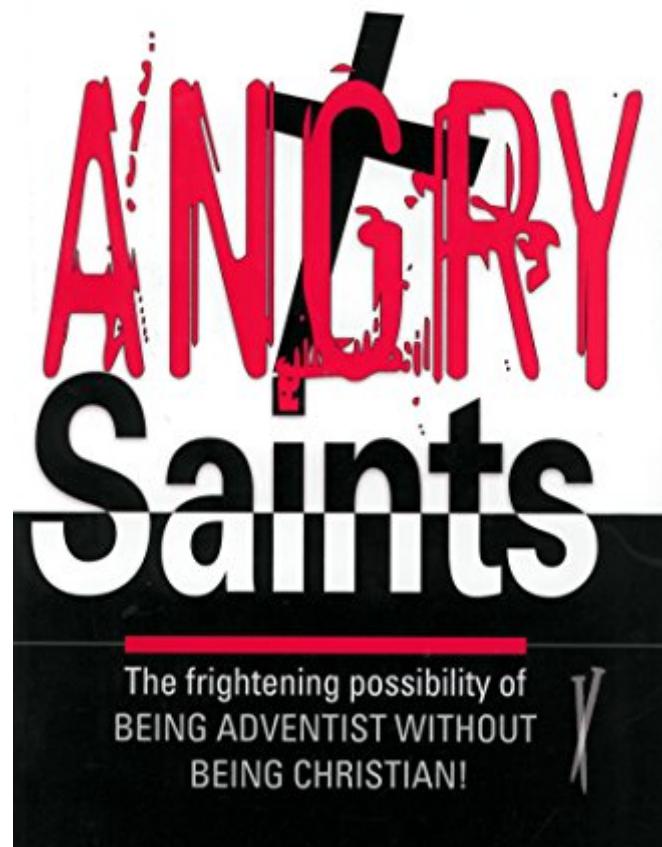


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Angry Saints

George R. Knight



Synopsis

If the loud cry began in the late 1880s, why is the church still on earth? Have we fallen into the same spiritual trap as our forebears? For more than 100 years, Seventh-day Adventists have looked back at the 1888 General Conference Session as a milestone in the church's history, a turning point in its theological development. But Adventists still sharply disagree over the meaning and significance of the righteousness by faith message expounded in 1888 and the decade following. Some regard Minneapolis as a major victory, while others view it as the denomination's greatest tragedy. George R. Knight believes it was a mixed blessing "a tragedy that contained the seeds of unending possibility. Angry Saints is about the people and struggles that existed more than 100 years ago. And even though the specific characters and surface issues have changed, most of the problems, opportunities, dynamics, personality traits, and bedrock controversies portrayed are remarkably contemporary. Angry Saints brings us to the sobering realization that it is possible to be an Adventist without being a Christian and reveals that belligerence not only fails to solve theological difficulties, it places us in a dangerous position. So, what will it take to change us into a translation-ready church in which Christ's character is fully reproduced? Learning and applying the lessons of Minneapolis may well hold the key to our future.

Book Information

File Size: 1865 KB

Print Length: 192 pages

Publisher: Pacific Press Publishing Association (September 9, 2015)

Publication Date: September 9, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0156T56UI

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #637,873 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #113

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian

Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Seventh-Day Adventist #155 in Books > Christian

Customer Reviews

The 1888 General Conference session in Minneapolis was both a triumph and humiliation for the Seventh-day Adventist church because of the issue debated at it, the atmosphere they were debated in, and the resulting conflict within Adventism itself for the last 125 years. George R. Knight not only examines the issues and the course of events before and after Minneapolis, but also the major individuals involved in a thorough manner. Published around the 100th anniversary of the Minneapolis session, this book is important for every Adventist to read, both new and long-time. The issue at Minneapolis was a new interpretation of the law in the book of Galatians by E.J. Waggoner & A.T. Jones that emphasized righteousness by faith that was supported by Ellen White. This interpretation of Galatians was opposed by G.C. President George Butler and Uriah Smith, the editor of Review and Herald, and their ministerial allies. The atmosphere of the session was contentious, a carry over from the 1886 session, in which the "traditionalists" and the "reformers" fought over the meaning of basic Christian truths with those of supposed Adventist truths as the nation debated a National Sunday Law. After Minneapolis, the two factions continued to clash with one another over the understanding that has continued in essence until the present day. The denomination triumphed at Minneapolis because it rediscovered the need to emphasize the righteousness and justification of faith in Christ along with the Ten Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath. Another triumph was the emphasis to return to reading the Bible over following the lead of denominational leaders and not investigating their teachings.

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