview as contrasted with alternate views

The Biblical World View and Its Alternatives

- ▶ The Garden of Eden—without God's self revelation
- ▶ Our world without the Bible to give meaning to life
- ▶ Death of a loved one without hope for the future
- ▶ Contrast the Biblical world view with other contemporary world views

Biblical Illustrations of World view

- ▶ Eve
- ▶ The flood
- ▶ Kadish-Barnia
- ▶ Rejection of Christ
- ▶ The temptation of Christ
- ▶ Early church
- ▶ Reformation

God and History

- ▶ The Bible simply assumes the existence of God.
- ▶ God is in action when He is first introduced—
"In the beginning God created"
- ▶ God is the God of history

God and History

Biblical

- ▶ God is the originator of and a causative factor in history
 - ▶ Created
 - ▶ Set up/took down kingdoms
 - ▶ Delivered His people
 - ▶ Was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself
 - ▶ Will come again

Humanistic

- ▶ If God exists, He is caught in the flow of history; history is His master; He is to be judged by history; history is driven by cause and effect
- ▶ Or, if He does not exist, everything happens as a result of a closed continuum of cause and effect

God and History

Biblical

- ▶ History has meaning because it was initiated by God and He is guiding it to His culmination in the restoration of our fellowship with Him in the New Earth
- ▶ God interacts with us in history

Humanistic

- ▶ Historical events are random and purposeless
- ▶ We exist in a universe with nothing out there

God's Action

Biblical

- ▶ God was and is active in:
 - ▶ Creation
 - ▶ Sustaining creation
 - ▶ The Exodus
 - ▶ The incarnation
 - ▶ The resurrection
 - ▶ The second coming
 - ▶ The new earth
 - ▶ In our everyday, personal lives

Humanistic

- ▶ These events never happened
- ▶ Or explained by closed system of cause and effect with no divine intervention

God is Personal

Biblical

- ▶ Created for fellowship
 - ▶ Sabbath for fellowship
 - ▶ Saved His people from Egypt
 - ▶ Was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself
 - ▶ Will come for us
 - ▶ Will eradicate sin which separates from Him
 - ▶ We know God because He has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ and the Bible

Humanistic

- ▶ God does not exist
- ▶ We don't know if God exists
- ▶ God is a distant being who does not interact with us
- ▶ God interacts in some mystical way – we know Him because people have recorded their experiences with Him

Biblical Revelation

God reveals Himself and the nature of the world He created

Biblical

- ▶ The Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God, communicated in history through God's chosen prophets under the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- ▶ The Bible came by the will of God

Humanistic

- ▶ The Bible is simply a human book which captures the genius and spirituality of the human spirit
- ▶ The Bible came by the will of man

Biblical Revelation

God reveals Himself and the nature of the world He created

Biblical

- ▶ Under the Holy Spirit, the Bible is its own interpreter
- ▶ We can understand God, our world, and how to live because of the Bible
- ▶ God's revelation in nature is partial and subject to misunderstanding, and can be understood only from the perspective of the Revealed Word

Humanistic

- ▶ The Bible is interpreted as is any other book, story, narrative, etc
- ▶ We do not need God our father looking over our shoulder
- ▶ Nature is all that we have

Creation

Biblical

- ▶ The universe and our world were created by God with purpose
- ▶ God created life on this planet a short time ago

Humanistic

- ▶ The universe and this world came into existence by chance
- ▶ Life was formed by accident billions of years ago
- ▶ Life gradually evolved under the guidance of God

Creation

Biblical

- ▶ We were created in God's image
- ▶ God is our father; we are His children
- ▶ God saw that the creation was good

Humanistic

- ▶ We were created by tooth and claw by random purposeless mutations
- ▶ We are beholden to no one besides ourselves
- ▶ There is no intrinsic moral significance to nature other than what we give it

Human Nature

Biblical

- ▶ Created in the image of God
- ▶ Our God-given minds are used in harmony with God's word

Humanistic

- ▶ We are the result of evolutionary forces
- ▶ Our creation took place over millions of years, we descended from the animal kingdom
- ▶ Our minds are absolutely autonomous. We do not need God our Father

Human Nature

Biblical

- ▶ We were created for fellowship with God and each other
- ▶ We are not our own; Marriage between male and female is part of God's plan

Humanistic

- ▶ Survival of the fittest determines our lives
- ▶ We are our own; we can use our bodies as we like

Human Nature

Biblical

- ▶ Our goal is restoration to the image of God

Humanistic

- ▶ We can feed our minds and our lives however we desire to fulfill our own pleasure and aspirations

Human Nature

Biblical

- ▶ We were created a unity of mind, body, and soul; we cease to exist at death

Humanistic

- ▶ We are not a unity; there is a soul that can be treated separately from the body (as in theistic evolution) and exists independently of the body

Human Nature

Biblical

- ▶ Sin is a moral choice, an action or thought that is contrary to who God is
- ▶ Sin has separated us from God and one another

Humanistic

- ▶ Sin is the result of a brain disorder or biological malfunction, not a transgression of God's law or character

Sin

Biblical

- ▶ Sin is disobedience to the Word of God or the desire to establish one's self as equal to or God autonomous from Him

Humanistic

- ▶ Lack of knowledge is the root of all evil—it is ignorance, irrationality or misinformation
- ▶ There is no such thing as sin in the Biblical sense

Salvation

Biblical

- ▶ Salvation is possible only through grace by faith in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ

Humanistic

- ▶ Humanity will solve the problem of evil in the world through
 - ▶ political structures,
 - ▶ management of the process of evolution
 - ▶ by science, technology, economics and education

Salvation

Biblical

- ▶ Although human disciplines are useful when used in the context of God's Word, humanity cannot pull itself up by its boot straps. Salvation is in and through God--not genius, human effort, nor will

Humanistic

- ▶ Individual human salvation results from the right use of science, psychology, sociology, medicine, politics, etc.

Salvation

Biblical

- ▶ The kingdom of God – heaven on earth - will be established by God Himself
- ▶ God, as the agent of history will bring about heaven on earth

Humanistic

- ▶ Human progress and achievement will bring about the kingdom of God on earth
- ▶ Humankind, as the agent of history will bring about heaven on earth

Freedom

Biblical

- ▶ Christ sets us free. Our freedom is not independent of God, but enables us by God's grace to live in freedom from sin
- ▶ The truth (Jesus Christ and His Word) will set us free

Humanistic

- ▶ We are absolutely autonomous from any restraints from God or the universe
- ▶ We are free to determine the truth

Truth

Biblical

- ▶ Truth--the ability to understand the nature of things--comes from God, communicated through His Word under the Holy Spirit

Humanistic

- ▶ Truth is an independent principle in the universe by which everything including God is measured
- ▶ Or, as with post modernism, there is no certain truth. Truth is truth for me.

Faith

Biblical

- ▶ Faith is itself the evidence, faith comes by hearing the Word of God under the transforming power of the Holy Spirit

Humanistic

- ▶ Faith is based upon “rational or empirical evidence” that is integrated and interpreted so as to make a projection about the nature of things

Christ

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Biblical

- ▶ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without him nothing was made that was made." Jn 1:1-3

Humanistic

- ▶ The truth, if it exists at all, is not revealed in Christ or His Word; it is independent of God and is used to judge His Word, if indeed he revealed Himself in the Bible at all

Christ

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Biblical

- ▶ Christ is the light of the world
- ▶ Christ is the way, the truth, and the life

Humanistic

- ▶ Human reason, experience or existence is the light of the world

The Great Controversy

- ▶ The Great Controversy theme, our relation to the world of God is central to scripture and the book Great Controversy
- ▶ Not between two principles, but between two individuals
- ▶ The Issue – our relationship to the Word of God
 - ▶ Satan
 - ▶ Adam and Eve
 - ▶ Cain and Able
 - ▶ Antediluvians & rejection of Noah
 - ▶ Deliverance from Egypt

The Great Controversy

- ▶ Kadesh Barnea – No God in His right mind would send His people to such slaughter
- ▶ Babylonian Captivity
- ▶ Christ in the Wilderness and on the Cross
- ▶ Rejection of the Messiah
- ▶ The Heavenly Sanctuary
- ▶ The Second Coming
- ▶ The Millennium
- ▶ The resolution of the sin problem by the establishment of the new earth where sin will dwell no more

The Great Controversy

- ▶ The Great Controversy is not just cosmic – it includes each one of us
 - ▶ Will we listen to God's Word, or will we substitute our own word or that of the world around us?
 - ▶ Will we teach our students to love the Word of God and accept it as the guide to all of their lives including their intellectual faculties, or will we teach them to think in harmony with the contemporary world views rather than the world view of scripture?

The Great Controversy

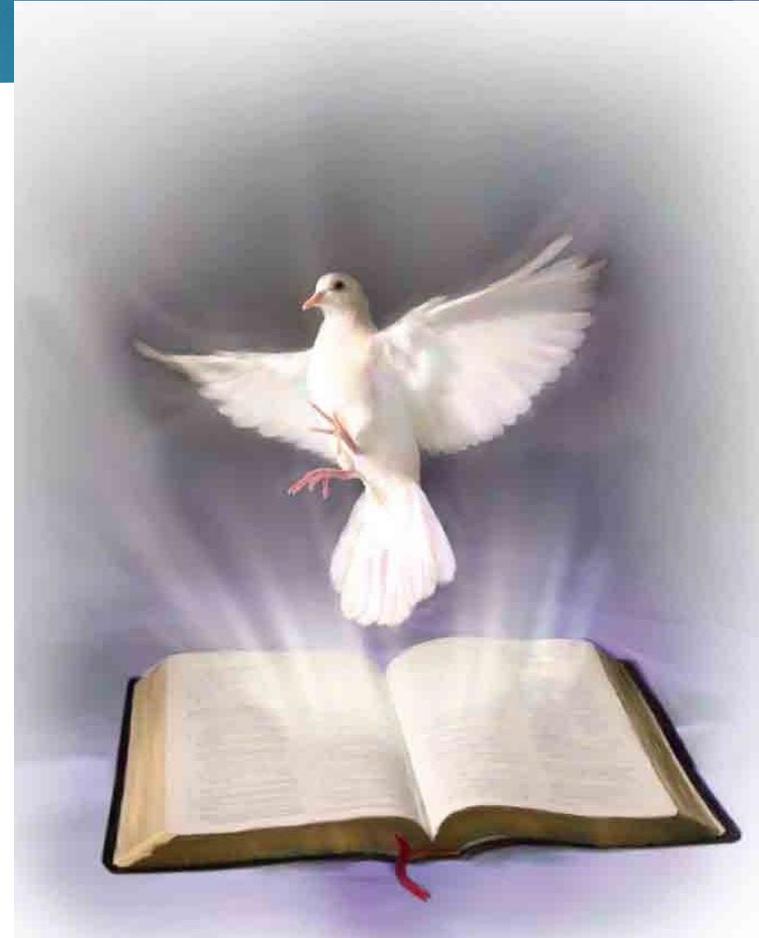
- ▶ “There will be a people upon the earth who will accept the Bible and the Bible only as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils. . . , the voice of the majority, not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith.” GC 595

The Great Controversy

- ▶ Science
- ▶ History
- ▶ Psychology
- ▶ Politics
- ▶ Sociology
- ▶ Philosophy
- ▶ Empiricism

The Great Controversy

- ▶ Science
- ▶ History
- ▶ Psychology
- ▶ Politics
- ▶ Sociology
- ▶ Philosophy
- ▶ Empiricism



The Great Controversy

Choose you this day





