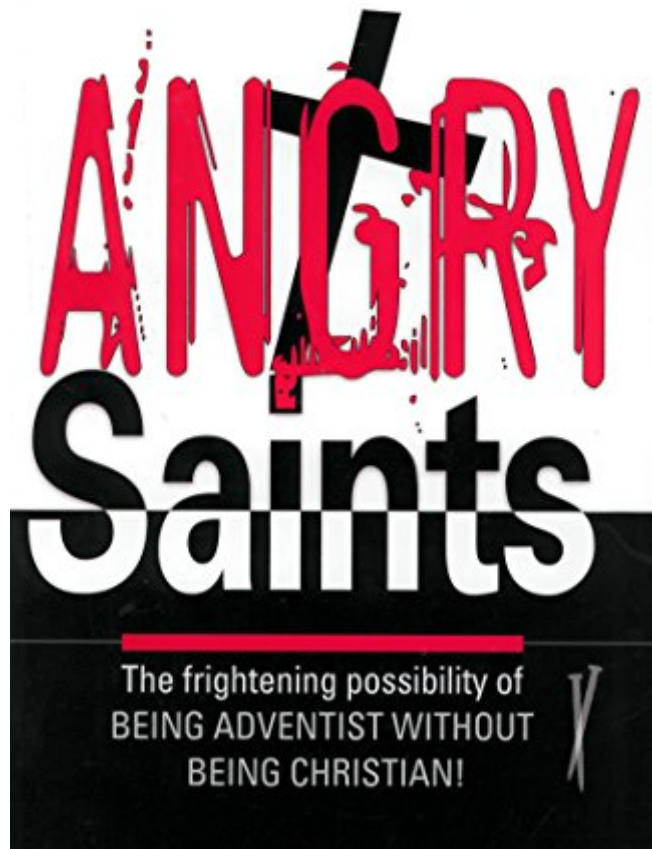




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# Angry Saints

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

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## Customer Reviews

The book is very good, there was a lot of notes and underlining and marking of text that wasn't disclosed in the info about the book. But I can get beyond that because the book is a great read for me. I love the history aspect of the book.

Very well written and helps the student understand the growth pains of the church past.

I got the book on time, in good conditions and at a very good price. I am more than satisfied. Thank you.

An excellent study of the 1888 conflict within the Seventh-Day Adventist Church which arose between the pioneers whom discovered the truth of the Sabbath and relevance of the 10 Commandments versus the Jones/ Waggoner realization concerning one's faith in Jesus. Revelation 14:12 references the saints at the end time keep God's 10 Commandments and have faith in Jesus. Author George Knight identifies the issues, key figures on both sides, Ellen White's involvement and what happened at the 1888 General Conference meeting and to the key figures subsequently. He also analyzes what "faith in Jesus" means and the significance it has for Adventists today. The result is a surprising but desirable experience for any Christian of any denomination! Recommended for anyone interested in the church events of 1888 or for how Ellen White discusses the balance and interplay necessary between faith in Jesus and the role of the 10 Commandments.

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. However the humiliations for Adventists are more pronounced, especially when one considered that 40 years after the Great Disappointment a member of the denomination could be an Adventist but not Christian. Another humiliation was that denominational leaders were trying to emphasize human authority instead of the Bible to "protect" supposed Adventist beliefs and even wanted to create creeds to protect them. But the biggest humiliation that two factions that sparred over the law of Galatians have continued in essence to the present-day resulting at times of a divided church facing potentially facing dangerous situations. Knight goes over all everything I have just stated in great detail, but I found the most important part of the book to me was the last chapter entitled, "The Continuing Possibility." Within this chapter, Knight uses his own early experience as an Adventist as an example of the continuing problem that is can be seen in some Adventist churches. Within the context of the preceding chapters, this final one puts the crisis in Minneapolis squarely into our time and challenges us to examine how we relate to Christ.

Lessons out of the Minneapolis General Conference of 1888 still to learn for the Seventh-day Adventist church are honestly and challengingly treated in this book.

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