Ellen G. Why?!



"My first year college Greek class was filled with young ministerial students who were eager to step into their pulpits and wow folks with their command of the biblical languages. Knowing that real-life people in our churches are far more interested in the practical encouragement found in Scripture, our professor wisely brought our "heads in the clouds" class back down to earth when he said, "When you preach, use the Greek like a good pair of underwear — Supporting, but not seen."

Through the years I have found this pulpit ministry insight to not only hold true with the Greek, but with the writings of Ellen White as well. The "Red Books" are chock full of inspired insights that shed light on the biblical passages and brighten the path in our walk with Jesus. My personal journey with Jesus has been blessed by this gift, and my preaching ministry has delivered deeper, richer veins of golden truth through the insights gained from the writings of this dear woman. And yet I seldom quote her in my sermons. . . .

Is there a place for the writings of Ellen White in our preaching? You bet! Often supporting, seldom seen."

Dan Martella, http://www.nadministerial.org/article/879/for-nad-pastors/articles/ellen-white-supporting-seldom-seen

"The testimonies of Sister White should not be carried to the front. God's Word is the unerring standard. The Testimonies are not to take the place of the Word ... Let all prove their positions from the Scriptures and substantiate every point they claim as truth from the revealed Word of God" (Ev 256)



Prophets: God's ...

- I. **Way** (Mt II:7-II; Mk I)
- 2. Will (Mt 14:3,4)
- 3. Word (without writings! 2 Elijah 34:17!)

Nathan, Elijah, Elisha, Zadok, Ahijah, Gad, Iddo, Shemaiah, Azariah, Hanani, Jehu, Micaiah, Jeduthun, Acharias, Agabus . . .

- 4. Women
- Deborah, Huldah, Miriam, Noadiah, Philips' 4 daughters
- 5. Wrong! (Mt 24:11, 24)

End-Time Prophets

Ex 7:1:a prophet = a spokesman for God to get people out of Egypt!

Eph 4:11-13: prophets are necessary for the fruition of God's end-time people





The Testimony of Jesus

I. Rev 1:2 "who bore witness to the word of God,

and to the testimony of Jesus Christ"

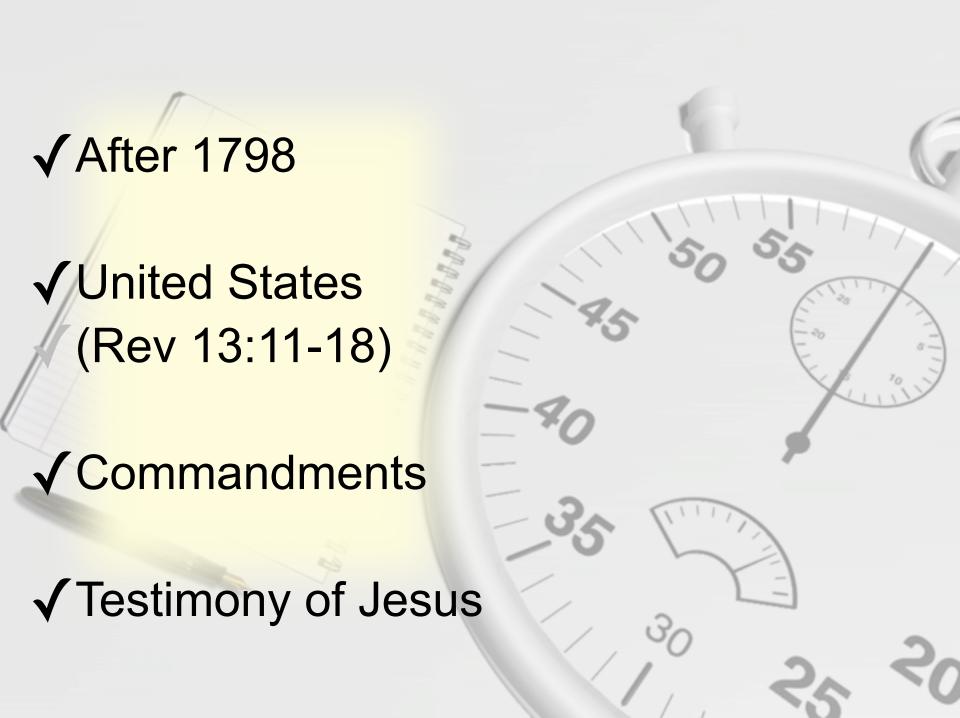
The Testimony of Jesus

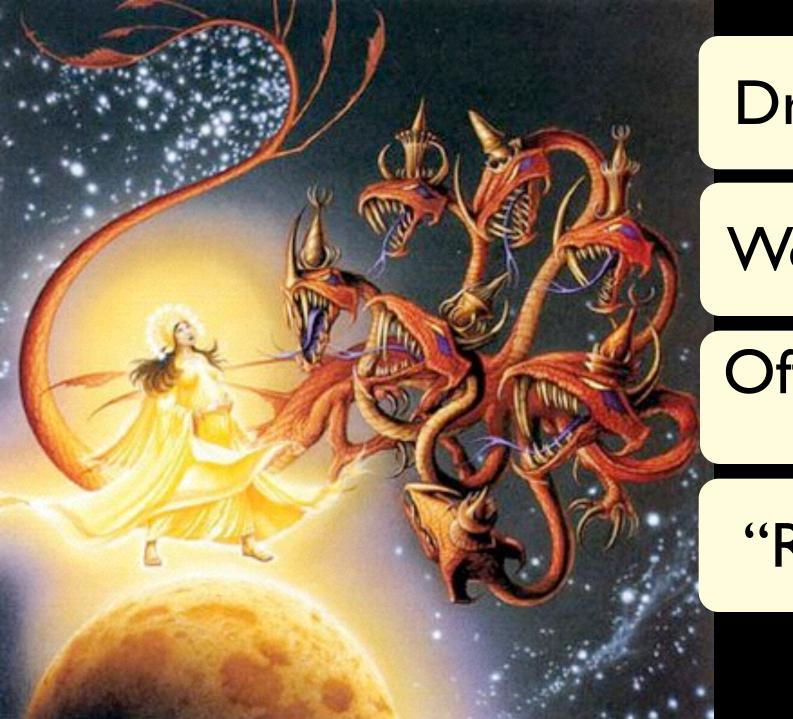
- 2. Rev 1:9 "I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for **the testimony of Jesus Christ**."
- 3. Rev 12:17 "And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."
- 4. Rev 14:12 "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."











Dragon

Woman

Offsprin

"Rest"

The Testimony of Jesus

"And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

The Testimony of Jesus = Spirit of Prophecy

Rev. 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Rev. 22:8 I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel . . .

Rev. 22:9 ¶ Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

and of your brethren who have

and of your brethren the

the testimony of Jesus.

prophets,





John the Baptist

No writings
Dress code
Diet
Law (Repent)
No miracles

"I tell you the truth, among those born of women, no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist." Mt 11:11





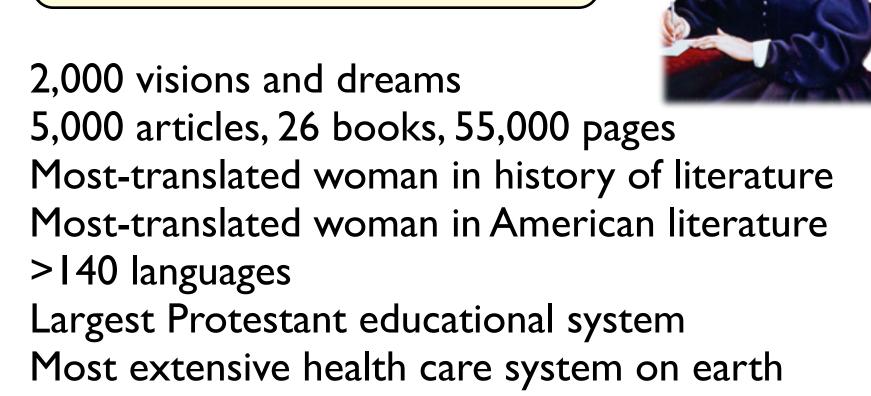




First Vision: Dec 1844 (age 17)

"While I was praying at the family altar, the Holy Ghost fell upon me, ... when a voice said to me, 'Look again, and look a little higher.' At this I raised my eyes, and saw a straight and narrow path ... On this path the Advent people were traveling to the city, which was at the farther end of the path. They had a bright light set up behind them at the beginning of the path, which an angel told me was the midnight cry This light shone all along the path and gave light for their feet so that they might not stumble. If they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus, who was just before them, leading them to the city, they were safe... .[some] rashly denied the light behind them out so far. The light behind them went out, leaving their feet in perfect darkness, and they stumbled and lost sight of the mark and of Jesus, and fell off the path down into the dark and wicked world below." EW 14, 15

Ellen G. White



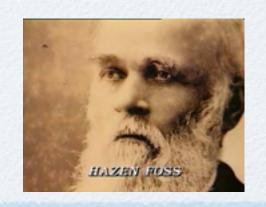


WILLIAM FOY

Called in 1842
Black freedman
Baptist
2 visions

preached some
Delbert Baker: *The Unknown Prophet*(1987)

Hazen Foss



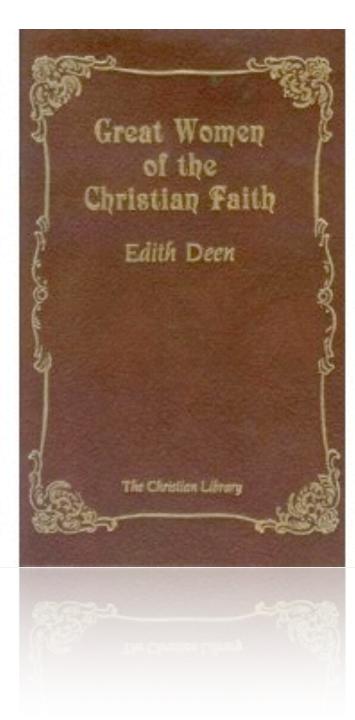
received vision
before 1844
refused to cooperate
= lost gift!

EGW's brother-in-law warned EGW



Edith Deen, *Great Women of the Christian Faith*, p. 230

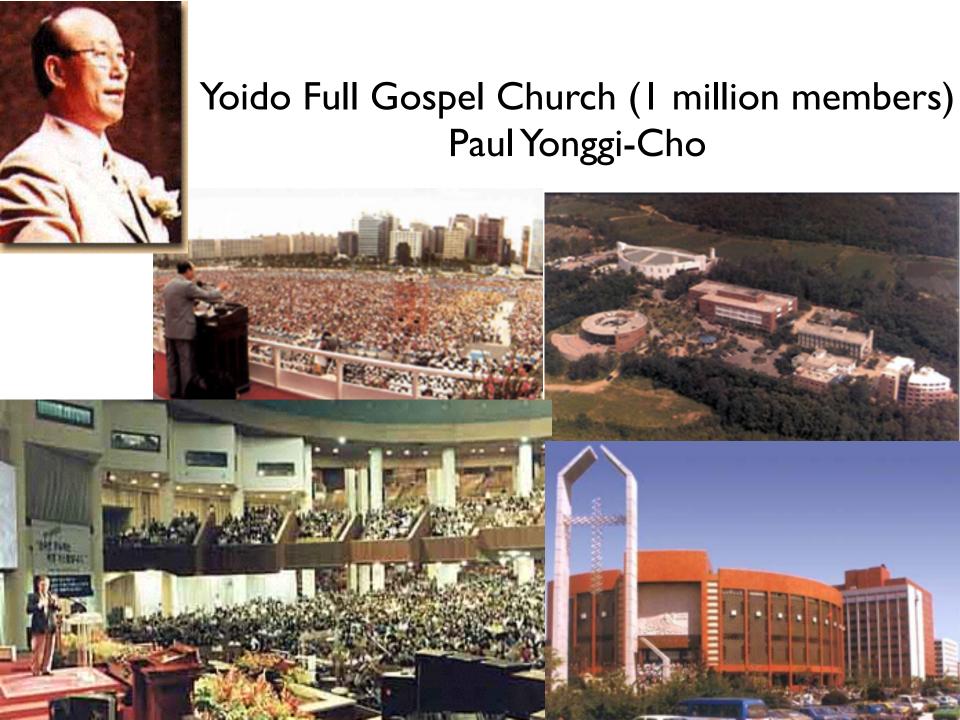
"Certainly she [EGW] was a spokesman for God. Like the prophets of old, her life was marked by humility, simplicity, austerity, divine learning, and devotion."



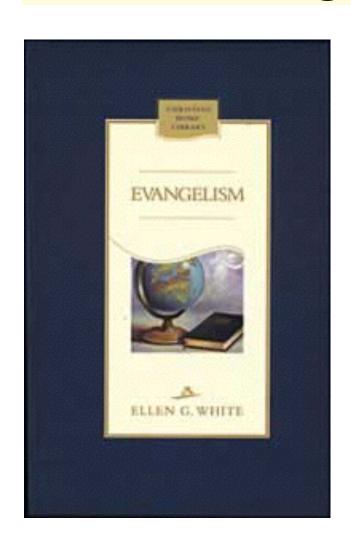
Mark Noll, Wheaton College

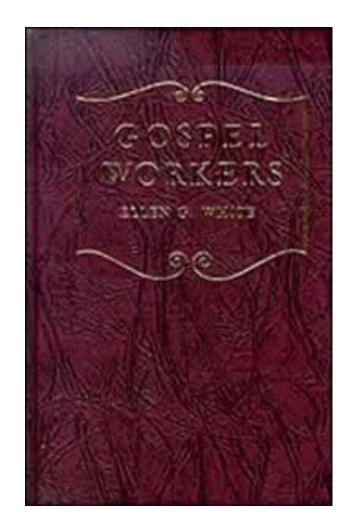
The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind, quoting Ronald Numbers, "The Creationist" (U Wisc)

How a popular belief known as Creationism – a theory that the earth is 10,000 or less years old – has spread like wild fire in our century from its humble beginning in the writings of Ellen White, the founder of Seventh-day Adventism to its current status as a Gospel truth embraced by 10s of millions of Bible-believing Evangelicals and Fundamentalists around the world."



Craig Dossman:





Ellen White's Function





As the points of our faith were thus established, our feet were placed upon a solid foundation. We accepted the truth point by point, under the demonstration of the Holy Spirit. I would be taken off in vision, and explanations would be given me. I was given illustrations of heavenly things, and of the sanctuary, so that we were placed where light was shining on us in clear, distinct rays. —Gospel Works, p. 302. (3SM 32.1)

To Correct Error and Specify Truth—I have kept in all my journeys that should come before the people if essential, even if I did not write another line. I want that which is deemed worthy to appear, for the Lord has given me much light that I want the people to have; for there is instruction that the Lord has given me for his people. It is light that they should have, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little. This is now to come before the people, because it has been given to correct specious errors and to specify what is truth. The Lord has revealed many things pointing out the truth, thus saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it."—Letter 127, 1910. (3SM 32.2)

"In a second vision, which soon followed the first, I was shown the trials through which I must pass, and that it was my duty to go and relate to others what God 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. The teaching of this vision troubled me exceedingly, for it pointed out my duty to go out among the people and present the truth." (5T 655)

"The Lord designs to warn you, to reprove, to counsel, through the testimonies given, and to impress your minds with the importance of the truth of His word. The written testimonies are not to give new light, but to impress vividly upon the heart the truths of inspiration already revealed. Man's duty to God and to his fellow man has been distinctly specified in God's word, yet but few of you are obedient to the light given. Additional truth is not brought out; but God has through the Testimonies simplified the great truths already given and in His own chosen way brought them before the people to awaken and impress the mind with them, that all may be left without excuse. (5T 665)

The light of Heaven rested upon me. I was soon lost to earthly things. My accompanying angel presented before me some of the errors of those present, and also the truth in contrast with their errors. That these discordant views, which they claimed to be according to the Bible, were only according to their opinion of the Bible, and that their errors must be yielded, and they unite upon the third angel's message. Our meeting ended victoriously. Truth gained the victory. (2SG 98)

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Testimonies Never Contradict the Bible—The Bible must be your counselor. Study it and the testimonies God has given; for they never contradict his Word.—Letter 106, 1907

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- The same Holy Spirit that inspired the Bible inspired Ellen White

- Lk 16:29, 31: Moses + the Prophets (only the written ones?)
 - Lk 24:27: Moses + Prophets = Scripture, but Scripture contains prophets with no writings in Scripture!



How to Read Ellen White

1. Read the Bible



"In His word God has committed to men the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures 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 Spirit was not given - nor can it ever be bestowed - to supersede the Bible; for the Scriptures explicitly state that the word of God is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested." GC vii

James White: "The Bible is a perfect, and complete revelation. It is our only rule of faith and practice. But this is no reason why God may not show the past, present, and future fulfillment of His word in these last days by dreams and visions, according to Peter's testimony. True visions are given to lead us to God, and His written Word."

A Word to the Little Flock, 13 (1846)

"The majority of our people believe these visions to be a genuine manifestation of spiritual gifts, and as such to be entitled to respect. We do not hold them to be superior to the Bible, or in one sense equal to it. The Scriptures are out rule to test everything by, the visions as well as all other things. That rule, therefore, is of the highest authority; the standard is higher than the thing tested by it. If the Bible should show the visions were not in harmony with it, the Bible would stand and the visions would be given up. This shows plainly that we hold the Bible the highest, our enemies to the contrary, notwithstanding."

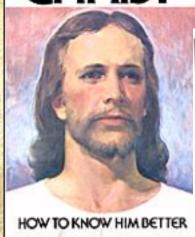
RH Suppl., Aug. 14, 1883, p. 12 (George Butler)

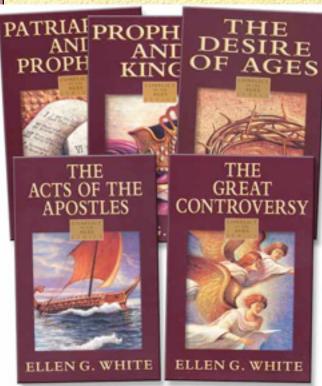


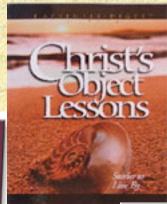


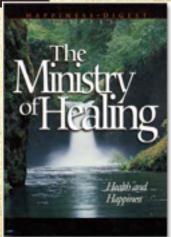
3. Core over Compilation

STEPS TO CHRIST









Testimonies for the Church





"Those who are not walking in the light of the message, may gather up statements from my writings that happen to please them, and that agree with their human judgment, and, by separating these statements from their connection and placing them beside human reasonings, make it appear that my writings uphold that which they condemn."

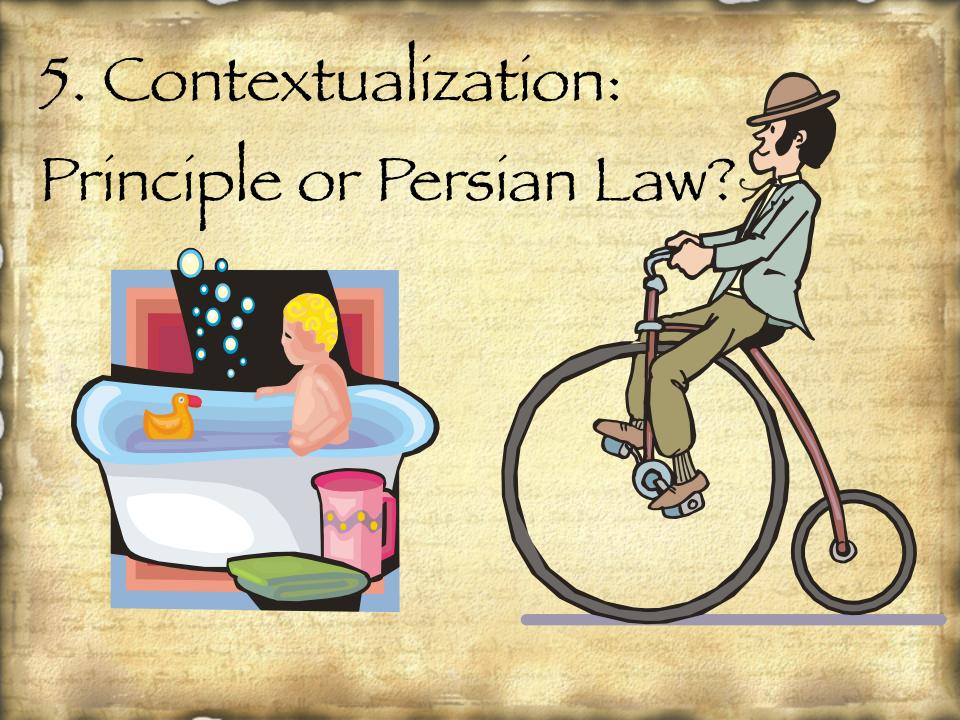
Letter 208, 1906.



4. Perspective

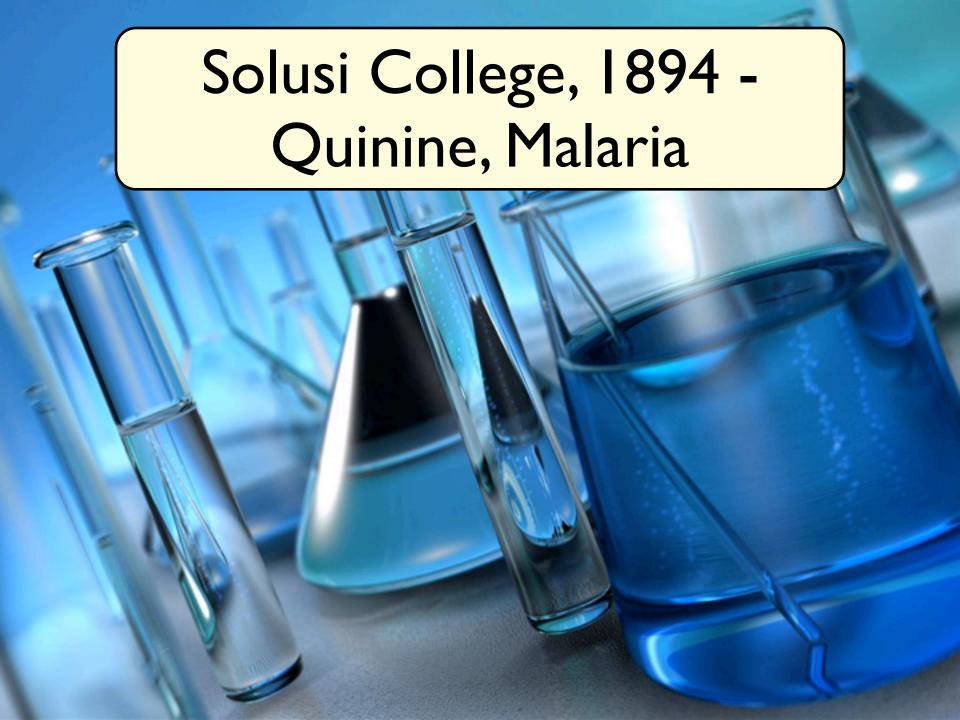
"The written testimonies are not to give new light, but to impress vividly upon the heart the truths of inspiration already revealed."

5 T 665

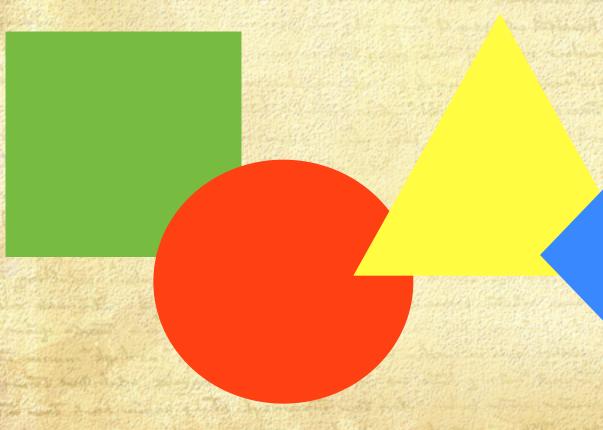


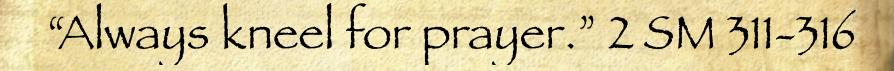
"There seemed to be a bicycle craze. Money was spent to gratify an enthusiasm in this direction that might better, far better, have been invested in building houses of worship where they are greatly needed.... This is a species of idolatry.... while hundreds are starving for bread . . . missionary work has been hindered ... "

See 8T 50-53



6. Context





Letter 258, 1903:

EGW prayed "for hours while

lying in my bed."

7. Prophets are Human

37 or 39 hospital beds?

8. Real-ly?!

"144,000 before as of probation."
RH, June 14.

"Letters have come to me presenting before me the case of Sister Phillips, and inquirers have been made to me what I thought of the matter. I have not felt called out to encourage or condemn so long as I had no special light in reference to this case ... I decided to let the matter develop." Letter 54, 1893

9. Harsh?



Not saved?!

"Peter's fall was not instantaneous, but gradual. Self-confidence led him to the belief that he was saved, and step after step was taken in the downward path, until he could deny his Master. Never can we safely put confidence in self or feel, this side of heaven, that we are secure against temptation. Those who accept the Saviour, however sincere their conversion, should never be taught to say or to feel that they are saved. This is misleading. Everyone should be taught to cherish hope and faith; but even when we give ourselves to Christ and know that He accepts us, we are not beyond the reach of temptation. God's Word declares, 'Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried' (Dan. 12:10). Only he who endures the trial will receive the crown of life (James 1:12)" (Christ's Object Lessons, p. 155, emphasis supplied).

"Each one of you may know for yourself that you have a living Saviour, that He is your helper and your God. You need not stand where you say, 'I do not know whether I am saved.' Do you believe in Christ as your personal Saviour? If you do, then rejoice" (General Conference Bulletin, April 10, 1901).

"The message from God to me for you is 'Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out' (John 6:37). If you have nothing else to plead before God but this one promise from your Lord and Saviour, you have the assurance that you will never, never be turned away. It may seem to you that you are hanging upon a single promise, but appropriate that one promise, and it will open to you the whole treasure house of the riches of the grace of Christ. Cling to that promise and you are safe. 'Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out.' Present this assurance to Jesus, and you are as safe as though inside the city of God" (Manuscript Releases, vol. 10, p. 175).

"Bourdeau, ordained at age 23, looked for a wife for three years. In 1861 he was married to Marion Saxby in Bakersfield, Vt., with James White officiating in a private home. James was 40 and Ellen was 33, still a young woman. Because the service was late in the day, the newlyweds accepted the invitation of their host to spend the night in his home. The Whites also stayed as house guests. When Ellen White went upstairs to retire, she saw a very nervous young man pacing back and forth in front of a closed bedroom door. She suspected a problem."



"Gently she said to the young bridegroom (as the bride later quoted her husband's recital of the incident):



"Daniel, inside that room is a frightened young woman in bed petrified with fear. Now you go in to her right now, and you love her, and you comfort her. And, Daniel, you treat her gently, and you treat her tenderly, and you treat her lovingly. It will do her good."

Then she added, "Daniel, it will do you good, too!"

From Herbert Douglass, Messenger of the Lord, 106-7.

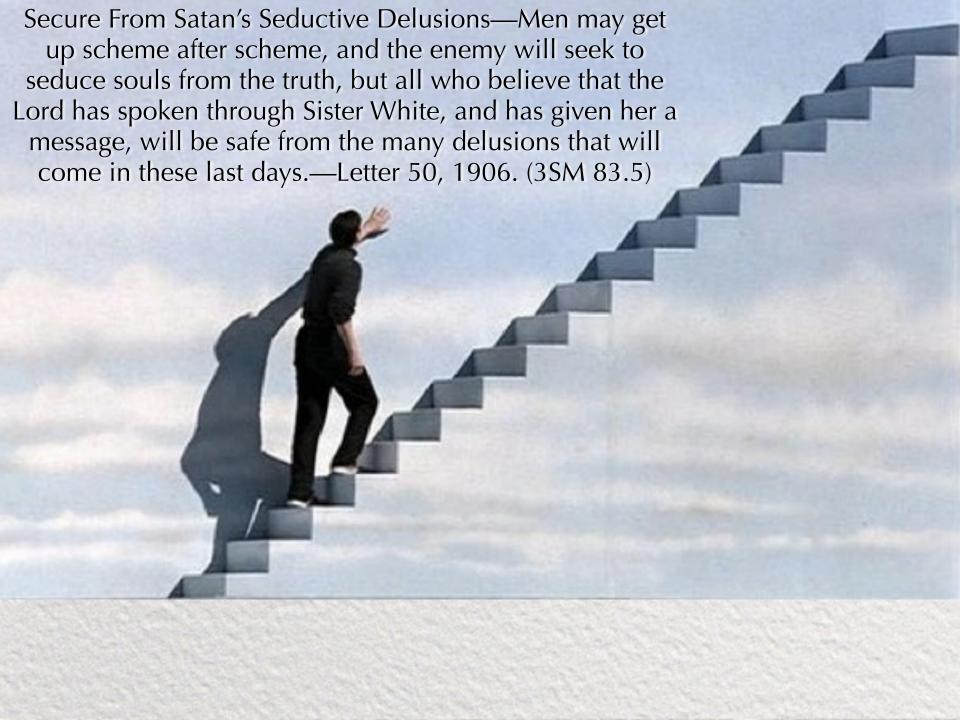
- √ Christ broke down caste (DA 402-403; COL 386)
- ✓ Caste hateful to God (PK 369; DA 403; GW 332)
- ✓ Colored laborers: Now! (9T 199-203)
- √ Be kind to Colored laborers (9T 223-4)
- √ Missions to be established (8T 137)
- √ Urgent opportunity for medical missionary work (8T 205)
- √ Capabilities of Negroes (7T 228-30)

10. Down to Earth

"I wish that self should be hid in Jesus. I wish self to be crucified. I do not claim infallibility, or even perfection of Christian character. I am not free from mistakes and errors in my life. Had I followed my Saviour more closely, I should not have to mourn so much my unlikeness to His dear image" (Letter 27, 1876).

"Why not just read the Bible?"

Criteria	EGW	non-EGW
Relationship with Christ	85%	59%
Bible Study with non-SDA	75%	26%
Witnessing	73%	49%
Family Worship	77%	42%
Bible Reading	82%	47%



It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the Testimonies. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction.(4T 211)

The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Prov 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony.—1SM48 (1890). The enemy has made his masterly efforts to unsettle the faith of our own people in the Testimonies.... This is just as Satan designed it should be, and those who have been preparing the way for the people to pay no heed to the warnings and reproofs of the Testimonies of the Spirit of God will see that a tide of errors of all kinds will spring into life.—3 SM 83) It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the Testimonies. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction.—4T 211 (LDE 178)

Satan is ... constantly pressing in the spurious—to lead away from the truth. The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony.—Letter 12, 1890.(1SM 48.3)

There will be a hatred kindled against the testimonies which is satanic. The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them, for this reason: Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded.—Letter 40, 1890.(1SM 48.4)

The enemy has made his masterly efforts to unsettle the faith of our own people in the Testimonies, and when these errors come in they claim to prove all the positions by the Bible, but they misinterpret the Scriptures. They make bold assertions, as did Elder Canright, and misapply the prophecies and the Scriptures to prove falsehood. And, after men have done their work in weakening the confidence of our churches in the Testimonies, they have torn away the barrier, that unbelief in the truth shall become widespread, and there is no voice to be lifted up to stay the force of error.(3SM 83.3) This is just as Satan designed it should be, and those who have been preparing the way for the people to pay no heed to the warnings and reproofs of the Testimonies of the Spirit of God will see that a tide of errors of all kinds will spring into life. They will claim Scripture as their evidence, and deceptions of Satan in every form will prevail.— Letter 109, 1890.(3SM 83.4)

Secure From Satan's Seductive Delusions—Men may get up scheme after scheme, and the enemy will seek to seduce souls from the truth, but all who believe that the Lord has spoken through Sister White, and has given her a message, will be safe from the many delusions that will come in these last days.—Letter 50, 1906. (3SM 83.5)

It Is Not I Whom You Betray, but the Lord—I have tried to do my duty to you and to the Lord Jesus, whom I serve and whose cause I love. The testimonies I have borne you have in truth been presented to me by the Lord. I am sorry that you have rejected the light given....(3SM 84.1)

Are you betraying your Lord because in his great mercy he has shown you just where you are standing spiritually? he knows every purpose of the heart. Nothing is hid from Him. It is not I whom you are betraying. It is not I against whom you are so embittered. It is the Lord, who has given me a message to bear to you.—Letter 66, 1897.(3SM 84.2)

Giving Up Faith in the Testimonies—One thing is certain: Those Seventh-day Adventists who take their stand under Satan's banner will first give up their faith in the warnings and reproofs contained in the Testimonies of God's Spirit.(3SM 84.3)

It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the Testimonies. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction.(4T 211)

"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and his teaching in our past history." Jan 29 1893, GC Daily Bulletin



REJECTING A GIFT

Luke 7:30

"But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him."



REJECTING THE GIVER

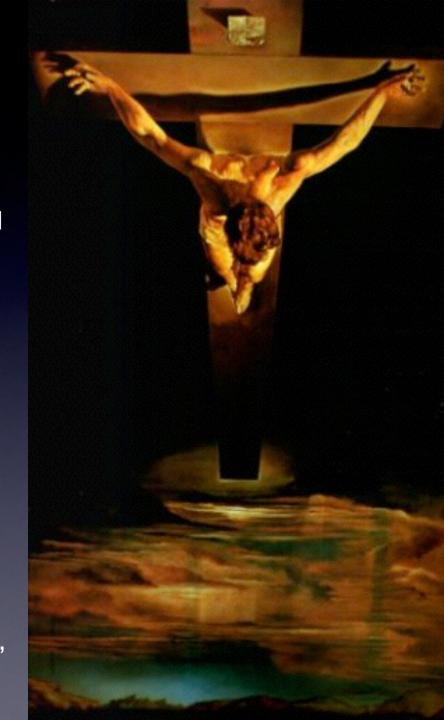
Luke 11:47 Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them.

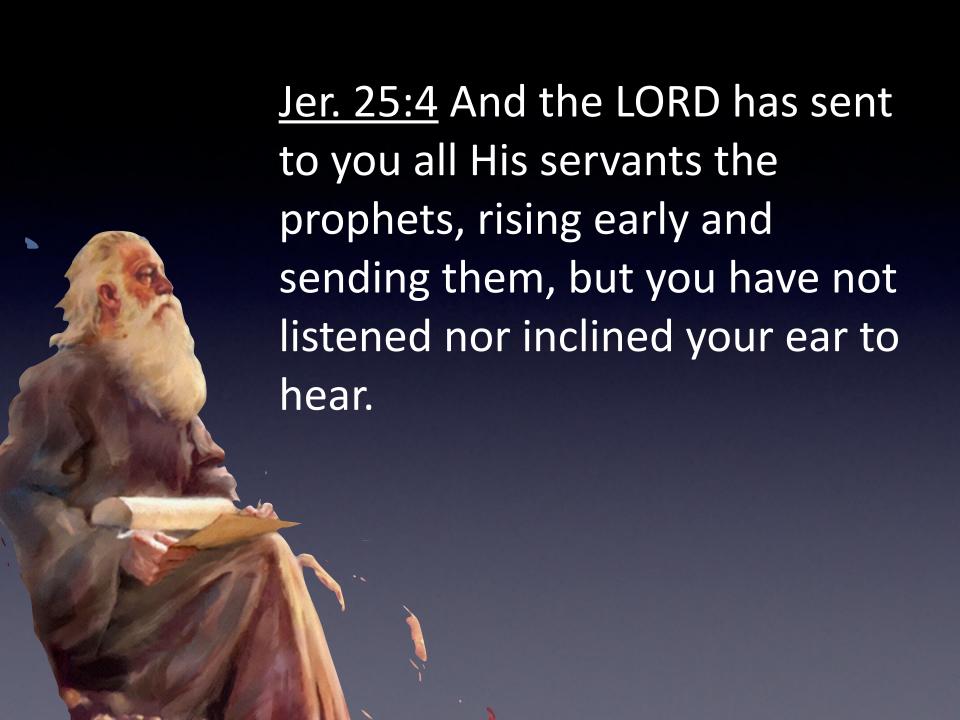
Luke 11:48 In fact, you bear witness that you approve the deeds of your fathers; for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs.

Luke 11:49 Therefore the wisdom of God also said, "I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,"

Luke 11:50 that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation,

Luke 11:51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.





Amos 2:12 "But you gave the Nazirites wine to drink,

And commanded the prophets saying, 'Do not prophesy!'



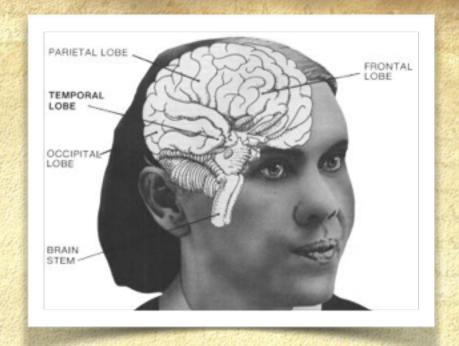
"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and his teaching in our past history." Jan 29 1893, GC Daily Bulletin

And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. (2Ch 20:20 KJV)

The End

"But if there was one sin above another which called for the destruction of the race by the flood, it was the base crime of amalgamation of man and beast which defaced the image of God, and caused confusion everywhere. God purposed to destroy by a flood at payar page 176 at et a lad corrupted their ways before an" (3 SG 64 [1864]).

"Every species of animal which God had created were preserved in the ark. The confused species which God did not create, which were the result of amalgamation were destroyed by the flood. Since the flood there has been amalgamation of man and beast, as may be seen in the almost endless varieties of species of animals, and in certain races of men" (3 SG 75).



"For two years I could not breathe through my nose. My health was s o poor that I could attend school but little. It was almost impossible for me to study, and retain what I learned.... I had a bad cough, which prevented me from attending school steadily. My teacher thought it would be too much for me to study, unless my health should be better, and advised me to leave school." EGW, SG 2, I I-12 (1860).

ELLEN WHITE
UNDER

Identifying the Mistakes of Her Critics

Dictionary: metals

EGW: men and animals ≠ men with animals

Descendants of Seth and descendants of Cain

Gen 6:7 "both man, and beast"

Gen 6:12 "for all flesh had corrupted his (A.R.V. their] way upon the earth"
Gen 7:21 "And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man."

"For some time the two classes remained separate. The race of Cain, spreading from the place of their first settlement, dispersed over the plains and valleys where the children of Seth had dwelt; and the latter in order to escape from their contaminating influence, withdrew to the mointaine and Chile made their hone. Spriong as this separation continued, they maintained the worship of God in its purity. But in the lapse of time they ventured, little by little, to mingle with the inhabitants of the valleys. This association was productive of the worst results. "The sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair." The children of Seth, attracted by the beauty of the daughters of Cain's descendants, displeased the Lord by intermarrying with them. Many of the worshipers of God were beguiled into sin by the allurements that were now constantly before them, and they lost their peculiar, holy character. Mingling with the depraved, they became like them in spirit and in deeds; the restrictions of the seventh commandment were disregarded, "and they took them wives of all which they chose."

The children of Seth went "in the way of Cain" (Jude 11); they fixed their minds upon worldly prosperity and enjoyment and neglected the commandments of the Lord." PP

The violation of the seventh commandment also was early practiced in the name of religion. The most licentious and abominable rites were made a part of the heathen worship. The gods

themselves were expresental as for the baser passions. Unnatural wees prevailed and the religious festivals were characterized by universal and open impurity. {PP 337.4}

Polygamy was practiced at an early date. It was one of the sins that brought the wrath of God upon the antediluvian world. Yet after the Flood it again became widespread. It was Satan's studied effort to pervert the marriage institution, to weaken its obligations and lessen its sacredness; for in no surer way could he deface the image of God in man and open the door to misery and vice. {PP 338.1}

Walter Rea: "The White Lie"

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"England is studying whether it is best to take advantage of the present weak condition of our nation, and venture to make war upon her. She is weighing the matter, and trying to sound other nations. She fears, if she should commence war abroad, that she would be weak at home, and that other nations would take advantage of her weakness. Other nations are making quiet yet active preparations for war, and are hoping that England will make way with the nation, for the line you of his well-copped to to be revenged on her for the advantage she has taken of them in the past, and the injustice done them. A portion of the Queen's subjects are waiting a favorable opperturity to break their voke; but if England thinks it will pay she will not hesitate in ment to improve he opportunities a exercise for power, and humble our nation. When England does declare war, all nations will have an interest of their own to serve, and there will be general war, general confusion" (Testimonies for the Church, vol. I, p. 259).