

*These Perilous Time*

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## What Do God's People Believe?

### Part IX

People from all over the world are coming to the United States to pursue the "American Dream." In part, this began centuries ago before there was an America—from August 3, 1492, {not discrediting the explorations of Eric the Red 950-1003 AD or his son Leif Erikson, 970-1020 AD} when Columbus, a navigator/explorer who was commissioned by King Ferdinand, and Queen Isabella of Spain to discover *new worlds*.

He was given three small ships by the King and Queen, the Nina, Pinta, and Santé Maria which enabled Columbus to discover this great land of opportunity—now called the United States of America.

The colonization of European settlers began in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Jamestown {Virginia} was one of the first colonies established in 1607.

The Pilgrim's crossed the Atlantic a little later on the *Mayflower*, and landed at Plymouth Rock, {today Plymouth, Mass.} in 1620.

Those immigrants {our forefathers} came to this "New World" seeking a better life.

They came to escape civil and religious persecution imposed on them by the powers that be.

Looking at life from a spiritual perspective Christians are seeking a better life also, but not of this world. This world is not our permanent residence. When we truly realize that we are only pilgrims here, our sojourn becomes more meaningful.

**What does this mean for us?**

*Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season*

Jesus made a promise that He would come again, and take us to a heavenly paradise—a "New World." He is now preparing a place just for us {John 14:1-3}.

That's why it is so important that we don't get too attached to our life here, no matter how

good we assume we have it. Notice the words of Jesus concerning this temporal life on earth.

*“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust do corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust do corrupt, and where thieves do not break through”. For *where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*”*

Matthew 6:19-21 {Emphasis supplied}

*“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.”*

Matthew 16:26, 27 {Emphasis supplied}

*Jesus gave His life* for those seeking a better life! Friends our life is not of this world. We look forward to a *“city which has foundations,*

whose builder and maker is God,<sup>1</sup> and Jesus is our passport. Amen!

## Seventh-day Adventist Believe...

### 9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

*“In Christ’s life of perfect obedience to God’s will, His suffering, death, and resurrection God provided the only means of atonement for human sin, so that those who by faith accept this atonement may have eternal life, and the whole creation may better understand the infinite and holy love of the creator.*

This perfect atonement vindicates the righteousness of God’s law and the graciousness of His character; for it both condemns our sin and provides for our forgiveness.

The death of Christ is substitutionary and expiatory, reconciling and transforming. The resurrection of Christ proclaims God’s triumph over the forces of evil, and for those who accept the atonement, assures their final victory over sin and death. It declares the Lordship of Jesus Christ,

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<sup>1</sup> Hebrews 11:10

before who every knee in heaven and on earth shall bow," <sup>2</sup> {Emphasis supplied}.

John 3:16; Isa. 53; I Pet. 2:21, 22; I Cor. 15:3, 4, 20-22; II Cor. 5:14, 15, 19-21;

Rom. 1:4; 3:25, 4:25; 8:3, 4; I John 2:2; 4:10; Col. 2:15; Phil. 2:6-11.



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<sup>2</sup> Seventh-day Adventists Believe, "A Biblical Exposition of Fundamental Beliefs," 2005, pp. 121-132.