

**FAITH AND WORKS IN ELLEN G. WHITE'S DOCTRINE OF THE
LAST JUDGMENT**

Author and Degree: **Jairyong Lee, Ph.D.**

Date When Dissertation Completed: September 1985.

Adviser: Hans K. LaRondelle.

(Jairyong Lee is currently a member of the Theology Faculty of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary of the Far East in the Philippines.)

This dissertation investigates the relationship between faith and works as the ground of the last judgment in the thought of Ellen G. White.

Chap. 1 provides the basic introduction to this research, and chap. 2 sketches the historical and theological milieu of the Adventist movement in nineteenth-century North America as the background for the formation of Ellen White's concept of the last judgment. As one of the ardent followers of William Miller, Ellen White had been influenced considerably by Millerite leaders in the formation of her eschatological foundation. Many of her own positions related to the judgment scene, such as the Day-of-Atonement theme, the pre-Advent investigative judgment, and the end-time warning message of Rev 14. These came to her as a result of her diligent Bible study and that of other Adventist pioneers.

Chap. 3 sets forth the various aspects of the last judgment as expressed in White's writings. Her concept of the last judgment has been analyzed both thematically and chronologically, with emphasis on her unique contribution to Adventist society. In contrast to Protestant theologians contemporary with her, White viewed the last judgment of God in three distinctive phases: (1) pre-Advent investigative judgment; (2) millennial consultative judgment; and (3) postmillennial executive judgment.

Chap. 4 discusses White's views on the soteriological and eschatological aspects of the last judgment. She consistently acknowledged faith as the indispensable factor in the sinner's experience of justification before God. Nevertheless, she did not deny the importance of works in determining man's eternal destiny of either salvation or destruction.

Chap. 5 summarizes the materials elucidated in chaps. 2, 3, and 4, and provides some conclusions that have emerged as to White's position on the relationship of faith and works in the last judgment. She advocated righteousness by faith (apart from works) but also considered that the last judgment would be on the basis of works, inasmuch as in that judgment human beings would be judged according to their works as the fruit that gives evidence of either their faith or their non-faith.