



ANNUAL COUNCIL

Theological Issues

October 10-13, 2021

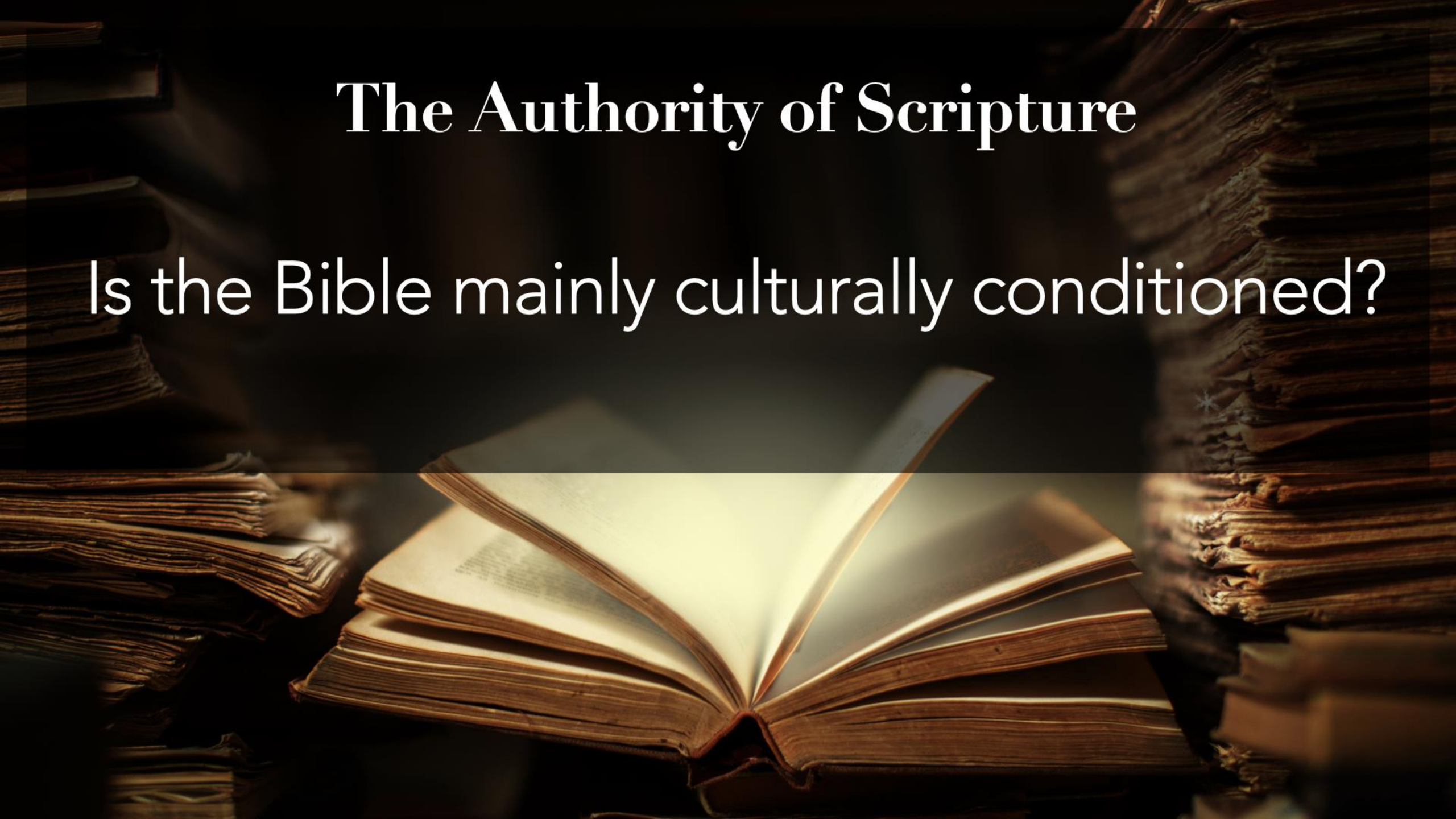
A summary of some of the significant theological issues the church is facing in the 21st century.

The Authority of Scripture



The Authority of Scripture

Is the Bible mainly culturally conditioned?



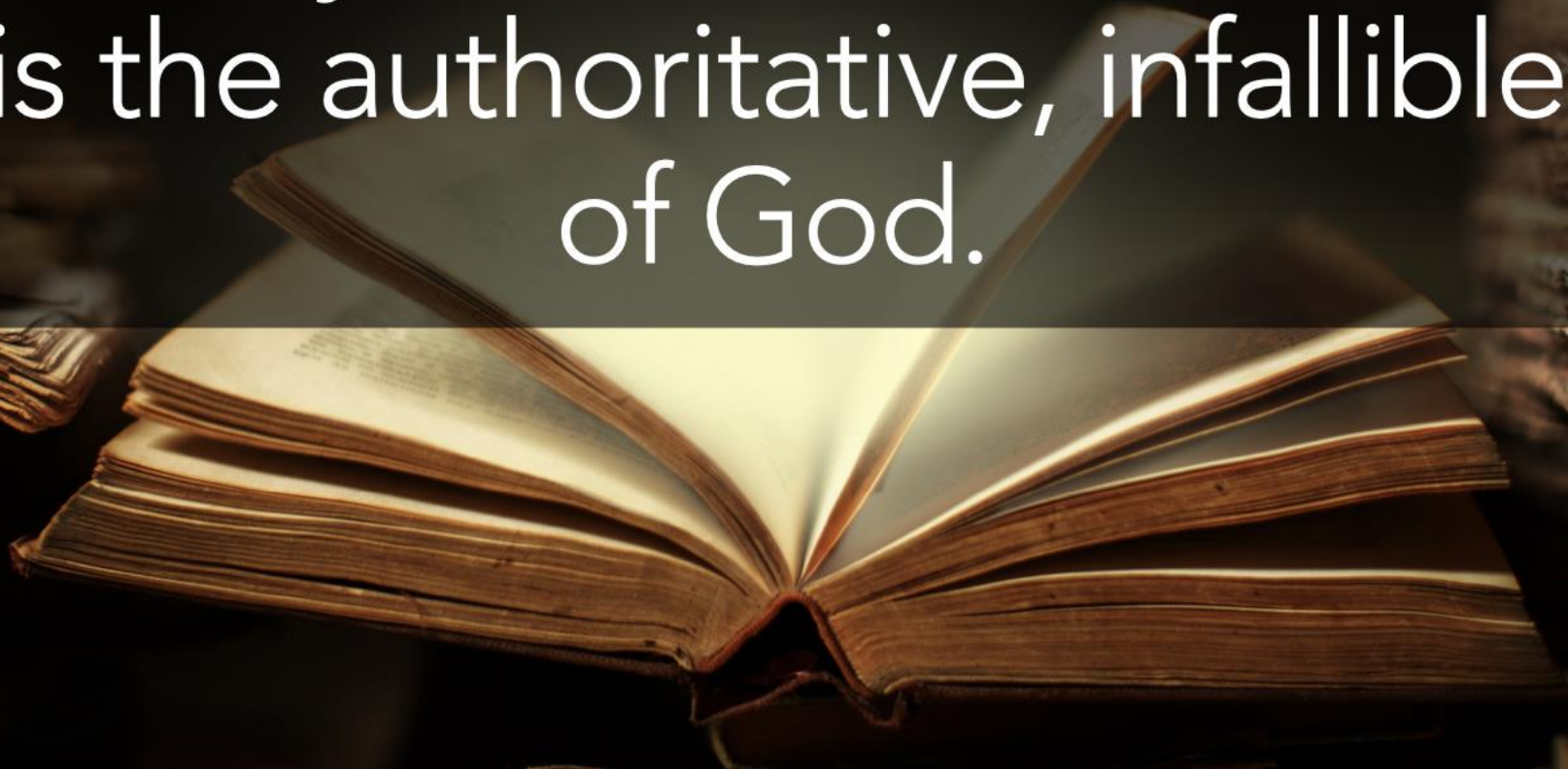
The Authority of Scripture

Does the Bible have authority in science, prophecy, lifestyle standards, doctrine etc.



The Authority of Scripture

Seventh-day Adventists still believe the Bible is the authoritative, infallible word of God.



Adventist Identity



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Is the Seventh-day Adventist Church a divine movement raised up by God to prepare a people for the coming of Jesus or is it merely one of many denominations on the landscape of religions?



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coming of Jesus or is it merely one
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Who are we and why
do we exist?



Adventist Identity

Seventh-day Adventists are
a prophetic movement
with a prophetic message
and divine mission.

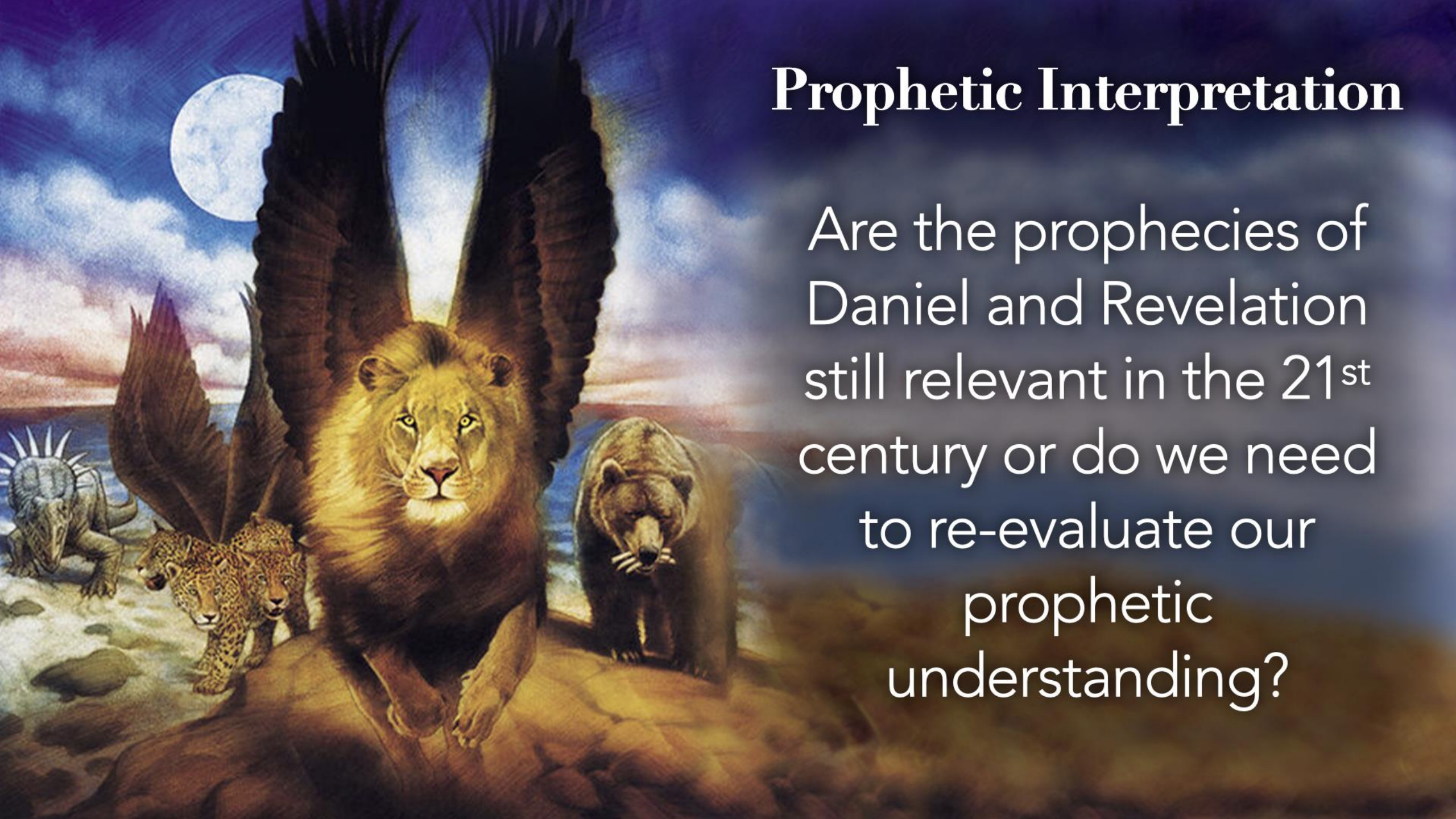


A prophetic illustration featuring a lion with large, dark, feathered wings, a bear, two cheetahs, and a dragon-like creature under a full moon.

Prophetic Interpretation

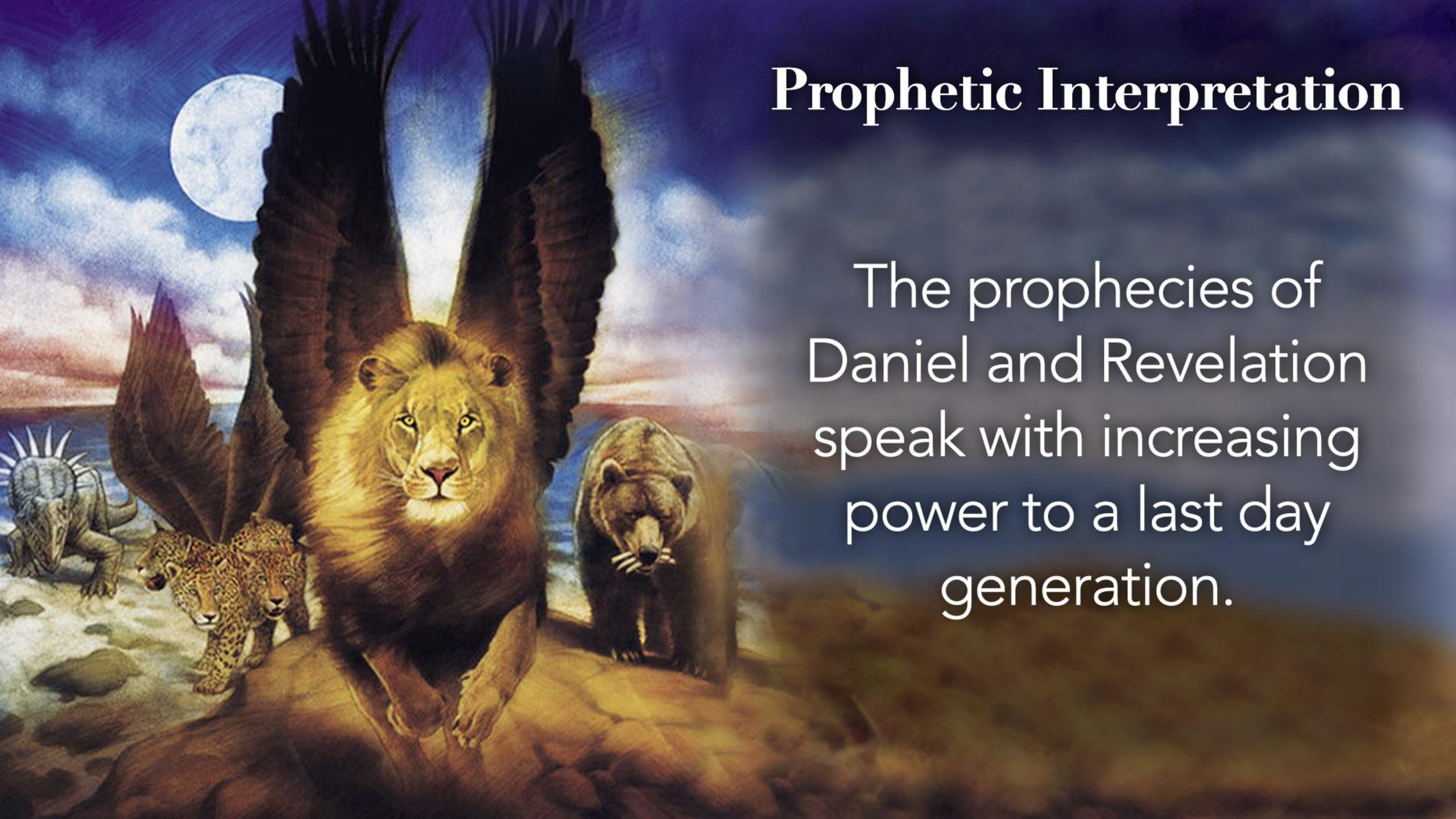
Prophetic Interpretation

Are the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation still relevant in the 21st century or do we need to re-evaluate our prophetic understanding?



Prophetic Interpretation

The prophecies of Daniel and Revelation speak with increasing power to a last day generation.



Creation/Evolution



Creation/Evolution

Are the first eleven chapters of Genesis an actual historical account of events or are they an allegory to explain how God did things ages ago?



Creation/Evolution

Does it make any difference what one believes about the Creation of the world and a worldwide flood?



Creation/Evolution

A literal creation week of seven days and creation anchor the entire Bible and gives meaning to our existence.





Jesus and Doctrine



Jesus and Doctrine

There is a growing movement of young Adventists who have the idea that there is a distinction between Jesus and doctrine. They view an emphasis on doctrine as legalistic and arbitrary. What relationship does Jesus have with the doctrines of scripture?



Jesus and Doctrine

Jesus and His teachings
are inseparable.
To fully accept Christ is to
fully accept the doctrines
He taught.

Moral Issues Deviating from Scripture

Moral Issues Deviating from Scripture

Issues such as co-habitation, unbiblical divorce and remarriage and LBGTQ+ are confronting church leadership with increasing frequency.

Moral Issues Deviating from Scripture

Is it unloving and unkind to take a stand
against these practices?

Moral Issues Deviating from Scripture

Biblical values and God's clear instructions call us to be lights in a world of moral darkness and confusion.

Advent Fatigue



A painting depicting a family and a dog looking up at a dramatic, cloudy sky. In the foreground, a man with a beard and a woman are looking up, with a dog sitting between them. In the background, another person is visible, also looking up. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds, suggesting a storm or a dramatic event. The overall mood is one of anticipation and hope.

Advent Fatigue

For over 175 years Adventists have been proclaiming the soon return of Jesus. Do we still believe He is coming soon?

Is it unbiblical to preach the nearness of Christ's return in the light of the delay of the Advent?

How can we motivate a movement to prepare for the soon return of our Lord?

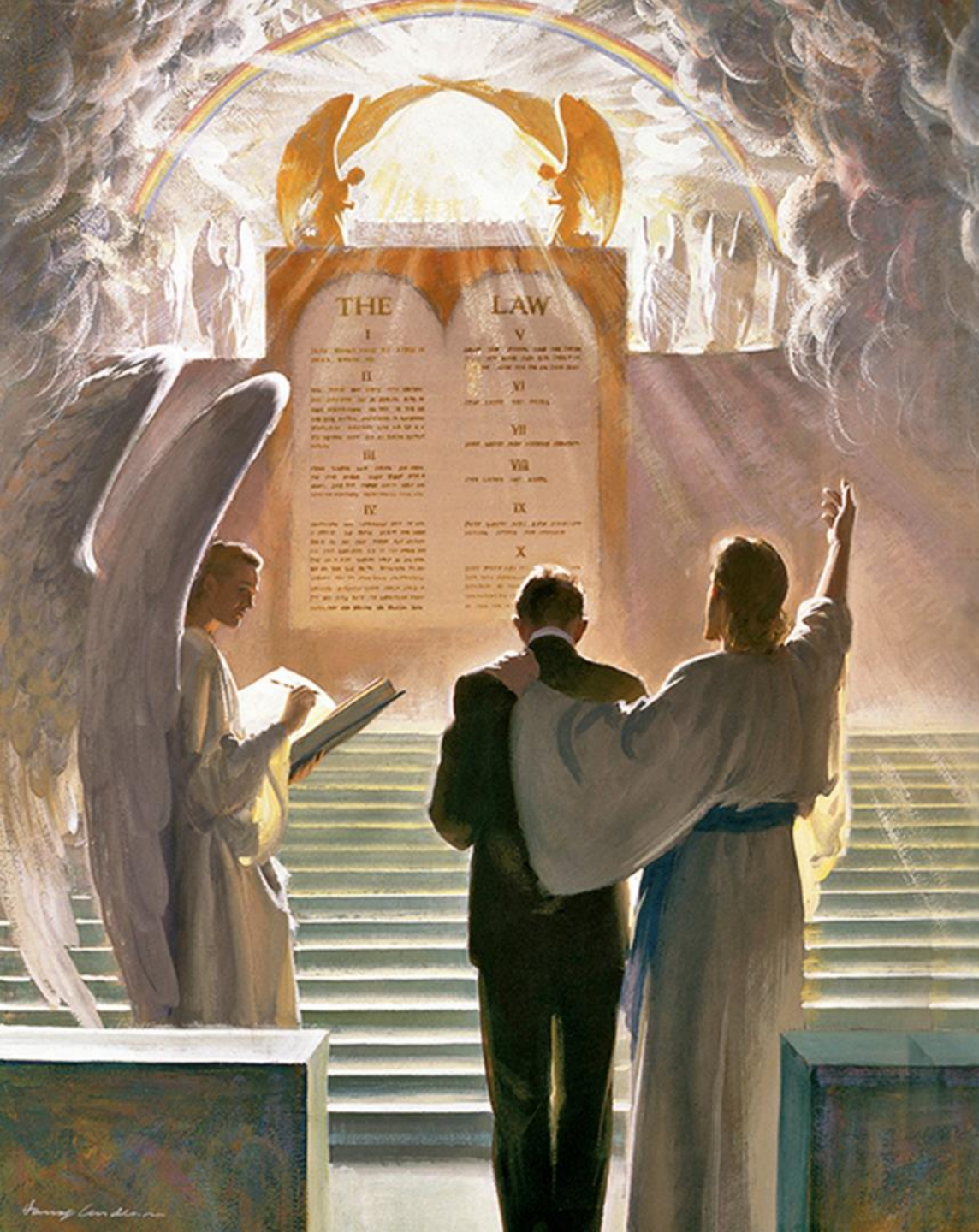
Advent Fatigue

Adventists still believe as scripture teaches that the coming of Jesus is "Nearer than we first believed."



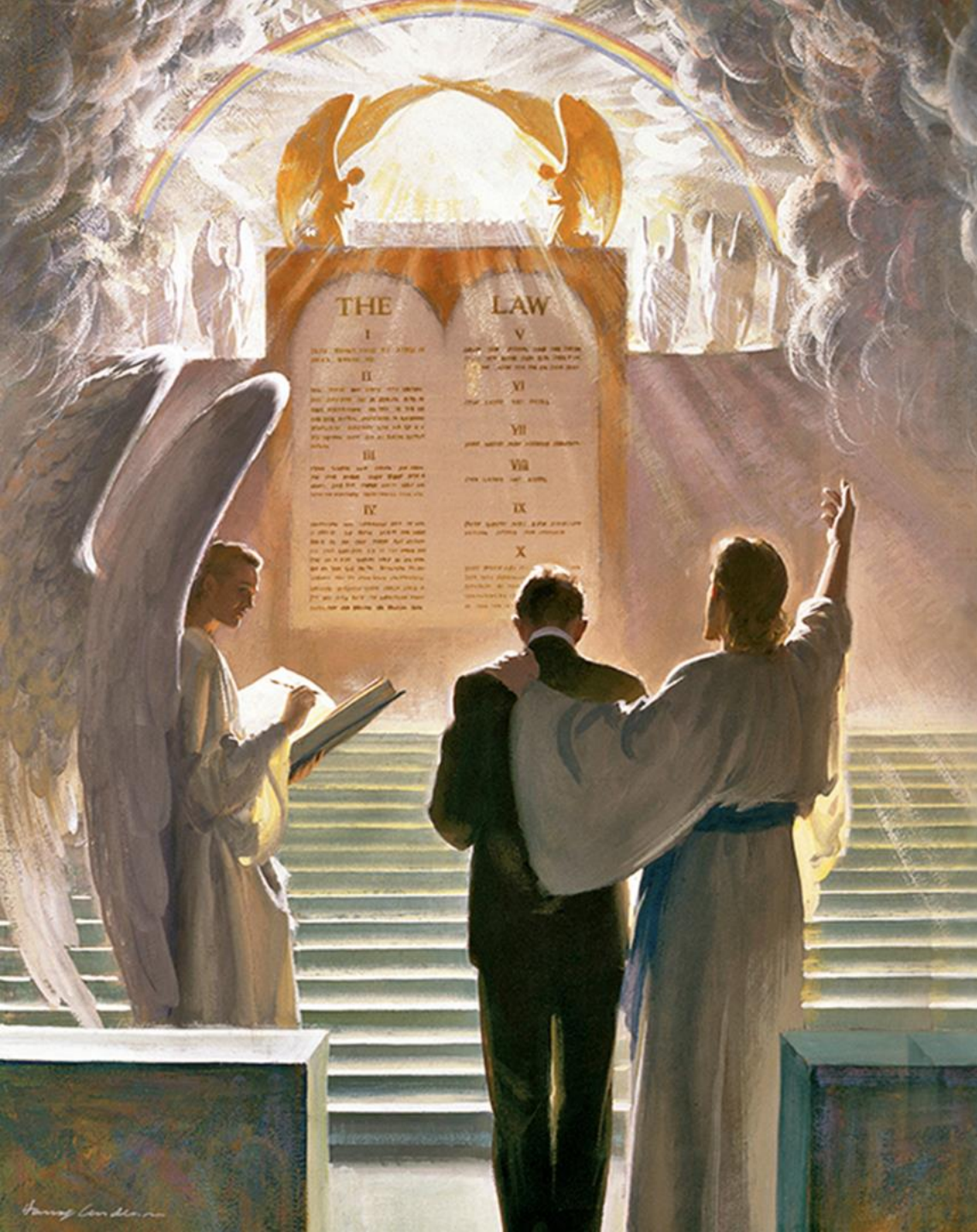


The Sanctuary and the Pre-Advent Judgment



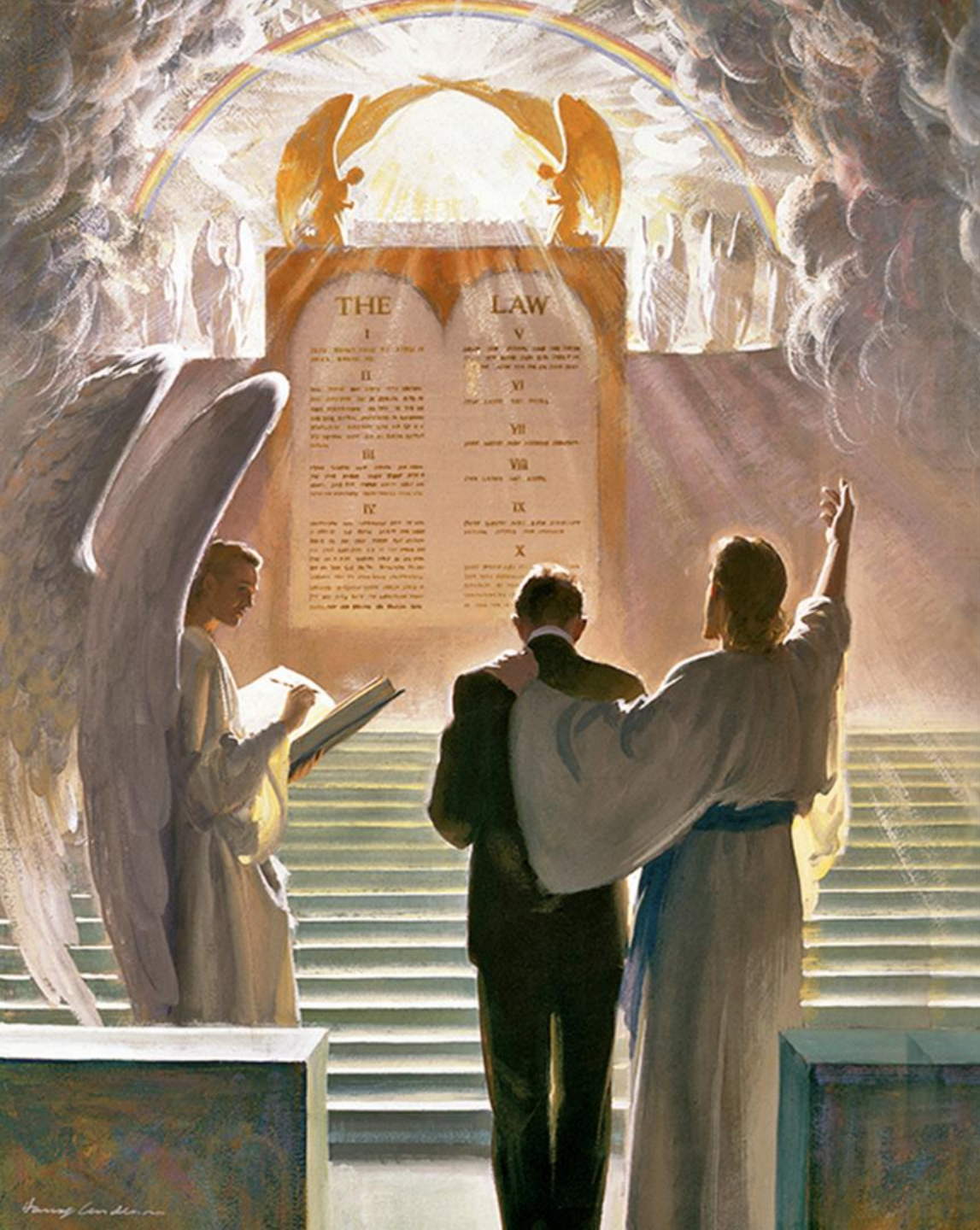
The Sanctuary and the Pre-Advent Judgment

Since the late 1970's and early 80's there have been a growing number of voices in the scholarly community that have questioned the validity of 1844. This crescendo of voices is becoming more open and vocal.



The Sanctuary and the Pre-Advent Judgment

Recently a prominent SDA pastor spoke on Daniel 8 at a pastor's meeting and suggested that the best interpretation of the little horn in Daniel 7 and 8 was Antiochus Epiphanes? The idea of a heavenly sanctuary is being questioned by many. How will the church relate to these issues?



The Pre-Advent Judgment and sanctuary are still at the heart of Adventist theology to prepare a people for the coming of Jesus.

Ellen White And Divine Inspiration



Ellen White and Divine Inspiration

"Satan is . . . constantly pressing in the spurious--to lead away from the truth.

The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Prov. 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony."

— Letter 12, 1890. 1SM 48.



Ellen White and Divine Inspiration

"There will be a hatred kindled against the testimonies which is satanic.

The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them, for this reason: Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded."

— Letter 40, 1890. 1SM 48.



The Re-Imaging of Adventism



The Re-Imaging of Adventism

"A shift in emphasis in worship from a biblically based, Word-centered service that is life transformational to a more emotional form of worship that focuses on meeting a "seeker's" perceived needs through music and shorter story telling sermonizing rather than biblical preaching. This re-imaging Adventism includes a dumbing down of lifestyle standards, a minimizing of the health message and an erosion of understanding in Adventist identity."





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