



## Lesson 68

### Can You Understand God? part 2

- **The Key to Making the Switch**
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  - Millerites were Cataphatic
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- **The 4 and the 6**
  - The Sabbath and the 4
  - Marriage and the 6
  - Understanding the Cataphatic model

In part one of *Can You Understand God?* we looked at two theologies; apophatic and cataphatic. We saw what they meant and who represented them in the Omega history of Ancient Israel. In this lesson, we're going to be tracing these two theologies in recent history, and see how this Movement and the United States has been affected by them.

## **Review**

In the first part of *Can You Understand God?* we first looked at the definitions of apophatic and cataphatic. Apophatic theology is negative; it means that we cannot understand God. Cataphatic theology, on the other hand, is positive; we can understand God. We saw two examples of that from the time of Ancient Israel. John the Baptist was operating under the Apophatic model. He did not understand Christ. Christ was operating under the Cataphatic model. He understood Himself, but He also came to teach others about God. That is what we covered in the first part.

## **The Key to Making the Switch**

### **The key is time**

We don't want to have an Apophatic mindset; we want to understand God (or have a Cataphatic mindset). So how do you transfer from an Apophatic model to a Cataphatic model? The key to do that is time. In the Bible, no one knows when Christ will come back, even Christ says no one knows. Not knowing the time is part of the Apophatic mindset. The key to understanding God is knowing time, not just the time of the Second Advent, but also the time of other events. If you know time, then you will understand better why God does certain things and why God allows certain things to happen. Timesetting, of course, is a part of understanding time; when you timeset you show that you understand God because you predict when things God has planned will happen. So, to have a Cataphatic mindset you need to understand time. That is the key that allows you to understand God.

# Cataphatic theology in Millerite and Our history

## Millerites were Cataphatic

The Millerites believed in Cataphatic theology. We just looked at the key to transitioning from Apophatic to Cataphatic theology; that key being time. The Millerites had this key. Millerite history was meant to be the final reform line, so God was revealing end of the world truth to them. There is one thing that everyone knows about the Millerites, and that is their disappointments. In 1833, they predicted Jesus would return in 1843. In 1843, they predicted Jesus would return in 1844. However, these weren't incorrect prophecies, the Millerites were right on the time (the 2<sup>nd</sup> time) but not the event. So we know that the Millerites believed in and accepted time; we can mark the 2520, 1335, 1290 and 2300 all making up the key. This is why we can say they were cataphatic, they had the key to make the switch. The Millerites believed they could understand God and that God was revealing the future to them. If the Millerites were apophatic, they wouldn't have studied because there was nothing to be revealed to their understanding, and if they could understand it wasn't (from) God; it was only because the Millerites believed they could understand God that so many truths were unburied in their time, truths that are the foundation of Adventism and this Movement.

## The United States changed in 2015

In 2015, the United States changed. On June 26, 2015, the United States Supreme Court "ruled that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples by... the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. The 5–4 ruling requires all fifty states... to perform and recognize the marriages of same-sex couples on the same terms and conditions as the marriages of opposite-sex couples, with all the accompanying rights and responsibilities." *Wikipedia*. That Supreme Court ruling was during the presidency of Barack Obama. It was a step toward equality, specifically LGBTQ equality. The Cataphatic model is about understanding the nature of people- equality (which leads to an understanding of the nature of God). The United States changed from an Apophatic model to a Cataphatic model in 2015.

## The SDA church rejected change in 2015

Not only did the United States begin to change in 2015, but so did the Seventh-day Adventist church. To clarify: the SDA church did not begin to change; they actually rejected the opportunity to change. From around 2010 the church had been debating the issue of women's ordination and in 2014 a meeting of church leaders from around the world agreed to have delegates vote on whether to allow church divisions to decide if women should be ordained in their area. In 2015, there was a General Conference meeting in Texas. There the vote for or against women's ordination took place. Over 2,300 delegates voted total: over 1,300 voted "no" and a little less than 1,000 voted "yes". So the Adventist church as a whole rejected women's ordination. Women's ordination is a Cataphatic subject because it cannot be found in the Bible. Just like timesetting and gay marriage you have to study to find these things out; you can't just say that you can't understand God or the Bible, so you will just blindly do what it says. In 2015, both the United States and the church were confronted with changing from an Apophatic model to a Cataphatic model: the SDA church did not make the

switch. This Movement should have recognized the changes that were taking place, but for the most part it did not. So like the Seventh-day Adventist church we stayed with an Apophatic mindset.

## **This Movement changed beginning 2016**

This Movement made the switch from apophatic to cataphatic from 2016-2018. Previously, we looked at how both the United States began to make the switch from Apophatic to Cataphatic theology in 2015, and how the SDA church rejected making the change that year. We know that the nature of man lets us understand God- it's Cataphatic. So when we see the United States focusing on people (the nature of man), and their rights, we see them transitioning to Cataphatic theology. In this Movement, the transition happened a bit later. In 2005, we began to understand the 2520; the key was there but we didn't transition. God had to slowly lead us by steps in the transition. In 2016, the first elders were ordained, which went against the Spirit of Prophecy that says not to separate from the church; and we know that when we question the Spirit of Prophecy and see that it doesn't directly apply to our time, we are using Cataphatic theology. In 2017, it was proven that this Movement could ordain women elders, based on Hebrews. We began to question sexism in the priesthood. In Hebrews, we learned that the priests, and therefore elders, don't have to be just men, everyone in the Movement is a priest based on Melchisedech, who was a self-appointed priest, not a pre-appointed one. So we see here the Movement making a decision in favor of humans, the nature of man; which is Cataphatic. We questioned the Bible instead of just accepting it which is a characteristic of positive theology. We also saw the study of the nature of man being opened in 2017. Therefore, we can mark the beginning of the transition in 2016. But this is still a year after the United States, this Movement should have recognized the transition a year before and changed, but we didn't. It took another year for the transition from Apophatic theology to Cataphatic theology to really begin to take place.

## **Deuteronomy 22:5**

"The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God." Deuteronomy 22:5. The Adventist church took that to mean that a woman should not wear pants. That's not taking into consideration the fact that when this verse was written, the men were wearing dresses- not pants. Pants weren't invented until the 14<sup>th</sup> century and by then, Moses was in heaven. But that's not what this verse even means. What Moses meant was that a woman should not do what a man's supposed to do- put on armor and go to war. And a man was not supposed to stay in the tent and cook. Basically- a woman wasn't supposed to become a warrior. That's what Deuteronomy 22:5 means. Taking the Bible as it reads literally is the Apophatic model. So when this Movement "allowed" women to wear pants, we were changing from the Apophatic model to the Cataphatic model.

# The Shaking

## Why FFA left the Movement

We know that you can look at subjects from different perspectives and all of them can be correct. We can use this concept when it comes to having an Apophatic and Cataphatic model. Having an Apophatic model means that you believe that you cannot understand God, so you take things literally and don't question- even if what Inspiration says does not make sense. On the other hand, having a Cataphatic mindset means that you believe that you can understand God. When you believe that, you question and study for answers. This Movement began to really change to a Cataphatic model when the message of equality came with the Midnight Cry. Then in 2019 there was a shaking. In this context, from this perspective, that shaking happened because of two theological models, they are apophatic and cataphatic. The Movement was changing but Future for America and their followers refused to change. They did not want to go from an Apophatic model to a Cataphatic model; they wanted to take Inspiration literally: they did not want to study and question. From the perspective of this lesson that is why they left the Movement.

## The 4 and the 6

### The Sabbath and the 4

This Movement used to be apophatic. We've been looking at how this Movement believes in Cataphatic theology, and how many people left because they didn't make the switch, but this was not always the case. In 1989, this Movement began with the study of Daniel 11:40. This Movement was started by Elder Jeff and his associates. Back then, and in the years after, we read things literally, there was no parable teaching. This Movement believed in a "thus saith the Lord", a plain reading- and anyone that opposed it was in darkness. All this was Apophatic theology; no one questioned God's word, or tried to understand a different meaning; if God said a "woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man" that was the end of the discussion. These arguments describe Apophatic theology; you can't understand God; just do as you're told. This parallels John the Baptist and his ministry. He was the first messenger and he had it all wrong; he believed in Apophatic theology. Another way we can describe Apophatic theology is the first four commandments. It's all about just worshipping God because God says to; and there is no coincidence that the message at the beginning of the Movement was focused on the Sunday Law, a Sabbath issue, which is part of the first four commandments. So at the beginning of this Movement, we were apophatic, everything focused on the Sabbath/Sunday issue and a "thus saith the Lord"; the four, Apophatic theology.

### Marriage and the 6

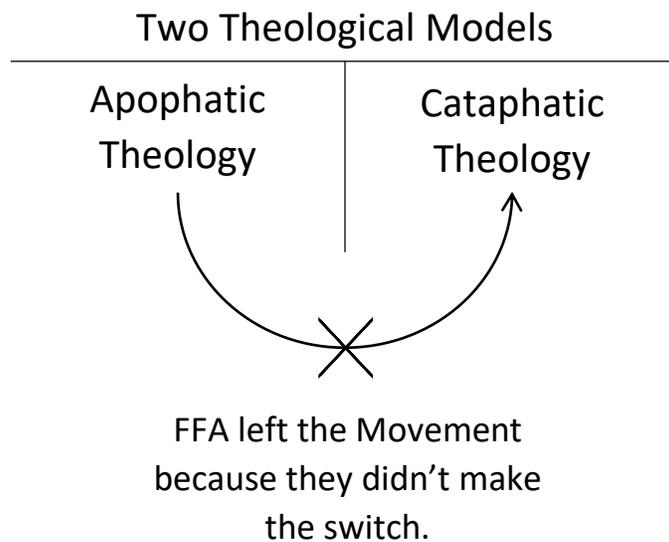
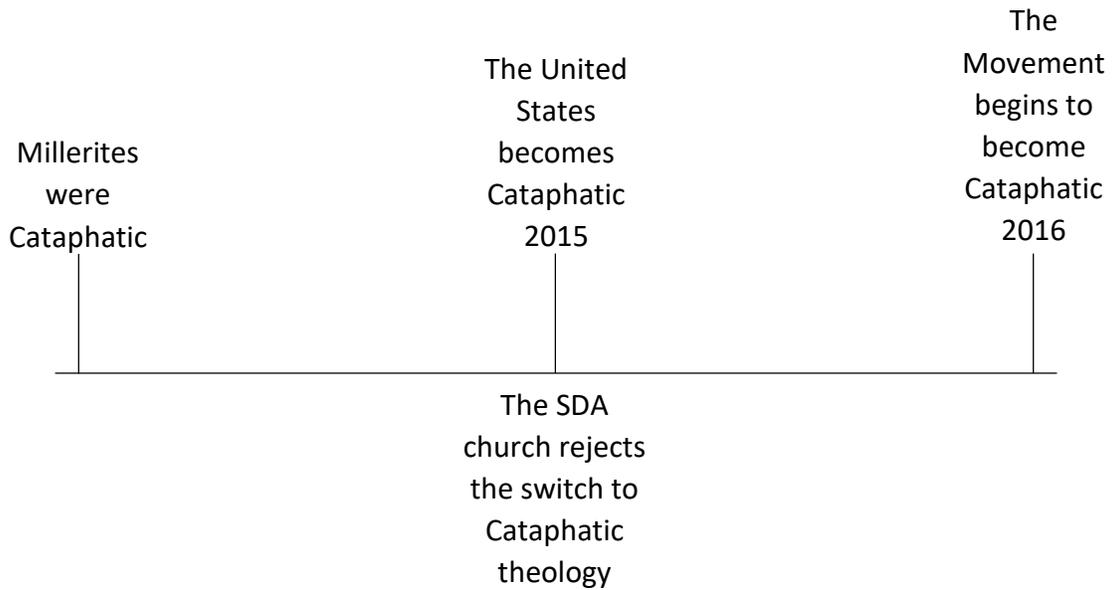
The first four commandments are about our relation to God- they were the Apophatic model. The last six commandments are about our relationship with one another. They are about how we treat each other. They represent the Cataphatic model. The Cataphatic model- equality- how we treat others, is the message that this Movement is coming to understand under Elders Parminder and Tess. If the first four commandments can be summarized under one topic- the Sabbath, the last six can also be summarized. We can say they're dealing with marriage. Marriage and the Sabbath are twin institutions. We know from the previous lesson that we can parallel John the Baptist with the Apophatic model and Christ with the Cataphatic model. That would mean that Elders Parminder and Tess- those teaching the Cataphatic model- would parallel Christ. So the last six commandments are about equality (marriage) and they represent the Cataphatic model.

## **Understanding the Cataphatic model**

This Movement is supposed to have been following the Cataphatic model “fully” since the message of equality came. We previously saw that marriage and equality are Cataphatic subjects while the Sabbath and the traditional view of the Sunday Law are Apophatic subjects. This Movement is on the Cataphatic side of both of these connected issues: we believe in equality and we believe that the Sunday Law will be about that issue. But there are some in the Movement that do not believe these things. They don’t fully believe in equality and they still think that the Sunday Law will be about Sunday and the Sabbath. They have an Apophatic model- they don’t think that they can understand God because they don’t think that they can understand inspiration, they just do what it says. They are not willing to question. This same dynamic happened in 2019 with FFA. If these people today don’t switch to a Cataphatic model they will leave the Movement just like FFA, because this Movement follows Cataphatic theology.

**In Summary:**

The key to making the switch from Apophatic to Cataphatic theology is time.

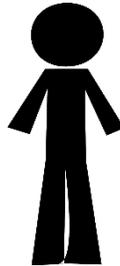


## Two Theological Models

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Apophatic	Cataphatic
The Sabbath	Marriage
First 4	Last 6
commandments	commandments

If we don't want to question, we'll  
leave the movement.



If you have any questions or comments on any of the material contact us (YPG) at:

[youthprophecygroup@gmail.com](mailto:youthprophecygroup@gmail.com)

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Link to YPG Zoom meetings which are at 10:00am PST on Sundays:

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