To the Law and the Testimony

The Very Last Deception

The Spirit and Power of Elijah

The New Theology and The Spirit of Prophecy

The Influence of the Testimonies

See page 16
As we are now progressing into the year 1997, and as we review the events which have been bursting upon our world with such rapidity, we can see that they are surely the fulfillment of the Lord's prophecies concerning the end of all things portrayed. Sunday laws hang ominously over our world—only waiting for an international crisis to make them the laws of the Christian world. The Religious Right and the Christian Coalition impatiently stand ready to change our Constitution and restrict our religious liberty:

"By the decree enforcing the institution of the Papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near . . . .

"The Lord is doing His work. All heaven is astir. The Judge of all the earth is soon to arise and vindicate His insulted authority. The mark of deliverance will be set upon the men who keep God’s commandments, who revere His law, and refuse the mark of the beast or of his image.

"God has revealed what is to take place in the last days, that His people may be prepared to stand against the tempest of opposition and wrath. Those who have been warned of the events before them are not to sit in calm expectation of the coming storm, comforting themselves that the Lord will shelter His faithful ones in the day of trouble. We are to be as men waiting for their Lord, not in idle expectancy, but in earnest work, with unwavering faith. It is no time now to allow our minds to be engrossed with things of minor importance. While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that the Lord's people may not have mercy or justice. The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whether the undercurrent is tending. Its professions are mild and apparently Christian, but when it shall speak it will reveal the spirit of the dragon. It is our duty to do all in our power to avert the threatened danger. We should endeavor to disarm prejudice by placing ourselves in a proper light before the people. We should bring before them the real question at issue, thus interposing the most effectual protest against measures to restrict liberty of conscience. We should search the Scriptures and be able to give the reason for our faith. Says the prophet: 'The wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.' Daniel 12:10.” Testimonies, vol. 5, 451-452.

Again, God warns us through His prophet of coming events, "When our nation shall so abuse the principles of its government as to enact a Sunday law, Protestantism will in this act join hands with popery; it will be nothing else than giving life to the tyranny which has long been eagerly watching its opportunity to spring again into active despotism. . . ." If popery or its principles shall again be legislated into power, the fires of persecution will be rekindled against those who will not sacrifice conscience and the truth in deference to popular errors. This evil is on the point of realization.

"When God has given us light showing the dangers before us, how can we stand clear in His sight if we neglect to put forth every effort in our power to bring it before the people? Can we be content to leave them to meet this momentous issue unwarned?"

“There is a prospect before us of a continued struggle, at the risk of imprisonment, loss of property, and even of life itself, to defend the law of God, which is made void by the laws of men. In this situation worldly policy will urge an outward compliance with the laws of the land, for the sake of peace and harmony.” Ibid., 712.

"We as a people have not accomplished the work which God has committed to us. We are not ready for the issue to which the enforcement of the Sunday law will bring us. It is our duty, as we see the signs of approaching peril, to arouse to action." Ibid., 713.

In the light of these events, this special edition of Our Firm Foundation is an attempt to awaken our leaders, pastors and laymen of the need to accept the Spirit of Prophecy and take heed of God's rebukes and warnings. We must be like the Bereans, and not like the Thessalonians. “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” Acts 17:11.

Let us remember that the very last deception will be to make of none effect the Testimonies of the Spirit of Prophecy. See Selected Messages, book 1, 48. The book, The Great Controversy, is unread by many of our laity, leaders, and pastors, and they are to a great degree not ready for our Lord's soon return. They are not prepared to meet the great test which will be brought about as an overwhelming surprise. See The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 7, 976; Testimonies, vol. 8, 37, 28.

Let us study to show ourselves approved unto God in this final hour. The end will come suddenly, unexpectedly.

Ron Spear—Editor
Table of Contents
Vol. 12, No. 2  February 1997

Articles

To the Law and to the Testimony  Ron Spear  4
Two unshakable platforms upon which we may safely stand

The Sifting, the Shaking and the Straight Testimony  Fernando Chaij  8
A painful path that we all must tread

The Very Last Deception  Patrick Hogan  10
It is important to know what it is

The Spirit and Power of Elijah  David Lin  12
Modern fulfillment of an ancient prophecy?

The Influence of the Testimonies  Ellen G. White  16
The prosperity of God's people depend upon it

The Last Crisis  Ellen G. White  20
It is not just ahead—it is here!

Testing the Prophet  J. N. Loughborough  24
An examination that we cannot afford to miss

The New Theology and the Spirit of Prophecy  Colin & Russell Standish  28
Understanding why liberals refuse to accept Ellen G. White

Departments

Editorial ....................... 2  Medical Missionary Corner ........ 30
Letters ....................... 15

Shipping Information: For all products advertised in this publication (unless otherwise noted):
Please add 10% of your total order for shipping plus $2.00 for handling.
For destinations outside the U.S., please add 15% of your total plus $2.00 for handling.
Washington residents please add 7.7% sales tax to your total order, including shipping and handling. All prices are in U.S. dollars.
ISAIAH wrote these inspired words: “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20. Every thought and word of every Christian must be measured by this statement.

In Isaiah's day the law referred not only to the Ten Commandments but also to the books of the Bible written by Moses. It was not the rejection of the law alone that led the church into its terrible apostasy, but rejection of the Testimonies—the inspired instruction from God through His prophets.

The majority in the church usually did not accept the prophets of God. They stoned them, sawed them asunder, or threw them into abandoned wells to die. Sometimes they were retrieved, as was Jeremiah by an Ethiopian slave.

Listen to Jesus' heart cry to the church: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!” Matthew 23:37.

Looking back at the church's sordid history, we find this tragic statement: “And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.” 2 Chronicles 36:15-16. “This is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits.” Isaiah 30:9-10. “For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.” Isaiah 9:16.

Again from the New Testament Scripture, we read this tragic account of Old Testament history:

“Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: and others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.” Hebrews 11:35-38. Let us remember it was the church that was responsible for these atrocities.

Because they would not accept God's rebuke for their apostasy through His prophets, there came a time when God said there was no remedy for the church, and this prophecy was fulfilled. See Desire of Ages, 324-325.

“The law of God unmixed with human tradition was presented by Christ as the great standard of obedience. This aroused the enmity of the rabbis. They had set human teaching above God's Word, and had turned the people away from His precepts. They would not give up their man-made commandments in order to obey the requirements of the Word of God. They would not, for the truth's sake, sacrifice the pride of reason and the praise of men. When Christ came, presenting to the nation the claims of God, the priests and elders denied His right to interpose between them and the people. They would not accept His rebukes and warnings, and they set themselves to turn the people against Him and to compass His destruction.”

Ron Spear
Christ’s Object Lessons, 304-305; see also The Desire of Ages, 738; Testimonies, vol. 5, 235.

They had rejected not only the prophets but they had also rejected the Author of all truth. They had rejected God, and God was forced to reject them as His church. What a tragedy!

However, let us look again at Jeremiah’s day. Jeremiah counseled the people to surrender to the Babylonians and thus save themselves. See Jeremiah 21:8-9; 38:2, 17-18. The majority rejected this message, rejected Jeremiah, and he was imprisoned. Their salvation depended upon belief in their present-day prophet.

By rejecting Jeremiah they rejected God. See Jeremiah 40:3. They had rejected the Word of God in the written Scriptures. Their punishment was worse for rejecting the prophet also. They rejected both the law and the testimony of the prophet.

God’s Purposes in Sending His Prophets

1. That we may know God’s plans for us:
   “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7.

2. That we may inquire of the Lord:
   “Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, thus he spake: Come, and let us go to the seer: for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.” 1 Samuel 9:9.

3. That we might do all the words of the law—perfect obedience:
   “The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.” Deuteronomy 29:29.

The Reason for the Spirit of Prophecy

“The Word of God is sufficient to enlighten the most clouded mind and may be understood by those who have any desire to understand it. But notwithstanding all this, some who profess to make the Word of God their study are found living in direct opposition to its plainest teachings. Then, to leave men and women without excuse, God gives plain and pointed testimonies, bringing them back to the Word that they have neglected to follow.” Testimonies, vol. 5, 663.

The Spirit of Prophecy is an identifying mark of the remnant church. “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:17.

God gave the Spirit of Prophecy to the Seventh-day Adventist Church to identify it as His remnant church. He wanted to keep His people from duplicating the history of ancient Israel, and yet Ellen White tells us we have done worse than they. See Testimonies, vol. 5, 75-76, 94, 160; vol. 1, 129, 190; vol. 3, 252-253.

He chose Ellen White as His messenger to prepare a people—in body, mind, and soul—so that He could cut His work short in righteousness and give the loud cry of the third angel’s message to the world.

He chose Ellen White as His messenger to prepare a people—in body, mind, and soul—so that He could cut His work short in righteousness and give the loud cry of the third angel’s message to the world (see Series B, No. 2, 56-57; Selected Messages, book 1, 37; book 3, 74), to amplify the Bible, the commandments of God and the everlasting gospel, to give victory over every sin through Christ, to perfect the character so that God could have 144,000 perfect law keepers. See Faith I Live By, 114.

“The Testimonies of the Spirit of God are given to direct men to His Word, which has been neglected. Now if their messages are not heeded, the Holy Spirit is shut away from the soul. What further means has God in reserve to reach the erring ones, and show them their true condition?” Selected Messages, book 1, 46.

“This is the oblation of a life-gift in our behalf, that we may be all that He desires us to be—representatives of Him, expressing the fragrance of His character. His own pure thoughts, His divine attributes as manifested in His sanctified human life, in order that others may behold Him in His human form, and, comprehending God’s wonderful design, be led to desire to be like Christ—pure, undefiled, wholly acceptable to God, without spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.” Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 6, 1118.

God’s true church must be law keepers and have the testimony of Jesus—the Spirit of Prophecy—in their midst. Right here it might be well to ask ourselves, Are we law keepers? To be law keepers we must have the faith of Jesus and His loving patience. Do we keep the Sabbath or do we keep Saturday? Remember that the Jews kept the seventh day by tradition, but they did not keep the Sabbath according to Isaiah 58:13. Therefore they rejected the testimony of God and killed the prophets.

Let us examine Ellen White as a prophet. How may we account for the fact that the authoritative appeal of the Spirit of God speaking in the Scriptures is also heard in the Spirit of Prophecy? We are not here equating the writings of Ellen G. White with the Scriptures. However, we must also say there are no degrees of inspiration: it is either of God or of the devil. We dare not use our finite minds to reason away portions of a prophet’s work. See Testimonies, vol. 5, 671-672.

We recognize in these writings the same authoritative voice of the Spirit of Christ. A sincere and prayerful reading of the writings of Ellen G. White will establish the truth on this subject in the mind of the sincere inquirer. Look inside the books themselves. Read Steps to Christ, The Desire of Ages, Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, The Ministry of Healing, or Christ’s Object Lessons. When you have done this you will testify that the witness of the Spirit is present. No matter where you start or where you end, you will always find the same witness—the Spirit testifying of Christ. Her more than 130 volumes of inspired writings testify of Heaven’s directions to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In every area of human need she has given instruction which is now being
supported by psychologists, educators, doctors, and professionals in every category. In the more than 130 Ellen G. White books in circulation today, the devotional, doctrinal, and prophetic emphasis is strong. However, these do not occupy the field to the exclusion of other vital topics. Education, health, the Christian home, child training, and biographies of great Bible characters make up a good percentage of the total. For example, there are more than five current books dealing with health and temperance alone, and more than five volumes treating the vital theme of Christian education and the home. Among the best-known books are the five immortal classics—all dealing with history—Patriarchs and Prophets, Prophets and Kings, The Desire of Ages, The Acts of the Apostles, and The Great Controversy. The nine volumes of the Testimonies were given as counsel and rebukes to leaders and laity, which must be accepted as counsel and rebukes to the church in our day.

The marvelous harmony and consistency in the Ellen G. White writings, which were issued over a period of seven decades, is further proof that the Divine Hand was guiding her pen. In the year 1906 she wrote, “There is throughout my printed works a harmony with my present teaching.” Review and Herald, June 14, 1906. This uniformity of teaching is a significant proof of the guiding presence of the Spirit of God through her long life.

The marvelous harmony and consistency in the Ellen G. White writings, which were issued over a period of seven decades, is further proof that the Divine Hand was guiding her pen.

Her secretary, C. C. Crisler, who traveled with her extensively, penned these words concerning her ministry: “When we compare the Testimonies that were written sixty years ago with those that were written under innumerable conditions and ever varying circumstances fifty years ago, forty years ago, thirty years ago, twenty years ago, and during the past decade; when we remember that the writer of these words has continually been burdened with perplexity and care, and that usually when writing, she does not have access to many of the things she has written in former years, when, in the face of these circumstances, a critical comparison of all her writings on a certain subject reveals a marvelous harmony throughout, we are deeply impressed with the convictions that these writings have a Source higher than that of a human mind.” “A Sure Basis of Belief,” Notebook Leaflets, 144.

Mrs. White’s meekness and dependence upon God must be associated with the manifestation of power in the weak and trembling instrument, for God honors the humble. Remember, hers was a message of vital meaning for the church in these last days. “Great things are before us,” she wrote as she viewed the crisis days of our world, so soon to come, “and we want to call the people from their indifference to get ready. Things that are eternal crowd upon my vision day and night. The things that are temporal fade from my sight.” Letter 11, 1884; see also Ellen G. White, Messenger to the Remnant, 57.

Was She More Than a Prophet?

We find in the Old Testament an experience which identified Moses as more than a prophet. We read of this experience in Numbers 12:4-9. What Jesus was saying in this experience was that Aaron and Miriam were prophets and He could speak to them in dreams discourse [at Battle Creek, October 2, 1904], I said that I did not claim to be a prophetess. Some were surprised at this statement, and as much is being said in regard to it, I will make an explanation. Others have called me a prophetess, but I have never assumed that title, I have not felt that it was my duty thus to designate myself. Those who boldly assume that they are prophets in this our day are often a reproach to the cause of Christ. My commission embraces the work of a prophet, but it does not end there. It embraces much more than the minds of those who have been sowing the seeds of unbelief can comprehend.” Selected Messages, book 3, 74. Yes, Ellen White was more than a prophet.

“The messages for these last days shall be written in books, and shall stand immortalized, to testify against those who have once rejoiced in the light, but who have been led to give it up because of the seductive influences of evil.” Selected Messages, book 1, 32.

Listen to this inspired statement: “In my books, the truth is stated, barricaded by a ‘Thus saith the Lord.’ The Holy Spirit traced these truths upon my heart and mind as indelibly as the law was traced by the finger of God, upon tables of stone which are now in the ark.” Colporteur Ministry, 126.

Her writings were not verbally inspired. She writes: “Although I am as dependent upon the Spirit of the Lord in writing my views as I am in receiving them, yet the words I employ in describing what I have seen are my own, unless they be those spoken to me by an angel, which I always enclose in marks of quotation.” Selected Messages, book 1, 37.

Ellen White met all the identifying marks of a prophet. The most outstanding physical signs were that she did not breathe while in vision and that she displayed a superhuman strength while under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Her memory of names and events while experiencing this close communion with angels and the Holy Spirit was phenomenal:

“The question is asked, How does Sister White know in regard to the matters of which she speaks so decidedly, as if she had authority to say these things? I speak thus because they flash upon my mind when in perplexity like lightning out of a dark cloud in the fury of a storm. Some scenes presented before me years ago have not been retained in my memory, but when the instruction then given is needed, the
remembrance comes sharp and clear, like a flash of lightning, bringing to mind distinctly that particular instruction. At such times I cannot refrain from saying the things that flash into my mind, not because I have had a new vision, but because that which was presented to me perhaps years in the past has been recalled to my mind forcibly.” Selected Messages, book 1, 37.

Her experience was broad, and her interests multiple. The range of the writer's interests seemed as wide as all human experience. There seemed to be but few subjects that escaped from her ready pen. It matters little, if it concerned the life of God's children, whether it was agriculture or prize fights, bicycles, rebukes to individuals or to the church, or explaining the great controversy to a wayward soul. Her influence was always consistent, never in contradiction with the Bible or her own writings. Today Seventh-day Adventists are the remnant church if we are law keepers and adhere to the testimony of Jesus.

The Rejection of the Spirit of Prophecy

Ellen White was shown that there would come a great apostasy which would increase until the Lord would come with a shout in the clouds of heaven. "One thing it is certain is soon to be realized—the great apostasy, which is developing and increasing and waxing stronger, and will continue to do so until the Lord shall descend from heaven with a shout. We are to hold fast the first principles of our denominations faith and go forward from strength to increased faith." Series B, no. 7, 57.

This apostasy would develop because of the refusal of leaders, pastors, and laity to receive the instruction and rebukes contained in the gift of prophecy: "When you find men questioning the Testimonies, finding fault with them, and seeking to draw away the people from their influence, be assured that God is not at work through them. It is another spirit. Doubt and unbelief are cherished by those who do not walk circumspectly. They have a painful consciousness that their life will not abide the test of the Spirit of God, whether speaking through His Word or through the Testimonies of His Spirit that would bring them to His Word. Instead of beginning with their own hearts, and coming into harmony with the pure principles of the gospel, they find fault, and condemn the very means that God has chosen to fit up a people to stand in the day of the Lord." Selected Messages, book 1, 45.

The devil hates the Spirit of Prophecy, for he knows if we take its counsel, receive its rebukes, forsake our rebellion, and humble ourselves before God, the end of his kingdom of terror and destruction will quickly come.

In the days of Jeremiah, there was an attempt made to destroy the Spirit of Prophecy. In chapter 36 we read that when God dictated a message to the church through Jeremiah, Baruch wrote it down, and because Jeremiah was locked out of the church he sent Baruch to read it publicly. The king commanded it to be read to him, and then destroyed it with his pen knife and the fire. Three men in verse 25 tried to prevent the church leader from burning it, but "he would not hear."

Ellen White, commenting on this chapter, says very clearly that this would be repeated in our day. "This chapter is a record of historical events that will be repeated. Let all who desire to receive warning, read carefully." Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 4, 1159.

Without question this prophecy is being fulfilled before our very eyes. It is not only that there are those who openly reject this precious gift but it is also the almost total disregard in following the counsel that is very dangerous: "It is not alone those who openly reject the Testimonies, or who cherish doubt concerning them, that are on dangerous ground. To disregard light is to reject it." Testimonies, vol. 5, 680.

Ellen White tells us that if we continue to reject God's inspired counsel through His messengers, the church will suffer the same destruction as did Jerusalem. "Jerusalem is a representation of what the church will be if it refuses to walk in the light that God has given." Testimonies, vol. 8, 67.

The question today is, Will we listen to God's voice speaking to the church through her? The church is more than one hundred years overdue in the Promised Land. See Selected Messages, book 1, 68. The Scriptures inseparably link the law and the testimony. To reject one is to reject both. Let us remember that to disregard truth is to reject it. See Testimonies, vol. 5, 671-672, 680. We are still here because we have disregarded the blueprint given us, which places us in insubordination to His government. See Evangelism, 696.

The proof of Ellen White's inspiration is in her books. Yes, the proof is in the writings. Read the books, taste and see for yourself that a Divine Hand guided the author. The Spirit witnesses to Christ in every book. In every book there is power to transform the life. Yes, she was more than a prophet. □
How would you answer these important questions?

- What is the message of Laodicea?
- Am I a lukewarm Christian?
- Do I follow the counsel of the True Witness?
- Am I rising up against the straight testimony, and what could be the end result?

One day, when the disciples were sailing on the Sea of Galilee, “there arose a great tempest, . . . insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves.” Jesus was asleep. Those men were experienced fishermen, accustomed to sudden dangers, and they began fighting the elements with all their strength and expertise, but to no avail. When they had lost all hope of surviving the tempest, all of a sudden they recalled that Jesus was on board. When they awakened Him and pleaded with Him, “Lord, save us: we perish,” He calmly answered, “Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.” Matthew 8:24-26.

That unique experience strengthened the faith of the disciples more than anything else that had happened before.

Every child of God, individually, and the church, corporately, undergoes at times special trials of faith when everything appears to be unstable and moving, and when we wonder whether the Lord is still with us or has abandoned us drifting amid the tremendous waves of a rough sea.

However, it is in this way that God fortifies our trust in Him when something unique and unusual occurs in our personal life or in the experience of our church, and we do not understand the reasons or the ultimate implications.

There are two very denominational expressions used by the Bible and by the pen of inspiration that have a special significance for us at this time of the end: “the shaking” or “the sifting” on one hand, and “the straight testimony” on the other, are used by Ellen White in her writings.

Let us take first the shaking. According to the dictionary the verb “to shake” means to move something to and fro, to cause to waver, to tremble as a result of physical or emotional disturbance.

The servant of the Lord applies it to a particular experience of shock that will initiate in the church a process of selection and apostasy, as well as a strengthening of the faith.

She employs another similar word to refer to the same experience that we also find in the Bible, namely, the “sifting.” This word she employs in its figurative meaning when she explains the act of threshing. The grain is shaken or sifted in a sieve, so that broken kernels, husks and foreign particles fall through the mesh and the chaff is blown away.

The prophet Amos speaks symbolically of a sifting or shaking of God’s people, “For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least [whole] grain fall upon the earth.” Amos 9:9.

Also, in an hour that was very critical to His disciple, Jesus told Peter, “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath de-

Fernando Chaij, now deceased, was a writer, a compiler of Ellen G. White’s writings, and an editor of an Adventist journal.
sired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not." Luke 22:31-32.

As we said before, every Christian and the people of God, as such, will undergo a special trial of faith. This test is called the "shaking" or "sifting." It has happened in times past, but it will be repeated in a very specific sense on the final stage of history.

There are several different causes for the falling away of many members of the church, namely: (1) religious carelessness and indifference, (2) persecution consequent to the enforcement of the Sunday law, and (3) voluntary superficiality of knowledge of Divine Truth. However, the main cause will be the disregard or refusal on the part of some to accept the message of Christ to the Laodicean church, a message of repentance and reform:

"Because thou art lukewarm," says Jesus, "neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Revelation 3:16.

"I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen," she writes, referring to what had been presented in vision, "and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans.

"This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people." And sadly she adds this comment to her explanation, "I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified." Early Writings, 270.

Let us analyze these Inspired Words. The vision regarding the straight testimony called for by the message of Christ to Laodicea aroused the keen interest of the human instrument being used by God to emphasize it to the church. She was told that the message of the True Witness would require the communication of a straight testimony.

What is the message to Laodicea? A message that tells us that we are lukewarm and indifferent regarding the two most important problems of our life—our Christian experience and our outreach activity to share the good news. Also it tells us that we are terribly deceived with respect to our relationship with Christ and to our spiritual condition; that we are happy about our preparation for heaven, believing that we need nothing, when in reality we are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

However, Christ does not leave us in this desperate condition. There is hope. He offers us three infallible remedies to be

in a cheap grace, and in a kind of faith that does not work by love and change lives. In their self-righteousness the words "repentance and reformation" will have a bad connotation for them. They will insist that any effort of the will to surrender the life to Christ, to renounce self and to overcome their worldliness, their lukewarmness and their idols

**How do we go about giving the straight testimony? Simply by word and action. By a changed life, on the one hand (repentance and reformation), and on the other hand by a spoken or written testimony. . . .**

**through faith by the grace of God, is a lack of faith in the work of the cross.**

Unfortunately, because these people will not receive the straight testimony, "they will rise up against" the message, "and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people." Some of them will turn out to be the worst enemies of the church of God.

Are we not seeing some of this happening in our day, before our own eyes? Are we not witnessing increasing groups of our own brothers and sisters siding with the New Theology and refusing the rebuke and the kind call of Jesus, who says, "Be zealous therefore, and repent"? Revelation 3:19.

However, let this not be a cause of discouragement. It was predicted by the inspired pen years ago. The separation within the church is happening, and will continue. Let this fulfillment stimulate us to be bold for the Lord. Let this separation help us to seek a closer experience with Christ, who is our only righteousness, and the only Source of strength and spiritual power.

God help us to humble our souls before the Lord, to look for repentance and reformation, and to be among those—recognizing their absolute dependency on Jesus—throw their impotence on the Omnipotent Hand of the Author and Consummator of the faith who said, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9. Let us march on confidently with the loyal through the perils of the last days toward eternal victory. □
In 1890 Ellen White gave a warning that all Seventh-day Adventists would do well to heed if they wish to discern Satan’s deceptions in these last hours of earth’s history:

“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.”

Selected Messages, book 1, 48.

Let us analyze this warning about the “very last deception of Satan.” First, the attack of Satan against Mrs. White’s counsels will help him ensnare souls. By destroying confidence in the reliability of Mrs. White’s counsel, Satan will have a much easier time leading Adventists to accept his deceptions:

“The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them [her writings] 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.”

Ibid.

Second, those employed by Satan in this attack against Mrs. White’s counsel will probably be unaware of the part they are playing, and may even think they are doing the Lord’s work. Educators, pastors, scholars, and theologians, both within and without the church, may attack her writings in the name of “scholarly investigation.” Her writings may be analyzed in the light of so-called “historic orthodox Protestant theology” and dismissed as “heretical.” Her counsel may be rejected even by Adventist leaders as “irrelevant,” “not applicable,” or “obso-

leter.” There may arise those who claim to have “new light” which, when carefully examined, contradicts various counsels of Mrs. White and, yes, also the Bible.

Third, this last deception of Satan will likely involve both overt and covert operations against Mrs. White’s writings. One example of an overt operation is the writing and publication of books which attack Mrs. White as a “literary fraud” or “plagiarist.” Another example is the publication of articles and magazines which point out alleged “mistakes” in her writings, or subject both her counsel and her as a person to contempt and ridicule. A covert operation may be illustrated by those Adventist pastors, teachers, and theologians who raise doubts and questions regarding the reliability of Mrs. White’s counsels as well as our historic church doctrines, while professing to believe in and support her.

Fourth, this last deception will occur both from within and from without the church. Attacks from within on her counsel have come from church pastors, college and university professors, theologians, and writers. Books, magazines, and tapes have been published and distributed by those inside the church who wish to undermine confidence in her counsel. Attacks on Mrs. White from outside the church have occurred from various people in the conservative Protestant churches, the most recent notable example being on the John Ankerberg Show about ten years ago.

One highly important point is the fact that this very last deception of Satan will be “to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God.” (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.) The significance of this phrase “to make of none effect” should not be underestimated nor overlooked. A considerable portion of this final attack against Ellen White’s counsel may be a subtle, muted opposition rather than a direct, open assault on it, although this, of course, has happened and it is quite probable that open attacks against her writings will occur. An open and avowed defiance of her instructions by church leaders or others would be easy for many members to detect, and thereby avoid deception.

A subtle opposition, on the other hand, would not be nearly as discernible, and would be far more successful in deceiving church members. Those who are working in a subtle manner against Mrs. White’s writings may give an out-

Patrick Hogan

Our Firm Foundation February 1997
ward appearance of compliance with and support for them. They may verbally affirm their belief in her writings while tolerating and even encouraging actions, beliefs, and practices which are in direct opposition to them, as well as to the historic beliefs and standards of the church. Some church leaders may profess support for her writings while refusing to remove those in positions of authority whose lives, actions, and words clearly show they have no regard for her counsel.

Now, let us consider four ways in which the writings of Mrs. White are being “made of none effect.” The first occurs in the lives and homes of many Adventists and is very powerful in destroying her influence, both within and without the church. It is called the “do not do as I do, do as I say” attack. It may be described in one word: hypocrisy. Adventists involved in this attack profess belief in her counsels and then ignore them. For example, they speak praise regarding her dietary instructions and then set on their tables hot dogs and hamburgers containing real meat, along with various sugar-loaded pastries and soft drinks. They give lip service to her counsel regarding separation from the world, and then watch the same tripe situation comedies and the same sex-and-violence-filled movies on their TVs and VCRs as their so-called “worldly” neighbors watch.

Perhaps this is the place to insert two propositions which will clarify the issue:

1. If Seventh-day Adventist parents and leaders profess with their mouths to believe in the writings of Ellen White, but in their lives do not follow her counsel, why should these Adventist parents expect their children to follow her counsel, and why should these church leaders expect lay people to have confidence in her and take her writings seriously?

2. Furthermore, if Seventh-day Adventists do not heed her counsel, why should they expect the Christian world, much less the secular world, to have any confidence in, or to take seriously, the writings of Ellen White as messages from God? These propositions deserve serious consideration from every Adventist.

The second method which makes her Testimonies of “none effect” is for Adventist pastors to simply ignore Ellen White’s counsel in their ministry. In some ways, this may be a more effective attack than raising questions and doubts regarding her counsel. This method can include ignoring her writings when preparing sermons. It should be quite rare that a sermon preached by an Adventist minister could be given by a minister of another denomination. Mrs. White has given the Adventist Church invaluable counsel in areas like last-day dangers, spiritual development, and witnessing to help people prepare authority as if the acts had been our own.”

Every pastor would do well to consider very seriously this grave thought.

A third way for making Mrs. White’s Testimonies of “none effect” is for editors of church magazines to refrain from running her articles in their magazines. Her Testimonies are made of “none ef-

Pastors can also “make of none effect” Mrs. White’s warnings by failing to reprove sin in the lives of individual church members and also in the church congregation as a whole.

to meet the Lord. For a minister to ignore inspired counsel in any of these areas is to betray his flock. Furthermore, in what other writings, with the exception of the Bible, is it possible to find such detailed information on the end of the world and how to prepare for it?

In addition, Adventist ministers have been given much important counsel from Mrs. White in many areas, such as mental and physical health, diet, and finances, to share with their flock. Mrs. White’s counsel, if followed conscientiously and wholeheartedly, is most effective in relieving emotional, physical, and spiritual suffering. For a minister to turn away from this counsel in favor of worldly counsel or human speculation is to betray a sacred trust. For a minister to depend on man’s thoughts to the exclusion of inspired counsel is to give counsel which is less than the best.

Pastors can also “make of none effect” Mrs. White’s warnings by failing to reprove sin in the lives of individual church members and also in the church congregation as a whole. This task is not easy or pleasant. Yet on page 578 of Patriarchs and Prophets, Mrs. White gives this solemn warning:

“Those who have too little courage to reprove wrong, or who through indolence or lack of interest make no effort to purify the family or the church of God, are held accountable for the evil that may result from their neglect of duty. We are just as responsible for the evils that we might have checked in others by exercise of parental or pastoral

Continue on page 14
BEHOLD, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” Malachi 4:5-6.

These closing words of the Old Testament were understood by the Jews to be a prophecy awaiting literal fulfillment. So when John the Baptist appeared, they asked him, “Art thou Elias?” and he said, “I am not.” After John was martyred, the disciples asked Jesus, “Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?” Jesus answered, “Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.

But I say unto you, that Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.” Matthew 17:10-13.

Here we have a literal fulfillment of a specific prophecy plainly confirmed by our Lord. There is no symbolism here. Just a straightforward statement: “I will send you Elijah.” And another one saying, “Elias is come already.” However, our interest in this prophecy lies in its second and final fulfillment, which we have good reason to expect. Because the “great and dreadful day of the Lord” is still future, but not far away; so this second and complete fulfillment should logically occur in the “time of the end,” which we traditionally take to be the period after 1798.

An analysis of the first fulfillment of the prophecy will help us better to understand its second one. To begin with, the first fulfillment was not spectacular. John drew the attention of the people, but his work was an apparent failure. Nothing tangible resulted from it, as judged by human standards, for his work was not endorsed by the religious authorities of his day. Second, John was not recognized as Elijah, either by the people or by his own followers. If Jesus had not made His explicit statement, perhaps we would even now be divided in our interpretation of Malachi 4:5–6. Third, John himself did not claim to be Elias.

Regarding this third point we make the following observation: John was no doubt fully aware of his divine appointment since childhood, for he was “filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb.” Luke 1:15. So the words of Gabriel to Zechariah, his father, must have been strongly impressed on his memory: “He shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Luke 1:17. These words must have been a powerful factor in guiding John’s thinking and behavior through the years of preparation in his wilderness retreat. Only a man possessed with the strong conviction that he was fulfilling the prophecy of Malachi 4:5

David Lin writes from China, where he has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for many generations.
could go about his task with such zeal and devotion. Yet, the words of Gabriel were a sacred trust, not to be carelessly disclosed to the unbelieving. He would not give that which is holy unto the dogs, nor cast his pearls before swine. So when the “generation of vipers” (Luke 3:7) asked him, “Art thou Elias?” he said, “I am not.” John 1:21.

Jesus likewise did not reveal John’s true identity to the multitude, but only in private to His trusted disciples. Delicate truths like this require careful handling, and are not to be thrown into the pool of questions for general debate. Jesus had no burden to prove His point. He simply said, “If ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.” Matthew 11:14. A confidential statement like this is enough for the honest enquirer, but no further disclosure is made to satisfy the curious and doubting.

Now we are ready to discuss the final modern fulfillment of Malachi 4:5-6. We should not be surprised—in fact we should expect—to find that it too, like the work of John, was not of a spectacular nature. The disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration had just seen Elijah appear in person—a most sensational manifestation! So they thought this must be the fulfillment of that prophecy, but no, Jesus corrected them promptly, telling them that Malachi 4:5-6 was not fulfilled on the Mount of Transfiguration, but in the martyr who died a cruel death in Herod’s prison.

Now we are ready to face an equally unexciting proposition: Malachi 4:5-6 finds its final fulfillment in the work of Ellen G. White. What? This frail, unimpressive woman is Elijah? Yes, “If ye will receive it, this is Elias, which is for to come,” even though they knew her not. If you will not receive it, I have no burden to force it on you, but please examine the evidence:

1. **Evidence of time:** “Before the great and dreadful day of the Lord.” As pointed out above, the appearance of Elias should be in the time of the end—after 1798. The gift of prophecy manifested in the work of Ellen White extended from 1844 to 1915.

2. **Evidence of message content:** “To turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers.” It is a fact that a large portion of the Testimonies written by Ellen White dealt with family relations—the Christian home, for that is where the basic character of every individual is formed.

3. **Evidence of kinship of spirit:** John was not Elijah, but manifested the spirit and power of Elijah. That can also be said of Ellen White. Despite her physical frailty, the spirit she revealed was not in the least effeminate. When facing the Kellogg crisis she saw in a dream the iceberg looming up ahead. She communicated the command to meet it head on, and let the boat shiver from stem to stern. Ellen White was no coward because she spoke not from her

deliver the message God had given her. That is the mark of every true prophet.

Like John the Baptist, Ellen White received no worldly recognition, and she sought it not. Her chief concern was to deliver the message God had given her. That is the mark of every true prophet.

Like John the Baptist, Ellen White did not claim to be a prophet, but she was God’s messenger. She said, “This is my work—to give to the people the light that the Lord gives me. I am commissioned to receive and communicate His messages. I am not to appear before the people as holding any other position than that of a messenger with a message.” Testimonies, vol. 8, 237.

Like John the Baptist, Ellen White exalted the Lamb of God. This prevailing theme in her writings is appreciated by all who read her writings. She never exalted herself, but always uplifted the crucified and risen Saviour.

Like John the Baptist, Ellen White spoke the truth. “John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.” John 10:41. . . .

The Plummets in the Hand of Zerubbabel

Elder G. B. Starr testified (by oral communication) that Ellen White once saw an angel point to Zechariah 4:9-10, and tell her that it applied to her work:

“The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundations of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto you. For whom hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummets in the hand of Zerubbabel.”

We invite all critics of Ellen White to examine the work of this inspired architect
of God’s house. The angel tells us that the foundation of our modern “temple” was laid by her hands. Would you believe it? It is a historical fact. If it were not for her inspired counsels on medical evangelism, we would not have one-tenth of the medical institutions we operate today. The same applies to our schools and missionary establishments in 208 countries. No honest student of the history of our church can deny the truth of this statement: “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundations of this house.”

Then there are the more valuable, though less tangible, results of her work—that of building Christian character. He “which searcheth the reins and hearts” (Revelation 2:23) places an infinitely higher estimate on moral beauty than on outward attraction, and values our work not in terms of statistical figures, but of spiritual attainment. Here the gift of prophecy has been quietly accomplishing solid and enduring good in the hearts of men and women—hewing, fashioning, and polishing them after the similitude of a palace.

The Spirit of Prophecy has been a plummet to keep our thinking straight ever since the Bible conferences of the first generation of Adventists. Point by point, the important truths which form the foundation of our faith were confirmed by the Holy Spirit through the visions given to Ellen White. Today, when men are trying to topple the edifice of truth, we still need that plummet, “All who believe that the Lord has spoken through Sister White and has given her a message, will be safe from the many delusions that will come in these last days.” Selected Messages, book 3, 84.

Her Hands Shall Finish It

Ellen White was laid to rest in 1915, but her writings have continued the work of building God’s house, and “shall also finish it.” If our lives are spared, we shall witness the final fulfillment of these words. By that time, the men who have spent so much time, money and energy gathering material to prove that Ellen White was a plagiarist and deceiver, will one day stand dumbounded before the gorgeous edifice of “this house” glistening in the beauty of holiness, and the angels of God rejoicing to see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel.

The day of final reckoning will render the verdict as to who has done the most good—Ellen White or her critics.

The Very Last Deception
Continued from page 11

For any church leader to mute Ellen White’s counsel or any of our distinctive doctrines in any degree, no matter how small, is an extremely serious matter which will result in the Lord’s being unable to pour out His fullest blessing and power on this church. Furthermore, muting the presentation of present truth to the world, including Ellen White’s counsel, will only result in a delay in the Lord’s return.

King Solomon warned, “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.” Proverbs 29:25. Let our leaders break free of the bondage of trying to maintain the favor of any section of Protestantism or of the world. Let our leaders disregard any labels like “sect” or “cult” that man may apply to our church because of Mrs. White’s ministry or our doctrines. Let our leaders stand fearlessly for all the truth, regardless of the consequences.

Another dimension of this problem regarding leadership is that it is time for church leaders to confront the fact that there are some in positions of authority and responsibility in the church whose public statements, actions, and lifestyles clearly reveal open contempt for Mrs. White’s counsel, not to mention historic church doctrines. Some of these people continue in power even after much protest has been raised by concerned lay members. For church leaders to remain silent about, and keep in power, those who attack Ellen White, Christian standards, and historic church doctrines, only causes concerned lay members to question just how deeply church leadership believe Mrs. White’s counsel. This doubt, in turn, results in a crisis of credibility for church leadership.

These four areas are by no means the only areas where Mrs. White’s counsel is being made of “none effect.” Yet, I believe they will serve to illustrate how deeply this deception has overtaken some in the church.

In these final hours of earth’s history, let any who have been making of “none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God” carefully consider their course of action, and prayerfully ask the Lord for forgiveness and for power to bring their lives into harmony with inspired counsel. As they do this, they will be strengthened emotionally, intellectually, physically, and spiritually. Furthermore, the Lord will then be able to abundantly bless the Adventist Church with great spiritual power, thus enabling the members to go forth to fulfill their divine commission by giving the loud cry to a perishing world. □

Order these books today from Hope International
(360) 832-6602 / PO Box 940, Eatonville, WA 98328

The Illustrated Great Controversy
This Great Controversy contains 190 beautiful photographs taken by James Arrabito. Standard page numbers. Hardback. $10.50 each.

The Spalding-Magan Collection
Private collections of five Adventist leaders. Stirring messages from Mrs. White on education, finance, church government, independent ministries, and much more. Hardback. $12.95 each.

Last Day Events
The latest compilation by the Ellen G. White Estate on the subject of last-day events. Must reading! Hardback. $12.95 each.

Please see page 3 for shipping and sales tax information.
Letters to the Editor

We enjoy getting your magazine. Keep up the blessed work. May God’s Holy Spirit be with you as you work to lead others to Jesus. I enjoy Ellen White’s articles very much. I read them in our Sabbath School. Thank the Lord, we are being fed by reading Our Firm Foundation when so much error is in our churches. Pray for us that we will be faithful until the end.  

JK, Florida

As is evident from my return address, I am incarcerated. This does not in any way lessen my desire and determination to serve my Lord and Saviour. I cannot begin to express how much Our Firm Foundation has served to bolster me through some other than ideal times! I realize that it is not the magazine itself, but the Holy Spirit’s influence therein.

The materials ordered in the past are still serving a valuable purpose, whereas some are still being passed around the compound. I regret I cannot (by rules) order some of the tracts in quantity. However, may the Lord’s will be done. His work will not be stopped entirely. Our adversary may slow it down, but will never stop it. Praise the Lord!

My sincere appreciation for your wonderful work. The work and workers are in my prayers daily. Thank you.  

RH, Florida

I write to you expressing my gratitude for your wonderful job. Since I began reading your magazine my life has changed. I have been a Seventh-day Adventist since I was a little child, but it was only when I started reading the articles written by Ellen G. White that were published in your magazine that I really began to comprehend my spiritual condition. I thank you and pray to God that He may keep your ministry going, and that it will be as much a blessing to others as it has been to me.

I hand out your magazine freely to anyone, and to my family and friends. I also purchase literature from you to do outreach work. Brethren, you are doing a remarkable job! I understand your ministry the way I understand the responsibility that falls upon each of us once we accept the Lord in our lives. We are in the world to be partakers with the Lord in the salvation of the lost. “Preach the word,” says God, “in season, out of season.” 2 Timothy 4:2. Preach the Word of God that you may reach people like me, who once were lost and now are found.

NA, New Jersey

Please apply the money enclosed to the “SOP Assistance.” It is not much, but I pray that it can be a drop in the ocean you need to supply the lack of others who are suffering under adverse conditions.

BW, Michigan

Responses from Overseas

Your letter was received, and the content well read. I express my appreciation for the nice present you gave me. I do appreciate it very much. May the Almighty God richly bless you! The things you sent me will help to develop my church’s spirituality, so you will have your share of blessings from God. May the Lord fill the pocket, or where those things came from, abundantly. Thank you very much.  

AS, Ghana

Note From the Editor: Hope International is able to accomplish the task of sending thousands of magazines and books—thanks to the blessings of the Lord provided by the faithful financial support of donors. Thank you for helping us scatter the truth-filled literature as the leaves of autumn.

I am writing this letter to acknowledge the receipt of all the books sent to me. I wish to express my profound gratitude to you and to the donors in making the knowledge of God well known in . May God bless you over there in a foreign land as you help us with your gifts and prayers.  

IB, Ghana

I am very thankful for the books and Our Firm Foundation magazines which you posted to me. May God bless you and ever sustain your efforts until His Ad- vent. The majority of African people would not have had the opportunity to obtain these books and magazines had it not been for your generosity. I would like to thank all who contribute toward the success of your publications.

It is always my prayer that your publications may assist many people to see the light of Jesus Christ in these days of false prophets and apostasy.

AP, Zimbabwe

I wish to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to your organization for what you have done for me. By the grace of God let us meet beyond the blue on the peaceful shore in that great getting-up morning. There you shall be amazed by the greatness of the work you are doing for the Most High. What a day of victory that will be!  

NS, Zimbabwe

Responses from Outreach Literature

Will you kindly send me some books or pamphlets which contain the Word of God—more especially a paper which is called Earth’s Final Warning.

I was in darkness. I was really a Roman Catholic since my childhood, but I read this paper from a Seventh-day Adventist member, and now my heart has been touched and I am planning to make a change.

JC, Zambia

About 4 or 5 months ago I read a paper published by your company called Earth’s Final Warning. On the front page I believe it read: Will the pope rule the world again? It was excellent in all accounts, being of total truth, which everyone should have the chance to read. I never saw it again. I truly would like to have a copy of that paper for my own. Would it be possible that I could get one? I would be willing to pay for one, if needed, as I have never read such truth on this subject.

Thank you all so very much for your time and your trouble.  

PK, Missouri
I

T is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the Testimonies. Satan knows how to make his attacks. He works upon minds to excite jealousy and dissatisfaction toward those at the head of the work. The gifts are next questioned; then, of course, they have but little weight, and instruction given through vision is disregarded. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction. By giving place to doubts and unbelief in regard to the work of God, and by cherishing feelings of distrust and cruel jealousies, they are preparing themselves for complete deception. They rise up with bitter feelings against the ones who dare to speak of their errors and reprove their sins.

A testimony for certain young men, first published in 1880, speaks of this point as follows: A prevailing skepticism is continually increasing in reference to the Testimonies of the Spirit of God; and these youth encourage questionings and doubts instead of removing them, because they are ignorant of the spirit and power and force of the Testimonies.

I was shown that many had so little spirituality that they did not understand the value of the Testimonies or their real object. They talked flippantly of the Testimonies given by God for the benefit of His people, and passed judgment upon them, giving their opinion and criticizing this and that, when they would better have placed their hands upon their lips, and prostrated themselves in the dust; for they could not appreciate the spirit of the Testimonies, because they knew so little of the Spirit of God.

There are some in —— who have never fully submitted to reproof. They have taken a course of their own choosing. They have ever, to a greater or less degree, exerted an influence against those who have stood up to defend the right and reprove the wrong. The influence of these persons upon individuals who come here and who are brought in contact with them . . . is very bad. They fill the minds of these newcomers with questionings and doubts in regard to the Testimonies of the Spirit of God. They put false constructions upon the Testimonies; and instead of leading persons to become consecrated to God and to listen to the voice of the church, they teach them to be independent and not to mind the opinions and judgments of others. The influence of this class has been secretly at work. Some are unconscious of the harm they are doing; but, unconsecrated, proud, and rebellious themselves, they lead others in the wrong track. A poisonous atmosphere is inhaled from these unconsecrated ones. The blood of souls is in the garments of such, and Christ will say to them in the day of final settlement: “Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.” Luke 13:27. Astonished they will be; but their professedly Christian lives were a deception, a fraud.

Some express their views that the testimony of Sister White cannot be reliable. This is all that many unconsecrated ones want. The Testimonies of reproof have checked their vanity and pride; but if they
dared, they would go to almost any length in fashion and pride. God will give all such an opportunity to prove themselves and to develop their true characters.

I saw that the reason why visions had not been more frequent of late is, they have not been appreciated by the church. The church have nearly lost their spirituality and faith, and the reproofs and warnings have had but little effect upon them. Many of those who have professed faith in them have not heeded them.

If you lose confidence in the Testimonies you will drift away from Bible truth. I have been fearful that many would take a questioning, doubting position, and in my distress for your souls I would warn you. How many will heed the warning? As you now hold the Testimonies, should one be given crossing your track, correcting your errors, would you feel at perfect liberty to accept or reject any part or the whole? That which you will be least inclined to receive is the very part most needed.

My brethren, beware of the evil heart of unbelief. The Word of God is plain and close in its restrictions; it interferes with your selfish indulgence; therefore you do not obey it. The Testimonies of His Spirit call your attention to the Scriptures, point out your defects of character, and rebuke your sins; therefore you do not heed them. And to justify your carnal, ease-loving course you begin to doubt whether the Testimonies are from God. If you would obey their teachings you would be assured of their divine origin. Remember, your unbelief does not affect their truthfulness. If they are from God they will stand.

I have been shown that unbelief in the Testimonies of warning, encouragement, and reproof is shutting away the light from God’s people. Unbelief is closing their eyes so that they are ignorant of their true condition. They think the testimony of the Spirit of God in reproof is uncalled for or that it does not mean them. Such are in the greatest need of the grace of God and spiritual discernment, that they may discover their deficiency in spiritual knowledge.

Many who have backslidden from the truth assign as a reason for their course that they do not have faith in the Testimonies. . . . The question now is: Will they yield their idol which God condemns?

The question to be settled with them is: Shall I deny myself and receive as of God the Testimonies which reprove my sins, or shall I reject the Testimonies because they reprove my sins?

In many cases the Testimonies are fully received, the sin and indulgence broken off, and reformation at once commences in harmony with the light God has given. In other instances sinful indulgences are cherished, the Testimonies are rejected, and many excuses which are untrue are offered to others as the reason for refusing to receive them. The true reason is not given. It is a lack of moral courage—a will, strengthened and controlled by the Spirit of God, to renounce hurtful habits.

Satan has the ability to suggest doubts and to devise objections to the pointed testimony that God sends, and many think it a virtue, a mark of intelligence in them, to be unbelieving and to question and quibble. Those who desire to doubt will have plenty of room. God does not propose to remove all occasion for unbelief. He gives evidence, which must be carefully investigated with a humble mind and a teachable spirit, and all should decide from the weight of evidence. God gives sufficient evidence for the candid mind to believe; but he who turns from the weight of evidence because there are a few things which he cannot make plain to his finite understanding will be left in the cold, chilling atmosphere of unbelief and questioning doubts, and will make shipwreck of faith.

Duty to Give Reproof

If wrongs are apparent among His people, and if the servants of God pass on indifferent to them, they virtually sustain and justify the sinner, and are alike guilty and will just as surely receive the displeasure of God; for they will be made responsible for the sins of the guilty. In vision I have been pointed to many instances where the displeasure of God has been incurred by a neglect on the part of His servants to deal with the wrongs and sins existing among them. Those who have excused these wrongs have been thought by the people to be very amiable and lovely in disposition, simply because they shunned to discharge a plain, scriptural duty. The task was not agreeable to their feelings; therefore they avoided it.

The searching testimony of the Spirit of God will separate those from Israel who have ever been at war with the means that God has ordained to keep corruptions out of the church. Wrongs must be called wrongs. Grievous sins must be called by their right name. All of God’s people should come nearer to Him. . . . Then will they see sin in the true light and will realize how offensive it is in the sight of God. The plain, straight testimony must live in the church, or the curse of God will rest upon His people as surely as it did upon ancient Israel because of their sins.

Never was there greater need of faithful warnings and reproofs . . . than at this very time. Satan has come down with great power, knowing that his time is short. He is flooding the world with pleasing fables, and the people of God love to have smooth things spoken to them. . . . I was shown that God’s people must make more firm, determined efforts to press back the incoming darkness. The close work of the Spirit of God is needed now as never before.

When in my youth I accepted the work given me by God, I received with it a promise that I should have special aid from the mighty Helper. There was given me also the solemn charge to deliver faithfully the Lord’s message, making no difference for friends or foes. There is no respect of persons with God. Whether dealing with rich or poor, high or low, the cultured or the ignorant, there must be no betrayal of sacred trusts with the Lord’s messenger.

Many who have backslidden from the truth assign as a reason for their course that they do not have faith in the Testimonies. . . . The question now is: Will they yield their idol which God condemns?
Let none entertain the thought that I regret or take back any plain testimony I have borne to individuals or to the people. If I have erred anywhere, it is in not rebuking sin more decidedly and firmly. Some of the brethren have taken the responsibility of criticizing my work and proposing an easier way to correct wrongs. To these persons I would say: I take God’s way and not yours. What I have said or written in testimony or reproof has not been too plainly expressed. 

Those who would in any way lessen the force of the sharp reproofs which God has given me to speak, must meet their work at the judgment. To those who have taken the responsibility to reproves me and, in their finite judgment, to propose a way which appears wiser to them I repeat: I do not accept your efforts. Leave me with God, and let Him teach me. I will take the Words of the Lord and speak them to the people. I do not expect that all will accept the reproof and reform their lives, but I must discharge my duty all the same. I will walk in humility before God, doing my work for time and for eternity.

God has not given my brethren the work that He has given me. It has been urged that my manner of giving reproof in public has led others to be sharp and critical and severe. If so, they must settle that matter with the Lord. If others take a responsibility which God has not laid upon them; if they disregard the instructions He has given them again and again through the humble instrument of His choice, to be kind, patient, and forbearing to the people I say much that I have not premeditated. The Spirit of the Lord frequently comes upon me. I seem to be carried out of, and away from, myself; the life and character of different persons are clearly presented before my mind. I see their errors and dangers, and feel compelled to speak of what is thus brought before me. I dare not resist the Spirit of God.

Rejection of Reproof

Many now despise the faithful reproof given of God in testimony. I have been shown that some in these days have even gone so far as to burn the written words of rebuke and warning, as did the wicked king of Israel. But opposition to God’s threatenings will not hinder their execution. To defy the Words of the Lord, spoken through His chosen instruments, will only provoke His anger and eventually bring certain ruin upon the offender. Indignation often kindles in the heart of the sinner against the agent whom God chooses to deliver His reproves. It has ever been thus, and the same spirit exists today that persecuted and imprisoned Jeremiah for obeying the Word of the Lord.

From the beginning of my work, as I have been called to bear a plain, pointed testimony, to reprove wrongs, and to spare not, there have been those who have stood in opposition to my testimony and have followed after to speak smooth things, to daub with untamped mortar, and to destroy the influence of my labors. The Lord would move upon who deserved reproof, because personal feelings have been hurt. All this unsanctified sympathy places the sympathizers where they are sharers in the guilt of the one reproved. In nine cases out of ten if the one reproved had been left under a sense of his wrongs, he might have been helped to see them and thereby have been reformed. But meddlesome, unsanctified sympathizers place altogether a wrong construction upon the motives of the reprover and the nature of the reproving given, and by sympathizing with the one reproved lead him to feel that he has been really abused; and his feelings rise up in rebellion against the one who has only done his duty. Those who faithfully discharge their unpleasant duties under a sense of their accountability to God will receive His blessing.

There are some in these last days who will cry: “Speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits.” Isaiah 30:10. But this is not my work. God has set me as a reprover of His people; and just and surely as He has laid upon me the heavy burden, He will make those to whom this message is given responsible for the manner in which they treat it. God will not be trifled with, and those who despise His work will receive according to their deeds. I have not chosen this unpleasant labor for myself. It is not a work which will bring to me the favor or praise of men. It is a work which but few will appreciate. But those who seek to make my labor doubly hard by their misrepresentations, jealous suspicions, and unbelief, thus creating prejudice in the minds of others against the Testimonies God has given me, and limiting my work, have the matter to settle with God, while I shall go forward as Providence and my brethren may open the way before me. In the name and strength of my Redeemer I shall do what I can... . My duty is not to please myself, but to do the will of my heavenly Father, who has given me my work.

If God has given me a message to bear to His people, those who would hinder me in the work and lessen the faith of the people in its truth are not fighting against the instrument, but against God. It is not the instrument whom you slight and insult, but God, who has spoken to you in these warnings and reproves. It is hardly possible for men to offer a greater insult to God than to despise and reject the instrumentalities that He has appointed to lead them.

To defy the Words of the Lord, spoken through His chosen instruments, will only provoke His anger and eventually bring certain ruin upon the offender.
Neglect of the “Testimonies”

It is not alone those who openly reject the Testimonies, or who cherish doubt concerning them, that are on dangerous ground. To disregard light is to reject it.

Some of you in words acknowledge reproof, but you do not in heart accept it. You go on the same as before, only being less susceptible to the influence of the Spirit of God, becoming more and more blinded, having less wisdom, less self-control, less moral power, and less zeal and relish for religious exercises; and, unless converted, you will finally yield your hold upon God entirely. You have not made decided changes in your life when reproof has come, because you have not seen and realized your defects of character and the great contrast between your life and the life of Christ. What do your prayers amount to while you regard iniquity in your hearts? Unless you make a thorough change, you will, not far hence, become weary of reproof, as did the children of Israel; and, like them, you will apostatize from God.

Many are going directly contrary to the light which God has given to His people, because they do not read the books which contain the light and knowledge in cautions, reproofs, and warnings. The cares of the world, the love of fashion, and the lack of religion have turned the attention from the light God has so graciously given, while books and periodicals containing error are traveling all over the country. Skepticism and infidelity are increasing everywhere. Light so precious, coming from the throne of God, is hid under a bushel. God will make His people responsible for this neglect. An account must be rendered to Him for every ray of light He has let shine upon our pathway, whether it has been improved to our advancement in divine things or rejected because it was more agreeable to follow inclination.

The volumes of Spirit of Prophecy, and also the Testimonies, should be introduced into every Sabbathkeeping fam-

ily, and the brethren should know their value and be urged to read them. It was not the wisest plan to place these books at a low figure and have only one set in a church. They should be in the library of every family and be read again and again. Let them be kept where they can be read by many.

Let ministers and people remember that gospel truth hardens when it does not save. The rejection of light leaves men captives, bound about by chains of darkness and unbelief. The soul that refuses to listen to the invitations of mercy from day to day can soon listen to the most urgent appeals without an emotion stirring his soul. As laborers with God we need more fervent piety and less self-exaltation. The more self is exalted, the more will faith in the Testimonies of the Spirit of God be lessened. . . . Those who trust wholly in themselves will see less and less of God in the Testimonies of His Spirit.

Testimonies, vol. 5, 672-681.

---

**Spirit of Prophecy Collection**

*Fortify yourself, your family and fellow Adventists against Satan’s “very last deception” for Seventh-day Adventists. See Selected Messages, book 1, 48.*

Order today! Just call (360) 832-6602. (Please see page 3 for shipping and sales tax information.)

---

**EGW Study Bible**

New Edition $59.95

- Leather Cover – KJV – Maps & Charts
- With EGW Comments & Cross References
- Words of Christ in Red Color
- Full Color Pictures – Size (6” X 8.5”)
- Scripture & Subject Index
- Bible Concordance – Chronological Tables

**Spirit of Prophecy Library With Index** $149.95

3 Volumes. Durable hardback binding. 52 of the “little red books.” The Ultimate Study Guide for students of Inspiration. Even if you already have the individual books, this hardback set is great for travel and convenience.

**Review and Herald Articles**

$99.95

All the Ellen White articles found in the six hardback volumes are now in three convenient volumes, but without the distracting non-inspired materials. New, easy-to-read type as found in Our Firm Foundation. Flexible, durable, plastic-laminated paperback binding.
The Last Crisis

We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.

The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.

The condition of things in the world shows that troublous times are right upon us. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the near future. Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. Men have become infatuated with vice, and every species of evil prevails.

The enemy has succeeded in perverting justice and in filling men's hearts with the desire for selfish gain.

"Justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter." Isaiah 59:14. In the great cities there are multitudes living in poverty and wretchedness, well-nigh destitute of food, shelter, and clothing; while in the same cities are those who have more than heart could wish, who live luxuriously, spending their money on richly furnished houses, on personal adornment, or worse still, upon the gratification of sensual appetites, upon liquor, tobacco, and other things that destroy the powers of the brain, unbalance the mind, and debase the soul. The cries of starving humanity are coming up before God, while by every species of oppression and extortion men are piling up colossal fortunes.

On one occasion, when in New York City, I was in the night season called upon to behold buildings rising story after story toward heaven. These buildings were warranted to be fireproof, and they were erected to glorify their owners and builders. Higher and still higher these buildings rose, and in them the most costly material was used. Those to whom these buildings belonged were not asking themselves: "How can we best glorify God?" The Lord was not in their thoughts.

I thought: "Oh, that those who are thus investing their means could see their course as God sees it! They are piling up magnificent buildings, but how foolish in the sight of the Ruler of the universe is their planning and devising. They are not studying with all the powers of heart and mind how they may glorify God. They have lost sight of this, the first duty of man."

As these lofty buildings went up, the owners rejoiced with ambitious pride that they had money to use in gratifying self and provoking the envy of their neighbors. Much of the money that they thus invested had been obtained through exaction, through grinding down the poor. They forgot that in heaven an account of every business transaction is
kept; every unjust deal, every fraudulent act, is there recorded. The time is coming when in their fraud and insolence men will reach a point that the Lord will not permit them to pass, and they will learn that there is a limit to the forbearance of Jehovah.

The scene that next passed before me was an alarm of fire. Men looked at the lofty and supposedly fire-proof buildings and said: "They are perfectly safe." But these buildings were consumed as if made of pitch. The fire engines could do nothing to stay the destruction. The firemen were unable to operate the engines.

I am instructed that when the Lord's time comes, should no change have taken place in the hearts of proud, ambitious human beings, men will find that the hand that had been strong to save will be strong to destroy. No earthly power can stay the hand of God. No material can be used in the erection of buildings that will preserve them from destruction when God's appointed time comes to send retribution on men for their disregard of His law and for their selfish ambition.

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

The Scriptures describe the condition of the world just before Christ's second coming. Of the men who by robbery and extortion are amassing great riches, it is written: "Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton: ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you." James 5:3-6.

But who reads the warnings given by the fast-fulfilling signs of the times?

What impression is made upon worldlings? What change is seen in their attitude? No more than was seen in the attitude of the inhabitants of the Noachian world. Absorbed in worldly business and pleasure, the antediluvians "knew not until the flood came, and took them all away." Matthew 24:39. They had Heaven-sent warnings, but they refused to listen. And today the world, utterly regardless of the warning voice of God, is hurrying on to eternal ruin.

The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place.

"Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. . . . Because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate. . . . The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth." Isaiah 24:1,5-6.8. "Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come. . . . The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered. How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate." "The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men." Joel 1:15,17-18, 12.

"I am pained at my very heart; . . . I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled." Jeremiah 4:19-20.

"I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of

The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place.

February 1997 Our Firm Foundation 21
Upcoming Meetings

The Evangelism & Revival Department of Hope International presents these upcoming meetings:

**February 1997**

San Diego, CA ...................... February 14-16
Montgomery High School Cafeteria
3250 Palm Ave, San Diego, CA

LaCenter, MN ...................... February 15
Call for Location

Puyallup (North Hill), WA .................. February 22
Edgewood Grange Hall
1806 Meridian East, Puyallup, WA

Colton, CA ...................... February 21-22
American Legion Hall
1401 Veteran’s Way, Colton, CA

Eatonville, WA (Week of Prayer) ..... February 23-27
Hope International

San Diego, CA ...................... February 28-March 2
Montgomery High School Cafeteria
3250 Palm Ave, San Diego, CA

**March 1997**

Redlands, CA ...................... March 1
Location to be announced

**April 1997**

Rapidan, VA ...................... April 18-20
Hartland Institute (Spanish Meetings) Route 614

Health Sessions at Eatonville, WA..... April 27-May 3
Life Abundant Missionary Institute
40416 123rd Ave. CT E, Eatonville, WA

Look for our “Upcoming Meetings” announcements in future issues. If you need more information please call Hope International, (360) 832-6602, and ask to speak to someone in the Evangelism and Revival (E&R) Department.

In the issue of the conflict all Christendom will be divided into two great classes.

will find their power in the sign spoken of in Exodus 31:12-18. They are to take their stand on the Living Word: “It is written.” This is the only foundation upon which they can stand securely. Those who have broken their covenant with God will in that day be without God and without hope.

The worshipers of God will be especially distinguished by their regard for the fourth commandment, since this is

the sign of God’s creative power and the witness to His claim upon man’s reverence and homage. The wicked will be distinguished by their efforts to tear down the Creator’s memorial and to exalt the institution of Rome. In the issue of the conflict all Christendom will be divided into two great classes, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and those who worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark. Although church and state will unite their power to compel all, “both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,” to receive the mark of the beast, yet the people of God will not receive it. Revelation 13:16. The prophet of Patmos beholds “them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God,” and singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. Revelation 15:2.

Fearful tests and trials await the people of God. The spirit of war is stirring the nations from one end of the earth to the other. But in the midst of the time of trouble that is coming—a time of trouble such as has not been since there was a nation—God’s chosen people will stand unmoved. Satan and his host cannot destroy them, for angels that excel in strength will protect them.

Testimonies, vol. 9, 11-17.
January 15, 1906

Dear Brother Amadon:

I have received your letter. I will send you copies of things taken from my diaries. These articles contain presentations and instructions given me, point by point. For instance, the evening after the Sabbath I retired, and rested well without ache or pain until half past ten. I was unable to sleep. I had received instruction, and I seldom lie in bed after such instruction comes. There was a company assembled in Battle Creek, and instruction was given by One in our midst that I was to repeat and repeat with pen and voice. I left my bed, and wrote for five hours as fast as my pen could trace the lines. Then I rested on the bed for an hour, and slept part of the time.

I placed the matter in the hands of my copyist, and on Monday morning it was waiting for me, placed inside my office door on Sunday evening. There were four articles ready for me to read over, and make any corrections needed. The matter is now prepared, and some of it will go in the mail today.

This is the line of work that I am carrying on. I do most of my writing while the other members of the family are asleep. I build my fire, and then write uninteruptedly, sometimes for hours. I write while others are asleep. Who then has told Sister White? A messenger that is appointed.

If Elder Daniels is in Battle Creek, please place in his hands the manuscripts I send you. I have my work to do, to meet the misconceptions of those who suppose themselves able to say what is testimony from God and what is human production. If those who have done this work continue in this course, satanic agencies will choose for them. At the Berrien Springs meeting [May 1904], the richest blessing was prof ered them. This blessing they could have had if they had let Christ help them, confessing their wicked obstinacy. But they refused to take the right course. The holy angels turned away, and evil angels have been holding sway over minds. Evil angels obtained the victory at that meeting. But there is no need for me to give the particulars of this.

If Brother Daniels is not in Battle Creek, please read to the church what I am sending you. I have many letters to write, and I cannot add more to this now. There is just one thing the Lord calls for, and that is, for every man, minister, or physician, or lay member, to confess his own sins. Each one will have a hard battle to fight with his own perverse self. Those who have stood directly in the way of the people, having a clear realization of their perilous condition, will have an account to settle with God. Those who have helped souls to feel at liberty to specify what is of God in the Testimonies, and what are the uninspired words of Sister White, will find that they were helping the devil in his work of deception. Please read, "How to Receive Reproof." [See below]

The Paulson Collection, 93.

How to Receive Reproof

Those who are reproved by the Spirit of God should not rise up against the humble instrument. It is God, and not an erring mortal, who has spoken to save them from ruin. It is not pleasing to human nature to receive reproof, nor is it possible for the heart of man, unenlightened by the Spirit of God, to realize the necessity of reproof or the blessing it is designed to bring. As man yields to temptation, and indulges in sin, his mind becomes darkened. The moral sense is perverted. The warnings of conscience are disregarded, and its voice is less clearly heard. He gradually loses the power to distinguish right and wrong, until he has no true sense of his standing before God. He may observe the forms of religion and zealously maintain its doctrines, while destitute of its spirit. His condition is that described by the True Witness: "Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Revelation 3:17. When the Spirit of God, by message of reproof, declares this to be his condition, he cannot see that the message is true. Is he therefore to reject the warning? No. God has given sufficient evidence, so that all who desire to do so may satisfy themselves as to the character of the Testimonies; and, having acknowledged them to be from God, it is their duty to accept reproof, even though they do not themselves see the sinfulness of their course. If they fully realized their condition, what would be the need of reproof? Because they know it not, God mercifully sets it before them, so that they may repent and reform before it shall be too late. Those who despise the warning will be left in blindness to become self-deceived; but those who heed it, and zealously go about the work of separating their sins from them in order to have the needed graces, will be opening the door of their hearts that the dear Saviour may come in and dwell with them. Those who are most closely connected with God are the ones who know His voice when He speaks to them. Those who are spiritual discern spiritual things. Such will feel grateful that the Lord has pointed out their errors.

David learned wisdom from God's dealings with him and bowed in humility beneath the chastisement of the Mosis High. The faithful portrayal of his true state by the prophet Nathan made David acquainted with his own sins and aided him to put them away. He accepted counsel meekly and humiliated himself before God. "The law of the Lord," he exclaims, "is perfect, converting the soul." Psalm 19:7.

"If ye be without chastisement, whereby are all partakers, then are ye . . . not sons." Hebrews 12:8. Our Lord has said: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten." Revelation 3:19. "No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby," Hebrews 12:11. Though bitter the discipline, it is appointed by a Father's tender love, "that we might be partakers of his holiness." Hebrews 12:10. □

Testimonies, vol. 5, 682-683.
The prophet Isaiah, in speaking of the situation of affairs existing in the last days, says: "Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples. And I will wait upon the Lord, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him. . . . And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:16-17, 19-20.

In this scripture attention is called to a people engaged in restoring the seal to God’s law—a people who are waiting upon the Lord, engaged in His service. They are looking for Him; that is, they are looking for His coming—this, too, in a time when evil angels professing to be the spirits of the dead, are asking the people to seek after them. Some heed that call, and seek the dead for knowledge; but the Lord invites His people to seek Him. That is virtually saying that if they seek Him, He will give them special instruction. They need not seek the dead who can give them any information, for “neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun;” and “the dead know not any thing.” Ecclesiastes 9:6, 5.

Rule One

In the above scripture a rule is given by which all communications are to be tested: “If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” All communications from the Lord will speak in harmony with His Word and His law.

Applying this rule to the writings of Mrs. White, I would say that during the last fifty-eight years I have carefully read her Testimonies, comparing them with the law of God and the testimony of the Bible, and I find perfect harmony between the two. Her instructions do not come in to give any new revelation to take the place of the Scriptures but rather to show where and how, in these times, people are liable to be led astray, to be led from the Word. The position that the Testimonies of Mrs. White occupy can be best told in what she herself has written respecting them:

“The Word of God is sufficient to enlighten the most beclouded mind and may be understood by those who have any desire to understand it. But not withstanding all this, some who profess to make the Word of God their study are found living in direct opposition to its plainest teachings. Then, to leave men and women without excuse, God gives plain and pointed Testimonies, bringing them back to the Word that they have neglected to follow. . . . 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. . . . The Testimonies are not to belittle the Word of God, but to exalt it, and attract minds to it, that the beautiful simplicity of truth may impress all.” Testimonies, vol. 5, 663, 665.

Rule Two—True Prophets

By looking at the testimony of the apostle John, we find another rule describing the teaching of true prophets. He says: “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.” 1 John 4:1-3.

Note carefully the foregoing scripture. It does not say whosoever confesses that Jesus Christ “did come in the flesh,” but, “is come in the flesh;” that is, that He comes, by His Spirit, and dwells in us, in

J.N. Loughborough

John Norton Loughborough (1832-1924) was a pioneer evangelist, administrator and author of several books.
response to our faith. This, in fact, is the central truth of the gospel, “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:27.

The practical theme found in all of Mrs. White’s writings is the necessity of an indwelling Saviour if we would make any advancement in the heavenly way. Her writings teach the necessity of Christ first, last, and all the time. As an illustration of this fact, attention is called to her book, Steps to Christ [of which tens of millions of copies have been printed in English and in 140 different other languages].

Rule Three—False Prophets

John gives a rule for detecting false prophets, which we designate as Rule Three. Speaking of false prophets, the apostle says, “They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.” 1 John 1:7. This shows that the teaching of false prophets will enter to the carnal heart, instead of exalting the self-denying and cross-bearing way. False prophets will teach “smooth things,” instead of exalting “the Holy One of Israel.” Isaiah 30:10-11. Anyone who reads even a few pages of Mrs. White’s writings can see that they are in the direct line of self-denial and cross-bearing—not of a nature to please a worldly, carnal heart.

Rule Four

In tracing this subject still further, we will take, as a fourth rule, the words of the apostle James: “Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.” James 5:10. When we read the experience of those ancient prophets, we learn that one of their greatest trials was to see Israel reject, or go contrary to, the plain testimony borne to them. A brief study of those times will show at once the character of both true and false prophets. “Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not of the mouth of the Lord.” Jeremiah 23:16.

There is nothing in the writings of Mrs. White to make the reader vain; but, as expressed by another: “I have received great spiritual benefit times without number from the Testimonies. Indeed, I never read them without feeling reproach for my lack of faith in God, lack of devotion, and lack of earnest-ness in saving souls.” Surely, then, the effect of Mrs. White’s Testimonies is vastly different from that of the teachings of false prophets, as described by Jeremiah.

The prophet tells us also how the false prophets will teach: “They say still unto them that despise me, The Lord hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.” Verse 17.

As to the nature of Mrs. White’s teachings in her Testimonies, I will quote the following words from a careful reader: “I find the most earnest appeals to obey God, to love Jesus, to believe the Scriptures, and to search them constantly. Such nearness to God, such earnest devotion, such solemn appeals to live a holy life, can only be prompted by the Spirit of God.”

True and False Prophets Compared

When considering the character of the Lord’s prophets in ancient times, the trait of faithfulness in reproving sins, even when surrounded by a vastly superior number of false prophets, is particularly noticeable.

test, they did, at last, the thing they had solemnly declared they would never do.

Rule Five—Prophecies Are Fulfilled

There is a statement made by Moses relative to the true and the false prophets, found in the eighteenth chapter of Deuteronomy, which, in our consideration of rules for discerning true and false prophets, may be designated as Rule Five. He says: “and if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.” Verses 21-22.

The same thing is also found in the following scriptures: “Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?” Lamentations 3:37. Of the prophet Samuel it was said, “All that he saith saith surely to pass.” 1 Samuel 9:6. “When the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the Lord hath truly sent him.” Jeremiah 28:9.

It is now over fifty-eight years [the author died in 1924] since the writer first saw Mrs. E. G. White in prophetic vision. During these years many prophetic statements have been made by her relative to things that would take place. Some of these predictions relate to events already fulfilled, and some are in process of fulfillment, while others are still future. As to those relating to the past or present events, I know not of a single instance of failure....
On March 18, 1902, a number of us were called together at the Los Angeles treatment rooms on Third Street to consider a proposition to buy a site on the corner of South Hill and Fourth Streets for a sanitarium. The price was $100,000 for the bare lot, and this money would have to be hired, as also the money to erect a sanitarium, if one was built. As there was much hesitation with us on the propriety of making such a venture, a was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast.”

The same power is mentioned again in Revelation 13:14, as deceiving “them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast.” By the same application of this rule, we would be driven to the conclusion that even testimony from Sister White was received through the mail. She was five hundred miles off, and knew not of our council on any such proposition. The testimony said: “Do not build a sanitarium in Los Angeles. Our sanitariums should be out in the city. While it may be right to hire treatment rooms in the city, do not build in the city. The Lord has shown me that there are properties that have been erected that are just fitted to our work, which for some cause have not been occupied, that will be offered to us at very low figures.” That settled the question with us.

Not one of our people knew of any such properties. Search has resulted in what? Glendale, Paradise Valley, and Loma Linda, which were all fitted ready for our work, and each obtained at about one third of what had been invested in them.

These predictions made through Mrs. White, so accurately fulfilled and fulfilling, in accordance with Rule Five, show her to be a true prophet of the Lord.

Rule Six—Miracles Not a Test

It has been affirmed by many theological writers, and stated in commentaries on the Scriptures, that the sign of a true prophet is the working of miracles.

If the working of miracles is proof of a true prophet, then the “false prophet” mentioned in Revelation 19:20 would be declared after all a true prophet; for it is said, “The beast Satan is a true prophet. Certain spirits that will do a special work under the sixth of the seven last plagues, are called “the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” Revelation 16:14.

It is true that miracles are recorded as being wrought by some of the prophets, as in the case of Elijah, Elisha, and Paul. However, who has found any record in the Bible of the miracles of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, and so forth? Yet, these were true prophets of the Lord, and are shown to be such by the rules the Lord has given to test true prophets.

That the working of miracles is not the test of a true prophet is clearly seen by reading the scriptural record of John the Baptist. That he was a prophet is shown by the prediction of his father, Zacharias, in relating the vision God had given him respecting the son that should be born to him: “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.” Luke 1:76. Our Saviour Himself recognized John as that very prophet who should prepare the way before Him; for of John He said: “But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet. This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist.” Luke 7:26–28.

Here then is a plain statement of the Saviour that John was a prophet. Let us apply the test of miracle-working, and see the result. In the Gospel as written by John the evangelist, we have these words: “And many resorted unto him [Christ], and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.” John 10:41. This statement alone is a complete refutation of the claim that the sign of a true prophet is the working of miracles.

This sixth rule teaches that if a miracle is wrought by a pretender, there will be seen with it, when carefully tested, a departure from the sacred truths of God’s Word, and a lowering of the standard to meet a heart inclined to shun the way of self-denial. The Lord permits such a pretender to arise, and his course is a test to the true child of God, giving him an opportunity to weigh carefully the tendency or motive of said miracle-worker. Those who cling to God’s Word, instead of being captivated by the false miracle-worker, come forth strong in God as the result of such an experience.

In these evil days when many are claiming to be “faith healers,” “divine healers,” or “Christian Science healers,” and so forth, it would be well to apply closely the scriptural rules for it will need divine rules, and the illumination of the Holy Spirit, to enable us clearly to discern the intent and purpose of some of these “healers,” so subtle in their work; while on the other hand are those who openly disregard God’s law and His truth for this time.

In this Rule Six we are counseled to watch the nature of the testimony, whether it draws us nearer to the Lord, or away from Him. We are counseled to test the prophet by all the rules, and not decide that he is a true prophet because apparently he is in harmony with one rule. I say apparently, for if perchance he made a prediction, the next question naturally arises, Where did he get his prediction of events to take place? We understand from the Scriptures that anciently, unprincipled men, false prophets, “stole” the words of true prophets, and passed them off as their prophecy, seeking thus to succeed in their deception.

The Lord has told His people in these times that “the devil is a careful student of the prophecies of the Bible.”
And why is this? Is it to learn the truth, that he may help the work of the Lord?—No, by no means, but rather that he may tell some of these things that are coming—having stolen them from the Lord’s prophets—thus making it appear that his prophets are true ones.

“Satan closely watches events, and when he finds one who has a specially strong spirit of opposition to the truth of God, he will even reveal to him unfulfilled events, that he may more firmly secure himself a seat in his heart.

. . . During his experience of nearly six thousand years he has lost none of his skill and shrewdness. All this time he has been a close observer of all that concerns our race.” Testimonies, vol. 2, 171–172.

Although Satan’s prophets may do miracles, or may speak of things to come, by the aid of what they have seen take place (as the death of a person occurring at a certain hour), or tell of an event to come (of which they “stole” their knowledge from God’s prophet), yet in applying all the rules to their case, it will soon be seen where they fail to be in harmony with the Lord’s standard of true prophets. Satan will not teach submission to God’s law, but rather the service of other gods, even though it be the self-pleasing way of shunning the path of self-denial.

Rule Seven—“By Their Fruits”

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree brings forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.” Matthew 7:15–20.

These words of our Saviour recognized the fact that the gift of prophecy would exist in the gospel age. If no true prophets were to be connected with the work, and every prophetic manifestation was to be from an evil source, would He not have said, “Beware of prophets”? The fact that He tells us so definitely how each kind may be known, is the best of evidence that in the work of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, in showing “things to come” (John 16:13), would be the true gift of prophecy. This rule, which in our enumeration we have called Rule Seven, is an infallible one. Christ did not say, “Ye may know them by their fruits,” but, positively, “Ye shall know them by their fruits.”

We inquire, What is the fruit to be seen in the work of genuine gifts of the Spirit of God? The answer is found in the statement of Paul respecting the purpose of the Lord in placing the gifts in the church: “Wherefore he saith, When he ascended upon high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. . . . And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of the result in this respect in the rise of the third angel’s message?”—Fifty-three years ago [author died in 1924], when our publications and work were all in the English language, when reference was made to the unity and harmony taught in the Testimonies and existing among the believers, our opponents said, “That is very well now, while your work is all in a limited territory, and the believers of one nationality; but should your work spread into different parts of the earth, and gather people of different languages, with their national peculiarities, you would see the unity disappear, and your work go to pieces.”

Do we see it going to pieces? How is it? The message is now printed, believed, and advocated in 140 languages of the world, and has gained a foothold at different places around the world twice—both north and south of the equator—yet there is the same unity and harmony among those accepting the Lord’s counsel through the Testimonies as in earlier times. So the visions stand the test of Rule Seven . . .

One of the best proofs of the truthfulness of the visions is in the visions themselves. Many of those who read Mrs. White’s writings, who know not the origin of the ideas which she advances, say, “When

In view of the facts presented in the foregoing, it is well for all to heed the admonition of King Jehoshaphat to the host of Judah, “Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.”

I read Mrs. White’s articles it seems to me as though her writings are inspired.”

In view of the facts presented in the foregoing, it is well for all to heed the admonition of King Jehoshaphat to the host of Judah, “Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.” 2 Chronicles 20:20.

The Prophetic Gift in the Gospel Church, 65–72, 92–100.
The New Theology and the Spirit of Prophecy

For a remarkable period of time those who were introducing the New Theology into our midst made strenuous efforts to convince their hearers and readers that they were preaching messages consistent with the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy. By a careful and selective choice of passages and wresting the writings of Sister White, they were able to convince some that they were rediscovering God's truth. However, upon close examination, it was found that every single major principle espoused by the New Theology was inconsistent with the writings of Sister White.

Because Sister White's writings perfectly reflect the great messages of the Scriptures, it has not been surprising to the perceptive church member that the proponents of the New Theology eventually were forced to disavow her prophetic gift. This disavowal had begun very subtly. At first New Theology proponents indicated that the impact of Sister White's writings had been a great blessing to them. They indicated that she had been perfect for her purpose. When asked to define what the purpose of her messages was, they answered that they were designed "to give counsel and guidance to the church." It was frequently stated that she was not a theologian, that she may be wrong in facts of history and science, and that her messages are not doctrinal nor exegetical [interpretive or explanatory]. Rather, it was asserted that the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy are wonderful counsels, and thereby effectively damning them with faint praise. However, even with such deceptive approaches, there was a limit to the length of time these men could conceal the reality of their rejection of Sister White's prophetic gift.

Many supporters of the teachings of the New Theology now totally deny Sister White's role in the church, thus exposing their former sham. Some have gone to the extent of burning her writings or throwing them away. Others have given them away. One minister sold all his Spirit of Prophecy volumes, declaring that he was merely upgrading his library. Some have even declared themselves to have a feeling of great freedom and relief from guilt now that they have ceased reading her counsels. This euphoria parallels the initial reaction of Adam and Eve after they had partaken of the forbidden fruit. Sadly the New Theology has ultimately brought grief and alienation.

Open denial of the Spirit of Prophecy frequently commenced with the claim that the believer was no longer chained to the legalistic concepts that have proscribed the wearing of jewelry and of colorful cosmetics. Later those of this view professed to see nothing wrong with the taking of a little alcohol. Thus step by step they were drawn away from the beautiful principles of righteousness by which Christ frees us from the snares of Satan. Many of these persons later found their marriages in shambles, and have experienced the terrible trauma of separation and divorce. To this tragedy has been added the negative psychological impact of it upon the precious children whom God has entrusted to them. This rejection of Divine Counsel has

Colin D. Standish and Russell R. Standish

28 Our Firm Foundation February 1997
turned into a terrible bondage. Such persons have failed to discern the loving counsel of God through the Bible and the writings of Sister White.

These people have also denied that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the remnant church of God. They have therefore rejected the most striking evidence of Scripture which testifies that God’s final people will be blessed with the Spirit of Prophecy:

“And the dragon was cast out to war against the woman, and to her remnant which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:17.

“And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God, and the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Revelation 19:10.

In rejecting the Spirit of Prophecy, the supporters of the New Theology have ultimately rejected the Bible. We hear comments concerning the Bible similar to those that have been made regarding the Spirit of Prophecy. It too “is perfect for its purpose.” Its purpose is to reveal salvation, it is asserted, but it is in error in science and in history. Indeed, many go to great lengths to disavow the fact that the time frame since Creation week is approximately 6,000 years. They frequently question the Biblical facts concerning Noah’s flood. Subsequently, the meanings of many of the great events that are described in the Word of God have been altered. Even though these persons see the Bible as inspired in its presentations of salvational principles, in the end even this fact is frequently rejected. For example, they deny the perfect state of God’s remnant:

“The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.” Zephaniah 3:13.

We recall a young man who, while a student in one of our colleges, was taught the concept that the Bible is perfect alone in its revelation of salvational principles. He had decided to return to the Seventh-day Adventist college for an additional year before attending a secular university, where he proposed to study for a medical degree. His motivation was the desire for the preparation in the Word of God that he needed to be a truly Christian physician. However, that year he lost his faith. He rightly argued that if the Bible was inaccurate in history and science, then there was considerable doubt that its presentation of salvational principles was accurate. He reasoned logically that if the Bible were unreliable in that which he could investigate directly, it was likely to be similarly unreliable in pronouncements which he could not directly investigate. This young man had formed a logical conclusion. Tragically, his year at college, rather than strengthening his faith in God and His Word, led him away from them. We need not indicate what an anguish this course of events produced in the hearts of his godly parents. He left the Lord, and to the best of our knowledge has never again returned to Him.

Questions have been raised concerning degrees and levels of inspiration. These questions are not new. From time to time it has been said that Sister White possessed a lesser inspiration than the Bible writers. Such a view tended to diminish the authority of the counsels of Sister White. Indeed that was its designated purpose. This view was “supported” by statements made by Sister White herself. In these passages she states that her writings are a lesser light to lead to the greater light of the Bible. She also counseled the reader not to put her writings above the Bible, and referred to herself as a messenger rather than a prophetess. It has been rightly stated that her writings are not part of Scripture. From these facts it has been inferred they are thus less authoritative. These same people seem to have carefully ignored the statements of Sister White that her role was more than that of a prophetess. Her statements have been so misinterpreted that many have been led to reject the messages of the Spirit of Prophecy.

A further effort to diminish the divine authority of Sister White’s counsel is evident in the suggestion that she was fully inspired when she received her messages in visions or dreams, but that at other times she merely expressed her own ideas. To apply this criterion to Sister White requires that the same measuring rod be applied to the Bible. If this criterion were accepted, then most of the Bible would be rejected. Indeed, not infrequently, that concept has been the end of the road for those who have dared to challenge the heavenly authority of Sister White’s messages.

However, the remnant church must have as one of its identifying characteristics, the Spirit of Prophecy:

“And the dragon was cast out to war against the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:17. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

“And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren who have the testimony of Jesus: worship God, for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Revelation 19:10.

The Lord has promised the prophetic gift in the last days:

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.” Joel 2:28. There are those who have suggested that much of Sister White’s counsel may be disregarded with impunity since she was a noncanonical prophet. Such a conclusion ignores the fact that Christ declared that no prophet was greater than John the Baptist. Yet, he too was a noncanonical prophet, since he wrote no portion of Scripture.

It is our belief that in these last days God will not entrust His messages to a minor prophet. It is our expectation that in the kingdom Sister White will be seen to have been a major prophet. We believe that degrees of inspiration have no validity. Either she was a true prophet fully inspired, or she was a false prophet inspired only by Satan. The acceptance of the prophetic gift in the ministry of Sister White is essential not only to the preparation of God’s people for the eternal kingdom but also to the acceptance of the Scriptures as being inspired. ☐
Disease and Its Causes
Part 5
by Ellen G. White

In past generations, if mothers had informed themselves in regard to the laws of their being, they would have understood that their constitutional strength, as well as the tone of their morals, and their mental faculties, would in a great measure be represented in their offspring. Their ignorance upon this subject, where so much is involved, is criminal. Many women should never have become mothers. Their blood was filled with scrofula, transmitted to them from their parents, and increased by their gross manner of living. The intellect has been brought down, and enslaved to serve the animal appetites. Children born of such parents have been great sufferers, and of but little use to society.

It has been one of the greatest causes of degeneracy in preceding generations, that wives and mothers, who otherwise would have had a beneficial influence upon society in raising the standard of morals, have been lost to society through the multiplicity of home cares, because of the fashionable, health-destroying manner of cooking, and also in consequence of too frequent childbearing. The mother has been compelled to endure endless suffering, her constitution has failed, and her intellect has become weakened by so great a draft upon her vital resources. Her offspring suffer because of her debility; and through her inability to educate them, society has thrown upon it a class poorly fitted to be of any benefit.

If these mothers had given birth to but few children, and had been careful to live upon such food as would preserve physical health and mental strength, so that the moral and intellectual might predominate over the animal, they could have so educated their children for usefulness that they would have been bright ornaments to society.

If, in past generations, parents had, with firmness of purpose, kept the body servant to the mind, and had not allowed the intellectual to be enslaved by the animal passions, there would be in this age a different order of beings upon the earth. And if the mother, before the birth of her offspring, had always possessed self-control, realizing that she was giving the stamp of character to future generations, the present state of society would not be so depreciated in character.

Every woman about to become a mother, whatever may be her surroundings, should encourage constantly a happy, contended disposition, knowing that for all her efforts in this direction she will be repaid tenfold in the physical, as well as in the moral, character of her offspring. Nor is this all. By habit she can accustom herself to cheerful thinking, and thus encourage a happy state of mind, and cast a cheerful reflection of her own happiness of spirit upon her family, and those with whom she associates. And in a very great degree her physical health will be improved. A force will be imparted to the life springs; the blood will not move sluggishly, as would be the case if she were to yield to despondency and gloom. Her mental and moral health are invigorated by the buoyancy of her spirits. The power of the will can resist impressions of the mind, and will prove a grand soother of the nerves. Children who are robbed of that vitality which they should have inherited from their parents should have the utmost care. By close attention to the laws of their being, a much better condition may be established.

The period in which the infant receives its nourishment from its mother is critical. Many a mother, while nursing her infant, has been permitted to overwork, heating her blood over the cookstove; and the nursling has been seriously affected, not only with fevered nourishment from the mother’s breast, but its blood has been poisoned by the unhealthy diet of the mother, which has fevered her whole system, thereby affecting the food of the infant. The infant is also affected by the condition of the mother’s mind. If she is unhappy, easily agitated, irritable, giving vent to outbursts of passion, the nourishment the infant receives from its mother will be inflamed, often producing colic, spasms, and, in some instances, causing convulsions, or fits.

The character also of the child is more or less affected by the nature of the nourishment received from the mother. How important, then, that the mother, while nursing her infant, should preserve a happy state of mind, having perfect control of her own spirit. By thus doing, the food of the child is not injured, and the calm, self-possessed course the mother pursues in the treatment of her child has much to do in molding the mind of the infant. If it is nervous, and easily agitated, the mother’s careful, unhurried manner will have a soothing and correcting influence, and the health of the infant will be much improved.

Infants have been greatly abused by improper treatment. If fretful, they have generally been fed to keep them quiet, when, in most cases, receiving too much food, made injurious by the wrong habits of the mother, was the very cause of their fretfulness. More food only made the matter worse; for the stomach was already overloaded.

Children are generally brought up from the cradle to indulge the appetite, and are taught that they live to eat. The mother does much toward the formation of the character of her children in their childhood. She can teach them to control the appetite, or she can teach them to indulge the appetite, and become gluttons. The mother often plans to accomplish a certain amount of work during the day; and when the children trouble her, instead of taking time to soothe their little sorrows, and divert them, something is given them to eat, to keep them still. This accomplishes the purpose for
a short time, but eventually makes things worse. The children's stomachs are pressed with food when they have not the least want of food. All that is required is a little of the mother's time and attention. But she regards her time altogether too precious to devote to the amusement of her children. Perhaps to arrange her house in a tasteful manner for visitors to praise, and to have her food cooked in fashionable style, are, with her, higher considerations than the happiness and health of her children.

Intemperance in eating and in labor debilitates the parents, often making them nervous, and disqualifying them rightly to discharge their duty to their children. Three times a day parents and children gather around the table, loaded with a variety of fashionable foods. The merits of each dish have to be tested. Perhaps the mother has toiled till she is heated and exhausted, and is not in a condition to take even the simplest food till she has first had a period of rest. The food she weariest in preparing is wholly unfit for her at any time, but especially taxes the digestive organs when the blood is heated and the system exhausted. Those who have thus persisted in violating the laws of their being have been compelled to pay the penalty at some period of their life. There are ample reasons why there are so many nervous women in the world, complaining of dyspepsia, with its train of evils. The cause has been followed by the effect. It is impossible for intemperate persons to be patient. They must first reform bad habits, and learn to live healthfully; then it will not be difficult for them to be patient. Many do not seem to understand the relation the mind sustains to the body. If the system is deranged by improper food, the brain and nerves are affected, and slight things annoy those who are thus afflicted. Little difficulties are to them troubles mountain high. Persons thus situated are unfitted properly to train their children. Their life will be marked with extremes; sometimes they will be very indulgent, at other times severe, censoring for trifles that deserve no notice.

Review and Herald, July 25, 1899

---

**Selected Books Promoting Health**

*Available From Hope Publications — Call 1 (800) 468-7884 to Order*

- **Eat For Strength** by Agatha Thrash
  - Price: $9.95
  - A cookbook that provides oil-free and dairy product substitutes. The desserts are great!!

- **Nutrition For Vegetarians** by Agatha Moody Thrash, M.D. and Calvin L. Thrash, Jr. M.D.
  - Price: $11.95
  - The Los Angeles Times says: "The most inspiring book on vegetarianism to come along in a long time."

- **Country Kitchen Collection** by Eileen and Phil Brewer
  - Price: $9.95
  - 280 pages of high fiber, low-fat, entire-ly cholesterol-free, recipes. Complete menus given for holidays and special occasions.

- **My Personal Recipes** by Bonnie Rickabaugh
  - Price: $4.00
  - A variety of eighty-five tried and taste-approved vegetarian recipes without vinegar, milk, eggs, or dairy cheese. Limited use of refined foods.

- **The Country Life Vegetarian Cookbook** by Country Life Vegetarian Restaurants
  - Price: $9.95
  - Comb bound: 270 pages
  - Contains healthful, nutritious and tasteful recipes that have made Country Life Restaurants very famous.

- **Of These Ye May Freely Eat** by Jo Ann Rachor
  - Price: $2.95
  - Over 250 recipes that are economical, low in calories, cholesterol-free, and delicious. Includes dairy substitutes and therapeutic diet ideas.
The Impeding Conflict

HOW DO WE RELATE TO THE APOSTASY?
Understanding the crisis and also the solutions

1 Embattled Church
Confusion and division are rampant in our church, attempting to sink the "Ship" in the waters of pluralism and ecumenism. This condition has instigated the greatest separationist movement ever known in our ranks. Embattled Church addresses this issue of separation. The Words of Inspiration answer these questions unequivocally. Authors: Colin Standish and Russell Standish. (143 pages)

2 Could It Be Apostasy?
In this book the writer addresses how the apostasy was prophesied, how we can define it, when it began in our ranks, and what led us into this condition. The reader will understand the different types of apostasy and how they are manifested among us today. Finally, we learn that there is hope in spite of apostasy. God has clearly delineated the proper way to respond to and combat this deplorable condition. Author: Vernon Sparks. (80 pages)

3 The Alpha and The Omega of Apostasy
A great deal is being said in various quarters about the apostasy among us, but probably not as much as should be said, and probably not always the right things and in the right manner. Julius Gilbert White (1878-1955) conveys in his booklet what the Alpha of Apostasy was and what the Omega of Apostasy will be. He also understood the dangers involved. (85 pages)

4 The Omega of Apostasy
E.G. White spoke of the introduction of false doctrines which sought to "undermine the foundation pillars of our faith." This booklet clearly shows that the Omega of Apostasy is already here and that it is time to uplift the banner of truth before those who want to change the tenets of our faith. Author: Ron Spear. (48 pages)

5 Nehemiah, Restoring the Breach
The life work of Nehemiah shows us the responsibility of church leadership in the context of a revival and reformation among God's people. Author: Ellen G. White