

and other books are devoted almost wholly to personal matters, expositions of the Bible, and to practical subjects regarding Christian conduct and duty, the same as any intelligent religious teacher could write.

Once in her early work she did venture to predict the curse of God upon a definite person, Moses Hull. In 1862 he was giving up his faith in Adventism. Mrs. White wrote him thus: “If you proceed in the way you have started, misery and woe are before you. God’s hand will arrest you in a manner that will not suit you. His wrath will not slumber” (*Testimonies, vol 1, pp430,431*). Mr. Hull lived on many long years to a ripe old age, and nothing of the kind she predicted happened. After this she threatened many, but always in general terms.

FALSE PROPHECIES OF THE CIVIL WAR

The object of the Civil War was to preserve slavery.

Thousands have been induced to enlist with the understanding that this war was to exterminate slavery; but now that they are fixed, they find that they have been deceived; that *the object of this war is not to abolish slavery, but to preserve it as it is.* —*Testimonies, vol 1, p254, written in 1862*

Slavery is left to live on and stir up another rebellion.

The soldiers inquire, “If we succeed in quelling the rebellion, what has been gained?” They can only answer discouragingly, “Nothing.” ...*The system of slavery, which has ruined our nation, is left to live on and stir up another rebellion.* —*ibid., p255*

England will attack America and humble her into the dust.

I was shown that if the object of this war had been to exterminate slavery, then, if desired, England would have helped the North. But England fully understands the existing feelings in the Government, and *that the war is not to do away with slavery, but merely to preserve the Union*; and it is not for her [England’s] interest to have it preserved. Our Government has been very proud and independent. The people of this nation have exalted themselves to heaven. ...*Said the angel*, “Hear, O heavens, the cry of the oppressed, and reward the oppressors double according to their deeds.” *This nation [the United States] will yet be humbled into the dust.*

England is studying whether it is best to take advantage of the present weak condition of our nation, and venture to make war upon her. She [England] is weighing the matter, and trying to sound other nations. She fears, if she should commence war abroad [on American soil], that she would be weak at home, and that other nations would take advantage of her weakness. Other nations are making quiet yet active preparation for war, and are hoping that England will make war with our nation. ...If England thinks it will pay, she will not hesitate a moment to improve her opportunities to *exercise her power and humble our nation. When England does declare war*, all nations will have an interest of their own to serve, and there will be general war, general confusion. —*Testimonies, vol 1, pp258,259, written January 4, 1862*

For awhile this is what seemed probable, and what was feared; but it never came. Here again, her prophecy was a complete failure. Our nation was not humbled into the dust.

England did not declare war. All along it is clear that Mrs. White simply saw things just as circumstances at the time seemed to indicate, and wrote as those around her talked. If it had been true, as she claimed, that she was not writing any of this out of her own mind, but was simply recording what God told her, would he have told her those things? Did not the Lord know that England would not declare war?

Remember, she is writing by God’s inspiration; writing the words he tells her! Everything she writes, whether in a private letter or newspaper article, she says, is **inspired**:

God was speaking through clay. ...In these letters which I write, in the testimonies I bear, I am presenting to you *that which the Lord has presented to me*. I do not write one article in the paper, expressing merely my own ideas. *They are what God has opened before me in vision*—the precious rays of light shining from the throne. —*Testimonies, vol 5, p67*

There you have it, every word she writes is what God has opened before her in vision—a ray of light from God’s throne!

The Civil War was a sign of the end of the world.

Mrs. White interpreted the Civil War as a sign of the end of the world, just as Adventists had been interpreting the European war. She says: “*The scenes of earth’s history are fast closing*” —*Testimonies, vol 1, p260*. Under the heading, “The Rebellion,” she says: “The one all-important inquiry which should now engross the mind of every one is, Am I prepared for the day of God? *Time will last a little longer*” —*p363*.

The horrors of this war, she, in her vivid imagination, interpreted as proof that the end of the world was right at hand. In the same manner she interpreted the revolution in Europe in 1848. In that year there was quite a general war in Europe, in which several nations were engaged. In January, 1849, Elder Bates published a pamphlet entitled “*Seal of the Living God*.” He interpreted that war as the beginning of Daniel’s “time of trouble,” and as fulfilling Revelation 11:18, “The nations were angry, and thy wrath is come.” On page 48 of his pamphlet he says, “The time of trouble, such as never was (*Daniel 12:1*), has begun.” In proof of this he names several of the powers at war: “Prussia, Hanover, Sardinia, Sicily, Naples, Venice, Lombardy, Tuscany, Rome, Austria,” etc. On page 15 he says: “And now the trouble has begun, what is our duty?” On pages 24 & 26 he relates how, while he and others were discussing this question, *Mrs. White had a vision in which she saw the same thing!* She said: “The time of trouble has commenced, it is begun. The trouble will never end until the earth is rid of the wicked.” Elder Bates then says: “The above was copied word for word as she spoke in vision, therefore it is unadulterated.” Notice here again, how she is influenced by Bates to see in vision just what he was arguing in her presence. Both were wrong!

Famine and pestilence will be abroad in the land.

August 3, 1861, Mrs. White had a vision in which she was shown the Civil War, then just fairly begun. She says: “I was

shown the inhabitants of earth in the utmost confusion. War, bloodshed, privation, want, famine and pestilence were abroad in the land” —*Testimonies, vol 1, p268*. This is just what all the faultfinders of the day were saying. Nothing of the kind happened. There was no famine, no pestilence. Her predictions utterly failed. Where, then, did she get that “vision”? Not from God, surely, but from the ideas of those around her, the same as she got all her “visions.” The event proved this.

An interesting word from one of her own SDA ministers:

H. E. Carver was a minister in Iowa during this traumatic period of history, and worked closely with the Whites. When the Civil War broke out, he, like many other Adventists, looked to Ellen White for counsel and guidance. Here is his own testimony about Sister White and the Civil War:

The whole church was anxiously and prayerfully desirous to know what their duty was at that crisis, and it did seem that the time had come if it ever was to come for the divine inspiration of Mrs. White to be demonstrated. True, an attempt was made to gain some credit for her by publishing a vision of the battle of Bull Run *after* it was fought and the result known, but the attempt was so ludicrously absurd that it was, I believe, never repeated. She could describe the battle of Bull Run *after it occurred*, but she could not tell us beforehand of Sherman’s triumphant march through rebeldom, of Lee’s surrender to Grant at Appomattox, or of our much beloved and lamented President’s assassination. She could not even give us any instructions how to act in case of being drafted until it was too late to be of service.

She did, however, claim to have visions during the war, one of the principal items of which related to *the proper length of the sisters’ dresses*; and upon this subject, plain and simple as it may seem, her instructions to the sisters have been contradictory; at one time directing them to wear dresses that would clean the filth of the streets an inch or two and another directing that they do not reach the ground by 8 or 9 inches.—H.E. Carver, *Mrs. E. G. White’s Claims to Divine Inspiration Examined, 1877*

While the minds of Adventists were occupied with the terrible war gripping the nation, Ellen White was industriously writing testimonies about the length of women’s dresses!

LISBON EARTHQUAKE & THE DARK DAY

Mrs. White said the Lisbon earthquake (*1755*) and the Dark Day (*May 19, 1780*) fulfilled two signs of Christ’s second coming.

The Revelator thus describes the first of the signs to precede the second advent: “...a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood” (*Rev 6:12*). These signs were witnessed before the opening of the 19th century. In fulfillment of this prophecy there occurred, in 1755, *the most terrible earthquake that has ever been recorded* ...the earthquake of Lisbon...90,000 persons lost their lives that fatal day” —*Great Controversy, pp304-305, written in 1888*.

First, Ellen White errs *in her history*. Lisbon was not “the most terrible earthquake.” History records 100,000 people died in an earthquake in Egypt in 1201; 830,000 in China in

1556; 200,000 in Japan in 1703; and 300,000 in India in 1737! The fact is, Lisbon isn’t even on the list of the 14 worst earthquakes in history. Now consider what she says: **[1]** The first of these signs to precede the second advent was the great earthquake of Revelation 6:12. **[2]** The Lisbon earthquake of 1755 fulfilled this prophecy. Keep these two facts in mind as we continue with what she goes on to say:

Twenty-five years later appeared the next sign mentioned in the prophecy—the darkening of the sun and moon. What rendered this more striking was the fact that the time of its fulfillment had been definitely pointed out. In the Saviour’s conversation with his disciples upon Olivet, after describing the long period of trial for the church,—the 1260 years of papal persecution, concerning which he had promised that the tribulation should be shortened, he thus mentioned certain events to precede his coming, and fixed the time when the first of these should be witnessed: “In those days, *after* that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light” (*Mark 13:24*). The 1260 days, or years, terminated in 1798. A quarter of a century earlier, persecution had almost wholly ceased. *Following this persecution*, according to the words of Christ, the sun was to be darkened. On the 19th of May, 1780, this prophecy was fulfilled. ...May 19, 1780, stands in history as “the Dark Day.” —*Great Controversy, pp306, 308*

Now, Ellen White errs *in her math*. She says that the 1260 years of persecution ended in 1798. These two “signs” of Christ second coming were to occur *after* the 1260 years of tribulation had ended in 1798. But the Lisbon earthquake occurred in 1755, 43 years too soon; and the “Dark Day” occurred in 1780, 18 years too soon. Therefore, according to her own testimony, it is historically and mathematically impossible for those two events to have fulfilled the prophetic Scriptures of Luke 21:25; Mark 13:24-26; and Revelation 6:12!

“TIME IS ALMOST FINISHED”

I saw that the time for Jesus to be in the most holy place was nearly finished and that time can last but a very little longer. ...The sealing time is very short, and will soon be over. June 27, 1850, my accompanying angel said, “*Time is almost finished.*” ...I saw that there was a great work to do and little time in which to do it. Then I saw that the seven last plagues were soon to be poured out. —*Early Writings pp58,64, written in 1882*

Believers in Ellen White were content at first to accept her words at face value. But as years passed, and these plagues were not poured out, these followers began questioning whether she misunderstood the vision. Some even began to doubt her inspiration. So 18 years later in 1868, she shifted the responsibility for her error *from herself to God!* She said, “God’s unwillingness to have his people perish, has been the reason for so long delay.” —*Testimonies, vol 2, p194, written in 1868*

That satisfied some people for a time. But over the next 32 years, even more questions were raised about the accuracy of Ellen White’s prophecies. In 1900 she reversed her earlier position; this time, *she blamed her followers*: “Had the purpose of God been carried out by his people in giving to the world

the message of mercy, Christ would have, before now, come to the earth.” —*Testimonies, vol 6, p450, written in 1900*

Mrs. White first blamed God for getting it wrong, then she blamed the **SDA** members; but who was really to blame for this false prophecy? *That—she would never admit!*

“**TURKEY WILL FALL AUGUST 11, 1840”**

Josiah Litch, one of the leading ministers preaching the second advent, published an exposition of Revelation 9, predicting the fall of the Ottoman Empire. According to his calculations, this power was to be overthrown. ...It will end on the 11th of August, 1840. ...At the very time specified, Turkey...exactly fulfilled the prediction. —**GC pp334,335**

Here Ellen White approves of Josiah’s prediction, and repeated her approval 48 years later, even though Turkey still had not “ended!” Josiah and Ellen were both wrong. Turkey continues to exist as a sovereign nation today. **SDA** scholars now insist that she erred by giving her approval to Litch’s false prophecy. Almost every reference to this prophecy has been *removed* from all Adventist literature. But why? Why do **SDAs** dare to tamper with the words of the “Lord’s Messenger” to the church? Because it’s obvious, even to **SDAs**, that Ellen White placed her “stamp of approval” upon a false prophecy!

SOME PRESENT IN 1856 NEVER TO DIE!

God told Mrs. White that some at the Conference at Battle Creek on May 27, 1856 would still be alive at Christ’s coming.

I was shown the company present at the Conference. Said the angel: “Some food for worms, some subjects of the seven last plagues, *some will even be alive* and remain upon the earth to be translated *at the coming of Jesus.*” —*Testimonies, vol 1, pp131,132*

Readers of such a blatant false prophecy as this need only be reminded: “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” (*Deut 18:22*).

“**JERUSALEM WILL NEVER BE BUILT UP”**

I was pointed to some who are in the great error of believing that it is their duty to go to old Jerusalem, and think they have a work to do there before the Lord comes. ...I also saw that *old Jerusalem will never be built up.* —*Early Writings, p75, 1882*

Another blunder by Ellen White! Since the return of the Jews in 1945, Jerusalem has undergone many modern improvements and massive enlargements. It is definitely “built up.”

“**GOD SHUT THE DOOR OF SALVATION!**”

No one could be saved after the 2,300 years ended on October 22, 1844. This was called the “shut door” doctrine.

For a time after the disappointment in 1844, I did hold, in common with the advent body, that the door of mercy was

then forever closed to the world. This position was taken before my first vision was given me. It was the light given me of God that corrected our error, and enabled us to see the true position. —*Selected Messages, vol 1, p63, written in 1883*

Notice these three facts she presents: **(1)** “I did hold...that the door of mercy was forever then closed.” **(2)** “This position was taken before my first vision.” **(3)** In my “first vision” God “corrected our error.”

Ellen White wrote these words nearly 40 years after her first vision. After four decades had passed she claimed that her first vision corrected her error. But the evidence is that ***as a result of her first vision***, Mrs. White believed and taught the false doctrine that no one could be saved after October 1844.

This fact is clearly stated in the booklet, *101 Questions on the Sanctuary and on Ellen G. White*, by Robert Olsen, page 58. Robert Olsen verified that her doctrinal error was definitely *due to her first vision* by writing: “**Ellen misinterpreted this vision.**” As a leading officer of the White Estate at the time, Robert Olsen was the Church’s spokesman defending Ellen White. But even he agreed that the false doctrine she taught about salvation was due to her first vision. Her first vision did not *correct* the error as she claimed—it *caused* the error!

So the **SDA**Church accepted this devastating error that the door of salvation was closed on October 22, 1844, not because of careful Bible study, but because *Ellen White had a vision!* If there is any doubt about how vital her visions were in the development of **SDA** theology, consider her own claims:

One error after another pressed in upon us; ministers and doctors brought in new doctrines. We would search the Scripture with much prayer; and the Holy Spirit would bring the truth to our minds...The power of God would come upon me, and I was enabled clearly to define what is truth and what is error...As the points of our faith were thus being established, our feet were placed upon a solid foundation. We accepted the truth point by point, under the demonstration of the Holy Spirit. I would be taken off in vision, and explanation would be given me. —*Selected Messages, vol 3, pp31,32, 1892*

There is no question that **SDA** doctrine has been defined and redefined by her visions. Even though many of her visions did not come to pass, **SDA** doctrine was developed and ratified on the basis of *what she claimed* she had been shown by God. Ellen White’s own testimony in a letter she wrote to Joseph Bates on July 13, 1847, clearly states that her visions established the **SDAs** in the doctrinal error of the “shut door.”

While in Exeter, Maine, in meeting with Israel Dammon, James, and many others, many of them did not believe in a shut door. ...It was then I had a view of Jesus rising from his mediatorial throne and going to the holiest as Bridegroom to receive his kingdom. ...Most of them received the vision and were settled upon the shut door!—*Adventist Currents, April 1988, p29*

Ellen White later *changed her mind* about the “shut door.” **SDAs** still continue to vigorously *deny* that she ever believed the door of salvation was closed on October 22, 1844.

ELLEN WHITE — THE FALSE PROPHET!

Most believers in Ellen White find it very difficult to face the fact that her visions failed, thus biblically proving her a false prophet. Grasping for a quick all-encompassing solution, some Adventists say, “Well, Ellen White never claimed to be a prophet!” What they are actually saying is: “It’s OK for Ellen White’s prophesies to fail because she never claimed to be a prophet! Therefore we cannot require her prophesies to measure up to Bible standards.” But these followers of hers have been misinformed. These are Ellen White’s own words:

I am the Lord’s messenger. I know that many have called me a prophet, but I have made no claim to this title. ...Why have I not claimed to be a prophet?...because my work includes ***much more*** than the word “prophet” signifies. ...If others call me by that name I have no controversy with them. ...My commission embraces the work of a prophet, but it does not end there. —*Selected Messages, vol 1, pp31-36, written in 1906*

Ellen claimed an even *greater* work for herself than the title “prophet” permits. Therefore, because she claimed her visions were from God, because she claimed to present God’s messages to his people, because she claimed to be able to define what was truth and what was error, because she claimed her work was “***much more***” than the work of a prophet, then she must be held to ***an even higher standard*** than a Bible prophet! Remember, it was Ellen White herself who consistently said:

My work for the past thirty years bears the stamp of God or the stamp of the enemy. There is no halfway work in the matter. *The Testimonies are of the Spirit of God, or of the devil.* —*Testimonies, vol 4, p230, written in 1876*

These books, giving the instruction that the Lord has given me during the past sixty years, *contain light from heaven, and will bear the test of investigation.* —*Selected Messages, vol 1, p35, 1906*

And the **SDA**Church leaders made this statement in 1883:

Our position on the *Testimonies* is like the keystone to the arch. Take that out, and there is no logical stopping place till all the special truths of the messages are gone. ...Nothing is surer... *this message and the visions belong together, and stand or fall together.* —*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, August 14, 1883*

“**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**”—*Deut 18:21,22*

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Adapted from the book **White Washed** by **Sydney Cleveland**, former **SDA** pastor & also from the writings of **D. M. Canright**, one of the most prominent **SDA** leaders of the 19th century, and close associate of James & Ellen White. He left the movement in 1887.



HER PROPHECIES FAIL

Seventh-day Adventists have long considered Ellen White to be a divinely-inspired prophet just like the prophets of the Bible. They refer to her as the “Spirit of Prophecy” claiming that she had the “spirit of prophecy” (*see Rev 19:10*) from December 1844, to the end of her life, August 1915—seventy-one years. During these long years she wrote over twenty volumes. All this time she claimed that the future was being revealed to her; and she predicted what would happen. Her claims can be examined and tested.



God’s prophets foretold definite things to occur, named persons and cities, and told what would happen, and when. Joseph foretold the seven years of plenty and seven years of famine (*Gen 41*); Samuel told Saul that the kingdom would be taken from him and given to another (*1 Sam 15:28*); Isaiah named Cyrus two hundred years before he was born (*Isaiah 44:28*); Jeremiah foretold the fall of Babylon (*Jer 51*); Daniel prophesied of the rise and fall of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome (*Daniel 2 & 7*); Jesus warned of the destruction of Jerusalem (*Matthew 24*); Agabus foretold what would happen to Paul at Jerusalem (*Acts 21:10,11*). Many more such cases could be given.

But where are the fulfilled predictions of Mrs. White during her seventy-one years of prophesying? What definite events did she foretell to occur at definite times and to definite cities? Where are these prophecies? Nowhere in all her numerous volumes. At first, she did venture to foretell a few things definitely, but they all failed. After that she invariably put everything in general terms, not venturing to name definite persons, places or times. She predicted numerous floods, storms, earthquakes, wars, etc., all in general terms. Any one could do that safely, without any prophetic gift. If she really had the spirit of prophecy, that should have been the outstanding feature of her books. Instead of this, her “Testimonies”