

# The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a movement born of prophecy.

It was the study of prophecy that led our forefathers to anticipate Christ's return in 1844, and the continued study of prophecy that helped them understand what truly happened that year.

But at the same time the Advent movement was being born, the theory of evolution was gaining momentum. To understand the true significance of this, Adventists return to prophecy.

“For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that in them is” (Exodus 20:11).

“All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:3).

## Become Part of the Discussion

Southern Adventist University fully supports the belief in a literal six-day creation. Recognizing that there are still unanswered questions relating to the creationist worldview, professors and students are involved in research to address these topics.

Southern provides the following resources to enable church and community members to become more educated about issues related to creation.

### Origins Exhibit

The hallways of Hickman Science Center, the home to Southern Adventist University's Biology Department, have been transformed into the Origins Exhibit. Visitors of all ages and scientific levels are able to enjoy the detailed wall art and displays depicting the complexity of God's creation, a biblically consistent interpretation of the fossil record and geologic column, and evidence for an Intelligent Designer.

### E. O. Grundset Lecture Series

These natural history and research lectures, open to the public, are held each semester with guest speakers presenting on various scientific topics.

### Origins Weekend

Southern's Biology Department hosts invited speakers to present on origins-related topics on campus each year.

### Faith and Science Website

Southern is host to a website showcasing an interdisciplinary approach to origins: [southern.edu/faithandscience](http://southern.edu/faithandscience).

Located in Collegedale, Tennessee, Southern Adventist University provides a welcoming learning environment. For more information about Southern or any of the above resources, call 1.800.SOUTHERN or visit [southern.edu](http://southern.edu).



All scripture is taken from *The Holy Bible*, King James Version.

# Evolution and Prophecy: What Happened in 1844?

# Evolution and Prophecy: What Happened in 1844?

## Does prophecy have anything to say about the current conflict between creation and evolution?

Let's look at the message of the first angel to find an answer: "Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" (Revelation 14:7).

The first angel calls us to worship God the Creator, the One who made heaven and earth. In Revelation, as in the rest of Scripture, God's very identity is proclaimed to be the Creator of all things. The prophet Isaiah calls Him, "The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 40:28).

The angel of Revelation 10 swore by Him "that liveth forever and ever, who created heaven ... the earth ... the sea, and the things which are therein" (Revelation 10:6).

Revelation also tells us that God alone is worthy of our worship because He is the Creator. As the 24 elders bow themselves before God's throne, they declare, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Revelation 4:11).

Furthermore, the fourth commandment identifies God as the Creator and immortalizes the Sabbath as a holy day of rest in remembrance of creation. Isaiah tells us that even in the New Earth, we will celebrate the Sabbath by coming together to worship our God.

## What does creation have to do with the great controversy?

The prophet Ezekiel tells us that Lucifer, the covering cherub, was a created being. Yet Lucifer said in his heart, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God ... I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:13-14).



**The first angel calls us to worship God the Creator, the One who made heaven and earth.**

Christ, as the only begotten Son of God, was one with the eternal Father. He was the Creator of all things, including Lucifer. Paul tells us, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether ... principalities, or powers" (Colossians 1:16-17).

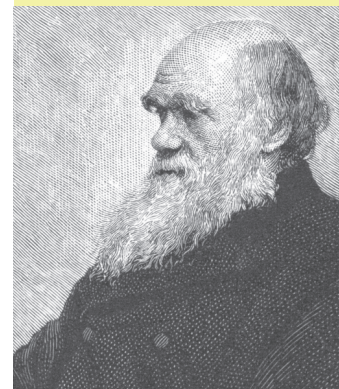
Revelation describes a war in heaven, a war between Michael and Satan and their angels. In this great conflict, Lucifer, the created covering cherub who became Satan, waged war with his Creator. Lucifer's hidden agenda was to usurp the Creator's position and His authority over His own creation. With amazing audacity, Satan actually asked Jesus, His incarnated Creator, to bow down and worship him.

It is no wonder, then, that in the final scenes of the great controversy, the deciding issue is that of worship. In this conflict, each person must choose whether to worship God, the Creator of heaven and earth, or to give homage to the beast, thereby choosing to worship Satan, the archenemy of the Creator God. This has been the ultimate question throughout human history: To whom will you give your allegiance and your worship?

With this in mind, let's take another look at Revelation 14. In the message of the first angel, we are called to worship God the Creator. In the message of the third angel, we are warned of the terrible consequences

of worshipping Satan through the counterfeit worship of the beast. These messages were to be given at a specific time in history: the time when the hour of God's judgment had come. The prophecy of Daniel 8:14 reveals that this momentous event began in 1844.

**It should come as no surprise that at the very time in Earth's history when mankind is called to worship the Creator God, the great deceiver would do everything possible to undermine God's identity as the Creator of all things.**



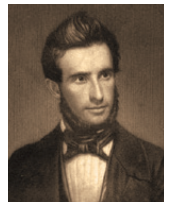
## So what else happened in 1844?

It is a little-known fact that Charles Darwin wrote the first manuscript of his book about evolution, *On the Origin of Species*, in 1844. Meanwhile, another book, *Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation*, was published in 1844 by Robert Chambers,



a Scottish publisher who chose to remain anonymous. Written for a popular audience, *Vestiges* was a controversial best-seller that promoted the concept of evolution rather than creation. It paved the way for the acceptance of Darwin's ideas, which were finally published in 1859.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Andrew Jackson Davis, a 17-year-old from New York, had an encounter with the occult in 1844. Shortly thereafter, he began receiving spiritual revelations. His first book, *The Principles of Nature, Her Divine Revelations, and a Voice to Mankind*, was dictated while Davis appeared to be in a trance-like state. He believed that while he produced the book, he was controlled by Emmanuel Swedenborg, an occultist who died in 1772. Davis taught not only naturalistic evolution from animals to man, but also evolution of the spirit after death, throughout eternity, to ever higher levels of existence. In the words of the ancient deceiver, "You will not surely die" and "You will be like God." These ideas of physical and spiritual evolution into godhood are now promoted through modern-day spiritualism and the New Age movement.



**Each person must choose whether to worship God, the Creator of heaven and earth, or to give homage to the beast, thereby choosing to worship Satan, the archenemy of the Creator God.**

It should come as no surprise that at the very time in Earth's history when mankind is called to worship the Creator God, the great deceiver would do everything possible to undermine God's identity as the Creator of all things—and would strike at the foundation of His holy Sabbath. What better way to accomplish his carefully laid plans than by replacing the truth of creation with the deception of evolution.

The truth that God is the Creator of heaven and earth, and that He therefore deserves our worship, is a message for our time. It is no accident that this truth is under attack, both from the secular world and from within the Christian church as well. But the real question is: To whom will you give your worship and your allegiance? May your response be, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).