



Pathfinder Honour: Trainer's Notes

Seventh-day Adventist History and Heritage

Part of "Spiritual Growth, Outreach and Heritage" Category of Honours



Instructions to Trainers / Instructors of this Honour

Thankyou for being involved with this Honour. These notes have been developed to assist in teaching / instructing this honour. We recognise that there is much more information available and we are grateful that you should share your expertise.

Please remember that Honours are designed to develop our Pathfinders in many ways; their interests, their knowledge and their relationship with their Saviour and Creator. Your enthusiasm and creativity will have a huge impact on those doing the honour.

To complete an Honour, the following (where applicable) must be completed satisfactorily:

- Physical and Practical Requirements.
- Honour Workbook.
- Honour Assessment Sheet. *(On SPD Honour Website but Leader's level access is required)*

Additional Reference Material

Youtube: Lineage Journey | Season II

Acknowledgements

Training Notes compiled by Daniel Matteo and Bruce Grosse, Tasmania Conference

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Introduction:

We are very blessed to be a part of a wonderful Church with spiritual ancestry that stretches right back to Jesus' first disciples. However, the birth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as an organised Christian group just 160 years ago, and the subsequent spread of our message around the world (including your area) is a wonderfully interesting story. In this honour you will learn a very brief overview of that story, and how it includes you and the people you know today!

PART A. THE BIRTH OF ADVENTISM

The “grandfather” of Adventism was a sceptical army veteran in North America named William Miller. He had begun life as a Christian but had turned away from Jesus and the Bible. However Miller's experiences in war caused him to pursue God and eventually give his heart to Jesus and study the Bible intensely. He was not impressed by human scholars and interpretations: he believed the Bible should interpret itself so he used only a Cruden's Concordance to help him as he studied. When he got to the book of Daniel he discovered some things that amazed him. He saw the verse in Daniel 8:14 “Unto 2300 days, then shall the sanctuary be cleansed”. He calculated correctly that this 2300 “day” (year) prophecy would expire around the year 1843-44AD. However, he broke his own rule and consulted human scholars and commentators to discover what the “cleansing of the sanctuary” meant. They all said that this referred to the destruction of the earth at Jesus' Second Coming. Therefore, Miller concluded that Jesus was coming VERY soon in 1844! Before long he felt called by God to preach this message and it spread widely.

REQUIREMENT 1: What was the name of the man whose preaching ignited the Advent movement, and what were three of his main teachings?

Watch: *Lineage* Season 2, Episode 4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGIV_TfPR_g

Name: William Miller

- i. The keys to understanding the Bible are found in the Bible itself (biblical).
- ii. The 2300 day time prophecy in Daniel 8:14 expires on or around 1843-44 (biblical).
- iii. The sanctuary being cleansed in Daniel 8:14 refers to the Second Coming of Christ (unbiblical).

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REQUIREMENT 2: Fill in the blanks.

On the 22 of October 18 44 many Adventists believed that Jesus would return. When He did not, this day became known to them as the Great Disappointment.

Watch: *Lineage* Season 2, Episode 5

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHokAblgCLg>

What a sad day! Imagine the joys of truly believing that Jesus was coming to take you to heaven, and then realising you had made a terrible mistake. Many people were very discouraged. Some lost faith altogether. However, there were a number of them that knew they had calculated correctly, so they began to pray and study the Bible fervently to ask God to show them what they had misunderstood.

REQUIREMENT 3: After this time, many abandoned the Advent faith. However, there were some that did not. What did they do to try to figure out what went wrong?

They prayed and studied the Bible to try to figure out their mistake.

REQUIREMENT 4: One of these Adventists was a young woman named Ellen Harmon (later White) who became an important leader. Why was she so influential?

Watch: *Lineage* Season 2, Episode 8

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhTMSSCzeKg>

God gave her visions to encourage the Adventists to keep their eyes on Jesus despite trials.

PART B. THE THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES TO THE WORLD

REQUIREMENT 5: Name the person who realised what had happened in heaven, and also what the Adventists had misunderstood.

Watch *Lineage* Season 2, Episode 13

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXoa9oiYVH0>

Name: Hiram Edson

Explanation: In 1844 Jesus entered a new phase of His High Priestly ministry in the heavenly sanctuary called the Investigative Judgement: His last work before He returns. This was typified by the High Priest's ministry in the Most Holy Place of the earthly tabernacle in biblical times.

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REQUIREMENT 6: A Seventh Day Baptist lady named Rachel Oakes had previously taught an Adventist minister something from the Bible they had never fully understood before, and was soon readily accepted by Adventists. What was it?

Watch *Lineage* Season 2, Episode 10

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qx18GkJt2NA>

The seventh day (Saturday) is the true Sabbath of the Bible, not Sunday.

REQUIREMENT 7: Before long it became necessary for the Adventists to organise formally into a new Church: the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Name the people who were the founders and the date it happened.

Names: Ellen White, James White, Joseph Bates and J.N. Andrews

Date: 21 May 1863

PART C: THE ADVENTIST MESSAGE COMES TO YOUR COUNTRY

REQUIREMENT 8: The Seventh-day Adventists in the late 1800's strongly believed that their mission was to be the bearers of the Third Angel's Message (Revelation 14:6-12) to the world so they began to do overseas mission.

Name four countries the Church sent missionaries to, and what were their names?

Watch *Lineage* Season 2

- | | | |
|------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| i. | Country: _e.g. Germany | Name: _Jacob Erzberger (Ep 26) |
| ii. | Country: _e.g. Australia | Name: _S.N. Haskell (Ep 37) |
| iii. | Country: _e.g. England | Name: _J.N. Loughborough (Ep 34) |
| iv. | Country: _e.g. New Zealand | Name: _S.N. Haskell (Ep 36) |
- also watch *Lineage* Season 2, Episode 25

Additional Information:

Seventh-day Adventists spread their message by pitching tents or hiring halls and holding public meetings or debates about the Sabbath, or on Bible Prophecy. This is called Public Evangelism.

They also trained doctors and nurses to travel to places where health care was not good, to set up clinics or teach people about good health and hygiene. This was called being a Medical Missionary.

Other examples of outreach activities include periodical magazines, temperance work, distribution of tracts, education, charity work and community service. They also spread their message using a method now called Literature Evangelism.

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REQUIREMENT 9: There were several main ways that those missionaries spread the Advent message. Name three (3) of these methods and explain how each worked.

Watch *Lineage* Season 2, Episode 23

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBY0xMUGT5M>

- i. e.g. Literature Evangelism. Workers would sell Adventist books like *Thoughts on Daniel and Revelation* by Uriah Smith from door to door.
- ii. e.g. Public Evangelistic Campaigns. Ministers would erect a tent or hire a hall and advertise lecture series or organise debates with other ministers on Bible Prophecy, the Sabbath, the Second Coming of Christ and other interesting topics.
- iii. e.g. Medical Missionary work. Adventist doctors, nurses and other health workers would travel to communities with limited sanitation and health care and offer services, run educational seminars or set up clinics. As they cared for people's health they shared Christ.

REQUIREMENT 10: Fill in the gaps and answer the following question.

By the late 1800's, some Church leaders had been teaching the "commandments of God" (Rev. 14:12) so much that they were losing sight of "the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:12).

Because of that, some Adventists thought that salvation came by keeping

God's commandments, rather than faith in Jesus, His sacrifice and His righteousness. This had to be corrected.

Name the three key people who lead out in this renewal during, and after, the 1888 General Conference.

Watch *Lineage* Season 2, Episode 32

https://youtu.be/_QoODwDEuSs

- i. Ellen G. White
- ii. Ellet J. Waggoner
- iii. Alonzo T. Jones

REQUIREMENT 11: As a club, research how the Adventist message first came to your country. In your own words, very briefly tell how and when this first happened, and the names of two key people involved.

Teacher to mark requirement at their own discretion

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REQUIREMENT 12: As a club, research how the Adventist message first came to your state, province or other local region. In your own words, very briefly tell how and when this first happened, and the names of two key people who helped to do it.

Teacher to mark requirement at their own discretion

REQUIREMENT 13: As a club, talk to some senior members of your home church and learn about someone who has done big things for God from your own local congregation. Share their name and what they did.

Teacher to mark requirement at their own discretion

REQUIREMENT 14: We can all be heroes for God. Read Revelation 14:6. Just like these godly men and women before you, explain in your own words how it feels to know Jesus has called you to share His love shown on the Cross with others, and the good news of His soon return.

Teacher to mark requirement at their own discretion