

ELLEN G. WHITE AND THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

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1. HEART TO HEART

A PROTESTANT pastor once asked a Seventh-day Adventist leader to explain his church's remarkable membership growth.

"Why, you people have grown from a handful of believers a hundred years ago to a worldwide denomination. You have a tithing system," he continued, "that is the miracle of modern church financing. Your missions are found all over the earth. You must have had outstanding leaders, with great vision."

The Adventist minister smiled; then his face grew serious. "Yes, we have had good leaders-excellent leaders," he said. "But that is not all that we have had."

"What do you mean by that?" asked the pastor.

"I mean this," the Adventist continued. "We have had in our midst from the very beginning of the church a humble handmaiden of the Lord by the name of Ellen G. White, who believed God enlightened her mind with prophetic visions. The church leaders from the first have accepted this heavenly light that

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God has caused to shine upon their pathway. One reason we have prospered is that we have had this divine guidance, which we have tried to follow faithfully.”

The Adventist leader correctly stated his church’s position. Seventh-day Adventists believe that Mrs. Ellen G. White exercised the true prophetic gift. They believe that God graciously spoke to her in divine revelations, and that through her He sent inspired messages to His church. They feel they have sound reasons for this conviction. Some of the reasons are as follows:

1. As required by the Bible (see Isaiah 8:20) Mrs. White’s teachings and admonitions are in harmony with the Scriptures, God’s Holy Word.

2. God promised through His word to place the gift of the Spirit of Prophecy in His commandment keeping remnant church. See Revelation 12:17; 19:10.

3. Through her were revealed secrets that only God could bring to light.

4. Predictions made by her regarding future events came to pass as foretold.

5. Though she had little scholastic training, she wrote volumes in specialized fields, some in areas of scientific thought, for which she was not prepared by technical study. Authorities in these fields acclaim these writings as far in advance of her time. Many of the views set forth in her voluminous literary works were unknown to the learned men of her day, but are now accepted as scientific facts.

6. Her life bore the fruit of a prophet. See Matthew 7:15-20. She labored constantly to relieve suffering, to inspire courage, to correct wrong practices, and to save the lost. Her whole life was devoted to the service of her Master. By voice and pen she sought to uphold the word of God and to lead men and women to accept Jesus as their Savior from sin and death. As a result of her godly life and earnest Christian labors, tens of thousands of souls around the world have found Christ. Though she now rests from her labors, her works follow her. Her numerous books continue to speak, in many languages throughout the world. They are still winning souls for Christ.

We invite you to take a candid, prayerful look at the historical facts given in the following pages, relative to the life and work of Ellen G. White, and to observe the influence of this remarkable woman in the Seventh day Adventist Church and upon the changing world in which she lived.

2. GOD SPEAKS TO MODERN MAN

THERE ARE many urgent reasons why God’s guiding voice is needed in our modern world. We are living in the most difficult period in human history. Society struggles with racial antagonisms and economic conflicts. Military dangers threaten to engulf the world in Armageddon. An ugly tide of crime continues to rise. Mentally and emotionally disturbed people occupy more than half our hospital beds. Many churches hold feebly to the Christian’s guidebook, the Bible, while the reading of the Scriptures is neglected.

Where can a guiding voice for human beings be heard? In times past, people have often been able to find a sense of direction in messages brought to them through God’s prophets. Through prophetic agents God has indicated to His people the way to survival, and salvation has depended upon heeding the divine warnings. Before the Flood, Noah appeared with his warnings of judgment and the ark of safety. Later Jonah was commissioned to preach his prophecy of judgment to the inhabitants of Nineveh. The people repented of their sins and the judgment upon the city was delayed. The Jews of Christ’s time heard John the Baptist with his ringing cry, “Prepare you the way of the Lord,” and the Messiah appeared as he had said.

How is it in our day? Should there not be a clear, prophetic voice in modern times? What is to hinder God from speaking to modern man through the voice of a prophet?

The Prophetic Voice in Modern Times

Once the Postmaster General of the United States issued an order to all postal employees, effective till the close of that particular fiscal year, suspending all mail deliveries on Saturdays. Post offices were to be closed on both Saturday and Sunday. Letters, packages, communications of every kind except special delivery, were to be held over on weekends.

This order was an economy measure, but it was short-lived. Just four days after it went into effect, a rescinding order came from the Postmaster General’s office which restored normal postal services. The reason? The people of the United States rose up in protest. They would not tolerate a stoppage of vital

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messages between individuals, business concerns, and departments of the government itself!

Essential messages will get through if the need is great enough. And if this is true of life in our secular world, how much more important it is that our heavenly Father shall communicate light and truth to this troubled world.

Bible Prophets Speak of Our Times

God's spokesmen in Bible times announced that the prophetic voice would be heard again "before the great . . . day of the Lord." Let two of the Bible prophets testify. First, Joel in the Old Testament.

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh. And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit." Joel 2:28, 29. This prediction met a partial fulfillment on the Day of Pentecost. See Acts 2. But Joel's prophecy also applies "before the great and terrible day of the Lord." Joel 2:31.

From the New Testament come the apostle Paul's comments concerning the church "waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 1:7. It would "come behind in no gift," he said, and be enriched by God "in all utterance, and in all knowledge." The gifts of the Spirit of God would appear in this last-day church. And "the testimony of Christ" would be "confirmed in" it." And what is this "testimony of Christ"? An angel's voice declared to John that "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Revelation 19:10.

The teachings of Jesus Christ lend weight to Paul's word regarding the prophetic gift in the church "waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 1:7. As Jesus neared the close of His earthly ministry, He assured His twelve apostles that even though He had to leave the world, He would send His representative, the Holy Spirit, to take His place. It was the Holy Spirit who would bestow the gift of prophecy, among other spiritual gifts, upon the church. "I will pray the Father," Jesus declared, "and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth." John 14:16, 17. This Gift, the Holy Spirit, was to "abide ... forever" with the church.

Gifts of the Spirit

Many divine gifts were bestowed freely by the Holy Spirit. Paul speaks of these gifts. He refers to Jesus' ascension and the remarkable dispensing of the gifts in these words: "When He [Christ] ascended up on high, He . . . gave gifts unto men." "And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers." Ephesians 4:8-11.

In 1 Corinthians 12:1 these gifts are called "spiritual gifts." Why were these spiritual gifts given to church members? To aid in the perfection of Christian character and in the proclamation of the Christian message. Paul makes plain that they were bestowed "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive. But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." Verses 12-15.

How long were these gifts of "apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers" to continue in the church? As long as the Spirit remained. And until the church reached "the stature of the fullness of Christ." Here are Paul's very words: "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Verse 13. Has the church yet reached the "stature of the fullness of Christ"? If not, are not the gifts of the Spirit still needed? Indeed they are!

Prophecy in the Modern Church

In the twelfth chapter of that great prophetic book, the Revelation, a woman dressed in white is brought to view. She is a symbol of the pure church of Christ. Ephesians 5:25. Under the figure of a great red dragon (Revelation 12:9), Satan is represented as angry or "wroth" with this pure woman who is clothed in the glory of the sun. "The remnant of her seed," the last-day church in Christian times, is identified as a people who "keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Verse 17. The commandments of God here mentioned are to be found in the eternal law of God, the Ten Commandments. "The testimony of Jesus," the angel declares to John, "is the spirit of prophecy." A comparison of Revelation 19:10 and Revelation 22:9 reveals that those who have the testimony of Jesus and exercise the gift of prophecy are "prophets." Consequently, the church that is the object of Satan's

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anger in the last days is the Christian church in which God's holy law is honored and in which the Spirit of Prophecy appears. It is a church in which the prophetic voice is again heard.

Our Lord warned us to test the prophetic voice, for He said there would arise many false prophets. Matthew 7:15-20; 24:11, 24. But the work of the counterfeit only proves the presence of the true. The true prophet will (1) magnify the Scriptures, (2) call the people back to the principles of righteousness taught in the Bible, (3) correct those who err from Bible truth, (4) reprove the erring and sinful, (5) extend hope to those who are humble and teachable, (6) exalt Christ as the Son of God and all-sufficient Lord and Savior, (7) teach doctrine that rings true as steel to Biblical truth.

If God speaks again in modern times we would expect Him to be consistent with the testimony concerning Himself revealed in the Bible. Any prophet speaking in His name would lead His children back to the Inspired Book of God. We would expect a modern prophet to write in harmony with the truths of salvation through Christ as revealed in the Scriptures.

Has such a voice been heard in modern times? Does this voice exalt the Scriptures as the word of God? Does it bring sinners to Christ and to His cross? And if there is such a voice, where can it be heard? This question may be answered by reading the powerful messages of such modern books as Steps to Christ, The Desire of Ages, The Great Controversy, The Ministry of Healing, and Patriarchs and Prophets.

Who is the writer of these books and more than fifty others? The answer is, Mrs. Ellen G. White. And who, you inquire, is Ellen G. White? In the following chapter you will have opportunity to examine for yourself her life and her work.

3. MRS ELLEN G. WHITE AND THE PROPHETIC GIFT

IN HER book *Great Women of the Christian Faith*, Edith Dean refers to Ellen White as "the pioneer and guide of her church." - Page 230. "Certainly," said this writer, "she was a spokesman for God. Like the prophets of old, her life was marked by humility, simplicity, austerity, divine learning, and devotion. And like them, she turned to God for healing and help. So firm did her faith become that she accomplished the miraculous for Adventists."

Mrs. White's preeminent mission was to help build the dynamics of a Biblical faith into a Christian movement. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is indebted to her as a spiritual leader and a pioneer builder and guide. In most of the soul-winning activities of the church, from its very beginnings, the leaders received guidance from what they believed were the prophetic insights of this servant of God.

From what source did Mrs. White receive her instructions? She believed she received them from God. And how did the light from God come? In approximately 2000 prophetic visions and dreams given her over a period of seventy years between 1844 and 1915. The fruitage of her counsels to the church is observable in the lives of thousands of Christians who have been led to the Savior through the reading of her books. Further evidence of her ministry is found in the thriving departments of the present worldwide church.

Mrs. White made no boastful claims. While not denying her call to the prophetic office, she said simply, "To claim to be a prophetess is something that I have never done. If others call me by that name, I have no controversy with them. But my work has covered so many lines that I cannot call myself other than a messenger, sent to bear a message from the Lord to His people, and to take up work in any line that He points out." - *Selected Messages*, book 1, Page 34.

When she was asked why she did not claim to be a prophet she replied, "Because in these days many who boldly claim that they are prophets are a reproach to the cause of Christ; and because my work includes much more than the word 'prophet' signifies." - *Ibid.*, Page 32.

Back in December 1844, in her first prophetic vision, she was shown the advent people traveling on an elevated road to heaven, with a brilliant light illuminating the pathway. At the end of this path was the golden City of God, the New Jerusalem, described by John in the last chapters of the Revelation. The light shining from the commencement of the trail was symbolic of the Lord's presence with the movement from its beginning until the second coming of the Lord. See *Early Writings of Ellen G. White*, pages 13-20.

Accepts the Gift With Trembling

"In my second vision," she wrote in her *Life Sketches*, "about a week after the first, the Lord gave me a view of the trials through which I must pass, and told me that I must go and relate to others what He

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had revealed to me. It was shown me that my labors would meet with great opposition, and that my heart would be rent with anguish; but that the grace of God would be sufficient to sustain me through all.

“After I came out of this vision I was exceedingly troubled, for it pointed out my duty to go out among the people and present the truth. My health was so poor that I was in constant bodily suffering, and to all appearance had but a short time to live. I was only seventeen years of age, small and frail, unused to society, and naturally so timid and retiring that it was painful for me to meet strangers.

“For several days, and far into the night, I prayed that this burden might be removed from me, and laid upon someone more capable of bearing it. But the light of duty did not change, and the words of the angel sounded continually in my ears, ‘Make known to others what I have revealed to you.’”

“I coveted death,” she reports, “as a release from the responsibilities that were crowding upon me.”

In describing the reasons why she hesitated when called to be God’s messenger, she wrote: “One great fear that had oppressed me was that if I obeyed the call of duty, and went out declaring myself to be one favored of the Most High with visions and revelations for the people, I might yield to sinful exaltation, and be lifted above the station that was right for me to occupy, bring upon myself the displeasure of God, and lose my own soul. I had known of such cases, and my heart shrank from the trying ordeal.”

Finally, after much prayer and heart-searching, she yielded, accepting the solemn work God had laid upon her. She said: “I now entreated that if I must go and relate what the Lord had shown me, I should be preserved from undue exaltation. Said the angel: ‘Your prayers are heard, and shall be answered. If this evil that you dread threatens you, the hand of God will be stretched out to save you; by affliction He will draw you to Himself, and preserve your humility. Deliver the message faithfully; endure unto the end, and you shall eat the fruit of the tree of life and drink of the water of life.’”

“After recovering consciousness of earthly things, I committed myself to the Lord, ready to do His bidding, whatever that might be.” - Pages 69-72.

And she was led, shortly thereafter, to give her first public testimony, in a meeting held in a private home in Portland, Maine. From that time until her death shortly after the outbreak of World War I, her fearless voice was heard ringing in the ears of her fellow Christians, Go forward in faith, out into the very ends of the earth, for the Lord is with us, and He has given us the message of Christ’s second coming to proclaim to all nations.

A Remarkable World Outlook

She herself ventured out as a missionary twice: to western Europe in 1885, at the age of fifty-seven, and in 1891 to Australia, when she was past sixty. She spent eleven of her seventy years of service in overseas work. She was a guiding light in the establishment of Christian hospitals, schools, publishing houses, and mission stations.

W. P. Bradley, associate secretary of the General Conference Mission Board, a careful student of Mrs. White’s life, wrote of her world missions outlook:

“Ellen G. White belongs not just to America, or to Australia where she spent nine years, but to the world. . . . Her spiritual messages rose above national boundaries and racial differences and spoke to the universal need of the human heart.

“There was nothing narrow or provincial in her teaching. Before the ‘one world’ idea became so widely discussed in our time, this clear-thinking spokeswoman for God was describing how this one message of truth was to develop one church, unified throughout the one world.”

This writer continues:

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church is international today to a great degree because of the expansive vision held before it in the Spirit of Prophecy. Even before the first worker was sent overseas in 1874 Mrs. White wrote: ‘Every opportunity should be improved to extend the truth to other nations.’” - Life Sketches, 206.

“I seemed to be in a large gathering,” she wrote. “One of authority was addressing the company, before whom was spread out a map of the world. He said that the map pictured God’s vineyard, which must be cultivated.” - Testimonies, volume 9, page 28. “Your light must not be put under a bushel or under a bed, but on a candlestick, that it may give light to all that are in the house. Your house is the world.” - Life Sketches, page 209.

“She had the vision to say: ‘Talk it, pray it, sing it, fill the world with the message of His truth, and keep pressing on into the regions beyond.’” - Testimonies, volume 9, Page 30.

Today Adventist world missions reach out into large areas that represent more than 98 percent of

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the world's population, while missionary workers employ about 600 oral or written languages to reach the world's inhabitants with the gospel message.

The Seventh-day Adventist publishing enterprise is today one of the church's largest interests. There are forty-two publishing houses in the world, employing 2,057 persons, with five thousand colporteurs in the field distributing literature in 228 languages. Present sales total about \$25,000,000 a year. The volume of literature sales from the beginning of the movement until the end of 1962 approached the astonishing sum of one-half billion dollars! In November, 1848, when a handful of church pioneers met in Dorchester, Massachusetts, to plan for the dissemination of the message, the picture was different. As they gathered in the home of Otis Nichols, a dedicated layman, heaven seemed near, and Ellen White was taken in vision. From the words spoken to her husband when the vision was over, we gain a glimpse of the startling revelation of that hour:

"I have a message for you," she said to James White. "You must begin to print a little paper and send it out to the people. Let it be small at first; but as the people read, they will send you means with which to print, and it will be a success from the first. From this small beginning it was shown to me to be like streams of light that went clear round the world."-Life Sketches, page 125.

"Streams of light . . . clear round the world"! How could this be? Jesus was coming so soon. Believers were few. There were none of wealth in that tiny group who met in 1848. There were no great scholars among them. The world was unbelieving. Yet here was a young woman in their midst who predicted that a publishing work to be started by her penniless husband would grow until it encompassed the globe. More than six months went by before James White could make even the smallest beginning, arranging for the printing of a thousand copies of an eight-page paper. And the order with the printer was placed on a charge account!

The magazine that emerged-*Present Truth*-became the first of scores of journals that have since appeared to enlighten the world with the good news of the gospel and the glad tidings of Christ's second coming!

Worldwide Medical Work

Perhaps you or a friend of yours has been a patient in a Seventh-day Adventist hospital or sanitarium in the United States or overseas. Over 200 medical institutions, such as the White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles, California; the Washington Sanitarium and Hospital near the capital of the United States; and the Skodsborg Sanitarium in Denmark, are active today. More than twelve thousand nurses, physicians, and attendants are employed in these health centers. Many thousands of patients have recovered from sickness, and many have found their way to God, in these Christian medical centers where healthful diet is emphasized, as well as hydrotherapy and other scientific medical treatments. Where did the idea for this great humanitarian work originate? The answer is, In the mind of the Creator. Through whom did the Great Healer communicate this benevolent idea to His people? Through His messenger. Her health books [*The Ministry of Healing, 1905; Counsels on Health, 1923; Medical Ministry, 1932; Counsels on Diet and Foods, 1938; Temperance, 1949. The last four books are compilations published by the Trustees of her writings.*] must have been written by divine enlightenment, for she was not a graduate of any school of dietetics, nursing, or medicine, yet she revealed secrets of healing and healthful living unknown to others in her day.

The concept that healthful living is a part of Christianity is implied in Paul's teaching. "Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are." 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17. But this idea had been largely forgotten or overlooked by most Christians.

On June 6, 1863, a memorable vision was given to Ellen White at Otsego, Michigan. Mrs. White wrote of this vision as follows:

"I saw that it was a sacred duty to attend to our health, and arouse others to their duty. We have a duty to speak, to come out against intemperance of every kind-intemperance in working, in eating, in drinking, in drugging and then point them to God's great medicine: water, pure soft water, for diseases, for health, for cleanliness, for luxury. I saw that we should not be silent upon the subject of health, but should wake up minds to the subject." - E. G. White Manuscript 1, 1863.

This light she communicated to church leaders. Soon *The Health Reformer*, one of America's early health journals, appeared, with Dr. H. S. Lay as editor. At about the same time a small "sanitarium," the Western Health Reform Institute, was started in Battle Creek, forerunner of the mammoth Battle Creek Sanitarium of later years. This was the beginning of the well known worldwide system of health and

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educational institutions and healing centers now so active in many lands of the earth. [*The dry-cereal industry born in Battle Creek, Michigan, was largely a development of the Adventist health-reform concept.*]

In the year 1897 Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, superintendent of the large Battle Creek Sanitarium, testified to his confidence in the sound health principles advocated so consistently by Mrs. White:

“It is impossible for any man who has not made a special study of medicine to appreciate the wonderful character of the instruction that has been received in these writings. It is wonderful... when you look back over the writings that were given us thirty years ago, and then perhaps the next day pick up a scientific journal and find some new discovery that the microscope has made, or that has been brought to light in the chemical laboratory-1 say, it is perfectly wonderful how correctly they agree in fact. . . . There is not a single principle in relation to the healthful development of our bodies and minds that is advocated in these writings from Sister White, which I am not prepared to demonstrate conclusively from scientific evidence.” General Conference Bulletin, March 8, 1897.

This same physician described the beginnings of the denomination’s great health program as follows:

“It is a very interesting fact that the Lord began giving us this light thirty years ago. Dr. Lay told me of how he heard the first instruction about health reform away back in 1860 and especially in 1863. While he was riding in a carriage with Brother and Sister White, she related what had been presented to her upon the subject of health reform, and laid out the principles which have stood the test of all these years-a whole generation.” - Ibid.

Books on Subjects Unknown to Her

Mrs. White had no formal training beyond the third grade, yet she wrote the most helpful volumes touching on scientific truth, with uncanny accuracy. Much that she wrote was intended to improve the health of her readers or point the sick to recovery.

In her book *The Ministry of Healing*, published in 1905, she warned, saying, “Tobacco is a slow, insidious, but most malignant poison.” - Page 327. In those days tobacco was seldom used by women, and many men did not smoke. Today smoking is widespread. If men and women had followed her counsel, lung cancer would not today be claiming so many victims. In the United States nearly 40,000 Americans die from lung cancer yearly, and lung cancer is taking its toll around the world.

Scientific tests have shown that tobacco smoke contains a cancer-producing agent. Interestingly, the condition that leads to cancer develops slowly over a period of twenty to thirty years. The cancer is often unknown to the smoker until it is too late to do anything about it. Ellen White called tobacco an “Insidious” poison. Cancers are known as “malignancies.” Mrs. White referred to tobacco as a “slow” poison and a “most malignant poison.

Large Parochial-School System

Another development in the world work of Seventh day Adventists has been the establishment of the extensive parochial-school system that began with a small college in Battle Creek, Michigan, in the mid 1870’s. This emphasis on Christian education results from instruction received through Ellen White and communicated to the ministers of the denomination.

The Adventists today operate the second largest Protestant parochial-school system in the United States and the largest Protestant church school program outside of North America. At the time of this writing there are close to 5,000 Adventist schools, manned by well over 8,000 teachers. These are employed in the education of a quarter of a million students around the world. But these figures are for elementary schools only. In addition, approximately 50,000 students are enrolled in 350 academies and colleges in many lands. About 3,500 teachers are employed in these institutions. Two Seventh-day Adventist universities have been developed recently in the United States. The church operates one of the best equipped medical colleges on the west coast. This medical college is one of the largest west of the Rocky Mountains.

Why this emphasis upon Christian education? Where does a small church with a million and a third constituents find the money to support such a far-flung and ambitious project? The answer is that a divine imperative has rested upon them. In 1872 the messenger of the Lord said in substance to the leaders of the church:

Build a school. Teach the young people the Bible. Prepare them to speak other languages, so that the advent message can be taken to the world. Train the hand and the head as well as the heart. Give them a

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well-balanced training. Teach them how to live for this world and the next. And let this good work be extended. Later in her book *Education* she wrote:

“To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life.” - *Education*, pages 15, 16.

The denomination’s first college at Battle Creek was dedicated January 4, 1875, shortly after the inspired voice had called for a college. Ellen White was one of the guest speakers on that occasion. This school was the beginning of the worldwide system of education operated by the church. A statement by Dr. Richard Hammill, a Seventh-day Adventist educator, reflects the church’s thinking:

It is our belief that fallen men cannot achieve the purpose for which they were created without a God centered education that teaches them to open their minds to the unseen but all-powerful Spirit of God, the only agency that can bring a rebirth of the original nature and an enduring reformation of life habits and mental outlook. Ellen G. White, who was the denomination’s first and major writer on educational theory, states this viewpoint: ‘To bring man back into harmony with God, so to elevate and ennoble his moral nature that he may again reflect the image of the Creator, is the great purpose of all the education and discipline of life.’ *Counsels to Teachers*, page 49.” - *Philosophy of Seventh-day Adventist Education*, page 4.

A few years ago Dr. Florence Straterneyer, at that time professor of education at Teachers College, Columbia University, reviewed the book *Education*, published in 1903 by Mrs. White. She expressed surprise when she learned that this volume, “more than fifty years ahead of its times,” was written by one with but three years of schooling. “The breadth and depth of its philosophy amazed me,” she declared. Following is Dr. Straterneyer’s estimate of this book written by Mrs. White on Christian education:

“Recently the book *Education* by Ellen G. White has been brought to my attention. Written at the turn of the century, this volume was more than fifty years ahead of its times. And I was surprised to learn that it was written by a woman with but three years of schooling.

“The breadth and depth of its philosophy amazed me. Its concept of balanced education, harmonious development, and of thinking and acting on principle are advanced educational concepts.

“The objective of restoring in man the image of God, the teaching of parental responsibility, and the emphasis on self-control in the child are ideals the world desperately needs.

“Mrs. White did not necessarily use current terms. In fact, she did not use the word curriculum in her writing. But the book *Education* in certain parts treats of important curriculum principles. She was concerned with the whole learner—the harmonious development of mental, physical, and spiritual powers.

“Today many are stressing the development of the intellect. But feelings and emotional development are equally important. In our changing society, the ability to act on thought and in terms of principle is central. It is this harmonious development that is so greatly needed, yet so generally neglected today.

“I am not surprised that members of the Seventh day Adventist Church hold the writings of Mrs. White in great respect and make them central in developing the educational programs in their schools.” - *Review and Herald*, August 6, 1959, Page 13.

In these schools of the church the youth are preparing for Christian service. Here they are taught respect for the Bible, for their fellowmen, and for God. Here they also learn that the church to which they belong has had divine guidance through the years.

Practical Christianity

The instruction communicated by Mrs. White to the church sounded a clarion call to higher, nobler living. This meant practical Christianity that found its way into the total life of the Christian. In impressive language she wrote:

“Bible religion is not one influence among many others, but its influence is supreme, pervading and controlling every other influence. Bible religion is to exercise control over life and conduct. It is not to be like a dash of color, brushed here and there upon the canvas, but Its Influence is to pervade the whole life, as though the canvas were dipped into color until every thread of the fabric was dyed in a deep, fast, unfading hue.” Ellen G. White letter 2, 1895. Published in *The Faith I Live By*, page 220.

“Let every one inquire seriously, ‘Am I a genuine Christian? Am I bearing the true marks of a Christian? Am I doing my best to perfect a character after the’) divine model?’” - *Ibid*.

Collectively Seventh-day Adventists were to be “the head and not the tall” in temperance reform,

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lifting a warning voice against alcohol and tobacco. They were to be distinguished for their welfare ministry and their interest in the poor and the downtrodden. They were to stand at the fore front of the battle for religious freedom. Through their publications they were to advocate human equality, the brotherhood of man, and the fatherhood of God. Yet they were not to become involved in social battles or political reforms. Theirs was a religious mission-to announce to the world the near advent of the Lord and the dramatic news that “the hour of His judgment is come.” Revelation 14:7. The call of the Spirit of Prophecy was to a holy life, the true, distinctive mark of God’s people. Christ likeness was the preeminent goal to be attained.

This present life, she said, was to be marked by the faithful discharge of practical duties and the performance of missionary service. She wrote concerning the instruction she had received from God:

“I was instructed that I must ever urge upon those who profess to believe the truth, the necessity of practicing the truth. This means sanctification, and sanctification means the culture and training of every capability for the Lord’s service.” - Selected Messages, book 1, Page 33.

Mrs. White practiced what she preached. She was what she taught the people to be. She said:

“In connection with my husband, I was to be a medical missionary worker. I was to set an example to the church by taking the sick to my home and caring for them. This I have done.... I was also to speak on the subject of Christian temperance, as the Lord’s appointed messenger. I engaged heartily in this work, and spoke to large assemblies on temperance in its broadest and truest sense.”-Ibid.

She continues:

“I was charged not to neglect or pass by those who were being wronged. I was specially charged to protest against any arbitrary or overbearing action toward the ministers of the gospel by those having official authority. Disagreeable though the duty may be, I am to reprove the oppressor, and plead for justice. I am to present the necessity of maintaining justice and equity in all our institutions.

“If I see those in positions of trust neglecting aged ministers, I am to present the matter to those whose duty it is to care for them. Ministers who have faithfully done their work are not to be forgotten or neglected when they have become feeble in health.” - Ibid.

The financial structure of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, with its workable system of tithes and offerings, has awakened an interest on the part of other churches. Frequently their leaders ask Seventh-day Adventist executives, “How do you do it?” In one recent year the annual per capita giving in North America reached \$243.36. In attaining this figure the practical Biblical measures encouraged by Ellen White were a large factor. Add to this the enormous benefits of the denominational sustentation plan for retired ministers and other denominational employees, and it will be seen that Mrs. White’s appeal for equity and justice has been heeded.

Many of Mrs. White’s messages were letters to the erring, written by hand and mailed to those who needed spiritual help. Frequently the recipients were church leaders. The words that came from her heart to the hearts of these living persons were felt and believed and lived. Mrs. White was deeply convicted that the spiritual counsels she wrote originated in the mind of God. Often she rebuked sin. In an article written especially for Seventh-day Adventists, Mrs. White explained her mission in these words:

I have not come to cry peace; you can hear this voice wherever you go. There are those who will be glad to lull you to sleep in your carnal security; but I have a different work. My message is to alarm you, to bid you reform your lives, and cease your rebellion against the God of the universe. Take the word of God, and see if you are in harmony with it. Is your character such as will bear the search of the heavenly investigation? Remember, Jesus says: ‘Not everyone that said unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of My Father which is in heaven.’ - Review and Herald, June 22, 1911.

Her messages covered nearly every phase of human life and experience. They include valuable counsels on church and institutional responsibilities. They present the duties of Christians to witness for Christ and to maintain a consecrated home life. As we have seen, health, temperance, and Christian education are stressed. One hundred thousand handwritten pages came from her pen, representing 25,000,000 words.

Ellen White was as much at home discussing the profoundest truths of theology, such as the creation of the world, the incarnation of Christ, and the atonement on the cross, as she was in the contemplation of the simplest devotional truth. Rich and poor, learned and ignorant, were reached by her profoundly spiritual messages. A gentleman who read from Volumes 6, 8, and 9 of Testimonies to the Church while traveling in a Pullman car, observed to the books’ owner, “I hold a chair on the faculty of a university in New York; I am continually reading books, but this is the finest literature I have ever read.

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Where can I get some of these books?"

"That Author Is Inspired"

In England an influential woman visited a Seventh day Adventist sanitarium near London. There she became acquainted with Ellen White's *The Desire of Ages*. Greatly interested, she exclaimed, "That author is inspired. After a lifetime of studying the religions of the world-the efforts of the human soul to get into contact with the Infinite-I have come across a book by Ellen G. White, the very name of which describes its motive, *The Desire of Ages*. Since reading this wonderful book my most ardent wish for this suffering world is that every man and woman should become familiar with its supreme Subject. I can imagine no gift to mankind that can help humanity more really to live, for in it are the words of eternal life."

"These Are Wonderful Books"

In New Zealand some years ago an aged Seventh day Adventist woman was being attended by a Roman Catholic physician. He visited her often until finally she fell asleep in Christ. When Pastor J. Hookings came to conduct the funeral service he met this Catholic gentleman. Quietly they sat together in a room in her home. The doctor was thoughtfully turning the pages of a book he had taken from the table. Quietly he said to Pastor Hookings, "These are wonderful books, sir."

I agree with you, doctor," replied Pastor Hookings, "but may I ask, what do you know about them?"

The doctor replied that over a period of months he had been visiting the home as the physician of the woman. "Whenever I have had to wait awhile in this room," he said, I have taken the opportunity of reading these red-covered volumes."

He went on, "Mr. Hookings, I have a large library of my own and I am a prolific reader. I have read much concerning Christianity and the Christian religion, for though I am a Roman Catholic I have been interested in the writings of Protestant authors. I would like to say that in all my reading I have never found the gospel in so beautiful a setting as I find it in these books of yours. Tell me, Mr. Hookings, do Seventh-day Adventists believe the things that are written in these books? Do they live according to the instruction that is given here? I notice that these books are called *Testimonies for the Church*. They are so practical and comprehensive. They deal with home problems, family life, business affairs, church relations, missionary work. I want to ask you, Mr. Hookings, do your people live according to the instruction that is given here?"

Pastor Hookings replied: "Doctor, we believe that this is indeed wonderful instruction, that it is given by the Lord to the church for these times. We teach this to our people, and we try to order our lives according to it."

The doctor replied, I am so glad to hear it. I will tell you why I asked that question. You see, Mr. Hookings, I am getting on in years. Soon I will have to ask some younger man to take my practice. I am contemplating retirement and I have felt that it would be a wonderful thing for a man in his declining years to be able to go and settle down in a community of Christian people who believe in the kind of Christianity taught in these books and who shape their lives accordingly. I can think of no outward look that would be more attractive, that would be likely to be more restful and satisfying than to do that. I feel that that is exactly what I would like to do."

How Can Ellen White Be Explained?

Jesus said, "By their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20. Seventh day Adventists and thousands of their friends who do not belong to the church are convinced that Mrs. White received special guidance from the Lord.

Mrs. White affirmed that she had been instructed by the angel of the Lord in prophetic visions to carry forward a special work. "Visions have been given me, with the promise, 'If you deliver the messages faithfully and endure to the end, you shall eat of the fruit of the tree of life, and drink of the water of the river of life.'" *Selected Messages*, book 1, Page 33.

Like John, the author of the Revelation, who received light from God in visions and was bidden to write them out and send them to the churches (see Revelation 1:9-11), so Ellen White was bidden by the angel to "write out the things which I shall give you, that they may stand as a witness to the truth till the end of time." -*Review and Herald*, January 26, 1905.

The writings of Ellen G. White, that frail, youthful messenger of God, who lived to become a

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mature and tried and proven servant of the Lord, are a fact of the time. The books that she wrote are with us today, some of them in many languages. For example, Steps to Christ has been printed in over eighty languages and ten million copies have been distributed. Many thousands of youth and adults have accepted Christ as the result of reading this Christ-filled book.

The invitation of Paul is relevant: “Despise not prophesying. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” 1 Thessalonians 5:20, 21.

Multitudes who have followed Paul’s advice have become persuaded that Ellen G. White, the woman who begged the Lord to lay the burden of prophecy upon someone else, was the one upon whom the Lord could safely bestow the gift.

4. THE BIBLE AND THE WRITINGS OF ELLEN G. WHITE

IN HIS book, *The Fruitage of Spiritual Gifts*, page 61, L. H. Christian, Adventist leader, wrote: “It is quite generally understood among Christian people today that Seventh-day Adventists ... regard the visions of Mrs. White as having been given by the Spirit of God. However, the reasons why we believe in . . . the visions of Mrs. White, are sometimes misunderstood. Some still seem to think that Adventists accept the Testimonies as a new Bible or as an addition to the Bible, though nothing could be farther from the truth. We accept the Holy Scriptures in full as divinely inspired and containing all the truth of God that is needed to make us wise unto salvation.”

The author of the statement above was a contemporary of Ellen G. White and a long-time church executive.

His assertion that “we accept the Holy Scriptures in full as divinely inspired and containing all the truth of God that is needed to make us wise unto salvation” is set forth in substance by Mrs. White as follows in her *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 5, pages 664, 665:

“I took the precious Bible and surrounded it with the several Testimonies for the Church, [**A nine-volume set of Testimonies written to church members and comprising about 5,000 pages of heart-to-heart counsels about successful Christian living and church work.**] given for the people of God. Here, said I, the cases of nearly all are met. The sins they are to shun are pointed out. The counsel that they desire can be found here, given for other cases situated similarly to themselves. God has been pleased to give you line upon line and precept upon precept. But there are not many of you that really know what is contained in the Testimonies. You are not familiar with the Scriptures. If you had made God’s word your study, with a desire to reach the Bible standard and attain to Christian perfection, you would not have needed the Testimonies. It is because you have neglected to acquaint yourselves with God’s Inspired Book that He has sought to reach you by simple, direct testimonies, calling your attention to the words of inspiration which you had neglected to obey, and urging you to fashion your lives in accordance with its pure and elevated teachings.” (Italics supplied.)

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is founded on the Holy Scriptures. Indeed, there are many local congregations in foreign lands where Ellen G. White’s writings are not available, as they have not been translated thus far because of a lack of funds. Yet these churches are full-fledged Seventh-day Adventist churches. Surely this is evidence that the denomination is built upon the platform of Bible teaching.

“The Holy Scriptures,” said Mrs. White, “are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience.” - *The Great Controversy*, page vii.

The Bible the Rule of Faith

James White, Mrs. White’s husband, and one of the leading pioneers of the church, early stated the Adventist position on the Bible as the rule of faith and cited the gifts of the Spirit as God’s corrective measure to bring God’s sheep back to the fold.

“The Bible is an everlasting rock. It is our rule of faith and practice. In it the man of God is ‘thoroughly furnished unto all good works.’ If every member of the church of Christ was holy, harmless, and separate from sinners, and searched the Holy Scriptures diligently and with much prayer for duty, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, we think, they would be able to learn their whole duty in ‘all good works.’ Thus ‘the man of God may be perfect.’ But as the reverse exists, and ever has existed, God in much mercy has

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pitied the weakness of His people, and has set the gifts in the gospel church to correct our errors, and to lead us to His Living Word. Paul says that they are for the ‘perfecting of the saints,’ till we all come in the unity of the faith.’ The extreme necessity of the church in its imperfect state is God’s opportunity to manifest the gifts of the Spirit.”

James White continued:

“The word should be in front, and the eye of the church should be placed upon it, as the rule to walk by, and the fountain of wisdom, from which to learn duty in ‘all good works.’ But if a portion of the church err from the truths of the Bible, and become weak, and sickly, and the flock become scattered, so that it seems necessary for God to employ the gifts of the Spirit to correct, revive, and heal the erring, we should let Him work. Yea more, we should pray for Him to work and plead earnestly that He would work by the Spirit’s power and bring the scattered sheep to His fold.”-Review, and Herald, April 21, 1851.

Mrs. White and the Bible

Referring to her writings and to the gift that she exercised, Mrs. White declared that “the testimonies of the Spirit of God are given to direct men to His word.” - Selected Messages, book I, Page 46. (Italics supplied.)

Again she wrote about the relationship of her books to the Bible, “The word of God abounds in general principles for the formation of correct habits of living, and the testimonies, general and personal, have been calculated to call their attention more especially to these principles.” - Testimonies, volume 5, pages 663, 664. (Italics supplied.)

Mrs. White championed the Scriptures as the final court of appeal in all doctrinal questions. She remonstrated with those who suggested that her writings were an addition to the Bible. She held the Bible to be the word of God. She said: I take the Bible just as it is, as the Inspired Word. I believe its utterances in an entire Bible.” - Selected Messages, book 1, Page 17.

To a few who criticized the word of God and questioned its validity she wrote:

“Brethren, cling to your Bible, as it reads, and stop your criticisms in regard to its validity, and obey the word, and not one of you will be lost.”

“We thank God that the Bible is prepared for the poor man as well as for the learned man. It is fitted for all ages and all classes.” - Ibid., page 18.

Mrs. White’s writings are like a microscope focused upon the open Book of God. They are not intended to change the word, but to magnify it and reveal new beauties which the mortal eye unaided could never see.

The Ellen G. White books have been likened also to a telescope which greatly enlarges the vision of God’s plans as revealed in His word. A telescope does not put more stars in the sky, but merely helps us see more clearly those that are already there.

Bible Supreme Authority

G. I. Butler, president of the General Conference for twelve years while Mrs. White was living, correctly expressed the faith of Adventists:

Instead of our setting up these visions above and outside of the Scriptures as another rule of authority, . . . we claim that none can really take the Bible and fairly apply its teachings without accepting these visions as from God. The Bible is the supreme authority in deciding this as well as other questions. When it tells us to ‘try the spirits,’ to ‘prove all things,’ and ‘hold fast that which is good,’ it is our duty to do this. We find by so doing that these visions harmonize perfectly with the Scriptures.” - Review and Herald, June 9, 1874, Page 202.

The argument has been made that “the Bible is enough for me; I don’t need anything else.” It is true that the Bible contains the truth of God. But ponder the Bible teaching concerning the prophetic gift in the church in the last days. Revelation 12:17; 19:10. Those who stand on the Bible and the Bible alone, are bound to receive the Bible teaching on spiritual gifts, including the gift of prophecy in the remnant church.

One does not discard the Bible when he endorses the visions of Ellen White. In accepting the visions he obeys the Bible. But to reject the Spirit of Prophecy is to refuse to accept the provisions that God has made for the comfort and correction of His people. See 1 Corinthians 1:4-9.

A Greater and a Lesser Light

Adventists hold that the Bible stands as the greater light; the Spirit of Prophecy writings as the lesser light. “Little heed is given to the Bible,” wrote Ellen White, “and the Lord has given a lesser light to

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lead men and women to the greater light.”-Colporteur Ministry, page 125. But how can a lesser light lead to a greater light?

Suppose that you are vacationing in the northern woods. You are stopping at a tourist lodge hidden away among the trees. One day at noon you decide to hike into the forest. For hours you walk through the lovely cathedral of green spires. Suddenly you recognize that the sun is setting, and you are abruptly brought out of your reverie with the terrifying thought that you are lost. You try to retrace your steps, but cannot. Darkness comes, and you are alone in the great forest.

You think of how good it would be to look upon the many lights shining from the rooms of that distant lodge. But how to get back? You pray for guidance and help. Soon you see a bobbing light in the distance. You are aware that a traveler is coming. You shout for help, and there is a welcoming response. You make your way toward the light. You find it comes from a trapper traveling in the direction of the lodge. He holds a lantern. You ask him if he will guide you back to the resort by the glow of that little light. “Of course,” he says. So you make your way back to the lights that shine in the lodge, led by the lesser light of the trapper’s lantern.

The Spirit of Prophecy, the lesser light, always leads back to the greater light of the Bible, never away from it. Mrs. White, God’s modern messenger, was one light. The Bible was written by some forty writers. In the Scriptures we have many prophets, many lights, certainly a greater light in all. But the Spirit that spoke through Mrs. White spoke in the Bible prophets. Does not God work in harmony with Himself? Does not each of His inspired messengers support the work of the other?

In ancient times,” said Mrs. White, “God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the testimonies of His Spirit. There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will and the course that He would have them pursue.” - Testimonies, Volume 5, page 661.

Let L. H. Christian summarize the Adventist position:

“The relation of the Spirit of Prophecy to the Holy Scriptures is not a theory but a long and blessed experience with Adventists. The Testimonies never lead away from the Bible. We are known as a church of Bible students. It is a matter of record that our foreign missionaries sell and use more Bibles than do the missionaries of any other church. We do not understand that the gifts spoken of in the Scriptures were in any way to supersede the Bible. The work and the office of the Spirit of God in the church, that is, the manifestation of spiritual gifts, does not do away with the word of God. The gifts lead to the word and build on the word. We believe, however, that the Scriptures teach that the gifts of the Spirit were not merely for the apostolic church but were to be found among God’s people to the end of time, and especially in the remnant church at the close of time. These gifts are not given primarily for sinners. They are bestowed upon the church to build up, preserve, and guide the people of the Lord.” - The Fruitage of Spiritual Gifts, pages 62, 63.

5. AN INSPIRED COMMENTARY ON THE BIBLE

THE APOSTLE Paul’s great love chapter,” 1 Corinthians 13, is regarded by many Christians as the most sublime passage in all the Scriptures. Ellen White, as an inspired commentator, was instructed to say:

“The Lord desires me to call the attention of His people to the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians. Read this chapter every day, and from it obtain comfort and strength. Learn from it the value that God places on sanctified, heaven-born love, and let the lesson that it teaches come home to your hearts. Learn that Christ like love is of heavenly birth, and that without it all other qualifications are worthless (Review and Herald, July 21, 1904).”S.D.A. Bible Commentary, volume 6, 1091.

The first verse of this immortal love chapter reads:

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.” 1 Corinthians 13:1.

Mrs. White was moved to comment on these inspired lines as follows:

“It is not the ready speaker, the sharp intellect, that counts with God. It is the earnest purpose, the deep piety, the love of truth, the fear of God, that has a telling influence. A testimony from the heart, coming from lips in which is no guile, full of faith and humble trust, though given by a stammering tongue, is accounted of God as precious as gold. While the smart speech, the eloquent oratory, of the one to whom

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is entrusted large talents, but who is wanting in truthfulness, in steadfast purpose, in purity, in unselfishness, are as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal. He may say witty things, he may relate amusing anecdotes, he may play upon the feelings; but the spirit of Jesus is not in it. All these things may please unsanctified hearts, but God holds in His hands the balances that weigh the words, the spirit, the sincerity, the devotion, and He pronounces it altogether lighter than vanity (Letter 38, 1890)." - S.D.A. Bible Commentary, volume 6, page 1091.

This comment on 1 Corinthians 13:1 is typical of the deeply spiritual insights given to Ellen White on Bible passages. In her published writings are to be found thousands of such comments on the Holy Scriptures. Her writings are regarded by thousands as an inspired commentary.

When Ellen Harmon was called to her work as a mere youth in her teens, she was commanded by her Savior:

"Exhort from the word. I will make My word open to you. It shall not be as a strange language. In the true eloquence of simplicity, with voice and pen, the messages that I give shall be heard from one who has never learned in the schools. My Spirit and My power shall be with you."-Selected Messages, book I, Page 32. (Italics supplied.)

There is an inexhaustible treasure of exhibits to illustrate the function of God's modern messenger as an inspired commentator on the Bible. In the following pages appear some of her most meaningful comments:

The Origin of the Human Race

"After the earth with its teeming animal and vegetable life had been called into existence, man, the crowning work of the Creator, and the one for whom the beautiful earth had been fitted up, was brought upon the stage of action. To him was given dominion over all that his eye could behold; for 'God said, Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness: and let them have dominion over ... all the earth.... So God created man in His own image; . . . male and female created He them.' Here is clearly set forth the origin of the human race; and the divine record is so plainly stated that there is no occasion for erroneous conclusions. God created man in His own image. Here is no mystery. There is no ground for the supposition that man was evolved by slow degrees of development from the lower forms of animal or vegetable life. Such teaching lowers the great work of the Creator to the level of man's narrow, earthly conceptions, Men are so intent upon excluding God from the sovereignty of the universe that they degrade man and defraud him of the dignity of his origin. He who set the starry worlds on high and tinted with delicate skill the flowers of the field, who filled the earth and the heavens with the wonders of His power, when He came to crown His glorious work, to place one in the midst to stand as ruler of the fair earth, did not fail to create a being worthy of the hand that gave him life. The genealogy of our race, as given by inspiration, traces back its origin, not to a line of developing germs, mollusks, and quadrupeds, but to the great Creator. Though formed from the dust, Adam was 'the son of God.'" - Patriarchs and Prophets, pages 44, 45.

The Flood of Noah's Time

Of the Flood of Noah's time (see Genesis 6 to 8), the worldwide disaster that buried an evil race of men, and the testimony of geology, Mrs. White wrote:

"Apart from Bible history, geology can prove nothing. Those who reason so confidently upon its discoveries have no adequate conception of the size of men, animals, and trees before the Flood, or of the great changes which then took place. Relics found in the earth do give evidence of conditions differing in many respects from the present, but the time when these conditions existed can be learned only from the Inspired Record. In the history of the Flood, inspiration has explained that which geology alone could never fathom. In the days of Noah, men, animals, and trees, many times larger than now exist, were buried, and thus preserved as an evidence to later generations that the antediluvians perished by a flood. God designed that the discovery of these things should establish faith in inspired history; but men, with their vain reasoning, fall into the same error as did the people before the Flood-the things which God gave them as a benefit, they turn into a curse by making a wrong use of them." - Ibid., Page 112.

Excerpts From "The Desire of Ages"

The popular book, *The Desire of Ages*, a biography of Jesus Christ written by Ellen White when she was in Australia (1891-1900), is regarded by many as the most deeply spiritual life of Christ ever written. The teachings of Christ as recorded in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John come alive in

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this superb book. Take the thief on the cross, who repented at the eleventh hour, as an example. To him the merciful Savior spoke the words of pardon, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shall thou be with Me in Paradise." Luke 23:43. Note the following explanation of Bible texts:

"Christ did not promise that the thief should be with Him in Paradise that day. He Himself did not go that day to Paradise. He slept in the tomb, and on the morning of the resurrection He said, 'I am not yet ascended to My Father.' John 20:17. But on the day of the crucifixion, the day of apparent defeat and darkness, the promise was given. 'Today' while dying upon the cross as a malefactor, Christ assures the poor sinner, Thou shall be with Me in Paradise." - *The Desire of Ages*, page 751.

And again this comment:

"The thieves crucified with Jesus were placed 'on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.' This was done by the direction of the priests and rulers. Christ's position between the thieves was to indicate that He was the greatest criminal of the three. Thus was fulfilled the scripture, 'He was numbered with the transgressors.' Isaiah 53:12. But the full meaning of their act the priests did not see. As Jesus, crucified with the thieves, was placed 'in the midst,' so His cross was placed in the midst of a world lying in sin. And the words of pardon spoken to the penitent thief kindled a light that will shine to the earth's remotest bounds." - *Ibid.*

Christ Is Central

In the Bible writings Christ is the central figure. Mrs. White's central theme, in all of her writings, was also Christ, who is both an indwelling Savior and Lord. "Jesus Christ is everything to us," she wrote, "the first, the last, the best in everything. Jesus Christ, His Spirit, His character, colors everything; it is the warp and woof, the very texture of our entire being. The words of Christ are spirit and life. We cannot, then, center our thoughts upon self; it is no more we that live, but Christ that lives in us, and He is the hope of glory. Self is dead, but Christ is a living Savior. Continuing to look unto Jesus, we reflect His image to all around us." - *Messages to Young People*, page 161.

She taught: "If we gaze even a moment upon the sun in its meridian glory, when we turn away our eyes the image of the sun will appear in everything upon which we look.

"Thus it is when we behold Jesus; everything we look upon reflects His image, the Sun of Righteousness. We cannot see anything else, or talk of anything else. His image is imprinted upon the eye of the soul, and affects every portion of our daily life, softening and subduing our whole nature. By beholding, we are conformed to the divine similitude, even the likeness of Christ. To all with whom we associate we reflect the bright and cheerful beams of His righteousness. We have become transformed in character; for heart, soul, mind, are irradiated by the reflection of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. Here again there is the realization of a personal, living influence dwelling in our hearts by faith." - *Ibid.*, page 160.

In the following forceful paragraphs she writes of the preexistent and incarnate Christ:

"Christ was one with the Father before the foundation of the world was laid. This is the light shining in a dark place, making it resplendent with divine, original glory.

"Christ is the preexistent, self-existent Son of God. In speaking of His preexistence, Christ carries the mind back through dateless ages. He assures us that there never was a time when He was not in close fellowship with the eternal God."

"His divine life could not be reckoned by human computation. The existence of Christ before His incarnation is not measured by figures.

"Christ was God essentially, and in the highest sense. He was with God from all eternity, God over all, blessed forevermore. The Lord Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, existed from eternity, a distinct person, yet one with the Father. He was the surpassing glory of heaven. He was the commander of the heavenly beings, and the adoring homage of the angels was received by Him as His right.

"He was equal with God, infinite and omnipotent." *The Faith I Live By*, page 46.

"The incarnation of Christ is the mystery of all mysteries.

"Christ was one with the Father, yet. He was willing to step down from the exaltation of one who was equal with God.

"That He might accomplish His purpose of love for the fallen race, He became bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh." - *Ibid.*, Page 48.

To Ellen White, the cross of Christ was the heart of the gospel. This led her to write:

"There is one great central truth to be kept ever before the mind in the searching of the Scriptures- Christ and Him crucified. Every other truth is invested with influence and power corresponding to its

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relation to this theme.... The soul palsied by sin can be endowed with life only through the work wrought out upon the cross by the Author of our salvation.

“When Christ bowed His head and died, He bore the pillars of Satan’s kingdom with Him to the earth. He vanquished Satan.” - Ibid., Page 50.

Of the resurrection of Jesus and the new life, she said:

“The resurrection of Jesus was a type of the final resurrection of all who sleep in Him.

“He who had said, ‘I lay down my life, that I might take it again,’ came forth from the grave to life that was in Himself. Humanity died: divinity did not die. In His divinity, Christ possessed the power to break the bonds of death. He declares that He has life in Himself to quicken whom He will.”

“Christ is life itself. He who passed through death to destroy him that had the power of death is the Source of all vitality. There is balm in Gilead, and a Physician there. Christ endured an agonizing death under the most humiliating circumstances that we might have life. He gave up His precious life that He might vanquish death. But He rose from the tomb, and the myriads of angels who came to behold Him take up the life He had laid down heard His words of triumphant joy as He stood above Joseph’s rent sepulcher proclaiming: ‘I am the resurrection, and the life.’” - Ibid., Page 51.

Hope for the Future

Where can literature be found today that does as much to make Christ and His word live and prosper in the thinking of a people as the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy? Here is the hope held out to all who look with faith to the return of the Lord Jesus and a bright future:

“One of the most solemn and yet most glorious truths revealed in the Bible is that of Christ’s second coming to complete the great work of redemption. To God’s pilgrim people, so long left to sojourn in ‘the region and shadow of death,’ a precious, joy inspiring hope is given in the promise of His appearing, who is ‘the resurrection and the life,’ to ‘bring home again His banished.’ The doctrine of the second advent is the very keynote of the Sacred Scriptures.” - The Great Controversy, page 299.

And of life on the new earth that the Creator will bring forth (Revelation 21; 22), she wrote:

“In the Bible the inheritance of the saved is called ‘a country.’ Hebrews 11:14-16. There the heavenly Shepherd leads His flock to fountains of living waters. The tree of life yields its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for the service of the nations. There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the wide spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God’s people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home.” Ibid., page 675.

Here is the last ringing paragraph of hope in her outstanding work, The Great Controversy:

“The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.” - Page 678.

6. ABOUT THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

1. BY WHAT means has God generally made known His will to man?

“I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.” Hosea 12:10. (See also Hebrews 1:1, 2)

2. What things belong to God, and what belong to us?

“The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever.” Deuteronomy 29:29.

3. How fully and to whom does God reveal His purposes?

“Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He reveals His secret unto His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7.

4. How does the Lord reveal Himself to His prophets?

“If there be a prophet among you, the Lord will make Myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.” Numbers 12:6.

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5. Under what influence did the prophets of old speak?

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” 2 Peter 1:21.

6. What Spirit was in God’s prophets inspiring their messages?

“Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.” 1 Peter 1:10, 11.

7. How were the Lord’s words to the prophets preserved?

“Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.” Daniel 7:1. See also Jeremiah 51:60; Revelation 1:11.

Foretelling the Future

8. Can uninspired men of the world foretell the future?

“Daniel answered before the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded can neither wise men, enchanters, magicians, nor soothsayers, show unto the king.” Daniel 2:27, RV.

9. Who did Daniel say could reveal secrets?

“But there is a God in heaven that reveals secrets, and makes known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.” Daniel 2:28.

10. By what means did God deliver and preserve ancient Israel?

“By a prophet the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved.” Hosea 12:13.

11. Did God at any time bestow the gift of prophecy upon women?

“So ... the priest ... went unto Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum.... and ... communed with her. And she said unto them, Thus said the Lord God of Israel, Tell the man that sent you to me.” 2 Kings 22:14, 15.

NOTE: Commenting on 2 Kings 22:14, Joseph Priestly remarks concerning Huldah:

“It pleased God to distinguish several women with the spirit of prophecy, as well as other great attainments, to show that, in his sight, and especially in things of a spiritual nature, there is no essential preeminence in the male sex.” - Notes on All the Books of Scripture, Volume 2, Page 40.

12. What test should be applied in determining the validity of a person’s claim to be a prophet?

“If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives thee a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spoke unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou has not known, and let us serve them. Thou shall not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proves you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear Him, and keep His commandments, and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him, and cleave unto Him.” Deuteronomy 13:1-4.

NOTE: If a prophet’s message does not prove to be true, it is evidence that God has not sent that prophet. On the other hand, even though the thing predicted comes to pass, if the pretended prophet seeks to lead others to break God’s commandments, this, regardless of all signs, is positive evidence that he is not a true prophet.

13. What rule did Christ give for distinguishing between true and false prophets?

“By their fruits you shall know them.” Matthew 7:20.

14. What general rule is laid down for testing all prophets?

“To the law and to the testimony: If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20.

15. To what fact about Jesus Christ does “the Spirit of God” bear witness?

“Hereby know you the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God.” 1 John 4:2. See also verses 1, 3.

NOTE: A true prophet’s teaching will attest to the basic fact of Christ’s incarnation and vicarious death, his resurrection, and his second advent.

16. What attitude toward the gift of prophecy is recommended?

“Despise not prophesying. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” 1 Thessalonians 5:20, 21.

17. What were some of the gifts Christ gave to His church?

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“When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.” Ephesians 4:8-11.

18. Are prophets called to minister to the church primarily or to non-Christians?

“He that prophesies edifies the church.” 1 Corinthians 14:4.

19. What gift will characterize the last, or remnant, church?

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:17. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Revelation 19:10. See also Revelation 22:9.

NOTE: The term “spirit of prophecy” occurs only once in the Holy Scriptures. But it is found in ancient Jewish writings. The meaning is “gift of prophecy.” Two examples are cited here.

“The Targum of Jonathan on 2 Samuel 23:2 reads:

“David said, By the Spirit of Prophecy of Jehovah I speak these things.” - Quoted in Appendix Note IV to 2 Samuel in *The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges* (Cambridge: University Press, 1899), page 237.

“The Pulpit Commentary remarks:

“David, in his last days, like Jacob and Moses, received the spirit of prophecy.” On 2 Samuel 23:1-7.”

According to Bible teaching, the gift of prophecy or “the spirit of prophecy” was to reappear in modern times. See Joel 2:28-30.

20. What is the promised result of believing God’s prophet?

“Believe in the Lord your God, so shall you be established; believe His prophets, so shall you prosper.” 2 Chronicles 20:20.

7. ELLEN G. WHITE ANSWERS QUESTIONS ABOUT HER WORK

QUESTION: Please tell us first, Mrs. White, about your home, your parents, and your early experience.

ELLEN G. WHITE: “I was born at Gorham, Maine, November 26, 1827. MY parents, Robert and Eunice Harmon, were for many years residents of this State. While I was but a child, my parents removed from Gorham to Portland, Maine.”- *Life Sketches*, page 17.

“At the age of eleven years I was converted, and when twelve years old was baptized, and joined the Methodist Church. At the age of thirteen I heard William Miller* deliver his second course of lectures in [*William Miller-a farmer who had experienced a sound conversion and had been licensed to preach by the Baptist Church. He was a leading advocate of the doctrine of the imminent second advent of Christ.*] Portland, Maine. I then felt that I was not holy, not ready to see Jesus. And when the invitation was given for church members and sinners to come forward for prayers, I embraced the first opportunity, for I knew that I must have a great work done for me to fit me for heaven.”

“Most of my father’s family were full believers in the advent, [*The Harmons were Methodists when they accepted Miller’s view of the “advent” or the second coming of Christ. Belief in the Millerite teaching was sufficient cause for their being dropped from the church books.*] and for bearing testimony to this glorious doctrine seven of us were at one time cast out of the Methodist Church.”

“From this time, up to December, 1844, MY joys, trials, and disappointments were like those of my dear advent friends around me.”-*Early Writings*, pages 11-13.

QUESTION: What special experience did you have in December, 1844?

ELLEN G. WHITE: “At this time I visited one of our advent sisters, and in the morning we bowed around the family altar. It was not an exciting occasion, and there were but five of us present, all women. While I was praying, the power of God came upon me as I had never felt it before. I was wrapped in a vision of God’s glory.” -*Ibid.*, page 13. “At this time I had a view of the experience of the advent believers, the coming of Christ, and the reward to be given to the faithful.” - *Testimonies*, volume 5, page 655.

QUESTION: How were you led into public work?

ELLEN G. WHITE: “In a second vision, which soon followed the first, I was shown the trials

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through which I must pass, and that it was my duty to go and relate to others what God had revealed to me. I prayed earnestly for several days, and far into the night, that this burden might be removed from me and laid upon someone more capable of bearing it. But the light of duty did not change, and the words of the angel sounded continually in my ears: 'Make known to others what I have revealed to you.'" - Ibid., volume 1, page 62.

QUESTION: Will you tell us how you began writing?

ELLEN G. WHITE: "Early in my public labors I was bidden by the Lord, 'Write, write the things that are revealed to you.' At the time this message came to me, I could not hold my hand steady. My physical condition made it impossible for me to write. But again came the word, 'Write the things that are revealed to you.' I obeyed; and as the result it was not long before I could write page after page with comparative ease. Who told me what to write? Who steadied my right hand, and made it possible for me to use a pen? It was the Lord." - Review and Herald, June 14, 1906.

QUESTION: Please tell us more about the visions.

ELLEN G. WHITE: "As inquiries are frequently made as to my state in vision, and after I come out, I would say that when the Lord sees fit to give a vision, I am taken into the presence of Jesus and angels, and am entirely lost to earthly things. I can see no farther than the angel directs me. My attention is often directed to scenes transpiring upon earth.

"At times I am carried far ahead into the future and shown what is to take place. Then again I am shown things as they have occurred in the past. After I come out of vision I do not at once remember all that I have seen, and the matter is not so clear before me until I write, then the scene rises before me as was presented in vision, and I can write with freedom. Sometimes the things which I have seen are hid from me after I come out of vision, and I cannot call them to mind until I am brought before a company where that vision applies, then the things which I have seen come to my mind with force." - Spiritual Gifts, Volume 2, pages 292, 293.

QUESTION: How do you find time to do so much writing?

ELLEN G. WHITE: "I am very busy with my writing. Early and late, I am writing out the matters that the Lord opens before me. The burden of my work is to prepare a people to stand in the day of the Lord." - Selected Messages, book 1, Page 56.

"Many messages of counsel and reproof and encouragement have been sent out to individuals, and much of the instruction that I have received for the church has been published in periodicals and books, and circulated in many lands." - Ibid., page 55.

QUESTION: Tell us a little more about the writing. Did the Lord direct you in the exact wording of your messages?

ELLEN G. WHITE: "Although I am as dependent upon the Spirit of the Lord in writing my views as I am in receiving them, yet the words I employ in describing what I have seen are my own, unless they be those spoken to me by an angel, which I always enclose in marks of quotation." - Review and Herald, October 8, 1867.

QUESTION: Surely you must have had literary assistance in preparing so many articles and books for publication. Won't you explain this to us?

ELLEN G. WHITE: "While my husband lived, he acted as a helper and counselor in the sending out of the messages that were given to me. We traveled extensively. Sometimes light would be given to me in the night season, sometimes in the daytime before large congregations. The instruction I received in vision was faithfully written out by me, as I had time and strength for the work. Afterward we examined the matter together, my husband correcting grammatical errors and eliminating needless repetition. Then it was carefully copied for the persons addressed, or for the printer." - Selected Messages, book 1, Page 50.

QUESTION: How about this part of your work in later years?

ELLEN G. WHITE: "As the work grew, others assisted me in the preparation of matter for publication. After my husband's death, faithful helpers joined me, who labored untiringly in the work of copying the testimonies and preparing articles for publication. But the reports that are circulated, that any of my helpers are permitted to add matter or change the meaning of the messages I write out, are not true."-

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Ibid., Page 50.

QUESTION: Now, Mrs. White, we would like to ask a few questions about the writings themselves. We observe that in the Testimonies you have published many messages of a personal nature. Why is this?

ELLEN G. WHITE: "Since the warning and instruction given in testimony for individual cases applied with equal force to many others who had not been specially pointed out in this manner, it seemed to be my duty to publish the personal testimonies for the benefit of the church. Perhaps there is no more direct and forcible way of presenting what the Lord has shown me." - Testimonies, volume 5, pages 658, 659.

QUESTION: How are your messages related to those of the prophets of old?

ELLEN G. WHITE: "In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the testimonies of His Spirit. There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will and the course that He would have them pursue." - Ibid., page 661.

QUESTION: What relationship, then, do your writings have to the word of God?

ELLEN G. WHITE: "The word of God is sufficient to enlighten the most beclouded mind and may be understood by those who have any desire to understand it. But notwithstanding all this, some who profess to make the word of God their study are found living in direct opposition to its plainest teachings. Then, to leave men and women without excuse, God gives plain and pointed testimonies, bringing them back to the word that they have neglected to follow. The word of God abounds in general principles for the formation of correct habits of living, and the testimonies, general and personal, have been calculated to call their attention more especially to these principles." - Ibid., pp. 663, 664.

QUESTION: Can you make the point of relationship a little clearer?

ELLEN G. WHITE: "Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light." - Colporteur Ministry, page 125.

QUESTION: What do you consider the most convincing test by which to judge your writings?

ELLEN G. WHITE: "Let the Testimonies be judged by their fruits. What is the spirit of their teaching? What has been the result of their influence? All who desire to do so can acquaint themselves with the fruits of these visions."

"God is either teaching His church, reproving their wrongs and strengthening their faith, or He is not. This work is of God, or it is not. God does nothing in partnership with Satan. My work bears the stamp of God or the stamp of the enemy. There is no halfway work in the matter. The Testimonies are of the Spirit of God, or of the devil." - Testimonies, volume 5, page 671.

QUESTION: In the event of your death, Mrs. White, what place would your writings have?

ELLEN G. WHITE: "Whether or not my life is spared, my writings will constantly speak, and their work will go forward as long as time shall last." Selected Messages, book 1, Page 55.

QUESTION: Then, Mrs. White, we take it that the counsel we find in your books will be of vital importance to us in the coming world crisis.

ELLEN G. WHITE: "Perilous times are before us. Everyone who has a knowledge of the truth should awake and place himself, body, soul, and spirit, under the discipline of God. The enemy is on our track. We must be wide awake, on our guard against him. We must put on the whole armor of God. We must follow the directions given through the spirit of prophecy. We must love and obey the truth for this time. This will save us from accepting strong delusions. God has spoken to us through His word. He has spoken to us through the testimonies to the church and through the books that have helped to make plain our present duty and the position that we should now occupy. The warnings that have been given, line upon line, precept upon precept, should be heeded. If we disregard them, what excuse can we offer?" Testimonies, volume 8, Page 298.

8. THE MIRACLE OF A NEWBORN COLLEGE

AN INCIDENT in the life of Ellen White illustrates how she was used providentially to help build up the interests of God's kingdom on earth. This is the story of a prophetic dream, a prayer of faith, and a cash gift that helped to establish a Seventh-day Adventist college in Australia. At the heart of this story is the miracle working power of God revealed through His messenger, Ellen G. White. This is but one of a hundred thrilling accounts which could be presented if space permitted.

Let us imagine that we are in Australia, in the great southern city of Melbourne, in the 1890's. We are invisible visitors at a committee meeting. Sister White, as she is affectionately called by her fellow church members, has recently come from America to give guidance in the expansion of the movement, and is talking to the ministers who are in attendance at the annual session of the Australian Conference.

We must have a college in Australia, said Sister White—a college with industries, agriculture, and a broad educational program. The school, she said, should be located in the country on a farm; Bible truth and principles were to be basic to all instruction. Nature must unite its voice with that of the Scriptures to give students a spiritual as well as a practical training.

Church leaders did not think they could launch a college program. They said, "We have only about five hundred believers here, and how can we support a college with five hundred members?" But Sister White encouraged them to go ahead, so they appointed a group to seek a site for this unique model school.

After some months the locating committee informed Mrs. White, who was then in Sydney, that they had found a tract of land at Cooranbong, seventy-six miles north of Sydney, in New South Wales. The cost of the land: approximately five thousand dollars. The size: nearly fifteen hundred acres. The men thought it had possibilities. Would Sister White come and take a look?

Of course she would go. With several church workers, she boarded the train that autumn day to travel seventy nine rail miles to the little station at Dora Creek. As she traveled along, she told friends who accompanied her about her dream of several nights before. In this vision of the night she was taken to a piece of land that was being considered for a college. The land was covered with heavy woods. It seemed to her that she and her party were walking through the woods. As they did so, they came to a little clearing. There in the clearing they came upon a neatly cut furrow that had been plowed one quarter of a yard deep and two yards in length.

As they seemed to be looking at the furrow, two of the brethren came upon the scene and said, "This is not good land. The soil is not favorable." But Sister White saw in her dream an angel who stood near the furrow and said, "False witness has been borne of this land." The angel then described the properties of the different layers of the earth and explained the science of the soil. He said that the land was beautifully adapted to the growth of fruits and vegetables, and that God would spread a table in the wilderness. Properly cultivated, the earth would yield its produce abundantly for the benefit of man.

When they arrived at the property, Sister White rested for a time near a little fire while the workers scattered out to look at the land. Later in the afternoon she began to inspect the property. With a minister friend and his wife she walked through the forest of large eucalyptus trees. Soon they came to a clearing. Near the center, miracle of miracles, they saw the neatly cut furrow that had been plowed—about six feet long, and nine inches deep. There were no wagon tracks, no marks of horses' hoofs, just the short, freshly plowed furrow. As they were inspecting the scene, the two men of Sister White's dream appeared—literally!

They were acquainted with the rich black soil of Iowa. One stood at each end of the furrow. They examined the soil, and said, "This is not good land. The soil is not favorable." They said that it was sandy and sour, amounting to practically nothing.

Those who had heard Sister White relate her dream must have looked at her questioningly, as if to say, "Well, Sister White, aren't you going to tell them what the angel said?"

And Sister White did. She repeated the words of God's messenger. "False testimony has been borne concerning this soil. God can furnish a table in the wilderness." - Letter 350, 1907.

The members of the party were deeply impressed. They said, "Certainly the Lord has led us to this place." And that night they voted to purchase the 1,500-acre estate as the location for the new college in Australia.

The next morning as the visitors gathered for prayer, some were fainthearted. They were not sure the right decision had been made. Sister White felt impressed to plead with God for the healing of Brother McCullagh, an active member of the locating committee who was dying of tuberculosis. Immediately Elder McCullagh was healed. When he spoke about it later he said that it seemed that a shock of electricity went through his body. He ceased coughing, regained his normal weight and strength, and lived for more than

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fifty years thereafter. As the workers witnessed this miracle they felt sure God had led them in their decision to buy the land—a decision that was confirmed the next session of the Australian Union Conference, November 20, 1894.

At about that time Mrs. A. E. Wessels of South Africa, with her daughter Anna and her daughter's husband Harmon Lindsay, visited the new school site at Cooranbong. They were impressed by what they saw. Naturally when they heard about the miracles that had taken place, they felt that God's hand was leading. Anna Lindsay, moved by the Spirit of God, said, "I will make a gift of five thousand dollars to the enterprise." And she did. This paid for the land, and this was the third miracle in the founding of the Australasian Missionary College. Perhaps the greatest miracle of all was the unusual success achieved in agricultural lines. The soil proved to be fertile and productive beyond the highest hopes of the school's pioneers.

Thus a college was founded in Australia. How? By a vision of the night, by prayer, by a gift of love, and by much hard work on the part of those who believed God was leading. It was a triumph of faith and providence. After much anxiety and many days of earnest toil and faith, this school was formally opened. Today after more than half a century of service this Christian school is still operating. Hundreds of graduates now serve the cause of Jesus Christ as ministers, teachers, and missionaries. Many have taken specialized training and become physicians and medical missionaries.

Here we see striking evidence of how the Lord used Ellen G. White as His messenger to guide the Adventist people into constructive projects that added strength and character to the growing world church.

9. THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY AND MEDICAL SCIENCE

"GOD IS the author of science," wrote Ellen G. White. "Scientific research opens to the mind vast fields of thought and information, enabling us to see God in His created works. Ignorance may try to support skepticism by appealing to science; but instead of upholding skepticism, true science contributes fresh evidences of the wisdom and power of God. Rightly understood, science and the written word agree, and each sheds light on the other. Together they lead us to God by teaching us something of the wise and beneficent laws through which He works." - Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, page 426.

The God of true religion is the God of true science. He is one and the same God. The writings of Ellen G. White magnify and unify the two books of God—His word, the Holy Bible, and His works, the book of nature. Mrs. White urged upon all "a settled faith in the divinity of God's Holy Word." Such a faith will hold the student steady and assure right conclusions in every investigation of scientific data. Mrs. White further stated:

"The Bible is not to be tested by men's ideas of science, but science is to be brought to the test of this unerring standard. When the Bible makes statements of facts in nature, science may be compared with the written word, and a correct understanding of both will always prove them to be in harmony. One does not contradict the other." - Ellen G. White, Signs of the Times, March 13, 1884.

Neither the Holy Scriptures nor the writings of Mrs. White are essentially science textbooks. However, while presenting basic spiritual truths, the inspired messages of God in different ages have disclosed scientific facts not perceived at the time they were written.

Note Isaiah's statement concerning the shape of our planet earth:

"It is He that sits upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretches out the heavens as a curtain, and spreads them out as a tent to dwell in." Isaiah 40:22.

Moffatt clarifies this rendering, "He sits over the round earth." The French translation reads "globe."

Twenty centuries or more before Columbus's time, the Bible declared the truth on the subject of a round world. Yet Columbus's idea that the earth is a sphere or a globe was held in contempt by most of his contemporaries.

Long years ago Mrs. White wrote of the role of electricity in the germination of seed buried in the soil. Years before horticulturists generally recognized the importance of this power in the processes of plant germination, Mrs. White wrote of the lessons of life that may be learned from the earth:

"There is life in the seed, there is power in the soil; but unless an infinite power is exercised day and night, the seed will yield no returns. The showers of rain must be sent to give moisture to the thirsty fields, the sun must impart heat, electricity must be conveyed to the buried seed. The life which the Creator

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has implanted, He alone can call forth. Every seed grows, every plant develops, by the power of God.”- Christ’s Object Lessons (1900), page 63.

In the light of this long standing Spirit of Prophecy statement, it is interesting to observe a press release of November 22, 1959, concerning electrical forces in the animal and vegetable kingdoms. This release was a report on a symposium held at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia. It was quoted from Dr. H. S. Burr, of Yale University faculty:

“Periodic, predictable electrical rhythms exist not only in humans but in trees and other forms of life.... Dr. Burr ... said the vigor and growth rate of plants already have been successfully predicted by measurement of the electricity in cotton seeds.” - Washington Post, November 22, 1959, page A-1.

With equal conviction and accuracy Mrs. White discussed human nutrition, pointing out errors in diet and calling attention to proper habits of eating and drinking. Paul Harvey, well-known columnist, in his popular News Views, wrote concerning Mrs. White’s health insights in this field:

“Once upon a time, a hundred years ago, there lived a young lady named Ellen White. She was frail as a child, completed only grammar school, [Actually only the third grade.] had no technical training, and yet she lived to write scores of articles and many books on the subject of healthful living.”

“Perhaps we should reread what she taught:

“The oil, as eaten in the olive, is far preferable to animal oil or fat.” Today we know about cholesterol.

“She knew: ‘Fine-flour white bread is lacking in nutritive elements to be found in bread made from whole wheat.’ Today we have re-enriched our bread.

“She wrote: ‘Do not eat largely of salt.’ Now we know we should keep the sodium intake low.

“We have come to accept the wisdom of such advice so completely that it is difficult for us to realize how revolutionary her theories were almost a century ago.

“A long time before we learned about TV snacks, Mrs. White wrote: ‘After irregular eating, when children come to the table, they do not relish wholesome food; their appetites crave that which is hurtful to them.’

“She urged: ‘Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise.’ She wrote: ‘Tobacco is a slow, insidious, but most malignant poison. It is all the more dangerous because its effects are slow and at first hardly perceptible.’

“Ellen White was, indeed, ahead of her time....

“Are there additional recommendations which this remarkable woman urged upon us which we have, so far, ignored?” - Reading (Pennsylvania) Times, August 11, 1960.

Clive McCay, Ph.D., professor of nutrition, Cornell University, and well-known authority, was amazed when he read Mrs. White’s books *Counsels on Diet and Foods* and *The Ministry of Healing*. In a lecture dealing with modern nutrition, presented in Ithaca, New York, April 9, 1958, Dr. McCay testified to the value of Mrs. White’s counsels on diet and foods:

“Among writers of the past century those who are concerned with the betterment of human health must pay tribute to the writings of Ellen G. White because she understood the importance of the selection of proper foods and the relation of the rest of the regime of living to proper nutrition and sound health. These notes have been prepared by a biochemist who specializes in nutrition in the hopes that others outside of the Adventists may gain a broader appreciation of the genius of this pioneer nutritionist, Ellen G. White. Whatever may be the religious belief of a reader, he or she cannot help but gain much guidance in a better and healthier way of life from reading the major works of Ellen G. White.”-From the lecture notes of Dr. McCay, April 9, 1958.

Dr. McCay averred that “every modern specialist in nutrition whose life is dedicated to human welfare must be impressed . . . by the writings and leadership of Ellen G. White.” - Review and Herald, February 26, 1959.

Mrs. White was indeed a “pioneer nutritionist;” however, her knowledge of foods did not come from courses in nutrition at institutions of higher learning, but from God. Ellen White wrote extensively on nutrition from the positive viewpoint, showing the relationship between good habits of eating and drinking, and good health. She also cautioned against extremes in diet and pointed out certain dangers threatening the health reformer. Ellen G. White wrote in the year 1867:

“There are but few as yet who are aroused sufficiently to understand how much their habits of diet have to do with their health, their characters, their usefulness in this world, and their eternal destiny.”- Testimonies, volume 1, Pages 488, 489.

Scientific research now supports Mrs. White’s writings in nearly every field of nutrition about

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which she wrote. Typical examples are her counsels on refined foods and fats.

Refined Foods

We live in a day when nutritionists are urging the public to consider the question of refined foods-products from which valuable nutrients have been separated in the manufacturing process. Though seemingly well fed, many people are really undernourished. This was not always so. Concerning this, Dr. McCay wrote:

“In earlier ages man did not destroy the complex nutrients of natural foodstuffs, because his supply was often marginal and he had to eat the whole product in the form in which it grew.”

“Man first learned to destroy most of the value of natural foods when he discovered the distillation of alcohol.... and when he learned to crystallize sugar.”

“About 150 years ago the sciences of chemistry, physics, and physiology started to advance rapidly. These sciences finally made it possible to produce and distribute the vast array of foods that flood the American markets today. At the same time they made it easy to produce and sell huge amounts of highly processed materials such as sugar and alcohol that appeal to the taste of man but may lead him downward in well-being.”-Review and Herald, February 12, 1959, Pages 16, 17.

We note briefly two classes of refined foods-cereals and sugar. In 1854, nine years before the comprehensive health-reform vision of 1:863 was given to Mrs. White, she touched upon both these areas:

“I then saw that appetite must be denied, that rich food should not be prepared. Eat less fine food; eat coarse food, free from grease.” - E. G White Manuscript 3, 1854.

The counsel concerning refined foods was repeated in her early books in such statements as this one penned in 1868:

“Fine-flour bread cannot impart to the system the nourishment that you will find in the unbolted [Unbolted, that is, coarse flour with the bran.] wheat bread. The common use of bolted wheat bread cannot keep the system in a healthy condition.” - Testimonies, Volume 2, page 68.

In 1905 she gave this caution:

“Fine-flour bread is lacking in nutritive elements to be found in bread made from the whole wheat.” The Ministry of Healing, page 300.

Abundant scientific evidence is available today to show that Mrs. White’s concern over the use of refined foods was justified, as science now affirms. We present a brief statement from Dr. McCay:

“Near the end of Mrs. White’s life in 1915 men began to appreciate that the milling of white flour removed most of the vitamins, part of the protein, and the important trace minerals such as iron. However, even nutritional authorities were very slow to inveigh against white bread. Today nutritionists know that these vital constituents are lost when the bran and germ are taken from the wheat.”-Review and Herald, February 19, 1959, Page 7.

But there is another point only recently understood by nutritionists. This caught the eye of Dr. McCay. Concerning this, he wrote:

“Mrs. White recognized the value of mixing a variety of grains. She wrote: ‘All wheat flour is not best for a continuous diet. A mixture of wheat, oatmeal, and rye would be more nutritious than the wheat with the nutritive properties separated from it.’ - Counsels on Diet and Foods, page 321. She recognized the truth from Ezekiel, ‘Take thou also unto thee wheat, and barley, and beans, and lentils, and millet, and fitches, and put them in one vessel, and make thee bread thereof.’ Ezekiel 4:9. These additions supplement the proteins of wheat bread, as well as increase such essentials as calcium.” - Review and Herald, February 26, 1959, Page 9.

Now let us look briefly at sugar, noting Mrs. White’s early counsels on this very common article of diet.

“Sugar clogs the system. It hinders the working of the living machine.”

“I frequently sit down to the tables of the brethren and sisters, and see that they use a great amount of milk and sugar. These clog the system, irritate the digestive organs, and affect the brain. Anything that hinders the active motion of the living machinery affects the brain very directly. And from the light given me, sugar, when largely used, is more injurious than meat.” - Testimonies, volume 2 (1868), Pages 369, 370.

“Far too much sugar is ordinarily used in food.” - The Ministry of Healing, page 301.

Americans now consume an average of more than 100 pounds of refined sugar a year-per person!

Ellen G. White

We find statement upon statement supporting declarations made by Ellen White decades ago, in warnings sounded by today's nutritionists.

"White sugar contributes only calories to the diet. It is clear that the present large consumption of sugar is disadvantageous in that it means a smaller consumption of nutritionally superior foods."-The Handbook of Nutrition, The American Medical Association, 1951, page 635.

"While sugar is a rapid source of energy, its effect on the stomach is somewhat different from that of other foods. In concentrated form it inhibits the appearance of the gastric secretion, a property which is not possessed by diluted concentrations of sugar. It is probable that many staphylococcal infections are intensified by too much sugar." - Rehfuess, Indigestion, Its Diagnosis and Management, page 458. W. B. Saunders, 1943.

It is now known that the free use of sugar leads to tooth decay. Here is enlightening information on this subject:

"It would appear that one of the prices we must pay for good teeth is to eliminate the usual between-meal snack which is usually very high in sugar and has practically no vitamins and minerals in it. We must remember that the body cannot burn sugar or carbohydrates without vitamins and minerals."

"Much evidence has been accumulated through the past fifty years to show the effect of sugar upon the amount of caries. The observation of the marked decrease in decay in the teeth of children in northern Europe during and after the war during which time the import of sugar was markedly reduced is ample evidence. The reduction of decay followed very closely the amount of sugar reduction to the country in question." - "Diet and Dental Health," a paper (January, 1960) by Ralph R. Steinman, D.D.S., M.A., College of Medical Evangelists.

Surely the words of the Spirit of Prophecy statement, "Far too much sugar is ordinarily used in food," needs no defense today.

Fats

Fats are frequently mentioned in Mrs. White's writings on proper nutrition. Here are two such statements:

"The grease cooked in the food renders it difficult of digestion." - Counsels on Diet and Foods, page 354.

"The oil, as eaten in the olive, is far preferable to animal oil or fat." - The Ministry of Healing (1905), page 298.

Scientific confirmation: "Fatty foods are believed to be indigestible. It is true that an excessive amount of fat in the diet of susceptible persons will cause intestinal disturbances. Much, however, depends on the nature of the fat. Warning, however, should be given to improperly fried foods, since they are often so thoroughly impregnated with fat as to prevent ready access of the digestive juices." - McLester-Darby, Nutrition and Diet in Health and Disease, 6th edition, pages 199, 200.

To this must be added the warnings of nutritionists to the effect that animal fats tend to increase the level of cholesterol in the blood. Excessive amounts of this substance in the blood may cause damage to the arteries and be a factor in the large death toll from arterial and heart diseases. Observe also the instruction to use free flowing vegetable oils, which tend to lower blood cholesterol, rather than hard fats. The following statement from a recent authoritative work is reassuring:

"Significant atherosclerosis is rare in peoples whose diet over the life span is predominantly vegetarian and low in calories, total lipids [fats], saturated lipids [solid fats], and cholesterol." - Louis N. Katz, Jeremiah Stamler, and Ruth Pick, Nutrition and Atherosclerosis, page 20.

What do these evidences mean? Dr. McCay wrote reflectively:

"One can only speculate about the large number of sufferers during the past century who could have had improved health if they had accepted the teachings of Mrs. White.

"In spite of the fact that the works of Mrs. White were written long before the advent of modern scientific nutrition, no better overall guide is available today." - Review and Herald, February 26, 1959.

10. CURRENT EVENTS AND THE E. G. WHITE WRITINGS

A PROPHET foretells the future; this is one of the marks of true prophetic inspiration. "When the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the Lord hath truly sent him."

Ellen G. White

Jeremiah 28:9.

The predictive phase of the ministry of Ellen G. White was dramatically revealed in many prophecies made during her long life-particularly those relative to the signs of the times and the near advent of Christ.

At about the turn of the century warnings came from Ellen White's pen that with the growth of crime, capital-labor tensions, and the corruption of morals there would soon be great distress and many disasters centering in the cities.

Grave dangers exist today in metropolitan centers threatening both spiritual and physical life. Wrote Ellen White:

"Every conceivable crime is committed. The lust of the flesh, the pride of the eyes, the display of selfishness, the misuse of power, the cruelty, and the force used to cause men to unite with confederacies and unions-binding themselves up in bundles for the burning of the great fires of the last days-all these are the working of Satanic agencies. This round of crime and folly men call 'life.' "-Evangelism, page 26.

Actually, it is the march of death. So wrote the messenger of the Lord:

"Satan is working with all his art and enchantments to keep men marching blindly onward until the Lord arises out of His place to punish the inhabitants of earth for their iniquities, when the earth shall disclose her blood and no more cover her slain. The whole world appears to be in the march to death." - Ibid.

Mrs. White described suicide trends:

"Many continue in the careless gratification of self until they become so disgusted with life that they kill themselves. Dancing and carousing, drinking and smoking, indulging their animal passions, they go as an ox to the slaughter." "Satan is busily at work in our crowded cities. Satan leads them into a round of gaiety and pleasure-seeking, of eating and drinking. He fills them with ambition to make an exhibition that will exalt self. Step by step, the world is reaching the conditions that existed in the days of Noah." - Ibid.

Through the columns of the Review, official Seventh day Adventist Church paper, she warned:

"Calamities, earthquakes, floods, disasters by land and by sea will increase. God is looking upon the world today as He looked upon it in Noah's time. He is sending His message to people today as He did in the days of Noah." - Review and Herald, December 11, 1900, Page 796.

Three years later she proclaimed:

"O that God's people had a sense of the impending destruction of thousands of cities, now almost given to idolatry." - Review and Herald, September 10, 1903. Published in Evangelism, page 29.

Repeatedly she warned by voice and pen:

"I am bidden to declare the message that cities full of transgression, and sinful in the extreme, will be destroyed by earthquakes, by fire, by flood. All the world will be warned that there is a God who will display His authority as God." - Evangelism, page 27.

In oral and written word she warned two cities located less than one hundred miles from her home at Saint Helena, California, with the prediction:

"Not long hence these cities will suffer under the judgments of God. San Francisco and Oakland are becoming as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the Lord will visit them in wrath."- Ibid., Pages 403, 404 (1902).

Not a few heeded the warning and moved with their families from San Francisco and Oakland to more retired locations. Among them were many non-Adventists. Those who remained were soon reminded of the prediction of disaster. On April 18, 1906, San Francisco was largely destroyed by an earthquake followed by fire, and Oakland and other cities also suffered.

Prediction of 1890-The Tempest Is Coming

In a message published in the Signs of the Times, April 21, 1890, Ellen White solemnly predicted:

"The tempest is coming, and we must get ready for its fury by having repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord will arise to shake terribly the earth. We shall see troubles on all sides. Thousands of ships will be hurled into the depths of the sea. Navies will go down, and human lives will be sacrificed by millions. Fires will break out unexpectedly, and no human effort will be able to quench them. The palaces of earth will be swept away in the fury of the flames. Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent; confusion, collision, and death without a moment's warning will occur on the great lines of travel. The end is near, probation is closing. Oh, let us seek God while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near!" - Messages to Young People, pages 89, 90.

Ellen G. White

These words do not sound strange to us now, but they were bold words for 1890. That was a time of peace, when men anticipated lasting tranquillity. They were looking for a 'millennium' when there would be no more war. Mrs. White's prediction, with its call for preparation for the fury of the coming tempest, presented a marked contrast to the optimistic spirit of the times. In a world of bright hopes, she seemed a prophet of gloom.

Again in 1904, through the columns of the church paper, Ellen White warned:

"Soon great trouble will arise among the nations trouble that will not cease until Jesus comes."-
Review and Herald, February 11, 1904.

Just a few years later the fury of World War I broke, and this was followed by World War II. The sinking of the proud navies of the great world powers fulfilled the prediction, "Navies will go down." "Thousands of ships" were actually "hurled into the depths of the sea." On battlefields and in the bombed cities, "human lives" were "sacrificed by millions." Palaces were "swept away in the fury of the flames." Incendiary bombs, not thought of in 1890, created fires that "no human effort" could quench. How literal has been the fulfillment of this prediction of the coming tempest! But we should take a second look at this amazing prediction of 1890. Note these words:

"Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent; confusion, collision, and death without a moment's warning will occur on the great lines of travel." Messages to Young People, page 90.

Two years after these words were published the first American auto was produced. A decade later the first plane made its trial flight. The words of the prediction come to the mind with force with each recurring headline of sudden death by rail, car, or plane. "Collision" "on the great lines of travel" in a recent year injured more persons in the United States than were wounded on all the battlefields in the nation's history. The National Safety Council reports a death toll on the highways of 379,182 people in the decade between 1952-1961. (See pamphlet: Accident Facts, 1962, published by the National Safety Council.)

Who but God could have foreseen this in the 1890's when Ellen White was inspired to write the solemn predictions?

Avenues of Travel to Be Hedged Up

In the Testimonies for the Church published in 1900 this interesting prediction is found:

"We have no time to lose. The end is near. The passage from place to place to spread the truth will soon be hedged with dangers on the right hand and on the left. Everything will be placed to obstruct the way of the Lord's messengers, so that they will not be able to do that which it is possible for them to do now." Testimonies, volume 6, Page 22.

At the time these words were penned and for another decade and a half travelers were free to journey without passport or restriction in practically every part of the earth. How easy it was to send missionaries to distant lands! How simple it was for church leaders to inspect mission stations and give encouragement and help almost anywhere! Not until 1918 did the United States enact a law requiring all American citizens who travel abroad to carry passports.

The words of this prediction have been fulfilled before our eyes. Large areas of the world are cut off from visitors and even the exchange of mail. Mission appointments are frequently canceled when missionaries are denied residence in certain countries formerly entered with ease. Surely the way is being "hedged" up "on the right hand and on the left."

World Growth of Spiritualism

Insights were given to Ellen White by the Lord concerning the development of spiritualism, which was a little-known manifestation back in 1849 when she predicted its growth and influence.

The year 1848 witnessed strange manifestations in the village of Hydesville, New York, not far from Rochester. These, Ellen White predicted, were destined to become worldwide, and would assume religious significance. The movement has since come to be known as spiritualism. But in 1849 it was only a signal code of rappings" and "knockings."

When these communications first became known, many regarded them as a fraud or trick, or some sort of a short-lived delusion. But on March 24, 1849, Ellen White wrote of a revelation given her regarding this mysterious phenomenon. Here are her words:

"I saw that the mysterious knocking in New York . . . was the power of Satan, and that such things would be more and more common, clothed in a religious garb so as to lull the deceived to greater security."-
Early Writings, page 43.

Ellen G. White

This warning constituted a protection to Bible-loving Christians; other warnings soon followed. Its rapid growth was reemphasized in 1854:

“I saw the rapidity with which this delusion was spreading. A train of cars was shown me, going with the speed of lightning. The angel bade me look carefully. I fixed my eyes upon the train. It seemed that the whole world was on board. Then he showed me the conductor, who appeared like a stately, fair person, whom all the passengers looked up to and revered. I was perplexed and asked my attending angel who it was. He said, ‘It is Satan. He is the conductor in the form of an angel of light. He has taken the world captive. They are all going with lightning speed to perdition.’” - *Ibid.*, page 88.

Spiritualism is far from obscure today. It has its own churches and ministers, and has penetrated many other churches. Adherents from all professions and walks of life are numbered in the millions. As to its “religious garb,” an official publication of the spiritualists dares to say:

“Spiritualism, with its signs, wonders, visions, and healing gifts, was the religion of the apostles; of the post-apostolic fathers, and the primitive Christians.” *Centennial Book of Modern Spiritualism in America*, page 115 (1948).

“Spiritualism is the coming universal religion. It is the lifeblood of Christianity; in fact, it is Christianity plus.” - *Ibid.*, page 69.

Here are two more early predictions by Ellen G. White, compared with declarations made by spiritualistic leaders in 1948, just one hundred years after the mysterious rappings at Hydesville, New York:

Ellen G. White Prediction in 1850: “I was shown that by the rapping and mesmerism these modern magicians would yet account for all the miracles wrought by our Lord Jesus Christ.” - *Early Writings*, page 59.

Spiritualism in 1948 declares: “A medium foretold the birth of Jesus whose brief life on earth was filled with the performance of many so-called miracles which in reality were spiritual phenomena.” - *Centennial Book*, page 68.

Ellen G. White Prediction in 1850: “I saw that soon it would be considered blasphemy to speak against the rapping, and that it would spread more and more.” *Early Writing*, page 59.

Spiritualism in 1948 declares: “Neither priest nor press should uncharitably speak of, or touch this holy word spiritualism, only with clean hands and pure hearts; and spiritualists themselves should honor their blessed gospel of immortality.” - *Centennial Book*, page 34.

Here we have it: fulfillment of a prediction penned by inspiration a hundred years in advance, using almost the same words.

Political Revolution

In the year 1903 Mrs. White wrote of developments among the masses that would lead to revolution. Here is a remarkable prophecy:

“Anarchy is seeking to sweep away all law, not only divine, but human. The centralizing of wealth and power. The vast combinations for the enriching of the few at the expense of the many. The combinations of the poorer classes for the defense of their interests and claims. The spirit of unrest, of riot and bloodshed; the worldwide dissemination of the same teachings that led to the French Revolution—all are tending to involve the whole world in a struggle similar to that which convulsed France.” - *Education*, page 228.

Roman Catholicism and the United States

In the year 1888 Mrs. White wrote concerning the revival of Romanism in America:

“Let the principle once be established in the United States that the church may employ or control the power of the state; that religious observances may be enforced by secular laws. In short, that the authority of church and state is to dominate the conscience, and the triumph of Rome in this country is assured.

“God’s word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare. She is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in the churches, and in the hearts of men. She is piling up her lofty and massive structures in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. Stealthily and unsuspectedly she is strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is already being given her. We shall soon see and shall feel what the purpose of the Roman element is.”

Ellen G. White

- The Great Controversy, page 581.

Threefold Union of the Churches

In 1888 Mrs. White foresaw a trio of religious forces which would oppose the interests of God's spiritual kingdom. She wrote:

"Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience."

"The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them, and Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism. Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium." - Ibid., Pages 588, 589. (Italics supplied.)

A "form of godliness without the power"-these are the words used to describe the "union" of "papists, Protestants, and worldlings." In the move to form one big church, Catholics and Protestants alike extend hands of friendship. And we are placed in the unique position of watching with our own eyes the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Pope John XXIII is described in Time magazine as a friendly pontiff who is "stretching out the hand of friendship to non-Catholics-'separated brethren.'" Time, January 4, 1963.

Rome also recognizes Protestant initiative and effort to unite the church. This was made clear at the Vatican Council when Biblical scholar Augustin Cardinal Bea, head of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, advised his fellow bishops against any course of action that "would close the door to intellectual Europe and the outstretched hands of friendship in the old and new world."-Time, November 23, 1962. (Italics supplied.)

Almost the very words of Mrs. White are repeated: "The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to clasp hands with the Roman power."

She continued with solemn words to predict that under the influence of this threefold union, this country [the United States] will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience." Doubtless most of us will live to see this prophecy fulfilled.

Holding Winds of Strife

In the year 1903 Mrs. White described the "agitation" among men who live in the last days of time and the restraining by Providence of the forces of war and trouble:

"Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Everything in our world is in agitation. Before our eyes is fulfilling the Savior's prophecy of the events to precede His coming: 'You shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.'" Matthew 24:6, 7.

"The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the strained, restless relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place-that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis.

"Angels are now restraining the winds of strife, that they may not blow until the world shall be warned of its coming doom; but a storm is gathering, ready to burst upon the earth. And when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture." - Education, pages 179, 180.

These words are almost "postdated." They seem to have been written, not six decades or more ago but today!

Ellen G. White

Signs in the Social World

Of signs in the social world she wrote: "The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying, and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are 'Jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horse races, gambling bells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agencies at work that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut." *The Desire of Ages*, page 636.

Economic Instability

Here is a statement written in 1909 that predicts the economic and social instability of the mid-twentieth century:

"There are not many, even among educators and statesmen, who comprehend the causes that underlie the present state of society. Those who hold the reins of government are not able to solve the problem of moral corruption, poverty, pauperism, and increasing crime. They are struggling in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis. If men would give more heed to the teachings of God's word, they would find a solution of the problems that perplex them." *Testimonies*, volume 9, page 13.

Triumph of Right

The worldwide extension of the great gospel message to which she dedicated her life was also foreseen. She wrote in 1909:

In visions of the night, representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifested before the great Day of Pentecost. Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be lightened with the heavenly influence."-*Ibid.*, p. 126.

Jesus said, "And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, you might believe." John 14:29. The fulfillment of prophecy is the seal and stamp of history upon the divine foreknowledge.

The Lord Himself says, -Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure." Isaiah 46:9, 10. The future is in God's hands, but by His prophets He has drawn the curtain aside to give us glimpses of what is coming.

The messages of Ellen White remind us that God still speaks to modern man. Light from heaven has illuminated the pathway of those who have received and cherished these prophetic counsels.

11. LIFE AND TIMES OF ELLEN G. WHITE

ELLEN GOULD HARMON, born in Gorham, Maine, November 26, 1827.

- Parents, Robert and Eunice Harmon, members of Methodist Church, who later became Seventh-day Adventists.
- Eight children; Ellen and twin sister, Elizabeth, born last.
- Contemporary of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Susan B. Anthony, Frances E. Willard, and Clara Barton, famous American women.
- Lived during the presidencies of Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Grover Cleveland, Theodore

Ellen G. White

Roosevelt, and others. Died during presidency of Woodrow Wilson.

- Converted at a Methodist camp meeting in March, 1840.
- Baptized in Casco Bay, Portland, Maine. Dropped from Methodist Church, with other members of the Harmon family, Portland, Maine, 1843, because of her Adventist views.
- Married James White, August 30, 1846.
- Four children, all boys: Henry, Edson, William, and John Herbert.
- First vision, December, 1844. (Early Writings, pages 13-20) Last known vision concerned welfare of the youth, March 3, 1915. Received about two thousand visions and prophetic dreams during seventy years of public ministry, 1844 to 1915. During forty years' span between 1844 and 1884, experienced many "open" visions. Visions after 1884 were generally prophetic dreams that came to her at night.
- Became a Sabbath keeper in the early fall of 1846, soon after her marriage.
- Great publishing expansion predicted in vision of November, 1848, in Dorchester, Massachusetts. First issues of Present Truth, July, 1849, Middletown, Connecticut.
- Important health-reform vision at home of A. H. Hilliard, Otsego, Michigan, June 6, 1863.
- James White died August 6, 1881. Mrs. White was a widow for thirty-four years.
- Labored in Europe two years, from summer of 1885 to summer of 1887. Pioneer work in Australia from 1891 to 1900. Eleven years spent in foreign service point up the international character of her ministry.
- Wrote two thousand articles for the Review, two thousand messages in the Signs, five hundred for other publications. Her literary work, one hundred thousand manuscript pages, was done by hand.
- Fifty-four books in the English language are available today. Many hospitals, schools, publishing houses, churches, and mission stations around the world testify to her heaven-born inspiration. The lives of thousands were changed by her Christ-centered ministry.
- She being dead yet speaks.

12. Books by Ellen G. White

"SISTER WHITE is not the originator of these books. They contain the instruction that during her lifework God has been giving her. They contain the precious, comforting light that God has graciously given His servant to be given to the world. From their pages this light is to shine into the hearts of men and women, leading them to the Savior. The Lord has declared that these books are to be scattered throughout the world." - Ellen G. White, Colporteur Ministry, page 125.

1. Bible Biographies:

Patriarchs and Prophets

Prophets and Kings

The Desire of Ages

The Acts of the Apostles

The Story of Jesus

The Story of Redemption

Ellen G. White

2. Christian Life and Experience:

Testimonies for the Church, Volumes 1 to 9
Christ's Object Lessons
Testimony Treasures, Volumes 1 to 3
The Remnant Church
Selected Messages, Books 1 to 3
Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing
The Sanctified Life
Steps to Christ
Messages to Young People
Counsels on Stewardship

3. Instruction in Christian Service:

Christian Service
Colporteur Ministry
Counsels on Sabbath School Work
Counsels to Writers and Editors
Medical Ministry
Testimonies to Ministers
Evangelism
Welfare Ministry
Gospel Workers

4. Daily Devotional Guides:

My Life Today
The Faith I Live By
Sons and Daughters of God
Our High Calling

5. Education in Home and School:

The Adventist Home
Education
Child Guidance
Fundamentals of Christian
Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students
Education

6. History and Prophecy:

The Great Controversy
Spiritual Gifts, Volumes 1 to 4

7. Health and Medical:

Counsels on Diet and Foods
The Ministry of Healing
Temperance
Counsels on Health

8. Autobiographies:

Christian Experience and
Early Writings
Teachings of Ellen G. White
Life Sketches
Spiritual Gifts, Volume 2

9. Study Guide:

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