



ISRAEL'S JOURNEY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS AMAZINGLY
FORETELLS THE ADVENTIST MOVEMENT

Prophetic
PARALLELS
JOURNEY TO THE PROMISED LAND

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Chapter 13

Apostasy at the Jordan

“Your eyes have seen what the LORD did because of Baalpeor: for all the men that followed Baalpeor, the LORD thy God hath destroyed them from among you. But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God are alive every one of you this day.”

—Deuteronomy 4:3-4

“**W**ith joyful hearts and renewed faith in God, the victorious armies of Israel had returned from Bashan. They had already gained possession of a valuable territory, and they were confident of the immediate conquest of Canaan. Only the river Jordan lay between them and the Promised Land. Just across the river was a rich plain, covered with verdure, watered with streams from copious fountains, and shaded by luxuriant palm trees. On the western border of the plain rose the towers and palaces of Jericho, so embosomed in its palm-tree groves that it was called ‘the city of palm trees.’”⁵³⁰

The recent victories had given Israel a new found optimism. Nothing was able to stand in their way, so they thought. They had wandered in the wilderness for forty years because of their

⁵³⁰ Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 453

unbelief at Kadesh-barnea, but now having destroyed Sihon, king of the Amorites and Og, the king of Bashan, the Israelites could see the salvation of the Lord. When true faith is exercised, nothing is impossible with God. The words of Caleb so long ago could now be understood, “for we are well able to overcome it.”⁵³¹

However, there is always the danger that when we are blessed we forget the One blessing us. Paul warns us, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”⁵³² And again he warns, “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.”⁵³³

While camped at Shittim, the children of Israel would soon learn this lesson. “...amid these attractive surroundings they were to encounter an evil more deadly than mighty hosts of armed men or the wild beasts of the wilderness. That country, so rich in natural advantages, had been defiled by the inhabitants. In the public worship of Baal, the leading deity, the most degrading and iniquitous scenes were constantly enacted. On every side were places noted for idolatry and licentiousness, the very names being suggestive of the vileness and corruption of the people.”⁵³⁴

This should have been a warning to the people, but because they were now confident that God was with them, they failed to realize the dangers around them. “It was when the Israelites were in a condition of outward ease and security that they were led into sin. They failed to keep God ever before them, they neglected prayer and cherished a spirit of self-confidence. Ease and self-indulgence left the citadel of the soul unguarded, and debasing thoughts found entrance. It was the traitors within the walls that overthrew the strongholds of principle and betrayed Israel into the power of Satan. It is thus that Satan still seeks to compass the ruin of the soul.”⁵³⁵

So corrupt were their surroundings that they “... exerted a polluting influence upon the Israelites. Their minds became familiar with the vile thoughts constantly suggested; their life of ease and inaction produced its demoralizing effect; and almost unconsciously to themselves they were departing from God and

⁵³¹ Numbers 13:30

⁵³² 1 Corinthians 10:12

⁵³³ Hebrews 3:12

⁵³⁴ Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 453

⁵³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 459

coming into a condition where they would fall an easy prey to temptation.”⁵³⁶

There must have been a tarrying time at Shittim for we are told that, “The period of waiting was employed by Moses in preparing the people for the permanent occupation of Canaan. In this work the great leader’s time and attention were fully occupied; but to the people this period of suspense and expectation was most trying, and ere many weeks had elapsed, their history was marred by the most frightful departures from virtue and integrity.”⁵³⁷

As Moses was preparing for the event that had been the hope of Israel for the past forty years, “the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.”⁵³⁸ The Moabites were descendants of Lot. “Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father. And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same is the father of the Moabites unto this day.”⁵³⁹ This would mean they were distant relatives of the children of Israel.

Fearful that Israel would destroy them as they did the Ammonites, the Moabites called for a union with the Midianites. “And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, Now shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time.”⁵⁴⁰ “In this purpose the people of Moab were joined by the Midianites, to whom they were closely united by the ties of *nationality and religion*.”⁵⁴¹

The Midianites were descendants of Abraham’s concubine, Keturah. “Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah. And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah.”⁵⁴² They were therefore more directly related to Israel than were the Moabites. Notice that the Moabites and Midianites were closely related through *nationality and religion*.

⁵³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 453

⁵³⁷ Ellen G. White, *The Signs of the Times*, November 18, 1880, par. 3

⁵³⁸ Numbers 25:1

⁵³⁹ Genesis 19:36-37

⁵⁴⁰ Numbers 22:4

⁵⁴¹ Ellen G. White, *The Signs of the Times*, November 18, 1880, par. 8

⁵⁴² Genesis 25:1-2. See also 1 Chronicles 1:32

INFILTRATION

“At first there was little intercourse between the Israelites and their heathen neighbors, *but after a time* Midianitish women began to steal into the camp. Their appearance excited no alarm, and so quietly were their plans conducted that the attention of Moses was not called to the matter. It was the object of these women, in their association with the Hebrews, to seduce them into transgression of the law of God, to *draw their attention to heathen rites and customs*, and lead them into idolatry. *These motives were studiously concealed under the garb of friendship*, so that they were not suspected, even by the *guardians of the people*.”⁵⁴³

If the people of God had been attacked openly they would have discerned their danger and taken steps to defend themselves. But Satan knew their faith was too strong to be overcome by brute force, so he used a method that rarely fails. Under the garb of friendship he was able to lead Israel to commit “the most frightful departures from virtue and integrity.”⁵⁴⁴

Slowly but surely, the presence of Midianitish women began to have an effect on the children of Israel. “At Balaam's suggestion, a grand festival in honor of their gods was appointed by the king of Moab, and it was secretly arranged that Balaam should induce the Israelites to attend. He was regarded by them as a prophet of God, and hence had little difficulty in accomplishing his purpose. *Great numbers* of the people joined him in witnessing the festivities. *They ventured upon the forbidden ground, and were entangled in the snare of Satan. Beguiled with music and dancing*, and allured by the beauty of heathen vestals, they cast off their fealty to Jehovah. As they united in mirth and feasting, *indulgence in wine beclouded their senses and broke down the barriers of self-control*. Passion had full sway; and having defiled their consciences by lewdness, they were persuaded to bow down to idols. They offered sacrifice upon heathen altars and participated in the most degrading rites.”⁵⁴⁵

Thus great numbers of God's people were seduced into giving up their fidelity to God and joined the people of Moab in their apostate worship of Baal. So widespread was this apostasy “that the apostasy became national.”⁵⁴⁶

⁵⁴³ Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 454

⁵⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

“It was not long before the poison of licentiousness and idolatry had spread like a deadly infection through the congregation of Israel. The people seemed to be infatuated. *The rulers and leading men were among the first to step over the line*; and so general was the defection, that it is recorded in the Sacred Word, that ‘Israel joined himself unto Baal-peor.’ Alas that the people who had been so signally protected from Satan’s power, should now deliberately walk into the net which he had laid for them!”⁵⁴⁷

THE OMEGA OF APOSTASY

We now come to a difficult and tender subject. We cannot be faithful to the Word of God and pass over the apostasy at the Jordan, and the lessons it holds for Seventh-day Adventists. Throughout this book we have repeatedly seen the striking fulfillment of modern Israel, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, with Israel’s history. If this is true, then we need to realize the apostasy that took place at the very borders of the Promised Land will be fulfilled by modern spiritual Israel. This should not surprise us, for Ellen White spoke of this time as the omega of apostasy. Omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet and so this apostasy would be the very last apostasy, just as Israel’s apostasy at the borders was the last apostasy before they entered the Promised Land. “Be not deceived; many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We have now before us the alpha of this danger. The omega will be of a most startling nature.”⁵⁴⁸

Before we go into detail regarding certain aspects of the omega of apostasy, the author would like to assure his readers that it would be more pleasing to pass over the apostasy at the Jordan and focus on Israel’s positive experiences. Nobody likes to have their sins pointed out and the author understands that pointing out the apostasy that exists in the Church will offend some. It is not my intention to offend. Although the Church is unequivocally in apostasy, it is still God’s last day remnant Church. There may be plenty of tares in the Church, but God still has His faithful people there who will one day stand for the truth while the tares are shaken out.

⁵⁴⁷ Ellen G. White, *The Signs of the Times*, December 30, 1880, par. 3

⁵⁴⁸ Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, Book 1, p. 197

As Israel camped by the Jordan, they were eager to enter the Promised Land. You will recall they had just gained a victory against the mighty Ammonites and they looked set for a speedy entry into the land that God had promised them. As a result, they were in a condition of ease. It has been pointed out numerous times in this study that modern Israel, the Seventh-day Adventist church, is also in a condition of ease, known as the Laodicean condition.

While the children of Israel were on the very borders of the Promised Land, the Moabites feared they would be destroyed, so called for the Midianites to unite with them. Both Moab and Midian were related to Israel. The Moabites were the oldest, being descendants of Lot. The Midianites were more closely related to Israel because Abraham was their father. As Israel represented God's true church, the Moabites and Midianites must represent a false system of worship. The Moabites worshipped the god Chemosh.⁵⁴⁹ It was known as the destroyer, subduer, or the fish-god.⁵⁵⁰ Chemosh was essentially the same as Baal. "There seems to be no good reason for denying that Chemosh was a "baal," and that the names "Baal-maon" (Moabite Stone, line 30) and "Baal-peor" (Num. xxv. 3; Hosea ix. 10) apply to what was practically the same god as Chemosh."⁵⁵¹

We don't have to look too far to find the parallels of Moab and Midian. Because Moab was older and a more distant relative to Israel than Midian was, and because it worshipped Chemosh the fish-god, we find a fitting parallel in the Roman Catholic Church. As the sun god had different names in different cultures, so the fish-god also had different names. The Philistines called their fish-god Dagon.

Alexander Hislop writes in his book, *The Two Babylons*, p. 215, "Dagon, the fish-god, represented that deity as a manifestation of the same patriarch who had lived so long in the waters of the deluge. As the Pope bears the key of Janus, so he wears the mitre of Dagon. The excavations of Nineveh have put this beyond all possibility of doubt. The Papal mitre is entirely different from the mitre of Aaron and the Jewish high priests. That mitre was a

⁵⁴⁹ See Numbers 21:29; Jeremiah 48:7, 13, 46

⁵⁵⁰ <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Chemosh>. Retrieved March 7, 2010.

⁵⁵¹ <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=419&letter=C>. Retrieved March 7, 2010

turban. The two-horned mitre, which the Pope wears, when he sits on the high altar at Rome and receives the adoration of the Cardinals, is the very mitre worn by Dagon, the fish-god of the Philistines and Babylonians.”

To further show the connection between Catholicism and the worship of the fish-god, Hislop writes, “... about the very time when the Bishop of Rome was invested with the Pagan title of Pontifex, the Saviour began to be called Ichthys, or ‘the Fish,’ thereby identifying Him with Dagon, or the Fish-god; and that, ever since, advancing step by step, as circumstances would permit, what has gone under the name of the worship of Christ, has just been the worship of that same Babylonian divinity, with all its rites and pomps and ceremonies, precisely as in ancient Babylon.”⁵⁵²

If Catholicism parallels Moab, then Midian who united with Moab and who was more closely related to Israel must represent the Protestant churches. Catholicism is also a much older religion than Protestantism, just as Moab was older than Midian. Another identifying point that supports these parallels is the Bible’s description of who Israel committed whoredom with. “And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.”⁵⁵³

In her description of the apostasy at the Jordan, Ellen White only mentions the Midianite woman. “...and then the most beautiful Midianitish women should entice the Israelites to transgress the law of God, and corrupt themselves, and also influence them to offer sacrifice to idols.”⁵⁵⁴ This would indicate that the Bible’s description of the daughters of Moab were actually the Midianite women. Ellen White identifies the Midianitish women as harlots. “He [Zimri] publicly appeared before the people leading a *Midianitish harlot*, one of high standing, a daughter of a chief house in Midian, in the sight of Moses and the congregation.”⁵⁵⁵

A woman in the Bible represents a church.⁵⁵⁶ The book of

⁵⁵² Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, p. 252

⁵⁵³ Numbers 25:1,2

⁵⁵⁴ Ellen G. White, *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 1. 326

⁵⁵⁵ Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*, May 17, 1887, par. 11

⁵⁵⁶ Jeremiah 6:2

Revelation portrays two women, the first is a pure church⁵⁵⁷ and the second is an apostate church.⁵⁵⁸ In the seventeenth chapter of Revelation, John describes the apostate church as the mother of harlots.⁵⁵⁹ “Babylon is said to be ‘the mother of harlots.’ By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world.”⁵⁶⁰ Therefore the daughters of Moab, the Midianitish harlots are a type of the daughters of Catholicism—the Protestant churches. You will remember Ellen White mentioned that the Moabites and Midianites were closely related through *nationality and religion*.

CATHOLICISM AND PROTESTANTISM INFILTRATES ADVENTISM

If the Midianites who were working with the Moabites represent Protestantism uniting with Catholicism, then Mrs. White’s description of the Midianites entering into the camp of Israel takes on a whole new meaning. You will recall she wrote, “Midianitish women [apostate Protestantism] began to steal into the camp [Seventh-day Adventist Church]. Their appearance [false teachings, dialogs etc.] excited no alarm, and so quietly were their plans conducted that the attention of Moses [the faithful leaders] was not called to the matter. It was the object of these women [apostate Protestantism], in their association with the Hebrews [Seventh-day Adventists], to seduce them into transgression of the law of God [forsake the Sabbath], to draw their attention to heathen rites and customs [forsake the gospe^{F61}], and lead them into idolatry [worship of false gods]. These motives were studiously concealed under the garb of friendship [ecumenism], so that they were not suspected, even by the guardians of the people [leadership].”⁵⁶² Obviously such a statement needs supporting evidence. This will be provided as we

⁵⁵⁷ Revelation 12

⁵⁵⁸ See Revelation 12:1, 17:1-5

⁵⁵⁹ Revelation 17:4,5

⁵⁶⁰ Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 328

⁵⁶¹ “When the early church became corrupted by departing from the *simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs*, she lost the Spirit and power of God.” Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 443

⁵⁶² Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 454

continue.

SPIRITUAL ADULTERY

Balaam was unable to curse Israel while they remained faithful to God. He knew that if he could lead Israel to forsake God, they would not be protected. This was the purpose of leading Israel to unite and commit whoredom with Moab. This made them guilty of spiritual adultery. When a church commits spiritual adultery it violates its marriage with Christ and chooses another. Jeremiah the prophet describes this condition as backsliding:

“The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which *backsliding* Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot. And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it. And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and *committed adultery* with stones and with stocks. And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the LORD. And the LORD said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah. Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever. *Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD. Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion*⁵⁶³

As the ten northern tribes backslid and committed idolatry with the surrounding nations, they committed adultery and God had to give them a bill of divorce which meant they were led into captivity by the Assyrians. When the true worship of God is

⁵⁶³ Jeremiah 3:6-20

compromised, then His people have committed spiritual adultery. Ellen White writes, “All false worship *is spiritual adultery*.”⁵⁶⁴

FALSE WORSHIP

Part of what influenced Israel to commit whoredom with Moab was the music associated with their worship. “Beguiled with music and dancing, and allured by the beauty of heathen vestals, they cast off their fealty to Jehovah.”⁵⁶⁵ Like ancient Israel, Adventism has become infatuated with a false style of worship. It is commonly known today as contemporary worship or celebrationism. This kind of worship is very popular in charismatic Protestant and Catholic churches.

Contemporary music, drama and, to a lesser extent, speaking in tongues plague our churches and cause the holy angels to weep.⁵⁶⁶ In describing a social meeting that Ellen White was shown she writes, “A view of one such company was presented to me, where were assembled those who *profess to believe the truth*. One was seated at the instrument of music, and *such songs were poured forth as made the watching angels weep*. There was mirth, there was coarse laughter, *there was abundance of enthusiasm and a kind of inspiration*; but the joy was such as Satan only is able to create. This is an enthusiasm and infatuation of which all who love God will be ashamed. It prepares the participants for unholy thought and action. I have reason to think that some who were engaged in that scene heartily repented of the shameful performance.”⁵⁶⁷ If this kind of music and atmosphere causes the angels to weep, what must it be like when this happens in our worship services?

For further discussion on the issue of contemporary worship, please see appendix A.

⁵⁶⁴ Ellen G. White, *Sermons and Talks*, p. 184

⁵⁶⁵ Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 454

⁵⁶⁶ For example of tongues entering our churches, Ed Christian writes in the *Adventist Review* the following:

“If the initial excitement dies because members aren't training new believers, it's sometimes tempting to manufacture excitement. *A few Adventist attempts at growing mega-churches have adopted such questionable charismatic practices as speaking in tongues and being 'slain' in the Spirit*. This has always had a disastrous effect on growth in Adventist contexts.” <http://adventistreview.org/2003-1542/story4.html>. Retrieved March 3, 2010

⁵⁶⁷ Ellen G. White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 514

FALSE DOCTRINES

In their apostasy, Israel “united in mirth and feasting, *indulgence in wine* beclouded their senses and broke down the barriers of self-control.”⁵⁶⁸ Wine is a symbol of false doctrine. “The theory of eternal torment is *one of the false doctrines that constitute the wine of the abominations of Babylon*, of which she makes all nations drink.”⁵⁶⁹

We have already looked at certain false doctrines that entered the Adventist church in the 1950s, with the publication of *Questions and Doctrine*; namely, the nature of sin, the nature of Christ and the finished atonement at the cross. These false doctrines originated in Catholicism and Protestantism. Before 1950, almost every Seventh-day Adventist believed that Christ took man’s sinful nature without ever sinning, that sin is an act and not a state that we are born into, and that the atonement was not finished at the cross. However since that time, the majority of Adventists are either confused or no longer believe these and other essential doctrines. For example, in an interview with Desmond Ford, he says:

“My theology is not controversial for most SDA scholars, but it is such to dyed-in-the-wool traditionalists whose time for study and research is limited by inclination and skills. Since Glacier View, concession after concession has been made by Church spokesmen in the areas once regarded as heretical in 1980. For example, the Church now officially teaches the ‘*sinlessness*’ of *Christ’s human nature*; the *impossibility of perfection for sinners in this life*; the fact that the *Antichrist is central in the judgment prophecies of Daniel 7 and 8*; that ‘cleansed’ is a mistranslation in Daniel 8:14; that the word ‘days’ is also not to be found in the Hebrew original of that same verse; that the atonement *DID* take place at the cross; that *Christ DID enter the equivalent of ‘the most holy place’ at His ascension and not in 1844*; that the *Lisbon earthquake, the Dark Day, and the falling of the stars in 1833 are not the fulfillment of Bible prophecy*; that Ellen White was not a theologian, never claimed infallibility and relied on faulty sources for her doctrinal formulations; that Ellen White upheld the Bible as the only rule of faith and practice; that she refused to be an arbiter in the

⁵⁶⁸ Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 454

⁵⁶⁹ Ellen G. White, *Notebook Leaflets from the Elmshaven Library*, Vol. 1, p. 52

interpretation of prophecy, etc, etc, etc.”⁵⁷⁰

To further show that Ford’s theology is gaining acceptance in the Adventist church, a letter he wrote to Dr. Richard Davidson on September 1, 2002, reveals, “It would be good for Dr. Davidson and others to get copies of the talks recently given at Avondale College by Dr. Fritz Guy and Dr. Norman Young. He would find that the key points of my Glacier View MS were there publicly affirmed in an SDA official gathering, such as the impossibility of proving 1844 as a prophetic date and many other items.”⁵⁷¹

Another “bright light” in Adventism that went out was Dr. Raymond F. Cottrell. He “was a Seventh-day Adventist theologian, missionary, teacher, writer and editor. He was an associate editor of both the Adventist Review and the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary.”⁵⁷² He “also contributed 2,000 pages to the series, the third largest number of manuscript pages of any author. Yet including his editorial work he probably had more input than any other writer into the Commentary.”⁵⁷³ Cottrell was certainly a prominent theologian in the church. But, was his theology correct?

Like Dr. Ford, Cottrell denied the investigative judgment. He wrote, “In the years immediately following October 22, 1844 the traditional sanctuary doctrine was an important asset for stabilizing the faith of disappointed Adventists. Today it is an equally significant liability and deterrent to the faith, confidence, and salvation of biblically literate Adventists and non-Adventists alike. It was present truth following the great disappointment on October 22, 1844. It is not present truth in the year of our Lord 2002. *Quod erat demonstrandum!*”⁵⁷⁴

Cottrell was what is known as a progressive Adventist. He did not actively push his progressive ideas until after his retirement.⁵⁷⁵

⁵⁷⁰ Dr. Desmond Ford, “Reflections on Adventism - Part One, an interview with Dr. Desmond Ford”, <http://www.goodnewsunlimited.org/library/atodayinterview/part1.cfm>. Retrieved March 7, 2010

⁵⁷¹ Dr. Desmond Ford, *Letter to Dr. Richard Davidson*, September 1, 2002. <http://www.atoday.com/magazine/2002/09/dr-desmond-fords-reply-dr-richard-davidson>. Retrieved March 3, 2010

⁵⁷² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raymond_Cottrell. Retrieved March 7, 2010

⁵⁷³ *Ibid.*

⁵⁷⁴ Raymond F. Cottrell, “The ‘sanctuary doctrine’ – Asset or liability?”, <http://www.ellenwhiteexposed.com/1844rc.htm>. Retrieved March 7, 2010. See also http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Investigative_judgment. Retrieved March 7, 2010

⁵⁷⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raymond_Cottrell. Retrieved March 7, 2010

He was the founder and editor of *Adventist Today*, a liberal/progressive Adventist magazine which was first published in 1993. According to Ron Corson in an article published in *Adventist Today*, called “*Progressive and Traditional Adventists Examined*,” he points out that Progressive Adventists commonly believe:

1. A differing view of what the investigative judgment is or acknowledgment that the investigative judgment is not biblical. (And as such a differing view of Christ's activities from his ascension to his Second Coming.)
2. An inclusion of other Christians into the category termed the "Remnant."
3. A less rigid understanding of the role of Ellen G. White, ranging from acknowledging that she was not always correct in her teaching and understanding and even to denying her status as Prophet.
4. The Seventh-day Sabbath is for our benefit; true Christians can and do worship on Sunday, and Sunday observance is not now, or later to become, the Mark of the Beast, nor is keeping the Seventh-day Sabbath to be the Seal of God.⁵⁷⁶

It would appear that progressive Adventism is on the increase. “Progressive Adventists tend to hold a different perspective on such areas as the investigative judgment, the prominence given to Ellen White's writings, creationism, and certain prophetic interpretations such as the remnant and Mark of the Beast. *A significant number of Adventist scholars could be considered 'progressive.'* Many progressive Adventists regard the 1980 Glacier View crisis, which centered upon major problems with the investigative judgment doctrine identified by Dr. Desmond Ford, as something of a rallying point.”⁵⁷⁷

EVOLUTION

One of the doctrines that belong in the wine cup of Catholicism and many of her Protestant daughters is the belief of

⁵⁷⁶ Ron Corson, <http://www.atoday.com/magazine/2002/11/progressive-and-traditional-adventists-examined>. Retrieved March 7, 2010

⁵⁷⁷ http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Seventh-day_Adventists. Retrieved March 7, 2010

evolution. Although the Adventist church officially rejects evolution, there is alarming evidence that it is becoming an accepted teaching among Seventh-day Adventists.

Fritz Guy is a Seventh-day Adventist Professor of theology and philosophy at La Sierra University in Riverside, California.⁵⁷⁸ “He has worked as a college and university professor, an academic administrator, and a church pastor. In a 1985 survey of North American Adventist academics, Guy tied for fourth place among the Adventist authors who had most influenced them.”⁵⁷⁹ Like Cottrell, Guy is also a progressive Adventist.

In an article entitled, “*Realities for Adventist Theology in the 21st Century*,” Guy expresses his view regarding science and religion. He writes, “While it is true that scientific knowledge is ‘always revisable’ and ‘will almost certainly need to be revised in the light of further research,’ the *fact remains that scientific knowledge is ‘the best information we have’ about the physical world.* As a consequence, ‘religious beliefs cannot remain what they were before the rise of modern science.’⁵⁸⁰ Two pages later he expands on this thought. “In the meantime, the evidence for a long developmental history of the visible universe (something like 13.7 billion years since the ‘big bang’ and often known as ‘stellar evolution’) *has become conclusive, and is accepted by most Adventist scientific and theological scholars.*”⁵⁸¹ He further writes, “This consensus represents a significant development in much Adventist thinking—from a short age of the entire universe to a short age only of life on planet Earth—in spite of its evident tension with a literal reading of Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Exodus 20:11, and with the expressed view of Ellen White. Furthermore, the available empirical evidence regarding Earth’s own biological history is recognized as more compatible with a long scenario of gradual development than with a short scenario of sudden, recent appearance of present life forms. The accumulating evidence has come from various sources—radiometric dating, genetics, comparative anatomy, geology, and paleontology—and it ‘has

⁵⁷⁸ <http://www.sdanet.org/atissue/doctrines/au2002conference/guy/guy-bio.htm>. Retrieved 3-3-2010. See also <http://www.lasierra.edu/departments/studies/faculty.html>. Retrieved March 3, 2010

⁵⁷⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fritz_Guy. Retrieved March 3, 2010

⁵⁸⁰ Fritz Guy, *Realities for Adventist Theology in the 21st Century*, p. 6

⁵⁸¹ *Ibid.*, p. 8

convinced virtually all working biologists' that a 'framework of variation and natural selection is unquestionably correct.'⁵⁸²

Those in our Church who still love the Bible should be asking their leaders why such a man who blatantly denies the plain Word of God is teaching theology in one of our schools. Don't we care about our children?

Evolution is not only confined to the atheistic view of the big bang and natural selection. Many Christians, including Adventists prefer to accept a view that appears to harmonize more with the Bible. One retired pastor wrote in 1984, "In forty years in the Christian ministry I have never preached a sermon on Creation/evolution. I believe there are more important subjects for sermons. Often in discussion groups or personal encounters I have not sidestepped the issue. And when I have taken a stand, it has been on the side of Creation. But I have a 'quarrel' with the creationist. He bases his argument on the first chapter of Genesis. All that is—or ever will be—was created in six days. Period! Neither you nor I were present during those six days. Nor was anyone else. Why, then, can we not give God the glory that He created all things—visible and invisible—without asking how He did it or how long it took? *If He is the Creator, what difference does it make whether He took six days or a thousand years?* With Him, 'one day is ... as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.' Does it really matter?"⁵⁸³

On April 30, 2009, a letter written by evangelist David Asscherick to elders Jan Paulsen (General Conference president), Don C. Schneider and Ricardo Graham shocked many faithful Adventists. The letter was in response to La Sierra University teaching naturalistic evolution. Asscherick writes, "This letter concerns the teaching of evolution at La Sierra University. While I am not a formally trained scientist, I am, however, familiar with many of the apologetic, philosophical, and theological issues surrounding the theories of naturalistic evolution. I have made this an area of special study in my life and ministry. So, I feel both comfortable and qualified to speak to the issue, especially in its ecclesiastical ramifications.

⁵⁸² *Ibid.*

⁵⁸³ Retired pastor, Walla Walla, Washington, "Letters" *Ministry*, September 1984, p.

“It is a matter of incontestable fact that naturalistic evolution is being taught at La Sierra University. This is not in and of itself a bad thing. Evolution should be taught at our denominational universities. But it should be taught as a competing and inimical worldview to the biblical worldview. We need our young people to know what it is they are up against, yes, but when naturalistic evolution is taught as fact or as the preferred and normative worldview, then we can be sure that the enemy has *breached our lines*.

“There is no point in equivocating. I have seen the class materials with my own eyes. Frankly, I think every Seventh-day Adventist deserves to see them. Our people need to know what is happening. Many of them have heard various rumblings, but being the conscientious, confiding, and hopeful people they are, they have generally assumed the very best. We are making capital of their trust.”⁵⁸⁴

Sean Pitman has a copy of the course syllabus on his website.⁵⁸⁵ In Lecture two of Larry McCloskey’s course you will find on slide 12 the admission that “Evolution is supported by an overwhelming and constantly growing amount of scientific evidence.”⁵⁸⁶

A SIGN OF COMPROMISE

Although officially the Seventh-day Adventist Church upholds in article six of its fundamental beliefs a six day creation of the “heavens and the earth and all living things upon the earth,”⁵⁸⁷ subsequent affirmations have somewhat muddied the waters.

A document prepared by the Organizing Committee of the International Faith & Science Conferences 2002-2004 was presented to and received by the General Conference Executive Committee at the Annual Council in Silver Spring, Maryland, October 11, 2004. Point number two of the documents affirmations reads, “We affirm the historic Seventh-day Adventist

⁵⁸⁴ David Asscherick <http://www.educatetruth.com/letters/david-asscherick-email-to-the-general-conference/>. Retrieved March 3, 2010

⁵⁸⁵ <http://www.detectingdesign.com/>. Retrieved March 3, 2010

⁵⁸⁶ <http://www.detectingdesign.com/PDF%20Files/Lecture%202.pdf>. Retrieved March 3, 2010

⁵⁸⁷ <http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental/index.html>. Retrieved March 3, 2010

understanding of Genesis 1 *that life on earth was created in six literal days and is of recent origin.*⁵⁸⁸ To the casual reader, this may appear to be correct, but there is a fundamental flaw with it. The problem with the statement is that the qualifying part of the sentence “*that life on earth was created in six literal days and is of recent origin*” falls short of affirming the earth itself was created in six days. It states that in our understanding of Genesis 1, only life on earth was created in six days. This opens the door for our churches, pastors, teachers and institutions to accept and promote variations of the gap theory which teaches the earth is millions or billions of years old and approximately six thousand years ago, God created life on it. This theory is similar to sitting on the fence. People want to believe what science says about the age of the earth but they also want to believe in a creator God. By compromising, the book of Genesis will eventually be interpreted as being symbolic instead of literal.

The Bible is very clear regarding the origins of this earth. “Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.”⁵⁸⁹

Probably one of the clearest verses in the Bible which identifies the time in which it took God to create the earth and everything on it is the fourth commandment, written by God’s own finger. “For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”⁵⁹⁰ Notice the commandment says that God created not only life in six days, but He also created the *heavens and the earth*. Therefore the very first verse of Genesis begins on the first day and not billions of years in the past.

As God revealed to mankind their duty to observe the Sabbath and to work six days, so we can be sure that the six days of creation as recorded in Genesis 1 and the seventh day in Genesis 2 are literal days as well. If we fail to read these verses literally, there will come a time when the Sabbath will no longer have any significance to us. This is what Satan wants and this is one of the

⁵⁸⁸ http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/statements/main_stat54.html. Retrieved March 3, 2010

⁵⁸⁹ Psalm 33:8,9

⁵⁹⁰ Exodus 20:11

reasons why so many of our young people are leaving the Church.

Ellen White warned that through evolution many would lose their faith in the Scriptures. “The warnings of the word of God regarding the perils surrounding the Christian church belong to us today. As in the days of the apostles men tried by tradition and philosophy to destroy faith in the Scriptures, so today, by the pleasing sentiments of higher criticism, *evolution*, spiritualism, theosophy, and pantheism, the enemy of righteousness is seeking to lead souls into forbidden paths.”⁵⁹¹

If the warnings she refers to were relevant in her day, how much more relevant are they today? “Inferences erroneously drawn from facts observed in nature have, however, led to *supposed conflict between science and revelation*; and in the effort to restore harmony, *interpretations of Scripture have been adopted that undermine and destroy the force of the word of God*. Geology has been thought to contradict the literal interpretation of the Mosaic record of the creation. Millions of years, it is claimed, were required for the evolution of the earth from chaos; and in order to accommodate the Bible to this supposed revelation of science, the days of creation are assumed to have been vast, indefinite periods, covering thousands or even millions of years.”⁵⁹²

God has revealed to us in His Word how and when the earth was created. If we choose to reject this plain revelation and instead choose to accept the theories of man, we will not stop at reinterpreting the creation account. Next on the list will be the Flood, and then other events that seem impossible to our human understanding. The end result will be a loss of faith in the Bible.

HOMOSEXUALITY

Another false teaching, that has taken Protestantism and the Reformed Catholic Church by storm, is homosexuality. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is officially opposed to homosexuality, but as with evolution, its acceptance is gaining popularity.

⁵⁹¹ Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 474

⁵⁹² Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 128

“In 1980 SDA Kinship⁵⁹³ held its first national gathering called Kampmeeting (similar to a typical Adventist camp meeting). Three professors from the Adventist Theological Seminary and two pastors were invited to participate. They received permission from the General Conference, with the stipulation that SDA Kinship would not claim that this indicated the church’s acceptance of homosexuality and that Colin Cook also be invited to present his ideas about helping homosexuals find healing.”⁵⁹⁴

According to Kinship, “The three professors were scholars of the Old Testament, the New Testament and Christian theology. They concluded that a simplistic English reading of the few Scriptural references to homosexual acts do not suffice to determine God’s will for people with a homosexual orientation.”⁵⁹⁵

On October 4, 2008, a review of the recently published “*Christianity and Homosexuality*” appeared in the Record—the official paper of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was written by David Potter, coordinator of general studies at Avondale College, Cooranbong, New South Wales. In the review Potter raises the following questions:

“Are same-sex relationships natural? Do homosexuals and heterosexuals deserve equal treatment in the church? Is sexual preference chosen, or is it biologically determined? Are the Leviticus 18 and 20 edicts timeless moral laws that apply equally to Christians as to Israel? Do Paul’s comments on ‘unnatural’ relations (see Romans 1) cover all same-sex relations, or only the perverse practices of the godless Gentiles? These questions and many more are addressed in *Christianity and Homosexuality: Some Seventh-day Adventist Perspectives*, edited by David Ferguson, Fritz Guy and David Larson.”⁵⁹⁶

⁵⁹³ SDA Kinship International is an organization that promotes homosexuality within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. According to its website, it has well over a 1,000 members in over 20 countries. There website address is <http://www.sdakinship.org>.

⁵⁹⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventh-day_Adventist_Kinship_International. Retrieved March 8, 2010

⁵⁹⁵ <http://www.sdakinship.org/en/about1.html>. Retrieved March 7, 2010. This was also quoted by Samuel Koranteng-Pipim in *Here We Stand*, p. 544

⁵⁹⁶ David Potter, “Christianity and Homosexuality,” *Record*, Oct. 4, 2008, p. 10. http://link.adventistconnect.org/record/2008/rec38-08_10_04.pdf. Retrieved March 7, 2010

After raising these questions, Potter then writes, “The reader faces two challenges: first, to properly assess the growing body of literature that suggests *homosexuality is a predisposition*, not a choice; and second, to re-examine what Paul is really saying in Romans 1.”⁵⁹⁷

One has to wonder why the Record would publish such a review of a book that not only disagrees with the official stand of the church, but more importantly is opposed to the Bible. However, that was not the only article that appeared in that issue of the Record which helped to support the homosexual agenda. Nathan Brown’s editorial, *Beyond Assumptions*, leads the reader to think that the issue of homosexuality is not an important moral issue and that we need to be more inclusive just as Jesus was. He writes, “I am tempted to think it is not a major issue. Most of the time I am not directly affected—and we all tend to think with less urgency about issues that don’t bother us directly.

“From a Christian perspective, the Bible says little about the issue of homosexuality—no more than five references, depending how you count them. And there is such a variety of explanations of these verses—urging what they ‘really’ say—covering many shades of meaning. Belying the noise of various Christian activists, *it is difficult to argue homosexuality as a specifically-important moral issue from a biblical perspective.*

“It’s little wonder we would prefer to avoid the difficult questions, whether by our silence or by our dogmatic and perhaps unfeeling adherence to a seemingly simple, black-and-white attitude.

“But then I come across the personal stories of those who have been hurt, confused and excluded by the church. Recognising the personal trauma, loss and heartache of openly acknowledging one’s homosexuality in a conservative Christian community, it seems obvious most of those who have endured such an ordeal *are not homosexual by choice*. If they could choose otherwise, their lives and faith would be so much simpler.”⁵⁹⁸

One of the underlying reasons why homosexuality is becoming an accepted view in the church is because the Bible’s authority is

⁵⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

⁵⁹⁸ Nathan Brown, “Beyond assumptions”, Editorial, *Record*, p. 2. Oct 4, 2008. http://link.adventistconnect.org/record/2008/rec38-08_10_04.pdf. Retrieved March 7, 2010

being challenged, and to a large degree is being replaced by science, reason, traditions and experiences. According to Samuel Koranteng-Pipim, “Those who seek to neutralize the Biblical witness against homosexuality often do so on the basis of alleged research findings (scientific, statistical etc.), or on the basis of testimonies by homosexuals of their happy, healthy, and fulfilling relationships, instead of on Scripture.”⁵⁹⁹

We are told by those who are “experts” in their field that according to studies of homosexuals, most do not choose that lifestyle, but instead are born homosexual. The implication is similar to the erroneous doctrine of original sin—we are born sinners—therefore we can’t stop sinning. It is argued that if someone is born a homosexual, then all they are capable of becoming is a homosexual. It is then concluded that if God made or allowed us to become a homosexual, then He wouldn’t look unfavorably on us being homosexual. The two articles quoted from the Record use this same argument to lead their readers to think that homosexuality is not a choice, but a predisposition.

A website entitled, “*A Solemn Appeal...To our fellow believers in the Seventh-day Adventist Church*,” addresses a public letter to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.⁶⁰⁰ This letter is supported with almost six hundred names at the time of writing—most of whom are Seventh-day Adventists. The letter lists five points that detail their convictions. It is not surprising that the first point refers to so-called scientific evidence to support their case:

“Current scientific evidence supports our conviction that, just as with heterosexuals, a homosexual orientation is determined before birth and/or very soon after, by a complex mix of biological and environmental factors over which a person has no control. To describe people who find themselves attracted to the same sex as sinful, contradicts not only science but the scriptural principles of truth, justice and compassion taught and demonstrated by

⁵⁹⁹ Samuel Koranteng-Pipim, *Here We Stand*, p. 539

⁶⁰⁰ *A Solemn Appeal*. <http://www.asolemnappeal.org/index.php?limitstart=560&lang=en-us>. Retrieved March 8, 2010.

It has been noted since retrieving the information from this website that it has been removed. The original text has been preserved at <http://www.spectrummagazine.org/node/1490> however, the list of names is no longer available.

Jesus.”⁶⁰¹

Our understanding of sin should never be determined by scientific studies. If the Bible says the practice of homosexuality is sinful, then even if every scientist around the world said it wasn't, it would still be sinful.

The letter's last point declares, “We believe the same Jesus who said, ‘The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath,’ might say today in regard to this issue, ‘Marriage was made for humans, not humans for marriage.’ We believe God wants homosexuals, as well as heterosexuals, to enjoy the many blessings of a monogamous, committed relationship – companionship, support of each other, a greater understanding of God's love, and emotional and sexual intimacy – needs with which He created all of us.”⁶⁰²

As you browse the list of names⁶⁰³ that support this letter, you notice there are many Seventh-day Adventist ministers listed there. Among some of the more prominent ones are Fritz Guy⁶⁰⁴ (Professor of Theology and Philosophy at La Sierra University), Julius Nam (Professor at Loma Linda University and a commissioned minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church) and Ryan Bell (Senior pastor of Hollywood Adventist Church).

Why are pastors who actively promote homosexuality allowed to keep their influential positions in the Church? Has God's Church come to a point where it is now politically incorrect to call sin by its right name? Are we too afraid to be identified as contradicting science and the so called “scriptural” principles of truth, justice and compassion taught and demonstrated by Jesus? How does God feel when He looks at His Church and sees men of great learning, who many Church members look up to for guidance, or Church papers teaching it is all right to practice homosexuality?

SPIRIT OF PROPHECY MADE OF NONE EFFECT

If there is one thing Catholicism and Protestantism hate most

⁶⁰¹ *Ibid.*

⁶⁰² *Ibid.*

⁶⁰³ It appears the 500 plus names of those who had signed the petition are no longer available from www.asolemnappeal.org website.

⁶⁰⁴ You will recall that Fritz Guy promotes evolution in Adventism and is a supporter of Dr. Desmond Ford.

about Adventism, it is the writings and authority of Ellen White. This is because through Ellen White, God has confirmed all of our doctrinal pillars and none of them can be moved without first removing her.

Although the Seventh-day Adventist Church has at large accepted Ellen White as a prophet, there are sure signs that her authority as a prophet is quickly declining. In previous chapters, we discovered Ellen White's ministry had been rejected by leaders in the Church. It should not be surprising then that this will happen again, especially considering Ellen White predicted this would be the very last deception of Satan. "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.*"⁶⁰⁵

This prediction indicates that the Spirit of Prophecy will not necessarily be rejected—that Ellen White will still be considered a prophet—but her writings will be made of none effect. We make the Spirit of Prophecy of no effect when we 1) discard its authority and its message 2) when we neglect to read it and 3) when we cast doubt on its relevance for today.

The way in which Satan achieves his objective is very simple. Mrs. White wrote, "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."⁶⁰⁶

Satan hates the Spirit of Prophecy. He knows that if God's people follow their warnings and reproofs he will not be able to deceive them. This is why he tries to unsettle their faith in Ellen White and her writings. He has succeeded to a large degree by using a number of methods. You can find in Appendix B more information about how the Spirit of Prophecy is being made of none effect in our churches today.

⁶⁰⁵ Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, Book 2, p. 78

⁶⁰⁶ Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, Book 1, p. 48

ELLEN WHITE NOT A THEOLOGIAN?

You might recall earlier in this chapter a quote from Dr. Desmond Ford where he said in an interview “...that Ellen White was not a theologian, never claimed infallibility and relied on faulty sources for her doctrinal formulations; that Ellen White upheld the Bible as the only rule of faith and practice; that she refused to be an arbiter in the interpretation of prophecy, etc, etc. etc.”⁶⁰⁷ We might ask the question, when did a prophet ever claim infallibility? Or how many of the Bible prophets were theologians. Peter certainly wasn’t, neither was John, James, Matthew, Mark or Luke. Where has the idea come from that if a prophet is not a theologian they should not be considered too seriously?

How does the Bible describe the people God is able to use? “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.”⁶⁰⁸ God’s ways are certainly not man’s ways. By choosing the twelve apostles—unlearned men—to take the gospel message to the world, God was able to confound the wise. In their pride of learning, the theologians of the day could not accept that God passed them by. By the influence of the Holy Spirit, the apostles were able to turn the world upside down and declared most wonderful truths.

ELLEN WHITE NOT EQUAL TO BIBLE PROPHETS?

In the process of making of none effect the Spirit of Prophecy, many are now beginning to believe that Ellen White was a prophet, but not in the same sense as the Bible prophets. For example, when Dr. Ford was asked to give his position regarding Ellen White, he answered, “She had the gift of prophecy spoken of in 1 Corinthians 14 which is not identical with that of the canonical writers of Scripture (see 1 Cor. 14:29 and 1 Thess. 5:19-21 for clear statements that the gift in our day—since the completion of the canon—is not infallible). Ellen White never

⁶⁰⁷ Dr. Desmond Ford, “Reflections on Adventism - Part One, an interview with Dr. Desmond Ford”, Interview number 1, <http://www.goodnewsunlimited.org/library/atodayinterview/part1.cfm>. Retrieved March 7, 2010

⁶⁰⁸ 1 Corinthians 1:26,27

claimed infallibility and her writings should be studied as those of a great church leader and pastor but not as a ‘Bible.’”⁶⁰⁹

As much as Dr. Ford might be a highly educated man, his view of the Spirit of Prophecy is not correct. In contrasting the prophets and apostles of Bible times with her own ministry, Ellen White wrote, “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.”⁶¹⁰ Ellen White’s writings are more than that of a church leader or pastor. Let us not be deceived. Ellen White warned, “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.”⁶¹¹

THE BIBLE ONLY

Have you ever heard our leaders and teachers say something like, “Ellen White said we should use the Bible only” or “Ellen White was only a lesser light”? These arguments are Satan’s way of unsettling our faith in the Spirit of Prophecy. Desmond Ford in his interview echoes this same deception, “I have highly valued the writings of Ellen White since my first encounter with them. But for the last fifty years, I have accepted her own warnings that her writings were not to be used as Scripture and that the Bible—and the Bible only—is our source of doctrine.”⁶¹²

Of course, those who reject the truth as given in the Spirit of Prophecy rarely come out and attack Ellen White’s writings. They make out as though they value her writings—even quoting from her—but when it disagrees with their erroneous views, they are quick to discredit her or say we are to use the Scriptures only.

This kind of deception was around even when Ellen White was

⁶⁰⁹ Dr. Desmond Ford, “Reflections on Adventism - Part One, an interview with Dr. Desmond Ford”, Interview number 2, <http://www.goodnewsunlimited.org/library/atodayinterview/part2.cfm>. Retrieved March 9, 2010

⁶¹⁰ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 661

⁶¹¹ Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, Book 3, p. 84

⁶¹² Dr. Desmond Ford, “Reflections on Adventism - Part One, an interview with Dr. Desmond Ford”, Interview number 2, <http://www.goodnewsunlimited.org/library/atodayinterview/part2.cfm>. Retrieved March 9, 2010

alive. She wrote, “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.”⁶¹³ She continues in the next paragraph, “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.*”⁶¹⁴

We have certainly seen this fulfilled. Those who teach false doctrines in the Seventh-day Adventist Church almost always claim to take their position from the Bible only.

It is interesting that on a *Let's Talk* program with Elder Jan Paulsen, while president of the General Conference, he echoed this same argument when asked the question, “Is it right for some people to quote Ellen White instead of the Bible?” He answered, “We might also ask: Is it right for some people to quote Martin Luther instead of the Bible? Or Max Lucado? Or anyone other than the Bible? Depending on the subject and the occasion, we might choose to quote any number of people.” He then continues, “If we are attempting to present spiritual truth, or if we are discussing a disputed point regarding spiritual things, the Bible is our point of reference. We may bring in other writers if we wish (and anyone with the genuine prophetic gift ought to rank high among them). But we must understand that these are not the source of our beliefs. Ellen White’s own counsel would lead us to make the Bible our main study and to appeal to it as our source of spiritual truth.”⁶¹⁵

According to Elder Paulsen, Ellen White’s writings should only

⁶¹³ Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, Book 3, p. 83

⁶¹⁴ *Ibid.*

⁶¹⁵ Jan Paulsen, *Let's Talk*, http://letstalk.adventist.org/q_a/adventist_life/ellen_white.html. Retrieved March 9, 2010

rank high among “other writers” when attempting to present the truth. Has the church come to the point where the Spirit of Prophecy is made of none effect? If so, then we can be sure it will not be too long before Jesus returns, for this would be Satan’s last deception.

Elder Paulsen was right that when we present the truth it must be founded in the Bible. However, when these truths are disputed—such as the investigative judgment, the nature of sin, the nature of Christ, etc.—we can certainly use the writings of Ellen White to define for us what the truth is. This is one reason why God has given us the Spirit of Prophecy.

A LESSER LIGHT

In his attempt to discredit the writings of Ellen White, Satan has twisted a statement in the Spirit of Prophecy to imply that Mrs. Whites writings are lesser in value and authority compared with the Bible. However, we know from what she wrote that those who want to use the Bible only, really want to bring in false doctrines. So what did she mean by her writings being a lesser light? In 1903, she wrote:

“Sister White is *not the originator of the thoughts expressed in the books bearing her name*. These books contain the instruction that during her life-time *God has graciously given her to give to the world*. From their pages light is to shine into the hearts of men and women, leading them to the Saviour. It is our work to scatter these books throughout the world. There is in them truth that to the receiver is a savor of life unto life. They are silent witnesses for God. In the past they have been the means in His hands of convicting and converting many souls...The Lord has sent His people much instruction, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little. *Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light*. O, how much good might be accomplished if the books containing this light were read with a determination to carry out the principles they contain. There would be a thousandfold greater vigilance, a thousandfold more self-denial and resolute effort. And many more would now be rejoicing in the light of present truth.”⁶¹⁶

⁶¹⁶ Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*, January 20, 1903, par. 8,9

The first point we should notice from this quote is that the context is referring to the books *Christ Object Lessons*, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *Great Controversy* and *Desire of Ages*. However, it might easily be applied to any of her books that bear her name. Ellen White was not the originator of the thoughts expressed in these books. God was the originator and her books were to go to the world, not just the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The second point to notice is that God has sent His people much light through the books that bear Ellen White's name. Because little heed is given to the Bible, God has had to send a lesser light to point to the greater light. But, does this mean the writings of Ellen White should not be used to define truth?

OLD TESTAMENT A LESSER LIGHT

“With the first advent of Christ there was ushered in an era of *greater light and glory*; but it would indeed be sinful ingratitude to despise and ridicule *the lesser light because a fuller and more glorious light had dawned*. Those who despise the blessings and glory of the Jewish age are not prepared to be benefited by the preaching of the gospel. The brightness of the Father's glory, and the excellence and perfection of his sacred law, are only understood through the atonement made upon Calvary by his dear Son; but even the atonement loses its significance when the law of God is rejected.”⁶¹⁷

The Jewish age was governed by the Old Testament. When Jesus came and made plain the truths of God, a greater light was revealed. New Testament Christians didn't stop reading the Old Testament or relegate it to a secondary source status. It formed the foundation of whatever they taught and was used to prove Jesus was the Messiah.

In the twelfth chapter of Revelation we are shown a picture describing this lesser and greater light. John writes, “And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.”⁶¹⁸ In the book of Genesis, God reveals what the sun and moon are. “And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the *lesser light* to rule the night: he made the

⁶¹⁷ Ellen G. White, *The Signs of the Times*, August 25, 1887, par. 9

⁶¹⁸ Revelation 12:1

stars also.”⁶¹⁹

John’s description of the woman (the church) in the New Testament era is clothed with the brightness of the sun (the greater light) and it stands on the moon (the lesser light). The moon does not produce its own light. It only reflects the sun’s light. So it is with the Old Testament. It reflects the light of Jesus who is the “bright and morning star.”⁶²⁰ This therefore shows that a lesser light should not be considered of lesser value or authority.

JOHN THE BAPTIST A LESSER LIGHT

To further show that a lesser light is of no lesser value compared with the greater light, Ellen White spoke of this in relation to John the Baptist and Jesus. “The religion of the Jews, in consequence of their departure from God, consisted mostly in ceremony. *John was the lesser light, which was to be followed by a greater light.* He was to shake the confidence of the people in their traditions, and call their sins to their remembrance, and lead them to repentance; *that they might be prepared to appreciate the work of Christ.* God communicated to John by inspiration, illuminating the prophet that he might remove the superstition and darkness from the minds of the honest Jews, which had been, through false teachings for generations, gathering upon them.”⁶²¹

Of John it is written, “And thou, child, shalt be called the *prophet of the Highest*: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; *To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,* Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, *To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*”⁶²² Jesus said of John, “For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”⁶²³ Yet even this status did not stop the theologians of the day from rejecting John’s message. “For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, *and ye believed him not:* but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye

⁶¹⁹ Genesis 1:16

⁶²⁰ Revelation 22:16

⁶²¹ Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*, April 8, 1873, par. 15

⁶²² Luke 1:76-79

⁶²³ Luke 7:28

had seen it, repented not afterward, *that ye might believe him.*⁶²⁴ He was even accused of having a devil.⁶²⁵

John's mission was to prepare the people to receive Jesus. He was to give a knowledge of salvation and give light to those who were in darkness, and yet he was only a lesser light. His light was essential at that time, and if it was rejected like the theologians and scholars of his day did, then the greater light would not be accepted. This is an important parallel for us today. Those in our midst who reject Ellen White's writings or cast doubt on them and teach that because they are only a "lesser light" they should not be used to define doctrine, are of the same class that rejected John the Baptist and the greater light, Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist did not write a book that was placed in the canon of Scripture. But this does not mean he had less authority than other Bible writers. Remember Jesus said he was the greatest of all the prophets. When asked who he was, John referred people back to the book of Isaiah for the purpose of his mission. The burden of his message originated in the Old Testament writings, yet the truth he bore had been lost sight of by the majority in Israel—including the leaders. So too Ellen White's writings are a lesser light to the Bible. The lesser light always reflects the greater light. Therefore what is revealed in the Bible is revealed in the writings of Ellen White, and vice versa. There is no conflict. The Spirit of Prophecy is of no lesser authority than the Bible. Ellen White was inspired the same way as the prophets of old. Just as John the Baptist pointed people back to the Old Testament, so Ellen White points us back to the Bible and bears the truth that has been lost sight of by the majority of Christianity.

PURPOSE OF THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

God doesn't send prophets to His people as an optional extra for those who want to stand out from the crowd. There was a reason why He sent His last day church the writings of Ellen White. Just as Moses was used to guide and instruct the people of God as they came out of Egypt, so Ellen White was used to guide and instruct the remnant church.

Through Ellen White's writings, God has sent His people

⁶²⁴ Matthew 21:32

⁶²⁵ Luke 7:33

direction. “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.”⁶²⁶

Ellen White’s writings also help to point out our sins. “I took the precious Bible and surrounded it with the several *Testimonies for the Church*, 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.

“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.*”⁶²⁷

To insure we are left without an excuse, God has given us simple, direct counsel through the writings of Ellen White. This is

⁶²⁶ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, p. 98

⁶²⁷ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 2, p. 605

because many have twisted the Bible and deny the truths contained therein. For example, the Bible is clear that Jesus took fallen human nature, yet most theologians in Adventism today twist the words of Scripture and teach that Jesus took Adams sinless nature before he fell. Because the theologians are “well educated,” many accept their teachings. But how are we to know what is truth, especially when we have become confused on the matter? The answer is simple. God has revealed the truth through Ellen White and it doesn’t matter how much the theologians quote to us from the Bible only, they will always be wrong if they contradict the Spirit of Prophecy. This applies to every issue we face. Remember, false teachers will claim Scripture as their evidence.⁶²⁸

In 1890, Ellen White had to write to brother and sister Garmire regarding a leaflet they had sent out that was promoting false doctrines. They were convinced they had found the truth, but they had been deceived. Their case is very similar to what is happening in Adventism today. Ellen White wrote, “You and your wife and Sister Eastman have said, ‘*Show us from the Bible that we are in error, and we will give it up.*’ *But how can I prove your error by Scripture when you misinterpret and misapply it as you do?*”

“It was this same spirit in the Jews which called forth the words of Christ, ‘Ye are ignorant both of the Scriptures and of the power of God.’ They entertained the idea that Christ at His first advent was to break the Roman yoke from off their necks, and that He would then honor Israel by placing them above every other people on the earth. *And they produced Scripture to sustain them; but they were deceived.* The Old Testament prophecies which relate to the glorious second appearing of Christ, they applied to His first advent, and *many, even the wise and educated, were deceived.* Their error was fatal.

“Several times during our conversation, in which you become very much in earnest, you repeated the sentence, ‘O consistency, thou art a jewel!’ I repeat the same with decided force to you. You say that Anna’s visions place the forming of the image of the beast after probation closes. This is not so. *You claim to believe the testimonies; let them set you right on this point.* The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before

⁶²⁸ Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, Book 3, p. 83

probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided. Your position is such a jumble of inconsistencies that but few will be deceived... You have taken the history of the disobedient prophet, as given in the Old Testament, and applied it to Sister White. *You say she is perfectly honest, but she deceived prophet.* For this reason the testimonies of the Spirit of God can have no effect on you... My duty is to make plain statements of my position; for you misinterpret my testimony, wrench it from its true meaning, and ring in my name whenever you think it will *enforce whatever you have to say. But when the testimonies do not harmonize with your theories, I am excused, because I am the false prophet!* There are many ways of evading the truth.”⁶²⁹

“The testimonies either bear the signet of God or that of Satan. A good tree cannot bring forth corrupt fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. By their fruit ye shall know them. God has spoken. Who has trembled at His word?”⁶³⁰

SPIRIT OF PROPHECY DEFINES TRUTH

Ellen White said her writings can set us right on doctrinal issues. Not only do her writings guide and counsel us, but they were instrumental in the establishment of the foundational pillars of truth. “In his teaching Elder _____ showed that the *Spirit of prophecy has an important part to act in the establishment of the truth.*”⁶³¹ “At that time [after the 1844 disappointment] one error after another pressed in upon us; ministers and doctors brought in new doctrines. We would search the Scriptures with much prayer, and the Holy Spirit would bring the truth to our minds. Sometimes whole nights would be devoted to searching the Scriptures and earnestly asking God for guidance. Companies of devoted men and women assembled for this purpose. The power of God would come upon me, *and I was enabled clearly to define what is truth and what is error.*

“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

⁶²⁹ Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 15, pp. 14-15

⁶³⁰ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 298

⁶³¹ Ellen G. White, *Evangelism*, p. 257

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.*⁶³²

Despite what many of our leaders and teachers are telling us today, the Spirit of Prophecy does define what is truth. Of course this truth is founded on the Bible, but it is made plain in the Spirit of Prophecy. "I have much written in the diary 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.'⁶³³

TWO EXTREMES

Although we need to be on guard against rejecting or belittling the Spirit of Prophecy, we also need to be careful we don't twist them to say something they never intended. Ellen White warned that, "Soon every possible effort will be made to discount and pervert the truth of the testimonies of God's Spirit. We must have in readiness the clear, straight messages that since 1846 have been coming to God's people.

"There will be those once united with us in the faith who will search for new, strange doctrines, for something odd and sensational to present to the people. They will bring in all conceivable fallacies, *and will present them as coming from Mrs. White*, that they may beguile souls... There are those who will misinterpret the messages that God has given, in accordance with their spiritual blindness.

"Some will yield their faith, and will deny the truth of the messages, *pointing to them as falsehoods.*

"Some will hold them up to ridicule, working against the light that God has been giving for years, and some who are weak in the

⁶³² Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, Book 3, pp. 31-32

⁶³³ *Ibid.*, p. 32

faith will thus be led astray.

“But others will be greatly helped by the messages. Though not personally addressed, they will be corrected, and will be led to shun the evils specified... The Spirit of the Lord will be in the instruction, and doubts existing in many minds will be swept away. *The testimonies themselves will be the key that will explain the messages given, as scripture is explained by scripture.*”⁶³⁴

The last sentence in this quotation is very significant. It teaches us how we should interpret the writings of Ellen White. Some people wrongly quote her as they do the Bible—an isolated verse or sentence to prove a point. Ellen White said this is not how her writings should be used. They will interpret themselves. As with the Bible, there are portions of Ellen White’s writings that, if taken by themselves, may appear to contradict other plainer statements. That is why it is important to consider everything she has to say on a subject. The less plainer statements should be subjected to the majority which cannot be disputed. Then we will not be deceived.

GOD THE AUTHOR OF ELLEN WHITE’S WRITINGS

Many today are being taught in our colleges and churches that only parts of what Ellen White wrote were inspired. Some suggest that God never gave Ellen White a fax roll from heaven and she had to base a lot of what she wrote on other people’s writings, which have proven to be erroneous. However, Ellen White wrote, “As soon as I take my pen in hand *I am not in darkness as to what to write.* It is as plain and clear as a voice speaking to me, ‘I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go.’”⁶³⁵ She also wrote, “I cannot at my own impulse take up a work and launch out into it. I have to be impressed by the Spirit of God. I cannot write unless the Holy Spirit helps me. Sometimes I cannot write at all. Then again I am aroused at eleven, twelve, and one o’clock; and I can write as fast as my hand can move over the paper.”⁶³⁶

In describing her work, Ellen White wrote, “I speak that which I have seen, and which I know to be true.”⁶³⁷ She also wrote, “In

⁶³⁴ Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, Book 1, pp. 41–42

⁶³⁵ Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, Book 3, p. 49

⁶³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 49

⁶³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 49

the night season many things are passing before me. The Scriptures, full of grace and richness, are presented before me. The word of the Lord to me is: ‘Look on these things, and meditate on them. You may claim the rich grace of truth, which nourishes the soul. Have naught to do with controversy and dissension and strife, which bring darkness and discouragement to your soul. Truth is clear, pure, savory. Avoid all council meetings where there is dissension, and where men will neither credit My words and obey My lessons nor heed your counsel. Speak the truth in faith and love, leaving the result with God. *The work is not yours, but the Lord’s*. In all your communications, speak as one to whom the Lord has spoken. *He is your authority*, and He will give you His sustaining grace.’⁶³⁸

Regarding the books Ellen White had written, she wrote, “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.”⁶³⁹

“When I went to Colorado” she writes, “I was so burdened for you that, in my weakness, I wrote many pages to be read at your camp meeting. Weak and trembling, I arose at three o’clock in the morning to write to you. God was speaking through clay. You might say that this communication was only a letter. Yes, it was a letter, but prompted by the Spirit of God, to bring before your minds things that had been shown me. In these letters which I write, in the testimonies I bear, I am presenting to you that which the Lord has presented to me. *I do not write one article in the paper expressing merely my own ideas. They are what God has opened before me in vision*—the precious rays of light shining from the throne.”⁶⁴⁰

As Ellen White looked back over her work, she could write, “I am now looking over my diaries and copies of letters written for several years back... I have the most precious matter to reproduce and place before the people in testimony form. While I am able to do this work, the people must have things to revive past history, that they may see that there is one straight chain of truth, *without*

⁶³⁸ Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Release*, Vol. 17, p. 63

⁶³⁹ Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*, January 20, 1903, par. 8

⁶⁴⁰ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 67

*one heretical sentence, in that which I have written. This, I am instructed, is to be a living letter to all in regard to my faith.*⁶⁴¹

SUMMARY OF THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

In 1906, Ellen White wrote a letter to W. W. Simpson which clearly sums up the importance of the Spirit of Prophecy. She wrote, “The truths given us after the passing of the time in 1844 are *just as certain and unchangeable* as when the Lord gave them to us in answer to our urgent prayers. The visions that the Lord has given me are so remarkable that we know that what we have accepted is the truth. This was demonstrated by the Holy Spirit. Light, precious light from God, *established the main points of our faith as we hold them today*. And these truths are to be kept before the mind. We must arouse from the position of lukewarmness, from being neither cold nor hot. We need increased faith and more earnest trust in God. We must not be satisfied to remain where we are. We must advance step by step, from light to greater light.

“The Lord will certainly do great things for us if we will hunger and thirst after righteousness. We are the purchased property of Jesus Christ. We must not lose our devotion, our consecration. We are in conflict with the errors and delusions that have to be swept away from the minds of those who have not acted upon the light they already have. Bible truth is our only safety. I know and understand that we are to be established in the faith, in the light of the truth given us in our early experience. At that time one error after another pressed in upon us; ministers and doctors brought in new doctrines. We would search the Scriptures with much prayer, and the Holy Spirit would bring the truth to our minds. Sometimes whole nights would be devoted to searching the Scriptures, and earnestly asking God for guidance. Companies of devoted men and women assembled for this purpose. The power of God would come upon me, and *I was enabled clearly to define what is truth and what is error*.

“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

⁶⁴¹ Ellen G. White. *Letter 329a*, 1905. See *Selected Messages*, Book 3, p. 52

given illustrations of heavenly things, and of the sanctuary, so that we were placed where light was shining on us in *clear, distinct rays*.

“All these truths are immortalized in my writings. The Lord never denies His word. 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 in these last days.*

“I know that the sanctuary question stands in righteousness and truth, just as we have held it for so many years. It is the enemy that leads minds off on side-tracks. He is pleased when those who know the truth become *engrossed in collecting Scriptures to pile around erroneous theories,* which have no foundation in truth. *The Scriptures thus used are misapplied;* they were not given to substantiate error, but to strengthen truth.

“So you see that it is impossible for us to have any agreement with the positions taken by Brother _____, for no lie is of the truth. His proofs do not belong where he places them, and although he may lead minds to believe his theory in regard to the sanctuary, this is no evidence that his theory is true. *We have had a plain and decided testimony to bear for half a century.* The positions taken in my books *are truth.* The truth was revealed to us by the Holy Spirit, and we know that Brother _____'s position is not according to the word of God. His theory is a deceiving theory, and he *misapplies Scriptures.* Theories of the kind that he has been presenting, we have had to meet again and again.

“I am thankful that the *instruction contained in my books establishes present truth for this time.* These books were written under the demonstration of the Holy Spirit. I praise the Lord with heart and soul and voice, and I pray that He will lead into all truth those who will be led. I praise Him that He has so wonderfully spared my life up to this time, to bear the same message upon the important points of our faith that I have borne for half a century.”⁶⁴²

To conclude this discussion of the Spirit of Prophecy, the words of Ellen White to someone who had rejected her writings are applicable to us today. She wrote, *“If you are thoroughly convinced that God has not spoken by us, why not act in accordance with your*

⁶⁴² Ellen G. White, *Letter 50*, 1906. See *Manuscript Release*, Vol. 8, p. 321

faith and have no more to do with a people who are under so great a deception as this people are? If you have been moving according to the dictates of the Spirit of God you are right and we are wrong. God is either teaching His church, reproofing 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 for the past thirty years 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. In arraying yourself against the servants of God you are doing a work either for God or for the devil. 'By their fruits ye shall know them.' What stamp does your work bear? It will pay to look critically at the result of your course."⁶⁴³

THE LEADERS PROMOTE FALSE WORSHIP

The apostasy at the borders of the Promised Land began with music, dancing and wine, but it ended in a complete departure from God and promoted worship of another god. As Ellen White described the apostasy, she wrote, "*The rulers and the leading men were among the first to transgress, and so many of the people were guilty that the apostasy became national. 'Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor.'*"⁶⁴⁴

If we put that quote into context for today, it would simply mean that the leaders of the church (certainly not all of them as the parallel shows later in the story) would be among the first to push for Sunday worship in the Adventist Church. Most Adventists would scoff at such a conclusion, but Ellen White wrote, "The licentious practice of the Hebrews accomplished for them that which all the warfare of nations and the enchantments of Balaam could not do. They became separated from their God. Their covering and protection were removed from them. God turned to be their enemy. So many of the princes and people were guilty of licentiousness, *that it became a national sin*; for God was wroth with the whole congregation. *The very same Satan is now working to the very same end, to weaken and destroy the people who claim to be keeping the commandments of God, as they are just on the borders of the heavenly Canaan.* Satan knows it is his time. He has

⁶⁴³ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, p. 229

⁶⁴⁴ Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 454

but little time left now in which to work, and he will work with tremendous power to ensnare the people of God upon their weak points of character.”⁶⁴⁵

In 1884, Ellen White predicted a time when many Adventists will keep Sunday and this would be promoted by those who hold responsible positions in the church. She wrote, “There is need of a Sabbath reform *among us, who profess to observe God’s holy rest-day*. Some discuss their business matters and lay plans on the Sabbath, and God looks upon this in the same light as though they engaged in the actual transaction of business. Others who are well acquainted with the Bible evidences that the seventh day is the Sabbath, enter into partnership with men who have no respect for God’s holy day. A Sabbath-keeper cannot allow men in his employ, paid by his money, to work on the Sabbath. If, for the sake of gain, he allows the business in which he has an interest to be carried on the Sabbath by his unbelieving partner, he is equally guilty with the unbeliever; and it is his duty to dissolve the relation, however much he may lose by so doing. Men may think they cannot afford to obey God, but they cannot afford to disobey him. Those who are careless in their observance of the Sabbath will suffer great loss.”⁶⁴⁶

After describing this general disregard of the Sabbath among Seventh-day Adventists, Ellen White then makes the following prediction in the next paragraph, “The Lord has a controversy with his professed people in these last days. In this controversy *men in responsible positions will take a course directly opposite to that pursued by Nehemiah*. They will not only ignore and despise the Sabbath themselves, but they will try to keep it from others by burying it beneath the rubbish of custom and tradition. In churches and in large gatherings in the open air, ministers will *urge upon the people the necessity of keeping the first day of the week*. There are calamities on sea and land: and these calamities will increase, one disaster following close upon another; and the little band of conscientious Sabbath-keepers will be pointed out as the ones who are bringing the wrath of God upon the world by their disregard of Sunday.”⁶⁴⁷

According to this prediction, there is going to come a time

⁶⁴⁵ Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*, May 17, 1887, par. 9

⁶⁴⁶ Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*, March 18, 1884, par. 7

⁶⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, par. 8

when men in responsible positions—leaders in the Church, will advocate Sunday worship in our churches. This should not surprise us because ancient Israel was led into this same apostasy just as they were about to enter the Promised Land. A similar event also happened in Ezekiel’s day.

“In the sixth year of the reign of Zedekiah, the Lord revealed to Ezekiel in vision some of the abominations that were being practiced in Jerusalem, and within the gate of the Lord’s house, and even in the inner court... Those who *should have been spiritual leaders among the people*, ‘the ancients of the house of Israel,’ to the number of seventy, were seen offering incense before the idolatrous representations that had been introduced into hidden chambers within the sacred precincts of the temple court... At a gate leading from the outer to the inner court he was shown ‘women weeping for Tammuz,’ and within ‘the inner court of the Lord’s house, . . . at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the east; and they *worshiped the sun toward the east.*’ Verses 13-16.”⁶⁴⁸

Even now, we see signs that the Sabbath is being lightly regarded. In the April 3, 2010 edition of the Record, (the official paper of the South Pacific Division), we notice the following flashpoint: “Fremantle church (WA) was empty on Sabbath March 6, because the congregation had walked out into the neighbourhood of Palmyra. Instead of sitting in a pew, listening to the preacher talk about serving the community, church members got out and did it!”⁶⁴⁹ One doesn’t have to guess what the church members were doing in serving the community, as the picture above the flashpoint clearly revealed they were cleaning up rubbish. That is right, the Fremantle Seventh-day Adventist Church participated in the “Clean Up Australia” day on the Sabbath instead of listening to a pastor preach from the Word of God. According to Pastor Terry Lambert, the senior minister for the Fremantle church, “...cleaning up Australia was a practical way to show our love for the world and for God. ‘Corporately we

⁶⁴⁸ Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 448-449

⁶⁴⁹ Terry Lambert, Flashpoint, *RECORD*, April 3, 2010, p. 8. <http://record.net.au/assets/248238>. Retrieved April 17, 2010

wanted to model to our attendees that God has given us the responsibility to be good stewards of our earth's resources. Caring for the environment is a spiritual discipline we incorporate into our daily lives helping us to cooperate more with the Holy Spirit,' says Pastor Terry. 'We are showing our love for God when we serve and love the world like he asks us to.'⁶⁵⁰

There is nothing wrong with cleaning up Australia, but to do this on God's Sabbath is an act of rebellion. What is worse, the official "Clean Up Australia" day was the following day on Sunday, March 7, 2010. One has to wonder why they were not able to wait until Sunday to show their "love for God." If we lightly regard the Sabbath now, what will it be like when those who keep the Sabbath will be persecuted?

ECUMENISM

You may recall Ellen White's comments in *Patriarchs and Prophets* concerning the Midianitish women that stole into the camp, "These motives were *studiously concealed under the garb of friendship*, so that they were not suspected, even by the guardians of the people."⁶⁵¹ When churches develop a friendship with each other they are trying to achieve unity. This unity is known as ecumenism. The Webster's Online Dictionary defines ecumenical as "concerned with promoting unity among churches or religions."⁶⁵²

Jesus prayed four times in John seventeen that His people might be unified as one.⁶⁵³ But unity must be founded on the truth.

"The World Council of Churches (WCC) is the broadest and most inclusive among the many organized expressions of the modern ecumenical movement, a movement whose goal is Christian unity."⁶⁵⁴ The Seventh-day Adventist Church is not a

⁶⁵⁰ Terry Lambert, "Freo Church Cleans Up", *Fremantle Church website*. http://www.freochurch.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=77:freo-church-cleans-up&catid=40:love-the-world&Itemid=183. Retrieved April 17, 2010

⁶⁵¹ Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 454

⁶⁵² Webster's Online Dictionary, <http://www.websters-online-dictionary.org/ecumenical.html>. Retrieved March 14, 2010

⁶⁵³ John 17:11,21,22,23

⁶⁵⁴ <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/who-are-we.html>. Retrieved March 14, 2010

member of the WCC, but it is an observer.⁶⁵⁵ Because we are not a voting member, many think the church is not involved in the ecumenical movement. But according to the history of Israel, God's people will be infiltrated by Protestant and Catholic ideas and this will lead the Church to commit spiritual adultery.

Although the Adventist Church may not be a voting member of the WCC, there is plenty of evidence that suggests it is involved in ecumenism to some degree. This is taking place from the local church through to the General Conference.

In the local church, ecumenism is being promoted through uniting with other local Christian churches as much as possible. Our pastors often unite with the local ministers fraternal. Our local churches are invited to unite with other churches on special events such as Easter and Christmas and they are invited to attend other events such as women's or men's meetings. All these tend to break down barriers and create an environment of ecumenism.

In a presentation at the “*Questions on Doctrine 50th Anniversary Conference*” held at Andrews University on October 24-27, 2007, Russell Standish—one of the participants—revealed that a “popular Seventh-day Adventist youth preacher, Pastor ‘Litch’ Litchfield from the United States conducted an evangelistic series for youth in the Mildura Church, Victorian Conference, Australia.”⁶⁵⁶ The report states that, “At the conclusion the youth were passed a commitment sheet,” which asked if they wanted to participate in a Youth Fellowship Group. If they answered yes to this question, they were required to tick a box indicating which Fellowship Group they would like to contact them. Among the available groups listed were the Anglican, Church of Christ, Living Waters, Red Cliffs Christian Fellowship, Seventh-day Adventist, Presbyterian, Salvation Army, Uniting [Church of Australia] or Other. Why would we recommend people attend another Christian church after an evangelistic series had been held?

At a more corporate level, there are signs that Adventist Church leaders are joining with the ecumenical movement. On

⁶⁵⁵ Bill Knott, “Adventists Observe WCC Assembly”, *Adventist Review*, <http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=373>. Retrieved March 14, 2010

⁶⁵⁶ Russell Roland Standish, “A History of *Questions on Doctrine*-Fidelity or Compromise?” *Questions on Doctrine 50th Anniversary Conference*, http://god.andrews.edu/docs/03_russell_standish.pdf. Retrieved March 14, 2010

August 6-9, 2007, theological conversations took place at Andrews University between theologians representing the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (Adventists) and the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA/Evangelicals). A Joint Statement of the World Evangelical Alliance and the Seventh-day Adventist Church was issued as a result.⁶⁵⁷ The introduction of the joint statement stated, “These conversations took place in an atmosphere of amicable Christian fellowship and study, building on the history of increasing fellowship, trust, and cooperation in various countries.” It also mentioned, “The key purposes of these conversations were not to explore any formal joining of organizations, *but, rather to better understand each other’s beliefs and working methods and to explore possibilities of fruitful cooperation among local churches and in national alliances.*”

Just as the Midianites stole into the camp under the guise of friendship, so we notice from this joint statement there has been a history of increasing fellowship, trust, and cooperation between the World Evangelical Alliance and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Why do we have to hold dialogue with other churches and ecumenical alliances to better understand each other’s beliefs? In today’s age of internet technology, anybody can easily find out what the Seventh-day Adventist Church believes.

The joint statement further revealed under the heading of “Areas of Cooperation”: “Having greatly benefited from this experience, the participants also propose that their respective bodies encourage an *on-going process of theological discussion at all levels.*” What started out as a so-called innocent meeting to better understand one other, has paved the way to tackle theological issues in future meetings. What would be the purpose of having ongoing theological discussions when the conversations already pointed out the points of disagreement?

In its press release section, the joint statement declared, “The conversations revealed a common love for the Lord and his Word, and *a large measure of theological agreement.* The Adventist participants could agree wholeheartedly with the WEA Statement of Faith, which focuses on the Bible as the Word of God, the Trinity, the person of Jesus Christ and his saving work,

⁶⁵⁷ <http://www.protestantedigital.com/new/pdf/WEAadventistDialogue.pdf>. Retrieved March 14, 2010

justification by faith, prayer, conversion, sanctification, and the Second Coming of Christ.”

“At the same time several areas of disagreement became apparent. The Adventist teachings regarding the Sanctuary and the pre-Advent judgment, the role and authority of Ellen G. White, the Sabbath as the day of worship for Christians, and human nature and destiny led to spirited exchanges.

“The participants concluded that, despite disagreement over these distinctive Adventist beliefs, the large measure of common ground allows for Adventists and the WEA to cooperate, where advisable, in areas of shared interest.”⁶⁵⁸

To be sure credit is given where it is due, those representing the Seventh-day Adventist Church did uphold the distinct differences between Adventism and Evangelicalism. However, the overall message conveyed is that Adventism is prepared to cooperate with the ecumenical Evangelical movement as much as we possibly can. Isn't this like trying to get as close to sin as possible without actually crossing the line?

We need to remember that the dialogue between Froom, Anderson and the Evangelicals resulted in the book of *Questions on Doctrine*, which denied or watered down some of our most distinctive doctrines. This was designed so we could be accepted by Evangelicals. Will our leaders further surrender the truth so that we can be accepted by Protestantism and Catholicism?

In another joint statement between the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Poland and the Roman Catholic Church, on February 15, 2000, it was declared, “Recognizing each other's autonomy and independence, the document was issued *following 15 years of dialogue aimed at better understanding of the teachings and practice of the Catholic and the Adventist Churches*, as well as improving relations without compromising each other's identity.”⁶⁵⁹ What type of relationship would we want with the Catholic church? How can we improve relations with it and at the same time identify it as the Whore of Revelation and call people out of it?

The statement didn't stop there. In an effort to silence our

⁶⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

⁶⁵⁹ Ray Dabrowski, “ ‘Adventist Church Cannot be Treated as a Sect,’ Say Adventists and Catholics in Poland”, *Adventist News Network*, February 15, 2000, <http://news.adventist.org/2000/02/avetist-church-caot-be-treate-as-a-sect-say-avetists-a-catholics-i-pola.html>. Retrieved March 13, 2010

identifying the Catholic church as Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots, it declared, “The statement recognizes that though the Churches can refer to similarities, they also see difference between each other’s ‘doctrine, practice and church policies.’ *However, both sides affirm a need to cultivate respect for each other and learn to understand each other.* The dialogue was ‘conducted on the *basis of partnership*, care to uphold a full identity of both sides, as well as their autonomy and independence, in the spirit of mutual respect and Christian love, and in recognition of the ideals of tolerance and religious freedom.’”

In our effort to be recognized as a genuine Christian church, are we giving up our distinct beliefs and mission? In an effort to be more friendly with Catholicism, “The former General Conference President, Neal Wilson, said in the Pacific Union Recorder: ‘Our work is *not to denounce the Roman Catholic Church.*’ February 18, 1985. That sounds good, but what does he really mean? In a civil court case, Wilson said, ‘Although it is true that there was a period, in the life of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, when the denomination took a distinctly anti-Roman Catholic viewpoint, and the term ‘hierarchy’ was used in a pejorative sense to refer to the papal form of church governance, that attitude on the church’s part was *nothing more than a manifestation of widespread anti-popery attitude among conservative Protestant denominations* in the early part of this century and the latter part of the last, and which has *now been consigned to the historical trash heap so far as the SDA Church is concerned.*” EEOC vs PPPA and GC, Civil Case #74-2025 CBR, 1975.”⁶⁰

Have we thrown our anti-popery attitude into the historical trash heap? If so, where does this put the book, *The Great Controversy*? Does it belong on the historical trash heap as well? We cannot dally with ecumenism without becoming corrupted. The history of Israel proves this to be true.

To further show that Adventism is involved with the ecumenical movement, it is listed on the National Council of Churches USA (NCC) website site as either a member or a

⁶⁰ Herman Kesten, “Alpha and Omega, Part 1”, *Landmarks Magazine*, April 1999. http://www.stepstolife.org/pbp/view_article.php?article_id=532. Retrieved March 13, 2010

participating non-member.⁶⁶¹ Even if we assume it is a non-member of the NCC, it still shows the Adventist Church is in close association with the NCC. In fact, in the *National Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission Handbook*, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is listed with its website along with many of the other churches that are associated with the NCC. You can also find Seventh-Day Adventist Church listed under the heading on page 31, “Alphabet of the US Ecumenical Landscape.”⁶⁶²

In the NCC news report on September 28, 2007, we find an Adventist representative associating with the NCC. “A recent chapel service at North Park Seminary planned and led by members of the National Council of Churches Committee on Disabilities was deemed unique by planners and participants.

“The Committee on Disabilities, a unit in the Education and Leadership Ministry, led an *ecumenical service* that included a responsive reading of the Psalm by a *Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) lay worker* who has lupus, a disease of the immune system that causes chronic inflammation and pain.”⁶⁶³

Further association with the NCC was also reported on their news page. “Christmas at Cadillac Jack’s, [produced in 2007] a one-hour dramatic presentation, will air Christmas Day on affiliates of the NBC television network, a *presentation of the National Council of Churches in cooperation with the Seventh-Day Adventist Church*. Rose and Joe take an unexpected road trip in his ’56 Chevy looking for Rose’s long-lost daughter. Join them for a heartwarming holiday story of reconciliation and forgiveness. Joseph Campanella, Ruta Lee and Patty Cabrera star in this engaging Christmas drama. Check your local NBC affiliate for the exact time of broadcast in your area.”⁶⁶⁴

Isn’t it ironic that the description of this children’s program tells the story of Adventism as it took an unexpected trip between 1955 and 1956 to convince Evangelical Christians that we were

⁶⁶¹ There doesn’t seem to be any way of identifying whether the Seventh-day Adventist church is a member or non member of the NCC. <http://www.nccusa.org/about/comcomfaithgroups.html>. Retrieved March 14, 2010

⁶⁶² Faith and Order Commission Handbook, 2005. <http://www.nccusa.org/pdfs/FaithAndOrderHandbook.pdf>. Retrieved March 14, 2010

⁶⁶³ <http://www.nccusa.org/news/070928disabilitiescommittee.html>. Retrieved March 14, 2010

⁶⁶⁴ <http://www.nccusa.org/news/081124ncholiday specials.html>. Retrieved March 14, 2010

not a cult? Since that time, Adventism has been on a mission of reconciliation and forgiveness on the stage of church politics.

One last example should be enough to show that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is involved with the ecumenical movement. William G. Johnsson, assistant to the president for interfaith relations for the Seventh-day Adventist Church described in *Adventist World* an event that took place in 2007 which he called “A New Ecumenical Wind.” He wrote, “A new wind is blowing across the Christian landscape, one with the potential to transform the ecumenical movement. How should Seventh-day Adventists, with our keen interest in end-time developments, relate to it?”

“November 6-9, 2007, some 250 Christian leaders from more than 70 nations came together in Limuru, Kenya. The extremely diverse group, which gathered under the rubric of the Global Christian Forum (GCF), was a meeting unlike any other in modern times. For the first time Pentecostals and Evangelicals sat down with Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, and representatives of the African Instituted Churches. Many of those present called the meeting historic; certainly it was unprecedented.

“The gathering at Limuru took place on the eve of the sixtieth anniversary of the World Council of Churches (WCC). Major changes have occurred in the Christian world since 1948, when the WCC was formed in high hopes of uniting Christians.”⁶⁶⁵

In his description of the event, Johnsson lists three Adventists that attended this historic ecumenical event. “Three Adventists attended: John Graz, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director at the General Conference; John Kakembo, Ministerial director of the East Central Africa Division, which has its headquarters in Nairobi; and I.” He then describes the purpose of the event, “The stated purpose of the GCF was to ‘create an open space wherein representatives from a broad range of Christian churches and interchurch organizations, which confess the triune God and Jesus Christ as perfect in His divinity and humanity, can *gather to foster mutual respect, to explore and address together common challenges.*’ Unlike past ecumenical gatherings I have attended” Johnsson said, “at the GCF the affective (emotional) element played a significant part. Worship services, except for the one conducted by the

⁶⁶⁵ William G. Johnsson, “A New Ecumenical Wind”, *Adventist World*, <http://adventistworld.org/article.php?id=288>. Retrieved March 14, 2010

Orthodox, were lively. Africans brought a distinctive flavor to the gathering.

“For many the high point came on the first day. All attendees joined in preassigned groups of 30 and spent, person by person, about 15 minutes each relating in personal testimony their journey with Jesus Christ. The common elements of divine calling and intervention, regardless of the tradition, were powerful and moving. In these groups the denominational barriers came down; the remaining days built on the goodwill that had been established.”

In concluding his article, Johnsson reaffirmed the Church’s commitment to remaining separate from the ecumenical movement and was quick to note the Adventist Church has never been a member of the World Council of Churches. However, by attending this historic ecumenical event, the Adventist Church clearly desires some involvement with the ecumenical movement. The fact that Dr John Graz, one of the Adventist attendees is a committee member of the global Christian Forum shows just how much the Adventist leadership do not practice what they preach.⁶⁶⁶

WHERE WILL IT ALL END?

In a paper that was presented at the “*Questions on Doctrine* 50th Anniversary Conference,” Russell Standish lists seventeen issues that have arisen due to the *Questions on Doctrine* book.⁶⁶⁷ These include:

1. Seventh-day Adventism is now extremely ecumenical.
2. Not only sins but crimes of many kinds are rampant in our midst.
3. In many congregations self-centred entertainment has replaced worship of our High and Holy Heavenly Father.
4. Sabbath desecration is the rule rather than an exception.
5. Our Adventist Book Centres abound in novels, books produced by the fallen churches of Babylon, perverted Bible translations and books teaching the New Theology.

⁶⁶⁶ <http://www.globalchristianforum.org/committee/>. Retrieved March 1, 2010

⁶⁶⁷ Russell Roland Standish, “A History of *Questions on Doctrine*-Fidelity or Compromise?” *Questions on Doctrine 50th Anniversary Conference*, http://god.andrews.edu/docs/03_russell_standish.pdf. Retrieved March 14, 2010

6. Many of our scientists and theologians have rejected Genesis chapter one and Exodus 20:11, the latter written by the finger of God.
7. Immorality and divorce are commonplace.
8. Many now openly deny the Roman Catholic Church is the Antichrist.
9. Many deny that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is God's Remnant Church of prophecy.
10. The numbers of members imbibing alcohol has greatly escalated.
11. Numerous church members now either pay a devalued tithe or none at all. They are also robbing God with their offerings.
12. Common observance of Palm Sunday and Easter pass unproved.
13. Persecution of fellow Church members standing for Bible truth is widespread.
14. The Bible and Spirit of Prophecy are discounted by many since they are promoted as being in error.
15. The acceptance of State Aid for Seventh-day Adventist Education is widespread and Christian education principles eschewed.
16. The Church Manual has superseded Scripture.
17. The Three Angels' Messages and Loud Cry Message are now an inaudible mumble.

In his concluding remarks, Standish said, "Our beloved Church is, in 2007, in dire straits. We are deep, deep in the Omega of Apostasy. 'Deception of almost every kind [is] in the Church.'

"This is a moment in history when we – the attendees at this conference – may covenant together to lead a movement which delivers God's Church and His people from the devastating defeats of *Questions on Doctrine* to the glorious victory of the Latter Rain, and the glory of God's heavenly Kingdom.

"We have 'played the harlot with many lovers.' Let us now heed our Saviour's tender plea, 'Yet return again to me, saith the Lord.'

"Dear, dear Brethren and Sisters. This Church I have loved since my earliest recollections, the Church for which our pioneers suffered and sacrificed so much, for which my ancestors paid a heavy price to join, deserves much better. At this moment of

anniversary, as a heart-broken member, I sincerely wish to examine my own heart as I pray each of us will do.

“My Saviour deserves far better of us in this era of the Second Advent than His Church provided at the First Advent. With each of you I desire heaven more than all else. My sincere prayer is that each one of us, through Christ’s incomparable grace, will tread the Streets of Gold, and stand on the Sea of Glass.”

In this chapter we have focused our attention on some of the apostasies that have entered Adventism. It is not a comprehensive study—such a study would require a book of its own. Although it might be seen as *criticizing the church*, the author would like to assure his readers that despite the apostasy, he believes without doubt the Seventh-day Adventist Church is God’s last day remnant church, just as Israel was God’s church. Despite our defects, the Adventist Church “is the only object on earth on which He bestows His supreme regard.”⁶⁶⁸ God has promised to clean His church up. This will be the subject of the next chapter.

Chapter Summary

1. Just as Israel was in a state of ease at the borders of the Promised Land, so the Seventh-day Adventist Church is in the Laodicean condition described in the book of Revelation.
2. The children of Moab and Midian united in an effort to destroy the children of Israel. Their counterparts today are the Catholic and Protestant churches.
3. The Midianitish women stole into the camp with the purpose of seducing Israel to transgress God’s law. They concealed their motives under the garb of friendship. So too has Protestant and Catholic ideas entered the Adventist church in an effort to lead us to disobey God.
4. The rulers were the first to be taken by the false pretense of friendship. They were responsible for leading many Israelites to commit whoredom with Baal.
5. The children of Israel were beguiled with music and dancing. So too the Seventh-day Adventist Church has

⁶⁶⁸ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 15

- been captivated with contemporary music that has been borrowed from the world.
6. Wine beclouded the senses of those who had ventured onto forbidden ground. Wine represents false doctrine. So too the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been beguiled by false doctrines, particularly those published in *Questions on Doctrine*. Since that time, many other false doctrines have been deceiving our people such as the rejection of the sanctuary and investigative judgment, evolution, homosexuality and the authority of Ellen White.
 7. Satan could not destroy the children of Israel by force, so he allured many of the leaders and people onto his ground. There he enticed them to worship Baal. So too Adventism is being lured into the ecumenical movement and the result, according to Ellen White, will be that some of our leading men will advocate Sunday worship.