

# THE ADVENT HERALD, AND SIGNS OF THE TIMES REPORTER.

BEHOLD! THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH!! GO YE OUT TO MEET HIM!!!

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WHOLE NO. 180.

## THE ADVENT HERALD

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"Go ye out to meet Him."

THE TENTH DAY OF THE SEVENTH MONTH.

I take up my pen with feelings such as I never before experienced. Beyond a doubt, in my mind, the tenth day of the seventh month will witness the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds of

says—"Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ, which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. . . . Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." Here we have the fact stated that the Spirit of Christ did reveal to the prophets the *time* not only of Christ's sufferings, but of his glory, or "revelation." Peter tells us the time revealed was not literal but symbolical. "What manner of time?" He also says that "the angels desire to look into" these "things." By turning to the 11th chapter of Daniel, we find that after the angel had finished the detailed explanation of the vision, and wound up with the standing up of Michael, (one like God—the Son of God,) the resurrection of the saints, and those that had turned many to righteousness shine as the stars, &c., that Daniel sees, verse 8, two angels, "and one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river—how long shall it be to the end of these wonders?" Here is an inquiry about *time*, by the angels. Well, Peter said the angels desired to look into it. Did they get an answer? See Dan. xii. 7—"And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever, and it shall be—for a time, times, and an half ;

over, and *shall* at three o'clock, or the sixth hour. See Mark xv. 33—37. Thus the type had an exact fulfilment on the day, and at the very hour; so exact is God about time.

Leviticus xxiii: 2—11.—We read thus, "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the first-fruits of your harvest unto the priest; and he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it." Here is a type of Christ's resurrection, and Paul tells us, 1st Cor. 15: 20—"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept." On what day did our Lord rise from the dead? On the first day of the week, or the "morrow after the Sabbath." Thus exactly fulfilling the type, not only in the thing signified, but in the time. Lev. xxiii: 15, 16—we have the time of the feast of weeks, or, as it is called, the Pentecost, which signifies the *seventh* day. This was the anniversary of the giving of the Law, and the descent of the Lord upon Mount Sinai. Exactly on *that day* did the Holy Spirit descend on the Apostles. Acts ii. 1—4.

If the types here been fulfilled exact, as to time, even to the hour, where that is known, will those that remain to be fulfilled, be less exact? I think not. God always has kept time in the fulfilment of

*Advent Herald and Signs of the Times Reporter*, October 9, 1844.

Photo courtesy of Adventist Digital Library.

## Advent Herald (1840–1877)

### MILTON HOOK

Milton Hook, Ed.D. (Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, the United States). Hook retired in 1997 as a minister in the Greater Sydney Conference, Australia. An Australian by birth Hook has served the Church as a teacher at the elementary, academy and college levels, a missionary in Papua New Guinea, and as a local church pastor. In retirement he is a conjoint senior lecturer at Avondale College of Higher Education. He has authored *Flames Over Battle Creek*, *Avondale: Experiment on the Dora*, *Desmond Ford: Reformist Theologian*, *Gospel Revivalist* the *Seventh-day Adventist Heritage Series*, and many magazine articles. He is married to Noleen and has two sons and three grandchildren.

The *Advent Herald*, initially entitled *Signs of the Times*, was the first periodical of the Millerite movement and the most enduring of those initiated in the early 1840s.

## Signs of the Times (1840-1844)

Joshua V. Himes, a Boston minister and reform activist, initiated the periodical soon after pledging to give nationwide publicity to the message agitated by the New England preacher William Miller concerning the imminent Second Coming of Christ. The first number of *Signs of the Times* was issued on March 20, 1840, edited by Himes and published by Dow & Jackson, a Boston firm specializing in anti-slavery publications.<sup>1</sup> The second issue carried the date April 15, 1840, and then the paper appeared bimonthly for the next two years. It had eight pages and an annual subscription rate of one dollar in advance.<sup>2</sup>

After a successful first year, Himes re-negotiated terms with Dow & Jackson so that profits could be funneled more directly to the Second Advent cause. Himes took financial responsibility as publisher while agreeing to retain Dow & Jackson as printers.<sup>3</sup> In April 1842, two years into publication, Himes claimed 5,000 subscribers and publication frequency was increased to weekly.<sup>4</sup> The paper's title was changed to *Advent Herald* in February 1844.<sup>5</sup>

### *Advent Herald (1844-1874)*

Himes remained the principal force behind the periodical until 1858. Josiah Litch assisted him, August 1841 through February 1844,<sup>6</sup> and Sylvester Bliss helped from November 1842 to February 1846.<sup>7</sup> A further assistant, Apollos Hale, appeared March 1844 through February 1846.<sup>8</sup>

*The Advent Herald* became the leading paper of the majority sector of post-1844 Adventists who rejected the distinctive claims of the minority faction that became Seventh-day Adventists, in particular: 1) that the prophecy of Daniel 8:14 was in fact fulfilled on October 22, 1844, when Christ began a final work of cleansing the sanctuary in heaven; and 2) observance of the seventh-day Sabbath is required of those preparing for the return of Christ to earth. The non-Sabbatarian majority then divided in the 1850s over conditional immortality vs. immortality of the soul. In 1858, those who affirmed the latter formed the American Millennial Association, which became the publisher of the *Advent Herald*.

Himes continued as editor for another year, with two assistants, John Pearson, Jr. and Lemuel Osler.<sup>9</sup> Sylvester Bliss became editor in January 1860, serving until February 1863, just prior to his death on March 6.<sup>10</sup> An entirely new committee was nominated to edit the *Advent Herald*, made up of Josiah Litch, J.M. Orrock and Robert R. Knowles.<sup>11</sup> The following three years, 1864 through 1866, Litch held full responsibility. He reduced the size of the periodical to four sides.<sup>12</sup> No extant copies remain for most of the following years, though 12 issues have survived from 1873-1874. By then, Orrock had taken on the role of editor with the assistance of a committee of Litch, Osler, H. Canfield, W.H. Swartz and C. Cunningham.<sup>13</sup> Early in 1874 the name of the periodical was changed to *Messiah's Herald*.<sup>14</sup> Seven issues in total from the years 1874, 1876, and 1877 are accessible at Adventist Digital Library. In 1876 and 1877 Orrock was the only listed editor.<sup>15</sup>

## Historical Value

The columns of *Advent Herald* contain the matrix of Millerite theology in addition to the voices of critics. It provides primary evidence chronicling the rise of Adventism to national notoriety in the 1840s and its subsequent divisions that generated new Christian denominations.

## Titles

*Signs of the Times of the Second Coming of Christ* (March 1840-March 1841); *Signs of the Times and Expositor of Prophecy* (April 1841-January 1844); *Advent Herald and Signs of the Times Reporter* (February 1844-August 1845); *Advent Herald and Morning Watch* (August 1845-February 1846); *Advent Herald* (February 1846-1873); *Messiah's Herald* (1874-1877).

## Editors

Joshua V. Himes (1840-1859); Sylvester Bliss (1860-1863); Josiah Litch (1863-?); J. M. Orrock (?-1877).

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"Occupy till I Come." *Advent Herald*, February 15, 1844.

"The Fourth Commandment and Sunday-Keepers." *ARH*, December 11, 1855.

Wellcome, Isaac C. *History of the Second Advent Message and Mission, Doctrine and People* Boston, MA: Advent Christian Publication Society, 1874.

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### NOTES

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2. Masthead, *Signs of the Times*, March 20, 1840, 8.
3. Arthur, "Joshua V. Himes," 52-53.
4. Knight, *Millennial Fever*, 78; the first of the weekly issues was April 6, 1842.
5. "'Occupy till I Come,'" *Advent Herald*, February 15, 1844, 8.
6. Masthead, *Signs of the Times*, August 2, 1841, 72.
7. Masthead, *Signs of the Times*, November 23, 1842, 77; *Advent Herald*, February 4, 1846, 201.
8. Masthead, *Advent Herald*, March 6, 1844, 33, and February 4, 1846, 201.
9. Masthead, *Advent Herald*, January 8, 1859, 1.
10. Josiah Litch, "Death of Sylvester Bliss," *Advent Herald*, March 10, 1863, 68-69.
11. Masthead, *Advent Herald*, January 6, 1863, 417.
12. Masthead, *Advent Herald*, February 2, 1864, 17.
13. Masthead, *Advent Herald*, February 12, 1873, 25.
14. Masthead, *Messiah's Herald*, January 28, 1874, 13.
15. Masthead, *Messiah's Herald*, May 24, 1876, 81, and February 14, 1877, 25. The American Antiquarian Society has nearly complete holdings for 1875 and 1876, catalogue accessed May 11, 2023, [http://clarence.mwa.org/Clarence/full-holding.php?bib\\_id=398979](http://clarence.mwa.org/Clarence/full-holding.php?bib_id=398979).

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